

SCREEN FOR VETERAN STATUS DURING INTAKE

ASK, “HAVE YOU SERVED?”

Less than 50% of Veterans are connected to all their military benefits. Connection to benefits saves lives and improves quality of life. Help get them connected*!

Over 1/3 of Veterans receive care in the community. Awareness of your clients’ military service and the potential implications can inform treatment planning and open doors to resources and benefits.

“**Have you or a member of your household ever served in the military?**” is the preferred screening question vs. “Are you a Veteran?” as it enables those who don’t feel comfortable with the term Veteran or don’t identify as a Veteran to be recognized.

This also helps identify spouses (benefits) and non-family members who are providing care (caregiver benefits), allows others to identify Veterans, informs providers of conditions potentially associated with generational effects of military service, and the potential to bill the VA for services.

This is a national movement with programs such as the [Governors Challenge](#), “[Have You Served?](#)” and American Academy of Nursing’s, “[Have You Ever Served?](#)” screening programs. Other supporters are the [American Medical Assoc.](#), [Health Care Assoc. of Mich.](#), [Nat’l Assoc. of Community Health Centers](#), [Mich. HomeCare & Hospice Assoc.](#), [Health Resources and Services Admin.](#), [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Admin.](#), [U of M’s Center for Health and Research Transformation \(CHRT\) & the Mich. Health Endowment Fund](#). Peer reviewed articles and research: [FQHC Study](#), [Optimal Care](#), [Importance](#), [Nursing2024](#), [Primary Care](#), [Non-VA Doctors](#), [Nurses Must Ask](#).

Community Provider Toolkit: Co-occurring disorders toolkit for community health care providers working with Veterans. mentalhealth.va.gov/healthcare-providers

Documenting the number of Veterans served can influence funding allocations.

It’s not just an intake form, it’s a life-altering journey!

*The PACT Act is a new law, and the most significant expansion and extension of Veteran benefits, eligibility, and care in 30+ years. Those previously denied for benefits should reapply. **Contact your County VA Office and Veteran Service Officers**. They provide accredited claims services (Health Care AND other benefits) for Veterans and their families, at **no charge** [LINK](#). Or dial **1-800-MICH-VET**

mcrh.msu.edu/programs/Veterans-Care

