NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR VETERANS RESEARCH & EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS

RESEARCH!AMERICA
ALLIANCE DISCUSSION
March 21, 2024

www.navref.org

VA 101

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is our nation's largest integrated health care system, Each and every day, the VA provides comprehensive, high-quality, patient-centered healthcare services to millions of eligible veterans across the country.

The VA health network includes over with over 1,200 healthcare facilities, including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and other specialized care centers spread across all 50 states and territories.

Unique public-private partnership with academic medical centers (VA trains 70% of the nation's doctors). VA health care providers (including researchers) are often dual-appointed personnel, representing one of the largest public-private partnership models across the U.S. Government.

Who Does the VA Serve?

~ 20 million Veterans	**~ 10 million** Veterans using VA benefits
~9 million Male Veterans	**~ 1 million** Female Veterans

RACIALLY DIVERSE

5 million+ minority veterans
- 46% Black or African American
- 29% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
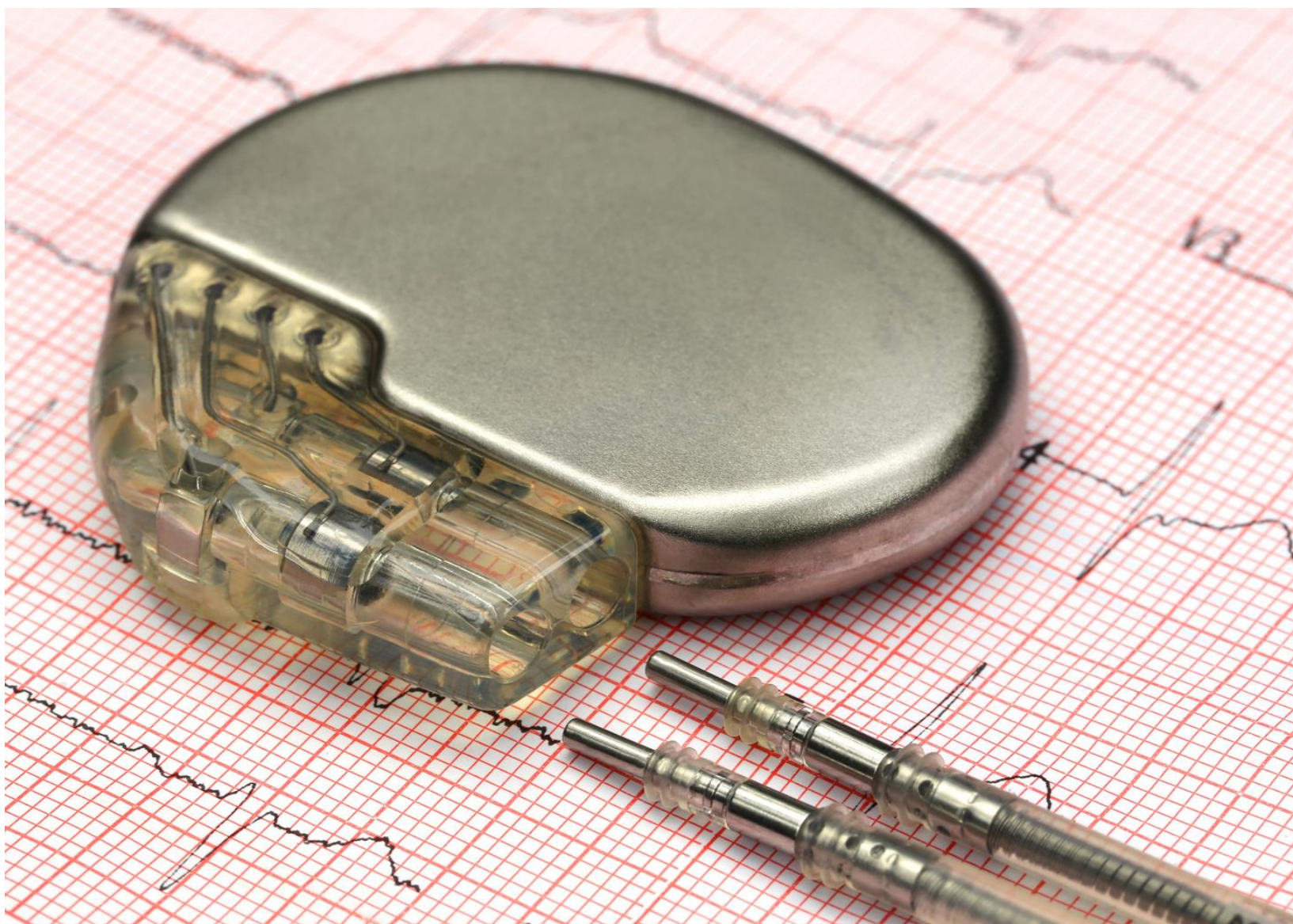- 25% Other

AGE

9 million+ Veterans age 65+

65 = Median Age of Male Veterans

5 million+ Veterans age 35-54

51 = Median Age of Female Veterans

NAVREF

VA Research Program

- VA's Research Program is 99 years old. The origins of the Research Program go back to the earliest days of the Department itself, and research has been cemented as a core mission of the Department.

- VA Research pioneered advancements and cures to advance global public health (e.g., nicotine patch, insulin shock therapy, pacemaker, CT scanner, Electronic Medical Record, Psychedelic treatments for PTSD, and many more!)

- 2024: 115 VA medical centers have active research programs.
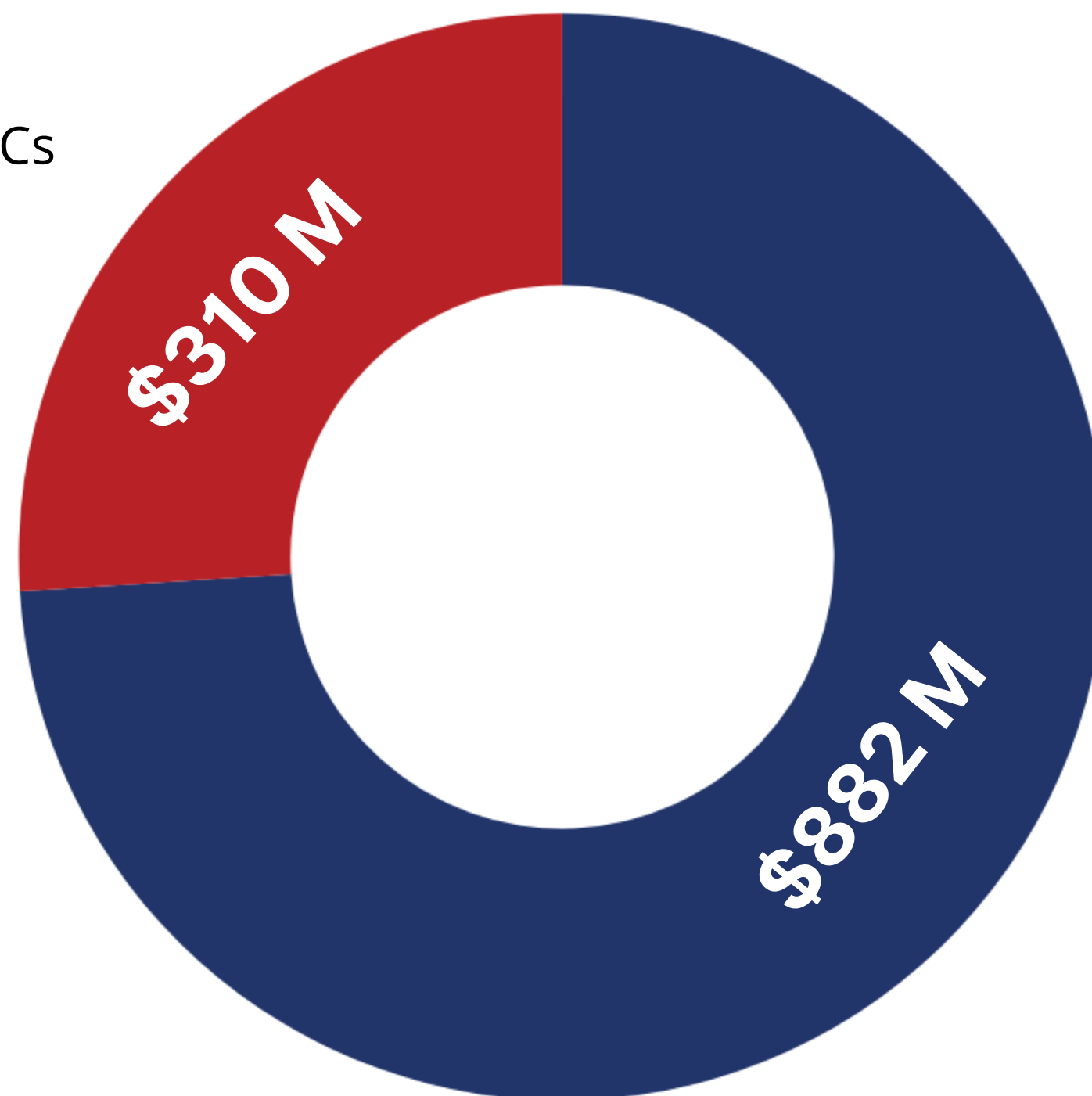
Industry-Sponsored Research at VA

- In 1988, Congress authorized the formation of VA Nonprofit Corporations (NPCs) to provide a flexible funding mechanism to advance VA's research & education missions. NPCs are independent, 501(c)(3) entities that are responsible for contracting, budgeting, and administration of extramural funds to support research and education projects.

- 2024: **+75 VA Nonprofits** across the country; in FY 22, they facilitated more than **$310M** in clinical research and education investments across VA.

- NAVREF is a membership association representing this network of VA Nonprofit Corporations.

VA Research: Funding Breakdown

Extramural - NAVREF NPCs
- Externally funded by non-VA entities
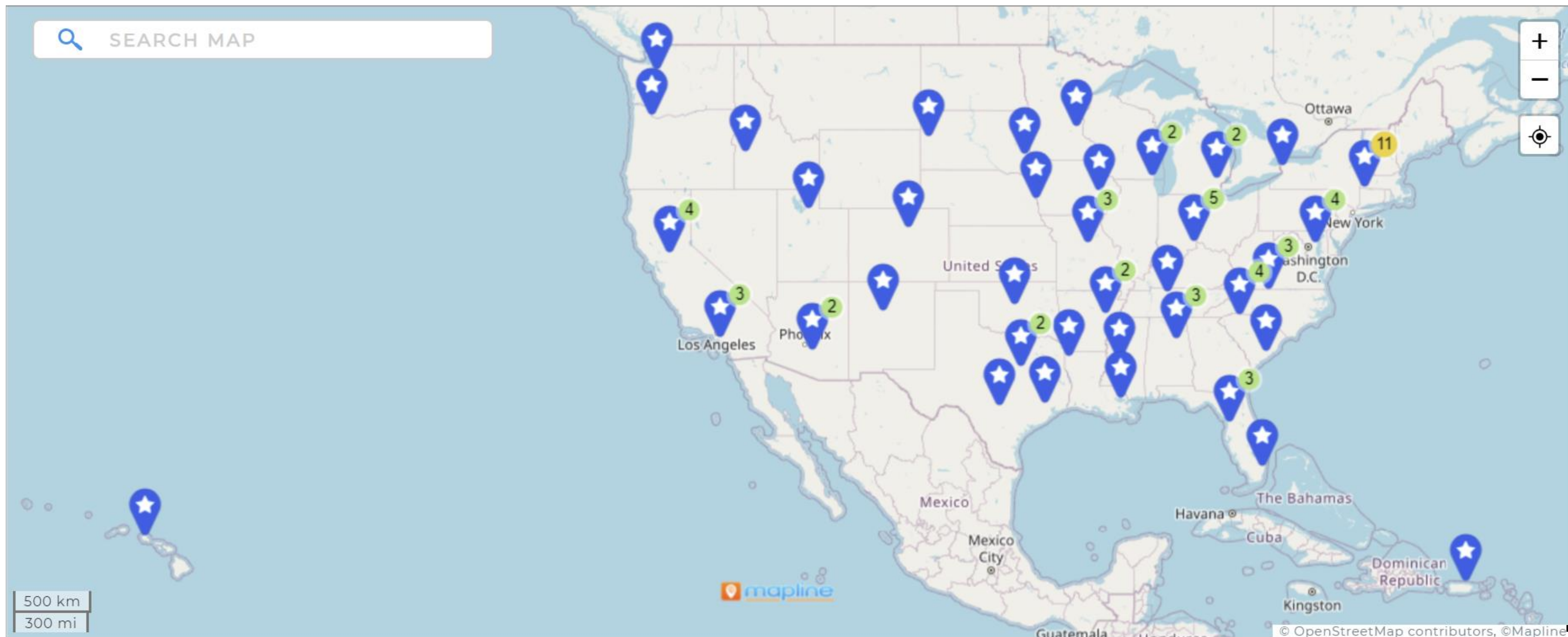- $310 Million

$310 M

$882 M

Intramural - VA
- VA appropriated funds for research initiatives
- $882 Million

NPC Sites (78)

Contact information for individual sites is available at https://navref.org/directory

Extramural Funding Sources

2022 Revenues
Figure 3. >$25,000 by Funding Source

	CDC	Other Federal	University	State/Local Government	VA	DoD	Private	NIH
■ Revenues	$4,359,458	$4,973,928	$3,998,782	$12,734,175	$28,884,224	$38,750,116	$59,960,811	$128,996,319

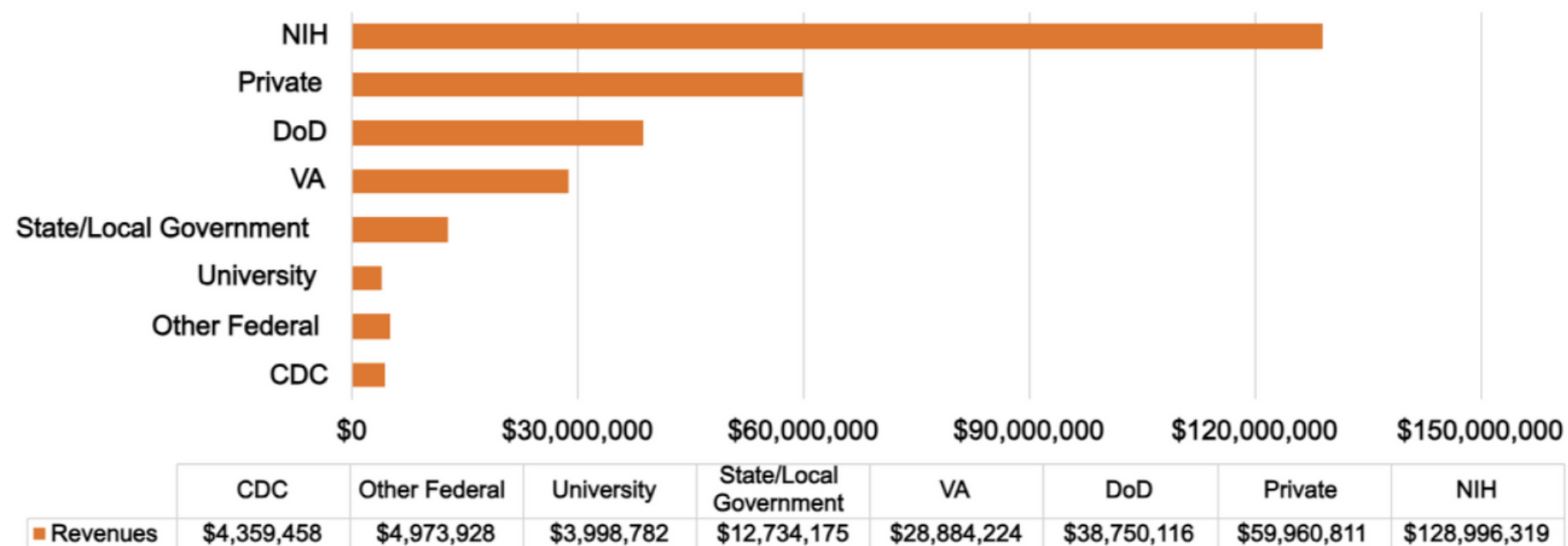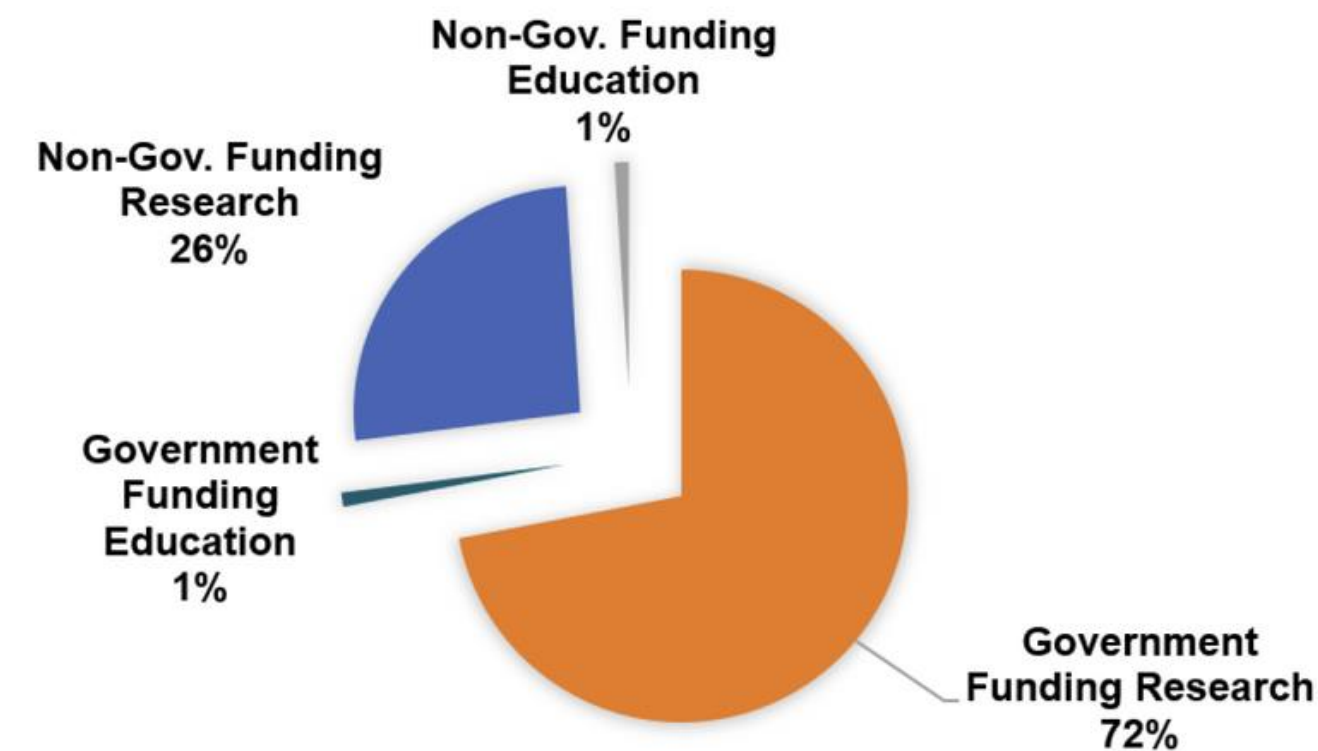## Figure 2. 2022 NPC Revenues by Funding Source

2022 GOVERNMENT VS. NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDING SOURCES (NOT INCLUDING OTHER MISC. REVENUES)

- Non-Gov. Funding Education 1%
- Non-Gov. Funding Research 26%
- Government Funding Education 1%
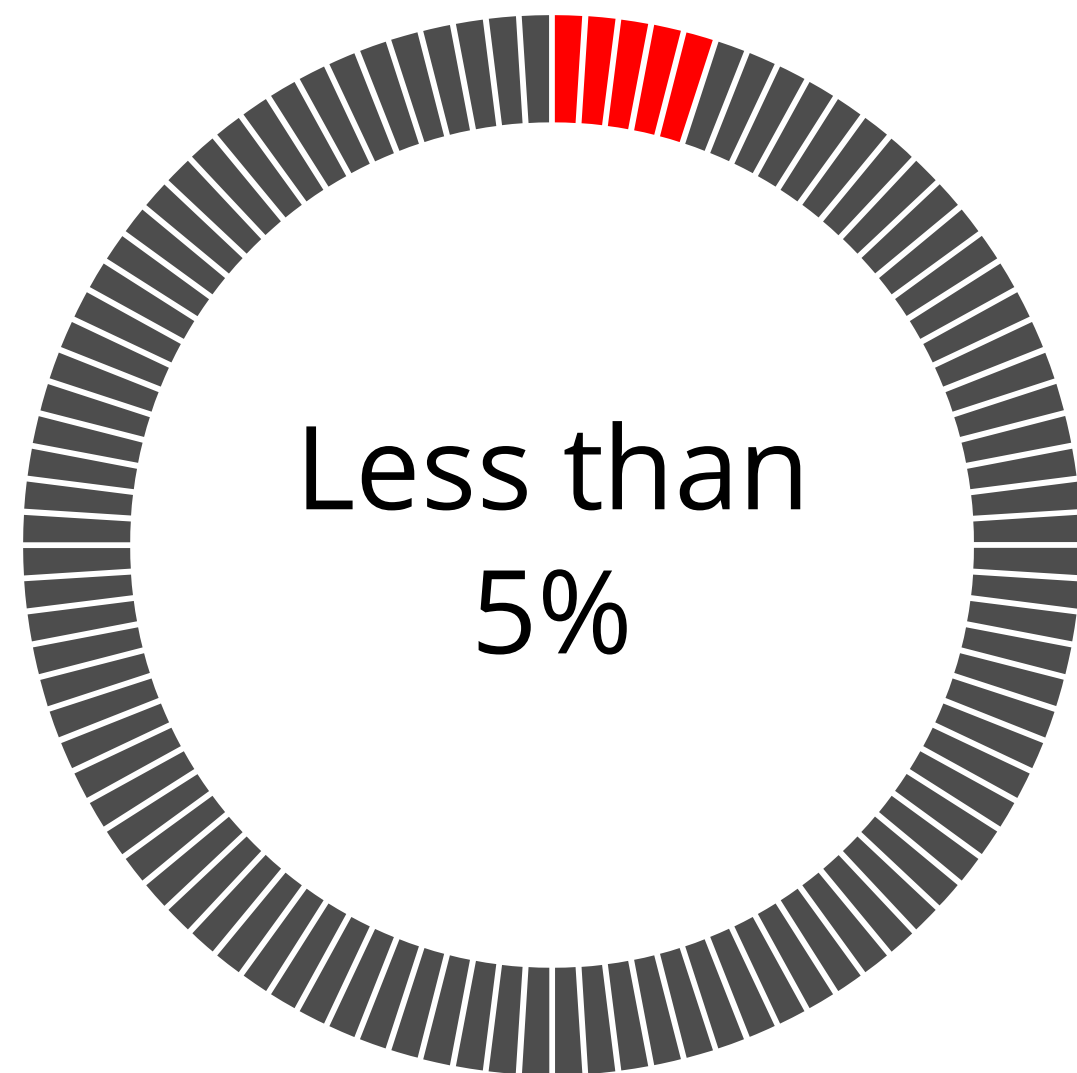- Government Funding Research 72%

Why Do Research at the VA?

- Largest Integrated Health Care System in the country
- Single Electronic Medical Record System with 9M+ Patients with racial diversity. Relatively study-naïve population; highly altruistic and motivated.
- 99 Year Old Research Program with a Proven Track Record of Success Pioneering Health Care Innovation
- More than 60% of VA researchers are also clinicians who provide direct patient care – allows VA research to move quickly from the research setting to care delivery
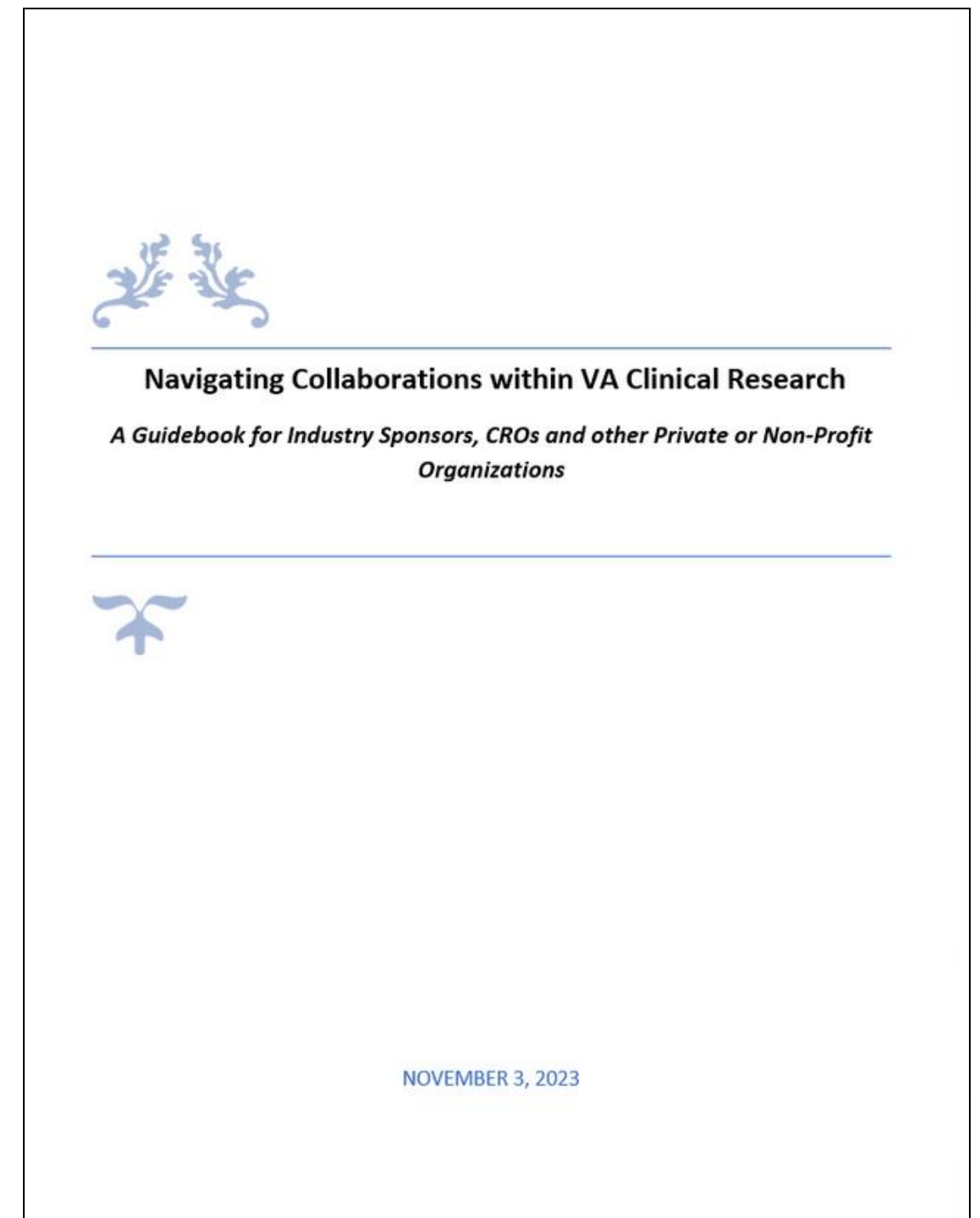
1 Single Electronic Health Record

Less than 5%

However, despite all of this, we know that **less than 5% of clinical trials** are offered at VA Medical Centers.

NAVREF helps bring more high-quality clinical trials to veterans by streamlining processes, increasing efficiency, and reducing timelines for veteran patient clinical trials.

Improving the Process

- Dedicated group of Specialty Team VA Research Attorneys dedicated to working with industry sponsors to improve Veterans' access to clinical research trials.

- Standard industry contracts (CDAs and CRADAs) can be reused at multiple VA sites; an opportunity to create Master CDAs and CRADAs

- VA's Acceptance of commercial IRBs

- Launch of a VA Partnered Research Program aimed at streamlining start-up activities for multi-site clinical trials

Navigating Collaborations within VA Clinical Research

A Guidebook for Industry Sponsors, CROs and other Private or Non-Profit Organizations

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

National Assoc. for Veterans Research & Education Foundations

NAVREF

National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations

- Founded in 1992 with a mission to build a stronger veteran research and innovation community through support and collaboration.
- Our Role:
  - Provide education, training, and core services to our members to sustain a strong research environment across VA
  - Collaborate with outside entities to expand clinical research opportunities for veterans
  - Work closely with VA leadership to promote collaboration and efficiency.

Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research

FOVA
FRIENDS OF VA MEDICAL CARE
AND HEALTH RESEARCH

- The Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) is a coalition (of which NAVREF is the chair) comprised of more than 80 national academic, medical, and scientific societies, voluntary health and patient advocacy groups, as well as veteran-focused associations.

- FOVA is dedicated to advocating for robust funding and support for the Department of Veterans Affairs' Medical and Prosthetic Research Program.

- Membership organizations: Research!America, American Academy of Neurology, Prostate Cancer Foundation, Disabled American Veterans, Association of American Medical Colleges, Paralyzed Veterans of America, **and more!**

Work with us!

- Our aim is to bring more clinical research opportunities to Veterans. If this is something you are interested in, please reach out!
  - Join FOVA and help us advocate on this issue with Congress
  - Work with us on promoting clinical research trials across the VA
  - Help us create new training opportunities for VA staff, Veterans, and family members!

Contact Us

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