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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Focus on Health Equity and Action:

Using Data to Characterize Vulnerable Veteran Populations

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Veterans Health Administration
Office of Health Equity



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

- Intro & Rationale
- Method & Data
- Findings – Descriptive Analysis
- Implications for Research, Policy, Operations & the Veteran
- Q&A





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Office of Health Equity
- Women Health Services
- WHEI - Palo Alto VAMC
- CSHIIP - GLA VAMC
- HSR&D - CIDER



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THANK YOU VETERANS!



I CARE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



myVA
Putting Veterans First



Five Priorities



- Access
- Employee Engagement
- Best Practices and Consistency
- Development of a High Performance Network
- Restore Trust and Confidence



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- Veteran/Customer Experience
- Employee Experience
- Support Service Excellence
- Performance Improvement
- Strategic Partnership



OHE PROGRAM OFFICE SCOPE

□ Role of Program

- OHE champions the advancement of health equity and reduction of health disparities through 5 key focal areas*:
 1. Leadership
 2. Awareness
 3. Health Outcomes
 4. Diversity and Cultural Competency of the Workforce
 5. Data, Research, and Evaluation
- Strategic Alignments
 - VHA Strategic Plan Objective 1(e)—*Quality & Equity: Veterans will receive timely, high quality, personalized, safe, effective and equitable health care, irrespective of geography, gender, race, age, culture or sexual orientation*
 - Blueprint for Excellence strategies 2.2a, 3.2a and 7.2b

*VHA Health Equity Action Plan





OHE - WHEI PROJECT BACKGROUND

- ❑ OHE data need to inform Strategic Planning, Policy and Operations
- ❑ WHEI databases developed for Women's Health program Office
- ❑ MOU to partner and use this foundation to yield new data sets
- ❑ Scope covered Vulnerable Veteran groups as much as possible





VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Racial or Ethnic Group
- Gender
- Age
- Geographic Location
- Religion*
- Socio-Economic Status*
- Sexual Orientation*
- Military Era /Period of Service**
- Disability – Cognitive, Sensory, Physical**
- Mental Health
- Other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion*

Italics- Not covered by project

Presentation focus





OHE - WHEI PROJECT SCOPE

- Create data tables with descriptive analysis of the key characteristics for target groups
- VHA Outpatient Utilization - MH ,PC, SUD, ED Telephone, Non-VA Fee Med Care
- Cost of Care – Outpatient, inpatient, Fee Med Care
- Diagnoses – Grouped into conditions
- Fiscal Year 2013 data





AUDIENCE POLL QUESTION #1

- Have you ever examined your research or clinical data by Period of Service
 - Yes
 - No



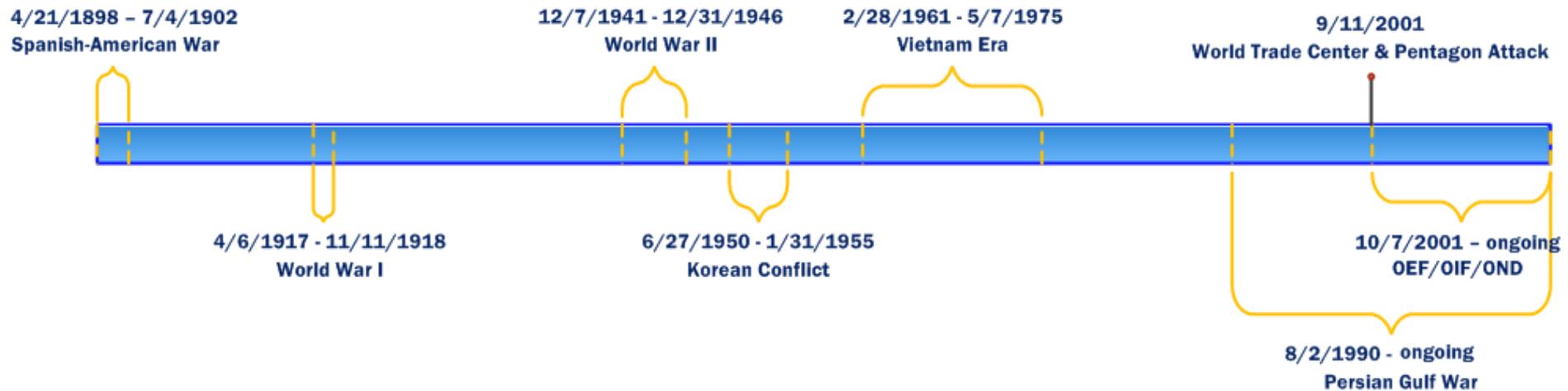


AUDIENCE POLL QUESTION #2

- The following are periods of military Service Era – check all that apply
 - Vietnam
 - Korea
 - Gulf War
 - Peacetimes
 - World War



Timeline of U.S. Period of Service Eras



Key: OEF/OIF/OND – Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn
Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



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Populations

Military Era /Period of Service = POS

Disability – Cognitive, Sensory, Physical = SC



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GOAL

- In key subgroups of Veterans (e.g., by Period of Service and by Service-Connected Disability Rating), characterize:
 - Sociodemographics
 - Utilization
 - Cost of care
 - Health profile
 - Facility variability





DATA SOURCES

- Leverages WHEI Master Database and adds new variables; derived from multiple data sources, including:
 - ADUSH Enrollment File
 - National Patient Care Database
 - Non-VA (Fee) Medical Care Files
 - VA Managerial Cost Accounting System, MCA (DSS NDEs)
 - PSSG Enrollee File
 - VHA Vital Status File
 - OEF/OIF/OND Roster
- Denominator:
 - Veteran VHA patients in FY2013
- Variable creation:
 - Algorithms Draw upon multiple sources and multiple years of data



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Military Era / Period of Service = POS
Findings



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VHA Vulnerable Population: Period of Service Era

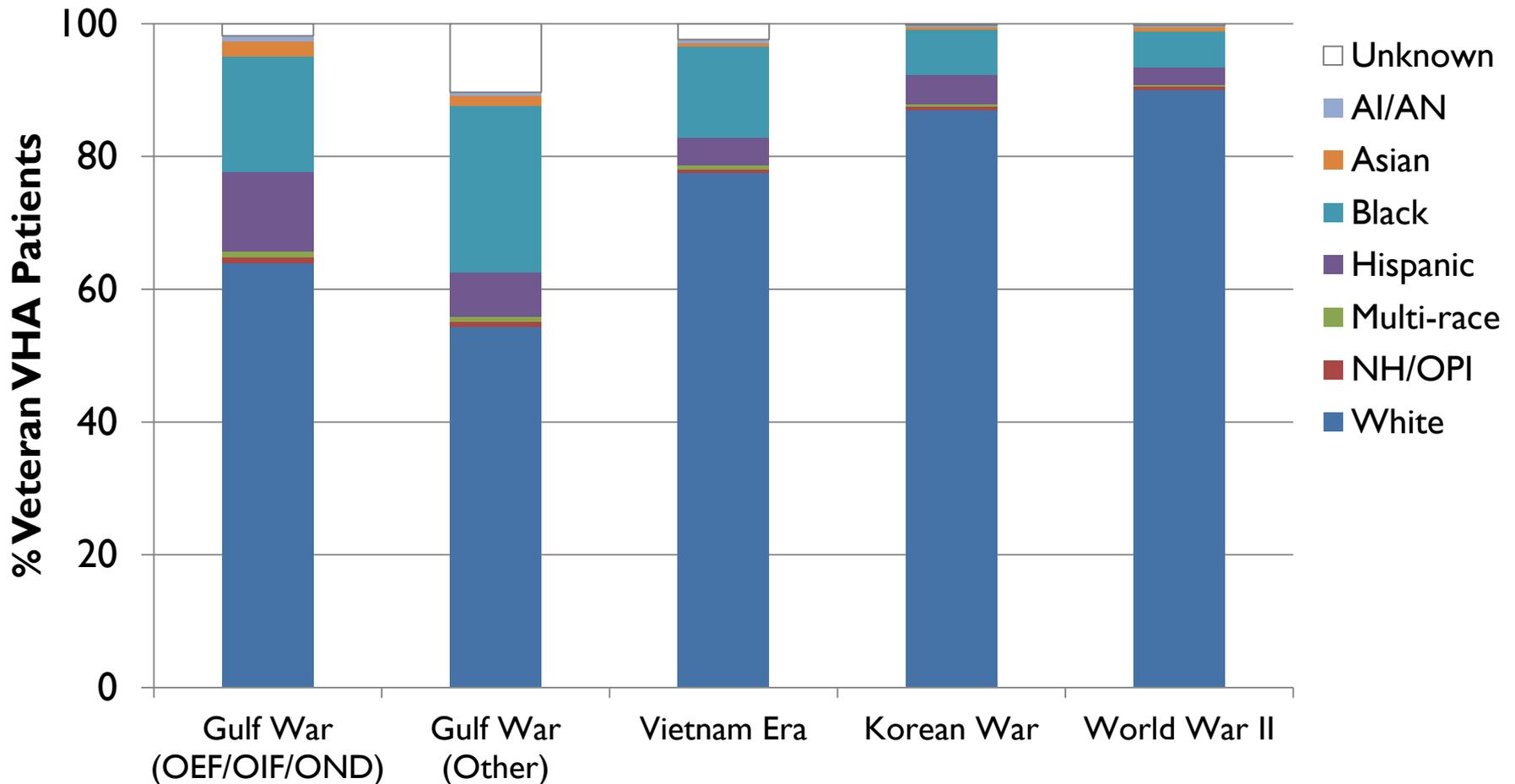
Tables and Figures Prepared for VHA Office of Health Equity (OHE)
By Women's Health Evaluation Initiative (WHEI)



Sociodemographics Period of Service Era



Race/Ethnicity by War-Time Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

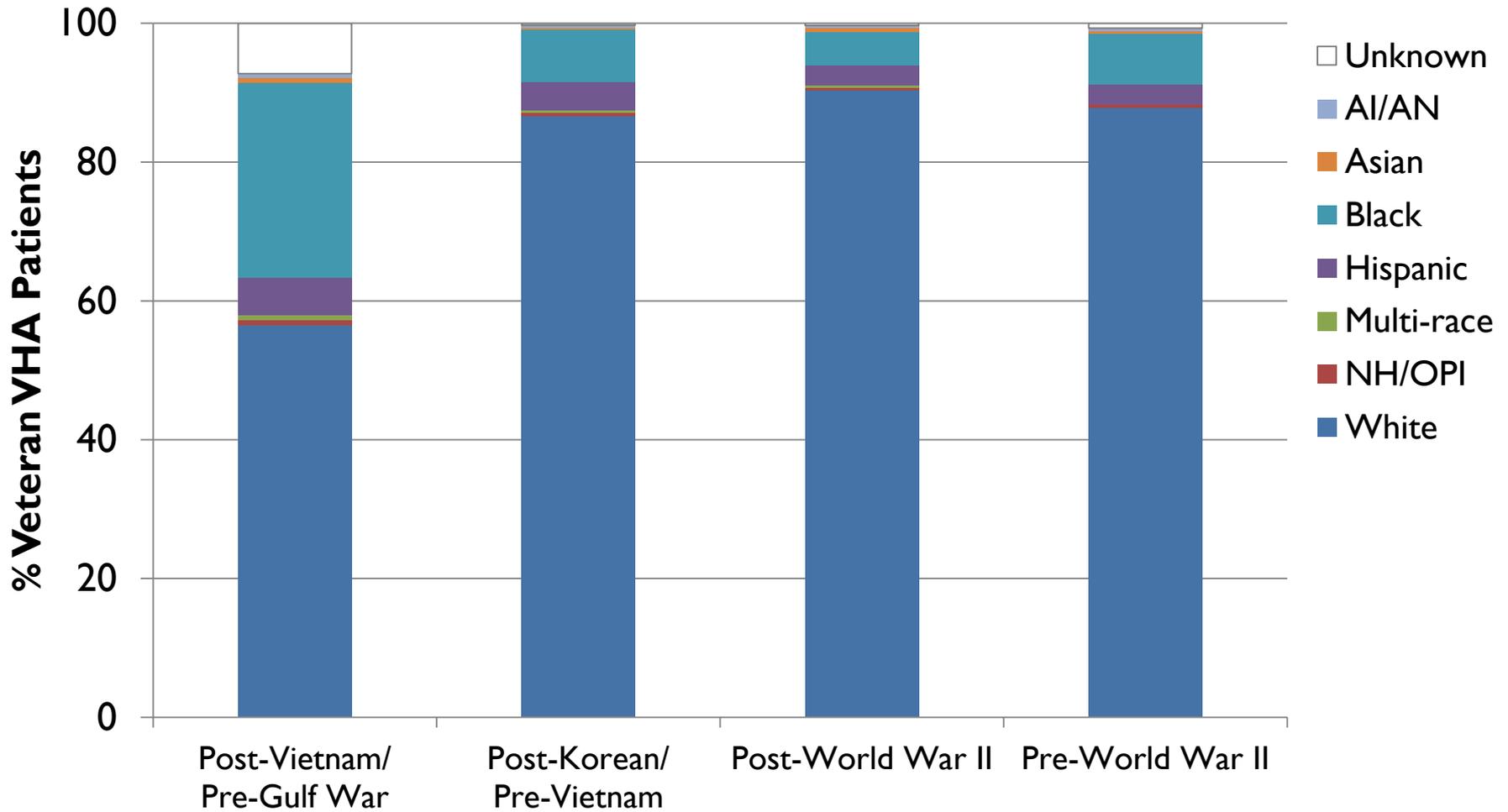


Key: AI/AN – American Indian/Alaska Native; Black – Black/African American; NH/OPI – Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; OEF/OIF/OND – Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women’s Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Race/Ethnicity by Peace-Time/Other Period of Service Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

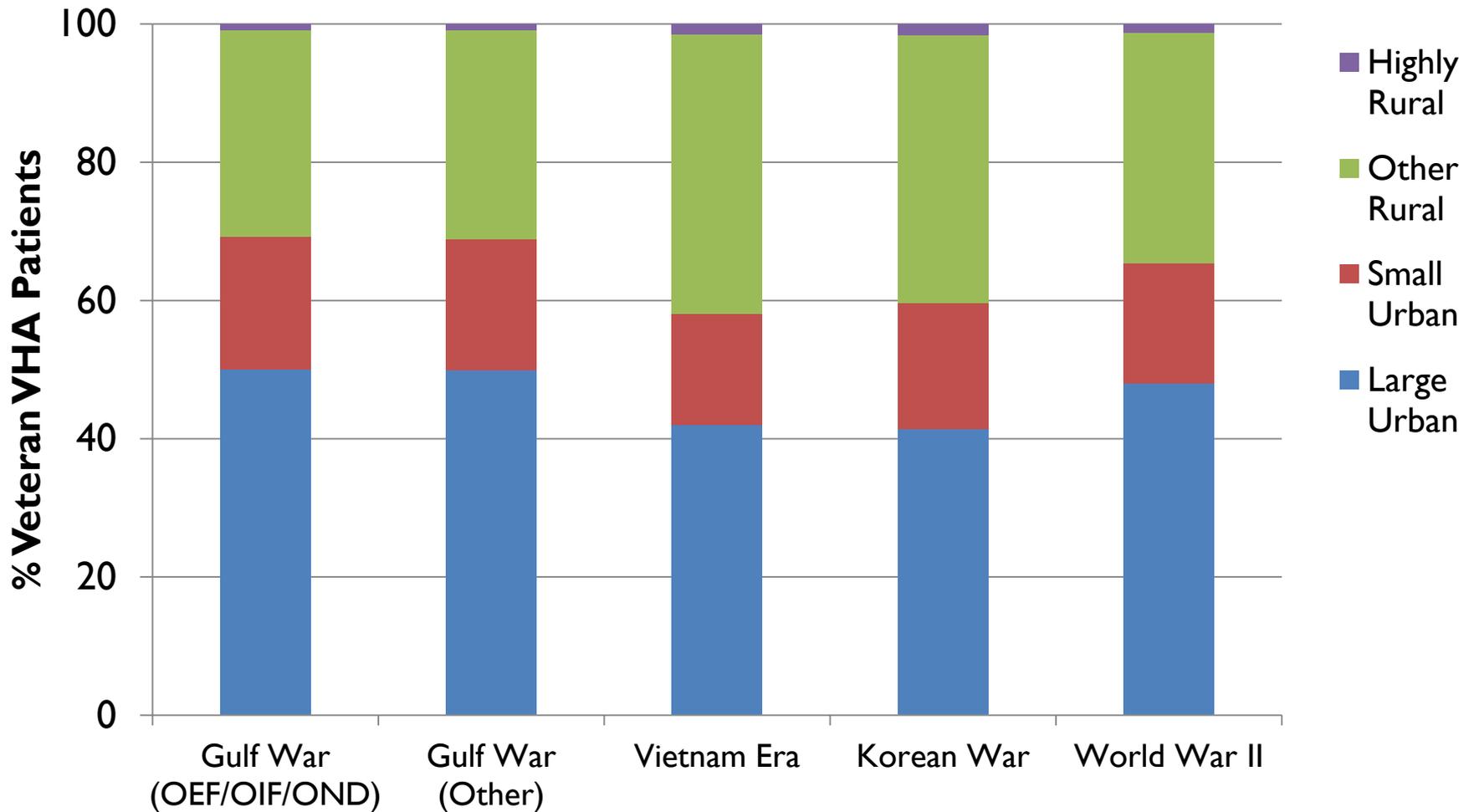


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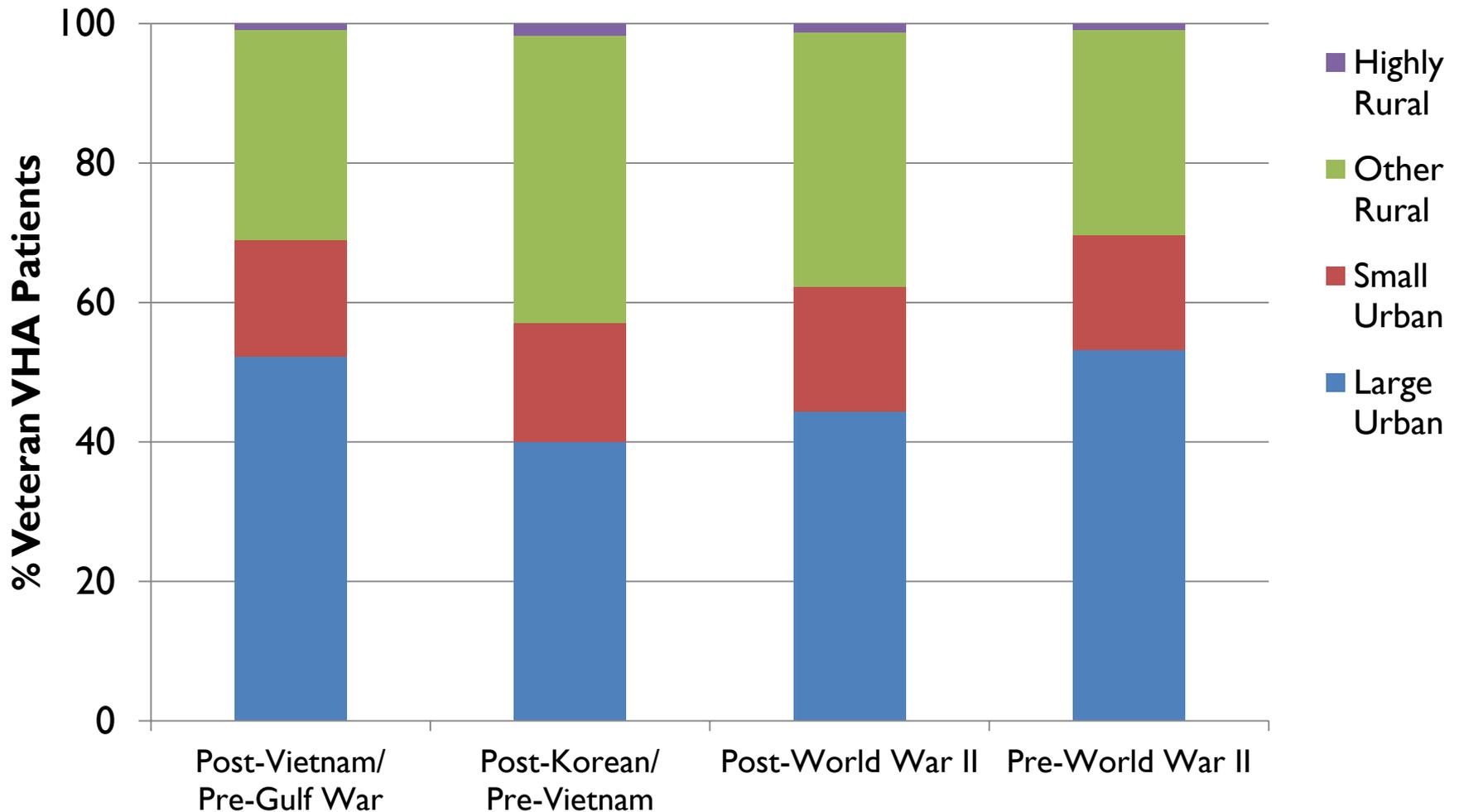
Rural/Urban Status by War-Time Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13



Key: OEF/OIF/OND – Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn
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Rural/Urban Status by Peace-Time/Other Period of Service Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

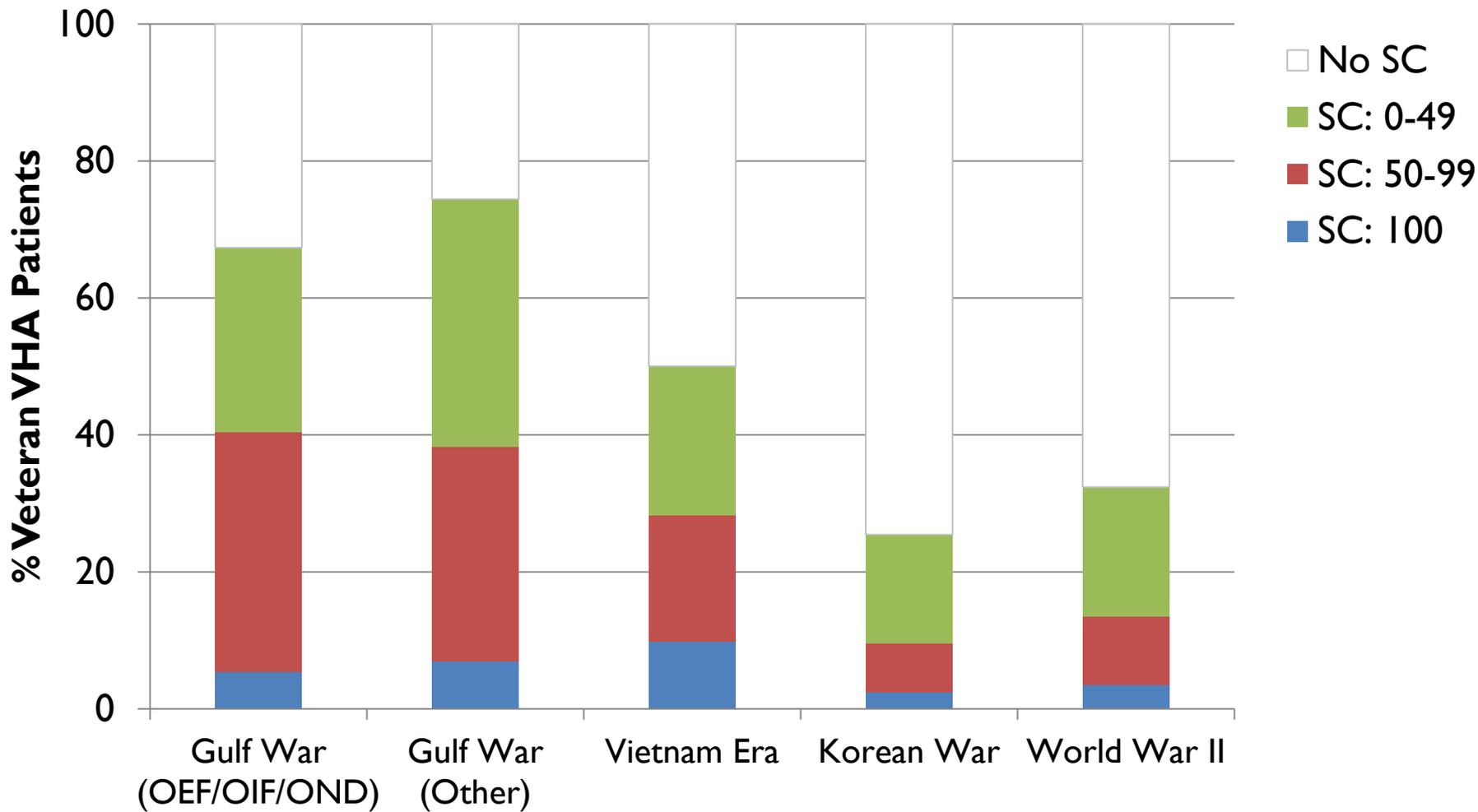


Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])

Source: VHA Office of Health Equity (OHE)



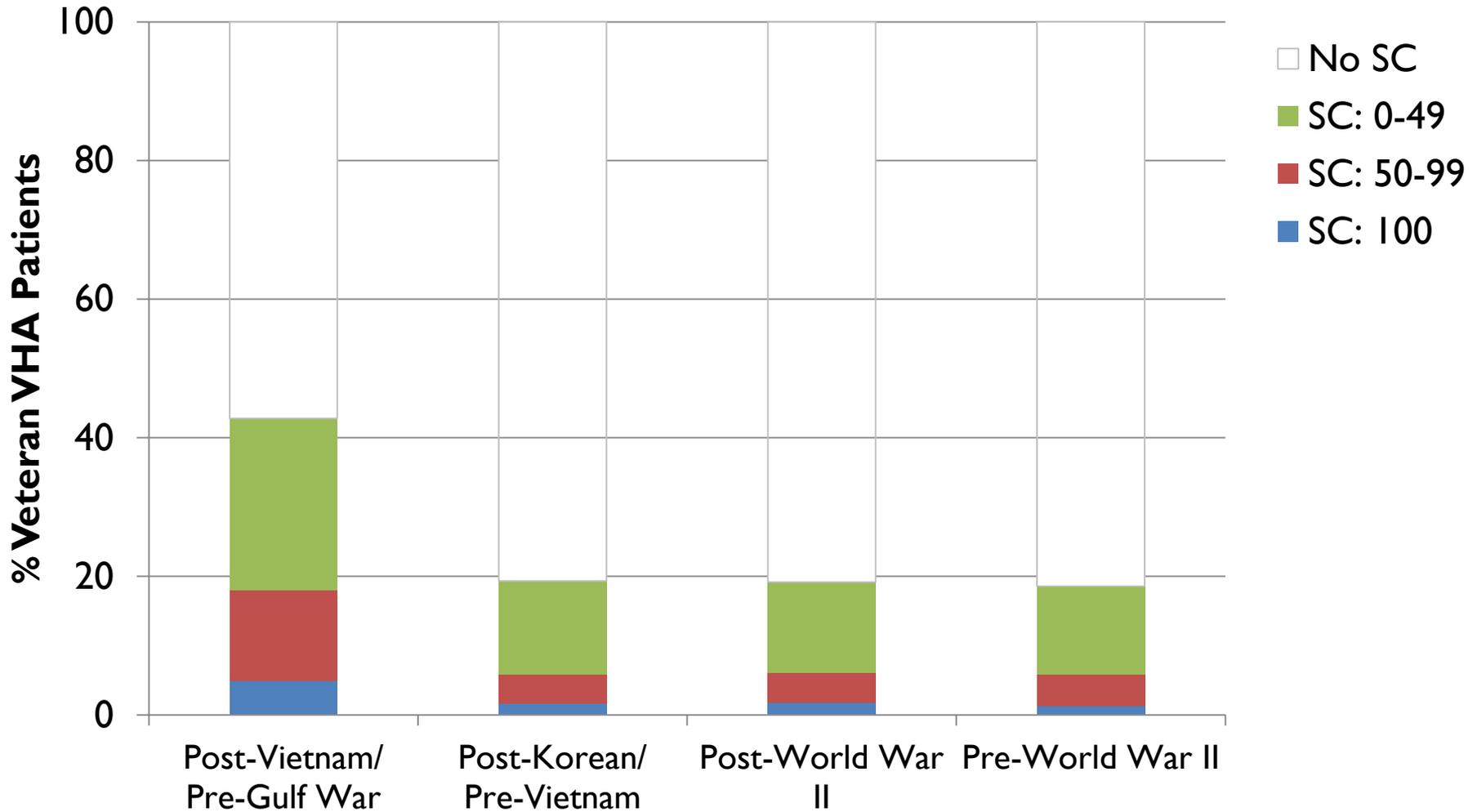
Service-Connected (SC) Status by War-Time Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13



Key: OEF/OIF/OND – Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn
 Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Service-Connected (SC) Status by Peace-Time/Other Period of Service Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13



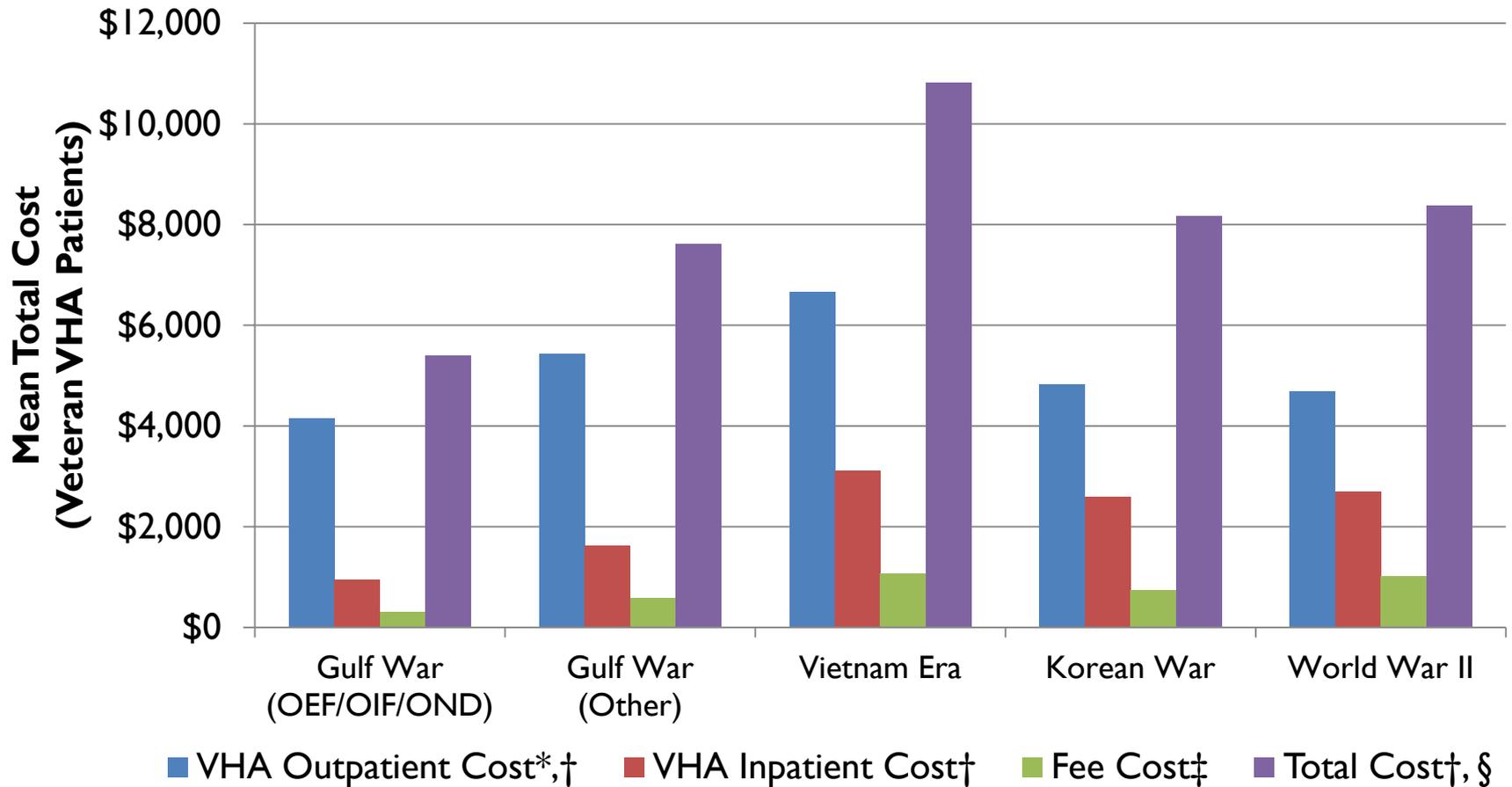
Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Cost of Care Period of Service Era



Mean Total Costs by War-Time Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

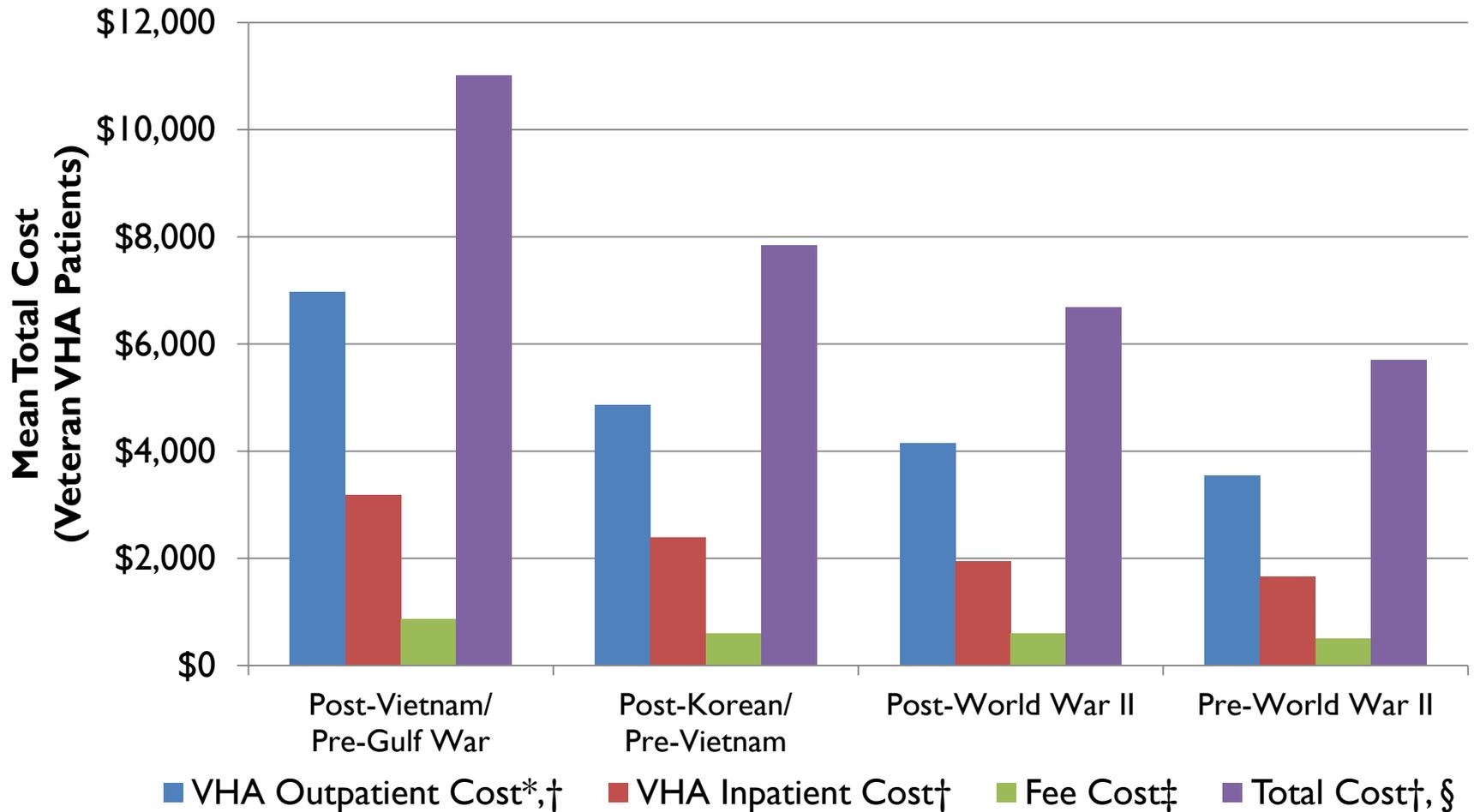


*Includes outpatient pharmacy †Outliers trimmed ‡Costs paid in FY13 §Total costs include outpatient, inpatient, and pharmacy

Key: OEF/OIF/OND – Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn
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Mean Total Costs by Peace-Time/Other Period of Service Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

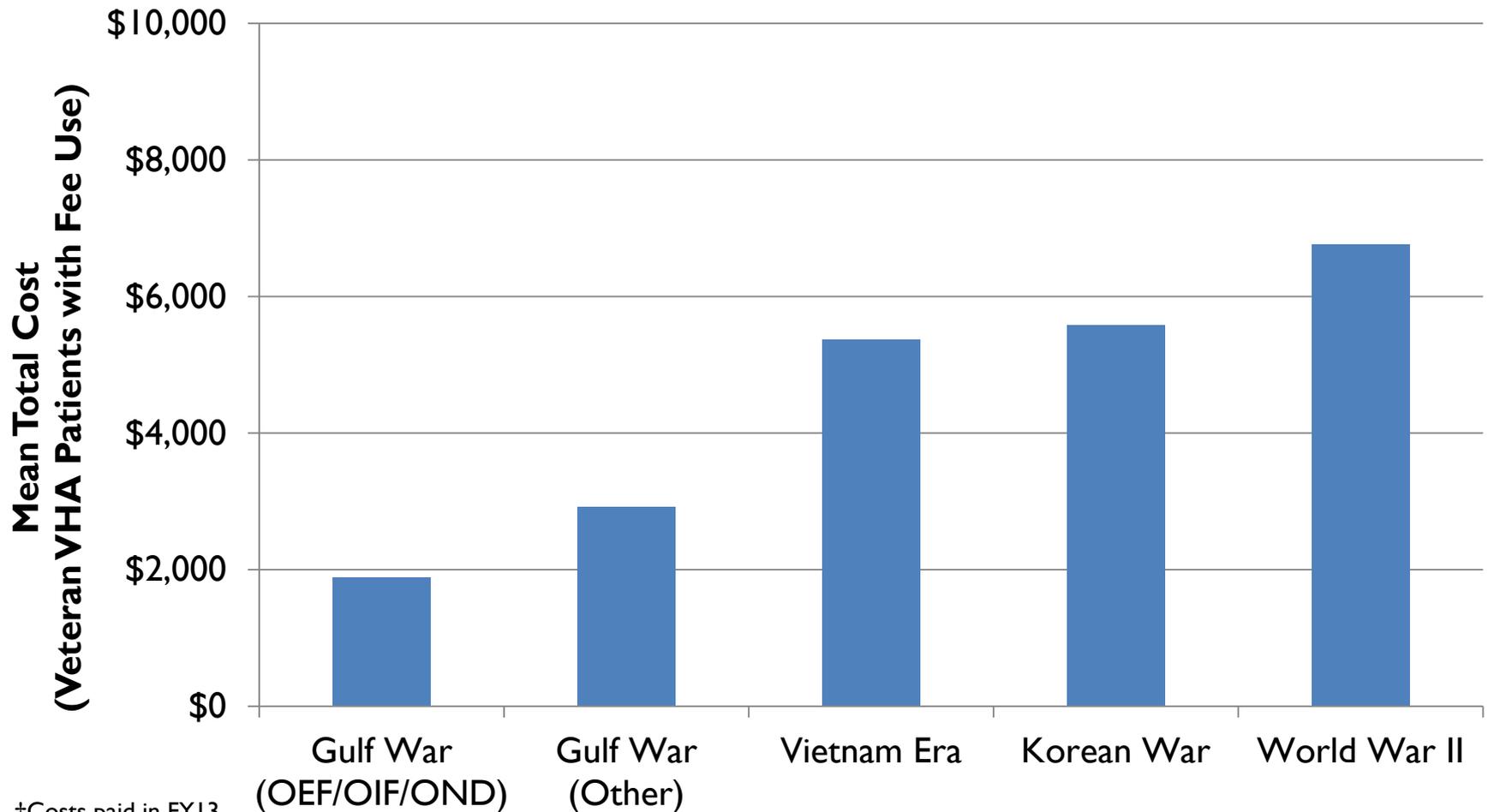


*Includes outpatient pharmacy †Outliers trimmed ‡Costs paid in FY13 §Total costs include outpatient, inpatient, and pharmacy

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Mean Total Fee Costs‡ by War-Time Era among Subset of Veteran VHA Patients with Fee Use, FY13

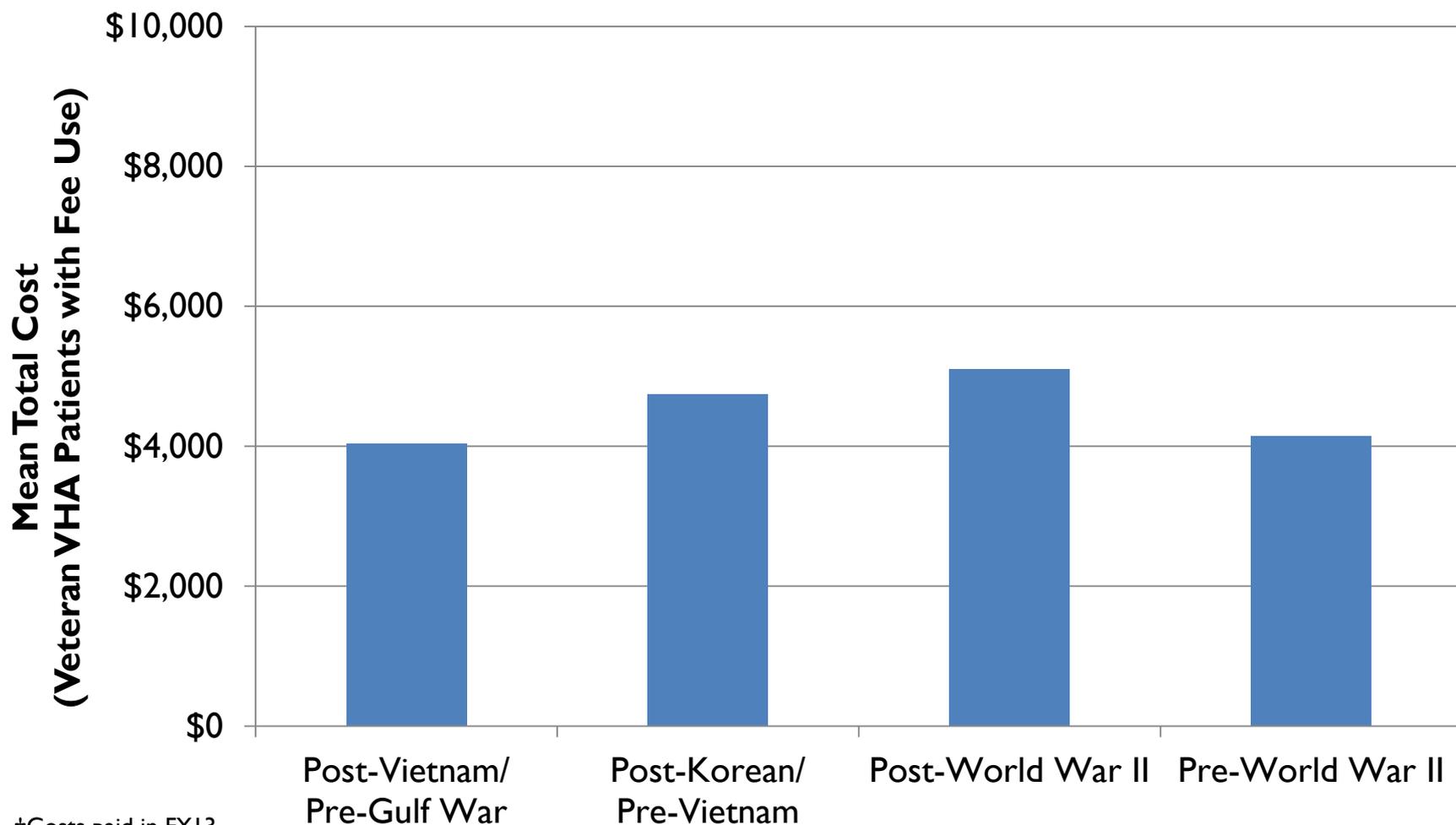


‡Costs paid in FY13

Key: OEF/OIF/OND – Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn
 Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Mean Total Fee Costs‡ by Peace-Time/Other Period of Service Era among Subset of Veteran VHA Patients with Fee Use, FY13



‡Costs paid in FY13

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Health Profile Period of Service Era



Domain Frequencies by Peace-Time/Other Period of Service Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

	% Post-Vietnam/ Pre-Gulf War	% Post-Korean/ Pre-Vietnam	% Post-World War II	% Pre-World War II
Count	606,399	302,111	18,042	982
Infectious Disease	26.8	17.6	16.0	13.8
Endocrine/Metabolic/Nutritional	61.9	77.5	70.9	53.8
Cardiovascular	55.3	78.8	77.3	67.8
Respiratory	28.8	28.8	26.4	18.4
Gastrointestinal	37.9	36.3	30.9	25.6
Urinary	13.0	21.9	24.3	23.2
Reproductive Health	19.4	33.1	31.9	28.6
Breast	1.4	0.4	0.3	0.1
Cancer	5.2	17.0	17.0	12.9
Hematologic/Immunologic	8.8	13.5	15.5	13.5
Musculoskeletal	57.7	42.9	38.3	35.6
Neurologic	23.4	24.0	28.4	31.6
Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder	43.8	15.8	12.4	10.4
Sense Organ	37.3	49.7	52.5	54.9
Dental	10.0	2.6	2.0	1.8
Dermatologic	21.8	22.8	19.9	15.8
Other	57.9	38.3	32.2	29.9

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Domain Frequencies by War-Time Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

	% Gulf War (OEF/OIF/OND)	% Gulf War (Other)	% Vietnam Era	% Korean War	% World War II
Count	599,674	653,109	2,325,333	522,536	379,758
Infectious Disease	16.1	21.2	23.8	18.0	18.1
Endocrine/Metabolic/Nutritional	32.0	53.8	74.5	75.0	66.4
Cardiovascular	20.8	42.1	72.3	79.6	76.3
Respiratory	19.4	26.4	30.8	28.1	25.0
Gastrointestinal	22.2	31.4	40.4	34.4	31.4
Urinary	5.3	10.3	18.3	25.0	27.3
Reproductive Health	12.8	19.1	27.5	33.7	31.8
Breast	0.8	1.6	0.5	0.4	0.4
Cancer	1.1	3.5	12.5	18.2	16.9
Hematologic/Immunologic	2.9	6.5	11.6	16.0	17.9
Musculoskeletal	52.9	58.1	51.5	42.0	39.8
Neurologic	22.6	23.2	24.1	28.7	32.7
Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder	48.9	41.1	35.4	14.9	13.7
Sense Organ	23.5	32.1	48.9	53.5	57.2
Dental	8.3	10.4	10.2	3.2	3.6
Dermatologic	14.8	19.0	25.6	22.6	21.7
Other	47.3	50.2	50.7	35.7	34.2

Key: OEF/OIF/OND – Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn
 Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Condition Frequencies for *Endocrine/Metabolic/Nutritional* Domain by War-Time Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

	% Gulf War (OEF/OIF/OND)	% Gulf War (Other)	% Vietnam Era	% Korean War	% World War II
Count	599,674	653,109	2,325,333	522,536	379,758
Diabetes Mellitus	3.5	14.2	32.1	29.7	22.3
Lipid Disorders	18.7	35.3	57.8	59.4	48.9
Overweight/Obesity	12.9	19.3	18.6	8.4	3.9
Thyroid Disorders	2.5	5.6	7.5	11.0	13.3
Osteoporosis	0.1	0.5	1.1	2.2	3.1
Vitamin D Deficiency	3.1	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.9
Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders	5.4	10.2	14.0	12.3	11.0
Endocrine, Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders - Other	1.0	2.4	4.7	4.6	5.0

Key: OEF/OIF/OND – Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn
 Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women’s Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Condition Frequencies for *Cardiovascular* Domain by War-Time Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

	% Gulf War (OEF/OIF/OND)	% Gulf War (Other)	% Vietnam Era	% Korean War	% World War II
Count	599,674	653,109	2,325,333	522,536	379,758
Hypertension	14.5	34.0	62.4	67.5	62.6
Chest Pain/Angina	2.6	4.8	6.1	3.5	2.8
Acute Myocardial Infarction	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.7
Coronary Artery Disease - Other	0.8	4.1	19.4	30.4	30.0
Heart Failure	0.3	1.5	5.7	8.3	10.1
Valvular Disease	0.4	1.1	2.9	5.4	6.2
Atrial Fibrillation/Flutter	0.2	1.0	5.4	12.5	14.5
Arrhythmia/Conduction Disorder - Other	1.8	3.1	5.9	8.5	9.8
Cardiac Conditions - Other	0.5	0.9	1.6	1.2	1.1
Cerebrovascular Accident/Transient Ischemic Attack	0.2	1.2	4.8	6.9	6.9
Cerebrovascular Disease - Other	0.2	0.7	2.3	4.0	4.6
Aortic Aneurysm	<0.1	0.2	1.6	2.7	2.2
Pulmonary Embolism/ Deep Vein Thrombosis	0.4	1.0	1.8	2.0	2.0
Vascular Disease - Other	0.8	2.2	7.2	8.7	8.5
Circulatory System Conditions - Other	2.4	3.2	4.2	4.0	4.2

Key: OEF/OIF/OND – Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn
Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Condition Frequencies for *Musculoskeletal* Domain by War-Time Era among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

	% Gulf War (OEF/OIF/OND)	% Gulf War (Other)	% Vietnam Era	% Korean War	% World War II
Count	599,674	653,109	2,325,333	522,536	379,758
Connective Tissue Disease	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1
Rheumatoid Arthritis and Related Disease	0.2	0.6	1.1	1.1	0.8
Inflammatory Spondyloarthropathies	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1
Polymyalgia Rheumatica	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4
Vasculitis	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Gout/Crystal Arthropathies	0.9	2.4	4.7	5.5	4.8
Spine Disorders - Cervical	6.8	8.1	5.4	2.6	1.9
Spine Disorders - Lumbosacral	23.7	24.5	17.7	10.6	9.0
Spine Disorders - Other/Unspecified	9.7	10.6	7.4	4.6	4.2
Joint Disorders - Upper Extremity	12.3	12.2	10.2	5.6	4.5
Joint Disorders - Lower Extremity	20.8	21.7	15.7	11.3	10.7
Joint Disorders - Unspecified or Multiple Joints	9.6	15.9	16.8	15.9	16.6
Foot Deformities	2.5	3.5	3.4	2.7	2.6
Fracture - Hip	<0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.6
Fracture - Other	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.4	1.7
Osteomyelitis/Infectious Arthritis	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3
Amputation	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.6
Myasthenia Gravis/Myoneural Disorders	<0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Myalgia/Myositis, Unspecified	1.6	3.0	1.1	0.5	0.4
Musculoskeletal Conditions - Other	7.2	9.7	8.5	6.3	5.9

Key: OEF/OIF/OND – Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation New Dawn
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Disability – Cognitive, Sensory, Physical =
Service Connection



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AUDIENCE POLL QUESTION #3

- Have you ever examined your research or clinical data by Service-Connected disability status?
 - Yes
 - No



VHA Vulnerable Population: Service-Connected Status

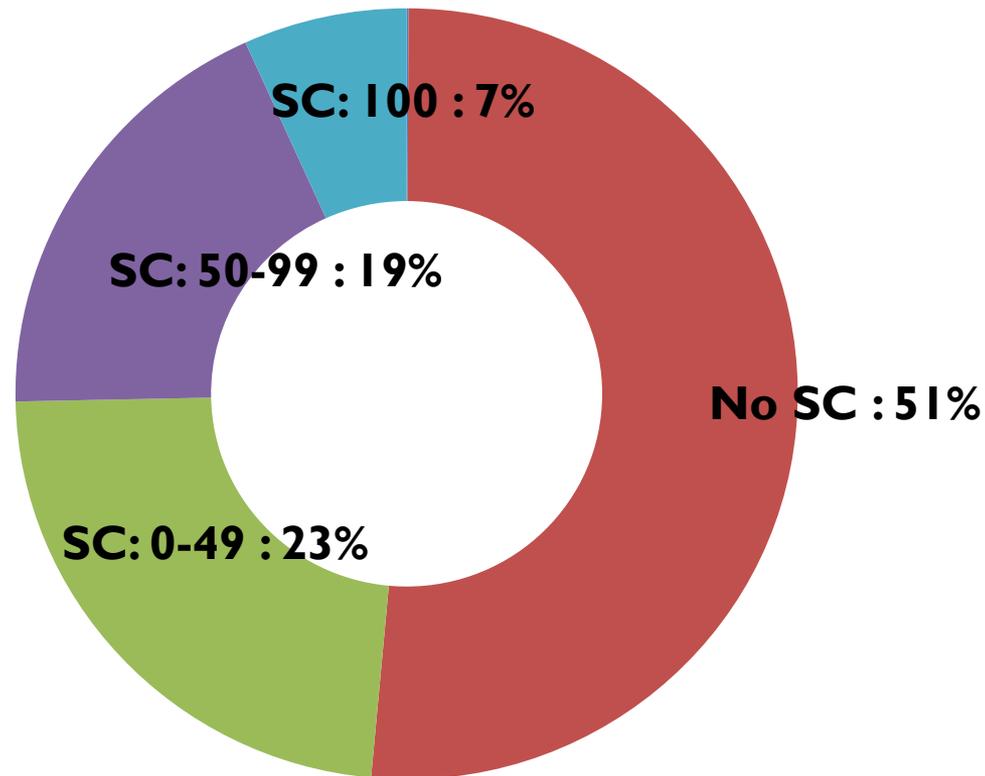
Tables and Figures Prepared for VHA Office of Health Equity (OHE)
By Center for Innovation to Implementation, VA Palo Alto Health Care System



Sociodemographics Service-Connected Status



Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

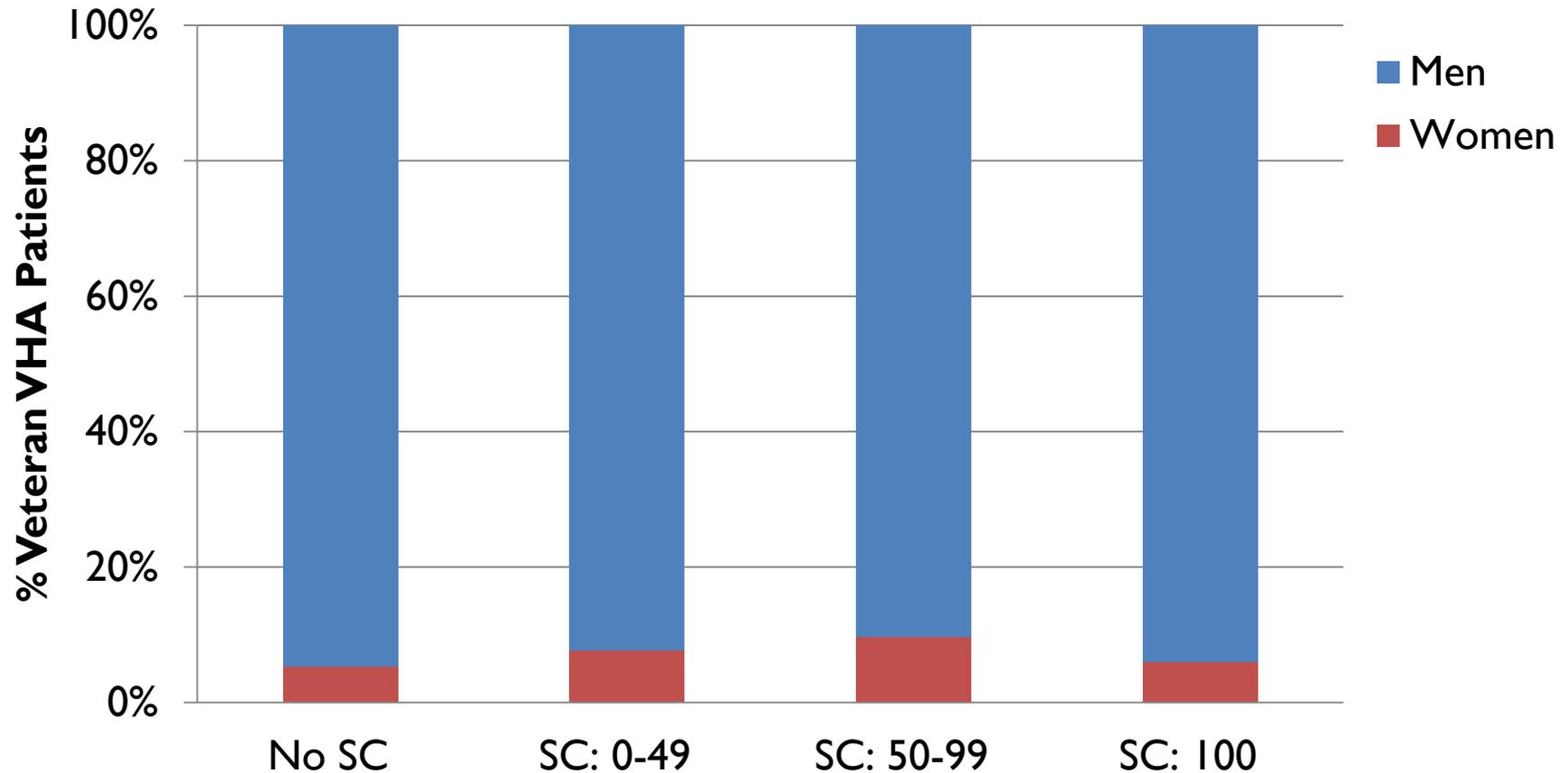


Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Gender by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

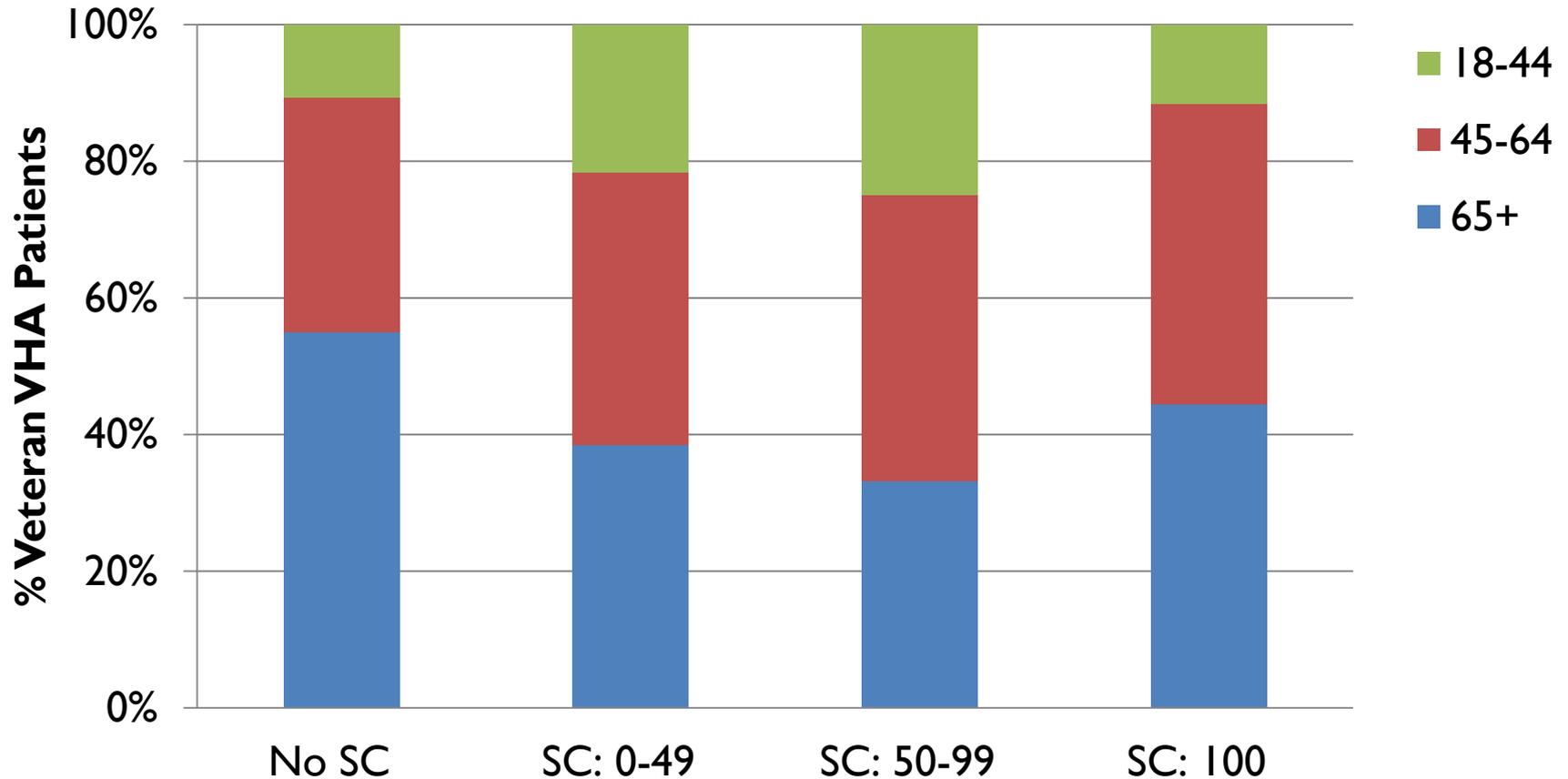


Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Age by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

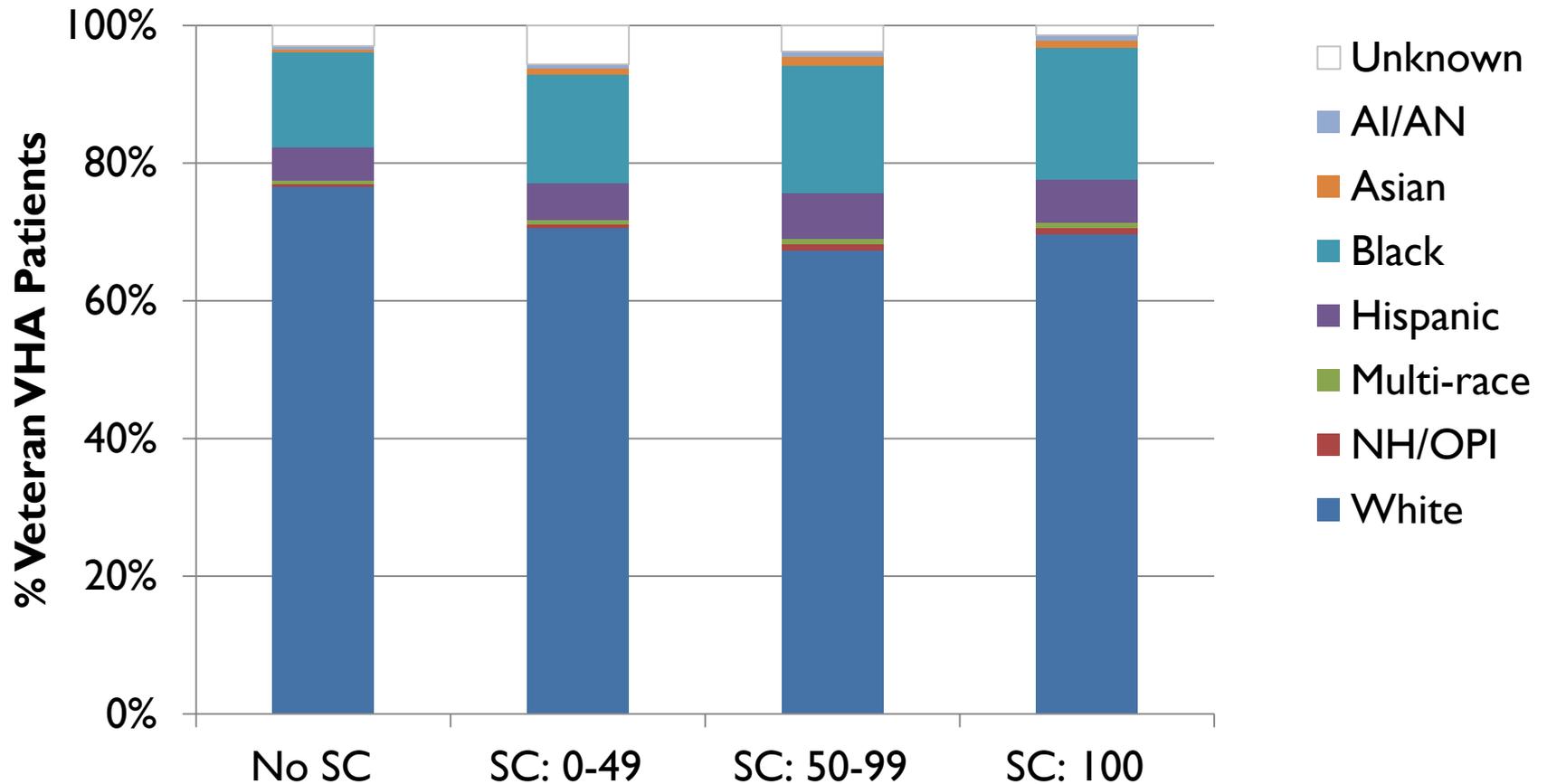


Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



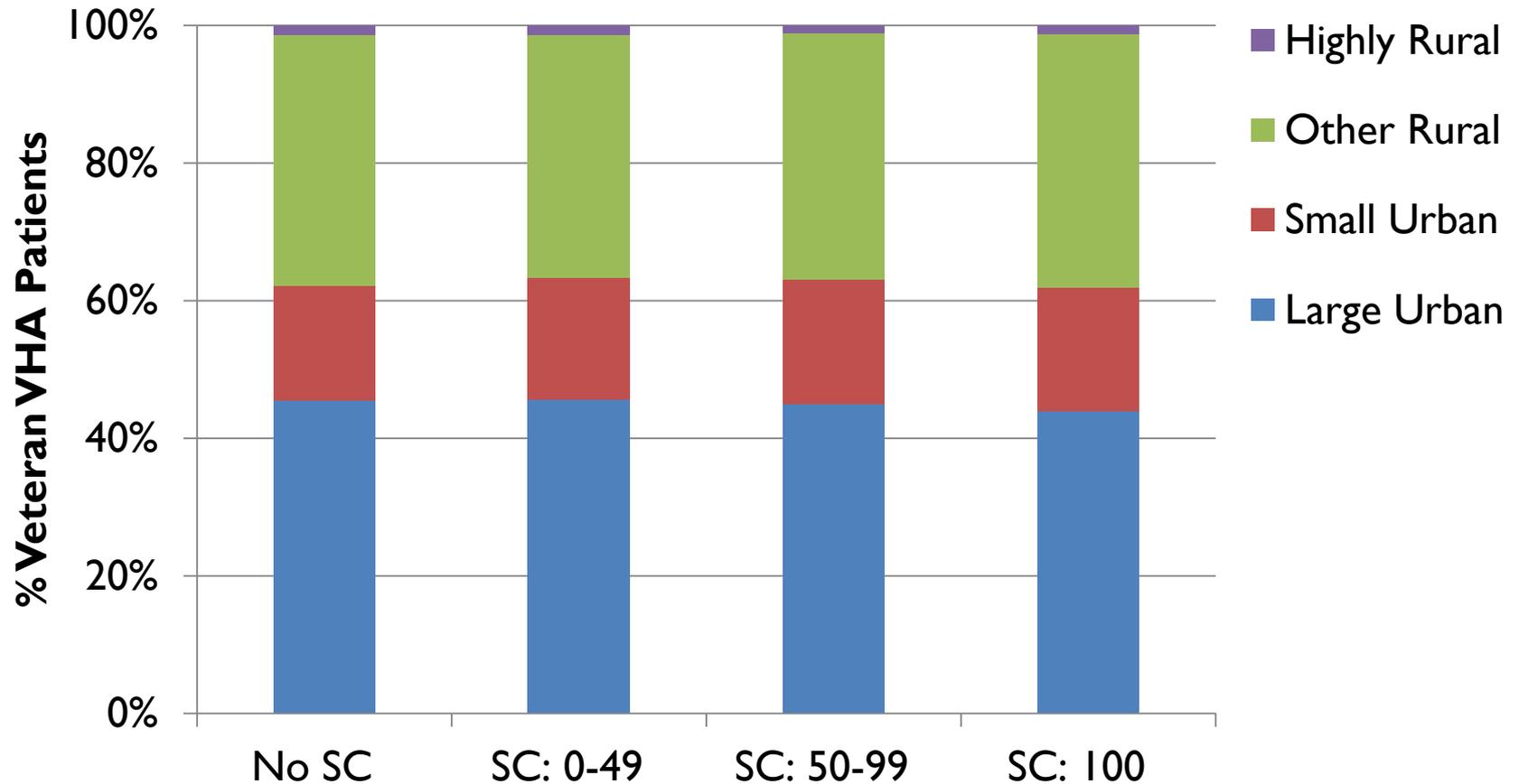
Race/Ethnicity by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13



Key: AI/AN – American Indian/Alaska Native; Black – Black/African American; NH/OPI – Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; SC – Service-connected
 Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women’s Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Urban/Rural Status by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13



Key: SC – Service-connected

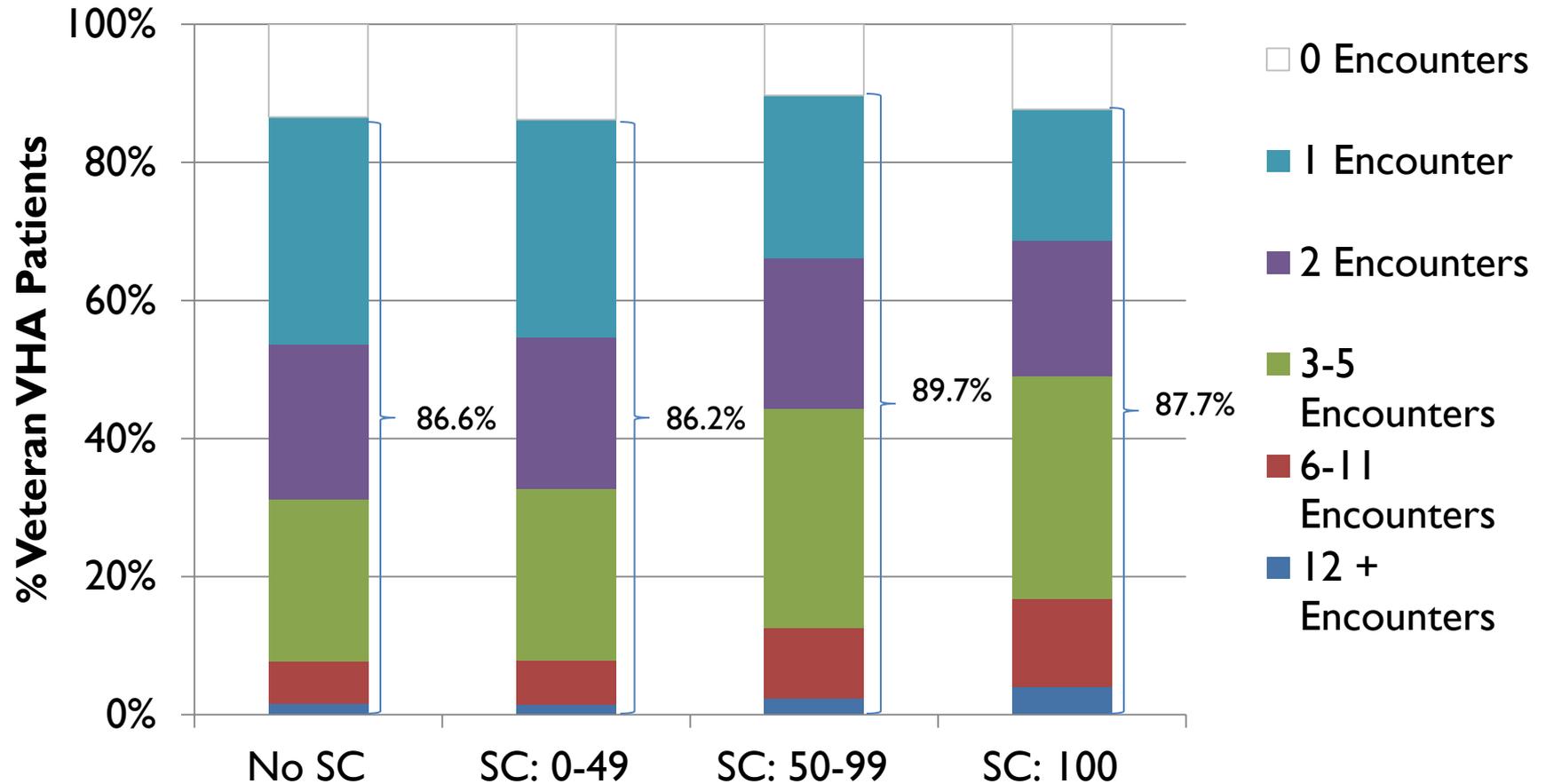
Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Utilization Service-Connected Status



Primary Care Encounters by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

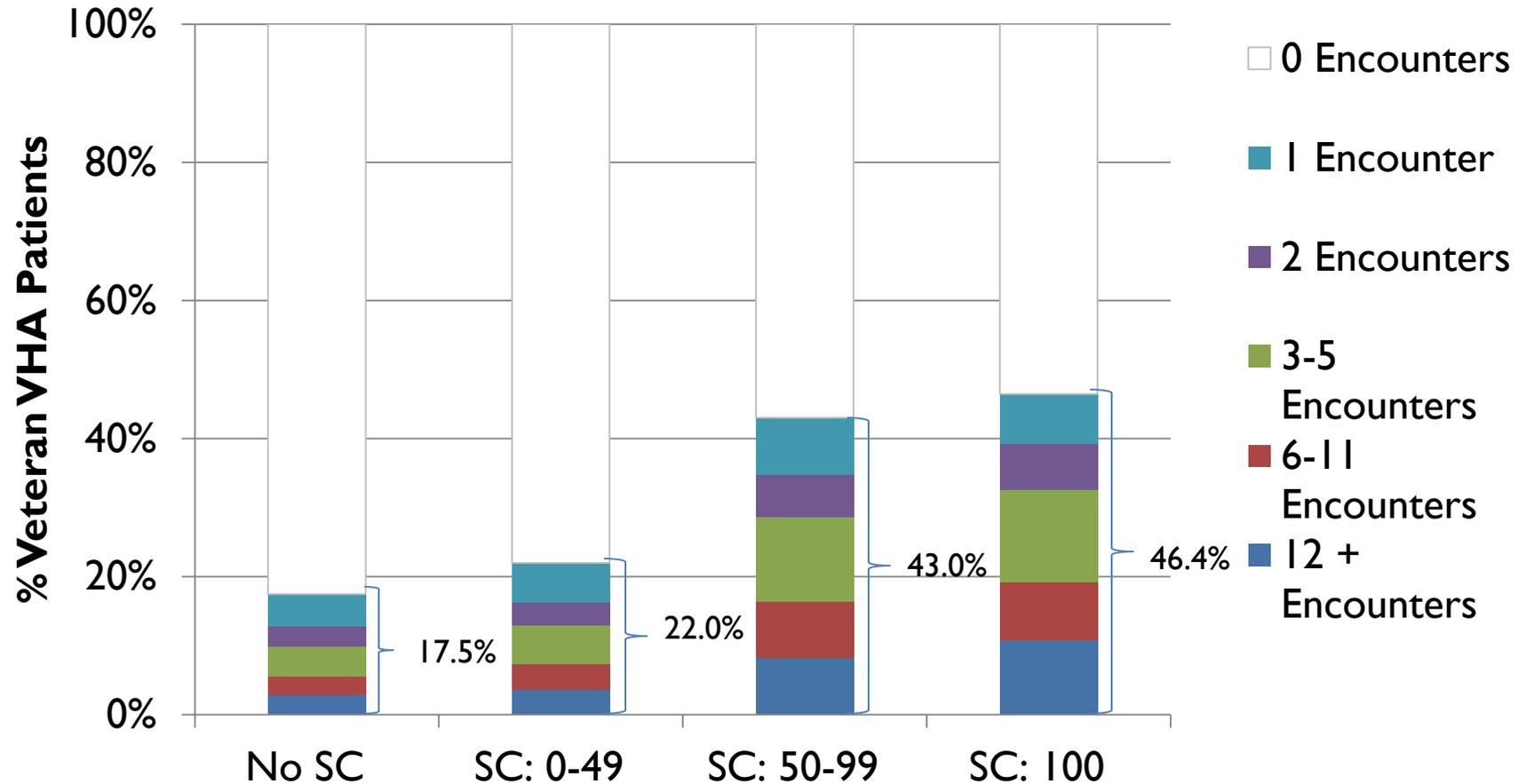


Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Encounters by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

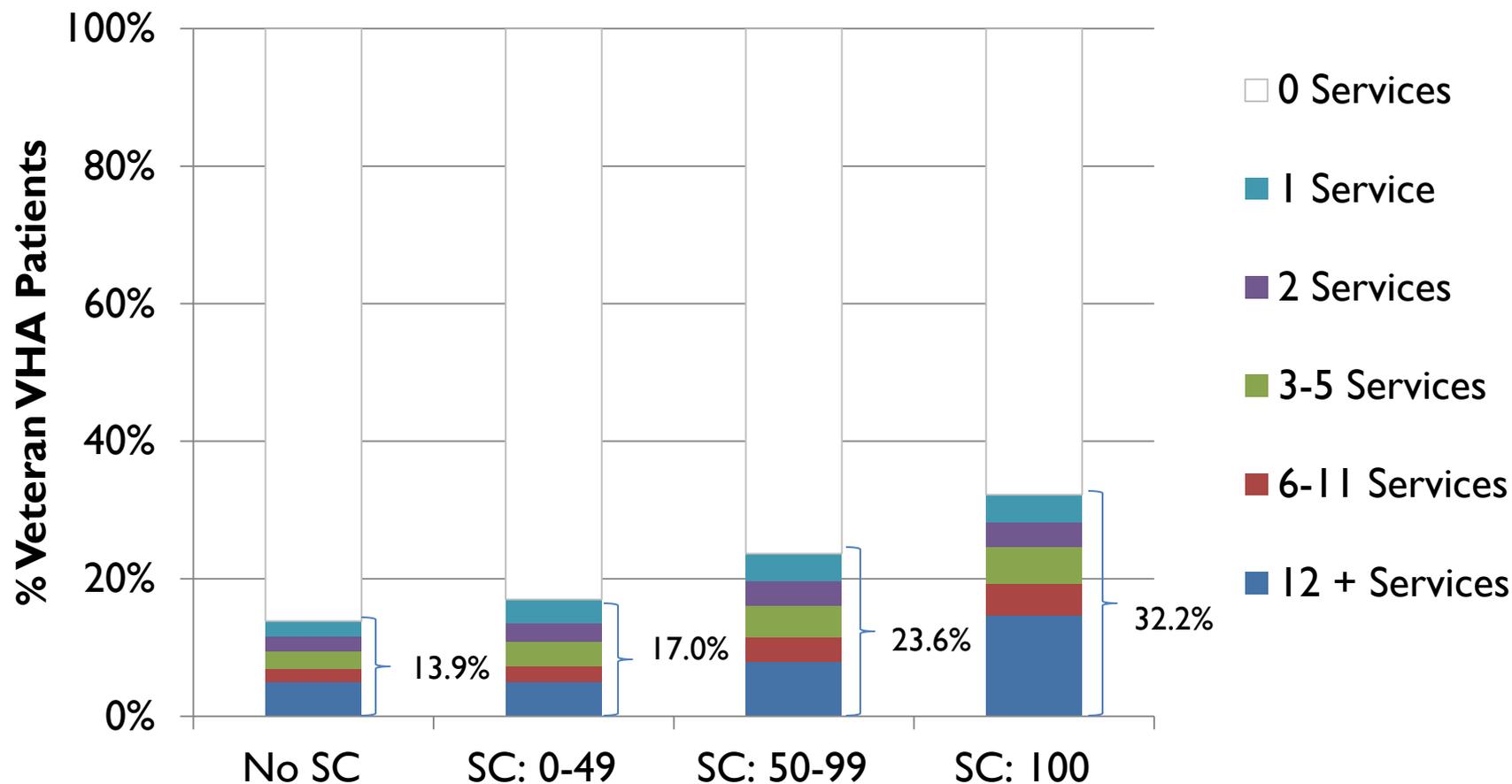


Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women’s Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Fee Outpatient Services by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13



Key: SC – Service-connected

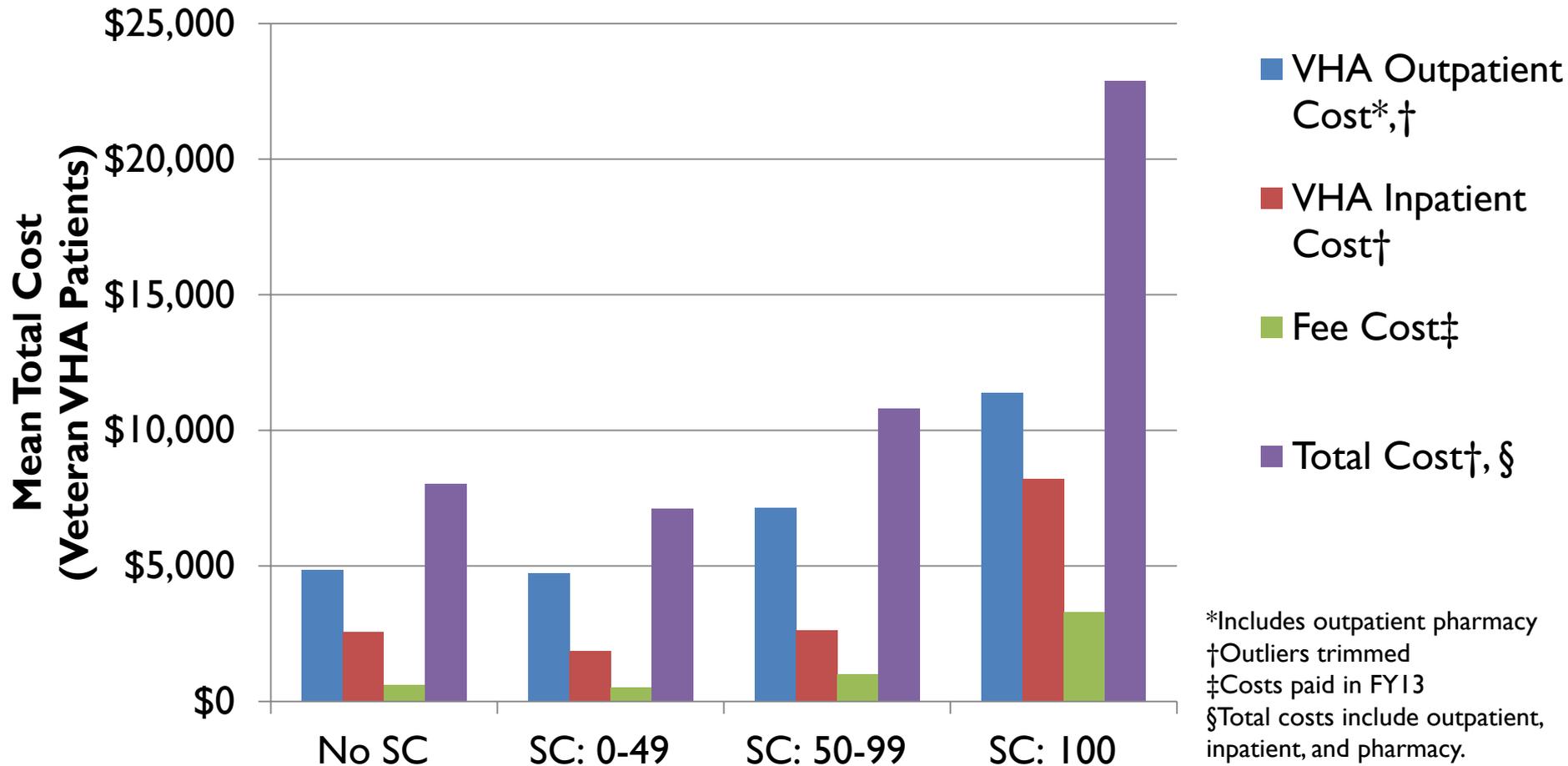
Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women’s Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Cost of Care Service-Connected Status



Mean Total Costs by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

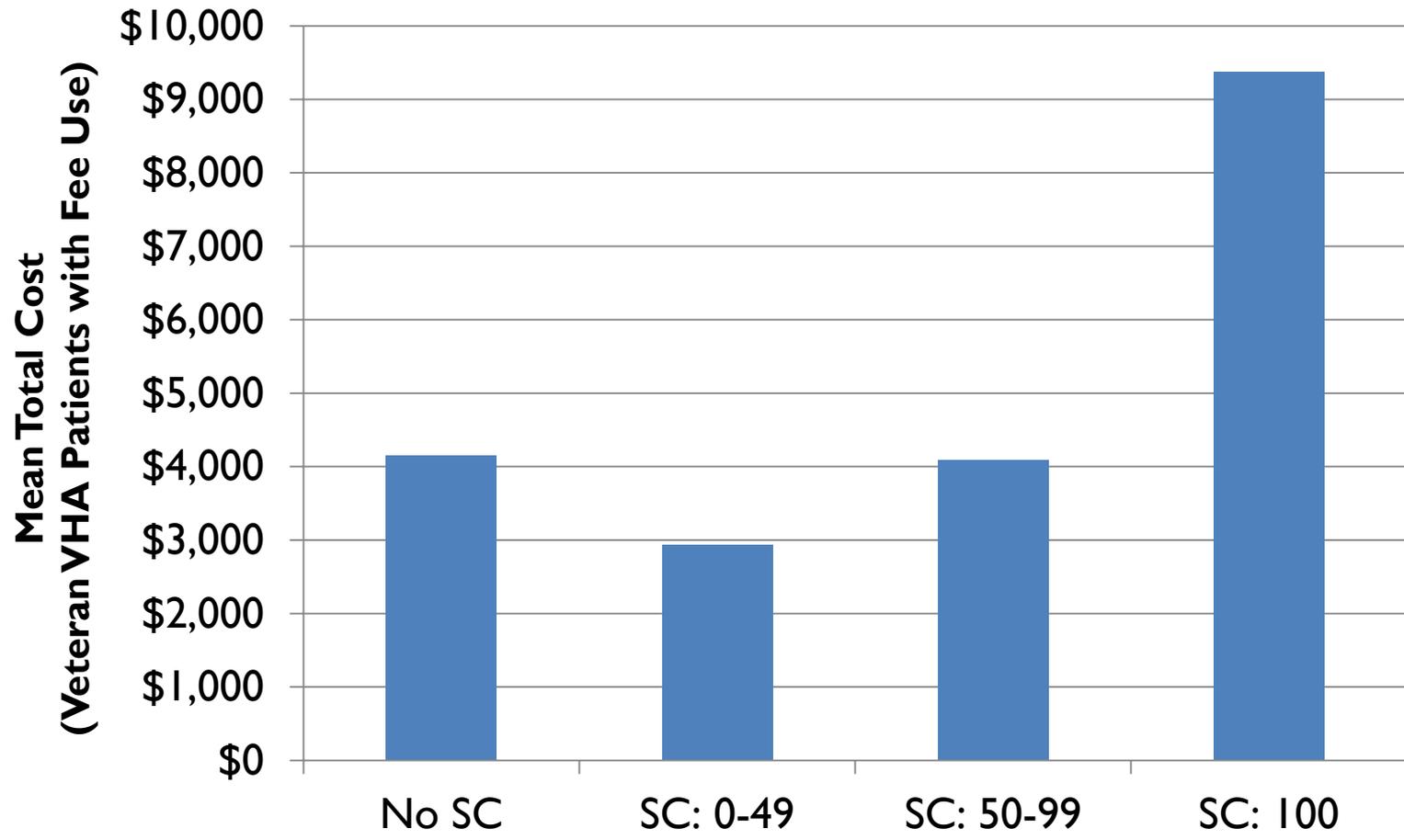


Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Mean Total Fee Costs‡ by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients with Fee Use, FY13



‡ Costs paid in FY13

Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women’s Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Health Profile Service-Connected Status



Domain Frequencies by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

	No SC (n=2,903,541)	SC: 0-49 (n=1,312,859)	SC: 50-99 (n=1,048,965)	SC: 100 (n=382,021)
Infectious Disease	19.8	19.2	24.2	31.0
Endocrine/Metabolic/Nutritional	64.1	59.5	64.6	71.5
Cardiovascular	63.4	54.2	58.0	68.2
Respiratory	26.0	25.2	30.8	37.0
Gastrointestinal	33.6	31.9	37.6	44.0
Urinary	16.8	13.2	15.9	25.4
Reproductive Health	24.7	22.2	25.1	29.8
Breast	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.1
Cancer	10.8	8.1	8.3	18.3
Hematologic/ Immunologic	10.8	8.4	9.6	16.8
Musculoskeletal	43.3	51.6	62.6	57.8
Neurologic	21.5	21.2	30.9	38.0
Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder	25.2	28.8	52.1	58.1
Sense Organ	38.3	45.1	47.7	52.3
Dental	2.8	3.3	16.9	41.6
Dermatologic	20.4	20.5	24.9	29.2
Other	44.0	43.4	54.1	59.3

Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Condition Frequencies for *Endocrine/Metabolic/Nutritional* by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

	% No SC (n=2,903,541)	% SC: 0-49 (n=1,312,859)	% SC: 50-99 (n=1,048,965)	% SC: 100 (n=382,021)
Diabetes Mellitus	22.5	21.2	26.8	34.5
Lipid Disorders	48.5	43.6	46.9	51.9
Overweight/Obesity	13.7	15.5	18.9	19.1
Thyroid Disorders	7.4	6.4	7.1	8.9
Osteoporosis	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.6
Vitamin D Deficiency	4.4	4.0	4.9	5.6
Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders	3.9	2.9	3.6	7.3
Endocrine, Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders - Other	11.4	10.5	12.3	15.1

Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women’s Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Condition Frequencies for *Cardiovascular* Domain by Service-Connected Status Age among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

	% No SC (n=2,903,541)	% SC: 0-49 (n=1,312,859)	% SC: 50-99 (n=1,048,965)	% SC: 100 (n=382,021)
Hypertension	53.4	45.5	49.2	57.3
Chest Pain/Angina	4.3	4.3	6.0	8.2
Acute Myocardial Infarction	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.2
Coronary Artery Disease - Other	17.3	12.0	14.5	22.9
Heart Failure	5.1	3.3	4.0	10.2
Valvular Disease	3.0	2.2	2.3	3.5
Atrial Fibrillation/Flutter	6.1	4.1	4.0	6.9
Arrhythmia/Conduction Disorder - Other	5.6	4.3	4.9	8.8
Cardiac Conditions - Other	1.2	1.0	1.3	2.0
Cerebrovascular Accident/Transient Ischemic Attack	4.3	2.8	3.3	5.8
Cerebrovascular Disease - Other	2.3	1.5	1.7	3.6
Aortic Aneurysm	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.6
Pulmonary Embolism or Deep Vein Thrombosis	1.5	1.2	1.5	2.6
Vascular Disease - Other	5.8	4.4	5.4	8.9
Circulatory System Conditions - Other	3.9	3.3	3.5	4.9

Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Condition Frequencies for *Musculoskeletal* Domain by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

	% No SC (n=2,903,541)	% SC: 0-49 (n=1,312,859)	% SC: 50-99 (n=1,048,965)	% SC: 100 (n=382,021)
Connective Tissue Disease	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
Rheumatoid Arthritis and Related Disease	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.1
Inflammatory Spondyloarthropathies	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.6
Polymyalgia Rheumatica	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Vasculitis	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Gout/Crystal Arthropathies	4.0	3.4	3.7	4.5
Spine Disorders - Cervical	3.9	5.4	8.9	7.7
Spine Disorders - Lumbosacral	13.4	18.4	27.3	22.4
Spine Disorders - Other/Unspecified	5.6	7.6	12.0	10.2
Joint Disorders - Upper Extremity	7.8	10.3	13.5	11.7
Joint Disorders - Lower Extremity	12.6	18.4	22.6	19.0
Joint Disorders - Unspecified or Multiple Joints	12.8	15.3	20.2	19.1
Foot Deformities	2.3	3.3	4.5	4.4
Fracture - Hip	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
Fracture - Other	1.8	1.8	2.4	3.0
Osteomyelitis/Infectious Arthritis	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.0
Amputation	0.6	0.4	0.8	2.1
Myasthenia Gravis/Myoneural Disorders	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Myalgia/Myositis, Unspecified	0.8	1.2	2.6	2.4
Musculoskeletal Conditions - Other	6.7	8.0	10.5	11.3

Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])



Condition Frequencies for *Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder* Domain by Service-Connected Status among Veteran VHA Patients, FY13

	% No SC (n=2,903,541)	% SC: 0-49 (n=1,312,859)	% SC: 50-99 (n=1,048,965)	% SC: 100 (n=382,021)
Major Depressive Disorder	3.8	4.9	11.3	11.4
Depression, Possible - Other	12.4	14.5	24.8	24.0
PTSD	3.6	8.5	31.8	34.4
Acute Stress Disorders	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Anxiety Disorders - Other	7.2	8.7	13.5	11.9
Adjustment Disorders	2.2	2.7	3.4	2.4
Bipolar Disorders	1.8	1.9	3.2	5.1
Schizophrenia	1.1	0.9	1.3	9.1
Psychotic Disorders - Other	0.8	0.7	1.1	2.7
Alcohol Use Disorders	6.8	6.2	8.3	8.7
Drug Use Disorders	4.2	3.7	4.9	6.3
Eating Disorders	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	0.1
Dissociative Disorders	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1
Personality Disorders	0.7	0.8	1.4	2.1
Conduct/Impulse Control Disorders	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
Somatoform Disorders	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.9
Attention Deficit Disorder/Hyperkinetic Disorder	0.5	0.8	1.1	0.6
Psychiatric Disorders - Nonspecific	1.5	1.4	2.2	3.1

Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])

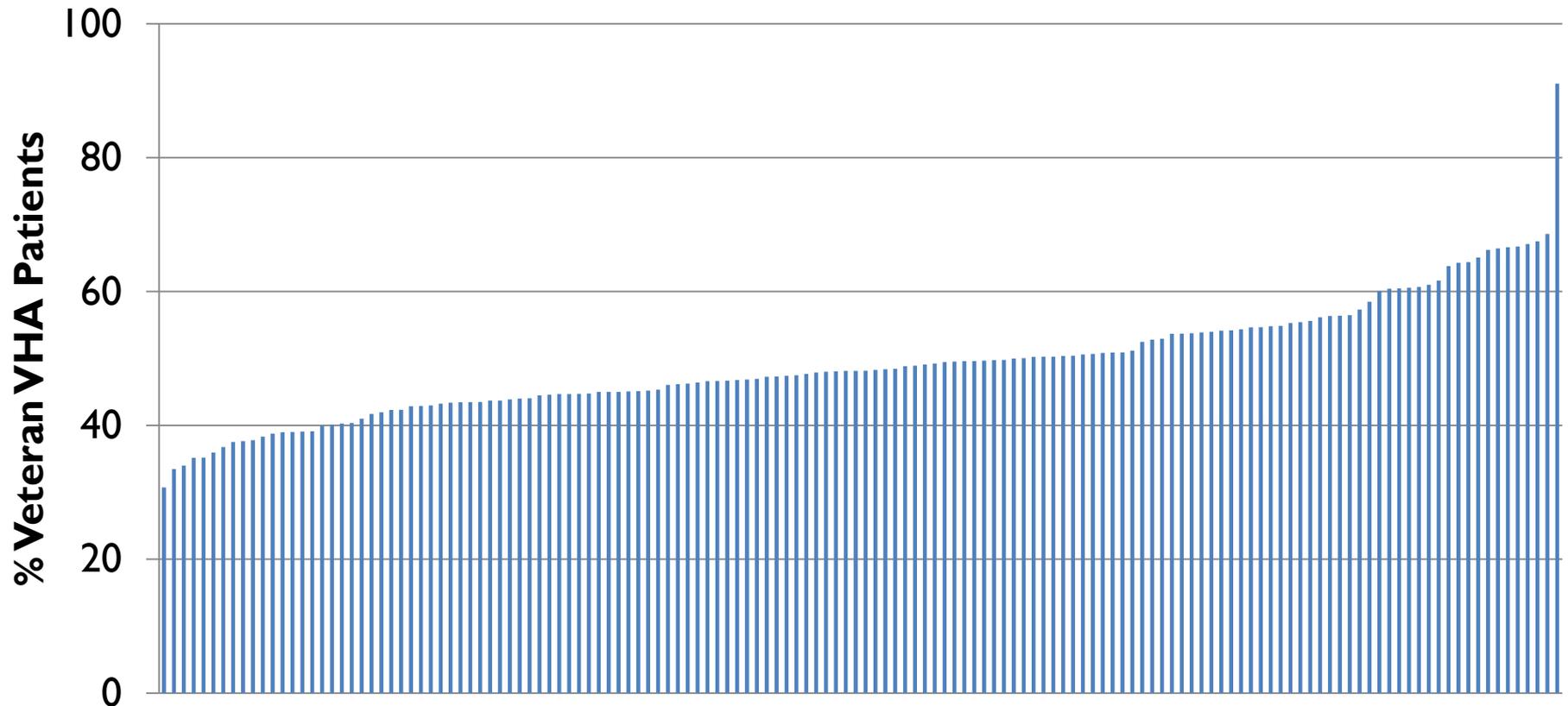


Facility Characteristics Service-Connected Status



Veterans with Any Service-Connected Status as a Percent of Veteran VHA Patients, by VHA Facility, FY13

Range: 30.7% - 91.1%



Key: SC – Service-connected

Denominator: Veteran FY2013 VHA Patients (Courtesy of Women's Health Evaluation Initiative [WHEI])

▶ Source: VHA Office of Health Equity (OHE)



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Focus on Health Equity and Action

Using Data to Characterize Vulnerable Veteran Populations

Action



Veterans Health Administration
Office of Health Equity



IMPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH

- Consider special populations in analysis planning
 - ❑ Caution re attributing findings to a patient characteristic (confounding)
- Address data quality issues to the extent possible
 - ❑ Take steps to understand your data
 - Facility-level variability
 - Missing data
 - Discordant values across records
 - Duplicate records
 - Consult with program offices to understand how the data got entered
 - ❑ Algorithm design
 - e.g., drawing on multiple data sources across multiple years
 - ❑ Sensitivity analyses
- Build partnerships to benefit diverse groups of Veterans
 - ❑ Synergies between researchers and operations can provide mutual learning and maximize our potential to serve Veterans



IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY & OPERATIONS

- ❑ Yes you can slice data this way routinely for a better understanding of Veteran experience and outcomes
- ❑ Clinician impact- military history and implications- exposures etc.
- ❑ Goal- inform efforts to integrate health equity into practice, policy, education and research



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Focus on Health Equity and Action

Using Data to Characterize Vulnerable Veteran
Populations

VA National Health Equity Report –
Coming Soon!



Veterans Health Administration
Office of Health Equity



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

You cannot change what you refuse to confront*

*Source unknown





GET INVOLVED!

- The pursuit of Health Equity should be everyone's business.
- It is a journey that takes time and *sustained* effort.
- What can you do today in your area of influence to improve health equity?
- At a minimum - in all your actions - do not increase the disparity.
- Thank you!





FOCUS ON HEALTH EQUITY AND ACTION CYBERSEMINAR SERIES

- ❑ November 19, 2015 – Archived
- ❑ January 21, 2016 - Archived
- ❑ February 25, 2016 – Archived
- ❑ March 24, 2016 – Archive coming soon

- ❖ Mark your calendars and join us at 3-4PM EST for future sessions on the following Thursdays in 2016:
 - ❑ April 28, 2016
 - ❑ June 30, 2016
- ❖ For more details go to
http://www.va.gov/HEALTHEQUITY/News_Events.asp





QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



Veterans Health Administration
Office of Health Equity



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