

**What is the ESP?** The VA Evidence Synthesis Program (ESP), established in 2007, helps VA fulfill its vision of functioning as a continuously learning health care system. We provide timely, targeted, independent syntheses of the medical literature for the VHA to translate into evidence-based clinical practice, policy, and research.

**Nimble**

*We adapt traditional methods, timelines, and formats to meet our partners' specific needs.*

**Rigorous**

*Rigor, transparency, and minimization of bias underlie all our products.*

**Relevant**

*Emphasis on Veteran population helps ensure our reviews are relevant to VA decision-makers' needs.*



**QUALIFIED:** ESP Center Directors are VA clinicians and recognized leaders in the field of research synthesis with close ties to the AHRQ Evidence-based Practice Center Program.



**INNOVATIVE:** We go beyond “traditional” systematic review methods and integrate qualitative information from providers and patients and quantitative system data.



**HIGH IMPACT:** ESP tackles high-priority issues such as COVID-19, opioid use, suicide prevention, and community care. ESP products have informed reports to Congress, ACP guidelines, and VHA formularies.



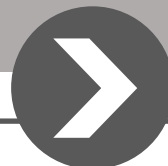
**TIMELY:** Requests are accepted year-round, with more urgent needs prioritized for our rapid products. Our product timeframes range from 1 week to 1 year from project initiation.

*How can VA leadership work with the ESP?*

When you submit a [topic nomination form](#), we will work with you to determine the appropriate research approach and ESP product to address your questions of interest. If the topic meets our program’s prioritization criteria and is selected by HSR&D leadership, then an ESP Center will be assigned to conduct the review. High-priority, time-sensitive needs will be addressed at the Coordinating Center as capacity allows.



[ESP on the Internet](#)



[ESP on the VA Intranet](#)



[Contact the ESP Coordinating Center](#)

## What types of evidence needs can the ESP help address?



### Identify effective practices for implementation

Systematic review identifying effective intervention components and implementation strategies.

[Care Coordination Models and Tools: A Systematic Review and Key Informant Interviews](#)



### Urgent policy-making needs

Evidence Brief

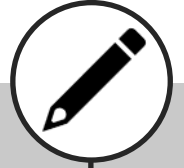
[Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence/ Sexual Assault Among Veterans](#)  
[Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography with Fractional Flow Reserve in Noninvasive Diagnosis of Coronary Artery Disease](#)



### Clinical guideline development

Systematic review of available evidence and reviews in coordination with policymakers.

[Deprescribing for Older Veterans](#)  
[The Effect of Medical Scribes in Cardiology, Orthopedic, and Emergency Departments](#)



### Understand a large and complex evidence base

Evidence map visualizing available evidence.

[Evidence Map of Acupuncture](#)  
[Evidence Map - Risk and Protective Factors Across Socioecological Levels of Risk for Suicide](#)

## What types of products does the ESP offer?

We have a broad range of products to address the various evidence needs of our operational partners. Systematic reviews are the gold standard in research synthesis, following the most rigorous methods and allowing for the most complete and defensible conclusions. ESP also offers other products that use more streamlined methods to assist with time-sensitive needs.

### Evidence Inventory (1-4 weeks)

Systematic literature search with bibliography (may be organized by key study features, eg, study design or population)

### Evidence Compendium (1-2 months)

Systematic literature search with brief summary of the literature, limited data abstraction, and a structured bibliography

### Evidence Brief (3-4 months)

Synthesis of the literature on one or more specific questions following accepted systematic review methods

### Systematic Review (9-12 months)

Synthesis of the literature on several broad questions following accepted systematic review methods

### Evidence Assist (1-4 months)

Consultive memorandum on an evidence base identified by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration  
Health Services Research & Development Service