

Million Veteran Program: A Partnership with Veterans



Fall 2013

VA Research History



- 1946 - Tested treatments for tuberculosis
- 1958 – Invented the cardiac pacemaker
- 1968 – Performed the first successful liver transplant
- 1970 – Performed the first study demonstrating that treatment of hypertension lowers risk of cardiovascular disease
- 1977 – Rosalyn Yalow, Bronx VA, wins Nobel Prize in Medicine for developing the radioimmunoassay for measuring insulin levels
- 1984 – Developed the nicotine patch
- 1998 – Ferid Murad, Palo Alto VA, wins Nobel Prize in Medicine



VA Genomic Medicine Program



- VA established the Genomic Medicine Program (GMP) in 2006 to examine how the growing field of genetics could:
 - Optimize medical care for Veterans
 - Enhance development of tests and treatments for diseases that affect Veterans
- The Million Veteran Program (MVP) is a research initiative under GMP that will create a database for researchers to access to conduct future genetic and health studies



MVP Purpose



- Safely collect genetic, military exposure, lifestyle and health information from Veterans
 - Collected data will be used by approved researchers to study how genes affect common diseases (ex. diabetes, cancer, heart disease) as well as military-related illnesses (ex. PTSD)
- Become one of the largest research programs in the world
 - As many as one million Veterans expected to enroll over a 5-7 year period
- Improve health care for Veterans and all Americans

Why Study Genes?

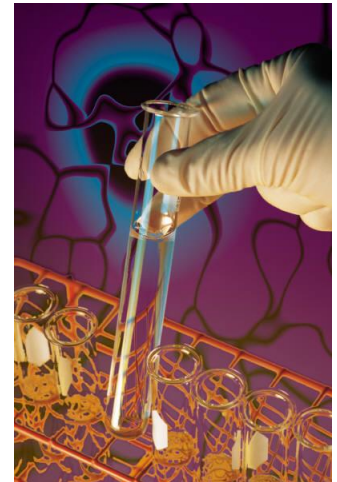


- Genes are the instruction manual for our bodies
- Small differences in our genes...
 - Determine our physical traits (ex. eye & hair color)
 - Explain why some individuals develop diseases and others do not
 - Affect how we respond to medicines and treatments
 - Interact with our environment and lifestyle factors to influence our risk for disease
- Studying genes, in combination with health, lifestyle and environmental data, will help researchers better understand how genes influence disease

MVP Research



- Individual data collected through MVP may be used in a number of research studies
- Research findings based on MVP could lead to new ways of preventing and treating illnesses by answering questions such as:
 - Why does a treatment work well for some Veterans but not for others?
 - Why are some Veterans at a greater risk for developing an illness?
 - How can we prevent certain illnesses in the first place?



MVP Recruitment



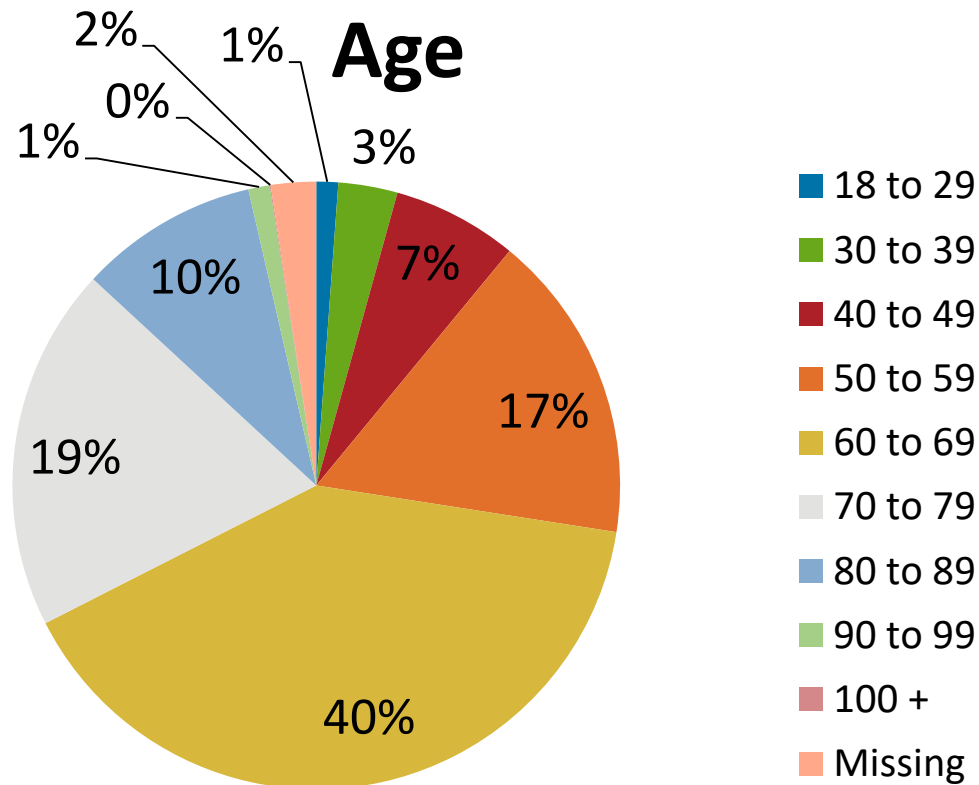
- Approximately 50 participating VA Medical Centers
 - Plans to expand to additional sites in FY13 and nationwide in future
- Enrollment will occur over a 5-7 year period
 - Target = 1 million Veterans; 18/participants/day/site
 - As of April 17, 2014 , 264,620 enrolled Veterans!
- Centralized recruitment
 - Mailings
 - MVP Information Center
 - Toll-free number: 866-441-6075
 - Website: www.research.va.gov/MVP

MVP Participation

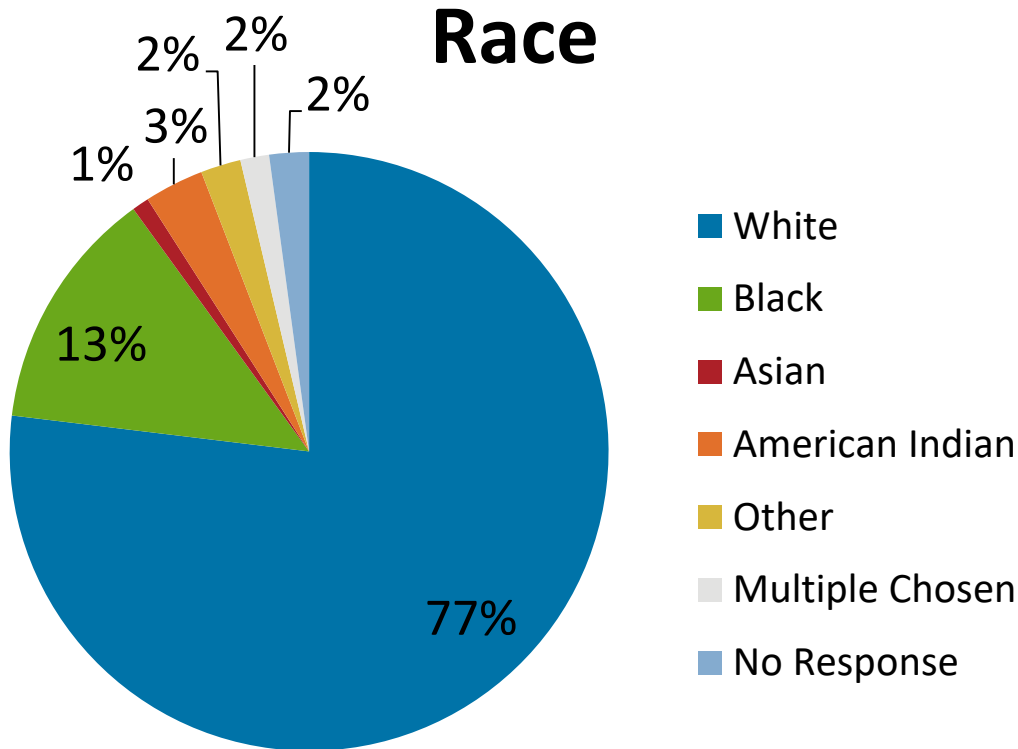


- Any Veteran who is enrolled in the VA Health Care System and receiving care at a participating VAMC can participate
 - The choice to participate (or not) is entirely voluntary and will not affect Veterans' access to health care or benefits
- Participation involves:
 - Filling out surveys through the mail (short Baseline Survey & optional Lifestyle Survey)
 - Completing a one-time study visit at a participating VAMC to provide a blood sample for genetic analyses (~20 minutes)
 - Allowing ongoing access to medical records by authorized MVP Staff
 - Agreeing to future MVP contact

MVP National Enrollment



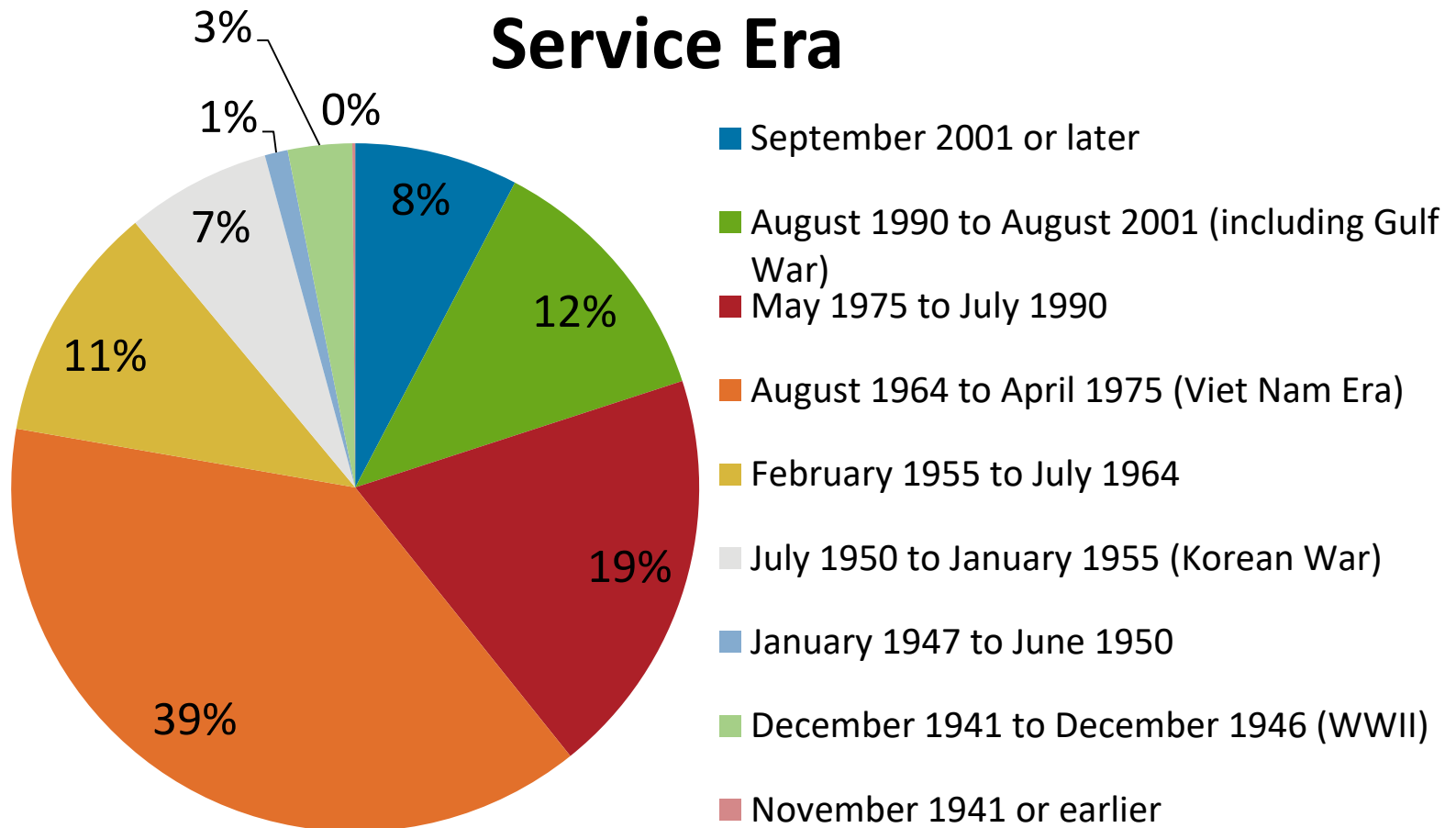
MVP National Enrollment



Gender

Female	8.07%
Male	89.33%
Missing	2.6%

MVP National Enrollment



MVP Study Visit



- The MVP study visit takes roughly 20 minutes
- MVP participants meet with MVP local study staff (Research Assistant or Research Coordinator) to:
 - Review MVP Informed Consent document
 - If consent is signed, Veteran provides one tube of blood

Information Security and Confidentiality



- Patient safety and information security are top priorities
- MVP has many safeguards in place to ensure Veterans' information is secure:
 - All samples stored in a secure, state-of-the art VA biorepository
 - All samples and health data labeled with a bar code instead of name, address, social security number, or birth date
 - Researchers who are approved to analyze samples will not be able to link the code to a particular Veteran
 - Only a few authorized VA users will have access to the key to the code, which will be kept in a secure VA location

Additional Safeguards



- VA Central Institutional Review Board
 - Initial and ongoing review of all aspects of MVP study design, implementation, and operation
 - Access to data and samples for research projects will be granted only after rigorous scientific peer review and specific new IRB approval
- Certificate of Confidentiality
 - Researchers can rely on the Certificate to deny requests for information that would identify participants
- Federal and state laws to protect against genetic discrimination
 - Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA)

Summary



- MVP (The Million Veteran Program) is a National research initiative to create one of the world's largest databases of genomic, military exposure, lifestyle and health information
- MVP will lead to better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of illnesses in Veterans, ultimately, improving health care
- MVP is currently enrolling at ~50 VA Medical Centers, with plans to expand nationwide
- MVP will allow current Veterans to help transform health care, not only for themselves, but for future generations of Veterans and non-Veterans



MVP Contact Information



For more information

Visit: www.research.va.gov/mvp

Call: 857-364-5759 or

866-441-6075 (toll-free for Veterans)

Million Veteran Program



- For More Information

- Visit www.research.va.gov/mvp
- Call 857-364-5759

DROP-INS WELCOME!

- VA Puget Sound Locations

- Seattle: Building 1, Room 113C
- American Lake: Building 81, Primary Care Clinic Waiting Area