Collaboration of Veterans Health Administration programs: Office of Research and Development; Office of Patient Care Services/Post Deployment Health Services/Epidemiology Program and War-Related Illness and Injury Study Center; Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention

Why this research is important:
A study of Vietnam Veterans’ overall health has not been done for more than 30 years. As Vietnam-era Veterans now average 70 years of age, it is an important time to understand their health by comparing them with Veterans who served at the same time but not in the war theater, and with members of the U.S. public who are of similar age but were never in the military.

Summary:
This was a mail survey conducted in 2016-2017 of a random sample of all Vietnam-era Veterans and U.S. residential addresses that included questions on military service (for Veterans), current perceptions of health, lifetime illness diagnoses, health-related behaviors, and demographics.

How the research will improve Veterans’ lives:
The study will help inform clinical care and health policy by answering important questions about the effects of Vietnam War service on Veterans’ health.