VA Research Highlight

Million Veteran Program (MVP): A Partnership with Veterans looking at Genes, Health, Lifestyle, Military Experiences, and Exposures

MVP is a nationwide VA program with Veterans enrolled from every state, DC, Puerto Rico and Guam, with recruitment sites opened at 55 locations, and over 30 VAMCs currently involved in research projects using MVP data.

Why this research is important:
Our genes are important in everything from determining the color of your eyes to whether you are at risk for a certain disease. MVP researchers are in the best position to figure out exactly how genes affect our health because the VA has a good medical record system on over 24 million Veterans, and Veterans have agreed to partner with researchers and help them answer questions.

Summary:
MVP has partnered with over 675,000 Veterans who have completed surveys, provided a blood sample to enable analysis of their genes, and given researchers permission to look at their medical records and contact them again about more research questions. Researchers are using this resource to conduct studies on a wide variety of topics affecting our Veteran population, from mental illness and heart disease to PTSD and Gulf War illness.

How the research will improve Veterans’ lives:
Each study using MVP data has the potential to help us understand the role our genes play in diseases and health. This will ultimately help us better care for our Veterans.