

American Legion survey for women veterans  
Photo: **ProSidian Consulting** of Charlotte, NC

## Where are the women at VA health centers?

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By [Catherine Lash](#), Veterans Affairs Examiner



Many women veterans are not utilizing VA healthcare. Could it be, they're too embarrassed to talk about their issues? Or, they feel a lack of sensitivity and responsiveness from healthcare professionals?

A look into VA statistics. Currently, 15% of the armed forces are women, making shattering breakthroughs in a male-dominated military and increasingly taking on tasks once reserved for men. While women vets number two million, only about 25% of them are enrolled in VA healthcare.

The American Legion is bringing this issue to the forefront. In this week's launching of a comprehensive survey of women veterans, the Legion will be gathering their experiences and attitudes regarding VA healthcare. The Legion's Cynthia Mason-Posey with Policy and Research says, "It is our first big step in trying to see what's happening, out there, with women veterans." The online survey is being linked to statewide Legion posts and will be found, in hardcopy, in many organizations servicing women vets, such as homeless shelters.

### Women in VA Healthcare

Posey says the VA is working hard to upgrade its facilities and adapt them in interest of gender preferences. It could be something as simple as the arrangement of an examining table or privacy curtains, Posey comments. Are all the services for women under one roof? Is daycare an issue? Many Iraq and Afghanistan women vets are starting families, and "all of a sudden," Posey says, "we need facilities to deliver babies and care for newborns."

### American Legion Survey

The survey is being conducted by **ProSidian Consulting of Charlotte, North Carolina**. The firm provides business and technical services in industry areas of banking and finances, energy, federal government, military organizations, technologies and telecommunications and others. The leadership team includes a Navy and an Air Force veteran. **ProSidian** Managing Principal Adrian Woolcock is the survey project manager. Woolcock says the survey will be analyzed by a panel of Charlotte-area professionals, including a college professor, a three-star general, a retired colonel and others. Survey results will help dictate the Legion's outreach programs and "enhance and impact Congressional testimony by the American Legion on behalf of women veterans," adds Woolcock. Go here: <http://www.ProSidianConsulting.com> for more information.

The survey will remain online until early March. Every survey participant will be entered into a drawing to win a limited edition plaque signed by ten Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients.

Women vets! This is your chance to be heard. Your voice will pave the way for improvements in VA healthcare. Take action now, and go to: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Women\\_Vet\\_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Women_Vet_Survey). For information on the American Legion, see: <http://www.legion.org>.