



Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series

Meet VIREC: The Researcher's Guide to VA Data

March 2, 2020

Maria Souden, MSI, PhD

Acting Director, VA Information Resource Center

Where can I download a copy of the slides?



SAMPLE EMAIL

Dear Hira Khan,

This is a reminder that you're a panelist for "Pharmacoepidemiological Designs: Using CDW Lab Data and Drug Data for Effectiveness Research" which will begin in 4 Hours on:

Mon, May 7, 2018 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT

Add to Calendar: [Outlook® Calendar](#) | [Google Calendar™](#) | [iCal®](#)

Please send your questions, comments and feedback to: cyberseminar@va.gov

Please download a copy of today's slides here:

http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/archives/2411-notes.pdf

Live captions for today's session are available here: <http://www.fedrcc.us//Enter.aspx?EventID=3634427&CustomerID=321>



FY20 Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series - Session #4

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Support
▶ Research in the VA

VIREC » Cyberseminars » Database & Methods Series

Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series

Navigating the VA Data Landscape

VIREC's Database & Methods Series is an introductory guide to VA data and information systems. Sessions are designed to help VA researchers understand common VA data sources and how they are used in research and quality improvement. This series is suitable for all levels.

Search VIREC's Site

VA Health Services Research & Development Service
HSR&D

Current Schedule

Current Schedule

Database & Methods Cyberseminars are held the first Monday of the month at 1:00 PM Eastern, with the exception of federal holidays. The series begins with an introduction to VA data, an overview of resources for using these data, and information about data access and request processes. Presenters discuss a variety of data topics and sources, describing how VA data can be applied to research and quality improvement questions. This series is updated yearly to address changes in the data environment.

Select a title below to register for an upcoming cyberseminar or to access an archived session.

Date	Title	Presenter(s)
10/7/2019	Overview of VA Data, Information Systems, National Databases and Research Uses Introduces the series; common VA data sources and their uses; platforms and tools for using VA data; and where to find additional resources.	Souden, M
11/4/2019	Requesting Approval for Access to VA Data Explains how VHA data access procedures differ based on purpose of work and demonstrates resources for identifying data request requirements and submitting a data request.	Kok, L
2/3/2020	Measuring Veterans' Medicare Healthcare Use Provides an overview of Medicare data available to VA researchers and describe how these	deGroot, K

Access upcoming schedule, registration links, and recent archive

<https://www.virec.research.va.gov/Cyberseminars/Database-Methods.asp>



Visit our Database & Methods page for more information:

<https://www.virec.research.va.gov/Cyberseminars/Database-Methods.asp>

Visit CIDER's VIReC Cyberseminar Archive to watch prior year sessions:

<https://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-archive-virec.cfm>

To disseminate your work or share suggestions for future sessions, email

Amanda Taylor

Amanda.Taylor2@va.gov



2020 Database & Methods – Upcoming Sessions

First Monday of the month* | 1:00pm-2:00pm ET

Date	Topic	Presenters
4/6/20	WEIGHT WEIGHT...DO TELL ME! <i>Comparing algorithms to process and clean CDW weight data</i>	Wyndy Wiitala, Richard Evans, Jennifer A. Burns, & Laura Damschroder
5/4/20	Ascertaining Veterans' Vital Status <i>Data Sources for Mortality and Cause of Death</i>	Charles Maynard
6/1/20	Assessing Race and Ethnicity in VA Data	Maria Mor
7/13/20*	Chart Review Using Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV)	TBA
<i>No session in August</i>		
9/14/20*	VA Pharmacy Data	Josh Thorpe & Bonnie Paris

*Schedule shifted by one week for Federal holidays.

Provide an overview of VIREC, our products, our services, and our Web environments.

By the session's end, you should be able to...

1. Describe VIREC **activities and value** to the research & quality improvement communities.
2. Understand **key VIREC product types** and their use in supporting work with VA data.
3. Know about our **web environments** and be able to locate VIREC resources online.
4. Know where to go for **additional questions** and customer service.

Poll #1: Your role as a data user

What is your role in research and/or quality improvement?

- Investigator, PI, Co-I
- Data manager, analyst, or programmer
- Project coordinator
- Other – please describe via the Q&A function



Poll #2: Your experience with VA data

How many years of experience do you have working with VA data?

- One year or less
- More than 1, less than 3 years
- At least 3, less than 7 years
- At least 7, less than 10 years
- 10 years or more



Poll #3: Familiarity with VIREC

How familiar are you with VIREC, its products, and services?

- Frequent User
- Familiar with, use sometimes
- Aware of, never used
- Not at all familiar

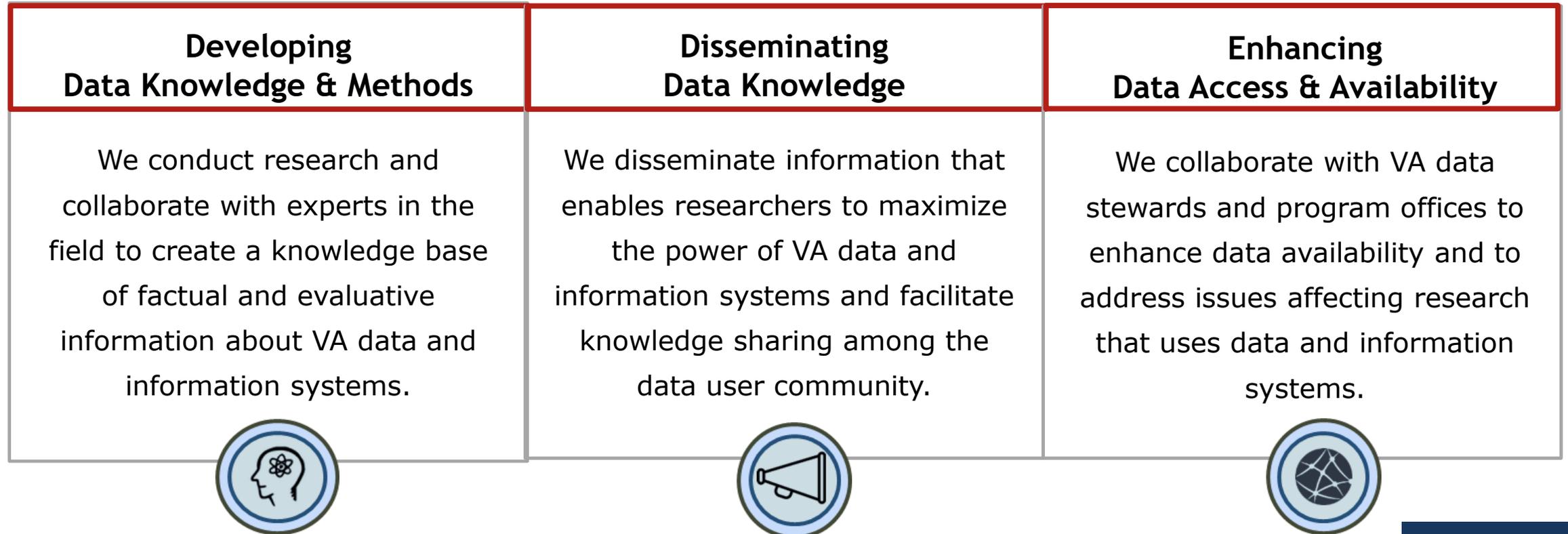


Who are we and what do we do?



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.

We do this by...



VIReC Workgroups and Area/Project Leads

**DISSEMINATION,
WEB, &
KNOWLEDGE
SHARING**

**JENIFER
STELMACK**

**DATA KNOWLEDGE & DATA
TRANSLATION**

Hire in Process

**DATA ACCESS, AVAILABILITY,
& USE**

LINDA KOK

VA/CMS DATA FOR RESEARCH

KRISTIN DE GROOT

**CUSTOMER
ENGAGEMENT
& PORTFOLIO
MANAGEMENT**

**CHANDREA
CULBREATH**

VA REDCAP

BONNIE PARIS

QUERI

MARIA SOUDEN

**STRATEGIC
OPERATIONS**

**MELISSA
JOYCE**

EHRM & RESEARCH

MARIA SOUDEN

The VIREC Team

Name	Key Areas
Noreen Arnold, MS, MALS	Data Translation, Contractor
Chandrea Culbreath, MPH, BSN	Customer Engagement & Portfolio Management, Lead
Kristin de Groot, MPH	VA/CMS, Lead
Meghan Grum, MS	Operations
Dolores Ippolito, MPH	VA/CMS, Data Access & Policy
Angela Jannotta, BA	Data Access & Policy
Lindsey Jones, MS	Data Translation
Neil Jordan, PhD	Research Advisor (CINCCCH)
Melissa Joyce, MPH	Operations, Lead
Donghui Kan, MS	VA/CMS Data and Provisioning
Linda Kok, MA	Data Access & Policy, Lead

Name	Key Areas
Mark McCranie, MA	Systems Design
Linda Miller, BS	Dissemination, Operations
Bonnie Paris, PhD	VA REDCap, Lead
Maria Souden, PhD	PI/Acting Director, EHRM & QUERI Lead
Jenifer Stelmack, MSW	Web, Dissemination, & Knowledge Sharing, Lead
Joanne Stevens, BSN, RN	VA/CMS, Regulatory and Policy
Elizabeth Tarlov, PhD	Research Advisor (CINCCCH)
Amanda Taylor, PhD	QUERI, Community Care, Education
Katrine Weismantle, MSW	VA/CMS, Data Access & Policy
Puling Zhang, MA	VA REDCap
Qiuying (Lucy) Zhang, MS	VA/CMS, Data Translation

VIReC Products and Services

Customer Service

Assistance and advice provided to a targeted audience who use specific products or services

Customer service is a core VIREC value and is incorporated throughout all of our work efforts



HelpDesk



Liaison



Data Knowledge / Translation



Education



Data Provision & Access



Promotion & Outreach



Data Collection Software

Product & Service Strategy

Listen to customers and stakeholders

- HSRData Listserv
- Outreach & HelpDesk
- Web Analytics
- Needs Assessment
- Organizational priorities

Advocate for research use

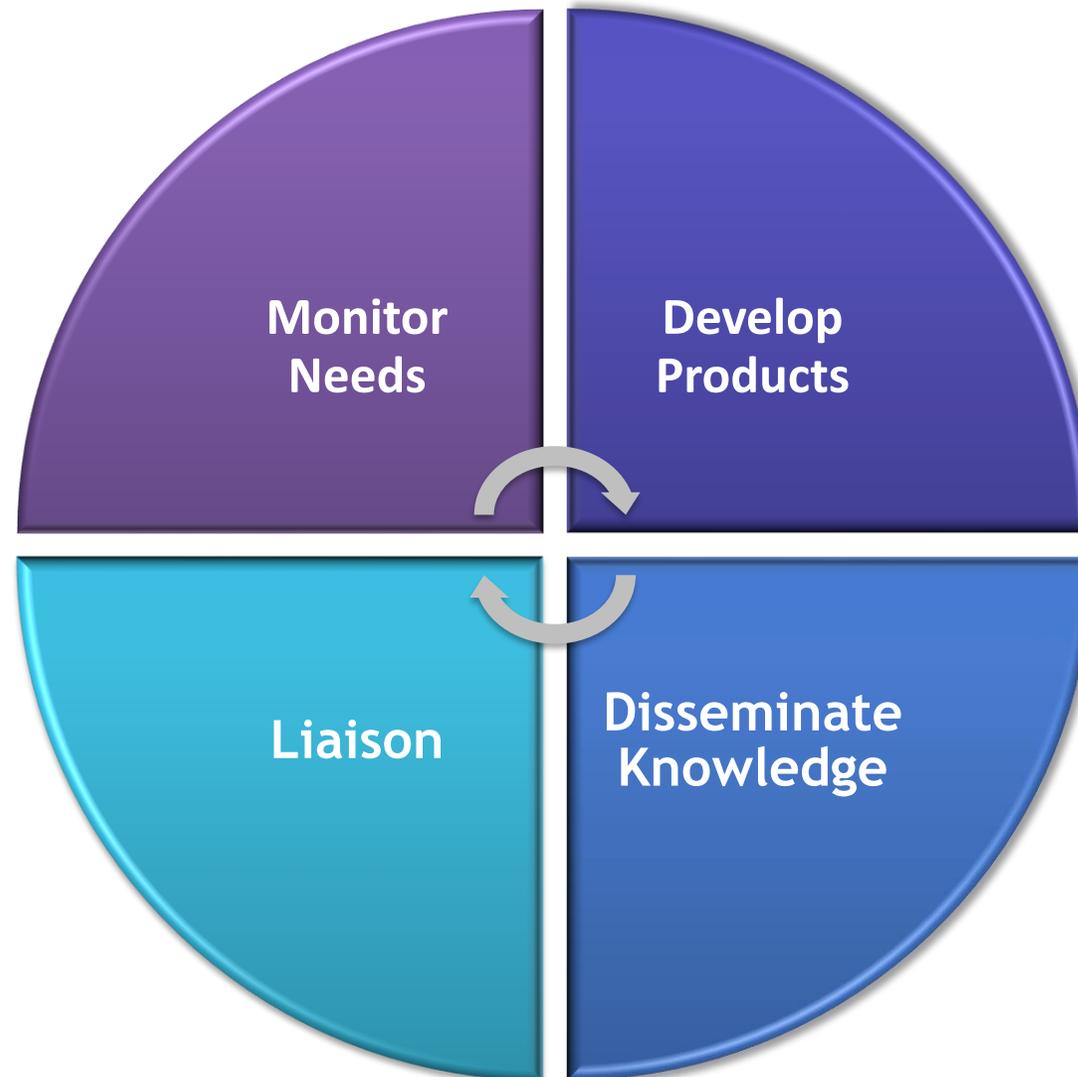
- Data Access
- Reduce Barriers
- Increase Knowledge

Create documentation and knowledge

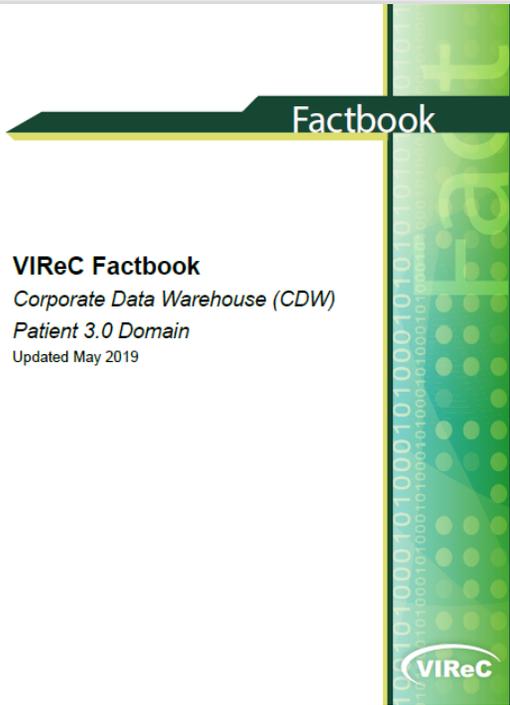
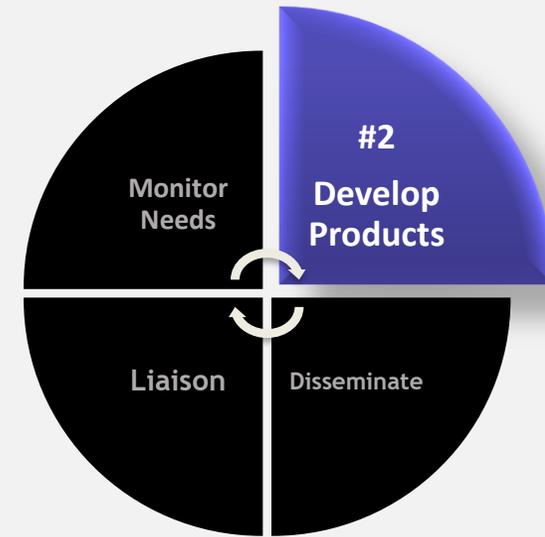
- Data Environment
- Target Audience
- Data Source
- Recent Data Updates

Promote information

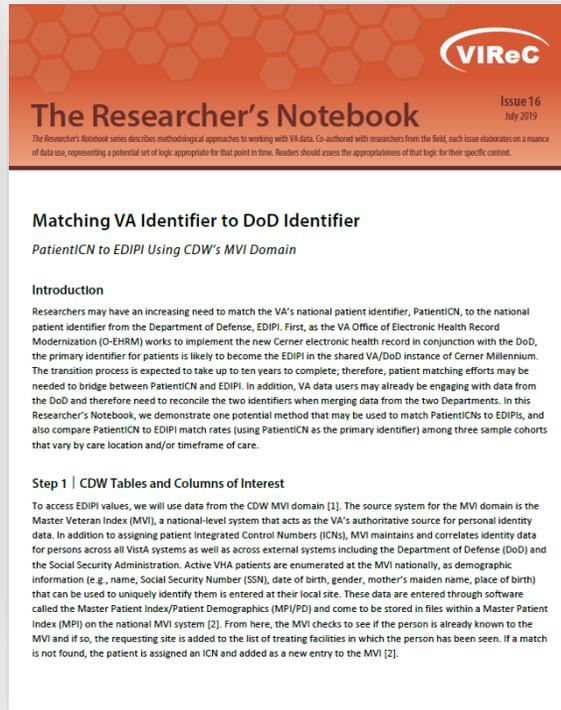
- VIREC Website(s)
- VHA Data Portal
- National Conferences
- HelpDesk
- HSRData



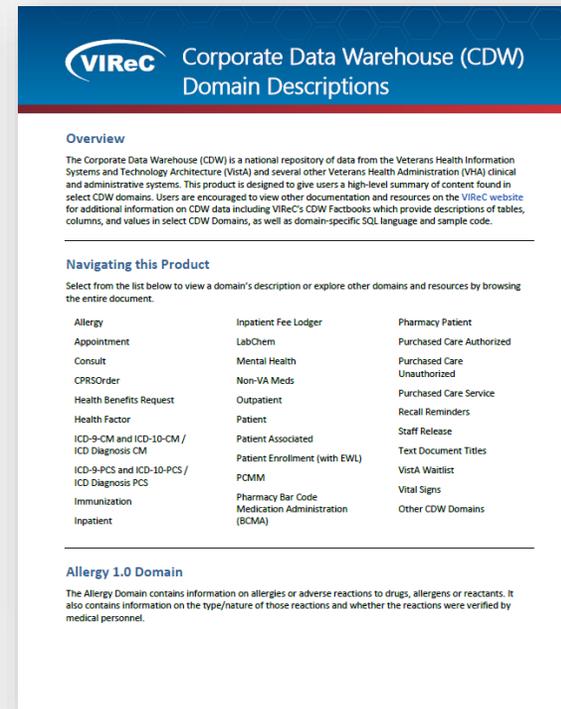
Produce Data Documentation



FY19: +7 Factbooks for CDW Domains



FY19: +4 Researcher's Notebook



FY19: +2 Data Summaries

Medical SAS (MedSAS) Inpatient Acute Care Data Contents, January 2018

File Name: Acute Care Main

Variable Name	Type	Length	Format	Variable Label
ABO	Num	5		ABSENT BED OCCUPANT DAYS
ADMITDAY	Num	5	DATE	DATE OF ADMISSION (SASDATE)
ADMITMO	Num	3	MONTHL	MONTH OF ADMISSION
ADMITYR	Num	3		YEAR OF ADMISSION
ADTIME	Num	5		TIME OF ADMISSION
AFIX	Char	1		ADMITTING STATION SUFFIX
AG15Y	Num	3	AG15YL	AGE GROUP (15 GROUPS)
AG8R	Num	3	AG8RL	AGE GROUP (8 GROUPS)
AGE	Num	3		AGE IN YEARS
AGOCARE	Char	1	YESNO	AGENT ORANGE CARE
AOR	Num	3	AORL	AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE
BORNDAY	Num	5	DATE	DATE OF BIRTH (SASDATE)
BORNYEAR	Num	5		YEAR OF BIRTH
BOS	Num	3	BOSL	BED OCCUPANCY STATUS AT DISCHARGE
COMBAT	Char	1	\$XXYN	PATIENT COMBAT ELIGIBILITY INDICATOR
COMBAT_CARE	Char	1	YESNO	CARE RELATED TO COMBAT SERVICE CONDITION
COMBAT_DT	Num	5	DATE	PATIENT COMBAT ELIGIBILITY END DATE
COUNTRY	Char	3	\$COUNTRY	COUNTRY
CP	Num	3	CPL	COMPENSATION & PENSION STATUS
DBEDSECT	Num	4	BEDSECN	BED SECTION AT DISCHARGE
DISDAY	Num	5	DATE	DATE OF DISCHARGE (SASDATE)
DISMO	Num	3	MONTHL	MONTH OF DISCHARGE
DISSHADIND	Char	1	YESNO	ENCOUNTER SHAD INDICATOR
DISTIME	Num	5		TIME OF DISCHARGE
DISTO	Num	3	DISTOL	DISCHARGED TO:

[About](#)
[Acute Care Main](#)
[Acute Care BedSection](#)
[Acute Care Procedure](#)
[Acute Care Sur](#)

March 2020

VIReC Data Knowledge Product Portfolio

Product Category	Description	Exemplar Products	Audience	Number of Products	FY19 Downloads
Data Summaries	Quick guides to data contents and structure, provide summary data or historical changes	Domain layout and descriptions (CDW), historical stop codes		248*	3,096
Technical Documentation	Provide detailed information on a data source, its elements, and their clinical context.	<i>VIReC Factbooks for CDW Domains, Research User Guides, Tech Reports, Statistical Snapshots</i>		63	8,807
Methodological Briefs	Methodological approaches to working with VA data	<i>Researcher's Notebook series</i>	PIs, Data Managers, Programmers, and Analysts in Research and Operations settings	17	2,345

***123 of the data summary products were removed in FY19 due to consolidation.**

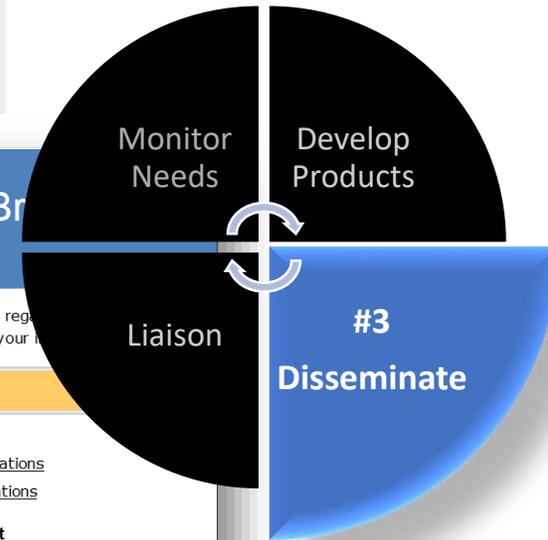
Poll #4: VIREC Products

Which of the following VIREC products do you use the most?

- VIREC Factbooks
- VIREC Researcher's Notebook
- VIREC Summary Documentation
- Other (please specify in chat box)
- I have not used any VIREC products



Disseminate Knowledge



VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIReC)

VIReC Home
About Us
VA/CMS Data for Research
VHA Data Portal
New Users of VA Data
FAQs
Acronym Lookup
HelpDesk
Report Broken Link
How are we doing?

VA Information Resource Center (VIReC)

Quick tips on popular topics related to using VA data for research. [Learn more...](#)

Data Issues Brief November 2019

Upcoming Cyberseminars
Real SSN Data
VA REDCap Project
Data Tip of the Month

Department of Veterans Affairs
VHA Data Portal

Home About Us

Data Sources | Data Access | Tools & Applications | Resources | Training

VIReC Data Issues Brief
November 2019

The *Data Issues Brief* delivers current news and updates regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics right to your inbox.

In This Issue...

Welcome to the VHA Data Portal

The VHA Data Portal promotes a knowledge-sharing culture that supports the needs of VHA data users. The Portal integrates information from multiple sources into a single location to promote a comprehensive knowledge base and to facilitate a positive end-user experience.

The one-stop-shop for data users' needs.

Upcoming Cyberseminars

Upcoming

- Jan 29: [An Overview of Decision Analysis](#)
- Feb 3: [Measuring Veterans' Medicare Healthcare Use](#)
- Feb 5: [Estimating the Cost of an Intervention](#)
- Feb 12: [Pharmaceutical Costs for Cost-Effectiveness](#)
- Feb 13: [VINCI Data Services \(VINCI\)](#)
- Mar 2: [Meet VIReC: The Researcher's Guide to VA Data](#)

Recent

- [Recommendations for the Conduct of a Panel on Cost-Effectiveness in Health Care](#)
- [Association of Data Users](#)
- [Medicare and Medicaid](#)
- [VINCI Core](#)

VIReC & VA at AMIA Symposium

VA Events & Sessions

- [VIReC Traveling HelpDesk](#)
- [VA "Breakfast" Meeting](#)
- [VA's 2019 ACMI Fellow](#)
- [Pre-Conference Workshops with VA Presenters](#)

VIReC News & Updates

- [VIReC Welcomes Angela Jannotta to our Data Access and Policy Team](#)
- [Updated Historical Information for MCA Stop Codes](#)
- [Preparing VA Researchers for Cerner Implementation](#)

Data & Information Systems News

- [Resolved Data Quality Issues](#)

Cyberseminars

- [Upcoming Presentations](#)
- [Archived Presentations](#)

Training & Support

- [VA REDCap Education](#)
- [VHA Data Users Conference Call](#)
- [Pyramid Analytics Office Hours](#)
- [VINCI Support](#)
- [VA OMOP Academy from VINCI](#)
- [Reporting and Analytics Field Training](#)

Calls for Participation

- [Call for Abstracts: AcademyHealth 2020 Research Meeting](#)

Upcoming Conferences

New from VIReC

Data Issues Brief

Check out the November issue for the most recent data news, including:

- Resolved Data Quality Issue in VHA Vital Status File
- New VA/CMS Data Available
- 2017 National Death Index Data Now Available from the MDR
- Rebranding Suicide Data Repository as Mortality Data Repository
- IRB & HIPAA Information for Submitting New DART

Meet VIReC, The Researcher's Guide to VA Data

Learn about us, our products, and our web environments.

Learn about VA data:

- [Data Sources](#)
- [Data Topics](#)
- [Data Tools](#)

VA/CMS Data for Research

Veterans Affairs Listserv
www.listserv.va.gov

HSRDATA-L Archives
Health services research data discussion list

HSRDATA-L@VAWWW.LISTSERV.VA.GOV

Options: Use Forum View
Enter Date Range

Show Pending Messages
Show Drafts

Subject	From
Re: CHAR4 codes	Chow, Adam <Adam.Chow@VA.GOV>
CHAR4 codes	Rebecca Karje <rebecca.karje@VA.GOV>
Re: Mental Health Hospitalizations -- how to identify?	Schmidt, Eric M. <Eric.Schmidt4@VA.GOV>
Re: Mental Health Hospitalizations -- how to identify?	Copeland, Laurel A <Laurel.Copeland@VA.GOV>
Mental Health Hospitalizations -- how to identify?	Megan Price <Megan.Price3@VA.GOV>
Re: hiv CCR (clinical case registry)	Ian Barak <ian.barak@VA.GOV>
Re: Identifying HIV Patients	Rian DeFaccio <rian.defaccio@VA.GOV>
Re: the field GISURH	Copeland, Laurel A <Laurel.Copeland@VA.GOV>
the field GISURH	Reisman, Joel <Joel.Reisman@VA.GOV>
Re: Purchased Care Data -- VAMC/Health Care System	Bellstein-Wedel, Erin E. <Erin.Bellstein-Wedel@VA.GOV>

...the information you need. ...to access information and ...ular data use need, or use the ...resources by category. [Tell us](#)

User

Cost & Quality

ment

Upcoming Seminars

Register for an upcoming session by selecting register from the table below or by accessing the [HSR&D Cyberseminar Catalog](#).

Date/Time*	Presentation	Series	Presenter(s)	Register
2/3/2020 1:00PM	Measuring Veterans' Medicare Healthcare Use	Database & Methods	deGroot, K	Register
3/2/2020 1:00PM	Meet VIReC: The Researcher's Guide to VA Data	Database & Methods	Souden, M Stelmack, J	Register

*All sessions are listed in Eastern time.

Digital Dissemination

Creating a positive user experience that connects data users to the information they need.

The screenshot shows the VIREC Intranet homepage. At the top, there is a search bar and the VIREC logo. Below the header, there are several sections: 'VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIREC)' with a navigation menu on the left; 'Delivering current news right to your inbox' with a 'Learn More...' link; 'Data Issues Brief, November 2019'; 'Upcoming Cyberseminars' with a 'Real SSH Data Request Process' link; 'VA REDCap Project'; and 'Data Tip of the Month'. There are also sections for 'New from VIREC' and 'VIREC Resources'.

The screenshot shows the VHA Data Portal homepage. It features a navigation menu with options like 'Data Sources', 'Data Access', 'Tools & Applications', 'Resources', 'Training', 'Policy & Admin', and 'Support'. The main content area includes a 'Welcome to the VHA Data Portal' message, a 'The one-stop-shop for data users' news item, and a 'New Data User' button. There is also a 'Cyberseminars' section with 'Upcoming Events' and a 'News' section with 'What's new on the VHA Data Portal?'.

The screenshot shows the LISTSERV interface. It includes a search bar, a list of management options (List Management, List Dashboard, List Moderation, List Configuration, List Customization, List Reports, Subscriber Reports, List Activity Reports, Subscriber Management, Web Templates, Mail Templates, Newsletter Templates, LISTSERV Command, Subscriber Options), and a list of subscribers. The subscriber list includes details for 'HSRDATA-L Archives' and 'HSRDATA-L@VAWWW.LISTSERV.VA.GOV'.

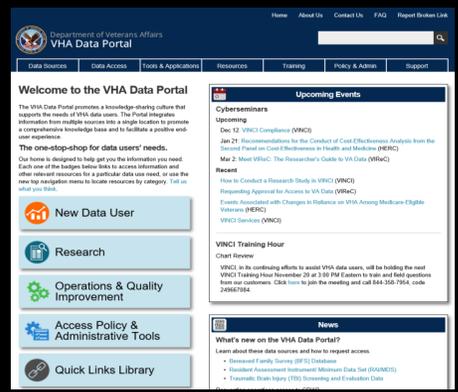
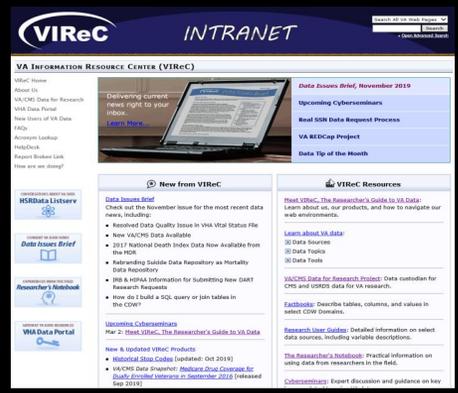
The screenshot shows the VIREC website homepage. It features a navigation menu with options like 'Health', 'Benefits', 'Burials & Memorials', 'About VA', 'Resources', 'News Room', 'Locations', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area includes a 'VIREC The Researcher's Guide to VA Data VA Information Resource Center' header, a 'Cyberseminars' section, and a 'Welcome to our internet website' message.

The screenshot shows the VIREC Data Issues Brief for November 2019. It features the VIREC logo and the title 'Data Issues Brief November 2019'. The text states: 'The Data Issues Brief delivers current news and updates regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics right to your inbox.' There is also a section for 'In This Issue...'.

Digital Dissemination Venues

VIREC educates HSR&D researchers about the VA data landscape, informs them of changes to the data environment, and increases awareness of available data and data knowledge resources through our digital platforms. Our hub of digital services provides a knowledge sharing environment that enables data users to maximize the power of VA data and information systems.

- VIREC's [Intranet site](#) is our main platform for disseminating information about data contents, use, and methods through web-based content and downloadable data knowledge products.
- The VIREC-led [VHA Data Portal](#) informs common VA data sources and access processes.
- Our public-facing [Internet website](#) is home to our cyberseminar education series, a VIREC overview, and links to VIREC-authored publications.
- VIREC's web-based [Data Issues Brief](#) is a go-to source for data news and updates, educational opportunities, learning about the latest data resources, and more.
- The VIREC-maintained [HSRData-L Listserv](#) provides a community knowledge sharing venue for over 1,450 members to ask and answer questions about using VA data.



HSRData Listserv

VIREC maintains the **HSRData-L Listserv** to support knowledge sharing among the VA data user community, providing a venue for VA employees to ask and answer specific questions about using VA data.

- In FY19, HSRData membership climbed to **over 1,450 participants** representing all aspects of the VA data ecosystem, including PIs, fellows, analysts, data managers, operations and program staff, data stewards, resource center experts, and data architects.
- Many of the responses elicit **tacit knowledge about historical and nuanced aspects of VA data** and their application to research questions that cannot be found elsewhere.

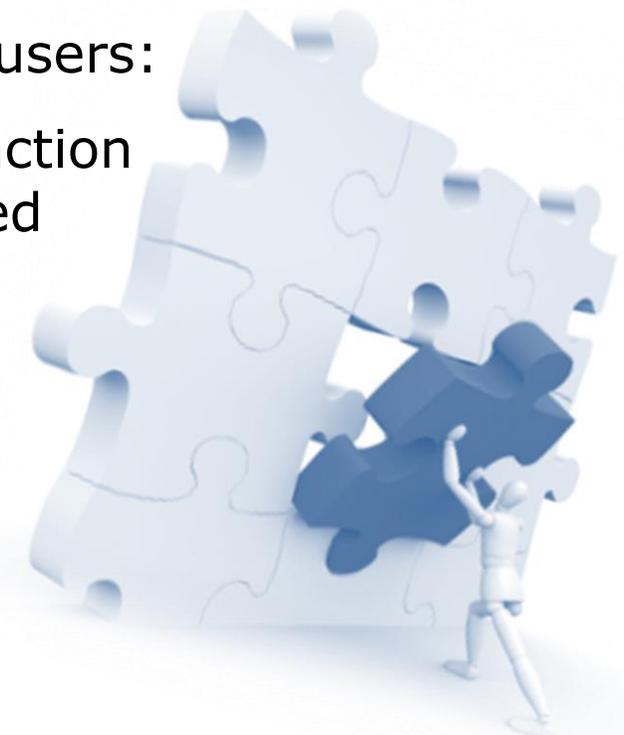
VIREC HelpDesk for Individualized Support

The VIREC HelpDesk (HD) assists researchers with understanding VA data and information systems within the context of their specific projects. VIREC staff members respond directly to HD questions or draw on our organizational knowledge and liaison relationships to connect requestors with the expertise they need.

In FY19, VIREC's HelpDesk continued to provide support to data users:

- VIREC **responded to 291 requests**, with all customer satisfaction survey participants reporting they are Satisfied or very Satisfied with VIREC's HD services.
- **95%** were satisfied with the timeliness of response
- **93%** were satisfied with information received

virec@va.gov



Outreach to Raise Awareness of VA Data Resources



VIREC **Traveling HelpDesk** provides VA researchers with opportunities for in-person consultation and raise awareness of VA data and VIREC resources for using it.

In FY19, VIREC interacted with VA researchers and potential collaborators at scientific meetings with a **newly redesigned** exhibit booth.

- **AcademyHealth** Annual Research Meeting (ARM)
- **HSR&D/QUERI** National Meeting
- **American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)** Annual Symposium

Poll #5: VIREC Services and Dissemination Venues

Which of the following VIREC services or sites do you use the most?

- VIREC websites
- VHA Data Portal
- VIREC HelpDesk
- HSR&D Listserv
- I have not used any of the above.



Poll #6: High-value resources

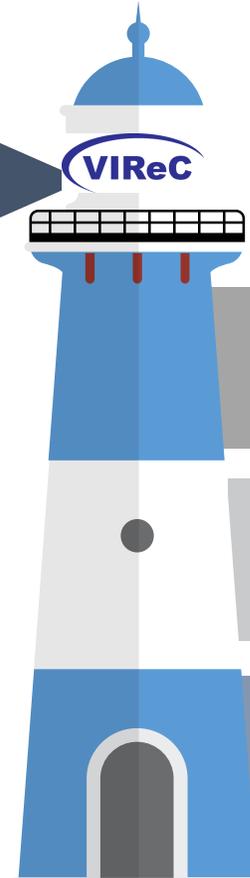
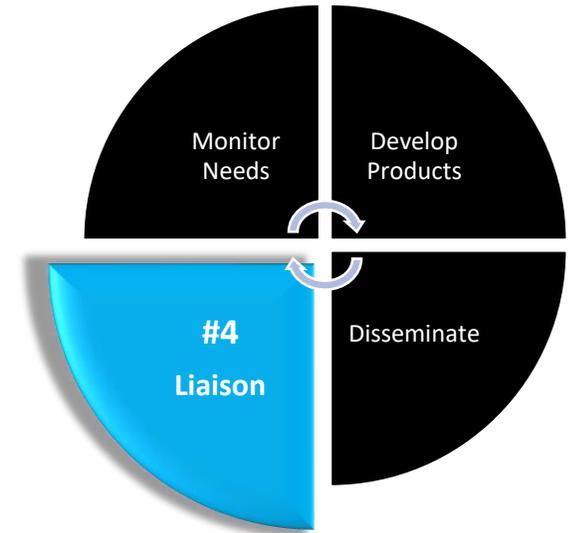
Which resources are/would be of most value to you in your role?

- Information on data sources and accessing them
- Information on recent changes in the data environment
- Information on special topics (specify in chat box)
- SQL/SAS Training
- Project Management Training



ADVOCACY

We use all the information gathered in the first 3 phases to advocate for research needs



Disseminate



Document



Monitor Needs



Improving Data Access and Availability

VIREC is an active participant on **the Data Access Request Tracker (DART)** team, working collaboratively with VINCI and NDS to:

- Increase the number of VA data sources that are centrally available through the DART application process.
- Maintain relationships with data stewards and data-generating program offices, liaising between them, VA OI&T, and the data-using community.
- Improve DART usability and forms to create a better experience for data stewards and user.

New Data Sources Added to DART in FY19

- Bereaved Family Survey
- GEC RAI/MDS
- TBI Screening & Evaluation
- PSSG – Drive time & distance; Rurality flag
- Million Veteran Program

VIReC as VA/CMS Data Steward

Data

Maintaining Repository

Data Provisioning

CMS OMOP

Education & Assistance

Products

Cyberseminars

Consultations & help desk

Governance

Policy

Request Process

User Oversight

VIReC as VA/CMS Data Steward

Size 5 TB

~2,600 SAS datasets

Veterans & non-Veterans

1997-2018

Medicare, Medicaid, USRDS

Claims, Assessment & Survey

New in FY19

- Medicare quarterly (preliminary) data
- Medicare Advantage encounter data

Coming in FY20

- Additional Medicaid data
- Public-use provider data

VIReC's FY19 VA/CMS Data Products

Medicare Drug Coverage for Dually Enrolled Veterans in September 2016

Overview

VIReC has developed these tables as a resource to researchers interested in studying Veterans' enrollment in Medicare Part D or other prescription drug coverage sponsored by Medicare. These tables include Veterans who were enrolled in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Medicare in September 2016; they focus on a single month because a person's Medicare enrollment can change over time. Enrollment counts are broken down by age, sex, VA enrollment priority group, and state of residence. The information in these tables can be used for estimating the number of veterans, and numbers within each subgroup, who have Part D coverage and for whom Part D event data are available.

Background

Medicare enrollees can choose to enroll in Part D if they need prescription drug coverage. VIReC has Part D event data for beneficiaries enrolled in any of three types of Medicare prescription drug plans (PDPs):

- Stand-alone plans include only prescription drug coverage supplementing Medicare Parts A & B
- Medicare advantage plans are managed care plans that include a prescription drug benefit
- Employer/union sponsored plans¹

Additionally, beneficiaries can also be eligible for Medicare Part D's retiree drug subsidy (RDS), where Medicare "enables employers and unions to continue assisting their Medicare eligible retirees in obtaining more generous drug coverage."² For the purpose of this document, we categorized someone as having RDS only if they were not enrolled in a PDP. Prescription drug event data is not available through CMS for RDS recipients. Lastly, some beneficiaries have no prescription drug coverage through Medicare and self-pay for prescription drugs or obtain them through the VHA.

No Part D or RDS	Total
	N
73.91	1,127,913
62.84	298,144
57.80	582,770
44.96	159,689
47.50	994,755
51.08	271,753
37.28	243,457
46.77	1,043,146
25.91	434,465
51.33	109,475



Poster: 2019 Academy Health ARM

Comparison of Veterans and Non-Veterans by Medicare Enrollment Type

Amanda Taylor, PhD¹, Kristin de Groot, MPH¹, Donghui Kan, MS¹, Maria Souden, PhD, MSI^{1,2}

¹ VA Information Resource Center (VIReC), Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL; ² University of Illinois, Urbana, IL

Results

Substantive differences in Medicare enrollment patterns were found between Veterans and non-Veterans. The greatest differences can be seen in younger and female Veterans. Veterans were less frequently enrolled in Managed Care (23.2%) than non-Veterans (32.8%), and less frequently enrolled in Part B. 13.8% of Veterans were enrolled in Part A only, versus 8.2% of non-Veterans. Over half (52.8%) of the Veterans had no Part D coverage, compared to only 22.0% of non-Veterans.

Veterans have lower rates of Medicare Part B, Part D, and Managed Care enrollment compared to non-Veterans.

Researchers using Medicare Part B and D data particularly need to be aware that Medicare data is only part of the picture for many Veterans.

Parts A, B, & Managed Care Enrollment

Medicare Plan Type Demographic Comparisons

- Age: Two times more non-Veterans <35 enrolled in Managed Care compared to Veterans (23.3% vs. 9.9%). Three times more Veterans <35 were enrolled in Part A than non-Veterans (27.6% vs 8.9%).
- Gender: Fewer female non-Veterans enrolled in Managed Care (18.6%) compared to female Veterans (33.4%) and male non-Veterans (32.0%).
- State: Greatest differences in Managed Care were in Oregon and Hawaii where a 30% of non-Veterans enrolled vs 28% of Veterans enrolled.

Part D Enrollment

Part D Demographic Comparisons

- Age: More non-Veterans were enrolled in Medicare Part D, with the greatest differences in the youngest age groups. The majority of Veterans <35 (79.1%) were not enrolled in Part D, but only 12.4% of non-Veterans <35 had no Part D coverage. Almost half of the Veterans 85+ (41.6%) were not enrolled in Part D, compared to only 19.3% of non-Veterans 85+.
- Gender: Only 38.3% of the female Veterans were enrolled in Part D, compared to 79.3% of non-Veterans.
- State: Greatest difference in Part D enrollment was in South Dakota where 68% of Veterans did not have Part D, compared to only 24% of non-Veterans.

Study Design

A retrospective, cross-sectional study design was used. Individuals enrolled in Medicare were identified using the Medicare Master Beneficiary Summary File (MBSF) base 3% sample from September 2018 (n=2,913,177). VHA and Medicare dual enrollees ("Veterans") were identified by matching the MBSF base file to the VHA ADUHS Enrollment file (n=263,504).

Types of Medicare enrollment examined include Managed Care, Part A FFS (fee-for-service), Part B FFS, and Part A & B combined. Part D enrollment options examined include stand alone PDP (prescription drug program), Managed Care Part D, Retiree Drug Subsidy (RDS), and no Part D/RDS. Age, gender, and state were also explored.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: This work is supported by grants SDR 18-014 and SDR 18-027 VHA's Office of Research and Development, Health Services Research & Development Service.

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in this poster are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Department of Veterans Affairs or the US government.

	Stand-alone PDP	Medicare Advantage-PDP	Employer sponsored PDP	Retiree Drug Subsidy (RDS)	No Part D or RDS	Total
	Row Percent					
	N					
Female	20.39	16.05	0.05	1.41	62.09	232,125
Male	23.96	20.47	0.15	2.89	52.53	5,033,442
Age <55	17.80	9.30	0.00	0.25	72.64	191,568
Age 55-64	21.75	16.01	0.02	0.69	61.53	378,263
Age 65-74	21.34	19.02	0.13	2.55	56.96	2,681,854
Age 75-84	26.65	24.06	0.19	3.43	45.66	1,283,959
Age 85+	30.47	23.29	0.25	4.53	41.45	729,923

Medicare Drug Coverage for Dually Enrolled Veterans in September 2016 3



Technical Documentation

- Data Availability
- Data Contents
- Record & Person Counts



- Secure web application for research data collection
- As of 2/21/2020:
 - 4,805 projects
 - 4,446 active users

Learn More:
<http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/REDCap/Overview.htm>

JAMIA Open, 2(3), 2019, 312–316
 doi: 10.1093/jamiaopen/ooz017
 Advance Access Publication Date: 11 June 2019
 Case Report

Case Report

Diffusion, implementation, and use of Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) in the Veterans Health Administration (VA)

Bonnie L. Paris¹ and Denise M. Hynes^{2,3}

¹VA Information Resource Center (VIREC), Veterans Health Administration, Hines, Illinois, USA, ²College of Public Health and Human Sciences and Health Data and Informatics (HDI), Center for Genome Research and Biocomputing (CGRB), Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, USA and ³Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, Portland VA Healthcare System, Portland, Oregon, USA

Corresponding Author: Denise M. Hynes, BSN, MPH, PhD, RN, VA Portland Health Care System Research and Development Service, Mail Code R&D 86, 3710 SW U.S. Veterans Hospital Road, Portland, OR 97209-2999, USA (denise.hynes@va.gov).

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ABSTRACT

This case study describes the implementation of the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) software at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration (VA). VA REDCap enables secure and standardized data collection, fosters collaboration with external researchers through use of a widely used data management tool, facilitates multisite studies through use of data forms that can be shared across sites within and outside the VA, is well suited to health services research studies and quality improvement projects, and enables exporting data for analysis in the VA secure computing environment. Using a diffusion of innovation framework approach, authors explore organizational factors that shaped adoption of REDCap technology and constraints on its use within the VA. Lessons learned from the VA experience are discussed.

Key words: organizational innovation, health services research, data collection

INTRODUCTION

The Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) software was developed at Vanderbilt University to address data collection needs of health system researchers and has been widely adopted.^{1,2} The Veterans Health Administration (VA) is the largest integrated health-care system in the United States, has an established intramural health services research program,^{3–7} and primary data collection software is vital to support research.

The VA Information Resource Center (VIREC)⁸ convened an interdisciplinary team with members from key VA information technology offices, research stakeholders, and affiliated university subject matter experts to develop a VA REDCap pilot.^{9–13} The implementation of VA REDCap is presented as an example of an innovation spreading within a large organization.

IMPLEMENTATION

The adoption of REDCap in the VA was a complex process. We use the Greenhalgh Diffusion, Dissemination and Implementation Conceptual Model¹⁴ to describe this process and the contributing factors and components. The Greenhalgh model includes factors related to outer context, the innovation itself and approach to spreading the innovation, organizational context, the individual adopting an innovation, and linkages between these factors.¹⁴ Table 1 highlights con-

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 This work is written by US Government employees and is in the public domain in the US.

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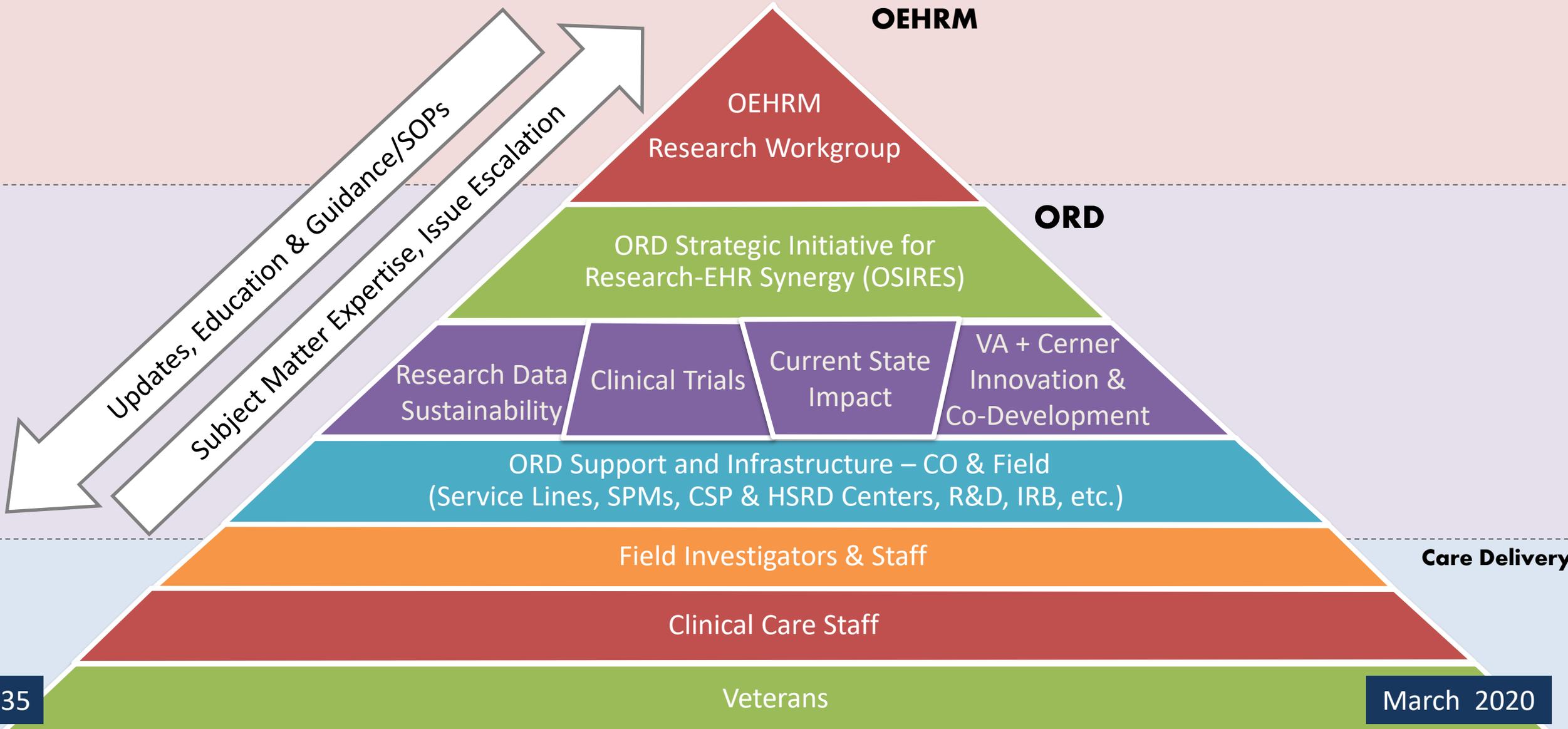


OEHRM Research Workgroup

- **Co-chairs:** Maria Souden¹ & Jim Breeling⁴, **ORD sponsor:** David Atkins^{1,4}
- **Work Effort Leads:** David Au¹, Jennifer Sporleder³, Lauren Harris³, Matt Maciejewski¹, Kellie Simms³
- **Members, Consultants & Subject Matter Experts:** Jeannine Barton⁵, Kousick Biswas³, Ashley Briggs¹, Kimberly Collins⁴, Margaret Collins¹, Angel Colon-Molero⁷, Chandrea Culbreath¹, Nhan Do³, Matt Dohner⁵, Scott DuVall¹, Jade Fiotto³, Danielle Fleumer⁵, Eric Hawkins¹, Mark Jones³, Linda Kok¹, Vaishali Krishnan³, Jessi Libbing³, Stephanie Magone⁵, Carol Malte¹, Michael Matheny¹, Kristina Nord², Bonnie Paris¹, Jimmy Pontzer³, Juanita Posada-Grant³, Jackie Raceles⁵, Sheila Sullivan⁶, Zach Taylor³, Kandi Velarde³, Mary Whooley¹, Wendy Wytala¹, Rebecca Walker⁵

¹HSRD, ²CSRD, ³CSP, ⁴ORD, ⁵VA Non-Profits, ⁶Office of Nursing Services, ⁷Office of Specialty Care

Research - EHRM Ecosystem: Cultivating Breadth and Depth to Maximize Opportunities





EHRM & Research VIReC-led specific purpose work efforts

ORD Strategic Initiative for Research-EHR Synergy (OSIRES)

ORD strategic planning and mitigation, multi-directional communication with field and VACO leadership

Current State Impact (CSI – Seattle)

Assessing risks, gaps, priorities by project at IOC, specific mitigation plans, training needs

Clinical Trials/Research-EHR Integration

PowerTrials design and configuration, clinical trials management system, billing, pharmacy integration

Research Data Sustainability

Syndication requirements, data mapping, testing/validation

Cooperative Research & Development

HealtheDataLabs, PoC clinical trials/learning health, return of genomic results, eConnected Research

VIReC Data Resources in Action

Four General Use Cases

vawww.virec.research.va.gov

VA network only
 News & new resources
 Resources for working with data

www.virec.research.va.gov

VA network only
 Collaborative with NDS & VINCI
 Data source & access information

www.virec.research.va.gov

Public-facing
 VIREC overview
 Publications & events
 Cyberseminars

VIREC Data Knowledge Resource Sites

Getting the lay of the land

VHA Data Portal

Index of Data Sources

The screenshot shows the VHA Data Portal website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About Us, Contact Us, FAQ, and Report Broken Link. Below this is the Department of Veterans Affairs logo and the VHA Data Portal title. A search bar is located to the right of the logo. A secondary navigation bar contains links for Data Sources, Data Access, Tools & Applications, Resources, Training, Policy & Admin, and Support. The main content area is titled "Data Sources Overview" and includes a "Quick View" box on the left. The "Quick View" box contains the text: "The VHA Data Portal defines a data source as where the data comes from or a place to access data for a project or study." The main content area features a "Data Sources Overview" section with an "Overview" subsection. The "Overview" subsection explains that in VHA, the term "data sources" is used to describe specific bodies of data such as inpatient data, electronic health record data, mainframe SAS data sets, and the Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW). It also states that the VHA Data Portal defines a data source as where the data comes from or a place to access data for a project or study, and lists examples like data reports, data sets, data files, databases, data warehouses, and data repositories. Below this is a "Data Sources" subsection with a list of data sources, each with a plus icon to expand it. The list includes: Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health (ADUSH) Enrollment Files, Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) Mainframe, Beneficiary Identification & Records Locator System (BIRLS) Death File, Bereaved Family Survey (BFS) Database, Care Assessment Need (CAN) Scores, Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW), Health Economics Resource Center (HERC) Cost Data, and Homeless Registry. The CDW entry includes a brief description: "CDW is an evolving repository of national VHA data. It is a physical implementation of a logical data model at the enterprise level for VHA. Learn more..."

Home About Us Contact Us FAQ Report Broken Link

Department of Veterans Affairs
VHA Data Portal

Data Sources Data Access Tools & Applications Resources Training Policy & Admin Support

Data Sources > Data Sources Overview

Quick View

The VHA Data Portal defines a data source as where the data comes from or a place to access data for a project or study.

Data Sources Overview

Overview

In VHA, the term data sources is often used to describe specific bodies of data such as, inpatient data, electronic health record data, mainframe SAS data sets, and the Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW).

The VHA Data Portal defines a data source as where the data comes from or a place to access data for a project or study. These data sources include data reports, data sets, data files, databases, data warehouses, and data repositories.

Data Sources

Select a data source from the list below to view a brief description and link to more information about each source. Expand the Data Source option in the quick links for a quick view of all data sources and links to their pages.

+ Expand All

- + Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health (ADUSH) Enrollment Files
- The ADUSH for Policy and Planning Enrollment files contain enrollment, eligibility, demographic, cost, and location information for VHA enrollees and non-enrollees who have received VA care. [Learn more...](#)
- + Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) Mainframe
- + Beneficiary Identification & Records Locator System (BIRLS) Death File
- + Bereaved Family Survey (BFS) Database
- + Care Assessment Need (CAN) Scores
- + Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)
- CDW is an evolving repository of national VHA data. It is a physical implementation of a logical data model at the enterprise level for VHA. [Learn more...](#)
- + Health Economics Resource Center (HERC) Cost Data
- + Homeless Registry

Information about a specific data source

VIReC documentation of CDW data

<https://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/CDW/Documentation.htm>

(VA Intranet)

VIReC INTRANET

Search All VA Web Pages Search Open Advanced Search

VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIReC)

VIReC Home
About Us
VA/CMS Data for Research
VHA Data Portal
New Users of VA Data
FAQs
Acronym Lookup
HelpDesk
Report Broken Link
How are we doing?

VHA Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)

Overview

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) is a national repository of data from VistA and several other VHA clinical and administrative systems. The CDW is physically located at the Austin Information Technology Center.

The CDW is a relational database organized into a collection of data domains. Domains represent logically or conceptually related sets of data tables. Domain themes generally indicate the application in the VistA electronic health record system from which most of the data elements in the domain come (e.g., Vital Signs or Mental Health Assessment).

Visit the "[CDW FAQs](#)" section of this page for answers to frequently asked questions about CDW data.

Available Data

Data are generally available from October 1999 - present. Availability varies by domain. [CDW's SharePoint site](#) provides an up-to-date list of available domains with some structural documentation in the Metadata Reports section.

VistA is the primary source of CDW data. CDW data domains are classified as either production or raw. Tables in production domains have been architected (e.g. to add keys and indexes) to support flexibility of queries, but no filtering of records, editing of content or business rules have been applied to these data. Raw data domains reflect the source system structure (VistA) and are not modeled, standardized, or indexed.

Requesting Access

The process for requesting access depends on how the data will be used. VIReC provides data access information through our collaboration on the VHA Data Portal. Visit the Portal for details on accessing CDW data by selecting from the following data use categories. If you're not sure which option to choose, visit the [Data Access Overview](#) on the VHA Data Portal.

[Research](#) | [Preparatory to Research](#) | [Operations](#)

Resources for Researchers

- [CDW FAQs](#) provide answers to frequently asked questions about CDW data
- [CDW Factbooks](#) provide detailed descriptions of tables, columns, and values in select CDW domains.
- [The Researcher's Notebook](#) lays out methodological approaches to working with CDW data. Each issue elaborates on a nuance of data use for a specific topic or research question and conveys practical information from the perspective of data users in the field.
- [Introductory CDW Cyberseminars](#) provide a conceptual overview of relational data, the structure of CDW's data, and beginning SQL coding.
- [Summary Documentation](#) for CDW includes factbooks, domain layouts and descriptions, record counts, counts of null values, and discrete value counts.
- Medical SAS Outpatient variables have been mapped to CDW data fields. Visit the "[NPCD CDW Transition](#)" page on CDW's SharePoint site to access the map and for information on differences in variable formatting, data transformations and calculated variables only in the Medical SAS files.
- Visit the [VINCI Central](#) website to learn more about using a VINCI workspace to analyze and view CDW data for research projects.
- The [CDW SharePoint site](#) provides has an announcements section that provides up-to-date information on topics such as newly released data, missing data, and training available.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

+ Expand All

- ☑ How do I find data in the CDW that is relevant to my project?
- ☑ How do I find documentation related to CDW?
- ☑ How do I find the meaning of a linking key in the CDW?
- ☑ How do I build a SQL query or join tables in the CDW?
- ☑ How do I use SQL and CDW for data management purposes?
- ☑ How do I report a potential CDW data quality issue?
- ☑ Where can I find a high-level summary of the contents in the CDW?

Learn About CDW

- Overview
- Data Transition to CDW
- Documentation
- FAQs

General Resources

- Data Access
- Data Sources
- Data Tools
- Data Topics
- Products & Services
- Special Projects

Factbook

VIReC Factbook
Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)
Outpatient 2.1 Domain
September 2016



Part 3. Clinical Context

According to the *Outpatient Domain Release Document* [28], the primary fact table *Outpat.Visit* contains records from three VistA files: *Visit* (#9000010) file, *Outpatient Encounter* (#409.68) file and the *Patient* (2) file. The VistA file *Visit* (#9000010) is a collection of care and non-care records related to patients and non-patients that

Part 4. Table and Column Descriptions

Part 4 describes each table in the Outpatient 2.1 Domain and selected columns within each table. It is organized by table. The name of the table is presented in large font with a description of its general content immediately following. After each table description, selected columns within that table are described. Table 1 summarizes the various parts of the column descriptions.

Table 1. Content of Column Descriptions

Part 5. Primary and Foreign Key Connections Query

Once you have been granted access to CDW data, this query can be used to generate an up-to-date list of primary and foreign keys associated with this domain.

```
SELECT TOP 1000 [FKSchemaName]
```

Part 6. Example SQL Code for Basic Research Questions

This section contains a series of simple research questions that are answered by applying basic SQL queries to the data in this domain. The three research questions include:

- How does *Outpat.Visit* compare to *Outpat.Workload*, in terms of number of records?
- What appointment status is associated with visits at my station last month?
- What are the 10 most common primary diagnoses for outpatient encounters at my station last month?

Question 1. How does *Outpat.Visit* compare to *Outpat.Workload*, in terms of number of records?

```
SELECT COUNT (VisitSID) TotalNumVisitsInJan
FROM CDWork.Outpat.Visit
WHERE VisitDateTime >= CONVERT (DATETIME2(0), '1/1/2015')
AND VisitDateTime <= CONVERT (DATETIME2(0), '1/31/2015') ;
```

TotalNumVisitsInJan
17,652,832

```
SELECT COUNT (VisitSID) as TotalWorkloadVisits
```

Technical aspects of working with data

VIReC CDW training library

Getting Started with Using CDW

These products are designed to help new CDW users with understanding the nature of relational data, becoming familiar with CDW structure and logic, finding documentation of CDW content, and knowing what to expect when first viewing CDW data in SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) software.

Resources	Released	 Resource
CDW: A Conceptual Overview 2017	2017/03/29	
CDW: Locating Its Documentation 2017	2017/04/05	
Getting the Information You Need From CDW: SQL Starter Language	2015/01/26	
Building Your Dataset in CDW: Joining Tables within a Domain	2015/07/27	
Getting CDW Back Together: Joining CDW Tables (Continued)	2016/10/24	
Data Management in SQL: Selected Intermediate SQL Skills	2016/10/31	

New to
using
CDW?

<https://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/CDW/Documentation.htm>

Email virec@va.gov to be notified of new CDW products and seminars.

Conceptual aspects of working with data

Resources for Specific Topics, Measurements, and Methods

Learn about VA data:

- Data Sources
- Data Topics
 - » [Accuracy of Death Dates](#)
 - » [Cause of Death](#)
 - » [Comorbidity](#)
 - » [Cost of Care](#)
 - » [Data Quality](#)
 - » [ED & Urgent Care](#)
 - » [Geocoded Data](#)
 - » [VA-HRS Data](#)
 - » [Home Telehealth](#)
 - » [ICD-10 Implementation](#)
 - » [Laboratory](#)
 - » [Long Term Care](#)
 - » [Mortality](#)
 - » [Nursing](#)
 - » [Patient Satisfaction](#)
 - » [Pharmacy](#)
 - » [Polytrauma](#)
 - » [Preparatory to Research](#)
 - » [Priority Groups](#)
 - » [Race & Ethnicity](#)
 - » [VA Care in the Community](#)
 - » [Veteran Homelessness](#)
 - » [Veteran Statistics](#)
 - » [Vista](#)
 - » [Vital Status Ascertainment](#)
 - » [Women Veterans Health](#)
 - » [View All](#)

VIReC
Intranet
"Data
Topics"
Pages

Database &
Methods
cyberseminars

Methods for
working with
VA data – the
Researcher's
Notebook

VIReC INTRANET

VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIReC)

The Researcher's Notebook

Overview

The Researcher's Notebook lays out methodological approaches to working with VA data. Each issue elaborates on a nuance of data use for a specific topic or research question and conveys practical information from the perspective of data users in the field.

This free publication is produced by VIReC and authored by researchers in the field. The material in each issue represents one potential set of logic that was appropriate to the context in which the author(s) were working at that point in time. Each reader should assess the appropriateness of this logic for their specific context, question, and time of study.

A Researcher's Notebook subscription delivers current issues right to your inbox. E-mail virrec@va.gov to subscribe.

Current Issues

How are we doing? Take our [short survey](#) to share your thoughts about The Researcher's Notebooks below. We value your feedback.

#	Notebook	Author	Released	View PDF
16	NEW! Matching VA Identifier to DoD Identifier: PatientICH to EDPI Using CDW's HVI Domain	Gonsoulin, M Jones, L	Jul 2019	
15	Exploring the Three Procedure Tables in the CDW Inpatient Domain	Gonsoulin, M Culbreath, C	Apr 2019	
14	Identifying Encounters in CDW by Clinic Location versus Provider Type	Gonsoulin, M Jones, L	Mar 2019	
13	Defining a Cohort with a Diagnosis & Medication: Using CDW to identify VA outpatients with a diagnosis of Rheumatoid Arthritis who are taking Etanercept	Gonsoulin, M Joseph, AM Culbreath, C	Nov 2018	

VIReC » Cyberseminars » Database & Methods Series

Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series

Navigating the VA Data Landscape

VIReC's Database & Methods Series is an introductory guide to VA data and information systems. Sessions are designed to help VA researchers understand common VA data sources and how they are used in research and quality improvement. This series is suitable for all levels.

Current Schedule | **Archive**

Archive

The Database & Methods Cyberseminar Archive allows access to prior sessions. It features presentations from the current year's schedule along with those from previous years. Sessions are point-in-time; information is current and accurate for the year in which the information was presented.

Select a title below to access the recording, handout, and transcript for that session.

Date	Title	Key Topic(s)	Presenter(s)
11/4/2019	Requesting Approval for Access to VA Data Explains how VHA data access procedures differ based on purpose of work and demonstrates resources for identifying data request requirements and submitting a data request.	Data Access	Kok, L
10/7/2019	Overview of VA Data, Information Systems, National Databases and Research Uses Introduces the series; common VA data sources and their uses; platforms and tools for using VA data; and where to find additional resources.	Overview	Souden, M
9/9/2019	Advanced Comorbidity Measures Takes a deep dive into comorbidity measures for a more advanced audience. Prerequisite: Comorbidity Measures Using VA & CMS Data introduces approaches to and issues in assessing comorbidity using VA and Medicare claims data.	Comorbidity	Hynes, D
7/1/2019	Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV) Research Chart Review for VA, DoD and Community Records Discusses data type considerations when conducting a chart review in JLV, specific functions in JLV to facilitate record review, and examples of using JLV in research.	EHR	Omizo, R
6/3/2019	Diagnoses, Labs, and Meds, Oh My! Using CDW to Define a Study Cohort by Multiple Criteria Demonstrates how to identify study cohort based on occurrence of condition-relevant ICD-9/10 codes, utilization of condition-relevant medication, and condition-relevant lab results.	CDW, Lab Data	Richardson, P Royse, K
5/6/2019	United States Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics: A New Data Source with Socioeconomic Variables Introduces USVETS database including addressing its accuracy, completeness, consistency, validity, and timeliness; defines available socioeconomic data; and describes process to obtain access to USVETS.	USVETS	Bhargava, A Hauser, G
4/1/2019	Assessing Race & Ethnicity in VA Data Describes how to locate race and ethnicity data and assess its quality in VA and Medicare.	Race, Ethnicity	Mor, M

The Researcher's Notebook

How do I identify the bed sections for my cohort?

Introduction

This Researcher's Notebook is intended to provide logical steps for identifying Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW). The bed section is commonly referred to type of inpatient service provided and helps categorize the type of care provided. A patient may move from one specialty to another during the inpatient stay. This notebook describes various bed section stays a patient experienced during an inpatient stay.

Step 1 | Become Familiar with the Terminology and Data

These are some terms that used in this notebook:

- Specialty – type of inpatient service, or bed section (e.g. Medicine, Surgery)
- BedSection – type of inpatient service, or specialty (e.g., Medicine, Surgery)
- Treating Specialty – subsection of the specialty (e.g. Cardiology, Surgical ICU)
- PTF Code – “Specialty Code” (e.g., 72 = “ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE TRMT UNIT”)
- Inpatient stay – complete stay from admission to discharge (made up of 1 or more bed section stays)
- Bed section stay – duration in a particular specialty or bed section
- LOS in Service – length of stay in a specialty or bed section
- Vista 501 Movement – specialty transfer/bed section movements
- Vista 535 Movement – physical transfer/ward transfer movements (e.g. “1 North”)

Step 2 | Understand the Logic of the CDW Inpatient (Inpat) Tables

It is first necessary to understand how and when the information about bed section is entered into the various tables found in the inpatient domain. This understanding of the data has been inductively reasoned via the presence of a LosingSpecialtySID in Inpat.Inpatient and Inpat.SpecialtyTransfer.

- Inpatient data is not populated in the Inpat.Inpatient and Inpat.SpecialtyTransfer until the patient is discharged from the hospital (inpatient stay ends). Upon discharge from the last bed section (and thus the hospital) the data will be populated in these CDW tables.

Step 3 | Identify the Tables/Views and Columns Needed

- SPatient.SPatient is used to identify individual patients and eliminate known and probable test patients; the columns used in this process include: PatientSSN, PatientSID and CDWPossibleTestPatientFlag.
- Dim.Specialty is needed to identify the specialty's code and description; the following columns Specialty and PTFCode will be used.

Step 5 | Write SQL Queries

Step 5 provides basic code to identify bed section records of interest.

5.1 Select bed section stays from Inpat.Inpatient (last or only bed section of discharged patients only)

The following SQL query selects bed section stays of interest (in this example bed section code 72, 73, and 74) from the Inpat.Inpatient table. This is done by selecting the appropriate columns from the Inpat.Inpatient

```
--Inpat.SpecialtyTransfer Records
SELECT
    st.InpatientSID,
    st.PatientSID,
    st.AdmitDateTime, -- same as below if bed section stay is also the first bed section stay
    SpecialtyTransferDateTimeIn=DATEADD(DAY, st.LOSInService*-1, st.SpecialtyTransferDateTime),
    -- DATEADD back calculates start
    st.SpecialtyTransferDateTime as SpecialtyTransferDateTimeOut,
    sp.Specialty,
    sp.PTFCode,
    st.LOSInService,
    InpatCensus='I' -- Flag source
INTO [personal schema].sabuseBSinpat501
FROM Inpat.SpecialtyTransfer st
INNER JOIN Dim.Specialty sp
ON (st.LosingSpecialtySID=sp.SpecialtySID) -- The name of PK and FK differ !!!
WHERE (sp.PTFCode in ('72', '73', '74')) and
    st.LosingSpecialtySID is not null and
    st.LOSInService is not null /* -- ignore rows w/ Treating Specialty change but
    no Specialty changes */

;
```

Getting your data

VHA Data Portal

Detailed Access and Permissions Processes

The screenshot shows the VHA Data Portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About Us, Contact Us, FAQ, and Report Broken Link. Below this is the Department of Veterans Affairs logo and the title 'VHA Data Portal'. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. A main navigation menu includes Data Sources, Data Access, Tools & Applications, Resources, Training, Policy & Admin, and Support. The current page is 'Data Access Overview'. A 'Quick View' box states: 'VHA grants access to data and information systems based on how the data are going to be used.' The main content area is titled 'Requesting Data Access' and includes an 'Overview' section. The overview text reads: 'VHA grants access to data and information systems based on how the data will be used. Data access request processes and types of data access granted (e.g., direct access, data extracts, read-only views) depend on the data access category.' Below this is a section titled 'How do I request data for research and operations purposes?' which explains that VHA maintains patient health information and other data used for various purposes. It lists three categories: Operations Access, Research Access, and Preparatory to Research Access, each with a brief description of who needs access and for what purpose.

Home About Us Contact Us FAQ Report Broken Link

Department of Veterans Affairs
VHA Data Portal

Data Sources Data Access Tools & Applications Resources Training Policy & Admin Support

Data Access ▸ Data Access Overview

Quick View
VHA grants access to data and information systems based on how the data are going to be used.

Requesting Data Access

Overview

VHA grants access to data and information systems based on how the data will be used. Data access request processes and types of data access granted (e.g., direct access, data extracts, read-only views) depend on the data access category.

How do I request data for research and operations purposes?

VHA maintains patient health information and other data used for a variety of purposes, such as program administration, healthcare quality improvement, program evaluation, and research. Select a category below for information about requesting data access or consult the [Research vs Operations Decision Tool](#) for additional guidance.

- Operations Access:** VHA employees and contractors require access to data and information systems for healthcare quality assessments, operational reporting, auditing, planning, forecasting, and general administrative duties.
- Research Access:** VHA researchers with VA approved research protocols require access to data and information systems to conduct research.
- Preparatory to Research Access:** VHA researchers preparing research proposals require access to data and information systems to determine the feasibility of a proposed study and to demonstrate its significance.

The screenshot shows the 'DART Research Request Process' page. It features the same header as the previous screenshot. The main content area is titled 'DART Research Request Process'. On the left, there are three sidebars: 'What is DART?' (with a 'Launch DART' link), 'Did you know?' (stating that only one DART request is submitted per protocol), and 'Quick Links' (with links for 'DART User Guide', 'Creating a DART IRB Research Request', and 'Requesting Data Access'). The main content includes an 'Overview' section with a sub-section 'Which data sources can I request?' listing several data sources: ADUSH Enrollment Files, Bereaved Family Survey (BFS) Database, BIRLS Death File, Care Assessment Need Score (CAN Score), and Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW). A navigation bar below the title includes links for Overview, Submitting a Request, Documents & Forms, Request Metrics, and Resources.

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Data Access ▸ DART Request Process

DART Research Request Process

What is DART?
[Launch DART](#)
DART is an online application for requesting permission to access VHA data.

Did you know?
Only one DART request is submitted per protocol. Any changes to this request, such as adding data or changing staff, are made through amending the initial DART request.

Quick Links
[DART User Guide](#)
[Creating a DART IRB Research Request](#)

Overview

The Data Access Request Tracker (DART) Research Request Process is for requesting permission to access VHA data for approved research projects. Visit the [Preparatory to Research Access](#) page to learn about requesting data when preparing a research funding application or protocol.

Which data sources can I request?

Many, but not all data sources and tools can be requested through DART. Here is a list of those that are available for request. Select a data source for a description of its contents and tips for requesting access.

- [ADUSH Enrollment Files](#)
- [Bereaved Family Survey \(BFS\) Database](#)
- [BIRLS Death File](#)
- [Care Assessment Need Score \(CAN Score\)](#)
- [Corporate Data Warehouse \(CDW\)](#)

[Overview](#) [Submitting a Request](#) [Documents & Forms](#) [Request Metrics](#) [Resources](#)



Still have questions?

VIREC HelpDesk

virec@va.gov

(708) 202-2413



Presenter

Maria Souden, MSI, PhD

Acting Director

VA Information Resource Center

Hines VA Hospital

maria.souden@va.gov

Quick links to common VA data resources

Quick Guide: Resources for Using VA Data

<http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Toolkit/QG-Resources-for-Using-VA-Data.pdf> (VA Intranet)

VIREC: <https://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Index.htm> (VA Intranet)

VIREC Cyberseminars: <https://www.virec.research.va.gov/Resources/Cyberseminars.asp>

VHA Data Portal: <https://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov/Home.aspx> (VA Intranet)

VINCI: <https://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/vincicentral/> (VA Intranet)

Health Economics Resource Center (HERC): <https://vaww.herc.research.va.gov> (VA Intranet)

CDW: <https://vaww.cdw.va.gov/Pages/CDWHome.aspx> (VA Intranet)

HSR&D Resource Centers https://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/centers/resource_centers.cfm