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Understanding Veterans' Healthcare Use and Experience, 2018–2019

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Abstract

This report examines the prevalence of selected medical conditions, use of healthcare both inside and outside of the healthcare system of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and experience with VA and non-VA healthcare providers among Veterans in the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population. We use the Veteran Self-Administered Questionnaire (VSAQ) fielded in 2018 and 2019 as part of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). In the first section of this report, we present sociodemographic characteristics, medical conditions, service use, and factors that affect primary care provider choice among all Veterans. In addition to estimates for all Veterans, we also present separate estimates for Veterans with and without VA coverage in the year they completed the VSAQ to identify differences and similarities in health status and reliance on the VA between Veterans with and without VA coverage. Reliance on the VA is defined as use of any healthcare services provided by the VA in the past 12 months. In the second section of this report, we present results on patient experience with VA and non-VA providers and care coordination between VA and non-VA providers.

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The estimates in this report are based on the most recent data available at the time the report was written. However, selected elements of Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) data may be revised on the basis of additional analyses, which could result in slightly different estimates from those shown here. Please check the MEPS website for the most current file releases.

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Understanding Veterans' Healthcare Needs, 2018–2019

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Introduction

Examining Veterans' use of healthcare and patient experience both inside and outside of the healthcare system of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides helpful information for predicting Veterans' future demand for VA healthcare as the demographics and needs of the Veteran population change. Predicting such demand is important for ensuring that adequate resources and capabilities will be available to meet the unique and varying healthcare needs of Veterans. This report uses pooled data from the Veteran Self-Administered Questionnaire (VSAQ) fielded in 2018 and 2019 as part of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS). Since the VSAQ contains information on healthcare use and patient experience both inside and outside of the VA health system, it is a unique data source for analyzing Veterans' healthcare needs.

Veterans' eligibility for VA healthcare use is based on many factors, including active duty military service, type of military discharge, service-connected disabilities, medical conditions incurred while in the service, locations and dates of military service, and deployments. Veterans' reliance on VA healthcare versus outside care is also based on multiple factors, such as whether Veterans are eligible to receive free VA care, whether they have private or public health insurance coverage, the generosity of their insurance coverage relative to the cost of receiving VA care, their proximity to a VA healthcare facility, wait times at the nearest VA healthcare facility, and perceived quality of care at VA and non-VA healthcare facilities.

In the first section of this report, we present descriptive statistics on sociodemographic characteristics, medical conditions, service use, and factors that affect primary care provider (PCP) choice among Veterans. In addition to estimates for all Veterans, we present separate estimates for Veterans with and without VA coverage to identify differences and similarities in socio-demographic, health status, and reliance on VA healthcare. Since Veteran women are younger than Veteran men and differ from them in terms of healthcare use and medical conditions, we also present sociodemographic characteristics separately for men and women Veterans. In addition, to assess unique characteristics of Veterans, Veteran men are compared with non-Veteran men in terms of socio-demographic and the prevalence of priority medical conditions collected in the non-VSAQ sections of the MEPS questionnaire. The rest of the estimates in this report, such as service use, factors that affect primary care choice, and patient experience, are not broken down by gender or Veteran status.

In the second section of this report, we present results on patient experience with VA and non-VA providers and care coordination among VA and non-VA providers.

The patient experience measures were collected for the VA PCPs or Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACTs), VA specialists, and non-VA providers who Veterans saw most often. A PACT includes a PCP, nurse care manager, clinical associate, and administrative clerk.

These estimates represent average annual estimates for the 2018–2019 period. Only differences that are statistically significant at the 0.10 level or better are described in the text unless otherwise noted.

Highlights

- The average annual population of Veterans was 16.4 million during the 2-year period 2018–2019. Among all Veterans, 62.4 percent (10.2 million) did not have VA coverage, and 37.6 percent (6.2 million) had VA coverage.
- Non-Hispanic White Veterans; Veterans with private coverage, higher income, higher education, and excellent or very good physical and mental health; and Veterans living in the South Atlantic region and metropolitan areas were less likely to have VA coverage. Non-Hispanic Black Veterans; Veterans with public coverage, lower income, and fair or poor physical and mental health; and Veterans living in rural areas were more likely to have VA coverage.
- Of 15 conditions assessed on the VSAQ, 11 conditions were more prevalent among Veterans with VA coverage than those without VA coverage. The conditions that were more prevalent in Veterans with VA coverage were chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), hearing loss, back pain, gout, neck pain, osteoarthritis, alcohol abuse, any mental health condition, depression, other mood disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Among all Veterans, in the past 12 months, 83.0 percent had at least one healthcare visit, 10.2 percent had only VA care visits, 55.0 percent had only non-VA care visits, and 17.8 percent had both VA and non-VA care visits. Veterans with VA coverage were more likely to have any healthcare visits than those without VA coverage (88.6 percent and 79.6 percent, respectively).
- Veterans with VA coverage were significantly more likely to have all services that the VSAQ asked about (caregiver support, group counseling for mental healthcare, individual mental healthcare, assistive mobility device, prosthesis, rehabilitation services, and prescription medications) than Veterans without VA coverage.
- Among Veterans with VA coverage, the top three major factors in choosing a PCP were the reputation of the personal doctor (44.9%), whether the doctor understands the special needs of Veterans (41.1%), and whether the doctor is in the health plan's network (39.6%). For Veterans without VA coverage, the top three major factors were whether the doctor is in the health plan's

network (52.3%), the reputation of the personal doctor (50.8%), and the location of the doctor's practice (39.6%).

- Full satisfaction with patient experience for Veterans visiting a VA PCP/PACT ranged from 41.1 percent reporting that their VA PCP/PACT provider "always" knew about tests or results from other VA providers to 70.2 percent reporting that their VA PCP/PACT provider "always" kept health information complete and up to date.
- Among all Veterans visiting a VA PCP/PACT, 44.6 percent reported that they "always" got a referral to see non-VA providers from their VA PCP/PACT provider as soon as they needed it.
- Among all Veterans visiting a non-VA provider, 50.6 percent reported that their non-VA provider "always" knew about their past health problems and treatments, and 62.2 percent reported that their non-VA provider "always" kept health information complete and up to date.
- Veterans rate VA providers higher than non-VA providers for two measures: knowledge about past problems and keeping health information complete and up to date. Among all Veterans visiting a VA PCP/PACT, 67.6 percent reported that their VA provider "always" had knowledge about their past health problems, compared with 50.6 percent among Veterans visiting a non-VA provider. Among all Veterans visiting a VA PCP/PACT, 70.2 percent reported that their VA provider "always" kept health information complete and up to date, compared with 62.2 percent among Veterans visiting a non-VA provider.
- Among all Veterans visiting a VA specialist, 90.1 percent reported that their VA specialist had enough information about their medical history.
- Among Veterans with care from both a VA PCP and a non-VA provider, 63.2 percent said their VA PCP was aware of their healthcare services outside the VA. Among Veterans receiving care from both a VA specialist and a non-VA provider, 40.8 percent said their VA specialist was aware of their healthcare services outside the VA. Among Veterans receiving care from both a VA provider and a non-VA provider, 64.8 percent said their non-VA provider was aware of their healthcare services at the VA.
- Among Veterans receiving care from both VA and non-VA providers who were not aware of care received from other providers, roughly 85 percent reported that the lack of awareness was not a problem. Among Veterans whose VA PCP/PACT was not aware of services from a non-VA provider, 83.0 percent reported that the lack of awareness was not a problem. Among Veterans receiving care from a VA specialist who was not aware of services from a non-VA provider, 89.6 percent reported that the lack of awareness was not a problem. Among Veterans whose non-VA provider was not aware of services received at the VA, 84.2 percent reported that the lack of awareness was not a problem.

Findings

Sociodemographic characteristics of Veterans by VA coverage (table 1a)

The average annual population of non-institutionalized Veterans was 16.4 million during the 2-year period 2018–2019 (table 1a), as estimated by MEPS.¹ Among all Veterans, 62.4 percent (10.2 million) did not have VA coverage and 37.6 percent (6.2 million) had VA coverage (table 1a). There was no significant difference between Veterans with and without VA coverage in terms of sex and region. Veterans with VA coverage were significantly more likely to be in the youngest age group; 10.5 percent of Veterans with VA coverage were 18–34 years old, compared with 6.9 percent of Veterans without VA coverage. The majority of Non-Hispanic White Veterans did not have VA coverage; 35.5 percent had VA coverage and 64.5 percent did not have VA coverage. In contrast, Non-Hispanic Black Veterans were more likely than not to have VA coverage; 52.1 percent had VA coverage and 47.9 percent did not have VA coverage (results not shown). Those with VA coverage were less likely to have private health insurance and more likely to have public health insurance than Veterans without VA coverage. Those with higher income, with higher education, living in the South Atlantic region, and living in metropolitan areas were less likely to have VA coverage. Veterans with worse physical and mental health were more likely to have VA coverage. The differences in sociodemographic characteristics were similar for male Veterans with VA coverage and male Veterans without VA coverage.

Sociodemographic characteristics of males by Veteran status (table 1b)

Veteran men account for 8.6 percent of the male population age 18 and above (table 1b). Veteran men are older than non-Veteran men; 55.2 percent of Veteran men are 65 years or older, compared with 16.8 percent of non-Veteran men. Compared with the general male population, Veteran men are more likely to be non-Hispanic White and less likely to be non-Hispanic Asian and Hispanic. Among the elderly, Veteran men are more likely to have Medicare and private coverage than non-Veteran men. Veteran men are more likely to have some college education and less likely to have incomes below the Federal poverty level. Veteran men are less likely to live in the Northeast and in metropolitan areas and more likely to live in the South than the civilian male population. Veteran men are also more likely to report fair/poor physical and mental health than non-Veteran men.

Sociodemographic characteristics of all Veterans by gender (table 1c)

¹ By design, the MEPS estimates of Veterans are less than the American Community Survey estimates. The latter survey gets its information on Veterans from a household respondent, who is asked to identify Veterans in the household. In the MEPS, a respondent for each household initially identifies Veterans in the household, then each identified Veteran is asked to self-identify as a Veteran. The second requirement reduces the estimated number of Veterans, all other things being equal, by about 5.5 percent.

Veteran women account for 8.9 percent of the Veteran population (table 1c). They are younger than Veteran men; only 26.5 percent of women Veterans are aged 65 or older, compared with 53.6 percent of Veteran men. Compared with Veteran men, Veteran women are less likely to be non-Hispanic White and more likely to be non-Hispanic Black. Veteran women are more likely to have private health insurance, have some college education, live in the South Atlantic region, and have better self-reported physical health than Veteran men. There was no significant difference between male and female Veterans in terms of poverty level, region, urbanicity, and self-reported mental health.

Prevalence of selected medical conditions common among Veterans by VA coverage (table 2a)

Fifteen conditions were selected based on the recommendations of an expert panel, including conditions that have a higher prevalence among Veterans than in the non-Veteran population. For each condition, the VSAQ asked if the Veterans had ever been told by a doctor or another healthcare provider that they have had the condition. The 15 conditions include four general conditions, seven musculoskeletal conditions, and four mental health conditions. One musculoskeletal and three mental health conditions were removed from the analysis because their low prevalence made estimation problematic. "Any mental health diagnosis" includes schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, and other mood disorder. Eleven conditions—COPD, hearing loss, back pain, gout, neck pain, osteoarthritis, alcohol abuse, any mental health condition, depression, other mood disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)—were more prevalent among Veterans with VA coverage than Veterans without VA coverage (table 2a).

Prevalence of selected medical condition common among males by Veteran status (table 2b)

Due to potential differences in the prevalence of health conditions by gender, in this section we focus on the prevalence of selected medical conditions among Veteran and non-Veteran men. The sample size was too small for an accurate comparison of Veteran and non-Veteran women. This section presents priority conditions collected in the non-VSAQ sections of the MEPS questionnaire. The conditions are selected because of their high prevalence and/or cost. For each condition, MEPS respondents were asked if they had ever been told by a doctor or another health care provider that they have had the condition. The prevalence of the following conditions were higher among Veteran men than non-Veteran men: coronary heart disease, angina, heart attack, other heart disease, any heart disease, stroke, arthritis, cancer, chronic bronchitis, diabetes, emphysema, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and joint pain. Similarly, the prevalence of the following limitations were higher among Veteran men than non-Veteran men: limitations with instrumental activities of daily living (IADL); limitations with activities of daily living (ADL); cognitive limitations; limitations with work, housework, or school; any limitations; serious difficulty hearing; and serious difficulty seeing with glasses (table 2b). All of these

conditions, with the exception of limitations with IADL and ADL, were statistically more prevalent in non-elderly Veteran men than non-elderly non-Veteran men. In elderly men, the following conditions were more prevalent in Veterans than non-Veterans: coronary heart disease, angina, heart attack, other heart disease, any heart disease; stroke; cancer; diabetes; emphysema; limitations with IADL; limitations with work, housework, or school; any imitations; and serious difficulty hearing (results not shown).

Number and percentage of Veterans with only VA, only non-VA, and both VA and non-VA healthcare use by VA coverage (table 3)

Among all Veterans, 83.0 percent had at least one healthcare visit, 10.2 percent had only VA care visits, 55.0 percent had only non-VA care visits, and 17.8 percent had both VA and non-VA care visits in the past 12 months (table 3). Probability of any use was higher among elderly Veterans (87.7%) than non-elderly Veterans (77.6%) (results not shown). Veterans with VA coverage were more likely to have any healthcare visits than those without VA coverage (88.6 percent and 79.6 percent, respectively). Among those with VA coverage, 24.7 percent had VA care only within the calendar year, 26.1 percent had non-VA care only, and 37.8 percent had both VA and non-VA care. Among those without VA coverage, 1.5 percent had VA care only within the calendar year, 72.4 percent had non-VA care only, and 5.8 percent had both VA and non-VA care. VA coverage was reported for the calendar year 2018 or 2019, whereas the VSAQ collected data on care in the “past 12 months,” which may account for VA use among Veterans without VA coverage.

Use of selected health services common among Veterans (table 4)

The VSAQ collected data on the use of seven selected health services and whether they were received from the VA or outside of the VA since discharge from military service. These services are caregiver support, group counseling for mental healthcare, individual mental healthcare, assistive mobility device, prosthesis, rehabilitation services, and prescription medications. For all seven types of services, Veterans with VA coverage were more likely to have any care and more likely to have VA services only. Among Veterans with VA coverage, 20.8 percent had any individual mental healthcare and 17.1 percent had VA care only (table 4). Among Veterans without VA coverage, 8.5 percent had any individual mental healthcare and 5.7 percent had non-VA care only. Among Veterans with VA coverage, 69.2 percent had any prescription medications and 51.9 percent had VA prescription medications only. Among Veterans without VA coverage, 46.2 percent had any prescription medications and 39.3 percent had non-VA prescription medications only. For these seven services, most Veterans either used VA care only or non-VA care only. Among Veterans with VA coverage, the majority used only VA care for these services. Prescription medications had the highest rate of both VA and non-VA care use among Veterans. Among Veterans with VA coverage, 6.6 percent obtained prescription medications both from the VA and from non-VA sources.

Importance of factors for choosing a primary care provider (table 5)

As shown in table 5, among Veterans with VA coverage, the top three major factors in choosing a PCP were the reputation of the personal doctor (ranked as major by 44.9 percent), whether the doctor understands the special needs of Veterans (41.1 percent), and whether the doctor is in their health plan's network (39.6 percent). Among Veterans without VA coverage, the top three major factors were whether the doctor is in their health plan's network (52.3 percent), the reputation of the personal doctor (50.8 percent), and the location of the doctor's practice (39.6 percent). Whether the doctor understands the special needs of Veterans was significantly more important for Veterans with VA coverage than those without VA coverage; 41.1 percent and 18.8 percent ranked it as a major factor, respectively.

Patient experience with VA primary care provider or Patient Aligned Care Team (table 6)

Patient experience with providers is presented in tables 6, 7, and 8. The questions concern healthcare received within the past 12 months. Among all Veterans visiting a VA PCP/PACT in the past 12 months, 67.6 percent reported that their VA PCP/PACT provider "always" knew about their past health problems and treatments, 41.1 percent reported that their VA PCP/PACT provider "always" knew about tests or results from other VA providers, and 70.2 percent reported that their VA PCP/PACT provider "always" kept health information complete and up to date (table 6). Among all Veterans visiting a VA PCP/PACT who needed their medical records, 54.9 percent reported that they "always" got their medical records from their VA PCP/PACT provider as soon as they needed them. Among all Veterans visiting a VA PCP/PACT who needed a referral, 44.6 percent reported that they "always" got a referral to see non-VA providers from their VA PCP/PACT provider as soon as they needed it. On all five measures, elderly Veterans were significantly more likely to rate their patient experience higher than non-elderly Veterans (results not shown).

Patient experience with non-VA providers (table 7)

Among all Veterans visiting a non-VA provider, 50.6 percent reported that their non-VA provider "always" knew about their past health problems and treatments and 62.2 percent reported that their non-VA provider "always" kept health information complete and up to date (table 7). Among all Veterans visiting a non-VA provider who needed their medical records, 41.2 percent reported that they "always" got their medical records from their non-VA provider as soon as they needed it. On all three measures, elderly Veterans were significantly more likely to rate their patient experience higher than non-elderly Veterans (results not shown).

Patient experience with VA specialists (table 8)

Among all Veterans with care from a VA specialist, 90.1 percent reported that the VA specialist had enough information about their medical history (table 8). This satisfaction rate was significantly higher among elderly Veterans than non-elderly Veterans (94.1 percent and 86.2 percent, respectively).

Number and percent of Veterans with healthcare use from multiple types of providers (table 9)

The VSAQ collected data on patients who visited three types of providers, VA PCP/PACT, VA specialist, and non-VA providers. Patient experience questions regarding care coordination between VA and non-VA providers are relevant only to Veterans who received care from VA and non-VA providers. Similarly, obtaining medical records and getting referrals to non-VA providers are only relevant for a subset of Veterans. Therefore, table 9 presents the number and percentage of Veterans with healthcare visits by type of provider, with multiple provider types, who asked for their medical records, and who needed referrals to non-VA providers from a VA PCP/PACT. Among all Veterans, 23.5 percent had at least one visit with a VA PCP, 14.5 percent had at least one visit with a VA specialist, and 72.8 percent had at least one visit with a non-VA provider. Among all Veterans, 14.8 percent had visits with both a VA PCP and a non-VA provider, and 9.8 percent had visits with both a VA specialist and a non-VA provider. Among all Veterans, 20.8 percent had healthcare from at least two types of providers. Among all Veterans, 5.1 percent asked for his/her medical records from a VA PCP/PACT, and 17.1 percent asked for his/her medical records from a non-VA provider. Among all Veterans, 7.6 percent needed referral from a VA PCP/PACT to see a non-VA provider.

Care coordination between VA and non-VA providers (table 10)

Among Veterans with care from both a VA PCP/PACT and a non-VA provider, 63.2 percent said their VA PCP/PACT was aware of their healthcare services outside the VA. Among Veterans with care from both a VA specialist and a non-VA provider, 40.8 percent said their VA specialist was aware of healthcare services they received outside the VA. Among Veterans with care from both a VA provider and a non-VA provider, 64.8 percent said their non-VA provider was aware of healthcare services they received at the VA.

Care coordination problems between VA and non-VA providers (table 11)

Among Veterans who received care from both a VA PCP/PACT and a non-VA provider but whose VA PCP/PACT was not aware of the services from the non-VA provider, 83.0 percent reported that the lack of awareness was not a problem. Among Veterans who received care from both a VA specialist and a non-VA provider but whose VA specialist was not aware of the services from the non-VA provider, 89.6 percent reported that the lack of awareness was not a problem. Among Veterans who received care from both a non-VA provider and a VA provider but whose non-VA provider was not aware of the services received at the VA, 84.2 percent reported that the lack of awareness was not a problem.

Data Source

The estimates in the research findings are based on data from the MEPS 2018 and 2019 Full Year Consolidated Data Files (HC-209, HC-216). These files are available

at https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/download_data_files.jsp. The MSA variable is available through the AHRQ Data Center.

The VSAQ was fielded during Panel 22 Round 5, Panel 23 Round 3, and Panel 24 Round 1. The VSAQ data for Panels 22 and 23 were included in the 2018 FY file with weight VSAQW18F, and the data for Panels 23 and 24 were included in the 2019 FY file with weight VSAQW19F. The data for these three panels were combined to produce more accurate estimates of VSAQ variables. This was done by pooling 2018 FY and 2019 FY files and dividing each year's VSAQ weight by 2 to derive a VSAQ weight for the pooled file, as is done in the usual 2-year pooling of MEPS FY files. However, for variance estimation, the common variance structure was obtained from the pooled linkage public use file HC-036.

Definitions

Veterans

Veterans are defined as people who reported having been honorably discharged from active duty in the Armed Forces.

Health Insurance Status

Individuals ages 18–64 were classified in the following three insurance categories based on household responses to health insurance status questions:

- *Any private health insurance:* Individuals who, at any time during the year, had insurance that provided coverage for hospital and physician care (other than Medicare, Medicaid, or other public hospital/physician coverage) were classified as having private insurance. Coverage by TRICARE (Armed Forces–related coverage) was treated as private health insurance coverage. Insurance that provided coverage for a single service only, such as dental or vision coverage, was not included.
- *Public coverage only:* Individuals were considered to have public coverage only if they met both of the following criteria: (1) they were not covered by private insurance at any time during the year and (2) they were covered by any of the following public programs at any point during the year: Medicare, Medicaid, or other public hospital/physician coverage.
- *Uninsured:* The uninsured were defined as people not covered by private hospital/physician insurance, Medicare, TRICARE, Medicaid, or other public hospital/physician programs at any time during the entire year or period of eligibility for the survey.

Individuals ages 65 and over were classified in the following three insurance categories based on household responses to health insurance status questions:

- *Medicare only (65+):* Individuals who are 65 years old or more and are covered by Medicare only.

- *Medicare and private (65+)*: Individuals who are 65 years old or more and are covered by Medicare and private insurance or TRICARE/CHAMPVA.
- *Medicare and other public only (65+)*: Individuals who are 65 years old or more and are covered by Medicare and Medicaid/SCHIP or another public program.

Race/Ethnicity

Classification by race/ethnicity is based on information reported for each family member. First, respondents were asked if the person's main national origin or ancestry was Puerto Rican; Cuban; Mexican, Mexican-American, or Chicano; other Latin American; or other Spanish. All people whose main national origin or ancestry was reported as being in one of these Hispanic groups, regardless of racial background, were classified as Hispanic. All other people were classified according to their reported race. For this analysis, the following classification by race/ethnicity was used: Hispanic (any race), Black non-Hispanic only, White/other.

About the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component (MEPS-HC) collects nationally representative data on healthcare use, expenditures, sources of payment, and insurance coverage for the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population. The MEPS-HC is cosponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). More information about MEPS-HC can be found on the MEPS website at <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov>.

Table 1a. Sociodemographic characteristics of Veterans by VA coverage, 2018–2019

Coverage	Veterans			VA coverage			No VA coverage		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
All Veterans	2,295	16,388	100.0	887	6,158	37.6	1,408	10,230	62.4***
		(751)	(0.0)		(328)	(1.3)		(544)	(1.3)
Sex									
Male	2,087	14,923	91.1	815	5,695	92.5	1,272	9,228	90.2
		(680)	(0.8)		(308)	(1.2)		(492)	(1.0)
Female	208	1,465	8.9	72	463	7.5	136	1,002	9.8
		(154)	(0.8)		(78)	(1.2)		(122)	(1.0)
Age									
18–34	147	1,357	8.3	68	649	10.5	79	708	6.9*
		(200)	(1.1)		(109)	(1.6)		(124)	(1.1)
35–44	182	1,463	8.9	60	512	8.3	122	951	9.3
		(162)	(0.8)		(95)	(1.5)		(126)	(1.1)
45–54	275	2,190	13.4	104	794	12.9	171	1,397	13.7
		(192)	(1.0)		(109)	(1.6)		(148)	(1.2)
55–64	395	2,984	18.2	151	1,077	17.5	244	1,907	18.6
		(229)	(1.2)		(120)	(1.8)		(175)	(1.5)
65+	1,296	8,392	51.2	504	3,126	50.8	792	5,266	51.5
		(430)	(1.7)		(228)	(2.5)		(309)	(1.9)

Coverage	Veterans			VA coverage			No VA coverage		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Race and ethnicity									
Non-Hispanic White	1,760	12,657	77.2	641	4,496	73.0	1,119	8,161	79.8**
		(638)	(1.4)		(290)	(2.2)		(461)	(1.5)
Non-Hispanic Black	295	1,799	11.0	158	937	15.2	137	862	8.4***
		(183)	(1.0)		(105)	(1.6)		(119)	(1.0)
Non-Hispanic Asian	35	282	1.7	9	85	1.4	26	197	1.9
		(71)	(0.4)		(61)	(1.0)		(41)	(0.4)
Hispanic (all races)	120	1,056	6.4	48	453	7.4	72	603	5.9
		(137)	(0.8)		(84)	(1.4)		(91)	(0.8)
Non-Hispanic other or multiple race	85	593	3.6	31	186	3.0	54	407	4.0
		(88)	(0.5)		(44)	(0.7)		(73)	(0.7)
Insurance coverage (ages 18–64)									
Any private	745	6,156	77.0	223	1,890	62.3	522	4,266	85.9***
		(373)	(1.6)		(162)	(3.1)		(295)	(1.9)
Public only	215	1,535	19.2	160	1,142	37.7	55	392	7.9***
		(142)	(1.6)		(124)	(3.1)		(61)	(1.3)
Uninsured	39	305	3.8	0	0	0.0	39	305	6.1***
		(72)	(0.9)		(0)	(0.0)		(72)	(1.4)
Insurance coverage (ages 65+)¹									
Medicare only	265	1,740	20.7	0	0	0.0	265	1,740	33.0***
		(158)	(1.5)		(0)	(0.0)		(158)	(2.3)

Coverage	Veterans			VA coverage			No VA coverage		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Medicare and private	761	4,979	59.3	256	1,570	50.2	505	3,409	64.7***
		(276)	(1.8)		(124)	(2.5)		(231)	(2.3)
Medicare and other public only	262	1,612	19.2	242	1,508	48.2	20	104	2.0***
		(135)	(1.3)		(132)	(2.5)		(27)	(0.5)
Poverty level									
Under 100% FPL	176	1,169	7.1	94	621	10.1	82	548	5.4***
		(110)	(0.6)		(85)	(1.3)		(81)	(0.8)
100% to 199% FPL	340	2,454	15.0	171	1,207	19.6	169	1,246	12.2***
		(198)	(1.0)		(98)	(1.3)		(132)	(1.1)
200% to 399% FPL	687	4,705	28.7	319	2,098	34.1	368	2,607	25.5***
		(321)	(1.2)		(198)	(2.3)		(215)	(1.4)
400% FPL and over	1,092	8,061	49.2	303	2,232	36.2	789	5,829	57.0***
		(426)	(1.5)		(167)	(2.2)		(351)	(1.7)
Education level									
Less than high school	142	883	5.4	72	468	7.6	70	415	4.1***
		(113)	(0.6)		(82)	(1.2)		(66)	(0.6)
High school or GED	695	4,706	28.8	305	2,013	32.8	390	2,693	26.4**
		(304)	(1.4)		(190)	(2.4)		(198)	(1.6)
Some college	1,453	10,754	65.8	507	3,658	59.6	946	7,096	69.5***
		(548)	(1.4)		(223)	(2.3)		(436)	(1.7)

Coverage	Veterans			VA coverage			No VA coverage		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Census division									
New England	117	615	3.8	41	218	3.6	76	397	3.9
		(135)	(0.8)		(59)	(1.0)		(98)	(0.9)
Middle Atlantic	194	1,381	8.5	73	527	8.7	121	853	8.4
		(183)	(1.1)		(79)	(1.3)		(150)	(1.4)
East North Central	284	2,084	12.8	116	832	13.7	168	1,252	12.4
		(198)	(1.2)		(102)	(1.6)		(137)	(1.3)
West North Central	211	1,327	8.2	108	618	10.1	103	709	7.0
		(158)	(1.0)		(114)	(1.8)		(77)	(0.8)
South Atlantic	517	3,973	24.5	156	1,089	17.9	361	2,884	28.5***
		(417)	(2.1)		(144)	(2.1)		(320)	(2.5)
East South Central	174	1,322	8.2	86	629	10.3	88	694	6.8*
		(207)	(1.2)		(94)	(1.5)		(146)	(1.4)
West South Central	205	1,612	9.9	97	682	11.2	108	931	9.2
		(282)	(1.6)		(149)	(2.2)		(185)	(1.7)
Mountain	272	1,867	11.5	107	814	13.4	165	1,053	10.4
		(285)	(1.6)		(125)	(1.9)		(196)	(1.8)
Pacific	295	2,036	12.6	92	682	11.2	203	1,354	13.4
		(215)	(1.3)		(96)	(1.5)		(168)	(1.6)

Coverage	Veterans			VA coverage			No VA coverage		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Region									
Northeast	319	2,054	12.5	116	753	12.2	203	1,301	12.7
		(235)	(1.4)		(101)	(1.6)		(182)	(1.7)
Midwest	499	3,432	20.9	226	1,462	23.7	273	1,970	19.3
		(254)	(1.5)		(155)	(2.2)		(158)	(1.6)
South	902	6,945	42.4	342	2,418	39.3	560	4,527	44.3
		(557)	(2.3)		(229)	(2.7)		(402)	(2.7)
West	575	3,956	24.1	203	1,525	24.8	372	2,431	23.8
		(356)	(1.9)		(150)	(2.2)		(264)	(2.2)
Urbanicity									
Metropolitan area	1,827	13,253	81.7	642	4,558	74.8	1,185	8,696	85.9***
		(676)	(1.7)		(278)	(2.4)		(504)	(1.7)
Non-metropolitan, adjacent	262	1,791	11.0	122	817	13.4	140	974	9.6
		(301)	(1.8)		(151)	(2.4)		(186)	(1.8)
Non-metropolitan, non-adjacent	180	1,173	7.2	112	715	11.7	68	457	4.5**
		(263)	(1.6)		(165)	(2.6)		(120)	(1.2)
Self-reported physical health									
Excellent/very good	1,142	8,299	50.6	367	2,627	42.7	775	5,672	55.5***
		(435)	(1.3)		(196)	(2.2)		(340)	(1.5)
Good	733	5,116	31.2	310	2,117	34.4	423	2,999	29.3**
		(299)	(1.2)		(157)	(2.0)		(214)	(1.4)

Coverage	Veterans			VA coverage			No VA coverage		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Fair/poor	420	2,972	18.1	210	1,414	23.0	210	1,558	15.2***
		(220)	(1.0)		(129)	(1.6)		(147)	(1.2)
Self-reported mental health									
Excellent/very good	1,395	10,045	61.3	463	3,357	54.5	932	6,687	65.4***
		(513)	(1.3)		(214)	(2.0)		(403)	(1.6)
Good	645	4,569	27.9	292	1,914	31.1	353	2,655	26.0**
		(278)	(1.1)		(152)	(1.8)		(193)	(1.4)
Fair/poor	255	1,774	10.8	132	887	14.4	123	887	8.7***
		(167)	(0.9)		(105)	(1.5)		(110)	(1.0)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. *, **, and *** indicate that the differences from Veterans with VA coverage are significant at the $p < 0.10$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.01$ levels, respectively. Abbreviations: n = unweighted count; SE = standard error; FPL = Federal Poverty Level; GED = Graduate Equivalency Degree.

¹ Results for elderly with no Medicare coverage are not presented due to sample size restrictions. Therefore, the population by insurance coverage for the elderly will not add up to the population total.

Table 1b. Sociodemographic characteristics of males by Veteran status, 2018–2019

Veteran status	All males			Male Veterans			Male non-Veterans		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
All males	20,192	121,813 (3,707)	100.0 (0.0)	2,087	10,534 (500)	8.6 (0.4)	18,105	111,279 (3,486)	91.4*** (0.4)
Age									
18–34	5,337	37,059 (1,296)	30.4 (0.5)	129	732 (100)	7.0 (0.9)	5,208	36,327 (1,287)	32.6*** (0.6)
35–44	3,253	20,177 (851)	16.6 (0.4)	151	830 (90)	7.9 (0.8)	3,102	19,348 (831)	17.4*** (0.4)
45–54	3,230	20,020 (762)	16.4 (0.4)	223	1,377 (133)	13.1 (1.0)	3,007	18,643 (725)	16.8*** (0.4)
55–64	3,475	20,014 (814)	16.4 (0.4)	345	1,778 (152)	16.9 (1.2)	3,130	18,236 (775)	16.4 (0.4)
65+	4,897	24,543 (840)	20.1 (0.5)	1,239	5,816 (309)	55.2 (1.7)	3,658	18,727 (686)	16.8*** (0.4)
Race and ethnicity									
Non-Hispanic White	11,714	76,642 (2,668)	62.9 (1.0)	1,635	8,388 (437)	79.6 (1.4)	10,079	68,254 (2,439)	61.3*** (1.0)
Non-Hispanic Black	2,667	13,613 (749)	11.2 (0.5)	245	1,088 (122)	10.3 (1.1)	2,422	12,525 (703)	11.3 (0.6)
Non-Hispanic Asian	1,053	7,205 (614)	5.9 (0.4)	34	196 (55)	1.9 (0.5)	1,019	7,009 (616)	6.3*** (0.5)
Hispanic (all races)	4,118	20,586 (1,198)	16.9 (0.9)	99	524 (82)	5.0 (0.8)	4,019	20,062 (1,199)	18.0*** (0.9)

Veteran status	All males			Male Veterans			Male non-Veterans		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Non-Hispanic other or multiple race	640	3,767	3.1	74	338	3.2	566	3,429	3.1
		(259)	(0.2)		(55)	(0.5)		(258)	(0.2)
Insurance coverage (ages 18–64)									
Any private	10,608	72,526	74.6	624	3,575	75.8	9,984	68,950	74.5
		(2,618)	(0.8)		(252)	(1.9)		(2,554)	(0.8)
Public only	2,674	13,436	13.8	187	946	20.1	2,487	12,490	13.5***
		(622)	(0.6)		(99)	(1.8)		(597)	(0.6)
Uninsured	2,013	11,309	11.6	37	196	4.2	1,976	11,113	12.0***
		(575)	(0.5)		(47)	(0.9)		(572)	(0.5)
Insurance coverage (ages 65+)¹									
Medicare only	1,550	7,905	32.2	255	1,212	20.8	1,295	6,693	35.7***
		(365)	(0.9)		(115)	(1.6)		(331)	(1.1)
Medicare and private	2,366	12,360	50.4	719	3,425	58.9	1,647	8,935	47.7***
		(483)	(1.0)		(205)	(1.8)		(394)	(1.2)
Medicare and other public only	889	3,798	15.5	257	1,139	19.6	632	2,659	14.2***
		(214)	(0.7)		(104)	(1.4)		(174)	(0.8)
Poverty level									
Under 100% FPL	2,375	10,919	9.0	154	625	5.9	2,221	10,293	9.2***
		(455)	(0.3)		(66)	(0.6)		(446)	(0.3)
100% to 199% FPL	3,449	17,776	14.6	314	1,568	14.9	3,135	16,207	14.6
		(651)	(0.4)		(128)	(1.0)		(610)	(0.4)
200% to 399% FPL	5,944	34,821	28.6	627	3,042	28.9	5,317	31,779	28.6
		(1,137)	(0.5)		(212)	(1.3)		(1,068)	(0.6)

Veteran status	All males			Male Veterans			Male non-Veterans		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
400% FPL and over	8,424	58,298	47.9	992	5,298	50.3	7,432	53,000	47.6
		(2,298)	(0.8)		(293)	(1.6)		(2,184)	(0.9)
Education level									
Less than high school	3,326	16,533	13.7	139	613	5.8	3,187	15,921	14.4***
		(754)	(0.5)		(80)	(0.7)		(744)	(0.5)
High school or GED	6,444	35,425	29.3	661	3,040	28.9	5,783	32,386	29.4
		(1,154)	(0.6)		(201)	(1.4)		(1,056)	(0.6)
Some college	10,218	68,888	57.0	1,282	6,852	65.2	8,936	62,036	56.2***
		(2,449)	(0.8)		(360)	(1.4)		(2,313)	(0.8)
Census division									
New England	944	5,434	4.5	108	408	3.9	836	5,026	4.5
		(1,036)	(0.8)		(101)	(0.9)		(969)	(0.8)
Middle Atlantic	2,276	15,517	12.8	180	899	8.6	2,096	14,618	13.2***
		(1,444)	(1.1)		(130)	(1.2)		(1,377)	(1.1)
East North Central	2,863	17,848	14.7	262	1,300	12.5	2,601	16,547	14.9
		(1,147)	(0.9)		(134)	(1.3)		(1,081)	(0.9)
West North Central	1,412	7,569	6.2	199	881	8.4	1,213	6,688	6.0**
		(465)	(0.4)		(113)	(1.1)		(421)	(0.4)
South Atlantic	4,032	24,149	19.9	445	2,515	24.1	3,587	21,634	19.5*
		(1,636)	(1.2)		(277)	(2.2)		(1,481)	(1.2)
East South Central	1,075	7,260	6.0	163	895	8.6	912	6,366	5.8**
		(435)	(0.4)		(147)	(1.3)		(395)	(0.4)
West South Central	2,299	13,992	11.6	185	1,028	9.8	2,114	12,965	11.7
		(1,603)	(1.2)		(174)	(1.6)		(1,505)	(1.2)

Veteran status	All males			Male Veterans			Male non-Veterans		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Mountain	1,750	9,582	7.9	248	1,201	11.5	1,502	8,381	7.6**
		(1,169)	(0.9)		(182)	(1.6)		(1,074)	(0.9)
Pacific	3,422	19,788	16.3	274	1,308	12.5	3,148	18,480	16.7**
		(1,238)	(1.0)		(158)	(1.4)		(1,248)	(1.1)
Region									
Northeast	3,244	21,075	17.3	296	1,345	12.8	2,948	19,730	17.7**
		(1,796)	(1.3)		(166)	(1.5)		(1,702)	(1.3)
Midwest	4,299	25,532	21.0	465	2,194	20.8	3,834	23,337	21.0
		(1,239)	(1.0)		(175)	(1.6)		(1,164)	(1.0)
South	7,454	45,698	37.5	798	4,462	42.4	6,656	41,236	37.1*
		(2,358)	(1.5)		(363)	(2.4)		(2,174)	(1.5)
West	5,195	29,509	24.2	528	2,533	24.0	4,667	26,976	24.2
		(1,731)	(1.3)		(240)	(2.0)		(1,674)	(1.3)
Urbanicity									
Metropolitan area	16,984	104,685	86.4	1,659	8,596	82.4	15,325	96,090	86.8**
		(3,563)	(0.8)		(454)	(1.8)		(3,365)	(0.8)
Non-metropolitan, adjacent	1,895	9,939	8.2	239	1,092	10.5	1,656	8,847	8.0
		(1,304)	(1.1)		(202)	(1.9)		(1,146)	(1.1)
Non-metropolitan, non-adjacent	1,194	6,515	5.4	166	748	7.2	1,028	5,767	5.2
		(1,369)	(1.1)		(179)	(1.7)		(1,225)	(1.1)
Self-reported physical health									
Excellent/very good	11,371	72,588	59.7	1,026	5,251	49.8	10,345	67,337	60.6***
		(2,407)	(0.5)		(286)	(1.3)		(2,285)	(0.5)

Veteran status	All males			Male Veterans			Male non-Veterans		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Good	6,058	34,576	28.4	667	3,353	31.8	5,391	31,224	28.1***
		(1,074)	(0.4)		(198)	(1.2)		(1,017)	(0.4)
Fair/poor	2,738	14,506	11.9	394	1,931	18.3	2,344	12,576	11.3***
		(570)	(0.3)		(144)	(1.0)		(511)	(0.3)
Self-reported mental health									
Excellent/very good	12,724	80,291	66.0	1,256	6,417	60.9	11,468	73,874	66.5***
		(2,622)	(0.5)		(341)	(1.3)		(2,479)	(0.5)
Good	5,666	31,847	26.2	598	3,012	28.6	5,068	28,835	25.9**
		(1,045)	(0.4)		(188)	(1.2)		(990)	(0.4)
Fair/poor	1,777	9,533	7.8	233	1,104	10.5	1,544	8,429	7.6***
		(395)	(0.3)		(111)	(1.0)		(369)	(0.3)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. *, **, and *** indicate that the differences from male Veterans are significant at the $p < 0.10$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.01$ levels, respectively.

Abbreviations: n = unweighted count; SE = standard error; FPL = Federal Poverty Level; GED = Graduate Equivalency Degree.

¹ Results for elderly with no Medicare coverage are not presented due to sample size restrictions. Therefore, the population by insurance coverage for the elderly will not add up to the population total.

Table 1c. Sociodemographic characteristics of all Veterans by gender, 2018–2019

Gender	All Veterans			Female Veterans			Male Veterans		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
All Veterans	2,295	16,388 (751)	100.0% (0.0)	208	1,465 (154)	8.9% (0.8)	2,087	14,923 (680)	91.1*** (0.8)
Age									
18–34	147	1,357 (200)	8.3 (1.1)	18	177 (64)	12.1 (3.9)	129	1,180 (162)	7.9 (1.0)
35–44	182	1,463 (162)	8.9 (0.8)	31	257 (66)	17.6 (3.8)	151	1,206 (137)	8.1** (0.8)
45–54	275	2,190 (192)	13.4 (1.0)	52	332 (62)	22.6 (3.6)	223	1,859 (171)	12.5*** (1.0)
55–64	395	2,984 (229)	18.2 (1.2)	50	310 (56)	21.2 (3.7)	345	2,674 (216)	17.9 (1.2)
65+	1,296	8,392 (430)	51.2 (1.7)	57	388 (74)	26.5 (4.4)	1,239	8,004 (409)	53.6*** (1.6)
Race and ethnicity									
Non-Hispanic White	1,760	12,657 (638)	77.2 (1.4)	125	913 (102)	62.4 (4.2)	1,635	11,744 (591)	78.7*** (1.4)
Non-Hispanic Black	295	1,799 (183)	11.0 (1.0)	50	327 (77)	22.3 (4.1)	245	1,472 (161)	9.9*** (1.0)
Non-Hispanic Asian	35	282 (71)	1.7 (0.4)	1	10 (10)	0.7 (0.7)	34	271 (70)	1.8 (0.5)
Hispanic (all races)	120	1,056 (137)	6.4 (0.8)	21	125 (33)	8.5 (2.1)	99	931 (128)	6.2 (0.8)

Gender	All Veterans			Female Veterans			Male Veterans		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Non-Hispanic other or multiple race	85	593	3.6	11	89	6.1	74	504	3.4
		(88)	(0.5)		(33)	(2.1)		(79)	(0.5)
Insurance coverage (ages 18–64)									
Any private	745	6,156	77.0	121	892	82.9	624	5,264	76.1*
		(373)	(1.6)		(120)	(3.7)		(316)	(1.8)
Public only	215	1,535	19.2	28	159	14.8	187	1,375	19.9
		(142)	(1.6)		(38)	(3.5)		(135)	(1.7)
Uninsured	39	305	3.8	2	25	2.3	37	280	4.1
		(72)	(0.9)		(18)	(1.6)		(64)	(0.9)
Insurance coverage (ages 65+)¹									
Medicare only	265	1,740	20.7	10	65	16.7	255	1,675	20.9
		(158)	(1.5)		(26)	(6.3)		(153)	(1.5)
Medicare and private	761	4,979	59.3	42	295	75.9	719	4,684	58.5**
		(276)	(1.8)		(64)	(6.7)		(258)	(1.8)
Medicare and other public only	262	1,612	19.2	5	29	7.4	257	1,583	19.8***
		(135)	(1.3)		(13)	(3.2)		(134)	(1.4)
Poverty level									
Under 100% FPL	176	1,169	7.1	22	150	10.2	154	1,019	6.8
		(110)	(0.6)		(40)	(2.7)		(106)	(0.7)
100% to 199% FPL	340	2,454	15.0	26	183	12.5	314	2,270	15.2
		(198)	(1.0)		(54)	(3.4)		(179)	(1.0)
200% to 399% FPL	687	4,705	28.7	60	397	27.1	627	4,307	28.9
		(321)	(1.2)		(68)	(3.6)		(292)	(1.2)

Gender	All Veterans			Female Veterans			Male Veterans		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
400% FPL and over	1,092	8,061	49.2	100	734	50.1	992	7,326	49.1
		(426)	(1.5)		(103)	(4.5)		(388)	(1.5)
Education level									
Less than high school	142	883	5.4	3	17	1.1	139	866	5.8***
		(113)	(0.6)		(12)	(0.8)		(112)	(0.7)
High school or GED	695	4,706	28.8	34	216	14.8	661	4,490	30.2***
		(304)	(1.4)		(50)	(2.9)		(288)	(1.4)
Some college	1,453	10,754	65.8	171	1,232	84.1	1,282	9,522	64.0***
		(548)	(1.4)		(131)	(2.9)		(489)	(1.4)
Census division									
New England	117	615	3.8	9	52	3.6	108	562	3.8
		(135)	(0.8)		(27)	(1.9)		(123)	(0.8)
Middle Atlantic	194	1,381	8.5	14	106	7.3	180	1,274	8.6
		(183)	(1.1)		(40)	(2.6)		(173)	(1.1)
East North Central	284	2,084	12.8	22	195	13.5	262	1,889	12.8
		(198)	(1.2)		(65)	(4.1)		(184)	(1.2)
West North Central	211	1,327	8.2	12	72	5.0	199	1,255	8.5
		(158)	(1.0)		(29)	(2.0)		(151)	(1.0)
South Atlantic	517	3,973	24.5	72	511	35.3	445	3,462	23.4**
		(417)	(2.1)		(96)	(5.1)		(368)	(2.1)
East South Central	174	1,322	8.2	11	82	5.7	163	1,240	8.4
		(207)	(1.2)		(21)	(1.4)		(204)	(1.3)
West South Central	205	1,612	9.9	20	140	9.7	185	1,472	10.0
		(282)	(1.6)		(55)	(3.6)		(243)	(1.5)

Gender	All Veterans			Female Veterans			Male Veterans		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Mountain	272	1,867	11.5	24	153	10.6	248	1,714	11.6
		(285)	(1.6)		(43)	(2.9)		(257)	(1.6)
Pacific	295	2,036	12.6	21	134	9.2	274	1,903	12.9
		(215)	(1.3)		(42)	(2.8)		(215)	(1.4)
Region									
Northeast	319	2,054	12.5	23	158	10.8	296	1,896	12.7
		(235)	(1.4)		(48)	(3.1)		(219)	(1.4)
Midwest	499	3,432	20.9	34	267	18.2	465	3,165	21.2
		(254)	(1.5)		(71)	(4.3)		(239)	(1.5)
South	902	6,945	42.4	104	742	50.6	798	6,204	41.6
		(557)	(2.3)		(115)	(5.3)		(491)	(2.3)
West	575	3,956	24.1	47	298	20.3	528	3,658	24.5
		(356)	(1.9)		(58)	(3.7)		(332)	(1.9)
Urbanicity									
Metropolitan area	1,827	13,253	81.7	168	1,176	81.3	1,659	12,077	81.8
		(676)	(1.7)		(142)	(3.9)		(612)	(1.7)
Non-metropolitan, adjacent	262	1,791	11.0	23	179	12.4	239	1,613	10.9
		(301)	(1.8)		(52)	(3.4)		(286)	(1.9)
Non-metropolitan, non-adjacent	180	1,173	7.2	14	91	6.3	166	1,081	7.3
		(263)	(1.6)		(31)	(2.1)		(250)	(1.7)
Self-reported physical health									
Excellent/very good	1,142	8,299	50.6	116	865	59.1	1,026	7,434	49.8**
		(435)	(1.3)		(113)	(4.0)		(391)	(1.3)

Gender	All Veterans			Female Veterans			Male Veterans		
Sociodemographic characteristics	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Good	733	5,116	31.2	66	407	27.8	667	4,709	31.6
		(299)	(1.2)		(69)	(3.7)		(274)	(1.3)
Fair/poor	420	2,972	18.1	26	193	13.1	394	2,779	18.6*
		(220)	(1.0)		(46)	(3.0)		(206)	(1.0)
Self-reported mental health									
Excellent/very good	1,395	10,045	61.3	139	962	65.7	1,256	9,082	60.9
		(513)	(1.3)		(125)	(4.5)		(466)	(1.3)
Good	645	4,569	27.9	47	333	22.7	598	4,237	28.4
		(278)	(1.1)		(61)	(3.6)		(255)	(1.1)
Fair/poor	255	1,774	10.8	22	170	11.6	233	1,604	10.7
		(167)	(0.9)		(49)	(3.1)		(157)	(0.9)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. *, **, and *** indicate that the differences from female Veterans are significant at the $p < 0.10$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.01$ levels, respectively. Abbreviations: n = unweighted count; SE = standard error; FPL = Federal Poverty Level; GED = Graduate Equivalency Degree.

¹ Results for elderly with no Medicare coverage are not presented due to sample size restrictions. Therefore, the population by insurance coverage for the elderly will not add up to the population total.

Table 2a. Prevalence of selected medical conditions common among Veterans by VA coverage, 2018–2019

Coverage	All Veterans	VA coverage	No VA coverage
Medical condition	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)
All Veterans	2,295 16,388 100.0% (0.0)	887 6,158 37.6% (1.3)	1,408 10,230 62.4%*** (1.3)
COPD	184 1,308 8.0% (0.9)	91 664 10.8% (1.5)	93 644 6.3%*** (0.9)
Dermatological conditions	361 2,473 15.1% (0.9)	138 893 14.5% (1.4)	223 1,581 15.5% (1.2)
GERD	388 2,669 16.3% (1.1)	163 1,069 17.4% (1.9)	225 1,599 15.6% (1.3)
Hearing loss	799 5,532 33.8% (1.4)	388 2,598 42.2% (2.3)	411 2,935 28.7%*** (1.8)

Coverage	All Veterans	VA coverage	No VA coverage
Medical condition	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)
Back pain	896 6,289 38.4% (1.3)	407 2,829 45.9% (2.3)	489 3,461 33.8%*** (1.5)
Fibromyalgia	34 225 1.4% (0.4)	21 131 2.1% (0.7)	13 94 0.9% (0.4)
Gout	204 1,457 8.9% (0.8)	94 659 10.7% (1.4)	110 798 7.8%* (0.9)
Neck pain	440 3,098 18.9% (1.2)	209 1,399 22.7% (1.7)	231 1,699 16.6%*** (1.4)
Osteoarthritis	391 2,773 16.9% (1.1)	190 1,331 21.6% (1.9)	201 1,442 14.1%*** (1.3)
TMD	49 308 1.9% (0.3)	24 132 2.1% (0.5)	25 176 1.7% (0.4)

Coverage	All Veterans	VA coverage	No VA coverage
Medical condition	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)
Alcohol abuse	107 724 4.4% (0.6)	60 422 6.9% (1.1)	47 302 2.9%*** (0.6)
Any mental health diagnosis ¹	420 2,857 17.4% (1.1)	209 1,408 22.9% (1.8)	211 1,450 14.2%*** (1.2)
Depression	385 2,605 15.9% (1.1)	190 1,266 20.6% (1.8)	195 1,339 13.1%*** (1.2)
Other mood disorder ²	152 1,049 6.4% (0.7)	82 569 9.2% (1.2)	70 480 4.7%*** (0.7)
PTSD	287 1,952 11.9% (0.9)	187 1,257 20.4% (1.8)	100 695 6.8%*** (0.9)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. *, **, and *** indicate the differences from Veterans with VA coverage are significant at the $p < 0.10$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.01$ levels, respectively. Abbreviations: n = unweighted count; SE = standard error; VA = Department of Veterans Affairs; COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; GERD = gastroesophageal reflux disease; TMD = temporomandibular joint dysfunction; PTSD = post-traumatic stress disorder.

¹ The “any mental health diagnosis” category includes bipolar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, or other mood disorder.

² The “other mood disorder” category includes mood disorders other than bipolar disorder, depression, and schizophrenia.

Table 2b. Prevalence of selected medical conditions common among males by Veteran status, 2018–2019

Veteran status for males	All males	Male Veterans	Male non-Veterans
Priority condition	Population Percent (SE)	Population Percent (SE)	Population Percent (SE)
All Veterans	121,813,172 100.0% (0.0)	10,533,764 8.6% (0.4)	111,279,408 91.4% (0.4)
Coronary heart disease	7,700 6.3% (0.2)	1,802 17.1% (1.2)	5,898 5.3%*** (0.2)
Angina	2,877 2.4% (0.2)	722 6.9% (0.9)	2,156 1.9%*** (0.1)
Heart attack	5,697 4.7% (0.2)	1,269 12.0% (0.9)	4,429 4.0%*** (0.2)
Other heart disease	12,926 10.6% (0.3)	2,474 23.5% (1.2)	10,452 9.4%*** (0.3)
Any heart disease ¹	18,085 14.8% (0.4)	3,508 33.3% (1.4)	14,578 13.1%*** (0.3)
Stroke	4,544 3.7% (0.2)	1,049 10.0% (0.9)	3,494 3.1%*** (0.2)
Arthritis	23,752 19.5% (0.5)	4,368 41.5% (1.3)	19,384 17.4%*** (0.4)

Veteran status for males	All males	Male Veterans	Male non-Veterans
Priority condition	Population Percent (SE)	Population Percent (SE)	Population Percent (SE)
Asthma	14,268 11.7% (0.3)	934 8.9% (0.9)	13,334 12.0%*** (0.4)
Cancer	12,102 9.9% (0.3)	2,586 24.5% (1.2)	9,516 8.6%*** (0.3)
Chronic bronchitis	1,316 1.1% (0.1)	213 2.0% (0.3)	1,102 1.0%*** (0.1)
Diabetes	13,942 11.4% (0.3)	2,248 21.3% (1.3)	11,694 10.5%*** (0.3)
Emphysema	2,218 1.8% (0.1)	484 4.6% (0.6)	1,734 1.6%*** (0.1)
High blood pressure	41,238 33.9% (0.5)	5,806 55.1% (1.7)	35,433 31.8%*** (0.6)
High cholesterol	37,050 30.4% (0.5)	5,483 52.1% (1.5)	31,567 28.4%*** (0.5)
Joint pain	51,702 42.4% (0.6)	6,880 65.3% (1.4)	44,822 40.3%*** (0.6)
Limitations with IADL	3,462 2.8% (0.1)	597 5.7% (0.8)	2,865 2.6%*** (0.2)

Veteran status for males	All males	Male Veterans	Male non-Veterans
Priority condition	Population Percent (SE)	Population Percent (SE)	Population Percent (SE)
Limitations with ADL	1,895 1.6% (0.1)	330 3.1% (0.5)	1,565 1.4%*** (0.1)
Cognitive limitations	6,004 4.9% (0.2)	1,077 10.2% (0.9)	4,927 4.4%*** (0.2)
Any limitation in work/housework/school	10,391 8.5% (0.3)	1,933 18.3% (1.1)	8,458 7.6%*** (0.3)
Any limitation	22,495 18.5% (0.4)	4,339 41.2% (1.4)	18,155 16.3%*** (0.4)
Serious difficulty hearing	7,724 6.3% (0.3)	1,972 18.7% (1.2)	5,752 5.2%*** (0.2)
Serious difficulty seeing with glasses	2,608 2.1% (0.2)	420 4.0% (0.6)	2,187 2.0%*** (0.2)
Number of observations	20,192	2,087	18,105

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. *, **, and *** indicate that the differences from male Veterans are significant at the $p < 0.10$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.01$ levels, respectively. Abbreviations: SE = standard error; IADL = instrumental activities of daily living; ADL = activities of daily living.

¹ The “any heart disease” category includes angina, coronary heart disease, heart attack, or other heart disease.

Table 3. Number and percentage of Veterans with only VA, only non-VA, and both VA and non-VA healthcare use by VA coverage, 2018–2019

Type of care	All Veterans	VA coverage	No VA coverage
Healthcare use	Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)
All Veterans	16,388 100.0% (0.0)	6,158 37.6% (1.3)	10,230 62.4%*** (1.3)
Any care	13,603 83.0% (1.1)	5,456 88.6% (1.5)	8,147 79.6%*** (1.5)
Only VA care	1,672 10.2% (0.8)	1,520 24.7% (1.9)	153 1.5%*** ¹ (0.3)
Only non-VA care	9,014 55.0% (1.4)	1,610 26.1% (1.9)	7,404 72.4%*** (1.6)
Both VA and non-VA care	2,917 17.8% (1.1)	2,327 37.8% (2.3)	590 5.8%*** ¹ (0.9)
No care	2,785 17.0% (1.1)	702 11.4% (1.5)	2,083 20.4%*** (1.5)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. *, **, and *** indicate that the differences from male Veterans are significant at the $p < 0.10$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.01$ levels, respectively. Sample sizes for all Veterans, VA coverage, and no VA coverage are 2,295, 887, and 1,408, respectively. Abbreviations: n = unweighted count; SE = standard error; VA = Department of Veterans Affairs.

¹ VA coverage was reported for the calendar year 2018 or 2019, whereas the VSAQ collected data on care in the “past 12 months,” which may account for VA use among Veterans without VA coverage.

Table 4. Use of selected health services common among Veterans by VA coverage, 2018–2019

Survey response	Any care	VA only	Non-VA only	VA and non-VA
Health service	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)
All Veterans				
Caregiver support	5.9 (0.7)	2.1 (0.4)	3.8 (0.6)	0.1 (0.1)
Group counseling for mental healthcare	6.7 (0.7)	4.5 (0.6)	2.0 (0.4)	0.2 (0.1)
Individual mental healthcare	13.0 (0.9)	7.9 (0.8)	4.4 (0.6)	0.7 (0.3)
Assistive mobility device	12.2 (1.1)	4.4 (0.6)	7.6 (0.9)	0.2 (0.1)
Prosthesis	3.1 (0.6)	1.7 (0.4)	1.3 (0.4)	0.0 (0.0)
Rehabilitation services	12.3 (1.0)	5.6 (0.7)	6.4 (0.7)	0.3 (0.1)
Prescription medications	54.6 (1.3)	22.5 (1.2)	28.8 (1.3)	3.4 (0.6)
VA coverage				
Caregiver support	10.1 (1.5)	5.3 (1.0)	4.6 (1.0)	0.2 (0.2)
Group counseling for mental healthcare	12.6 (1.7)	9.9 (1.5)	2.6 (0.7)	0.1 (0.1)
Individual mental healthcare	20.8 (2.0)	17.1 (1.8)	2.2 (0.7)	1.4 (0.6)
Assistive mobility device	18.8 (2.2)	10.7 (1.6)	7.5 (1.3)	0.6 (0.3)

Survey response	Any care	VA only	Non-VA only	VA and non-VA
Health service	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)
Prosthesis	5.9 (1.3)	4.4 (1.0)	1.5 (0.6)	0.0 (0.0)
Rehabilitation services	19.0 (1.9)	12.4 (1.5)	5.9 (1.1)	0.7 (0.3)
Prescription medications	69.2 (2.4)	51.9 (2.4)	10.7 (1.4)	6.6 (1.3)
No VA coverage				
Caregiver support	3.5*** (0.7)	0.2*** (0.1)	3.3 (0.7)	0.0 (0.0)
Group counseling for mental healthcare	3.1*** (0.5)	1.3*** (0.4)	1.7 (0.4)	0.2 (0.2)
Individual mental healthcare	8.5*** (1.0)	2.5*** (0.7)	5.7*** (0.8)	0.3* (0.2)
Assistive mobility device	8.3*** (1.0)	0.6*** (0.2)	7.7 (1.0)	0.0* (0.0)
Prosthesis	1.4*** (0.5)	0.2*** (0.1)	1.2 (0.5)	0.0 (0.0)
Rehabilitation services	8.3*** (1.0)	1.5*** (0.4)	6.7 (0.9)	0.1** (0.1)
Prescription medications	46.2*** (1.6)	5.5*** (0.8)	39.3*** (1.5)	1.5*** (0.4)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. *, **, and *** indicate that the differences from male Veterans are significant at the $p < 0.10$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.01$ levels, respectively. Abbreviations: SE = standard error; VA = Department of Veteran Affairs.

Table 5. Importance of factors for choosing a primary care provider by VA coverage, 2018–2019

Survey response	Major factor	Minor factor	Not a factor	Don't know	No response
Factor	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)
All Veterans					
Cost of care	28.6 (1.5)	17.4 (1.2)	38.7 (1.6)	8.0 (0.7)	7.3 (0.7)
Recommendation by MD	30.2 (1.4)	23.4 (1.1)	30.1 (1.3)	9.0 (0.8)	7.2 (0.7)
Reputation of MD	48.6 (1.5)	16.3 (1.1)	20.4 (1.2)	7.4 (0.8)	7.3 (0.7)
Wait time for appt	26.4 (1.2)	31.4 (1.4)	29.0 (1.3)	5.8 (0.6)	7.3 (0.7)
Location of MD	37.9 (1.3)	27.0 (1.4)	22.5 (1.2)	5.1 (0.6)	7.4 (0.7)
In network	47.5 (1.5)	12.9 (1.0)	23.9 (1.3)	8.5 (0.7)	7.2 (0.7)
Understands Veterans	27.2 (1.3)	16.8 (1.1)	38.2 (1.4)	10.4 (0.8)	7.4 (0.7)
VA Coverage					
Cost of care	29.4 (2.1)	13.2 (1.9)	40.1 (2.3)	8.5 (1.3)	8.8 (1.2)
Recommendation by MD	27.4 (2.0)	19.8 (1.8)	33.4 (2.3)	11.1 (1.5)	8.2 (1.1)
Reputation of MD	44.9 (2.5)	12.0 (1.4)	25.6 (2.0)	8.8 (1.4)	8.7 (1.2)
Wait time for appt	27.8 (2.0)	27.1 (1.9)	30.2 (2.0)	6.7 (1.2)	8.2 (1.1)

Survey response	Major factor	Minor factor	Not a factor	Don't know	No response
Factor	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)	Percent (SE)
Location of MD	35.0 (2.0)	23.9 (2.0)	26.8 (2.0)	6.1 (1.1)	8.2 (1.1)
In network	39.6 (2.4)	12.3 (1.6)	27.5 (2.0)	11.5 (1.4)	9.0 (1.2)
Understands Veterans	41.1 (2.3)	13.6 (1.6)	27.9 (2.0)	8.9 (1.2)	8.5 (1.1)
No VA coverage					
Cost of care	28.1 (1.7)	19.9*** (1.6)	37.8 (1.9)	7.7 (0.9)	6.5* (0.8)
Recommendation by MD	31.9* (1.8)	25.6** (1.4)	28.2* (1.5)	7.7** (0.9)	6.7 (0.8)
Reputation of MD	50.8* (1.8)	18.9*** (1.4)	17.3*** (1.3)	6.6 (0.9)	6.5 (0.8)
Wait time for appt	25.6 (1.5)	34.1*** (1.7)	28.3 (1.5)	5.2 (0.7)	6.8 (0.8)
Location of MD	39.6* (1.7)	28.9* (1.7)	19.9*** (1.4)	4.6 (0.7)	7.0 (0.9)
In network	52.3*** (1.9)	13.3 (1.3)	21.7** (1.5)	6.7*** (0.8)	6.0** (0.8)
Understands Veterans	18.8*** (1.5)	18.6** (1.4)	44.4*** (1.9)	11.3 (1.0)	6.8 (0.8)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. *, **, and *** indicate that the differences from male Veterans are significant at the $p < 0.10$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.01$ levels, respectively. Sample sizes for all Veterans, VA coverage, and no VA coverage are 2,295, 887, and 1,408, respectively. Abbreviations: SE = standard error; VA = Department of Veteran Affairs; MD = medical doctor.

Table 6. Patient experience with VA primary care provider or Patient Aligned Care Team, 2018–2019

Survey response	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never	No response
Survey question	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	n Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)
How often VA PCP/PACT knew about past health problems or treatments (Q21)	392 2,606 67.6% (2.9)	120 725 18.8% (1.9)	41 303 7.9% (1.8)	20 147 3.8% (0.8)	9 74 1.9% (1.0)
How often VA PCP/PACT knew about tests or results from other VA providers (Q23)	228 1,511 41.1% (2.5)	62 392 10.7% (1.6)	18 157 4.3% (1.1)	35 228 6.2% (1.2)	210 1,392 37.8% (2.4)
How often VA PCP/PACT kept health information complete and up-to-date (Q24)	414 2,708 70.2% (2.8)	89 589 15.3% (2.2)	32 245 6.4% (1.4)	15 113 2.9% (0.8)	32 200 5.2% (1.2)
How often got medical records as soon as you needed it (Q26)	76 459 54.9% (3.9)	22 137 16.4% (3.3)	12 66 7.9% (1.0)	26 164 19.7% (3.9)	1 10 1.2% (0.1)
How often got referral to see non-VA provider as soon as needed it (Q28)	85 555 44.6% (3.4)	54 271 21.8% (2.2)	15 101 8.1% (2.9)	45 298 23.9% (3.0)	2 20 1.6% (1.6)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. Note that sample size is restricted to either Veterans receiving any VA PCP/PACT care in the past 12 months or a subset and thus may vary across questions. Abbreviations: n = unweighted count; SE = standard error; VA = Department of Veterans Affairs; PCP = primary care provider; PACT = Patient Aligned Care Team.

Table 7. Patient experience with non-VA providers, 2018–2019

Survey Response	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never	No Response
Survey Question	N Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	N Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	N Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	N Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)	N Population (in thousands) Percent (SE)
How often non-VA provider knew about past health problems or treatments (Q13)	868 6,035 50.6% (1.6)	308 2,100 17.6% (1.3)	197 1,428 12.0% (1.2)	273 1,993 16.7% (1.2)	54 375 3.1% (0.6)
How often non-VA provider kept health information complete and up-to-date (Q14)	1,053 7,416 62.2 (1.6)	281 1,809 15.2 (1.1)	100 788 6.6 (0.9)	188 1,339 11.2 (1.0)	78 579 4.9 (0.7)
How often got medical records from non-VA provider as soon as you needed it (Q16)	166 1,151 41.2 (2.7)	65 464 16.6 (2.0)	38 278 9.9 (2.2)	136 864 30.9 (3.1)	5 38 1.4 (0.8)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. Note that sample size is restricted to Veterans receiving care from a non-VA provider in the past 12 months or a subset and thus may vary across questions. Abbreviations: n = unweighted count; SE = standard error; VA = Department of Veterans Affairs.

Table 8. Patient experience with VA specialists by age, 2018–2019

Did the VA specialist have enough information about your medical history (Q32)?					
All	Yes	No	No response	No VA specialist care	
n	n	n	n	n	n
Population	Population	Population	Population	Population	Population
(in thousands)	(in thousands)	(in thousands)	(in thousands)	(in thousands)	(in thousands)
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
(SE)	(SE)	(SE)	(SE)	(SE)	(SE)
All Veterans					
2,295	332	33	1	1,929	
16,388	2,139	234	3	14,012	
100.0%	90.1%	9.8%	0.1%	—	
(0.0)	(1.6)	(1.6)	(0.0)	—	
Non-elderly Veterans (ages 18–64)					
999	144	23	0	832	
7,996	1,049	167	0	6,779	
100.0%	86.2%	13.8%	0.0%	—	
(0.0)	(2.7)	(2.7)	(0.0)	—	
Elderly Veterans (ages 65+)					
1,296	188	10	1	1,097	
8,392	1,090	66	3	7,234	
100.0	94.1	5.7	0.2	—	
(0.0)	(1.9)**	(1.9)**	(0.0)	—	

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. *, **, and *** indicate that the differences from male Veterans are significant at the $p < 0.10$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.01$ levels, respectively. Abbreviations: n = unweighted count; SE = standard error; VA = Department of Veterans Affairs.

Table 9. Number and percent of Veterans with healthcare use from multiple types of providers, 2018–2019

Number of Veterans	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Number of all Veterans	2,295	16,388 (751)	100.0 (0.0)
Number with care from a VA provider (Q19=1)	695	4,589 (279)	28.0 (1.2)
Number with any VA PCP or PACT visit (Q20=1)	582	3,855 (251)	23.5 (1.2)
Number with any VA specialist visit (Q31=1)	366	2,375 (172)	14.5 (0.9)
Number with any non-VA provider visit (Q12=1)	1,700	11,931 (549)	72.8 (1.3)
Number with care from a VA PCP or PACT and another VA provider (Q20=1 and Q22=1)	553	3,680 (246)	22.5 (1.2)
Number with both VA PCP/PACT and VA specialist visit (Q20=1, Q31=1)	316	2,083 (159)	12.7 (0.9)
Number with both VA PCP/PACT and non-VA provider visit (Q20=1, Q12=1)	372	2,426 (193)	14.8 (1.1)
Number with both VA specialist and non-VA provider visit (Q31=1, Q12=1)	251	1,612 (152)	9.8 (0.9)
Number with visit to at least two types of providers (Q20=1, Q31=1, Q12=1)	519	3,401 (217)	20.8 (1.1)
Number with visits with all three provider types (Q20=1, Q31=1, Q12=1)	210	1,360 (139)	8.3 (0.8)
Number who asked for his/her medical records from VA PCP (Q20=1 and Q25=1)	137	836 (97)	5.1 (0.5)

Number of Veterans	n	Population (in thousands) (SE)	Percent (SE)
Number who asked for his/her medical records from non-VA provider (Q12=1 and Q15=1)	410	2,796 (223)	17.1 (1.0)
Number who needed a referral from VA PCP/PACT to see a non-VA provider (Q20=1 and Q27=1)	201	1,245 (124)	7.6 (0.7)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. Abbreviations: n = unweighted count; SE = standard error; VA = Department of Veterans Affairs; PCP = primary care provider; PACT = Patient Aligned Care Team.

Table 10. Care coordination between VA and non-VA providers, 2018–2019

Survey Response	Conditional yes	Conditional no	Yes	No	Did not receive healthcare	No response
Survey Question	n Population Percent ⁴ (SE)	n Population Percent (SE)	n Population Percent ⁵ (SE)	n Population Percent (SE)	n Population Percent (SE)	n Population Percent (SE)
Is VA PCP/PACT aware of healthcare services outside the VA (Q29)? ¹	206 1,402,848 63.2% (3.1)	130 816,349 36.8% (3.1)	206 1,402,848 57.8% (3.0)	130 816,349 33.6% (2.9)	23 151,419 6.2% (1.1)	13 55,838 2.3% (0.8)
Is VA specialist aware of healthcare services outside the VA (Q33)? ²	99 634,213 40.8% (3.4)	142 921,631 59.2% (3.4)	99 634,213 39.3% (3.3)	142 921,631 57.2% (3.3)	7 45,388 2.8% (0.7)	3 10,720 0.7% (0.0)
Is non-VA provider aware of healthcare services at the VA (Q17)? ³	285 1,889,530 64.8% (2.7)	162 1,027,507 35.2% (2.7)	285 1,889,530 64.8% (2.7)	162 1,027,507 35.2% (2.7)	0 0 0.0% (0.0)	0 0 0.0% (0.0)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. Sample size is restricted to Veterans receiving care from the two provider types (mentioned in each question) in the past 12 months and thus varies across questions. Abbreviations: n = unweighted count; SE = standard error; VA = Department of Veterans Affairs; PCP = primary care provider; PACT = Patient Aligned Care Team.

¹ 6.2% of Veterans with care from a VA PCP/PACT and non-VA provider reported they did not receive care outside the VA.

² 2.8% of Veterans with care from a VA specialist and non-VA provider reported they did not receive care outside the VA.

³ 0.0% of Veterans with care from a non-VA provider and VA provider reported they did not receive care at the VA.

⁴ For the first two columns, the denominator for the percent is the number of Veterans who received care from both types of providers and also responded with yes or no to the question (i.e., the sum of conditional yes and conditional no).

⁵ For Columns 3 through 6, the denominator for the percent is the number of Veterans who received care from both types of providers.

Table 11. Care coordination problems between VA and non-VA providers, 2018–2019

Survey response	Not a problem	Small problem	Big problem	No response
Survey Question	n Population Percent (SE)	n Population Percent (SE)	n Population Percent (SE)	n Population Percent (SE)
Problem with VA PCP/PACT not being aware of services outside the VA (Q30)	108 677,365 83.0% (3.9)	15 75,860 9.3% (0.6)	7 63,125 7.7% (4.2)	0 0 0.0% (0.0)
Problem with VA specialist not being aware of services outside the VA (Q34)	125 825,967 89.6% (2.1)	10 50,068 5.4% (0.5)	5 29,889 3.2% (1.9)	2 15,706 1.7% (0.6)
Problem with non-VA provider not being aware of services at the VA (Q18)	137 864,934 84.2% (2.4)	18 110,007 10.7% (2.1)	2 26,817 2.6% (0.1)	5 25,748 2.5% (1.1)

Source: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey–Household Component, 2018–2019.

Note: Standard errors are in parentheses. Note that sample size is restricted to Veterans receiving care from multiple provider types in the past 12 months and thus varies across questions. Abbreviations: n = unweighted count; SE = standard error; VA = Department of Veterans Affairs; PCP = primary care provider; PACT = Patient Aligned Care Team.