

# VA Evidence Synthesis Program

## 2023 Program Impact

**VA**



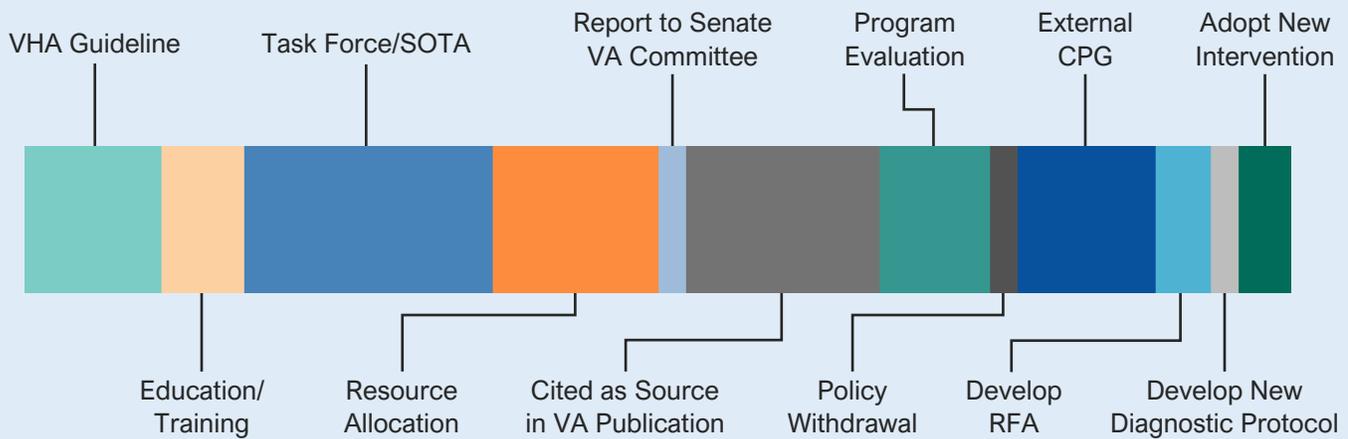
**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
*Health Systems Research*

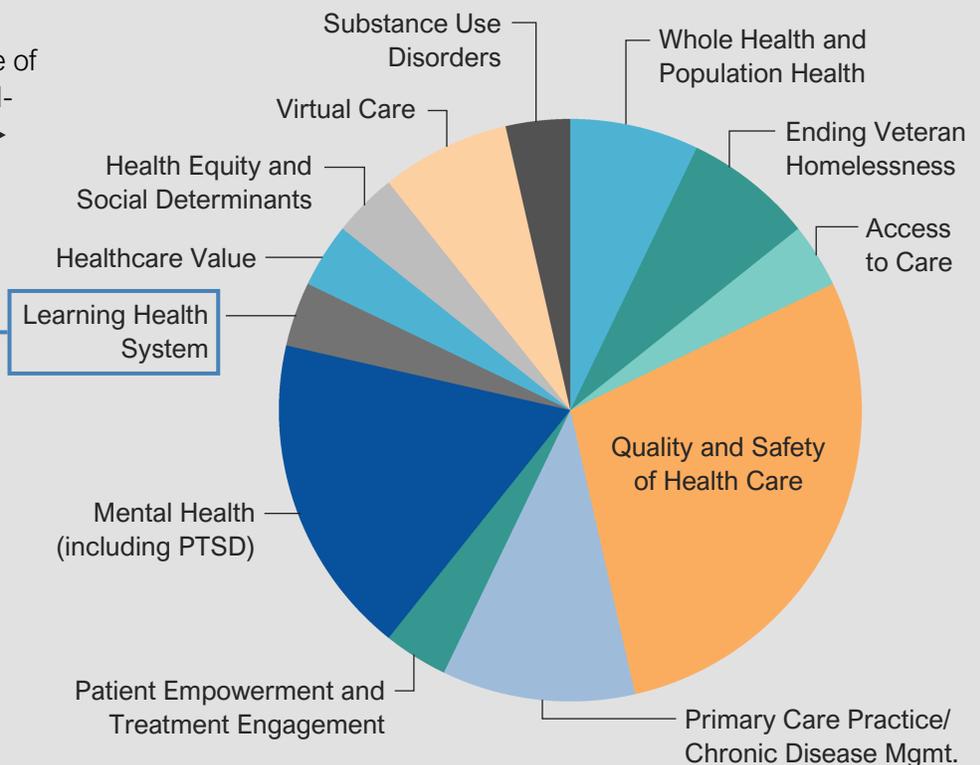
## VA Evidence Synthesis Program: 2023 Impacts by the Numbers

- ▶ Completed 23 review products
- ▶ Received 26 nominations for new review topics and assigned 16 (62%) to be developed as a systematic review or other review product
- ▶ Worked with 7 VA offices, programs, or committees that were first-time ESP Operational Partners
- ▶ Eight (8) projects responded to legislative mandates or requests, or contributed to VA's response to ongoing Congressional inquiries
- ▶ Informed 2 VA State-of-the-Art (SOTA) conferences and 2 funding announcements (RFAs)
- ▶ Published in high-impact journals including *Annals of Internal Medicine* (IF 39.2)

### How 2023 ESP Reports Were Used ▼



2023 ESP reports covered a wide range of HSR, ORD, and VISN-level priority areas ▶



**ESP also supported the 2023 VHA Diffusion of Excellence Shark Tank Competition by examining the evidence on potential benefits and harms of proposed clinical innovations.**

## 2023 ESP Reports in Detail

### Healthcare Quality, Safety, and Equity

**VA versus Non-VA Quality of Care: A Living Systematic Review**



**Differential Pulse Oximeter Accuracy, Occult Hypoxemia Prevalence, and Clinical Outcomes by Patient Race/Ethnicity: A Systematic Review**



**Orthopedic Surgery Complication Risk Associated with Smoking Cessation and Use of Nicotine Replacement Therapies: A Systematic Review**



Findings published in 2 high-impact journals and [highlighted in VA News](#). Earlier findings informed VA [response to Congress](#).

### Cardiology & Vascular Disease

**Accelerated Diagnostic Protocols That Use High-sensitivity Troponin Assays to “Rule In” or “Rule Out” Myocardial Infarction in the Emergency Department: A Systematic Review**

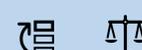


**Dual Antiplatelet Management in the Perioperative Period: A Systematic Review**



### COVID-19

**Employment, Education, and Continuing Care Outcomes Among Individuals Following COVID-19\***



**Brief Evidence Assessment Guidance for Long COVID Clinics: Cardiopulmonary System\***



**Brief Evidence Assessment Guidance for Long COVID Clinics: Nervous System\***



ESP reports informed Homelessness IPT and the Research Planning Working Group, and were used to develop an RFA to support implementation of [VA’s Learning Agenda on Homelessness](#).

### Homelessness Among Veterans

**Factors Associated with Homelessness Among US Veterans: A Systematic Review**



**Resources for Preventing Homelessness\***



### Mental Health & Wellbeing

**Protocols to Reduce Seclusion in Inpatient Mental Health Units: A Systematic Review**



**Neuroimaging and Neurophysiologic Biomarkers for Mental Health: An Evidence Map**



**Psychedelic Medications for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders\***



**Safety and Effectiveness of Telehealth-delivered Mental Health Care\***



**Research on Extended Reality-based Therapies Among Older Adults\***



**Effectiveness of Parent Skills Training Programs for Parents with Histories of Sexual Trauma, Serious Mental Illness, or Military Service: A Systematic Review**

**Whole Person Outcome Measurement in Treatment Outcomes and Health Status Research\***



**Health Systems Research on Measurement and Use of Whole Person Outcomes\***



Informed SOTA conference on psychedelic treatment for mental health conditions and subsequent [funding announcement](#).

ESP reports on whole person outcomes informed SOTA conference on [measuring what matters in healthcare](#).

### Oncology

**Prognostic Value of Genomic Classifier Testing for Prostate Cancer: A Systematic Review**

**Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors and EGFR-TKIs as Adjuvant/Neoadjuvant Therapies for Resectable Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Systematic Review**

**Hypofractionation Radiation Therapy for Definitive Treatment of Selected Cancers: A Comparative Effectiveness Review**



**Non-Surgical Therapies for Early-Stage Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Systematic Review**



ORD/HSR Priority

Legislative Mandate/Request

Analyzed VA Data

\*Rapid Evidence Product

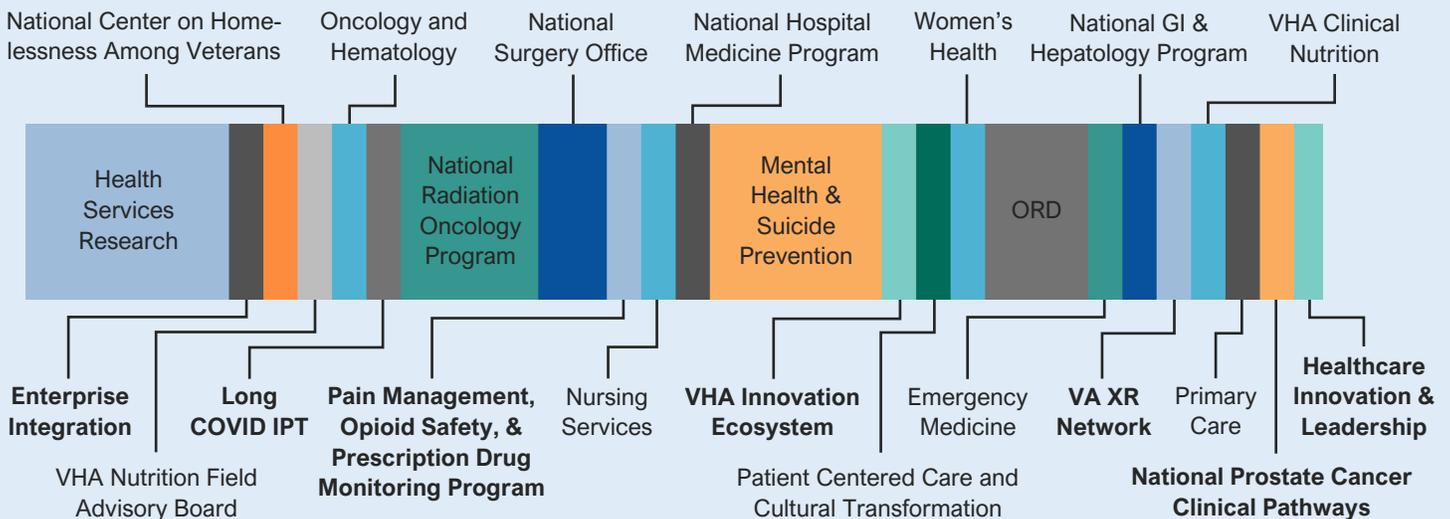
## Operational Partner Satisfaction

During 2023, the program received feedback from 28 Operational Partners on 17 reports. All Operational Partners indicated that findings of ESP reports were used within 3 months of report completion, and 89% said they were likely to request another ESP report in the future. 94% of Operational Partners of systematic review or evidence map products agreed or strongly agreed that the ESP report presented a clear understanding of how evidence applies within the VA context.

*“The ESP Report was intended as a key factor in decision-making about future directions for evaluation and research. It fulfilled that role superbly.”*

## Operational Partners in 2023 ▼

First-time Operational Partners in **bold**.



## ESP Journal Publications During 2023

ESP reports are shared across the VA, and most are made publicly available. To expand the program's impact beyond the VA, ESP reports are often translated into journal articles. Many are published in high-impact medical journals and become frequently cited (see next page for ESP's most-cited journal publications).

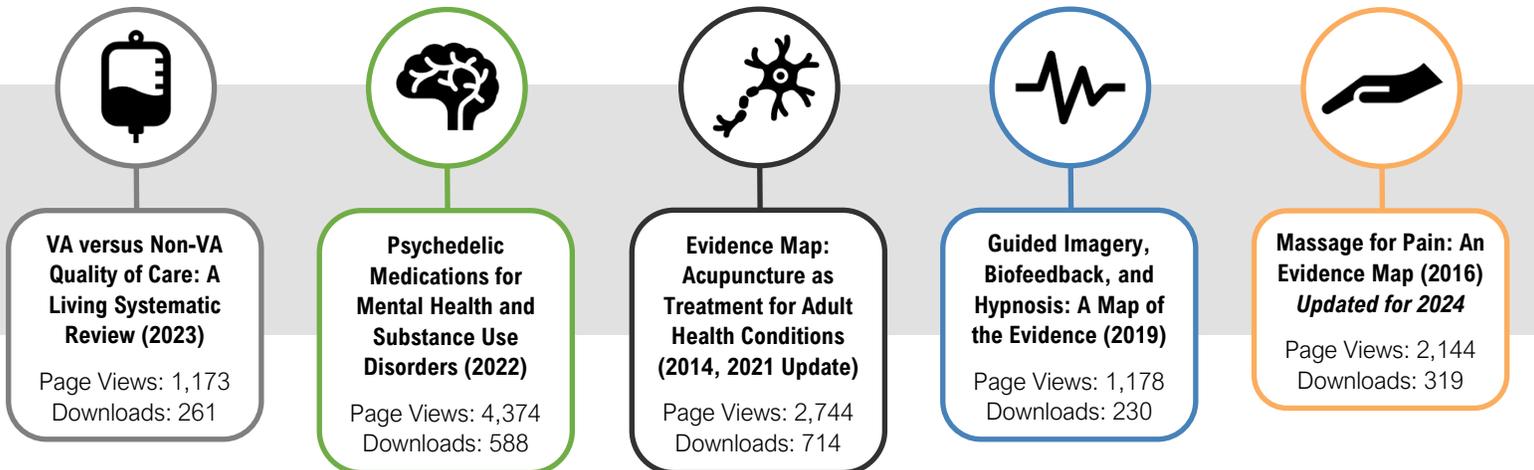
- **Veterans Health Administration (VA) vs. Non-VA Healthcare Quality: A Systematic Review** (Journal of General Internal Medicine)
- **Comparing Quality of Surgical Care Between the US Department of Veterans Affairs and Non-Veterans Affairs Settings: A Systematic Review** (Journal of the American College of Surgeons)
- **Endoscopic Therapies for Patients with Obesity: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis** (Surgical Endoscopy)
- **Dual Antiplatelet Management in the Perioperative Period: Updated and Expanded Systematic Review** (Systematic Reviews)
- **Evaluation of Implementation Strategies for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR): A Systematic Review** (Journal of General Internal Medicine)
- **Update Alert 10: Risks and Impact of Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors or Angiotensin-Receptor Blockers on SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Adults** (Annals of Internal Medicine)
- **Risk Prediction Models for Diabetic Foot Ulcer Development or Amputation: A Review of Reviews** (Journal of Foot and Ankle Research)
- **Videoconferencing of Movement-Based and Psychologically Informed Interventions for Chronic Pain: A Systematic Review and Horizon Scan** (Telemedicine and e-Health)

## Most Influential ESP Publications

Based on Scopus metrics, 190 ESP publications have been cited 11,462 times since the program's inception in 2007. The table below shows the most influential ESP journal publications, which include articles based on ESP reports as well as publications on evidence synthesis methodology. ESP reports and journal articles not indexed in the Scopus database are not included. All-time citation counts, field-weighted citation scores, and changes in these metrics over 2023 are shown for each publication.

	ESP Center	Citations	Impact
<b>Risk Prediction Models for Hospital Readmission: A Systematic Review</b> (JAMA)	Portland	1353 +106	38.35 -2.35
<b>Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19-Related Infections, Hospitalizations, and Deaths: A Systematic Review</b> (Annals of Internal Medicine)	Portland	641 +323	53.15 -8.42
<b>Electronic Patient Portals: Evidence on Health Outcomes, Satisfaction, Efficiency, and Attitudes: A Systematic Review</b> (Annals of Internal Medicine)	Los Angeles	364 +29	4.98 +0.04
<b>Mental Health Conditions Among Patients Seeking and Undergoing Bariatric Surgery</b> (Journal of the American Medical Association)	Los Angeles	338 +83	23.26 -0.62
<b>What is an Evidence Map? A Systematic Review of Definitions, Methods, and Products</b> (Systematic Reviews)	Los Angeles	334 +95	11.35 -0.07
<b>Delivery of Genomic Medicine for Common Chronic Adult Diseases: A Systematic Review</b> (JAMA)	Los Angeles	269 +10	15.76 -0.93
<b>The Effects of Pay-for-Performance Programs on Health, Health Care Use, and Processes of Care: A Systematic Review</b> (Annals of Internal Medicine)	Portland	244 +46	12.87 +0.13
<b>Early Warning System Scores for Clinical Deterioration in Hospitalized Patients: A Systematic Review</b> (Annals of the American Thoracic Society)	Portland	241 +50	2.41 +0.06
<b>Tele dermatology for Diagnosis and Management of Skin conditions: A Systematic Review</b> (Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology)	Minneapolis	200 +27	5.85 +0.10
<b>Prevalence, Assessment, and Treatment of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: A Systematic Review of the Evidence</b> (Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation)	Minneapolis	207 +18	5.69 +0.17

## Highly Viewed ESP Reports During 2023



## *What is the ESP?*

The VA Evidence Synthesis Program (ESP), established in 2007, helps VA fulfill its vision of functioning as a continuously learning health care system. We provide timely, targeted, independent syntheses of the medical literature for the VHA to translate into evidence-based clinical practice, policy, and research.

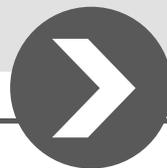
- **Qualified.** ESP investigators are recognized leaders in the field of research synthesis, and many are practicing VA clinicians.
- **Innovative and Rigorous.** We adapt traditional methods, timelines, and formats to meet our partners' specific needs, while preserving rigor and transparency.
- **High Impact.** ESP tackles high-priority issues such as COVID-19, opioid use, suicide prevention, and community care. ESP products have informed reports to Congress, ACP guidelines, and VHA formularies.
- **Timely.** Requests are accepted year-round, with more urgent needs prioritized for our rapid products. Our product timeframes range from weeks to 1 year from project initiation.

## *How can VA leadership work with the ESP?*

When you submit a [topic nomination form](#), we will work with you to determine the appropriate research approach and ESP product to address your questions of interest. If the topic meets prioritization criteria and is selected by HSR leadership, then an ESP Center will be assigned to conduct the review. High-priority, time-sensitive needs will be addressed at the ESP Coordinating Center as capacity allows.



***ESP on the  
Internet***



***ESP on the  
VA Intranet***



***Contact the ESP  
Coordinating Center***