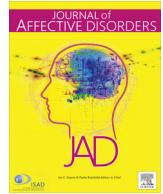




ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Affective Disorders

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jad

Research paper

Employment status, employment functioning, and barriers to employment among VA primary care patients



Kara Zivin^{a,b,c,d,*}, Matheos Yosef^b, Debra S. Levine^{a,b,e}, Kristen M. Abraham^{e,f},
Erin M. Miller^b, Jennifer Henry^a, C. Beau Nelson^{b,g}, Paul N. Pfeiffer^{a,b},
Rebecca K. Sripada^{a,b,e}, Molly Harrod^a, Marcia Valenstein^{a,b}

^a Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Clinical Management Research, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

^b Department of Psychiatry, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

^c Department of Health Management and Policy, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

^d Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

^e Department of Veterans Affairs, Serious Mental Illness Treatment Resource and Evaluation Center, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

^f Department of Psychology, University of Detroit Mercy, USA

^g Mental Health Service, VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, USA

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 15 October 2015

Received in revised form

18 December 2015

Accepted 26 December 2015

Available online 30 December 2015

Keywords:

Employment

Depression

Anxiety

Work performance

ABSTRACT

Background: Prior research found lower employment rates among working-aged patients who use the VA than among non-Veterans or Veterans who do not use the VA, with the lowest reported employment rates among VA patients with mental disorders. This study assessed employment status, employment functioning, and barriers to employment among VA patients treated in primary care settings, and examined how depression and anxiety were associated with these outcomes.

Methods: The sample included 287 VA patients treated in primary care in a large Midwestern VA Medical Center. Bivariate and multivariable analyses were conducted examining associations between socio-demographic and clinical predictors of six employment domains, including: employment status, job search self-efficacy, work performance, concerns about job loss among employed Veterans, and employment barriers and likelihood of job seeking among not employed Veterans.

Results: 54% of respondents were employed, 36% were not employed, and 10% were economically inactive. In adjusted analyses, participants with depression or anxiety (43%) were less likely to be employed, had lower job search self-efficacy, had lower levels of work performance, and reported more employment barriers. Depression and anxiety were not associated with perceived likelihood of job loss among employed or likelihood of job seeking among not employed.

Limitations: Single VA primary care clinic; cross-sectional study.

Discussion: Employment rates are low among working-aged VA primary care patients, particularly those with mental health conditions. Offering primary care interventions to patients that address mental health issues, job search self-efficacy, and work performance may be important in improving health, work, and economic outcomes.

Published by Elsevier B.V.

1. Background

Ensuring Veteran employment needs are met is a top priority for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the United States Government. President Obama issued the first strategic plan to increase hiring of Veterans in the federal civil service ([United States Office of Personnel Management, 2010](#)), the Vow to Hire

Heroes Act ([Democratic Policy and Communications Center, 2010](#)), and the Veterans Job Corps ([Department of Veterans Affairs, 2012](#); [President's Council of Economic Advisers and the National Economic Council, 2012](#)). These initiatives recognize a critical need to identify and address obstacles to obtaining and maintaining employment for returning Veterans. Over two million troops have served in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) since 2001. These Veterans are younger and more often working-aged than other VA service users, but suffer from high levels of mental disorders ([Seal et al., 2009](#)) that may significantly affect work functioning ([Adler et al., 2011](#); [Erbes et al., 2011](#)) and access to full-time work ([Burnett-Zeigler et al., 2011](#)). Younger

* Correspondence to: University of Michigan North Campus Research Complex, 2800 Plymouth Road, Building 16, 228W, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2800, USA.

E-mail address: kzivin@umich.edu (K. Zivin).

Table 1
 Characteristics of 287 working age VA primary care patients, by employment status (N/% unless otherwise noted).

	Employed N=154		Not employed N=104		Economically inactive N=29		p-Value comparing employed to not employed	p-Value comparing across all three groups
Depression								
Yes	41	27.89	59	60.82	8	27.59	< 0.0001	< 0.0001
No	106	72.11	38	39.18	21	72.41		
Anxiety								
Yes	31	21.23	42	43.30	4	13.79	0.0002	0.0002
No	115	78.77	55	56.70	25	86.21		
Depression or anxiety								
Yes	49	33.56	61	62.89	8	27.59	< 0.0001	< 0.0001
No	97	66.44	36	37.11	21	72.41		
Demographic characteristics								
Age (mean, SD)	44.89	8.56	46.23	8.20	43.18	9.22	0.2158	0.1904
Gender								
Female	33	21.57	21	20.39	4	13.79	0.8204	0.6346
Male	120	78.43	82	79.61	25	86.21		
Marital status								
Single/widowed	25	16.56	26	25.24	6	20.69	0.1856	0.0608
In a relationship	27	17.88	11	10.68	6	20.69		
Married	69	45.70	43	41.75	6	20.69		
Divorced/separated	30	19.87	23	22.33	11	37.93		
Hispanic								
Yes	2	1.38	6	6.12	0	0.00	0.0421	0.0626
No	143	98.62	92	93.88	28	100.00		
Race								
Caucasian	133	87.50	81	79.41	24	82.76	0.0181	0.0276
African American	8	5.26	16	15.69	5	17.24		
Other	11	7.24	5	4.90	0	0.00		
Education								
High school or less	26	16.99	26	25.24	4	13.79	0.2544	0.4462
Some college	69	45.10	44	42.72	15	51.72		
Bachelor's degree or more	58	37.91	33	32.04	10	34.48		
Rank (current or at discharge)								
Enlisted	119	78.29	94	91.26	25	86.21	0.0061	0.0208
Officer	33	21.71	9	8.74	4	13.79		
Annual household income								
None/don't know	8	5.33	19	18.45	5	17.24	< .0001	< 0.0001
\$0–\$19,999	32	21.33	44	42.72	11	37.93		
\$20,000–\$49,000	48	32.00	25	24.27	8	27.59		
≥ \$50,000	62	41.33	15	14.56	5	17.24		
Difficulty paying monthly bills								
None	62	40.52	14	13.86	10	34.48	< 0.0001	< 0.0001
Some	74	48.37	55	54.46	13	44.83		
Extreme	17	11.11	32	31.68	6	20.69		
Prefer to be working								
Yes	130	88.44	54	55.10	19	67.86	< 0.0001	< 0.0001
No	11	7.48	36	36.73	4	14.29		
Other	6	4.08	8	8.16	5	17.86		
Clinical and psychosocial characteristics								
Self-rated health								
Excellent/very good/good	111	74.50	40	40.82	20	68.97	< 0.0001	< 0.0001
Fair/poor	38	25.50	58	59.18	9	31.03		
Health status (SF-12)								
Physical health (mean, SD)	44.06	11.78	35.95	13.36	45.58	11.55	< 0.0001	< 0.0001
Mental health (mean, SD)	46.55	11.06	37.25	14.59	46.45	12.55	< 0.0001	< 0.0001
Comorbid conditions								
Total comorbid conditions (mean, SD)	1.22	1.17	1.69	1.36	1.17	1.10	0.0032	0.0072
High blood pressure	59	38.31	57	54.81	12	41.38	0.0090	0.0005
Diabetes	21	13.64	16	15.38	6	20.69	0.6943	0.3260
Cancer	7	4.55	2	1.92	0	0.00	0.2601	0.3889
Lung problems	12	7.79	12	11.54	1	3.45	0.3095	0.3022
Heart problems	16	10.39	16	15.38	3	10.34	0.2325	0.3148
Stroke	0	0.00	5	4.81	0	0.00	0.0060	0.0220
Psychiatric disorder	31	20.13	37	35.58	6	20.69	0.0057	0.0042
Arthritis	42	27.27	31	29.81	6	20.69	0.6575	0.1018
Functional impairment (mean, SD)	8.49	8.78	17.20	9.50	9.00	9.43	< 0.0001	< 0.0001
Pain (mean, SD)	20.73	18.33	34.65	21.10	17.31	18.83	< 0.0001	< 0.0001
PTSD								
Yes	81	55.10	67	69.07	12	41.38	0.0288	0.0131
No	66	44.90	30	30.93	17	58.62		
Alcohol use disorder								
Yes	31	21.23	17	17.53	8	27.59	0.4772	0.4814

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/6230464>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/6230464>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)