VA OPEN DATA

Building trust, efficiency, and innovation through transparency, quality, and access.

What is Open Data?

Machine-readable data made publicly accessible to use and share.

VA's Open Data Initiative:

Open Data is an initiative that seeks to advance government transparency and promote innovation by making data accessible to the public. Using machine-readable data that the public can access, use, and share, Federal agencies can promote a more open and efficient government, identify creative solutions that can improve the lives of Veterans and their supporters.

Through the VA Open Data Initiative VA seeks to:

• Make data open and accessible in a standard, machine-readable format by default which can result in significant productivity and cost savings.

• Avoid duplicative internal research by creating transparency into the total VA data universe.

• Reduce the scope and cost of new collections based on the ability to re-use and/or pair with existing data.

• Build and maintain a central data catalog for VA, making it easier to understand what information is currently available, and communicate best practices prior to initiating a new data collection.

• Expand the data internal stakeholders can access and increase discovery of complementary datasets held by Federal agencies.

• Empower employees to make better-informed, data-driven decisions.

• Publish details about each dataset owned by VA in a specific format that powers a central search engine at Data.gov that every single Federal employee (and member of the public) can use to easily locate data held, owned, and/or created by the Federal Government.

• Raise awareness and build trust through positive engagement with the public, the media, and other agencies.

• Generate revenue and create new jobs in the private sector - McKinsey reports in 2013 (open health data) and 2021 (open data for finance) estimated that open health data alone could add over $300 billion to the economy each year and open data for finance could drive gross domestic product gains between one and five percent by 2030. VA publishes data on access and quality in VA healthcare, COVID-19, trust scores, wait times, and hospital/nursing home/patient experience national and facility comparison data, making more VA data publicly available in standards-compliant, machine-readable formats. Through the VA Open Data Initiative, VA makes it easier for the public to put VA's data to work.

The Value of Open Data

• Transparency to improve trust with internal and external stakeholders

• Provide comprehensive timely, aggregated, high-quality, statistical data of data usage

• Fuel innovation and data-driven policy and decision making by maximizing ethical access to data

• Create one trusted, publicly accessible location for data

More Information:

• **www.va.gov/data**

• **www.data.gov**

• **OPEN Government Data Act 2018**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs