

SERVE ACT (H.R. 1309/S. 194)

SUPPORTING EATING DISORDERS RECOVERY THROUGH VITAL EXPANSION

THE FACTS ON EATING DISORDERS



NUMBER OF AMERICANS AFFECTED
BY EATING DISORDERS:
28.8 MILLION¹



ONE DEATH EVERY
52 MINUTES²

YEARLY COST OF UNTREATED EATING DISORDERS:³

U.S.
ECONOMY
\$64.7 BILLION

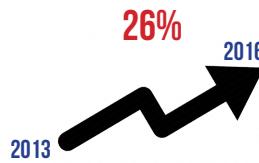
FAMILIES &
INDIVIDUALS
\$23.5 BILLION



EATING DISORDERS IN THE MILITARY & MILITARY FAMILIES

SERVICEMEMBERS:

HIGHER PREVALENCE RATE OF EATING DISORDERS IN THE MILITARY COMPARED TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, DUE TO COMBAT EXPOSURE, STRICT WEIGHT AND PHYSICAL FITNESS REQUIREMENTS, AND OTHER UNIQUE RISK FACTORS⁵



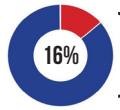
DIAGNOSES OF EATING DISORDERS AMONG
MILITARY PERSONNEL⁶

PTSD/MST



EATING DISORDERS

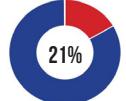
STUDIES SHOW THAT THERE IS A STRONG
CORRELATION BETWEEN PTSD, MILITARY
SEXUAL TRAUMA, AND EATING DISORDERS⁷



PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE VETERANS WHO
ARE AFFECTED BY AN EATING DISORDER⁸

MILITARY FAMILIES:

SYMPTOMATIC FOR
AN EATING DISORDER:⁹



CHILDREN OF
SERVICEMEMBERS



SPOUSES OF
SERVICEMEMBERS

THESE RATES ARE 3 TIMES THAT OF THEIR CIVILIAN PEERS¹⁰

SERVE ACT INCREASES IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF EATING DISORDERS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

ISSUE #1: AGE LIMIT ON CARE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

ISSUE:

- Military family members cannot receive higher levels of evidence-based eating disorders treatment, called residential treatment, if they are over the age of 20. Those affected by substance use disorder are not faced with the same age restriction.

SOLUTION:

- Extend the age limit for military family members to access residential eating disorders care from 20 to the Medicare-eligibility age.

ISSUE #2: DEFENSE HEALTH BOARD REPORT RECOMMENDED SYSTEMATIC PROTOCOLS FOR SCREENING AND TREATMENT OF EATING DISORDERS

ISSUE:

- The Defense Health Board report found that women in the armed forces are disproportionately impacted by eating disorders, affecting military readiness and health. The report also noted, "variability in screening protocols results in stark differences in reported prevalence of diagnosed eating disorders."¹¹

SOLUTION:

- Require the Secretary of Defense to take steps to identify, treat, and rehabilitate servicemembers affected by eating disorders, as was done for substance use disorder.
- Require the DoD and VA to establish clinical practice guidelines for eating disorders treatment, which have been created for numerous other medical and mental health conditions.

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Citations from Infographic:

(1): Deloitte Access Economics. The Social and Economic Cost of Eating Disorders in the United States of America: A Report for the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders and the Academy for Eating Disorders. June 2020. Available at: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/striped/report-economic-costs-of-eating-disorders/>.

(2): Ibid

(3): Ibid

(4): Harris, E.C. & Barraclough, B. (1997). Suicide as an outcome for mental disorders: a meta-analysis. British Journal of Psychiatry, 170(3), 205-228.

(5): Bartlett, B. and Mitchell, K., 2015. Eating disorders in military and veteran men and women: A systematic review. International Journal of Eating Disorders, 48(8), pp.1057-1069.

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