

Helping Improve the Cancer Care Experience for Veteran Patients

NCHS SURVEY OF VETERANS (2015 TO 2018)*

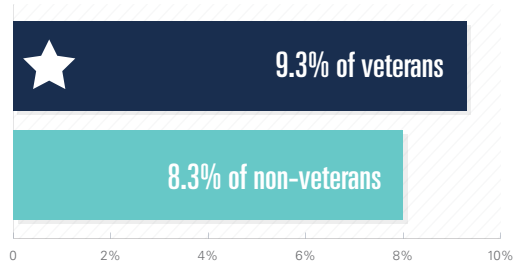
~9.3% OF VETERANS

had been diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime compared with a non-veteran lifetime cancer diagnosis rate of ~8%†

NCHS = National Center for Health Statistics.

*NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2015-2018.
†Respondents were asked if they had ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that they had a cancer or malignancy of any kind. They were then asked to name the kind of cancer they had.

Veterans had a higher rate of lifetime cancer diagnosis than non-veterans



A 2018 US CENSUS BUREAU SURVEY SHOWED THAT VETERANS GENERALLY SKEWED OLDER AND MALE‡



65 YEARS OLD
is the median age for veterans



~91% OF VETERANS ARE MALE,
though the number of female veterans is projected to increase

‡Census Bureau Releases New Report on Veterans [news release]. June 2, 2020.

Veterans may be at a **higher risk for certain cancers** due to chemical exposure, cigarette smoking, and alcohol use

CERTAIN COMORBIDITIES ARE MORE COMMON IN VETERANS

Mental health issues[§]

Hypertension^{||}

Alcoholism[¶]

Diabetes[§]



Hearing loss[§]

Respiratory problems^{¶***††}

Kidney disease^{||}

Arthritis^{††}

67% PREVALENCE

of multiple chronic conditions among male US veterans aged 65 and older compared with ~60% of non-veteran US males aged 65 and older^{§§}

[§]Eibner C, et al. *Rand Health Q.* 2016;5(4):13.

^{||}Richardson LM, et al. *SAGE Open Med.* 2016;4:2050312116680945.

[¶]National Institute on Drug Abuse. Substance Use and Military Life. October 2019.

^{¶¶}Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Tips From Former Smokers: Military Service Members and Veterans. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/groups/military.html>

^{***}U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Military Exposures. <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/>

^{†††}U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Respiratory Health. <https://www.research.va.gov/topics/respiratory.cfm>

^{††††}U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research & Development. Arthritis. <https://www.research.va.gov/topics/arthritis.cfm>

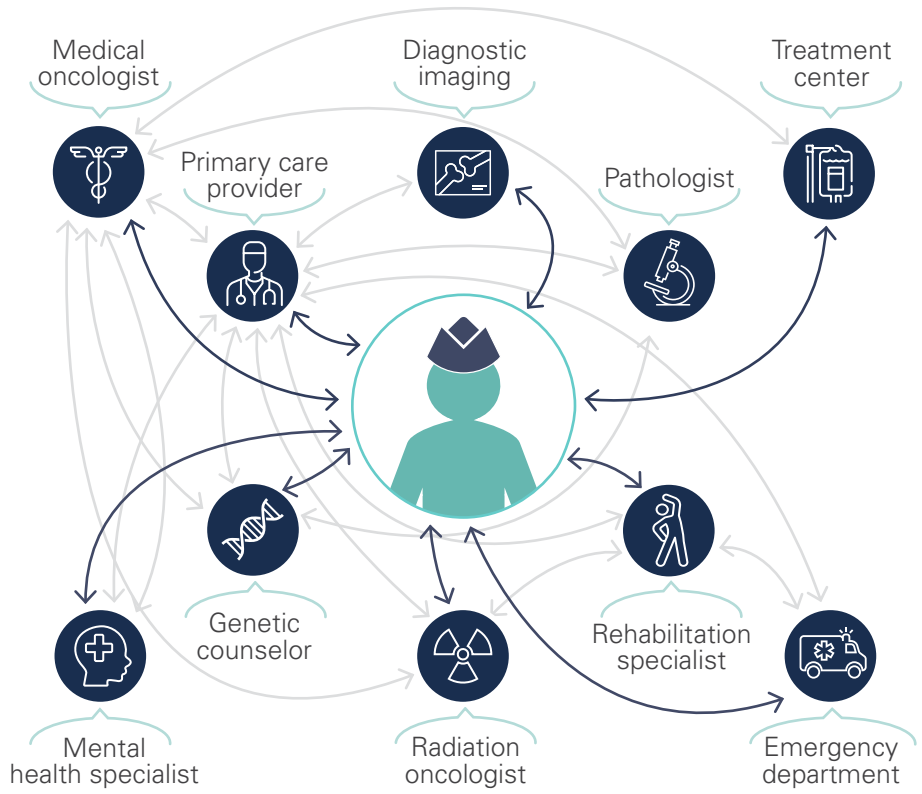
^{§§}Pooled data from the NCHS National Health Interview Survey, 2015-2018. Multiple chronic conditions is defined as having 2 or more chronic conditions.

Treating veterans with cancer may involve multiple providers from different health systems

Veterans may now have more care options and may have improved access to community care. Receiving care from different health systems may lead to challenges, such as gaps in information and care.

A VETERAN WITH CANCER MAY NEED TO BE TREATED BY A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SPECIALISTS^{†††}

Care coordination is a high priority for the Veterans Health Administration, and between VHA and non-VHA sites of care



^{†††}This graphic depicts a hypothetical situation and is intended to convey health care services and sites of care that a veteran with cancer might encounter.

To help improve the difficulties of being a cancer patient, focus on coordinating care and addressing patient needs



FOLLOW CARE COORDINATION BEST PRACTICES

- Ensure the use of **education offerings**
- Complete **clinical reminders**
- Measure **patient satisfaction**
- Conduct **recall scheduling** in a timely manner
- Start patient appointments **on time**
- If able, enroll patients on **communication platforms**
- Use tele-oncology **when appropriate**



HELP ADDRESS KEY PATIENT NEEDS

- Emotional support**
- Access to **patient assistance**
- My HealtheVet** use
- Convenient** scheduling
- Informed** decision-making
- Ability to use **technology**

Ensure you have the information you need to help improve your veteran patients' overall care