

CONSORTIUM • PBRN

VA WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH NETWORK

Supporting Practice and Research Collaboration

Spotlight on Women Cyberseminar Series

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VA Women's Health Evaluation Initiative



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Program Evaluation Funding: VA Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group

Womens Health Center

Mental Health

***Women's Health
Research***

WV Program Mgr

MST Support Team

Miniresidency

Fellowship

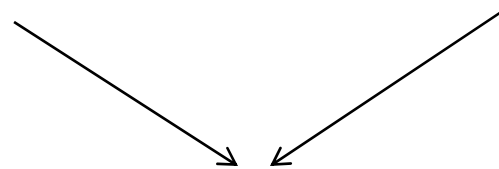


History of Clinical Operations - Research Partnership



**Women Veterans Health
Strategic Health Care
Group**

**VA Palo Alto
CHCE
*HERC***



**Women's Health Evaluation Initiative
WHEI**

Key Objective

Develop a Sourcebook with key descriptive information about women veterans, e.g.,:

- Distribution across facilities
- Growth over time
- Demographic characteristics
- Diagnoses
- Utilization
- Cost of care

Outline

- Introduction
- Methods
- Longitudinal increase in women Veteran population
- Age, Service-Connected status
- Utilization
- New women entering VHA
- Medical Conditions

Poll

Do you provide **clinical care** to women Veterans?

*Yes

*No

Poll

Do you conduct **research** which **focuses** on women Veterans?

*Yes

*No

Poll

Do you conduct **research** which **includes** women Veterans?

*Yes

*No

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Methods

Cohort for today's presentation:

Women veterans who use VHA

Excludes non-veterans

~50% of VHA women patients are non-veterans

Employees (predominant group)

CHAMPVA, Tricare, other

Data sources:

NPCD

DSS

ADUSH Enrollment file

Identifying women: 3-step algorithm

(and % of ADUSH Veteran VHA Patients missing sex at each Step)

Step 1: Assign Enrollment file value (SEX_BEST when available)

9% missing in 2000 (N=325,007)

0.0% missing in 2009 (N=1,421)

Step 2: Assign most recent non-missing value

6% missing in 2000 (N=203,739)

0.0% missing in 2009 (N=1,414)

Step 3: Supplement with most recent non-missing value from utilization data (SF files)

0.3% missing in 2000 (N=10,668)

0.0% missing in 2009 (N=589)



Measuring Utilization

❖ Nearly all women Veteran VHA patients in ADUSH Enrollment file have some utilization in VHA outpatient/inpatient utilization files.

1.8% (N=5,204) do not appear in utilization files

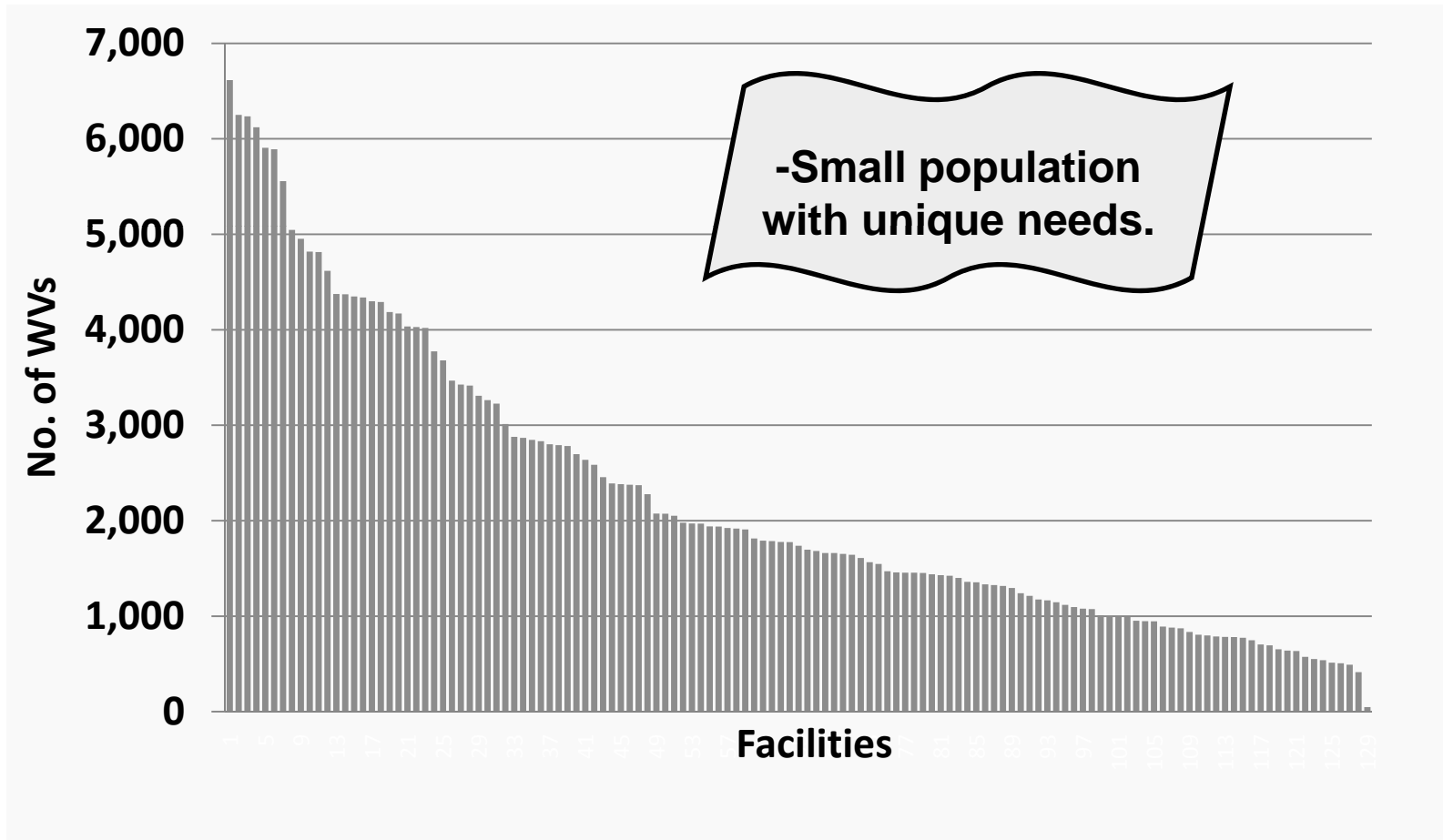
❖ Clinic stop codes identify primary care, women's health, and mental health (after deleting duplicate records).

Outline

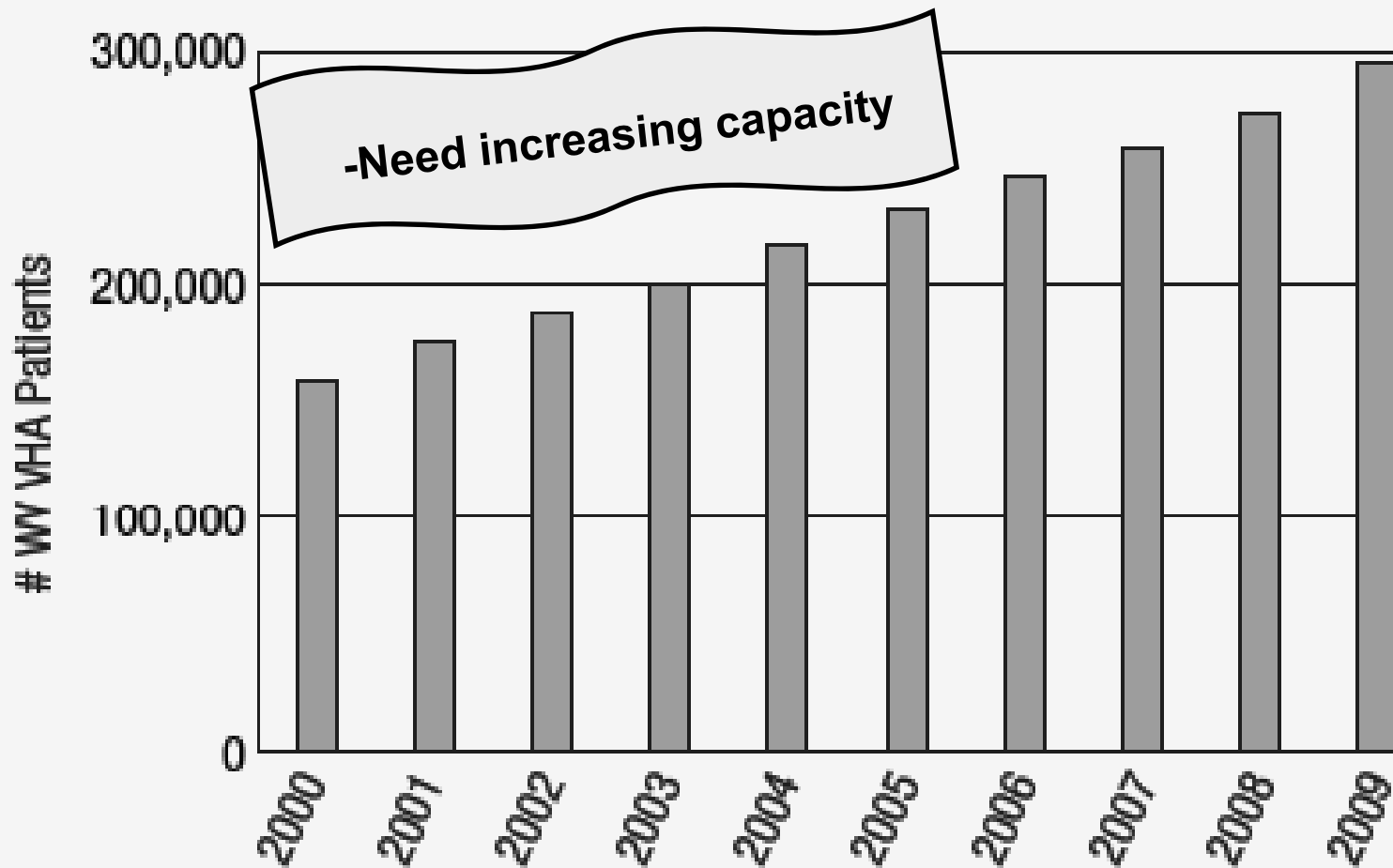
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of Women Veteran Outpatients in FY09, by Facility

Overall, 6% of Veteran VHA patients in FY09



of Women Veterans Using VA: Doubled over Past Decade



Cohort: Women and men Veteran VHA users in year. Women in FY09: N=292,921; Men in FY09: N=4,846,869.

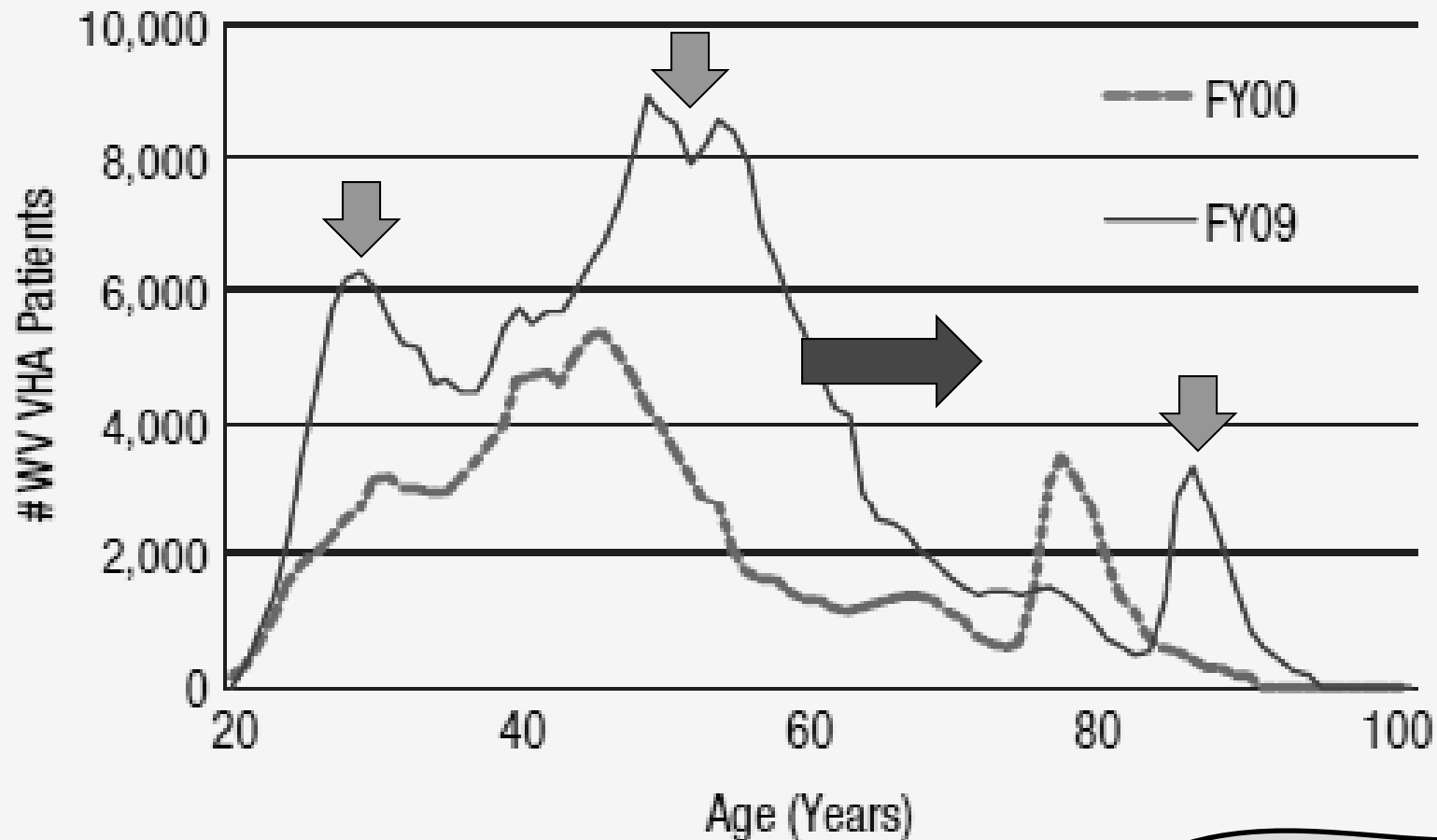
Source: WHEI analysis of ADUSH Monthly Enrollment Files, FY00–FY09.

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New Trimodal Age Distribution

Women Veteran VHA patients



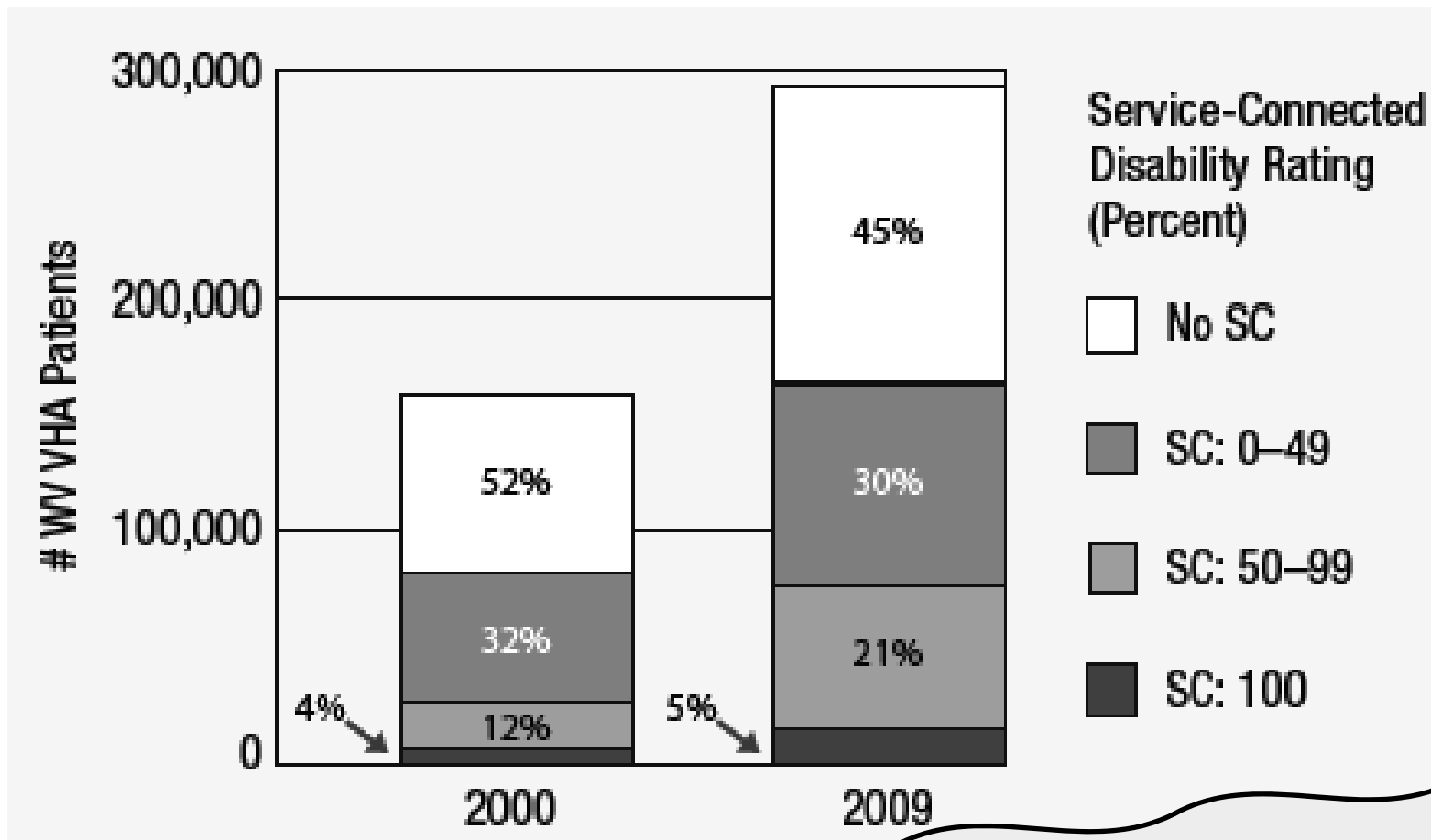
Cohort: Women Veteran VHA users who have non-missing ages between 18 and 100 years old (inclusive) in year. N=159,548 in FY00, N=292,878 in FY09.

Source: WHEI analysis of ADUSH Monthly Enrollment Files, FY00–FY09.

-Immediate attention to needs of very young and very elderly
-Prepare for impending large new cohort of elderly

Service-Connected Status, FY00 vs FY09

Women Veteran VHA patients



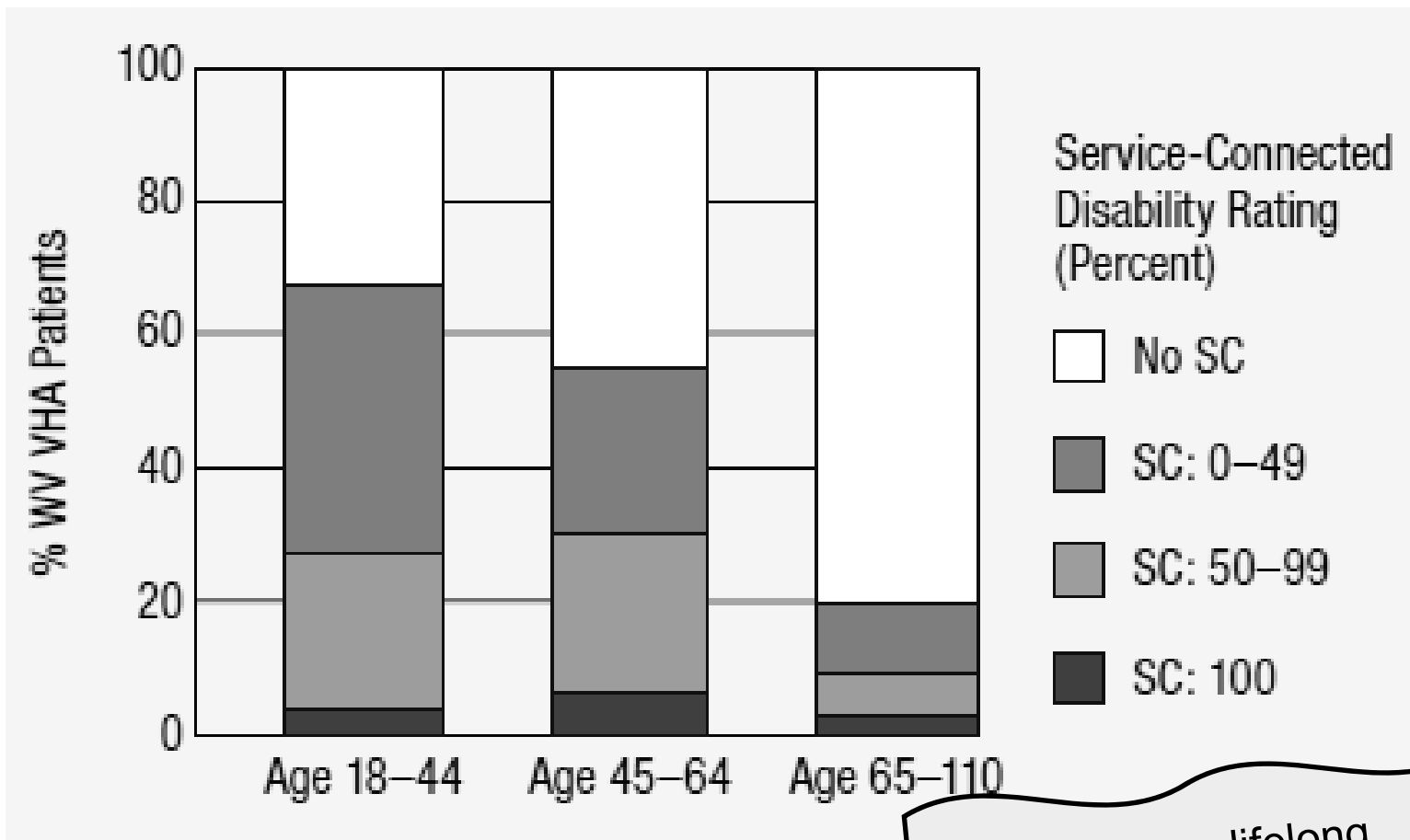
Cohort: Women Veteran VHA users with non-missing SC values in year. N=158,160 in FY00, N=292,108 in FY09.

Source: WHEI analysis of ADUSH Monthly Enrollment Files, FY00 and FY09.

Majority have SC rating

Service-Connected Status, by Age Group

Women Veteran VHA Patients, FY09



Cohort: Women Veteran VHA users who have non-missing ages between 18 and 110 years old (inclusive) in FY09 and who also have non-missing SC values. N=292,081.

Source: WHEI analysis of ADUSH Monthly Enrollment File, FY09.

Young women: lifelong care for SC conditions

Service-Connected Status: Women vs. Men

Veteran VHA patients



Cohort: Women and men Veteran VHA users with non-missing SC values in FY09. Women: N=292,108; Men: N=4,838,232.

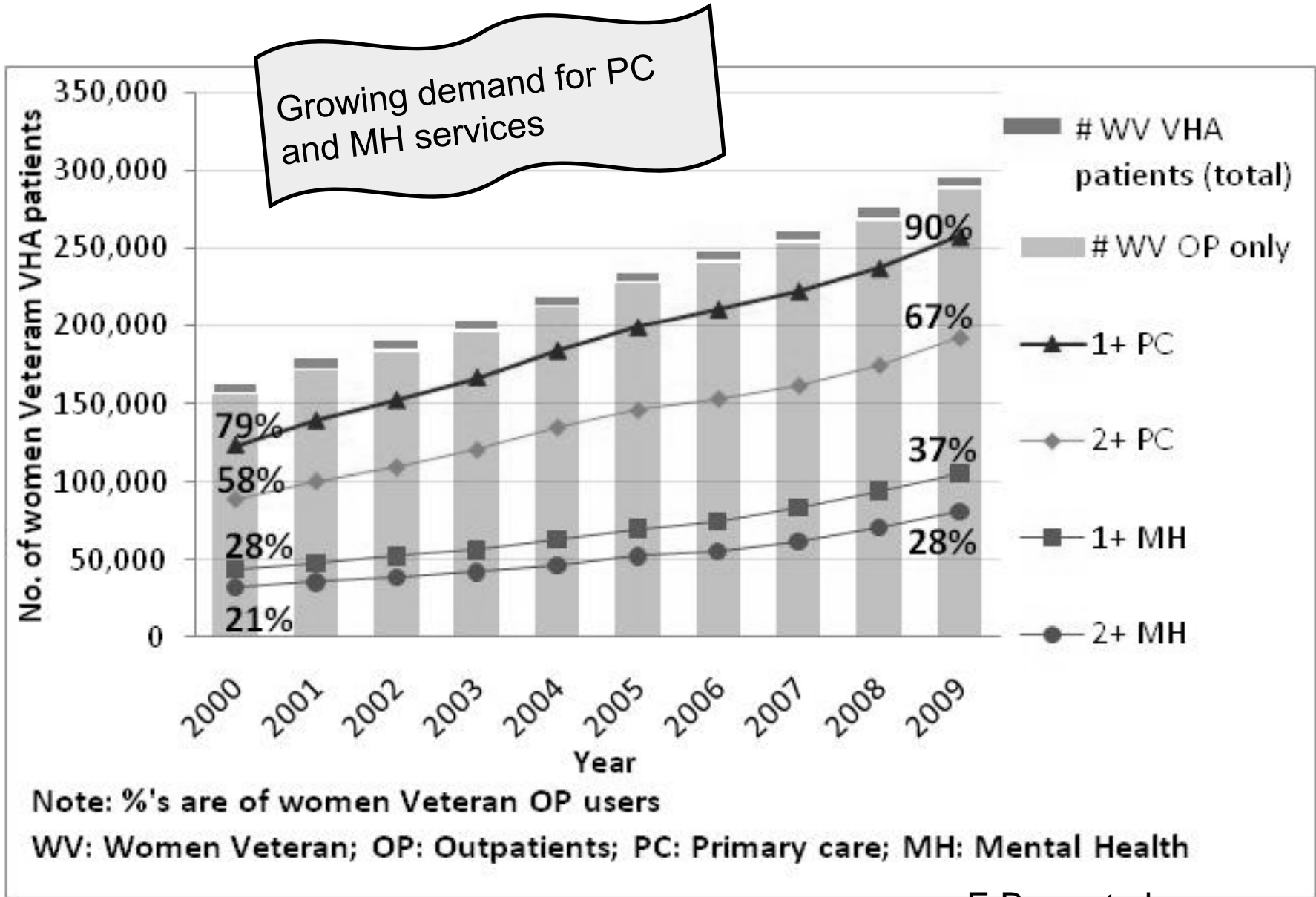
Source: WHEI analysis of ADUSH Monthly Enrollment File, FY09.

More women eligible for VHA care for SC conditions.

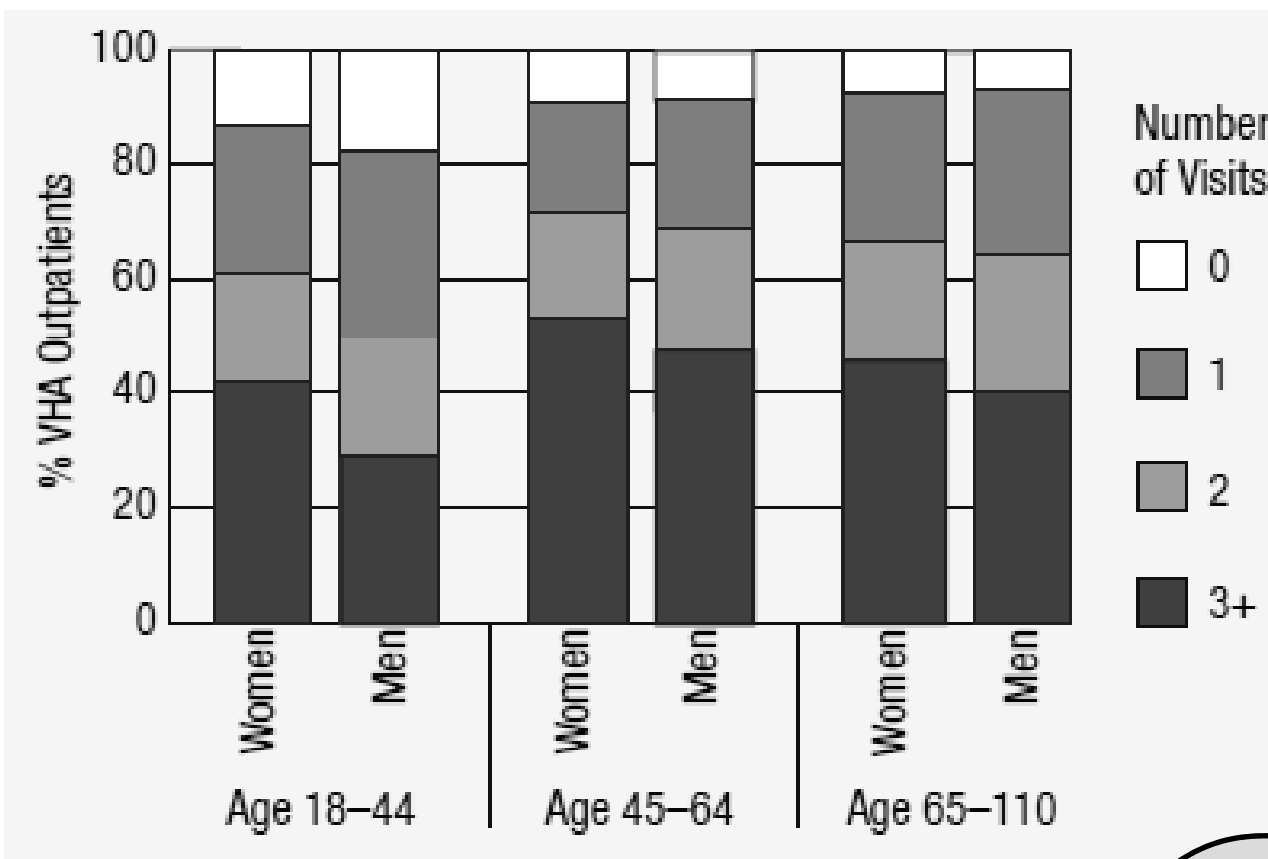
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Increasing VHA utilization by women Veterans



of Primary Care Visits, By Age Group, Women vs. Men (FY09)

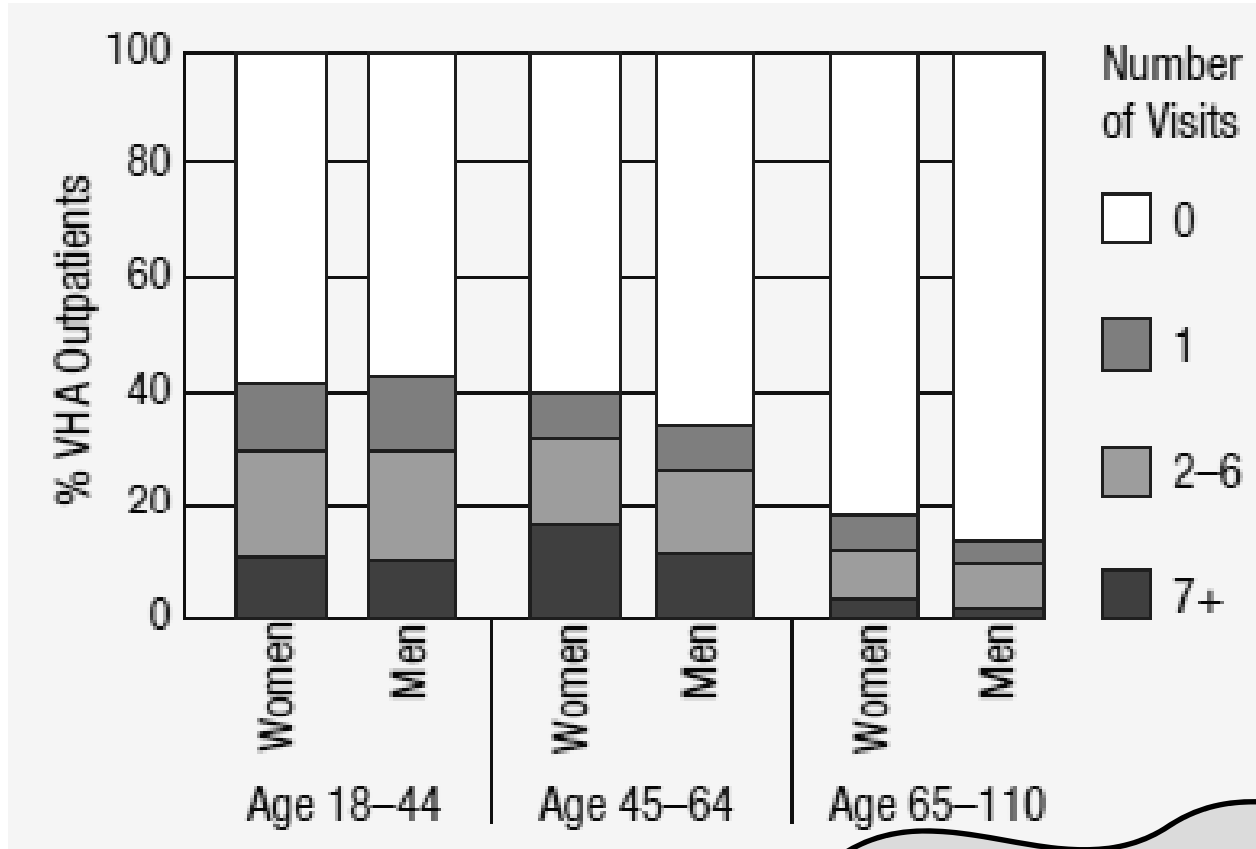


Cohort: Women and men Veteran VHA outpatients who have non-missing ages between 18 and 110 years old (inclusive) in FY09. Women: N=287,436; Men: N=4,747,995.

Sources: WHEI analysis of ADUSH Monthly Enrollment File, FY09; VA outpatient utilization file (SE), FY09 outpatient utilization file (SE), FY09.

In all age groups, women are more likely than men to visit primary care regularly.

of Mental Health Visits, by Age Group, Women vs. Men (FY09)



Cohort: Women and men Veteran VHA outpatients who have non-missing ages between 18 and 110 years old (inclusive) in FY09. Women: N=287,436; Men: N=4,747,995.

Sources: WHEI analysis of ADUSH Monthly Enrollment File, FY09; VA outpatient utilization file (SE), FY09.

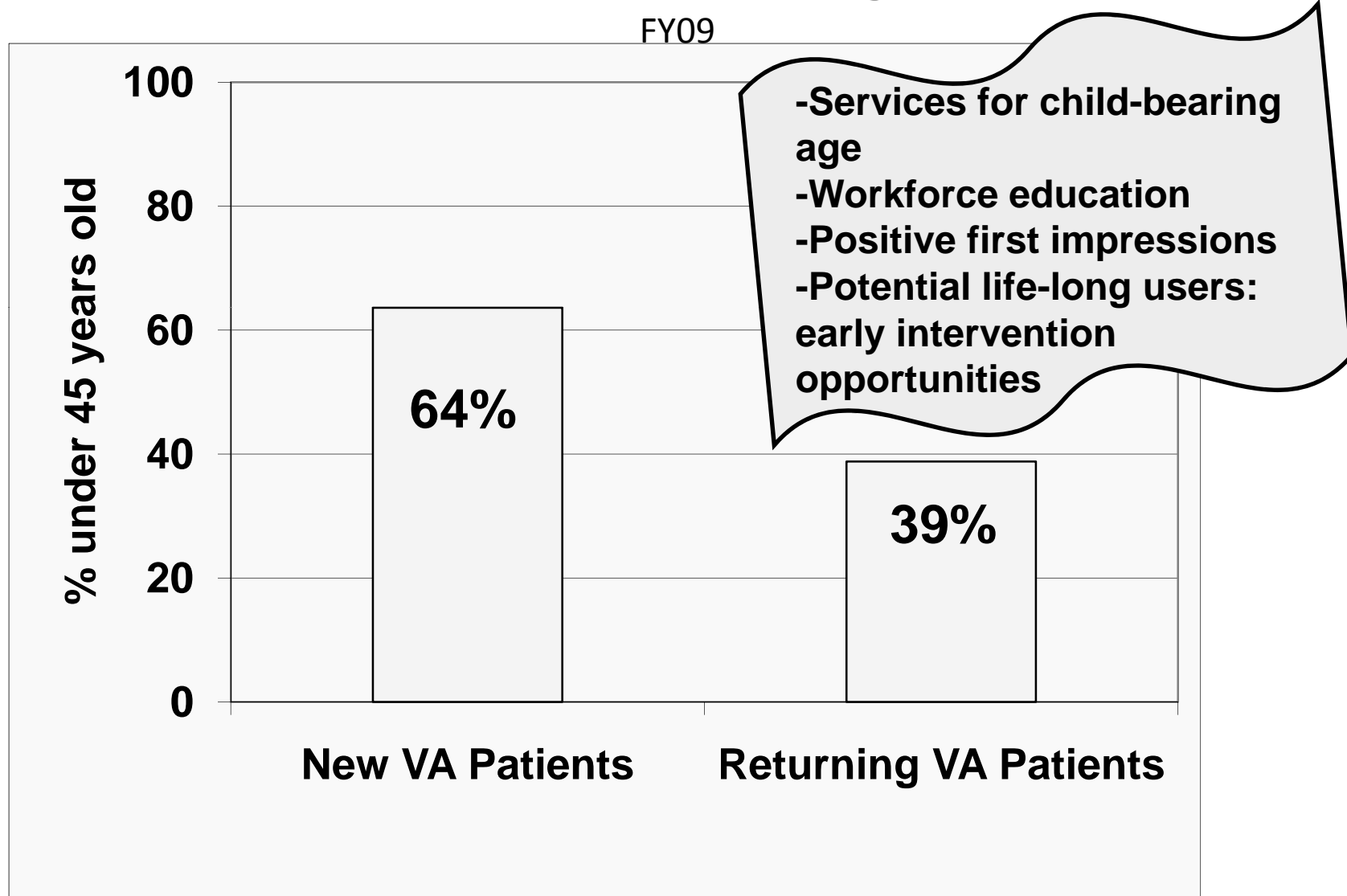
Heavy use of mental health services

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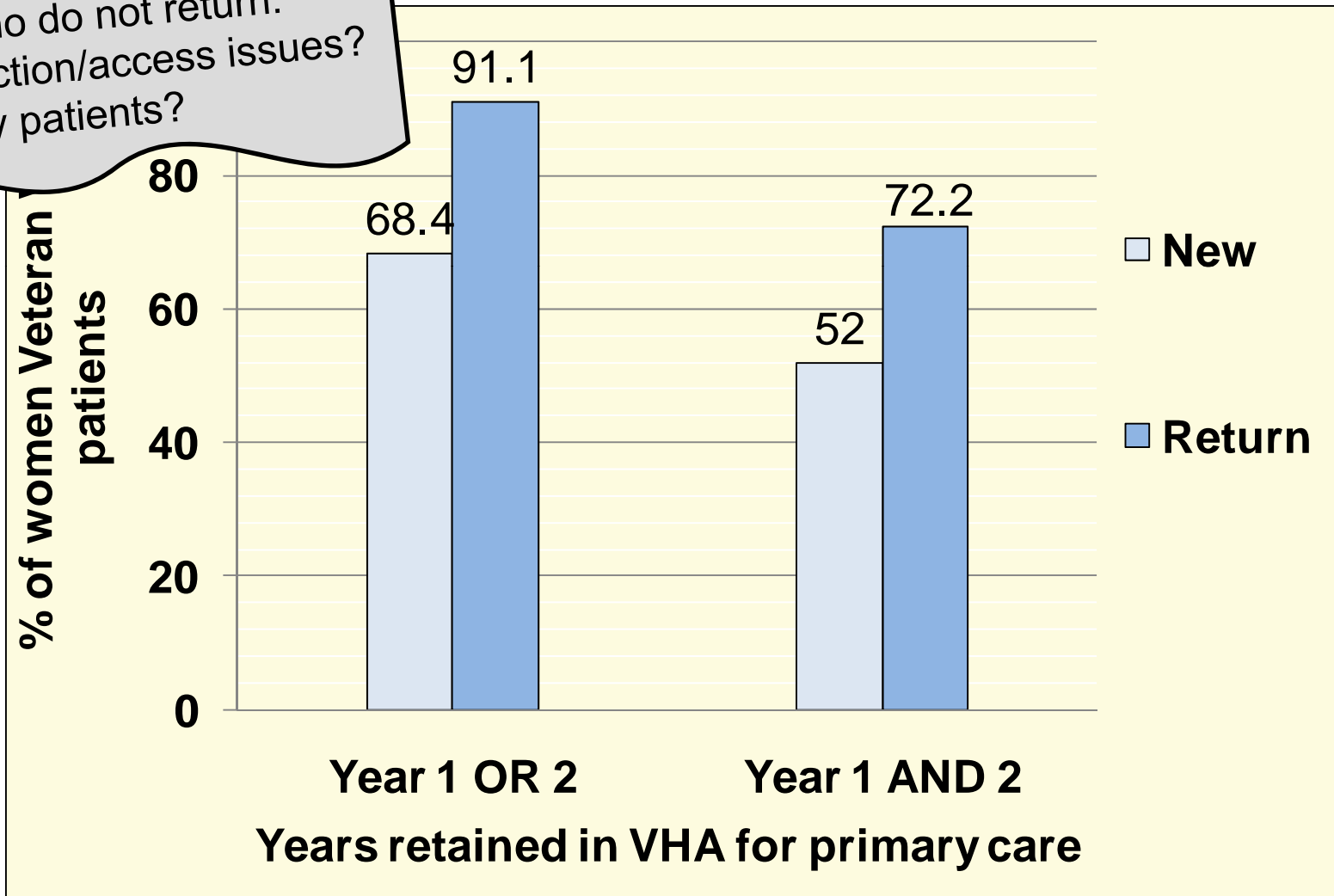
New VHA Women Veteran Patients Tend to be Younger



Many new patients return to VHA for primary care

FY09

Most return!
Those who do not return:
Satisfaction/access issues?
Healthy patients?



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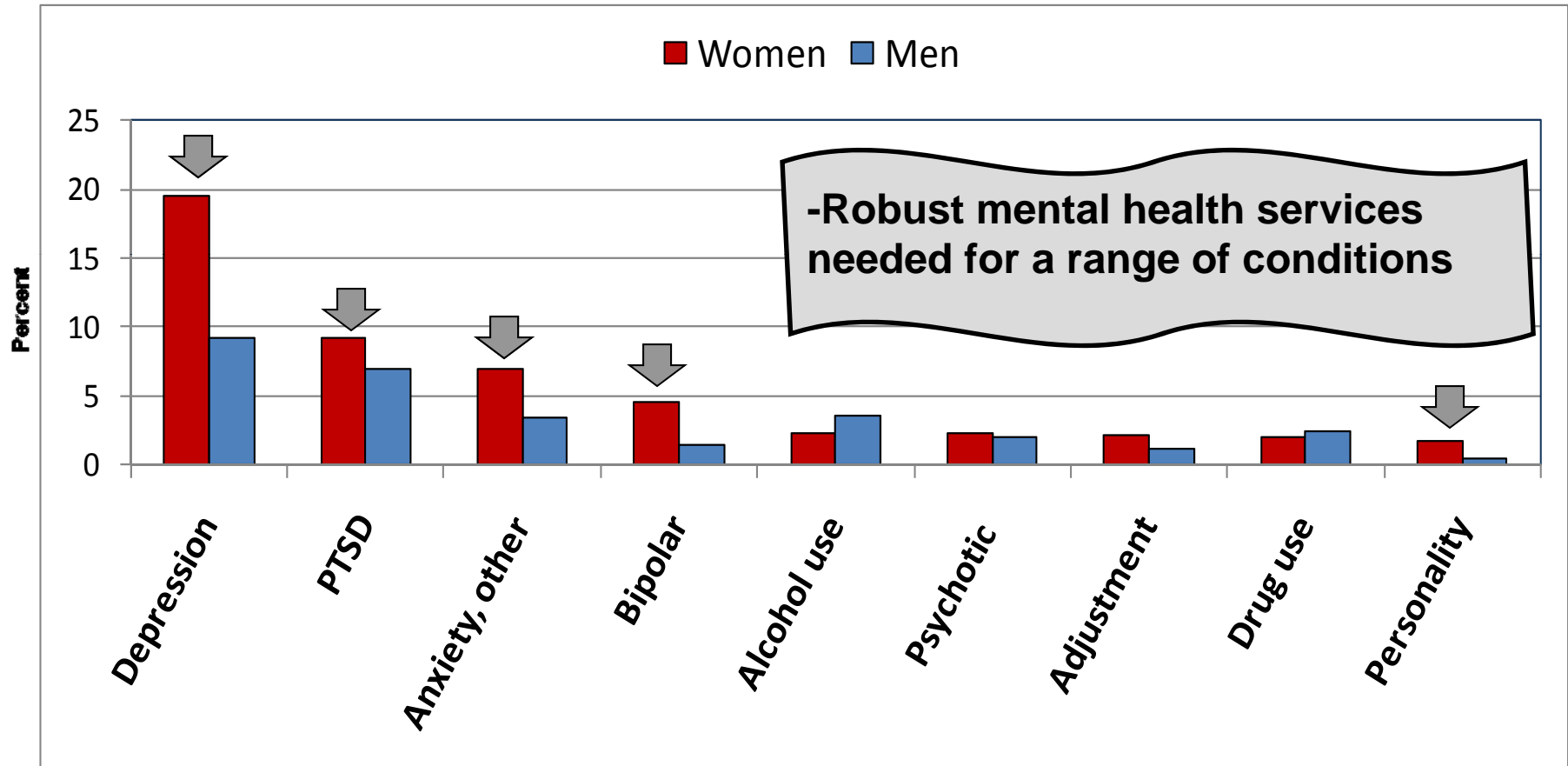
Top 8 Conditions in Women Veterans

Based on 1+ instance of an ICD-9 code in FY08

% with condition	Overall (n = 249,242)	<40 years (n = 76,712)	40-64 years (n = 134,563)	65+ years (n = 37,964)
→ Hypertension	32.7	7.9	37.2	67.1
→ Hyperlipidemia	30.8	9.1	36.5	54.2
<i>Depressive disorders</i>	27.1	31.4	14.0	30.6
→ Lumbo-sacral spine disorders	22.1	21.8	24.4	14.4
Skin disorders	18.3	16.3	19.4	18.7
→ Tendonitis, other soft tissue	18.3	13.9	22.0	14.3
→ Overweight/obesity	17.6	14.1	21.4	11.0
→ Joint disorders, lower extremity	17.4	17.0	19.0	12.5

-Common medical conditions amenable to intervention include cardiovascular risk factors and painful conditions
-Health services delivery systems must take varying needs of different age groups into account

31% of Women vs. 20% of Men have a Diagnosed Mental Health Condition



Mental health condition based on presence of ≥ 2 ICD-9 codes in VA outpatient administrative data in FY08; includes veteran patients only.

Putting It All Together

Descriptive data

Sociodemographics, utilization

Longitudinal FY2000-FY2009

Key subgroups

Gender comparisons

Later:

Fee basis (Mattocks, Zephyrin)

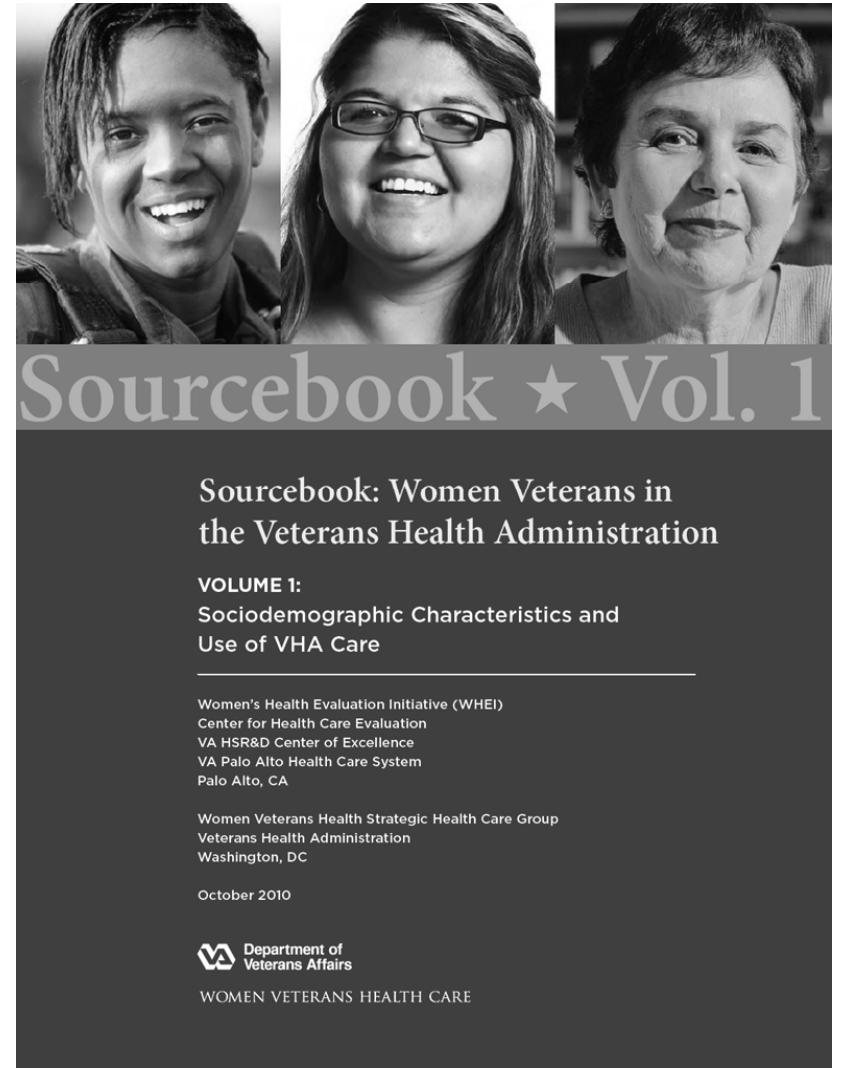
Diagnoses

Future directions

Annual updates

Integrated, longitudinal database

Implementation tool





<http://www.thedctraveler.com/files/2007/09/vietnam-womens-memorial.jpg>

Sourcebook Volume 1

Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group

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