



# NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

## For Many Injured Veterans, A Lifetime of Consequences

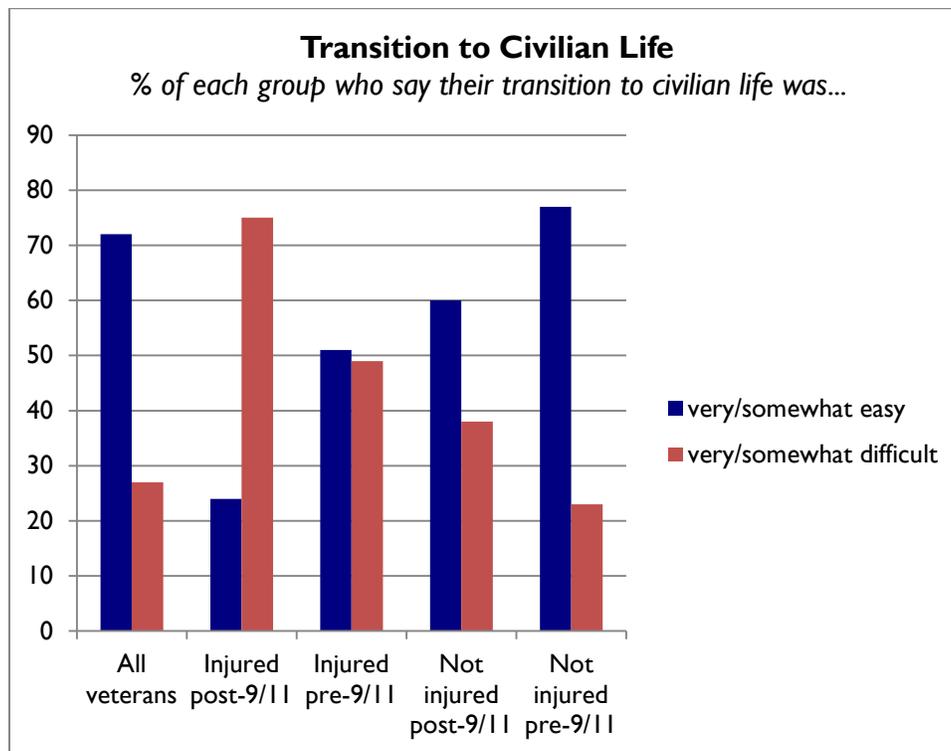
Paul Taylor, Rich Morin, Ana Gonzalez, Seth Motel, and Eileen Patten | [Full Report](#)

### Quick Takeaways

- Veterans who suffered major service-related injuries are more than twice as likely as their veteran counterparts to say they had difficulties readjusting to civilian life.
- Veterans who suffered major service-related injuries are almost three times as likely as other veterans to report they have suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Among all veterans, those who were seriously injured while serving are less likely than other veterans to be employed full time and more likely not to have a job.

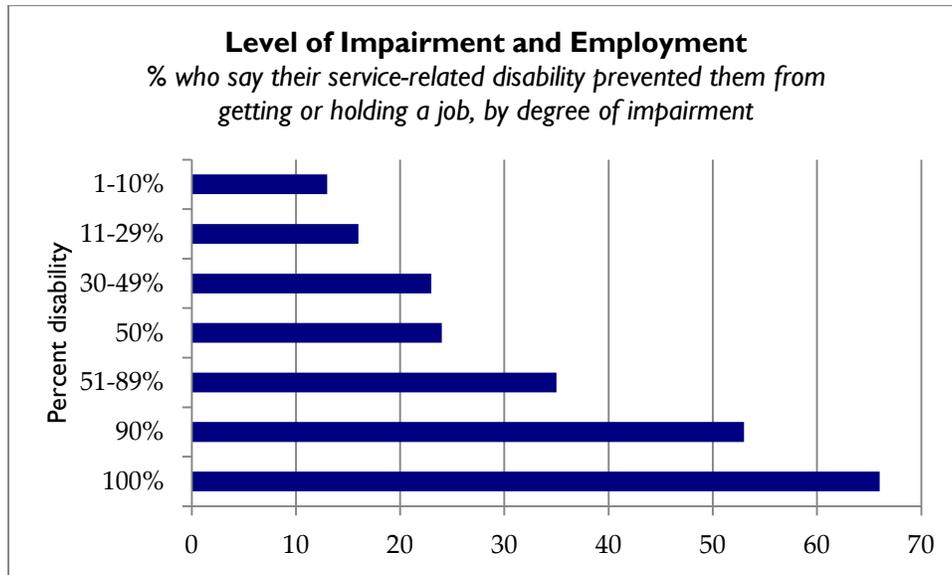
### Transition Hardships

One out of every ten veterans (2.2 million) alive today was seriously injured at some point while serving in the military. According to the survey conducted by the Pew Research Center on Social and Demographic Trends, three-in-four injured post-9/11 veterans say their transition to life after the military was difficult, compared with 49% of older injured veterans.

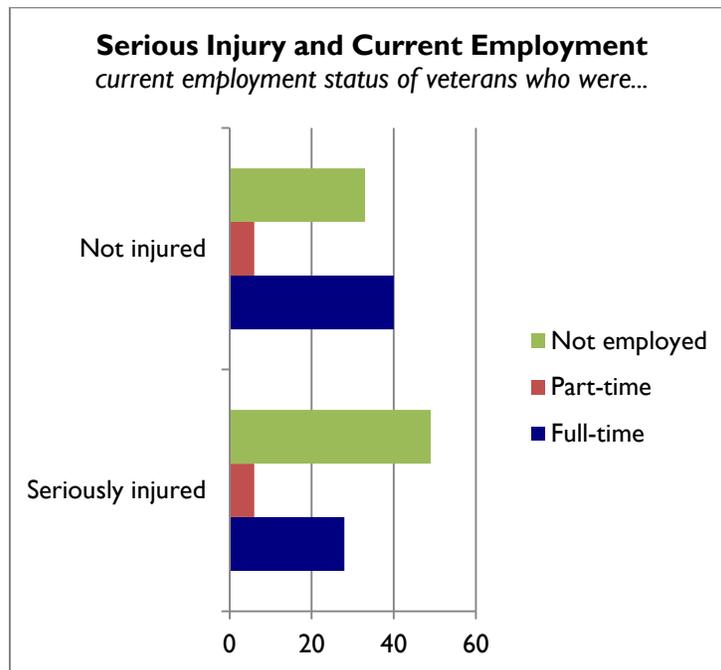


Nearly three-in-ten disabled veterans report that their disability kept them from getting or keeping a job at some point in their lives. Moreover, over four-in-ten disabled veterans who are not working say their impairment is keeping them from getting a job.

Today, about three-in-ten post-9/11 veterans have been determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs to have some rating of disability from service-related injuries, illnesses or psychological conditions including but not limited to PTSD.



The employment figures, discussed fully in the [2012 Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Situation of Veterans](#), may show a skewed employment picture for disabled veterans. About 14% of all disabled veterans are classified as too disabled to work and are therefore not included in government calculations of the unemployment rate. In addition, nearly three-in-ten disabled veterans are classified as being full-time retirees and also not included in the official unemployment calculation. In fact, many of these veterans may be “reluctant retirees,” nearly a third of disabled veterans who are retired say their service-connected disability currently keeps them from “getting or holding a job.”



### Adjusting to Injuries

Seriously wounded<sup>i</sup> veterans also face non-physical health issues, including a higher likelihood of reporting PTSD, flashbacks, distressing memories or recurring nightmares about an emotionally traumatic experience they had in the military.

Post-9/11 veterans who were badly hurt while serving are far more likely than other injured veterans to report they suffered from PTSD (66% vs. 43%). They also are significantly more likely to say they experienced an emotionally traumatic event while serving (81% vs. 51% for veterans seriously injured in earlier eras) – a difference that persists even when the analysis focuses only on veterans of both eras who were badly hurt in combat.

According to the Pew Research Center survey, about half of all veterans who suffered a serious service-related injury say their health status is “only fair” or “poor” – nearly double the proportion of non-injured veterans who offer a similar assessment of their physical well-being.

The relationship between a service-related injury and current health status remains strong even when the age of a veteran is taken into account. Among veterans ages 60 or older, nearly half of those who were seriously injured while serving say their current health is “fair” or “poor,” compared with 27% of other veterans of a comparable age.

The impact of a major service-related injury may be even greater among veterans younger than 60, a group that includes most of those who have served since 9/11. More than half of this group who were injured rates their current health as only fair or poor, compared with 30% of those who were not seriously hurt while serving.

*<sup>i</sup> Survey respondents self-identified as being “seriously wounded.” No definition was provided in the report. Note: Charts created based on Pew Research Center.*