



SUMMIT 2011 National Training Summit
on Women Veterans



Women Veterans Health Care

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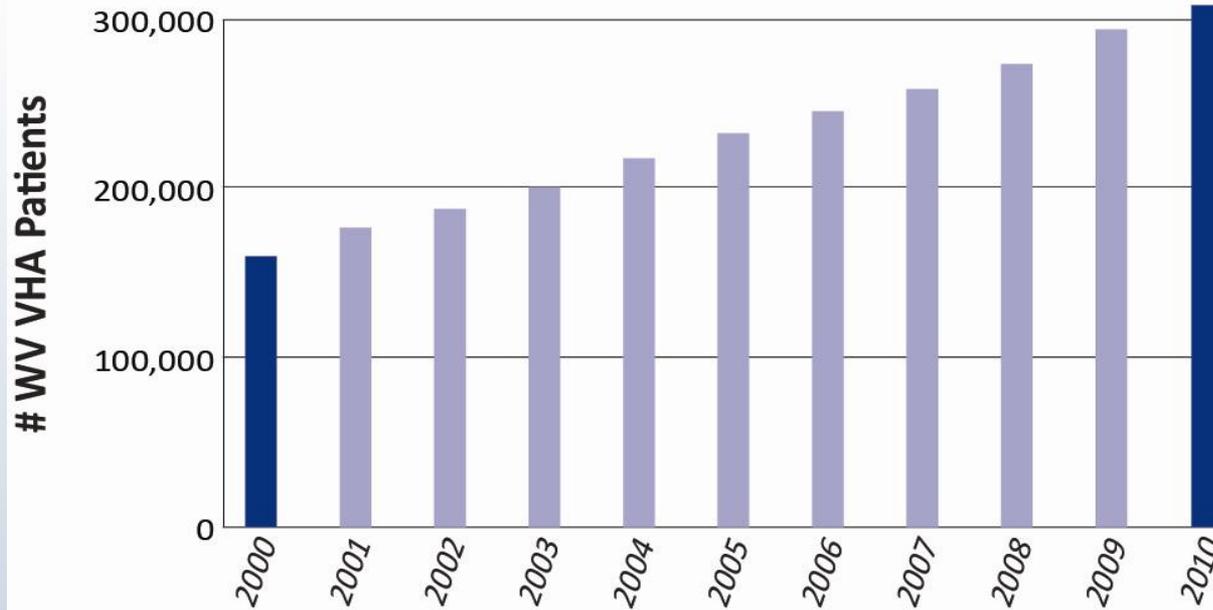
Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group

Department of Veterans Affairs

July 16, 2011

Women Users Doubled Since 2000

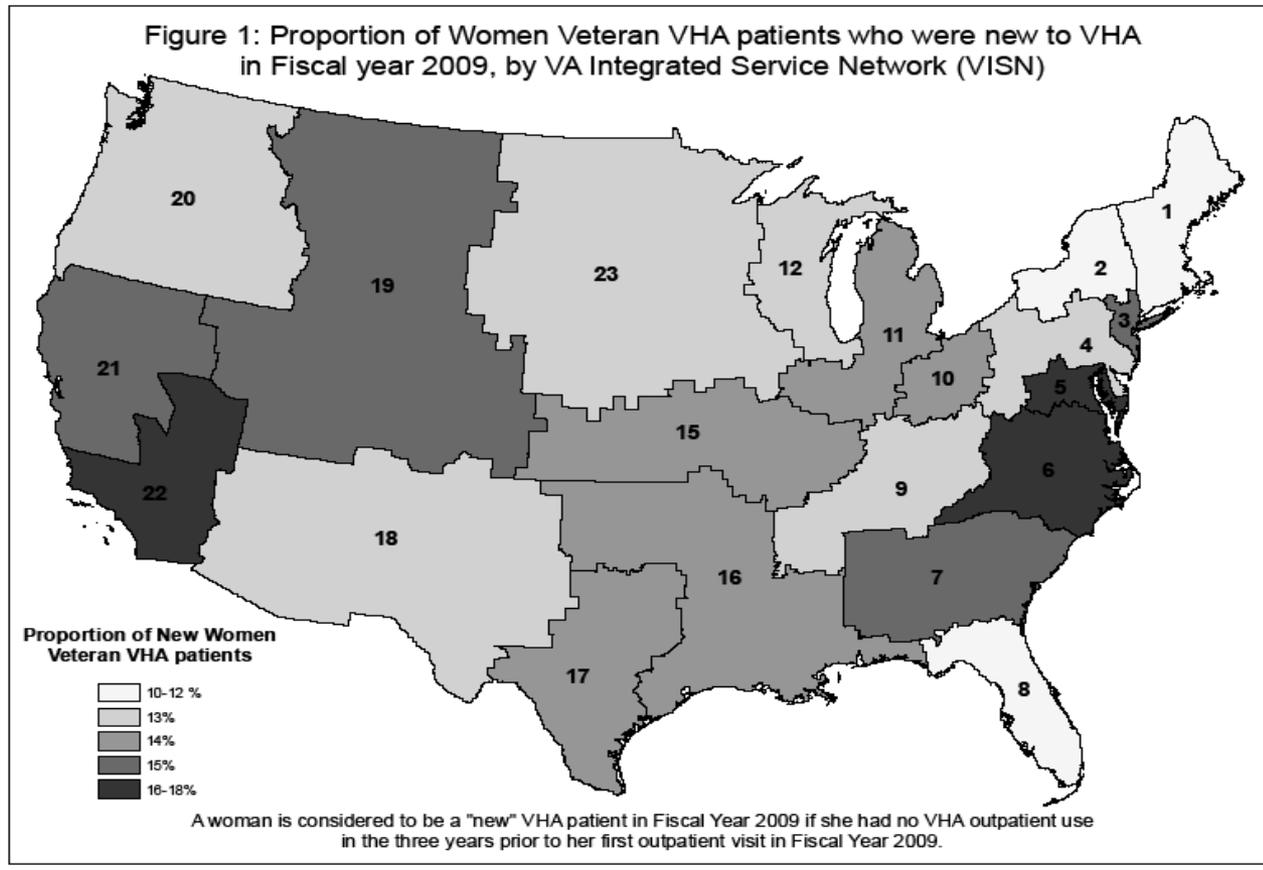
Number of women Veteran VHA patients in each year, FY00-FY10



Source: Women's Health Evaluation Initiative (WHEI) and the Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group; Sourcebook: Women Veterans in the Veterans Health Administration V1: Sociodemographic Characteristics and Use of VHA Care, 2011.



New Women VA Users by VISN 2009



Source: Data compiled by Women's Health Evaluation Initiative (WHEI). March 2011.

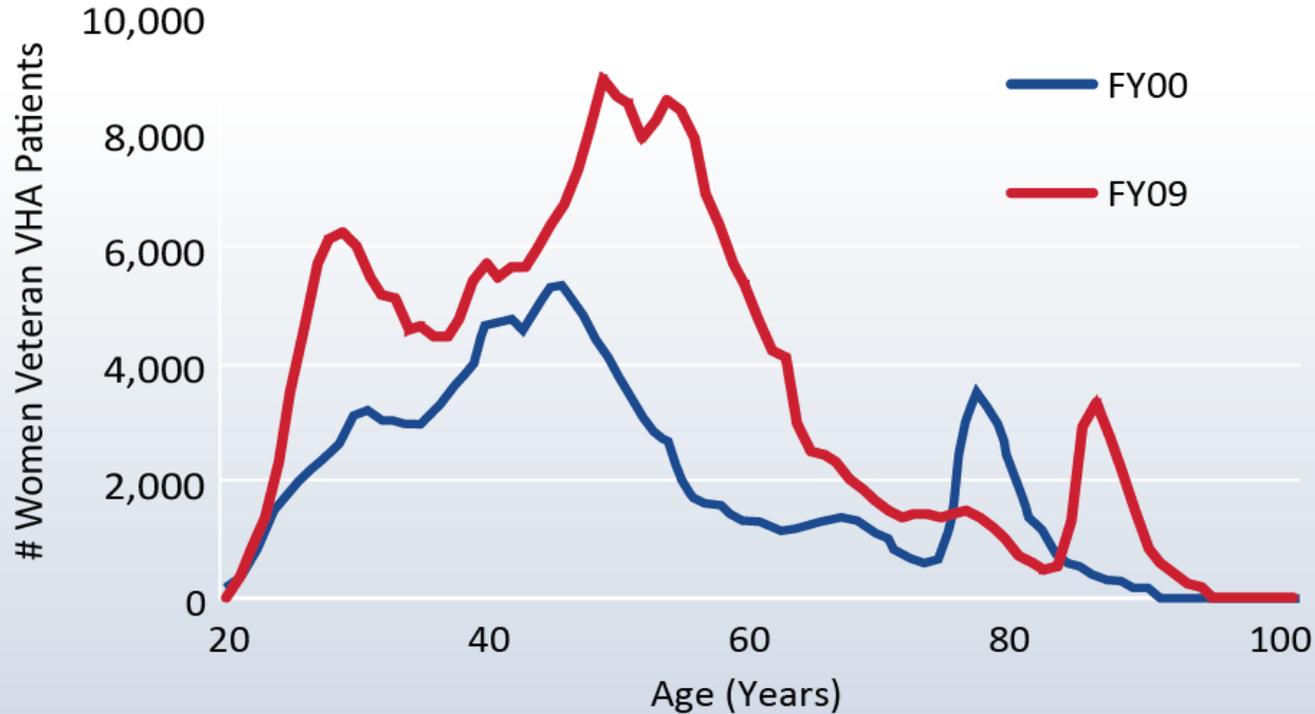


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Women VA Patients: Three Peaks

Age distribution among women Veteran VHA patients (#), FY00 and FY09



Source: Women's Health Evaluation Initiative (WHEI) and the Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group; Sourcebook: Women Veterans in the Veterans Health Administration V1: Sociodemographic Characteristics and Use of VHA Care, 2011.



Greater Market Penetration

	ALL VISNs
All living male Veterans	20,817,765
Unique male users	5,037,366
Market penetration (male)	24.2%
All living female Veterans	1,840,380
Unique female users	316,745
Market penetration (female)	17.2%

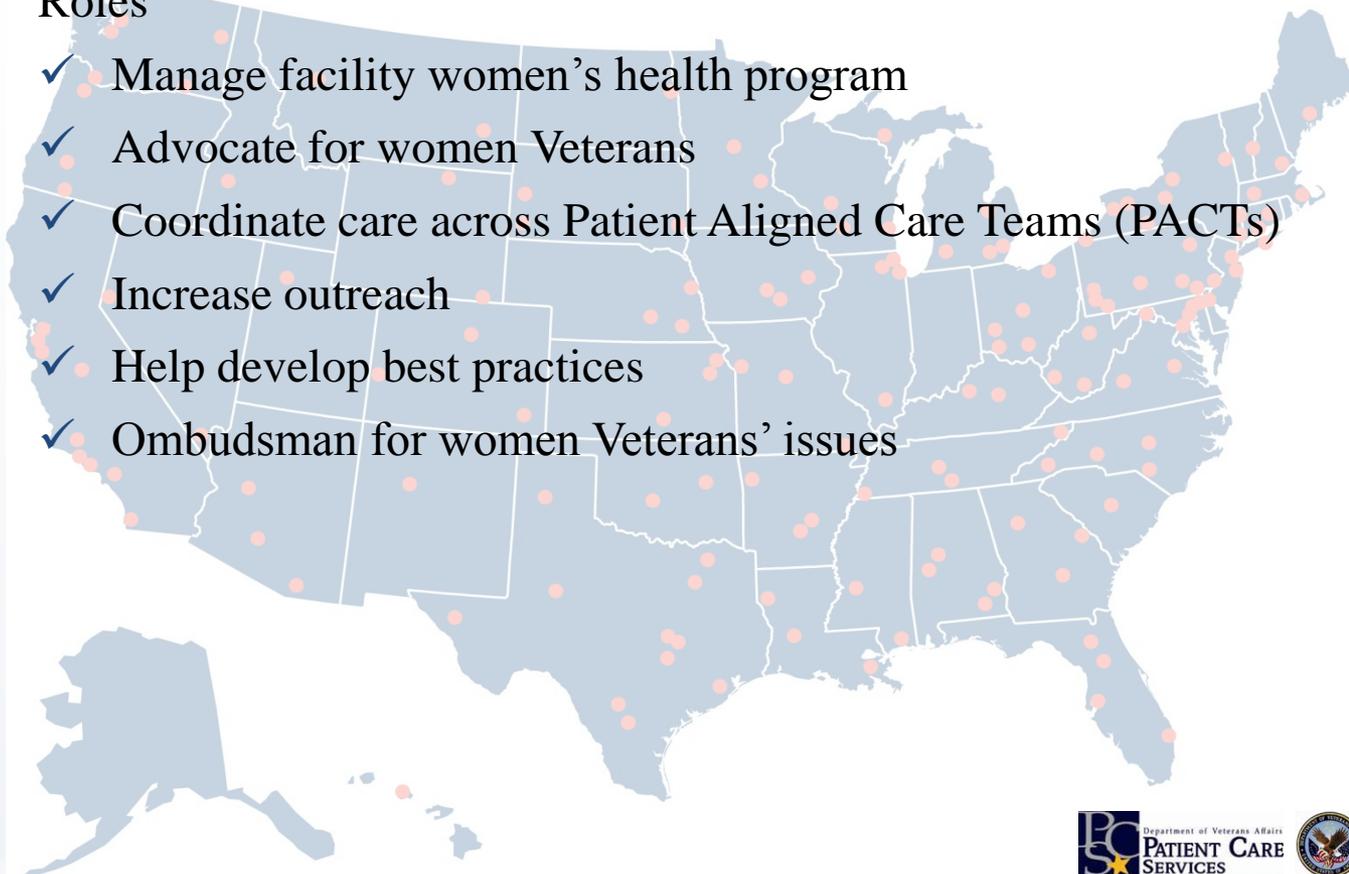
Source: [VETPOP 2007](#), ADUSH for Policy and Planning, and VSSC Data Portal



Full-time Women Veterans Program Managers (WVPMs)

Roles

- ✓ Manage facility women's health program
- ✓ Advocate for women Veterans
- ✓ Coordinate care across Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACTs)
- ✓ Increase outreach
- ✓ Help develop best practices
- ✓ Ombudsman for women Veterans' issues



VA HEALTH CARE
Defining EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

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Implementing Comprehensive Care

- Complete primary care from one designated Women's Health Primary Care Provider at one site, including Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)
 - ✓ Care for acute and chronic illness
 - ✓ Gender-specific primary care
 - ✓ Preventive services
 - ✓ Mental health services
 - ✓ Coordination of care
 - ✓ Model for PACT
 - ✓ Measured with women's health primary care evaluation tools (WATCH Tool)



Revised VHA Handbook 1330.01: “VHA Services for Women Veterans”

- Outlines specific services at facilities and CBOCs
- Defines “Comprehensive Primary Care for Women Veterans”
- Requires women be seen by Women’s Health Primary Care Providers
- Offers three clinic models
- Details safety and security requirements
- Establishes systematic data collection process



Women's Health Transformation Initiative

- Implementing comprehensive primary care is one piece of Women's Health Transformation Initiative
- Other initiatives over 3+ years:
 - Women Veterans Call Center
 - Privacy and Environment of Care
 - Homelessness
 - Improved care coordination



Privacy, Safety, and Security

- Top VA priority
- VA policy requires women Veterans have a female chaperone for all gender-specific exams or procedures
- Environment of Care rounds ensure privacy, safety, and security requirements are met
- In FY11
 - \$29M to field for clinical program improvements
 - \$21M to field for facility privacy corrections
- Correction of remaining deficiencies under way



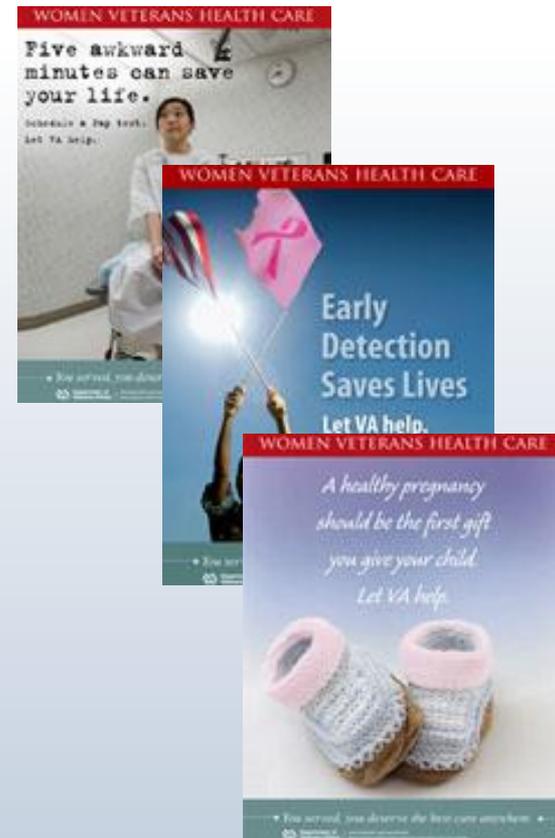
Homelessness

- Vulnerability screening tool
 - Identifies a woman Veteran's risk for homelessness
 - Tool piloted, validated within Women's Health
 - Coordinated with homeless program to expedite services
 - Planned completion: 9/2011
- Parallel efforts
 - Compensated work therapy programs specific to women
 - VBA, DOL, state partnerships to improve employment options



Women's Health Transformation Initiative

- Improved Care Coordination
- Emergency room care
 - Assessment tool development
 - Ongoing provider/staff education
- Breast cancer
 - Tracking of abnormal test results
 - Breast Cancer Clinical Case Registry
- Teratogenic identification of drugs (birth defect risk)



Women's Health Education

- Recruiting and retraining providers interested and proficient in women's health
- National Women's Health Mini-Residency Program
 - 1,000+ primary care providers educated in basic and advanced women's health care
 - Flagship education model for VA
 - SimLEARN partnership: Large mini-residency, ED-WH curriculum, task trainer dissemination
- Advanced fellowships in women Veterans' health
- VA HSR&D Cyber Seminar Spotlight on Women's Health Series



Reproductive Health

- Upcoming policies
 - Maternity Care Coordination Handbook
 - Infertility Handbook
 - Emergency Contraception Rights of Conscience (ROC)
- Maternity care
 - 2010 Caregiver Law
 - Newborn care
 - Childcare pilots



Benchmarking



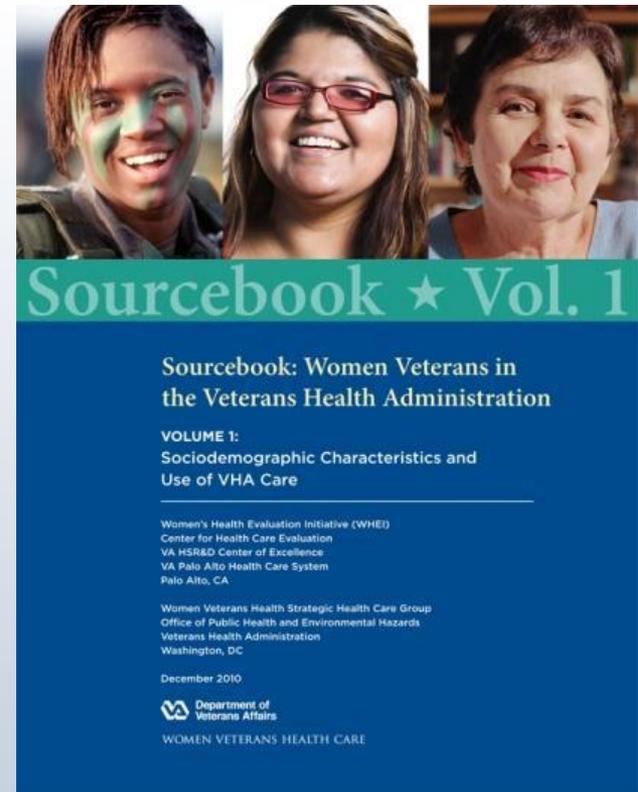
Women's Health Evaluation Initiative

- Acquiring data on women Veterans
- Producing key demographic and VHA health care usage data
- Goal: To understand the effects of military service on women's lives



Sourcebook

- Volume 1: Sociodemographics and Use of VHA Care
- Future volumes focus on
 - Analysis of data on non-VA purchased care
 - Diagnoses in women
 - Race and ethnicity



Opportunities Ahead

- Women's Health leverages partnerships and collaborates across offices
 - Primary care, PACT
 - Mental health
 - Prevention
 - Specialty medicine (e.g., cardiology, pain management)
- End goal: Needs of women Veterans are always considered across program offices, in policy and key decisions



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National Survey of Women Veterans 2008

- National stratified random sample
- 3,500+ participants thru telephone interviews
- Findings
 - Access: Fragmentation of care
 - Quality perception: VA nonusers had poorer assessments of VA quality than VA users
 - Barriers to using VA Care*
 - 31% did not think they were eligible
 - 21% did not know how to apply for benefits
 - 20% noted closest VA is too far from their home



*Among women Veterans who considered but did not use VA. Factors are not mutually exclusive.

Next Survey of Women Veterans

- Required by PL 111-163
- Expands on National Survey of Women Veterans (NSWV)
- Larger sampling
- Telephone interviews
- Stratified by race/ethnicity
- Independent contractor
- Start date: 2012



Question and Answer

