VA Information Resource Center
Data Issues Brief
March, 2002

1. **VHA Office of Information: Data Standardization**
   Per the VHA Office of Information's Top OI issues, the initial meeting of VHA
   representatives tasked to address data standardization was held in January 2002.
   Participants included representatives from OI, the Chief Network Office, the Office of
   Policy and Planning, and the Office of Quality and Performance. The group discussed the
   need for standardization for the communication and exchange of clinical data, and the
   relevance of this effort to the success of the Health Data Repository. The group
   recognized the importance of collaborating with other parties including Department of
   Defense, Kaiser Permanente, Indian Health Service, and standards organizations. The IT
   Architecture Office recommended that standardization focus on three areas: 1) controlled
   vocabularies and code sets; 2) Meta data standards; and 3) interchange standards,
   including encryption, communication, and document and context naming. A preliminary
   strategy document is being prepared that will address these components.

   VHA Top OI Issues can be found at: ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮

2. **VHA Office of Information/VHA Employee Education System: Camp CPRS 2002**
   The OI National Training and Education Office (OI NT&EO) has announced the
   Physician and Clinical Informatics Team Training Program, "Camp CPRS 2002, "Above
   and Beyond." This training will be held from Monday, April 29 through Friday, May 3,
   2002 in Atlanta, Georgia, and is sponsored jointly by the VHA Office of Information and
   the VHA Employee Education System.

   Camp CPRS 2002 will highlight new innovations towards patient care through hands-on
   classes, breakout sessions, software demonstrations, exhibits, networking, and other
   special events. This year's Camp CPRS features "tracks" for different types of attendees
   including: 1.) Clinicians (with a special 2 day Chief of Staff track), 2.) Direct Care Nurses,
   3.) Clinical Informatics Support Staff (including Health Information Management
   Specialists), and 4.) Pharmacists

   Registration information can be found at:
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3. **US Census 2000 Data Available**
   The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the first two major sets of data from the 2000
   Census: Redistricting and the "Short Form" (SF1). GeoLytics offers these products in two
   easy-to-use formats either at the Block level or at the Block Group level and larger
   geographies. The data has been compressed so that it generally fits on 1 disk and it comes
   with built-in mapping capabilities, based upon the new Census 2000 boundaries.
   Geolytics states that you can generate full-blown maps or tables can be generated and you
   can export the data into a statistical software package, mapping or other software package.
   For more information you can call Geolytics at 1-800-577-6717 or online at
   http://www.uscensus.info

4. **NIH Draft Statement on Sharing Research Data**
   NIH is developing a new statement on sharing research data that will expect and support the timely release and sharing of final research data from NIH-supported studies for use by other researchers. Investigators submitting an NIH application will be required to include a plan for data sharing or to state why data sharing is not possible. This is an extension of NIH policy on sharing research resources. NIH invites comments on this draft statement. For more information, see the March 1, 2002 NIH Guide Notice or http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/index.htm. Comments must be received at NIH no later than June 1, 2002. Following consideration of public comments and appropriate revisions, it is expected that the new policy will be announced on August 1, 2002 with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2003.