

Support needs of the veteran community in Great Britain



Why does this matter?

The Royal British Legion (RBL) commissioned RAND Europe to produce forecasts of the support needs of the veteran community over the next two decades, to inform the development of its strategy and service provision. As the size, age profile and circumstances of the veteran community changes out to 2045, the types of support required, because of poor health, disability, and unpaid caring responsibility, will change.

This research provides an evidence-based picture of how those needs are likely to shift, helping policy makers and service providers to plan ahead. By anticipating future demand, resources can be allocated effectively, targeted interventions can be developed, and support will remain accessible, relevant, and sustainable for all generations of veterans and their families.

Poor health



64%

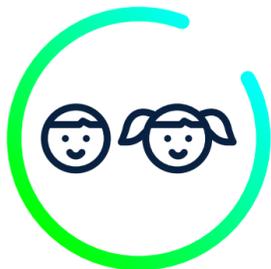


of veterans are
in good health

The number of veterans in poor health is likely to decrease from approximately 158,000 – 195,000 in 2025 to between 87,000 – 109,000 in 2045.



Most partners of veterans (72%) are in good health. The number of partners of veterans in poor health is likely to decrease from approximately 90,000 – 125,000 in 2025 to between 49,000 – 68,000 in 2045.



Most children of veterans aged 25 and under are in good health (similar to civilian children). The number of children of veterans in poor health is likely to decrease from approximately 3,400 – 8,300 in 2025 to approximately 2,200 – 6,400 in 2045 as the number of children in the veteran community decreases.

Disability



33%



of veterans
are disabled

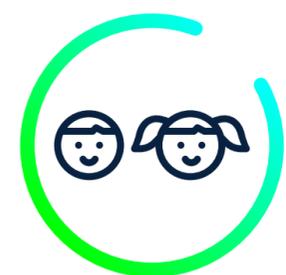
with a higher proportion of disabled veterans in the older age groups. The number of veterans with a disability is likely to decrease from approximately 534,000 – 635,000 in 2025 to between 299,000 – 364,000 in 2045, though the number of disabled veterans aged under 35 will likely increase.

26%



of partners
are disabled

The number of partners of veterans with a disability is likely to decrease from approximately 300,000 – 406,000 in 2025 to between 164,000 – 225,000 in 2045.



The number of children of veterans with a disability is uncertain but may decrease from approximately 41,000 – 67,000 in 2025 to approximately 28,000 – 64,000 in 2045.

Unpaid caring responsibilities



~12%



of veterans have an unpaid caring responsibility

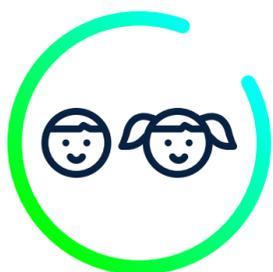
A greater proportion of veterans than non-veterans provide unpaid care, even when age and gender is taken into account.

The number of veterans with an unpaid caring responsibility is likely to decrease from approximately 137,000 – 202,000 in 2025 to between 70,000 – 120,000 in 2045.



Partners of veterans are more likely to have unpaid caring responsibilities than people living in a couple in the wider population, particularly among partners of veterans aged over 65.

The number of partners of veterans with an unpaid caring responsibility is likely to decrease from approximately 89,000 – 221,000 in 2025 to between 44,000 – 125,000 in 2045.



Children of veterans (living with a veteran) have a higher rate of caring responsibilities than their civilian counterparts.

The number of children of veterans with unpaid caring responsibilities is likely to decrease from approximately 4,000 – 12,000 in 2025 to approximately 3,000 – 8,000 in 2045.