

**REPORT TO THE VIETNAM ERA TWIN REGISTRY MEMBERSHIP  
ON THE SURVEY OF HEALTH WHICH WAS CONDUCTED IN THE  
SPRING OF 1987**

Your participation in the Vietnam Era Twin Survey of Health has provided science with a wealth of information. Our investigators, physicians, epidemiologists and data processing staff will be spending the next few years analyzing the results of the survey. We will provide you with further information as it becomes available.

The following are some interesting facts about the make-up and current health status of the membership of the Vietnam Era Twin Registry.

The Registry is comprised of 10,981 male twins who responded to the Survey. Fifty-four percent have been determined to be identical twins and 46% to be fraternal twins. The determination as to twinship, that is, identical or fraternal, was based on answers to questions about resemblance as children and the difficulty or ease parents and friends had in distinguishing between each twin.

The average age of the Registry Membership is 41 years with the youngest being age 32 and the oldest being 50. Eleven percent of the membership has never been married, 68% have been married once and 21% have been married two or more times. The average number of children fathered by members of the Registry is two. Fifteen members have more than 6 children.

The educational level of the Registry Members indicates that 99% have completed high school and 64% have gone on for further education, that is, trade or vocational school, college or graduate school. Hopefully, the GI Bill paid for some of the expenses. At the time the survey was taken (Spring, 1987) 90% of the Registry Members were employed full time with better than 70% of the Registry members' family income exceeding \$25,000.

The majority (5,661) of the Registry members enlisted or were drafted into the military between 1966 and 1969. This was the peak period for the draft during the Vietnam Era. All branches of the military are represented in the Registry. The U.S. Army, as would be expected, has the largest share of veterans in the Registry with 51%, the Navy has 23%, the Air Force has 18% and the Marines have 7%.

Three thousand, six hundred and seventy one VET Registry Members served in Indochina. Unfortunately, we have our share of wounded. Five hundred sixty four members report being wounded while serving in Indochina, and 17 members were captured by the enemy.

The Survey of Health asked each respondent to give a self appraisal of their own health. Ninety-four percent of those who responded indicated their health was good, very good, or excellent.

Each person participating was asked about specific health conditions. The following is a list of the health conditions and the percent of those responding as having been treated for each specific condition.

<u>Health Condition</u>	<u>Percent Reporting Having Been Treated for Condition</u>
Hypertension	10%
Respiratory Condition	6%
Cancer	less than 1%
Heart Trouble	2%
Stroke	less than 1%
Kidney Problems	3%
Skin Problems	10%
Diabetes	less than 1%
Stomach Problems	8%
Liver Disorders	less than 1%
Blood Disorders	less than 1%
Nerve Disorders	4%
Joint Disorders	13%
Hearing Problems	14%
Mental or Emotional Problems	6%

We will be looking at these health conditions in closer detail between members of the Registry who served and did not serve in Vietnam to determine the effects of the war on current health status.

Future surveys that query the Registry members regarding the health conditions of the member's parents and grandparents will enable the investigators to further study the Registry for individuals at risk for particular diseases.

As you can see the Vietnam Era Twin Registry is a very valuable resource for scientific investigators and your participation is the key to their success.

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