



DID YOU KNOW?

The VA Trains the Majority of American Healthcare Professionals

Most Americans believe the veterans' healthcare system serves only veterans. But that is not the case. In addition to providing high quality healthcare to more than nine million veterans, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) serves us all.

The VHA's more than 12,000 hospitals and clinics are a key training ground for many of the nation's future doctors, nurses, and other clinicians. More than 1,800, or nearly [90 percent, of educational institutions partner](#) with the VHA in this \$900 million-a-year program. More than [70 percent of the nation's physicians](#) have received training in the VHA.

Trainees are thus able to learn from the many innovations that the VHA has pioneered. For example, the VHA developed the gold standard interdisciplinary post-graduate training program in geriatric home-based primary care and palliative care. Trainees at the VHA learn also how to practice the kind of team-based care that is critical to patient safety. [The American Association of Medical Colleges](#) recently told Congress that **"the VA is an irreplaceable component of the U.S. medical education and research enterprises."**

The VHA is the largest employer of nurses in the United States. It trains thousands of student nurses and runs multiple programs that help nurses advance

in their careers. One is the VHA's [RN Transition-To-Practice Residency Program](#), which is designed to help new graduates go from the classroom to practice.

The VHA is also the single largest employer of psychologists in the United States. According to the [American Psychological Association \(APA\)](#), "one in five doctoral interns in psychology is training at the VA. VA also hosts more than 50 percent of APA-accredited postdoctoral training programs in psychology."

In 2021, the [APA lauded](#) the VHA for its 75- year commitment to **training the next generation of psychologists** who "make significant contributions through research, training, program management, supervision, and leadership at the local, regional and national level."

