

VA PACT ACT

JUNE 07, 2024

ISSUE THIRTY-FIVE Published Bi-weekly on Fridays

In this VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard, we are demonstrating our commitment to transparency by sharing with all stakeholders —internal to VA and externally—key performance metrics and data we are using to assess our success in implementing the PACT Act.



Highlight

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On May 24, 2024, VA announced improved wait times for new patient appointments in primary care and mental health care across the VA health care system. For new patients in April 2024, there was an 11% decrease in average wait times for VA primary care and a 7% decrease in average mental health wait times compared to the same time last year. Veteran trust in VA outpatient care is currently at 91.8% – an <u>alltime high</u>-and <u>more than 400,000 Veterans</u> have enrolled in VA care over the past year, which is a 30% increase over last year. Additionally, VA recently outperformed non-VA care in <u>peer reviewed studies</u>, <u>hospital ratings</u>, and <u>patient satisfaction surveys</u>. We are committed to providing all Veterans with the timely, world-class care they deserve. For more information about VA care, visit <u>VA's health care website</u>.

Making a Difference Through the PACT Act

Joseph served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations from August 1991 to September 2001 and subsequently developed colon cancer. As soon as he learned of the PACT Act, Joseph filed a claim for his colon cancer in April 2022. He would call the Public Contact Team frequently, requesting expedited action on his claim due to his cancer diagnosis. With the implementation of the PACT Act in January 2023, VA processed his claim, resulting in a grant of 100 percent disability evaluation and a higher level of special monthly compensation. This additional monthly payment significantly alleviates Joseph's medical and living expenses, giving him hope and inspiration to fight cancer. His story is a testament to the significance of the PACT Act in changing the lives of our Veterans. If you haven't yet filed an intent to file, or claim, go to <u>VA.gov/PACT</u> to learn more and file today.

VA IS EXPANDING CARE AND BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND SURVIVORS

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefits expansion in VA history. In this section, we are measuring the overall impact of the PACT Act in terms of its expansion of health care and benefits.

Expanding Benefits Expanding Care 1,024,645 301,478 0 New Enrollees in the PACT Total PACT Act Act Planning Population **Claims Approved** 75.0% \bigtriangledown (08/10/2022-06/02/2024) (08/10/2022-06/01/2024) Approval Rate for PACT Act Total New VHA Enrollees: (through 06/02/2024) 1,365,855 **Related** Claims (06/01/2024) Cumulative Total 06/03/2022-06/02/2023 PACT Related 319,263 **Claims** Completed (08/10/2022-06/01/2024) 06/03/2023-06/02/2024 407,046 +87.783 37.0% 166.7 Average Days for PACT Act PACT Act Related Claims 100.000 200.000 300.000 400.000 500.000 **Related** Claim Completion Completed </= 125 days (06/01/2024) (06/01/2024) VA Health Care 90-Day Trust Score 91.9% (03/04/2024-06/03/2024)

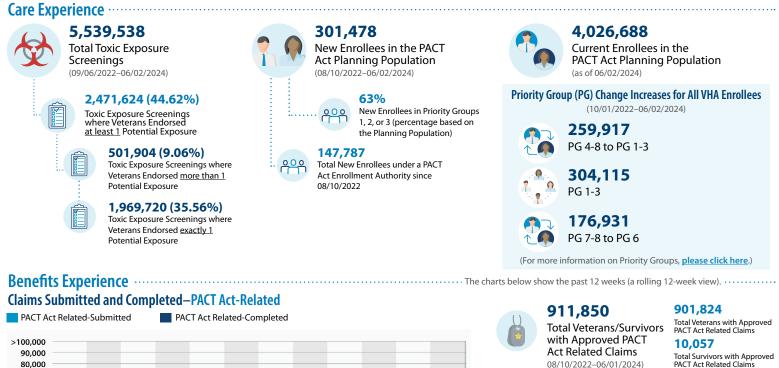
UPCOMING OUTREACH CALENDAR	June 08, 2024	June 08, 2024	June 08, 2024	June 08, 2024	
	Veteran and Family Resource Fair	Atlanta VA & Warrior Alliance PACT Act Rally	Beaumont PACT Act Claims & Enrollment Clinic	LVAHCS PACT Act Event	
	South Haven, MI VIEW EVENT	Johns Creek, GA <u>VIEW EVENT</u>	Beaumont, TX <u>VIEW EVENT</u>	Lexington, KY <u>VIEW EVENT</u>	

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VETERANS AND SURVIVORS TRUST VA TO DELIVER AN EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

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VA is committed to providing world class and timely health care, benefits and services to Veterans and Survivors. In this section, we measure VA's success in delivering outstanding and timely support and in earning the Veteran's and Survivor's trust.





08/10/2022-06/01/2024)

1,127,200 Total Veterans with Completed Total Veterans/Survivors PACT Act Related Claims

1,663,538

19,436 Total Survivors with Completed PACT Act Related Claims

1,689,739

with Completed PACT

Act Related Claims

08/10/2022-06/01/2024)

Cumulative Total PACT Related Claims Submitted (08/10/2022-06/01/2024)

1,365,855

Cumulative Total

Claims Completed

(08/10/2022-06/01/2024)

PACT Related

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1,146,562

Total Veteran PACT Related Claims Submitted 26,201 Total Survivor PACT **Related Claims Submitted**

> 1,345,746 Total Veteran PACT Related Claims Completed

20,109 Total Survivor PACT Related Claims Completed

2,571,668 **Cumulative Total** Non-PACT Related Claims Submitted (08/10/2022-06/01/2024)

2,548,552 **Cumulative Total**

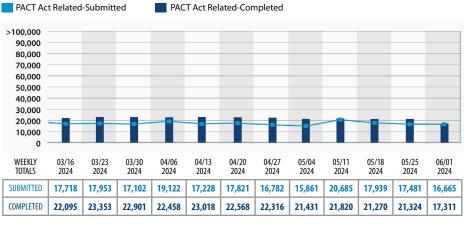
Non-PACT Related **Claims Completed** (08/10/2022-06/01/2024)

128.0

Average Days For Non-PACT **Related Claim Completion** (06/01/2024)

59.8%

Non-PACT Act Related Rating Claims Completed </=125 Days (06/01/2024)





Average Days For PACT Act Related Claim Completion (06/01/2024)



PACT Act Related Rating Claims Completed </=125 Days (06/01/2024)

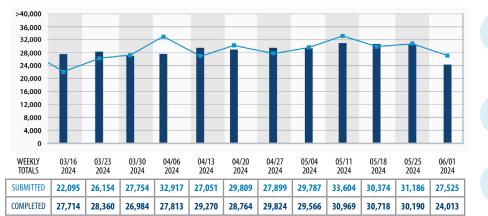




Percentage of Claims Submitted PACT Related vs. Non-PACT Related (08/10/2022-06/01/2024)

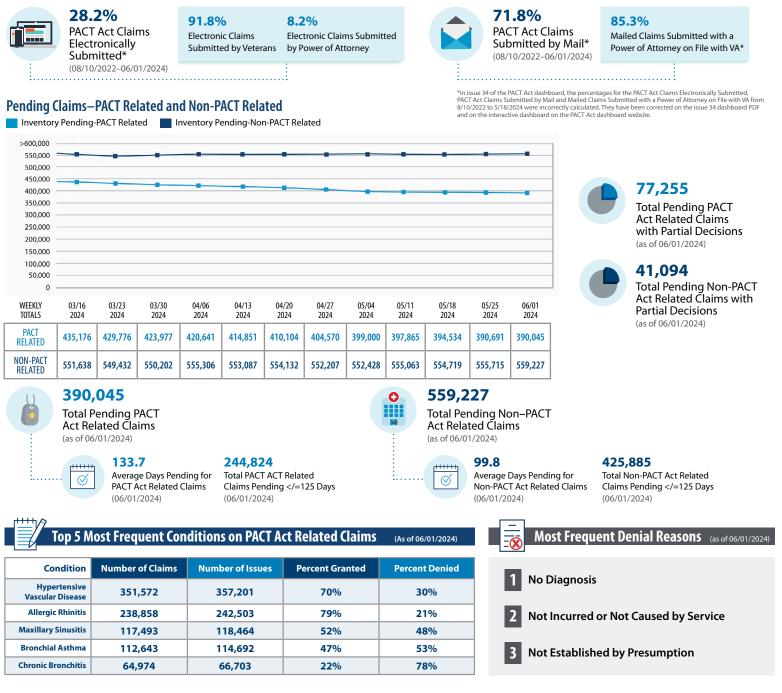
Claims Submitted and Completed–Non-PACT Act Related

Non-PACT Act Related-Submitted Non-PACT Act Related-Completed



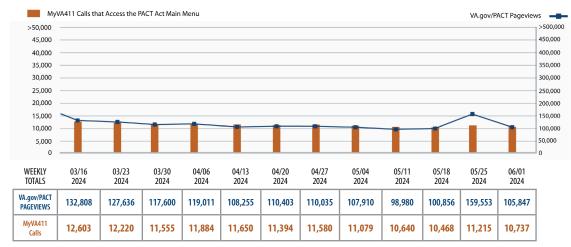
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PACT Act Claims Submission Methods



Web and Phone Experience

VA.gov/PACT Pageviews & 1-800-MyVA411 Calls that Access the PACT Act Main Menu (Press 8)



The PACT Act webpage has received to date:

24,455,054 **Total Page Views** (08/10/2022-06/02/2024)

1,024,718



Total Clicks on Call to Action to File a **Disability Claim Online** (08/10/2022-06/02/2024)

226,701 Total Clicks on Call to Action to Enroll in Health Care

(08/10/2022-06/02/2024)

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VA Call Centers



GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

Issue 35—June 07, 2024



Starting with Issue 20 (November 10, 2023), State-by-State data and Congressional District data will be available in the Excel spreadsheet at <u>https://department.va.gov/pactdata/</u> (this link has been updated from previous issues). This data will be updated on a monthly basis.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Issue 35—June 07, 2024

Metric/Term	Definition
Cumulative Total: PACT Act Related Claims Submitted	This statistic identifies the total number of VBA benefits claims with at least one PACT Act related condition received since August 10, 2022.
VHA Trust	This trust score reflects the percentage of Veterans who respond to the survey question, "I trust the VHA [Facility Name] for my health care needs" with a score of 4 or 5.
Approval Rate for PACT Act Related Claims since 08/10/22 (percentage)	Percentage of PACT act disability claims where at least one condition was granted (regardless of whether or not the condition was filed under PACT).
Average Days for PACT Act Claims Completion	This metric indicates the length of time it takes VBA to process a PACT Act-related benefits claim. This is measured from the date VA receives a claim to t date VA finished processing the claim and closed it out + 1 day, to eliminate the possibility of claims being completed in 0 days (ex. claim completed on the day it was received).
	The Average Days to Complete (ADC) for PACT Act Related Claims is calculated based on the date VA received the claim, not the date VA began processing those claims. VA prioritized and completed some claims related to terminal illnesses, but VA did not begin processing most claims until January 1, 2023. As a result, the current value of ADC is inflated by any time between the date the claim was received and the January 1, 2023 implementation date for processing. The high ADC for PACT claims demonstrates VA's commitment to completing oldest pending claims first.
PACT Act Related Rating Claims Completed = 125 days</td <td>This statistic identifies the number of VBA benefit claims with one or more PACT Act-related conditions that have been completed in 125 days or less.</td>	This statistic identifies the number of VBA benefit claims with one or more PACT Act-related conditions that have been completed in 125 days or less.
otal PACT Act Claims Approved	This metric identifies the number of completed PACT disability claims where at least one issue was granted.
PACT Act Planning Population	The PACT Act Planning Population consists of Veterans where VA has a high level of confidence they are a member of one or more of the three PACT Act eligible cohorts (Vietnam, Gulf-War, Post 9-11). VA is using this population as a means of identifying the impact of the PACT Act on enrollment in VA health care.
New Enrollees in the PACT Act Planning Population	This statistic measures the number of new enrollees in VA health care that fall within the PACT Act Planning Population to understand the impact of the Act on enrollment. By design, this more focused metric will always be a subset of the metric above that shows overall new enrollment regardless of whe a Veteran is in an eligible PACT Act cohort. Together these two enrollment metrics help identify both the broad impact of PACT Act on enrollment - for example, those who may enroll for VA health care because of the publicity of PACT Act but are not directly eligible because of PACT Act—and the more impact of PACT Act—meaning those who are enrolling from populations VA assesses as becoming eligible due to the PACT Act.
Total New VHA Enrollees	This statistic identifies the total new VHA enrollments (newly registered healthcare beneficiaries) for the periods of August 2022-End of Current Month 2 and August 2021-End of month 2022, for comparative analysis purposes.
ncrease in New Enrollees in VHA	This number identifies the change between 2023 and 2022 VHA enrollees during the same time period.
Upcoming Outreach Calendar	This calendar identifies key activities or outreach events occurring in the coming weeks.
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Metric/Term	Definition
Total Toxic Exposure Screenings	This statistic identifies the number of Veterans who have received a VHA Toxic Exposure Screening. Every Veteran enrolled in VA health care will receive a initial screening and a follow-up screening at least once every 5 years. Veterans who are not enrolled and who meet eligibility requirements will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.
	The screening will ask Veterans if they think they were exposed to any of these hazards while serving: Open burn pits and other airborne hazards, Gulf V related exposures, Agent Orange Radiation, Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure and/or Other Exposures.
Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed at least 1 Potential Exposure	This statistic identifies the number of VHA Toxic Exposure Screenings where a Veteran identified at least one exposure to toxic substances. It includes th number of Veterans who received the screening, the number of Veterans who identified at least one potential concern related to a toxic substance expo and the percentage of responses in which Veterans identified at least one instance of toxic exposure during the screening.
Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed 1 Potential Exposure	This statistic identifies the number of VHA Toxic Exposure Screenings where a Veteran identified exactly one exposure to toxic substances. Please note the difference from the metric above – the metric above includes Veterans who identified <u>at least one</u> (includes both those who identified one exposure and also those who identified more than one exposure); this metric only includes Veterans who identify exactly one exposure.
Toxic Exposure Screenings where Veterans Endorsed more than 1 Potential Exposure	This statistic identifies the number of VHA Toxic Exposure Screenings where a Veteran identified more than one exposure to toxic substances. Please note the difference from the metric above—the metric above includes Veterans who identify <u>exactly one</u> potential concern; this metric incl Veterans who identify <u>more than one</u> potential concern.
Priority Groups	When Veterans apply for VA health care, they are assigned to 1 of 8 priority groups that impact how soon they are enrolled in for health care benefits and how much they might have to pay (if anything) toward the cost of care. To learn more about the factors that impact assignment, please visit https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-38/chapter-l/part-17/subject-group-ECFRf01c7718f2a7e24/section-17.36 .
New Enrollees enrolled with a PACT Act Authority	This metric measures the number of new enrollees who were specifically enrolled with an authority provided by the PACT Act (PL. 117-168). This include 1-year Special Eligibility, 10-Year Special Eligibility, Agent Orange Exposure, and Radiation Exposure. For more on information on eligibility for enrollment, please visit <u>www.va.gov/pact</u> . VA utilizes a number of authorities to enroll Veterans, both authorities granted in the PACT Act and pre-existi authorities. VA applies the authority that will result in the Veteran being placed into the highest priority group possible.
riority Group Change Increase–VHA Enrollees NEW	Change Avenues:
	PG4-8 to PG1-3: Enrollees in priority group 4, 5, 6, 7A, 7C, 8A, 8C, 8B, or 8D that moved to priority group 1, 2, 3.
	Within PG 1-3: Enrollees in priority group 1, 2, 3 that moved to priority group 1, 2.
	PG7-8 to PG6: Enrollees in priority group 7 or 8 that moved to priority group 6.
	When enrolling in VA health care, Veterans are assigned to one of eight priority groups. A Veteran's priority group can affect how much (if anything) they

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Metric/Term

Priority Group Eligibility Criteria

Weekly Total: PACT Act Related Claims Submitted Weekly Total: PACT Act Related Claims Completed Cumulative Total: PACT Act Related Claims Submitted Cumulative Total: PACT Act Related Claims Completed Weekly Total: Non-PACT Act Related Claims Submitted Weekly Total: Non-PACT Act Related Claims Completed Average Days for PACT Act Claims Completion PACT Act Related Rating Claims Pending </= 125 days

PACT Act Related Rating Claims Completed </= 125 days Average Days Pending for Non-PACT Act Related Claims Non-PACT Act Related Claims Pending </= 125 days Non-PACT Act Related Claims Completed </= 125 days Cumulative Total of Non-PACT Related Claims Submitted Cumulative Total of Non-PACT Related Claims Completed Total Veterans/Survivors with Completed PACT Act Claims Total Veterans with Completed PACT Act Claims Total Survivors with Completed PACT Act Claims

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Metric/Term

Electronic PACT Act Claims Submitted by Power of Attorney (percentage)

Electronic PACT Act Claims Submitted by Veterans (percentage)

PACT Act Claims Submitted Electronically (percentage) PACT Act Claims Submitted through Mail (percentage) Mailed Claims Submitted with a Power of Attorney on File with VA (percentage)

Pending Claims-PACT Related Pending Claims-Non-PACT Related Total Pending PACT Act Related Claims with Partial Decisions Total Pending Non-PACT Act Related Claims with Partial Decisions Top 5 Most Frequent Conditions on PACT Act Related Claims

Most Frequent Denial Reasons

Total Pending PACT Act Claims Total Pending Non-PACT Act Claims VA.gov/PACT Page Views Total Clicks on Call to Action to File a Disability Claim Online

Total Clicks on Call to Action to Enroll in Health Care

Page Four **Metric/Term**

MvVA411 Calls that Access the PACT Act Main Menu (Press 8) Total MyVA411 Calls that Access the PACT Act Main Menu (Press 8)

Definition

Group 1: Service-connected disability rated as 50% or more disabling, or have service-connected disability that makes one unable to work, or received the Medal of Honor

Group 2: Service-connected disability rated as 30% or 40% disabling.

Group 3: Former prisoner of war, or received the Purple Heart medal, or were discharged for a disability that was caused by—or got worse because of—one's active-duty service, or service-connected disability rated as 10% or 20% disabling, or awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C § 1151, "benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation".

Group 4: Are receiving VA aid and attendance or housebound benefits, or received a VA determination of being catastrophically disabled. Group 5: Do not have a service-connected disability, or have a non-compensable service-connected disability rated as 0% disabling, and have an annual income level below our adjusted income limits (based on resident ZIP code), or receiving VA pension benefits, or eligible for Medicaid program: Group 6: Have a compensable service-connected disability rated as 0% disabling, or exposed to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or participated in Project 112/SHAD, or served in the Republic of Vietnam between 1/9/1962 and 5/7/1975, or served in Persian Gulf War between 9/2/1990 and 11/11/1998, or served on active duty at Camp Lejeune 30+

days between 8/1/1953 and 12/31/1987. VA may also assign a Veteran to priority group 6 if they meet all of the requirements listed below. Veterans are: Currently or newly enrolled in VA health care, and served in a theater of combat operations after 11/11/1998, or were discharged from active duty on or after 1/28/2003, and were discharged less than 5 years ago.

Group 7: Gross household income is below the geographically adjusted income limits (GMT) for where one lives and agrees to pay copays. Group 8: Gross household income is above VA income limits and geographically adjusted income limits for where one lives, and agree to pay copays. Eligibility for VA health care benefits will depend on subpriority group.

This metric identifies the total number of VBA benefit claims with at least one PACT Act-related claimed issue received each week.

This metric identifies the number of VBA benefit claims with at least one PACT Act-related condition completed each week

This statistic identifies the total number of VBA benefits claims with at least one PACT Act related condition received since August 10, 2022.

This statistic identifies the total number of VBA claims with at least one PACT Act related condition completed since August 10, 2022.

This number identifies the total VBA benefits claims received each week not related to PACT Act.

This number identifies the total VBA benefits claims completed each week not related to PACT Act.

This metric identifies the average number of days it takes VBA to process a PACT Act related benefits claim.

This statistic identifies the current number of VBA benefit claims with one or more PACT Act-related conditions that have been pending for 125 days or less.

This statistic identifies the number of VBA benefit claims with one or more PACT Act-related conditions that have been completed in 125 days or less. This metric identifies the average number of days it takes VBA to process a Non-PACT Act related benefits claim.

This statistic identifies the current number of pending VBA benefit claims with one or more Non-PACT Act-related conditions less than 125 days old. This statistic identifies the number of non-PACT VBA benefit claims that have been completed in 125 days or less.

This statistic identifies the cumulative total of VBA benefits claims received since August 10, 2022, which are not related to the PACT Act.

This statistic identifies the cumulative total of VBA benefits claims completed since August 10, 2022, which are not related to the PACT Act. This metric identifies the unique number of Veterans and Survivors who have filed a PACT Act benefit claim which VBA processed to completion.

This metric identifies the unique number of Veterans who filed a PACT Act benefit claim which VBA processed to completion.

This metric identifies the unique number of Survivors who filed a PACT Act benefit claim which VBA processed to completion.

Definition

Total number of PACT disability claims submitted electronically by a Power of Attorney out of the total number of PACT disability claims submitted electronically

Total number of PACT disability claims submitted electronically by a Veteran out of the total number of PACT disability claims submitted electronically

Total number of PACT disability claims submitted electronically out of the total number of PACT disability claims submitted.

Total number of PACT disability claims submitted through mail out of the total number of PACT disability claims submitted. Total number of PACT disability claims submitted through mail where the Veteran is represented by a Power of Attorney out of the total number of PACT disability claims submitted through mail.

This metric identifies the number of VBA claims with at least one PACT Act-related condition pending in the workload.

This metric identifies the number of VBA claims which do not have any conditions related to the PACT Act pending in the workload.

This metric identifies the number of currently pending PACT related disability benefit claims where a partial decision was rendered on the claim. This metric identifies the number of currently pending non-PACT related disability benefit claims where a partial decision was rendered on the claim.

Top 5 most frequent conditions on PACT Act related disability claims with breakouts for the # of distinct claims associated with these claimed conditions, the total number of distinct issues claimed, the total number of issues granted, and the grant/denial rate.

To learn more about these health issues, please visit the Veteran's Health Library, https://www.veteranshealthlibrary.va.gov/ and the Veteran's Health $\label{eq:encyclopedia} www.veteranshealthlibrary.va.gov/Encyclopedia/Encyclopedia.pg?page=2&pagesize=25&letter=Apple:$

Top 3 reasons for denials on decisions on PACT disability claims: Not Incurred/Caused by Service: Claimed condition is denied because condition neither occurred in nor was caused by military service: No Diagnosis: Claimed condition is denied because the medical evidence of record fails to show that the disability has been clinically diagnosed; Not Established by Presumption: Claimed condition is denied because the evidence of record does not show that certain criteria was met for a grant of service connection on a presumptive basis.

This statistic identifies the current number of pending VBA benefit claims with one or more PACT Act-related conditions.

This statistic identifies the current number of pending VBA benefit claims without any PACT Act-related conditions.

This metric identifies the number of page views for the va.gov/PACT website.

This statistic identifies the number of times visitors to the VA.gov/PACT website clicked the "Apply for Benefits" link to file a disability compensation claim online.

This statistic identifies the number of times visitors to the VA.gov/PACT website clicked the "Apply for Health Care" link to apply for VA health care online

Definition

This statistic identifies the number of calls to 1-800-MvVA411 where callers selected the PACT Act Main Menu (Press 8). This statistic identifies the total number of calls received to the automated MyVA411 line (option 8), which provides information about the PACT Act to callers

Stewardship Reminder: Stewardship information will be included in every other issue of this	dashboard publication (or when updated data is available).
Metric/Term	Definition
Full-Time Equivalent Employee (FTE)	Full-Time Equivalent refers to the total number of regular straight-time hours worked by employees divided by the number of compensable hours applicable to each fiscal year (regular method), or the total regular hours worked in a fiscal year (2,080 hours) divided by 26 biweekly pay periods (pay period method)(as per OMB A-11 Circular § 85.5(c)).
Account	Account refers to a separate financial reporting unit used by the Federal Government to record budget authority, outlays and income for budgeting or management information purposes as well as for accounting purposes.
Permanent Employee	An employee who has been hired under an appointment that is not time delimited.
Term Employee	An employee for whom the agency has granted a term appointment (of employment) of more than 1 year but usually not more than 4 years.
Onboarded	Onboards (i.e., the number of personnel encumbering positions) are the number of employees (i.e., headcount) onboard when the data are reported. Note: "Onboards" differ from "FTE," which is a budgetary term based on compensable hours as opposed to headcount. Colloquially, "onboards" refers to newly hired employees who have started work with VA (their hiring is complete).
Funds Allocated	The amount of funding provided to each Administration or Staff Office.
Obligations	Obligation means a binding agreement that will result in outlays, immediately or in the future.

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