



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

New VA Race Data Quality Technical Report

VIReC's *Technical Report: VA Race Quality* assesses the completeness of race and ethnicity information in the VHA Medical SAS® Datasets and evaluates the utility of various approaches to reducing missing VA race data.

Available on VIReC's website: www.virec.research.va.gov.

Information on the OEF/OIF/OND Roster

VIReC's OEF/OIF/OND Roster provides a general description of the OEF/OIF/OND (Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn) roster. The roster identifies Veterans who have been involved in the OEF/OIF/OND mission and who have an existing relationship with the VHA.

Available on VIReC's Intranet site.

New Historical Variable Attributes: VHA Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health (ADUSH) Enrollment Files

VIReC's *Historical Variable Attributes: VHA Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health (ADUSH) Enrollment Files: Fiscal Year-End Datasets* contains current and historical variable attributes for each data field in the VHA ADUSH enrollment files fiscal year-end datasets from FY99-FY10.

Available on VIReC's website: www.virec.research.va.gov.

In this Issue

VIReC Updates

- *New VA Race Data Quality Technical Report*
- *Information on the OEF/OIF/OND Roster*
- *New Historical Variable Attributes: VHA Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health (ADUSH) Enrollment Files*

Data and Information Systems

- *Fiscal Year 2011 Closeout Medical SAS Inpatient & Outpatient Datasets*
- *Facilities Get New Facility Numbers*
- *Decision Support System Announces FY2012 Changes Impacting NDEs: DSS Identifiers*

Education

- *VIReC Cyber Seminars*

Conferences & Calls for Abstracts

- *National Association of Health Data Organizations Annual Conference, Nov 15–16*

HSRData-L Listserv

- *Recent Topics*

VIReC Tip of the Month

- *What is the Difference Between CDW and VINCI?*

Data and Information Systems

Fiscal Year 2011 Closeout Medical SAS Inpatient & Outpatient Datasets

The Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) announced the FY2011 Medical SAS datasets beginning with MDPPRD.MDP.SAS have been closed out and are ready for use. Note: National Data Systems (NDS) periodically revises closed files, allowing for the capture of data that would otherwise be lost due to submission after closeout. Revised files include the designation REVISED in the file name.

AITC also published its schedule for first FY12 NPCD SAS file builds on its Intranet site.

Facilities Get New Facility Numbers

Northampton VA Medical Center (VA site number 631) has been renamed to the VA Central Western Massachusetts Health Care System. Two Massachusetts clinics have been transferred to this site and assigned new facility ID numbers:

- Worcester (new Station Identifier 631GE)
- Fitchburg (new Station Identifier 631GF)

These new facility ID numbers will begin appearing in Medical SAS Outpatient Encounter (SE), Outpatient Visit (SF) and Inpatient Encounter (IE) datasets and the DSS National Data Extracts beginning October 1, 2011.

Other databases, like the Corporate Data Warehouse, will continue to use the old station numbers until approximately February or March of 2012. Researchers doing facility level data analyses may want to confirm whether their data source is using the old or new identifiers for the realigned facilities.

Decision Support System Announces FY2012 Changes Impacting NDEs: DSS Identifiers

The Decision Support Office (DSO) has published information about changes in DSS identifiers (also known as clinic stop codes). Clinic stop codes are important to researchers using both the DSS National Data Extracts (NDEs) and the Medical SAS datasets.

These changes can be found on the DSS Intranet site. Select Program Documents from the left navigation menu and click on DSS Identifiers.

Education

VIREC Cyber Seminars

Clinical Informatics Seminars

Date	November 15, 2011	12pm Eastern
Title	<i>Screening Electronic Prescription Records for Dropouts</i>	
Author	Thomas Rector, PharmD, PhD, Minneapolis VA Health Care System	
Recently Archived	<i>Improving Health Care Beyond the Clinic with the Help of Peers and Pixels</i>	

Database and Methods Seminars

Date	November 7, 2011	1pm Eastern
Title	<i>Research Access to VA Data</i>	
Author	Denise M. Hynes, RN, MPH, PhD, Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital	
Recently Archived	<i>Assessing VA Health Care Use: Outpatient</i>	

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

Conferences & Calls for Abstracts

National Association of Health Data Organizations Annual Conference, Nov 15–16

The 2011 National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO) annual conference, Analytics, Accountability, Action, will be held November 15–16 in Alexandria, Virginia. NAHDO is a national, not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to improving health care through the collection, analysis, dissemination, public availability, and use of health data.

Visit NAHDO's website for more information at www.nahdo.org/annual_conference.

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. Last month's listserv discussion, subject lines included:

- Accessing FY 2006 DSS LAR NDE
- Problem with FY06 DSS pharmacy pull
- VA priority and socioeconomic status information

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.



VIREC Tip of the Month

What is the Difference Between CDW and VINCI?

CDW: The VA Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) is a national repository of VHA clinical and administrative data. It facilitates reporting and data analyses at the enterprise level by providing data and tools to support decision making, performance measurement, and research.

VINCI: The VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI) provides researchers with computing resources in a secure environment, software tools for analysis, reporting and data.

Researchers can use the Data Access Request Tracker (DART) to apply for CDW and/or VINCI data. Visit VINCI Central and the CDW SharePoint sites for more information and User Guides.

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

Subscriptions

To subscribe or unsubscribe from this newsletter, e-mail virec@va.gov.

Suggested Citation

VA Information Resource Center. *VIREC Data Issues Brief* (October 2011). U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Health Services Research and Development Service, VA Information Resource Center.

VA Information Resource Center

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

Routing mail code: 151V

5000 South 5th Avenue

Hines, IL 60141-5000

virec@va.gov

www.virec.research.va.gov

VIREC is supported by HSR&D grant SDR 98-004.