

# Building Stronger Support Systems for Veterans and their Families



Terri Tanielian

November 5, 2014

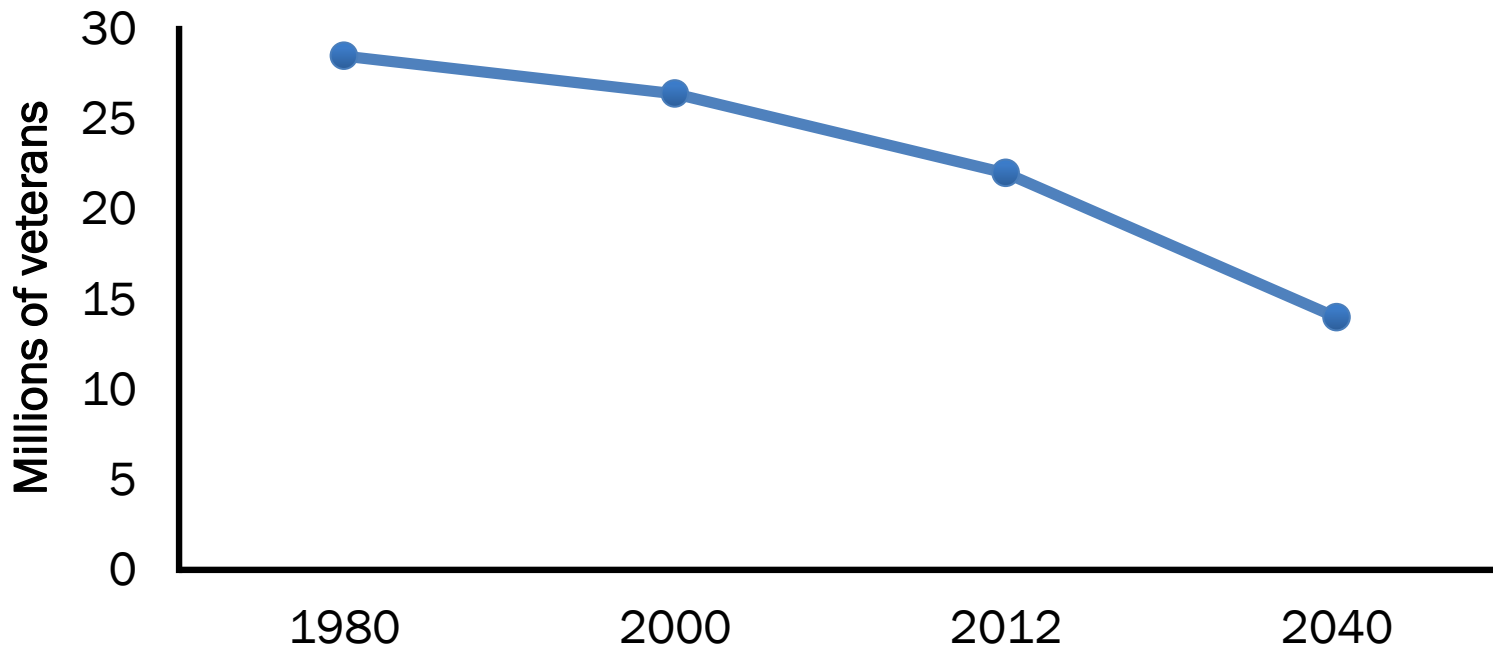
# Today's Agenda

- What does U.S. veteran population look like and why do they matter?
- How is the VA organized to serve veterans?
- What are some of the top issues facing the newest generation of veterans?
- How can the nongovernmental sector help address the needs of veterans and their families

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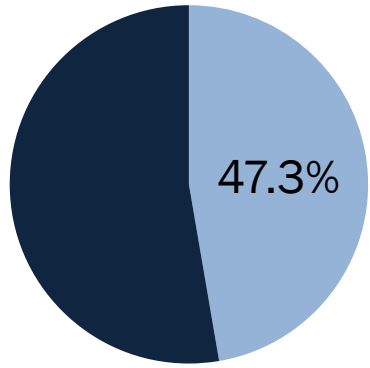
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# U.S. Veterans at a Glance

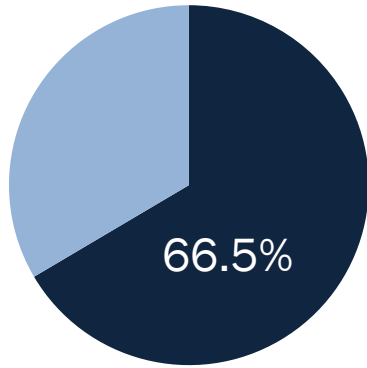


Sources: American Community Survey/Census; Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Actuary, Veteran Population Projection Model (VetPop) data; DoD Demographic Report; DoD CTS Reports

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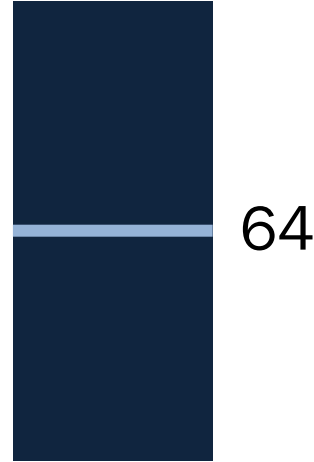


Women

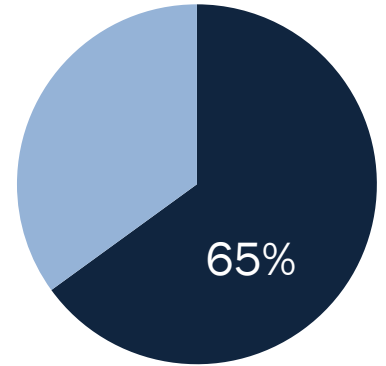


Men

Married

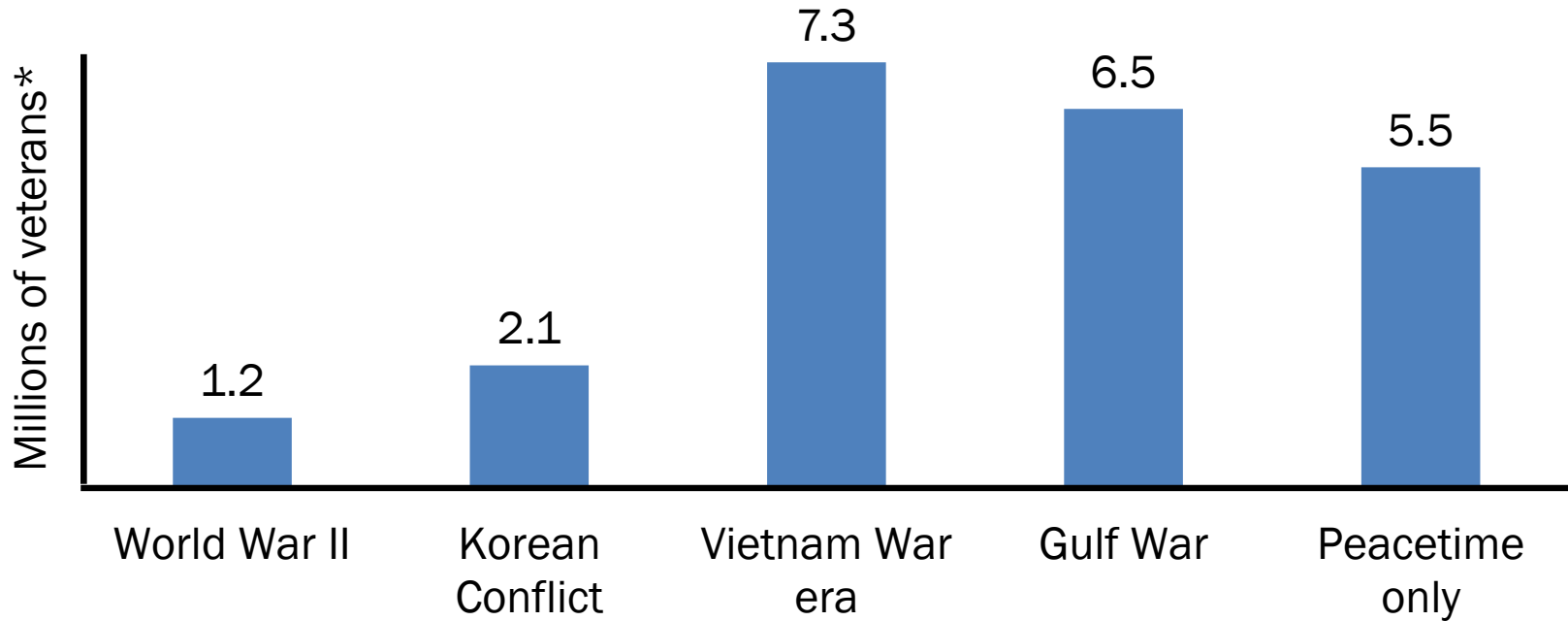


Median age



Some college or college degree

# Pre-9/11 Veterans' Service Eras

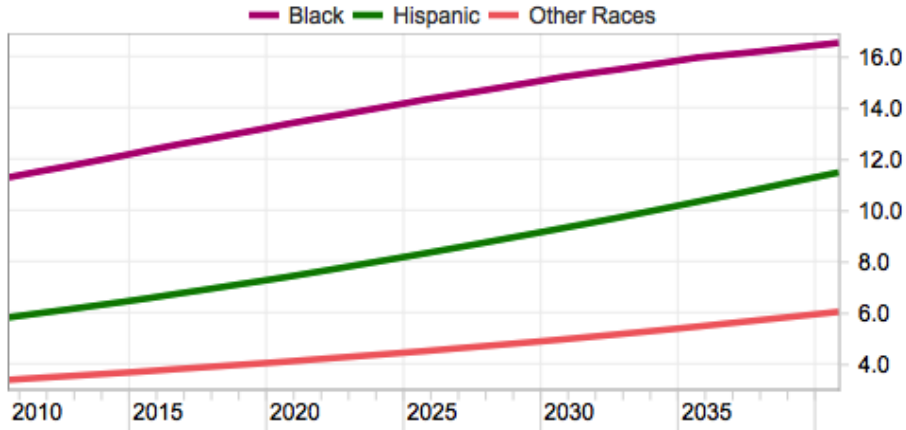


\* Categories are not mutually exclusive.

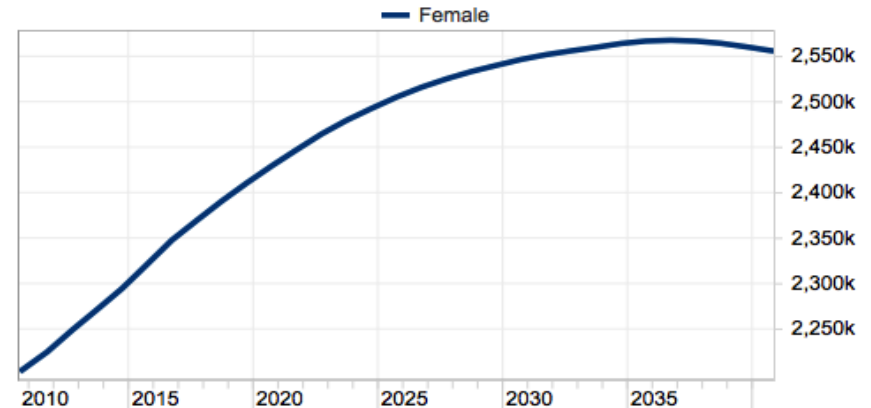
Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Actuary, Veteran Population Projection Model (VetPop), 2011; Veterans Benefits Administration; Veterans Health Administration, Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Planning. Data as of September 30, 2013.

# Gulf War–Era Veterans Will Account for 55% of All U.S. Veterans by 2040

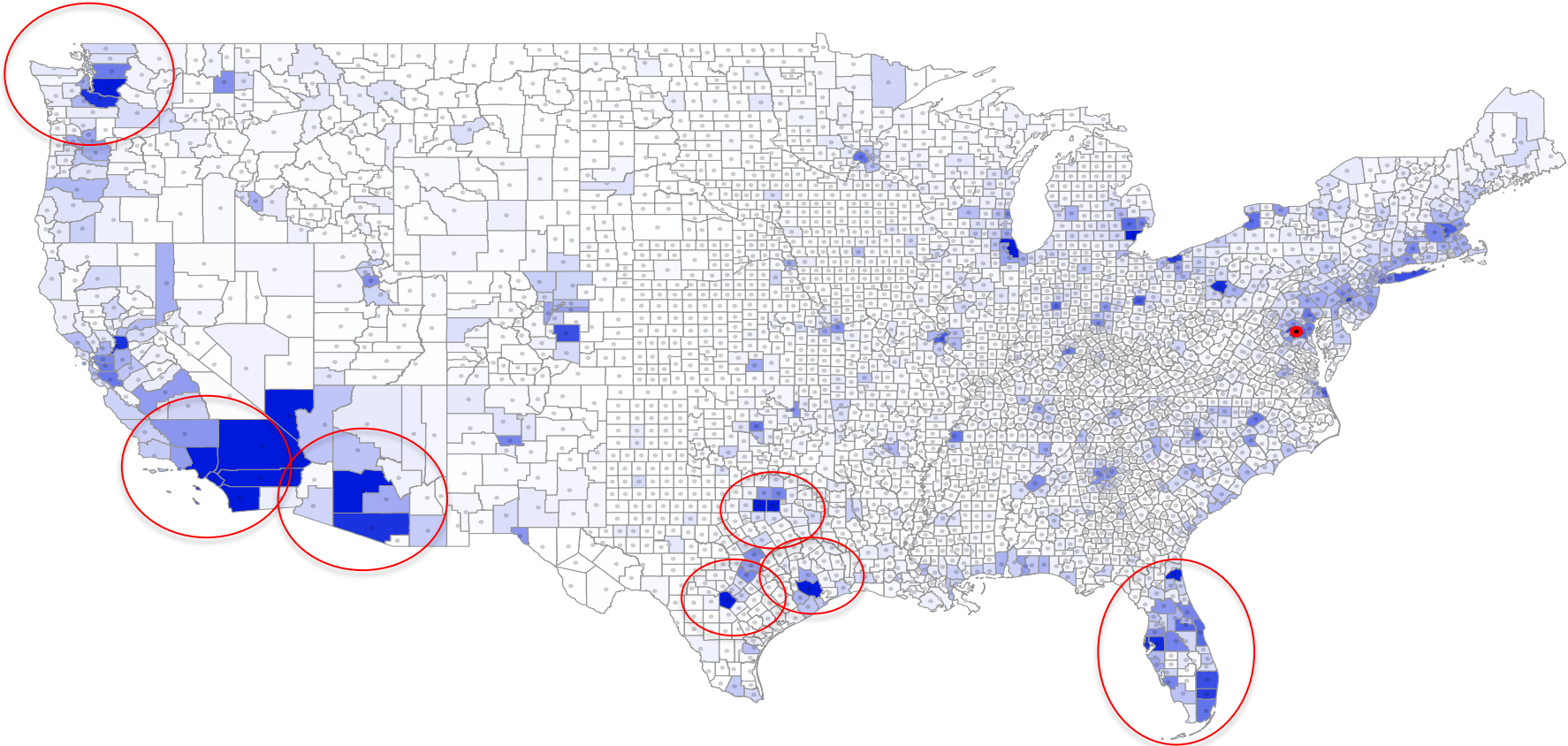
Increasing proportion of racial/ethnic minority veterans



Increasing number of female veterans



# Veteran Population, by County

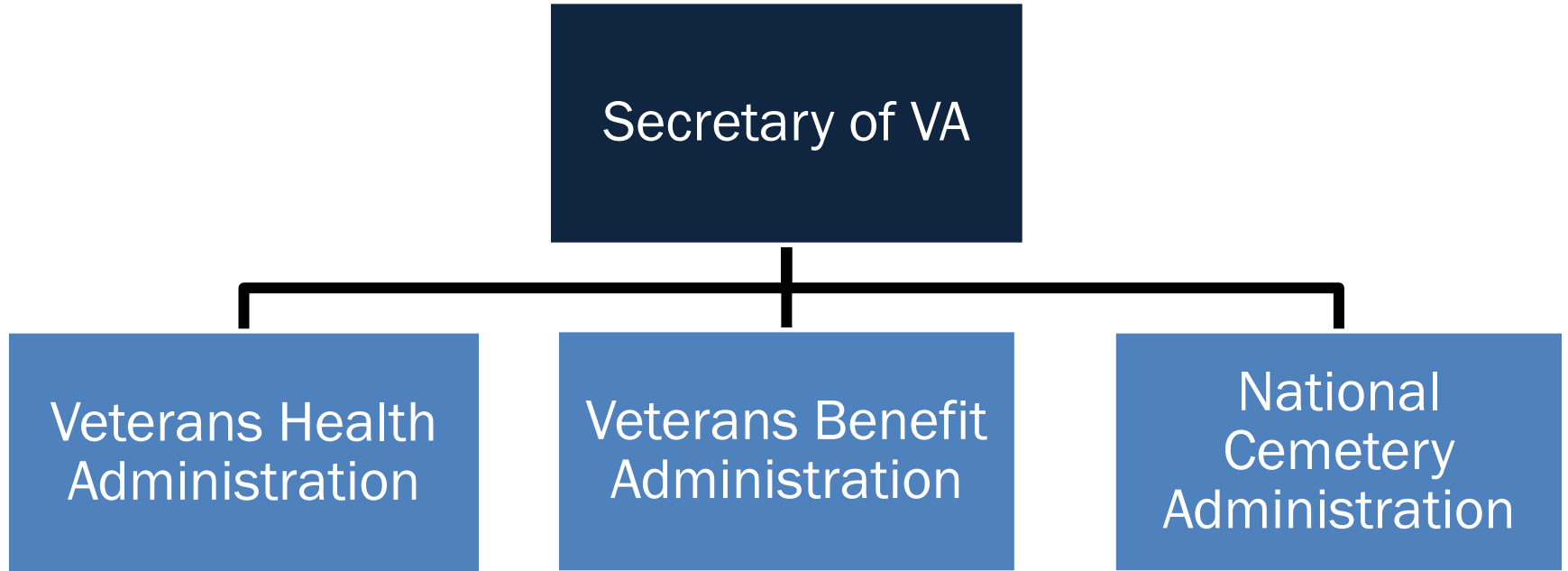




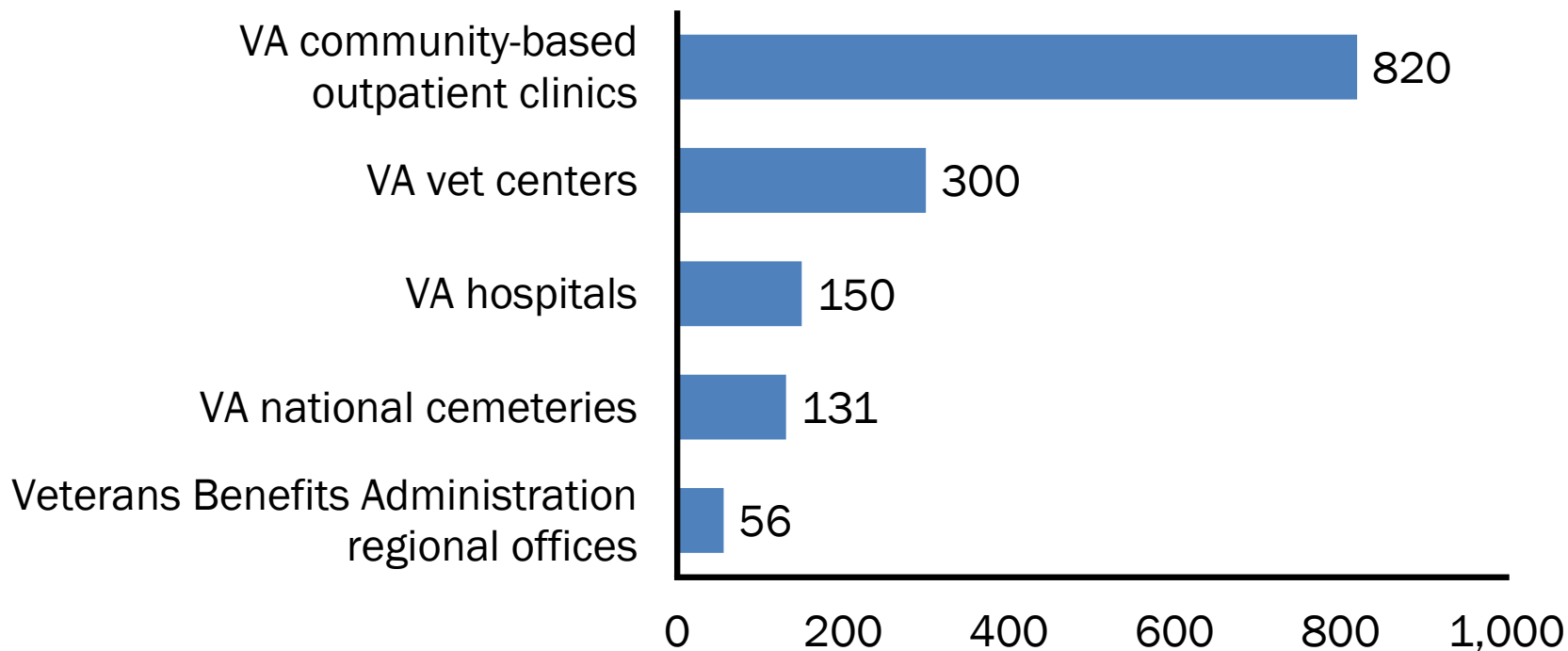
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# Department of Veterans Affairs

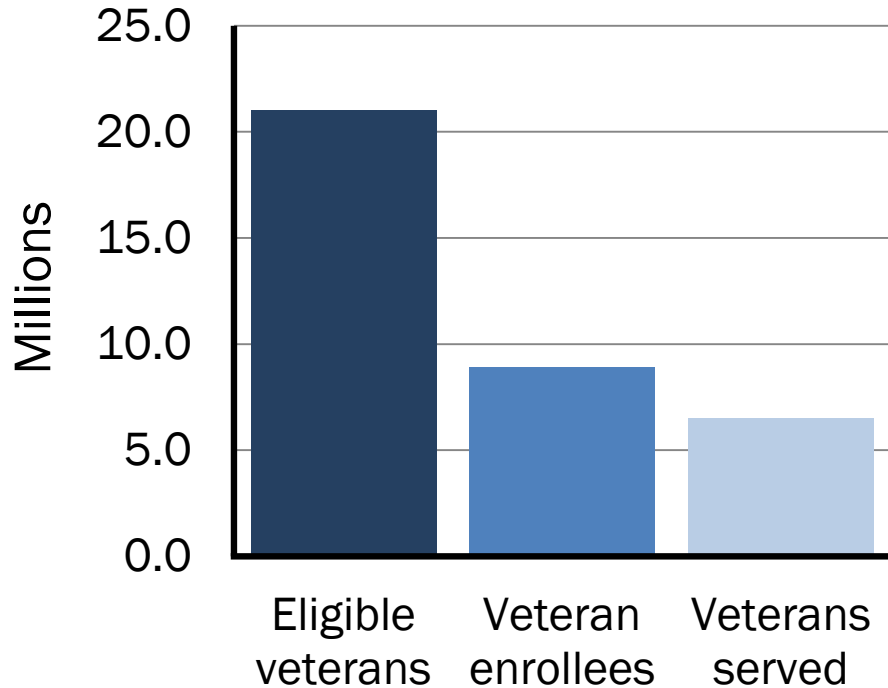


# The VA's Footprint



Sources: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of the Actuary, Veteran Population Projection Model (VetPop), 2011; Veterans Benefits Administration; Veterans Health Administration, Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Planning. Data as of December 31, 2013.

# The VA Is the Largest Integrated Health Care System in the U.S.



**Budget (FY 2014):**  
\$57.88 billion

**Enrollment fee:**  
\$0

**Deductible:**  
\$0

**Copayment:**  
varies by priority level

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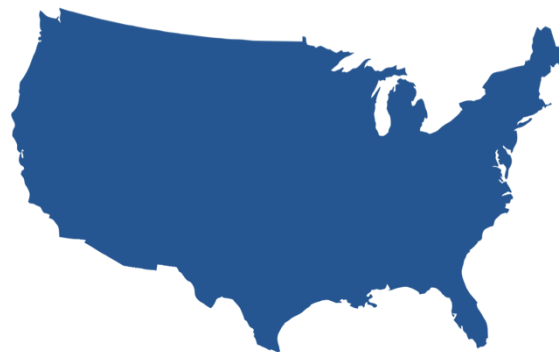
# Addressing Veteran Mental Health Needs Is a National Priority

- High need among population
- Limited federal capacity
  - Major push to hire more providers
- Multiple efforts under way in the private sector to create new programs and services for veterans AND their families

# Post-9/11 Mental Health

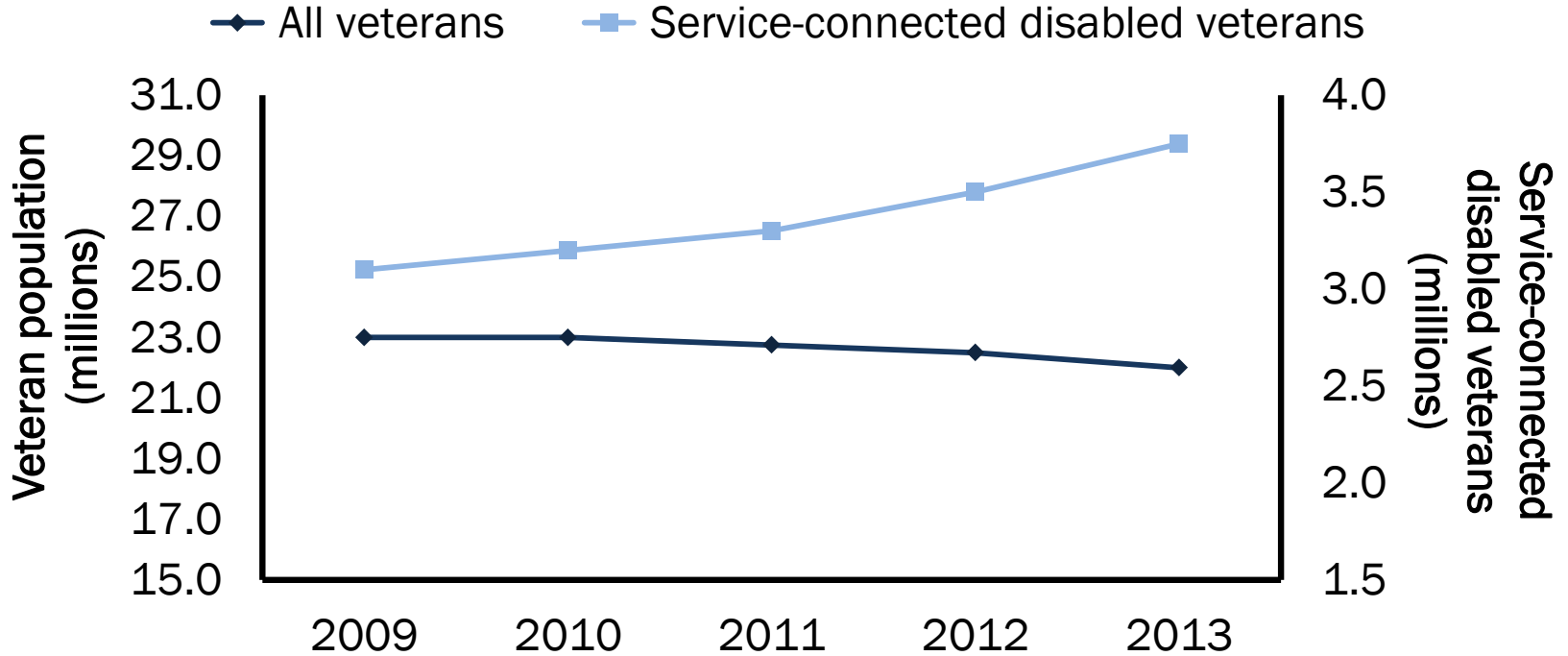


Mental health is  
#2 health care complaint  
among post-9/11 veterans  
seeking VA care



Geographic distribution of  
veteran population with  
mental health problems  
mirrors that for post-9/11 veterans

# Growth in the Proportion of Veterans with Disabilities



Sources: Department of Veterans Affairs, *Veterans Benefits Administration Annual Benefits Reports, 2009–2013*; Veterans Health Administration Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Planning; Office of Policy and Planning Office of the Actuary.



# VA Support for Families Is Limited



## VA Support for Families Is Limited

- Major concern among post-9/11 veterans
- Caregiver Support Program
- Pilot programs in child care services
- Limited newborn care (7 days)
- As indicated for mental health treatment

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# Proliferation of Nongovernmental and Private Programs

- More than 400,000 organizations who indicate providing support services for veterans and/or their families
- Only a few efforts have systematic information available about the capacity or quality of these efforts
- Administration has called for growth in public-private partnerships to capitalize on the “sea of goodwill”

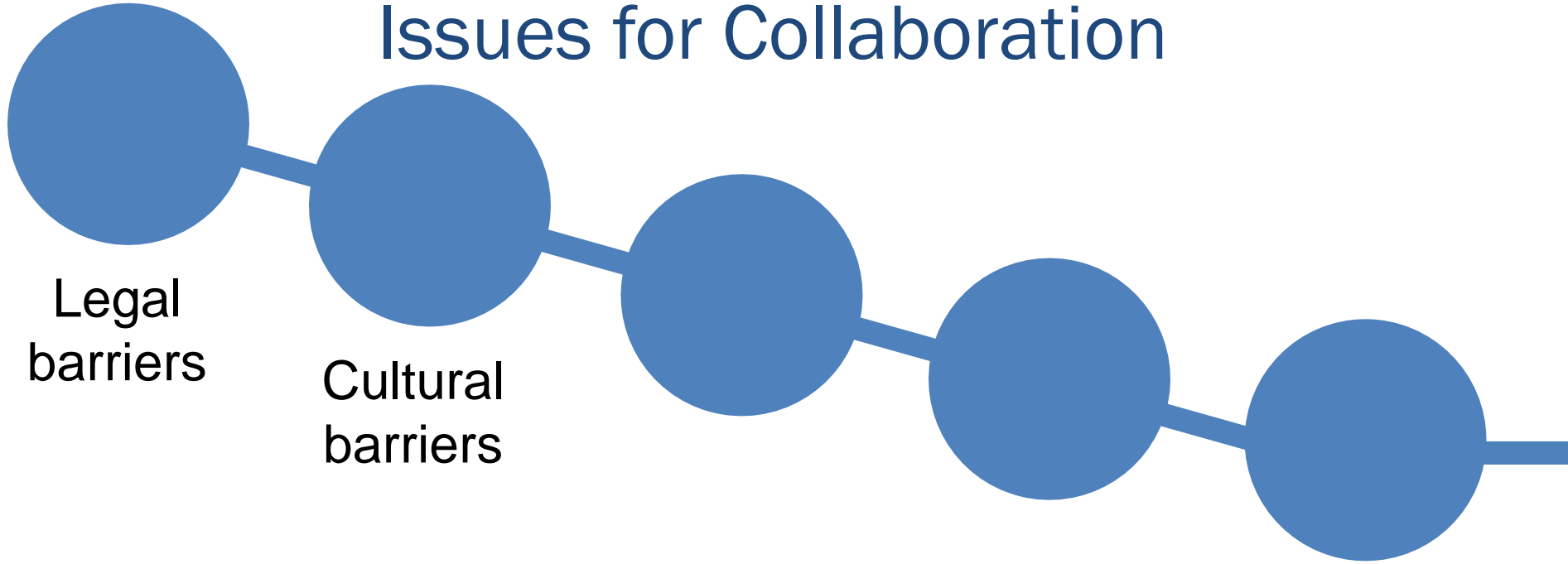
# Issues for Collaboration



Legal  
barriers

Federal ethics and  
procurement laws/regulations

# Issues for Collaboration

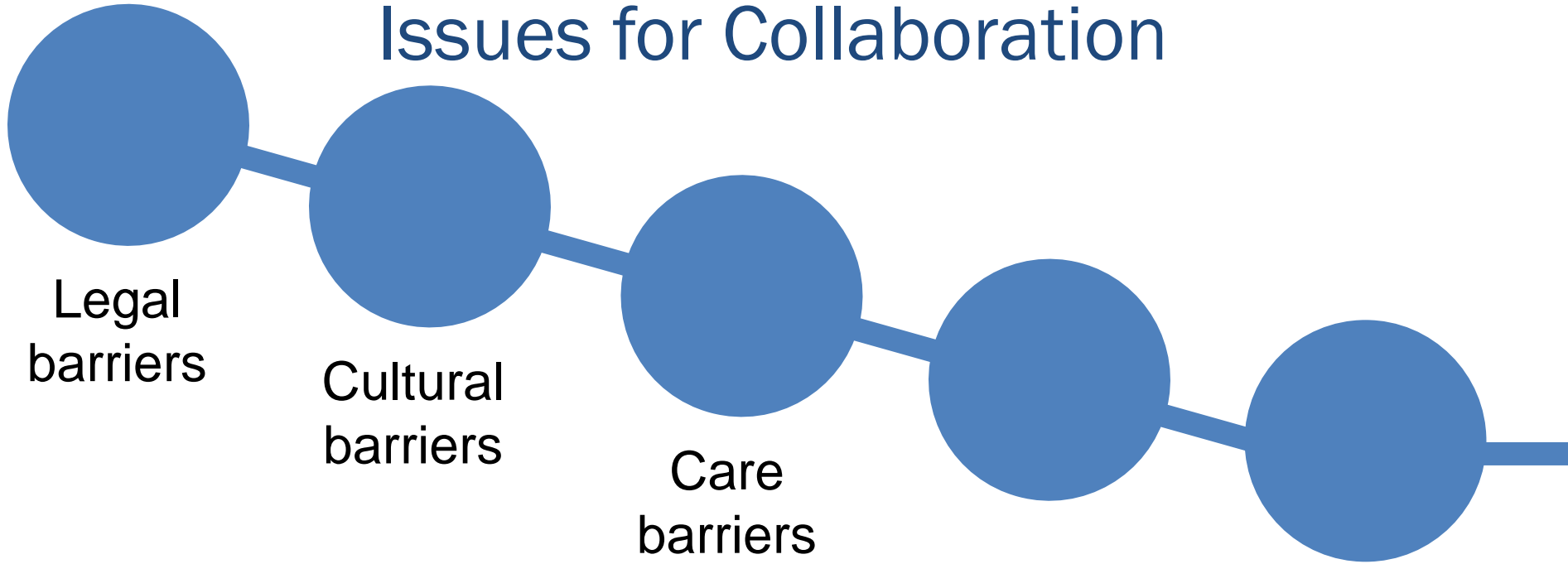


Legal  
barriers

Cultural  
barriers

Federal reluctance to partner

# Issues for Collaboration



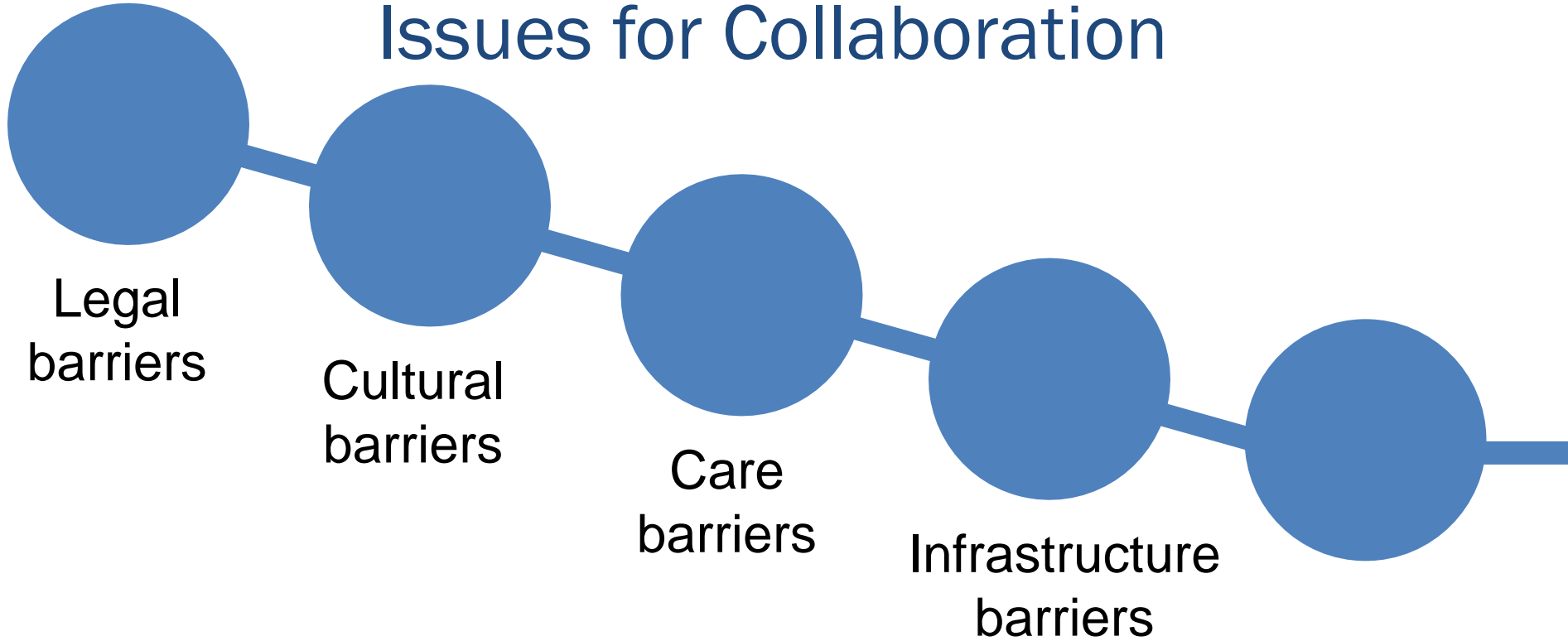
Legal  
barriers

Cultural  
barriers

Care  
barriers

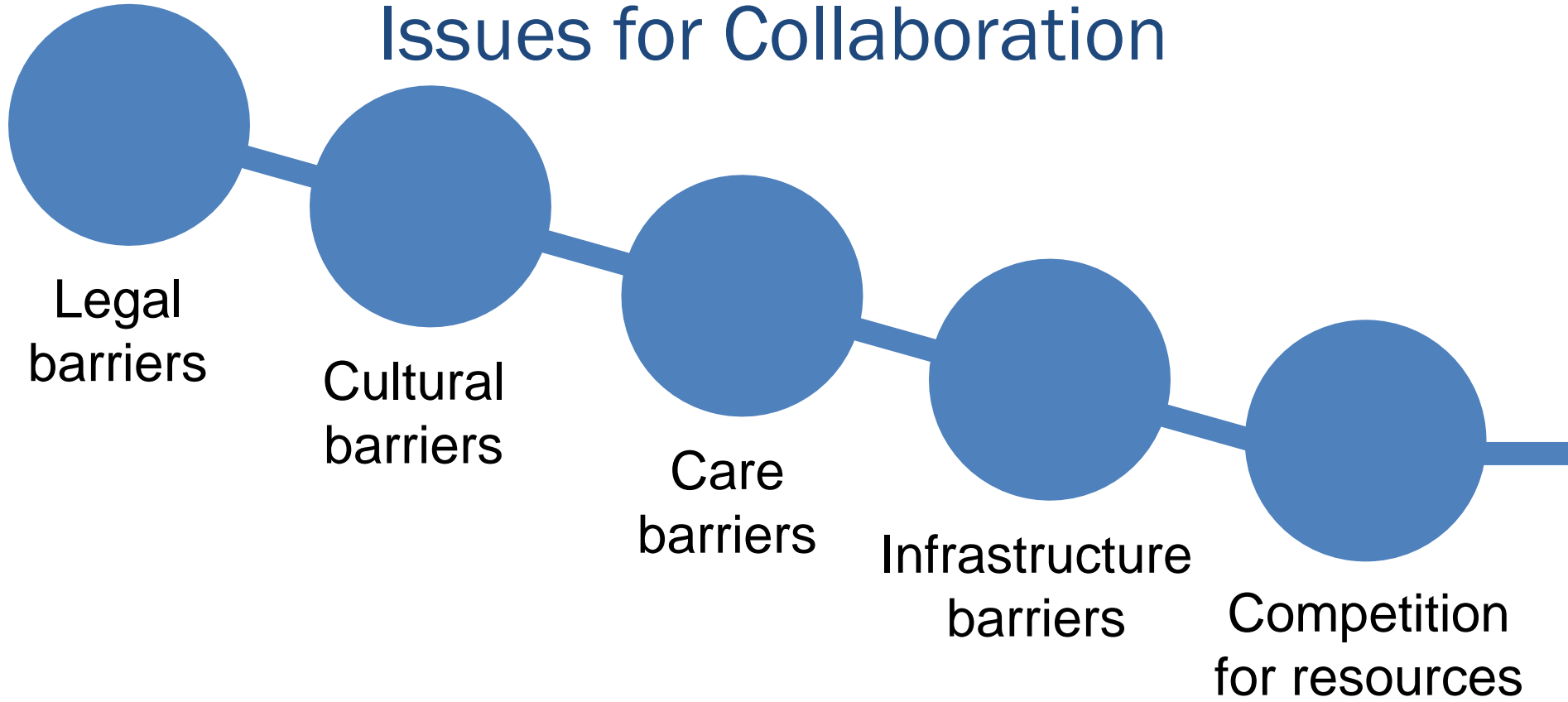
Continuity of care  
Confidentiality

# Issues for Collaboration





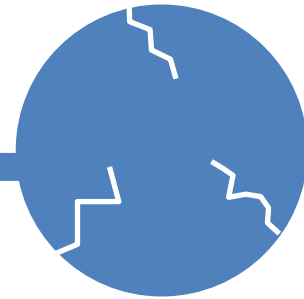
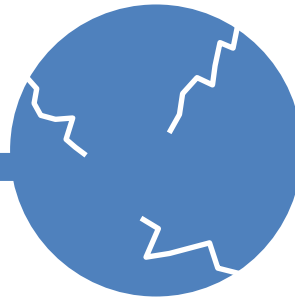
# Issues for Collaboration



# Threats to program sustainability

Program maturity

Vulnerability to waning  
interest and support



Novel approaches that lack  
evidence of effectiveness

# Implications for the Future

- Large, diverse U.S. veteran population
- Meeting veterans' needs may require new models of sustainable support
  - Access and quality of services afforded by the federal sector will drive transformation of support services
  - Performance may affect viability of all-volunteer force
- Research will be critical for informing the path forward



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