

- The military population is an underserved group with unique healthcare needs.
- It is important that providers and clinicians use culturally competent care that extends not only to the client being served, but also to members of their support system.
- Military populations are increasingly seeking services from medical providers within the civilian sector.
- In 2017, fewer than half of the veterans enrolled in the VA Healthcare System accessed these services.
- Veterans who do utilize VA Healthcare services also frequently receive care in the civilian community.
- These numbers may also increase due to changes to Veteran care access to civilian providers through the [MISSION Act](#) (2019).
- **Understanding and knowledge in the following areas can help medical providers provide the optimum level of care:**
 - *Identification of veterans who are accessing services*
 - *How to obtain a military health history*
 - *Impact on families and support systems of military service members*
 - *Knowledge of specific methods of injury and likely impact on function*
 - *Common challenges facing military populations including integration back into civilian life*
 - *Understanding of military history, structure, and lingo*
 - *Awareness of barriers to medical care and resources to address these challenges*
 - *Knowing what to say and what NOT to say when providing care*
- You can find more information on the unique needs of working with Military Service Members and their families here:
 - Treating Military Service Members and Veterans in the Private Sector:
[https://www.archives-pmr.org/article/S0003-9993\(18\)30429-5/pdf](https://www.archives-pmr.org/article/S0003-9993(18)30429-5/pdf)
 - Treating Military Spouses) in the Private Sector:
[https://www.archives-pmr.org/article/S0003-9993\(19\)31470-4/pdf](https://www.archives-pmr.org/article/S0003-9993(19)31470-4/pdf)

Additional Comments:

