VIReC The Researcher's Guide to VA Data

About VIReC

The VA Information Resource Center (VIReC) has been an HSR&D Resource Center since 1999. Our mission is to advance VA capacity to use data effectively for research and quality improvement and to foster communication between research data users and the VA healthcare community.

Visit Our Website: vaww.virec.research.va.gov

VIReC Resources for Data Users

- ✓ **VIReC Intranet:** Go-to resource for information about data and information systems relevant to VA research.

- ✓ **VHA Data Portal:** VIReC collaborates with NDS, VINCI, and HIG-Data Quality to provide this central gateway to information about VA data.

- ✓ **User Guides & Factbooks:** Detailed information on select data sources, including table, column, and variable descriptions.

- ✓ *The Researcher's Notebook*: Topic-specific guidance on using VA data from researchers in the field.

- ✓ **Statistical Snapshot:** Summary statistics allowing for the comparison of data across time.

- ✓ **Summary Data Knowledge:** Current and historical information on dataset variables, counts, and frequencies.

- ✓ *Data Issues Brief*: Current news and updates regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics.

- ✓ **Cyberseminars:** Expert discussion and guidance on key issues related to using VA data for research.

- ✓ **HelpDesk:** Provides individualized responses to requests about databases and information systems used for VA research.

VIReC FY15 Highlights

- ➤ **Innovative CDW Data Knowledge Products:** *VIReC Factbooks for CDW Domains*, *The Researcher's Notebook*, and our CDW cyberseminar miniseries helped researchers effectively use these data.

- ➤ **Veteran Medicaid Enrollment & Medicare Data Quality:** VIReC presented research at national conference venues on VA-Medicaid dual enrollees and the impact of substance abuse claims redaction in CMS.

- ➤ **Training for COIN Based VINCI Data Managers**: VIReC collaborated with VINCI, BISL, NDS, and HSR&D COINs to create an innovative, interdisciplinary program that will train data managers from COINs to create research data extracts from the CDW for projects at their local sites.

Advancing Data Knowledge & Methods	Disseminating Information	Enhancing Data Access & Capacity
We conduct research and collaborate with experts in the field to create a knowledge base of factual and evaluative information about VA data and information systems.	We disseminate information that enables researchers to maximize the power of VA data and information systems and facilitate knowledge sharing among the data user community.	We collaborate with VA data stewards and program offices to enhance data access and availability and to identify and address issues affecting research that uses data and information systems.