



VA Information Resource Center
Data Issues Brief
February 2000

- ◆ National dSs extracts will be created and housed at Austin in SAS format. Three national extracts will be created: Fiscal Year Treating Specialty Extract, Discharge Extract, and Outpatient Extract. In order to access these data, researchers will be required to sign a dSs non-disclosure agreement. For more information, contact Kathy Frisbee at the VISN Service Support Center at kathleen.frisbee@med.va.gov.
- ◆ A CHAMPVA file will be produced in SAS format annually and will be put at Austin. For more information, contact the Allocation Resource Center by e-mail at: <http://vaww.arc.med.va.gov> or by phone at (781) 849-1837.
- ◆ At the present time, only valid means test records are transmitted to Austin. This has led to a number of missing records and, consequently, underreporting of the number of veterans served in the national databases. The Data Consortium will be asking for this constraint to be removed so that workload can be more accurately measured. For more information on the progress of this initiative, contact the Data Consortium members at V21dataconsort@med.va.gov.
- ◆ Austin is considering putting the SE file (outpatient encounter file) onto disk and putting the SC (outpatient procedure) and SG (outpatient diagnostic) files on tape. The SE file contains both encounter and occasion of service information (almost 52 million records in the data set at this point in time). The proposed “switch” date is the beginning of the next fiscal year. For more information, contact Sam Georgeson at the Austin Automation Center at samuel.georgeson@mail.va.gov.
- ◆ The VA Station Tracking System (VAST), a database that contains the Station Number, Station Name, List of Services (primary services), Street Mailing Address, whether it is leased, contract, or VA-owned, the lease/contract date, and number of providers is now available on the PSSG web site (vaww.pssg.med.va.gov). Future plans are to build an historical file that will track station numbers and changes over time. For more information contact Bruce Ripley at the Planning System Support Group at bruce.ripley@med.va.gov.

- ◆ FY 1993/2001 Rate Chart on Austin for Processing Services, Enterprise Services and Administrative Services can be found in the Austin Automation Center FY 2000 Business Plan (p.27). TSO remote access station users and amount charged to the station is available at web site:
<http://152.125.190.52/aacopen.htm>. However, the new format is by Fiscal Year (FY) and month and a cumulative FY-99 total is not presently available. VIREC will continue to check on this matter. For more information, contact Larry Bettes at the Austin Automation Center. His phone number is 512-326-6377.

If you unable to obtain the information you require or should you need additional information, please contact the VIREC at:

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phone: (708) 202-2413