



Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

Resource List – January 2020

Advances in Women’s Health:

Women's Health Issues and the Law

United States servicewomen face unique sexual and reproductive health challenges, including disproportionately high rates of unintended pregnancy and sexual assault. Compounding this, federal law prohibits abortion coverage and provision at military facilities except in cases of life endangerment, rape or incest. The study, [Abortion and Contraceptive Access among Active-duty Women in the United States Military: A Qualitative Study](#) explored servicewomen's experiences accessing contraception and abortion during active-duty service and perspectives on military abortion laws.

The objectives of the study, [Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence among Women Veterans who Utilize Veterans Health Administration Primary Care](#) were to identify the prevalence of past-year intimate partner violence (IPV) among women Veterans utilizing Veterans Health Administration (VHA) primary care, and to document associated demographic, military, and primary care characteristics. The study concluded that there was a high prevalence of past-year IPV among women beyond childbearing years, the majority of whom primarily rely on VHA as a source of health care, reinforcing the importance of screening all women for IPV in VHA primary care settings. Key considerations for service implementation included sensitivity with respect to sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, and other aspects of diversity, as well as care coordination and linkages with social services and Military Sexual Trauma (MST)-related care.

An increasing number of young women Veterans seek reproductive health care through the Veteran Affairs (VA), yet little is known regarding the provision of infertility care for this population. The VA provides a range of infertility services for Veterans including artificial insemination, but does not provide in vitro fertilization. The study, [Infertility Care among Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn \(OEF/OIF/OND\) Women Veterans in the Department of Veterans Affairs](#) was one of the first to characterize infertility care among OEF/OIF/OND women Veterans using VA care. The authors concluded nearly 40% of those who received infertility treatments received these treatments from non-VA providers, indicating that the VA may need to examine the training and resources needed to provide this care within the VA.



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References

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