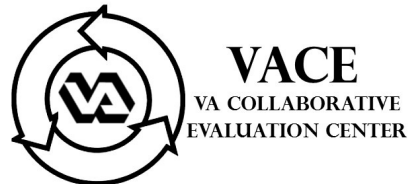


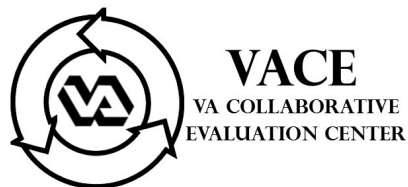
The VA Collaborative Evaluation Center (VACE)

Sites: Cleveland, Denver, and Seattle



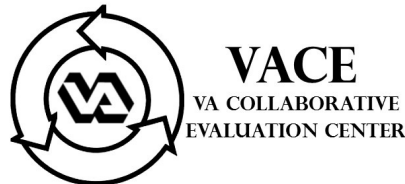
Purpose

- A highly collaborative VA “virtual center” composed of quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods evaluation experts
- Evaluate implementation of VA initiatives to assess effectiveness and barriers and facilitators to implementation, as well as unintended consequences
- Work collaboratively with operational partners to ensure evaluation outcomes are relevant and useful for program improvements and sustainability



Process

- Meet with operational/clinical partners to discuss project
- VACE will draft evaluation proposal(s) to be shared with operational/clinical partner
 - Collaborative process with operational partner(s) to:
 - Develop specific questions of interest
 - Identify appropriate measures
 - Define effective sampling strategies
- Create MOU outlining evaluation scope, deliverables, timeline, and budget
- Execute MOU
- Provide timely effective dissemination of findings
 - Actionable reports
 - Peer reviewed presentations and publications
 - Novel interactive dissemination methods co-developed with partners



Background

- Group began in 2011 through a competitive award from VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) and Office of Specialty Care (OSC) to conduct partnered research and evaluation while meeting the operational needs of the OSC
- Developed a longitudinal, mixed methods evaluation of the recently launched national initiatives to improve delivery of specialty care to Veterans
 - Electronic Consults (E-consults)
 - Specialty Care Access Networks-Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (SCAN-ECHO)
 - Specialty Care Mini-Residency Program (SC-MRP)
 - Specialty Care Neighborhood (SCN)



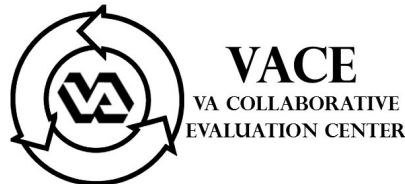
Methods

- Guiding Framework: RE-AIM (reach, effectiveness, adoption, implementation, and maintenance)
 - Extends the evaluation of quality initiatives beyond local effectiveness to issues of scalability, willingness of adoption and implementation by users, and long-term sustainability
- Qualitative methods include key informant interviews and focus groups with VA providers and staff, Veteran interviews, and site visits to gather observational data to understand on-the-ground experience of initiatives
- Quantitative methods include assessment of spatial/temporal and site-to-site-variation in care patterns as well as program effectiveness utilizing advanced statistical methods (e.g. hierarchical Bayesian modeling for non-normal outcomes)



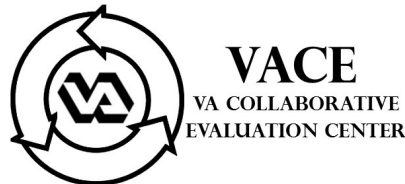
Current Projects

- Project ATLAS Evaluation
 - Assess implementation and impact of the ATLAS telehealth project connecting rural Veterans to VA care in community settings
- ED Opioid Safety Initiative (OSI) Program Evaluation
 - Assess VA ED OSI program to understand impact on prescribing rates and provider prescribing practices
- FLOW3 Evaluation
 - Assess the implementation of the FLOW3 prosthetic procurement process within the VA
- HAPPEN Evaluation
 - Assess the impact and cost of the hospital acquired pneumonia prevention by engaging nurses (HAPPEN) intervention



Current Projects

- National GI CRC Screening/Surveillance Evaluation
 - Assess patterns of use of the Colorectal Cancer (CRC) screening program to identify problem areas requiring intervention and impact on clinical outcomes
- Scribe Pilot Evaluation
 - Qualitatively assess patient and provider satisfaction and implementation of the VA's Mission 507 Medical Scribe pilot
- Mobile Prosthetic and Orthotic Care EWI Evaluation
 - Collect and evaluate data pertaining to need for mobile O&P services throughout the Enterprise
- Serving of the Rapid Response Team for the Quadruple Aim QUERI, Preferences Elicited and Respected for Seriously-Ill Veterans through Enhanced Decision-Making (PERSIVED) QUERI, and Telemental Health QUERI



Recent Projects

- Choose VA Access Evaluation
 - Assess the 2016 VA access to care initiative implementation, assess specialty care access and decision-making around sending care to the community
- Care Routing Evaluation
 - Assess the impact of the VISN 20 pulmonology care routing pilot on patient access, service utilization, triage appropriateness, cost, and Veteran and provider experience
- SimLEARN Evaluation
 - Assess the collaborative rural national simulation learning, education, and research network project

Benefits of the collective VACE experience

- Highly responsive to needs of program office
- Able to quickly address emerging evaluation questions
- Leverage cumulative experience from conducting multiple studies with overlapping foci (e.g. access to care).
- Bring knowledge and methodological rigor from one study to another.
- Provide multi-specialty perspective on evaluation (e.g., primary care and specialty care)



VACE Team

Denver

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- Kelly Blanchard
- Richard Blankenhorn
- Ariel Briggs
- Evan Carey
- Brigid Connelly
- Nathalie Dieujuste
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VACE
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QUESTIONS

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