# Article information:

Evidence Review—Social Determinants of Health for Veterans - PMC  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6153229/>

# Article summary:

1. The article reviews the social determinants of health for Veterans, focusing on how factors such as education, income, rurality, trauma exposure, sexual orientation, and gender identity impact health outcomes and healthcare utilization.

2. The study found that there were no differences in rural residence between Veterans and non-Veterans, but trauma exposure was higher in Veterans compared to non-Veterans. Trauma exposure was also more prevalent in engaged Veterans compared to non-engaged Veterans.

3. The authors recommend consistent measures for social determinants, clear conceptual frameworks, and analytic strategies that account for the complex relationships between social determinants and health in order to address disparities in healthcare for vulnerable populations like Veterans.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "Evidence Review—Social Determinants of Health for Veterans" provides a comprehensive review of the existing literature on how social determinants may impact health outcomes and healthcare utilization for Veterans compared to non-Veterans, as well as for engaged versus non-engaged Veterans in VHA care. The study aims to provide guidance to VA policymakers on addressing social determinants in operations planning and clinical care for Veterans.

One potential bias in the article is the limited scope of the search strategy. The authors only searched English-language databases up to January 2017, which may have excluded relevant studies published after this date or studies published in other languages. This could lead to a biased selection of articles and potentially overlook important evidence on social determinants affecting Veterans' health.

Additionally, the article focuses primarily on socioeconomic factors such as education and income, with fewer articles addressing other important social determinants such as rurality, trauma exposure, sexual orientation, and gender identity. This narrow focus may limit the understanding of how these factors contribute to health disparities among Veterans. The lack of evidence on certain social determinants raises questions about the comprehensiveness of the review and whether all relevant factors influencing Veterans' health outcomes were adequately considered.

Furthermore, the article does not thoroughly explore potential counterarguments or alternative perspectives related to social determinants and their impact on Veteran health. By not presenting a balanced view of different interpretations or conflicting evidence, there is a risk of one-sided reporting that may oversimplify complex issues surrounding social determinants and their effects on health outcomes.

Moreover, while the article highlights the importance of addressing social determinants in healthcare policy and practice, it does not provide specific recommendations or strategies for integrating this knowledge into VHA services effectively. Without clear guidance on how to translate research findings into actionable interventions, there is a risk that the potential benefits of understanding social determinants may not be fully realized in improving Veteran health outcomes.

Overall, while the article offers valuable insights into the role of social determinants in shaping health disparities among Veterans, there are notable limitations in terms of search methodology, scope of analysis, consideration of alternative viewpoints, and practical implications for policy and practice. Addressing these shortcomings could enhance the credibility and relevance of the findings presented in this study.

# Topics for further research:

* Social determinants of health in Veterans related to trauma exposure
* Impact of rurality on health outcomes for Veterans
* LGBTQ+ Veterans and social determinants of health
* Gender identity and health disparities among Veterans
* Cultural factors influencing health outcomes in Veteran populations
* Strategies for addressing social determinants in VHA healthcare services

# Report location:

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