



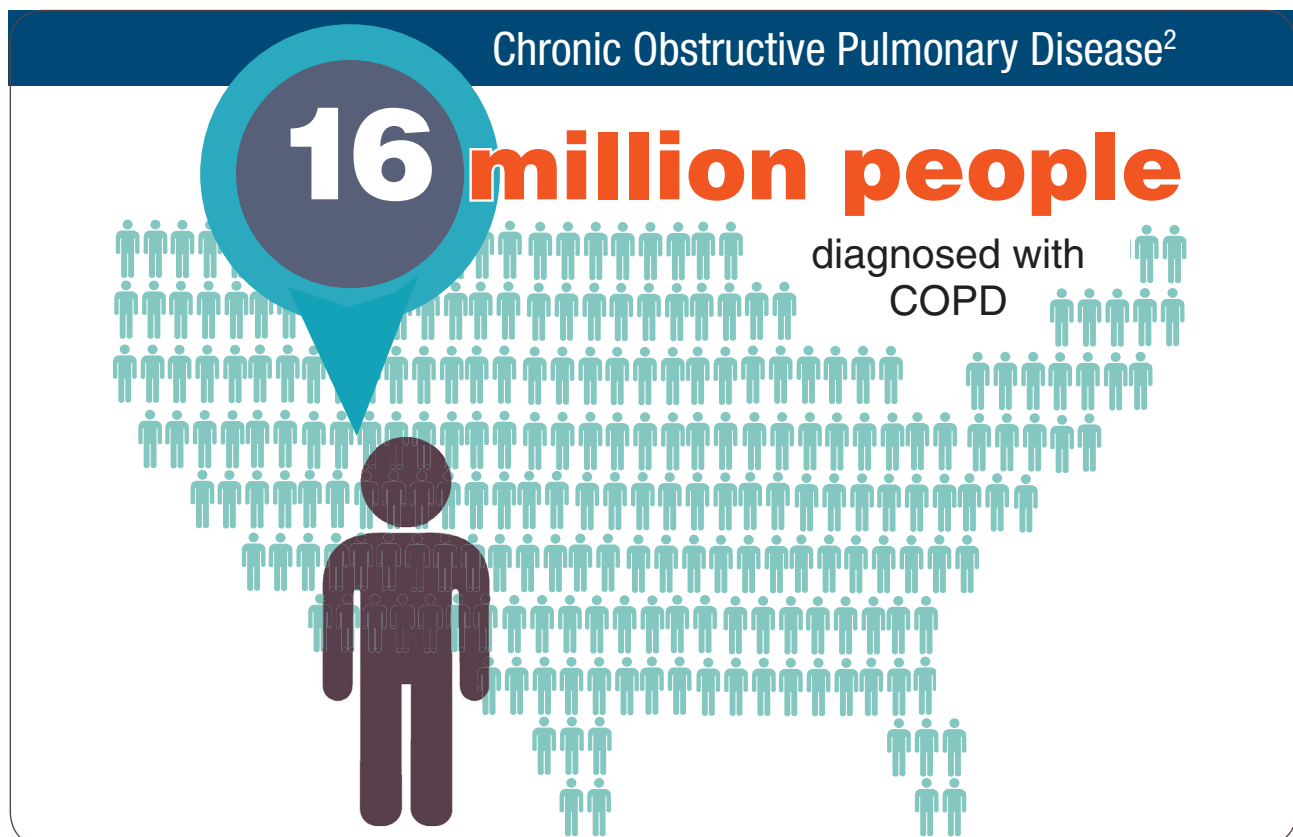
Respiratory Diseases

Nearly 25 million Americans (7.8%) have asthma, and just under 16 million (6.4%) have been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). By all indications, the burden is even higher among active-duty service members and veterans, and the prevalence is expected to increase in those populations.

Exposure to irritants and hazardous materials during service seems to be a contributing factor. High rates of tobacco use in both activity-duty service members and veterans remain a significant factor. In addition, soldiers who deployed to Iraq were diagnosed with asthma more often than soldiers who stayed in the U.S., and the asthma prevalence among military personnel deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq tripled between 2002 and 2011. One in 7 deployed

military personnel reported chronic respiratory problems compared with 10% of nondeployed service members, and 95% of deployed veterans reported at least 1 potentially hazardous exposure. It's little wonder that 6% of Iraq/Afghanistan veterans who received VA care between 2002 and 2011 had 1 or more chronic pulmonary conditions.

Although preventable and treatable, worldwide COPD mortality is increasing. Moreover, prevalence of COPD is projected to increase more than 30% in the next 10 years without interventions to reduce risks. The Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease now recommends that any patient with dyspnea, chronic cough, sputum production, or other risks factors should be examined for a potential COPD diagnosis.



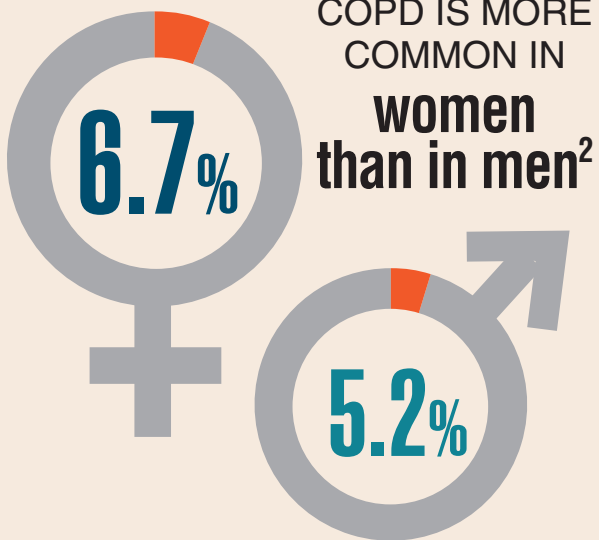
6% of Iraq/Afghanistan veterans

who received VA care between 2002 and 2011 had 1 or more chronic pulmonary conditions³



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PROJECTED
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in the next 10 years without interventions to reduce risks⁴



Respiratory Risk Factors for Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans⁵

- Dust from sand
- Exposure to smoke from burn pits
- Aerosolized metals and chemicals from exploded devices
- Outdoor airborne substances, such as date palm pollen
- Indoor airborne substances, such as mold

Cost of COPD⁶

the VA spent
\$5.5 billion
to care for 969,000 veterans with COPD

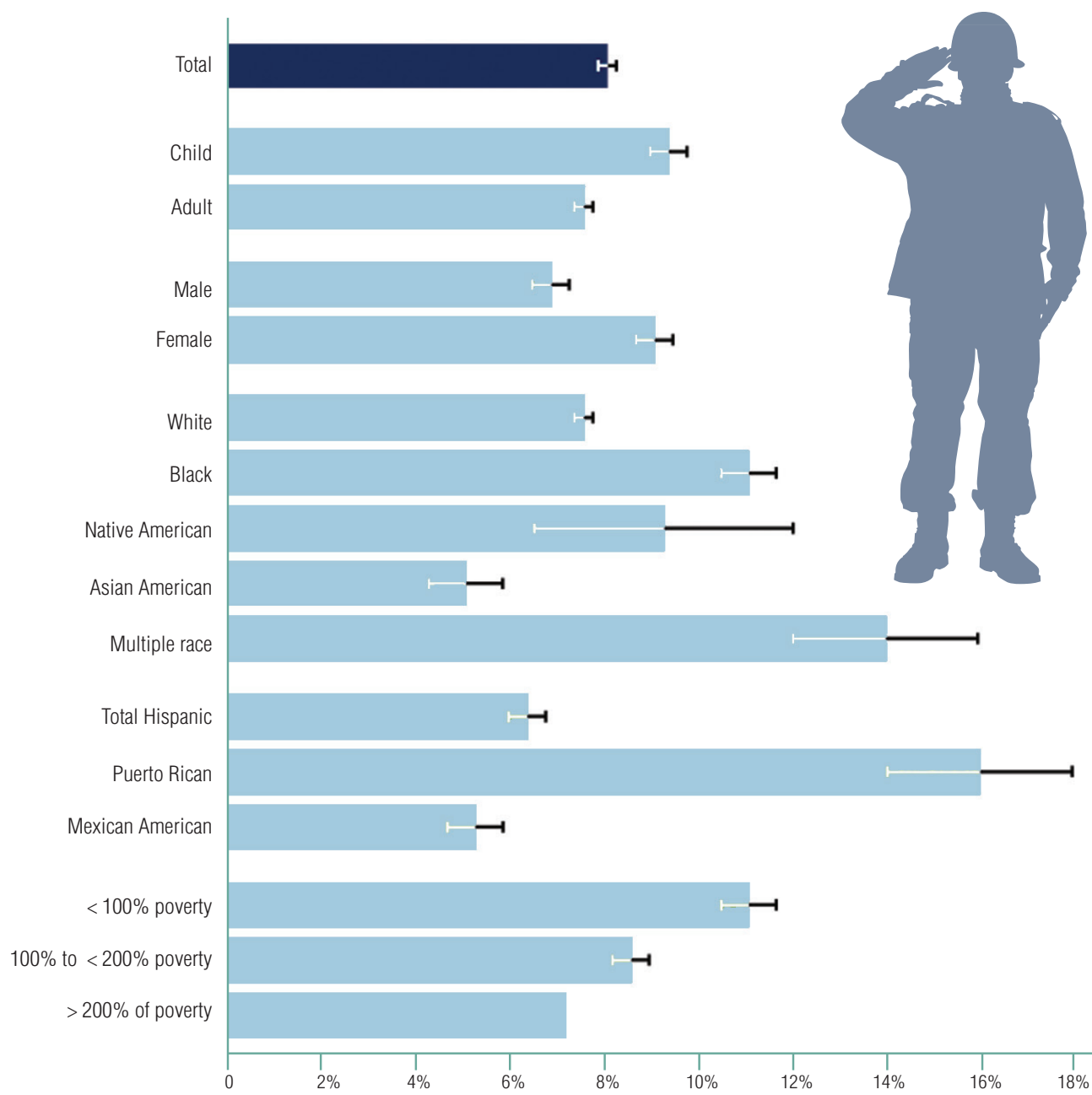




14% of deployed military personnel (Iraq/Afghanistan)
reported chronic respiratory problems

compared with 10% of nondeployed³

Average Annual U.S. Asthma Prevalence, 2008-2010⁷





Asthma Prevalence

Asthma prevalence among military personnel deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq **tripled** between 2002 and 2011 (1.1% in 2002, 3.1% 2011)⁸

Asthma prevalence increased by 1.1% between 2001 and 2010 (from 7.3% to 8.4%)⁷
- GENERAL POPULATION



Soldiers deployed to Iraq were diagnosed with asthma more often than soldiers stateside — 6.6% vs. 4.3%⁵

Burn Pits⁹

95%



of deployed veterans reported being exposed to at least 1 potentially hazardous respiratory exposure

70%



reported “high exposure” to these substances

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