



FACT SHEET

Kentucky Veterans Centers

Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee
Research Report No. 502

Finding Highlights

- The Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs (KDVA), reports a 55 percent occupancy rate at veterans' centers. Adjusting for usable beds results in 85 percent functional capacity, exceeding the national average.
- Admissions denials and deferrals appear to be driven by physical and behavioral care needs rather than capacity.
- Inconsistent documentation of admissions prevents conclusions about the system's ability to meet long-term care demand and the reasons for admission decisions.
- Quality of care in Kentucky veterans' centers is higher than the national average and staffing levels appear to have stabilized due to staffing incentives.
- Kentucky veterans' centers face challenges related to aging facilities, transitioning to single-occupancy room, stakeholder communication, and capital projects.

Recommendation Highlights

- KDVA should modernize facilities and prioritize single-occupancy rooms statewide by decertifying double-occupancy beds, and evaluating the feasibility of a transition to single-occupancy rooms.
- KDVA should conduct a feasibility study before any new construction or expansion, accounting for recently opened facilities and the impact of single-occupancy room transitions.
- KDVA should plan for the rising behavioral health care needs of veterans by reporting on its impact on admissions and investigating care options.
- KDVA should report functional occupancy alongside certified occupancy in stakeholder communication and official reporting to reflect staffing limits and capital projects.
- KDVA should standardize admissions and oversight through uniform admissions procedures and improved waitlist management.

Key Numbers

5

Veterans' centers
in Kentucky.



681 licensed beds
vs. 446 functional
beds among
veterans' centers.



378 veterans
cared for in the
Kentucky veterans'
center system.



217,332 Kentucky
veteran population
in 2024.

5,052

High-risk,
high-need
veterans in
Kentucky.