



VA Information Resource Center
Data Issues Brief
July 2002

1. AHSRHP HSR Methods Workshop: *Using Federal and State Databases*

The Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy is pleased to offer the fifth in a series of fall Seminars in Health Services Research Methods on November 4-6, 2002. Workshops will feature a variety of databases, including VA Databases, Health Care Cost and Utilization Project, the National Health Interview Survey and others. Opening sessions will address data privacy, use of non-health care databases and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Trends in Health and Database warehouse. The workshops will be held at The Westin Grand, 2350 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037. All reservations must be made by October 14, 2002.

For more information, please visit the web site: (Accessed July 02, 2002)

<http://www.academyhealth.org/seminars/fall2002/index.htm>

2. Publication Focuses on Federal and State Databases

The online journal *Effective Clinical Practice* May/June, 2002 issue focused a new section on using federal health databases. The purpose was to make readers aware of the wealth of public data that are now readily available and to help them learn how to take advantage. The issue includes featured articles on the an overview of the Health Care Cost and Utilization Project and five abstracts from Web publications that focus on other databases and research applications. The issue includes two articles focusing on VA databases:

Veterans Health Administration Inpatient and Outpatient Care Data: An Overview
Patricia A. Murphy, MS, Diane C. Cowper, MA, Gregg Seppala, MA, Kevin T. Stroupe, PhD, Denise M. Hynes, PhD

Using the Veterans Health Administration Inpatient Care Database: Trends in the Use of Antireflux Surgery. Samuel R.G. Finlayson, MD, MPH, Kevin T. Stroupe, PhD, George J. Joseph, MS, Elliott S. Fisher, MD, MPH

The full text of the issue and all articles are available at: (Accessed July 02, 2002)

<http://www.acponline.org/journals/ecp/index.html>

3. **AHRQ Inaugurates Grants On-Line Database (GOLD)**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) initiated the Grants On-Line Database (GOLD). GOLD is a searchable database of grants funded by AHRQ. The database currently contains grants funded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2001. Over the next several months they will be expanding the database to include grants funded in FY 2000 and FY 2002 as well as adding additional search capabilities.

Please send E-mail inquiries to GOLD@ahrq.gov , or visit their website: (Accessed July 02, 2002) <http://www.gold.ahrq.gov/>

Data Issues Briefs are developed by the staff of the VA Information Resource Center (VIREC) for the purpose of informing and updating VA researchers on current and pending happenings and changes regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics. *Data Issues Briefs* are produced on a monthly basis and are distributed through e-mail subscriptions. Previous releases are posted and available on the VIREC Web site at <http://www.virec.research.va.gov>. If you wish to receive future issues directly or have any suggestions or comment about the *Data Issues Briefs*, please send an e-mail message to the VIREC at virec@research.hines.va.gov or call (708) 202-2413.