

# Allison Stranick

*M.P.H. Candidate, Epidemiology Track*

[allison.h.stranick@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:allison.h.stranick@vanderbilt.edu)

**Practicum Site:** Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) - Nashville Veterans Affairs Medical Center

**Practicum Site Supervisor:** Jennifer Lewis M.D., M.S., M.P.H.

## ***Addressing Complexities of Lung Cancer Screening Programs at the Department of Veteran Affairs***



**Introduction:** Veterans are at high-risk of developing lung cancer because of their increased use of tobacco and other military exposures. The objective of this practicum was to work in conjunction with a research team to understand the complexities of lung cancer screening programs, both patient- and organizational-level facilitators and barriers.

**Methods:** I gained hands-on experience investigating lung cancer prevention and early detection by working with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) Lung Cancer Screening Program. I participated in regular meetings with the interdisciplinary team and learned the diverse roles and operations of a lung cancer screening program.

**Results:** From this experience, I developed a logic model for the program, representing the team, daily activities, outcomes, and goals. For local program evaluation, I helped to gather patient-level data from over 400 chart reviews using the VA electronic health record, Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS). Program referrals, reach, and cancer and tobacco treatment outcomes will be programmatically reported across a three-year domain (May 2019-May 2022).

**Conclusions:** I developed a comprehensive understanding of the operations and evaluation of a VA lung cancer screening program. The opportunity to analyze program-level data has strengthened my analytic skills and ability to disseminate complex data. These data will be used to present to leadership and other key stakeholders for the advancement of the program to ultimately reduce lung cancer mortality among veterans.