

NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND, an OVERVIEW: 2021 UVLC Minnesota Veterans Wellness Survey

1715 April 15, 2021 mjr draft

Minnesota and Care of Veterans	Minnesotans have a sacred duty to honor the sacrifices of 340,000 veterans and their families. How do we know veterans are at risk? In the last 5 years over 500 MN veterans have died by suicide, a grievous loss.
What Do Veterans Vow?	That no veteran is left behind, stranded, abandoned, bereft.
Minnesota Needs Actionable Data	The pandemic has worsened the medical, social, and economic circumstances of MN veterans. We need to address current needs and to figure out how to keep this from worsening.
What Are Best Possible Survey Outcomes?	The survey and recommendations will guide public and private actions and resources into timely and worthy results.
Technology Used	Our survey technology is adapted from 25 years of employee and research survey projects. The veterans surveyed can use home computers to send their responses; doing the survey with a smart phone is an option, although it is easier to use a tablet or a full-screen computer.
How long does the survey take?	Completing the survey is expected to take about 15 minutes. Many items are background and factual questions that can be answered rather quickly.
Confidentiality	Confidentiality is automatically preserved by a program that removes all personal information from the data set.
Future Surveys	UVLC will initiate the first statewide surveys. Later surveys may be done by UVLC and others. Some items can be repeated to explore changes over time on core issues while also adding in new questions to address more new issues as they arise.
Costs and Funding	Cost of the first survey is \$15,000. Initial funding is by private sector and civic organizations. Follow-on surveys will cost less.
Preparation Phase	The survey has been designed through a collaborative design process of developing the initial questions (search of relevant literature on veteran wellbeing and health issues to identify items and normative data), a pilot test, and revision. We have created email invitations for each promotional partner organization.
Sending out the Survey	The survey weblink URL address is sent to partner organizations, who email the link to their individual members/clients. Then individuals log on to the survey website and complete the online survey.
Collecting the Survey	The survey will remain open for three-week period. Past experience suggests that the majority of responses will likely be

	created in the first two weekends (10-day period) of the survey open date. Attridge Consulting will provide weekly updates on the size of the respondent sample and data collection progress.
Survey Analysis	Attridge Consulting will prepare the dataset and conduct a formal analysis and write up of the survey results, this will have graphics of key findings, and a slide show. An executive summary and press release will list key results and implications for action to be taken.
Reporting Survey Findings	Dr. Attridge, UVLC, and key stakeholders will do a public press event and discuss the survey findings.
Likely Additional Presentations and Testimony	MN legislature; MN Congressional Delegation; state, regional, and federal agencies; Association of MN Counties; League of MN Cities, MN Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition; MN Farmers Union; Strong Towns; Institute for Local Self-Reliance, MN Initiative Foundations; pastoral and mental health organizations.
Who created this survey?	Mike Rivard and Jerry Kyser of United Veterans Legislative Council, Dr. Mark Attridge of Attridge Consulting, Paul Riedner of Shadow Culture. MN County Veterans Service Officers provided extensive input into design of survey questions
The survey website	mnuvlc.org