

What has MVP accomplished so far?

Projects using MVP data are already underway in VA, on topics ranging from mental health to heart disease. The program has developed an impressive informatics infrastructure to ensure secure, efficient access to data for authorized researchers. MVP leaders are working with the Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Energy to further expand the program and optimize its impact.

Joining MVP

What does joining MVP involve?

MVP has partnered with Veterans who volunteer to share their health information, as well as genetic material. Veterans are able to join MVP in-person at participating MVP locations across the country or online at mvp.va.gov.

Joining MVP involves:

- Filling out surveys through the mail or online about health and lifestyle.
- Providing a blood sample for genetic analysis at participating MVP locations.
- Permitting MVP access to information from health records on an ongoing basis.
- Agreeing to future contact by MVP for additional research opportunities.

Why is it important that so many Veterans join MVP?

In order to best learn about the role of genes, health researchers compare genetic and health information from hundreds of thousands of people. The more Veteran partners MVP has, the better researchers can understand the wide, diverse spectrum of human demographic and health traits and gain valuable knowledge to improve health care.

MVP research will help answer questions such as:

Why does a treatment work well for some people but not others?

Why are some people at greater risk for certain diseases?

Confidentiality and Data Security

What happens to the health information and blood samples that are collected?

Samples and health information collected as part of MVP are available to approved researchers for projects approved by appropriate VA oversight committees. Researchers who are approved access to analyze MVP samples and data do not receive names, addresses, dates of birth, or social security numbers of Veteran partners. Also, researchers can access MVP data only through a secure portal in a VA-approved environment.

How are health records accessed?

If consent is given to join, MVP accesses health information from health records as needed and adds that information to the VA Central Research Database so that partners' health status and health care can be followed over time. All information is labeled with a code that does not identify MVP partners directly.

How are confidentiality and privacy protected?

The security and confidentiality of data are MVP's top priorities. Confidentiality is protected through a variety of methods. DNA samples and health information are stored without name, address, date of birth, or social security number. Rather, samples and data are labeled with a code. Only limited MVP staff have access to the key for the code. It is necessary to keep the key for the code to connect partners with their information and samples in order to track medical records, contact partners again, or destroy the samples if a partner withdraws.

For more information or to join online, please go to mvp.va.gov. Call the MVP Info Center toll-free at 866-441-6075 with any questions or to schedule an MVP visit.