



Women Veterans of today—and tomorrow—are counting on us to make a difference in research that could save their lives.

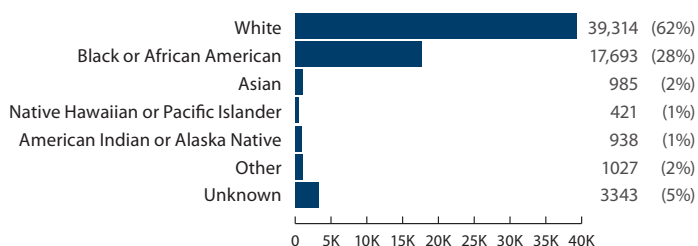
Women Veterans

Women Veterans in research

Historically, women are underrepresented in biological and medical research, leading to knowledge gaps that can result in misdiagnoses and drugs that may affect men and women differently. Although this has been changing in recent years, women's minority status in the Veteran population can make it more difficult for VA researchers to recruit enough women to get valid results. By volunteering to participate in VA research, women Veterans can make a big difference for other Veterans of today—and the future.

So far, 9% of more than 750,000 MVP partners are women. The goal is to increase representation to at least 11%, and to ensure inclusion of various backgrounds. This will strengthen the validity of the findings, and ensure more relevant results for the growing number of women Veterans.

Women MVP partners by race



Prioritizing women Veterans through MVP

MVP is on the forefront of a science revolution made possible by new ways to analyze our genes, the rapid expansion in the availability of health care data, and the development of ever more powerful computers to analyze these rich data. Research is currently underway to better understand and address the specific needs of women Veterans.

For more information about MVP, visit mvp.va.gov, or call toll-free 866-441-6075

Top 5 diseases of women MVP partners

Disease	Women MVP partners	% partners reporting conditions
Depression	17,234	27%
High cholesterol	14,851	23%
Hypertension	14,462	23%
Acid reflux/GERD	13,549	21%
Anxiety/Panic disorder	11,303	18%

Understanding how to provide better care to women Veterans

A recent MVP project looked at health characteristics and care utilization among women Veterans. As compared to men, women were more likely to experience migraines, arthritis, gastrointestinal issues, and mental health conditions. Women reported less frequent exercise and higher use of the VA for their healthcare needs, including the pharmacy. Depression was one of the most common reported conditions in women Veterans. These findings are important to inform screening and intervention policies in VA, which may include providing designated spaces for women Veterans to receive care that focus specifically on the conditions that matter most to them, including mental health and chronic disease management.

Predicting breast cancer risk for women Veterans

Researchers are using MVP data to build a new screening strategy for breast cancer. The team is studying genetic and clinical markers to predict breast cancer risk. They will use this information to develop more personalized screening strategies for individual women, rather than relying on age alone to plan screening. They are also looking at how military experience and race might affect breast cancer risk. Most current screening plans are based on studies of civilian, Caucasian women. This is an important project to look at a more diverse population in women who served.