

Photovoice: Principles, Practicality, and Benefit to Participants

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Disclaimer & Appreciation



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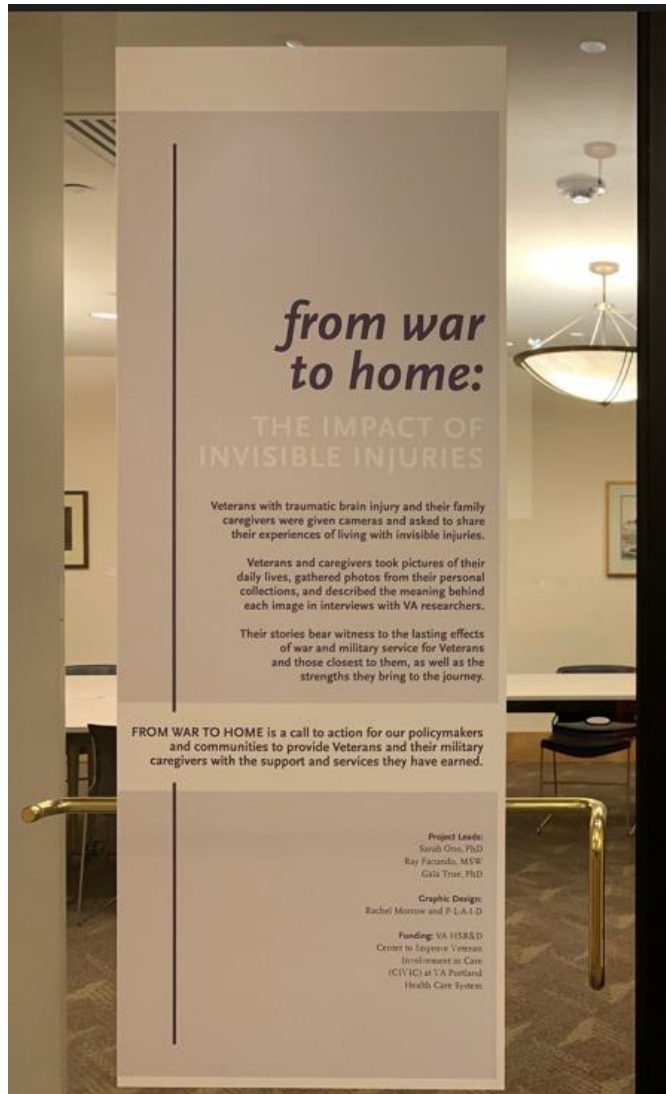
Authors have nothing to disclose.

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Welcome to Photovoice

Thanks for joining us on this brief tour of the photovoice method through work that has been conducted in the VA

- Methodology basics
- Resources to help tackle the challenges to doing photovoice and community-based research
- Scalability
- Impacts on participants
- Goal of equitable research
- Your questions



Photovoice is a qualitative, arts-based method that combines taking photographs with interviewing to generate pairings of images and text—*photonarratives*—related to a specified topic for public display.



Photovoice

- Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) method
- Use of camera allows participants to record, discuss, and communicate their realities
- Photograph and description of photograph provide immediate data, foundation for participatory sharing of knowledge
- Diverges from more traditional research methods in focus on participants as collaborators, shared ownership of findings, and forms of dissemination

Photovoice Cont.

- Wang and Burris (1997) Photovoice: Concept, methodology, and us for participatory needs assessment. Health Ed and Behavior 24: 369-387
- Greater involvement of participants in shaping research questions, deciding what to document, what stories to tell about themselves and their community
- Advocacy component – differing emphasis on products, outcomes
- Goal of effecting policy with a capital P or small p
- Group processes at beginning, end, or throughout
- Community-building as an objective

Photovoice Method

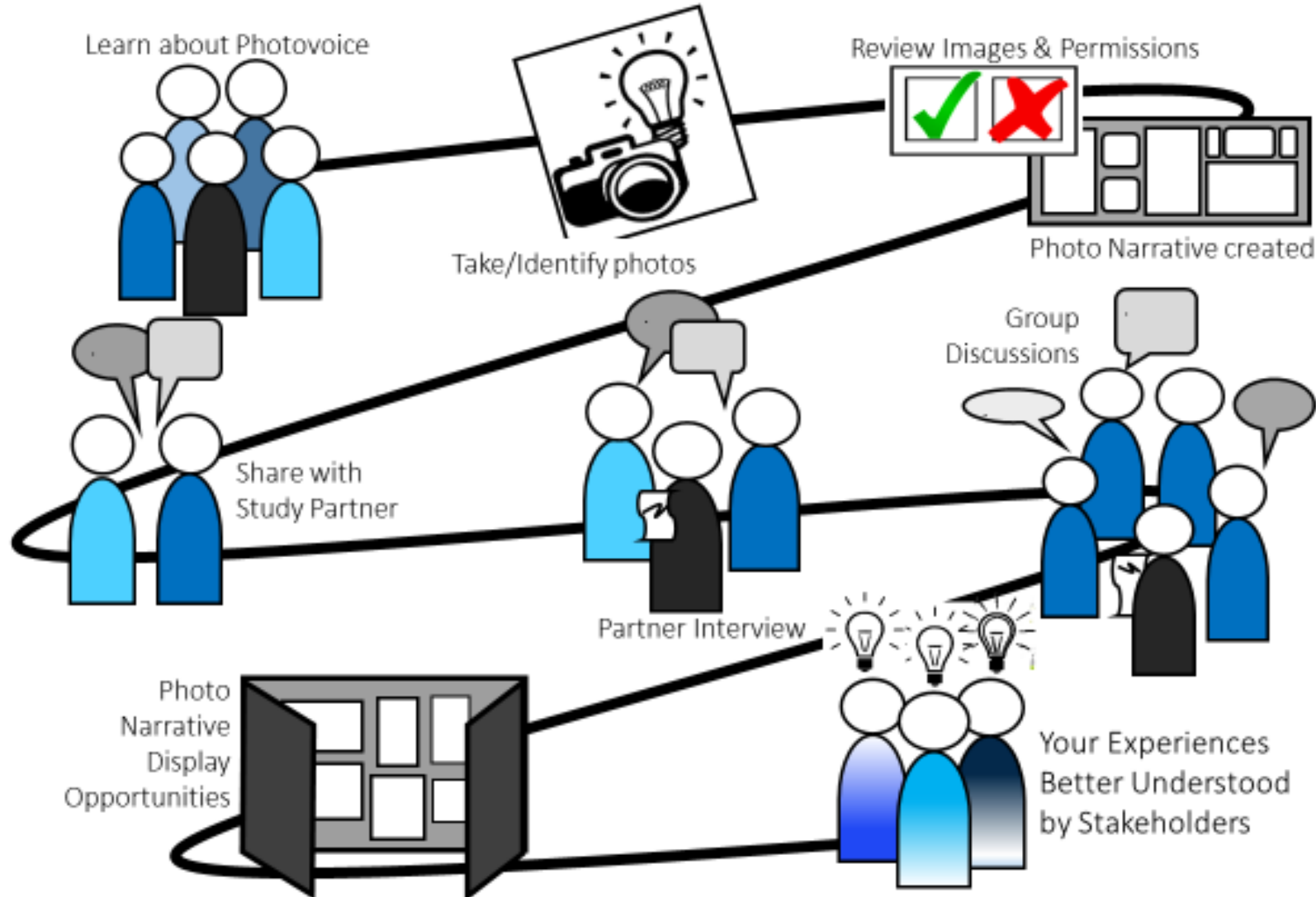


Photo Elicitation Interviewing (PEI)

Originated from anthropology (Mead and Bateson 1942, Freire 1970)

Images used during interviewing as a tool for interviewer and respondent

Method may make research more accessible to participants, however,

It does not change the power dynamic – data ownership, analysis / interpretation, and products still reside with the researcher

Unlike photovoice, PEI is not necessarily embedded in advocacy or participatory action research

SERVE Toolkit Photovoice FAQ

https://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/for_researchers/serve/#:~:text=The%20purpose%20of%20the%20Strengthening.and%20dissemination%20of%20research%20studies.

HSR&D Home » For_researchers » Serve » Strengthening Excellence in Research through Veteran Engagement (SERVE) T...

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Strengthening Excellence in Research through Veteran Engagement (SERVE) Toolkit 2.0

About this Toolkit

The purpose of the **Strengthening Excellence in Research through Veteran Engagement (SERVE) Toolkit** is to support VA Research Centers and investigators in efforts to include Veterans and other stakeholders in the development, implementation, and dissemination of research studies. The Toolkit was developed through a collaborative process that included representatives from 7 VA hospitals where Veteran Engagement in Research is an established priority.

The goal of the SERVE Toolkit is to provide guidance to VA Research Centers and investigators to support the development of opportunities for Veterans to be engaged in



SERVE 2.0

- [Section 0: Overview](#) 📄
- [Section 1: Planning](#) 📄
- [Section 2: Convening](#) 📄

Using Photovoice and Photo-elicitation

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

by Gala True, Ph.D and Ray Facundo, MSW

Supplement to SERVE Toolkit, Updated: 08 MAR 2022



Introduction:

We often hear from investigators who are looking to use photovoice or photo-elicitation methods. There are many strengths to these two approaches, and the methods have been well-described elsewhere. [Additional resources and references are shared throughout and at the

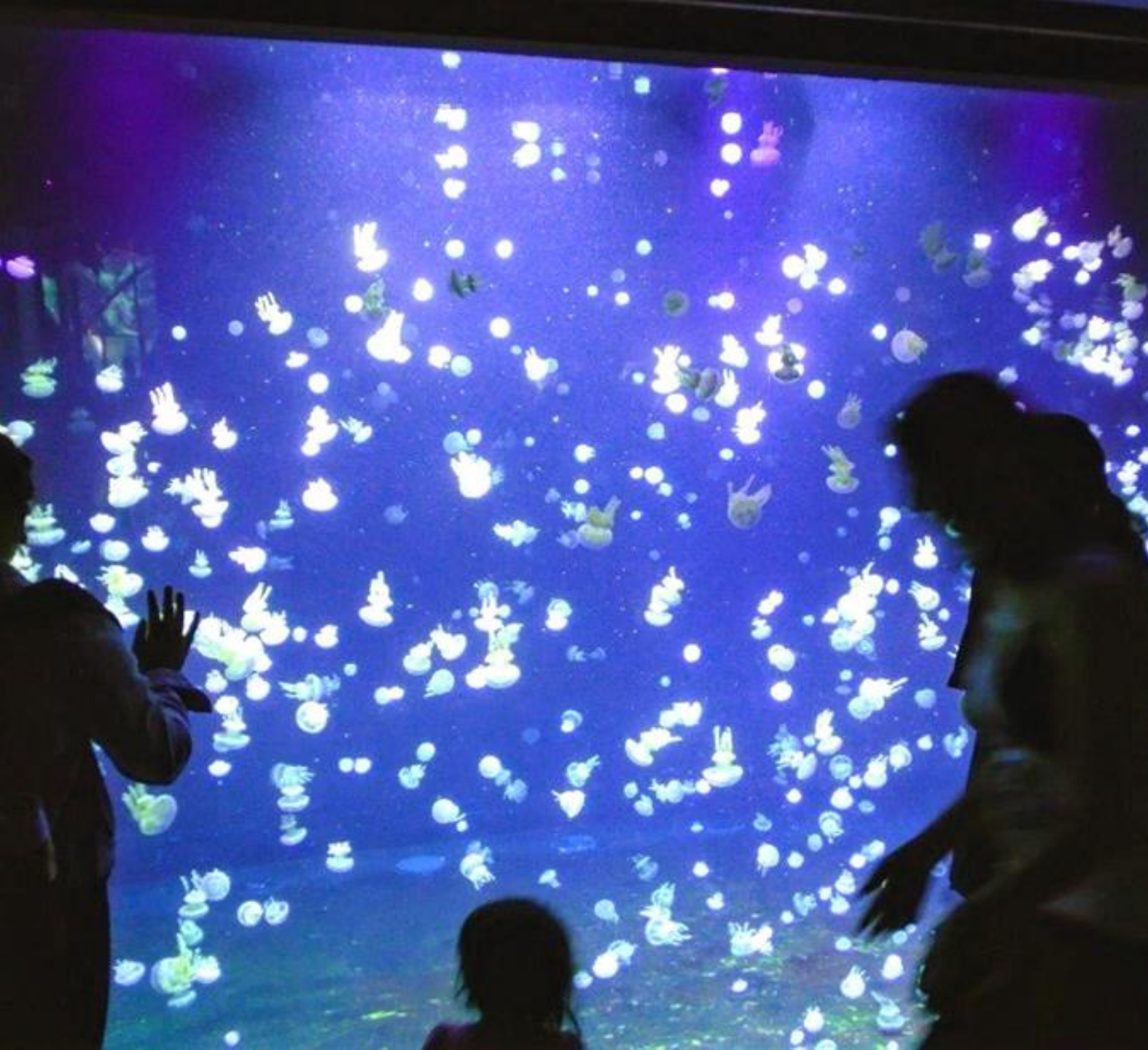
[Using Photovoice and Photo-elicitation FAQ \(va.gov\)](#)
or 6.12 in the **SERVE Resources**



Five years after leaving Iraq
I still have anxiety driving.

When I am confined, with no way to escape,
it feels like I am being funneled into a kill
zone.

Tracy P. ???



“IT REMINDS ME OF WHEN I’M TRYING TO COMMUNICATE TO MY FAMILY BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE THE JELLYFISH, WHERE I’M JUST TRYING TO GRAB HOLD OF A SINGLE THOUGHT OR FEELING BUT I CAN’T BECAUSE EVERYTHING’S OVERWHELMING ME AND I AM TRYING TO COMMUNICATE TO THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE BUT I CAN’T.”

- Justin, OIF Veteran

PhotoVoice and Photography Training to capture Veteran Experience of Health Management during the Covid-19 Pandemic

- Rapid QUERI-funded COVID-19 response project; April-October 2020
- Born out of idea to collaborate with Veteran-run non-profit whose mission is to teach Veterans photography, + apply PhotoVoice methodology



Project Background & Purpose



- 1) Describe experiences of Veterans enrolled in the photography course
 - 2) Describe experiences of Veterans documenting—through photography—management of their substance use recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Expanded eligibility criteria in to enroll Veterans managing any health-related condition during the COVID-19 pandemic

Key Stakeholders



**PARTNERSHIP WITH
COMMUNITY-RUN
VETERAN NON-PROFIT**



**VA QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT TEAM**



**VETERANS RECRUITED
ACROSS COLORADO**

Process

- Beginning **May** 2020, worked with **non-profit** to start program (pitched idea pre-grant submission **April** 2020, once funded, developed program plan, budget, planning meetings, meetings for lessons learned, lots of talking/sorting out logistics)
- **June** 2020 began **recruiting Veterans** through snowball sampling via **word of mouth, non-profit waitlists, VA rec therapy lists**
- **July** 2020: Sent out information/ **made sure Veterans knew what the ask was:** (take photos reflecting management of their health during the pandemic, interviews & focus groups w/ **VA** team, duration of course, virtual meetings)
- **July & August** 2020: QI team had **lots of phone time** w/ Vets **explaining PhotoVoice**, delivering cameras and class info to Veterans. Also, lots of communication with non-profit on **registration process**

Process, continued

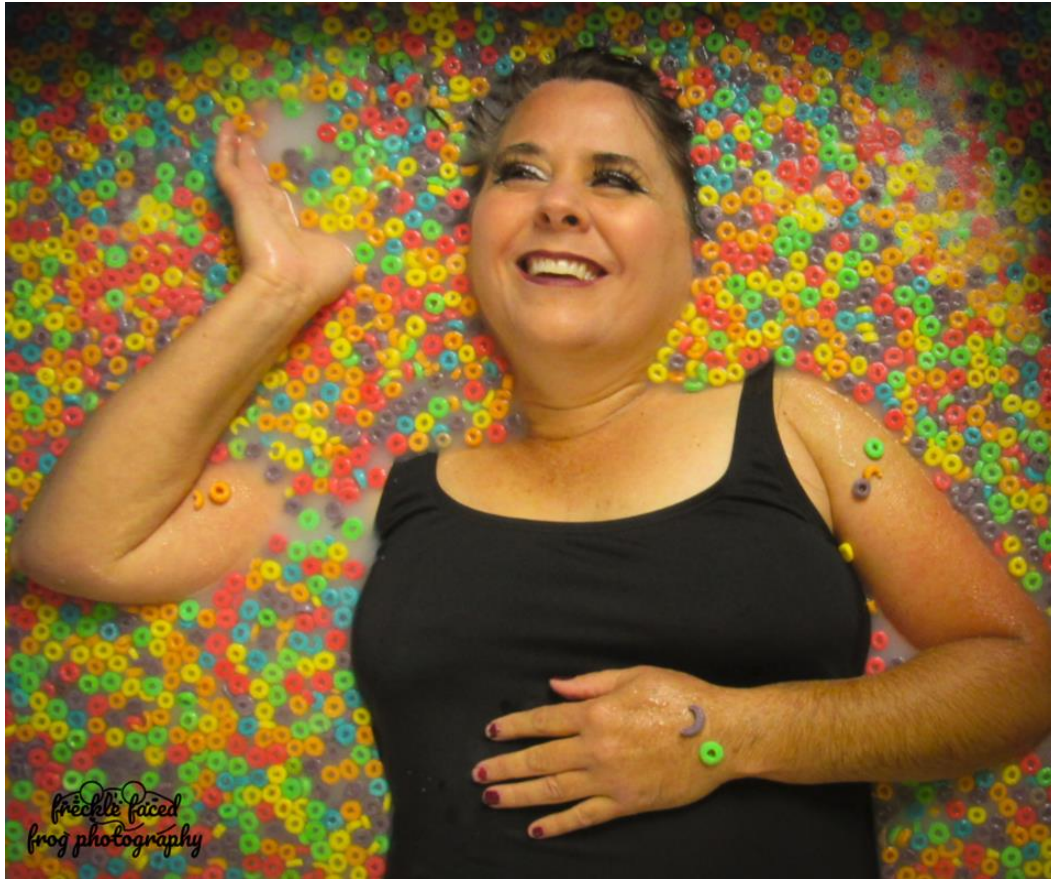
- **August 2020: First Course began!** 4 Saturdays in a row, virtually
 - N=3 completed; N=7 applied; N= 6 enrolled; N = 3 dropped out
- **September 2020:** VA QI team debrief touch base with non-profit
- **October 2020: Second Course began!**
 - N=7 completed; N=18 applied; N = 14 enrolled; N = 7 dropped out
- Veterans completed **1-on-1 interviews** w/VA team after second of four photography classes, & **focus group** at the end of the course
- Discussed **2 photos** in first interview, and **1 photo** in focus group via **SHOWED PhotoVoice** method
- **Wrapped up course two** by meeting w/ non-profit
- **Thematic team-based analysis** of all interview & focus group data



Exploring photography as an outlet for coping, for health management, and as story telling

“I certainly want them to understand that the chair has a significance. It’s a significant piece of the image, it would be, one of the things that I found so often in my life was the spontaneous reaction to everything, you know, irritation, frustration, anger, sadness, guilt, you know, you name it. All of it was spontaneous and raw and explosive and you know I, I’m, I’m deeply ashamed of that. And the chair is a reminder to pause and contemplate and think and review and take a breather before you do something rash.” Veteran 202, Male, Age 44, Marines

Multiple Veterans Talked about the Importance of Making their Photography **FUN!** Especially as the pandemic negatively affected their health



- How has COVID-19 affected the management of your health?
- *It has been worse. At the very beginning, I was having to do therapy through Zoom, which isn't the same and there are distractions. It's gotten a little bit better cause I can go in person for therapy now, but it's affected everything from my kids being home all day to me being home all day because my schooling is all online now, too, and then the three of us trying to school at the same time. It definitely caused the depression to hit harder. Being stuck inside all the time and then not feeling like I was getting the therapy I needed. I wasn't getting the schooling time that I needed. -Veteran 203, Female, Age 35, Army*

Findings / Key Takeaways

- **Photography as coping**
- **Challenges with managing family life during pandemic**
- **Identifying with Veteran status**
- **Many managing mental health issues/depression**
- **Most appreciated the VA and this program**
- **Very introspective responses from SHOWED method**
- **Appreciated learning photography skills**
- **Spoke frankly about managing health conditions during COVID**
- **Valued nature & getting outside especially because of and with increased social distancing**
- **Lots of discussion of managing health issues during pandemic**

How can Photovoice/PAR contribute to longitudinal collaboration, reciprocity, and inclusion?

- Describe trajectory of increasing levels of community engagement in VA research
 - CHERP/COIN-funded pilot "Feasibility of a Life Story Intervention for OEF/OIF Veterans" (2008-2009)
 - HSR&D-funded pilot "Photovoice as an Educational Intervention to Improve Care of OEF/OIF Veterans" (2011-2012)
 - HSR&D-funded MERIT "Communicating Impact of TBI on Community Reintegration through Photovoice" (2015-2018)
 - HSR&D and ORH funded work "Veteran-Informed Safety Intervention and Outreach Network" (2019-current)
- Demonstrate how Photovoice approach led to:
 - authentic and sustained engagement of individuals and community partners
 - transparency and reciprocity in relationships
 - building towards equity and inclusion

Autonomy and respect for persons: Photovoice as a paradigm shift

Life Story study consent form

Electronic and paper copies of your Life Story sessions and completed Life Story used for the purposes of the research study will be 'cleaned' of any potentially identifiable information such as names of persons, place names, and dates. Only one paper copy of your completed Life Story will contain these details—this copy will be given to you at the end of the study. Any

1st Photovoice study consent form

authorized by law. The results of this study may be published and will be disseminated to VA administrators, health care providers, and other staff through Photovoice exhibits and presentations. You will be allowed to decide how much of your identity to share or not share with others. If you choose to use your real name and to participate in public presentations of the Photovoice project, others will know your identity. If you choose not to use your real name but wish to participate in the Photovoice exhibit, you will not be identified by name or other personal identifiers, and your identity will be protected or disguised to the full extent possible. During

Photovoice, catalytic validity, & knowledge transfer

2nd Photovoice study consent form

THE PHOTOVOICE JOURNEY

BASED ON PHOTOVOICE PATH BY L.S. LORENZ, PHD

Visit 1: Learn about Photovoice



Participants take/collect photos

Visit 2: Individual Interview and photo selection

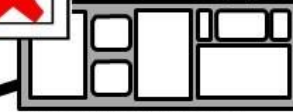


Photo-narrative created

Dyads review photo-narratives together



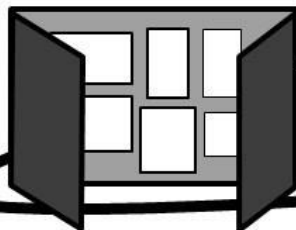
Visit 3:
Dyadic Interview



Visit 4:
Group Discussion



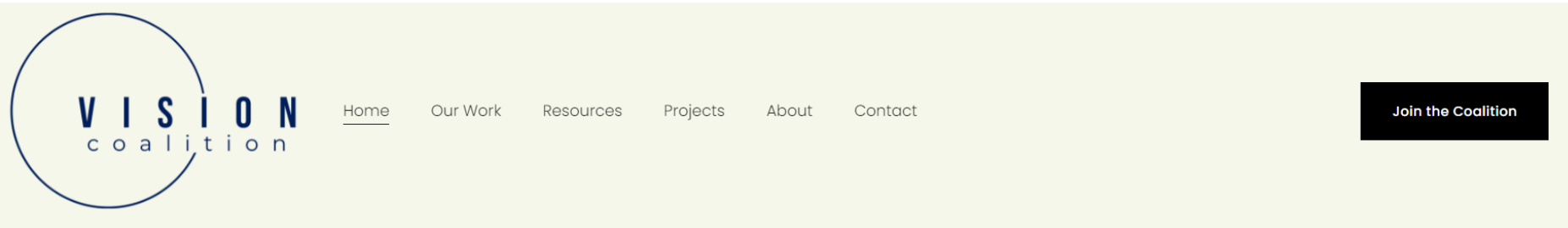
Traveling Exhibition
of Photo-narratives
in multiple venues



Your Experiences
Better Understood
by Stakeholders

- Research question(s) relevant to community
- Policy change as a research objective
- Participants gain deeper understanding of social realities and how they can make change
- Emphasis on making research accessible to community

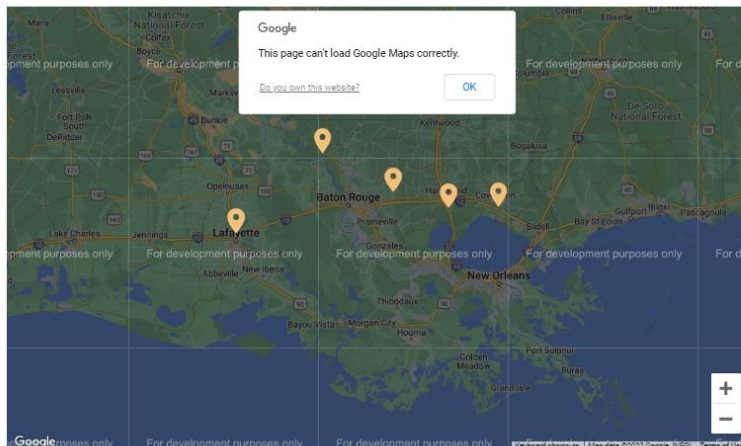
Building the foundation for community-partnered interventions



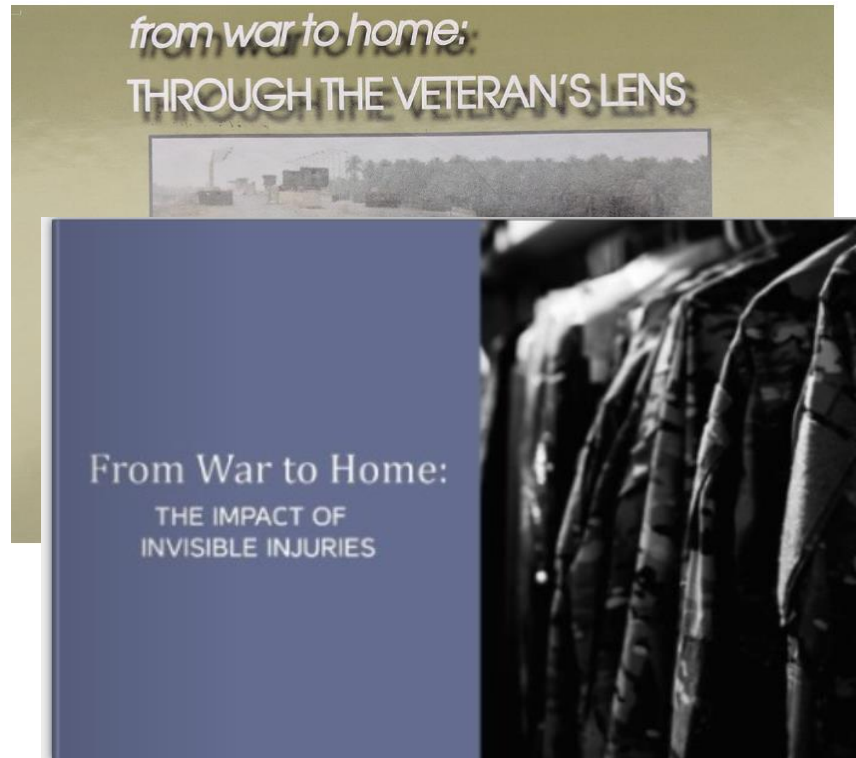
Veteran-Informed Safety Intervention & Outreach Network



Firearm Retail Partner Map



Photovoice products & outputs enable transparency & reciprocity



From War To Home

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 - Veterans Stories
 - Images of Deployment
 - Making the Transition
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Special Issue Article

“Institutions Don’t Hug People:” A Roadmap

Journal of Humanistic Psychology
2021, Vol. 61(3) 365–404
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Mission
“Through the Veteran’s Lens” explores the realities of military service through words and images from veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
[Learn more »](#)

“If You Don’t Name the Dragon, You Can’t Begin to Slay It:” Participatory Action Research to Increase Awareness Around Military-Related Traumatic Brain Injury

Gala True, Ray Facundo, Carlos Urbina, Sawyer Sheldon, J. Duncan Southall, and Sarah S. Ono

Photovoice provides a pathway to equity and inclusion in research





From War to Home installed at the New Orleans VA



VA HSR&D @vahsrd · Oct 30
We are so lucky at the #HSRD2019/#QUERI2019 National Meeting to have @FromWar2Home share amazing work from Vets & their caregivers in the ongoing From War to Home project.

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Questions????