

# SCREEN FOR VETERAN STATUS DURING INTAKE

## ASK, “HAVE YOU SERVED?”

**Less than 50% of Veterans are connected** to all their earned military benefits\*. Connection to benefits saves lives and improves quality of life; we need help identifying those who have served.

Awareness of your clients’ military service and the potential implications can inform treatment planning and open doors to resources and benefits.

Many Veterans receive care in the community. Some use a combination of VA and VA referred community care, some use community care only, some use the VA only.

“**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 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](#).

Documenting the number of Veterans served can influence funding allocations.

[Visit the VA Community Provider Toolkit page.](#)

\*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](http://mcrh.msu.edu/programs/Veterans-Care)

