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F O U N D A T I O N

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Understanding What Family Doctors Need to Treat Veterans and their Families. G1601JG

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Abstract

There are 22 million veterans living in the US and veterans and military families together represent nearly 18% of the US population. The veteran and military family member (VMF) population may be overlooked by the civilian primary care health system due to a perception that they receive care through the Veterans Health Administration (VA). However, less than 50% of veterans receive care at the VA. Military families, reservists, and rural veterans in particular have limited or no access to VA care and are present in every primary care practice. VMF are a high-risk population for many health conditions. Civilian family medicine physicians and other providers may need additional support to identify and treat their unique needs. Addressing military service history has the potential to greatly benefit patients and families.