

Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) activities with Armed Forces. Breaking barriers in health research recruitment and retention

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Background and Aims



In response, our team identified **PPIE** as a **vital mechanism** for understanding the barriers to research participation in this community and a **foundation** for **engaging** and **developing** research that is **meaningful**, **inclusive**, and **capable** of addressing real health inequalities faced by Armed Forces across the region.

Aim: to understand barriers in health research recruitment and retention with former members of the Armed Forces personnel.

The Process of Engagement Activities



Lessons Learnt So Far



Conclusions and Next Steps

- ✓ **Trust remains central**
Face-to-face engagement and involving veterans throughout the research process are key to participation.
- 🏠 **Better representation in research**
Individuals who have served in the Armed Forces indicated that engagement in research would be stronger when facilitated by a trusted champion or PPIE representative from within their community.
- ⚠️ **Gaps in engagement**
Younger veterans and women were difficult to reach despite outreach.
- 🔄 **Ongoing engagement**
We are continuing PPIE activities with a focus on reaching wider veteran groups.
- 📄 **Dissemination Plans**
 - 📄 Peer-reviewed journal submission
 - 🗣️ Presentations at veterans' events
 - 🔗 Sharing findings through stakeholder networks

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