

# VA Portland Health Care System (VAPORHCS) Research Information Sheet

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Title of Study: The Veteran Reintegration Initiative

Study Number: 6051

Principal Investigator: Lauren Denneson, PhD

Research Information Sheet Version Date: 8/30/23

## **WHAT AM I BEING ASKED TO DO?**

You are being asked to participate in a research study conducted by Dr. Lauren Denneson at the VA Portland Health Care System in Portland, Oregon. We are conducting a study to learn about Veterans' health, mental health, and reintegration experiences to improve reintegration services that the VA might offer. We are asking you to take part in this research study because you have recently separated from military service.

Your participation in this research study is voluntary. You may choose not to participate or leave the study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you were otherwise entitled.

## **WHY IS THIS STUDY BEING DONE?**

We are conducting a research study to better understand how to increase civilian readiness among recently separated service members.

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY?**

This study involves completing seven surveys (approximately 30-45 minutes each) over the next three years that will ask questions about your reintegration experiences, health, and mental health. You have the option to complete the surveys online, which uses a secure database called REDCap, or you can complete them on paper by request. The REDCap database is password protected and maintained by Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU). This database will save your answers to the questions, but it will not contain any identifiable information about you. You can choose to answer or skip any question. If you participate in all seven surveys, your participation in this study will last for 3 years. Up to 2,500 people will participate in this study across the United States. We will not send participants results of the study.

## **WHAT ARE THE RISKS AND POSSIBLE DISCOMFORTS OF PARTICIPATION?**

There are minimal risks associated with participating in this study. First, some of the survey questions may seem very personal or embarrassing. If some questions feel too upsetting, it's okay to skip questions you don't want to answer. If you express worsening thoughts of wishing to harm yourself or considering suicide, we may follow up with you. However, we may not be able to provide individual feedback to your survey responses as they will not be reviewed in real time. If the questions make you very upset, or you are having thoughts of suicide, please make use of the list of helpful phone numbers below. Second, there is a risk of loss of privacy by participating in this study. However, as we have explained above, we have taken several steps to protect your privacy.

## **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY?**

Participation in this study will not benefit you directly. However, by serving as a subject you may help us learn how to benefit reintegrating Veterans in the future. Information generated from this study may not be personally relevant to you, but you will have the option to opt-in to periodic emails from the study team containing updates about the overall study and its findings.

## **WHO WILL SEE MY INFORMATION AND HOW WILL IT BE PROTECTED?**

Your information used for this study will be kept confidential as required by law. Your personally identifiable information will not be used in any scientific publications or reports to VA operations. If you receive VA care, the information you provide to us will not be entered into your health record at the VA.

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Only Dr. Lauren Denneson and her study team at the VA Portland Health Care System will have access to your identifying personal information. Your individually identifiable health information used for this VA study includes: (1) Healthcare use information available in VA systems such as diagnoses, progress notes, medications, lab or radiology findings; (2) Demographic information such as name, age, and race; and (3) Survey responses.

A debit card or electronic funds transfer is used for payment. You may have the option to enroll in the debit card program electronically. Should you choose to enroll in the debit card program electronically, your personal identifiable information will be securely shared with DocuSign. Alternately, you have the option to mail a hard copy of the debit card enrollment form using a provided postage-paid envelope.

De-identified study data will be sent to the Defense Health Agency to conduct analysis for the study's research aims. No personally identifying information will be included in this data transfer.

The results of your participation in this study may be used for publication or for scientific purposes, but the results will not include any information that could identify you. Your identity will not be disclosed unless you give specific, separate consent or if required by law. All VA research records will be held in accordance with the VA records control schedule.

There are times when we might have to show your records to other people. For example, someone from the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), the VA Office of Research Oversight (ORO), the OHSU Institutional Review Board (IRB), and other study monitors may look at or copy portions of records that identify you.

In the future, identifiers may be removed, and de-identified responses to survey items and healthcare utilization data about you used for future research studies (not part of this study) without additional informed consent obtained from you. This means the people working on future research studies will not be able to identify who you are. Your de-identified data will be stored ("banked") in the Center to Improve Veterans Involvement in Care repository (#3565) located at the VA Portland Health Care System in Portland, Oregon.

We have taken extensive measures to protect your privacy and ensure your confidentiality. Please be assured that your information will not be shared with anyone else for any reason.

You may withdraw from this study at any time by informing study staff of your wish to withdraw.

**Mandatory reporting of suspected child, elder, or vulnerable adult abuse.** Under Oregon Law, suspected child, elder or vulnerable adult abuse must be reported to appropriate authorities.

## **WILL I RECEIVE ANY PAYMENT IF I PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY?**

You will be paid \$20 for each survey that you complete. You will receive a debit card or electronic funds transfer (EFT) payment at the end of each survey. Therefore, if you complete all the surveys, you will receive a total of \$140.

## **WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT THIS STUDY?**

To speak to someone about the research, call our Study Coordinator, Sarah Shklanko, at 503-220-3461.

**VAPORHCS Research Service Template Version Date: 6/30/2021**

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If you become sick or injured or if you feel your privacy or confidentiality may have been violated (e.g., someone without authorization has received personal information about you), call Lauren Denneson, PhD at 503-220-8262 x5735

To speak with someone not connected with this research study about your rights, discuss problems, concerns and questions, obtain information and/or offer input, please call the VA Portland Health Care System Research Office at (503) 273-5125, or the VAPORHCS Privacy Officer at (503) 273-5037.

If you are injured as a result of taking part in this study, the VA will provide necessary medical treatment at no cost to you unless the injury is due to your non-compliance with study procedures. Additional compensation, beyond paying for treatment, has not been set aside.

**OTHER HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS:** *(which you can call even if you don't take part in the study)*

- If you need emergency care because you took part in this study, the VA will provide care to you. Be sure to tell the VA that you are in a research study. Please **call 911** or **go to the Emergency Department (ED)** if you have a life-threatening emergency.
- If you are thinking about hurting yourself or others, please call the **Veterans Crisis Line** at **988**, and **press 1**, or **call 911**.
- Find your **local VA**: Dial 1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311).
- **Vet Center**: 1-877-WAR-VETS (927-8387) or [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov)