



2025

VA TENNESSEE VALLEY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

ANNUAL REPORT

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Tennessee Valley Healthcare System



“TO FULFILL PRESIDENT LINCOLN’S PROMISE
TO CARE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED IN
OUR NATION’S MILITARY AND FOR THEIR
FAMILIES, CAREGIVERS, AND SURVIVORS.”



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

To our Veterans, families, staff, volunteers, and community partners:

Fiscal year 2025 was a year of extraordinary progress for VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System. Our commitment to delivering exceptional, high-quality care was recognized with a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, placing us among only four hospitals in Tennessee to earn this distinction. This achievement reflects the dedication of our teams and the trust Veterans place in us every day.

This year, we reached historic milestones in clinical innovation. With the opening of our Stem Cell Processing Laboratory at the Nashville VA Medical Center, we became the only VA facility in the nation with a fully intact stem cell transplant program. That capability helped make possible VA's first bloodless autologous stem cell transplant, resulting in complete cancer remission for a Marine Corps Veteran and hopefully many more.

Our research efforts advanced at an unprecedented pace. Our investigators submitted a record number of major research proposals and published more than 500 original scientific articles. More than 26,000 Veterans enrolled locally in the Million Veteran Program, strengthening discoveries that will shape the future of Veteran health care.

Access to care and Veteran experience also improved. We saw our Veteran trust score increase once again to an average of 92.5%, and our enrollment increased 7.5% this year. Saturday primary care appointments and the use of virtual care platforms helped expand Veteran's access to timely and quality care.

Like many organizations in our region, we are not immune to the challenges and complexities that are often accompanied by new growth. Our teams met these challenges with resilience, creativity, and an unwavering focus on Veterans and their families.

As we move into 2026, we remain committed to expanding access, modernizing infrastructure, and delivering world-class care closer to home for every Veteran we serve.

I hope you enjoy our 2025 Annual Report and resonate with the excitement and passion that our team pours into their work each and every day.

As always, I thank you for your service, your partnership, and your continued trust in VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System.



Dan Dücker
Executive Director
VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System

LEADERSHIP



Dan Dücker
MSS, M. Ed.
Executive Director



Dr. Bridget Brozyna
DNP, APRN, NEA-BC
Interim Deputy
Executive Director



Dr. John Nadeau
MD, FRCP (C)
Chief of Staff



Dr. La-Kenya Rushing
DHA, MSN, RN
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Jill Fiala
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for Resources



Aaron Grobengieser
MS, RD, FACHE
Associate Director
for Operations



Dr. Erin Coomes
Au.D, CCC-A
Assistant Director

WHO WE ARE

VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System is a complex, high-volume 1A health care system. We provide specialized health care services to 157,480+ Veterans residing in middle Tennessee, southern Kentucky, and northern Georgia across 24 locations with approximately 5,000 employees. Our facilities include the Nashville VA Medical Center and Alvin C. York VA Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee and 22 outpatient clinics in middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky.

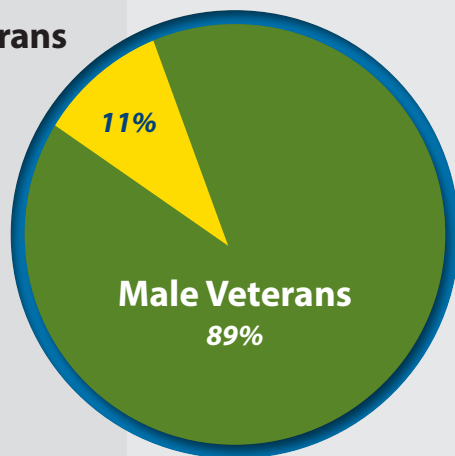
Total enrollments in FY24
7.5% increase from 146,447 in FY24 to 157,483 in FY25

Veterans Enrolled:

157,483

Male Veterans: 140,002 (+15%)
Female Veterans: 17,430 (+11.8%)

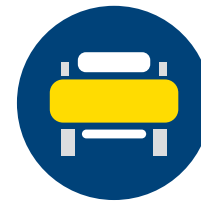
Female Veterans



92.5%
*of Veterans trust TVHS
with their care.*



BUGDGET & IMPACT



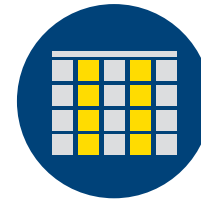
BEDS

249 hospital beds
144 Community Living Center beds
393 total operating beds



ADMISSIONS IN FY2025

10,981 total admissions (+39.7%)
TVHS treated 113,581 (+4%) unique patients



APPOINTMENTS IN FY2025

307,261 Primary Care appointments completed
202,172 Mental Health appointments completed
225,250 Specialty Care appointments completed
201,294 Telehealth Care appointments completed



FY2025 OPERATING BUDGET

\$1,800,000,000

Medical Community Care: \$592,888,093
Research: \$16,299,681
General Purpose funds: \$1,203,459,028



EMPLOYEES

4,921
(Full-time and part-time)

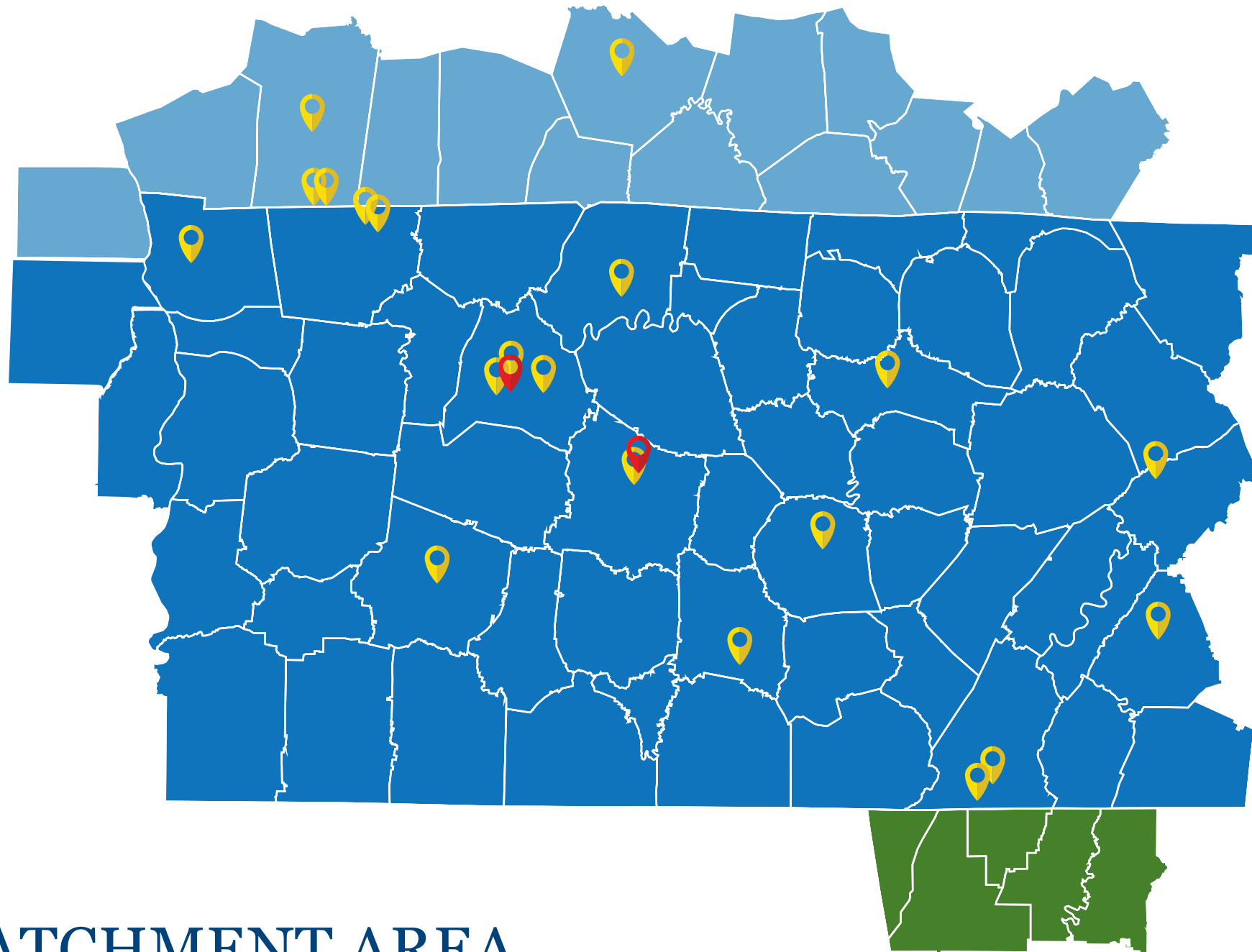
Information as of Sept. 30, 2025



VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System Public Affairs and Outreach attended more than **85 events** in FY2025 – including the Cookeville Veterans Resource Fair.

We coordinated events with community partners like:

- Tennessee Department of Veterans Services
- Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs
- Multiple County Veterans Service Offices
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Tennessee Tech University
- Murray State University
- Nissan
- Embraer Aviation Maintenance Services



OUR CATCHMENT AREA

 VA Clinics (22)

 VA Medical Centers (2)

 Tennessee

 Kentucky

 Georgia



OUR FACILITIES



Nashville
VA Medical Center
1310 24th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37212



Alvin C. York
VA Medical Center
3400 Lebanon Pike
Murfreesboro, TN 37129



Chattanooga VA Clinic
6401 Shallowford Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421



Clarksville VA Clinic
782 Weatherly Drive
Clarksville, TN 37043

Albion Street VA Clinic 1818 Albion Street, Suite 114 Nashville, TN 37208	Athens VA Clinic 1320 Decatur Pike Athens, TN 37303	Bowling Green VA Clinic 600 US 31 West Bypass Fairview Plaza, Suite 12 Bowling Green, KY 42101
Charlotte Avenue VA Clinic 1, 2 & 3 1919 Charlotte Ave. Suites 100, 110, 210, 230 & 300 Nashville, TN 37203	Columbia VA Clinic 800 South James Campbell Blvd. Shady Brook Mall, Suite 100 Columbia, TN 38401	Cookeville VA Clinic 851 South Willow Ave. Suite 108 Cookeville, TN 38501
Dalton Drive VA Clinic 2292 Dalton Dr., Suite F Clarksville, TN 37043	Dover VA Clinic 1406 Donelson Parkway Dover, TN 37058	Fort Campbell VA Clinic 3rd Floor in the C Building 650 Joel Drive Fort Campbell, KY 42223
Gallatin VA Clinic 419 Steam Plant Road Gallatin, TN 37066	Glenis Drive VA Clinic 1 & 2 250 & 260 Glenis Drive, Liberty Square Murfreesboro, TN 37129	Heritage Park Drive VA Clinic 202 Heritage Park Drive Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Hopkinsville VA Clinic 4000 Fort Campbell Blvd., Suite G4 Hopkinsville, KY 42240	International Plaza VA Clinic 2 International Plaza Drive International Plaza, Suite 300 Nashville, TN 37217	McMinnville VA Clinic 1410 Sparta Street Three Star Mall, Suite 6 McMinnville, TN 37110
Montgomery County VA Clinic 647 Dunlop Lane, 102 Clarksville, TN 37040	Pointe Centre VA Clinic 1 & 2 1208 Pointe Centre Pointe Centre Properties, Suite 100 Chattanooga, TN 37421	Roane County VA Clinic 2305 North Gateway Ave., Suite 2 Harriman, TN 37748
Taylor VA Clinic 5580 Desert Storm Avenue Fort Campbell, KY 42223	Tullahoma VA Clinic 225 Von Karman Road Arnold Air Force Base, TN 37389	

VA SECRETARY DOUG COLLINS:
VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare
System is a Model for Veterans Care

The Tennessean | March 2025

When I became VA secretary, I promised to ensure every Veteran receives the high-quality care they deserve. To meet that pledge, I’m visiting VA facilities across the country to see firsthand what’s working, what’s not and how we can best serve Veterans.

Last week, I visited the VA Tennessee Valley Health Care System. It serves approximately 140,000 Veterans across middle Tennessee, southern Kentucky, and northern Georgia. That number continues to rise, with nearly 5,000 new Veterans enrolling in the past year.

To keep pace with this growth, VA is partnering with the Department of Defense to expand care options and improve coordination for transitioning service members and Veterans. In partnership with Fort Campbell’s Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, VA and DOD opened two new clinics this year. This partnership will expand care to more than 3,000 local Veterans.

At the same time, we’re modernizing several VA facilities like the Nashville and Alvin C. York VA Medical Centers. We’re also planning to open a new Bowling Green, Ky., clinic in July 2028 to serve rural Veterans. By 2030, VA will open three more Tennessee clinics in Clarksville, Nashville, and Cookeville, respectively. This will improve access and convenience for thousands of Veterans.

These investments are about expanding access and making sure Veterans receive the highest quality care. That commitment to excellence was evident on March 17, 2025 when I stepped into the Nashville VA Medical Center—the only VA medical center that offers stem cell, liver, kidney, and heart transplants, the only one with a psychiatric medical inpatient unit, and the only medical center performing all aspects of stem cell and CAR-T cell therapy in house. What I witnessed was phenomenal. Dr. Salyka Sengsayadeth and her team are transforming lives; their work exemplifies VA’s commitment to innovation and excellence.

Great VA employees throughout the Tennessee Valley Health Care System are empowering innovation,



greater health care access, and cutting-edge medical advancements. Abey Lissane is one example. Abey’s a nurse whose compassion recently made a life-changing difference for a Veteran struggling with PTSD. The Veteran arrived at a clinic overwhelmed and anxious, but instead of just treating his symptoms and sending him on his way, Abby took the time to listen and connect him with the critical mental health services and resources he needed.

Abey’s story is a reminder of how VA employees go above and beyond to provide Veterans treatment as well as unwavering support, and I was honored to thank her during my visit.

At the Nashville Vet Center, a dedicated team provides mental health counseling, group therapy, and transition support to more than 300 Veterans, service members, and their families each year. The Nashville Vet Center stands as a model of how strong partnerships, innovative services, and a dedicated team focused on mental health can save the lives of Veterans.

Providing this level of care across the department requires a workforce that can meet Veterans’ growing needs. That’s why VA aligns staffing with evolving needs to ensure we are best positioned to serve Veterans now, and in the future. And our commitment goes beyond staffing; it extends to resources, innovations, and systems that position VA to be a leader in health care.

That commitment is why VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System stands out—where world-class care, groundbreaking innovation, and a dedicated team come together to serve those who served us. Because at VA, our mission is the Veteran.

MILESTONES & ACHIEVEMENTS



Delivering Exceptional Health Care

VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System **earned a five-star rating** as part of the 2025 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hospital quality ratings. **In Tennessee, only four hospitals earned a five-star rating with two of those being VA medical centers** – VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System and the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center in Mountain Home, TN.

Pioneering Cutting Edge Healthcare at VA

VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System unveiled its stem cell processing lab becoming **the only VA in the country with a fully intact stem cell transplant program**, expanding vital biotherapy services to Veterans.

Located at the Nashville VA Medical Center, the new stem cell processing laboratory provides TVHS with the capability and functionality to treat aggressive blood cancers and autoimmune disease orders.



Advancing and Influencing Top Tier Research

Dr. Michael Matheny, a TVHS investigator for more than 15 years, was elected to the **highly prestigious National Academy of Medicine**. Dr. Matheny's research focuses on **identifying potential risks and complications associated** with medical device failures after they have been approved for market use and determines the right course for remedy, **ensuring patients get the right care**.



Delivering World-Class, Life-Changing Care

The Bone Marrow Transplant team at VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System **achieved a historic milestone by performing VA's first bloodless autologous stem cell transplant**, resulting in **complete cancer remission** for a Marine Corps Veteran. This success was made possible by the recent opening of the TVHS Stem Cell Processing Lab.

Expanding Access for Rural Veterans

Dr. Michael J. Ward and Dr. Jo Ellen Wilson, TVHS investigators, were selected by VA's Office of Rural Health (ORH) to **improve mental health care access for Veterans** living in rural Tennessee and southern Kentucky. The research funding will be used to **explore innovative strategies to deliver care, address unique health care challenges, and develop programs in rural communities** to improve the overall health and well-being of Veterans.

Providing Exceptional Patient Experiences

VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System's Gallatin VA Clinic earned the coveted **Best Medical Center in Sumner County** in the 2025 Main Street Awards on May 22. Driven by Sumner County residents' feedback, the Main Street Awards **encourages the local community to nominate and vote** for the best of the best businesses, people, places, and events.

Award-Winning Communications

In its first year of competition, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System **earned five honors** at the 39th Annual Parthenon Awards hosted by Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Nashville Chapter.

The Parthenon Awards are **bestowed to projects and programs that demonstrate excellence in the public relations profession** and open to Middle Tennessee communication agencies and professionals.



HEALTH CARE BRIGHT SPOTS

As a Level 1A health care system, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System handles a high volume of highly complex health care. From implementing new services to topping new records, below are several more bright spots from fiscal year 2025 benefiting Veterans:

- **Platelet-Rich Plasma Therapy** and **Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy** are offered in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service.
- TVHS is **transforming access to specialty care** and strengthening its footprint in rural communities. **Physical therapy** is now available at the **Gallatin VA Clinic**, with TVHS expanding outpatient access by offering specialty care at multiple facilities.
- 8,674 new Veterans were established with a primary care provider this year. **Access to care** continues to increase by offering **primary care appointments on Saturdays at five different locations**.
- VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System hosted 13 Veteran resource fairs in rural areas and at college campuses while also supporting 85+ community events.
- Approximately **4.8 million laboratory tests** were completed in fiscal year 2025, resulting in a **3.4% increase** from last year.
- **Dr. Quentin Eichbaum** was awarded the **Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies President's Award**, and **Dr. Margaret Compton**, Chief of Lab and Pathology, earned the **Cancer Cytopathology's Rising Star Award**.
- More than **32,800 hours were volunteered** at our locations with a total of **1,613 volunteers**, and **\$449,517.93 in donations** were collected this year.
- From radio to TV to print, 169 recorded media reports featured VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System's services, programs, and staff with 98% of coverage deemed as positive or neutral sentiment.

WORLD-CLASS CARE

Quality & Safety

Providing exceptional, high-quality care is a top priority for VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, and in fiscal year 2025, that's exactly what our team did.

In 2025, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System **earned a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**, improving its four-star rating from the year before. **This distinguished rating informs Veterans** that VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System is **meeting and exceeding key quality metrics** in five critical areas: mortality, safety of care, readmission, patient experience and timely and effective care.

Similarly, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System's Community Living Center **received zero clinical findings – a rare accomplishment** – following a quality survey from Ascellon Corporation. Over four days, Ascellon carefully assessed **nine clinical performance indicators** that determine the quality of geriatric care as well as conducting interviews with inpatient Veterans and their families. Ascellon Corporation noted that inpatient Veterans and their families **trust VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System's geriatric and extended care providers and nurses**.

Age Friendly and Trusted Care

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), in partnership with the American Hospital Association, recognized VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System's neuropsychology clinic as a **Level 2 Age Friendly**



Health System. This marks VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System's **fifth clinical setting** to earn the IHI's level 2 distinction.

Facilities that have successfully developed age-friendly action plans aligned with IHI's framework earn the Level 1 distinction. Level 2 distinctions are bestowed to facilities that have **successfully implemented and sustained three months of data** showcasing their commitment to age-friendly health care services.

Twenty-four organizations in Tennessee are recognized as Level 1 with three of those being a VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System clinical program, and 28 organizations in Tennessee have earned Level 2 recognition. Of that number, 11 of those belong to VA: VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (5), Memphis VA Medical Center (3), and the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center (3).

Accelerating Women's Health

Women Veterans continue to be the fastest growing population for Veteran health care. In fiscal year 2025, women Veterans saw an **increase of health care services** and programs aimed at improving their unique health and wellbeing needs.

The team implemented new programs like **women's health pelvic floor therapy** and **expanded routine services** by hiring a women's health psychologist, a women's health pharmacist, and onboarding two additional maternity care coordinators to meet the

unique needs of pregnant and postpartum Veterans.

In primary care appointments, services like intrauterine device inserts and removal were added to the Clarksville VA Clinic helping increase women Veterans' access to contraceptive health care.

Mental Health

Several mental health services and program are accredited by renowned institutions distinguishing VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System as a **leader in mental health**.

The Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (RRTP), a voluntary recovery treatment program for Veterans, saw a **seven-day decrease** in patient wait times for admissions **resulting in faster treatment services** for Veterans With an emphasis on infusing the Whole Health model of care into evidence-based treatment practices, RRTP implemented **new group and individual enrichment activities** in fiscal year 2025 such as Tai Chi, mindfulness, recreation therapy and educational seminars focused on chronic pain management, sleep education, and financial wellness.

In fiscal year 2025, **742 Veterans** trusted VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System's RRTP for their recovery journey with **91.4% successfully** completing the program compared to 76.4% in 2024.

Ending Veteran Homelessness & Suicide

Through VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System's Mental Health Services, Veterans facing physical or mental barriers are successful in finding meaningful employment through VA's **Compensated Work Therapy Program**. This program pairs Veterans with a peer support specialist who guides them through their recovery journey and coaches them before, during and after their employment process.

This year, **46 Veterans** were matched with a local employer, and the Compensated Work Therapy program **earned its fourth consecutive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities**, most commonly known as CARF International.

Covering 73 counties in middle Tennessee, southern Kentucky, and northern Georgia, the Suicide Prevention Program and Homeless Veteran Program

at VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System routinely engage and connect with Veterans.

In fiscal year 2025, the Homeless Veteran Program **exceeded its target goal by 125%** by successfully **housing 824 Veterans** and their families.

In addition to participating in dozens of community events, the Suicide Prevention Program held its **inaugural suicide prevention awareness walk** during Suicide Prevention Awareness Month at the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center. The event featured resources and services such as gun locks, mental health wellness, Whole Health, and chaplain care teams to encompass all aspects of Veterans' mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing.

WORLD-CLASS CARE

“

In fiscal year 2025, 742 Veterans trusted VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System's RRTP for their recovery journey with 91.4% successfully completing the program ...”



INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

As the modern world evolves, so does health care. Through cutting-edge cancer therapies to seamless, integrated care at a touch of a button, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System is at the center of it all pushing the envelope on endless possibilities.

Pioneering Innovative Care

With the opening of its Stem Cell Processing Laboratory, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System became the only VA facility in the nation with a fully integrated stem cell transplant program—expanding life-saving cancer treatment options for Veterans nationwide. Veterans from around the nation travel to VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System to receive

oncology care and services including Marine Corps Veteran Keith Cody from California.

With VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System's expertise and care, Cody **achieved a historic milestone as the first VA patient to receive a bloodless autologous stem cell transplant.** This resulted in Cody's complete cancer remission.

"The whole care team here... they're very caring people. Everybody we met treated us like family. It's sad to leave people behind who have been so special," Cody said.

Stem Cell Processing Laboratory at Nashville VA Medical Center.



Additionally, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System is the **only VA performing CAR T-cell therapy**, an innovative immunotherapy that helps the immune system target and attack certain blood cancers.

Enhancing Patient Safety Through Technology

Elevating the **use of technology to enhance patient safety**, nursing teams at VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System successfully implemented its **virtual patient monitoring system** commonly referred to as the telesitter program.

The telesitter program allows specially trained staff to **remotely monitor patients** who may be at higher risk for falls and other adverse events that can cause patient harm.

In just eight months of its implementation, the virtual care program led to **measurable improvements, including a 32% decrease in patient falls** from November 2024 through July 2025.

As a result, **VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System received the 2025 AvaPrize VA Excellence Award** from AvaSure for its innovative use of virtual patient monitoring to **improve patient safety and quality of care.**



Advancing Accessibility Through Virtual Care

Virtual health care modalities have increasingly become common place within the health care industry and continue to be used by Veterans.

In fiscal year 2025, overall virtual care encounters **increased by 18%**, and VA Video Connect usage

increased by 23% from 2024 to 2025. Virtual appointments for **mental health care also increased by 15% year-over-year.**

To address health care barriers for rural Veterans and enhance specialty care accessibility, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System **expanded two new audiology virtual care clinics** at the Roane County VA Clinic and Athens VA Clinic bringing the total number of virtual audiology care locations to six.

VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System uses platforms such as VA Video Connect, VA Health Chat, and telephone calls to provide various health care services virtually **including primary care, mental health care, audiology, and now emergency care.**

Veterans can attend their routine, scheduled appointments using VA Video Connect or immediately connect with an emergency care provider to determine the best course of action in emergent or urgent situations.

In fiscal year 2025, **922 Veterans received care through Tele-Emergency Care**, a newly implemented initiative that's available 24/7. This type of virtual care helps **reduce unnecessary exposure to illnesses** and decrease drive or wait times for those in rural areas.

Most importantly, Veterans continue to **trust and use My HealtheVet** to seamlessly and quickly access important medical needs.

Nearly **71% of Veterans use My HealtheVet** for their health care such as refilling prescriptions, requesting to schedule and reschedule appointments, and connecting with their health care teams using My HealtheVet's secure messaging feature.

VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System uses platforms such as VA Video Connect, VA Health Chat, and telephone calls to provide various health care services virtually including primary care, mental health care, audiology, and now emergency care.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

At VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, our clinical researchers are diligently exploring and resolving the toughest challenges that face Veterans. Partnered with Vanderbilt University Medical Center, our facility continuously strives to break barriers and advance health care discoveries for the Veterans we are charged with serving.

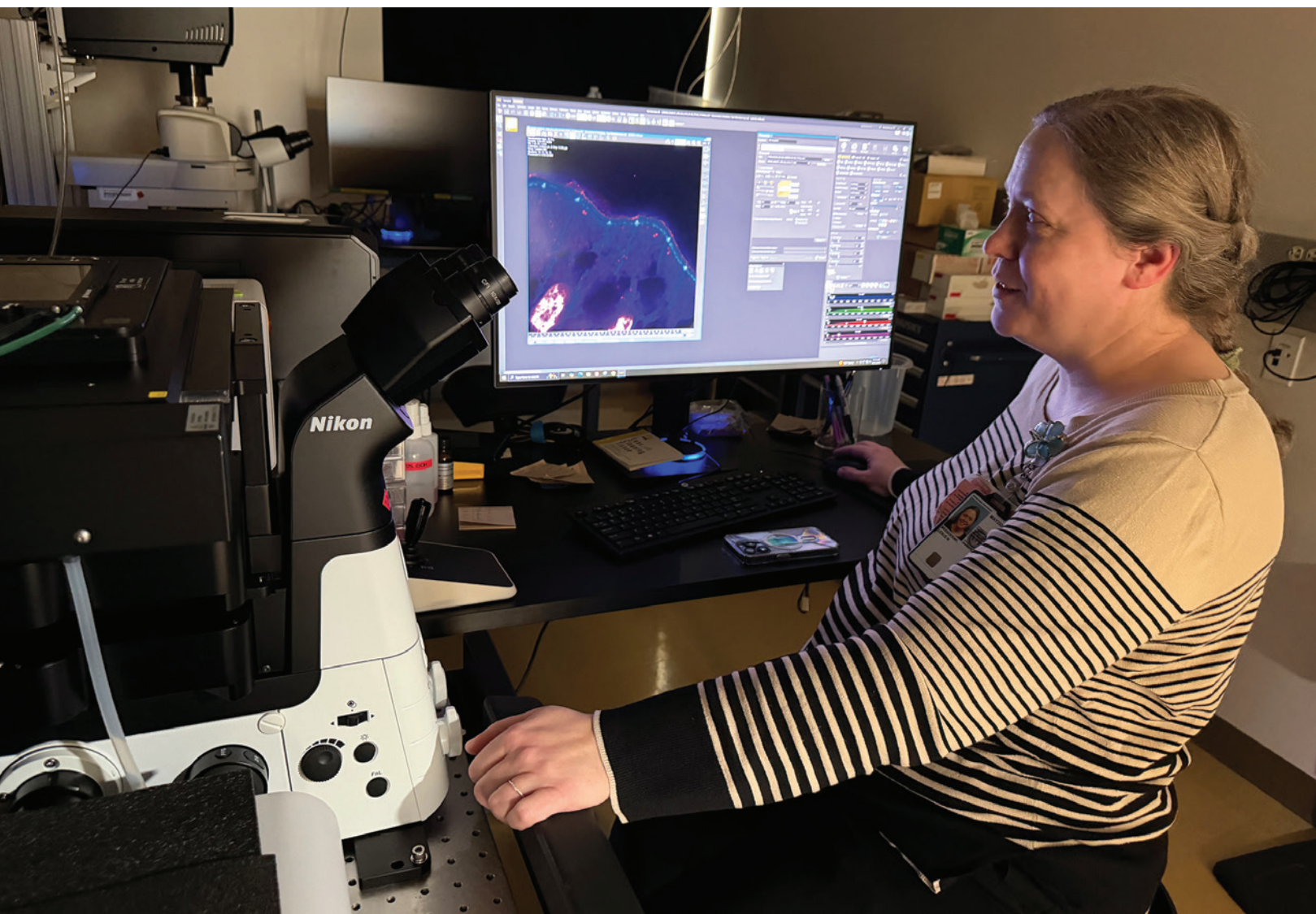
We are proud to be **one of 10 VA facilities in the nation leading research related to toxic exposures** like burn pits, Agent Orange, and other illnesses related to the PACT Act.

In fiscal year 2025, our research efforts reached new heights as our team of researchers submitted a **record number of 55 major research projects** to

VA's Office of Research & Development. Our clinical researchers and investigators published **more than 500 original research articles and journals** advancing discoveries and breakthroughs related to Veterans' health care.

As part of VA's Million Veteran Program, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System is one of two sites assisting with and leading research related to Veterans' genetics.

In fiscal year 2025, **more than 26,000 Veterans** at VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System enrolled in the Million Veteran Program. This research is part of a national initiative aimed at better understanding how genes, lifestyle, military experiences, and exposures affect health and wellness in Veterans.



Research Awards and Recognitions

In fiscal year 2025, several researchers at VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System were recognized with prestigious awards, nominations, as well as international recognition for their breakthroughs and contributions in research.

Dr. Ray Harris was nominated for **VA's William S. Middleton Award**. Established in 1960, the Middleton Award is VA's highest honor for research and bestowed to senior clinical researchers who have made outstanding contributions to biomedical research and achieved international recognition for their work.

Harris has been an investigator for more than 30 years, publishing more than 300 peer-reviewed publications in renowned nephrology journals focusing on the pathogenesis of acute and chronic kidney disease.

Since its inception, **three researchers** at VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System have **earned the Middleton Award**.

Dr. Keith Wilson was nominated for **VA's John Blair Barnwell Award**, a prestigious honor awarded to senior investigators whose **scientific achievements advance the diagnosis** and treatment of diseases or disorders in the Veteran population. Wilson has been with VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System for more than 20 years and published more than 200 original research articles. He specializes in gastrointestinal research related to inflammation and carcinogenesis with studies investigating *Helicobacter pylori*-associated immune dysregulation and gastric cancer development and inflammatory bowel disease.

Gaining international attention and featured on NPR's All Things Considered, **Dr. Lee Wheless** published an important study in the Journal of the American Medical Association Dermatology (JAMA) highlighting the effectiveness of nicotinamide, a form of vitamin B3, in reducing skin cancer development.

MODERNIZATION & GROWTH

Sustained growth in Veteran enrollment and rapid population expansion across middle Tennessee, southern Kentucky, and northern Georgia are driving one of the most **significant modernization efforts** in VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System’s history. Serving more than 157,000 Veterans across 74 counties, TVHS is strategically investing in infrastructure, access, and specialty services to **meet rising demand and deliver high-quality care closer to home.**

Modernizing Healthcare

In fiscal year 2025, both the Nashville and Alvin C. York VA Medical Centers advanced critical infrastructure upgrades designed to **enhance capacity, privacy, and the healing environment.** Inpatient units at the York campus were reconfigured to convert double-occupancy rooms into private rooms, improving Veteran comfort while modernizing clinical space to support today’s standards of care.

In 2025, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System unveiled its newly renovated skilled geriatrics care unit. The unit is located at Alvin C. York VA Medical Center. After roughly two years in progress, the unit offers Veterans single occupancy patient rooms bursting with natural light and modern designs to put the mind at ease.



At the Nashville campus, key access points were redesigned to improve patient flow, accessibility, and operational efficiency. These enhancements strengthen the foundation of our tertiary care hubs while positioning both campuses for future specialty expansion.

Expanding Outpatient Access Across the Region

To reduce wait times and travel burdens, TVHS is significantly **expanding outpatient access** through both leased and newly constructed facilities.

In 2026, **five additional leased clinics** will open in Chattanooga, Clarksville, Murfreesboro, and Nashville. Funded by the PACT Act, **three newly constructed clinics** will come online by 2030 in Nashville, Clarksville, and Cookeville. These investments represent a transformative expansion of outpatient capacity across the region.

In Clarksville, one of the fastest-growing areas in our catchment, a new 215,000-square-foot VA clinic will open by 2030, dramatically **increasing access** to primary and specialty care services. In Nashville and Cookeville, a new state-of-the-art VA clinic is also planned for completion by 2030, centralizing primary care and select specialty care services in a modern outpatient setting.

These expansions are designed to **reduce drive times**, improve appointment availability, and ensure Veterans can **access comprehensive care** within their own communities.



Newly renovated Building 107 at Alvin C. York VA Medical Center in Murfreesboro.

Decentralizing Specialty Care

Beginning in fiscal year 2026, specialty services—including **oncology, infusion therapy, cardiology, and nephrology**—will expand into Chattanooga and Cookeville. The Oncology Services and Infusion Center at Pointe Centre VA Clinic brings advanced cancer care to rural Veterans who previously traveled significant distances for treatment.

By strategically decentralizing high-acuity services, TVHS is transforming access to specialty care and strengthening its footprint in rural communities.

These modernization efforts reflect a long-term commitment to capacity, quality, and access. Together, they position VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System to meet growing demand and deliver modernized, Veteran-centered care across our region for decades to come.

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