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# **An inventory of survey data sources describing the health and well-being of Canadian Veterans and military personnel**

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## Overview

Data is a key component in developing information products and services to support the health and well-being of Canadian Veterans and military personnel. An awareness of available data sources enables users in research, policy, and service delivery to access the most up-to-date and relevant information for their work.

This report describes work undertaken by Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) to create an inventory of currently available surveys with data describing the health and wellness of Veterans and military personnel. This centralized resource will assist users to identify existing data sources, as well as information gaps that may warrant further investigation.

## Objective

The objective of this work is to encourage and support the use of evidence and research by creating an unofficial inventory of public survey data sources that describe the health and well-being of Canadian Veterans and/or military personnel. This inventory is intended to serve as a resource for researchers, policy makers, and service providers. It may be used in various ways, such as to increase awareness and understanding of currently available Veteran and military personnel information sources, develop analytic strategies, and identify information gaps where further data acquisition or research may be needed.



This inventory is intended to support and encourage the use of evidence and serve as a resource for policy makers, researchers & service providers.

## Methods

Survey data sources were identified and summarized by the VAC Research Directorate between May and August 2023. Websites of relevant organizations that collect and maintain data, such as Statistics Canada, were searched to identify survey and other relevant data sources pertaining to the health and well-being of Veterans and/or military personnel in Canada. These targeted site searches were supplemented by customized web searches to identify additional Canadian survey data sources.

## Data sources included

### Surveys with a Veteran or Military Personnel Target Population

This category includes surveys with a target population of Veterans and/or military personnel. Examples include the [Life After Service Survey \(LASS\)](#) (focused on Veterans), the [Canadian Armed Forces Health Survey \(CAFHS\)](#) (focused on current members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)), and the [Canadian Armed Forces Members and Veterans Mental Health Follow-up Survey \(CAFVMHS\)](#) (focused on both Veterans and current CAF members).

### General Population Surveys with a Veteran or Military Personnel Identifier Question

These surveys, focused on the Canadian general population, include a question that allows participants to identify as Veterans and/or military personnel. This type of identifier can be used to perform sub-analyses focused on one or both of these subpopulations; or it may be used to exclude Veterans or military personnel from analyses due to their unique characteristics. Examples of surveys containing a Veteran or military personnel identifier question include the [2022 Canadian Housing Survey](#) and the [General Social Survey](#).

### Search terms

Search terms for both categories of surveys utilized the term “survey on [insert topic] Canadian Veterans or military or armed forces”. Topics included: health, mental health, health care, income, disability, well-being, community/social, employment, housing and homelessness.



- Health
- Mental Health
- Health Care
- Income
- Well-Being
- Community
- Social
- Employment
- Income
- Disability
- Housing
- Homelessness

### Information fields summarized

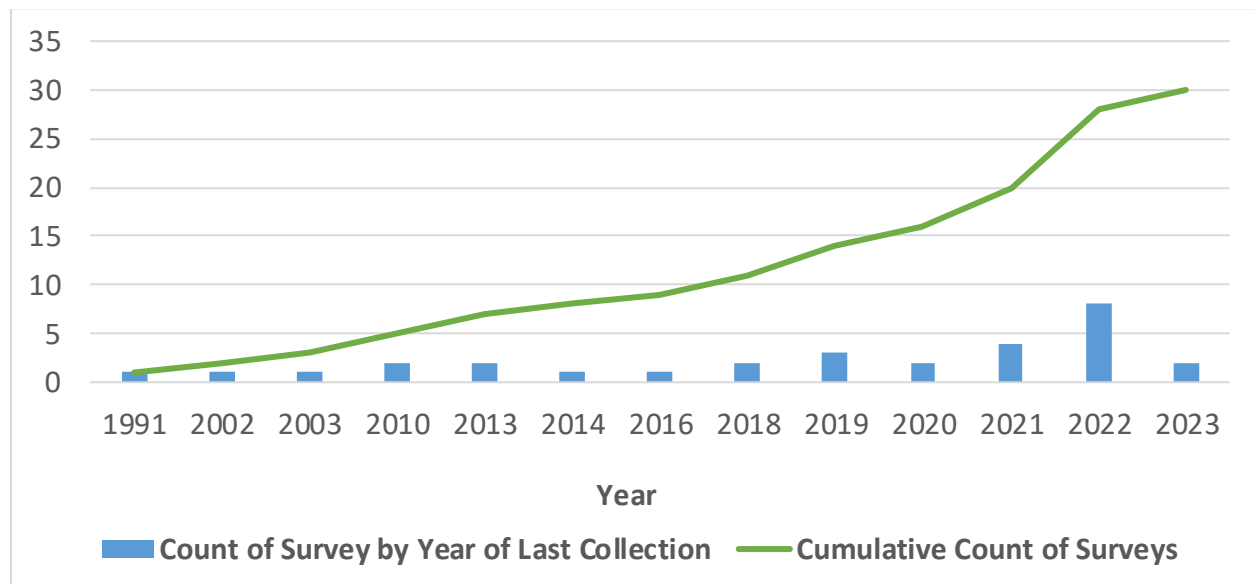
A description of information fields summarized for each survey is provided in Appendix A. This includes survey status (e.g., active or inactive), frequency of data collection, most recent year of collection, population of interest, and themes addressed.

Survey modules were examined to identify topic areas that were then categorized into broader themes. The types of Veterans and/or military personnel identifier questions used by the surveys were also summarized to characterize their nature and focus.

### Results

In total, 30 surveys that included data on Veterans and/or military personnel were identified and summarized (Appendix B). **Figure 1** summarizes these survey data sources based on their most recent year of collection and cumulative count over time.

**Figure 1: Annual and cumulative counts of survey data sources with Veteran or military personnel information (n=30)**



### Key organizations collecting and maintaining survey data on Canadian Veterans and/or military personnel

The majority of the 30 survey data sources are administered and maintained by Statistics Canada; 19 are currently active. Other organizations that have collected and maintained survey data on Canadian Veterans or military personnel include Veterans

Affairs Canada, the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation, the Department of National Defence, and the Homelessness Services Association of BC.

### Focus of surveys with Veteran or military personnel information



#### Survey Target Populations

5 = Veterans  
7 = Military personnel  
1 = Veteran & Military  
17 = Canadian General Population

Of the 30 survey data sources that included information on Veterans or military personnel, 13 targeted Veterans and/or military personnel, while 17 targeted the Canadian general population and included a Veteran and/or military personnel identifier question.

Of the 13 surveys with a Veteran and/or military personnel target population, 5 focused on Veterans, 7 focused on military personnel, and 1 had a target population of both Veterans and military personnel.

Of the 17 Canadian general population surveys with a Veteran and/or military personnel identifier, 4 were used to identify Veterans, 4 to identify current military personnel, 3 to identify both Veterans and military personnel, 5 did not specify between the two populations,

and 1 identified military personnel by asking whether or not they had accessed military or Veteran healthcare programs or providers. The various identifier questions are summarized in Appendix C.

## Topics and themes covered

Topics identified through the review of survey modules were categorized into broader themes, including Military Characteristics, Mental/Physical Health Outcomes, and Health Behaviours (Table 1).

**Table 1: Topics and themes addressed in the inventoried surveys<sup>1</sup>**

THEMES							
TOPICS	Demographics	Military Characteristics	Mental Health	Physical Health	Health Behaviours	Health Care Access and Use	Social Characteristics
	Age	Rank	Depression	General Health	Smoking	Mental Health Services	Workplace Environment
	Sex and Gender	Environment	Suicide	Diseases and Health Conditions	Alcohol Use	Attitudes Toward Care	Food Security
	Sexual Orientation	Component	Social Phobia	Pain and Discomfort	Substance Use	Perceived Need For Care	Discrimination
	Ethnic or Cultural Origins	Age enrolled	Generalized Anxiety Disorder	Activity Limitations	Medication Use	Care Given or Received	Social Support and Isolation
	Marital Status	Length of Service	PTSD	Health and Well-being	Physical Activity	Health Care Utilization	Marital Abuse and Violence
	Language	Deployment	Military Sexual Trauma	Weight	Cannabis Use	Health Care Access	Housing/ Homelessness
	Household Composition	Military Occupation	Moral Injury	COVID-19	Nutrition	Health Care Therapies and Services	Employment/ Retirement
	Income/ Finances	Conditions of Military Release	Stress	Women's Health	Life Satisfaction	Mental Health Care Experiences	Physical and Sexual Abuse or Misconduct
	Education	Military to Civilian Transition	Positive Mental Health	Maternal Health	Eating Disorders	Support Programs and Services	Childhood Experiences

<sup>1</sup>Topics listed are not exhaustive and could be classified under multiple themes



## Implications

This inventory of survey data sources may be used in a variety of ways by researchers, policy makers and service providers working to support the health and well-being of Veterans and military personnel.

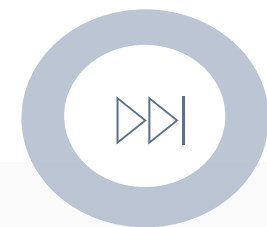
Users seeking to leverage information already summarized and reported may consult the inventory's identification of survey themes and topics. For example, descriptive results summarized from the Life After Service Survey have been used to inform policy development and surveillance frameworks focused on measuring [Veteran well-being](#) in various domains (i.e., health, finances, life skills, etc.)

The inventory may also be accessed by users seeking to leverage currently available data sources. For example, a researcher interested in examining the health behaviours of Veterans or military personnel may wish to consult the list of surveys that explore this theme (identified in Appendix B) to develop new research questions and analyses using these data sources.

In addition, this inventory could be used to identify gaps where future data collection or other forms of research may be needed to inform programs and services that support the health and well-being needs of Veterans and military personnel. This includes identification of equity deserving groups, experiences of discrimination/racism/sexism, and exposures to hazardous substances or environments during service.

## Next steps

The development of this inventory is an initial step to identifying currently available survey information that addresses the health and well-being of Veterans and military personnel. In future, the scope of this inventory could be expanded through inclusion of other relevant information, such as qualitative surveys and international data sources. The following sections of this report explore additional recommendations regarding linkages with other data sources, refinement of Veteran and/or military personnel identifiers on general population surveys, and external partnerships.



[Data Linkages](#)

[Refine and Expand  
Veteran and Military  
Identifiers](#)

[External Partnerships](#)

## Linkages with other data sources

The [Statistics Canada Derived Record Depository](#) is a national longitudinal database of individuals derived from Statistics Canada data files. This depository contains existing administrative data sources (initially collected for nonstatistical purposes, such as to provide overviews on registration, transactions, and record keeping) that may be utilized to broaden the depth and scope of data summarized in this inventory. For example, Veterans Affairs Canada is currently working with Statistics Canada to develop a Military and Veteran Status File (MVSF). This file is a linkage of multiple administrative data files that is intended to serve as a backbone for future data linkages to Veteran data with national administrative data, as well as other survey data. The MVSF may also be used to select appropriate respondent samples for surveys with Veteran target populations, such as the Canadian Veteran Health Survey (CVHS).

## Veteran and/or military personnel identifiers on general population surveys

### 1. Refinement of current identifiers

Varying scope and detail was noted with respect to Veteran or military personnel identifiers utilized in Canadian surveys (see Appendix C). Such differences may be explained by the purposes of such identifiers on general population surveys (i.e., to inform inclusion versus exclusion of Veterans and military personnel), as well as resources allotted for obtaining broad versus detailed information on these populations.

Decisions regarding the development and inclusion of Veteran and military identifiers impact the ability of knowledge users to interpret survey results and identify specific sub-populations for analyses. For instance, some identifier questions lack the detail required to differentiate a Veteran from a currently serving member of the Canadian Armed Forces, or a full-time member from a part-time reservist. To address these limitations, the development of a detailed standard question to identify Veterans and military personnel for use across surveys is recommended. This would promote consistency and comparability of data gathered across surveys, and would permit the identification of subpopulations of interest.

### 2. Identifiers on additional surveys

The addition of identifiers to active general population surveys currently lacking information on Veterans and/or military personnel is another opportunity to expand

information on the health and well-being of this population. Additional themes and topics that could be explored using active Canadian general population surveys without such identifiers include perception of safety, trust in others and institutions, and women+ maternity or reproductive experiences.

### External partnerships

Understanding the health and well-being of both Veterans and currently serving members has important implications for life course approaches to research and services across VAC and DND. To this end, Veterans Affairs Canada is working collaboratively with other departments, such the Department of National Defence and Statistics Canada, to develop increasingly robust data on the health and well-being of Veterans and currently serving military personnel. Memorandums of understanding and various types of cross-departmental partnerships are facilitating such exchanges. International partnerships, such as Five Eyes Veteran Research Committee Working Groups, are another important means to [share and compare relevant data across administrations and countries](#).

### Summary

This report summarizes a newly developed inventory of existing survey data sources focused on the health and well-being of Canadian Veterans and military personnel. This resource can support a variety of users who wish to understand the availability of information and data on these populations. Recommendations to increase the value of this inventory, such as data linkages, identifier refinements, and external collaborations, are also provided. Cross-departmental partnerships are key to maximizing the value and informativeness of data concerning the health and well-being of Canadian Veterans and military personnel.

## Appendix A: Information fields summarized

Field Title	Description
Survey	Survey name
Organization	Organization responsible for conducting the survey, maintaining data, and access
Frequency	Survey data collection frequency (i.e., single versus repeated)
Year of First Collection	First year of survey collection
Year of Most Recent Collection	Summarizes last or most recent year of survey data collection
Status	Whether the survey is active or inactive
Themes	Survey topics categorized into themes for the purpose of this report
Target Population	Survey target population (i.e., Veterans, military personnel, both Veterans and military personnel, or Canadian general population) and specific inclusion criteria
Focus of Veteran or military identifier question	Completed for the surveys targeting Canadian General Population (see Appendix C for detail)
Survey Description	High-level description of the survey
Veteran or Military Personnel Identifier Question Used (Appendix C)	Questions used to identify Veterans and/or military personnel (general population surveys only)

**Appendix B: Inventory of Canadian survey data sources describing Veteran and/or military personnel health and well-being**

Survey	Organization	Frequency	First Collection Year	Last Collection Year	Status	Themes	Target Population	Focus of Identifier Question <sup>1</sup>	Survey Description
<b>SURVEYS OF VETERANS AND/OR SERVING MILITARY PERSONNEL</b>									
<a href="#">Survey on Sexual Misconduct in the Canadian Armed Forces (SSMCAF)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 2 years	2016	2022	Active	Demographics, Military Characteristics, Health Behaviours, Social Characteristics	Military Personnel Regular Force and Primary Reserve members in the CAF  <i>Excludes</i> Regular Force Members: - In basic training <i>Excludes</i> Regular or Primary Reserve members: - On maternity/paternity leave - On leave without pay - On retirement leave With a medical condition that precluded them from returning to their normal place of duty for a period of six months or more.	Not Applicable	Gathers data on the nature, prevalence, perceptions and measures to address sexual misconduct in and outside of the military workplace.
<a href="#">Canadian Veteran Health Survey (CVHS)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 2 years	2022	2022	Active	Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours, Social Characteristics	Veterans All veterans who were released prior to 11/05/2021, who were not re-enlisted at time of the survey and not still serving in the forces; living in the 10 provinces of Canada; 18 years of age or older.  <i>Excludes</i> those living in the territories, on a reserve and in institutions	Not Applicable	Provides insight into the health and well-being of Canadian Veterans after their transition to civilian life.
<a href="#">VAC National Client Survey</a>	Veteran Affairs Canada	Every 2 to 7 years	2010	2022	Active	Demographics, Military Characteristics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Care Access and Use	Veterans Composed of six key strata of VAC clients— Veterans 85+, Veterans 65–84, Veterans under 65 (case-managed), Veterans under 65 (not case-managed), Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and Survivors.	Not Applicable	Provides information on program effectiveness, Veteran well-being, satisfaction with Service Delivery and various service elements, and preferred service channels.
<a href="#">Covid-19 Defence Team Survey</a>	Department of National Defence/Canadian Armed Forces (DND/CAF)	Not specified	N/A	2022	Not specified	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Social Characteristics	Military Personnel Regular Force, Primary Reserve and DND Public Services	Not Applicable	Information on experiences and requirements of Defence Team members re: COVID-19 pandemic.
<a href="#">Canadian Armed Forces Health Survey (CAFHS)</a>	Statistics Canada	One time	N/A	2019	Active	Demographics, Military Characteristics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours,	Military Personnel Those serving in the Department of National Defence Canadian Armed Forces (DND-CAF) members from both the Regular Force and Class A, B and C Reserve Force.	Not Applicable	Data collected to provide insight into the current health status of Canadian Armed Forces members.

Survey	Organization	Frequency	First Collection Year	Last Collection Year	Status	Themes	Target Population	Focus of Identifier Question <sup>1</sup>	Survey Description
						Social Characteristics			
<a href="#">Life After Service Survey (LASS)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 3 years	2013	2019	Inactive	Demographics, Military Characteristics, Physical Health, Mental Health	Veterans  Two Target Populations: 1) Longitudinal population, persons released from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) prior to 2013 2) Cross-sectional population, persons released from the CAF prior to 2019  <i>Excludes</i> those released from the Reserve Force.	Not Applicable	National longitudinal survey that collects information on the transition from military to civilian life, general health and well-being, chronic conditions, labour force participation and other related information.
<a href="#">Canadian Armed Forces Members and Veterans Mental Health Follow-up Survey (CAFVMHS)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 5 to 11 years	2002	2018	Active	Demographics, Military Characteristics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours	Veterans and Military Personnel  Respondents to the 2002 CCHS-CF (Canadian Community Health Survey), who were full time regular members of the Canadian Forces during the 2002 survey reference period.	Not Applicable	Collects data describing mental and physical health of current and former CAF members in a follow up to survey originally conducted in 2002.
<a href="#">Canadian Armed Forces Transition and Well-being Survey (CAFTWS)</a>	Statistics Canada	One time	N/A	2016	Active	Demographics, Military Characteristics, Physical Health, Mental Health	Veterans  Regular Force members with at least 2 years of service (730 or more days) who had released in 2016.  <i>Excludes</i> those who were released for misconduct or unsatisfactory service.	Not Applicable	To collect information on transition to civilian life and its impact on health, as well as to provide information to inform programs and services offered to transition from military to civilian life.
<a href="#">The Health and Lifestyle Information Survey (HLIS)</a>	Directorate Force Health Protection Canadian Forces Health Services, DND	Every 4 years	2004	2013	Inactive	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours, Health Care Access and Use, Social Characteristics	Military Personnel  All trained effective strength Regular Force personnel aged 18 to 60 years.	Not Applicable	Captures data on health and lifestyle factors, including health care utilization and satisfaction.
<a href="#">Canadian Armed Forces Mental Health Survey (CFMHS)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 5 to 11 years	2002	2013	Inactive	Demographics, Military Characteristics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours	Military Personnel  Full time regular members of the Canadian Forces and reservists who have been deployed in support of the mission in Afghanistan.	Not Applicable	Gathers information about mental health status and need for mental health services focused on preventing mental disorders, overcoming barriers to care, and delivering mental health care to Canadian Forces members.

Survey	Organization	Frequency	First Collection Year	Last Collection Year	Status	Themes	Target Population	Focus of Identifier Question <sup>1</sup>	Survey Description
<a href="#">Survey on Transition to Civilian Life (STCL)</a>	Statistics Canada	One time	2010	2010	Inactive	Demographics, Military Characteristics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours, Health Care Access and Use	Veterans  Canadian Forces members released between 1998 and 2007, including those who currently reside in Canada	Not Applicable	Collects information on transition from military to civilian life to understand the health and well-being of Canadian Veterans.
<a href="#">Canadian Community Health Survey - Mental Health and Well-being - Canadian Forces (CCHS-CF)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 5 to 11 years	2002	2002	Inactive	Demographics, Military Characteristics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours,	Military Personnel  All full time regular members of the Canadian Forces, and reservists who have paraded at least once in the past six months.	Not Applicable	Representative sample of Canadian Forces population's mental health and well-being.
<b>GENERAL POPULATION SURVEYS WITH VETERAN AND/OR MILITARY PERSONNEL IDENTIFIERS</b>									
<a href="#">Labour Force Survey (LFS)</a>	Statistics Canada	Monthly	Started in 1945, but only questionnaires from 2000 to present day are available online	2023	Active	Demographics	General Population  Non-institutionalised, 15 years of age and over, nationwide (in both the provinces and the territories).  <i>Excludes</i> persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the provinces; full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the institutionalized population, and households in extremely remote areas with low population density.	Military Personnel	Examines standard labour market indicators such as employment and labour participation rates. Provides employment estimates by, e.g., industry, occupation, public and private sector, hours worked, cross-classifiable by various demographic characteristics.
<a href="#">Report on Homeless Services Counts in B.C.</a>	Homelessness Services Association of British Columbia	Every 2-3 years	2018	2023	Active	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours, Health Care Access and Use	General Population  Any individual defined as experiencing homelessness, i.e. do not have a place of their own where they pay rent and can expect to stay for at least 30 days. Including "hidden" homeless: people who do not have a regular address of their own where they have security of tenure.	Veterans	Provides information on the estimated number, key demographic and service provision needs of people experiencing homelessness in communities across B.C.
<a href="#">Mental Health and Access to Care Survey (MHACS)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 10 years	2002	2022	Active	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours, Health Care Access and Use	General Population  Population aged 15 years and over as of March 1, 2022 living in the ten provinces.  <i>Excludes</i> persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements, full-time members of the Canadian Forces, and persons living in collective dwellings.	Non Specific (Does not specify Veteran vs Military Personnel)	Collects information on mental health status of Canadians and their access to and need for services and supports, whether formal or informal. Examines impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on population health and evaluate changes in patterns of mental health, service use and functioning in the last ten years.

Survey	Organization	Frequency	First Collection Year	Last Collection Year	Status	Themes	Target Population	Focus of Identifier Question <sup>1</sup>	Survey Description
<a href="#">Canadian Housing Survey (CHS)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 2 years	2018	2022	Active	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Social Characteristics	General Population Residing in Canada's 10 provinces <i>Excludes</i> residents of institutions, members of the Canadian Forces living in military camps, people living on Indian reserves and people living in other collective dwellings.	Veteran and Military Personnel	Collects data about housing needs and experiences from a sample of Canadian households. Includes information on core housing need, dwelling characteristics and housing tenure.
<a href="#">Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 5 years	1986	2022	Active	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours, Health Care Access and Use	General Population Persons aged 15 and over, and who reported having difficulty "Sometimes", "Often" or "Always" to one of the 2021 Census' Activities of Daily Living questions. <i>Excludes</i> persons living on a First Nations reserve and those living in collective dwellings.	Veteran and Military Personnel	Gathers information about the lived experiences of Canadian youth and adults whose everyday activities are limited due to a long-term condition or health-related problem.
<a href="#">Social and Affordable Housing Survey - Rental Structures</a>	Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)	Every year	2018	2022	Active	Demographics, Social Characteristics	General Population All structures in all provinces and territories with at least 1 rental unit subsidized by a public entity. This could be a public entity such as federal, provincial or municipal government. It can be by a private entity like non-profits, co-ops or faith-based orgs.	Veterans	Collects information on social and affordable housing structures to develop data and indicators to understand progress toward improved housing outcomes.
<a href="#">Canadian Community Health Survey - Annual component (CCHS)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every year	2000-2001	2021	Inactive	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours, Health Care Access and Use	General Population 12 years of age and over living in the ten provinces and the three territorial capitals. <i>Excludes</i> persons living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements in the provinces; full-time members of the Canadian Forces; the institutionalized population, children aged 12-17 in foster care, and persons living in certain Quebec health regions.	Non Specific (Does not specify Veteran vs Military Personnel)	Cross-sectional survey that collects information related to health status, health care utilization and health determinants for the Canadian population.
<a href="#">Staffing and Non-partisanship Survey (SNPS)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 2 years	2007	2021	Active	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Social Characteristics	General Population Public service employees in federal departments and agencies under Public Service Employment Act (PSEA) and members of RCMP and CAF with civilian direct reports employed under PSEA.	Military Personnel	Gathers information from employees, managers or supervisors and staffing advisors on key aspects of the staffing system, also employees' understanding of their rights and responsibilities regarding political activities and non-partisanship.



Survey	Organization	Frequency	First Collection Year	Last Collection Year	Status	Themes	Target Population	Focus of Identifier Question <sup>1</sup>	Survey Description
<a href="#">Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA)</a>	CLSA National Coordinating Centre	Every 3 years	2011	2021	Active	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours, Social Characteristics	General Population  Aged 45 to 85 years upon recruitment from the 10 provinces	Veterans	Longitudinal population-based study collecting information on the changing biological, medical, psychological, social, lifestyle and economic aspects of people's lives.
<a href="#">Canadian Census of Population</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 5 years	2021	2021	Active	Demographics, Physical Health, Social Characteristics	General Population  Canadian citizens; permanent residents; non-permanent residents (since 1991); government employees working outside Canada; embassy staff posted internationally; CAF stationed outside Canada; Canadian crew members of merchant vessels + their families.  <i>Excludes</i> foreign residents, government representatives of another country posted in Canada and members of the armed forces of another country stationed in Canada.	Veterans and Military Personnel	Detailed and comprehensive statistical portrait of Canadians.
<a href="#">Survey on Sexual Misconduct at Work (SSMW)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 2 years	2018	2020	Active	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Social Characteristics	General Population  People 15 years and older, who have been in the workforce, and who live in the Canadian provinces.  <i>Excludes</i> persons living in the territories.	Military Personnel	Examines the nature, extent, and impact of: inappropriate sexual behaviours; discriminatory behaviours based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and sexual victimization in Canadian workplaces.
<a href="#">General Social Survey (GSS) - Social Identity (SI)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 5 to 7 years	2003	2020	Active	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours, Social Characteristics	General Population  Non-institutionalized persons and non-residents of First Nations reserves 15 years of age or older, living in the 10 provinces	Non Specific (Does not specify Veteran vs Military Personnel)	Gathers data on social trends in order to monitor changes in the living conditions and well-being of Canadians over time, and to provide information on specific social policy issues of current or emerging interest.
<a href="#">General Social Survey (GSS) - Canadian's safety</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 5 years	1988	2019	Active	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours, Social Characteristics	General Population  Aged 15 years and over, living in provinces and territories. Excluding, Canadians living in institutions.  <i>Excludes</i> Canadians living in institutions.	Non Specific (Does not specify Veteran vs Military Personnel)	Gathers data on social trends in living conditions and well-being of Canadians; provides information on specific social policy issues of current or emerging interest.
<a href="#">General Social Survey (GSS) - Caregiving and care receiving</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 5 years	1996	2018	Active	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours, Health Care Access and Use, Social Characteristics	General Population  <i>Excludes</i> institutionalized persons; persons aged 15 years or under; those living in the territories.	Non Specific (Does not specify Veteran vs Military Personnel)	Collects information on Canadians who provide care to family and friends with long-term health conditions, physical or mental disabilities or problems related to aging. Also covers those who receive care and the challenges both groups face.

Survey	Organization	Frequency	First Collection Year	Last Collection Year	Status	Themes	Target Population	Focus of Identifier Question <sup>1</sup>	Survey Description
<a href="#">Canadian Financial Capability Survey (CFCS)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 6 years	2008	2014	Inactive	Demographics, Social Characteristics	General Population All persons 18 years of age and over living in Canada  <i>Excludes</i> full-time residents of institutions and residents of institutions and residents of the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not included in this survey.	Military Personnel	Examines Canadians' knowledge, abilities and behaviour concerning financial decision-making by collecting information surrounding respondents' approaches to day-to-day money management and budgeting, longer term money management and general financial planning.
<a href="#">Canadian Community Health Survey - Healthy Aging (CCHS)</a>	Statistics Canada	Every 3 years	2007	2010	Inactive	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours	General Population Aged 45 and over living in the ten provinces.  <i>Excludes</i> those living on reserves and other Aboriginal settlements; full-time members of the Canadian Forces, persons living in collective dwellings and the institutionalized population.	Military Personnel	Examines factors that may impact healthy aging in a population over 45 years of age, such as general health and well-being, physical activity, use of health care services, social participation, work and retirement transitions.
<a href="#">Joint Canada/United States Survey of Health</a>	Statistics Canada	One time	N/A	2003	Inactive	Demographics, Physical Health, Mental Health, Health Behaviours	General Population Canadian and American household residents aged 18 years or older.  <i>Excludes</i> institutionalized persons, those in prison and full time Canadian or American Armed Forces members. Excludes Canada's three territories, and United States territories (residents of the District of Columbia were included).	Military Personnel	Collects information from Canadian and U.S. residents about health, use of health care and functional limitations.
<a href="#">Aging and Independence Survey (AIS)</a>	Statistics Canada	One time	N/A	1991	Inactive	Demographics, Physical Health, Health Behaviours, Health Care Access and Use, Social Characteristics	General Population Civilians aged 45 years and over.  <i>Excludes</i> residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, persons living on Indian Reserves, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces and residents of institutions.	Veterans	Provides information on factors important to remain independent in the community with aging, and characteristics of Canadians aged 45 years and older.

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix C for detail on Veteran and military personnel identifier questions in general population surveys

### Appendix C: General Population Surveys with Veteran and/or Military Personnel Identifiers

Survey Name	Year of Collection	Veteran and/ or military personnel identifier question	Additional Text	Response Categories
General Social Survey - Caregiving and care receiving	2018	Have you ever served in the Canadian military?	N/A	1: Yes 2: No
Survey on Sexual Misconduct at Work	2020	Are you a member of the Canadian Armed Forces?	N/A	1: Yes 2: No
Canadian Community Health Survey - Healthy Aging	2010	Is (Respondent Name) a full time member of the regular Canadian Armed Forces?	N/A	1: Yes 2: No
Canadian Housing Survey	2022	Have you ever served in the Canadian military? Are you currently a member of the Canadian Armed Forces?	N/A	1: Yes 2: No (Same answers for both)
Canadian Survey on Disability	2022	Have you ever served in the Canadian military? Are you currently a member of the Canadian Armed Forces?	N/A	1: Yes 2: No (Same answers for both)
Aging and Independence Survey	1991	Did you have any wartime service in the active military force of Canada or its allied forces?	N/A	1. Yes, Canadian 2. Yes, Allied Forces 3. No
		Are you a spouse/(partner or widow(er) of a Canadian or Allied Veteran?	N/A	1. Yes, Spouse/partner 2. Yes, Widow(er) 3. No
Labour Force Survey	2023	Are you a full-time member of the regular Canadian Armed Forces?	N/A	1: Yes 2: No
Mental Health and Access to Care Survey	2022	Have you ever served in the Canadian military?	N/A	1: Yes 2: No 3: Don't know, refusal
General Social Survey - Canadian's Safety	2019	Have you ever served in the Canadian military?	N/A	1: Yes 2: No
General Social Survey - Social Identity	2020	Have you ever served in the Canadian military?	Canadian military service includes service with Regular Force or Primary Reserve Force as Officer or Non-Commissioned Member. Does not include service with Cadets.	1: Yes 2: No
Report on Homeless Counts in B.C.	2023	Have you ever had any service in the Canadian Forces? (Check all that apply)	(Includes army, navy, air force, RCMP)	1: Yes, Canadian military (army, navy, air force) 2: Yes, RCMP 3: No 4: Don't know/No Answer
Joint Canada/United States Survey of Health	2003	Are you covered by military health care, such as TRICARE, VA or VA?	N/A	1. Yes 2. No 3. DK/Refusal
Canadian Longitudinal Survey on Aging	2021	Have you ever served in the military forces?	N/A	1: Yes, the Canadian Military Forces 2: Yes, the Military Forces outside of Canada (please specify country: _____) 3: No 4: Don't know/No answer 5: Refused
		Was this service with the...	N/A	1: Army 2: Navy 3: Air Force 4: Reserves 5: Reserves (please specify: _____) 6: Other 7: Other (please specify: _____) 8: Don't know/No answer 9: Refused
		Are you currently in the military forces?	N/A	1: Yes 2: No 3: Refused
		What year did you release from the Military Forces?	N/A	1: _____ RECORD YEAR 2: Don't know/No answer 3: Refused
		What year did you join the Military Forces?	N/A	1: _____ RECORD YEAR 2: Don't know/No answer 3: Refused
Social and Affordable Housing Survey - Rental Structures	2022	Please indicate if your building is mandated to serve a specific clientele. (Select all that apply)	If "Other" is selected, please specify.	Drop-down menu provides the subgroups considered as "specific clientele" with "Veterans" included as one of the options.
Canadian Census of Population	2021	Has this person ever served in the Canadian military?	Canadian military service includes service with the Regular Force or Primary Reserve Force as an Officer or Non-Commissioned Member. Does not include service with the Cadets (COATS), Supplementary Reserve or Canadian Rangers.	1. Yes, currently serving in the Regular Force or the Primary Reserve Force 2. Yes, but no longer serving in the Regular Force or the Primary Reserve Force 3. No