

**The State of Women Veterans' Health Research: Results of a Systematic Literature Review
Evidence Tables**

Table 2b. Evidence Table of Health & Performance: <i>Health Needs and Utilization</i>						
Author	Women Veteran Specific?	Sample characteristics	Sample size [N]	Design	Main measures	Description
Murphy, 1997 (86)	Yes	Sample from the Persian Gulf War health registry, established 1992	5483 women and 47335 men	Non-systematic review	Health symptoms or issues and mortality	Evaluated the health of Gulf War women to better understand their medical needs. Women's health care needs during the Gulf War were similar to those of men with the exception of gynecologic problems. At 5 years from the end of the war, no unique health problems had been identified among women veterans.
Pierce, 1999 (87)	Yes	Sample of Gulf War women veterans from the Department of Defense Manpower Data Center of all records for women who served in the military during the Gulf War	525 Persian Gulf women veterans	Observ. Study- Assess risk or prognosis	Prevalence of gender-specific problems; health care utilization rates for gender-specific problems; satisfaction with military and civilian life	Describes health care utilization rates for gender-specific problems. 79% of women had at least one gender-specific condition for which they sought care. The number of reported gender-specific health problems was highest for the group aged 30-39 as compared to those 19-29 or those 40 and older. For most health conditions, satisfaction ratings were higher for civilian care.
Skinner, 1999 (88)	Yes	Single VA	719 women	All Other Observational	Health status as measured by SF-36	Surveyed women veteran users of outpatient services in the Boston area. Compared results to data on male veterans from the Veterans' Health Study. Found that women veterans had lower scores than comparison groups, particularly in the areas of mental functioning.

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Stern, 2000 (89)	Yes	Sample of women veterans from the National Registry of Women Veterans	1500 women veterans	All Other Observational	Sociodemographics, military factors, self-reported health status, utilization of health services	Describes characteristics of the female veteran population surveyed, comparing younger to older women. More than half of each age group reported their current health as being good or excellent. Functional status was related to age with older women having the worst functional status. Older women were more likely to report physical service-connected disabilities.
Stuart, 2002 (16)	Yes - compares men and women	Persian Gulf War theater veterans receiving clinical evaluations as part of DOD's Gulf War Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program (CCEP), 2000	46,633 veterans (4888 females)	Descriptive Study	Health symptoms; wartime exposures; primary and secondary physician-determined medical diagnoses	Examined health status of male and female Gulf War theater veterans. Found that the most frequent diagnoses were musculoskeletal/connective tissue diseases, ill-defined conditions and mental disorders. Female veterans were more frequently diagnosed with mental disorders. Self-reported health of veterans with symptoms was much poorer than that of veterans with no symptoms; and women had poorer health status than men.

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Sadler, 2004 (54)	Yes	Historical cohort of women veterans from different war eras derived from the registries of five comprehensive women's health centers, interviewed from 11/96 – 5/97	558 women veterans	Observ. Study – Assess risk and prognosis	Sociodemographic characteristics, military experiences, current medical and mental health conditions, outpatient utilization, health status	Evaluated health status and healthcare utilization in women with and without histories of sexual assault. 41% of the women had experienced either rape or physical assault in their lifetimes. Women who had multiple traumas during military service had greater numbers of physician visits than singly victimized or non-victimized women. Multiply traumatized women also had the poorest health status compared to the other groups.
Bradley, 2001 (90)	Yes	Sample of all female veterans who received care from the VA Puget Sound Health Care System between 10/1/96 and 1/1/98	1243 women veterans	Observ. Study – Assess risk and prognosis	Alcohol use including binge drinking and alcohol-related problems; psychiatric symptoms	Evaluated the prevalence and associated risk of binge drinking in a population of women veterans. 25% of respondents reported binge drinking and these women tended to be younger, unmarried, and with less education. In regression analyses, binge drinkers were significantly more likely to screen positive for panic disorder. Binge drinkers also had higher rates of health problems including STDs, hepatitis or cirrhosis, injuries and domestic violence. Smoking, drug use and having multiple sexual partners increased with the frequency of binge drinking

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Carney, 2003 (20)	Yes, compares men and women	Population-based sample of lowan men and women veterans who served in the Gulf War, 8/90 – 8/91	1767 men; 129 women	Observ. Study – Assess risk and prognosis	Demographics; wartime exposures; preparedness; health care use and health status	Describes the military experiences and postwar health care use of women who were deployed to the Gulf War and compares them to men and to non-deployed women. Deployed women were more often in the Army, single, without children, and college educated than non-deployed women. Deployed men and women had similar military experiences though men more often participated in combat.
Skelton, 1995 (76)	Yes	Female prisoners of war from WWII – incarcerated by the Japanese in the Philippines	41 female ex-POWs	Descriptive Study	Details related to service connected disability;	Rates of service connection (50%) were similar for these women as compared to male ex-POWs of the Pacific Theater. Average degrees of disability were also similar (37%). Reasons for disability are very similar to those for male ex-POWs with the exception that no women were service-connected for tuberculosis or peptic ulcer disease.