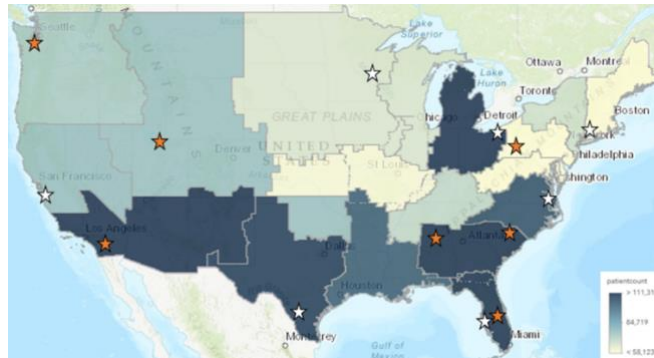


Fully Fund VHA Headache Disorders Headache Centers (HCoEs) for Equitable Access to Care for Disabled Veterans

- *Headache Disorders are major health problems for veterans.*
 - Migraine is the 2nd leading cause of US and global disability ¹.
 - 350,000 Global War on Terror (GWOT) veterans sustained TBIs ².
 - 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. ³.
 - 3 million GWOT veterans were exposed to toxic open burn pits ⁴.
 - 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 ⁵.
- *In FY2018, \$10m appropriations established 'at least 5' VHA HCoEs⁶ to provide:*
 - Comprehensive direct patient specialized headache medicine care within the VHA.
 - Consultation and referral specialized headache care services within the VHA
 - Education and training of VHA health care providers in headache medicine
 - 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 ⁷.
- However, only half of veterans seeking such care are currently within reach of an HCoE.

Please send the suggested MilCon/VA Appropriations letter requesting \$25m appropriations to fully fund expansion of VHA HCoEs from 14 to 28 sites to ensure equitable access to headache disorders specialty care for all VHA veterans who seek it.



Alliance for
Headache
Disorders
Advocacy

Alliance for Patient Access
American Academy of Neurology
American Headache Society
CHAMP
Chronic Migraine Awareness
Clusterbusters
Cluster Headache Support Group

Headache Cooperative of New England
Headache Cooperative of the Pacific
Migraine Research Foundation
Miles for Migraine
National Headache Foundation
Southern Headache Society
Spinal CSF Leak Foundation

Citations:

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