

# VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

## 2021 Impacts

VA's Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) leverages research-informed tools and strategies to support frontline providers and sites in deploying effective practices that optimize care for Veterans.



VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative  
EVIDENCE INTO PRACTICE

QUERI promotes VA as a national leader in applying high-reliability, learning organization and evidence-based policy methods to improve health care, especially for underserved and marginalized populations.

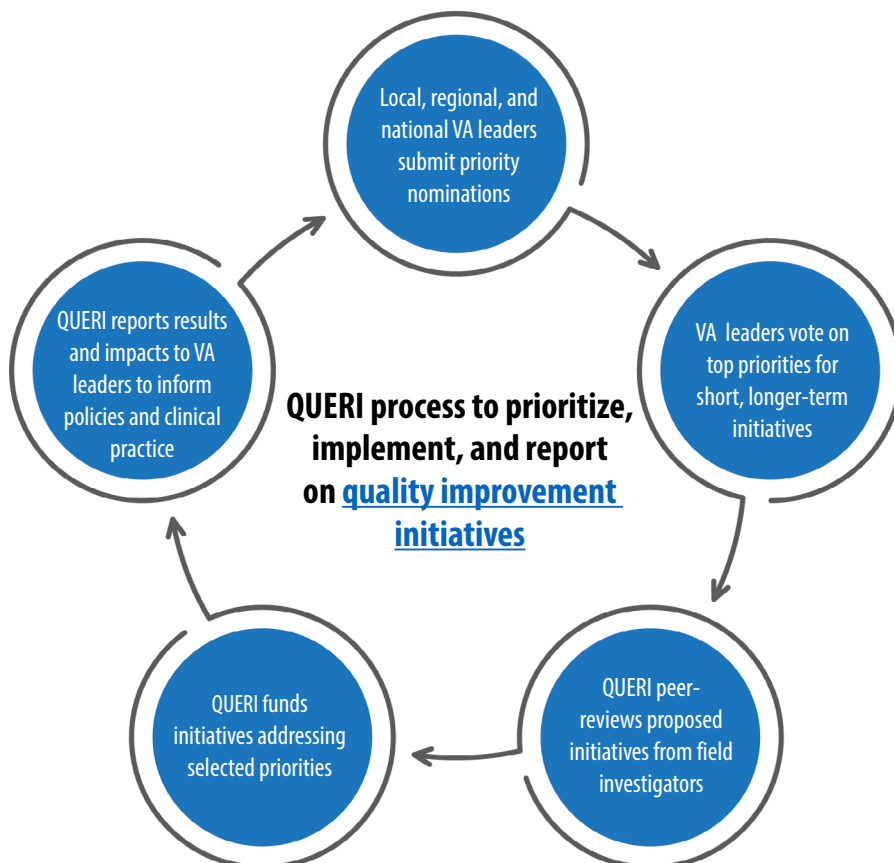
### New Initiatives and Centers

This year has been an exciting year for QUERI with the launch of several new initiatives:

- [14 QUERI Programs](#) partnering with over **45 national and regional leaders** to scale-up and spread **38 effective practices** across VA;
- QUERI-VISN Partnered Implementation Initiatives (PIIs) addressing priorities related to [health disparities and Veteran social determinants of health](#), care coordination, [delayed or suppressed care due to COVID-19](#), and provider productivity and [primary care efficiency](#);
- Rapid Response Team Projects addressing emerging VA priorities, including supporting the **COVID-19 vaccine rollout**;
- **Six national partnered evaluations** addressing time-sensitive priority conditions and populations, including [suicide prevention](#), [dual use Veterans](#), [EHRM/Cerner implementation](#), [Traumatic Brain Injury](#), [pharmacogenetic testing](#), and [virtual pain care](#); and
- [QUERI Advancing Diversity in Implementation Leadership \(ADIL\)](#) program and Mentoring Cores expand the implementation and evaluation expertise from populations that **reflect the diversity** of the Veterans VA serves.

### QUERI Evaluation & Implementation in Action to Ensure Evidence-based Policies Work For Veterans

By ensuring that programs and policies work at the clinic level, QUERI supports VA's fulfillment of the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act (US PL 115-435), which requires federal agencies to justify budgets using evidence and [evaluation](#).



*"My program has worked with QUERI investigators to evaluate new initiatives. The work done has helped us understand the needs of our network, and now we can begin to expand those initiatives into the right local market."*

—VA Facility/VISN Leader

## QUERI Addressing Top VA Priorities and Veteran Needs for 2021

Guided by the [Learning Health System](#) framework and the [QUERI Implementation Roadmap](#), QUERI is

- Engaging VA leaders to nominate and rank-order priorities,
- Funding quality improvement initiatives to scale-up and spread evidence-based practices using theory-based implementation strategies, and
- Evaluating the impact of these initiatives on VA policy and Veteran health using the [QUERI Impact Framework](#).

In 2021, VA leaders identified the following as their top priorities:

- Improve Veterans' experience and quality of **virtual care** options in VA and community care.
- Improve uptake of strategies to address **health disparities** and **social determinants of health**.
- Reduce adverse outcomes associated with **delayed or suppressed care due to COVID-19**.
- Reduce **burnout** and improve mental health among VA employees and trainees.
- Improve **long-term care** and **home care service** options for older Veterans.
- Assess and improve quality and cost of **community care**.

QUERI is supporting implementation and evaluation teams to address these priorities through Rapid Response Team Evaluations, [Advancing Diversity in Implementation Leadership](#) initiatives, VISN Partnered Implementation Initiatives, and Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act ([Evidence Act](#)) evaluations and deliverables.

### 2022 Advancing Diversity in Implementation Leadership (ADIL) Fellows

- Determine Disparities in Subspecialty Wait Times Among Marginalized Veteran Populations led by **Kamal Henderson, MD, MSc**
- Evaluating Effectiveness of VA's Digital Divide Consult in Facilitating Video-based Care Access led by **Jacqueline Ferguson, PhD**
- Evaluating Medication Safety Risks for Dual Use Veterans led by **Alexis Barrett, PharmD**
- Evaluating Uptake of the Telephone Lifestyle Coaching Program to Identify Strategies to Ensure Equitable Uptake among Women Veterans led by **Tanya Olmos-Ochoa, PhD, MPH**
- Evaluating VA's Nationwide LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator Program led by **R. Sonia Singh, PhD**
- Measuring Disparities in Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution among Homeless Veterans led by **Sarah Javier, PhD**

### QUERI Implementation Roadmap

The QUERI Implementation Roadmap Guide is based on state-of-the-art implementation and quality improvement science and includes contributions from more than 50 multidisciplinary experts and health system leaders who help **operationalize the uptake of effective innovations** across different organizational settings.

For more information on using the QUERI Roadmap, check out our [Implementation Strategy Training Opportunities](#).

