

The second anonymous online survey among veterans and active military personnel "Needs of veterans"



The second anonymous online survey among veterans and active military personnel «Needs of veterans»

6-12 february 2023

Research group: Yuliya Kirillova, Vladyslava Znovyak

The Ukrainian Veterans Foundation of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine conducted a second anonymous online survey among male as well as female veterans and active military personnel.

The survey was conducted in the period from 6 to 12 of February 2023 which included the collection of primary data on the portrait of our current and future target audiences, and the problems they most often face under the conditions of the martial law.

Taking into account the difficulty of contacting respondents, an anonymous online survey was chosen as the tool for data collection, so no sampling requirements were established. 1247 respondents took part in the survey. Given the chosen tool for data collection, one of the risks may be repeated filling in of the questionnaire in order to influence the results of the survey. Given the internal and external factors that led us to choose this tool, we are unable to control such risks in the survey. Therefore, our survey is not representative, but it reflects certain trends among our target audiences.

The anonymous online survey consisted of 31 questions, among which 21 are closed questions and 10 are open questions, where the respondents had the opportunity to reveal the questions related to: the field of their professional activities, the types of support they need most at the moment, types of benefits and social guarantees with which they are most satisfied and with which they are not

satisfied, or they were refused to receive certain services, as well as the difficulties with which, in their opinion, veterans most often face.

Our anonymous online survey consisted of 4 structural sections:

Section 1 will include sociodemographic questions.

Section 2 will concern respondents exclusively from the number of veterans who are currently not serving in the Defense Forces of Ukraine.

Section 3 will refer exclusively to respondents from among veterans and persons who were mobilized after February 24, 2022, and are now active military personnel.

Section 4 will be for all respondents. It contains questions about the level of respect for veterans in Ukrainian society.

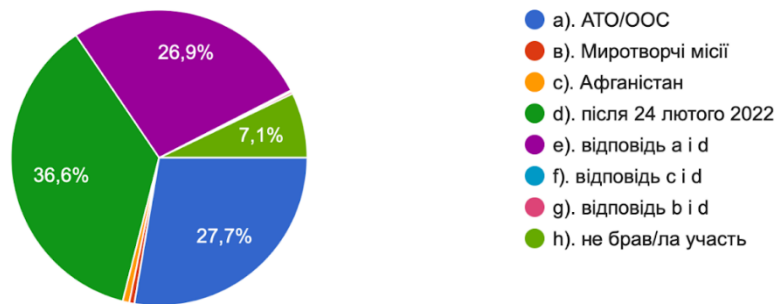
Section 1. Block of questions about sociodemographic data of veterans and active servicemen.

The first block of questions is of a general nature and provides an opportunity to form a sociodemographic portrait of our target audience.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine scaled up the experience of participating in hostilities. Among the surveyed respondents, 36.6% took part in hostilities only after February 24, 2022, 27.7% already had experience of participating in hostilities in the ATO/JFO from 2014 to 2021, and 26.9% had combat experience in the ATO/ JFO and after February 24, 2022. Less than 1% of the answers indicate the experience of participating in combat operations in: Afghanistan - 0.7%, Peacekeeping missions - 0.6%. 7.1% of respondents had no combat experience. There are individual responses from those who participated in combat operations in Afghanistan or as part of Peacekeeping Missions and are participating now in combat operations after February 24. For the first question of this block, respondents had the opportunity to choose one answer option.

1. Чи брали Ви участь в бойових діях?

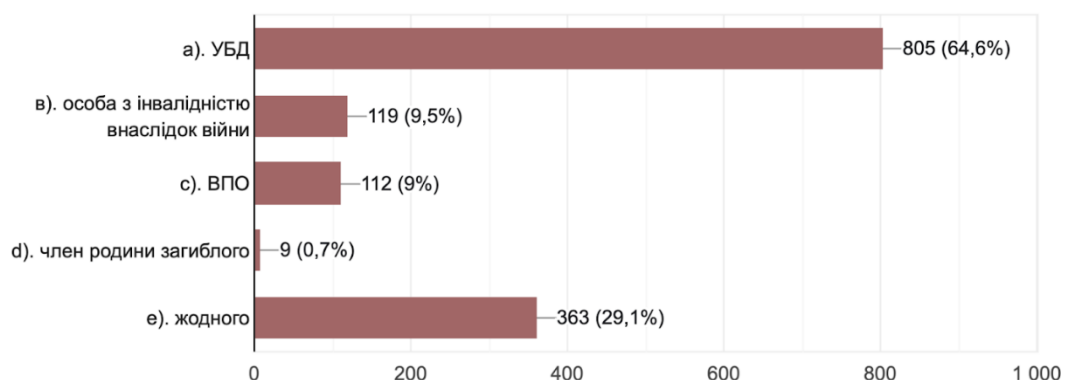
1 247 відповідей



The majority of surveyed respondents have the status of a participant in hostilities (PIH) (64.6%), 9.5% of respondents have the status of a person with a disability as a result of the war, 9% are IDPs, 0.7% are family members of the deceased. Also, 29.1% of respondents indicated that they do not have any status. Respondents had the opportunity to choose several answer options. Among the respondents who have several statuses at the same time, 5.3% have the status of a participant in hostilities and the status of a person with a disability; 6.7% have PIH and IDP statuses. About 0.5% of the respondents have the status of PIH and the status of a family member of the deceased.

2. Чи маєте ви статус: (можна обирати декілька статусів)

1 247 відповідей

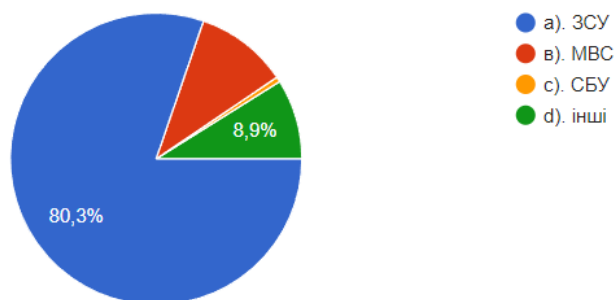


The results of the survey showed that the majority of respondents are currently serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) - 80.3%. We can also observe the representation of survey participants among other law enforcement agencies among them: the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (MIA) - 10.3%; The Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) - 0.6% and others - 8.9%.

3. Силові та спеціальні структури України, де Ви проходите/ли службу?

 Копировать

1 247 ответов

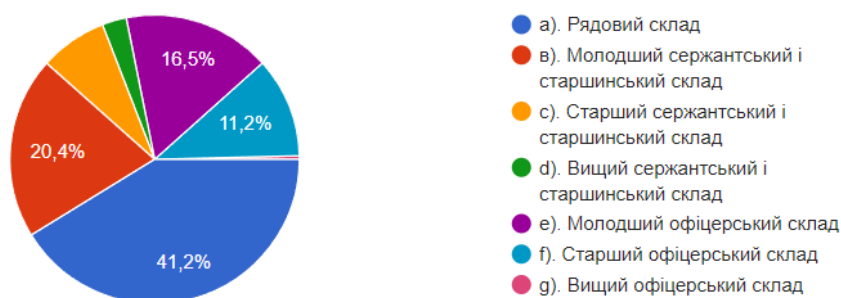


By military rank, privates are the most represented rank - 41.2%. We also singled out: junior sergeants - 20.4%; senior sergeants - 7.5%; higher sergeants - 2.7%; junior officers - 16.5%; senior officers - 11.2% and higher officers - 0.4%.

4. Військове звання:

 Копировать

1 247 ответов

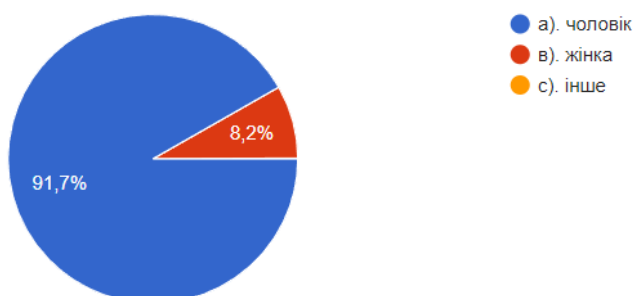


Surveyed respondents were mainly men - 91.7%, while women represented - 8.2%

5. Ваша стать:

 Копировать

1 247 ответов



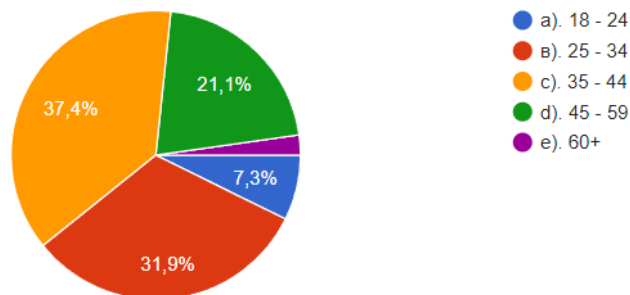
According to the age distribution among the interviewed women, there were represented mainly 35–44-year-old middle-aged women - 41.2%; 45-59 years

group represented - 26.55%; 25-34 years - 23.5%; 18-24 years - 5.9%; 60+ years - 2.9%. Among the male respondents, middle-aged men 35-44 years old were the most numerous - 37.2%; 25-34 years - 32.5%; 45-59 years - 20.6%; 18-24 years - 7.4%; 60+ years - 2.2%.

6. Ваш вік:

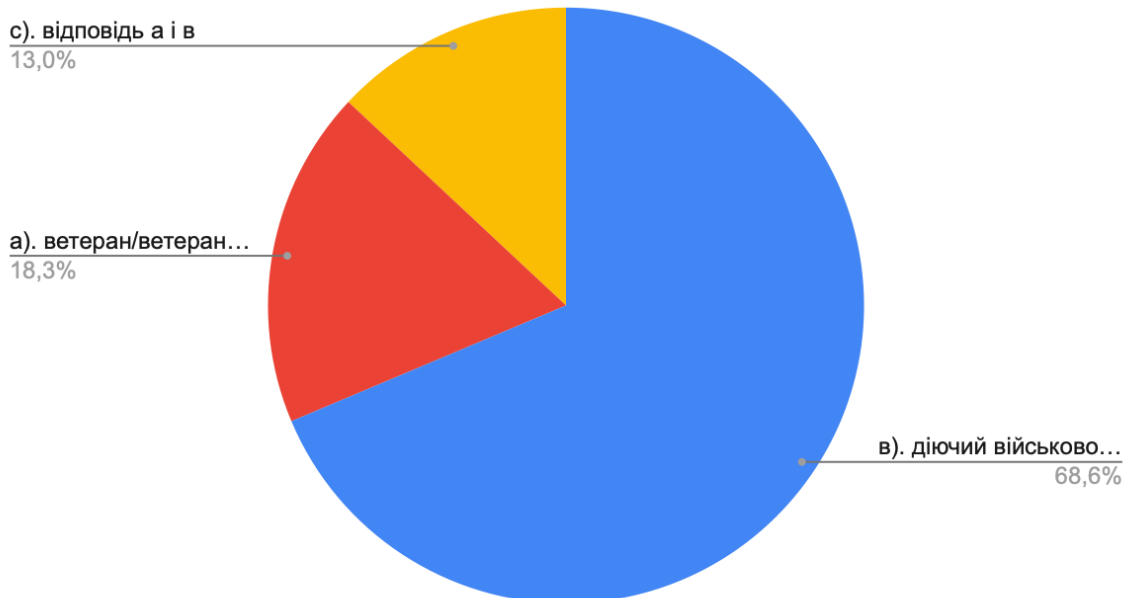
1 247 ОТВЕТОВ

 Копировать



Among the surveyed respondents, 68.6% are active military personnel, 13% defined themselves as veterans and returned to military service after February 24, 2022, and 18.3% are veterans who are currently not serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Кількість значень для "7. Ваш статус"



Section 2. Block of questions exclusively for veterans who are not currently serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

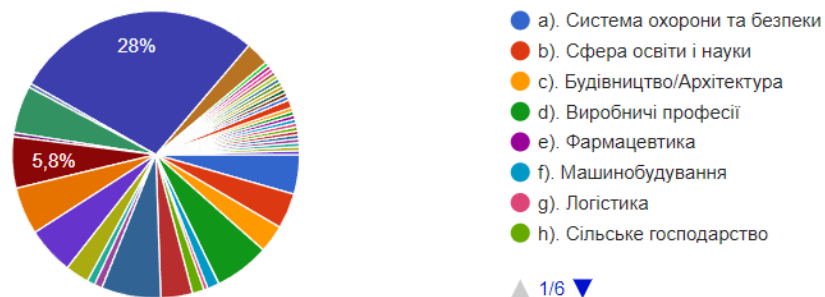
This section applied exclusively to respondents among veterans who are currently not serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The total number of answers was received from 225 respondents out of 1247 survey participants, among them women represented (9.2%) mainly middle-aged (23.8%) - 35-44 years, 38.1% - 45–59-year group) and men (90.2%) are also mostly middle-aged (39.9% - 34-44 years old, 26.6% - 45-59 years old)

Among the spheres of employment of veterans, dominates the IT sphere - 6.7%, manufacturing professions make up 6.2%, law enforcement agencies, customs and tax service authorities - 5.8%, self-employment (individual-entrepreneurs, self-employed persons), public sector and public services - 5.3% each, the protection and security systems - 4.4%, the sphere of education and science - 4%, the sphere of services - 3.6%, construction and architecture - 3.1%, medicine - 2.7%, 28 % of respondents indicated that they are unemployed.

1. Чим Ви зараз займаєтесь?

 Копировать

225 ответов

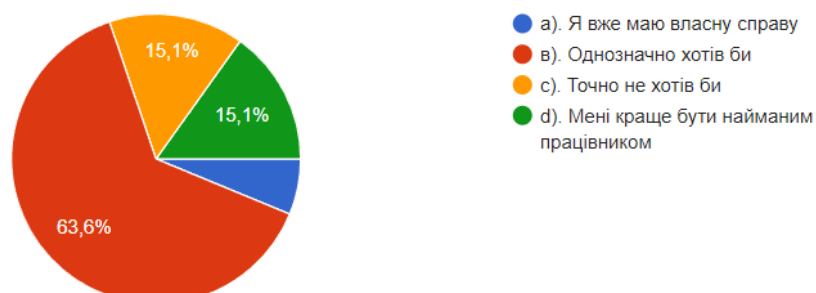


We asked our respondents the question "Would you like to start your own business, entrepreneurship?" to which the vast majority of 63.6% - that they definitely would like to, 15.1% of respondents said that they definitely don't want to start their own business, and another 15.1% - that they prefer to be employees, among them - 6.2% already have their own business.

2. Чи хотіли б Ви зайнятися власною справою, підприємництвом?


 Копировать

225 ответов

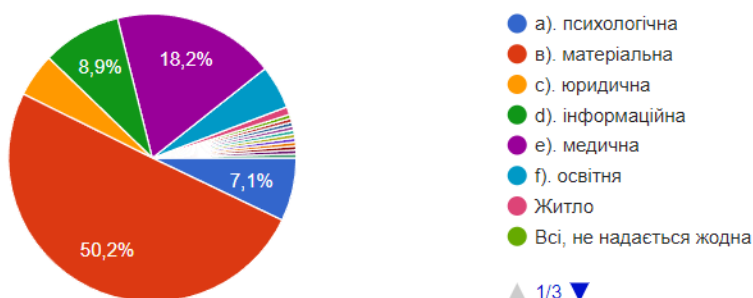


When asked what kind of support do you need the most right now, more than half of respondents who are currently not serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine said that they need financial support the most - 63.6%. Other needs included medical support which makes up - 18.2%; informative - 8.9%; psychological - 7.1%, legal and educational - 4.9% and other types of support.

3. Якої підтримки Ви потребуєте зараз найбільше?


 Копировать

225 ответов

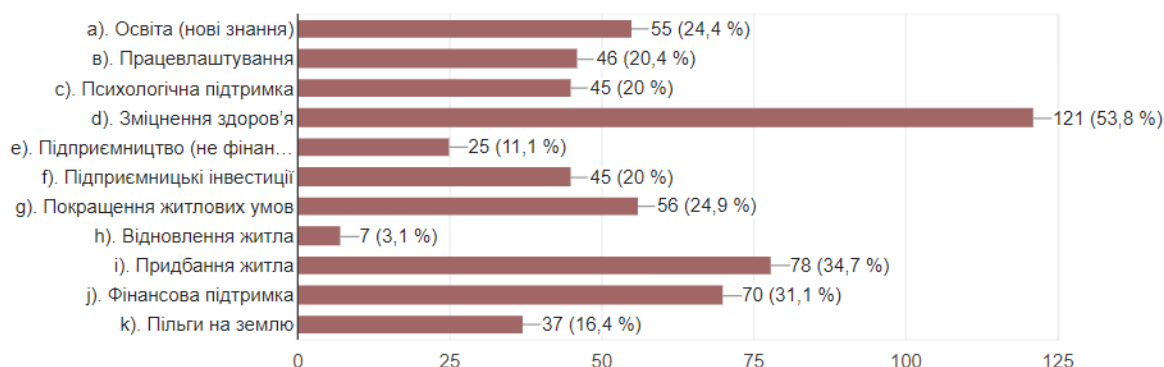


Already now and in the future, more than half of the respondents indicate that they will need help in improving their health - 53.8%; in the purchase of housing - 34.7%; financial support - 31.1%, in improving their living conditions - 24.9%, in education - 24.4%, employment - 20.4%, receiving psychological support - 20%, business investments - 20%, receiving land benefits - 16.4%, entrepreneurship (non-financial support) - 11.1%, housing restoration - 3.1%.

4. Якої допомоги Ви потребуєте зараз або можете потребувати в майбутньому? (оберіть декілька варіантів)

 Копировать

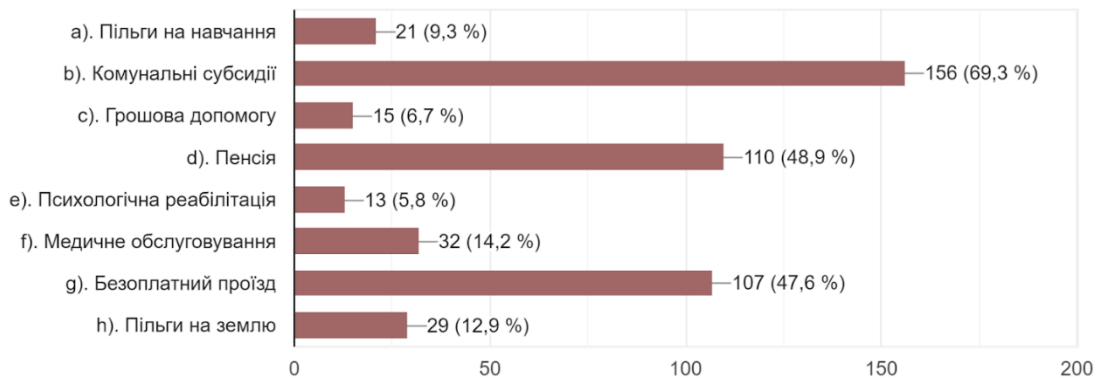
225 ответов



To the question: "What benefits do you and your family enjoy?" more than half of the respondents answered that they use communal subsidies - 69.3%. Also, 48.9% of respondents receive pensions, 47.6% free travel on public transport, 14.2% have benefits for medical care, 12.9% - for land, 9.3% - for education, 6.7% receive financial assistance, and 5.8% - psychological rehabilitation.

5. Якими пільгами користуєтеся Ви та Ваша родина? (оберіть декілька варіантів)

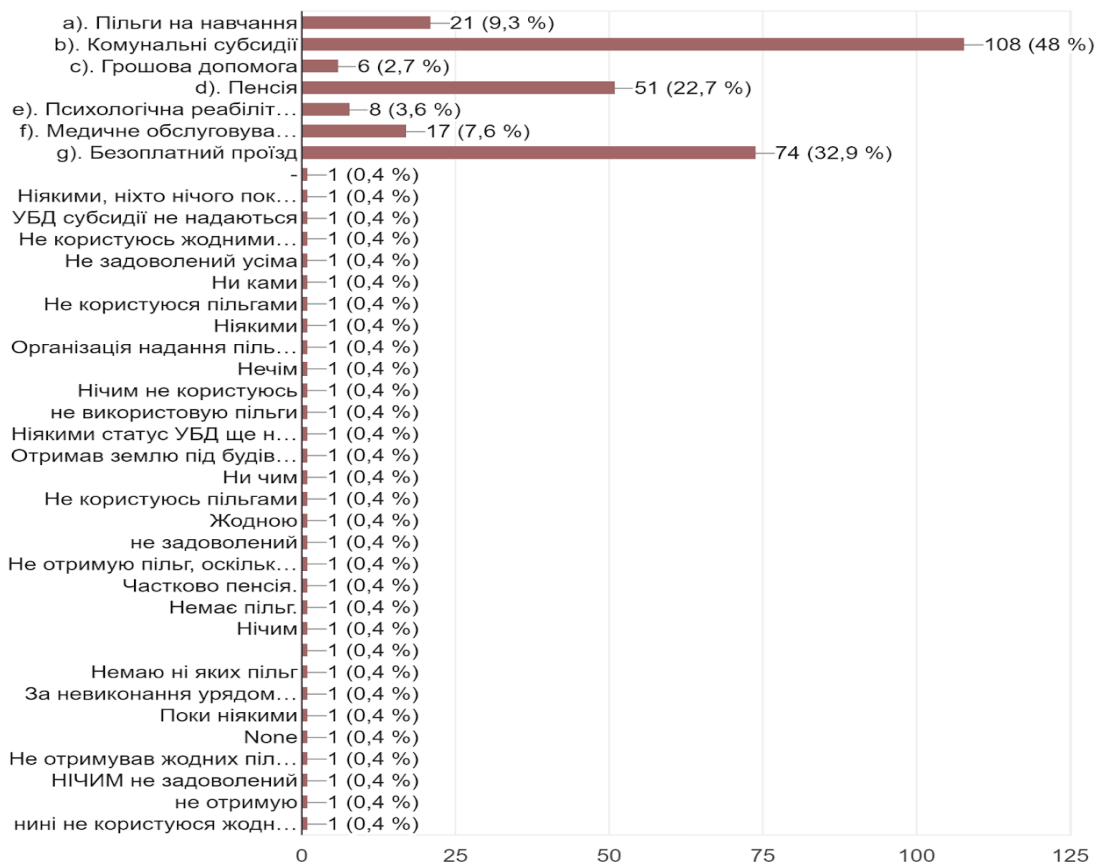
225 ответов



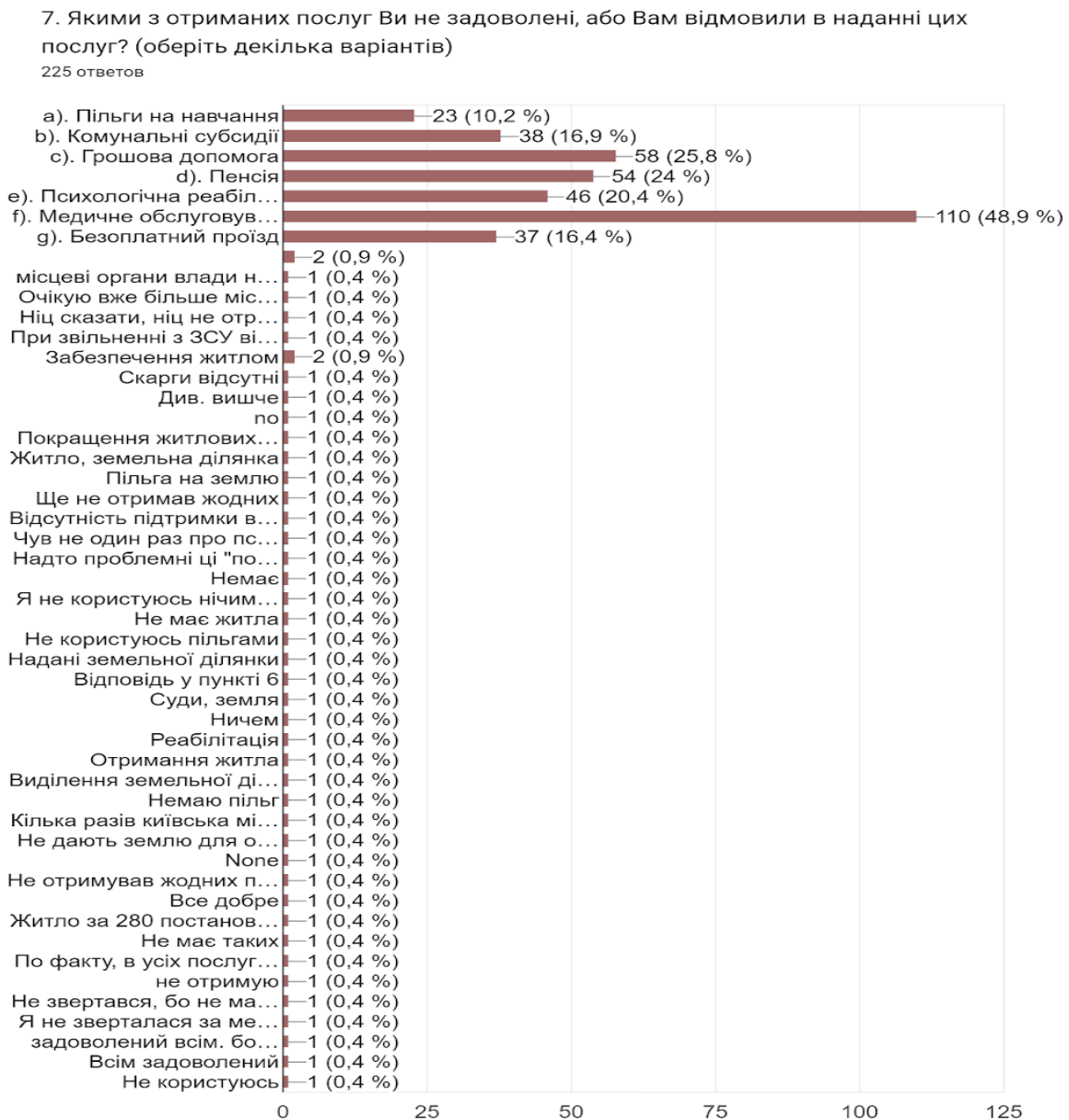
Answering the question about services for veterans with which they are most satisfied, the majority of respondents single out utility subsidies (48%), free travel - 32.9%, and pensions - 22.7%. Only 3.6% are satisfied with psychological rehabilitation and 2.7% with financial assistance.

6. Якими з отриманих послуг Ви найбільше задоволені? (оберіть декілька варіантів)

225 ответов



To the question "Which of the received services are you not satisfied with, or you were refused to provide these services?" about half of the respondents were not happy with medical care - 48.9%. Among the other most common answers there were financial assistance - 25.8%, pensions - 24% and psychological rehabilitation - 20.4%.



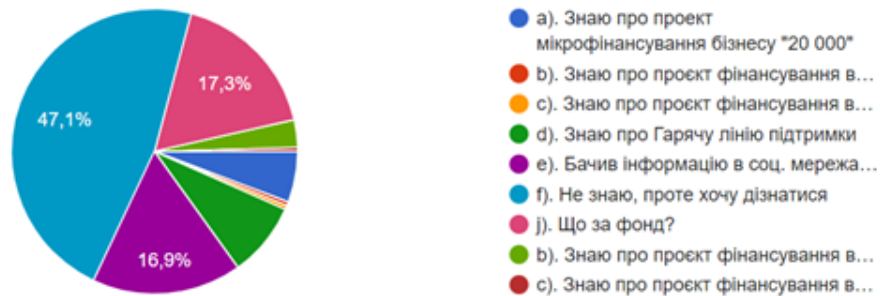
According to the results of the survey, we found out that the absolute majority of interviewed veterans do not know about the projects of the Ukrainian Veterans Foundation. About 17% have encountered information about the Foundation on social networks, mass media and billboards. Also, 8.4% are aware of the UVF

Support Hotline, and 5.8% are aware of the "20,000" business microfinancing project.

**8. Чи знаєте про проекти Українського ветеранського фонду
Міністерства у справах ветеранів?**

 Копіювати

225 відповідей



Section 3. Block of questions exclusively for active servicemen.

The answers of this block also include the answers of veterans who returned to the Armed Forces after the start of the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, which started on February 24, 2022. In total, 1,003 respondents from 1,247 survey participants gave answers to the questions of this block, of which 843 (67.6%) are active military personnel who do not have a veteran status yet (as of the time of the survey). Among them, 8% are female military servicemen, the vast majority of whom are aged between 25 and 44. Among the male respondents with the status of an exclusively military serviceman (as of the time of the survey), 9% were aged 18-24; 42% - 25-34 years old; 33% - 35-44 years old; 17% - 45-59 years old.

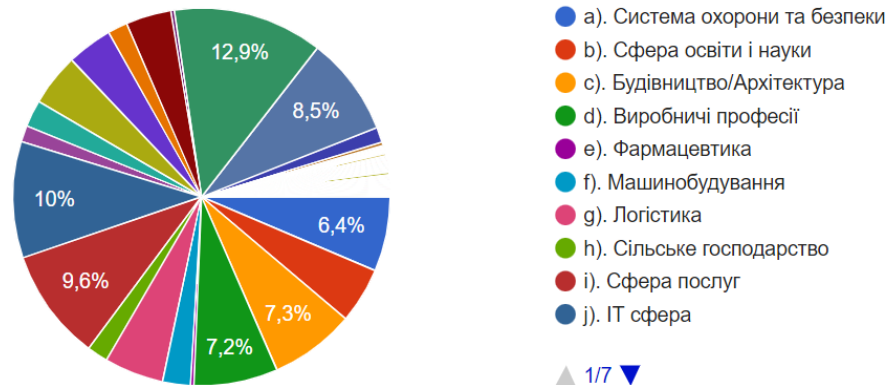
The number of respondents of military personnel with veteran status (as of the time of the survey) was 160 people - 12.8% of the total number of respondents. 7.5% of them were women. According to the age distribution among respondents who are military servicemen with veteran status, 34% are 25-34 years old; 40% - persons aged 35-44; 24% - persons aged 45-59.

When answering questions about their field of employment of respondents before joining the army, 12.9% stated that they had their own business (individual entrepreneurs, self-employed person); 10% - worked in the IT sphere; 9.6% - in the service sector; 8.5% - studied; 7.3% - worked in the field of construction and architecture; 7.2% - worked in production professions; 6.4% - in the protection and security systems; 5.1% - in the field of logistics; 4.8% - in the field of education and sciences; 4.5% - in medicine; 3.9% - were in the civil service; 3.9% - worked in law enforcement agencies, customs and tax services.

1. Сфера Вашої зайнятості до служби в армії?

 Копіювати

1 003 відповіді

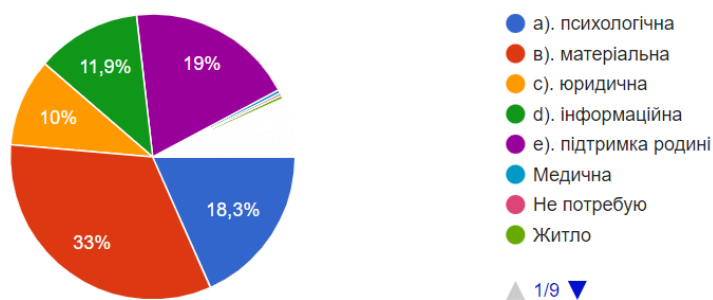


To the question "What kind of support do you need the most now?" a third of respondents who are active military personnel indicated that they need financial support (33%). Also, among the urgent needs: are support for their families (19%), psychological support (18.3%), information (11.9%) and legal support (10%). In the future, according to the answers of the respondents, they will need help in such areas as: improving health (58%), housing (48.8%), employment (34.1%), education (new knowledge and skills) (30, 2%), investment in their business (26.3%), family support (23.3%) and reintegration into society (11.3%).

2. Якої підтримки Ви потребуєте зараз найбільше?

 Копіювати

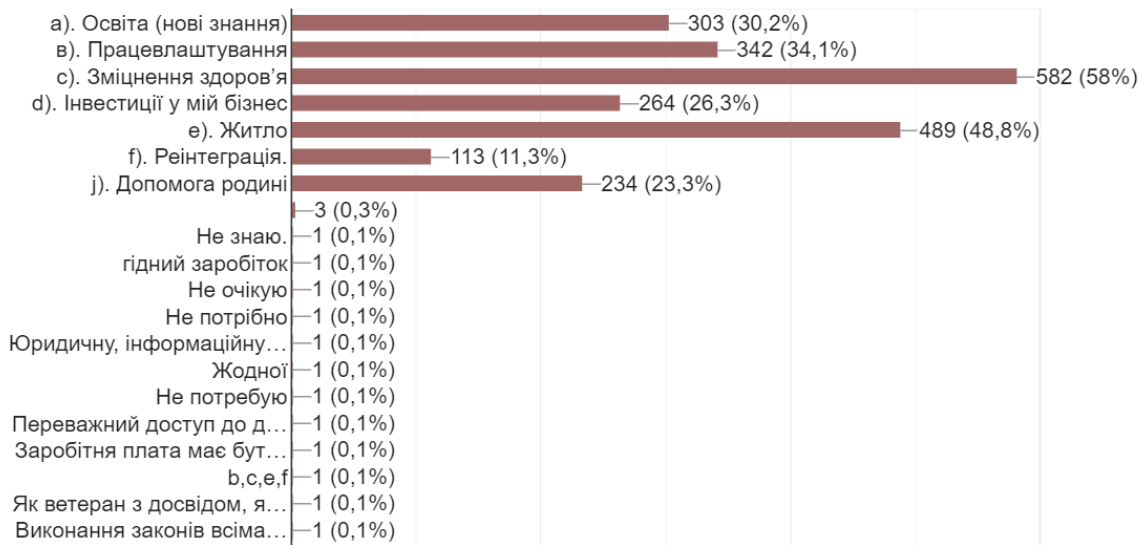
1 003 відповіді



3. Якої допомоги Ви потребуватимете в майбутньому? (оберіть декілька варіантів)

 Копіювати

1 003 відповіді



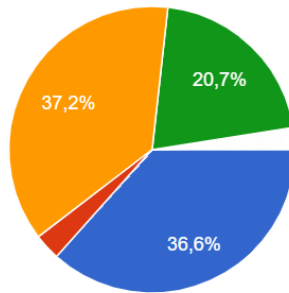
To the question "Are you satisfied with the level of your financial support?" 36.6% of the respondents answered that they are completely satisfied, on the other hand, for 37.2% of the surveyed servicemen said that their financial support is lower than they require. At the same time, it was difficult for 20.7% of respondents to answer this question, and for 3%, their financial support is higher than necessary.

The above-mentioned question also appeared in the "Twentieth National Survey. Ukraine during the war. The image of veterans in Ukrainian society" held in January 2023 by the Sociological Group "Rating" on the initiative of the Ukrainian Veterans Foundation of the Ministry of Veteran Affairs of Ukraine. Comparing the results of these two surveys, it is worth noting that the audience of the "Rating" survey covered the entire population of Ukraine over the age of 18, not including the population of the annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the occupied parts of the Donbass region, as well as territories where there is no Ukrainian mobile connection at the time of the survey. Therefore, a direct comparison of these results is incorrect. At the same time, it is important to note that the opinions of the respondents of both surveys about the level of financial support for the military were divided proportionally similarly. Thus, in a survey by the Rating group, 40% consider the salary level of military personnel directly participating in hostilities to be optimal, 34% to be lower than necessary, 8% to be higher, and 18% to be unable to answer the question. Regarding the salary of soldiers serving in the rear, half rated it as optimal, 13% - below the necessary - 15%, above the necessary - 11%, could not estimate - 25%. Compared to the survey in August 2022, there are no sharp changes in the assessment of the size of the salary of the mentioned servicemen categories.

4. Чи задоволені Ви рівнем свого грошового забезпечення?

 Копіювати

1 003 відповіді



- а). Так, цілком задоволений/на
- в). Вище необхідної
- с). Нижче необхідної
- д). Важко відповісти
- Раніше була задоволена, після ново...
- Станом на зараз так
- Всю свою з/п витрачаю на потреби с...
- Ні

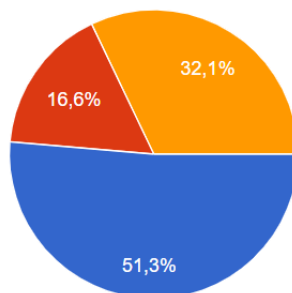
▲ 1/4 ▼

According to the results of a survey of active military personnel, the absolute majority of respondents (51.3%) plan to return to their work/study after the Victory of Ukraine. While, 16.6% gave a negative answer, and it was difficult for the rest of the respondents to answer this question.

5. Чи плануєте повертатися до своєї роботи/навчання після Перемоги:

 Копіювати

1 003 відповіді



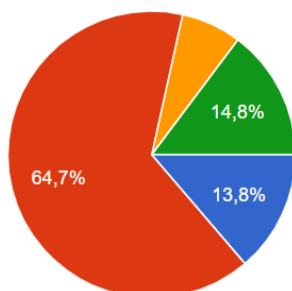
- а). так
- в). ні
- с). важко відповісти

Answering the question "Would you like to start your own business, entrepreneurship?" about 65% of the surveyed active servicemen chose the option "definitely would like to", and about 14% noted that they already have their own business. At the same time, 14.8% of respondents believe that it is better for them to be employed, and 6.8% would definitely do not want to start their own business.

6. Чи хотіли б Ви зайнятися власною справою, підприємництвом?

 Копіювати

1 003 відповіді



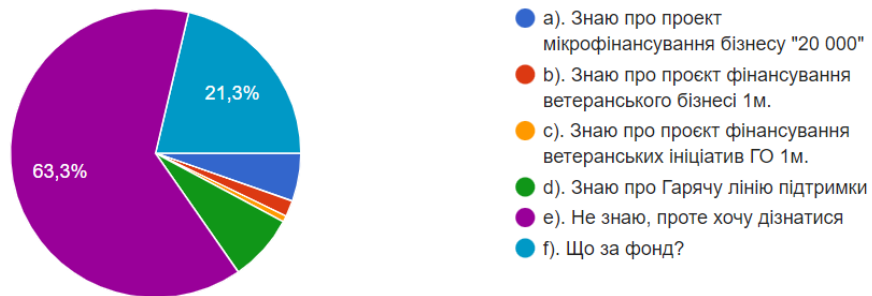
- а). Я вже маю власну справу
- в). Однозначно хотів би
- с). Точно не хотів би
- ф). Мені краще бути найманим працівником

According to the answers of the respondents, more than 80% of the respondents in total do not know about the projects of the Ukrainian Veterans Foundation of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, and 63.3% expressed a desire to find out about them. On the other hand, 7.5% already know about the UVF Support Hotline, and 5.4% know about the "20,000" business microfinancing project.

7. Чи знаєте про проекти Українського ветеранського фонду Міністерства у справах ветеранів?

[Копіювати](#)

1 003 відповіді

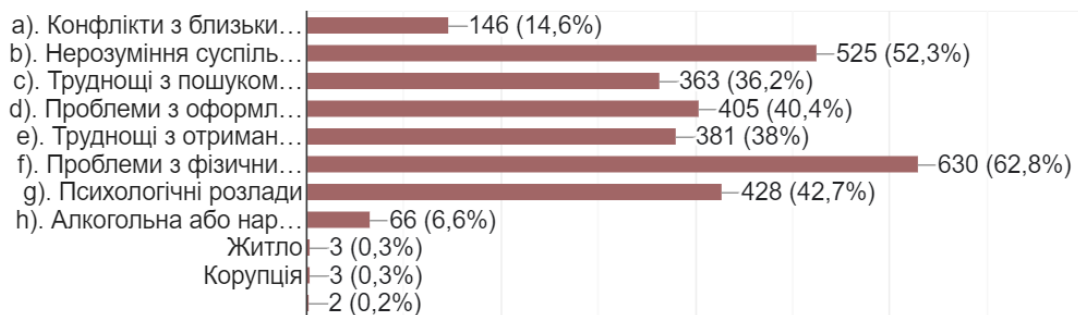


Speaking about the difficulties that the military personnel can face after the end of the war, respondents are most preoccupied with problems connected with physical health (62.8), misunderstanding from society (52.3), mental disorders (42.7), problems with registration social benefits (40.4%), difficulties in obtaining medical care (38%) and difficulties in finding a job (36.2%).

8. За які складнощі після завершення війни Ви особисто хвилюєтесь? (оберіть декілька варіантів)

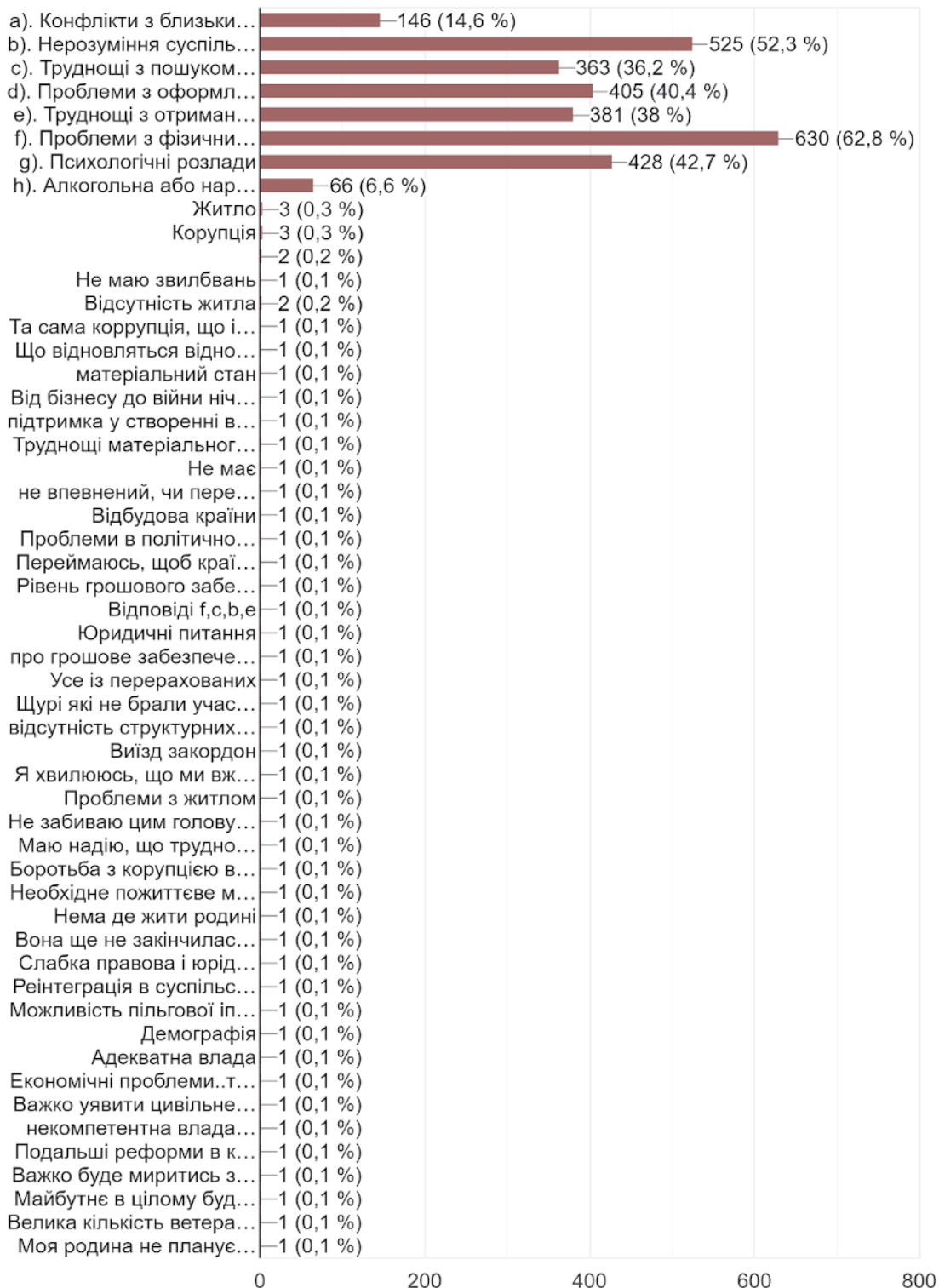
[Копіювати](#)

1 003 відповіді



8. За які складнощі після завершення війни Ви особисто хвилюєтесь? (оберіть декілька варіантів)

1 003 ответа



Section 4. Block of questions about the level of respect for veterans in Ukrainian society

The questions of this block were mandatory for all respondents and involved determining the opinion of both active servicemen and veterans regarding the level of respect for veterans in Ukrainian society.

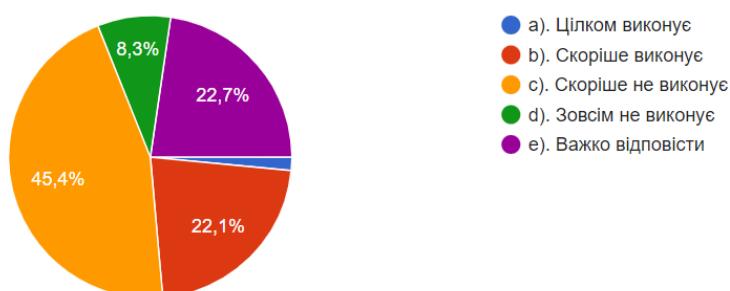
Thus, when asked about the state's fulfilment of its obligations to veterans, 45.4% of respondents indicated that the state "rather doesn't fulfil its obligations." On the other hand, 22.1% of respondents believe the opposite - "rather fulfils". The opinion that the state "does not at all fulfil" its obligations to the veterans was indicated by 8.3% of respondents, and that it "completely fulfils" - 1.5% of respondents. At the same time, it was difficult for almost 23% to answer this question.

Taking into account the results of the aforementioned survey of the Sociological Group "Rating", one can notice a general trend of increasing the number of negative assessments of the state's fulfilment of its obligations to veterans. Already in the January survey of the population of Ukraine, a decrease in the number of those who believe that the state fulfils its obligations to veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian war was noticed: in August 2022, there were 69% of them, in January 2023 - 53%. Those who believe otherwise are 26%. A survey of servicemen and veterans by the Ukrainian Veterans Foundation only confirmed the growing dissatisfaction with the state's activities in this area.

1. На Вашу думку, наскільки виконує чи не виконує сьогодні держава свої зобов'язання перед ветеранами?

 [Копіювати](#)

1 247 відповідей



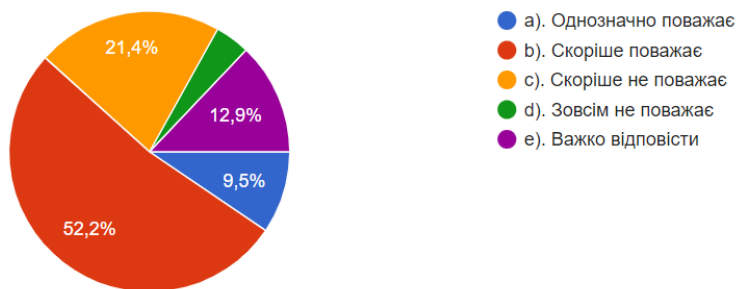
The absolute majority of surveyed military personnel and veterans believe that today Ukrainian society respects veterans (52.2% - rather respects + 9.5% - definitely respects). According to 21.4% of respondents, society rather does not respect veterans, and 4% are convinced that it does not respect them at all. On the other hand, about 13% of the respondents could not give an exact answer to this question.

It is worth noting that in the January survey of the population of Ukraine conducted by the Rating Group, the absolute majority (91%) believed that society today respects veterans, but the share of those with the opposite opinion was significantly smaller (6%). Therefore, it is important to further research the reasons why a part of military servicemen and veterans believe that there is disregard for veterans in Ukrainian society, because the answers of about a quarter of the military servicemen surveyed by the Ukrainian Veterans Foundation indicate exactly this sentiment.

2. На Вашу думку, наскільки суспільство сьогодні поважає ветеранів?

 [Копіювати](#)

1 247 відповідей

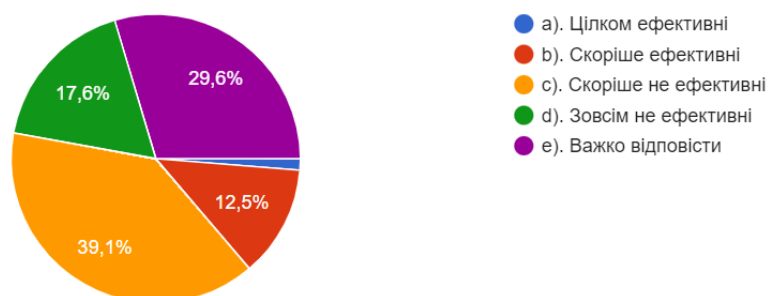


Responding to the question "How effective are state programs of creating inclusive spaces and infrastructure for people with disabilities?", respondents' opinions were divided. About 14% of respondents consider the above-mentioned programs to be quite effective, or rather effective. On the other hand, for the majority of respondents, state programs of creating inclusive spaces and infrastructure for persons with disabilities are not effective at all or rather ineffective - 17.6% and 39.1%, respectively. At the same time, a third of the respondents could not give a clear answer to this question.

3. На Вашу думку, наскільки ефективні державні програми по створенню інклюзивного простору та інфраструктури для осіб з інвалідністю?

 [Копіювати](#)

1 247 відповідей



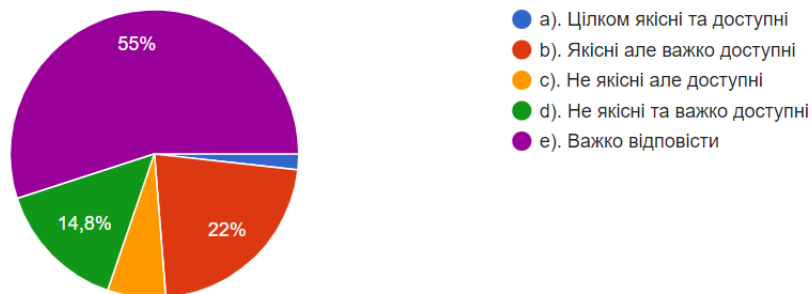
The results of the survey regarding the quality and accessibility of state programs for rehabilitation and prosthetics for persons with disabilities are less indicative, as the absolute majority (55%) chose the answer option "difficult to answer". 22% of

respondents consider such programs to be high-quality but difficult to access, 6.5% consider them to be low-quality but accessible. At the same time, in the opinion of almost 15% of respondents, state programs for rehabilitation and prosthetics for persons with disabilities are of poor quality and difficult to access, and only 1.8% of respondents rate them as quite high-quality and accessible.

4. На Вашу думку, наскільки якісні та доступні державні програми з реабілітації та протезування для осіб з інвалідністю?

 [Копіювати](#)

1 247 відповідей



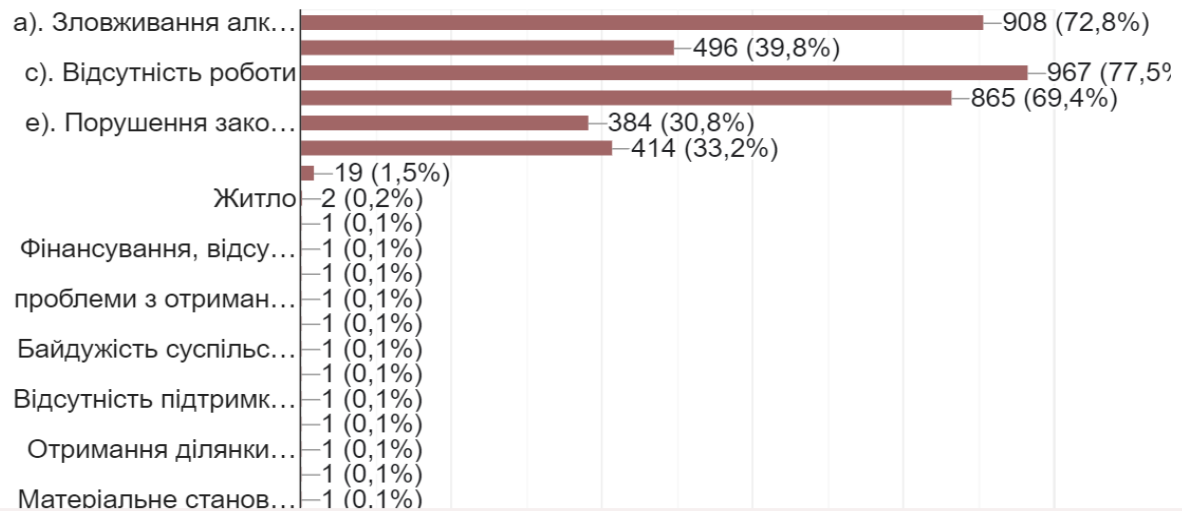
Answering the question "Which of the listed problems, in your opinion, will veterans who return from the Russian-Ukrainian war face?", respondents had the opportunity to choose several answer options. So, according to the interviewees, the most likely problems are unemployment (77.5%), alcohol or drug abuse (72.8%), and family conflicts (69.4%). About 30-40% of respondents also noted such problems as suicides, difficulties in obtaining Ukrainian citizenship (for foreigners who took part in hostilities), violations of laws, and participation in crime.

The results obtained in this survey correlate with the results of the January survey conducted by the Sociological Group "Rating". Conflicts in the family, lack of work and abuse of alcohol or drugs were and remain the key problems that veterans of the Russian-Ukrainian war are likely to face after returning home, as more than half of the respondents in both surveys believe so.

5. На вашу думку з якими з перелічених проблем зіткнуться ветерани, які повернуться з російсько-української війни? (оберіть декілька варіантів)

[Копіювати](#)

1 247 відповідей

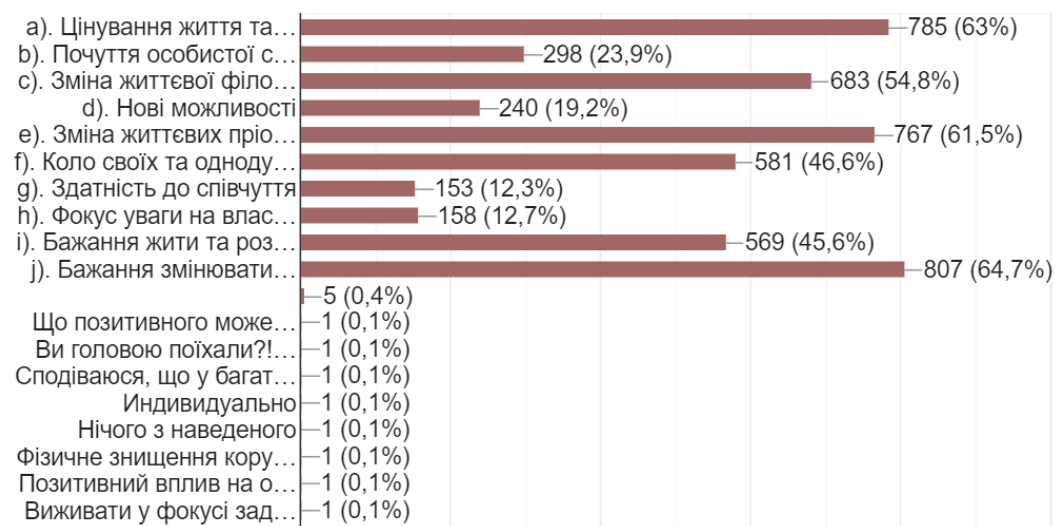


Speaking about the positive impact on the lives of veterans after the Victory can have participation in hostilities, the respondents had the opportunity to choose several answer options. The most prevalent of them is the desire to change one's country for the better (64.7%), appreciation of life and relationships (63%), change in life priorities (61.5%), change in life philosophy (54.8%), circle of relatives and like-minded people (46.6%) and the desire to live and develop (45.6%).

6. На Вашу думку, який позитивний вплив на життя ветеранів після Перемоги може мати участь в бойових діях? (оберіть декілька варіантів)

[Копіювати](#)

1 247 відповідей



Respondents also had the opportunity to choose several answer options when asked about the current problems that veterans face most often. According to the respondents, the most common problems are problems with physical health (68.4%), mental disorders (66.4%), misunderstanding of society (63.8%), problems

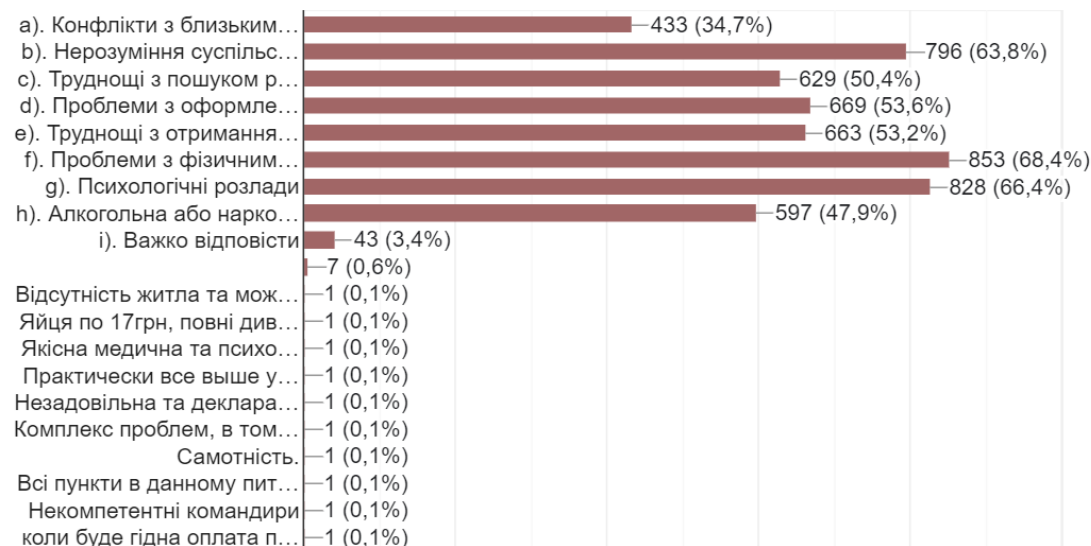
with the registration of social benefits (53.6 %), difficulties in obtaining medical care (53.2%), difficulties in finding a job (50.4%), as well as alcohol or drug addiction (47.9%).

It can be seen that, in contrast to the indicators of the survey of the Rating Group, for the surveyed servicemen and veterans, the top 3 most common problems faced by veterans, in addition to physical health problems and mental disorders, also include misunderstanding of society. That is, we can say that this problem remains underestimated and less significant in Ukrainian public opinion, but it is of great importance for active servicemen and veterans.

7. Як Ви вважаєте, з якими проблемами ветерани стикаються найчастіше? (оберіть декілька варіантів)

 [Копіювати](#)

1 247 відповідей



One of the most controversial was the question "How do you feel about the fact that various political forces can invite veterans to run in elections?". Most of the respondents' answers were polarized. Thus, 38.7% have a rather positive attitude towards such opportunities, while 34.6% have a rather negative attitude. About 11% of respondents remained indifferent to this question, and for 13.4% it was difficult to answer unequivocally. At the same time, 2.5% of respondents indicated that they are already members of a political party.

In general, both in this survey and in the survey of the population of Ukraine conducted by the Rating Group in January, the majority of respondents respond positively to the possibility of veterans participating in elections from various political forces, but about a third of respondents in both surveys have the opposite opinion.