



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

Women Veterans in research

Historically, women have been underrepresented in biological and medical research. This makes it difficult to ensure new treatments, screenings and other medical breakthroughs work just as well for women as they do for men.

VA's Million Veteran Program (MVP) is working to change that. Women make up about 9% of more than 830,000 MVP enrollees. By enrolling in MVP, you help ensure women aren't left out of medical research that could potentially improve or save the lives of fellow women Veterans.

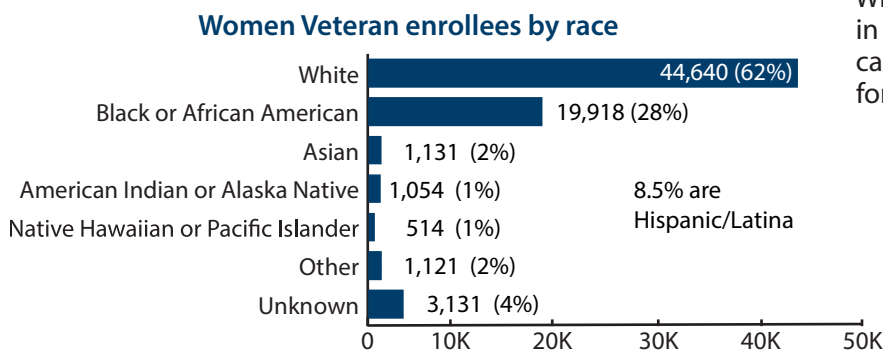
Additionally, if more women from diverse backgrounds join MVP, researchers will be able to make sure advances in modern medicine work for women from all backgrounds.

Prioritizing women Veterans through MVP

Research is underway to better understand and address the specific needs of women Veterans.

For example, one MVP study found that women Veterans, compared to men, were more likely to experience migraines, arthritis, gastrointestinal issues, and mental health conditions. Women reported less frequent exercise and higher use of VA healthcare, including the pharmacy. Depression was also commonly reported by women Veterans.

These findings show that women deserve specialized research to discover better screenings, treatments and preventions that work for them.



Top 5 diseases of women Veteran enrollees

Disease	Women enrollees	% Enrollees reporting conditions
Depression	19,102	27%
High cholesterol	16,487	23%
Hypertension	16,039	22%
Acid reflux/GERD	15,007	21%
Anxiety reaction/Panic disorder	12,673	18%

Predicting breast cancer risk for women Veterans

Researchers are using data from women in MVP to study new ways to predict breast cancer. The goal is that VA will be able to use this research to develop more personalized breast cancer screenings based on a woman's genes and medical history.

VA researchers are also using data from women in MVP to look at how military experience and race might affect breast cancer risk. This is important because current screening tests are based on studies of civilian, Caucasian women.

With more women from diverse backgrounds in MVP, we'll be able to make sure breast cancer screenings are accurate and effective for all women Veterans.

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