



Barriers to Accessing Healthcare for Rural Wyoming Veterans

May 2020



THE RVHAP TOOLKIT

WYOMING TELEHEALTH
NETWORK WEBINAR

JULY 27TH, 2022

INFIELD VECTOR AND THE WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

What is the Rural Veterans
Health Access Program and how
does it address healthcare and
resource inequalities?



Wyoming
Department
of Health

Commit to your health.



**Infield
Vector**





BACKGROUND

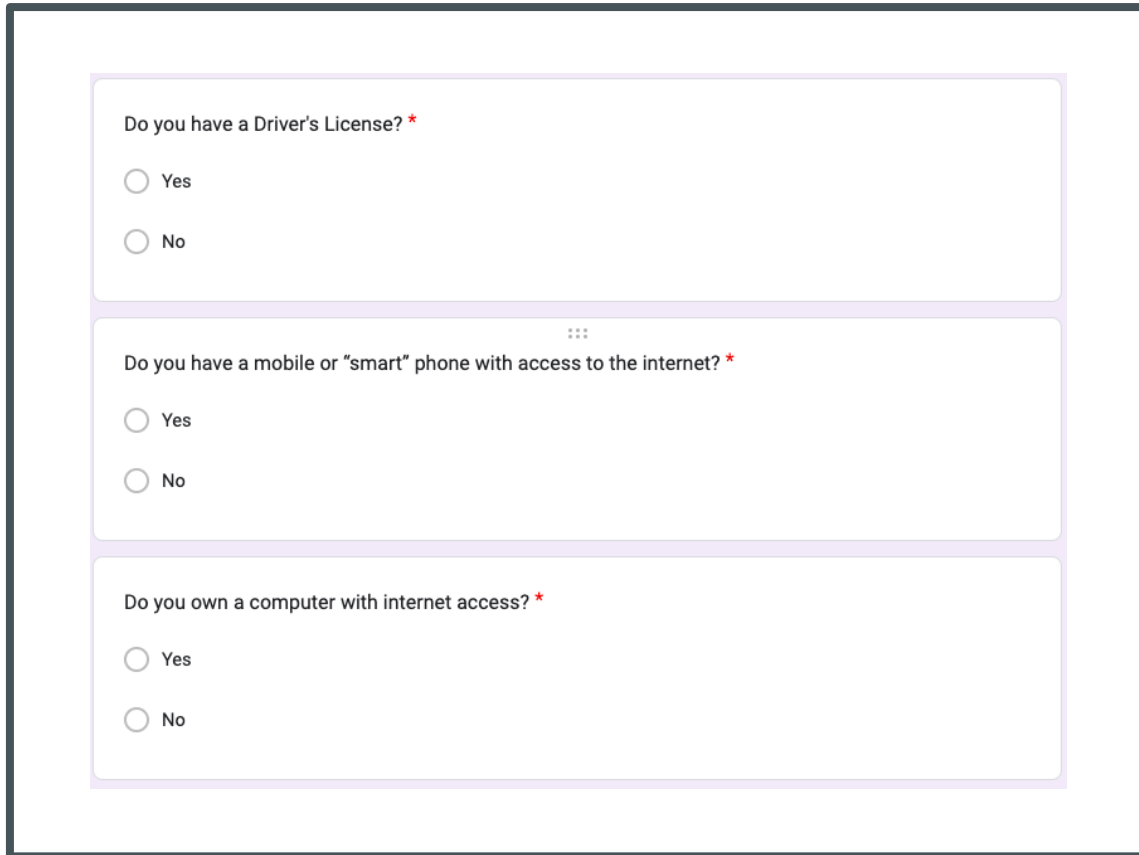
- Wyoming is home to approximately 47,000 Veterans, totaling roughly 11% of the population of Wyoming, compared to an average of only 6% of the population nationally.
- 43% of those Veterans are over 65 years of age.
- The rural nature of Wyoming presents unique challenges in providing healthcare services.
- In turn, many of those Veterans go underserved or unserved entirely for their healthcare needs.



VETERANS CHOICE ACT

- Passed in 2014
- Addresses gaps and shortfalls in VA Healthcare to allow for greater service to Veterans.

DEVELOPMENT OF RVHAP



Do you have a Driver's License? *

Yes

No

...

Do you have a mobile or "smart" phone with access to the internet? *

Yes

No

Do you own a computer with internet access? *

Yes

No

- Survey presented online and in-person to Veterans accessing healthcare.
- Results found that Veterans in Wyoming;
 - Do not have much concern regarding traveling to seek VA Healthcare.
 - Do not feel it is overwhelmingly more difficult to get a doctor's appointment, fill a prescription, or seek surgical services at a VA Facility compared to a Non-VA Facility.

BARRIERS IDENTIFIED

- Finding physicians who understand military cultures.
- An overall lack of knowledge regarding available services was identified.
- Difficulty in navigating the complex processes or finding physicians willing to navigate the processes.



THE RVHAP TOOLKIT

- Provides access to Veteran patient populations and Physicians looking to serve the Veteran communities.
- Provides resources for Veterans to access resources, navigate paperwork, access housing resources, and more.
- Provides physicians the tools to establish telehealth network sites, train physicians on understanding and supporting veteran cultures, and more.

