



MVP Insider

A Newsletter for Million Veteran Program Participants



MILLION
VETERAN
PROGRAM



A Special Thanks

From Timothy O'Leary, M.D., Ph.D., Acting Chief Research and Development Officer, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Welcome to *MVP Insider*, a newsletter to bring you up-to-date on the **Million Veteran Program**. With your participation, we are one step closer to our goal of enrolling one million Veterans for research that will improve the lives of Veterans and all Americans. You are helping to accelerate the pace of scientific discovery on diseases that affect current and future generations of Veterans. As our partner, you have provided information that will be used by researchers in different studies for years to come. With many safeguards to protect your identity, these data are exactly what researchers need to study the complex interactions between genes, environment, lifestyle, and other factors. Special thanks to each and every participant for joining us in this groundbreaking research effort and becoming "one in a million"!

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On Our Way to a Million Participants...

Enrollment for MVP is currently underway at 48 VA Medical Centers across the nation. Since launching nationally on May 5, 2011, more than 240,000 Veterans have completed the MVP Baseline Survey and over 180,000 have completed an MVP study visit. We are excited to announce that additional VA Medical Centers will open their doors for enrollment in the upcoming year. MVP is on the way to becoming one of the largest databases of genomic and health information in the world, thanks to each of you!

For questions or more information on MVP:

VISIT: www.research.va.gov/MVP

CALL: Toll-free 866-441-6075



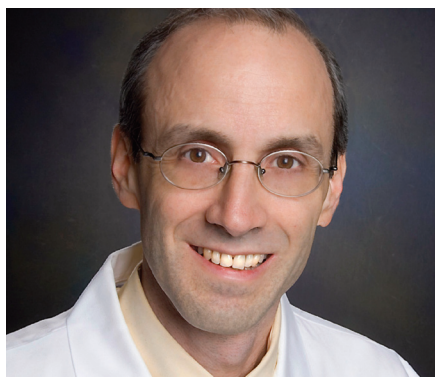
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Meet the MVP Team: Principal Investigators

MVP is sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development. A team of MVP staff contributes to this program, including those at the coordinating centers, VA Central Office, and local sites, as well as the Principal Investigators (PIs). Among many tasks, the PIs (listed below), ensure that the program complies with VA regulations and policies.



J. Michael Gaziano, M.D., M.P.H.

J. Michael Gaziano received his M.D. from Yale Medical School and his M.P.H. from Harvard School of Public Health. Based at the VA Boston Healthcare System, he is the Scientific Director of the Massachusetts Veterans Epidemiology Research and Information Center (MAVERIC).



VA Boston Healthcare System, Jamaica Plain Division

MAVERIC is currently expanding the VA Central Biorepository, which is home to all blood samples collected through MVP. The expanded facility will hold up to four million samples.

Dr. Gaziano also serves as a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He teaches at the Harvard School of Public Health, where he has mentored over 50 trainees. He has authored hundreds of scientific publications and serves as a section editor for the Journal of American Medical Association. Dr. Gaziano is a marathon runner and enjoys cooking with his family in his free time.



John Concato, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.



VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven Campus

John Concato received his M.D. and M.S. degrees from New York University and his M.P.H. degree from Yale School of Public Health. Based at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System, he is the Director of the VA Clinical Epidemiology Research Center (CERC). As a genomic coordinating center for MVP, day-to-day operations at CERC include administrative oversight and support for the study sites, as well as collecting, monitoring, and maintaining participant documentation.

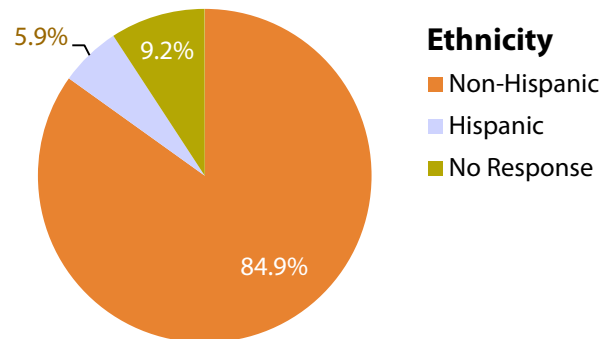
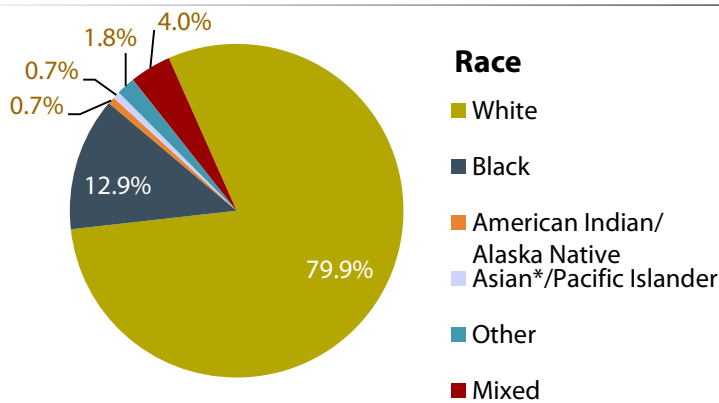
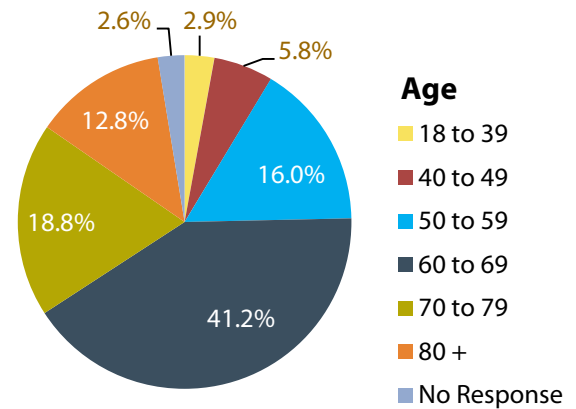
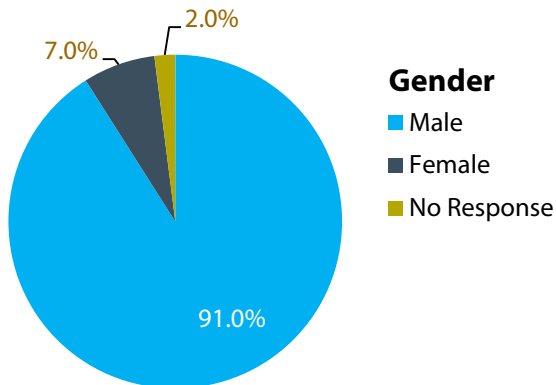
Dr. Concato also serves as a Professor of Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. He provides clinical care to patients, teaches medical students and residents, and conducts research as well as helps to train other researchers. He has mentored more than 50 trainees and has authored more than 150 scientific publications. In his spare time, Dr. Concato enjoys fishing and coaching youth baseball.

Who Are You?

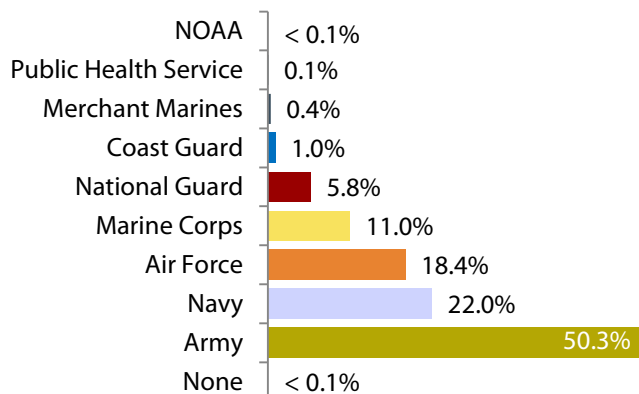
A Look at the First 100,000 MVP Participants

Who are your fellow MVP participants?

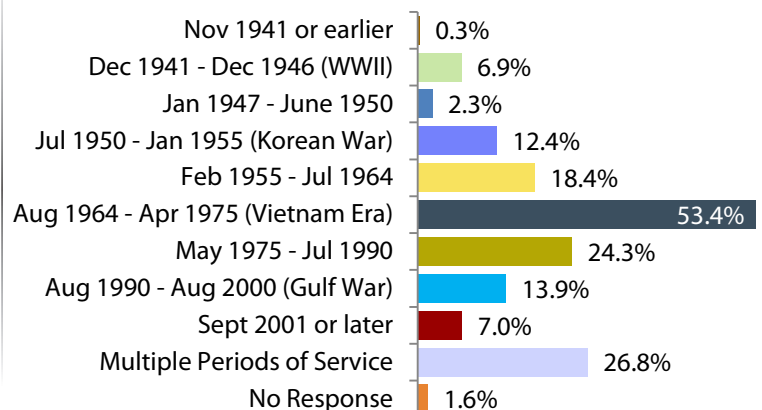
A look at the first 100,000 enrollees reveals a diverse group that is representative of the national pool of Veterans.



Branch of Service



Service Era



*Asian includes Chinese, Japanese, Asian Indian, Other Asian, and Filipino.

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding and multiple eras or branches of Service.

Protecting Your Privacy

MVP takes great strides to protect the privacy of every participant. Your information is protected in the following ways:

- All blood samples and data collected through MVP surveys and electronic health records are labeled with a code instead of identifiable information.
- Researchers who are approved to use MVP data will never receive the name, social security number, address, or date of birth of MVP participants.
- MVP data will not leave VA's secure system. Approved researchers will be required to log in to the VA system to access and analyze data.
- MVP has received a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health, which ensures that researchers cannot be forced to share information that could identify participants, even if required by a court order.
- Research talks or papers using MVP data will not identify individual participants.

Note: MVP is funded entirely by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research and Development. MVP participants will only be contacted in the future for informational purposes or to determine interest in participating in additional research. The decision to participate in additional research is entirely voluntary.

MVP ENROLLS 100,000TH VETERAN IN MILWAUKEE

Rich Bartels, 72, was a recent college graduate when he joined the Army in 1965 and soon found himself in Vietnam as a second lieutenant and platoon leader. Flash forward 47 years, where Bartels found himself at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center for a doctor's appointment and saw an MVP poster. He knew he had to serve his country again. On October 17, 2012, Bartels was the 100,000th Veteran to enroll in the Million Veteran Program nationwide.

"I'm just not in the MVP program because of my strong, favorable feelings and allegiance to the military and Veterans. In both cases, I just thought it was a hell of a good idea. I joined the Army by choice and I did this by choice because I knew it was something great." Bartels added, "There is nothing like this out there ... It's hard to imagine what will come from this 10 or 15 years down the road, when 10 or 15 years ago, we never thought something like this would be possible."



Rich Bartels has blood drawn by LeAnne Pomeroy, an MVP Research Assistant, as part of volunteering to be an MVP participant.



We Need Help





This is a friendly reminder to complete the MVP Baseline Survey and optional MVP Lifestyle Survey if you have not already done so. You may be receiving these surveys in the mail over the next few months. Please return these surveys as soon as possible. You may be wondering:

- » **Doesn't VA already have this information in my medical record?** Not necessarily. In fact, much of the information requested in these surveys is not found in your record. There are a number of questions that ask about recent health status, changes in family history, and current lifestyle choices.
- » **Why is this survey information so important?** Scientists will use your responses to the survey questions in combination with your blood sample and electronic health record to get a better picture of your health over time.

Do you have ideas, feedback, or articles you would like to see incorporated into the next MVP Insider?

The MVP team would like to make sure that we include topics of interest to you in future newsletters. Please send your suggestions our way.

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This issue of *MVP Insider* is available at www.research.va.gov/MVP

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A Partnership with Veterans

