



# ANNUAL SURVEY SUMMARY

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# 2025

# SURVEY OBJECTIVES

America's Warrior Partnership is dedicated to preventing veteran suicide. We aim to accomplish this through various programs and initiatives, including our Community Integration Program. Community Integration is a holistic veteran-focused, community-led initiative which proactively connects local communities with local veterans, their families, and caregivers to ensure access to the resources and opportunities available. We aim to cultivate integrated, resilient, and prosperous veteran communities across the nation by improving veteran quality of life, thus, preventing veteran suicide.

The annual Community Integration Survey measures a variety of factors related to this program and suicide risk factors. To support our evaluation and administration of the program, we gather information from veterans and their support networks to help us better understand the broader veteran experience. These assessments are used to identify areas where community-based support can make the greatest difference.

The survey results provide valuable insights into veteran's strengths, needs, personal growth, satisfaction with their communities and the resources available to them. Numerous studies linked level of hope to suicidal ideation and suicide risk. We utilized the Adult Hope Scale to measure levels of hope among survey participants. By capturing these perspectives, we gain valuable insight into what drives hope and hopelessness among veterans. These findings guide programmatic and community-level adjustments, ensuring our efforts remain responsive, effective, and grounded in the realities of the veteran's lives.



While the primary target population for this survey is individuals who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, participation is also encouraged from family members, caregivers, and community members. The survey is accessible through AWP's website and is distributed through our partners and other AWP branches to maximize outreach and engagement. Prior or current participation in AWP's Community Integration Program is not required to participate in the survey. The minimum number of survey participants needed to conduct analysis at a 95% confidence level with a 3% margin of error was achieved with a total of 689 participants.

# UNDERSTANDING THE HOPE SCALE

The **Adult Hope Scale** is utilized in this survey to measure levels of hope among survey participants and is used as a reference point through the analysis. The **Hope Scale** is a psychological assessment tool designed to measure an individual's level of **hope** which is defined as a **positively motivational state** based on two key components: agency and pathways. Agency or will power refers to an individuals' sense of goal-directed energy and their belief in their ability to initiate and sustain action towards their goals while pathways or way power refers to an individual's perceived capacity to generate successful plans and strategies to reach their desire goals.

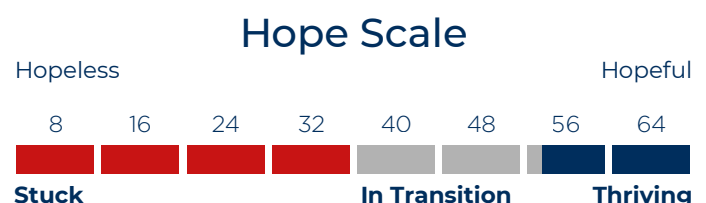
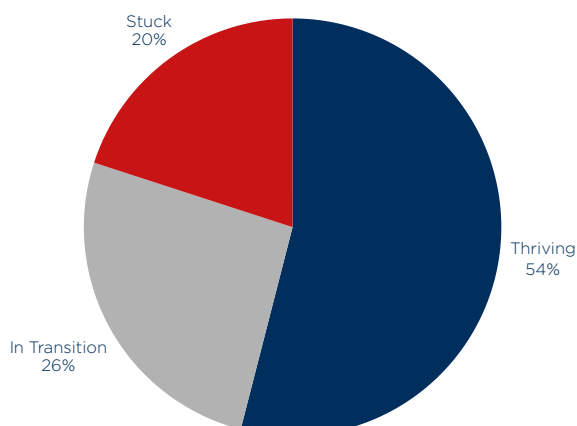
The **Adult Hope Scale (AHS)** assesses the "level of hope" among individuals who are 15 or older. It is a 12-item self-reporting questionnaire, which we included in our Annual Survey. Respondents rate each item on an 8-point Likert-type scale ranging from "definitely false" to "definitely true." Agency and pathways subscales are calculated separately. Total hope score is derived from these calculations and range from 8 to 64. This analysis categorizes service members into three categories based upon their hope score: **stuck, in transition**, or **thriving**.

Those who score within the range of **stuck** are considered to have **low hope**, while those who score within the **in-transition** range are considered to have **moderate hope**, and those who score within the **thriving** range are considered to have **high hope**.

The range of scores for each category is as follows:

- **Stuck: 8 – 39**
- **In Transition: 40 – 49**
- **Thriving: 50 – 64**

The results of our survey indicate that **54%** of **service members** are **hopeful and thriving**, while **26%** are in transition and are **moderately hopeful**. Around **20%** of service members observed had **low hope** and needed further support.





# KEY FINDINGS



A little over half of the service members surveyed were thriving, meaning almost **half of service members needed some sort of support** and were either in transition or stuck based on the hope scale.



Survey participants were asked about resources they were seeking to uncover ways that hope could be increased. **Almost 70% of service members surveyed were seeking access to resources or services.** These resources align with those we most frequently connect veterans to in their communities. While numerous resources were being sought after, connection was the top resource needed for all service members and one of the top four resources needed, regardless of gender, residential area, hope category, or any other categorization.



This is consistent with other findings of the survey, which suggest that connection to others largely drives hope. Service members who feel their life has a sense of meaning and purpose were **37% more hopeful. Meaningful relationships and friendships** have the largest impact on hopefulness and was found to **increase hope by nearly 60%** while **feeling connected to a community increased hope by nearly 43%.**



While several socio-economic factors and the presence of protective factors for suicide risk observed in our survey increased hope, **what increased hope the most is simply feeling connected to others.** This points to an overarching theme observed in the survey: **be a friend, be an ally.**



## TOGETHER, WE CAN DO BETTER

# SURVEY PARTICIPATION & POPULATION

 85% Completion Rate

The 2025 Annual Survey had an **85% success rate** in terms of completion.

A total of 917 responses were submitted, however, after the cleaning the data, only 689 surveys were determined to be valid for analysis.

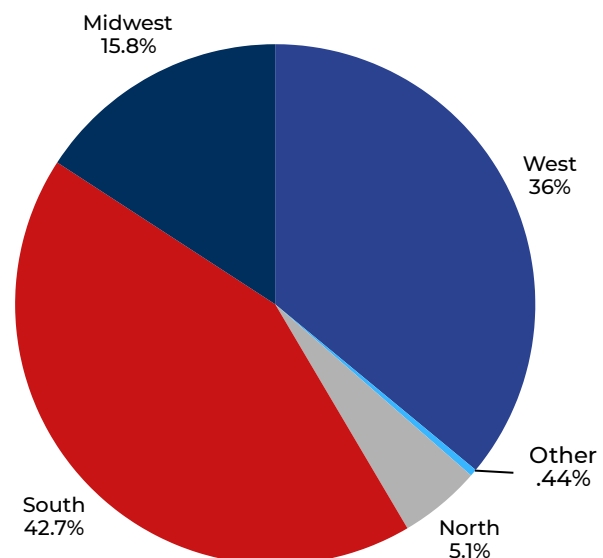
Responses that were not included:

- Test link response
- Responses without enough data to analyze
- Unreliable submissions
- BOTs or suspicious activity

Approximately **92% of survey participants were service members** and about **8% were civilians**. In this analysis, a **service member** or **veteran** is defined as any individual who has actively or previously served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the reserve component of the military, regardless of discharge status. We define **civilian** as any individual who has not currently or previously served in the U.S. Armed Forces or a reserve component of the military.

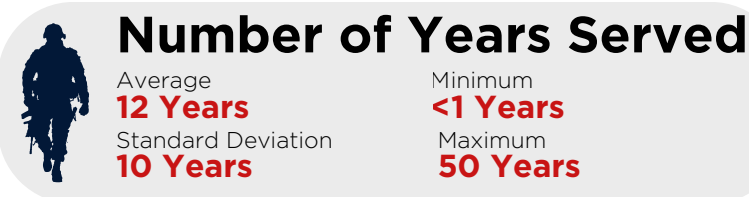
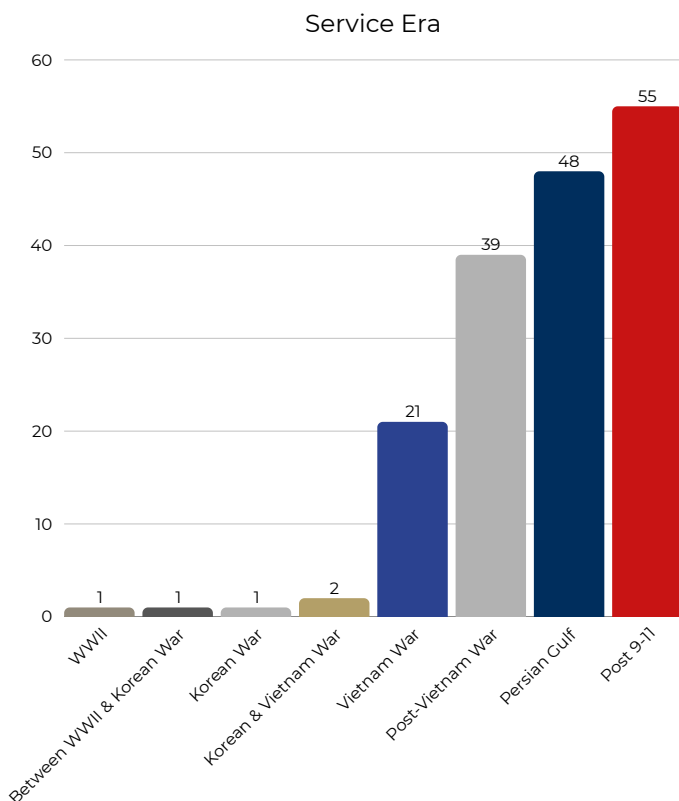
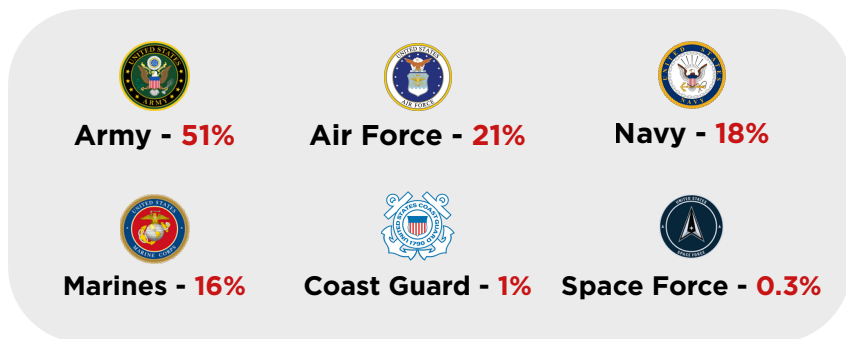
The majority of survey participants live in the Southern or Western region of the country. Alaska, South Carolina, Indiana, and Florida were largely represented. These areas are close to our corporate and branch locations, and an expected overrepresentation of participants in these states was expected. The average survey participant was a non-Hispanic white male who previously served in the military. Nearly **65% of survey participants were 50 or older**. Further demographics of the survey population broken down by race and ethnicity, gender, age, and state can be found by [clicking this link](#) or visiting our website at [www.americaswarriorpartnership.org](http://www.americaswarriorpartnership.org).

Participants by Region



# SERVICE STATS

Most service members who participated in the survey served in the Army, post 9-11, for about 12 years. Further demographics regarding branch of service, service and discharge status, era, and gender can be found by [clicking this link](https://www.americaswarriorpartnership.org) or visiting our website at [www.americaswarriorpartnership.org](https://www.americaswarriorpartnership.org).



It is a wide misconception that military deployment is a primary cause of suicide risk. Research indicates that deployment may actually be a protective factor for suicide risk, suggesting that hope would increase among service members who were deployed. **Approximately 67% of service members surveyed were deployed, and the average length of deployment was 543 days, which is approximately 1.5 years.** Of those who were deployed:

- **81%** were **deployed in a combat zone**
- **72%** reported being in **imminent danger** or **under hostile fire** during their deployment, regardless of being in a combat or non-combat zone
- **60%** reported being **exposed to dead, dying, or wounded people** during their time of service

Interestingly, these factors alone did not contribute significantly to hope level or hope category. While service members who were deployed scored **4% higher on the hope score**, when service members were deployed in a **combat zone, under imminent danger or hostile fire**, and experienced **exposure to dying or wounded people for longer than four years**, their **hope decreases by nearly 10%** compared to those who were deployed for less than four years. This challenges previous notions that deployment and combat decrease hope, but rather the length of time and length of exposure to such has a greater impact.

# EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

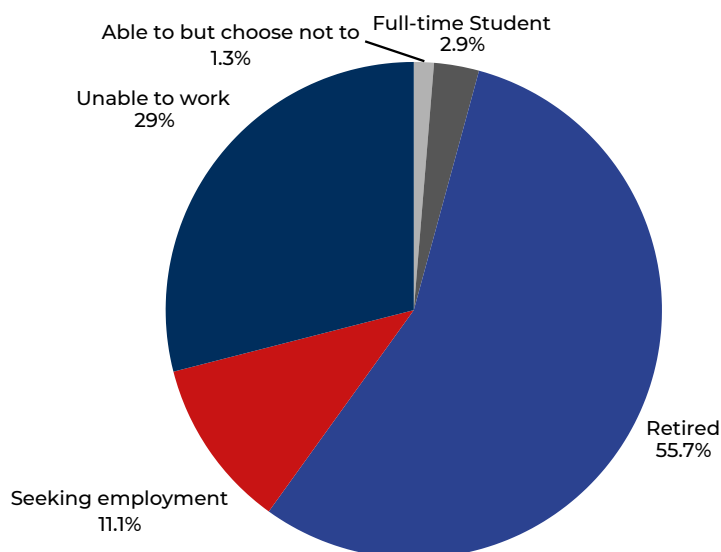
Approximately 48% of service members who responded to the survey hold a bachelor's degree or higher, and well over half have used their education benefits. Service members who hold a **bachelor's degree or higher** are more than **12% more hopeful** and more likely to score within the **in transition** or **thriving** category on the hope scale.

Interestingly, just under **50%** of service members who responded to the survey were unemployed. The **average age** of service members who participated in the survey was **57**, and nearly **42%** are over the age of **60**, which could explain the high unemployment rate observed. Over half of those who reported being unemployed are retired. Only 11% of those who are unemployed are seeking employment. Those who were seeking employment or unable to work were less hopeful than those who were unemployed due to retirement. Generally speaking, the longer an individual was seeking employment, the less hopeful they became.



Service members who are employed either part or full time **scored 8% higher** on the hope scale than unemployed service members.

Reason for Unemployment



Approximately **73% of service members who were employed** reported they **felt as though their job was a career**, and were more than **6% more hopeful than** those who do not consider their job a career. While this has a significant impact on hope, **service members who felt their employer supported them as a current or former military employee** were **16% more hopeful**, pointing to the **importance of supporting veterans in the workplace and finding meaningful employment**. When considering a job, service members reported their top considerations for employment as **making money, purpose in life**, and **family**.

While increasing financial well-being and creating purpose in life are the top considerations for service members regarding employment, these factors also greatly impact hopefulness. On average, those who agree or strongly agree that **their life has a sense of purpose and meaning** were **37% more hopeful** than those who did not.





# FINANCIAL SECURITY & HOUSING

Results from the survey indicate that around **70%** of service members **own their home or residence**, while about **19% rent**. Those who own are more likely to score within the *thriving or in transition* category compared to other participants. Just over **90%** reported they had **access to reliable transportation**. While only 10% reported not having access to reliable transportation, **being able to reliably access transport services increased hope by 19%**.

Almost **58%** of service members reported they **felt financially secure**, meaning around **42% of service members observed did not feel financially secure or stable**. Feeling **financially secure increases hope by nearly 18%**. Just over half (51.50%) of service members reported having a household or individual income level of less than \$60,000 per year. Service members with a household and or individual level of income between \$60,000 and \$99,000 were **32% more hopeful**, and hope increased by another **12%** for those who were making over \$150,00 or more a year compared to those whose income level was \$60,000 or less.

Despite the majority of service members reporting financial security, 84% expressed that they experienced financial stress within the past 12 months:

- **17%** were worried about being able to afford their next meal
- **21%** were worried about being able to make their next mortgage or rent payment
- **18%** were worried about becoming homeless

Almost **69%** of service members surveyed **received VA disability**, and about **11% receive supplemental income** from public assistance programs outside of their disability claim.

Almost **58%** of service members reported they felt financially secure.

**BUT**

84% expressed they experienced financial stress within the past 12 months.

Service members who felt financially secure were **17% more hopeful**.



# HEALTH & WELLNESS

**79%** are enrolled in VA Healthcare

**87%** reported having healthcare coverage or insurance

**86%** of service members reported they are currently or have previously been treated for a medical condition

**39%** of service members reported they have untreated health conditions, and **19%** were not sure if they had untreated health conditions, but suspect they could have an undiagnosed medical condition

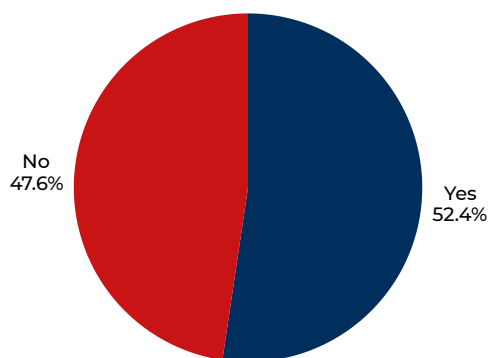
Despite nearly **87%** of service members having healthcare coverage and access to the VA, **39%** reported they have untreated health conditions, and another **19%** were not sure if they have untreated health conditions, implying a level of uncertainty in their health and well-being. **So why aren't service members seeking treatment?**

**1 out of 4** opted out of a healthcare visit or declined to seek healthcare **due to related costs.**

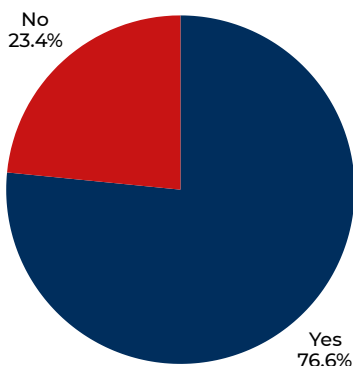
Just over **34%** of service members **did not seek treatment** because they were **unable to access a healthcare provider due to cost** or distance, or were **unable to find a provider they liked or who offered adequate treatment** options to manage their conditions

**18%** of service members did not seek treatment for other reasons. Notably, navigating the bureaucracy of healthcare systems, unsuccessful treatments in the past, awaiting referrals, unable to find transportation to a medical facility, and frustrations with the VA were reported.

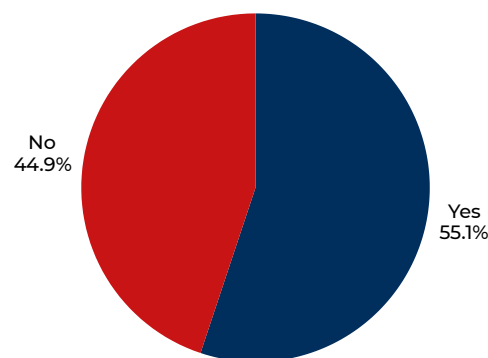
Participation in Spiritual or Religious Activities



Achieving Recommended Hours of Sleep or More



Engagement in Regular Exercise



Service members who **participated in spiritual or religious activities** were nearly **7% more hopeful**. Those who achieved the recommended **minimum number of hours of sleep per night** were **9% more hopeful**, and **those who reported engaging in regular exercise** were **13% more hopeful**.

Approximately half of service members reported engaging in spiritual or religious activities and engaging in regular exercise. Alarming, the majority of service members observed are not getting enough sleep.

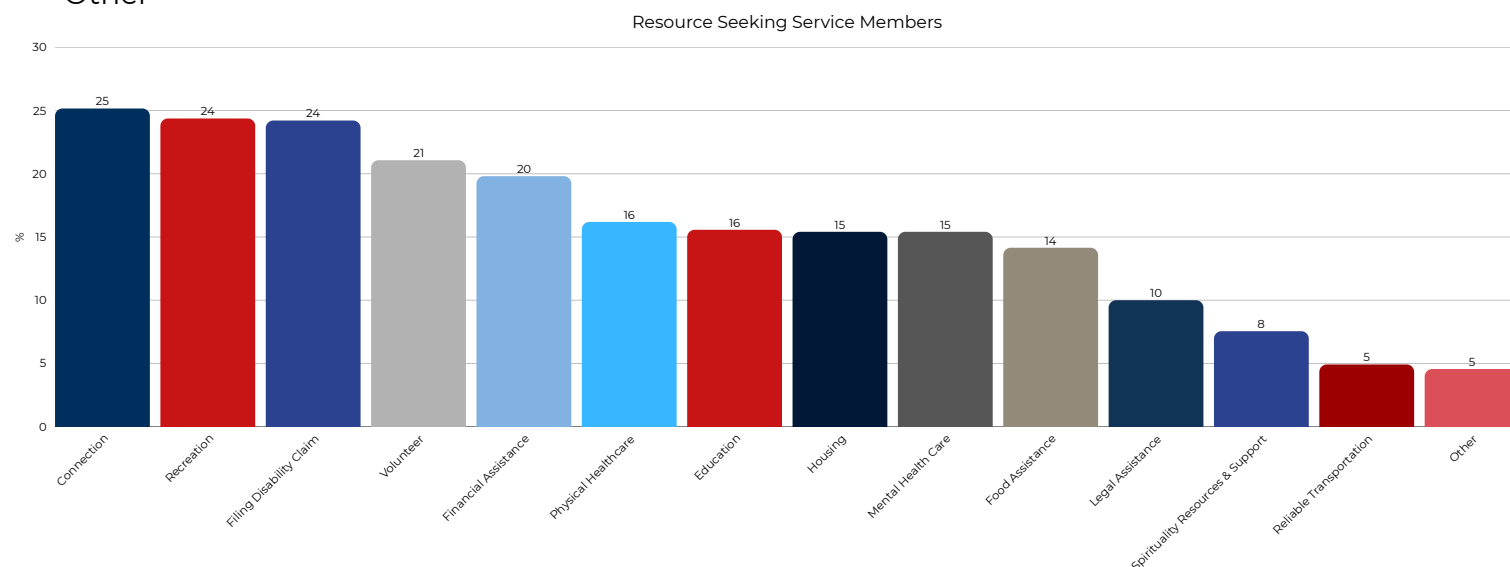
# RESOURCE SEEKING

Service members were asked about resources they were seeking within their community to measure what resources were most likely to be sought after by veterans. Resources needed by service members varied among gender, hope level, and the type of residential area an individual lived in. While males were more likely to respond to the survey, women were more likely to be seeking resources. Those who scored in the **thriving** category on the hope scale were not as likely to be **seeking resources** as those who were in **transition** or **stuck**.

Further information about the top resources needed based on these variables can be found by [clicking this link](#) or visiting our website at [www.americaswarriorpartnership.org](http://www.americaswarriorpartnership.org). Nearly a third of service members were not seeking resources or assistance; however, for those who were, connecting with other service members and their families was observed as the top resource needed.

## Surveyed Resources Needed:

- Employment assistance
- Legal assistance
- Reliable transportation
- Financial assistance
- House assistance
- Food assistance
- Access to physical health care services
- Access to mental health care services
- Education benefits
- Help with filing a disability claim with the VA
- Spiritual resources & support
- Opportunities for recreational or other physical activities
- Opportunities to connect with other military/veteran service members and families/caregivers
- Volunteer opportunities
- Other



Service members who felt as though they had the **resources they needed to care for themselves** were **26% more hopeful**.

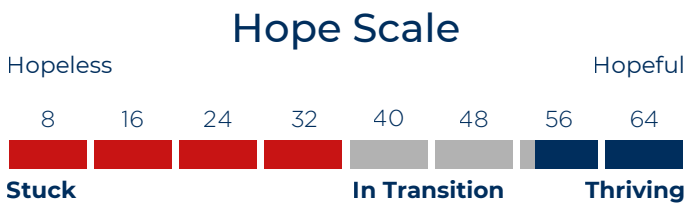
# COMMUNITY, INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTIONS

Most service members were looking for opportunities to connect with other service members and their families. Participants were surveyed on a number of questions relating to community, outreach, and interpersonal relations. AWP’s community integration model aims to provide veterans with a greater sense of community to foster connection and meaningful relationships.

Participants were asked a series of mirroring questions to measure **interpersonal relationships** and rate how true a statement was on an eight-point Likert scale ranging from *definitely false* to *definitely true*. Service members who reported **having people they could depend on to help them** if they needed help were over **26% more hopeful**.

The **average hope score** of mirroring questions was calculated to generate a more accurate measurement of the following categories:

- **I have a family that loves me**
- **Easily connects to others**
- **Meaningful relationships and friendships**
- **I have people I can count on or will help me**
- **Connected to a community**



Meaningful relationships & friendships	
	Avg Hope Score
Definitely False	29.74
Mostly False	37.90
Somewhat False	31.00
Slightly False	39.40
Slightly True	42.41
Somewhat True	45.48
Mostly True	50.62
Definitely True	54.99

When it comes to increasing hope, results indicated that:

- Participants who reported definitely true when inquired if they have **meaningful relationships and friendships** were **60% more hopeful** than those who reported *definitely false*
- Participants who reported definitely true when inquired if they feel **connected to a community** were **43% more hopeful** than those who reported definitely false
- Participants who reported definitely true when inquired if they have **people whom they can count on or help** were **38% more hopeful** than those who reported *definitely false*
- Participants who reported definitely true when inquired if they have a **family that loves them** were **35% more hopeful** than those who reported *definitely false*
- Participants who reported *definitely true* when inquired if they **easily connected to others** were **30% more hopeful** than those who reported *definitely false*

# COMMUNITY, INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTIONS (CONTINUED)

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When inquired about community participation, **55%** of **service members** reported they participate in or help organize events within their community. Those who reported participation were, on average, **15% more hopeful**.

- **58%** of service members are **currently or previously received support** with veteran service providers in their community
- **65%** of service members **feel as though their community** is invested in active military members and/or veterans.
- **70%** feel as though service members can **thrive in their community**
- **58%** feel there is a **strong network** for active military/veterans in their community, and were **17% more hopeful**
- **74%** felt they had the **resources** they **needed**
- **58%** feel as though VSOs in their community **improved their community's understanding of active military and veteran issues**
- **62%** reported that VSOs **connected them to other veterans** in their community
- **55%** feel VSOs in their community **helped them feel more connected** to their community



# HOW ARE WE ENGAGING WITH SERVICE MEMBERS AND SURVEY PARTICIPANTS?

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**So how do we get veterans and their families involved in the community?**

**67%** of all survey participants have **received information** or **assistance from military/veteran organizations** within their community.

**58%** of all survey participants **first learned** about programs and services being offered in their community via some form of **outreach**, including:

- Public advertisement or notice
- Social media or web searches
- Being approached by a staff member
- Referrals

Those who received information about services and programs scored nearly **4% higher** on the **hope scale**, implying the importance of outreach to increase hope.

Service members who reported being satisfied with their community's ability to provide information and resources were almost **28% more hopeful**, pointing to not only the importance of **outreach and engagement**, but the level of quality in which VSOs are able to accomplish these efforts.



## CONCLUSIONS: WHAT IS DRIVING HOPE?

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The findings of the 2025 Annual Survey highlight a critical insight into veteran well-being:

### ***HOPE IS DRIVEN BY CONNECTION***

Our results suggest that fostering **meaningful relationships and friendships** is a primary lever for increasing hope, followed by finding purpose or meaning in life, even more so than other resources.

The survey also points to ongoing challenges. Nearly half of service members are classified as *in transition* or *stuck*, indicating **a need for continued support**. Financial stress, untreated health conditions, and access barriers to care remain significant obstacles. However, this data confirms that purposeful engagement and effective outreach by Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) can directly address these challenges by providing essential resources and, most importantly, fostering a network of support.

In conclusion, our efforts to prevent veteran suicide must be grounded in building and strengthening community bonds with local veterans. The simple act of providing avenues for veterans and their families to connect with one another and their community is a powerful tool for cultivating hope.

The path forward is clear: be a friend, be an ally, and actively work to build meaningful relationships with veterans in your community.

### ***TOGETHER, WE CAN DO BETTER***

# WE HOPE YOU FOUND THIS SURVEY SUMMARY INSIGHTFUL

For full results and data, please visit [americaswp.org/survey25](https://americaswp.org/survey25).



AMERICA'S WARRIOR PARTNERSHIP



**INDY**  
**WARRIOR**  
**PARTNERSHIP**



**DINÉ**  
**NAAZBAA**  
**PARTNERSHIP**



**ALASKA**  
**WARRIOR**  
**PARTNERSHIP**



**PERMIAN**  
**WARRIOR**  
**PARTNERSHIP**



**PANHANDLE**  
**WARRIOR**  
**PARTNERSHIP**



**Veterans**  
**Crisis Line**  
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**



**AWP**  
AMERICA'S WARRIOR PARTNERSHIP  
COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

**TOGETHER, WE  
CAN DO BETTER**



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