

🗄 DATABASE & METHODS CYBERSEMINAR SERIES

FY24 Session 2:

Navigating VA Data Sources: An
Overview of Commonly Used Databases

November 6, 2023



Hosted by  VIRec

Maria Souden, PhD, MSI
Director, VA Information Resource Center



DATABASE & METHODS CYBERSEMINAR SERIES

Informational seminars to help VA researchers access and use VA databases.

Database & Methods sessions cover...

- VA data sources & data access systems
- Application of VA data to research and quality improvement questions
- Limitations of secondary data use
- Resources to support VA data use



NEXT DATABASE & METHODS SESSION

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

Date	Topic
12/4/23	Navigating VA Data Access: Overview of VA Data Access Request Processes presented by Linda Kok, MA VIReC Senior Analyst for Data Access and Policy

Visit the VIReC [Database & Methods Cyberseminar](#) page for more information & registration links.

Visit [HSR&D's VIReC Cyberseminar Archive](#) page to watch previous sessions.

Where can I
download a
copy of the
slides?

VA HSR&D

CYBERSEMINARS



SAMPLE EMAIL

**A Practical Approach to Working with VA-Purchased Community
Care Data**

Thursday, October 13, 2022

2:00 PM | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) | 1 hr

Please download today's slides

~~Please click here for today's live captions~~

Join webinar

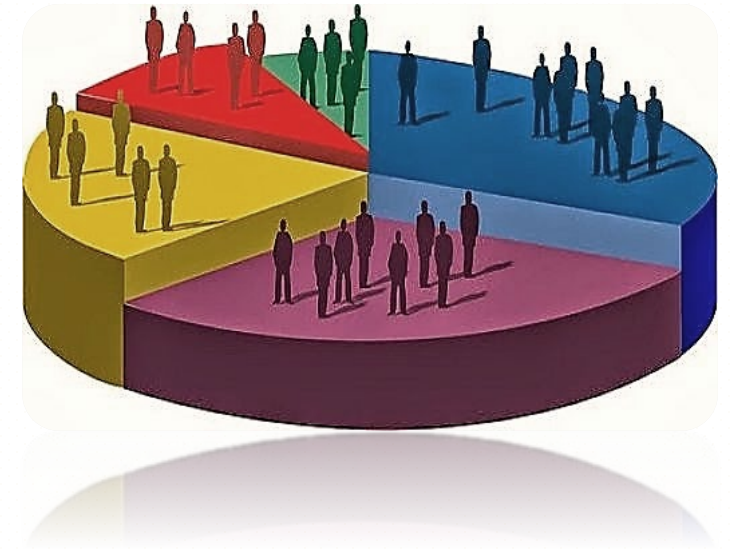
More ways to join:

Join from the webinar link

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?>

Before we begin...

- Two poll questions coming up that will help us get to know you.
- Respond in the Webex pop-up window.
 - You may need to scroll down to see the second poll question.



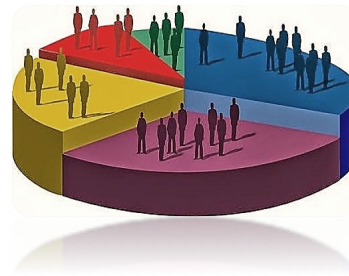
Thank you for helping us tailor and improve our cyberseminars!



Poll #1:

*What is your primary **role** in projects using VA data?*

- Investigator, PI, Co-I
- Statistician, methodologist, biostatistician
- Data manager, analyst, or programmer
- Project coordinator
- Other – please describe via the chat function



Poll #2:

How many years of experience working with VA data?

- None – I'm brand new to this!
- 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

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FY24 Session 2:

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The purpose of this cyberseminar is to *introduce* VA data and resources for using it effectively.

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

1. Identify **VA data sources commonly** used in research and quality improvement inquiry.
2. Describe the primary **differences in the origin and use** of various data sources.
3. *Begin to conceptualize* how VA data can be **applied to specific research questions** or areas of study.
4. Understand how to use VIREC and VINCI for **additional data resources and support**.

Session roadmap

- Key concepts for the VA data environment
- Commonly used VA data sources
- Considerations for using VA data
- VIREC resources for data information and support
- VINCI services for data provisioning and support





Research and quality improvement (QI) collected data (primary data)

- Generated during scientific inquiry
- Collected to address specific question(s)
- Can include clinical outcomes, survey data, qualitative data, EHR or administrative data analyses to address novel information needs



VA Data is typically collected in the context of healthcare operations and delivery (research is a secondary use)



Clinical care
(Electronic Health Record
– EHR data)



Patient generated data



VA-paid Care in the
Community



Non-VA (external) Data



Healthcare operations,
costs, enrollment,
utilization



Research and Quality
Improvement Data

LEGACY



Clinical Care/Electronic Health Record (EHR) data

CPRS/VistA system has been used in the VA since the 1980s and has evolved to suit Veteran-specific care with heavy local customization.

CPRS

Computerized Patient Record System

- Front end for most data collected in clinical care
- Provides an interface for data entry and viewing of EHR
- Patient demographics, diagnoses, procedures, clinical notes



VistA

Veterans Health Information Systems & Technology Architecture

- Integrated system of software applications
- Captures patient care, clinical results, patient data, plus provider & workload information
- VistA “system” is actually 130 separate instances



NEW FEDERAL EHR

Clinical Care/Electronic Health Record (EHR) data

- In 2017, VA began the process of transitioning from CPRS to a new Federal EHR based on a commercial product from Oracle Health (formerly known as Cerner).
- First instance of new EHR (Spokane, WA) went live in October 2020. **As of today, it is live at 5 sites.**
 - Reset: Since April 2023, future deployments are paused in order to assess and address challenges with the system.



ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD
MODERNIZATION



VA-Paid Care in the Community Data



- Information from VA care provided by non-VA hospitals, doctors' offices, physical therapy, labs, etc.
- Paid for by VA through contracts, affiliate agreements, Veterans Choice and MISSION acts
- Representative of same care processes, but is actual claims data (like what you see in other “payor” data such as CMS)
 - Includes procedures, diagnoses, problems, but not necessarily EHR granularity

<https://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/CommunityCare/Overview.htm> (VA network only)

Administrative Data



Veteran-level

- Veteran benefits & care eligibility
- Service-connected disability ratings (Priority Groups)
- VHA enrollment
- Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) data

Healthcare operations

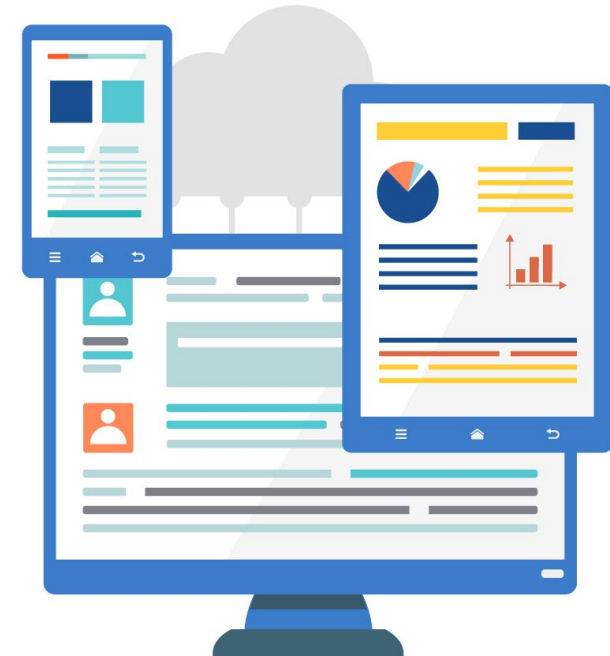
- Enrollment & utilization statistics
- Workload, cost of care
- Data about facility size, complexity, services, performance measures
- Used for resource allocation & management



Patient-Generated Health Data



- Created, recorded, or gathered by or from patients (or family members or other caregivers)
- Includes screenings and patient assessments
- Patient portal activity such as provider messaging, prescription refills
- Home health devices and mobile apps



Programs and offices supporting the use of VA data

19

Business Intelligence Service Line (BISL)

Office of Information Technology (OIT)

- Data Architects
- Construct the data warehouse that organizes most VA data for re-use

National Data Systems (NDS)

Office of Health Informatics - Health Information Governance

- Data Steward
- Grants access to most national data

VA Informatics & Computing Infrastructure (VINCI)

Office of Research & Development *and* Office of Information Technology

- Data Provisioning, Curation, Technical Support
- Creates subsets of CDW data for users who have been granted access
- Specialized data curation and education
- Data consultation, education, and services

VA Information Resource Center (VIReC)

Office of Research & Development

- Data Education, Knowledge Resources, Advocacy
- Provides documentation to help understand and use the data
- Education and HelpDesk

Other ORD-funded data curators

Office of Research & Development

- **Health Economics Resource Center** - costs, risk scores, labor, wages
- **Million Veteran Program** - clinical, behavioral, genomic data
- **CIPHER** - phenomics and code for data constructs and analytics



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Speed Dating - Commonly Used Data Sources

- **Corporate Data Warehouse**
 - Clinical and administrative patient record
 - Primarily from Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems (VistA and new Oracle)
- **Derived, Augmented, or Value-Added Data (VistA Data +)**
 - EHR/clinical data curated and augmented by program offices
 - Administrative data augmented by operations/programs
 - Non-VA care paid for by the VA (aka Community Care data)
- **Veteran data outside of VistA/EHR**
 - Patient generated data collected outside of care setting
 - VA data (beyond VHA)
 - Significant sources of non-VA data

Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) – key concepts

Largest integrated VA data source

Most VistA data ends up here, including clinical care, EHR, care in the community, some healthcare operations data

Structured Query Language (SQL) database

Architected and maintained by Office of Information & Technology (OI&T) Business Intelligence Service Line (BISL)

Relational data

Domains organized into tables; linking keys between tables used to create analytic dataset for a cohort

Production Domains

Architected for easier querying and updated nightly

Raw Domains

Pre-production, unchanged from source system, less well-documented



CDW by the numbers

Data across 23 years for
25.8 million patients

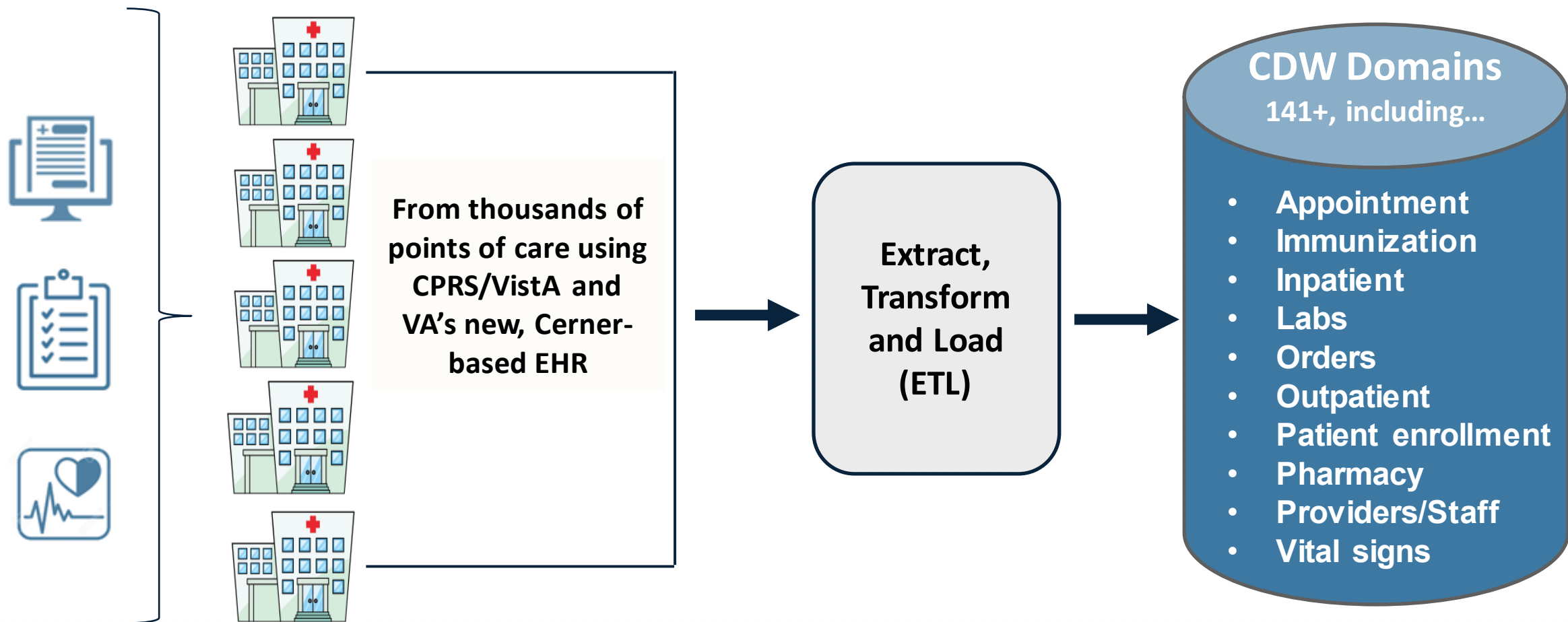
141+ domains
2,480+ tables
28,600+ columns

Outpatient visits
4.4 billion

Outpatient prescription fills
3.3 billion

Procedures
5.3 billion

Populating VA's Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)



More about CDW domains: vaww.virec.research.va.gov/CDW/Domain-Descriptions/CDW-Domain-Descriptions.pdf

New to CDW? Start here.

vaww.virec.research.va.gov/CDW/Documentation.htm

To be notified of new CDW products,
submit a VIREC HelpDesk Request:

varedcap.rcp.vaec.va.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=KXMEN77LXK (VA Intranet)









Data Documentation

Expand each type of documentation below to view these resources.

+ Expand All

Getting Started with CDW

These cyberseminars 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	Resource
CDW: A Conceptual Overview NEW- UPDATED 5/23	
CDW: Locating Its Documentation	
Getting the Information You Need From CDW: SQL Starter Language	
Querying CDW Metadata Views	
Building Your Dataset in CDW: Joining Tables within a Domain	
Getting CDW Back Together: Joining CDW Tables (Continued)	
Data Management in SQL: Selected Intermediate SQL Skills	
Using CDW Data to Conduct a Research Study NEW 9/23	

CDW Factbooks provide descriptions of tables, columns, and values in select CDW Domains sourced from VistA and include domain-specific SQL “starter language” and sample SQL code. vaww.virec.research.va.gov/CDW/Documentation.htm#Factbooks



New EHR Data (“Millennium”) in the CDW

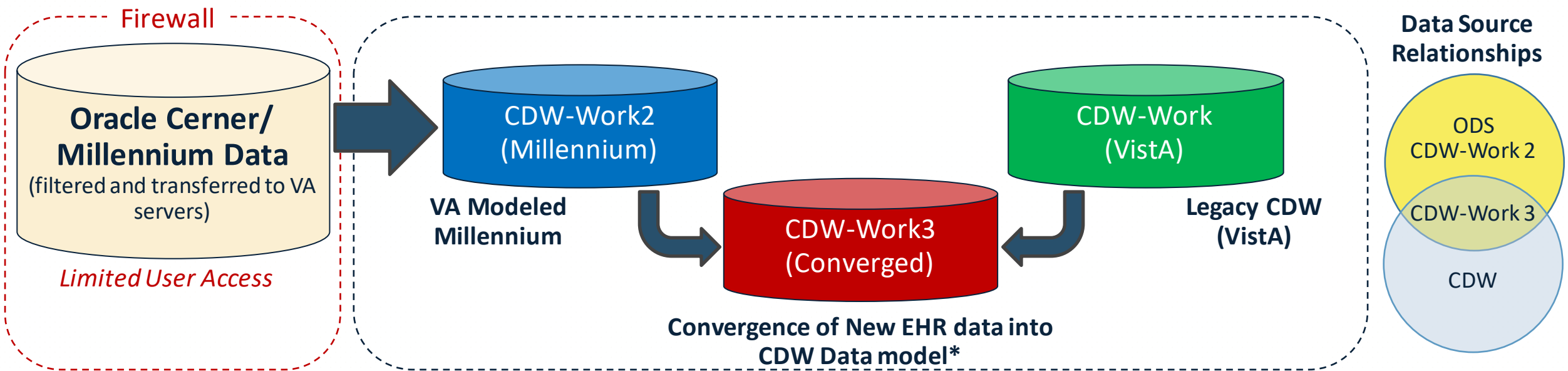
As sites transition to the new Federal EHR, their data no longer flows into VistA; some national datasets become incomplete.

“Millennium” data is generated by a different interface, has a different model than VistA data, with its own logic

- Learning curve for new data structures, formats, and content

Oracle Cerner Millennium data in the VA analytic environment is syndicated into new data sources - CDW Work2 and CDW Work3.

- Development of data knowledge and guidance for use of Cerner-generated data alongside of VistA-generated data.



Adapted from OEHRM DMM Data Syndication: Angie Turano/Beth Gibson—*Syndicated Data Bits*, July 7, 2021

Other data in the CDW environment

Centralized platform for commonly used national data sources, including CDW production and raw domains

Servers also host other datasets that may include elements generated by VA administrative and program offices

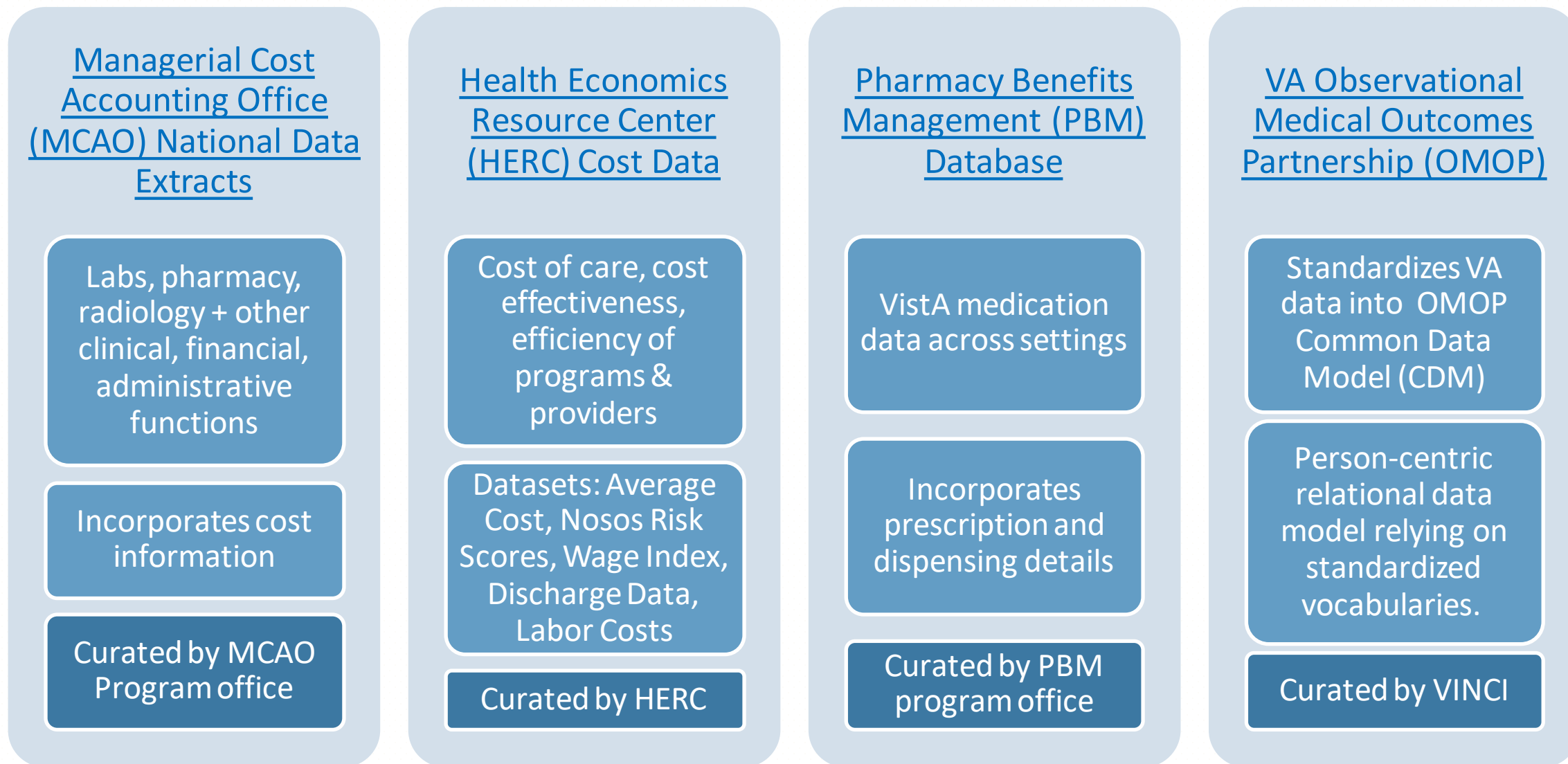
Learn more: [CDW Introduction & Policies](#) (BISL SharePoint)

Derived, Augmented, or Value-Added Data (VistA Data +)

- Many additional datasets are centrally available from CDW servers
- Typically comprised of a VistA extract that has been augmented with additional administrative or program office data to serve VA reporting or tracking needs.
- Often made available for research and QI use
 - Data is generally well-cleaned; “business rules” already applied
 - Obscures some detail present in source data



EHR/clinical data curated and augmented by program offices



Administrative data augmented by operations/programs

Death Ascertainment File (DAF) [replaces Vital Status File]

Master Person Index (MPI) and SSA Death Master File (DMF)

MPI Primary View (PV):
uses data from multiple sources - selects most authoritative

SSA DMF can supplement deaths not in the MPI PV

Assistant Deputy Undersecretary for Health (ADUSH) Enrollment Files

Monthly and annual static data with VHA enrollment, eligibility, patient zip code

Planning Systems Support Group (PSSG) Geocoded Enrollee Files

Quarterly data with enrollee address, geolocation, rurality and market

Drive time and distance to VA facilities

VA Surgical Quality Improvement Program (VASQIP) Data

Information about surgical procedures and outcomes

Performed in an operating room and deemed eligible for assessment

Non-VA care paid for by the VA (aka Community Care data)

Fee Basis Claims System (FBCS)

Includes authorized and non-authorized care, authorization data where applicable

Data goes back to ~2012,
discontinued in ~FY20

VistA Fee Data

Extracted from the Fee Basis Claims system (hand entered prior to the existence of FBCS)

Goes back to FY00; only PAID claims included; contract nursing home data since FY20

NEW!

Integrated Veteran Care – Consolidated Data Sets (IVC CDS)

Combines data from VistA Fee, FBCS, eCAMS, CCRS, and Plexis Claims manager

Data from FY19 to present

Program Integrity Tool (PIT) - archived

Created to monitor fraud, waste, and abuse; replaced by IIVC CDS in FY23

Database was archived in Feb. 2023; has some data quality issues

Veteran data from sources outside of the EHR

- Collected in other ways (e.g., surveys, devices, patient generated)
- VHA non-EHR, VBA, “Big VA”
- Veteran-specific data from other organizations

Examples of patient generated data collected outside of care setting

Bereaved Family Survey (BFS) Database

Families' perceptions of care Veterans received during the last month of life

VA inpatient facilities

Survey of Healthcare Experiences of Patients (SHEP) Data

From patient satisfaction surveys

Inpatient, outpatient, and Primary Centered Medical Home (PCMH) care

Examples of VA Data (beyond VHA)

Veterans Services Network (VETSNET) Corporate Mini Master File

Information about Veterans and their beneficiaries who receive VA benefits

Including those whose benefits have been terminated

United States Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics (USVETS)

Individual Veteran data, including those who are not in contact with VHA or VBA

Utilization of VA services and benefits, military history

Geography, demographics, and socioeconomic information

Significant sources of non-VA data

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS)

VIReC managed and provisioned data for Medicaid & Medicare claims

Includes other data such as US Renal Data System, Medicare Current Beneficiary survey, long-term care patient assessment data

DoD-VA Infrastructure for Clinical Intelligence (DAVINCI)

Clinical, administrative, and demographic data from DoD's Military Health System Data

VINCI-transformed to OMOP common data model to map VA CDW and DoD MDR data into standard terminology

Mortality Data Repository

All deceased Veterans (VHA or not)

Mortality dates and causes

National Death Index (NDI) data

EHR viewer – read-only access to patient EHR

CAPRI

Compensation and Pension Record Interchange

- Can see patient record *one site at a time*
- Includes search function
- Uses desktop computer software application
- Looks most like CPRS
- Direct access to JLV

JLV

Joint Longitudinal Viewer

- Records across multiple systems: VA CPRS, VA Millennium, DoD, Community Care
- National level patient search from any VA Medical Center or Office
- Configurable display for creating and saving customized data views
- VistA Imaging available

Learn more: vaww.vhadatportal.med.va.gov/ToolsApplications/JLV.aspx



Session roadmap

- Key concepts for the VA data environment
- Commonly used VA data sources
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Strengths of VA Data

- Size/Volume - largest integrated healthcare system in US, with 23 years of longitudinal data on 25+ million patients
- Breadth/Scope of data – includes clinical data, assessment tools, administrative etc.
- Timely – some data available in almost real time
- Can be linked to external data (i.e., CMS, NDI, DoD)
- Data created for VHA operations can also be used for research

Challenges & limitations

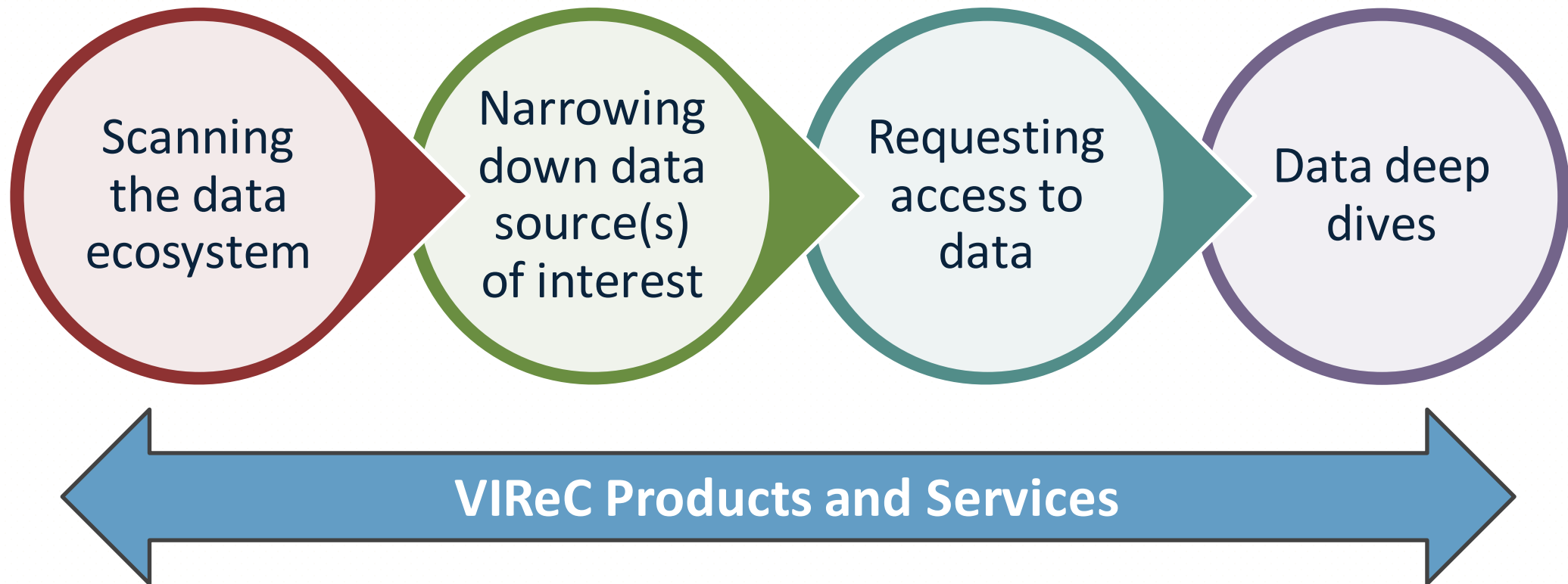
- Data landscape can be complicated – multiple sources for similar data elements; likely to get more complicated with EHRM
- Analyses may not be generalizable to general population
 - Mostly male, lower SES, sicker than average, Veteran-prevalent conditions (PTSD, mental health, traumatic brain injury, limb loss)
- Not all Veterans enrolled in VHA
- Many Veterans also receive care outside VHA
 - Multiple overlapping data sources with a steep learning curve
- Some data elements are less reliably available, e.g., income, education

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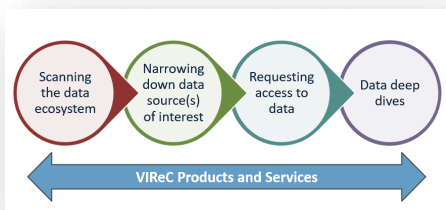



Navigating the VA Data Landscape



Deeper dives into data sources discussed today

Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series (va.gov)





The Researcher's Guide to VA Data
VA Information Resource Center

VIReC Home

About Us

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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

Current Schedule

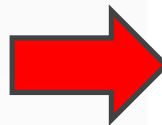
Special Topics Archive

Current Schedule

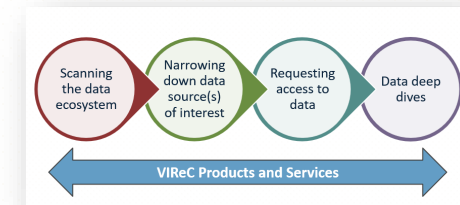
VIReC's Database & Methods Cyberseminar Series is **updated yearly** to address changes in the data environment. It begins with an introduction to VIReC and VA databases, an overview of resources for using these data, and information about data access and request processes. Presenters will then discuss a variety of data topics and sources, describing how VA data can be applied to research and quality improvement questions. Select the Special Topics Archive tab above to explore cyberseminars from previous years on topics such as comorbidities, laboratory data and more.

Session	Upcoming	Archived
Meet VIReC: The Researcher's Guide to VA Data Learn about VIReC, a key resource for navigating VA's complex data landscape and an advocate for data user needs. This session provides an overview of VIReC activities, products, and services along with a tour of the Center's websites and online resources. <i>Presented by: Souden, M</i>	-	View 10/2/23
Navigating VA Data Sources: An Overview of Commonly Used Databases Introduces common VA data sources and resources for using them effectively. <i>Presented by: Souden, M</i>	Register 11/6/23	View 11/7/22
Navigating VA Data Access: An Overview of the Process for Requesting Permission to Use VA Data Provides guidance on determining the data necessary for research and operations projects and describes the framework for requesting access to commonly used VA data sources, including where to find specific instructions for the most frequently analyzed VA data sources. <i>Presented by: Kok, L</i>	Register 12/4/23	View 12/5/22

YOU
ARE
HERE



More about VIREC Data Resources (archived session)



Database & Methods FY23 Session 1

Meet VIREC: The Researcher's Guide to VA Data



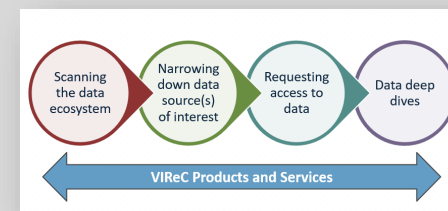
Maria Souden, PhD, MSI
Director, VA Information Resource Center

from October 2, 2023

https://www.hsrp.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/archives/video_archive.cfm?SessionID=6415



VIReC Dissemination Venues



vawww.virec.research.va.gov

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

www.virec.research.va.gov

Public-facing
 VIReC overview
 Publications & events
 Cyberseminars

vawww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov

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

Coming Soon!



The DKH brings information, resources, and community generated knowledge together in a central, searchable, and easy to access location.



Descriptions of commonly used VA data sources, their content, and structure



Information about the utility of available data and processes for requesting data access



Data documentation and methodological reports on approaches for working with VA data



Information on tools for using VA data and how to access them



A section on data policy, administration, and governance



Robust search and filter to maximize finding information quickly and easily



HelpDesk for individual responses to questions about VA data and data access



Knowledge sharing forums for connecting, collaborating, and sharing experiences with VA data



Coming soon: DKH Forums Next-Generation Knowledge-Sharing

The screenshot shows the DKH Forums interface with several callouts highlighting key features:

- Conversations:** User friendly interface, Threads stay together. An orange arrow points to the first question post.
- Voting/Rating:** Measure of quality, Reputation. A green arrow with a thumbs-up icon points to the 'Upvote' button.
- User Profiles:** Experts self-identify, Supports collaboration. A green arrow points to the user profile icon 'S' in the top right.
- Notifications:** Awareness in forum. A blue arrow with a bell icon points to the notification bell icon in the top right.
- Concept Tagging:** Topical knowledge organization, Filter & follow topics. A red arrow with a tag icon points to the 'Popular Tags' and 'Your Favorite Tags' sections.

The interface includes a search bar, a 'Post a Question' button, navigation tabs (Home, Questions, Tags, Users), and sections for 'Interesting Questions', 'Popular Tags', 'Your Favorite Tags', and 'Related Tags'.



Questions about using VA Data?

HSRData Listserv

- Community knowledge sharing
- ~1,800 VA data users
- Researchers, operations, data stewards, managers
- Subscribe by visiting vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Support/HSRData-L.htm (VA Intranet)

VIReC HelpDesk

- Individualized support
- Request Form: varedcap.rcp.vaec.va.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=KXMEN77LXK (VA Intranet)

VINCI Weekly Office Hour

- https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/VINCI_University-VINCI_Training_&_Office_Hour.aspx

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Getting the data: VINCI data provisioning and support



VA Informatics
and Computing
Infrastructure

- Secure data environment
- High-speed processing platform
- Free data management and analytic tools
- IT data provisioning
- Research data services & concierge
vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/Services-Concierge.aspx?web=1 (VA Intranet)
- VINCI Central Website
vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/vincicentral/ (VA Intranet)

VA Informatics and
Computing
Infrastructure



Discussants:

Brian Robison

VINCI Services

VINCIservices@va.gov


Andrew Holbrook

VINCI Data Manager, QA and
Training Lead

VINCIservices@va.gov



VINCI Workspace.




VA
Informatics and
Computing
Infrastructure

Welcome to the VINCI Workspace






























Standard and Development Workspaces

Announcements
(1 of 3) [TIU Data Unavailable](#)
[TIU Data will be unavailable until further notice due to maintenance and updates!](#)

[Standard Workspace](#) | [Request a Workspace](#) | [Help](#)

Important Instructions
Click **once** on any icon below to start the application.
When prompted to enter your login, please enter it in the form of **DomainName\Login**.
This site is only supported on the Internet Explorer browser with Java Script enabled.
If you are not able to see the application icons below, [click here](#)  to access the VINCI Standard Workspace Desktop to access all applications.

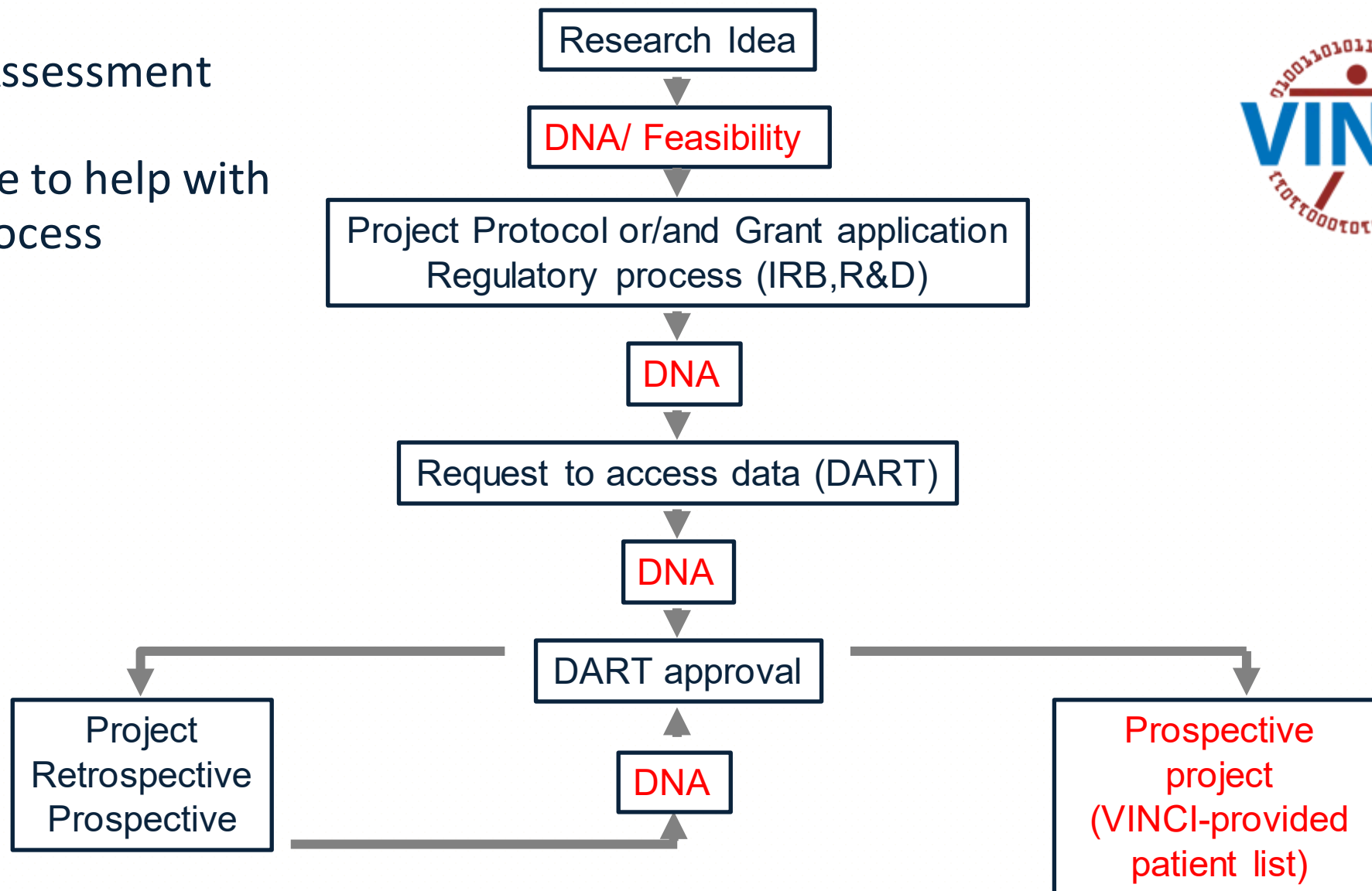
Current folder: /

 7-Zip File Manager	 Adobe Reader XI	 ArcGIS Explorer	 ArcMap 10.5	 ArcReader 10.5	 explorer	 MATLAB R2017b	 Microsoft Access 2010	 Microsoft Excel 2010	 Microsoft InfoPath Designer 2010
 Microsoft InfoPath Filler 2010	 Microsoft PowerPoint 2010	 Microsoft Word 2010	 Notepad++	 NVivo 8	 Protege 3.3.1	 Protege 3.5	 PSPP	 putty	 R x64 3.5.1
 R x64 3.5.3	 RStudio	 SAS Universal Viewer	 SQL Server Management Studio 17	 StataMP 15 (64-bit)	 StatTransfer	 windiff	 X2Go	 SAS 9.x	 SAS Grid Tools

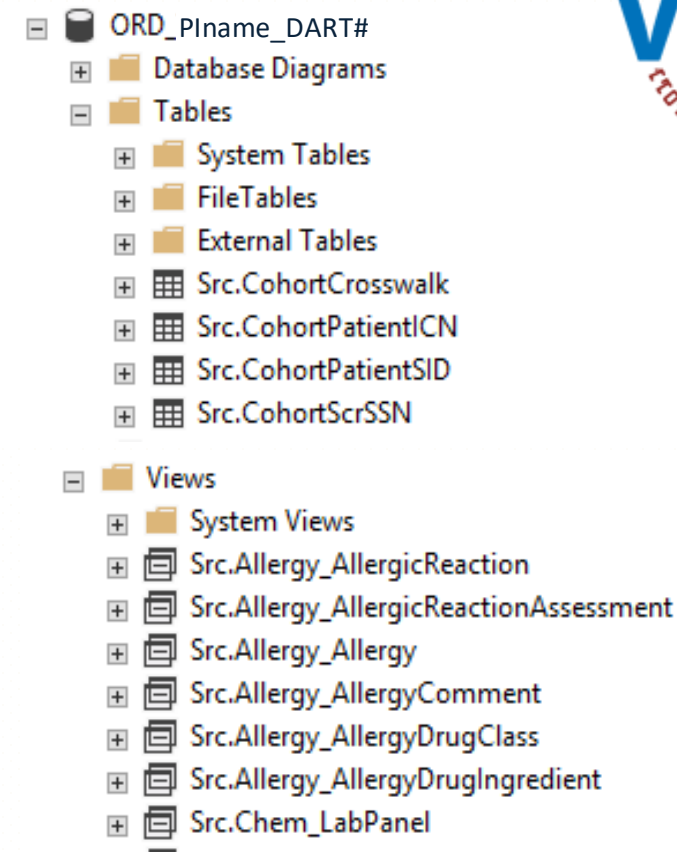
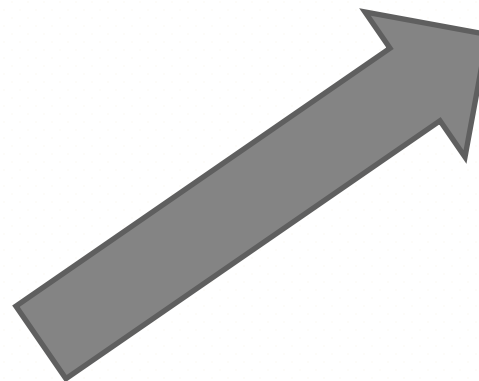
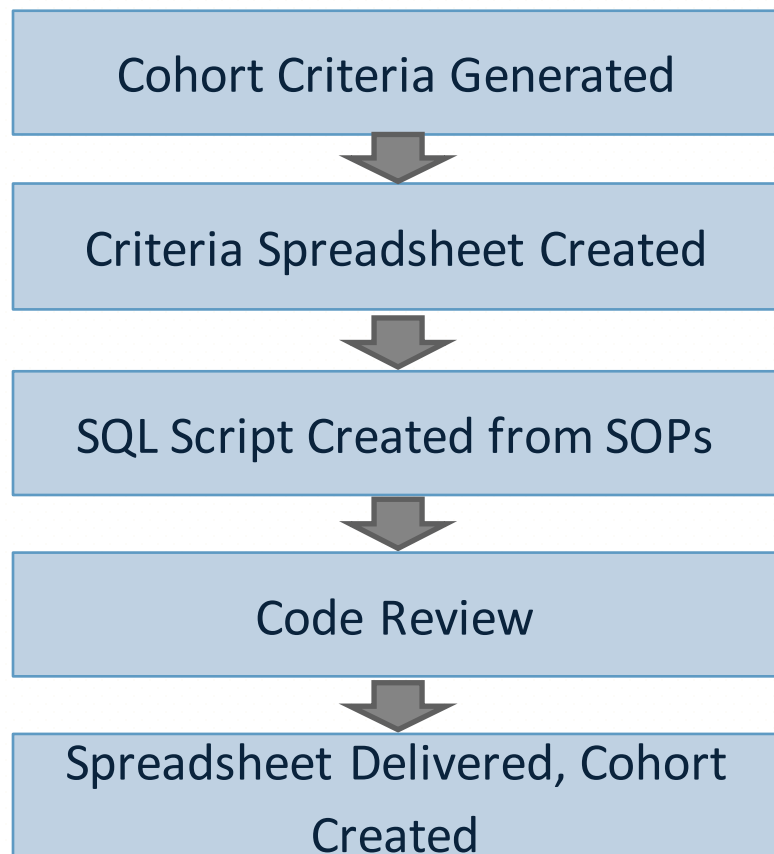
VINCI services within your project lifecycle

DNA = Data Needs Assessment

I.e., VINCI is available to help with every step of this process



What to expect from VINCI data provisioning



CONTACT INFORMATION

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THANK YOU!
Questions?

Submit Questions to VIREC HelpDesk:

varedcap.rcp.vaec.va.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=KXMEN77LXK

(VA Intranet)

Hot off the press to your inbox!

Submit a VIREC HelpDesk request for new product updates

varedcap.rcp.vaec.va.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=KXMEN77LXK (VA Intranet)



Learn more about requesting VA Data!

Database & Methods FY24

Navigating VA Data Access: An Overview of
the Process for Requesting Permission to
Use VA Data



Linda Kok, MA
VIReC Senior Analyst for Data Access & Policy

December 4, 2023

Link to register: www.hsrd.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-upcoming-session.cfm?UID=5222



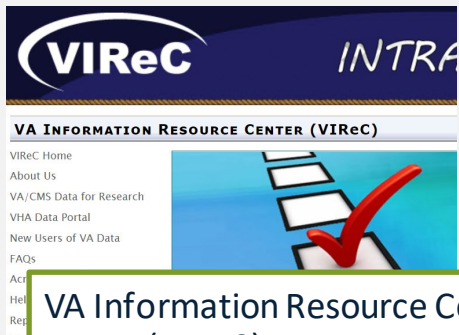


Database & Methods
BONUS SLIDES

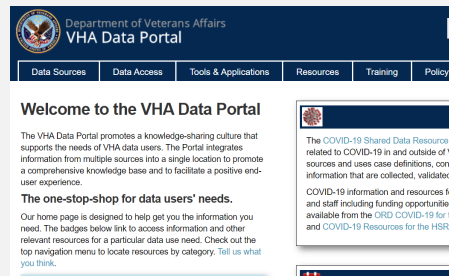


Resources for VA Data Users

Select image to visit page



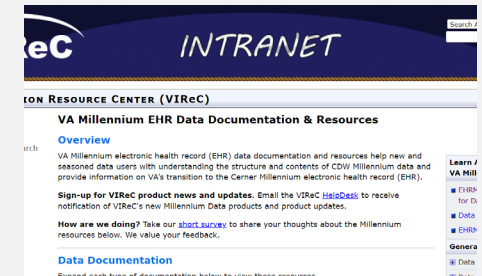
VA Information Resource Center (VIREC) (VA Intranet)



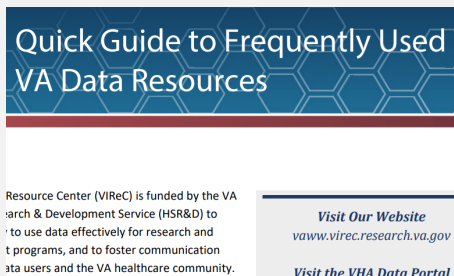
VHA Data Portal (VA Intranet)



VIREC Cyberseminars



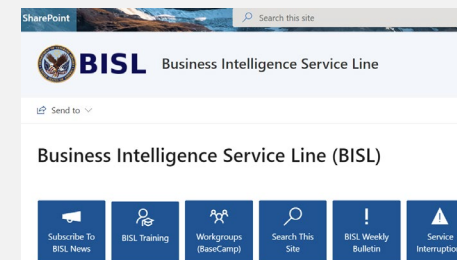
VA Millennium EHR Data Documentation (VA Intranet)



Quick Guide: Resources for Using VA Data (VA Intranet)



VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI) (VA Intranet)



BISL/CDW (VA Intranet)



Health Economics Resource Center (HERC) (VA Intranet)

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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

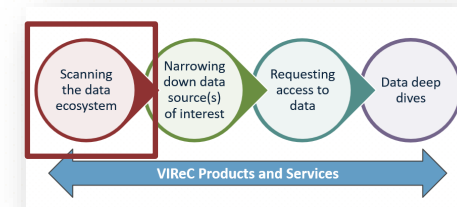
- [Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health \(ADUSH\) Enrollment Files](#)

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 \(AIRC\) 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](#)

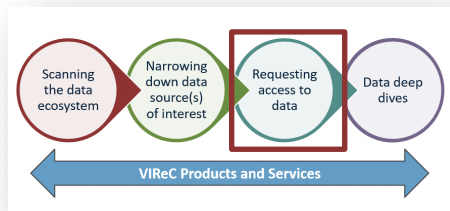


Commonly used VA Data Sources

VHA Data Portal Index of Data Sources

vaww.vhadatportal.med.va.gov/DataSources/DataSourcesOverview.aspx
(VA Intranet)





Detailed Access and Permissions Processes

vaww.vhadatportal.med.va.gov/DataAccess/DataAccessOverview.aspx

(VA Intranet)

Department of Veterans Affairs
VHA Data Portal

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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.

Department of Veterans Affairs
VHA Data Portal

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

Data Access > **DART 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

DART Research Request Process

Overview Submitting a Request Documents & Forms Request Metrics Resources

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)



VIReC guides to CDW data contents and structure

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?

CDW Documentation

Overview

VIReC provides documentation on select Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) production domains. CDW documentation is designed to help new and seasoned users better understand the structure and contents of the CDW. It might be necessary to review a combination of resources to fully understand the complexities of the CDW and data use environment.

Sign-up for VIReC product news and updates. Email the VIReC [HelpDesk](#) to receive notification of VIReC's new CDW products and product updates.

How are we doing? Take our [short survey](#) to share your thoughts about the CDW resources below. We value your feedback.

Data Documentation

Expand each type of documentation below to view these resources.

+ Expand All

Getting started with CDW

Factbooks

The Researcher's Notebook

Statistical Snapshot

Domain Layout & Descriptions

Data Contents, Discrete Frequencies, Record & Null Counts

Learn About CDW

- Overview
- Data Transition to CDW
- Documentation
- FAQs

General Resources

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

VIReC Home | VA/CMS Home | VHA Data Portal | VA R&D Home | VA HSR&D Service | Viewers | Sitemap | Contact Us

VA Intranet Home | About VA | Organizations | Locations | Section 508 Accessibility | No Fear Act

Reviewed/Updated Date: January 12, 2021

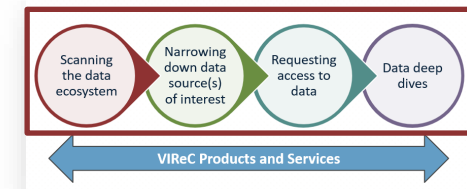
vaww.virec.research.va.gov/CDW/Documentation.htm
(VA Intranet)

Factbooks

CDW Factbooks provide descriptions of tables, columns, and values in select CDW Domains sourced from VistA and include domain-specific SQL "starter language" and sample SQL code.

Note: Factbooks with CDW Millennium after the domain include the most up-to-date information for VistA data as well as associated data from the VA Millennium EHR. Visit the [Electronic Health Record Modernization \(EHRM\) & Implications for Data Users](#) page to learn more about the Cerner data environment, Millennium data, and how to access and use these data.

Domain	Factbook
ADR Enrollment	
Allergy	
Appointment	
NEW! Bene Travel	
Consult	
CPRS Orders	
Health Benefits Request	
Health Factor	
Immunization - CDW Millennium	
Immunization	
Inpatient	
Inpatient Fee Lodger	
LabChem	
Mental Health	
MVI	
Non-VA Meds	
Outpatient	
Patient	
Patient Associated	
Patient Enrollment (with EWL)	
Pharmacy Patient	
Purchased Care Authorized	
Purchased Care Service	
Purchased Care Unauthorized	
Staff Release	
Vital Sign	



EHRM Resources for Researchers

“EHRM & Research” page on the Research Resource Guide SharePoint

dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAPugResearch/RRG/Pages/EHRM-Research.aspx

“EHRM and Implications for Data Users” page on the VIREC website

vaww.virec.research.va.gov/EHRM/Overview-and-Implications.htm

Data Management and Migration Knowledgebase” on the Data Migration, Management, and Syndication SharePoint

dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VACO.OEHRMoffice/DMM/Pages/DIRAKnowledgeShareHome.aspx

Syndicated Data Bits – Bi-weekly Webinars

tinyurl.com/y3wgxzu5

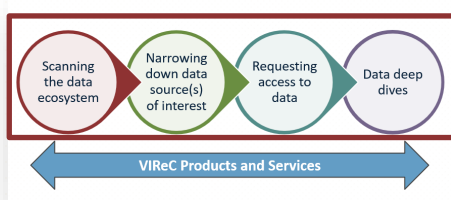
Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization (OEHRM) Intranet site

vaww.ehrm.va.gov/



VIReC Resources for Data from the new VA EHR

[VA Millennium EHR Data Documentation & Resources](#)



VIReC INTRANET

Search All VA Web Pages Search [Open Advanced Search](#)

VA INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER (VIReC)

VIReC Home **Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) & Implications for Data Users**

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 Millennium EHR Data Documentation & Resources

Overview

VA Millennium electronic health record (EHR) data documentation and resources help new and seasoned data users with understanding the structure and contents of CDW Millennium data and provide information on VA's transition to the Cerner Millennium electronic health record (EHR).

Sign-up for VIReC product news and updates. Email the VIReC [HelpDesk](#) to receive notification of VIReC's new Millennium Data products and product updates.

How are we doing? Take our [short survey](#) to share your thoughts about the Millennium resources below. We value your feedback.

Data Documentation

Expand each type of documentation below to view these resources.

- Getting Started with Millennium Data
- Millennium Factbooks
- The Researcher's Notebook: Millennium Data Discovery Series
- Millennium Data Reviews
- Data Layout & Descriptions
- Crosswalks & Data Mappings

EHRM Resources

Learn About EHRM & VA Millennium EHR Data

- EHRM & Implications for Data Users
- Data Documentation
- EHRM Resources

General Resources

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

Learn About EHRM & VA Millennium EHR Data

- Overview
- Introduction to the EHRM
- Understanding the Cerner Data Environment
- Initial VA Data Migration to Cerner Environment
- Data Syndication
- Accessing and Using Syndicated Data
- Data Documentation & Resources
- Key EHRM Terms
- FAQs

General Resources

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

Shortcuts to VIREC's VA Millennium data documentation

Data Reviews

- [VIREC Data Review: Laboratory Tests in Millennium](#)
- [VIREC Data Review: Vital Signs in Millennium Data](#)

Factbooks

- [CDW Millennium Factbook: Immunization Domain](#)

Researcher's Notebooks

- [Using PowerForms to Explore Cerner Millennium Data \(Part I\)](#)
- [Using PowerForms to Explore Cerner Millennium Data \(Part II\)](#)
- [Identifying Immunizations Administered Pre- and Post- Cerner EHR Transition](#)

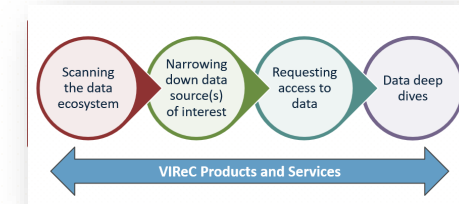
Hot off the press to your inbox!

Submit a VIREC HelpDesk request
for new product updates

varedcap.rcp.vaec.va.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=KXMEN77LXK (VA Intranet)



Other VIREC resources for learning about VA data



Database & Methods Cyberseminars

- www.virec.research.va.gov/Cyberseminars/Database-Methods.asp

VIREC Intranet “Data Topics” Pages

- vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Intro/Working-with-VA-Data.htm

Methods & Technical Documentation

- Researcher’s Notebook Series: vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Notebook/Overview.htm
- Data Reviews: <https://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Reports/Reports-Index.htm>

