



# OUR VETERANS NEED HELP

SINCE THE END OF THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN AT LEAST

# 54

**VETERANS COMMITTED SUICIDE AS A RESULT OF TRAUMA THEY RECEIVED IN WAR.**

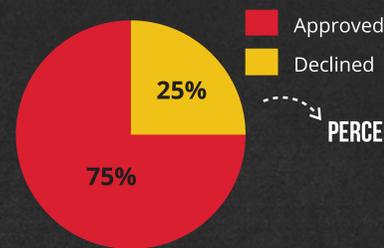


The real count has been **kept secret.**

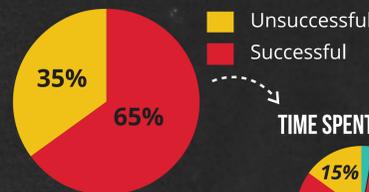


**100% OF THE CANADIAN MILITARY DEATHS REPORTED** during the war in Afghanistan in 2013 were **AS A RESULT OF SUICIDE** as compared to the UK's 80% and the USA's 37%

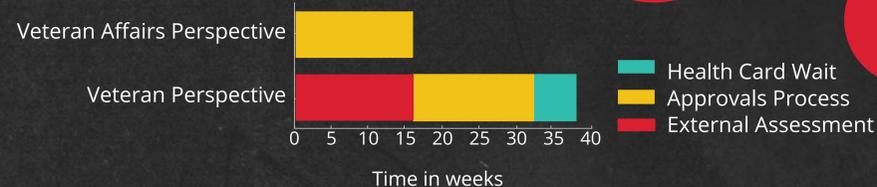
## PERCENTAGE OF VETERANS APPROVED FOR BENEFITS.



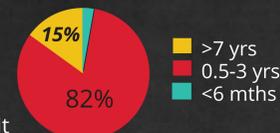
## PERCENTAGE OF VETERANS SUCCESSFUL IN APPEALING.



## TIME SPENT WAITING FOR BENEFITS APPROVAL.

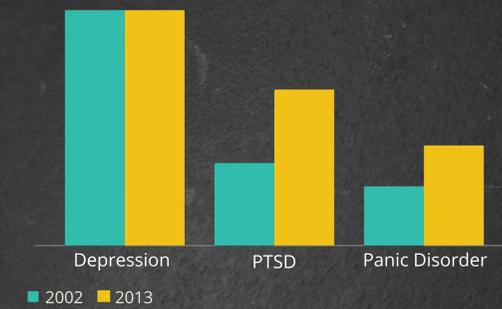


## TIME SPENT WAITING FOR APPEAL HEARING.



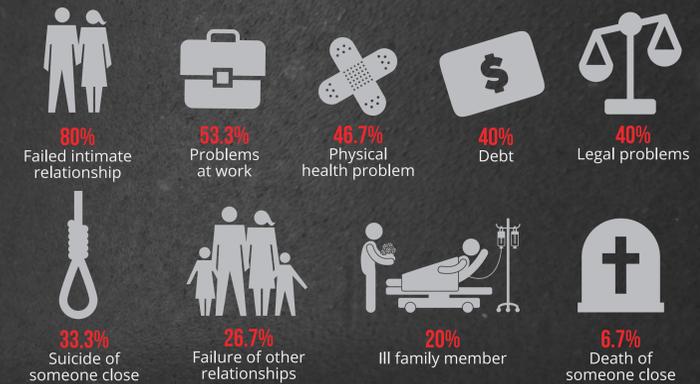
Superficially, veteran affairs is meeting their goal time for processing benefits applications. Realistically, the wait times veterans are actually experiencing are over twice what V.A. has pledged. Veterans must navigate a complicated system with numerous opportunities for our most vulnerable people to slip through the cracks.

## WHAT ARE VETERANS EXPERIENCING?



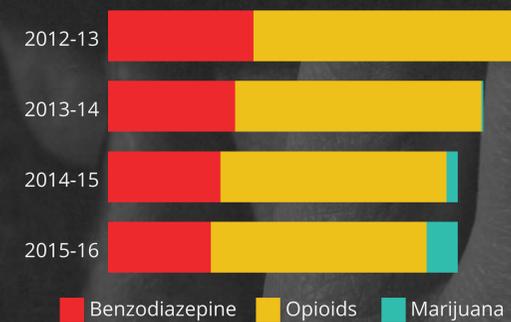
Rates of mental disorders increased between 2002 and 2013 while depression stayed constant: lingering trauma is not being addressed

## HOW ARE THESE ILLNESSES AFFECTING THEM?



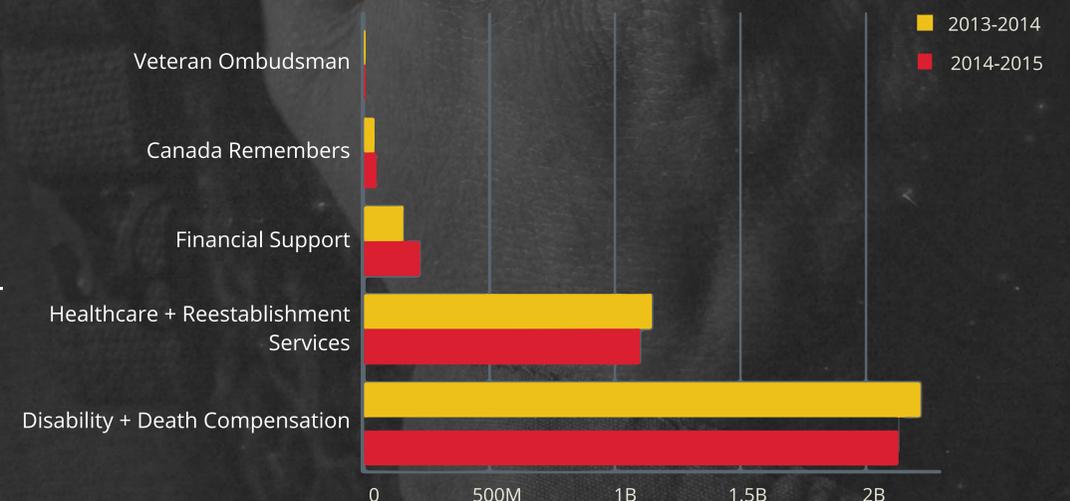
Failure of intimate relationships was the #1 stressor for veterans prior to suicide. Families and loved ones should be educated on how to support the veterans in their lives and encourage them to seek help

## HOW ARE VETERANS COPING?



Medical marijuana as an alternative treatment increased 15x between 2012-2016. Marijuana should be normalized as a treatment and made available to victims of trauma especially during Canada's emerging opioid crisis

## PROGRAMS FOR VETERAN FUNDING



Since Canada pulled out of the war in Afghanistan in 2014, Veteran Affairs has reallocated funds resulting in a decrease to healthcare and disability and an increase to Canada Remembers. Why focus on remembering our fallen soldiers when there are thousands needing care, and when those lost to suicide are not honoured on any monument? And if enough money has been allocated to provide disability for 15,000 veterans, why were 3,684 denied?