



Volume 20

Fall 2015

SERV Study Newsletter

Survey of Experiences of Returning Veterans



Department of Veterans Affairs



SERV Study progress

The main number for the SERV Study is (203) 932-5711 extension 8634 or 8605

Thanks to all Veterans who have participated in the study so far— your input is extremely helpful to us. We have spoken to male and female Veterans of all ages and from all branches of military service. We now have over 800 Veterans from all 50 states and several working outside of the US as contractors.

Please note: as of Sept 30th we have reached our enrollment limits, and will not be recruiting new participants— thanks to all for your referrals. Follow up surveys will continue for some time.

Staff updates:

All remaining SERV follow up interviews will be conducted from our Connecticut site by either Beth or Brandi. We bid a fond farewell to Jonathan, Connie, Eileen and Betsy, all of whom have moved on to other projects.

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Evening interviews:

We at SERV make every effort to accommodate work and school schedules as well as our Veterans on the West Coast and overseas. Due to our staff reduction, we do not have the capacity to conduct evening interviews every night. If you are scheduled for a later interview, please try to keep your appointment as we have limited openings.

Payment updates:

Many of you are now receiving EFT (electronic funds transfer) or direct-deposit payment from the SERV Study, even if you have received checks in the past. SERV staff have no way of knowing which way you will be compensated, so please check your bank statements before reporting a missing payment.

Other research opportunities

Coming soon: Survey of OEF/OIF Veterans' Partnerships and Well-Being:

Another study which will require 100 SERV participants and their spouses or partners– stay tuned...

Please do not feel obligated– your participation is voluntary and will have no effect on your regular participation in SERV or on your health care at the VA.

Final raffle winner: Congratulations to Peter from Illinois who has won our final raffle on Tuesday, September 1st.

For our 36 month participants: Some of you have been with us for 3 years now, and we are very grateful. Your participation in the main study is basically completed. THANK YOU for staying with us through the years.

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Miscellaneous

Long Term Follow Ups– After you have completed the 12-month follow up, you only need to receive calls every 6 months. Some changes with the 18-month and beyond: religious/spirituality questions are removed, and a few questions are added concerning exercise habits, PTSD diagnosis and complementary/alternative medicine. It is actually about 5 minutes shorter!

Response booklets– please have your booklet handy at the time of the interview. We know that our survey is a long one, and the booklet allows you to finish your telephone call more quickly and get on with your day.

BLUE Booklets: Baseline (first) interview only

YELLOW Booklets: 3-, 6-, 9-, and 12-month follow ups only

PINK Booklets: 18-, 24-, 30-, 36-month follow ups only

Useful links:

National Resource Directory:

www.nrd.gov

National PTSD website:

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/>

PTSD Program Locator:

http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/PTSD_flash.asp?isFlash=1

IAVA (Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America)

<http://iava.org>

For a VA facility near you:

<http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=1>

We're on the web!

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn1/serv/>