

VA Data Intranet Resources, last updated March 2023 by Mary Whooley MD

This document contains a list of VA intranet resources that provide information on use of VA data. Please note that VA intranet URLs change frequently, so many of these links may no longer work.

Introductory Websites:

1. **VA Information Resource Center (VIREC)**
 - a. Website: <http://www.virec.research.va.gov>
 - b. Intranet Site: <http://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/Index.htm>
2. **VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI)**
 - a. Website: http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/for_researchers/vinci/
 - b. Intranet Site: <http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/vincicentral/default.aspx>
3. **VHA Data Portal (Intranet Only)**
 - a. DART Request Process Overview:
<http://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov/DataAccess/DARTRequestProcess.aspx>
 - b. VHA Data Portal Home Page: <http://vaww.vhadataportal.med.va.gov/Home.aspx>
 - c. YouTube DART overview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36xEM6K_pLc

Links to Instruction Documents (*accessible only on VA intranet*):

1. **DART User Guide:** This is a step-by-step guide to submitting a DART Application
http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/vincicentral/documents/DART_User_Guide.pdf
2. **CDW Domains and what they contain:** All of the domains described in the CDW domain checklist (part of the DART application) are made up of tables.
<https://vaww.virec.research.va.gov/CDW/Domain-Layout/CDW-Domain-Layout.xlsx>
3. **VINCI Workspace User Guide:** A guide to using the VINCI workspace
http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/vincicentral/documents/VINCI_Workspace_User_Guide.pdf
4. **VINCI Database User Guide:** A guide to navigating your VINCI Database.
http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/vincicentral/documents/VINCI_Database_User_Guide.pdf
5. **VINCI OMOP Academy:**
https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/VINCI_University-OMOP_Academy.aspx
De-identified data for SQL practice available on server: <\\VHACDWRB01.vha.med.va.gov>

Helpful Webinars: HSR&D conducts many helpful webinars that explain different aspects of VA data. To be added to the distribution of future webinars, email cyberseminar@va.gov. The following websites house a variety of different webinars:

- This webpage provides an **overview of all HSR&D seminars (including VIREC)**
<http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/series.cfm>
- This webpage provides links to all **HSR&D seminar slides and recordings**; can filter by series
<http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-archive.cfm>
- This webpage provides an **overview of VIREC (only) seminars**
<http://www.virec.research.va.gov/Resources/Cyberseminars.asp>
- This webpage provides links to **VIREC (only) seminar slides and recordings**
<http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/cyberseminars/catalog-archive-virec.cfm>

Additionally, below find a selection of webinars that the Data Core and its partners have found particularly useful.

1. Application Process:

- a. [Requesting Access to VA Data](#)
- b. [Data Access Request Tracker \(DART\)](#)

2. VA Data for Beginners:

- a. [Overview of VA Data, Information Systems, National Databases and Research Uses](#)
- b. [Conducting a Research Study Using VINCI](#)
- c. [VINCI data & data services](#)
- d. [The VINCI Workspace](#)
- e. [CDW Resources](#)

3. Further Resources:

- a. **VIReC**
 - i. [Assessing Race and Ethnicity in VA Data](#)
 - ii. [Measuring Veterans' Medicare Health Services](#)
 - iii. [Ascertaining Veterans' Vital Status: VA Data Sources for Mortality Ascertainment and Cause of Death](#)
- b. **Veterans Support Services Center (VSSC)**
<https://vssc.med.va.gov/VSSCMainApp/>
- c. **Reporting, Analytics and Field Training Sharepoint**
<http://raft.vssc.med.va.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

4. Others:

- a. [VIReC Clinical Informatics Seminars](#)
- b. [VIReC Good Data Practices](#)
- c. [Consortium for Healthcare Informatics Research](#)
- d. [HERC courses](#)

CDW General Announcements: (can subscribe by entering email address)

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVAOIT/subscriber/new?topic_id=USVAOIT_26

CDW Help Desk:

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/SSRS/SitePages/Support.aspx>

CDW Training Announcements: (sign up link at bottom of page)

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVAOIT/subscriber/new?topic_id=USVAOIT_27

BISL CDW Sharepoint:

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/SitePages/CDW-Data-Access.aspx>

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/MetaData>

CDW Handbook:

https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/OITBISL/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B1F0ABC60-A401-47C6-85D3-CEBCCD1A7AA5%7D&file=CDW%20Guide%20Introduction%20and%20Policies.docx&action=default&mobileRedirect=true&DefaultItemOpen=1

CDW Data Tables:

https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/VINCI_University-VINCI_Data-Data_Sources.aspx

CDW Insights Classes:

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/SitePages/Training.aspx>

Data Access: <https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/MetaData/SitePages/Data-Request-Info.aspx>

DATE	CDW TUTORIALS	PRESENTERS
2017/03/29	CDW: A Conceptual Overview 2017	Gonsoulin, Margaret
2017/04/05	CDW: Locating Its Documentation 2017	Gonsoulin, Margaret
2018/05/23	Querying CDW Meta Views	Gonsoulin, Margaret
2016/10/24	Getting CDW Back Together: Joining CDW Tables (Continued)	Gonsoulin, Margaret
2016/10/31	Data Management in SQL: Selected Intermediate SQL Skills	Gonsoulin, Margaret
2016/09/08	Using Stata Tools to Access CDW	Lowy, Elliott

VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI) - VINCI@va.gov

<https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/Home.aspx>

[VINCI Workspace User Guide \(va.gov\)](#)

VINCI administrators will set up a Project folder **(ORD_YourLastName_201204011D)** on the project drive, **P:**. This folder will be visible when you log into your VINCI workspace. Please remember, if you have multiple projects you may not transfer data among Project folders.

Instructions for accessing VINCI:

1. Go to VINCI's homepage at <https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/Home.aspx>
2. Click on "Applications"
3. Click on Microsoft SQL Server Management
4. Message says, "the requested key container does not exist on the smart card" → click OK
5. Follow the remaining prompts until the program launches



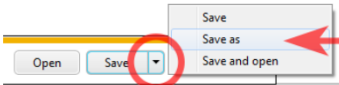
Helpful links

- [What VINCI Users Need to Know](#)
- VHA Data Portal <http://vaww.vhadatportal.med.va.gov/Home.aspx>
- VINCI's Homepage <http://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/vincicentral/>
- VINCI User Guides
<https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?viewid=926329a8-5896-4553-bb61-c7f7fa03f046&id=%2FShared%20Documents%2FVINCI%20User%20Guides>
- VINCI Upload Tool <https://vaww.vinci.med.va.gov/WebApps/VCFileTransfer/Upload>
- Data available https://vincicentral.vinci.med.va.gov/SitePages/VINCI_University-VINCI_Data-Data_Sources.aspx
- DART https://dart.vha.med.va.gov/vinci_dart_client/dart9/dashboard.html

VINCI Help Desk (801) 872-3324

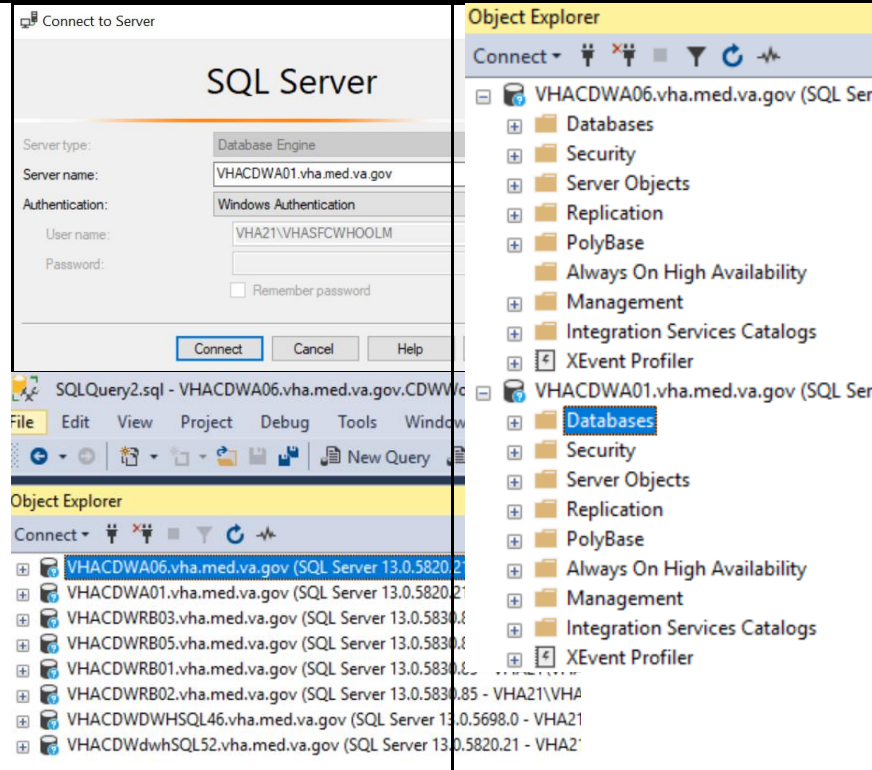
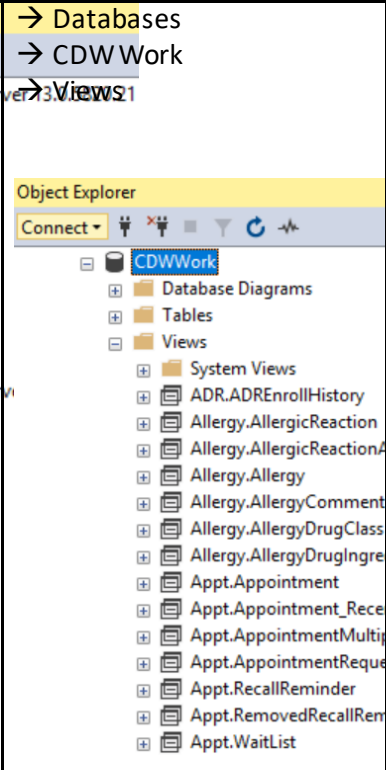
M – F, 8am – 4:30 pm CST

Email: vinci@va.gov

<p>VINCI File Download</p> <p>Watch out! Do NOT click "Save."</p> <p>It will save to your "Downloads" folder, which may be a violation of your approved protocol and privacy and security policies.</p> <p>Click on the little arrow at the right of the "Save" button and "Save as..." to the appropriate server location.</p>  <p>Close</p>	<p>VINCI Tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• eHOST annotation tool• VINCI ChartReview tool• VINCI abstract tool• VINCI annotation team• VINCI University• VINCI Tube• VINCIPedia• DaVINCI Data Academy• VINCI Data Science Academy
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Install SQL Server Management Studio software on your desktop

To access operational data (once approved), open SQL Server Management Studio on your desktop or laptop computer, and follow these instructions:

<p>Connect → Database engine → Enter server name(s): VHACDWA01.vha.med.va.gov (for CDW production tables) and/or VHACDWA06.vha.med.va.gov (for CDW Raw tables)</p>	<p>Within server folder, go to</p>
 <p>The screenshot shows the 'Connect to Server' dialog box with 'Server type' set to 'Database Engine', 'Server name' as 'VHACDWA01.vha.med.va.gov', and 'Authentication' as 'Windows Authentication'. Below it, the Object Explorer shows a list of servers including 'VHACDWA06.vha.med.va.gov' and 'VHACDWA01.vha.med.va.gov'. The 'Databases' folder is expanded for both servers.</p>	<p>→ Databases → CDW Work → Views</p>  <p>The second screenshot shows the Object Explorer for the 'CDWWork' server. The 'Views' folder is expanded, showing a list of system and user-defined views such as 'ADR.ADREnrollHistory', 'Allergy.AllergicReaction', and 'Appt.Appointment'.</p>

Right click on table → select top 1000 rows

SQL SYNTAX: SELECT TOP 10 * FROM Database.Schema.TableName

Example: SELECT TOP 10 * FROM CDWWork.Con.Consult

Note: SAS Analytic Workspace

Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)	
Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW) Privilege(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDW SQL Datasets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic Read Access (CDW_Full) <input type="checkbox"/> Privileged Read Patient Access (CDW_SPatient) <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Real SSN Access (CDW_SStaff) <input type="checkbox"/> MCA(DSS) Access (CDW_DSS) <input type="checkbox"/> Vital Status Files (CDW_VitalStatus) <input type="checkbox"/> Outpatient SQL Files (CDW_SE_IE_SF)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDW SAS Datasets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical SAS Files (CDW_SASData) <input type="checkbox"/> MCA NDE SAS (Deactivated for new forms) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SAS Analytic Workspace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PSSG Geocoded Files and ADUSH Enrollment Files --- (Disclaimer: These files are to be used only for statistical estimations and aggregate analyses. They should not be used to identify or evaluate individuals for benefit, treatment or outreach programs)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Non CDW Data

SQL Tutorials:

- Code Academy: <https://www.codecademy.com/learn/learn-sql>
 - 1) Manipulation
 - 2) Queries
 - 3) Aggregate Functions
 - 4) Multiple Tables (joins)
- <http://www.techonthenet.com/sql/index.php>
- <http://www.sqlcourse.com/>
- UCSF Library: Intro to SQL (3 hours)
- Learn how to do joins: <http://blog.codinghorror.com/a-visual-explanation-of-sql-joins/>
- TMS courses available on SQL server management studio (can get training certificate)

Basic SQL Classes (can speed up videos in windows media player):

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHASQLOfficeHours/Pages/StudentResources.aspx>

Intermediate SQL Classes:

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHASQLOfficeHours/Pages/Intermed-Class-Student-Resources.aspx>

SQL Office Hours SharePoint Site:

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITBISL/SitePages/Training.aspx>

SQL Script Library	https://app.cdw.va.gov/BISLVHACollab/scriptlibrary/index.aspx
PBM SQL Code Library	https://vaww.pbi.cdw.va.gov/PBI_RS/report/GPE/PBM_AD/SSRS/CodeSharing
VINCI Phenotype Library	https://vhacdwdwhweb100.vha.med.va.gov/phenotype/index.php/Category:VINCL_Phenotypes
Poor SQL Formatting Tool	https://poorsql.com/
SQL Office Hours Archive (searchable)	https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHASQLOfficeHours/SitePages/SQL-Office-Hours-Index.aspx?OR=Teams-HL&CT=1632173218115