Racial/Ethnic Minority Veterans – A Focus Within the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (AHOBPR)

“Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”
– Martin Luther King, Jr.

Topic Statement:
Health equity, including equitable access, is a major priority of VHA Healthcare.

Demographics of the Registry
> Average Age: 44 years old
> Sex: 83% Male; 17% Female
> Race/Ethnicity:

More than 20% of VA healthcare users are members of racial and ethnic minority groups with 16% identifying as Black or African Americans and 10% identifying as Hispanic.

The percentage of minority Veterans will increase from 23% to 34% by 2040.

Self-Reported Conditions
The most common self-reported health conditions by racial/ethnic minority Veterans among registry participants are hypertension, asthma, chronic bronchitis, and lung disease.

Minority Veterans self-report higher percentages of every top-ranked condition compared to majority population Veterans.
Conduct health data monitoring of Registry participants that respects the unique perspectives of our minority Veterans and focuses on early identification of trends to ensure equitable care.

Our goal is to:

Conduct health data monitoring of Registry participants that respects the unique perspectives of our minority Veterans and focuses on early identification of trends to ensure equitable care.

VHA Healthcare Utilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic or Latino</th>
<th>Asian or Pacific Islander</th>
<th>American Indian/Alaska Native</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care Visit</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Visit</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulmonary Visit</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiology Visit</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VHA specialty care is remarkably similar across minority Veterans compared to White Veterans. This is not unusual for VA care — access disparities among Veterans accessing VA care are not as pronounced as in those seeking care in the private sector.

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Data from the AHOBPR self-assessment questionnaire analyzed by the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence (Feb 2023).

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SCAN

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