VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Office of Health Equity

https://www.va.gov/healthequity/

https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VACOVHAOHE/SitePages/Home.aspx

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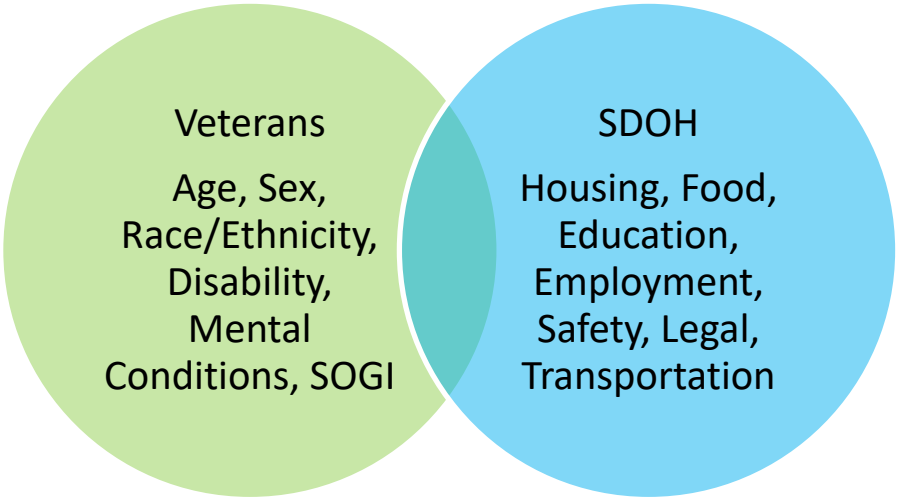
Office of Health Equity Peacetime Goals

Mission: Reduce disparities in health and health care affecting Veterans and enable all Veterans to achieve equitable health outcomes

Aims

- Share data related to health equity among Veterans
- Raise awareness
- Improve health and health care outcomes
- Strengthen leadership
- Support cultural competency and diversity

Health Equity=All Veterans get support to help them achieve their best health



Social Determinants of Health Briefs

- Beyond Clinical Care: Identifying Nine Domains of Health-Related Social Needs that Influence Veteran Well-Being
- Identifying and Addressing Health-Related Social Needs Amongst Veterans
- Health Literacy to Achieve Health Equity in Minority Veterans
- Health Literacy to Achieve Health Equity in Minority Veterans

Social Determinants of Health Cyberseminars

- Social Risks for Adverse Health Outcomes among Veterans
- Incorporating Social Determinants of Health into VHA Patient Care and Electronic Medical Records

Office of Health Equity COVID I Goals

Aims

- Data
  - Coordinate analyses of COVID & Equity on CDW
    - Racial/ethnic disparities in COVID cases & outcomes
    - Association between social determinants of health & COVID
    - COVID in Veterans with PTSD & other mental conditions
    - COVID in Veterans with obesity, diabetes, metabolic syndrome
- Awareness: Coordinate VA messaging on COVID & Equity
- Improve COVID testing & outcomes

COVID-19 Screening Tools, National & VISN-level Information Briefs, Guidance for Equity Populations Available on OHE sharepoint (https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VACOVHAOHE/SitePages/COVID-19.aspx)

OHE Internet

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, Office of Health Equity

Office of Health Equity

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Published 5/28/2020 | Edit

COVID-19 Screening Tools

COVID Prevalence & VA Disparities
Maps & Tables of COVID Prevalence & VA Disparities for Counties in Each VISN

VA COVID-19 National Summary
Summary of COVID patients tested or treated at VA facilities

COVID Social Risks Screening Tool
Tool to assist screening of Veterans for COVID-19 Social Risks

VA COVID-18 Chatbot
Q & A about COVID prevention & screening & VA benefits & services

COVID-19 Guidance for Specific Equity Populations

CDC Guidance: People of Color
CDC Guidance on COVID-19 in Racial & Ethnic Minority Groups

VA Response: Veterans of Color
VA action to enhance outreach & screening of Veterans of Color

COVID-19 National and VISN Information Briefs

COVID National Raci...
VISN 1 COVID Info Brief
VISN 2 COVID Info Brief
VISN 4 COVID Info Brief
VISN 5 COVID Info Brief
VISN 6 COVID Info Brief
VISN 7 COVID Info Brief
VISN 8 COVID Info Brief
VISN 9 COVID Info Brief
VISN 10 COVID Info Brief
VISN 12 COVID Info Brief
VISN 15 COVID Info Brief
VISN 16 COVID Info Brief
VISN 17 COVID Info Brief
VISN 19 COVID Info Brief
VISN 20 COVID Info Brief

IMPROVE: VA COVID-19 TESTING DASHBOARD

VISN Summary	Prevalence of COVID-19 Cases	Equity in COVID-19 Testing in VA	Trends in COVID-19 Testing in VA

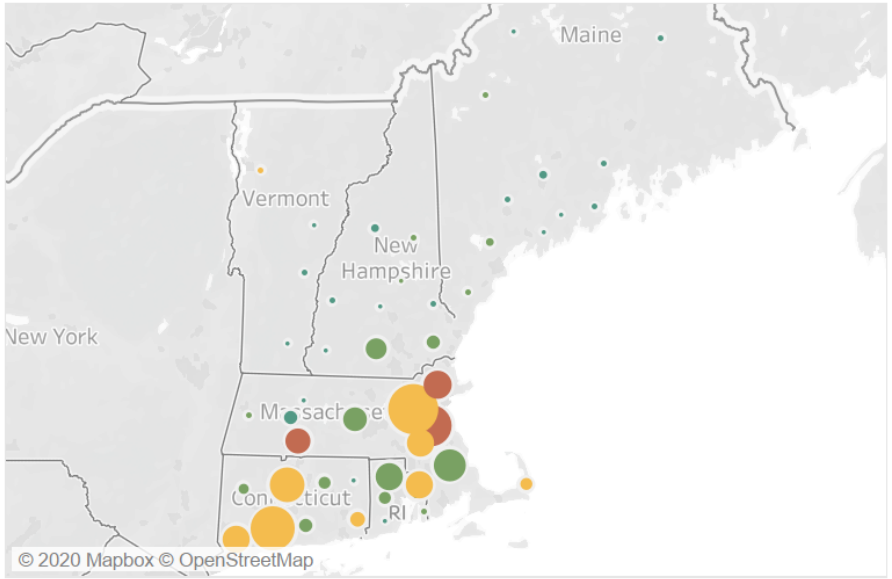
VISN Summary, 5/27/2020: Counties in red have Veteran populations with high positive test rates; consider outreach.

% Positive
0.0% 45.0%

# of Positive Tests
0 50

Select VISN
01

Select counties on map to focus. Click on empty area to deselect.



%s in red indicate higher positive test rates. Hover for #s of tests.

VISN	County, State	% Positive, Whit..	% Positive, Blac..	% Positive, Hispan..	% Positive, Othe..
01		35%	20%	20%	45%
		20%	7%	42%	22%
		23%	15%	41%	0%
		17%	13%	33%	17%
		12%	18%	29%	18%
		10%	28%	28%	29%
		29%			
		14%	27%	27%	10%
		20%	26%	0%	27%
		15%	26%	0%	25%
		10%	25%		
		23%			
		14%	22%	11%	18%
		6%	22%		17%

IMPROVE: COVID SOCIAL RISKS SCREENER

EXPOSURES

Work

1. Do you or anyone you live with go to work in places where they may be exposed to COVID-19?

Transportation

2. In the past 2 weeks, how often have you or someone you live with used public transportation or rideshare services?

Shopping/supplies

3. In the past 2 weeks, how often have you or someone you live with left your home to get essential items like groceries or medications?

Social interactions

4. In the past 2 weeks, how often have you or someone you live with left your home to visit friends or family?

HOUSING DENSITY

5. How many people do you live with, including yourself?
6. Do you share a bedroom with anyone?

PREVENTION

7. Do you consider yourself to be at high risk of COVID-19 infection?
8. In the past 2 weeks, how often have you and everyone you live with stayed 6 feet away from others and worn a mask when closer than 6 feet?
9. Which of the following items do you have access to at home? Check all that apply:

ABBREVIATED CPRS SCREENER

1. How often in the past two weeks have you, or someone you live with, left the house for work and tasks (grocery shopping, healthcare appointments, etc.)?
2. In the past 2 weeks how often have you, or someone you live with, used public transportation or rideshare services?

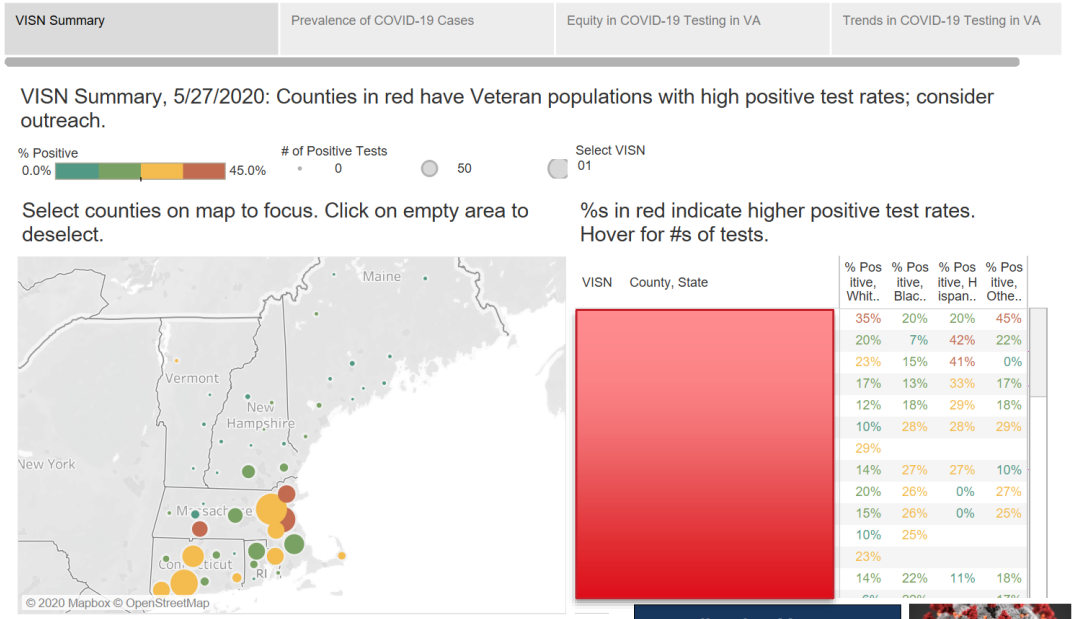
Equity Guided Planning

Dashboard

1. Counties X, Y, & Z have high VA positive test rates.
2. In each county, specific Veterans of Color are at particularly high risk.

Action: Let us

1. Identify VA facilities & VSOs serving Veterans of Color in these counties.
2. Provide COVID & Veterans of Color brief to inform Veterans.
3. Encourage use of CPRS COVID Social Risks screener to prioritize testing and counselling.
4. Develop & provide local COVID Resource Guides to connect Veterans with community services.



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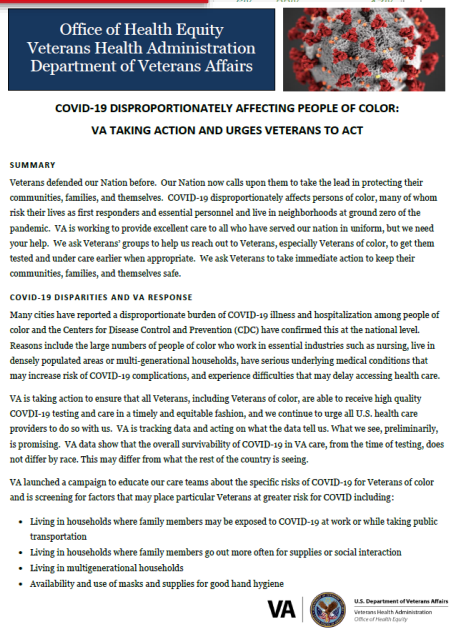
ACORN

Plymouth Resources
for use during COVID-19

Transportation Resources	3
Food and Nutrition Resources	4
Utility Assistance Resources	5
Housing Resources	6



Office of Health Equity
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

COVID-19 DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTING PEOPLE OF COLOR:
VA TAKING ACTION AND URGES VETERANS TO ACT

SUMMARY

Veterans defended our Nation before. Our Nation now calls upon them to take the lead in protecting their communities, families, and themselves. COVID-19 disproportionately affects persons of color, many of whom risk their lives as first responders and essential personnel and live in neighborhoods at ground zero of the pandemic. VA is working to provide excellent care to all who have served our nation in uniform, but we need your help. We ask Veterans' groups to help us reach out to Veterans, especially Veterans of color, to get them tested and under care earlier when appropriate. We ask Veterans to take immediate action to keep their communities, families, and themselves safe.

COVID-19 DISPARITIES AND VA RESPONSE

Many cities have reported a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 illness and hospitalization among people of color and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have confirmed this at the national level. Reasons include the large numbers of people of color who work in essential industries such as nursing, live in densely populated areas or multi-generational households, have serious underlying medical conditions that may increase risk of COVID-19 complications, and experience difficulties that may delay accessing health care.

VA is taking action to ensure that all Veterans, including Veterans of color, are able to receive high quality COVDI-19 testing and care in a timely and equitable fashion, and we continue to urge all U.S. health care providers to do so with us. VA is tracking data and acting on what the data tell us. What we see, preliminarily, is promising. VA data show that the overall survivability of COVID-19 in VA care, from the time of testing, does not differ by race. This may differ from what the rest of the country is seeing.

VA launched a campaign to educate our care teams about the specific risks of COVID-19 for Veterans of color and is screening for factors that may place particular Veterans at greater risk for COVID including:

- Living in households where family members may be exposed to COVID-19 at work or while taking public transportation
- Living in households where family members go out more often for supplies or social interaction
- Living in multigenerational households
- Availability and use of masks and supplies for good hand hygiene

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Veterans Health Administration
Office of Health Equity

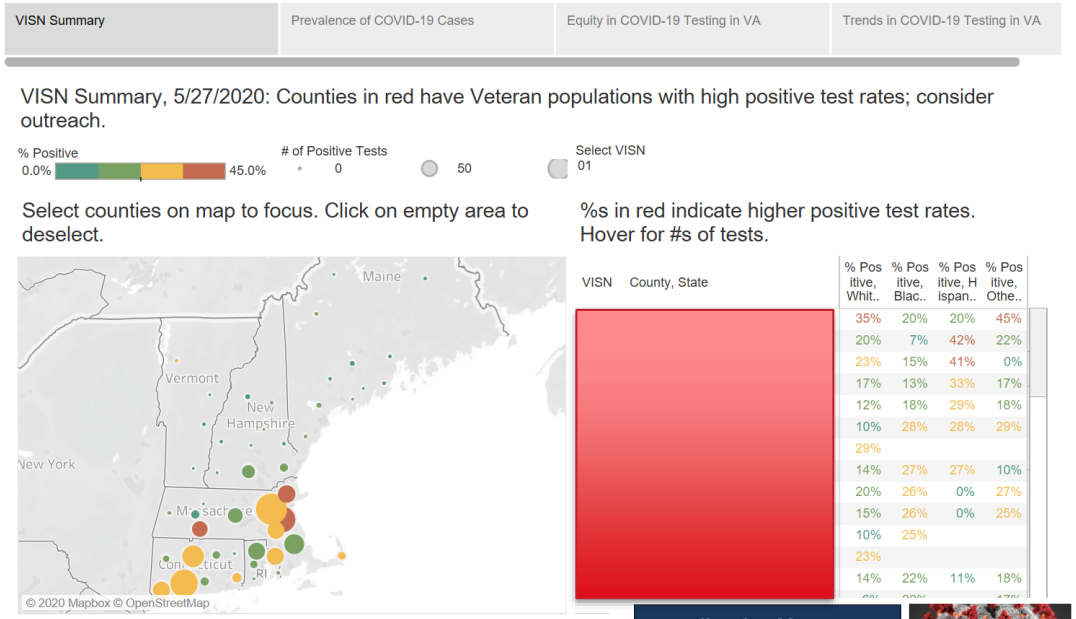
Social Risks Informed Screening

Dashboard

1. Counties X, Y, & Z have high VA positive test rates.
2. In each county, specific Veterans of Color are at particularly high risk.

Action: When speaking with Veterans in high risk counties or groups about reopening:

1. Provide COVID & Veterans of Color brief to inform Veterans.
2. Use CPRS COVID Social Risks screener to prioritize testing and counselling.
3. Provide local COVID Resource Guides to connect Veterans with community services.



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ACORN

Plymouth Resources
for use during COVID-19

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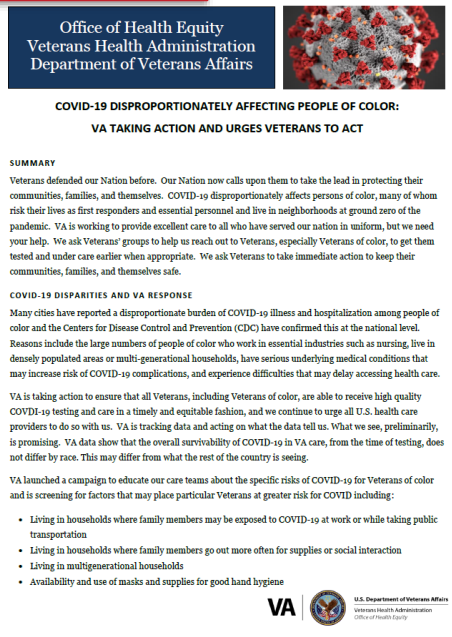

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VA TAKING ACTION AND URGES VETERANS TO ACT

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COVID-19 DISPARITIES AND VA RESPONSE

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VA is taking action to ensure that all Veterans, including Veterans of color, are able to receive high quality COVDI-19 testing and care in a timely and equitable fashion, and we continue to urge all U.S. health care providers to do so with us. VA is tracking data and acting on what the data tell us. What we see, preliminarily, is promising. VA data show that the overall survivability of COVID-19 in VA care, from the time of testing, does not differ by race. This may differ from what the rest of the country is seeing.

VA launched a campaign to educate our care teams about the specific risks of COVID-19 for Veterans of color and is screening for factors that may place particular Veterans at greater risk for COVID including:

- Living in households where family members may be exposed to COVID-19 at work or while taking public transportation
- Living in households where family members go out more often for supplies or social interaction
- Living in multigenerational households
- Availability and use of masks and supplies for good hand hygiene

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Veterans Health Administration
Office of Health Equity

Office of Health Equity COVID II+ Goals

Aims

- Data: Coordinate analyses of Equity on CDW
- Awareness: Coordinate VA messaging on Equity
- Strengthen leadership
- Support cultural competency and diversity: VHA Office of Diversity & Inclusion
- Improve health and health care outcomes

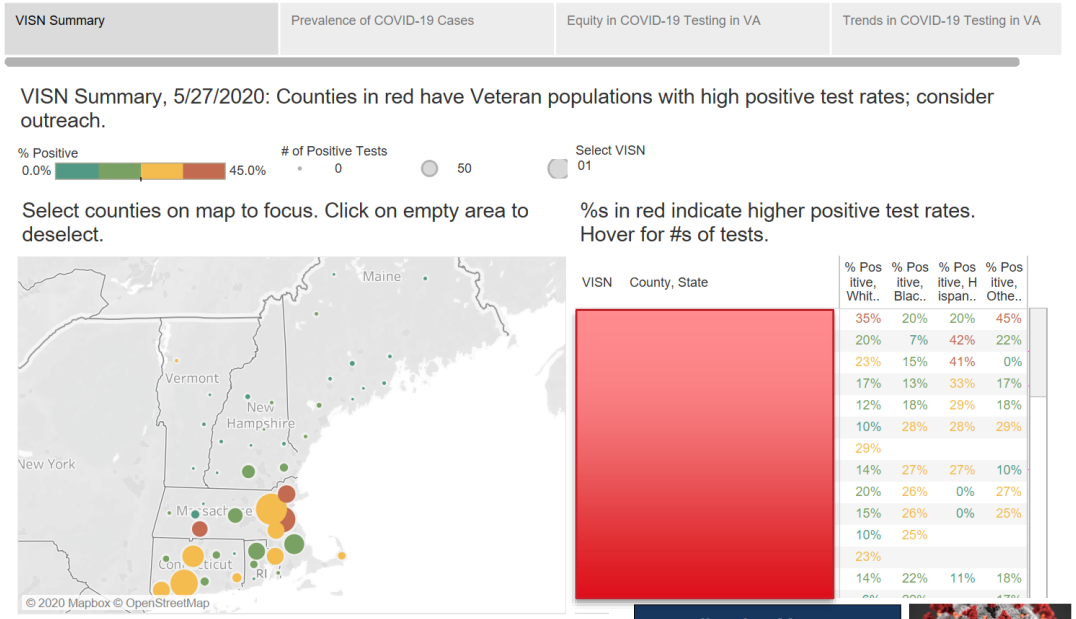
Social Risks Informed Reopening

Dashboard

1. Counties X, Y, & Z have high VA positive test rates.
2. In each county, specific Veterans of Color are at particularly high risk.

Action: When speaking with Veterans in high risk counties or groups:

1. Provide COVID & Veterans of Color brief to inform Veterans.
2. Use CPRS COVID Social Risks screener to prioritize care; low social risk + high medical risk -> Home-based Health Care?
3. Provide local COVID Resource Guides to connect Veterans with community services.



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ACORN

Plymouth Resources
for use during COVID-19

Transportation Resources	3
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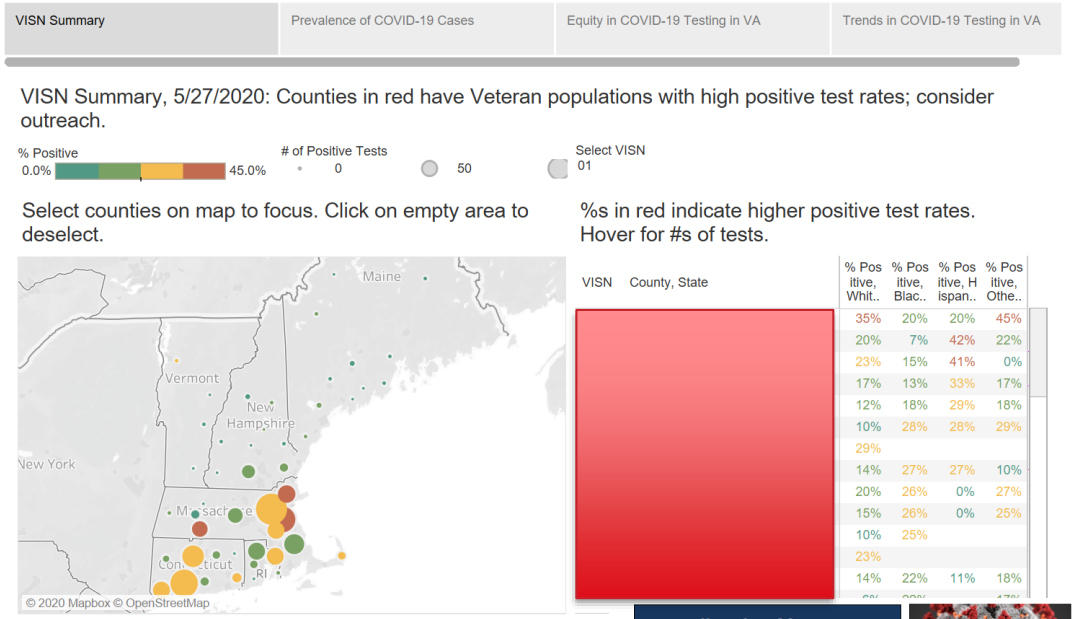
Social Risks Informed Wave 2

Dashboard

1. Counties X, Y, & Z have rising VA positive test rates.
2. In each county, specific Veterans of Color are at particularly high risk.

Action: Proactively, call Veterans in high risk counties or groups:

1. Use stored CPRS COVID Social Risks health factors to identify Veterans at highest risk.
2. Provide flu vaccination, med supply, access to VA Video Connect.
3. Provide COVID & Veterans of Color brief to inform Veterans.
4. Provide local COVID Resource Guides to connect Veterans with community services.



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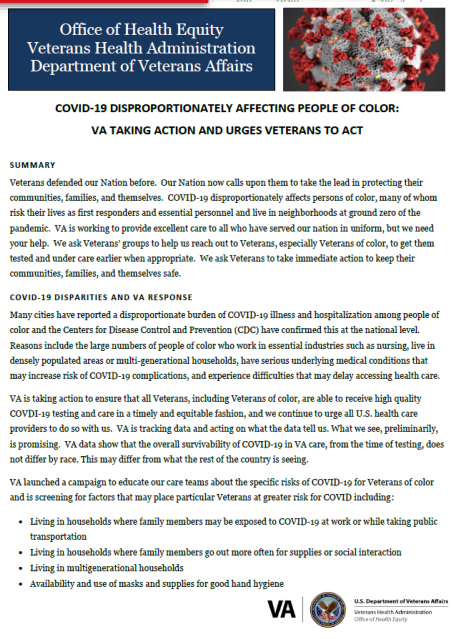
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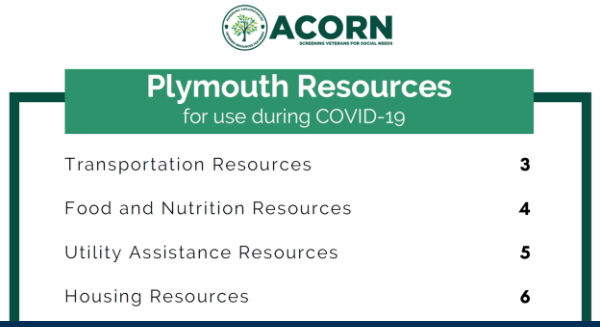
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