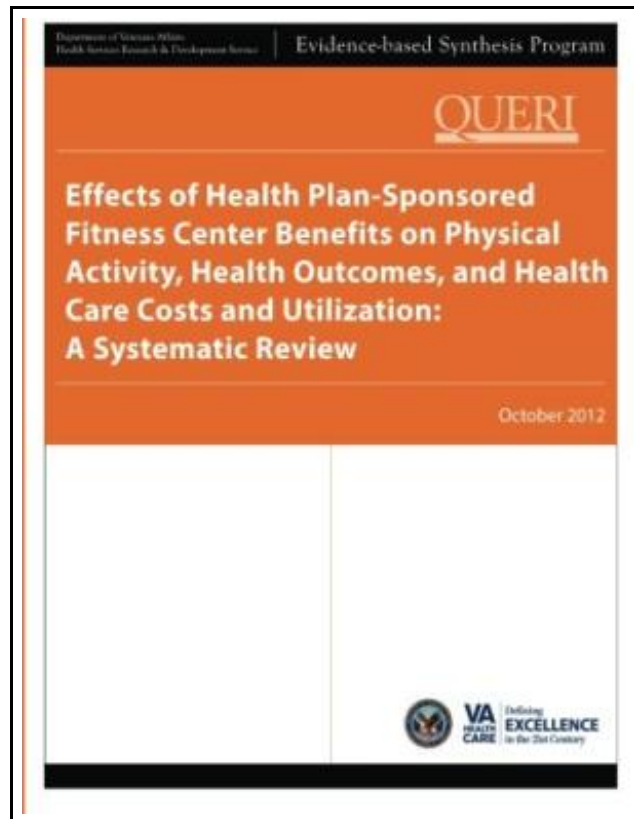


# Effects of Health Plan-Sponsored Fitness Center Benefits on Physical Activity, Health Outcomes, and Health Care Costs and Utilization: A Systematic Review



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*(Arlene Kemmer)*

## EFFECTS OF HEALTH PLAN-SPONSORED FITNESS CENTER BENEFITS ON PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, HEALTH OUTCOMES, AND HEALTH CARE COSTS AND UTILIZATION: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW



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Createspace. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 50 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.1in. Regular physical activity has many positive health benefits, including protection against chronic disease, improved physical and mental health and cognitive function, and better health-related quality of life. Moreover, lack of physical activity is associated with higher health care costs and utilization. The current U. S. guidelines recommend that adult Americans (1) engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic activity each week (or an equivalent mix of moderate- and vigorous-intensity aerobic activity) and (2) perform strengthening activities that target all major muscle groups on at least 2 days a week. However, many Americans do not get the recommended levels of physical activity. More Veterans are sufficiently active than non-Veterans. However, Veterans who use Veterans Affairs (VA) health care are more likely to be physically inactive (22. 6 vs. 14. 9) and are less likely to meet physical activity recommendations (42. 6 vs. 46. 7) compared with Veterans who do not use VA health care. Multiple personal, social, and environmental factors influence a persons participation in physical activity. Consequently, multiple internal and external barriers to obtaining regular physical activity exist. Internal barriers include a lack of time and motivation, health problems, and emotional difficulties. External barriers involve weather; cultural issues; safety concerns; limited access to facilities, equipment, and transportation; and monetary expenses such as those associated with attending a fitness center. The perceived cost of engaging in physical activity is a significant barrier that increases the likelihood of sedentary behaviors and decreases the likelihood of participation in vigorous physical activity. Thus, reducing the cost of being physically active through providing full or partial memberships to fitness centers may be a viable option to...



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