

Progress in Women Veterans Health

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Women Veterans

- Women now comprise 14% of active duty deployed forces - and are becoming veterans at an increasing rate
 - During Gulf War I (1991) Women were 10% of Deployed Active Duty, 5% of forces overall
 - From WWII- Vietnam era, women comprised between 3-5% of Active Duty

THEN AND NOW

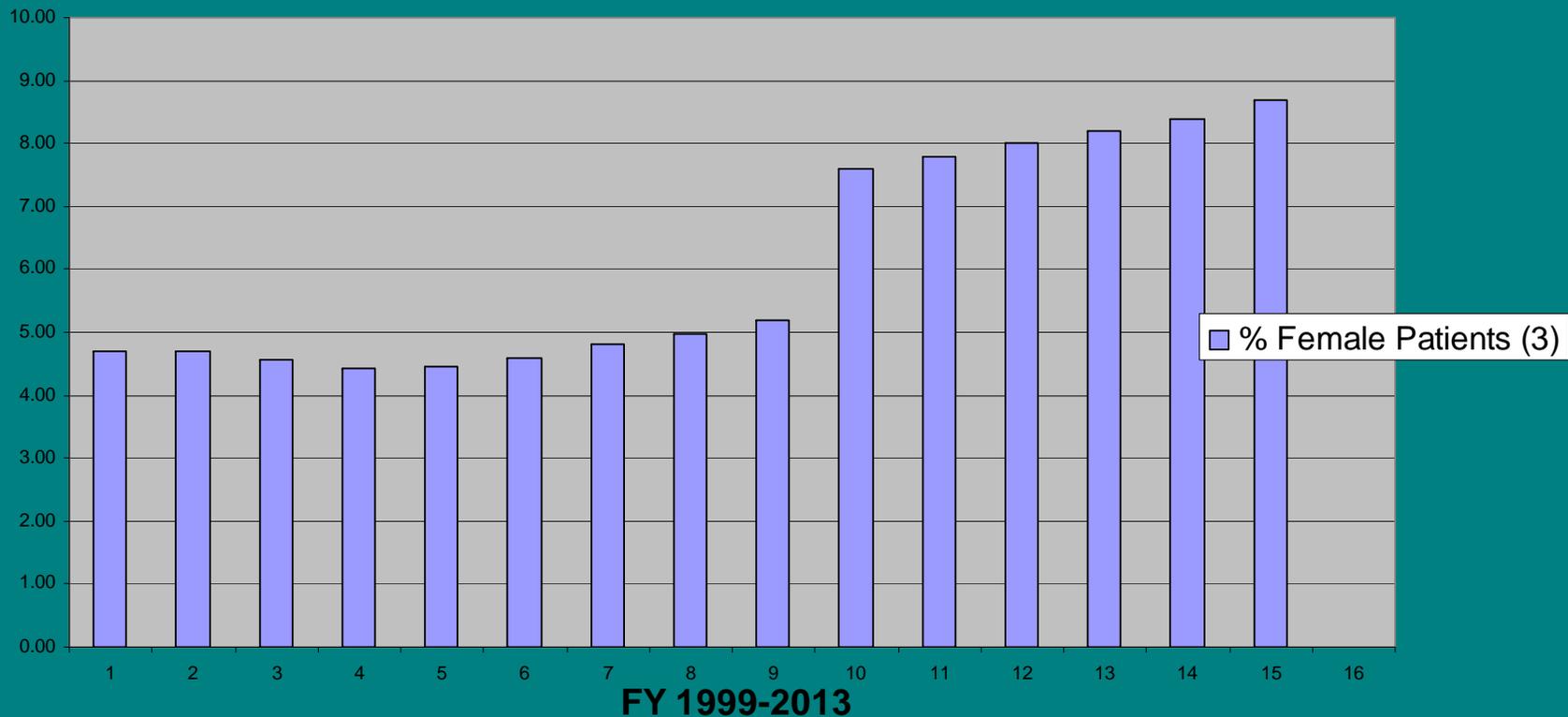
THEN AND NOW



Mission: Quality Women's Health In VA

- Provide highest quality health care to every woman veteran
- Each woman veteran presenting at VA will be assured that her gender-specific primary care needs will be met by a proficient and interested primary care provider
- Highest quality: includes privacy, dignity, and sensitivity to all health needs
- Highest quality: is providing the right care in the right place and time

Women Veterans Using VA





The New OIF/OEF Era Veteran

- She is utilizing VA services: 42% enroll
- She is coming to VA frequently
 - 45% were seen 2-10 visits
 - 38.5 % seen 11 or more times since 2003

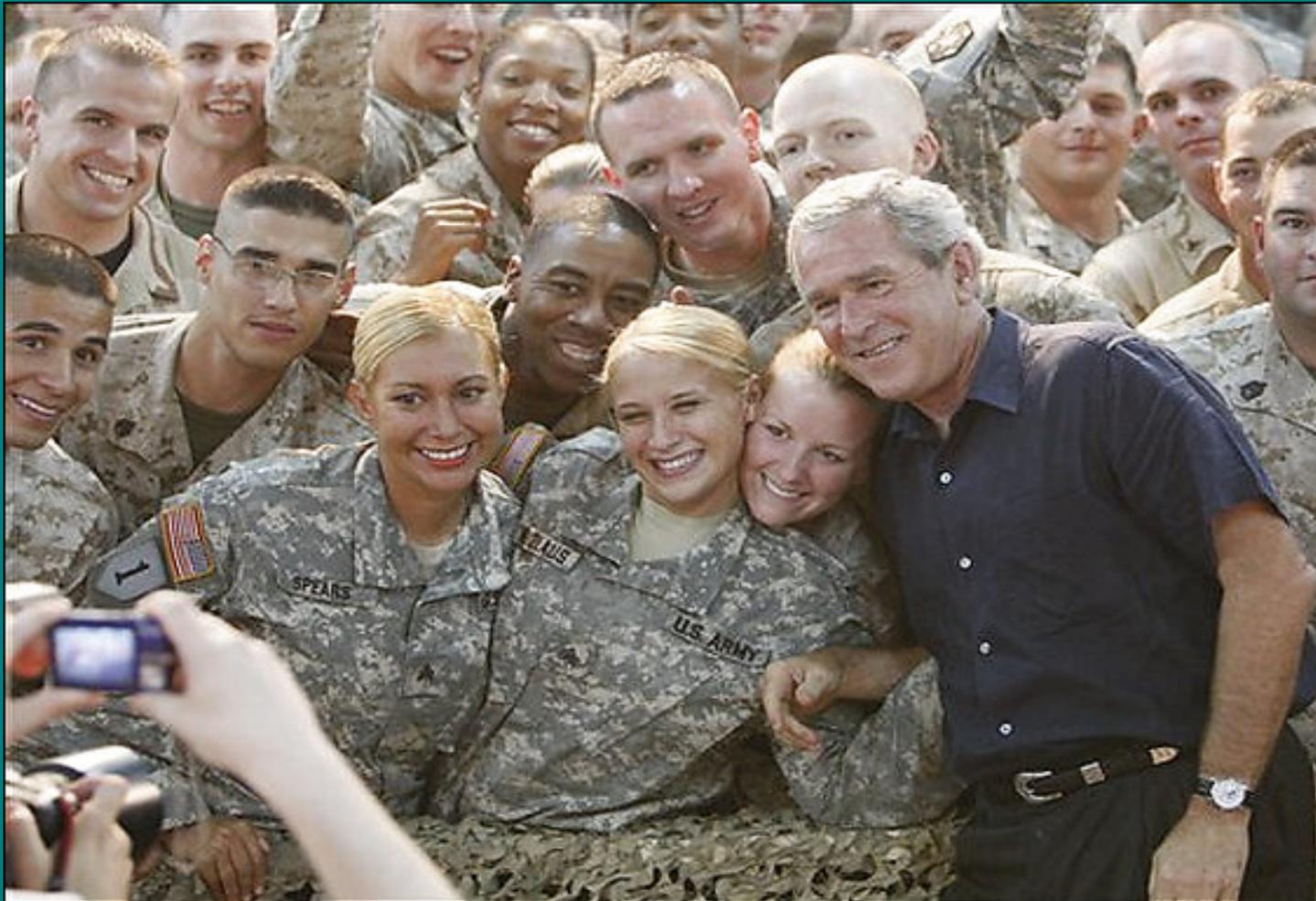
VHA Challenge:

The total number of women using VA services will nearly double in the next 2-4 years.

How will VHA best provide health services as the numbers increase?

Women Veterans Program Evolution Since Summit 2004

- Accomplishments: Gender-specific care
 - Adoption of Performance Measures/goals
 - Breast CA mammograms > 86% compliance
 - Cervical Ca Screening > 90% compliance
 - Bone density for Osteoporosis risk- ongoing measures
 - New purchases this year, now DEXA machines in nearly every VA
 - Delivery of care models:
 - Most frequent: Mixed gender Primary Care with separate visit to GYN (43%)
 - Research data on patient satisfaction with specific delivery models: Highest in women's primary care clinics that also provide GYN care
 - We are working quickly towards more women's health Primary Care Clinics

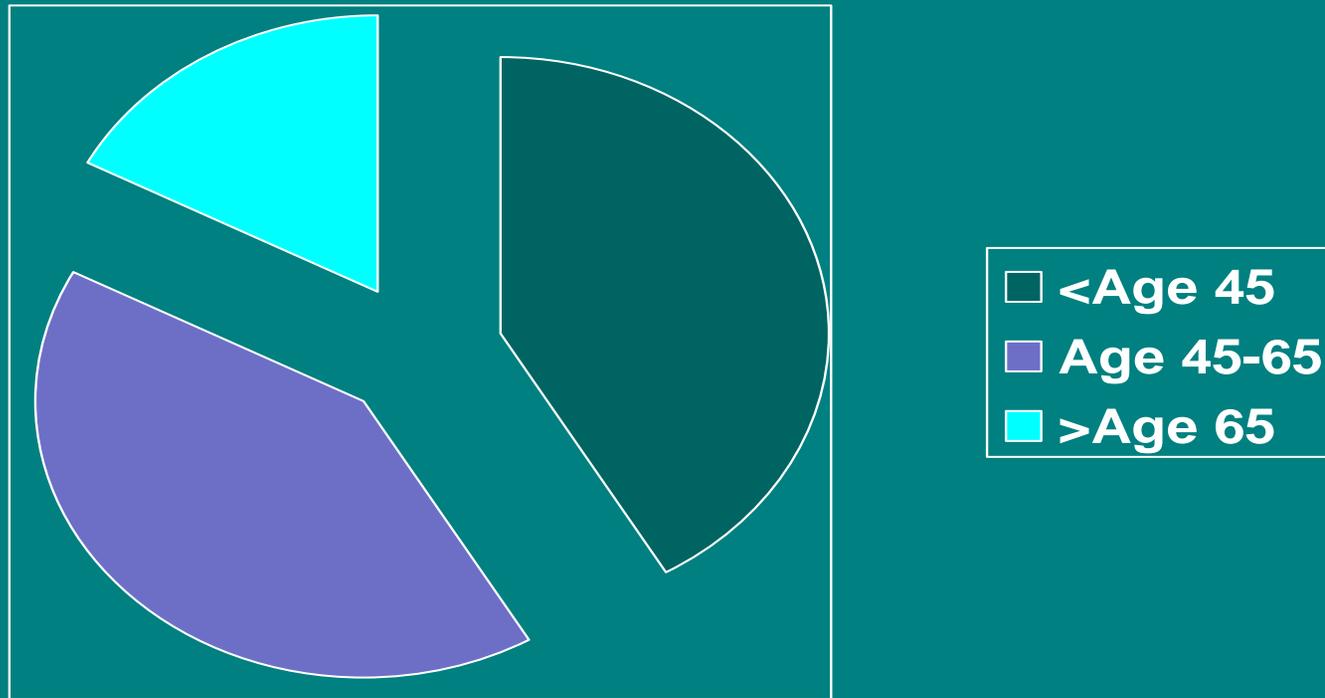


President George W. Bush visits troops,
Labor Day weekend, Sept 2007
Washington Post photo

Women's Health Moves Forward

- Dr Kussman elevated office from Women Veterans Health Program to Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group in March, 2007
- Moves focus beyond gender-specific care such as Pap Smears to comprehensive care of women - and women's health as a subpopulation of all veterans
- Increased focus on quality of care issues and comprehensive longitudinal care for women veterans
- Follow health of women over time and track effects of deployments on women veterans

Women Veterans Using VA





Earlier Eras of Service: WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War I

Different Needs

- We don't lose sight of our "aging women"
- Significant numbers over age 55 use VA
- Cardiac risk : the number one risk for morbidity and mortality in women
 - High prevalence of diabetes and obesity
- Health concerns of peri-menopause and menopause
- Cancer screenings –breast, lung, colorectal, cervical cancers

You Served - You Deserve



You Served - You Deserve

- At VA, our mission is to provide you the BEST health care available anywhere in the country.

