

Office of Health Equity Veterans Health Administration Department of Veterans Affairs



HISPANIC VETERANS FACT SHEET

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INTRODUCTION

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), part of the Department of Veterans Affairs serves a Veteran population that is increasingly racially and ethnically diverse. Equitable access to high-quality care for all Veterans is a major tenet of the VA healthcare mission. The Office of Health Equity (OHE) champions the elimination of health disparities and achieving health equity for all Veterans.

The Office of Health Equity-QUERI Partnered Evaluation Center examines and evaluates health outcomes and healthcare quality across the entire VA healthcare system paying special attention to whether gender, geographical location, or individuals that are members of minority population groups experience disparities in care.

Hispanics are the largest ethnic minority in the United States. There are currently more than 1.4 million Hispanic Veterans living in the United States. Hispanics represent 7% of the total Veteran population and 5% of Veterans utilizing VA health care.

Almost three-quarters of Hispanic Veterans who are eligible for VA health care receive their care through VA and do so regularly and more frequently than the overall Veteran population.

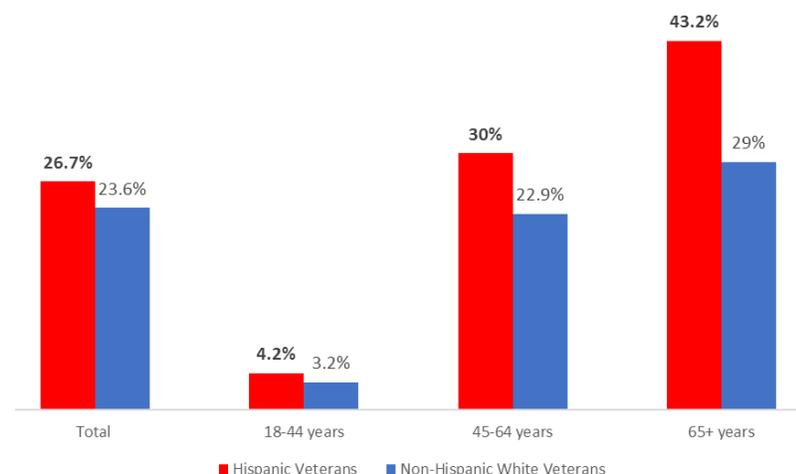
OHE is highlighting the health status of Hispanic Veterans and VA's efforts to reduce disparities in quality of care and improve health outcomes for Hispanic Veterans.

HEALTH STATUS

Hypertension and lipid disorders are the top 2 most common diagnoses in Veterans. While Hispanic Veterans have lower rates of these conditions than non-Hispanic White Veterans, they have higher rates of diabetes, spine disorders and eye disorders than non-Hispanic White Veterans.

Diabetes is one of the most common diagnoses in Hispanic Veterans. Hispanics are more likely to have diabetes than non-Hispanic Whites across all age groups.

Percent of Veterans with Diabetes, Hispanic Veterans Compared to Non-Hispanic White Veterans by Age Group, FY 2014



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QUALITY OF VHA CARE

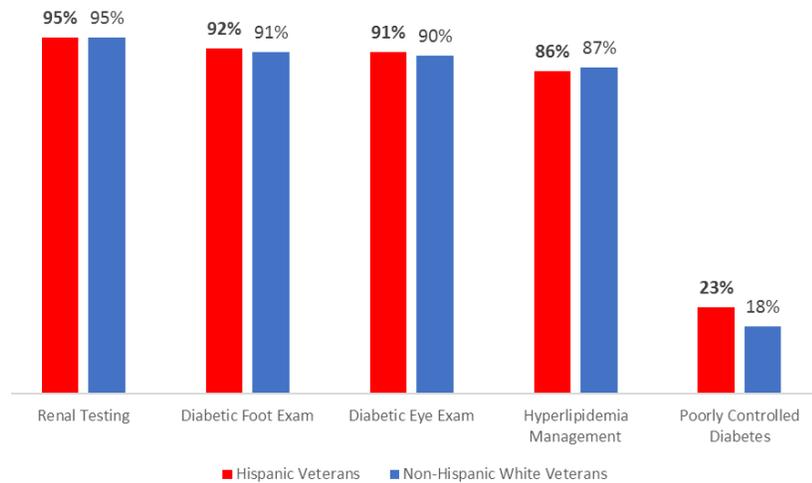
Quality of diabetes care for Veterans is good overall, and there are minimal disparities in the quality of diabetes care between Hispanic Veterans and non-Hispanic White Veterans receive. Despite overall high quality of care, Hispanic Veterans are more likely to have poorly controlled diabetes than their white, non-Hispanic counterparts.

REDUCING DISPARITIES

The health of Hispanic Americans is shaped by language/cultural barriers and other social determinants of health. Because health outcomes are so closely connected to Hispanics' social environment and socioeconomic status, culturally tailored public health initiatives may help improve health outcomes in the Hispanic community.

Hispanic Veterans can benefit from programs that connect them with culturally and linguistically appropriate comprehensive diabetes management and prevention programs that may include promotores (Spanish speaking community

Quality of Diabetes Care- Hispanic Veterans Compared to Non-Hispanic White Veteran Population, FY 2014



workers), peer mentors, support groups, and formal nutrition and diabetes self-management training.

An OHE-supported project with VA Heart of Texas Health Care Network (VISN 17) developed and delivered a culturally sensitive MOVE! curriculum aimed to address the specific needs of Hispanic Veterans with diabetes in Texas. Participants who participated in at least one MOVE! Diabetes session experienced significant improvements in long term diabetes control.

For more information about the Office of Health Equity visit: <https://www.va.gov/healthequity/>

References

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