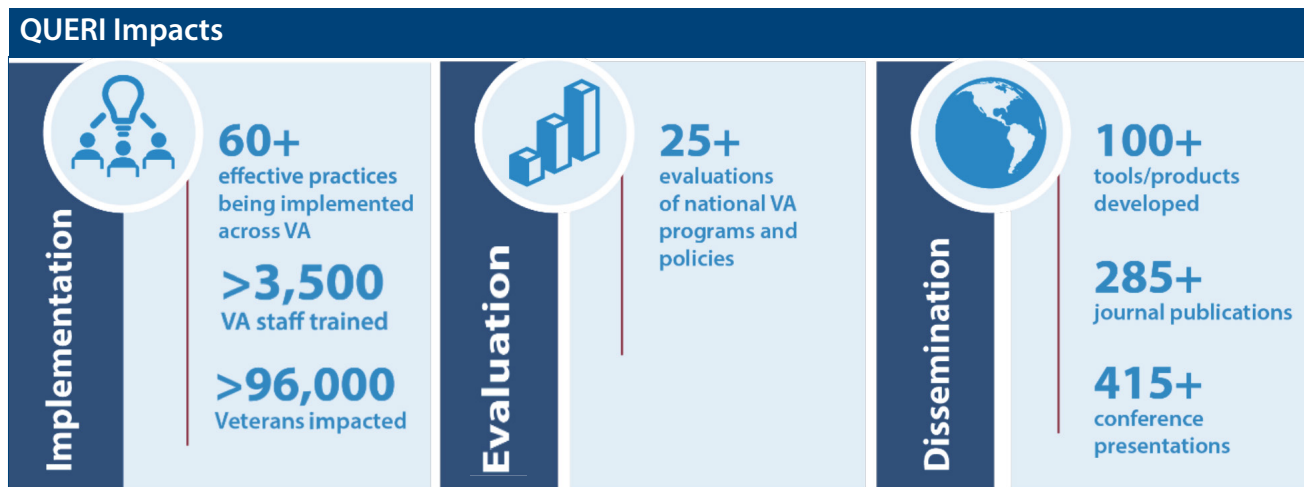


# VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI)

## 2019 Impacts

QUERI's mission is to improve the health of Veterans by accelerating evidence into healthcare practice and policy. This mission is carried out with a budget of **\$22 million for more than 40 centers** across the U.S. that are devoted to the **rapid implementation, knowledge translation, and evaluation of effective innovations in real-world settings**, thereby supporting frontline providers in deploying best practices that optimize care for Veterans. QUERI [National Programs](#) target VA priorities, including: Virtual Specialty Care, Improving Pain-Related Outcomes, and Improving Patient-Centered Care Coordination for High Risk Veterans.



QUERI has invested more than **\$8.8 million to rapidly implement VISN priorities** across 12 regional networks. Recent VISN Initiatives include improving access to medication-assisted therapy for opioid use disorder treatment, alternative therapies for pain, and patient-focused interventions for suicide prevention.

### Partnering with Operations

Central to QUERI's ongoing success is its national network of implementation experts, who collectively partner with more than **70 national and regional operations partners** to implement and evaluate programs, practices, and policies in nearly 200 sites across all VISNs. In 2019, QUERI funded a record **12 new Partnered Evaluation Initiatives (PEIs)**, which involve primary funding from an operations partner to conduct evaluations of specific initiatives with the potential to have a high impact on VA national policy. Many of these PEIs represent newly-formed regional or national partnerships, including but not limited to:

- Enhancing Access through Video Telehealth Tablets, partnering with VA's Office of Rural Health and the Office of Connected Care.
- Intensive Outpatient Management Programs for High-Risk Patients, partnering with VA Primary Care Services and Pharmacy Benefits Management Services.
- Transitioning Stabilized Mental Health Patients to Primary Care, partnering with VISN 19 (VA Rocky Mountain Network).
- VA Suicide Risk Identification Adaptive Implementation, partnering with VA's Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

## Supporting Evidence-based Policymaking

In 2019, QUERI also became a **central resource in coordinating VA's response** to the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act, which requires all Cabinet-level agencies to incorporate evidence to justify program budgets.

New resources to help VA respond to this Act include:

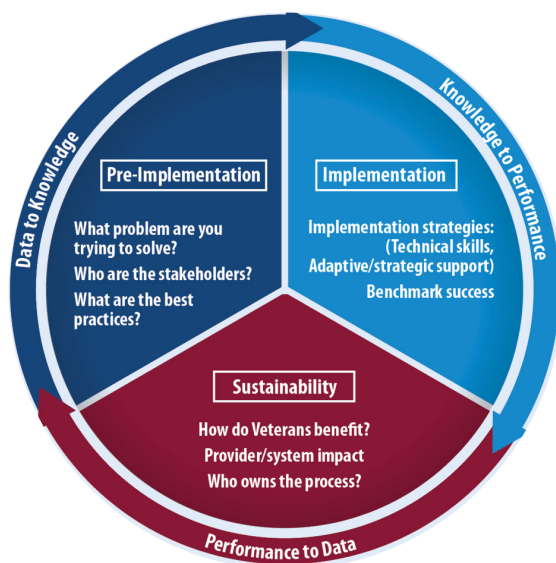
- the [Partnered Evidence-based Policy Resource Center \(PEPRc\)](#) Evidence Decision-making template,
- capacity assessment for evaluation throughout VHA, and
- a learning agenda based on the Office of Research and Development [VA Research Lifecycle](#).

## Developing New Implementation Tools

QUERI leads in the development of new tools and resources to promote the use of implementation and quality improvement science. Notably, VA's Office of Research and Development commissioned the [QUERI Center for Evaluation and Implementation Resources \(CEIR\)](#) to **operationalize a new Implementation Plan requirement** for all new clinical trials to ensure studies are designed to inform future implementation and sustainment in real-world clinical practice.

CEIR is also coordinating the first-ever cohort of Implementation Strategy Learning Hubs to provide practical training to scientists and practitioners on implementation strategies used to promote uptake of effective innovations:

- Evidence-Based Quality Improvement
- Implementation Facilitation
- Leadership Training for Applying Improvement Strategies
- Frontline Huddling for Quality Improvement
- Learn. Engage. Act. Process. (LEAP)
- Implementation Adaptation



## QUERI Implementation Roadmap

Central to the Implementation Plan is the newly-published [QUERI Implementation Roadmap](#), which is based on state-of-the-art implementation and quality improvement science from our investigators and beyond to help **operationalize the uptake of effective innovations** across different organizational settings based on active partnerships with multilevel stakeholders.

Many of the strategies highlighted in the QUERI Implementation Roadmap were derived from a groundbreaking HSR&D/QUERI Evidence Synthesis commissioned on [scaling innovations beyond early adopters](#). A comprehensive, user-friendly guide to the QUERI Implementation Roadmap will be forthcoming in 2020.