



# VHA Voice of the Veteran (VOV) Satisfaction Survey Office of Strategic Integration (OSI) Conjoint Analysis

OMB No. 2900-0770

Estimated Burden: 15 minutes

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# Conjoint Survey- External Communication

Section Name	Section Title	Level	Order Group	Order
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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome. You have been selected to participate in a J.D. Power study regarding your access to healthcare.

This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. We look forward to your participation.

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S1 Are you a Veteran of the United States Military?

- 1 Yes
- 0 No **[TERMINATE]**
- 99 Don't know **[TERMINATE]**

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S2 Do you qualify for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs?

- 1 Yes—and I currently receive healthcare from VA
- 2 Yes—but I don't currently receive healthcare from VA
- 0 No **[TERMINATE]**

**[PROG: Quota Minimum 200 S2=1, Quota Min 200 S2=2 respondents]**

S3. In what wartime, what period did you serve?

- 1 WWII
- 2 Korean Conflict
- 3 Vietnam Era
- 4 Gulf War
- 97 Other **[PROG: SPECIFY, FIXED]**

**[PROG: Quota 200 Vietnam Era (S3=3) respondents]**

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D1. In what year were you born?

Year of birth [A: Age] **[PROG: DROPDOWN, FORCED, RANGE = 1914- 1997]**

9998 Prefer not to answer **[PROG: EXCLUSIVE]**

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D2. Are you...? [A: Gender] *[PROG: SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]*

1 Male

0 Female

98 Prefer not to answer

*[PROG: Quota 200 women (D2=0)]*

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## CHOICE TASKS

Thank you for your responses so far. We'd now like you to go through an exercise that will better help us understand your opinions about how you prefer to receive VA communication.

In the following exercise, you will be presented choices with different features that fall into 5 different categories as specified below. Your task is to select the choice you would prefer the most regarding how you would access VA information. When making your selection, you can assume everything is the same except the differences shown for each choice.

You will be asked to make a selection for a total of 30 screens, 10 for each different reason for visit. Each screen may look very similar. However the choices are different so please be careful in making your selection.

**Modality:** How the information is being communicated to you

Face to Face

Email

Social Media/Blog

Phone

Listserv (e.g., Gov Delivery)

Mail/Postcard

**Communicator:** From whom the communication is being sent

Secretary McDonald *[PROG: Do not show if Modality = Face to Face]*

VA Central Office *[PROG: Do not show if Modality = Face to Face]*

Peer

VHA medical facility staff

Secondary source (e.g. newspaper, TV, VSO)

**Timeliness of Communication:** How quickly the information is provided

Same day

Next day

Within 1 week

Within 1 month

**Length of Communication:** How long it takes to review the information

Less than 1 minute

1-5 minutes

6-10 minutes

More than 10 minutes

**Importance of Material:**

- Low importance
- Average importance
- High importance
- Urgent

**Communication Content:** What the communication is about

- Policy related
- Medical services
- General VA information
- Medical benefits
- Veteran services (not medical)

**[PROG NOTE: SHOW 30 SCREENS (EXAMPLE BELOW), RANDOMLY MANIPULATING THE FEATURE SET WITHIN THE THREE CHOICES FOR EACH SCREEN]**



If these were your only options, which would you choose to receive VA communication?  
Choose by clicking one of the buttons below:

(1 of 30)

Modality	Listserv (e.g. Gov Delivery)	Email	Face to Face	Phone
Communicator	Secondary source (e.g. newspaper, TV, VSO)	Secretary McDonald	Peer	VHA medical facility staff
Timeliness of Communication	Same day	Within 1 week	Within 1 month	Next day
Length of Communication	6-10 minutes	More than 10 minutes	1-5 minutes	Less than 1 minute
Importance of Material	Moderate Importance	Low Importance	High Importance	Urgent
Communication Content	Veteran services (not medical)	Policy related	Medical benefits	Veteran services (not medical)
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If these were your only options, which would you choose to receive VA communication?  
Choose by clicking one of the buttons below:

(6 of 30)

Modality	Face to Face	Phone	Face to Face	Email
Communicator	Secondary source (e.g. newspaper, TV, VSO)	Secretary McDonald	VHA medical facility staff	VA Central Office
Timeliness of Communication	Within 1 month	Same day	Within 1 week	Next day
Length of Communication	Less than 1 minute	1-5 minutes	More than 10 minutes	6-10 minutes
Importance of Material	Low Importance	High Importance	Urgent	Moderate Importance
Communication Content	Policy related	General VA information	Medical services	General VA information
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If these were your only options, which would you choose to receive VA communication?  
 Choose by clicking one of the buttons below:

(12 of 30)

Modality	Mail/Postcard	Email	Listserv (e.g. Gov Delivery)	Phone
Communicator	VA Central Office	Peer	Secondary source (e.g. newspaper, TV, VSO)	Secretary McDonald
Timeliness of Communication	Within 1 week	Within 1 month	Same day	Next day
Length of Communication	1-5 minutes	More than 10 minutes	Less than 1 minute	6-10 minutes
Importance of Material	Urgent	High Importance	Moderate Importance	High Importance
Communication Content	Veteran services (not medical)	Medical services	Medical benefits	Medical services
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If these were your only options, which would you choose to receive VA communication?  
 Choose by clicking one of the buttons below:

(30 of 30)

Modality	Mail/Postcard	Email	Face to Face	Social Media/Blog
Communicator	VHA medical facility staff	VA Central Office	Secondary source (e.g. newspaper, TV, VSO)	Secretary McDonald
Timeliness of Communication	Next day	Same day	Within 1 week	Within 1 month
Length of Communication	1-5 minutes	1-5 minutes	More than 10 minutes	Less than 1 minute
Importance of Material	Moderate Importance	Low Importance	Urgent	High Importance
Communication Content	Medical services	Medical benefits	General VA information	Medical benefits
	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## FOLLOW-UP

V1. What are your top 3 preferred methods of communication from VA?

**Prog Column:**

1 Most preferred communication method: **PROG [drop down box]**

2 Second choice **PROG [drop down box- exclude V1\_1 selection from options]**

3 Third choice **PROG [drop down box- exclude V1\_1 and V1\_2 selection from options]**

**[PROG: Drop Down List]**

- 1 Face to face
- 2 Phone
- 3 Email
- 4 Text message
- 5 Newsletter/Listserv (e.g., Gov Delivery)
- 6 Social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook)
- 7 External Media Sources (e.g. newspaper, TV, VSO)
- 8 Video message
- 9 Mail (e.g. letter/postcard)
- 10 Website
- 11 MyHealthVet
- 12 Annual Report
- 13 Word of mouth
- 14 Mobile Apps (e.g., 311Vet, Moving Forward, PE Coach)
- 15 Blog (e.g., Vantage Point)
- 97 Other **[PROG: SPECIFY, FIXED]**

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V2. How often do you hear about an initiative, policy, or change first through the press rather than directly from VA?  
**[PROG: SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED, ORDER=Fixed]**

- 1 Never
- 2 Not very often
- 3 Somewhat often
- 4 Very often
- 99 Don't know

---

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

V3.

- A. I trust VA information communicated from my peers.
  - B. I trust VA information communicated from VA.
  - C. I trust VA information communicated from external news outlets.
  - D. I trust VA information communicated from Veteran Service Organizations.
- [PROG: STANDARD AGREEMENT GRID, SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Somewhat agree
- 5 Strongly agree

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V4. What would be the one thing VA could do to improve communication between Veterans and VHA Employees?

**[PROG: Text Box up to 1000 characters]**

98 No comment **[PROG: EXCLUSIVE]**

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V5a. If "coffee with VA" events where you could have one-on-one discussions about topics you are interested in with VA facility directors and staff were available in your hometown, how likely would you be to attend *in person*?

- 1 Definitely will not
- 2 Probably will not
- 3 Probably will
- 4 Definitely will
- 99 Don't know

---

V5b. If "coffee with VA" events where you could have one-on-one discussions about topics you are interested in with VA facility directors and staff were available *virtually*, how likely would you be to attend?

- 1 Definitely will not
- 2 Probably will not
- 3 Probably will
- 4 Definitely will
- 99 Don't know

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V6. Do you see a distinction between the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Administration?

- 1 Not at all
- 2 Partially
- 3 Completely
- 99 Don't Know

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V7. From what you have heard, what is the primary mission of VHA?

**[PROG: Text Box up to 1000 characters]**

98 No comment **[PROG: EXCLUSIVE]**

V8. Thinking about your relationship with VA, how much do you agree with each of the statements listed below?

- a. I feel loyal to VA.
- b. I am proud to be a Veteran.
- c. If I were unable to use VA services, I would be disappointed.
- d. I am committed to VA.

**[PROG: STANDARD AGREEMENT GRID, SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Somewhat agree
- 5 Strongly agree

---

V9. In the past 12 months, have you attempted to reach a VHA employee to book an appointment or ask a question, concern, or express a complaint?

- 1 Yes
- 0 No

**[PROG: Show if V9=1]**

V9a. How easy was it to reach a VHA employee?

- 1 Very difficult
- 2 Somewhat difficult
- 3 Somewhat easy
- 4 Very easy

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V10. If you were VA facility director for the day, what would be one thing you would like to change?

**[PROG: Text Box up to 1000 characters]**

V10a. How would you communicate that change to Veterans?

**[PROG: Text Box up to 1000 characters]**

V11. If VHA were to provide a 24 hour call center where Veterans can ask questions, get information, and get referrals, how likely would you be to use this service?

**[PROG: STANDARD LOYALTY GRID, SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

- 1 Definitely will not
- 2 Probably will not
- 3 Probably will
- 4 Definitely will
- 99 Don't know

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V12. Thinking about the most recent VHA communication you received by mail, please rate the following attributes on a 10-point scale

**[PROG: STANDARD ATTRIBUTE GRID, SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

**[PROG: COLUMN]**

1= Unacceptable, 5 = Average, 10 = Outstanding

**[PROG: ROW, ORDER=RANDOMIZE]**

- A. Appearance of the communication
- B. Clarity of information provided
- C Depth of information provided
- D. Follow-up on topic
- E. Overall communication experience

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V13. Do you have any final thoughts about communication between VHA and Veterans you would like to share?

**[PROG: Text Box up to 1000 characters]**



# VA BRAND AND EXPERIENCE

We are now going to ask you a few questions about VA overall.

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B1. Please tell us how you feel about the following statement:

**[PROG: STANDARD AGREEMENT GRID, SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to Veterans.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Somewhat agree
- 5 Strongly agree

B2. Consider all your recent experiences with VA (which may have included healthcare, benefits programs, or memorial services). Please tell us how you feel about the following statements:

**[PROG: STANDARD AGREEMENT GRID, SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

**[PROG: Column]**

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Somewhat agree
- 5 Strongly agree

**[PROG: Row, Order- Rotate]**

A I got the service I needed.

B It was easy to get what I needed.

C I felt like a valued customer.

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Somewhat disagree
- 3 Neither disagree nor agree
- 4 Somewhat agree
- 5 Strongly agree

## ABOUT YOU

These last few questions are for classification purposes only.

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D3. What was the last year of school you completed? [A: Education] **[PROG: SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

- 1 8th grade or less
  - 2 Some high school
  - 3 High school graduate
  - 5 Some college
  - 6 4-year college degree
  - 9 More than 4 year degree
  - 98 Prefer not to answer
- 

D4. Which, if any, of the following best describes your employment status? [A: Employment status]

**[PROG: SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

- 1 Full-time
  - 2 Part-time
  - 3 Retired
  - 4 Unemployed
  - 5 Self-employed
  - 98 Prefer not to answer
- 

D5. Which one of the following best describes your household's **total annual income before taxes in 2014** [A: Household income before taxes]

**[PROG: SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

- 1 Under \$25,000
  - 2 \$25,000 - \$29,999
  - 3 \$30,000 - \$39,999
  - 4 \$40,000 - \$49,999
  - 5 \$50,000 - \$59,999
  - 6 \$60,000 - \$69,999
  - 7 \$70,000 - \$79,999
  - 8 \$80,000 - \$89,999
  - 9 \$90,000 - \$99,999
  - 10 \$100,000 - \$124,999
  - 11 \$125,000 - \$149,999
  - 12 \$150,000 - \$174,999
  - 13 \$175,000 - \$199,999
  - 14 \$200,000 - \$249,999
  - 15 \$250,000 - \$299,999
  - 16 \$300,000 - \$349,999
  - 17 \$350,000 - \$399,999
  - 18 \$400,000 - \$449,999
  - 19 \$450,000 - \$499,999
  - 20 \$500,000 or more
  - 98 Prefer not to answer
- 

D6. Is the area in which you live most of the time a/an...?

**[PROG: SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

- 1 Rural area
  - 2 Suburban area
  - 3 Urban area
  - 97 Other **[PROG: SPECIFY, FIXED]**
  - 99 Don't know
-

D7. What is your current marital status? [A: Marital status]

**[PROG: SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

- 1 Married
  - 2 Single (never married)
  - 3 Widowed
  - 4 Divorced/separated
  - 5 Living with domestic partner
  - 98 Prefer not to answer
- 

D8. Are you...? Mark all that apply. [A: Ethnicity]

**[PROG: MULTIPLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

- 1 White/Caucasian
  - 2 Black/African American
  - 3 Asian/Asian American
  - 4 Latino/Hispanic
  - 5 Native American
  - 6 Pacific Islander
  - 97 Other
  - 98 Prefer not to answer **[PROG: EXCLUSIVE]**
- 

D9. What is your zip code? [A: Zip code]

**[PROG: NUMERIC, 5 DIGITS, FORCED]**

[TEXT BOX]

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D10. Which of the following best describes your health status? **[PROG: SINGLE RESPONSE, FORCED]**

- 1 Excellent
  - 2 Very Good
  - 3 Good
  - 4 Fair
  - 5 Poor
  - 98 Prefer not to answer
- 

**[PROG: SHOW TEXT: That concludes our survey. J.D. Power thanks you for participating.]**