

CONSORTIUM • PBRN

VA WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH NETWORK

Supporting Practice and Research Collaboration

Spotlight on Women Cyberseminar Series

Funded by the VA HSR&D (Project# SDR 10-012)

VA Women's Health Practice-Based Research Network

An Introduction

Women's Health Cyberseminar Series

July 12, 2011

OUTLINE

- Context for PBRN (Lipson)
- Overview of PBRN (Frayne)
- Divisions: How can we help you?
 - Coordinating Center, Palo Alto (Frayne)
 - Clinical Trials Division, Durham (Bastian)
 - Health Care Delivery Division, Greater Los Angeles (Bean-Mayberry)
 - Post-Deployment Health Division, Iowa City (Sadler)
- Audience questions

Poll

- Do you provide **clinical care** to women Veterans?
- *Yes
- *No

Poll

- Do you conduct **research** which **focuses** on women Veterans?
- *Yes
- *No

Poll

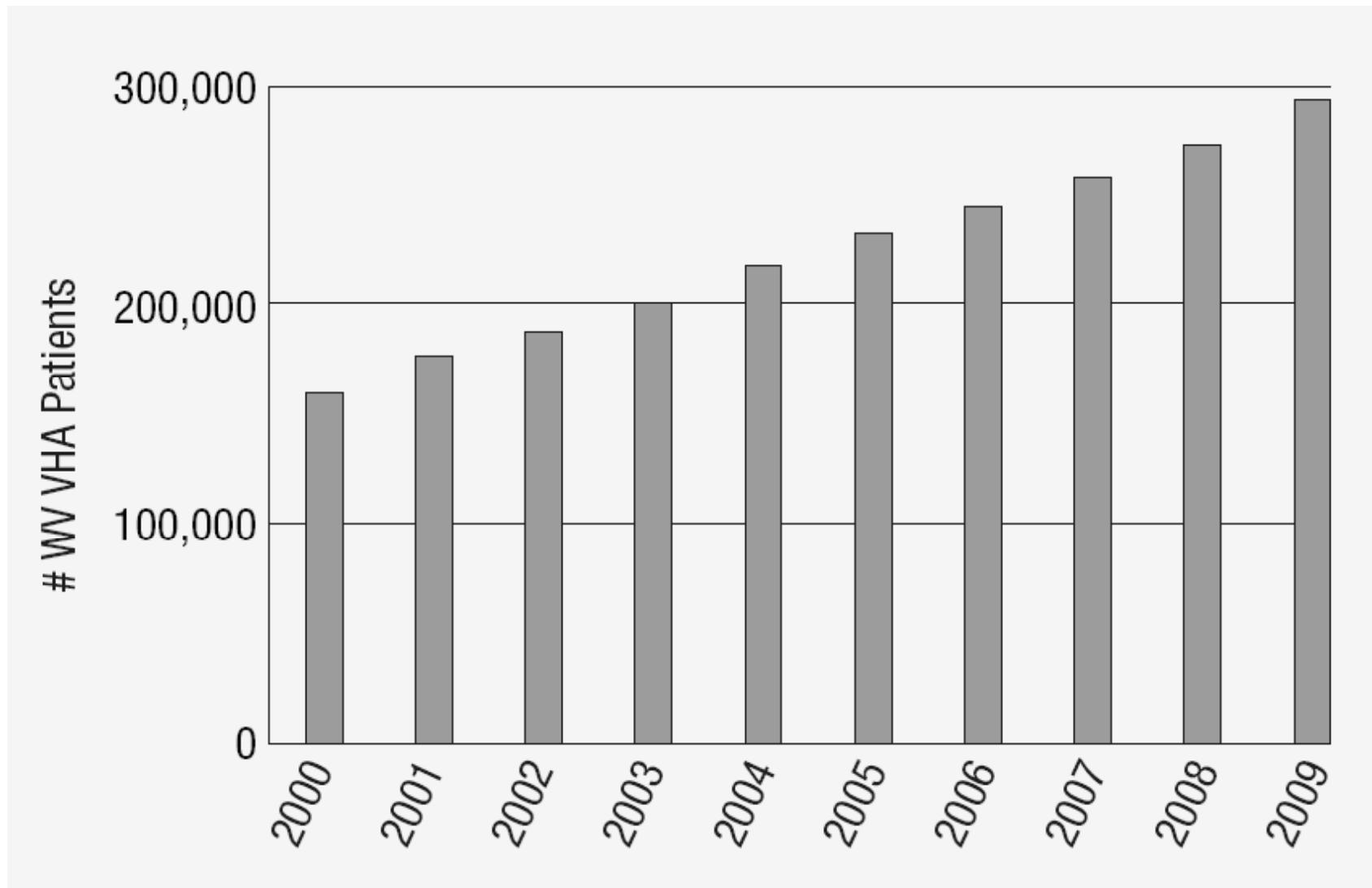
- Do you conduct **research** which **includes** women Veterans?
- *Yes
- *No

Context

Linda Lipson, MA

VA Health Services Research and Development Service
Scientific Program Manager,
Women's Health, Equity and Access

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.

Sourcebook: Women Veterans in the Veterans Health Administration - Volume 1 (December 2010)

Resources

- **HSR&D Women's Health Research**
 - Includes searchable women's health literature database and searchable women's health research portfolio

http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/womens_health/
- **Women's Health Evidence Synthesis Reports**

<http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/esp/women.cfm>
<http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/esp/women-vets.cfm>
- ***Women's Health Issues* supplement**

<http://www.whijournal.com/content/supplements>
- **Cyberseminar series**

http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/for_researchers/cyber_seminars/catalog-archive.cfm?SeriesSortParam=y&SeriesIDz=56##Archived

PBRN Overview

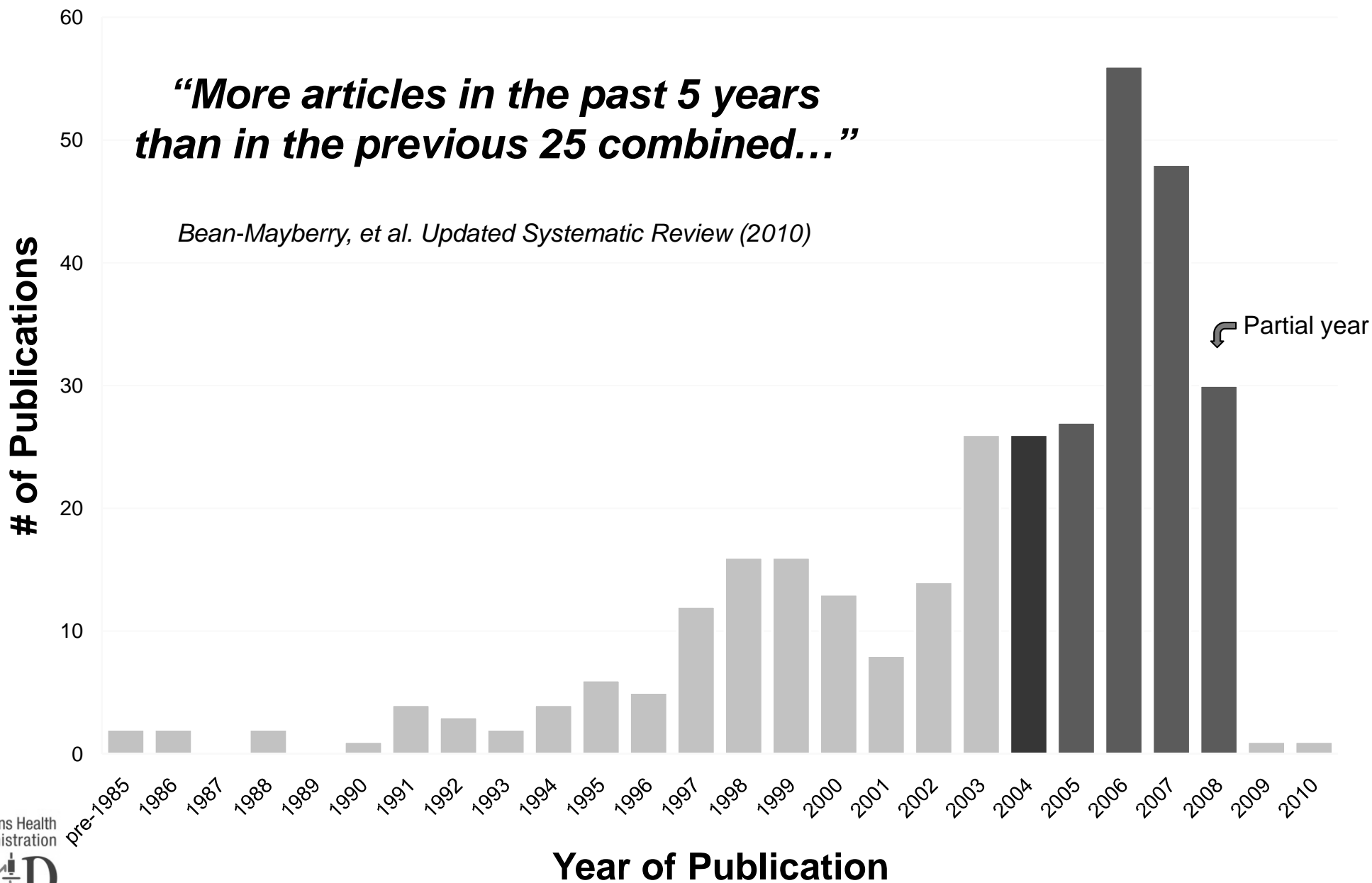
Susan Frayne, MD, MPH

Director, PBRN Coordinating Center

VA Palo Alto Health Care System

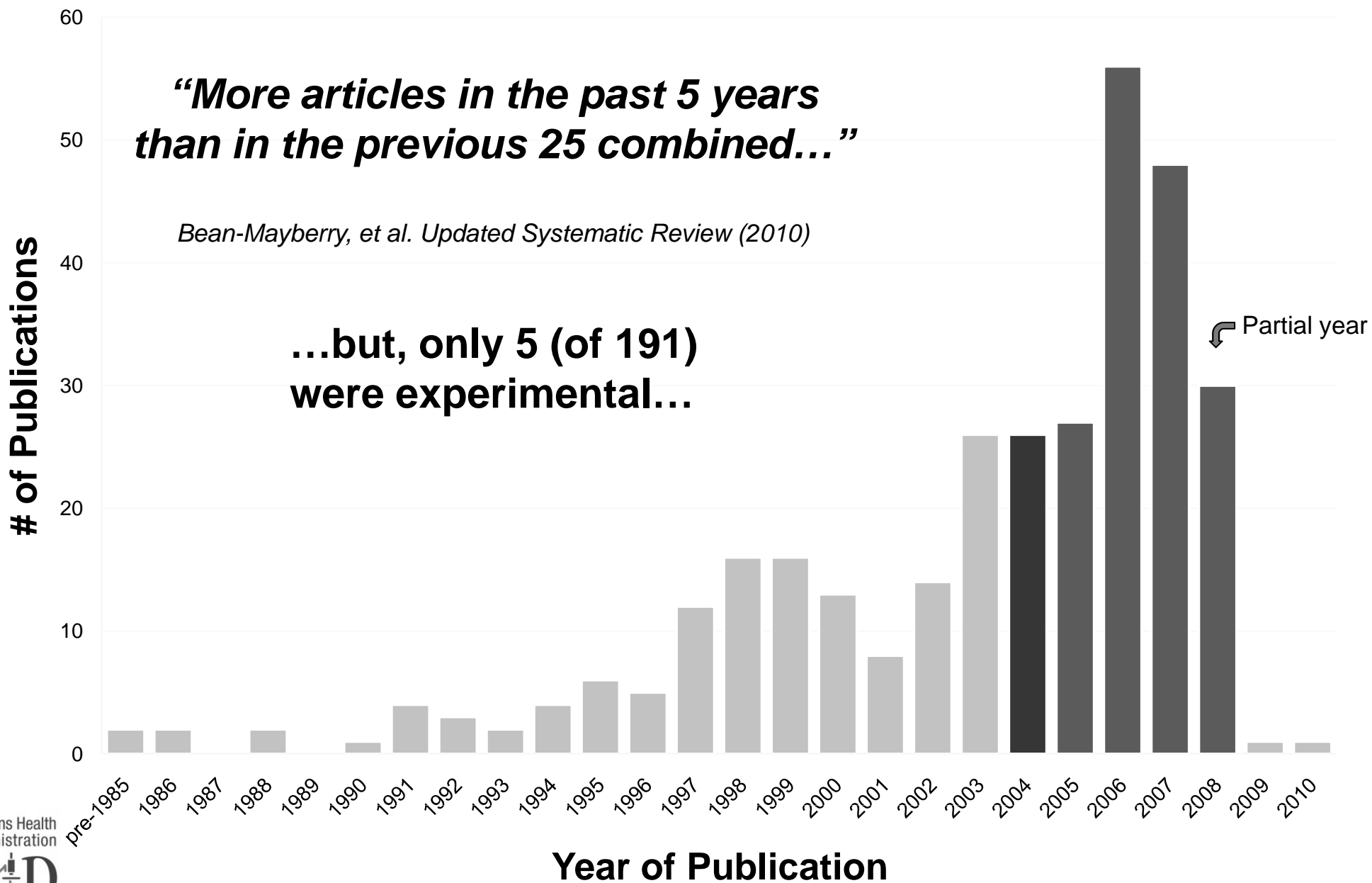
Women's Health Research Publications

Veterans and Women in the Military



Women's Health Research Publications

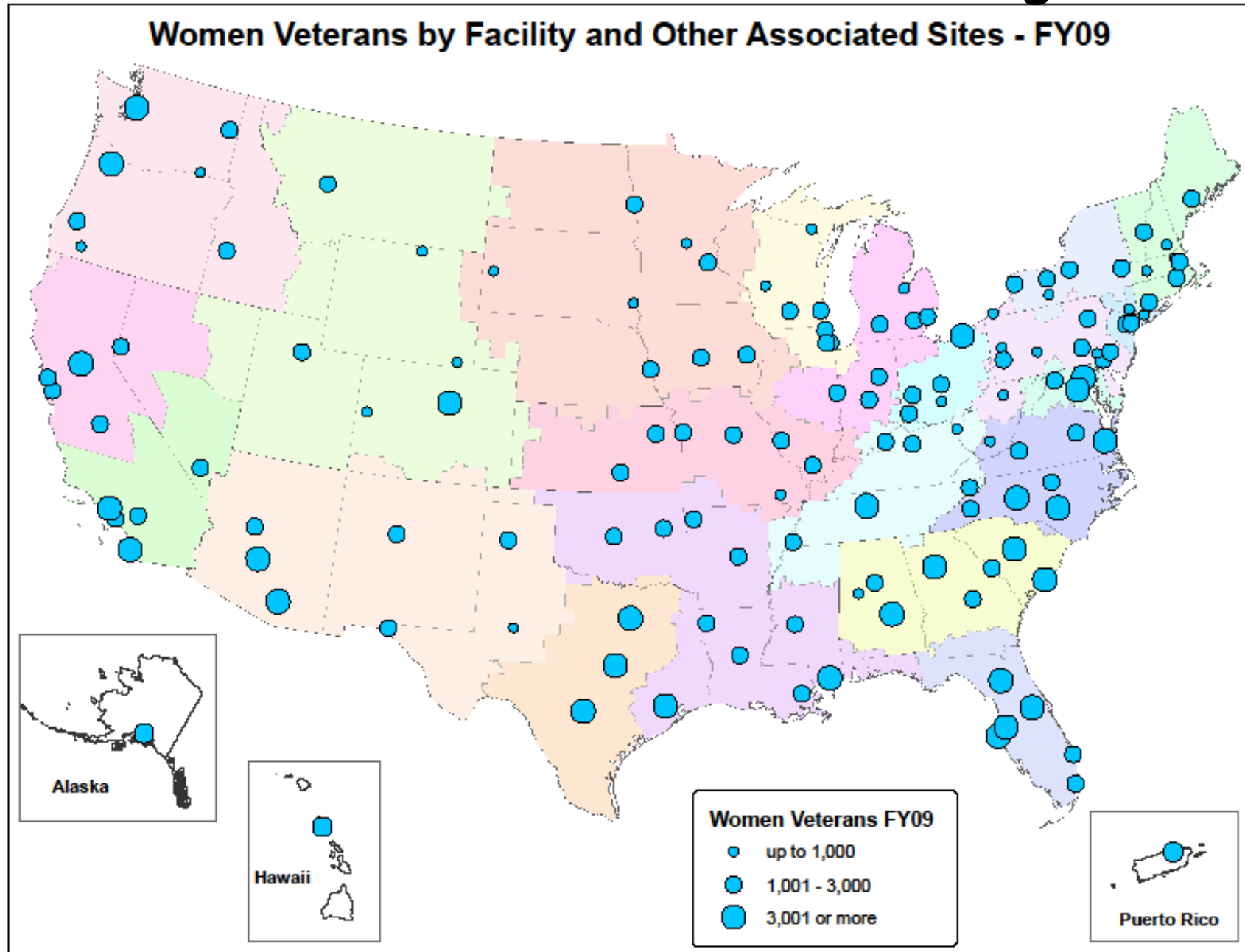
Veterans and Women in the Military



Why are intervention/ implementation women's health studies challenging in VA?

- Relatively limited number of women at any one VA facility

Limited Number of Women Veterans at a Single Facility



Why are intervention/ implementation women's health studies challenging in VA?

- Relatively limited number of women at any one VA facility
- Complexities of conducting multi-site research

Complexities of Multi-Site Research

- Identifying a site lead
- Addressing local clinical logistics issues
 - Clinician engagement in recruitment; space in clinic; specifics of local clinic operations; etc.
- Addressing local research administration logistics issues
 - Local R&D procedures; HR issues; unions; etc.
- Navigating regulatory requirements
 - Central IRB; multi-site data entry; between-site data transmission; etc.

Complexities of Multi-Site Research

- Special issues arising in research focusing on women Veterans
 - Clinical issues
 - Pregnancy
 - Menstrual cycle
 - Parenting
 - Trauma exposure/trust
 - Distinct patterns of illness
 - Distinct patterns of health care utilization
 - Health care delivery issues
 - Variability in systems of care for women's primary care and mental health care
 - Local leaders in women's health (e.g., Women Veteran Program Manager, Women's Health clinical director, MST Coordinator, etc.)
 - State of the evidence base
 - For some topics, relatively limited women's health evidence base to inform intervention and implementation studies

VA Women's Health Research Network

VA HSR&D SDR 10-012

PI's: Elizabeth Yano, PhD and Susan Frayne, MD

- **Consortium**
 - Train/educate, foster research-clinical partnerships
 - Technical consultation, mentorship, dissemination

- **Practice Based Research Network (PBRN)**
 - Ready-to-use infrastructure facilitating multi-site interventions, implementation

What is a PBRN?



Definition (AHRQ):

“...a group of ambulatory practices Typically, PBRNs draw on the experience and insight of practicing clinicians to identify and frame research questions whose answers can improve ... practice By linking these questions with rigorous research methods, the PBRN can produce research findings that are immediately relevant to the clinician and, in theory, more easily assimilated into everyday practice.”

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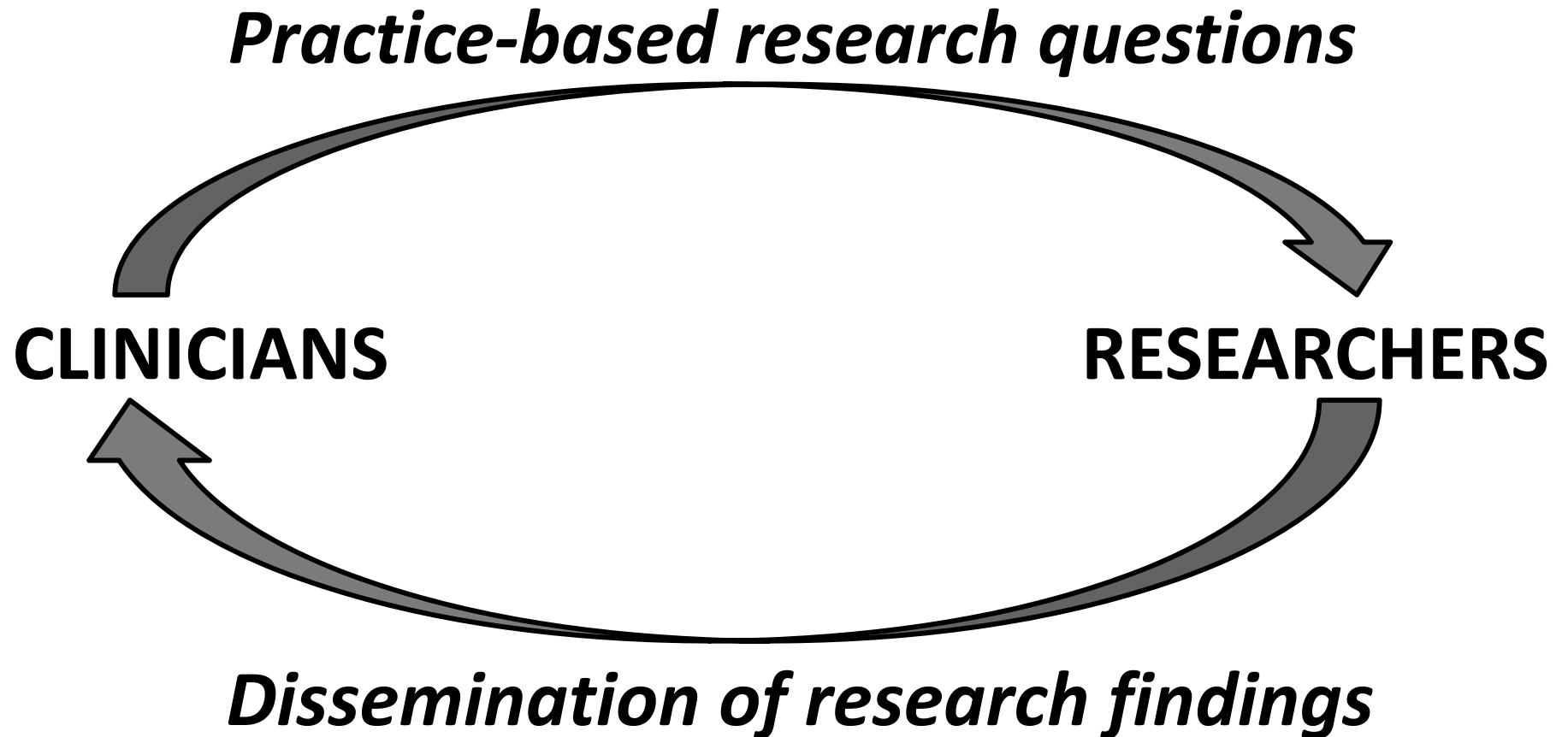
Clinician-centric

Uses Clinical Practices as Laboratories

Rationale for a VA Women's Health PBRN

- Facilitate conduct of *multi-site* women's health research
 - Overcome problem of small N at any one facility
 - Address complexities of multi-site research
- Foster *dissemination*
- Encourage sense of *community* among women's health researchers and clinicians
- Promote *bi-directional collaboration* between clinicians and researchers

PBRN Philosophy: Bi-Directional Collaboration



Women's Health PBRN: Design

- Network of partnered VA facilities
- Provides infrastructure
- Accepts
 - researcher-initiated, funded research projects
 - clinician-initiated quality improvement projects
- Implementation Evaluation Projects
 - For early test of infrastructure

Infrastructure Components

- **Facilitate conduct of studies in local clinics**
 - Build relationships w/ local facility leaders, clinicians
 - Identify clinic-specific solutions to
 - promote recruitment
 - minimize disruptions in clinic flow
- **Facilitate local research administration**
 - Determine site-specific research requirements (R&D, IRB etc.) and contacts
 - Maintain generic position descriptions at sites to expedite hiring

Infrastructure Components

- **Solicit research using PBRN**
 - Outreach to investigators
 - Women's health researchers
 - Other researchers wanting to increase enrollment of women
 - Provide information about known priority areas
 - Detect emerging practice-based priority areas

Infrastructure Components

- **Support the grant application process**
 - Discuss evolving study aims
 - Alignment with priority areas
 - Emphasis on intervention/implementation research
 - Other studies welcome, e.g., qualitative methods, observational studies
 - Gauge interest of site clinicians re participation
 - Connect researchers with resources (CSP, HERC, other collaborators)
 - Provide information relevant to grant proposal preparation
 - Provide specialized methods expertise
 - Review protocols to provide feedback

Infrastructure Components

- **Promote success of funded PBRN studies**
 - Upon notification of funding, assist PI with local issues (e.g., IRB, logistic issues related to clinic settings, data transmission, standardization of interviewer training, etc.)
 - Note: PI will negotiate with participating site leads regarding services to be provided locally, budgetary needs of the sites, and whether the site lead will be an investigator
 - **Monitor progress of ongoing studies**
 - Note: ultimate responsibility rests with project's PI
 - **Ongoing contact with sites**
 - local problem-solving and team-building
 - training in relevant research methods (to enhance standardization of measurement and quality of data collection across sites)

Infrastructure Components

- **Promote dissemination**

- Women's Health Research Consortium

- PBRN Site clinicians

- Women's Health Strategic Health Care Group/
Women Veteran Program Managers

- Steering Committee

- David Atkins MD; Joseph Francis MD; Patricia Hayes PhD; Grant Huang PhD; Susan McCutcheon EdD, RN; Gerry McGlynn MEd; Margaret Mikelonis ANP; Michael Parchman MD; Alina Salganicoff PhD; Paula Schnurr PhD; Amy Street PhD; Robert Wallace MD; Donna Washington MD

- PBRN Advisory Committee

- Rowena Dolor MD, Michael Parchman MD

Testing the Infrastructure: Implementation Evaluation Projects

- **Kimerling: patient preferences for gender-sensitive mental health services (N = 1,000)**
 - Examples of infrastructure elements:
 - Central IRB application; cross-site interviewer training; identifying clinic space; coordinating timing of interviews with clinicians' schedules; subject tracking system; Datafax data entry system through CSP; Certificate of Confidentiality; Privacy Office application for real SSN access
- **Vogt-Yee: gender awareness training program (EBQI)**
 - Examples of infrastructure elements:
 - Central IRB application; Expert Panel procedures; union approval; identifying staff
- **Klap-Hamilton: clinician priorities for quality improvement**
 - Examples of infrastructure elements:
 - Qualitative research in non-engaged sites, with Director's approval

How Can We Help You?

Coordinating Center, Palo Alto

Team Palo Alto

Susan Frayne, MD, MPH, Director (susan.frayne@va.gov)

Diane Carney, MA, Program Manager (diane.carney@va.gov)

Ciaran Phibbs, PhD, Co-Investigator (HERC)

Julia Lin, PhD, Statistician (CSPCC)

Alyssa Pomernacki, MPH, PRBN Coordinator

Andres Busette, CSP Programmer

Aileen Baylois, CSP Clinical Data Manager

How Can We Help You?

Coordinating Center, Palo Alto

Areas of Expertise

- Multi-site research methods

- Data issues

 - Data capture and processing

 - Linkage to large databases

 - Data security

- Site-specific data

 - Women's Health Evaluation Initiative (WHEI)

 - PBRN site characteristics

How Can We Help You?

Coordinating Center, Palo Alto

Types of issues for which investigators might approach PBRN Coordinating Center:

I would like to submit a research grant proposing to use PBRN sites

***Please contact us early!

I would like to do a multi-site QI project

I am interested in registering as a PBRN site

Divisions

- **Coordinating Center (Palo Alto)**
Susan Frayne MD, MPH
- **Clinical Trials Division (Durham)**
Lori Bastian MD, MPH
- **Health Care Delivery Division (Greater Los Angeles)**
Bevanne Bean-Mayberry, MD, MHS
- **Post-Deployment Health Division (Iowa City)**
Anne Sadler, PhD, RN

Durham

Lori Bastian MD, MPH

Director, Clinical Trials Division

Durham VA Medical Center

How Can We Help You?

Clinical Trials Division, Durham

Team Durham

Lori Bastian, MD, MPH (Lori.Bastian@va.gov)

Jill Blakeney, RN, PBRN Coordinator (Jill.Blakeney@va.gov)

Jenifer Gierisch, PhD, Co-investigator

Lesley Rohrer, MPH, Intervention Coordinator

How Can We Help You?

Clinical Trials Division, Durham

Areas of Expertise

Clinical Trials

Health Behavior Interventions

Moving from observational to experimental

Site-specific data

VA Evidence-based Practice Center

Systematic Reviews

How Can We Help You?

Clinical Trials Division, Durham

Types of issues for which investigators might approach PBRN Durham:

I have developed an intervention and would like to test its efficacy in PBRN sites

I would like to conduct a multi-site randomized trial of a new treatment or to test the effectiveness in a women veteran population

Greater Los Angeles

Bevanne Bean-Mayberry, MD, MHS
Director, Health Care Delivery Division
VA Greater Los Angeles



How Can We Help You?

Health Care Delivery Division, GLA

Team Greater Los Angeles

Bevanne Bean-Mayberry, MD, MHS (bevanne.bean-mayberry@va.gov)

Casey MacGregor, MSW, Research Associate

Ruth Klap, PhD, Program Manager, WH Research Consortium

How Can We Help You?

Health Care Delivery, Greater LA

Areas of Expertise

- Women's health care delivery systems (Bean-Mayberry, Yano)
- Multiple systematic reviews (Bean-Mayberry)
- Resource center for implementation studies (Mittman)
- Women's Health Research Consortium co-located at GLA (Yano, Klap)

How Can We Help You?

Health Care Delivery, Greater LA

Types of issues for which investigators might approach PBRN Greater Los Angeles:

- What research has been recently published on my proposed topic area in women veterans' health?
- Where do I find information on how VA women's health care is organized?
- Where do I obtain more information about implementation studies in the VA?

Iowa City

Anne Sadler PhD, RN

Director, Post-Deployment Division

Iowa City VAMC

How Can We Help You?

Post Deployment Health, Iowa City

Team Iowa City

Anne G Sadler, PhD, RN (Anne.Sadler@va.gov)

Holly Erschens, BA, PBRN Coordinator (Holly.Erschens@va.gov)

Margaret Cretzmeyer, PhD: PBRN Coordinator
(Margaret.Cretzmeyer@va.gov)

How Can We Help You?

Post Deployment Health, Iowa City

Areas of Expertise

- Unique Reserve/National Guard and Department of Defense(DoD) research considerations.
- Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) methods.
- Using qualitative methods to facilitate interview/measurement development.

How Can We Help You?

Post Deployment Health, Iowa City

Types of issues for which investigators might approach PBRN Iowa City:

- I have a research idea for active component and/or Reserve or National Guard populations, how do I access these populations and what should I consider to make this research successful?
- How could I best use PBRN sites in studying deployment and post-deployment health research?
- What should I know about doing research in the VA and receiving DoD funding?



Not all women wore love beads in the sixties.



**WORK!
TO SET 'EM FREE!**

**WORK!
TO KEEP 'EM FIRING!**



Veterans Health Administration

**Research
Development**

Improving Veterans' Lives - www.research.va.gov