MEASURING COMMUNITIES
Mapping Progress for Military & Veteran Families

Basic Training
Battlemind to Home Symposium

Sept 2017
What is Measuring Communities?

A social indicators project which allows users to obtain military-specific information about communities’ strengths and gaps.

Designed for use by variety of individuals including local, regional and state decision makers, employers, elected officials and community organizations.

www.measuringcommunities.org
Who We Are

Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University
Conducts research on issues that affect military and veteran families and works to shape policies, programs and practices that improve their well-being

Purdue Center for Regional Development
Pioneering new ideas and strategies that contribute to regional collaboration, innovation and prosperity
Background

• Over 2 million OIF/OEF/OND veterans are joining over 20 million veterans already in the population – and an even larger number of family members

• An additional million will leave military service in the next decade

• These veterans and their families present both challenges and opportunities to communities

• While there is interest in community support, little data are available to track community efforts and progress
Modeled after Community Mobilization Efforts

• Joining Forces (White House)
• Joining Community Forces (National Guard)
• Community Blueprint (Points of Light)
• Policy Academies (SAMHSA)
• Military Child Education Coalition
• Easter Seals
• State-specific efforts (e.g., Illinois, Arizona, Minnesota, etc.)
Our Effort

• Goal:
  – To drive forward the conversation about community support for military and veteran families

• Guiding Principles:
  – Focus on indicators available for all locations
  – Locate agency-specific indicators
  – Recognize “aspirational” indicators
Our Effort

• **Approach:**
  – Tie to Community Blueprint and mobilization efforts
  – Include stakeholders in development

• **Products:**
  – Website
  – Reporting tools
  – End-user products
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SITE COMPONENTS
Domains and Icons

Domains are broad topic areas
Each domain is represented by an icon and individual color throughout the site.
Indicators and Data

• Indicators
  – Measurement of some aspect of the **domain**
  – Feature to help understand the context or geography of where SMVF live
  – Multiple indicators for each domain

• Data
  – 30+ different data sources from reliable and nationally representative
  – Updated at least yearly with some more frequently
  – Data source listed under each indicator
Mapping Indicators: Geographies

Most Common Geographies:
- State
- County

Other Geographies:
- Congressional Districts
- Zip Code
- Census Tract Data

September 2017
WELCOME TO MEASURING COMMUNITIES!

Thank you for being a partner with us as we work to make the site as beneficial as it can be. Together we can make communities stronger for military and veteran families.

Please enter your Organizational ID* as well as your name and email address.

**Required every 90 days, or when you log in from a computer we don’t recognize.

Don’t have one but are interested in obtaining one? Contact us for more information.**
3 ways to enter

Enter map by single topic

State/County Snapshot

Master map

WHAT IS MEASURING COMMUNITIES?
This tool is designed to help you learn about a community's support systems for military and veteran families. You can use our interactive maps to display this information using national and regional data reflecting military- and veteran-specific data about employment, education, medical and other issues.

$9,600
The amount of the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit employers can receive for hiring a veteran.

LATEST NEWS
> Communities step up for homeless veterans
> Collaborations help reduce the number of homeless veterans.
> 50-state milestone reached on behalf of military children
> All 50 states have now adopted a military family-friendly policy.
> Webinar provides tools for financial professionals to help military, veteran families
> Communities and advocacy groups support military and veteran families.
Snapshots

The Snapshot is the quickest way to get information on states and counties.

Draws information from the site to produce a standardized one-page document which you can print or save to a pdf.

Select type of snapshot to view
Sample Snapshot

In Barrow County, Georgia 744 veterans received compensation for disabilities in 2014, 218 or 29% were from 70% to 100% disabled.

In 2014 in Barrow County, Georgia the veteran population of 5,771 was 56.0% male and 4.2% female.

There are no VA medical facilities located in Barrow County, Georgia. There are 3 identified SAMHSA Substance Abuse facilities located in Barrow County, Georgia.
### Describe the topic as it relates to military

#### Topic-specific indicators

#### Tips for using map, table, or graph

View data by Map, Table, or Graph

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**FINANCIAL**

Military families can experience changes to income, benefits, and expenses. Their resources may change depending on how they serve. For example, veterans’ financial supports may be different from those of an active-duty family. This tool provides information about financial resources and benefits.

**Financial Indicators**

Our interactive tools can display:

- Compensation and pension administered to veterans;
- State benefits; and
- VA benefit administration offices (CVSO) by location.

**How to Navigate**

- Example By Map
- Example By Table
- Example By Graph

**Explore**

- By Map
- By Table
- By Graph

**Indicator Definition and Data Sources**

- Compensation and pension administered to veterans
- State benefits
- VA benefit administration offices by location
How to Navigate

“How to Navigate” provides a quick view of how to use Map, Table or Graph.

Select an option to view document
Indicator Definitions

Each indicator includes

- the definition
- the source of the data
- view on map, table or graph
- how data is displayed on map – location, thematic or dot density
### Table and Graph

**Tables are most appropriate for:**

- Multiple data fields
- Data from many counties

**Graphs are most appropriate for:**

- Comparing data over time
- Comparing counties
- Not all indicators can be graphed.

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#### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fips</th>
<th>Name 1</th>
<th>Street 1</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>05001</td>
<td>United Family Services</td>
<td>1600 South Main Street</td>
<td>Stuttgart</td>
<td>72160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baxter</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>05005</td>
<td>Youth Bridge</td>
<td>706 South Main Street</td>
<td>Mountain Home</td>
<td>72653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baxter</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>05005</td>
<td>OMART Inc</td>
<td>116 Snowball Drive</td>
<td>Fayetteville</td>
<td>72835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>05007</td>
<td>Youth Bridge</td>
<td>1200 West Walnut Street</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>72756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>05007</td>
<td>Pinnacle Counseling</td>
<td>5500 Pinnacle Point Drive</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>72758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>05009</td>
<td>Youth Bridge</td>
<td>107 East Crandal Avenue</td>
<td>Harrison</td>
<td>72601</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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#### Graph

*Unsheltered Homeless Veterans*
What is a FIPS code (Data field)

FIPS county code (Federal Information Processing Standard)

- 5-digit codes which uniquely identifies counties and county equivalents in the US.

- 31 states have a Washington County:
  Helps distinguish which Washington County it is: IN, PA, VA, OH, TN, MN, FL, NY, OR, or other?
Maps

Maps are most appropriate for:

• comparing counties
• viewing multiple indicators from one domain at one time
• identifying gaps
• plotting multiple indicators from different domains at one time (Master Map)
Data Displays

**Thematic**
Gradient color to show density of something – darker the color the “more” of something.

**Location**
Individual dots to notate location of indicator – click on dot and get location information.

**Dot Density**
Individual dots to show how much in a certain area.
Individual Domain Map

- Mapped indicators for an individual domain
- Indicator list – click
- Use drop down list to select indicators
- Zoom to geographical area of interest
- Select county or use chart tool to create geographical area to view
Master Map

- Contains all domains on one map
- Can compare across domains
- For best results, limit number of indicators to compare
- Can download certain data sets

**NOTE:** the more indicators you choose, the longer the map takes to load.
Downloading Data

- **Table:**
  - Print Table
  - Export Selected Fields to Excel
  - Export Full Table to Excel
  - Attribute table expands with click on arrow
  - Choose table options to download in CSV format

- **Graph:**
  - Choose tab for available data

- **Map:**
  - Attribute table expands with click on arrow
  - Choose table options to download in CSV format
Printing your map

Click the **print icon** in the upper task bar and fill out information in the **print dialogue box**.

**HINT:** Choose only one thematic indicator for map printing. Multiple indicators will not show up in the legend. Location and dot density will show in legend.

Use map video tutorial located under **Resources Tab**
User Support – Video Tutorials

VIDEO TUTORIALS

Videos to assist with using the resources found on Measuring Communities.

- Navigating the Map
- The Make Chart Tool
- The Draw and Measure Tool
- The Identify Tool
Launch Strategy

• Limited access launch to strategically aligned organizations working in the military and veteran space

• Identify goals for using the site and help track if organization is meeting those goals

• Organizational ID: BMTH17MC

  Battlemind attendees use the temporary ID – active through October 12, 2017

• Help MFRI and your organization understand if progress and impact is being made
We welcome your questions and comments!

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