

Resilience Under Fire: Evaluating Behavioral Health Support for Wildland Firefighters

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A New Fire Paradigm

- Depression (17.3%)
- Anxiety (12.8%)
- PTSD (13.7%)
- Suicidal Ideation (20.1%)
- Substance Abuse (57%)

O'Brien, P., & Campbell, D., Wildland Firefighter Psychological and Behavioral Health: Preliminary Data from a National Sample of Current and Former Wildland Firefighters in the United States, 2021

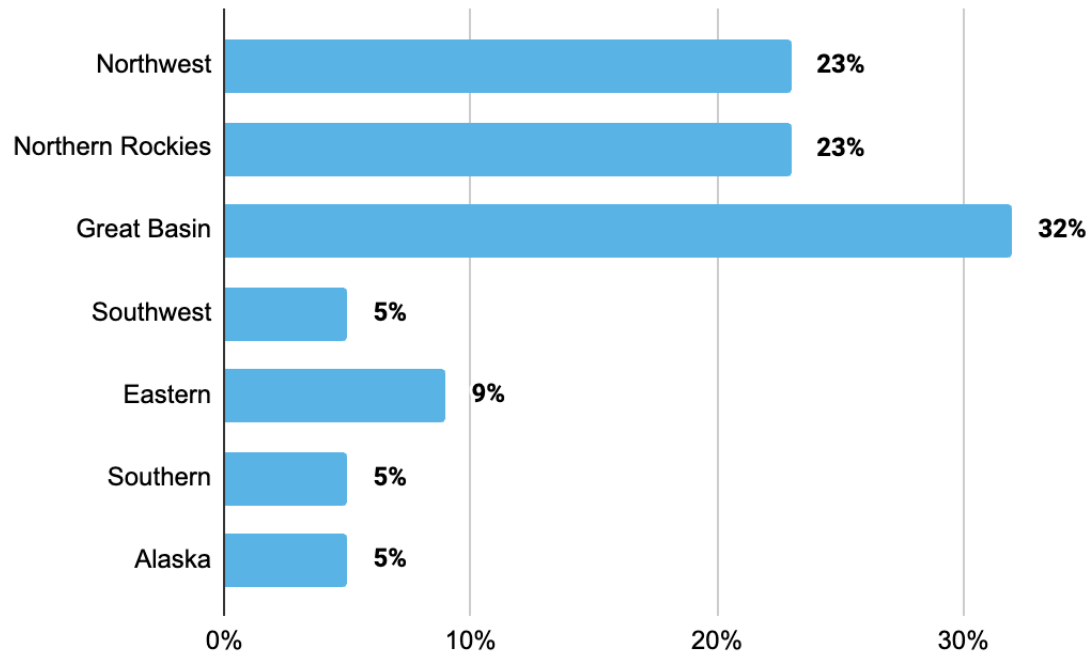


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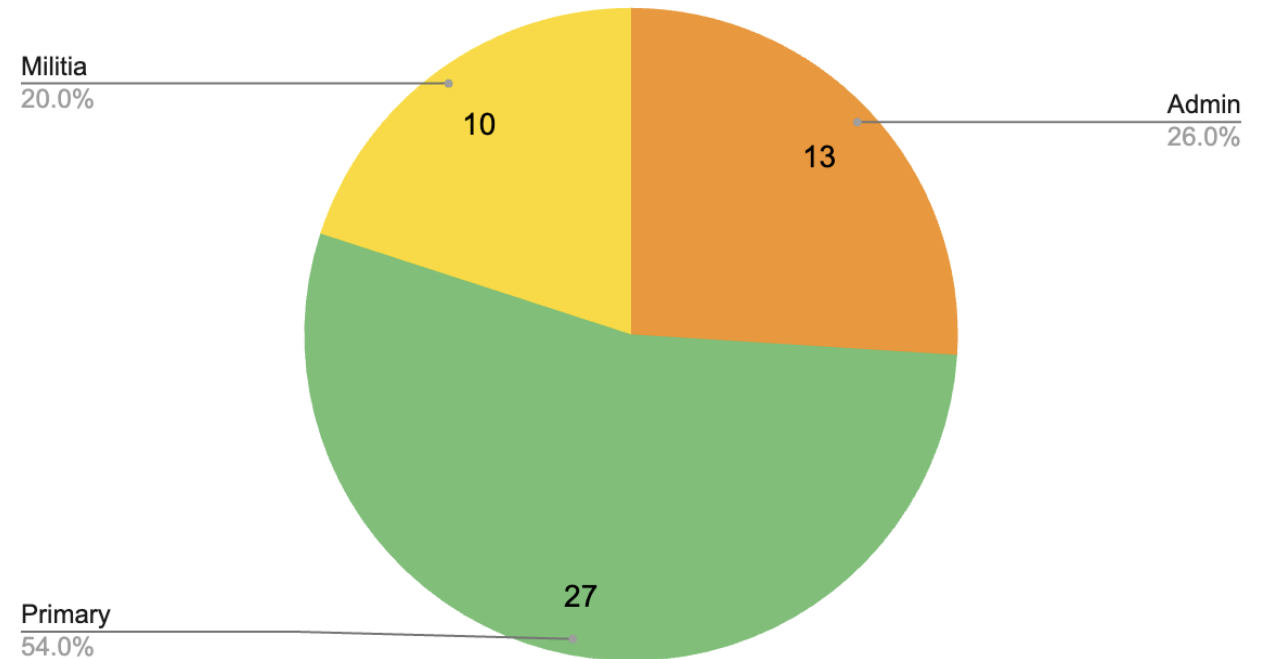


Methods

Primary Region of Work



Current Role in Fire Response



Initial Findings

“One year 60% of our crew was living in their cars in the parking lot”

“We ended up hiding in the woods half the night until the angry civilian [with a gun] was stopped by the cops”

“Yes, [mental health support is sufficient]. For what we know right now, I think our agency is putting as much money and resources into it as the data shows that we need”

“I went to an outside party to talk to someone [...] to be frank I was worried about the use of agency resources having some kind of negative repercussions”



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Future of Fire Research

Wildfires in Anchorage over the weekend included two near homeless encampments

Anchorage Daily News
July 7, 2025

After deadly ambush, Idaho firefighters grapple with the loss of two colleagues

NBC July 6, 2025

Wide US Forest Service Layoffs Leave Safety Projects Delayed, Fire Crews Depleted

KQED Feb. 21, 2025



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