

Project Number: XVA 11-006

Project Title: Military Sexual Trauma Among the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces

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Background/Rationale:

Congress is considering how to provide health care required for sexual trauma suffered by reservists in the U.S. armed forces. One option is to allow reservists to access VA care related to sexual harassment or assault suffered during reserve service.

Objectives:

To determine the additional resources that, in the judgment of the Secretary, would be required to meet the projected need of those former members for such counseling.

Methods:

The number of reservists requiring treatment is derived from a survey of prior reservists. We have calculated an average cost for treatment by empirical determination of average cost of current treatment in VA. The cost estimates are based on three scenarios: a) that all health services provided to veterans who have experienced MST would be provided; b) that only services coded as related to MST would be provided; and c) that only services that have been identified as sexual trauma treatment by VA hospitals would be provided.

Findings/Results:

The survey has been fielded and data from over 3,900 respondents has been collected. VA patients receiving similar types of mental health services (e.g., for PTSD) have been identified and their utilization and costs of care in VA are analyzed as a basis for costing services to reservists.

Impact:

Expected impact is a Congressional decision whether care for reservists who experienced MST will be provided through VA.