

Table 1
Comparison of the Prevalence Rates of Selected Chronic Conditions among Union Army Veterans in 1910 and World War II Veterans in the Mid-1980s (in Percent)

Disorders	1 Union Army Veterans	2 World War II Veterans before Alleviating Intervention	3 Annual Rate of Decline in Prevalence Rates before Alleviating Intervention	4 World War II Veterans after Alleviating Intervention	5 Annual Rate of Decline in Prevalence Rates after Alleviating Intervention
Musculoskeletal	67.7	47.9	0.4	42.5	0.6
Digestive	84.0	49.0	0.7	18.0	2.0
Genito-urinary	27.3	36.3	+0.4	8.9	1.5
Central nervous, endocrine, metabolic, or blood	24.2	29.9	+0.3	12.6	0.9
Circulatory	90.1	42.9	1.0	40.0	1.1
Respiratory	42.2	29.8	0.5	26.5	0.6

Note: + indicates an increase in prevalence rates. The term “before alleviating intervention” in Column 2, refers to interventions that alleviated existing chronic conditions, not interventions that prevented chronic conditions from occurring, as in the use of penicillin to prevent rheumatic heart disease from occurring.