

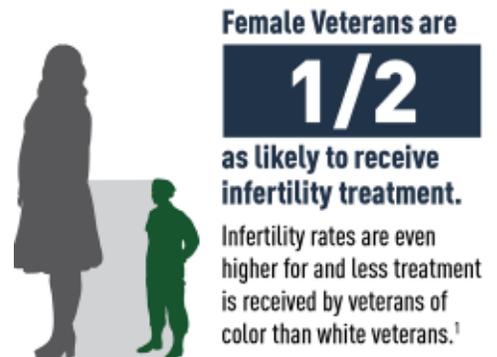
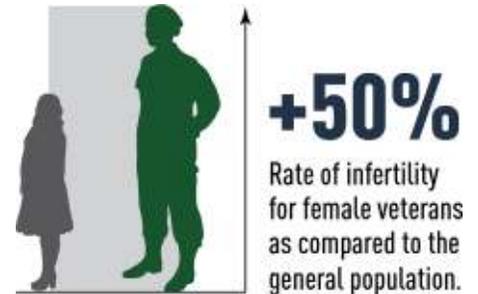
Improve VA Health Care Services and Benefits for Catastrophically Disabled Veterans and their Survivors: Assisted Reproductive Technologies

THE ISSUE

Thousands of service members have suffered a genitourinary injury, resulting in the loss of, or compromised ability to have a child. Among those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, genital injuries were higher than in previous wars. These injuries result in medical and psychological trauma that can affect a veteran's ability to procreate.

Recognizing the need for assisted reproductive technology (ART) options, Congress granted temporary authorization in 2016 for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide in vitro fertilization (IVF) to veterans with a service-connected condition that prevents the conception of a pregnancy. This temporary authorization has been reappraised multiple times, but Congress has always stopped short of permanently authorizing it and expanding the types of ART provided to veterans.

Congress has also failed to recognize that due to the complex needs of women veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders, many are unable to carry a pregnancy to term. These women should be able to access surrogate services to have a child.



1. "[The Right To Serve, But Not To Carry: Expanding Access To Infertility Treatment For US Veterans.](#)"
Health Affairs Blog, July 22, 2021.



PVA POSITION

- ★ PVA supports the **Veteran Families Health Services Act of 2021 (H.R. 2734/S. 1280)**, which would greatly expand and improve access to ART for service members and veterans, and permanently authorize funding to provide IVF and ART. It would also expand options for veterans with infertility issues and require VA and the Department of Defense to facilitate research into the reproductive health needs of veterans.
- ★ PVA supports the **Veterans Infertility Treatment Act of 2021 (H.R. 1957)**, which would allow VA to provide both infertility treatments and preservation services. This bill would also ensure that VA provides fertility counseling to veterans or their partners.