

# The Center for Policy Evaluation

VA

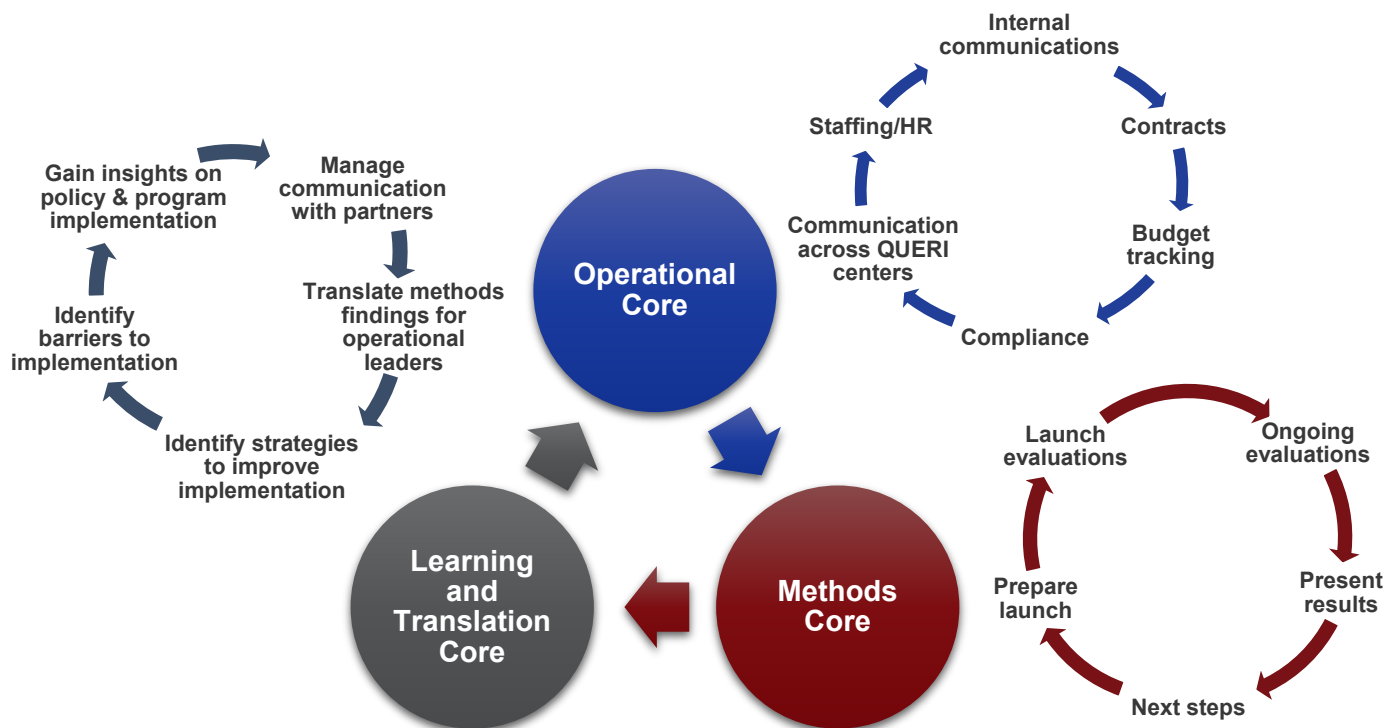


U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

Conducting evaluations to support implementation of evidence-based policies and programs in VA

The Center for Policy Evaluation (CPE) conducts rigorous evaluations supporting the implementation of evidence-based policies and programs in the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Leveraging our advanced methodological skills, we work with operational partners to conduct evaluations, using both existing administrative data and prospective designs, to provide insights into causal mechanisms. Studies employing causal inference are a powerful tool for operational decision-making, by clarifying treatment effects of interest and providing unbiased estimates of them.

## Center Organization




## The Three Cores of CPE

1. **Methods Core:** This core designs and conducts evaluations to identify the causal effects of policies and programs.
2. **Learning and Translation Core:** This core identifies opportunities to implement and disseminate findings from the Methods Core, thereby helping VA translate science into action as a learning health care system.
3. **Operations Core:** This core coordinates efforts and communication within the center, with operational leaders, and other QUERI centers.

# Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Methods Across a Wide Range of VA Priority Areas

The Center is led by Drs. Todd Wagner, David Chan, and Anita Vashi. The leadership team has unparalleled experience in conducting rigorous health services and health economic research with VA operational groups. Supporting the leadership team are 30 VA investigators with diverse content expertise to support evaluations in top priority areas, particularly in:

-  **Access** as it relates to policies around **Community Care and Virtual Care**
-  **Long-Term Care and Geriatrics**
-  **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**
-  **Disparities and Social Determinants of Health**

## Priority Areas for CPE

- Community care and access
- Virtual care
- Long term, home-based and palliative care
- Disparities and social determinants of health
- Suicide and mental health
- Delayed care from COVID
- Women's health
- Employment and health (VBA/VHA)
- Burnout and staffing
- Exposures during deployment and spinal cord injuries
- Homelessness
- EHR Modernization
- Primary care, complex patients

**Methodological expertise:** Center investigators have experience with causal interference methods, machine learning, prospective evaluations, and qualitative and Mixed Methods.

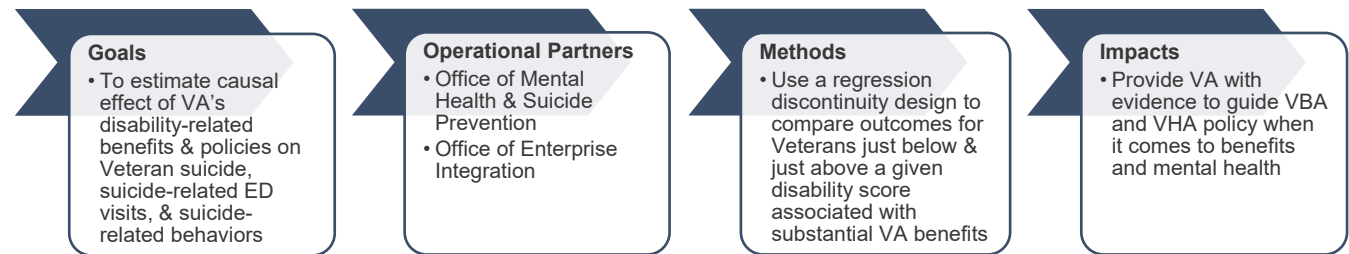
**Veteran Engagement and Diversity:** Center engages Veterans in its evaluations. CPE is also committed to improving diversity, inclusion, and equity through ongoing initiatives at VA Palo Alto and Stanford University.

## Evaluations and Core Data Resources

Along with the two evaluations below, core data resources are created to improve the quality and speed of subsequent evaluations by characterizing each VA medical center and their local market conditions.

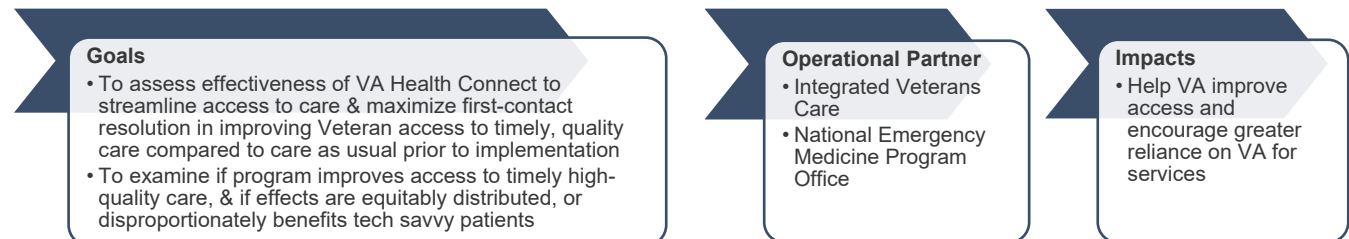
### Evaluation 1: Evaluating Suicide-Prevention Efforts and the Role of Veterans' Disability Benefits

**Project Team:** Led by Dr. Kritee Gujral with assistance from Drs. Liam Rose and Todd Wagner



### Evaluation 2: Evaluation of VA Health Connect

**Project Team:** Led by Drs. Diem Tran, Liam Rose, Jaqueline Ferguson, and Anita Vashi



**For more information, check out:**  
<https://www.queri.research.va.gov/>

If you would like to learn more or partner with us, please contact our Program Coordinator, Angela So, at [Angela.So@va.gov](mailto:Angela.So@va.gov)

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