

VA Women's Health Evaluation Initiative



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Program Evaluation Funding: VA Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group



Womens Health Center

Mental Health

***Women's Health
Research***

WV Program Mgr

MST Support Team

Miniresidency

Fellowship



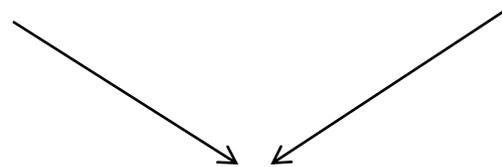
History of Clinical Operations - Research Partnership



**Women Veterans Health
Strategic Health Care
Group**



**VA Palo Alto
CHCE
*HERC***



**Women's Health Evaluation Initiative
WHEI**

Key Objective

Develop a Sourcebook with key descriptive information about women veterans, e.g.,:

- Distribution across facilities
- Growth over time
- Demographic characteristics
- Diagnoses
- Utilization
- Cost of care

Methods

Cohort for today's presentation:

Women veterans who use VHA

Excludes non-veterans

~50% of VHA women patients are non-veterans

Employees (predominant group)

CHAMPVA, Tricare, other

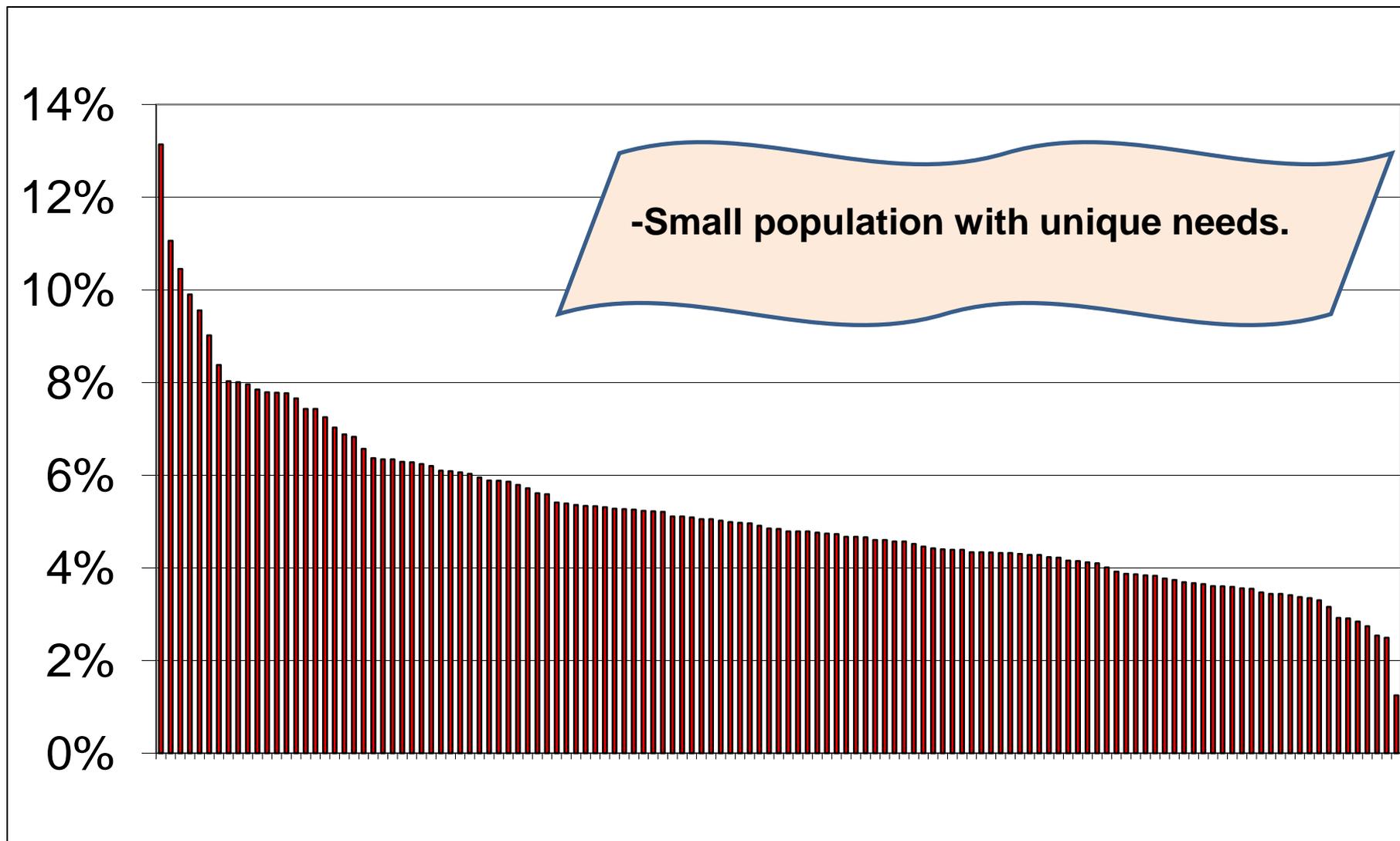
Data sources:

NPCD

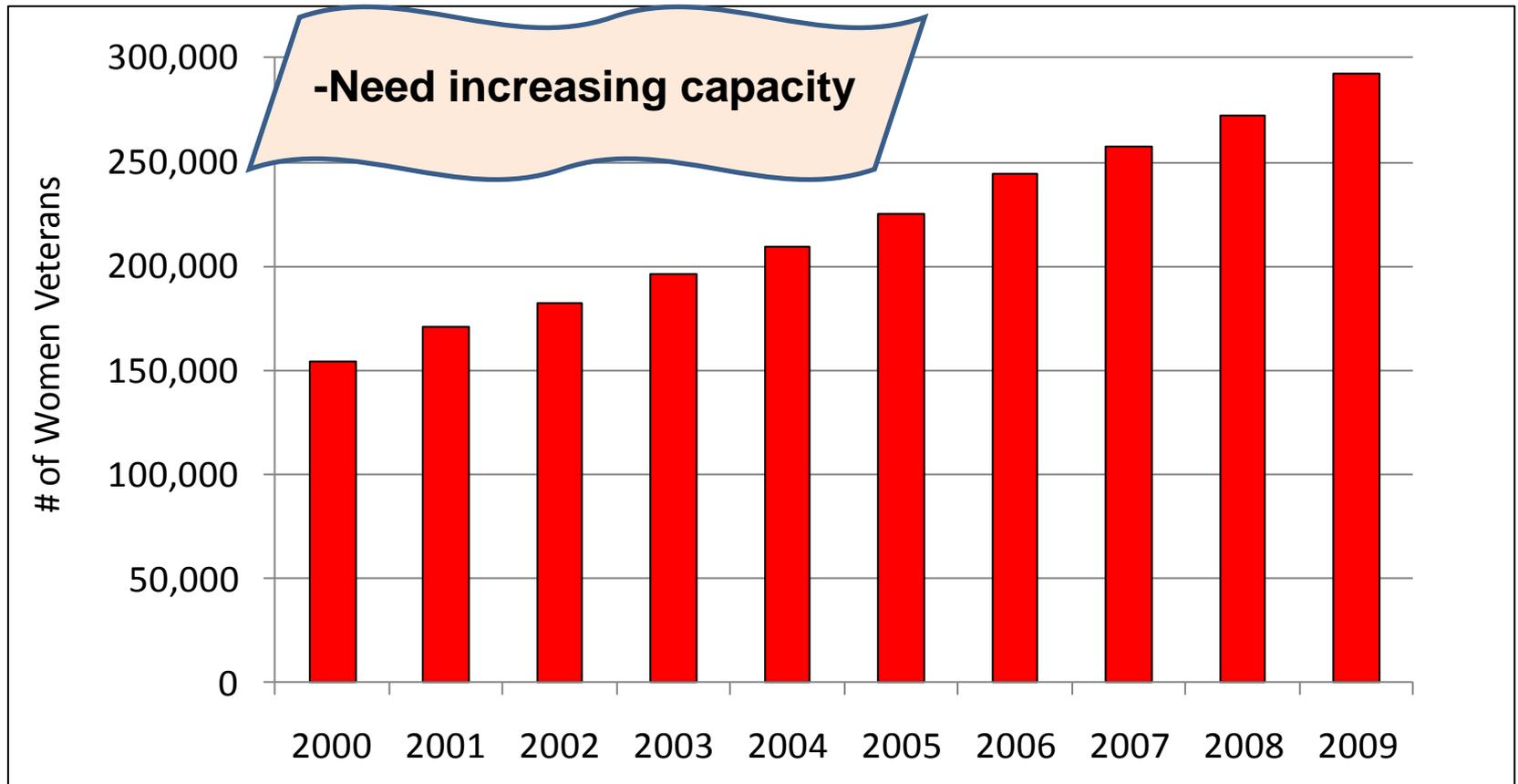
DSS

ADUSH Enrollment file

Women represent 3-8% of veteran outpatients at most VA facilities in FY08

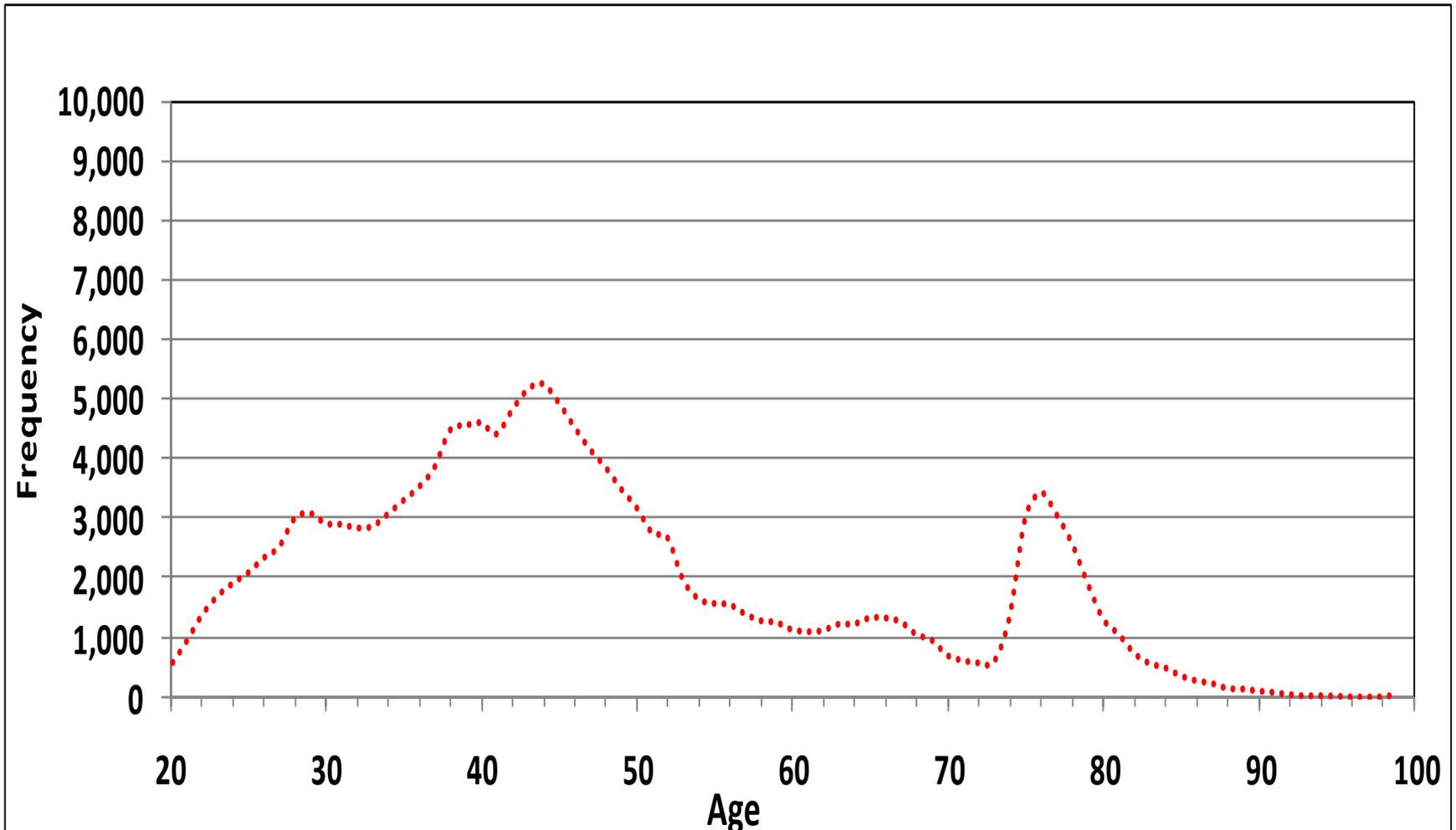


of Women Veterans Using VA: Doubled over Past Decade



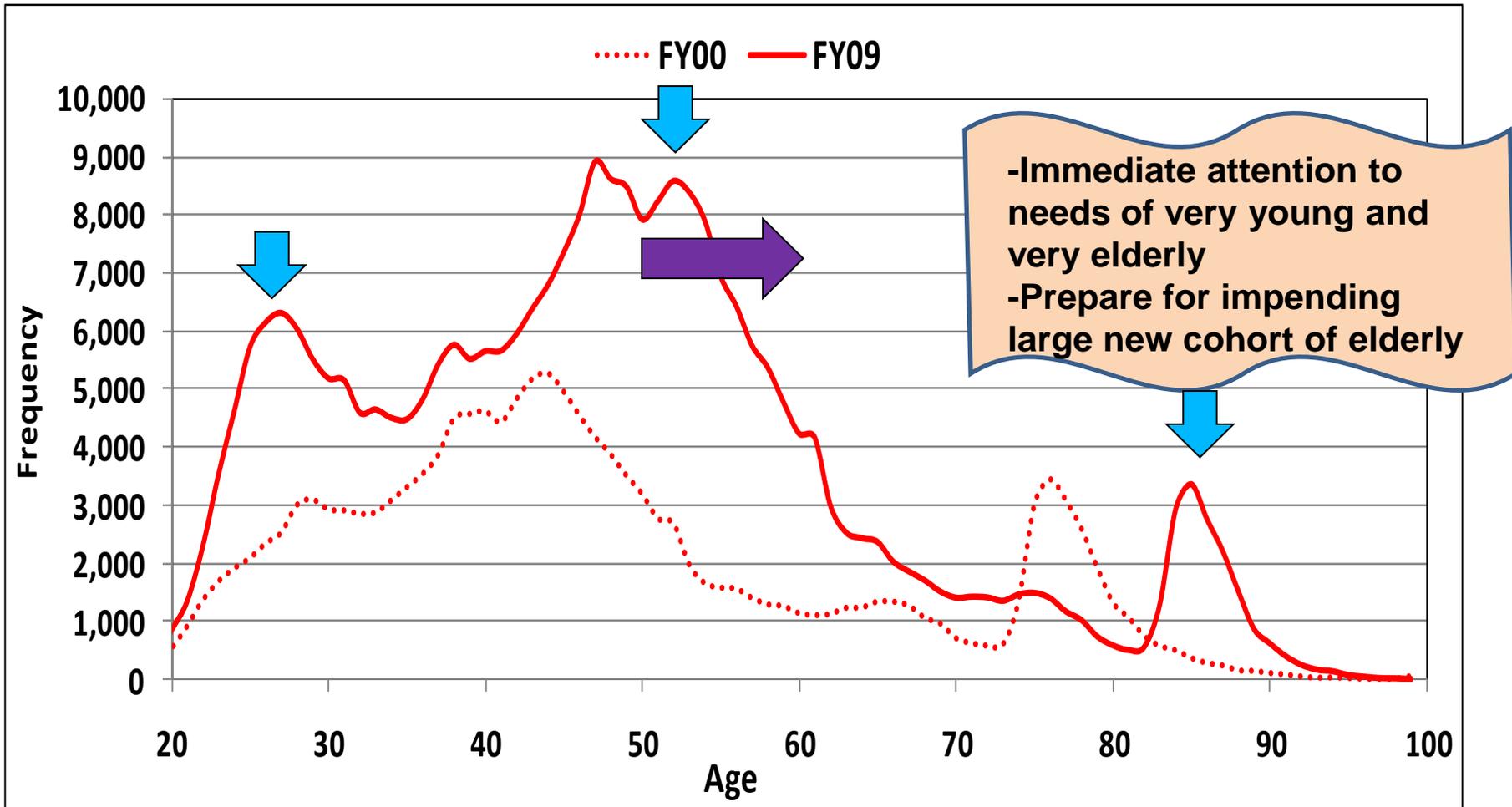
Age Distribution for FY00

Women Veteran VA patients



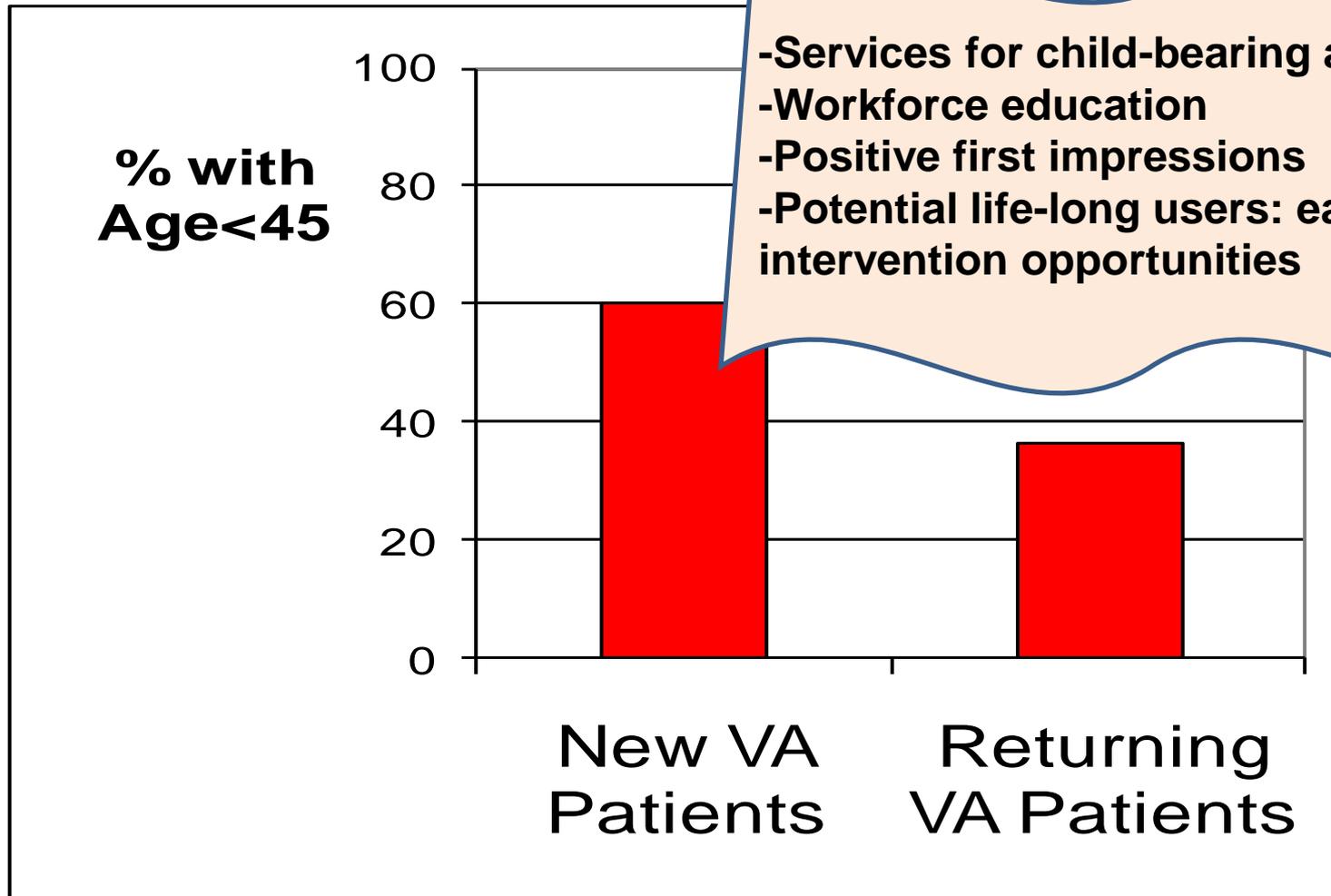
New Trimodal Age Distribution

Women Veteran VA patients

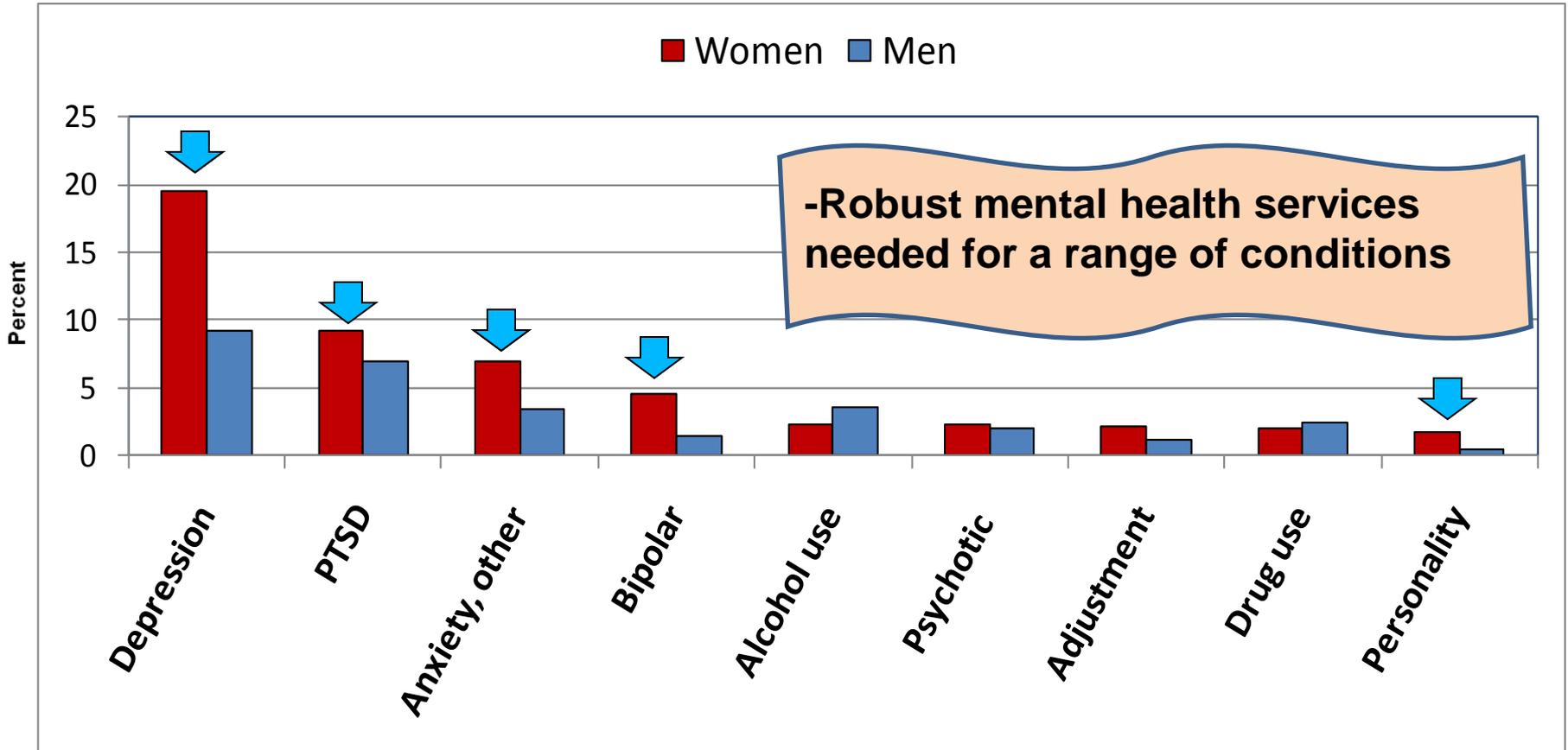


New VA Women Veteran Patients Tend to be Younger

FY09



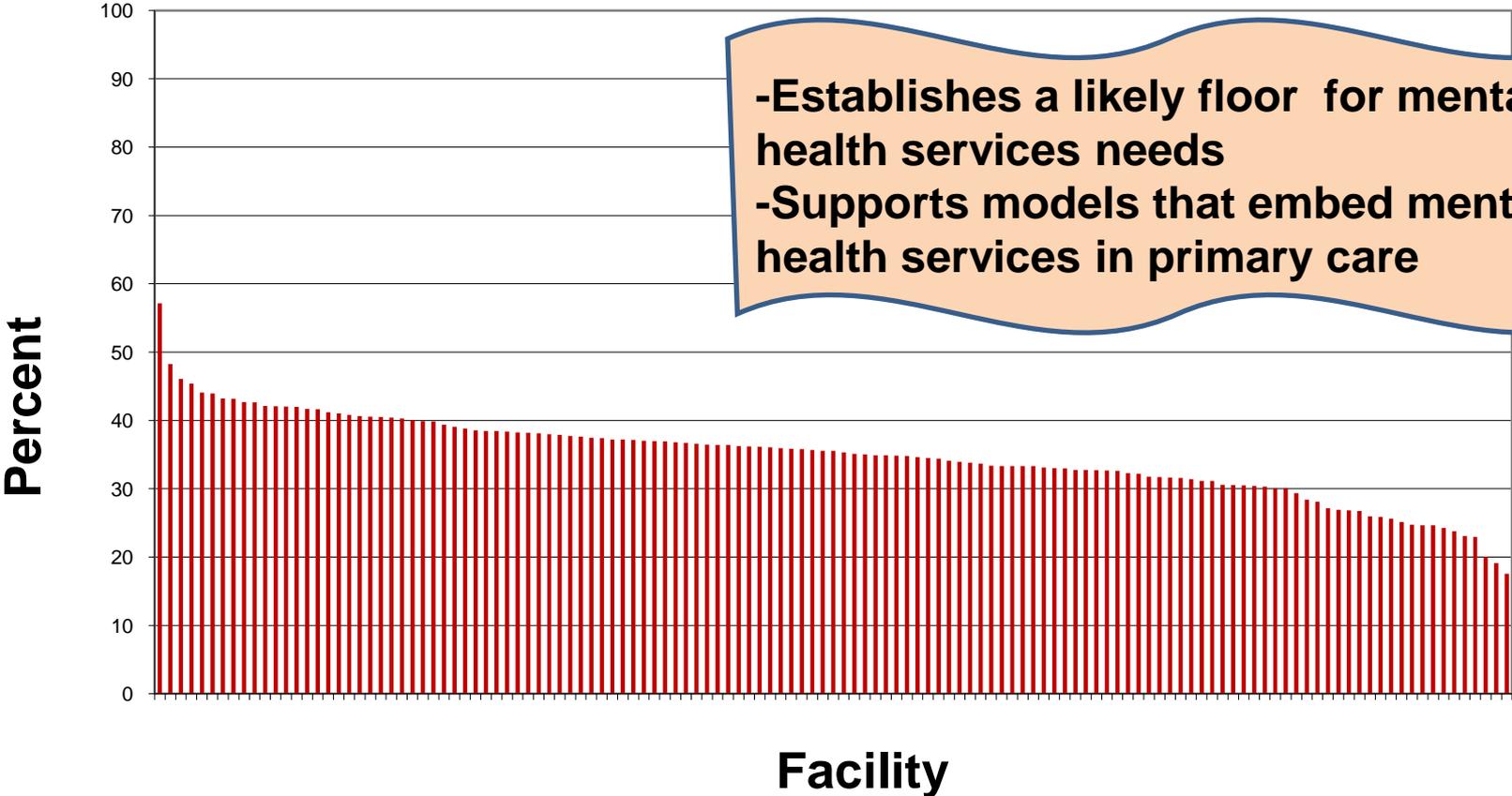
31% of Women vs. 20% of Men have a Diagnosed Mental Health Condition



Mental health condition based on presence of ≥ 2 ICD-9 codes in VA outpatient administrative data in FY08; includes veteran patients only.

At nearly all facilities, 25-45% of women Veterans use mental health services at least once

% of women with 1+ use of mental health clinic, by facility, FY08



-Establishes a likely floor for mental health services needs
-Supports models that embed mental health services in primary care

Top 8 Conditions in Women Veterans

Based on 1+ instance of an ICD-9 code in FY08

% with condition	Overall (n = 249,242)	<40 years (n = 76,712)	40-64 years (n = 134,563)	65+ years (n = 37,964)
→ Hypertension	32.7	7.9	37.2	67.1
→ Hyperlipidemia	30.8	9.1	36.5	54.2
<i>Depressive disorders</i>	27.1	31.4	14.0	30.6
→ Lumbo-sacral spine disorders	22.1	21.8	24.4	14.4
Skin disorders	18.3	16.3	19.4	18.7
→ Tendonitis, other soft tissue	18.3	13.9	22.0	14.3
→ Overweight/obesity	17.6	14.1	21.4	11.0
→ Joint disorders, lower extremity	17.4	17.0	19.0	12.5

-Common medical conditions amenable to intervention include cardiovascular risk factors and painful conditions
-Health services delivery systems must take varying needs of different age groups into account

Putting It All Together: The Sourcebook

Descriptive data in accessible format

Sociodemographics, diagnoses, utilization, costs

Longitudinal FY2000-FY2009

Key subgroups

Gender comparisons

Future directions

Annual updates

Integrated, longitudinal databases as implementation tool

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