

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research & Development

Visit: www.research.va.gov/topics/
for information and printable fact sheets of key areas being studied by VA researchers.

For more than 100 years, the Veterans Affairs (VA) Research and Development program has been improving the lives of Veterans and all Americans through health care discovery and innovation. The mission of VA Research is fourfold:

- to improve Veterans' health and well-being via basic, translational, clinical, health services, and rehabilitative research;
- to apply scientific knowledge to develop effective individualized care solutions for Veterans;
- to attract, train, and retain the highest-caliber investigators, and nurture their development as leaders in their fields; and
- to assure a culture of professionalism, collaboration, accountability, and the highest regard for research volunteers' safety and privacy.

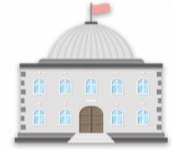
VA Research by the Numbers (For Fiscal 2025)



Active research sites nationwide
102



Published research articles authored or co-authored by VA investigators
12,868



Total congressional appropriation for VA medical and prosthetic research
\$994M*



Active funded research projects (including VA funding and other sources)
6,800



Active funded principal investigators
3,531



Total research budget (including other VA and non-VA sources, such as NIH)
\$2.4B

*Combined mandatory and discretionary budget
Infographic by VA Research Communications, November 2025 Illustrations: © iStock/Olena Chernenka, Andrew_rybalko, all_is_magic, sesame, Misha Shutkevych.

VA Research is unique because of its focus on health issues that affect Veterans.

Afghanistan & Iraq	Infectious Diseases
Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias	Informatics
Arthritis	Kidney Disease
Cancer	Mental Health
Cardiovascular Disease	Multiple Sclerosis
Caregivers	Obesity
Complementary and Integrative Health	Pain Management
COVID-19	Parkinson's Disease
Depression	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
Diabetes	Prosthetics
Gastrointestinal Health	Respiratory Health
Genomics	Rural Health
Gulf War Veterans	Spinal Cord Injury
Health Care Delivery	Substance Use Disorders
Health Equity	Suicide Prevention
Hearing Loss	Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
Hepatitis C	Vietnam Veterans
Homelessness	Vision Loss
	Women's Health

A few examples of what VA research has accomplished include the:

- * First decisive trials of effective treatments for tuberculosis;
- * Demonstration of the lifesaving value of treating hypertension;
- * Development of the concept of CT scanning;
- * Discovery and development of radioimmunoassay, facilitating measurements of previously impossible precision;
- * Cooperative studies proving the efficacy of psychoactive drugs in stabilizing psychiatric disorders;
- * Demonstration of the relationship between smoking and lung cancer, leading to initial warnings in the Report of the Surgeon General;
- * Development of a practical, implantable cardiac pacemaker.