



University
of Glasgow

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE SCOTTISH VETERAN POPULATION

A study by the Scottish Veterans Health Research Group, University of Glasgow

Why did we do the study?

We wanted to find out whether being a veteran affected the risk of being severely affected by COVID-19.



How did we do the study?

We compared NHS Scotland data on COVID-19 in the veterans and non-veterans from the Trends in Scottish Veterans' Health study cohort.



What did we find?

No. of veterans: **71,269**

No. hospitalised: **564 (0.79%)**

No. died: **101 (0.14%)**

No. of non-veterans: **229,637**

No. hospitalised: **1728 (0.75%)**

No. died: **312 (0.14%)**

Does that mean there was a difference?

- There was no significant difference overall in the risk of COVID-19-related hospitalisation or death between veterans and non-veterans.
- Veterans aged 61-70 had a slightly lower risk of death, but veterans aged over 70 had a slightly higher risk. This difference was not fully explained by deprivation or other health conditions, but the Scottish census results may provide more detailed information on social circumstances.



Why is this important?

- There was no overall increased risk from COVID-19 in veterans compared to the general population.
- Service providers should be able to use data from the wider population in planning support for veterans in the event of a future pandemic.



More information

Bergman BP, Mackay DF & Pell JP. Impact of COVID-19 on the veteran population: evidence from the Trends in Scottish Veterans Health study. *BMJ Mil Health* doi:10.1136/military-2024-002677

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