

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



# Health Equity and Diversity in Clinical Trials

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**U S Department of Veterans Affairs**

FDA Lecture November 20, 2017 @ 2PM ET



**Veterans Health Administration**  
Office of Health Equity



# DISCLOSURE/DISCLAIMER

- The opinions expressed in this session are those of the author who is responsible for the presentation content and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Government. Therefore, no statement in this document should be construed as an official position of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**\*The VA Office of Health Equity (OHE) was created in 2012 to champion reduction of health and healthcare disparities and galvanize efforts, enhance synergy across the VA and spur actions towards achieving health equity for all Veterans**



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# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify Veteran-related factors that place Veterans at risk for health disparities
- Describe Office of Health Equity and efforts to advance health equity for Veterans
- Explain the importance of including Veterans, while accounting for diversity, in clinical trials
- Describe reasons why Veterans are motivated to participate in clinical trials and why some populations are apprehensive about participating in clinical trials

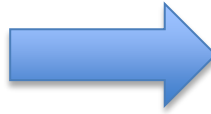


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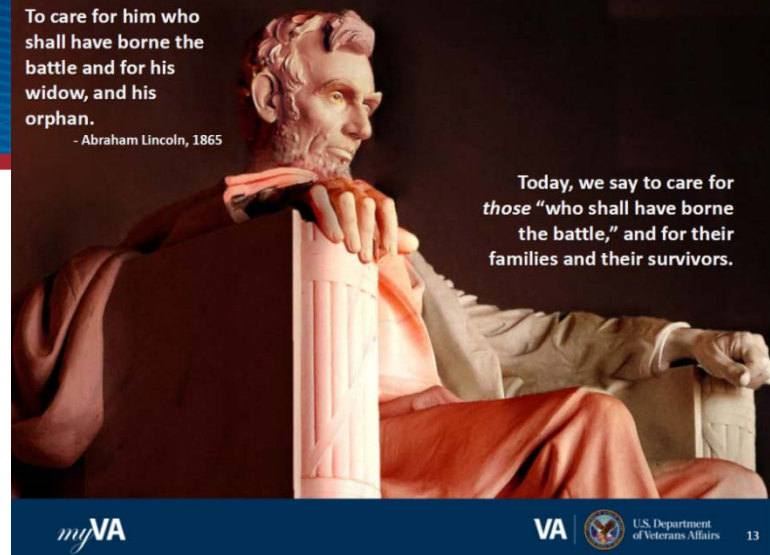


# VA OVERVIEW

- VA Mission
- Quick facts



- Established 1930
- Elevated to Executive Level 1989
- 2nd largest Federal Govt. Department
- Full Time VA Employees: >300,000
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has 3 arms:
  - **VHA** - Veterans Health Administration
  - **VBA** - Veterans Benefits Administration
  - **NCA** - National Cemetery Administration



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# VETERANS AS A UNIQUE POPULATION

- <2% of US Population in military service
- ~9 million of the estimated 22 million Veterans alive use VA
- Military service is unique
- Experiences during military service are unique
- Challenges & exposures may vary by era/period of service
- Some health challenges may be more prevalent or related to military service
- Veterans & Non-Veterans may be members of a vulnerable group
- Military service adds vulnerability for health and health care disparities
- Combination may increase likelihood of health disparities/inequities
- Intersection of vulnerability  $\Rightarrow +/-$



## VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Racial or Ethnic Group
- Gender
- Age
- Geographic Location
- Religion
- Socio-Economic Status
- Sexual Orientation
- Military Era/Period of Service
- Disability – Cognitive, Sensory, Physical
- Mental Health
- Other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion





# HEALTH EQUITY – CROSS CUTTING



## Conceptual framework for prioritization: Institute of Medicine, 2010

Crosscutting Dimensions		Components of Quality Care	Type of Care			
			Preventive Care	Acute Treatment	Chronic condition management	
E Q U I T Y	V A L U E	Effectiveness				
		Safety				
		Timeliness				
		Patient/family-centeredness				
		Access				
		Efficiency				
		Care Coordination				
		Health Systems Infrastructure Capabilities				



# VA HEALTH EQUITY ACTION PLAN - HEAP

OHE along with key partners developed the HEAP which Aligns with Sec VA Priorities, My VA, the VHA Strategic Plan (see Objective 1E Quality & Equity), and other agency and national strategic goals. The HEAP focal areas are



- **Awareness:** Crucial strategic partnerships within and outside VA
- **Leadership:** Health equity impact assessed for all policies, executive decision memos, handbooks, procedures, directives, action plans and National Leadership Council decisions
- **Health System Life Experience:** Incorporate social determinants of health in personalized health plan
- **Cultural and Linguistic Competency:** Education & training on health equity, cultural competency to include unconscious bias, micro inequities, diversity & inclusion
- **Data, Research and Evaluation:** Develop common definitions and measures of disparities and inequities; Develop strategies for capturing data on race, ethnicity, language, and socioeconomic status and other variables needed to stratify the results for all quality measures and to address disparities; Incorporate health equity into Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning (SAIL)

[http://www.va.gov/HEALTHEQUITY/Health\\_Equity\\_Action\\_Plan.asp](http://www.va.gov/HEALTHEQUITY/Health_Equity_Action_Plan.asp)



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# SECVA PRIORITIES & HEALTH EQUITY

## ▪ Greater Choice

- Consider any disparate impact on vulnerable Veteran populations
- Empower Veterans through transparency of information

## ▪ Improve Timeliness

- Consider any disparate impact on vulnerable Veteran populations

## ▪ Suicide Prevention

- Apply equity lens to 2016 suicide mortality report to inform culturally appropriate and tailored prevention strategies for vulnerable Veteran populations as appropriate. More details in the FHEA 07.17.2017 Archive

## ▪ Accountability /Efficiency

- Implement Commission on Care Recommendation #5 – Eliminate Health Disparities among Veterans: Make Health Equity a Strategic Priority by Implementing the HEAP
- Data transparency by assessing any disparate impact and making data on vulnerable Veterans publicly available.
- Go beyond collecting and analyzing disparities to actually addressing them in order to diminish or eliminate the gaps

## ▪ Modernization

- Embed HEAP implementation into foundational services.
- Incorporate social determinants of health in the new EHR with connection to DoD & actionable data for vulnerable groups
- Consider disparate impact of appeals on the vulnerable
- Develop partnerships with community organizations to improve health equity



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# Health Equity and Diversity in Clinical Trials

## ▪ Poll Question 1



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# YOUR INPUT REQUIRED \_ POLL Q1

- These factors put Veterans at risk for health disparities? Select all that apply.

- Age
- Gender/Sex
- Military Era/Period of Service
- Rural/Urban Living
- None of the Above



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# OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY @ THE VA

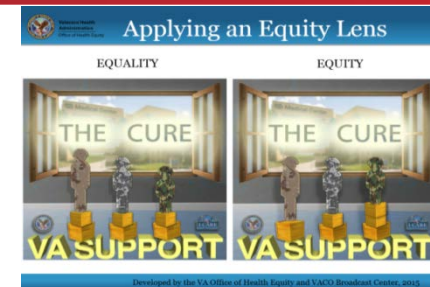
- **Vision**

- Office of Health Equity champions the advancement of health equity and reduction of health disparities



- **Mission**

- Position Veterans Health Administration (VHA) as a national leader in achieving equity in health care and health outcomes among vulnerable populations
- *Champion efforts* to address health disparities **through education, training, communications**, programs, projects and **initiatives** that *bring synergy and break down silos within the organization*
- *Capitalize on the existing network* of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Offices and Veteran advocates to coordinate and harness efforts to advance health equity and achieve equitable health care
- Represent VA and serve as a **liaison to other governmental and non-governmental organizations working to achieve health equity**
- *VA has health and benefits under one umbrella which permits VA to address both health care and social determinants of health that influence overall health and well-being*



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# OMH @ FDA – MISSION

- The FDA Office of Minority Health (OMH) works to build a world where **health equity is a reality for all...**



- **Goals**

- Improve regulatory science by *increasing the amount of clinical trial data* available on racial and ethnic minorities; improve the data quality to determine *how minorities react to medical products*; and *increase transparency* and access to available data
- Strengthen FDA's ability to respond to minority health concerns
- Promote health and safety communication to minority populations who often experience low health literacy and/or speak English as a second language

Source: [www.FDA.gov/MinorityHealth](http://www.FDA.gov/MinorityHealth)



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# OMH @ FDA - PROGRAMS

- *Research & Collaboration*
  - Partner with academia, minority serving organizations, and other Federal agencies to strengthen research in minority health and health disparities with regulatory significance
  - Support FDA's research efforts to advance regulatory science in health disparities
- *Communications & Outreach*
  - Improve FDA's communication and outreach with minority and underserved people
  - *Partner with stakeholders to identify and reduce health disparities*
- *Key Priority Areas*
  - **Clinical Trials** \* Language Access \* Cancer \* **Cardiovascular Disease** \* **Hepatitis** \* HIV/AIDS \* **Diabetes** \* Sickle Cell Disease



Source: [www.FDA.gov/MinorityHealth](http://www.FDA.gov/MinorityHealth)



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# OMH FDA & VA OHE INTERSECTIONS

National  
Veteran Health Equity  
Report



- **FDA OMH Key Priority Areas** striking alignment with VA and Veteran health conditions:
  - **Clinical Trials** - Inclusion of diverse Veteran groups in clinical trials - OHE bringing Focus to Veterans as part of November Veteran Month activities
  - **Cardiovascular Disease** - Includes Hypertension which is one of the top 3 prevalent diagnosis among Veterans + disparate impact on African American Veterans, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders Veterans (NVHER)
  - **Diabetes** - Among the top 3 prevalent diagnosis for all Veterans + disparate impact all racial/ethnic minority groups except Asians (NVHER)
  - **Hepatitis** - An area of disparate impact among Vietnam Veterans most of whom are in the 1945-1965 birth cohort impacted by Hepatitis C
- VA has made great strides in the management of Hepatitis C - unleashed unprecedented care with support of funds from U.S. Congress to ensure appropriate Hepatitis C Virus screening, diagnosis and treatment of Veterans

NVHER : National Veteran Health Equity Report -  
<https://www.va.gov/healthequity/NVHER.asp>



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# VA OHE INITIATIVES 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- National Veteran Health Equity Report - Online & ePub with ISBN\*
- Virtual Training Modules - created with Veterans' stories on Simulation Platform that applied Flipped Classroom model
- Translating research into action with Journeys with High Blood Pressure Videos – *virtual peer to peer Veteran stories*
- Focus on Health Equity and Action Cyberseminar with over 2,300 registrants (does not include archive accessed post session)
- Twenty bulletins via the OHE listserv to over 380k total recipients
- OHE website had over 15k page views and 12k unique page views
- OHE Applying the Equity Lens graphic on Visualize Health Equity Online Gallery by National Academy of Medicine
- Collaborations to advance health equity – e.g., FDA Veteran inclusion Clinic Trials video coming soon



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<https://www.va.gov/HEALTHEQUITY/Tools.asp>

\*International Standard Book Number



# VA OHE LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGIES

- Modalities Applied by OHE in Projects:
- Publications with open access & Presentations in multiple formats
- Data Visualization
  - Dashboards - Hepatitis C Virus Disparities
  - Data Story - National Veteran Health Equity Report
- Virtual Patient Health Equity Modules
  - Simulation Platform
  - Application of Stories
  - Flipped Classroom Model
- Video - Messaging & Products
  - Clinical Look at Unconscious Bias
  - Journeys with High Blood Pressure
- Cyberseminar Series – FHEA
- Reports including e-Pub & ISBN
- Website & Listserv
- *FDA Veteran inclusion Clinic Trials video*
- *Virtual Medical Center - Health Equity Learning Hub*



\*\*<https://www.va.gov/HEALTHY/Tools.asp>\*\*



FHEA - Focus on Health Equity and

Action



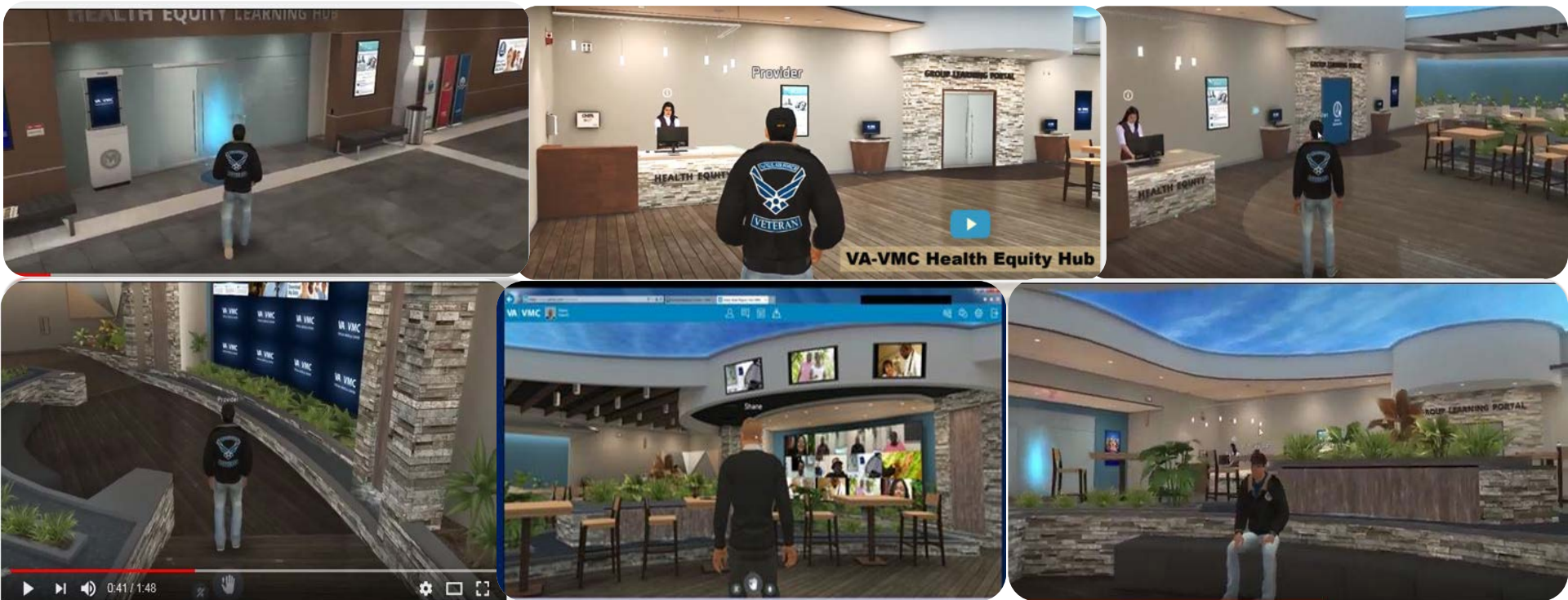
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# VA-VMC - HEALTH EQUITY HUB

## ■ Sneak – Peek



VA-VMC Health Equity Hub Sneak-Peek

■ Official launch coming soon  
**Register Now @: [www.vavmc.com](http://www.vavmc.com)**

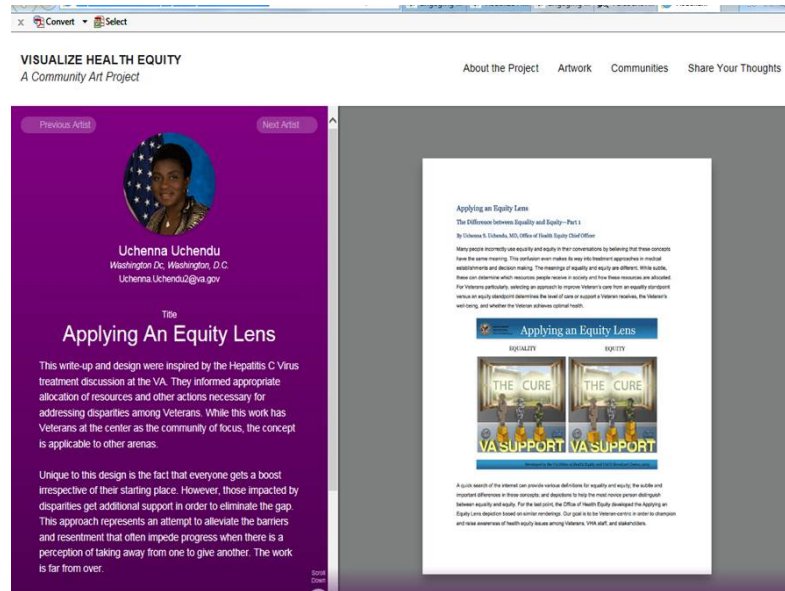


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# 'APPLYING THE EQUITY LENS' ON NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE GALLERY

- News! Thursday 11.09.2017 - Applying the Equity Lens graphic and blog selected for NAM Visualize Health Equity Permanent Online Gallery
- Concept intended for
  - Communicating health equity
  - Understanding how equity differs from equality
  - Applying the equity lens in order to address/eliminate disparities



NAM Gallery - <http://visualizehealthequity.netlify.com/#/artwork/11>

OHE Tools - <https://www.va.gov/HEALTHEQUITY/Tools.asp>



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# Health Equity and Diversity in Clinical Trials:

## ▪ Poll Question 2



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# YOUR INPUT REQUIRED - POLL Q2

- Examples of Office of Health Equity initiatives/products to advance health equity among Veterans include all of the following except:
  - Using Veteran Stories to create training on Social Determinants of Health
  - Funding contractors to map a path for Veterans
  - VA Health Equity Roadmap - The HEAP
  - Collaboration with FDA-OMH



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# VETERANS INCLUSION IN CLINICAL TRIALS - RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- Campbell, H. M., Raisch, D. W., Sather, M. R., Warren, S. R., & Segal, A. R. (2007). A comparison of veteran and nonveteran motivations and reasons for participating in clinical trials. *Military medicine*, 172(1), 27-30.
- Cook, W. A., Melvin, K. C., & Doorenbos, A. Z. (2017). US Military Service Members' Reasons for Deciding to Participate in Health Research. *Research in Nursing & Health*, 40(3), 263-272.
- Michalek, A. K., Kan, D., & Prochaska, J. (2015). Engaging veterans with substance abuse disorders into a research trial: success with study branding, networking, and presence. *Translational behavioral medicine*, 5(2), 167-176
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2016. *Strategies for ensuring diversity, inclusion, and meaningful participation in clinical trials: Proceedings of a workshop*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi: 10.17226/23530.
- Steenkamp, M. M., Litz, B. T., Hoge, C. W., & Marmar, C. R. (2015). Psychotherapy for military-related PTSD: a review of randomized clinical trials. *Jama*, 314(5), 489-500.



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# CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION BARRIERS & MOTIVATORS

## ■ BARRIERS

- Costs
- Biases
- Cultural factors
- History of discrimination
- History of exploitation
- Lack of awareness of trials
- Language differences
- Mistrust
- Social determinants not often accounted for by the research design
- Trial designs not amenable to inclusion
- Participants as subjects

## ■ MOTIVATORS

- Altruism
- Community context
- Ease of participation
- Family impact/connection
- Matter of importance to participants or someone they care about
- Seeking answers/solution to health issues including unique exposures like Agent Orange & TBI
- Potential benefits to the participant
- Participants as partners → enriches the study beyond inclusion in numbers only





# US MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS' REASONS FOR PARTICIPATING

- US Military Service Members' Reasons for Deciding to Participate in Health Research
- Service members described participation decisions for 34 individual research experiences in 27 separate studies
- **Reasons for Participation**
  - For Others - Altruism
    - Contribute to science
    - To make things better for others
    - To improve an organization
    - To help researchers
    - Giving back to the medical community who care for them
  - Self - Treatment they need
  - Fit Focused - Understanding how they fit in studies
- **Conclusion** - Findings may help researchers, study sponsors, ethicists, military leaders, and military decision-makers better understand service members' reasons for participating in research and improve future recruitment of service members in health research

~Wendy A. Cook et al



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# CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION MOTIVATORS - VETERANS & NON- VETERANS

- 2007 study published in Military Medicine
  - Compared Veterans & Non Veteran reasons for participation in clinical trials
  - Provided a preset group of reasons to choose from
  - 146 respondents out of which 135 provided usable responses defined as >80% complete
- **Results**
  - Veterans ***valued Altruism and giving back more and Financial Compensation less*** for engagement compared to non-Veterans
  - Veterans involved in armed conflict have the same reasons for participating as Veterans as a whole, but value them more strongly
- **Conclusion** - Knowledge of the varying reasons for participation could potentially aid recruitment efforts and marketing materials for clinical trials

~Dennis Raisch et al



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# ENGAGING VETERANS – TIP FOR RESEARCHERS

- Engaging Veterans with substance abuse disorders into a research trial: success with study branding, networking, and presence
- The goal was to enroll 200 participants over a 25-month period, and to exceed 70% follow-up for all treatment arms
  - To meet these goals, a four-pronged strategy was developed

- Branding
- Outreach/networking
- Onsite presence
- Incentives



Fig. 2 | Study branding materials pictures. This figure includes three photographs of the study-branded items that were distributed to providers for making referrals and to participants for study identity and branding

- Implications
  - **Practice** - Consider multiple strategies for outreach and ongoing engagement
  - **Research** - Use multipronged approach for efficient recruitment & strong retention to maximize external validity of research findings
  - **Policy** - Factor planning and resources for outreach and ongoing engagement into investment cost/plan

~Anne Kathryn Michalek et al



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# VETERAN INCLUSION IN CLINICAL TRIALS – WHY?

- Participation in research and clinical trials makes it possible for scientist to identify solutions to the health challenges Veterans face as a result of military service
- Psychotherapy for Military-Related PTSD: A Review of Randomized Clinical Trials
  - **Objective** - To examine the effectiveness of psychotherapist in Military and Veteran Populations
  - **Conclusion** - There is need for improvement in existing PTSD treatments for development and testing of novel evidence based treatments both trauma focused and non-trauma focused
  - **IMPORTANCE** - Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a disabling psychiatric disorder common among military personnel and Veterans. First-line psychotherapies most often recommended for PTSD consist mainly of “trauma-focused” psychotherapies that involve focusing on details of the trauma or associated cognitive and emotional effects

~Maria M. Steenkamp et al



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# Health Equity and Diversity in Clinical Trials

## ▪ Poll Question 3



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# YOUR INPUT REQUIRED \_ POLL Q3

- Veterans participation in clinical trials makes it possible for scientists to identify solutions to health challenges as a result of military service
- 
- True
  - False



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# VETERAN INCLUSION IN CLINICAL TRIALS – WHAT?

- Important to understand the risks & benefits involved in the particular clinical trial
- There are applicable laws to protect participants
- Participation is completely voluntary
- Best care for Veterans includes clinical trials to hone in on the best possible treatments and products



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# RELATED RESOURCES - INFORMATION

- **For Participants** and those considering to become volunteers
  - VA - <https://www.research.va.gov/programs/csp/participation.cfm>
  - FDA - <https://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ByAudience/MinorityHealth/ucm472295.htm>
- **For Researchers**
  - VA - [https://www.research.va.gov/resources/ORD\\_admin/clinical\\_trials/](https://www.research.va.gov/resources/ORD_admin/clinical_trials/)



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# RELATED RESOURCES – VA WEB

- For Participants & those considering to become volunteers -

➤ <https://www.research.va.gov/programs/csp/participation.cfm>

The following information describes what clinical trials are and gives additional information to help you decide if participating in a clinical trial is right for you.

- [What Is a Clinical Trial?](#)
- [What Types of Clinical Trials Are There?](#)
- [What Are Clinical Trial Phases?](#)
- [Why Are Clinical Trials Important?](#)
- [Why Would a Person Be Interested in a Clinical Trial?](#)
- [What Protections Exist for People Who Participate in Clinical Trials?](#)
- [What Is Informed Consent?](#)
- [What Should You Know Before Participating in a Clinical Trial?](#)
- [Who Sponsors Clinical Trials?](#)
- [Who Can Participate in a Clinical Trial?](#)
- [What Is It Like to Participate in a Clinical Trial?](#)
- [Why Is Patient Adherence to the Clinical Trial Treatment Plan Important?](#)
- [In Conclusion](#)



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# IMPERATIVE FOR VETERAN INCLUSION IN CLINICAL TRIALS

- Specifically for Veterans and Service Members - Unique experiences and exposures in the military makes it imperative that a good cross section of Veterans participate in clinical trials for themselves, their colleagues and their families
- VA and DoD and others are investing a lot on war related illnesses and some of the known exposures like Agent Orange, blast injuries etc. (Refer & link VA military history taking pocket card)
  - Military Health History Pocket Card: <http://www.va.gov/OAA/pocketcard/>
- In order to fully understand and tackle these, it is important that Veterans, Service Members & their families participate in research and clinical trials
- To support Veterans, VA OHE & FDA OMH partnered to produce and launch the recent campaign on Veterans participation in clinical trials
- Release in November 2017 in support of the WH & SECVA call to make November Veterans Month beyond the one day National Veterans Day Holiday...

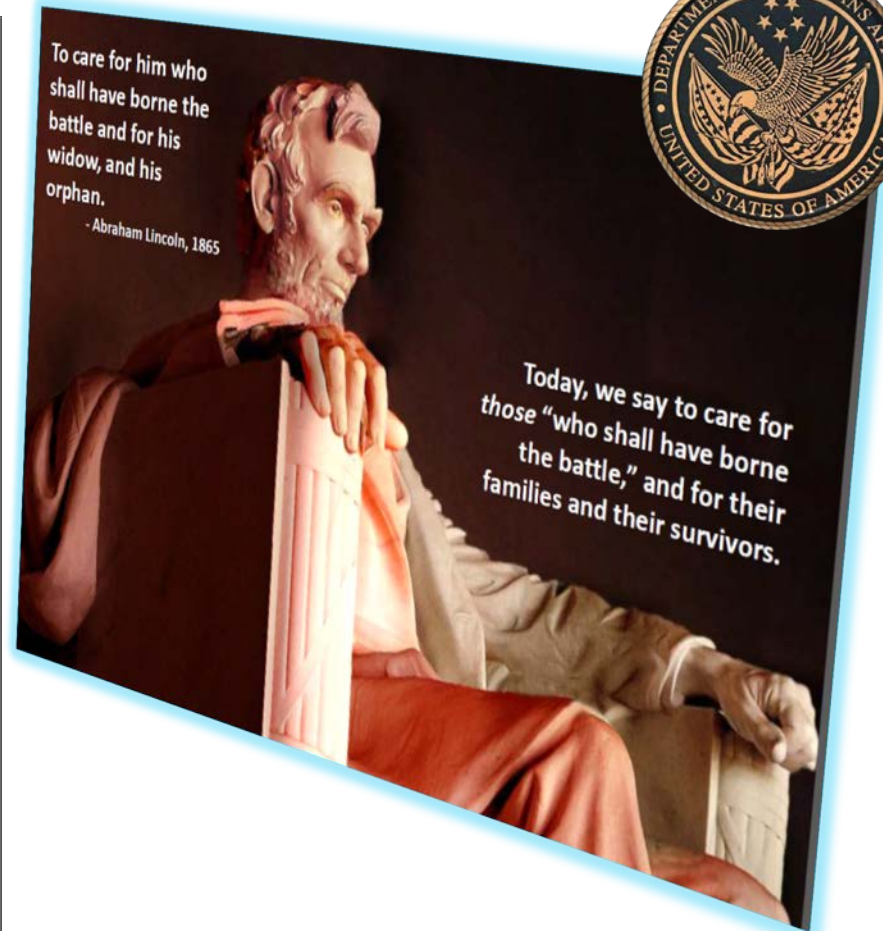


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# NOVEMBER 2017 IS NATIONAL VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH



HOME · BRIEFING ROOM · PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS · PROCLAMATIONS

## From the Press Office

Speeches & Remarks

Press Briefings

Statements & Releases

Nominations & Appointments

Presidential Actions

Executive Orders

Presidential Memoranda

**Proclamations**

Legislation

Disclosures

### The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 01, 2017

## President Donald J. Trump Proclaims November 2017 as National Veterans and Military Families Month

NATIONAL VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH, 2017

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### A PROCLAMATION

During National Veterans and Military Families Month, we honor the significant contributions made by American service members, their families, and their loved ones. We set aside this month surrounding Veterans Day to hold observances around the country to honor and thank those whose service and sacrifice represent the very best of America. We renew our Nation's commitment to support veterans and military families. They deserve it.

Our veterans are our heroes. Our Armed Forces have preserved the security and freedom that allow us to flourish as a Nation. They have braved bitter winters, treacherous jungles, barren deserts, and stormy waters to defend our Nation. They have left their families to face danger



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<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/11/01/president-donald-j-trump-proclaims-november-2017-national-veterans-and>



# VETERAN INCLUSION IN CLINICAL TRIALS MODALITIES



Video: Veteran Inclusion in Clinical Trials

in Clinical Trials



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# VETERAN INCLUSION IN CLINICAL TRIALS – HOW?

- Where can you sign up?
- Who can you contact?
  - Listen to a Veteran

○ VIDEO CLIP HERE

Video: Veteran Inclusion  
in Clinical Trials

IN CLINICAL TRIALS

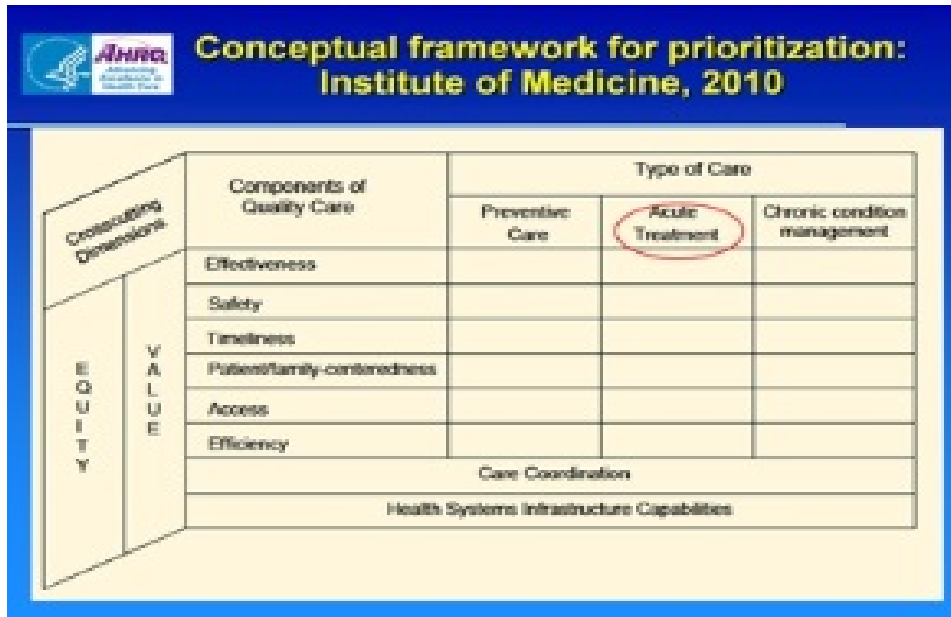


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# REMEMBER ...

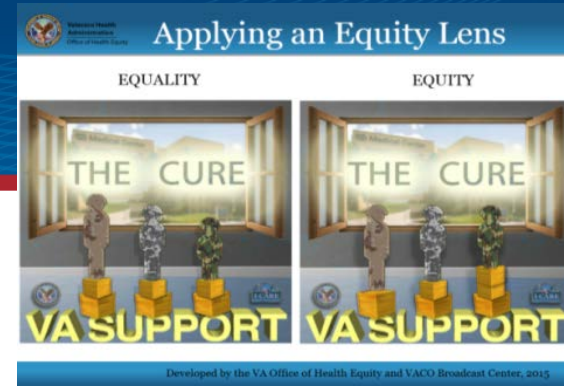
- Equity is a cross cutting theme along with value
- Other elements of quality can differ based on who (vulnerable characters) and it is important to consider those differences and account for them
- Diverse populations participating in clinical trials ensures that those differences are part of the research and findings that inform Effective + Safe + Personalized + Prevention Strategies as well as Treatment for Acute and Chronic conditions
- Take Action – Include Veterans while accounting for *Diversity in Clinical Trials*



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# REMEMBER ...



- Lack of meaningful inclusion & participation of diverse populations → disparities in health and healthcare
- Studies that do not include implications and impact on the minority groups because they were not included/adequately represented have far reaching implications
- If the findings, treatments and/or products are deployed to all, it translates to the *testing* occurring in the broader members of the groups that were underrepresented in the controlled/regulated trial environment, without the protection that the clinical trial protocol provides
- If the impact is **negative** in those not included in the clinical trial, there is passage of time in the post release phase before it is identified and/or rectified
- If the drug or product is **ineffective** in certain populations who were not a part of the study, members of these subgroups treated with it do not reach desired goals  
→ loss of quality of life & loss of funds they expended on the drug or product etc.





# IN OTHER WORDS...

- In some scenarios where the groups that were not a part of the trial end up becoming test cases without the monitored protocols that usually accompany clinical trials
- For instance, if a drug or product was not checked for efficacy and side effects in enough numbers of people from racial/ethnic minority and women, the result of analysis will not account for the underrepresented group. As a result, they may end up manifesting untoward response/reaction to the product after it is released
- Fortunately, there is the post release reporting of untoward effects which allows the regulatory bodies to take action if need be -- BUT these actions do not reverse impact on those who already experienced the post release unanticipated complication (Lawyers may get settlements for those impacted - how much is enough to pay for the harm?)
- Discussions continue about how some groups may react to or respond to certain drugs and/or products... *Inclusion and adequate participation from all the groups in the clinical trials will positively inform this dialogue*





# HEALTH EQUITY DATA – TAKE ACTION

- **Consistently report, monitor, trend, and track key metrics along vulnerability lines to include gender/sex, race/ethnicity, rural/urban, military era/period of service, etc.**
  - **Doing so will allow transparent monitoring of the progress for the vulnerable groups, support accountability, agency priority and bolster trust**
  - **Got ideas for innovative health equity projects to tackle disparities among Veterans? Send your ideas to OHE: [healthequity @va.gov](mailto:healthequity@va.gov)**
- ***The pursuit of Health Equity should be everyone's business.***
- ***It is a journey that takes time and sustained effort.***
- ***What can you do today in your area of influence to improve health equity?***
- ***At a minimum - in all your actions - do not increase the Disparity.***

<https://www.va.gov/HEALTHEQUITY/Tools.asp>



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# LEARNING OBJECTIVES - REWIND

- Identify Veteran-related factors that place Veterans at risk for health disparities
- Describe Office of Health Equity and efforts to advance health equity for Veterans
- Explain the importance of including Veterans, while accounting for diversity, in clinical trials
- Describe reasons why Veterans are motivated to participate in clinical trials and why some populations are apprehensive about participating in clinical trials



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# Health Equity and Diversity in Clinical Trials

## ▪ Poll Question 4



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# YOUR INPUT REQUIRED \_ POLL Q4

- Which of the following represent an accurately ordered pairing of a reason for apprehension & a motivating factor for participation in clinical trials
  - Altruism & Fear of death
  - Historical misunderstanding & Altruism
  - Spirit of service & Family ties
  - Lack of awareness of trials & Mistrust
  - All of the above





# OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY INFORMATION



November 7, 2017

Veterans and Military Families Month

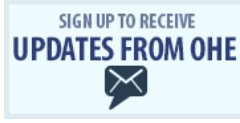


### Office of Health Equity Salutes Our Nation's Heroes and Families for National Veterans and Military Families Month

November is **National Veterans and Military Families Month**. Americans across the country will join and celebrate our nation's heroes for the entire month of November and not just on Veterans Day. This month recognizes, acknowledges, and honors the service, sacrifices, and contributions of Veterans and military families for their courage and commitment to our Nation. The VA has put together a [calendar of highlighted events](#) sponsored by the Agency and stakeholders for this month's commemoration. VA medical centers and community based outpatient clinics will also hold open houses.

As a national program office, the **VA Office of Health Equity (OHE)** has aligned our programming and is highlighting additional activities for **National Veterans and Military Families Month**. It is the mission of OHE to champion health equity issues for Veterans. Although we do this every day of the year, our November announcements highlight specific programming that we encourage you to attend as we honor our heroes on Veterans Day and throughout the month.

### Attend the VA-VMC Health Equity Hub Virtual Open House Preview Sponsored by OHE



- Uchenna S. Uchendu, MD  
Uchenna.Uchendu2@va.gov  
or 202-632-8470

[www.va.gov/healthequity](http://www.va.gov/healthequity)

- OHE Listserv sign up link:  
<http://www.va.gov/HEALTH EQUITY/Updates.asp>
- Next FHEA Cyberseminar 12.18.2017 : 3-4PM EST



# THANK YOU!





# PUBLICATIONS REFERENCED

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- ❑ Michalek, A. K., Kan, D., & Prochaska, J. (2015). Engaging veterans with substance abuse disorders into a research trial: success with study branding, networking, and presence. *Translational behavioral medicine*, 5(2), 167-176
- ❑ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2016. *Strategies for ensuring diversity, inclusion, and meaningful participation in clinical trials: Proceedings of a workshop*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi: 10.17226/23530.
- ❑ Steenkamp, M. M., Litz, B. T., Hoge, C. W., & Marmar, C. R. (2015). Psychotherapy for military-related PTSD: a review of randomized clinical trials. *Jama*, 314(5), 489-500.
- ❑ VA Office of Health Equity. 2016. National Veteran Health Equity Report—FY2013. US Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC. Available online at <http://www.va.gov/healthequity/NVHER.asp>.



**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Health Equity and Diversity in Clinical Trials

## ▪ Questions 1 - 4



U.S. Uchendu, MD @ FDA Lecture Series 11.20.2017



**Veterans Health Administration**  
Office of Health Equity



# QUESTION 1

- These factors put Veterans at risk for health disparities? Select all that apply.
  
- Age
- Gender/Sex
- Military Era/Period of Service
- Rural/Urban Living
- None of the Above





## QUESTION 2

- Examples of Office of Health Equity initiatives/products to advance health equity among Veterans include all of the following except:
  - Using Veteran Stories to create training on Social Determinants of Health
  - Funding contractors to map a path for Veterans
  - VA Health Equity Roadmap - The HEAP
  - Collaboration with FDA-OMH





## QUESTION 3

- Veterans participation in clinical trials makes it possible for scientists to identify solutions to health challenges as a result of military service

True

False



Veterans Health Administration  
Office of Health Equity





## QUESTION 4

- Which of the following represent an accurately ordered pairing of a reason for apprehension & a motivating factor for participation in clinical trials
  - Altruism & Fear of death
  - Historical misunderstanding & Altruism
  - Spirit of service & Family ties
  - Lack of awareness of trials & Mistrust
  - All of the above





# TAKE ACTION

- Make the connection !
- The work is far from over



Veterans Health Administration  
Office of Health Equity