

Millennium Cohort Family Study

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Background



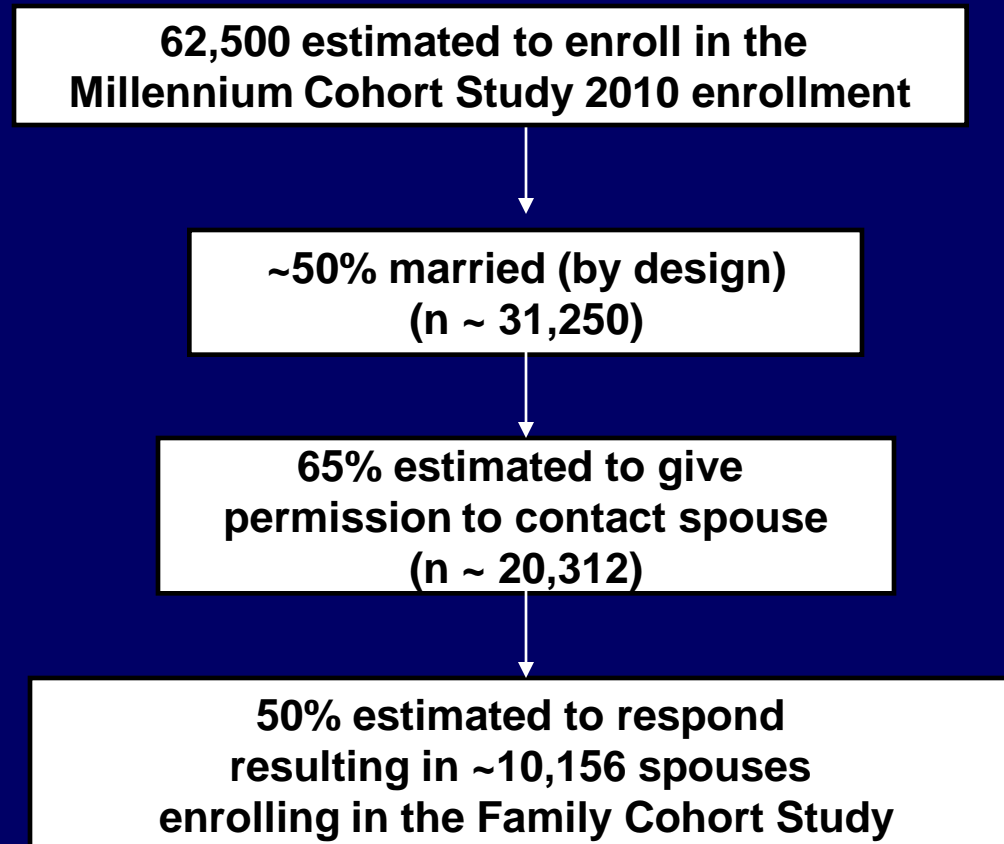
- Few epidemiologic studies have examined the impact of deployment on family members and family functioning
- Family relationships can be a source of support or stress for service members
- The Millennium Cohort Study has enrolled over 151,000 members since 2001 that are surveyed every 3 years to understand the health effects of military service
- A family cohort will be added to the 2010 Millennium Cohort enrollment cycle to assess the interrelated health effects of military service and deployment on service members, spouses, and co-resident children
- Family survey will include topics such as impact of deployment and military service on spouse and family, services received, family cohesion, and behavior and development of children

Objectives

- Answer important health related questions about military service members and their families in the context of military deployment and other occupational exposures
- Assess the importance of family support and other factors on health outcomes



Family Study Enrollment Design



Methodology



- **1% sample pilot testing**
- **Married service members will be asked to grant permission to contact spouse**
- **Target: Enroll ~10,000 spouses**
 - **Estimated half of spouses' service member will have been deployed to OIF/OEF at least once**
- **Link to other military data to complement subjective measures with objective measures of exposures and health outcomes**

Methodology



- Questionnaire leverages standard instruments (PHQ, PCL, SF-36V, CAGE, FACES IV, ISI, others)
- Includes measures of physical health, behavioral health, mental health, and family functioning
- Includes important exposure questions and other metrics (CAM use, sleep, etc.)
- Participants respond via secure website: www.familycohort.org

A screenshot of the website for the Family Cohort Study. The header features the "FAMILY MILLENNIUM COHORT STUDY" logo on the left and a banner with the text "THE FAMILY COHORT STUDY" on the right. Below the banner is a row of circular logos representing various military branches. A green navigation bar contains the following menu items: HOME, SURVEY, PARTICIPANTS, F.A.Q., and ABOUT US. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has a green background and contains a "Have you relocated?" link, a "WHAT'S NEW" section with links for "Study Update", "Veterans Day Postcard", and "Free Gift!", an "ENDORSEMENTS" section with a link for "Publications", a "RESEARCH" section with links for "Presentations" and "Awards", a "PRESS" section with a link for "Awards", and a "CONTACT US" section. The right column has a white background and features a section titled "The Family Cohort Study" with a photograph of a soldier in uniform interacting with a child. Below the photo is a paragraph of text: "Enrollment in the Family Cohort will begin concurrently with the 2010 Millennium Cohort Study effort. Participants in the Millennium Cohort Study will be asked permission to contact family members for enrollment in this sister study." To the right of this text is another paragraph: "Family relationships play an important role in the functioning and well-being of US military service members. The Millennium Cohort Study will evaluate family impact by adding a spouse assessment component to the Cohort in 2010. In recent decades, mental health and related outcomes for US military service members following war zone deployment have been well documented. Much less attention, however, has been paid to deployment-related outcomes for spouses and other family members of those deployed." Below this is another paragraph: "The overarching goal of the family study is to assess the impact of military service and deployment on family health. This DoD capability will be the first of its kind by using a large population-based cohort to assess the impact of military service and deployment on the health of spouses and co-resident children of service members, and to evaluate the quality of the relationships between service members, spouses and their children." At the bottom of the page, there is a small disclaimer: "The Family Cohort Study is a Department of Defense research project at the DoD Center for Deployment Health Research, located in San Diego, California. Note: DMDC Reference Number 00-0000; RCS Number 00-0000000; OMB Approval Number 0720-0029; ASD/HA/TMA Protocol Number 00-000-0000; and Primary IRB Protocol Number NHRCC.0000.0000."

Partnering Organizations and Co-Principal Investigators



- **DoD funding via Military Operational Medicine Research Program (MOMRP), administered by USAMRMC**

- **Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) between NHRC and Abt Associates, Inc.**

- **Co-Principal Investigators:**
 - **John Fairbank, PhD, Duke University**
 - **Charles Marmar, MD, New York University**
 - **William Schlenger, Abt Associates Inc. and Duke University**
 - **Tyler Smith, MS, PhD, Naval Health Research Center**

Important Partners



- Defense Manpower Data Center



- Henry M. Jackson Foundation



- Anderson Direct Mailing Company



- Others



Measured Health Outcomes and Impact



Main Survey Topics

- Demographic information
- General health (including sleep)
- Spouse, family, child, and service member stress
- Impact of deployment and military service
- Family cohesion, expressiveness, and conflict
- Child behavioral, developmental, and general health
- Health services
- Alcohol and tobacco use
- Military specific questions for active-duty spouses

Research will facilitate identification of specific interventions:

- Deployment-related stress
- Family member resilience
- Family support dynamics
- Service member and family well-being
- Force readiness

Future Direction



- In 2010, the Millennium Cohort Family Study is projected to launch and enroll spouses of military service members
- By 2012, data collected from the Millennium Cohort Family Study would provide strategic information for DoD leadership
- Securing funding for this longitudinal study is essential to better understand the long-term effects of military service on military member and family health

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Millennium Cohort Study Co-Investigators

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