

TITLE: Gaps in Care for Disabled Gender Diverse Veterans: A Case Study

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Researchers, providers, administrators, policy makers

ABSTRACT: Statement of the problem: Nearly 20% of Veterans receive disability benefits. More than 130,000 Veterans are gender diverse. However, little is known about the specific experiences of gender diverse Veterans with disabilities. Study aim: Explore gaps in healthcare experienced by a non-passing transgender Veteran with autism. Approach/Methods: While in an inpatient psychiatric unit, a non-passing transgender Veteran with autism was interviewed as a part of a larger qualitative project. This interview was set aside for individual analysis and was coded using an inductive strategy. Conclusions: Veteran disclosed that they felt like a 'misfit' among other Veterans, even going so far as to express fear towards other Veterans and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Veteran expressed a desire for more gender-affirming care as well as both more accessible healthcare and more accessible spaces at VHA facilities. Implications: This case study highlights care gaps for gender diverse Veterans with disabilities. Findings from this case study can be used to humanize the healthcare system, especially the VHA.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe the experience of gender diverse disabled Veterans seeking healthcare. Discuss the importance of gender diverse disabled Veterans highlighting care gaps.
