

Department of Veterans Affairs
Medical Center
1201 Northwest 16th Street
Miami, Florida 33125-1693

In Reply Refer To:

March 29, 2019; Updated July 8, 2019

Informational Letter

Dear Patient,

You are being asked to participate in a research study entitled “Factors Predicting High Risk Sexual Practices and Incidence of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) among Female Veterans” because you are a female who served in at least one branch of the US armed forces, including the Reserves.

STIs are two to seven times higher among Veterans than in the general population. Female veterans also have a higher rate of STIs among them than that of women in the general population. The reasons for this vary and range from the young age at enrollment of female Veterans into the military to illicit drug use and multiple sexual partners. Despite these findings from previous research, there are no existing studies that have looked at whether or not such an environment (with more than 90% men) impacts the sexual behaviors of women who transition out of the military setting and into the general population. There is also no existing theory-guided study about the sexual behavior of female Veterans. This study will be using the main variable of the Social Dominance Theory, Social Dominance Orientation (SDO), to guide it. Simply put, SDO is an attitude that says that certain groups deserve to be dominated based on their place in society. Such an attitude may also impact sexual behavior. This study in which you are eligible to participate will look at and examine these issues.

We would like you to complete a few surveys for the study. You will have an opportunity to complete the surveys on paper. Some of the survey questions could raise some difficult concerns/memories, given your background. Should this happen and make you uncomfortable, you have the option to withdraw from the study at any time. Psychological assistance or emergency care will be provided to you, if needed.

You will not be asked to include any information that will identify you. Everything is anonymous, confidential and private. The surveys are designed so that no identifying information will be collected or left behind. Once submitted, you will not be able to return to the surveys and the researcher will not know who completed which survey. All information collected will be maintained in a safe, code-protected, fire-proof container, and will be maintained at the VAMC for the period allowable under Florida law.

You will not be paid or given a gift to participate and there is no cost to you for participating in this study. No one on the research team has any financial interest in the study. If you agree to participate, you will be one of about 116 or 120 female Veterans, including men who identify as women or transgender men. We will not use your personal or clinical information.

If you have any questions about this study, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Wiley at 305-575-3000, Ext. 6237 at the VAMC Women’s Clinic; or Beverly Fray, PhD Candidate at 305-586-6753.