NCIOM TASK FORCE ON VETERANS' HEALTH

Key Points for Veteran Advocates

BACKGROUND

North Carolina is home to over **615,000 Veterans**, representing roughly 7% of the state's population

Suicide continues to be one of the most pressing **public health concerns** in the Veteran community

Many Veterans **never receive benefits** they have legitimately earned—not because they don't qualify, but because they are not educated on their benefits and **don't know to ask.**

Veterans face **unique health risks** shaped by their service experiences

61% of Veterans **struggle** to access or understand their benefits and **25%** are unaware that free help from a Veteran Service Organization is available to help with claim filing.



NCIOM TASK FORCE ON VETERANS' HEALTH

The task force was co-chaired by:



Secretary Jocelyn Mitnaul Mallette

JD, MA, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



Margaret Chamberlain Wilmoth

PhD, MSS, RN, FAAN, Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Schol of Nursing, President, Reserve Organization of America



Paul Berry

Director of Strategic Partnerships and Integration, Veterans Bridge Home

45 Task force members

65 Work group members

Most of the task force and work group members were Veterans themselves or close family of Veterans

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Veterans and Advocates

STRATEGY 1.1

Increase funding to support Veterans' access to the services they are eligible for

STRATEGY 1.2

Increase community identification of Veterans

STRATEGY 1.3

Develop community-based engagement strategies to connect with Veterans

STRATEGY 1.4

Maintain Veterans Benefit Live events

STRATEGY 1.5

End predatory Veteran claims services

STRATEGY 4.3

Assist justice-involved Veterans in accessing available health-related services



Encourage health care providers to **ask patients** about their **military connections** and learn how to address **service-connected conditions**

SCAN HERE

The task force produced 8 recommendations and 26 strategies to improve access, quality, and experience of community-based care for Veterans, their families, and caregivers. Read the full report here.