

CARING FOR AMERICA'S MILITARY-CONNECTED KIDS



Children's hospitals are essential partners in supporting the health and resilience of military families. They provide specialized physical and behavioral health care to thousands of military-connected children — including those whose parents are active duty, veterans, in the reserves or with the National Guard. By ensuring access to specialized pediatric care, children's hospitals help stabilize families, strengthen communities, and support military readiness. These families are not only vital for today's force — **they are raising the next generation of service members, as children from military households are significantly more likely to serve.**¹

Medicaid plays a critical role for military-connected families. Children in these families may be enrolled in Medicaid even when they are covered by TRICARE* or the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA).⁺⁵



~7.8M

children are in military-connected families.⁴

~2M

U.S. children are covered by TRICARE; another 200,000 are covered by CHAMPVA.¹⁴

~3M

children in military-connected families are eligible for or covered by Medicaid.⁶

186K

military-connected children are covered by both Medicaid and TRICARE.^{4,6}

~12%

of military-connected children are diagnosed with complex medical conditions by age five.³

~50%

of military-connected children rely on children's hospitals for most of their care needs.¹

*TRICARE, administered by the DoD, provides health coverage for active duty service members, National Guard and Reserve members, retirees, and their families.⁷

+CHAMPVA, administered by the VA, provides health coverage for the spouses, dependents, and survivors of veterans who meet certain service-connected disability requirements.

MILITARY PEDIATRICIANS TRAIN AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS

Dayton Children's Hospital is an example of a children's hospital that trains pediatricians.

The Integrated Pediatric Residency Program at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

Medical Center is the nation's only civilian-military combined pediatric residency program. The collaboration prepares graduates for careers in both community and military medicine through a robust curriculum and clinical breadth. Dayton Children's provides military pediatric residents with hands-on experience in comprehensive care settings, including inpatient wards, the pediatric intensive care unit, pediatric emergency medicine, and behavioral health.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS SUPPORT MILITARY-CONNECTED CHILDREN

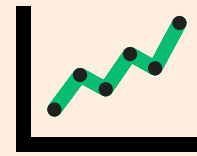
CHA's **Pediatric Learning Solutions** provides online educational courses for nurses and other clinicians at military institutions, like the **Brooke Army Medical Center**, so they can build the skills needed to provide specialized care to pediatric patients.

The Kennedy Krieger Institute's Behavioral Health Services for Families Program

provides trauma-informed care to military children facing emotional and behavioral challenges. Through in-person and telehealth therapy across 23 states, the program ensures accessible, specialized support tailored to the unique needs of military families.⁸

The Department of Defense's **Exceptional Family Member Program** ensures military families with children who have specialized medical or educational needs are stationed near appropriate care. Children's hospitals are critical partners providing expert pediatric services to meet the child's complex needs, support family stability, reduce disruptions to military careers, and strengthen force readiness.⁹

CHA partners with the **Hidden Helpers Coalition**, which supports over 2.3 million children who care for loved, wounded, ill, or injured service members. The coalition raises awareness and expands services to meet these young caregivers' unique needs.¹⁰



The DoD has awarded more than \$25 million to children's hospitals over the years to support vital pediatric biomedical research.¹³

Researchers at **Boston Children's Hospital** are developing a safer, more effective gene therapy for congenital neutropenia, a rare immune disorder, with an approach that avoids chemotherapy. If successful, it could expand access to curative treatments for pediatric patients with limited options today.¹¹

Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Medical Center is leading

research assessing the impact on Survivor's Journey+, a family-centered, online program to support adolescent brain tumor survivors and their caregivers.

The program addresses critical survivorship gaps and supports military readiness.² This research will provide critical insights into ways to improve the well-being of teen survivors and their families and improve military readiness.¹²

Sources:

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