

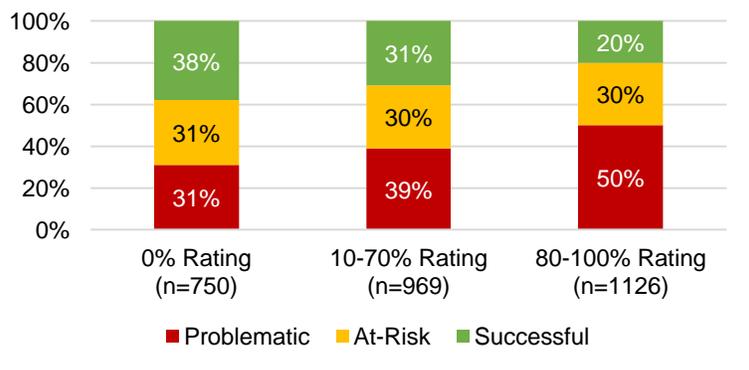
Successful Transition and VA Disability Rating



Data were collected through Wave 8 of the Veterans Engaging in Transition Studies (VETS) Survey that was implemented by Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State (Clearinghouse) researchers in collaboration with the Wounded Warrior Project, The Heinz Endowments, May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, and The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. The online survey was administered between March 2023 and April 2023 as an extension of The Veterans Metrics Initiative: Linking Program Components to Post-Military Well-Being (TVMI) study and Wave 7 of the VETS survey. During the TVMI longitudinal study, six waves of data were collected from almost 10,000 post-9/11 veterans who had separated from military service in 2016. Of the original sample, 3,514 veterans voluntarily chose to participate in the VETS Survey.

Given the lack of a widely accepted definition of what a successful transition from military to civilian life may include for a veteran and their family, the Clearinghouse developed a definition based on the data collected from TVMI. This definition examines several well-being domains (Karre et al., 2022, 2024). TVMI identified various risk factors that could affect a veteran’s well-being including a VA (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) disability rating. In order to determine what the long-term impacts of having a disability rating may create for a veteran, comparisons of VA disability ratings (labeled as ‘rating’ below) and the components of what a successful transition may include, according to data collected at Wave 8 (6 ½ years post-separation), are illustrated and discussed below.

Mental Health Transition Domain by VA Disability Rating



Note. This domain is based only on anxiety and depression due to a Wave 8 survey administration error that involved the post-traumatic stress disorder measure.

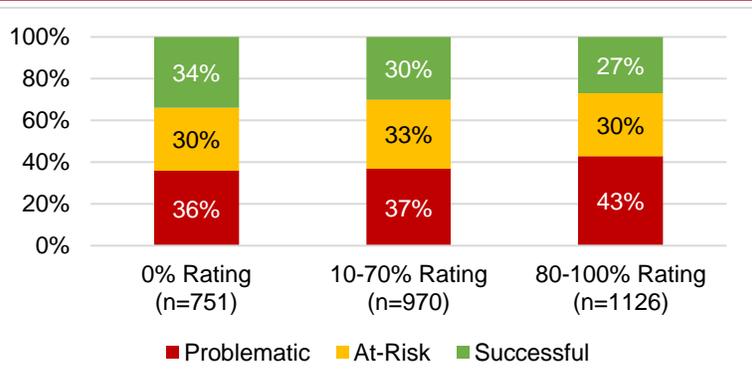
Criteria:

- Problematic = Meets criteria for probable disorder (i.e., anxiety, depression) on mental health symptoms and scored somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied on the mental health satisfaction item.
- At-Risk = Scored high on any mental health symptoms, or scored neither satisfied nor dissatisfied on the mental health satisfaction item and does not fall into the problematic category based on either subdomain.
- Successful = Scored not at all or no on all mental health symptoms, and scored somewhat satisfied or very satisfied on the mental health satisfaction item.

Findings:

- Higher proportions of those with 10-70% and 80-100% disability rating classified as problematic compared to those with 0% disability rating.
- Higher proportion of those with 80-100% disability rating classified as problematic compared to those with 10-70% disability rating.
- Lower proportions of those with 10-70% and 80-100% disability rating were classified as successful compared to those with 0% disability rating.
- Lower proportion of those with 80-100% disability rating classified as successful compared to those with 10-70% disability rating.

Social Transition Domain by VA Disability Rating



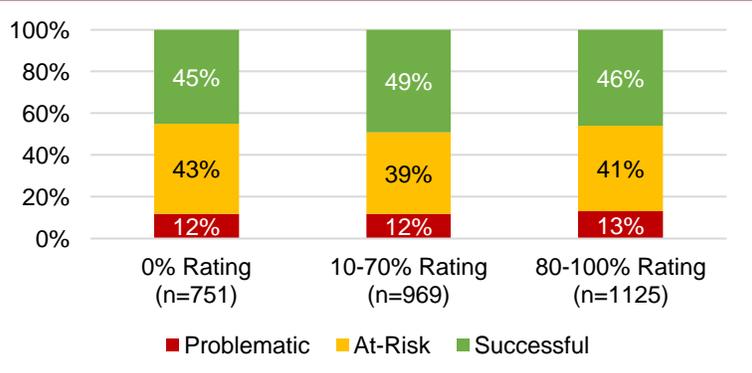
Criteria:

- Problematic = Scored none of the time or a little of the time on any social-support item, and scored somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied on any social-satisfaction item.
- At-Risk = Scored some of the time on at least one social-support item and some of the time or higher on all other items, or scored neither satisfied nor dissatisfied on at least one social-satisfaction item and neither satisfied nor dissatisfied or higher on all other items.
- Successful = Scored most of the time or all of the time on all social-support items, and scored somewhat satisfied or very satisfied on all social-satisfaction items.

Findings:

- Higher proportion of those with 80-100% disability rating classified as problematic compared to those with 0% and 10-70% disability ratings.
- Lower proportion of those with 10-70% and 80-100% disability ratings classified as successful compared to those with 0% disability rating.

Financial Transition Domain by VA Disability Rating



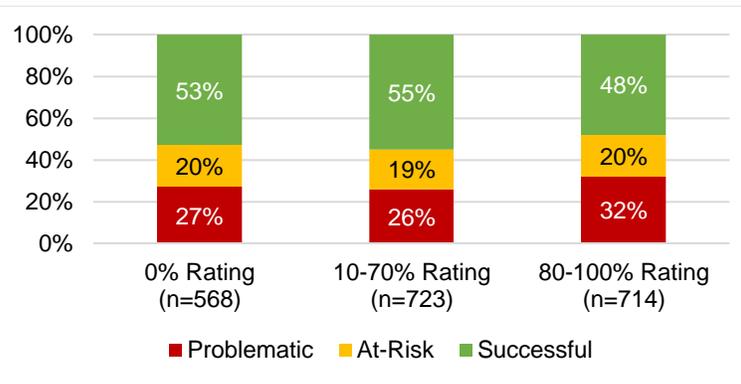
Criteria:

- Problematic = Unable to meet all Immediate Financial Needs.
- At-Risk = Able to meet all Immediate Financial Needs but not all Future Financial Needs.
- Successful = Able to meet all Immediate Financial Needs and all Future Financial Needs.

Findings:

- No proportion differences between VA disability rating groups across transition categories.

Employment Transition Domain by VA Disability Rating



Note. Students have been excluded.

Criteria:

- Problematic = Looking for work or employed full time and scored very dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied on any employment-satisfaction item.
- At-Risk = Employed full time and scored neither satisfied nor dissatisfied on at least one employment-satisfaction item and neither satisfied nor dissatisfied or higher on all other items.
- Successful = Employed full time and scored somewhat satisfied or very satisfied on all employment satisfaction items.

Findings:

- Higher proportion of those with 80-100% disability rating classified as problematic compared to those with 0% and 10-70% disability ratings.
- Lower proportion of those with 80-100% disability rating classified as successful compared to those with 0% and 10-70% disability ratings.

References

- Karre, J. K., Perkins, D. F., Morgan, N. R., Davenport, K. E., Aronson, K. R., Maury, R. V., Bradbard, D., Armstrong, N. J., Wright, A., Sargent, R., & Andros, M. (2022). *Conceptualizing a successful transition from military to civilian life* [White paper]. Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State.
- Karre, J. K., Perkins, D. F., Morgan, N. R., Davenport, K. E., Aronson, K. R., Maury, R. V., Bradbard, D., Armstrong, N. J., Wright, A., Sargent, R., & Andros, M. (2024). What do successful military-to-civilian transitions look like? A revised framework and a new conceptual model for assessing veteran well-being. *Armed Forces and Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0095327X231216678>