



Ex-Service Personnel Supplementary Paper: Veteran data from HM Inspectorate of Prisons' inspection surveys

In March 2014, HM Inspectorate of Prisons published a findings paper on ex-service personnel in prisons¹. The findings paper summarised the literature concerning ex-Service personnel² and drew on evidence from prisoner surveys and inspections undertaken by HM Inspectorate of Prisons from April 2012 to March 2013. It aimed to provide an overview of the potential issues faced by ex-Service personnel in prison and whether these differ from those faced by the general prisoner population, and to review the resources available to ex-Service personnel in prison and the outcomes for this group.

In January 2014 the Ministry of Justice launched a review of veterans within the Criminal Justice System which is due to report in October 2014. This supplementary paper has been produced in order to share more recent survey data figures received during our ongoing programme of prison inspections.

Prisoner survey methodology

At each of HM Inspectorate of Prisons' routine inspections a voluntary, confidential and anonymous survey of a representative proportion of the prisoner population is carried out. The results of individual surveys form part of the evidence base for each inspection.

At each prison a representative sample of the prison population is selected. The sample size is calculated using a robust statistical formula provided by a government department statistician to ensure that our survey findings reflect the experiences of the entire population of the establishment³. Respondents are then randomly selected from a P-NOMIS prisoner population printout using a stratified systematic sampling method.

Every attempt is made to distribute the questionnaires to respondents individually. This gives researchers an opportunity to explain the purpose of the survey and to answer respondents' questions. The voluntary nature of the survey is also stressed and assurances are provided about confidentiality and the independence of the Inspectorate. This information is also provided in writing on the front cover of the questionnaire. In order to ensure confidentiality, respondents are asked to seal their completed questionnaire in the envelope provided and either hand it back to a member of the research team at a specified time or leave it in their room for collection.

Our questionnaire is available in a number of different languages and via a telephone translation service for respondents who do not read English. Respondents with literacy difficulties are offered the option of an interview.

¹ HMIP (2014) *People in Prison: Ex-service personnel. A findings paper by HM Inspectorate of Prisons.*

² Although the term 'veteran' was formally defined by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 2001 as anyone who has served more than one day in any of the three branches of the Armed Forces, 'ex-Service personnel' often emerges as a preferred term for those who have served in, and subsequently left the Armed Forces. For this reason, we used the term 'ex-Service personnel' within our findings paper. As the actual survey question uses the term 'veteran' this term has been used in this supplementary paper; however we have used both terms in accordance with the MoD definition of a 'veteran'.

³ 95% confidence interval with a sampling error of 3%. The formula assumes an 80% response rate (70% in open establishments) and we routinely 'oversample' to ensure we achieve the minimum number of responses required.

Veterans' data

The first section of our inspection survey is titled 'About you' and asks about respondents' background characteristics in order to enable us to compare responses by different groups of people. In January 2012 the following question was added to this section of the survey, with 'yes' and 'no' response options:

'Are you a veteran (ex-armed services)?'

All data in this paper is taken from the self-reported responses to this survey question.

Survey data has been weighted to mimic the whole population at each prison. Figures have been rounded to the nearest percentage and all missing data has been excluded.

Male prisoners

Table 1 provides the percentage of male prisoners who said that they were a veteran in surveys conducted within our 2013–14 annual reporting year⁴. This included surveys received from 6,648 prisoners at 41 prisons.

Table 2 shows figures from prisoner surveys conducted since January 2012, when the veterans question was added, to Friday 8 August 2014, when this analysis was conducted. Some prisons may have been inspected more than once during this timeframe – only the most recent survey data has been included. These figures are based on surveys received from 14,335 male prisoners at 85 prisons.

Both tables provide a breakdown by functional type as well as overall figures.

Table 1
2013–14 surveys responses: veteran data from male prisoners, by prison functional type

| Prison functional type | No. of prisons included | No. of surveys returned | Said they were a veteran |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Local prisons | 12 | 2,181 | 6% |
| Category B training prisons | / | / | / |
| Category C training prisons | 15 | 2,597 | 6% |
| Therapeutic community prisons | 2 | 323 | 5% |
| High security prisons | 2 | 360 | 11% |
| Young adult young offender institutions ⁵ | 2 | 326 | 2% |
| Open prisons | 8 | 861 | 8% |
| OVERALL | 41 | 6,648 | 6% |

⁴ This includes survey data for all inspection reports **published** from April 2013 to March 2014.

⁵ This includes both dedicated Young Offender Institutions and split sites where young adults have a separate regime. Where young adults are held within adult male prisons (mixed or on a dedicated wing), they are included within the overall adult male prison sample.

Table 2
2012–2014 survey responses: veteran data from male prisoners, by prison functional type

| Prison functional type | No. of prisons included | No. of surveys returned | Said they were a veteran |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Local prisons | 28 | 4,997 | 5% |
| Category B training prisons | 4 | 689 | 8% |
| Category C training prisons | 28 | 4,877 | 6% |
| Therapeutic community prisons | 2 | 323 | 5% |
| High security prisons | 4 | 682 | 10% |
| Young adult young offender institutions ⁶ | 7 | 1,180 | 2% |
| Open prisons | 12 | 1,587 | 7% |
| OVERALL | 85 | 14,335 | 6% |

Female prisoners

Four women's prisons were surveyed within our 2013–14 annual reporting year⁷, with surveys received from 585 women – one per cent said they were a veteran.

Table 3 shows figures from prisoner surveys conducted at women's prisons since January 2012, when the veterans question was added, to Friday 8 August 2014, when this analysis was conducted. Some prisons may have been inspected more than once during this timeframe – only the most recent survey data has been included.

Table 3
2012–2014 survey responses: veteran data from female prisoners

| | No. of prisons included | No. of surveys returned | Said they were a veteran |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Women's prisons | 8 | 1,114 | 1% |

⁶ This includes both dedicated young offender institutions and split sites where young adults have a separate regime. Where young adults are held within adult male prisons (mixed or on a dedicated wing), they are included within the overall adult male prison sample.

⁷ This includes survey data for all inspection reports **published** from April 2013 to March 2014.