



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 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/>

The Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research

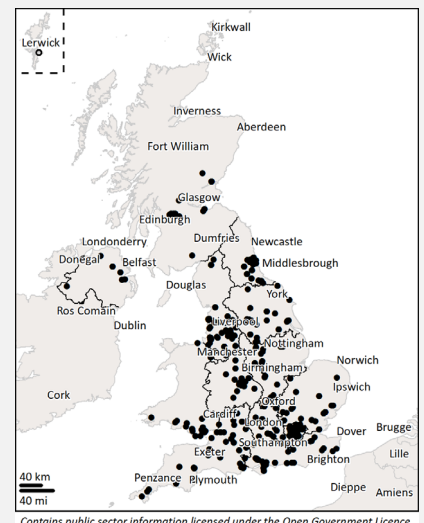
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The 2011 Armed Forces Act provided a comprehensive legislative framework for the British Armed Forces and created the requirement for an annual Armed Forces covenant report to UK Parliament each year. In order to support the armed forces community more effectively, the UK Cabinet Sub Committee on the Armed Forces Covenant determined a necessity for evidence-based findings.

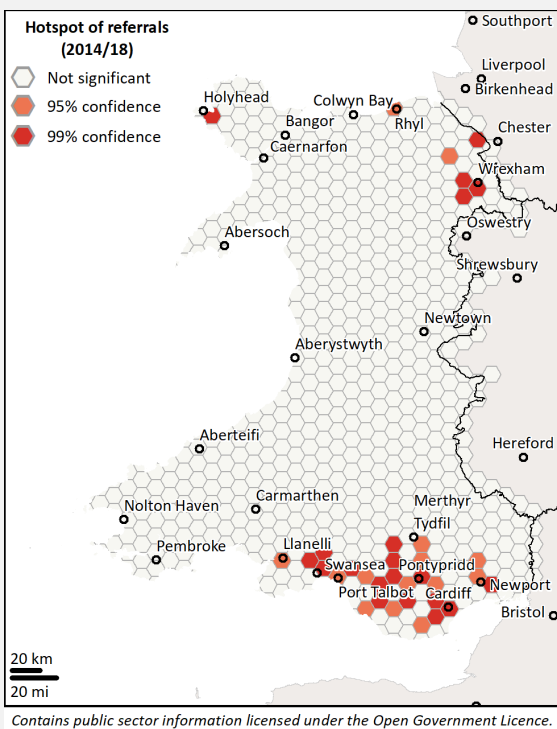
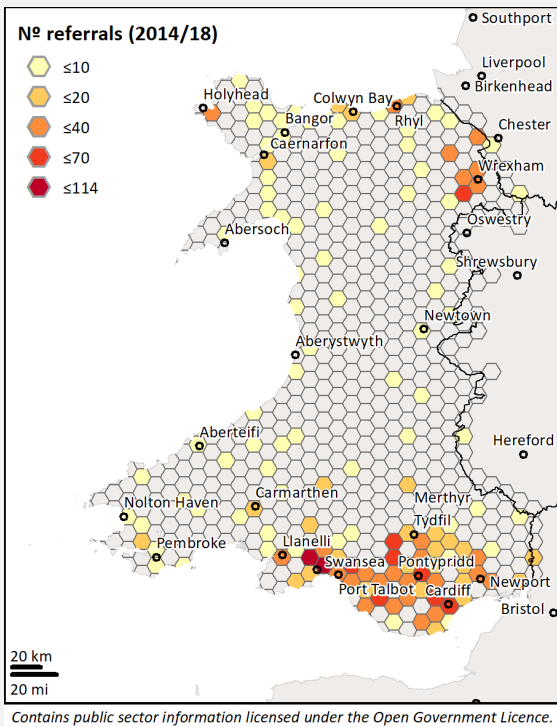
One of the main goals of the Map of Need project is to provide evidence-based findings about the veteran population. Data sharing partnerships are central to the analysis within the project, allowing us the ability to statistically compare multiple data sources when examining a veteran or family issue, 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.

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 explained by deprivation in a given area.



Veterans NHS Wales (2014/18)



- In Wales, throughout the 2014/18 financial years, and based only on the data that was provided for the purpose of this analysis (n= 2,108), the results show a yearly average of 527 referrals to Veterans NHS Wales.
- Across each financial year, the crude rate ranged between 1.17 and 1.97 referrals per 10,000 population.
- The average age of the veterans being referred was 41 years.
- In absolute figures, Rhondda Cynon Taf was the local authority with the highest number of referrals (n= 280).
- Considering a crude rate, Rhondda Cynon Taf also stood out with 12 referrals per 10,000 population.
- Referrals were geographical dispersed across Wales. Every local authority had veterans using the Veterans NHS Wales service.
- Nonetheless, it was possible to identify two main hotspots where referrals were concentrated. One main area across the South (Newport, Cardiff, Swansea) and another smaller hotspot in the North (Wrexham).
- The prevailing trend showed that the higher the overall and income deprivation in an area, the higher the number of veterans being referred. This relationship was strong enough to show that this pattern could not have happened due to random chance.
- However, deprivation indices are not suitable as sole predictors when seeking to locate areas with veterans referred for mental health services, because they explain a very small amount of the spatial variation (between 2% to 6%).

Financial year	Referrals	Crude referral rate*	Average age	Main postcode
2014/15	358	1.17	41	SA1
2015/16	602	1.97	41	SA1
2016/17	550	1.80	42	SA1
2017/18	598	1.95	42	LL14

*Number of referrals per 10,000 population.