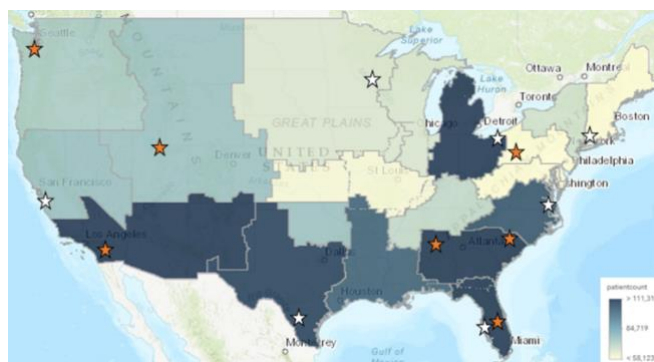


# Fully Fund VA Headache Disorders Headache Centers (HCoEs) for Equitable Access to Care for Disabled Veterans

- *Headache Disorders are major health problems for veterans.*
  - Migraine is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of US and global disability <sup>1</sup>.
  - 350,000 Global War on Terror (GWOT) veterans sustained TBIs <sup>2</sup>.
    - Nearly half of GWOT veterans with deployment-related TBI, reported headaches 15 or more days per month, 4 to 11 years later; 89% met criteria for migraine. <sup>3</sup>.
  - 3 million GWOT veterans were exposed to toxic open burn pits <sup>4</sup>.
    - Compared to veterans deployed but not exposed to burn pits, veterans deployed and with burn pit duties, years later reported nearly twice the risk of functional limitations due to migraine <sup>5</sup>.
- *In FY2018, \$10m appropriations established 'at least 5' VHA HCoEs<sup>6</sup> to provide:*
  - Comprehensive direct patient specialized headache medicine care within the VHA.
  - Consultation and referral specialized services within the VHA
  - Education and training of VHA health care providers
  - Research to improve quality of headache disorders care for veterans and civilians.
- *14 national HCoE 'Hub' and 'Consortium' sites now exist.*



- In 2020, more than 408K veterans sought specialty care for headache disorders within the VHA <sup>7</sup>.
- However, only half of veterans seeking such care are currently within reach of an HCoE.
- **Request \$25m appropriations to fully fund expansion of VHA HCoEs from 14 to 28 sites to ensure equitable access to headache disorders care for all VHA veterans who seek it.**

**Please Co-Sign the Dear Colleague letter for FY2022 MilCon/VA Appropriations**

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CHAMP  
Chronic Migraine Awareness  
Clusterbusters  
Cluster Headache Support Group

Headache Cooperative of New England  
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Migraine Research Foundation  
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