

High Users of Primary Health Care Services Among Canadian Armed Forces Veterans

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Abstract: The ultimate goal of this research is to improve the health and well-being of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) veterans by improving the match between care needs and the allocation of health services. To accomplish this, the descriptive and predictive characteristics of high users of primary health care services among CAF veterans will be identified. Quantitative analysis of the 2016 Life After Service Survey, which is nationally representative of over 56,000 CAF veterans, will be conducted. It contains valid and reliable self-reported data on health, disability, and determinants of health using questions from Canadian population health surveys. Descriptive statistics of the characteristics of high users (top 5%), other users, and non-users of primary health care services, measured as self-reported family doctor visits in the previous 12 months, will be calculated. Multivariate logistic regression modeling will be used to identify significant predictors of being a high user. This study has implications for informing health care policy that will ensure that the right veteran receives the right care at the right time.