

INFORMED CONSENT FOR RESEARCH

Study Title: Southern California Veterans Study

Principal Investigator: Sara Kintzle, Ph.D.

Department: Social Work

INTRODUCTION

We invite you to take part in a research study. Please take as much time as you need to read the consent form. You may want to discuss it with your family, friends, or your personal doctor. If you find any of the language difficult to understand, please ask questions. A copy of the form will be available to you for your records.

DETAILED INFORMATION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to learn more about the needs and well-being of Veterans in the Southern California Counties of Los Angeles County, Orange County and San Diego County. You are invited as a possible participant because you are aged 18 years or older and have previously served in the military. About 3600 participants will take part in the study. This research is being funded by the Epstein Family Foundation and Southern California Grantmakers.

PROCEDURES

If you decide to take part, this is what will happen.

If participating online, you have received an invitation to participate in this study. To participate, you will click on the link provided, which will take you to the study website. The website provides the informed consent and information about the survey and a link for you to sign up to participate. To sign up, you will answer a few eligibility and security questions and provide your email address. You will then be sent through email a link to complete the survey. You will be provided this informed consent again at the start of the survey. Should you agree to continue, you will click, begin survey.

If in-person, researchers will provide an overview of the study and provide you with a copy of this informed consent for your records. You will either receive a paper copy of the survey or be provided an iPad with the survey link to submit your responses online. You can also provide your email address to be sent a link to the survey to complete at your convenience.

Participation in the study involves completing a 30–45-minute online survey. You will be

asked questions about challenges you may be experiencing and about resources you use in order to deal with those types of challenges. Topics will include, but are not limited to: health and well-being, military service, financial stressors, experience accessing services, and employment issues.

You will have the option to skip any questions you do not want to answer. At the end of the survey, you will be asked to provide an email address where your incentive may be sent. You will also be asked if you'd like to hear about future research opportunities from the study team. Your contact information will not be shared with anyone. You will only be contacted regarding your incentive and, only if you agree, about future research opportunities. If your response is submitted in person instead of online, you will still complete the incentive information but will be handed your incentive after completion.

RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS

Possible risks and discomforts you could experience during this study include feeling uncomfortable or uneasy answering certain questions and a small risk that individuals not associated with the study may learn of your participation.

Surveys/Questionnaires/Interviews: Some of the questions may make you feel uneasy or embarrassed. You can choose to skip or stop answering any questions you don't want to.

Breach of Confidentiality: There is a small risk that people who are not connected with this study will learn your identity or your personal information.

BENEFITS

There are no direct benefits from taking part in this study. However, your participation may help us learn how to provide support to Veterans in your local community. You may feel positively about contributing to the advancement of knowledge.

PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY

We will keep your records for this study confidential as far as permitted by law. However, if we are required to do so by law, we will disclose confidential information about you. Efforts will be made to limit the use and disclosure of your personal information, including research study records, to people who are required to review this information. We may publish the information from this study in journals or present it at meetings. If we do, we will not use your name.

The University of Southern California's Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Human Subject's Protections Program (HSPP) may review your records.

Your responses, which are also called “data” will be stored in a locked office and/or password protected computer. All personal information will be removed from data prior to analysis. A participant number will be assigned to each participant and this code will be used in the data set for analysis. Records related to completion of the participation and payment will be stored in a separate file from the study responses, on a password protected encrypted computer. Your contact information will not be kept you’re your responses. We will only contact you with your permission.

The data will be maintained indefinitely and may be used in future research studies; if you do not want your data used in future studies, you should not participate in this study. Your information collected as part of this research will be used or distributed for future research studies without your additional informed consent. No information that identifies you will be shared with others.

ALTERNATIVES

An alternative would be not to take part in this study and continue with your current care.

PAYMENTS / COMPENSATION

You will receive a \$25 gift card for participation in the study. If participating online, you must provide an email address to receive your compensation, which will be sent within 3 business days of completing the survey.

COST

There is no cost associated with participation.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

It is your choice whether to participate. If you choose to participate, you may change your mind and leave the study at any time. If you decide not to participate, or choose to end your participation in this study, you will not be penalized or lose any benefits that you are otherwise entitled to.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions, concerns, complaints, or think the research has hurt you, talk to the study investigator, Sara Kintzle, Ph.D. at kintzle@usc.edu, 213.821.1308.

This research has been reviewed by the USC Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB is a research review board that reviews and monitors research studies to protect the rights and welfare of research participants. Contact the IRB if you have any questions.

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about your rights as a research participant or you have complaints about the research. You may contact the IRB at (323) 442-0114 or at irb@usc.edu.

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