DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
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October 20, 2014

Members of the Senate
California State Legislature
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Members of the Assembly
California State Legislature
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members,

Enclosed is the Annual Report required under Sections 972.1(c) and 974(a) of the California Military and Veterans Code. This report details the amount of new or increased monetary benefits paid to eligible veterans by the federal government attributable to the assistance of County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs).

In fiscal year 2013-2014, CVSOs brought in approximately $546 million new, recurring veteran benefits into the State's economy.

We have included additional statistical information (Appendix) that allows a more direct comparison of the total amount of benefits being received in each county. As described in the enclosure, these monetary benefits are the cumulative amounts received in each county and are not solely attributable to the assistance of CVSOs. These dollar amounts reflect the effectiveness of all organizations and individuals who assist veterans in obtaining monetary benefits in that county.

If you have any questions please contact Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary for Veteran Services at (916) 653-2573.

Sincerely

Michael M. Wills

for PETER J. GRAVETT
Major General (Ret)
Secretary

Enclosures

Distribution on next page

cc: Mr. Michael Cohen, Department of Finance, 915 L Street, Sacramento CA 95814
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Ms. Peggy Collins, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
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Ms. Charlene Taylor, CalVet Board Chair
Mr. Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary, Veterans Services Division, CalVet

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Annual Report to the Legislature

Monetary Benefits Attributable to the Assistance Of County Veterans Service Offices Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Military & Veterans Code §972.1(c)
and Military & Veterans Code §974(a)

October 20, 2014

Monetary Benefits Attributable to the Assistance Of County Veterans Service Offices

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) has determined the number and monetary value of new or increased benefits paid by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) to eligible veterans and their dependents during fiscal year 2013-2014. These benefits are directly attributable to the activities and efforts of the County Veterans Service Offices.

In fiscal year 2013-2014, CVSOs brought in approximately $546 million new or increased federal veteran benefits into the State's economy.

This report includes:

- As required by Military and Veterans Code (M&VC) §972.1 (c): County-by-county detail on "new or increased monetary benefits paid to eligible veterans by the federal government attributable to the assistance of county veterans service officers." See Table 1.

- As required by M&VC §974.(a)(1) thru (4): The activities of County Veterans Service Officers:

    1. Number of veterans and their family members who have contacted or utilized the services of the County Veterans Service Offices during the fiscal year: **741,720**. *NOTE: Due to circumstances out of the CVSO's control, Trinity County was not able to submit their count.*

    2. The number of claims filed to achieve benefits such as pension, disability compensation, and health care on behalf of veterans and their dependents. (see Table 1).

    3. Annualized monetary value of benefits received by veterans and dependents as a result of the efforts of county veterans service offices, broken down by type of benefit (see Table 2).

    4. A summary of other services provided by CVSOs and special events and activities in which CVSOs participated (see Page 4).

    All reported amounts are taken from award letters issued by the USDVA to the claimant as submitted by the individual County Veterans Service Office.

- This report also includes an Appendix with additional comparative statistics: Select USDVA Expenditures by County and Select USDVA Expenditures by State.

TABLE 1

M&VC §974(a)(2) and 972.1(c): New or increased federal benefits to eligible veterans and their dependents during fiscal year 2013-2014, directly attributable to the work of CVSOs.

	974(a) 2	972.1 (c)		
Participating Counties	**Number of Claims Filed in FY 13/14**	**Value of new benefit payments in FY 13/14 (New and Increased Benefits)**	**Average Amount of New Award Received in FY 13/14**	**Veteran Population**
ALAMEDA	2,058	$8,640,277	$4,198	57,562
AMADOR	335	$2,088,423	$6,234	4,246
BUTTE	3,195	$5,427,789	$1,699	17,399
CALAVERAS	304	$1,069,807	$3,519	5,498
CDVA	5,387	$16,272,545	$3,021	
COLUSA	62	$71,031	$1,146	1,159
CONTRA COSTA	2,883	$23,891,107	$8,287	53,232
DEL NORTE	550	$2,579,414	$4,690	2,507
EL DORADO	814	$7,481,861	$9,191	14,939
FRESNO	2,293	$7,538,569	$3,288	43,317
GLENN	134	$906,587	$6,766	1,801
HUMBOLDT	1,330	$10,146,310	$7,629	10,138
IMPERIAL	1,434	$3,506,314	$2,445	7,560
INYO	212	$1,237,299	$5,836	1,505
KERN	7,446	$23,974,240	$3,220	46,473
KINGS	1,435	$6,289,915	$4,383	12,281
LAKE	1,059	$5,904,537	$5,576	6,499
LASSEN	330	$1,242,443	$3,765	3,524
LOS ANGELES	13,347	$29,287,766	$2,194	306,587
MADERA	606	$4,566,486	$7,535	8,187
MARIN	693	$3,686,956	$5,320	12,257
MARIPOSA	58	$114,907	$1,981	2,091
MENDOCINO	1,153	$5,709,502	$4,952	6,624
MERCED	1,572	$3,946,243	$2,510	11,174
MODOC	27	$104,215	$3,860	936
MONTEREY	3,207	$15,653,606	$4,881	19,255
NAPA	498	$3,029,548	$6,083	9,602
NEVADA	780	$4,681,324	$6,002	8,756
ORANGE	11,109	$14,432,967	$1,299	121,992
PLACER	1,627	$8,213,125	$5,048	29,314
PLUMAS	204	$236,448	$1,159	2,000
RIVERSIDE	13,495	$34,927,578	$2,588	131,854
SACRAMENTO	2,167	$3,139,485	$1,449	89,529
SAN BENITO	291	$3,032,271	$10,420	2,607
SAN BERNARDINO	34,039	$84,996,243	$2,497	111,221
SAN DIEGO	11,185	$19,005,295	$1,699	224,881
SAN FRANCISCO	3,863	$14,249,516	$3,689	25,267
SAN JOAQUIN	1,959	$11,145,630	$5,689	34,954
SAN LUIS OBISPO	4,507	$6,094,670	$1,352	20,490
SAN MATEO	913	$7,745,457	$8,484	27,318
SANTA BARBARA	3,714	$14,012,008	$3,773	22,818
SANTA CLARA	3,644	$11,316,103	$3,105	58,590
SANTA CRUZ	2,205	$5,847,807	$2,652	11,554
SHASTA	3,161	$14,415,935	$4,561	16,184
SISKIYOU	634	$2,626,450	$4,143	4,184
SOLANO	3,945	$26,816,713	$6,798	33,502
SONOMA	1,741	$14,223,522	$8,170	28,528
STANISLAUS	3,714	$13,867,363	$3,734	25,601
TEHAMA	240	$422,240	$1,759	5,588
TRINITY	40	$385,745	$9,644	1,504
TULARE	2,545	$7,381,085	$2,900	18,076
TUOLUMNE	1,002	$4,522,640	$4,514	6,174
VENTURA	1,982	$9,004,515	$4,543	42,229
YOLO	964	$3,595,485	$3,730	9,466
YUBA-SUTTER	2,500	$11,001,076	$4,400	13,206
Statewide Totals	**170,592**	**$545,706,393**		

**Sources: CVSO/CalVet Veterans Claims Case Management System Database (VetPro) and VetPop 2011*

TABLE 2
M&VC §974(a)(3)
Annualized Monetary Value of New Benefits Received by Veterans and Dependents During Fiscal Year 2013/14 by Type of Benefit

Types of Claim Activities	Retroactive payments from date of claim	Lump sum awards	Monthly awards (ongoing)	Annualized Awards*
Dependent/Survivor	$10,992,886	$1,869,011	$1,775,662	$34,169,841
Compensation/Pension	$223,870,777	$1,586,490	$16,443,110	$422,774,587
Education	$426,466	$19,950	$48,661	$1,030,348
Cost Avoidance	$108,642	$5,558	$148,974	$1,901,888
Financial	$12,125	$674,005	$5,136	$747,762
Other	$37,962,964	$883,868	$3,879,443	$85,400,148
Totals	**$273,373,860**	**$5,038,882**	**$22,300,986**	**$546,024,574**

*Annualized Awards = Retro + Lump sum+(Monthly*12)

M&VC §974(a)(4)

CalVet, Veterans Services Division (VSD) is tasked with connecting veterans and their families throughout the state with the benefits and services earned through their sacrifice and service to our country. To perform this critical mission, the VSD provides advocacy, education, and service assistance to veterans as they attempt to access their state and federal benefits.

With nearly 2 million veterans in California, and an additional 30,000 returning each year, our efforts to accomplish our goals requires us to coordinate and collaborate with the network of veteran service providers on the federal, state, and community level. Fostering strong relationships with state-wide system of care enables the VSD to act as a conduit for veterans and the services they seek.

CalVet and the CVSOs have a long standing partnership that provides veterans the ability to access their benefits and services in the counties where they reside. CalVet is responsible for providing the CVSOs support in their mission to serve veterans as the "boots on the ground" access point to veterans throughout the state. CVSO operations are defined as those directly associated with the following functions: Benefit counseling, Claims development, and Case management.

During Fiscal Year 2013-2014 CalVet distributed to the CVSOs approximately $5.6 million in Subvention funds directly attributable to their claims development and preparation.

CVSOs regularly participate in numerous outreach events to educate veterans of the benefits for which they may be eligible and how to receive assistance obtaining those benefits, as well as coordinate referrals from county department of public social services when veterans and their families apply for public assistance programs. CVSOs work closely with congressionally-chartered veteran service organizations such as VFW and American Legion, not-for-profit organizations and private attorneys to maximize the benefits their veterans receive from county department of public social services when veterans and their families apply for public assistance programs.

Locally…

- Claims assistance
- Case management
- Fiduciary services
- Homeless assistance
- Indigent burials
- Information and referral
- Jail and hospital outreach
- Job referrals
- Veterans preference points for employment exams
- Peddler's license
- Transportation services
- Veteran's advocacy

At the State level…

- Appeals representation before the US Board of Veterans Appeals
- Business license, tax and fee waiver
- California college tuition fee waiver
- Disabled veteran license plates
- Disabled veterans business enterprise opportunities
- Employment and unemployment
- California farm and home loans
- Fishing and hunting licenses
- Motor vehicle registration fees
- Property tax exemptions
- State park and recreation passes
- Veterans homes of California
- Veterans preference in California civil service exams

APPENDIX

Additional Comparative Statistics

The following two tables are included for informational purposes as a standardized way to compare the utilization of veteran benefits between counties and between states. It must be understood that data presented in these tables is not solely attributable to the County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) but represents the combined efforts of all veteran service organizations and individuals in obtaining veterans and their families the benefits they have earned.

It is also significant to note that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) reports data only for veterans with addresses in that county/state and reports the total monetary benefits (cumulative) delivered to those veterans and family members. Contrast that with the data reported in Tables 1 and 2, which reports only new benefits, only benefits in which the CVSO assisted in obtaining, and does not necessarily represent veterans only living within that county[1].

Table A – Select USDVA Expenditures by County

For comparative purposes Table A reports USDVA expenditures by county for selected expenditures related to benefits (does not included expenditures such as federal salaries, wages, operating costs, construction, etc.). The data is sorted by county size (Large, Medium, Small) based upon veteran population within the county. Dollars reported are total dollars expended for compensation and pension for beneficiaries with addresses within that county. Rankings are based upon the average dollar amount received per veteran. Also included is the percent of veterans within each county who are receiving compensation and pension benefits. This metric has been used historically by the State to compare California's utilization of benefits with other states; it is now presented to compare utilization county by county.

[1] CVSOs are required by law (M&VC Section 971) to assist any veteran or family member who seeks assistance through their office.

Table A – Select USDVA Expenditures by County

County	Veteran Population (Note 1)	County Size (Note 2)	Compensation & Pension (Note 3)	Average C&P $ Per Veteran	Rank for C&P per Veteran Within County Size
LOS ANGELES	306,587	Large	$785,919,325	$2,563	5
SAN DIEGO	224,881	Large	$843,900,122	$3,753	1
RIVERSIDE	131,854	Large	$434,731,688	$3,297	2
ORANGE	121,992	Large	$284,205,318	$2,330	6
SAN BERNARDINO	111,221	Large	$333,887,190	$3,002	4
SACRAMENTO	89,529	Large	$284,597,483	$3,179	3
SANTA CLARA	58,590	Medium	$145,633,935	$2,486	16
ALAMEDA	57,562	Medium	$148,728,433	$2,584	15
CONTRA COSTA	53,232	Medium	$131,229,472	$2,465	18
KERN	46,473	Medium	$132,745,876	$2,856	9
FRESNO	43,317	Medium	$137,667,535	$3,178	6
VENTURA	42,229	Medium	$112,390,872	$2,661	12
SAN JOAQUIN	34,954	Medium	$107,887,620	$3,087	8
SOLANO	33,502	Medium	$164,345,552	$4,906	1
PLACER	29,314	Medium	$77,883,836	$2,657	13
SONOMA	28,528	Medium	$78,342,640	$2,746	11
SAN MATEO	27,318	Medium	$58,492,307	$2,141	19
STANISLAUS	25,601	Medium	$84,511,721	$3,301	5
SAN FRANCISCO	25,267	Medium	$66,087,648	$2,616	14
SANTA BARBARA	22,818	Medium	$65,163,115	$2,856	10
SAN LUIS OBISPO	20,490	Medium	$50,558,260	$2,468	17
MONTEREY	19,255	Medium	$87,483,450	$4,544	3
TULARE	18,076	Medium	$62,368,853	$3,450	4
BUTTE	17,399	Medium	$54,609,063	$3,139	7
SHASTA	16,184	Medium	$78,440,204	$4,847	2
EL DORADO	14,939	Small	$40,672,933	$2,723	21
KINGS	12,281	Small	$31,493,480	$2,564	26
MARIN	12,257	Small	$23,772,846	$1,940	30
SANTA CRUZ	11,554	Small	$38,900,960	$3,367	10
MERCED	11,174	Small	$36,479,204	$3,265	13
HUMBOLDT	10,138	Small	$40,830,248	$4,027	4
NAPA	9,602	Small	$26,629,501	$2,773	20
YOLO	9,466	Small	$30,089,191	$3,179	14
NEVADA	8,756	Small	$29,427,783	$3,361	11
MADERA	8,187	Small	$25,386,131	$3,101	16
IMPERIAL	7,560	Small	$20,524,612	$2,715	22
SUTTER	6,816	Small	$26,478,112	$3,884	5
MENDOCINO	6,624	Small	$26,979,731	$4,073	3
LAKE	6,499	Small	$24,739,558	$3,807	7
YUBA	6,390	Small	$26,374,863	$4,127	2
TUOLUMNE	6,174	Small	$19,331,154	$3,131	15
TEHAMA	5,588	Small	$14,573,910	$2,608	24
CALAVERAS	5,498	Small	$14,115,471	$2,567	25
AMADOR	4,246	Small	$9,130,277	$2,150	29
SISKIYOU	4,184	Small	$15,300,079	$3,657	8
LASSEN	3,524	Small	$8,023,921	$2,277	28
SAN BENITO	2,607	Small	$9,949,405	$3,816	6
DEL NORTE	2,507	Small	$12,606,200	$5,029	1
MARIPOSA	2,091	Small	$5,970,039	$2,855	18
PLUMAS	2,000	Small	$6,057,025	$3,029	17
GLENN	1,801	Small	$4,743,374	$2,634	23
INYO	1,505	Small	$3,793,323	$2,521	27
TRINITY	1,504	Small	$5,049,437	$3,356	12
MONO	1,169	Small	$1,118,577	$957	33
COLUSA	1,159	Small	$3,271,085	$2,821	19
MODOC	936	Small	$3,366,853	$3,598	9
SIERRA	397	Small	$716,313	$1,803	31
ALPINE	148	Small	$153,581	$1,040	32

Table A Notes:

1. Veteran population estimates, as of September 30, 2013, are produced by the VA Office of the Actuary (VetPop 2011).
2. County size is an arbitrary designation based upon veteran population. Small =<15,000, 15,000<Medium<75,000, Large =>75,000.
3. As reported by the federal fiscal year 2013 USDVA Geographic Distribution of Expenditures Report.

Table B – Select USDVA Expenditures by State

For comparative purposes Table B reports USDVA expenditures by state for selected expenditures related to benefits. Comparably sized states (in terms of veteran population) are highlighted for comparison.

Federal FY 2013 Summary of Select Expenditures by State Expenditures in $000s								
State	**Veteran Population (Note 1)**	**Total USDVA Expenditure(Note 2)**	**Compensation & Pension (C&P) (Note 3)**	**% of Vet Pop Using C&P (Note 4)**	**Education & Vocational Rehabilitation / Employment**	**Medical Care (Note 5)**	**Unique Patients (Note 6)**	**% of Vet Pop Using VA Healthcare**
National Totals	**21,882,153**	**$142,822,345**	**$63,574,737**	**18.5%**	**$11,949,205**	**$55,993,792**	**5,690,384**	**26.00%**
Alabama	414,963	$2,824,088	$1,580,861	22.32%	$189,414	$988,150	108,175	26.07%
Alaska	74,671	$501,604	$211,260	22.37%	$61,850	$217,751	17,304	23.17%
Arizona	527,400	$3,220,905	$1,409,346	17.62%	$343,820	$1,301,507	137,362	26.05%
Arkansas	250,095	$1,946,615	$924,671	19.48%	$79,063	$890,127	86,763	34.69%
California	1,795,455	$12,707,536	$5,397,860	18.92%	$1,599,760	$5,209,559	444,432	24.75%
Colorado	390,824	$2,594,677	$1,212,143	21.70%	$324,347	$850,235	90,822	23.24%
Connecticut	207,759	$1,078,567	$365,638	12.26%	$96,416	$570,192	51,360	24.72%
Delaware	78,016	$362,617	$169,963	14.67%	$34,331	$147,974	14,676	18.81%
District of Columbia	31,166	$2,295,599	$78,699	17.30%	$31,054	$204,146	8,800	28.24%
Florida	1,520,563	$10,430,774	$4,728,273	20.29%	$892,555	$4,392,344	479,193	31.51%
Georgia	774,464	$4,670,709	$2,482,164	19.99%	$453,034	$1,574,087	179,821	23.22%
Hawaii	116,947	$754,680	$337,919	19.26%	$142,729	$243,220	23,825	20.37%
Idaho	138,108	$746,018	$334,504	17.56%	$51,513	$332,499	39,928	28.91%
Illinois	744,710	$3,854,717	$1,450,236	12.53%	$311,330	$1,957,618	180,384	24.22%
Indiana	490,380	$2,477,767	$1,092,855	16.19%	$150,033	$1,149,224	128,499	26.20%
Iowa	233,815	$1,192,889	$505,601	15.79%	$74,079	$583,653	72,191	30.88%
Kansas	223,708	$1,237,985	$529,023	15.96%	$103,950	$559,771	58,097	25.97%
Kentucky	339,334	$2,229,580	$1,087,772	19.06%	$139,199	$938,626	101,096	29.79%
Louisiana	315,342	$2,202,388	$1,016,206	18.36%	$120,767	$816,195	86,890	27.55%
Maine	127,694	$873,125	$467,398	21.06%	$42,577	$335,408	39,358	30.82%
Maryland	443,076	$2,453,557	$1,047,226	16.21%	$333,943	$997,630	82,183	18.55%
Massachusetts	374,809	$2,371,613	$985,894	16.33%	$192,975	$1,098,412	84,345	22.50%
Michigan	660,773	$3,361,961	$1,675,388	14.90%	$208,565	$1,376,571	146,804	22.22%
Minnesota	360,754	$2,336,965	$986,609	24.35%	$133,629	$1,085,731	113,577	31.48%
Mississippi	225,469	$1,470,950	$666,715	18.09%	$88,010	$661,288	69,676	30.90%
Missouri	497,874	$3,025,845	$1,386,280	17.44%	$189,473	$1,236,747	137,008	27.52%
Montana	101,597	$646,509	$290,869	21.46%	$38,237	$302,558	35,189	34.64%
Nebraska	138,773	$1,023,761	$487,975	29.33%	$63,597	$413,294	47,275	34.07%
Nevada	225,933	$1,573,091	$641,969	18.00%	$95,562	$787,899	65,443	28.97%
New Hampshire	110,778	$613,805	$268,735	16.47%	$50,861	$278,312	28,604	25.82%
New Jersey	425,094	$1,927,021	$906,744	13.03%	$196,113	$749,724	77,179	18.16%
New Mexico	170,699	$1,312,943	$686,222	21.39%	$67,315	$507,499	49,981	29.28%
New York	885,796	$5,621,911	$2,063,566	14.50%	$493,102	$2,833,048	231,161	26.10%
North Carolina	769,384	$5,067,823	$2,712,319	20.98%	$399,186	$1,789,827	205,006	26.65%
North Dakota	56,213	$334,755	$149,596	21.57%	$22,770	$149,518	18,526	32.96%
Ohio	877,894	$6,643,911	$1,837,567	14.27%	$296,446	$2,213,426	223,944	25.51%
Oklahoma	340,395	$2,568,390	$1,544,376	24.92%	$131,030	$746,118	90,731	26.65%
Oregon	322,355	$2,283,129	$1,100,287	20.13%	$128,169	$959,445	96,190	29.84%
Pennsylvania	953,644	$4,782,351	$2,029,589	12.65%	$359,065	$2,103,647	232,054	24.33%
Rhode Island	69,206	$474,338	$193,988	17.60%	$35,525	$216,555	20,132	29.09%
South Carolina	420,968	$2,876,324	$1,557,784	20.81%	$223,348	$1,001,079	123,070	29.23%
South Dakota	75,687	$564,489	$209,347	20.45%	$30,364	$306,949	29,744	39.30%

Federal FY 2013 Summary of Select Expenditures by State (cont.) Expenditures in $000s								
State	**Veteran Population (Note 1)**	**Total USDVA Expenditure (Note 2)**	**Compensation & Pension (C&P) (Note 3)**	**% of Vet Pop Using C&P (Note 4)**	**Education & Vocational Rehabilitation / Employment**	**Medical Care (Note 5)**	**Unique Patients (Note 6)**	**% of Vet Pop Using VA Healthcare**
National Totals	**21,882,153**	**$142,822,345**	**$63,574,737**	**18.5%**	**$11,949,205**	**$55,993,792**	**5,690,384**	**26.00%**
Tennessee	521,267	$3,320,710	$1,652,616	19.20%	$236,754	$1,328,239	135,582	26.01%
Texas	1,667,740	$12,943,393	$6,091,910	21.98%	$1,118,114	$3,986,903	434,255	26.04%
Utah	150,771	$887,516	$350,923	16.04%	$85,974	$381,279	34,062	22.59%
Vermont	48,812	$273,966	$118,286	15.25%	$20,296	$126,949	14,925	30.58%
Virginia	840,398	$4,653,545	$2,291,200	19.31%	$874,229	$1,343,447	142,605	16.97%
Washington	602,272	$3,384,110	$1,788,537	19.66%	$343,793	$1,086,440	118,461	19.67%
West Virginia	173,389	$1,601,256	$625,689	19.23%	$44,341	$653,270	58,733	33.87%
Wisconsin	409,419	$2,421,849	$972,511	16.59%	$133,679	$1,199,045	118,371	28.91%
Wyoming	56,518	$343,611	$127,557	17.64%	$15,751	$188,453	18,583	32.88%

Table B Notes:

1. Veteran population estimates, as of September 30, 2013, are produced by the VA Office of the Actuary (VetPop 2011).
2. As reported by the federal fiscal year 2013 USDVA Geographic Distribution of Expenditures Report including expenditures for salaries, wages, operating costs, etc.
3. The Compensation & Pension expenditures include dollars for the following programs: veterans' compensation for service-connected disabilities; dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected deaths; veterans' pension for nonservice-connected disabilities; and burial and other benefits to veterans and their survivors.
4. Calculated using the number of veteran compensation and pension recipients in the Veterans Benefits Administration FY 2013 Annual Report and the veteran population estimates, as of September 30, 2013, produced by the VA Office of the Actuary (VetPop 2011).
5. Medical Care expenditures are based on where patients live instead of where care is delivered and are as reported by USDVA in the federal FY 2013 Geographic Distribution of Expenditures Report.
6. Unique patients are patients who received treatment at a VA health care facility as reported by USDVA in the federal FY 2013 Geographic Distribution of Expenditures Report.