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VIReC (IN)sights

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Researchers' Introduction to KLFMenu Pre-Defined Reports & Dataset Contents

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T he KLFMenu is a system of report-generating programs provided via the VA Intranet by the VISN Support Service Center (VSSC). The VSSC Web site on the Intranet includes a point-and-click interface that enables users to obtain reports according to their specifications using a variety of VA corporate data sources maintained at the VA Austin Automation Center. Many reports are almost instantaneously available for downloading to a personal computer. Other reports, that take longer for computer processing, are routed to the user's account on the Austin Automation Center mainframe computer and can be downloaded to a personal computer from there.

In line with the mission of the VSSC, the KLFMenu generally is oriented to the needs of VISN administrators and staff for recurring reports (e.g., same data monthly), data on performance measures, and data needed for program planning purposes. The KLFMenu option to "Create Report" allows the user to compose SAS[®][1] software statements with the point-and-click interface to produce a report that is not pre-defined.

For VA researchers, the KLFMenu is a valuable means to quickly obtain data needed for planning a study, developing a Letter of Intent, writing a proposal, and confirming or interpreting study analyses. The purpose of this *Insights* issue is to introduce researchers to KLFMenu. It includes information about:

- Accessing the VSSC Web Site/KLFMenu;
- Generating a Pre-defined Report of Data;
- Obtaining Data Set Contents for a VA Data Source; and
- Sources of Additional Information.

A future issue of *VIReC Insights* will focus on how to use the KLFMenu "Create Report" option to generate SAS software program statements that will produce a user-designed data report.

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Accessing the VSSC Web Site / KLFMenu

The VSSC Web site is on the VA Intranet, so access is limited to users within the VA firewall. The URL for the Web site is ██████████████ .
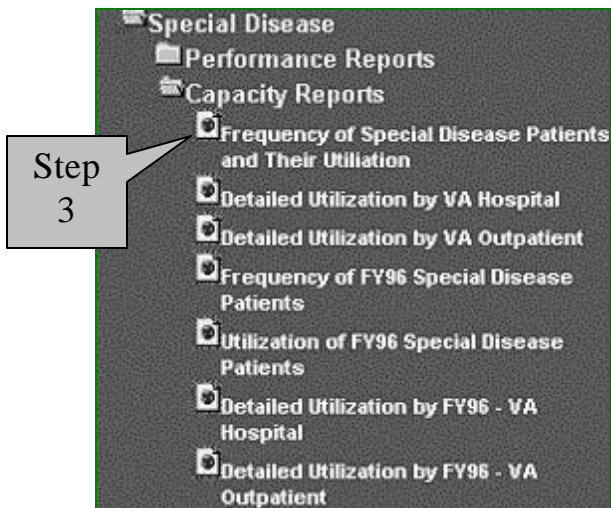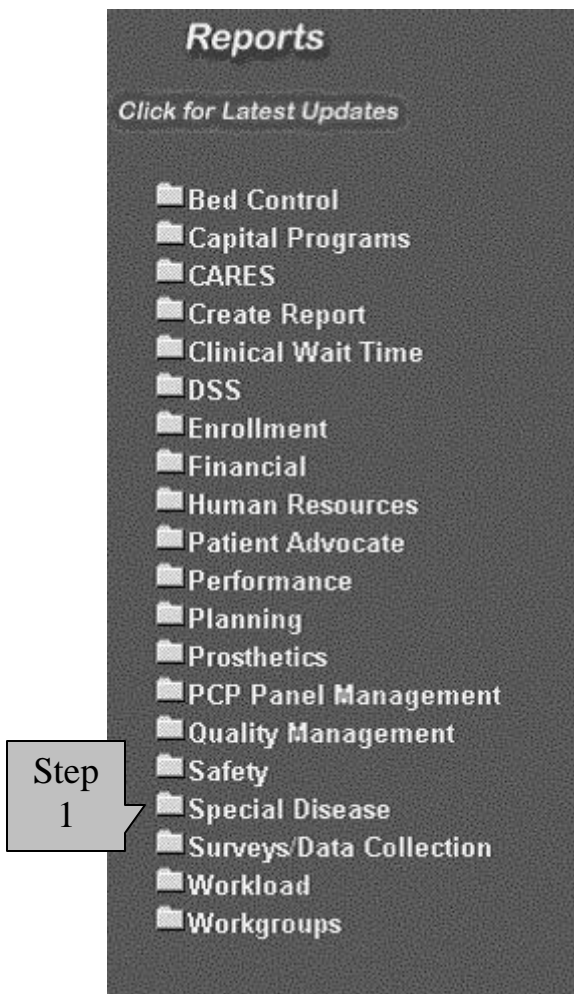
The VSSC website home page has a list on the left margin of folders and subfolders from which to choose reports, including the option to "Create Report." Most users will need to have a User ID and password for the Austin Automation Center time-sharing system. (See the later section, "Sources of Additional Information.")

Generating A Pre-Defined Report of Data

Researchers will want to become familiar with the many pre-defined reports available via the VSSC website. The step-by-step example that follows shows how to generate a pre-defined KLFMenu report with the user specifying these report options:

- VHA veteran patients under age 65 years;
- In the Special Disease category of Spinal Cord Injury;
- By Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN); and
- For the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2001.

Sign on to the VSSC website. From the list of pre-defined reports in the left margin, select Special Disease (Step 1) , Capacity Reports (Step 2) , and Frequency of Selected Disease Patients and Their Utilization (Step 3) :

On the next screen, specify the report options needed (Step 4)-- for this example: Spinal Cord Injury, Fiscal Year 2001, Quarter 4, limit data by Age Group, and summarize data by VISN:

Frequency Count of Special Disease Patients (as defined by the capacity report) :

<u>Report Description</u>   <u>Sample Report</u>

Make selections below, *to make multiple selections hold control key down while pressing left mouse button.*

Step 4

Select Special Disease Group: (Multiple OK)	**Select fiscal year:**	**Select quarter:**	**Limit data based on the value(s) of:** (Multiple OK)	**Summarize data by grouping on:** (Multiple OK)
Amputation Blind Homeless PTSD Both PTSD and SMI Spinal Cord Injury	2001 2000 1999 1998 1997 1996	Quarter 1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3 Quarter 4	Age Group Eligibility Parent Station Sex Visn	Age Group Eligibility Parent Station Real SSN Scrambled SSN Sex Visn

Report options that allow multiple selections are identified by "(Multiple OK)."

 is a "help" button that will open a screen of further explanation or instruction.

For Select Submission Type at the bottom of the screen, click on View Now (Step 5):

The next screen to appear is labeled "Filter"; the option to limit the data by Age Group (as specified earlier) is presented. To include only persons under age 65, hold down the Control (Ctrl) key and highlight all age categories to be included (Step 6). Then, click on Submit (Step 7).

Once the request is submitted, a box appears, advising the user to wait while the request is processed (Step 8):

If it is necessary to use View Later (see Step 5 above), a prompt for the user's Austin Automation Center User ID and password will appear, and the report must be retrieved from the user's Austin account. For this example, the processing time is less than two minutes, and the report will quickly appear along with an option to download in spreadsheet format to the user's personal computer.

Select Submission Type (required field):

⊙ View Now	○ View Later (requires user id)	*Takes a second or two*

Step 5

1 < 25
2 25-34
3 35-44
4 45-54
5 55-64
6 65-74
7 75-84
8 85+

Step 6

VIEW MY SELECTIONS

Step 8

Step 7

SUBMIT   RESET

Please Wait - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Please wait while your request is processed:

If this process takes more than 2 minutes you will need to go back and use VIEW LATER.

This window will close when your request is processed or in 2 minutes.

Elapsed Time: 0:00:04
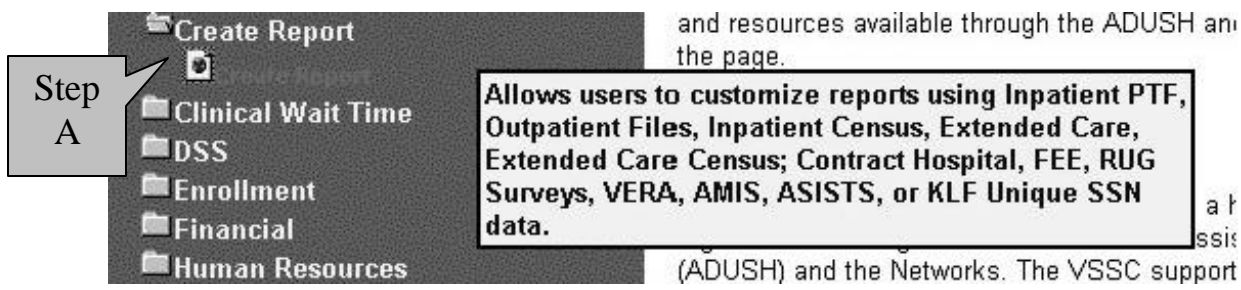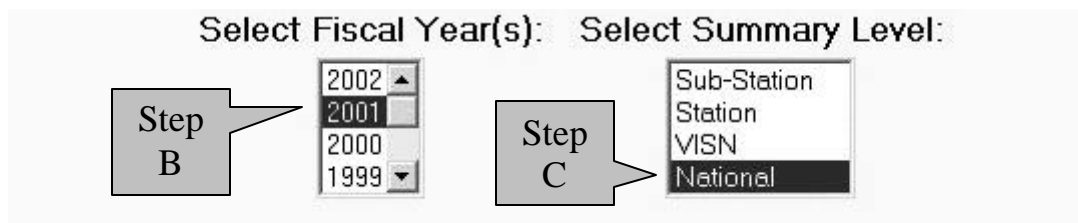
Obtaining Data Set Contents For A VA Data Source

Researchers may find it especially convenient to use KLFMenu to obtain the data dictionary for some of the VA data sources. The request for a data dictionary is submitted as part of the Create Report option. Sign on to the VSSC Web site and, from the list of reports, select Create Report (Step A):
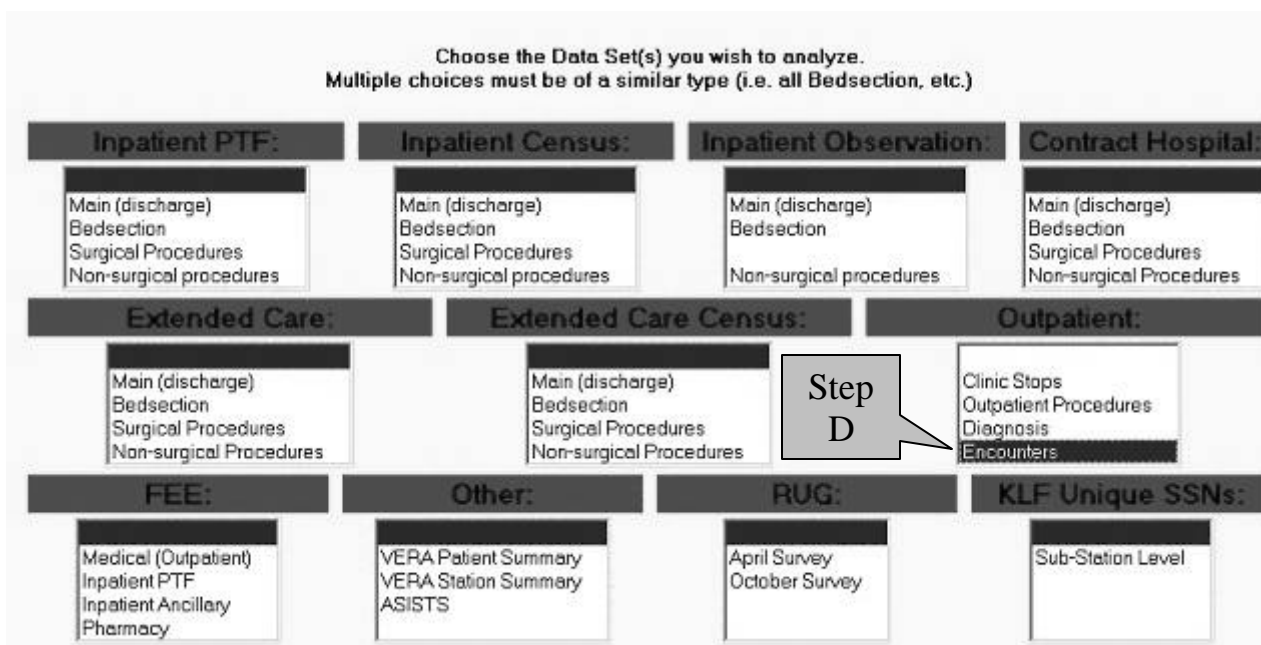

For this example, data set contents are needed for the Fiscal Year 2001 Outpatient Encounters data (known also as the Medical SAS® Outpatient Event Dataset or the OPC Event File).

On the next screen, select the fiscal year (Step B) and a summary level (any one will do for obtaining the data set contents) (Step C):

On the same screen, choose the data set (Step D):

Then, still on the same screen, specify Data Set Contents under Select Submission Type (Step E):
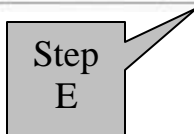
Select Submission Type (required field):

Select View Now for small queries [single station/VISN] or View Later for larger queries or when requesting Real SSNs.

View Later requires an Austin userid & password and runs the job in the background so your browser is not tied up.

Data Set Contents provides the general details about the internal structure of the chosen Data Set(s).

Previously Saved Queries will ignore the choices made on this page except for the Summary Level and optional Breakout Level and instead provide a list of saved query parameters from previous Create sessions.

○ View Now	○ View Later	○ Reset	○ Data Set Contents	○ Previously Saved Queries

Step E

A portion of the resulting report of Data Set Contents is shown below. This report is similar to the SAS® software output froma SAS® PROC CONTENTS routine.

Contents of Chosen Data Set(s)

General Information for MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.SE01(0)

Library Member Name	Data Set Label	Engine Name	Creation Date	Last Modified Date	Observations in Data Set	Number of Indexes for Data Set	Data Set Compressed?	Data Set Sorted?
SE01		BASE	02APR2002:18:07:32	03APR2002:04:06:55	60,962,621	5	CHAR	YES

Variable Information for MDPPRD.MDP.SAS.SE01(0)

Variable Name	Variable Label	Variable Type	Variable Length	Variable Format	Variable Number
AGE	AGE	NUMERIC	8		8
AG8R	AGE GROUP (9 GROUPS)	NUMERIC	8	AG9RL.	9
APPTYP	APPOINTMENT TYPE CODE	CHARACTER	2	$XXAPPT.	20
CL	PRIMARY CLINIC STOP	NUMERIC	3	YCLINIC.	22
CLC	CREDIT CLINIC STOP	NUMERIC	3	YCLINIC.	23
CPT1	CPT CODE 1	CHARACTER	5		25
CPT2	CPT CODE 2	CHARACTER	5		26
CPT3	CPT CODE 3	CHARACTER	5		27
CPT4	CPT CODE 4	CHARACTER	5		28

As noted earlier, researchers will find the KLFMenu a valuable means to quickly obtain data needed for planning a study, developing a Letter of Intent, writing a proposal, and confirming or interpreting study analyses. This *VIReC Insights* is only an introduction to the many pre-defined reports. It is a good investment of time for researchers to explore the VSSC Web site and become familiar with the variety of information and reports available via KLFMenu.

Veterans Affairs Informatio[n]
Researchers' Guide To VA Data

VIReC Mission:
To serve as a database and informatics resource and referral center for researchers using VA databases and information systems.

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VIReC Insights is intended to provide VA researchers with a starting point for understanding concepts in data management and basic information about health related databases.

Sources of Additional Information

User ID and password for the Austin Automation Center
- The Austin Help Desk
  512-326-6780
- *VIReC Insights*, "Guide for First Time Users of VA Austin Automation Center (AAC)
  http://www.virec.research.va.gov/TOOLKIT/VIRECINSIGHTS_VOL002NO001.PDF

Utilizing the KLFMenu programs and selecting pre-defined reports
- The VSSC website

- The VSSC KLF Help Desk
  vssaklfhd@med.va.gov

Selecting data sources
- The VA Information Resource Center

Utilizing and interpreting cost data
- The Health Economics Resource Center
  http://www.herc.research.med.va.gov/