



NEWS RELEASE

May 18, 2012

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California State Library Report Points to Challenges and Needs of Women Veterans

California Research Bureau of State Library surveyed over 900 women veterans

SACRAMENTO -- Women veterans in California say they need employment, health, and education benefits, but many aren't aware those services are offered through state and federal veterans' assistance programs. This is one of a number of findings from a survey of women veterans conducted by the California Research Bureau of the State Library. The Bureau released its preliminary report on the survey this week.

[California Women Veterans: Response to a 2011 survey: Preliminary Report](#) summarizes findings from a survey of over 900 women veterans. Assistance with finding a job after leaving military service was the greatest need for many respondents, followed closely by help with transitioning to civilian life.

Photo courtesy of CalVet



"Mostly I did not know I could use these. I thought the ones I knew about were only for the guys."

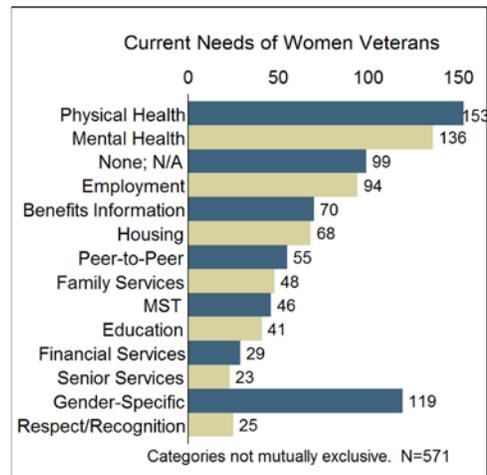
--Woman veteran speaking about veteran services.

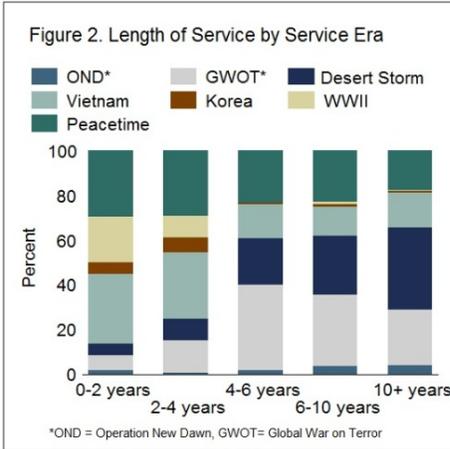
For those who have made the transition to civilian life, women's health care is the top priority.

A significant number of those surveyed reported challenges with mental health issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder and military sexual trauma. Respondents also expressed a need for gynecological services at their local VA health facility and emergency housing for women.

The survey was conducted at the request of the Commission on the Status of Women and California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet).

California has the largest number (167,000) and greatest proportion (9.5%) of women veterans in the U.S., yet there has been a lack of information on how women use existing resources for veterans and whether those services are





adequately addressing the needs of women. The State Library conducted an earlier survey in 2008 and was asked to produce a follow up survey last year.

Demographic information on women veterans was also collected. Findings point to an upward trend in women making a lifelong career in the military. The number of years of military service for women has increased to 6-plus years for those serving in Desert Storm/Desert Shield or the Global War on Terror.

The final in-depth report will be issued by the State Library later this year.

About the California State Library and the California Research Bureau: Founded in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for the Governor’s office, legislature, state employees, and the general public. The State Library administers federal and state grants for programs in historical preservation, library construction, civil liberties education, literacy, volunteering, and broadband connectivity in public libraries. For more information, visit www.library.ca.gov .