



Medical Records and Specimens

SRBI has developed extensive expertise in using medical records in our projects. For various studies, we have abstracted medical information and verified conditions listed on both medical records and death certificates to determine the accuracy of the diagnosis. This verification has been done both with the person the medical record belongs to and with the nearest living relative. These projects require both extensive skill in locating the subject or his/her next of kin and understanding the coding and recording means for diseases and causes of death. Additionally, SRBI has integrated specimen collection into our data collection. We have worked with phlebotomists and independent labs for specimen collection and shipment.

Please contact Dr. John Boyle, Managing Partner of SRBI's Health Research Practice, at (301) 608-3883 for additional information.

Study of Women Vietnam Era Veterans Reproductive Health Outcomes

This Congressionally mandated study provided the first comprehensive data on the prevalence of cancer, infertility, stillbirths, miscarriages, and birth defects among women who served in Vietnam and their military counterparts stationed elsewhere. The sample included all women who served in Vietnam and a comparison sample who served in the military outside of Vietnam during the same period. Out of the total 8,280 women veterans sampled, a total of 7,910 of these veterans were located (95.5%). Interviews were completed with 6,796 out of 7,571 located, eligible veterans (89.8%). The interview averaged nearly 40 minutes in length. Medical records information was also solicited from respondents for selected conditions.

Army Chemical Corps Health Outcomes Among Vietnam Era Veterans

This study examined the relationship between environmental exposures and health outcomes. This survey collected data on health outcomes, including cancer, diseases of the skin and live and reproductive outcomes among a sample of Army Chemical Corps veterans who served in Vietnam and a comparison sample who served elsewhere during the same period. Roughly 3,000 telephone interviews were conducted. Additionally, medical records information was solicited for selected conditions and a blood sample was sought from a sample of respondents.

Case Studies:

National Health Survey of Persian Gulf Veterans and their Families Birth Defects Medical Records Follow-up

For this survey, SRBI was given a list of veterans who served in the Persian Gulf and had indicated during a previous survey that a child had been born with a birth defect subsequent to the veteran's service in the Gulf. SRBI then contacted these veterans to obtain both permission and additional information on the mentioned birth defect. SRBI then contacted the medical providers cited by the veterans and requested the medical records of these children. SRBI staff examined the medical records to determine if there was supporting medical information to confirm the veteran's report of the birth defect.

Khamisiyah Medical Records Collection

SRBI worked with the Veteran's Administration and the Institute of Medicine in a study of Khamisiyah Veteran health. SRBI had the task of verifying death certificate reporting for veterans who had died of brain tumors. The VA identified and transferred to SRBI the death certificates of 56 Army Gulf veterans presumed exposed at Khamisiyah, Iraq and presumed not exposed at Khamisiyah for whom brain tumor was recorded on the death certificate. SRBI then contacted the next-of-kin to obtain permission to request the medical records of these veterans to verify their cause of death.