

Returning Stabilized Behavioral Health Patients to Primary Care

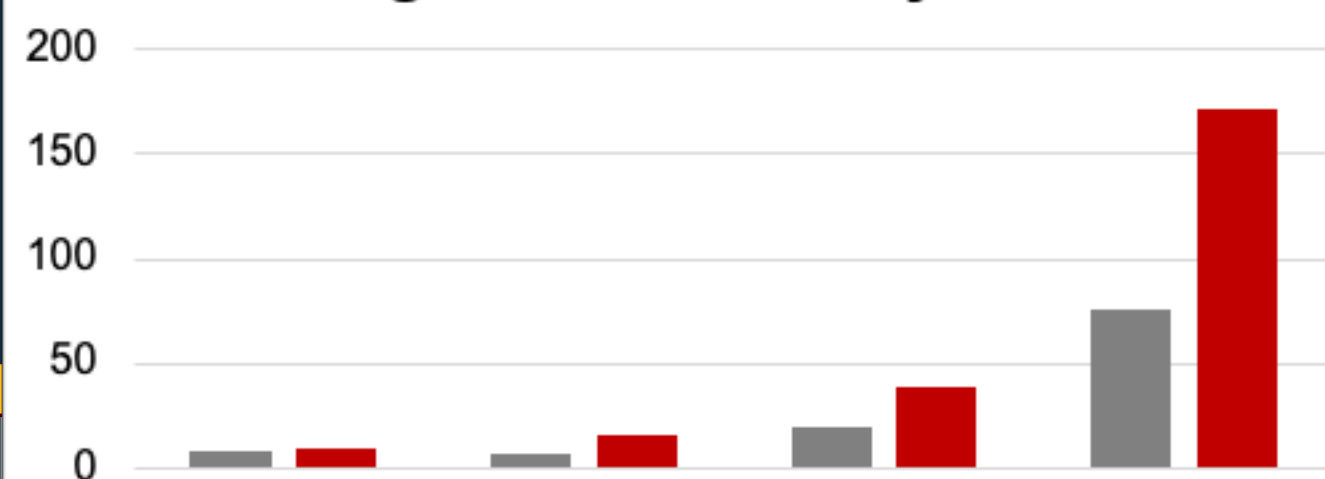
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Discharge Notes: January to March



Background

■ Nashville VAMC ■ TVHS

- Demand for behavioral healthcare among veterans has increased
- There is a decreased supply of behavioral health clinicians nationally and locally
- Supply and demand problems have worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic

Literature Review

- Many patients with common diagnoses such as depression can recover
- Patients in recovery can receive effective treatment in primary care
- Previous research has already demonstrated efficacy in repatriating stable behavioral health patients into primary care

Purpose and Aims

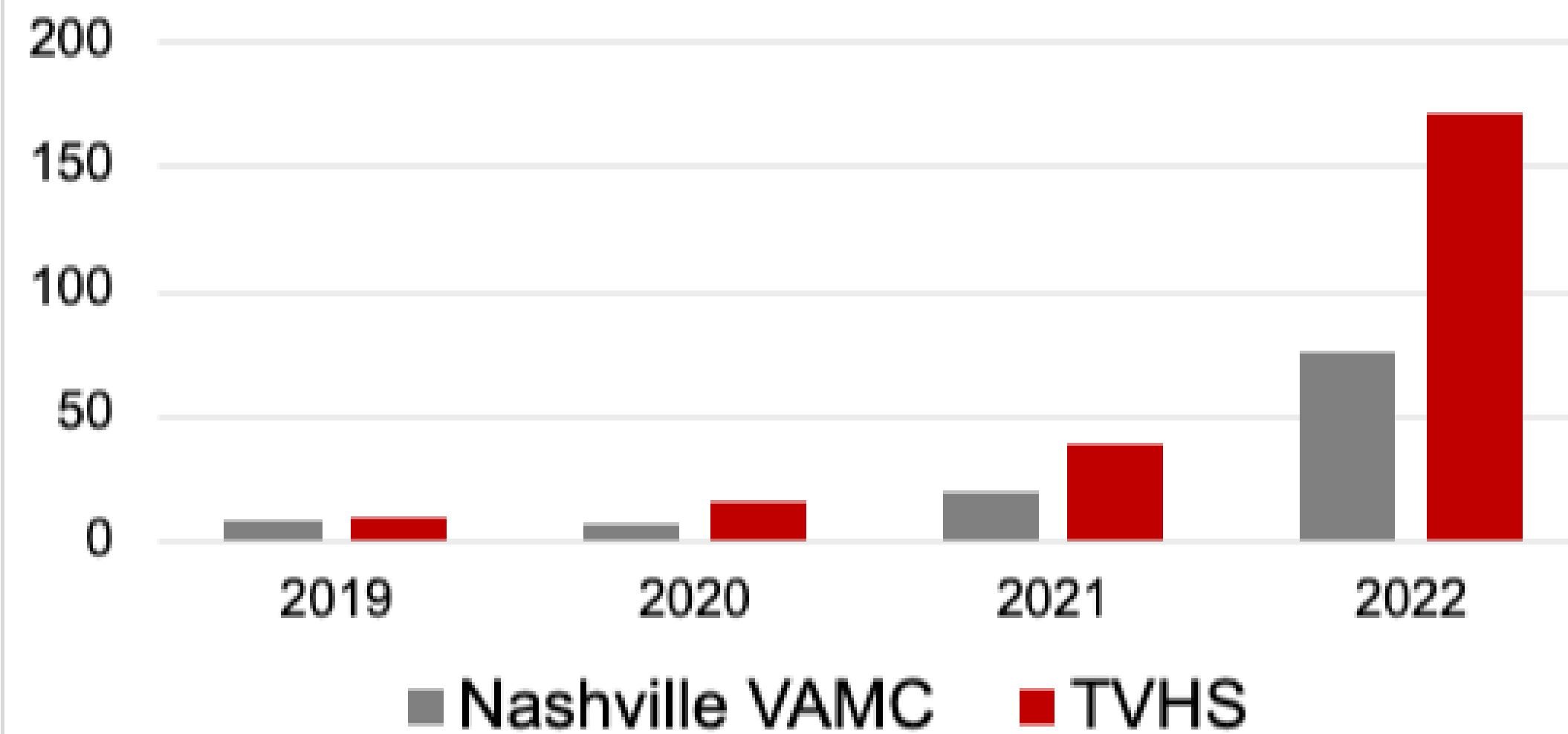
- To increase the number of stabilized veterans returned to primary care
- To teach behavioral health and primary care providers to seamlessly transfer care

Methods

- Knowledge to Action Framework
- Tracking discharge notes

Preliminary Findings

Discharge Notes: January to March



Discharge Notes: January to March		
Year	Nashville VA Medical Center	Tennessee Valley Health System
2019	8	9
2020	7	15
2021	20	38
2022	75	171

From 2021 to 2022:

- Discharges increased by **36.4%** at the Nashville VA Medical Center (VAMC)
- Discharges increased by **28.6%** throughout Tennessee Valley Health System (TVHS)

Limitations

- January 2022 data includes 11 discharges prior to project implementation

Conclusion

- The project has resulted in increased discharges of stable behavioral health patients back to primary care
- To date, no negative outcomes have been reported

References

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