

Introduction

- Veterans affairs defined access as an individual ability to obtain the health care they need within an appropriate time frame (kehle et al., 2011).
- It is unbelievable to see in the community veterans can succumb to mental illness, homelessness, sleeping disorders, long-term disabilities, or substance abuse (Mcguire et al., 2009).
- Access to the health care has been identified as a critical issue by department of veteran's affairs and larger medical community.
- Veterans who had most recently experienced homelessness received significantly fewer prevention services than other veterans (Mcguire et al., 2019).
- Health risks can be extremely damaging to a person's mental and physical state of health, especially if care and attention to veterans have not been shown in a beneficially (O'toole et al., 2011).
- The hypothesis for this study is to increase access to primary care treatment, prevention service and provide more resource to veteran community.

How does the lack of access to medical care affect the veteran population in Michigan?

Accessibility

Specialty	Average Wait Time New Patient	Average Wait Time Established Patient
Primary Care	16 Days	6 Days
Cardiology	Not accepting new patients	No wait
Mental Health	11 Days	7 Days
Audiology	44 Days	18 Days
Dermatology	4 Days	12 Days
Gynecology	6 Days	13 Days
Optometry	53 Days	35 Days
Urology Clinic	16 Days	16 Days
Womens Health	No clinic in 50-mile radius	No clinic in 50-mile radius
Orthopedics	No clinic in 50-mile radius	No clinic in 50-mile radius
Gastroenterology	7 Days	23 Days
Ophthalmology	No clinic in 50-mile radius	No clinic in 50-mile radius

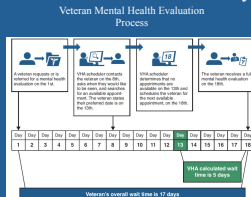
*Based on Wyoming VA clinic

Quality of Care

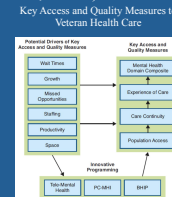
- Veteran Affairs hospitals need targeted quality improvement efforts to guarantee that all veterans get uniformly high quality care at all VA facilities (Price, 2018).
- VA facilities show that veterans in some areas are not receiving the same quality of care that other facilities can provide (Price, 2018)
- only 11% of veterans are able to access physical therapy through direct access without a physician's referral. (Moore et al, 2005)

Quick Facts

- There are no VA medical centers in Grand Rapids, Michigan (Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, 2021).
- Poor health impacts veterans education, unemployment, homelessness, and additional barriers (Nieto et al., 2019).
- The American culture frowns upon being weak or inferior which impacts veterans accessing care and not reporting a service-connected disability (Nieto et al., 2019).



(National Academies of Sciences et al., 2018).



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Outcomes

- Male veterans who use VHA are 22% more likely to commit suicide than veterans who use don't use the service. (U.S Department of Veteran Affairs, 2016).
- 15.9% of veterans say they don't receive any emotional support. (Wang et al., xiv)
- 37,085 Homeless veterans have low use of medical services relative to their needs. (McGuire et al., 2009) (U.S Department of Veteran Affairs, 2019)

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