



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Women Veterans in VHA

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2017 National Women Veterans Summit





Overview

- **Who are women Veterans in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)?**
- **What primary care workforce does VHA have in place to care for them?**
- **Epilogue**
A strategy for eliciting women Veterans' preferences, to inform ongoing VHA primary care systems improvement



*Data from the VA Women's Health Evaluation Initiative (WHEI)
Partnership of national VA Office of Women's Health Services
and VA researchers in Palo Alto*

In the Veterans Health Administration:

160,000 women Veterans in 2000

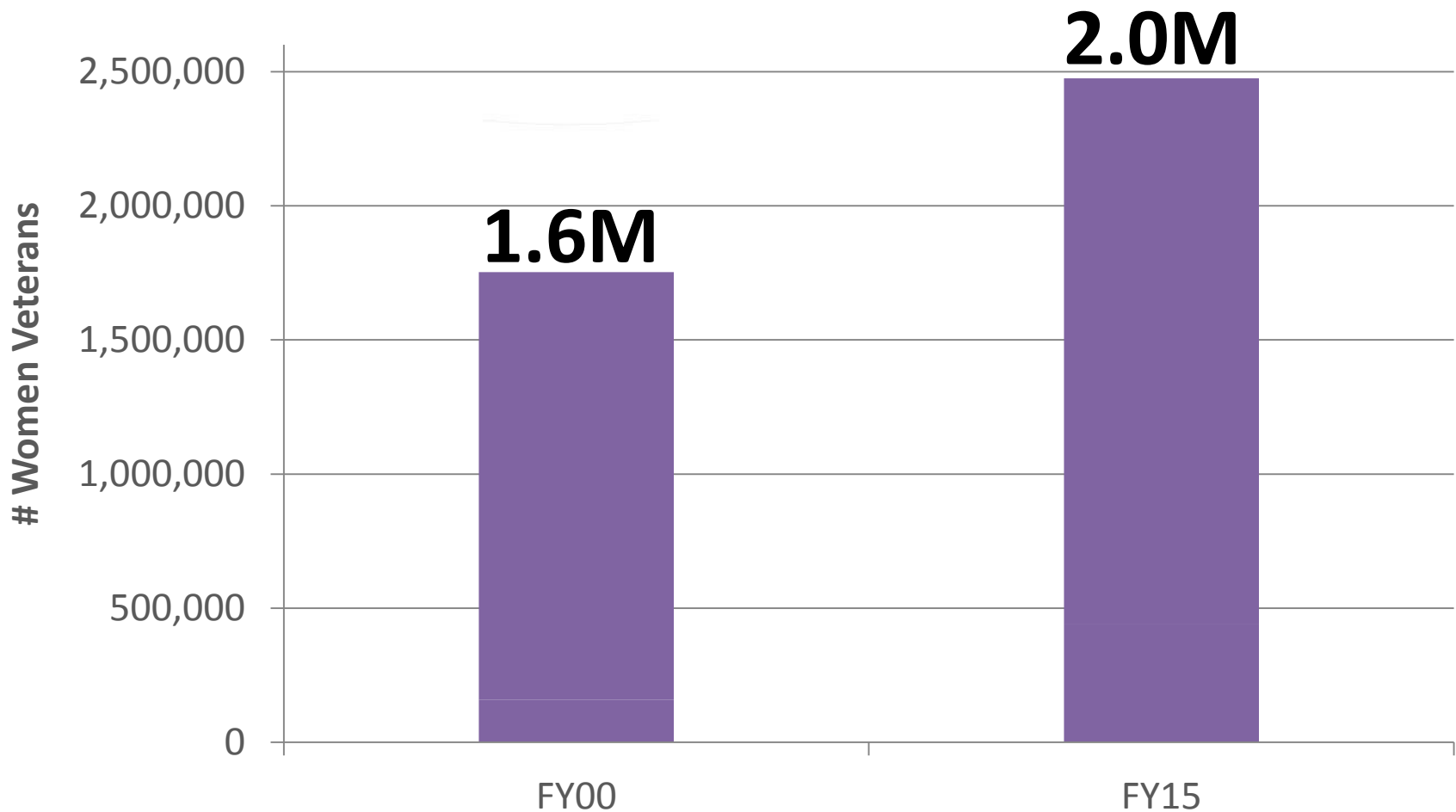
440,000 women Veterans in 2015

Nearly a 3 fold increase!

Sourcebook Volume 4, Women's Health Services, VHA, In Press



Estimated # of Women Veterans in the U.S., FY00 and FY15



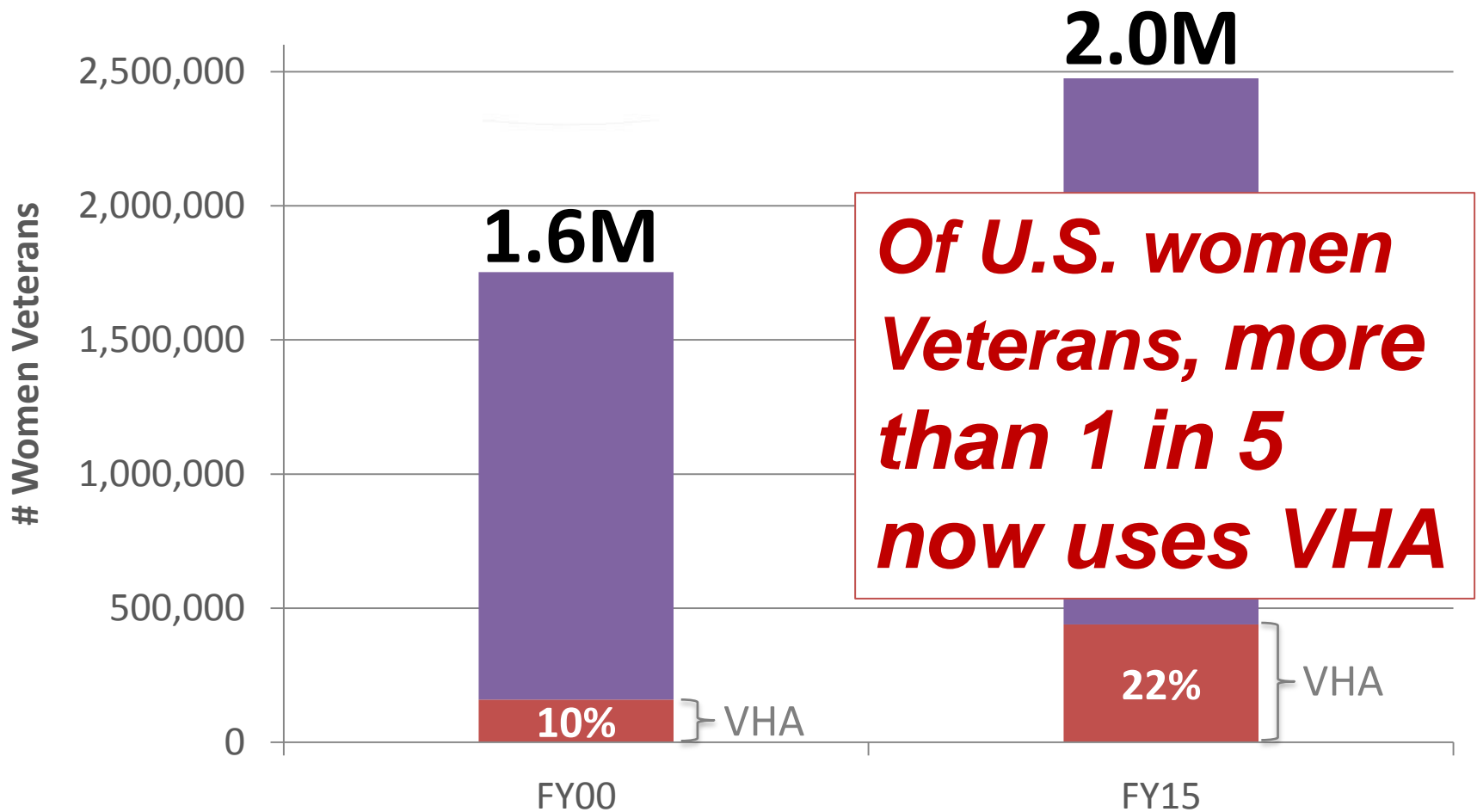
Sourcebook Volume 4, Women's Health Services, VHA, In Press

Cohort: Women Veteran patients in VHA and in the United States in each year.

Source: WHEI Master Database, FY00-FY15, VetPop and U.S. Census data



of Women Veteran VHA Patients, out of all U.S. Women Veterans, FY00 and FY15



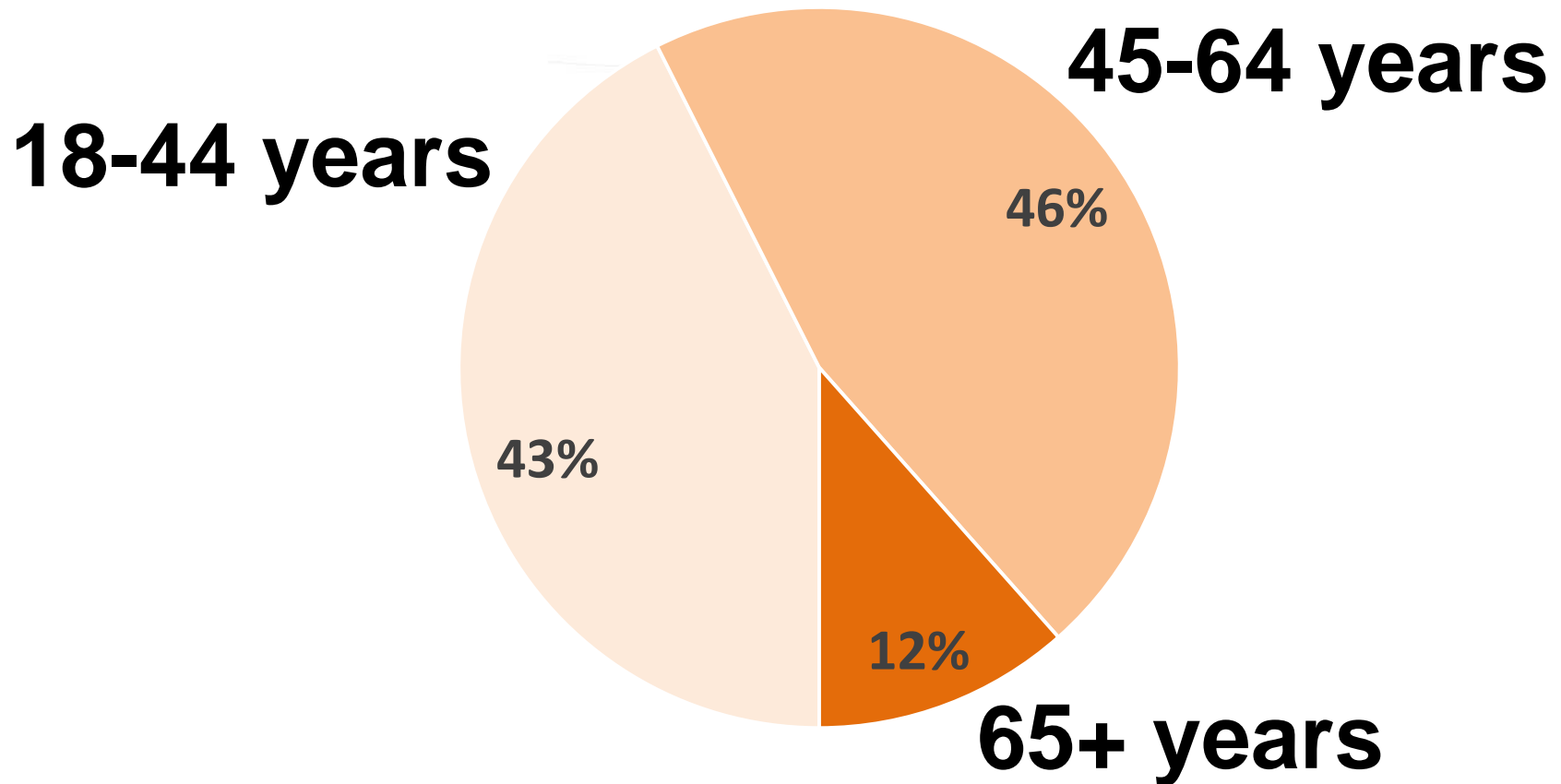
Sourcebook Volume 4, Women's Health Services, VHA, In Press

Cohort: Women Veteran patients in VHA and in the United States in each year.

Source: WHEI Master Database, FY00-FY15, and U.S. Census data



Age Distribution of Women Veterans in VHA, FY15



Sourcebook Volume 4, Women's Health Services, VHA, In Press

Cohort: Women Veteran patients with non-missing ages 18-110 years (inclusive) in FY15. N=439,791.

Source: WHEI Master Database, FY15



Top conditions, Women Veteran VHA Patients, by Age Group (FY15)

18-44	45-64	65+

Sourcebook Volume 4, Women's Health Services, VHA, In Press

Cohort: Women Veteran VHA patients with non-missing ages 45-64 years (inclusive) in FY15 . N=201,688.

Source: WHEI Master Database, FY15



Top conditions, Women Veteran VHA Patients, by Age Group (FY15)

18-44	45-64	65+
Depression		
Anxiety		
PTSD		
Headache		
Low Back		

Sourcebook Volume 4, Women's Health Services, VHA, In Press

Cohort: Women Veteran VHA patients with non-missing ages 45-64 years (inclusive) in FY15 . N=201,688.

Source: WHEI Master Database, FY15



Top conditions, Women Veteran VHA Patients, by Age Group (FY15)

18-44	45-64	65+
Depression	Hypertension	
Anxiety	Lipid	
PTSD	Depression	
Headache	Lower Extremity Joint	
Low Back	Low Back	

Sourcebook Volume 4, Women's Health Services, VHA, In Press

Cohort: Women Veteran VHA patients with non-missing ages 45-64 years (inclusive) in FY15 . N=201,688.

Source: WHEI Master Database, FY15



Top conditions, Women Veteran VHA Patients, by Age Group (FY15)

18-44	45-64	65+
Depression	Hypertension	Hypertension
Anxiety	Lipid	Lipid
PTSD	Depression	Diabetes
Headache	Lower Extremity Joint	Cataract
Low Back	Low Back	Eye - Other

Sourcebook Volume 4, Women's Health Services, VHA, In Press

Cohort: Women Veteran VHA patients with non-missing ages 45-64 years (inclusive) in FY15 . N=201,688.

Source: WHEI Master Database, FY15



Proportion of Women Veteran Outpatients with Any VHA Primary Care Encounters, FY15



**87% saw
Primary Care**

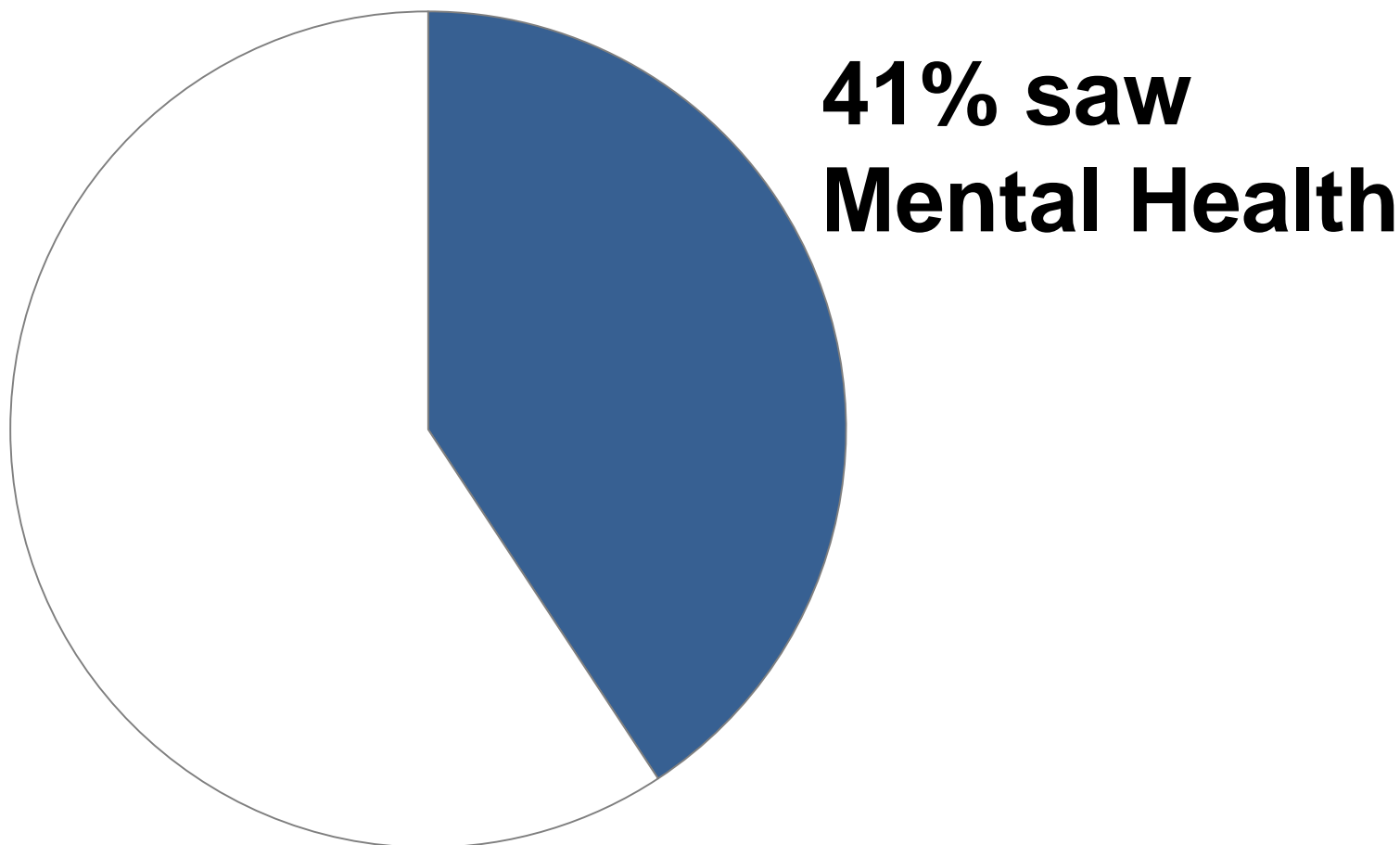
Sourcebook Volume 4, Women's Health Services, VHA, In Press

Cohort: Women Veteran outpatients in FY15: N= 433,525.

Source: WHEI Master Database, FY15



Proportion of Women Veteran Outpatients with Any VHA Mental Health/SUD Encounters, FY15



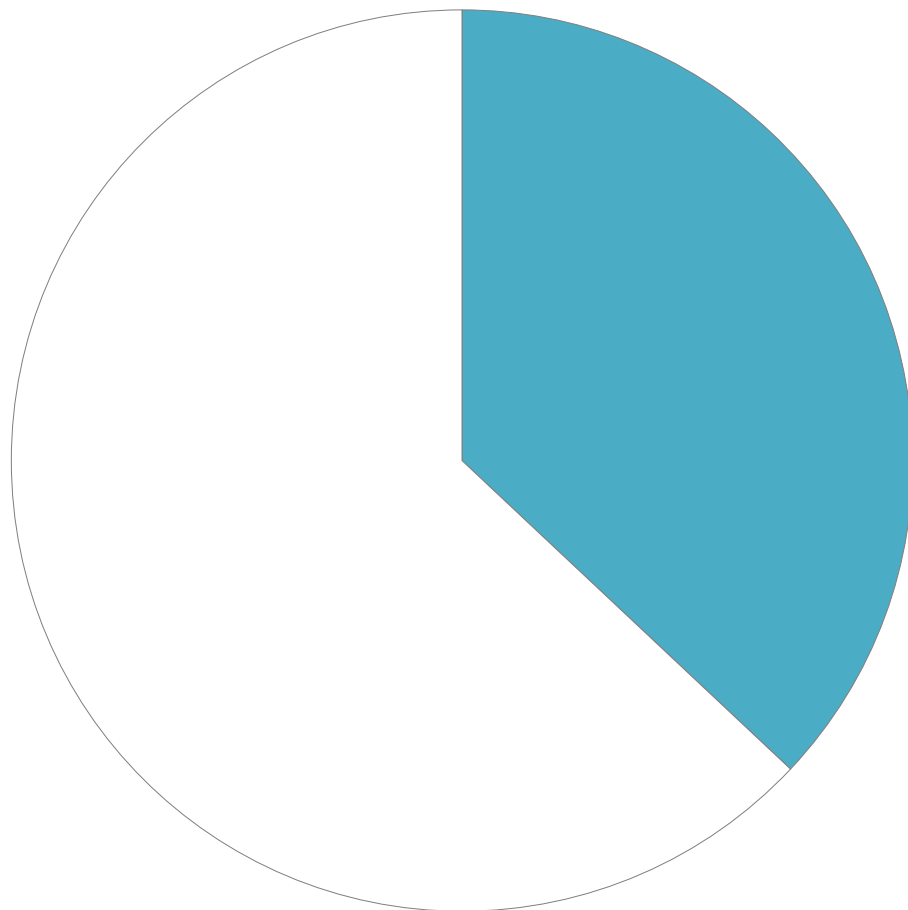
Sourcebook Volume 4, Women's Health Services, VHA, In Press

Cohort: Women Veteran outpatients in FY15: N= 433,525.

Source: WHEI Master Database, FY15



Proportion of Women Veteran Outpatients with Any Purchased Care Services, FY15



**37% received
some health
care services
purchased by
VHA (care in
the community)**

Sourcebook Volume 4, Women's Health Services, VHA, In Press

Cohort: Women Veteran outpatients in FY15: N= 433,525.

Source: WHEI Master Database, FY15



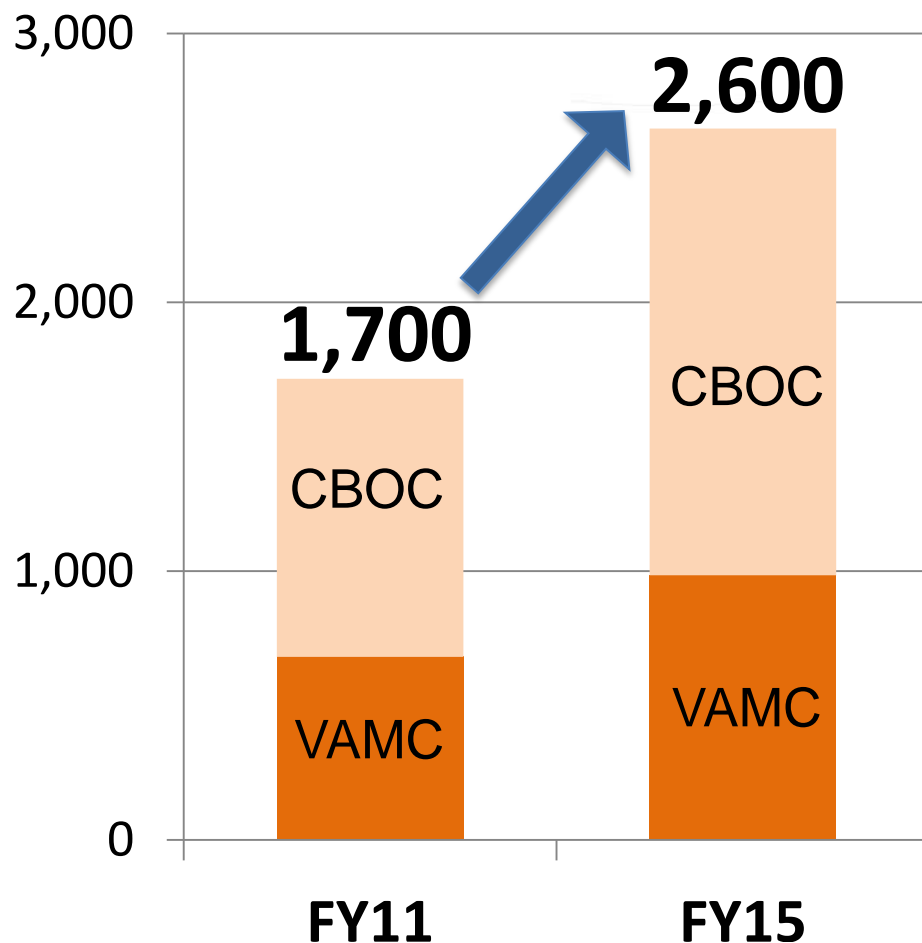
Women's Health Primary Care Providers (WH-PCPs)

- Mandated per VHA policy (VHA Directive 1330.01) since 2010
- Effort to improve women Veterans' experiences of VA care



Increase in Women's Health Primary Care Providers, at VA Medical Centers (VAMC) and Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)

of WH-PCPs



Over 5 years, # of WH-PCPs grew by nearly 1,000: a 50% increase



Seeing a Women's Health Primary Care Provider Makes a Difference!

- Women Veterans who saw a WH-PCP were ***more satisfied***, and were ***more likely to receive appropriate gender-specific services*** like pap smears.⁽¹⁾
- Women Veterans new to VA were ***less likely to leave VA*** if they saw a WH-PCP.⁽²⁾

(1) Bastian 2014; Bean-Mayberry 2015

(2) HSR&D CRE 12-019 (S. Frayne, A. Hamilton)



Systems Improvement in VHA Primary Care: *Hearing Women Veterans' Voices*





VA Women's Health Practice-Based Research Network

60 VHA facilities joining together to improve care for women Veterans through research and quality improvement efforts





Veteran Feedback Project

- Pathway for rapidly collecting women Veterans' perspectives relevant to practice innovations
- Anonymous patient feedback forms in primary care





Veteran Feedback Project: Complementary and Integrative Health

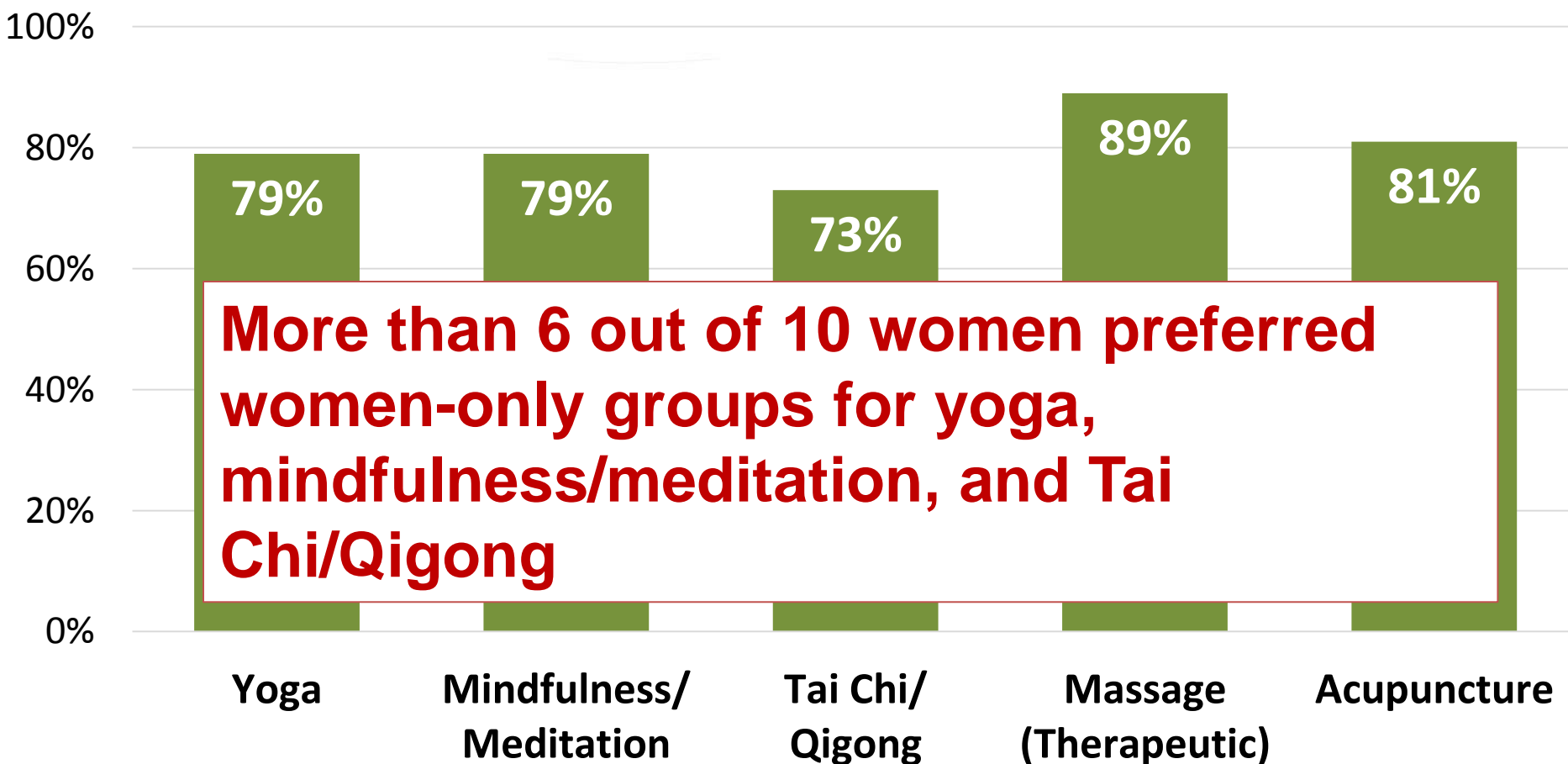
- With just 2 weeks of data collection at each participating site, over **1,000 women Veterans** nationally shared their perspectives





Complementary & Integrative Health Veteran Feedback Project

Women Veterans' Preferences for In-Person Services





CARING *for*
WOMEN VETERANS

Home Program Modules About This Site

**Section 5:
Unique Health-Care Needs (What You Can Do)**

Watch the following scenario and think about how you might handle the situation.



[View transcript](#)

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Audio auto-play is: ON OFF

Program Modules

- Introduction
- Becoming Aware
- Common Questions
- Privacy Needs
- History of Women in the Military and VA
- Unique Health-Care Needs (What You Can Do)
 - Introduction
 - Video
 - Scenario 1
 - Scenario 2
 - Dilemmas
 - In Review
- Resources and Acknowledgements

she
wore
these.

It's **our job** to give **her**
the best care anywhere.



Pair of uniform boots

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE



learn more at
www.womenhealth.va.gov