



# Data Issues Brief

## About the DIB

The *Data Issues Brief (DIB)* is VIReC's monthly publication that informs VA researchers on current news or updates regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics.

## VIReC Updates

### Select Variable Frequencies: VHA Medical SAS® Datasets

VIReC's *Select Variable Frequencies: VHA Medical SAS® Datasets, FY2000–2010* contains record level frequency counts for select variables in the Medical SAS® Inpatient "Acute Care, Main" (PM), Outpatient "Visit" (SF), Outpatient "Event" (SE), and "Inpatient Encounters" (IE) datasets.

Available on VIReC's website: [www.virec.research.va.gov](http://www.virec.research.va.gov).

## Data and Information Systems

### New Process for CDW Technical Support

Corporate Data Warehouse users can now call the Austin Information Technology Center's (AITC) National Service Desk (NSD) to request CDW technical support. AITC's NSD is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by phone, TDD, and e-mail:

AITC NSD Contact Information	
Help Desk Phone	888-326-6780
TDD	512-326-6638
E-mail	nsd-aus@va.gov

AITC's NSD directly handles CDW server connection issues, service outages, and information technology services. All other requests will be forwarded to CDW Support staff to be handled during their normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am– 4:30 pm (CST).

More information about CDW Support services is available on CDW's SharePoint site.

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## CDW Update

In November 2011, the Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) announced the release of the Inpatient domain and updates to the Staff and Patient Care Management Module (PCMM) domains. These domains contain data updated nightly from FY1999–present.

Visit CDW's SharePoint site to access the metadata for Inpatient data and to view the complete list of CDW data domains currently available.

## Education

### VIREC Cyber Seminars

#### Clinical Informatics Cyber Seminars

<b>Date</b>	January 17, 2012	12pm Eastern
<b>Title</b>	<i>Discrete Event Simulation for Process Improvement: Emergency Department Flow</i>	
<b>Author</b>	Eugene Day, D.Sc., St. Louis VA Medical Center, Saint Louis University	
<b>Recently Archived</b>	<i>Relationship of Usability and Patient Safety with Health Information Technology</i>	

#### Database and Methods Cyber Seminar Series

<b>Date</b>	February 6, 2012	1pm Eastern
<b>Title</b>	<i>Measuring Veterans Health Services Use in VA and Medicare (Part 2)</i>	
<b>Author</b>	Denise M. Hynes, RN, MPH, PhD, Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital	
<b>Recently Archived</b>	<i>Measuring Veterans Health Services Use in VA and Medicare (Part 1)</i>	

Register for a seminar or access archived presentations on VIREC's website: [www.virec.research.va.gov](http://www.virec.research.va.gov). E-mail questions to VIREC's Cyber Seminar Coordinator, Margaret Browning, at [Margaret.Browning@va.gov](mailto:Margaret.Browning@va.gov).

## Conferences & Calls for Abstracts

### 2012 AcademyHealth ARM Call for Abstracts, Nov 1 – Jan 12

AcademyHealth will host its Annual Research Meeting (ARM) June 24–26 in Orlando, FL. ARM brings together health services researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to address the critical challenges confronting the nation's health care delivery system.

Abstract submissions are due Jan 12, 2012. Details regarding themes and submission instructions are available on AcademyHealth's website:

[www.academyhealth.org/Events/content.cfm?ItemNumber=842&navItemNumber=1996](http://www.academyhealth.org/Events/content.cfm?ItemNumber=842&navItemNumber=1996).

## New Proposed Date for 2012 HSR&D/QUERI National Conference

The new proposed date for the combined national conference for Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) Service and the Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) is either April 16–19 or April 30–May 3, in the metro DC or Baltimore area. The conference theme is "Transforming Veteran Healthcare through Partner-Oriented Research."

Visit HSR&D's website for updated conference information: [www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/meetings/2012/default.cfm](http://www.hsr.d.research.va.gov/meetings/2012/default.cfm).

## HSRData-L Listserv

### Recent Topics

The HSRData-L Listserv is a forum for VA researchers and data users to exchange information, ideas, questions, and answers about VA data and informatics. November's subject lines included:

- Flu shots - can we tell who received one and when
- Number of beds per VA hospital
- Registries/cohorts available in the VA

**Join the Listserv**  
Visit VIREC's Intranet site to  
subscribe to the listserv.

VIREC maintains the HSRData-L Listserv, which is available to researchers and data users with a "va.gov" e-mail address. Archived discussions are available on the HSRData-L Listserv Intranet site.

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This newsletter is provided by the VA Information Resource Center (VIREC).

### Subscriptions

To subscribe or unsubscribe from this newsletter, e-mail [virec@va.gov](mailto:virec@va.gov).

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### VA Information Resource Center

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Routing mail code: 151V

5000 South 5th Avenue

Hines, IL 60141-5000

[virec@va.gov](mailto:virec@va.gov)

[www.virec.research.va.gov](http://www.virec.research.va.gov)

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