

Veteran's Group

Research

CDC/NCHS, Health, United States 2009

(highlights)

- In 2007 approximately 2.8 million veterans have a service connected disability; 21 million living veterans without service-connected disability

Benchmarking of Ivy's

Brown University

- ATTC, funded by SAMHSA, CSAT in collaboration with the Brown Distance Learning Program, offers a credited, on-line course on substance abuse treatment for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans called "530 Strength Based Substance Abuse Treatment for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans".

Stanford University

- Have a program called Stanford Vets Connect which offers free, confidential evaluation and treatment of Bay Area veterans through Stanford Hospital & Clinics Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Stanford Vets Connect is funded through a \$250,000 grant from the McCormick Foundation. As part of Welcome Back Veterans, Stanford is working with two other participating medical centers – Weill Cornell and the University of Michigan Health System – to refine mental-health treatment protocols for the spouses and dependents of veterans.
- United Students for Veterans' Health. This is a National organization that started at Stanford and still resides at Stanford. This organization strives to help long-term care patients in VA Hospitals. USVH volunteers include high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. These volunteers serve at least 2 hours per week in the VA hospitals.
- Stanford research study showed that integrating smoking cessation into PTSD treatment more effective than standalone smoking cessation program.

Dartmouth College

- Dartmouth's President was a former marine. He is very active in encouraging and enabling veterans to seek formal education. He visited injured veterans in the Bethesda Medical Center. Wright realized that to get an education, these veterans would need individualized counseling that might be hard to find once they left active duty. In 2007, he got in touch with David Ward, the president of the American Council on Education,

who agreed to develop this type of individualized program. Wright helped raise \$300,000 and in 2007 educational counselors started working at Bethesda, Walter Reed and Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX. More than 50 veterans asked for appointments with the counselors the first week the program was open.

- Dartmouth is one of 11 research institutions receiving a shared \$6 million in federal funding from NIH and VA from fiscal year 2010 to support research on substance abuse and associated problems among U.S. military personnel, veterans, and their families.
- Dartmouth's Department of Psychiatry provides a wide array of services to veterans in Vermont and Northern New Hampshire
http://dms.dartmouth.edu/psych/care/wrj_services

Yale University

- Rani Desai is co-director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars program and is the liaison to the Veterans Administration. Dr. Desai serves as Associate Director of the Northeast Program Evaluation Center, the evaluation arm of mental health services for the VA, and is the head of the Women and Trauma Core of Women's Health Research at Yale.
- Robert Rosenheck, department of psychiatry, research interests include Homelessness Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Cost-Effectiveness Analysis.
- Psychiatry department, clinical programs include well-networked programs with the VA such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Program, Neuropsychiatry Program, Substance Abuse Treatment Program, and more.
<http://medicine.yale.edu/psychiatry/care/vasystem/clinical.aspx>
- Dr. Sandra Resnick, assistant director of psychiatry and associate director of the Northeast Program Evaluation Center of the Veterans Health Administration, has research on consumer-run mental health programs for veterans.

Harvard

- Preliminary results from a small study funded by the U. S. Defense Department, and led by a Harvard Medical School assistant professor, found that veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder showed improvement in their symptoms after 10 weeks of yoga classes, including meditation and breathing, done twice a week, and 15 min. of daily practice at home.

Talk w/ Representatives of Diversity Groups

Affinity Group

Spoke with CNG on 3/14/11

Asked participants of VCNG specifically:

Q. What types of health programming are you interested in?

A. The Wellness Program offers a wide variety of programming that is comprehensive.

Q. Would you like veteran's specific programming offered through the Wellness Program? What would that look like?

A. Would like a Veteran's specific link on Wellness web page or Gannett web page. This link would take people to a page that might include links to: physical therapy, local VA clinics, mental well-being, preventable disease information (screenings, Type II diabetes), mobility impairment services (Gannett transportation services, office of disability services), Tri CARE, TriCARE for Life (health plan for active duty and retirees), United Concordian (dental care). The idea was also brought up about holding fundraising events such as a 5K or the Red, White, and Blue.

Q. Are there ways of marketing that can be used to reach more veterans?

A. Send information to dta27@cornell.edu (president of the student veterans organization). Facebook, Twitter.

From original VCNG working list of priorities:

The CNG brought up that they would like this health related issue to be a priority. Have FSAP – specific people trained for Veterans (PTSD, University must recognize as need and offer the service, reach out to departments to educate co-workers before return of Vet to look for signs/symptoms).

Needs of identified group (GAP Analysis – Are there gaps in what we currently offer versus what we should be offering):