



VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Columbia VA Health Care System



Fast Facts

\$715 million annual operating budget

84,000 Veterans served

21,843.57 square miles of service area

3,000+ employees

247 Volunteers

More than 1.1 million outpatient visits per year

3,575 hospital admissions

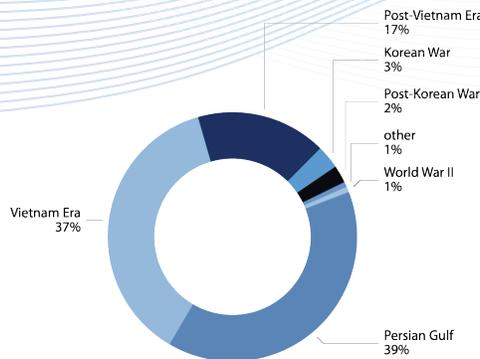
Columbia VA Health Care System

The Columbia VA Health Care System opened in 1932 at its current location and has since expanded to include seven community-based outpatient clinics located throughout South Carolina. The seven CBOCs are located in Anderson, Florence, Greenville, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Spartanburg and Sumter counties, which serve 36 of the state's 46 counties.

The Columbia VA proudly serves more than 83,000 enrolled veterans with 263,000 veterans within its catchment area. In FY19, the Columbia VA provided more than 1.13 million outpatient visits with an upward trend. The medical center is a level 1C teaching hospital delivering a full range of patient care services utilizing state-of-the-art technology, education, and research.

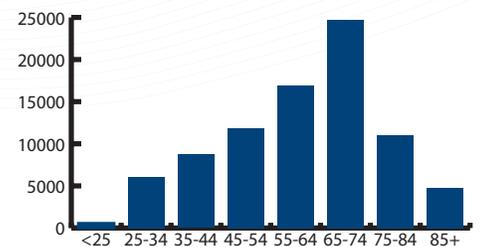
Comprehensive health care is provided through primary care, tertiary care and long-term care in areas of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, cardiology, neurology, oncology, dentistry, geriatrics and extended care.

Veterans by era



1. Persian Gulf War	8,797
2. Vietnam Era	8,335
3. Post-Vietnam Era	3,793
4. Korean War	684
5. Post-Korean War	501
6. Non-Veteran	18
7. Other	143
8. World War II	162
9. Active Duty	5
10. Pre-Korean War	16

Veterans by age



Veterans by gender



Operating Beds

Total Beds	204
Nursing Home	94
Internal Med	69
Psychiatry	20
Surgery	23

Access to Care

Primary Care



Mental Health



Cardiology



Gastroenterology



Women's Health



Dermatology



Gynecology



Ophthalmology



Orthopedics



Urology



At the Columbia VA HCS, our most important mission is to provide high-quality health care that Veterans have earned and deserve—when and where they need it.

Today, Veterans have unprecedented access to VA care at the Columbia VA. We have been focused on seeing our Veterans faster than ever. In fact, wait times for most services and clinics (including primary care, mental health, and women's health) at the Columbia VA are shorter than, or similar to, wait times in the private-sector.

The facility has been growing in proportion to the veteran population and expects the demand for outpatient services to increase. The Columbia VA has numerous modernization projects underway, including four (4) approved and funded replacement CBOCs, along with various new patient care buildings across the main campus, which will enhance the care provided to Veterans across the state.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic offered unique challenges for access, the Columbia VA has met the challenges by expanding use of video connect and telephone visits, and increased face-to-face opportunities while maintaining patient safety.

Wait times for all clinics are available at <https://www.accesstocare.va.gov/PWT/SearchWaitTimes>.



Columbia VA Health Care System, Columbia, South Carolina

Unique to Us

At the Columbia VA, our Veterans mean everything to us. We are honored to have been recognized by our Veterans with a 92 percent patient satisfaction score for providing them with the greatest quality health care and assistance.

The Columbia VA is the only VA with 22 Red Coat Ambassador positions whose sole purpose is to provide compassionate assistance to Veterans with wayfinding and furnishing accurate information. Our program is currently being used by the National Patient Experience Office as a best practice framework to roll out to other VA Medical Centers.

As the second fastest growing state in the nation, in terms of number of projected Veterans, South Carolina continues to experience significant increases to its veteran population, specifically female Veterans. We are proud to be among the top 15 percent of VA's fastest growing Women Veterans Health programs in the country. With more than \$160 million

in ongoing construction projects, the Columbia VA will provide Veterans with the newest, state-of-the-art medical technology, and will increase Veterans' access to quality health care.

The medical center laboratory has conducts tests (e.g. polymerase chain reaction (PCR), HCV Genotype, CT/NG, HPV, etc.) including COVID-19 Roche testing, for all VA medical facilities across VISN 7. The facility and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine recently opened a new Simulation Center that will be used for current and future professionals.

The Columbia VA is also involved in several cutting-edge technological advances and research-based initiatives including robotic surgery and various COVID-19 clinical trials. The facility recently began performing robotic surgeries for thoracic cases with great success and has many new upcoming clinical initiatives to provide Veterans with greater choices when it comes to choosing their care.

Accreditations

The Joint Commission

- The American College of Surgeons
- The Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities in the Health Care for Homeless Veteran Program
- The Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Care
- The Outpatient Interdisciplinary Pain Program
- The Mental Health Intensive Case Management program
- The Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists



Workforce

Total	3,655
Employees	3,408
Veterans Employed	29%
New Hires FY19	351
Nurses	634
Physicians	203
Mental Health Providers	149
Volunteers	247