



# CONCERNED VETERANS FOR AMERICA

## 2020 NATIONAL ONLINE SURVEY

April 7-10, 2020

N = 707 military veterans

N = 803 military family members

April 5-14, 2019

N = 800 military veterans

N = 800 military family members

- Note the survey was not identical between 2019 and 2020 editions. Some questions were removed, some question language was updated to be relevant, and the order of questions was changed. All changes are noted as far as possible.
- An asterisk (\*) in a response category means that less than 0.5% of respondents chose that response category, and a dash (--) represents no response.
- HH denotes military households including those with active service members.
- Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

1. Generally speaking, do you feel things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

### 2020

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                 |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| 48%         | 45%        | Right direction |
| 52%         | 55%        | Wrong track     |

### 2019

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                 |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| 48%         | 49%        | Right direction |
| 52%         | 51%        | Wrong track     |

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President? (ROTATED)

### 2020

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                          |
|-------------|------------|--------------------------|
| <b>56%</b>  | <b>52%</b> | <b>TOTAL APPROVE</b>     |
| <b>44%</b>  | <b>48%</b> | <b>TOTAL DISSAPPROVE</b> |
| 34%         | 29%        | Strongly approve         |
| 22%         | 23%        | Somewhat approve         |
| 10%         | 15%        | Somewhat disapprove      |
| 35%         | 33%        | Strongly disapprove      |

### 2019

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                          |
|-------------|------------|--------------------------|
| <b>56%</b>  | <b>50%</b> | <b>TOTAL APPROVE</b>     |
| <b>44%</b>  | <b>50%</b> | <b>TOTAL DISSAPPROVE</b> |
| 31%         | 24%        | Strongly approve         |
| 26%         | 27%        | Somewhat approve         |
| 11%         | 19%        | Somewhat disapprove      |
| 32%         | 31%        | Strongly disapprove      |

3. Thinking specifically about the issue of foreign policy...do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing on foreign policy? (ROTATED)

**2020**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                          |
|-------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 56%         | 55%        | <b>TOTAL APPROVE</b>     |
| 44%         | 45%        | <b>TOTAL DISSAPPROVE</b> |
| 33%         | 27%        | Strongly approve         |
| 23%         | 28%        | Somewhat approve         |
| 12%         | 17%        | Somewhat disapprove      |
| 33%         | 28%        | Strongly disapprove      |

**2019**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                          |
|-------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 56%         | 51%        | <b>TOTAL APPROVE</b>     |
| 44%         | 49%        | <b>TOTAL DISSAPPROVE</b> |
| 30%         | 22%        | Strongly approve         |
| 26%         | 29%        | Somewhat approve         |
| 14%         | 19%        | Somewhat disapprove      |
| 30%         | 30%        | Strongly disapprove      |

4. From the list of issues below, please select the one you believe to be the **most important** issue facing the country today, and the one you believe to be the **least important** issue facing the country today. (RANDOMIZED)

**2020 Most Important**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                                   |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 27%         | 32%        | Healthcare                        |
| 19%         | 14%        | Immigration and border security   |
| 18%         | 11%        | Spending and our national debt    |
| 9%          | 10%        | National security/military issues |
| 7%          | 8%         | Energy and the environment        |
| 7%          | 4%         | Veterans issues                   |
| 3%          | 6%         | Education                         |
| 3%          | 5%         | Race Relations/Racism             |
| 3%          | 4%         | Taxes                             |
| 4%          | 5%         | Other (please specify)            |
| *           | *          | Don't Know                        |

**2019 Most Important**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                                   |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 30%         | 22%        | Immigration and border security   |
| 17%         | 16%        | Health care                       |
| 13%         | 9%         | Spending and our national debt    |
| 9%          | 12%        | National security/military issues |
| 8%          | 12%        | Jobs and the economy              |
| 5%          | 6%         | Energy and the environment        |
| 5%          | 7%         | Race relations/racism             |
| 4%          | 4%         | Veterans issues                   |
| 3%          | 4%         | Taxes                             |
| 2%          | 6%         | Education                         |
| 2%          | 2%         | Other (please specify)            |
| 1%          | 1%         | Don't Know                        |

**2020 Least Important**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                                   |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 24%         | 23%        | Race relations/racism             |
| 15%         | 14%        | Immigration and border security   |
| 15%         | 13%        | Energy and the environment        |
| 11%         | 10%        | Taxes                             |
| 7%          | 9%         | Spending and our national debt    |
| 7%          | 6%         | Education                         |
| 3%          | 5%         | National security/military issues |
| 3%          | 4%         | Veterans issues                   |
| 2%          | 2%         | Health care                       |
| 1%          | 2%         | Other (please specify)            |
| 11%         | 12%        | Don't Know                        |

**2019 Least Important**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                                   |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 26%         | 18%        | Race relations/racism             |
| 15%         | 12%        | Energy and the environment        |
| 13%         | 14%        | Immigration and border security   |
| 8%          | 12%        | Taxes                             |
| 7%          | 7%         | Education                         |
| 7%          | 9%         | Spending and our national debt    |
| 6%          | 4%         | Jobs and the economy              |
| 3%          | 3%         | Healthcare                        |
| 3%          | 4%         | Veterans issues                   |
| 2%          | 4%         | National security/military issues |
| 1%          | *          | Other (please specify)            |
| 10%         | 12%        | Don't Know                        |

5. Should the United States be more or less militarily engaged in conflicts around the world, or stay about the same?

**2020**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                     |
|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| 7%          | 11%        | More                |
| 57%         | 43%        | Less                |
| 34%         | 39%        | Stay about the same |
| 3%          | 7%         | Don't know          |

**2019**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                     |
|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| 6%          | 13%        | More                |
| 48%         | 41%        | Less                |
| 43%         | 41%        | Stay about the same |
| 3%          | 5%         | Don't know          |

### Should the United States be more or less militarily engaged in conflicts around the world, or stay about the same?

■ Less ■ About the same ■ More



Chart: Concerned Veterans for America • Source: Fielded by Dynata • Created with Datawrapper

6. If the President were to authorize that all U.S. troops be removed from Afghanistan, would you support or oppose that decision? (ROTATED)

**2020**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                      |
|-------------|------------|----------------------|
| <b>73%</b>  | <b>69%</b> | <b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b> |
| <b>20%</b>  | <b>19%</b> | <b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>  |
| 37%         | 31%        | Strongly support     |
| 36%         | 37%        | Somewhat support     |
| 15%         | 14%        | Somewhat oppose      |
| 5%          | 5%         | Strongly oppose      |
| 7%          | 12%        | Don't know           |

**2019**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                      |
|-------------|------------|----------------------|
| <b>60%</b>  | <b>60%</b> | <b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b> |
| <b>32%</b>  | <b>30%</b> | <b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>  |
| 28%         | 28%        | Strongly support     |
| 31%         | 32%        | Somewhat support     |
| 23%         | 19%        | Somewhat oppose      |
| 10%         | 11%        | Strongly oppose      |
| 8%          | 10%        | Don't know           |

7. If the President were to authorize that all U.S. troops be removed from Iraq, would you support or oppose that decision? (ROTATED)

**2020**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                      |
|-------------|------------|----------------------|
| 71%         | 69%        | <b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b> |
| 22%         | 20%        | <b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>  |
| 35%         | 32%        | Strongly support     |
| 36%         | 37%        | Somewhat support     |
| 16%         | 15%        | Somewhat oppose      |
| 7%          | 5%         | Strongly oppose      |
| 7%          | 11%        | Don't know           |

8. Which of the following should the United States do when it comes to spending on aid to foreign countries?

**2020**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                                     |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6%          | 9%         | Increase spending                   |
| 67%         | 56%        | Decrease spending                   |
| 22%         | 24%        | Keep spending levels about the same |
| 4%          | 11%        | Don't know                          |

9. Which of the following should the United States do when it comes to spending on the military by the Pentagon? (ROTATED)

**2020**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                                     |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 34%         | 26%        | Increase spending                   |
| 17%         | 23%        | Decrease spending                   |
| 46%         | 41%        | Keep spending levels about the same |
| 3%          | 10%        | Don't know                          |

**2019**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                                     |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 32%         | 31%        | Increase spending                   |
| 15%         | 24%        | Decrease spending                   |
| 50%         | 38%        | Keep spending levels about the same |
| 3%          | 7%         | Don't know                          |

10. **2019:** As you might know, the U.S. national debt is more than \$22 trillion. How much of a threat do you believe the national debt is to our national security? (ROTATED)

**2020:** As you might know, the U.S. national debt is more than \$22 trillion and is likely to rise above \$25 trillion in the coming months. How much of a threat do you believe the national debt is to our national security? (ROTATED)

| 2020 |     |                                | 2019 |     |                                |
|------|-----|--------------------------------|------|-----|--------------------------------|
| VETs | HHs |                                | VETs | HHs |                                |
| 71%  | 68% | <b>SOMEWHAT/EXTREME THREAT</b> | 76%  | 71% | <b>SOMEWHAT/EXTREME THREAT</b> |
| 25%  | 24% | <b>LITTLE/NOT A THREAT</b>     | 20%  | 21% | <b>LITTLE/NOT A THREAT</b>     |
| 29%  | 22% | Extreme threat                 | 31%  | 27% | Extreme threat                 |
| 42%  | 45% | Somewhat of a threat           | 44%  | 45% | Somewhat of a threat           |
| 19%  | 18% | Very little threat             | 18%  | 16% | Very little threat             |
| 6%   | 6%  | No threat at all               | 3%   | 5%  | No threat at all               |
| 5%   | 8%  | Don't know                     | 4%   | 8%  | Don't know                     |

**Thinking now about the Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA...**

11. From what you know, how would you rate the overall quality of the benefits and services military veterans receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA? (ROTATED)

| 2020 |     |                             | 2019 |     |                             |
|------|-----|-----------------------------|------|-----|-----------------------------|
| VETs | HHs |                             | VETs | HHs |                             |
| 44%  | 38% | <b>TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD</b> | 39%  | 32% | <b>TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD</b> |
| 52%  | 56% | <b>TOTAL FAIR/POOR</b>      | 59%  | 64% | <b>TOTAL FAIR/POOR</b>      |
| 11%  | 7%  | Excellent                   | 8%   | 7%  | Excellent                   |
| 33%  | 31% | Good                        | 31%  | 26% | Good                        |
| 35%  | 33% | Fair                        | 35%  | 34% | Fair                        |
| 18%  | 23% | Poor                        | 23%  | 30% | Poor                        |
| 4%   | 6%  | Don't know                  | 2%   | 4%  | Don't know                  |

12. And what about health care, specifically...how would you rate the quality of health care military veterans receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or VA? (ROTATED)

| 2020 |     |                             | 2019 |     |                             |
|------|-----|-----------------------------|------|-----|-----------------------------|
| VETs | HHs |                             | VETs | HHs |                             |
| 44%  | 37% | <b>TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD</b> | 40%  | 32% | <b>TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD</b> |
| 50%  | 55% | <b>TOTAL FAIR/POOR</b>      | 57%  | 64% | <b>TOTAL FAIR/POOR</b>      |
| 11%  | 9%  | Excellent                   | 8%   | 7%  | Excellent                   |
| 33%  | 29% | Good                        | 31%  | 25% | Good                        |
| 33%  | 31% | Fair                        | 35%  | 35% | Fair                        |
| 17%  | 25% | Poor                        | 22%  | 28% | Poor                        |
| 6%   | 8%  | Don't know                  | 3%   | 5%  | Don't know                  |

13. Do you think the health care provided to veterans from the VA has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same over the last five years? (ROTATED)

**2020**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                       |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 41%         | 30%        | Gotten better         |
| 21%         | 25%        | Gotten worse          |
| 28%         | 32%        | Stayed about the same |
| 9%          | 13%        | Don't know            |

**2019**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                       |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 36%         | 23%        | Gotten better         |
| 23%         | 34%        | Gotten worse          |
| 35%         | 34%        | Stayed about the same |
| 6%          | 9%         | Don't know            |

14. Do you think the health care that U.S. veterans receive from VA medical facilities is generally better than, generally worse than, or about the same as health care that most Americans receive? (ROTATED)

**2020**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                  |
|-------------|------------|------------------|
| 19%         | 18%        | Generally better |
| 38%         | 40%        | Generally worse  |
| 35%         | 29%        | About the same   |
| 8%          | 12%        | Don't know       |

**2019**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                  |
|-------------|------------|------------------|
| 20%         | 17%        | Generally better |
| 42%         | 46%        | Generally worse  |
| 31%         | 28%        | About the same   |
| 7%          | 9%         | Don't know       |

15. How important is it to you that lawmakers in Washington reform the way in which health care services are provided to U.S. veterans? Is it...? (ROTATED)

**2020**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                       |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 28%         | 27%        | Absolutely essential  |
| 47%         | 42%        | Very important        |
| 19%         | 22%        | Of average importance |
| 2%          | 2%         | Of little importance  |
| 1%          | 1%         | Not important at all  |
| 6%          | 6%         | Don't know            |

**2019**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                       |
|-------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 30%         | 28%        | Absolutely essential  |
| 47%         | 42%        | Very important        |
| 17%         | 22%        | Of average importance |
| 3%          | 3%         | Of little importance  |
| 1%          | 2%         | Not important at all  |
| 2%          | 4%         | Don't know            |

16. Do you favor or oppose giving veterans the choice to use their VA health care benefits at medical facilities or health care providers outside of the VA's existing medical system? (ROTATED)

**2020**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                     |
|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| <b>89%</b>  | <b>88%</b> | <b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>  |
| <b>7%</b>   | <b>5%</b>  | <b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b> |
| 56%         | 53%        | Strongly favor      |
| 33%         | 35%        | Somewhat favor      |
| 5%          | 5%         | Somewhat oppose     |
| 2%          | *          | Strongly oppose     |
| 4%          | 7%         | Don't know          |

**2019**

| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                     |
|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| <b>90%</b>  | <b>86%</b> | <b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>  |
| <b>7%</b>   | <b>8%</b>  | <b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b> |
| 53%         | 50%        | Strongly favor      |
| 37%         | 36%        | Somewhat favor      |
| 5%          | 6%         | Somewhat oppose     |
| 2%          | 2%         | Strongly oppose     |
| 3%          | 5%         | Don't know          |

17. Do you favor or oppose giving veterans the choice to use their VA health care benefits at medical facilities or health care providers outside of the VA's existing medical system, even if it means they could pay a little more out of pocket? (ROTATED)

| 2020 |     |                     | 2019 |     |                     |
|------|-----|---------------------|------|-----|---------------------|
| VETs | HHs |                     | VETs | HHs |                     |
| 79%  | 79% | <b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>  | 79%  | 78% | <b>TOTAL FAVOR</b>  |
| 16%  | 13% | <b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b> | 17%  | 15% | <b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b> |
| 39%  | 39% | Strongly favor      | 38%  | 36% | Strongly favor      |
| 40%  | 40% | Somewhat favor      | 41%  | 42% | Somewhat favor      |
| 12%  | 10% | Somewhat oppose     | 11%  | 12% | Somewhat oppose     |
| 4%   | 3%  | Strongly oppose     | 6%   | 3%  | Strongly oppose     |
| 5%   | 8%  | Don't know          | 4%   | 7%  | Don't know          |

18. Based on what you know, do you believe the VA has enough funding to take care of the needs of our nation's veterans? (ROTATED)

| 2020 |     |            | 2019 |     |            |
|------|-----|------------|------|-----|------------|
| VETs | HHs |            | VETs | HHs |            |
| 22%  | 21% | Yes        | 21%  | 26% | Yes        |
| 58%  | 54% | No         | 58%  | 57% | No         |
| 20%  | 25% | Don't know | 20%  | 18% | Don't know |

*Thinking now about your personal experience...*

19. Regardless of whether or not you have accessed medical care through the VA, in your opinion, how easy or difficult is it to access medical care through the VA? Would you say it is...? (ROTATED)

| 2020 |     |                        | 2019 |     |                        |
|------|-----|------------------------|------|-----|------------------------|
| VETs | HHs |                        | VETs | HHs |                        |
| 36%  | 28% | <b>TOTAL EASY</b>      | 36%  | 32% | <b>TOTAL EASY</b>      |
| 53%  | 55% | <b>TOTAL DIFFICULT</b> | 53%  | 57% | <b>TOTAL DIFFICULT</b> |
| 12%  | 5%  | Very easy              | 11%  | 7%  | Very easy              |
| 24%  | 23% | Somewhat easy          | 24%  | 25% | Somewhat easy          |
| 41%  | 41% | Somewhat difficult     | 38%  | 41% | Somewhat difficult     |
| 12%  | 14% | Very difficult         | 15%  | 16% | Very difficult         |
| 12%  | 18% | Don't know             | 11%  | 12% | Don't know             |

20. Regardless of whether or not you have accessed medical care through the VA, in your opinion, do you think the wait times to receive medical care at VA facilities are reasonable or unreasonable? Would you say they are...? (ROTATED)

| 2020        |            |                           | 2019        |           |                           |
|-------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| <u>VETs</u> | <u>HHs</u> |                           | <u>VETs</u> | <u>HH</u> |                           |
| 34%         | 33%        | <b>TOTAL REASONABLE</b>   | 35%         | 29%       | <b>TOTAL REASONABLE</b>   |
| 55%         | 52%        | <b>TOTAL UNREASONABLE</b> | 56%         | 60%       | <b>TOTAL UNREASONABLE</b> |
| 9%          | 6%         | Very reasonable           | 8%          | 6%        | Very reasonable           |
| 25%         | 27%        | Somewhat reasonable       | 27%         | 23%       | Somewhat reasonable       |
| 39%         | 35%        | Somewhat unreasonable     | 36%         | 38%       | Somewhat unreasonable     |
| 16%         | 17%        | Very unreasonable         | 21%         | 22%       | Very unreasonable         |
| 11%         | 15%        | Don't know                | 8%          | 11%       | Don't know                |

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## METHODOLOGY

Interviews were conducted online April 7-10, 2020 among N=707 Veterans and N=803 Military Households using the Dynata Online Research Panel. The estimated margin of error for both samples is +/- 3.5 percentage points. Sampling frames and quotas were utilized to ensure appropriate sampling of the country's Veteran and Military Family populations. Research was conducted by Concerned Veterans for America.

Two additional questions, coming at the end of the survey, are omitted from reporting. The questions omitted pertain to name recognition and favorability toward organizations that serve the needs of veterans.

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