Evidence based findings about the British veteran population

The Ministry of Defence estimated that there were approximately 2.5 million UK Armed Forces veterans residing in households across Great Britain in 2016, based on responses to the Annual Population Survey conducted by the Office for National Statistics. UK-wide, in 2016 the veteran population represented 5% of household residents aged over 16. Whilst the overall number of veterans residing in Great Britain is projected to decrease over the next years, the percentage of veterans of working age is projected to increase from 37% in 2016 to 44% by 2028.

The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research is a collective of academics, service providers and service users with an interest in improving the health and social wellbeing of veterans and their families across the life-span.
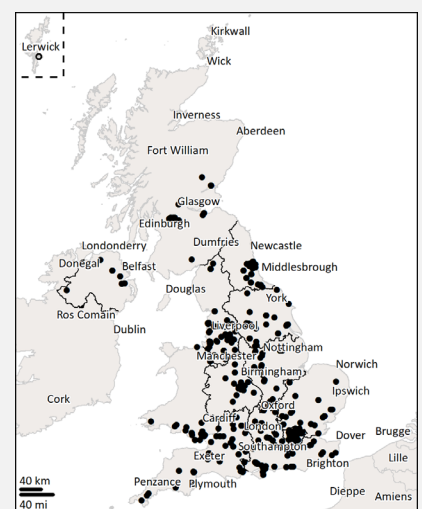
www.northumbria.ac.uk/militaryveterans

The 2011 Armed Forces Act provided a comprehensive legislative framework for the British Armed Forces and created the requirement for an annual Armed Forces covenant report to UK Parliament each year. In order to support the armed forces community more effectively, there is an increasing demand for evidence-based findings.

One of the main goals of the Map of Need project is to provide evidence-based findings about the veteran population. Data sharing partnerships are central to the analysis within the project, allowing us the ability to statistically compare multiple data sources when examining a veteran or family issue, and then compare these with wider research findings. The approach we have adopted seeks to use multiple data sources to provide end users with the most accurate picture of a phenomenon as possible.

- The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research developed an online directory of services available to the veteran community.

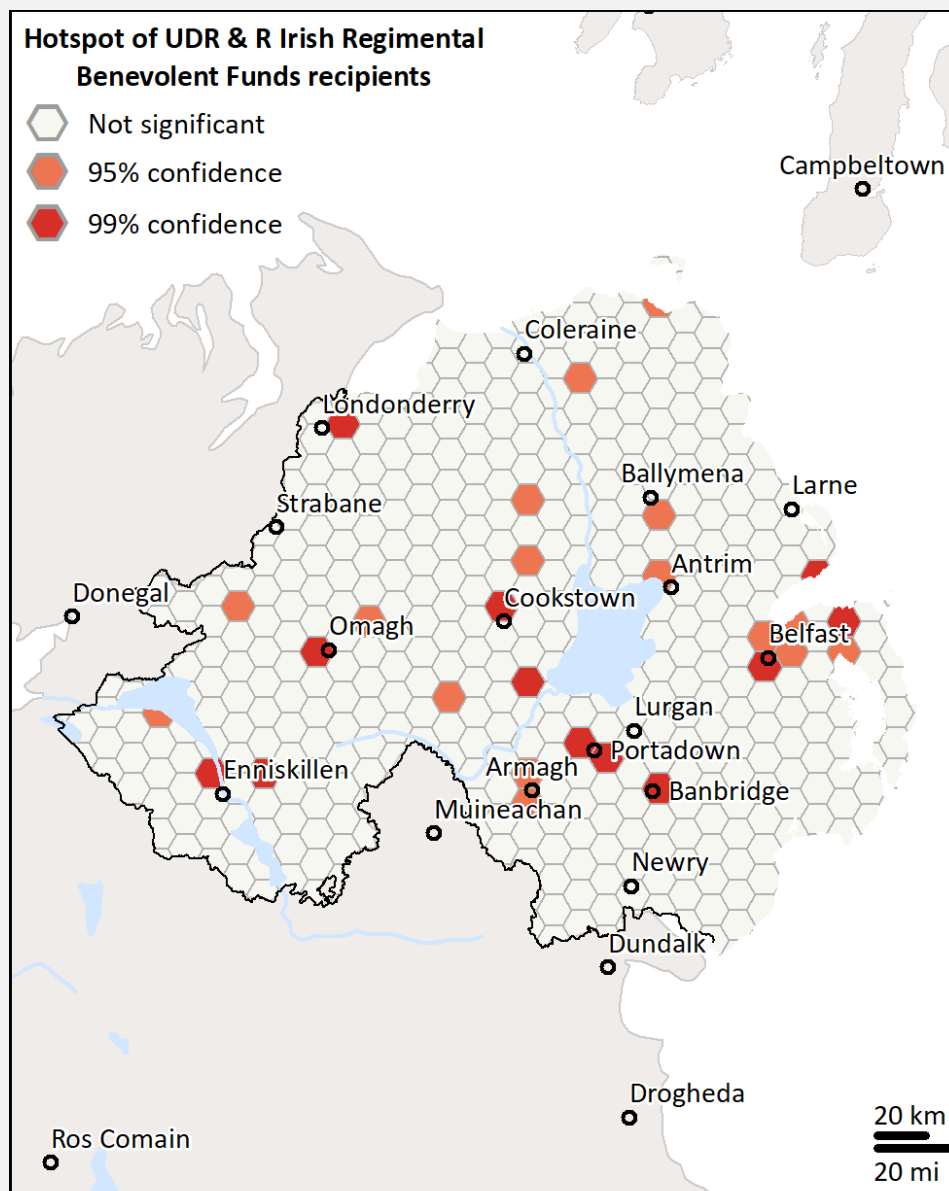- The online directory is publicly available at:

  https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/local-support/

By using service usage data, we are obtaining a reliable source of actual service usage.

Financial hardship and housing issues are the most prevalent topics affecting veterans that seek assistance from the main charities in the sector. The data shows that most of those that seek assistance for financial hardship are in fact older veterans (>50 years). Also, the veteran population seeking financial assistance is spatially differentiated based on the military branch that they served in. UK-wide, a similar pattern in all the data analysed suggests that benevolence payments to the veteran community cannot be only explained by deprivation in a given area.

The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research

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UDR & R IRISH Regimental Benevolence (Jan 2018 – May 2018)

- Based only on the cases used for the purpose of this analysis (n= 93), 'Home Heating Oil' was the main requirement of the cases.

- However, almost half of the recipients (44%) had multiple needs, which ranged from food, rent or heating, coupled with other different needs.

- Three local authorities concentrated the majority of the recipients (56%): Fermanagh & Omagh, Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon and Mid Ulster. However, all the local authorities had recipients of assistance, which is indicative of the geographical dispersion of cases.

- The location of the hotspots is also indicative of this geographical dispersion. It was possible to find several hotspots across Northern Ireland.

- In absolute figures, Fermanagh & Omagh was the main LA (20 recipients). Considering a crude rate, Fermanagh & Omagh also stands out with 1.77 recipients per 10,000 population.

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