

ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS DATA REPORT

COUNTY OF ORANGE EXECUTIVE OFFICE / JANUARY 22, 2025

Objectives

Orange County Veteran's Demographics

Other Data Sources

Categories and Related Data

Service Use, Satisfaction and Needs

Orange County Veterans Services

Conclusions

Demographics

United States Census Data

California and Orange County

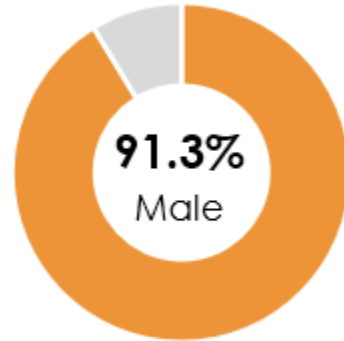
American Census Survey 1-Year Estimate Data Profiles for Veteran Status and the Southern California Veterans Study, as part of The State of the American Veteran series.



Orange County Veteran Demographics

Age and Gender

Orange
County

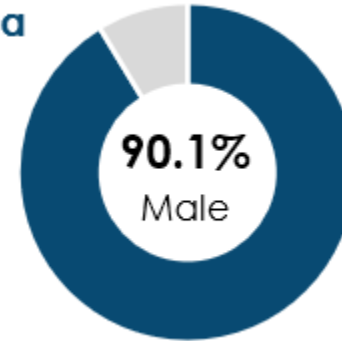


Largest Age
Group



75+
years old

California



Largest Age
Group

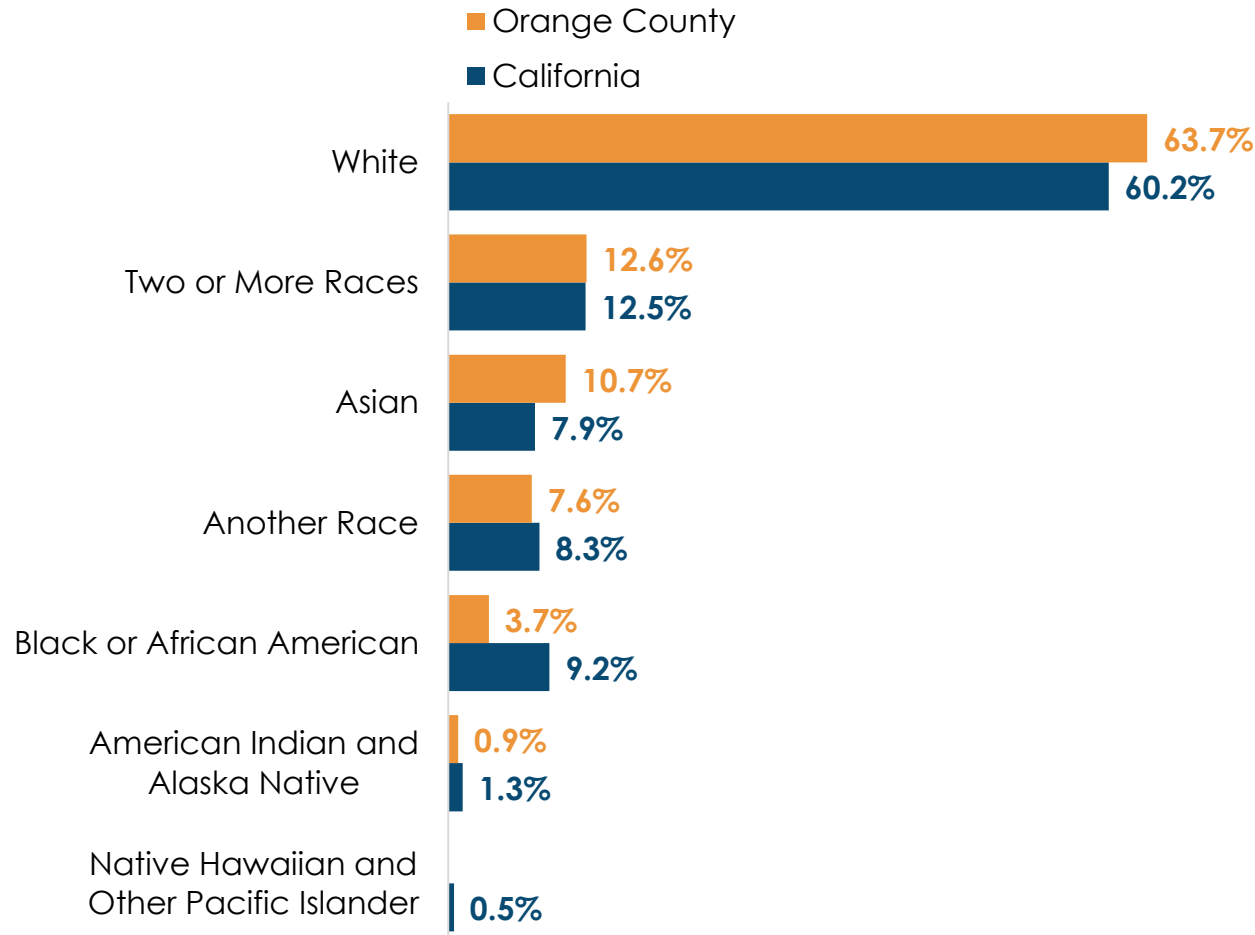


75+
years old

The gender distribution and largest age group of veterans in **Orange County** mirrors that of California.

Orange County Veteran Demographics

Race

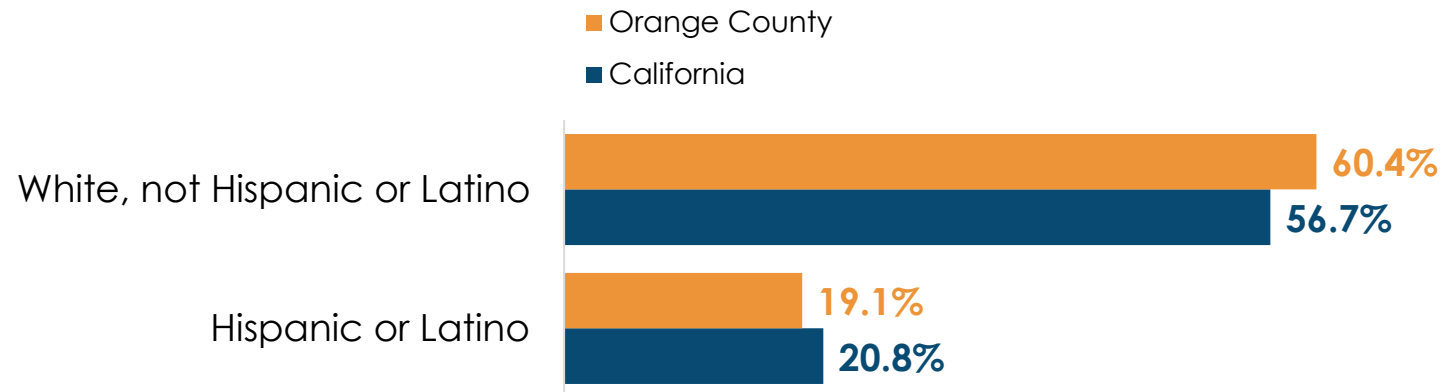


The veteran population in **Orange County** shows a higher percentage of White (63.7%) and Asian (10.7%) veterans compared to **California** overall.

Orange County has fewer Black or African American (3.7%) and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander veterans (0.0%) compared to **California**.

Orange County Veteran Demographics

Ethnicity



In **Orange County** there are slightly less veterans who identify as Hispanic or Latino compared to **California**. Conversely, there is a higher percentage of veterans who identify as White, not Hispanic or Latino, in **Orange County**.

Data Sources



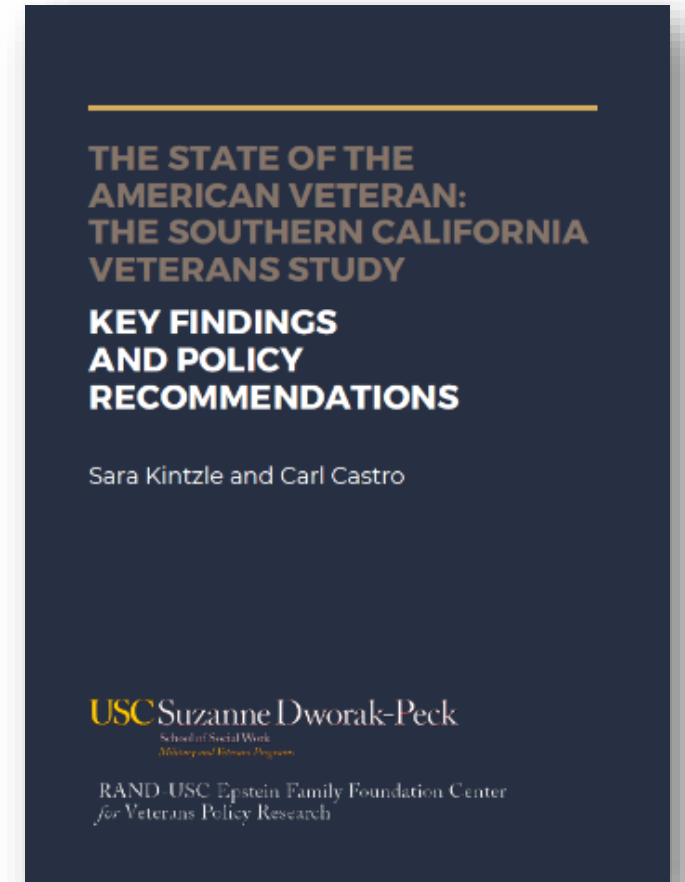
Southern California Veteran's Study

Aim: To highlight the notable contributions and unique challenges faced by veterans

Survey Details:

- Comprehensive – uses data from other sources, focus groups
- Online survey from July 2022 through June 2023
- Targeted recruitment strategy
- 30 to 60 min to complete the survey
- Received \$25 gift cards for their time
- 606 veterans responded from Orange County

USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck
School of Social Work



Data Sources



OC Older Adult Needs Assessment

(Assessment following the California Master Plan on Aging five goals and strategies)

Aim: To determine the needs of older adults within OC

Survey Details:

- Online, in-person and phone surveys from Sept 2023 through Jan 2024
- Outreach efforts:
 - Community events
 - Senior centers
 - Nursing homes
 - Unhoused individuals
 - Incarcerated individuals
- Convenience Sampling of those aged 55 and older
- 30 to 60 min to complete the survey
- Some participants received incentives for their time
- 451 veterans responded from Orange County



Categories

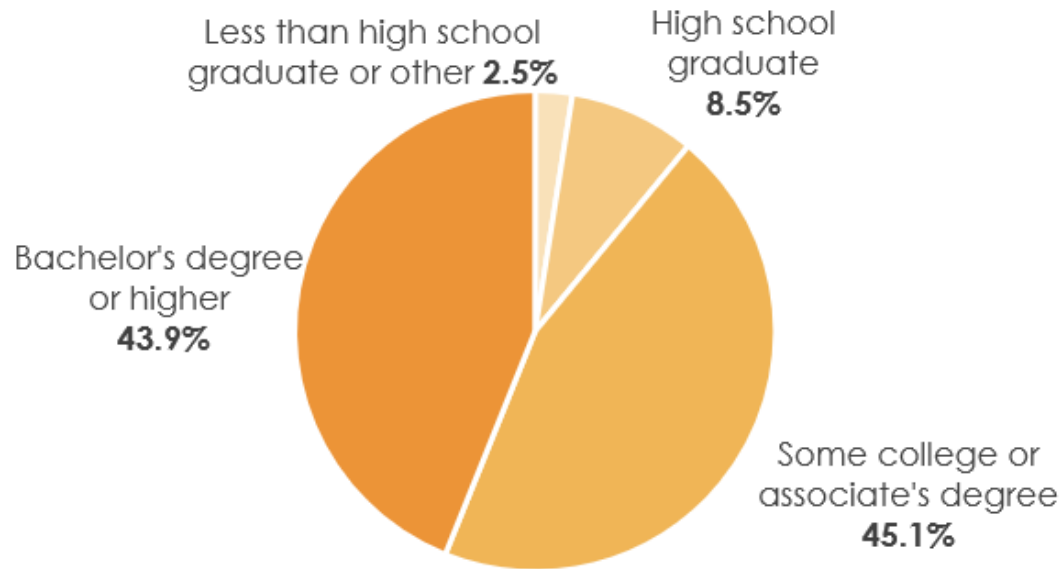
1. Education
2. Employment
3. Housing
4. Health
5. Healthcare
6. Mental Health
7. Social Connectedness
8. Service Use, Satisfaction and Needs

Education

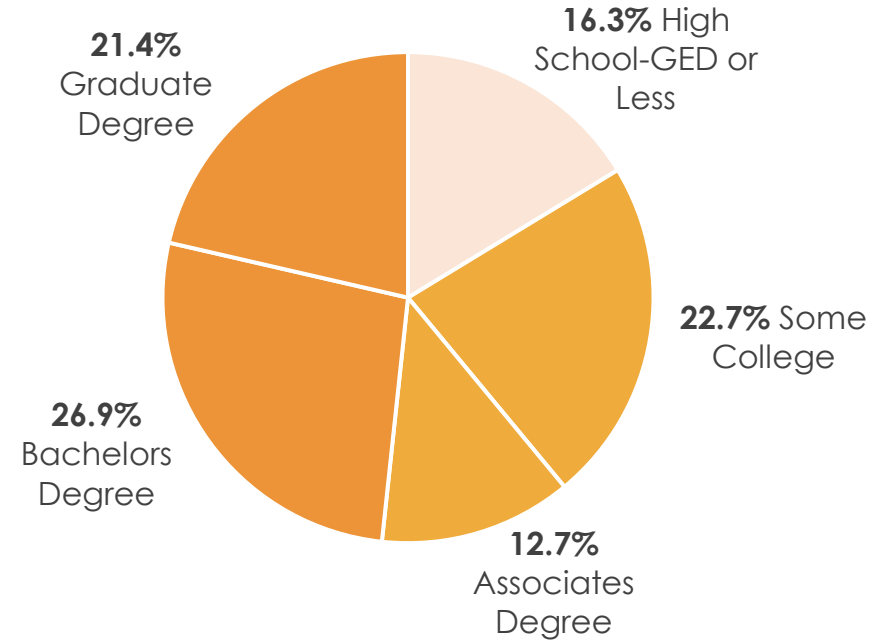


Most veterans in Orange County report having some college or higher education.

Highest Level of Education



Highest Level of Education



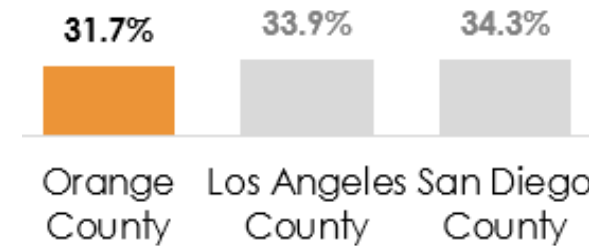
Employment



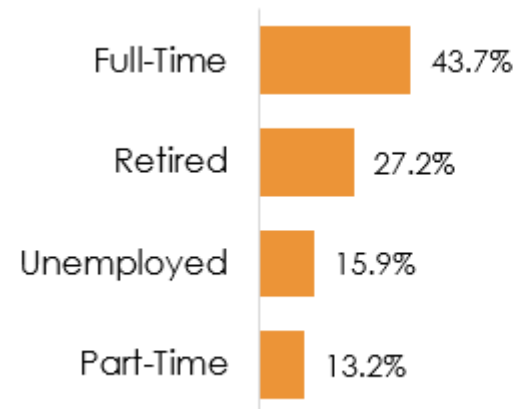
Less veterans obtain jobs upon leaving the military in **Orange County** compared to Los Angeles and San Diego counties.

Over 40% of veterans are employed full time and slightly over 60% are satisfied/very satisfied with their Jobs in **Orange County**.

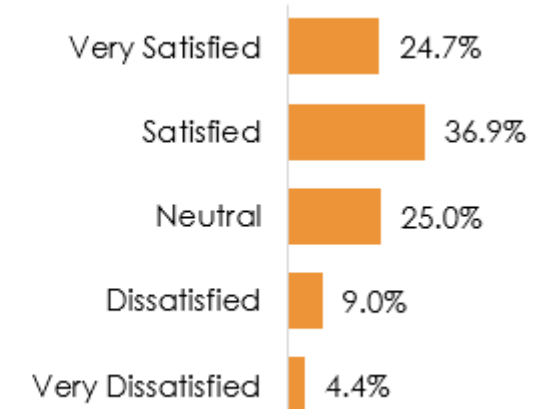
Employment Upon Leaving the Military



Employment Status



Job Satisfaction

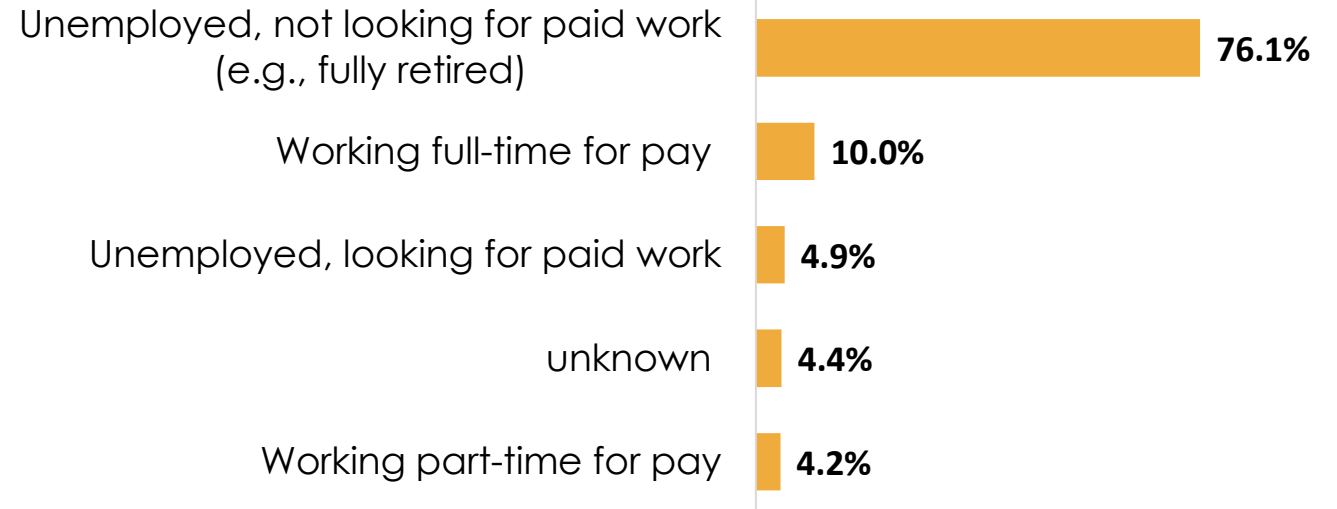


Employment



Approximately 3 out of 4 veterans 55 years and older self-identified as being unemployed and not looking for paid work.

What is your employment status?

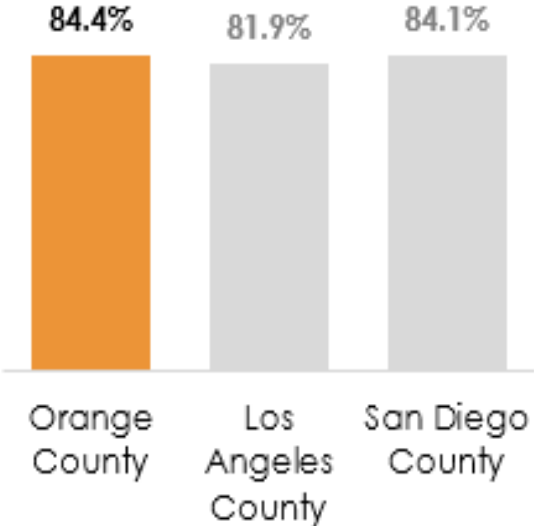


Housing

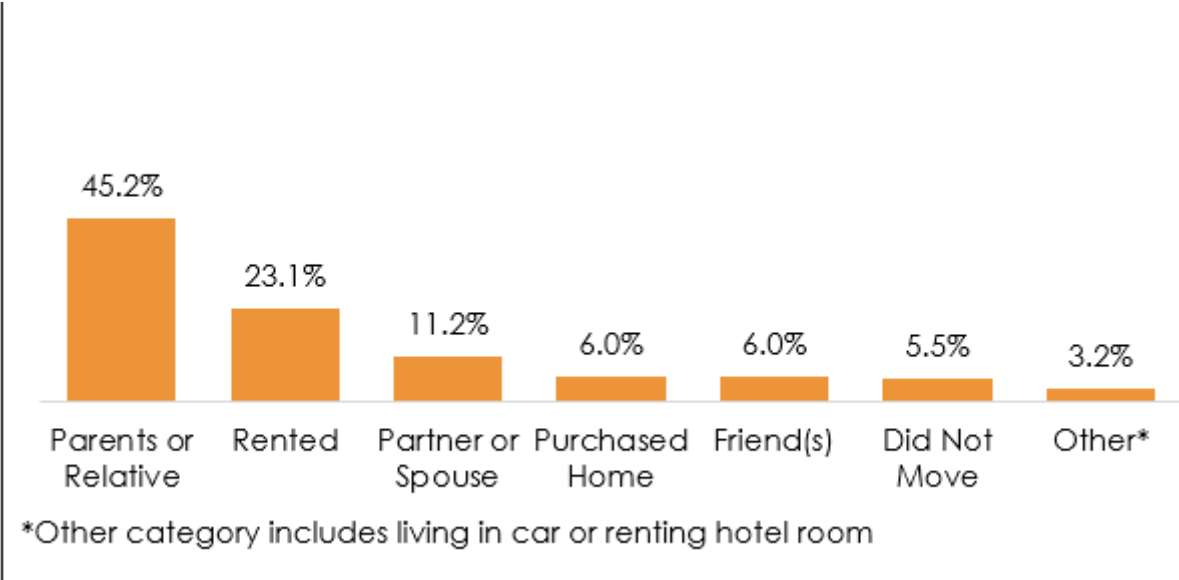


In **Orange County**, approximately 17 out of 20 veterans reported having a place to live after their services. Most veterans lived with parents/relatives or rented after leaving the military.

Place to Live After Leaving the Military



Place to Live After Leaving the Military

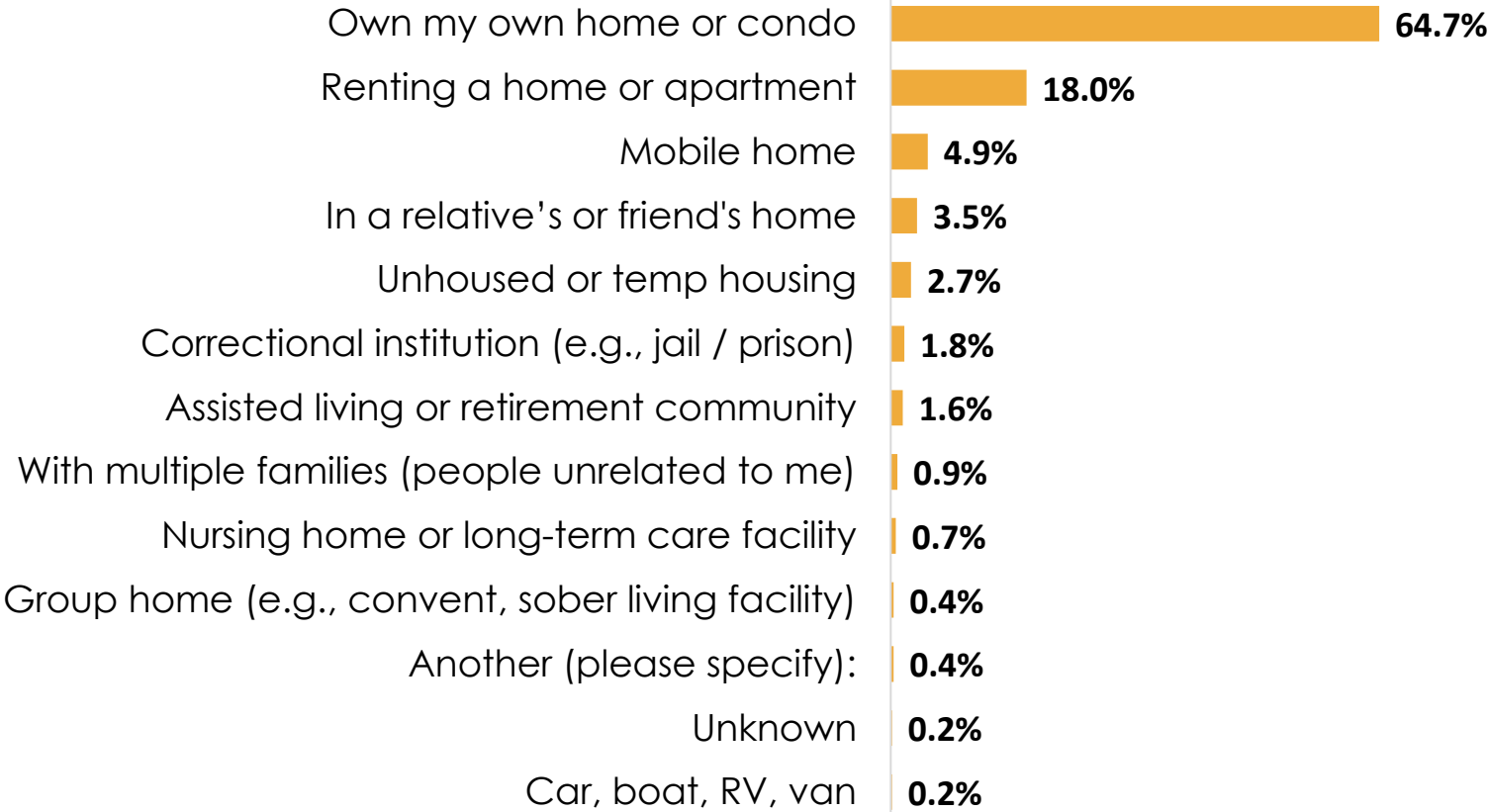


Housing



Most veterans 55 years and older reported owning their own home or condo.

What is your current living situation?

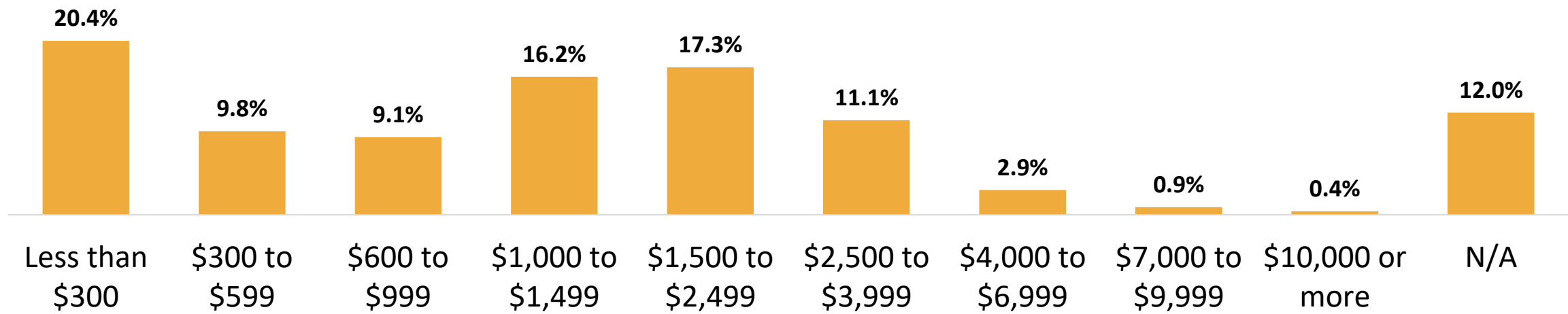


Housing



Of those who chose to report their monthly housing cost, most veterans 55 years and older reported their cost to be \$3,999 or lower.

About how much is your MONTHLY housing cost (rent or mortgage)?



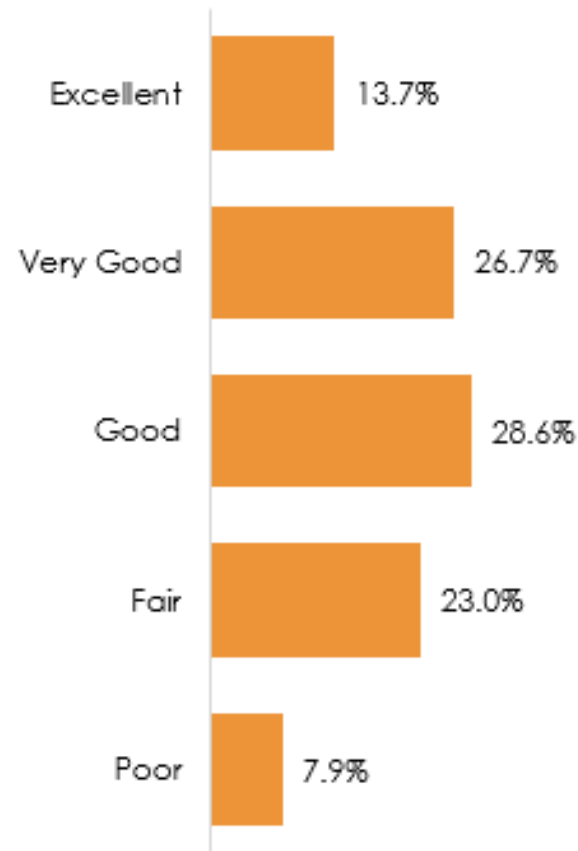


Physical Health

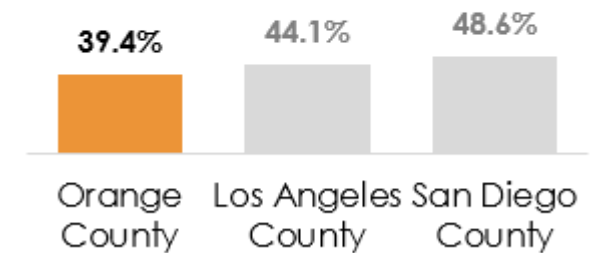


Approximately 7 out of 10 **Orange County** veterans perceive their health to be good, very good or excellent within the past 30 days.

Perceived Health in the past 30 days



Moderate to Severe Physical Health Symptoms



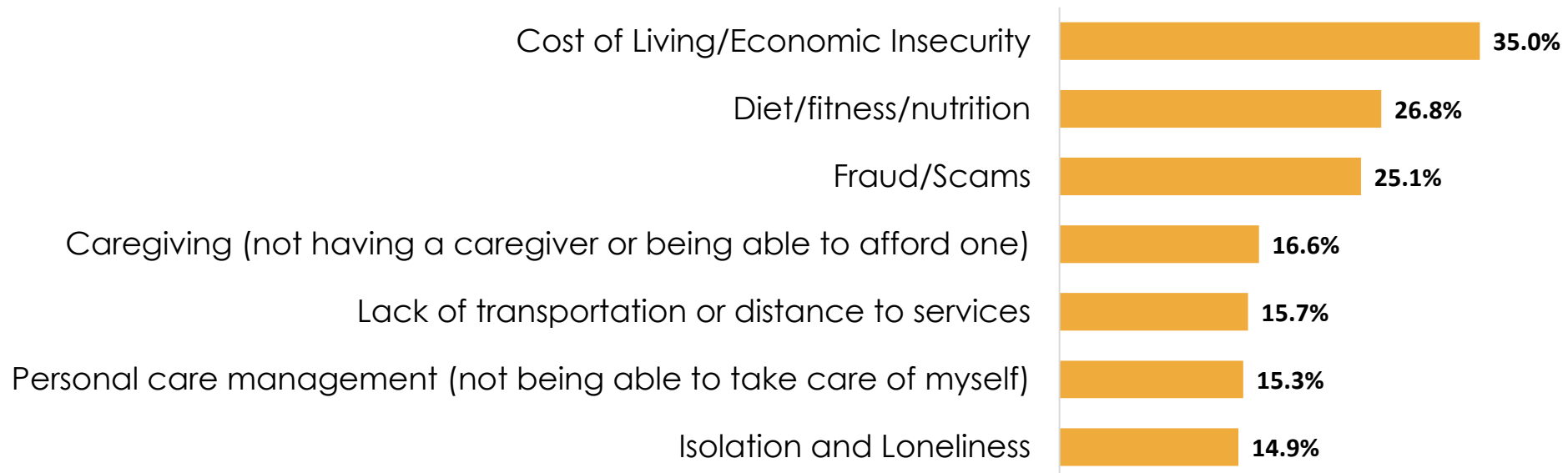


Physical Health



Veterans aged 55 and older reported cost of living or economic insecurity to be the top reason contributing to their health issues.

What contributes to your health issues? (select all that apply)*



*Results are for those aged 55 and older

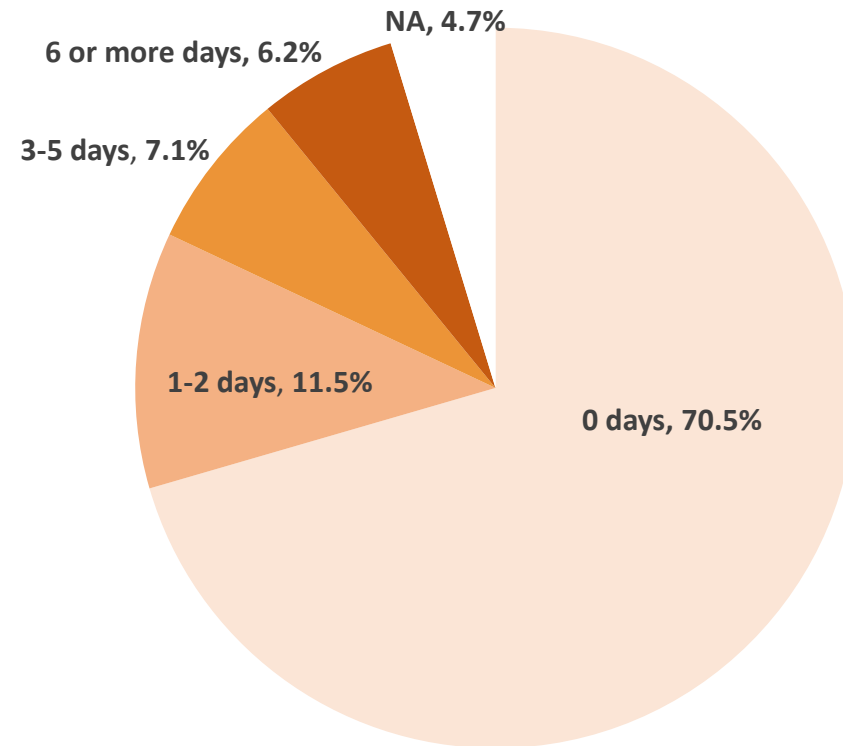


Physical Health



Approximately 1 in 4 veterans aged 55 and older reported spending at least 1 day as a patient in a hospital within the past 12 months.

Over the past 12 months, how much time did you spend as a patient in hospital*



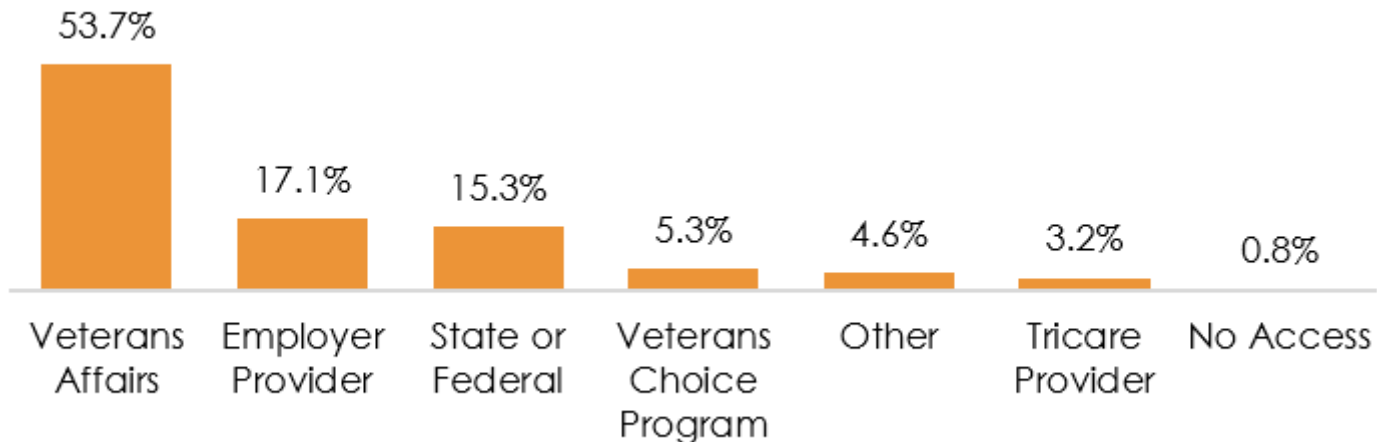
*Results are for those aged 55 and older

Healthcare and Services

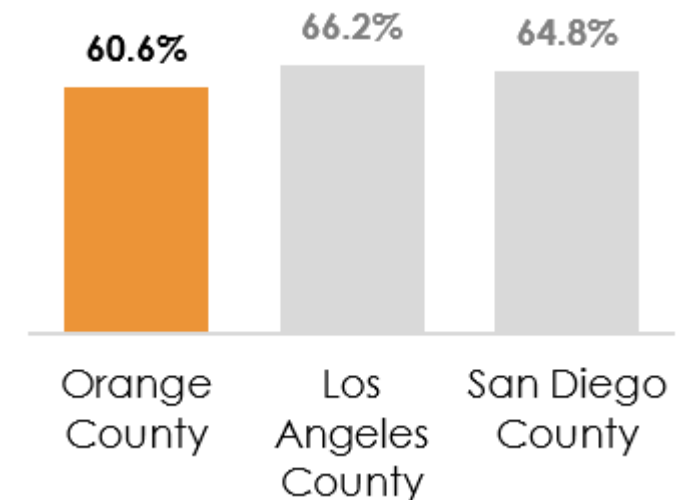


Slightly over half of **Orange County** veterans received their health care from Veterans Affairs and have used VHA less frequently compared to Los Angeles and San Diego counties in the past year.

Primary Source of Healthcare



Veterans Health Administration Usage in the Past Year

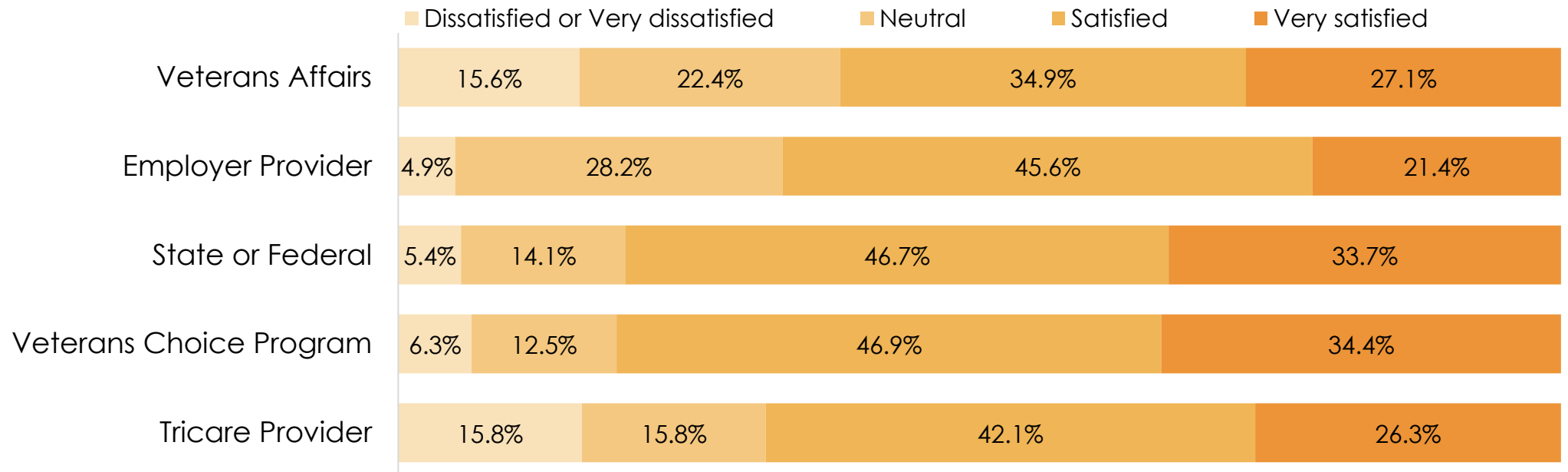


Healthcare and Services



Majority of veterans are satisfied with their services with the highest dissatisfaction, approximately 3 out of 20, with Veterans Affairs and Tricare Provider.

Satisfaction with Healthcare Services

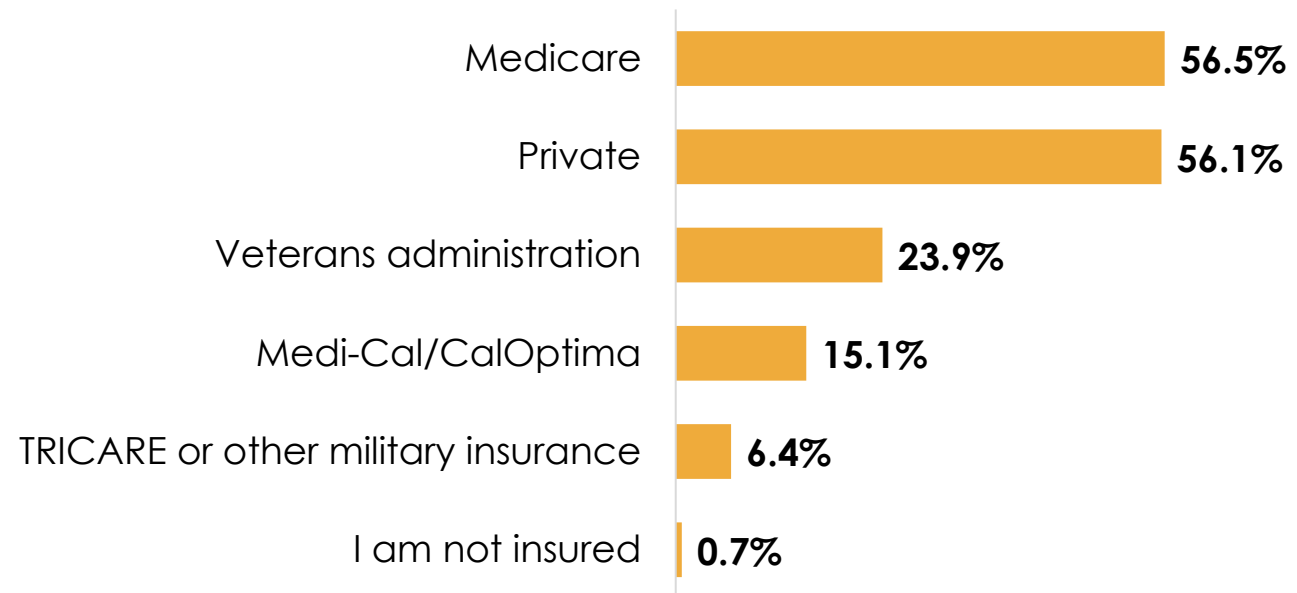


Healthcare and Services



Most veterans 55 years and older reported having Medicare and/or Private insurance coverage.

Are you currently covered by the following types of health insurances? (select all that apply)

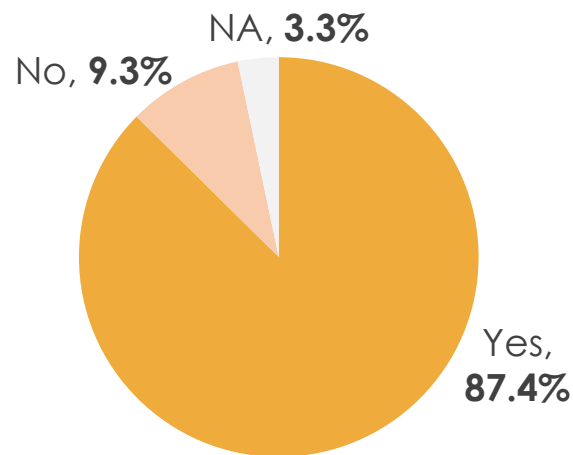


Healthcare and Services

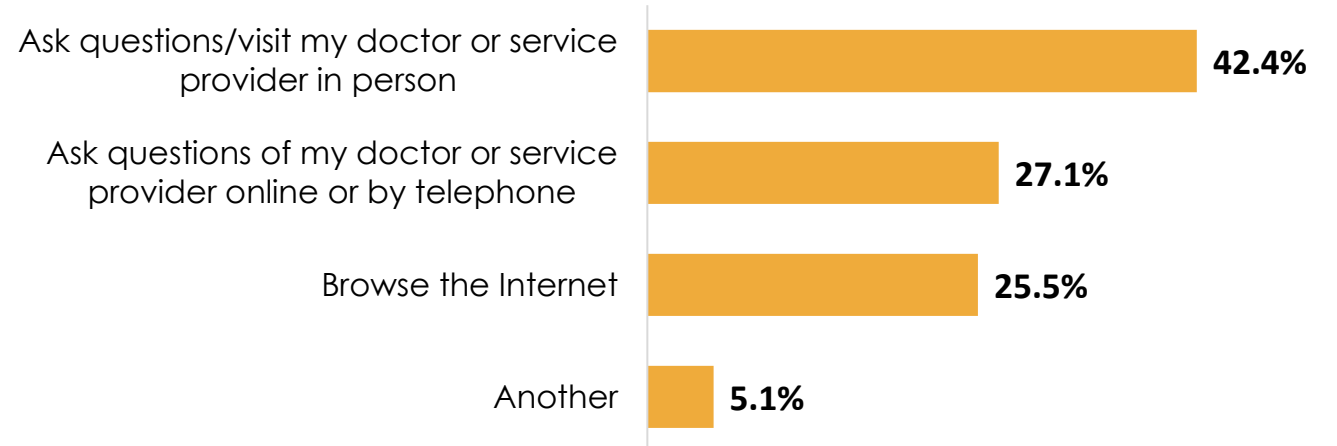


Most veterans 55 years and older reported being comfortable managing their own health and most ask questions/visit their doctor or service provider in person to find information about healthcare resources.

Are you comfortable managing your health on your own?



How do you primarily find information about health care resources?



Mental Health

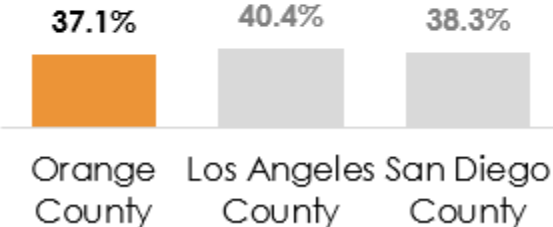


Mental Health

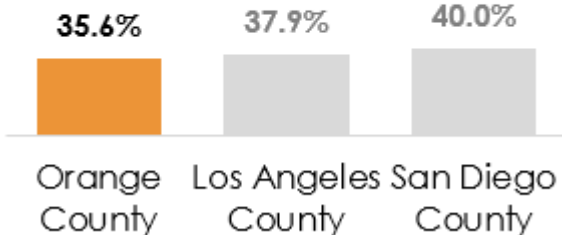


Although **Orange County** veterans report lower rates of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) compared to Los Angeles and San Diego counties, one in four veterans have reported having a risk of suicide.

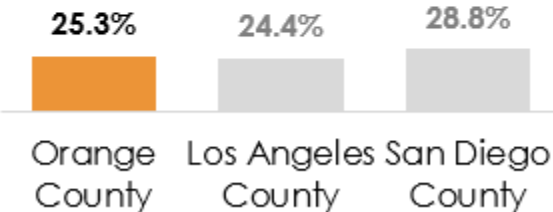
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)



Depression



Suicide Risk

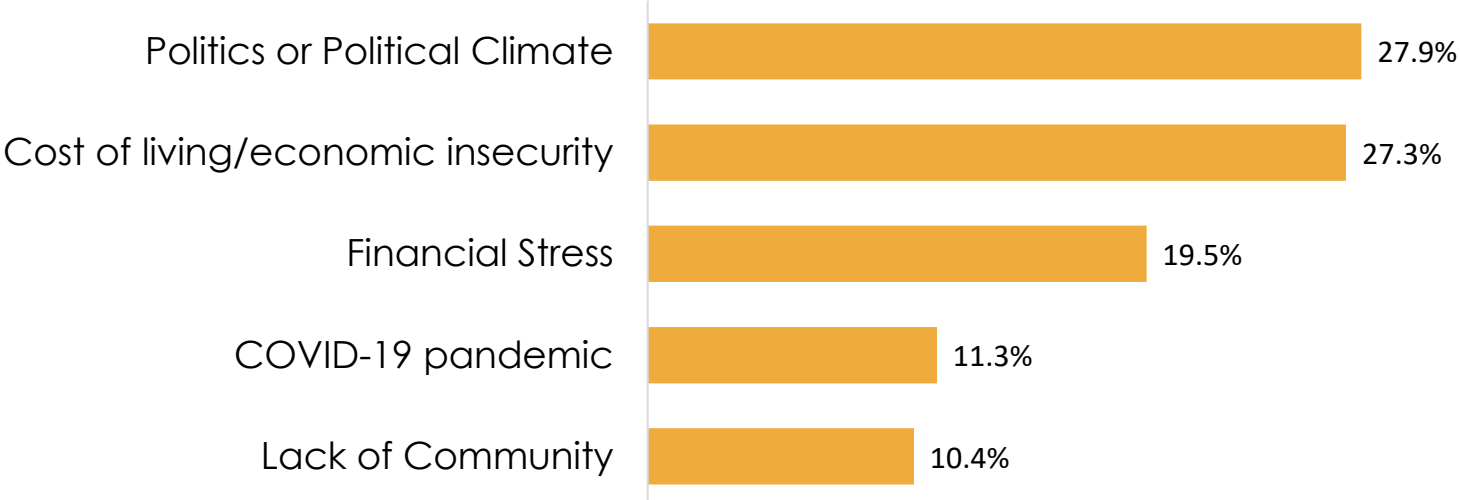


Mental Health



Cost of living/economic insecurity and politics or political climate are the top self-identified contributors to mental or behavioral health issues for veterans 55 years and older.

What contributes to your mental or behavioral health issues? (select all that apply)*

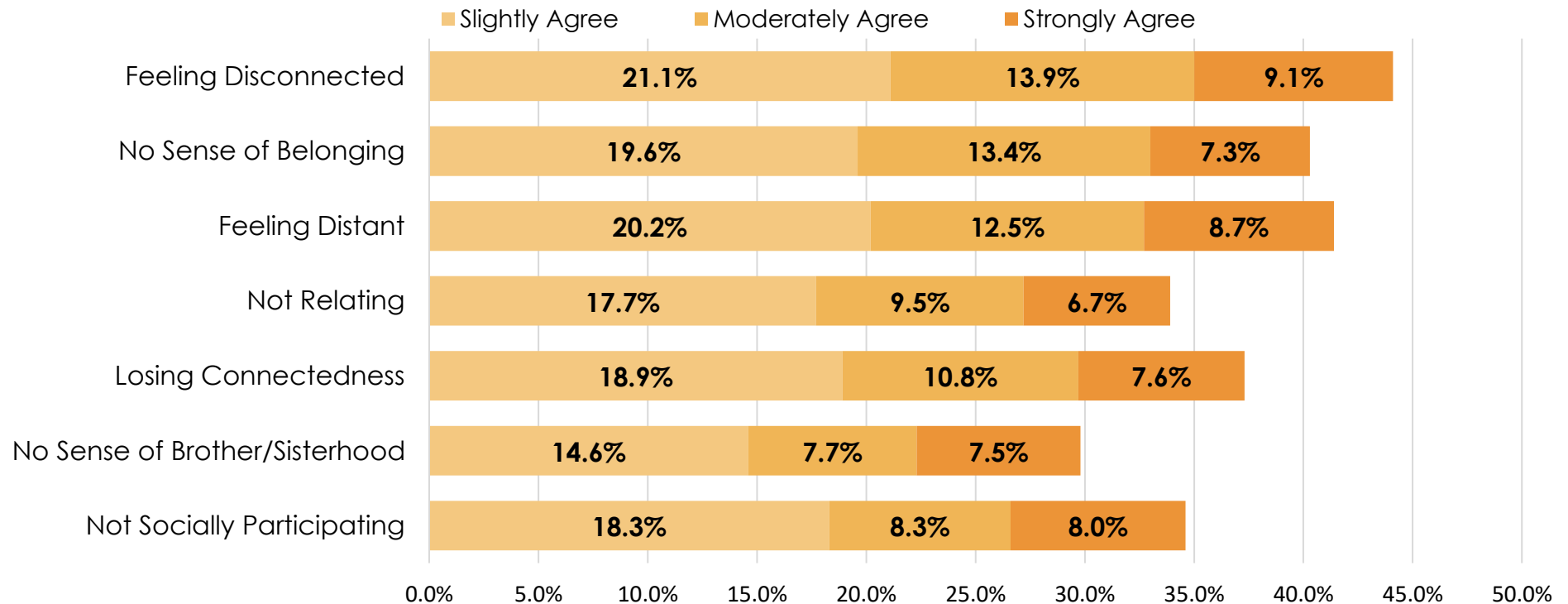


Social Connectedness



Approximately 9 out of 20 veterans feel disconnected, followed by feeling distant and no sense of belonging.

Social Connectedness Ratings

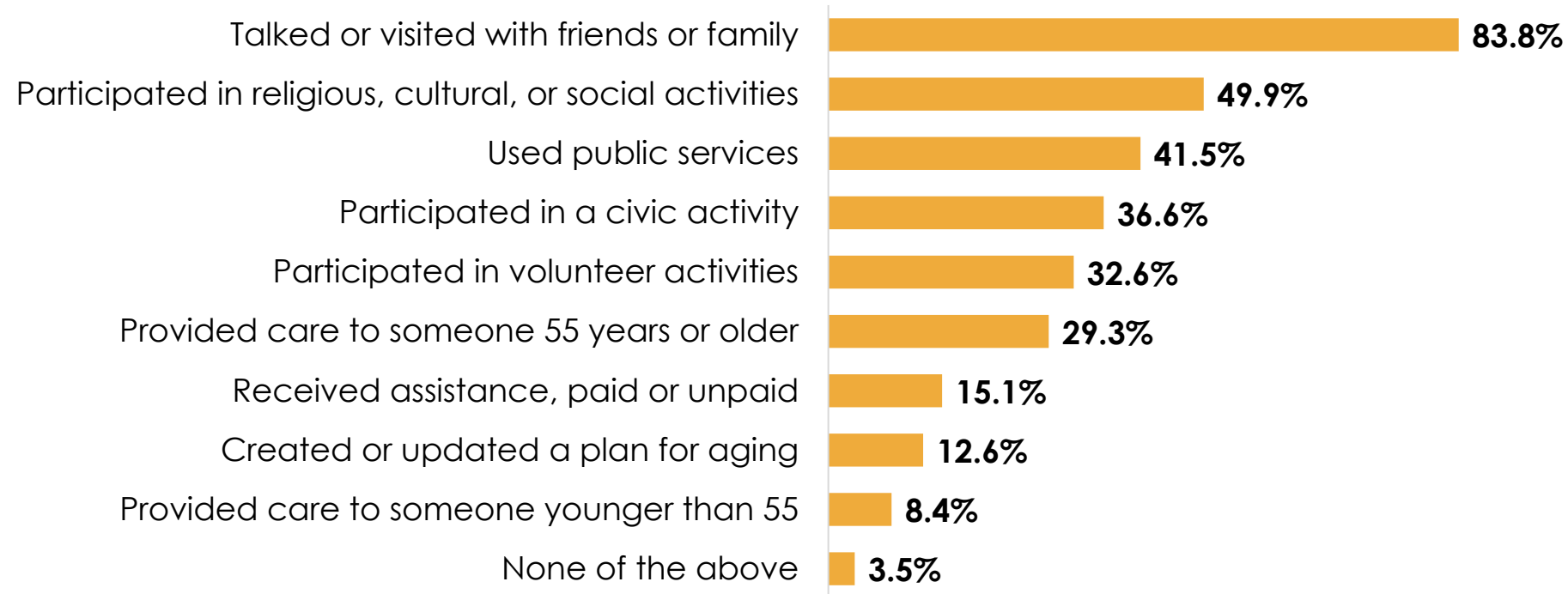


Social Connectedness



Approximately 17 out of 20, veterans 55 years or older talked or visited with friends or family within the past 12 months.

Which of the following activities have you done in the past 12 months? (select all that apply)



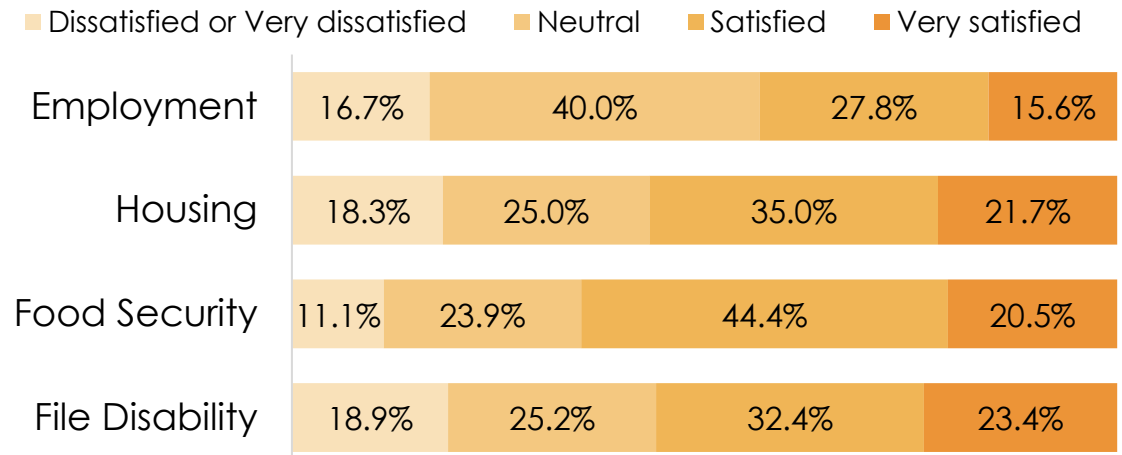
Service Use, Satisfaction and Needs



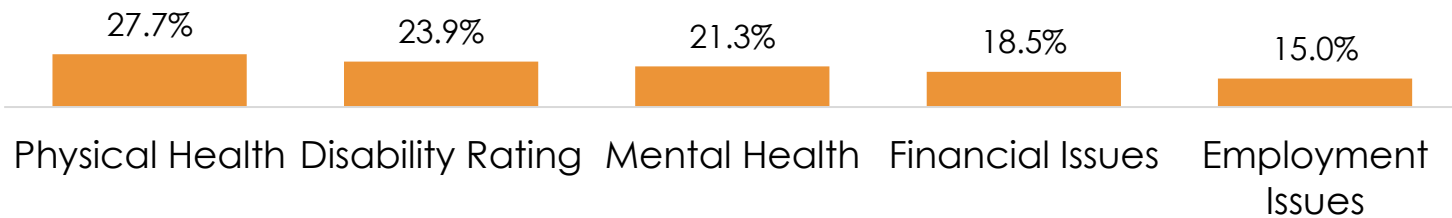
Employment is a highly utilized service, especially for those who return from the service.

Physical health services are a top concern and requested service.

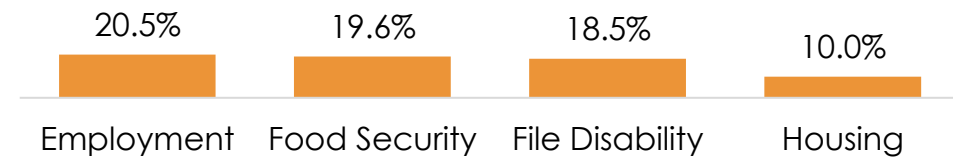
Service Satisfaction



Top 5 Additional Areas of Assistance Requested



Services Utilized

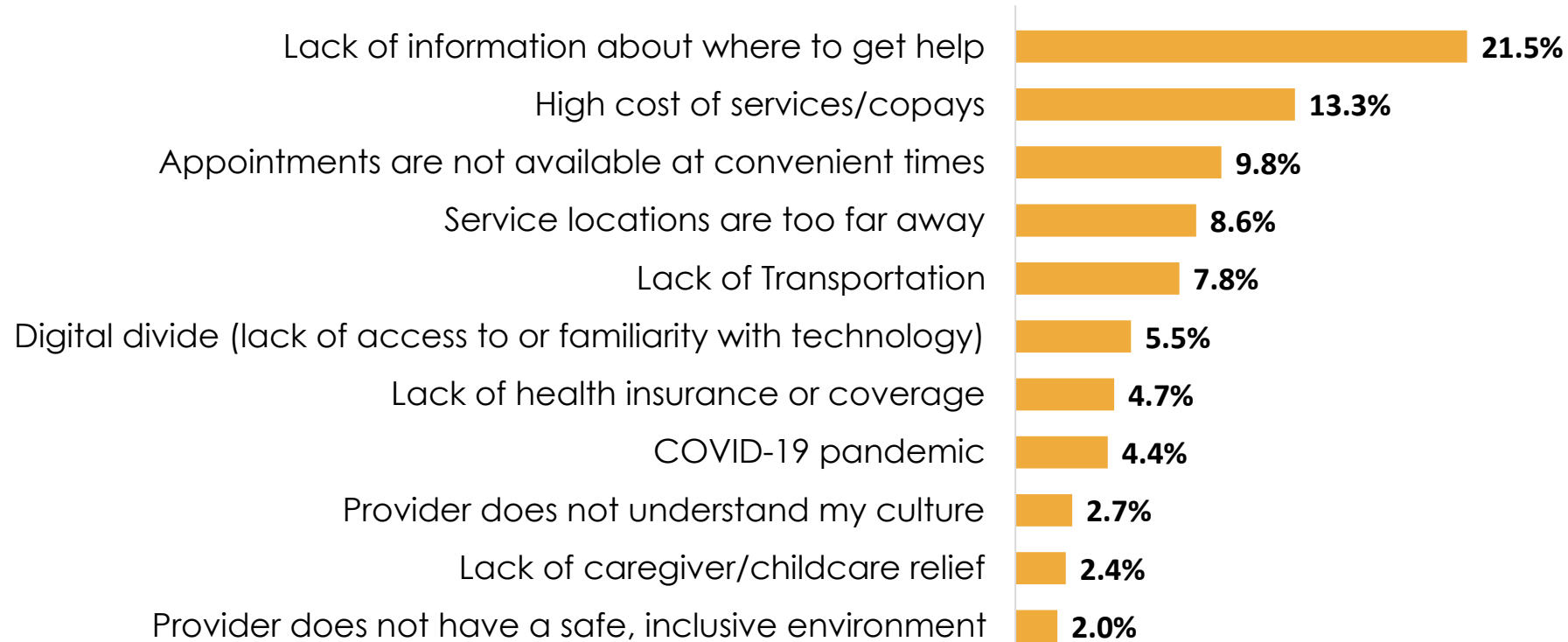


Service Use, Satisfaction and Needs



Approximately 2 out of every 10 veterans 55 years or older reported lack of information about where to get help which prevents them from receiving healthcare services.

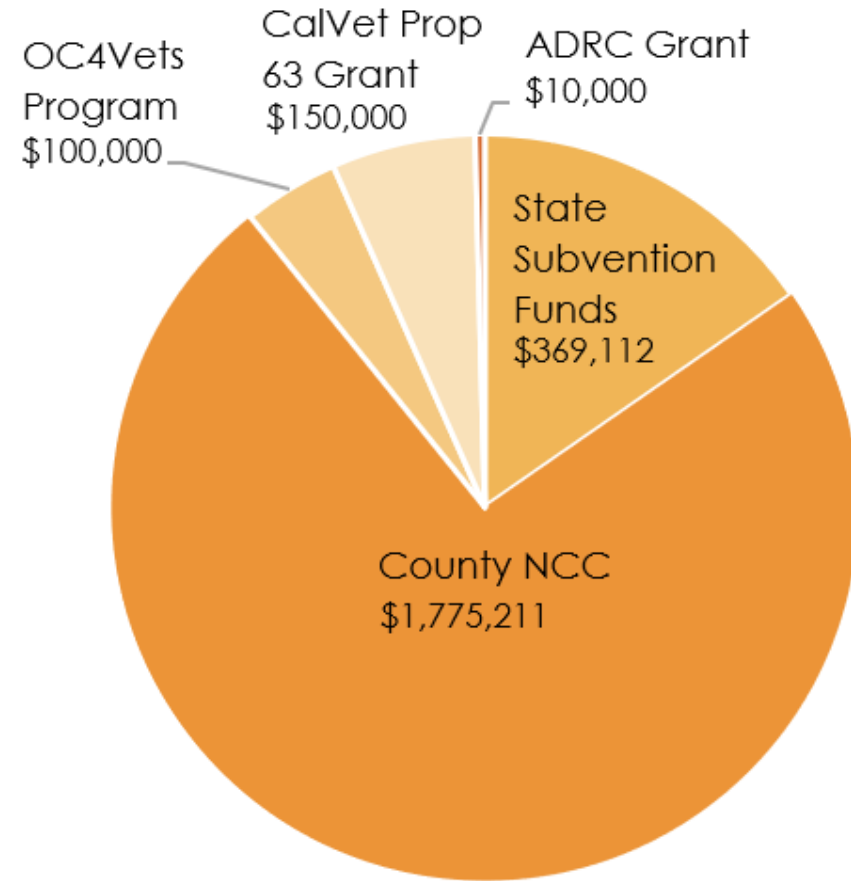
Barriers to Receiving Healthcare Services (select all that apply)



Orange County Veterans Services FY 2023-2024

Veterans Services Office Funding Sources

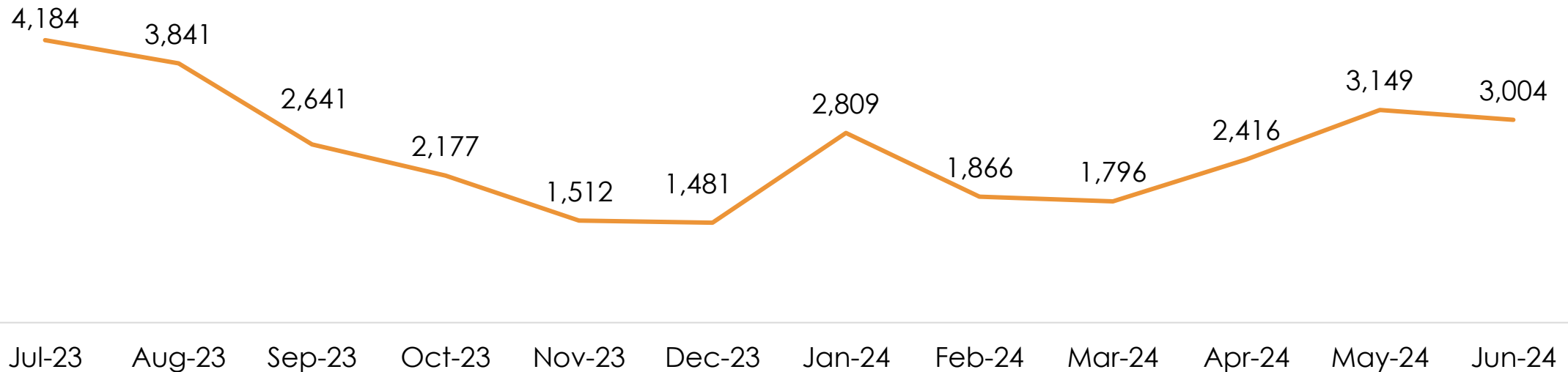
Total = \$2,404,323



Orange County Veterans Services FY 2023 -2024

Veterans Served Trend

Total = 30,876



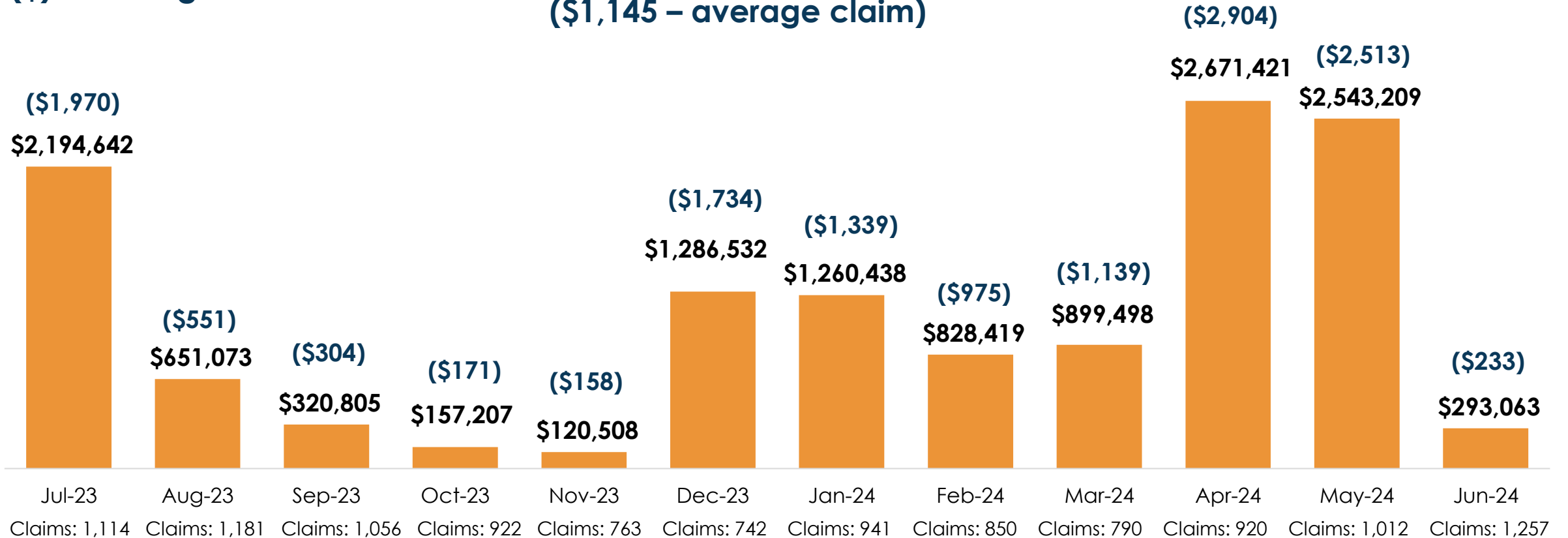
Orange County Veterans Services FY 2023 -2024

Benefits Granted by Veterans Administration

Total = 13,226,815

(\$1,145 – average claim)

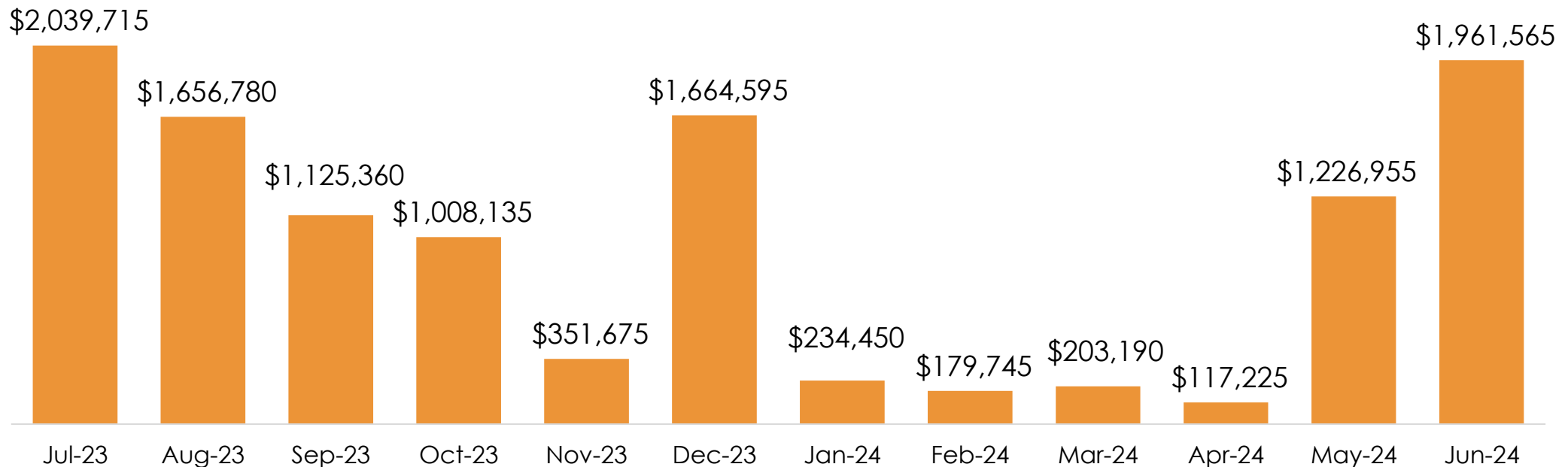
(\$) = average claim



Orange County Veterans Services FY 2023 -2024

College Tuition Savings

Total = \$11,769,390



Overall OC Data Highlights

1. Education

- Most veterans have some college or more in OC.

2. Employment

- Ensure transition into jobs based on the training and degrees received.
- Address the challenge of transitioning into a job after service.
- Few veterans (5%) 55 and older report looking for a job in OC.

3. Housing

- Although most have a place to return to, 3 out of 20 reported not having a place to go after service.
- 13 out of 20 veterans 55 years and older reporting owning their own home or condo.

Overall OC Data Highlights

4. Health

- Those reporting physical health symptoms, approximately 4 out of 10, are lower than other counties.
- Older adult veterans report cost of living/economic security as their top health issue contributor.

5. Healthcare

- Most veterans in OC report having healthcare and utilize VHA less than other counties.

6. Mental Health

- Mental health concerns are less prominent compared to other counties, although 1 in 4 are still at risk for suicide.
- The top contributors to mental health in older adult veterans was political climate and economic insecurity.

Overall OC Data Highlights

7. Social Connectedness

- Even though older adult veterans report connecting with family and friends, 9 out of 20 veterans report feeling disconnected and an internal sense of isolation.

8. Service Use, Satisfaction and Needs

- Employment services are highly utilized though this service has the highest rate of neutral or dissatisfaction.
- Physical health services are the top additional service requested by the population.

Next Steps

- Orange County Veterans Data Report
- Utilize data to aid in understanding the needs in Orange County, making data driven decisions and tailoring efforts

Questions?



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