



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH FOR VETERANS

Veterans in Montana face unique challenges that affect their well being



- **Healthcare Access and Quality:** Geographic isolation and limited healthcare facilities in rural areas can make accessing quality healthcare difficult for veterans. Veterans are also at a higher risk for mental health issues such as PTSD, depression, and anxiety, which can be exacerbated by the stress of transitioning to civilian life.
- **Neighborhood and Built Environment:** Homelessness is a significant issue among veterans, with many facing housing instability due to economic and social factors.
- **Social and Community Context:** Veterans may experience a lack of social support or face challenges in integrating into civilian educational environments. This can include feeling isolated or misunderstood by peers who do not share similar experiences.
- **Economic Stability:** Veterans often experience economic challenges, including higher rates of poverty and unemployment compared to non-veterans.
- **Education Access and Quality:** Veterans might face difficulties in accessing quality education due to geographic location, availability of veteran-friendly institutions, or lack of awareness about educational benefits and resources available to them.

Helpful Resources

- **Montana Veteran's Affairs Division:** They offer a statewide network of services for veterans and their families, including benefits assistance, state veterans cemeteries, and more.
- **VA Montana Health Care:** Provides a wide range of health and support services, including medical centers and clinics throughout the state.
- **Veterans Inc.:** Offers employment and training programs, as well as supportive services for veteran families in Montana and North Dakota.
- **ACORN (Assessing Circumstances and Offering Resources for Needs)** is a Veterans Health Administration initiative that identifies and addresses health-related social needs among veterans. It uses a standardized screening tool to assess areas like food, housing, utilities, transportation, and more, providing real-time information to care teams and offering relevant resources and referrals to support veterans' overall well-being.