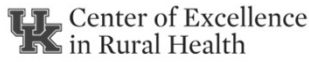


Rural Veteran Access to Healthcare



Rural Veteran Demographics

Period of Service	% of Rural Veterans
Gulf War (9/2001 or later)	18.7%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001)	21.5%
Vietnam Era	39.6%
Korean War	6.0%
World War II	1.5%
Sex	
Male	92.0%
Female	8.0%
Race and Hispanic/Latino Origin	
White	89.2%
Black or African American	5.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.0%
Asian	0.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino	3.7%
Poverty	
Below Poverty in the Past 12 Months	6.4%

Rural Veterans and Access to Healthcare Overview - Rural Health Information Hub (n.d.). <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/returning-soldier-and-veteran-health>

WOMEN VETERANS IN FOCUS

MORE THAN 2 MILLION WOMEN VETERANS LIVE IN THE U.S. TODAY

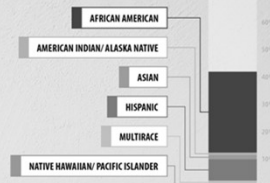
WOMEN ARE THE FASTEST GROWING GROUP IN THE VETERAN POPULATION

2000 4%
2040 18%

MILITARY BRANCHES AND DIVISIONS	PROJECTIONS FOR 2025
ARMY	466,009
AIR FORCE	409,206
NAVY	174,169
MARINES	157,385
RESERVE	28,900
NON-DETERMINED	

3 OF 4 WOMEN VETERANS WHO USED VA HEALTH SERVICES IN FY19 HAD AN URBAN RESIDENCE. BUT THE NUMBER OF RURAL WOMEN IS INCREASING

WOMEN VETERANS ARE RACIALLY AND ETHNICALLY DIVERSE
43% OF THE WOMEN WHO USED VA HEALTH SERVICES IN FY20 BELONGED TO A RACIAL OR ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP.



Department of Veterans Affairs, Women Veterans Healthcare. (n.d.). *VA.gov* | *Veterans Affairs*. <https://www.womenhealth.va.gov/>

Veteran Health Risks

(a tiny picture)

Almost 50% of veterans enrolled in VA health care have Insomnia Disorder
- Insomnia disorder is also linked to cardiovascular disease, obesity, and diabetes

Almost 20% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or major depression.

1 in 3 women and 1 in 50 men respond "yes," that they experienced military sexual trauma (MST) when surveyed by their VA provider

In 2020, suicide rate for Veterans was 57.3% greater than for non-Veteran U.S. adults
- 2nd leading cause of death among veterans under 45

Isola, E. (2022, November 29). The Health Risks of Veterans. *Older - Public Health*. ORF 1367. <https://oldpublichealth.org/healthcare/veteran-health-risks/>
VA Health Promotion. (2022). 2022 National Cancer Suicide Prevention Annual Report. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. https://www.merithealth.va.gov/documents/2022-2023-National_Veteran_Suicide_Prevention_Annual_Report_09-16-2022.pdf

Barriers to VA Mental Healthcare

- Worry and concern about what others think
- Financial, personal, and physical obstacles
- Confidence in VA healthcare system
- Navigating VA Benefits and healthcare services
- *Transportation (not listed as barrier in study)

Cheney, A. M., Koenig, C. J., Miller, C. J., Zamora, K., Wright, P. B., Stanley, R., Fortney, J. C., Burgess, J., & Pyne, J. M. (2018). Veteran-centered barriers to VA mental healthcare services use. *BMC Health Services Research*, 18(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-018-3346-9>

Discussion

- Does your organization identify whether you're serving veterans?
- What do you do with that information?

Identifying Veterans

- Organizational demographic screenings asking the question: "Are you a veteran?"

The stigmas behind being a veteran

- Female
- "Action"
- Branch of Military

Identifying Veterans

- Change the question:

Have you ever served in the military?

Have you ever served in any branch of the military, for any length of time?

Has a member of your family ever served in the military?

Study:

Large FQHC in Iowa went from 56 or .32% of patients reporting as veterans to 506 or 3.01% after changing screening question.

Howen, M. B., Kazmierak, D., Kemp, R. W., Bosen, T. J., Capra, G., & Abrams, T. E. (2019). Identification of military veterans upon implementation of a standardized screening process in a federally qualified health center. *Journal of Community Health, 45*(3), 465-468. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-019-06761-3>

Program Description

- Work with rural community organizations to connect veterans with VA facilities or local health care organizations.
- Connect veterans, caregivers, and families with resources related to veteran health.
- Encourage providers and facilities to join the VA Community Care Network.

Projects

Seed funding for projects related to connecting veterans to care

4 organizations provided with funding

104 veterans received services, information on VA services, and assistance with VA Healthcare and Benefits.

8 Providers were trained on specific veteran issues

Connected with veteran workgroups on community connections, workforce, health, and more.

Moving forward

Community Events – Veteran-focused community events

Education About Military Culture

Healthcare Provider Resources

Community Care Information

And more Community Care Information

Other Resources

Discussion

- How is your organization working with veterans?

- What resources or information does your organization need to support your work with Veterans?

- Consider changing your survey question from “Are you a Veteran?”

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