

Diabetes mellitus: Often referred to as Type 2 diabetes; it is characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia: A disease that progresses slowly with increasing production of excessive numbers of white blood cells.

In Children of Vietnam Veterans:

Spina bifida (linked to herbicide exposure): A neural tube birth defect that results from the failure of the bony portion of the spine to close properly in the developing fetus during early pregnancy.

Disabilities other than spinal bifida in Children of Vietnam Veterans (linked not to herbicide exposure but rather to service in Vietnam) Covered birth defects include a wide range conditions: Eighteen defects are specifically included and others not specifically excluded are covered. For more information, contact a veteran services representative at **1-800-827-1000**. Covered birth defects include, but are not limited to, the following conditions:

1. achondroplasia,
2. cleft lip and cleft palate,
3. congenital heart disease,
4. congenital talipes equinovarus (clubfoot),
5. esophageal and intestinal atresia,
6. Hallerman-Streiff syndrome,
7. hip dysplasia,
8. Hirschprung's disease (congenital megacolon),
9. hydrocephalus due to aqueductal stenosis,
10. hypospadias,
11. imperforate anus,
12. neural tube defects,
13. Poland syndrome,
14. pyloric stenosis,
15. sundactyly (fused digits),
16. tracheoesophageal fistula,
17. undescended testicle, and
18. Williams syndrome.

Agent Orange Registry Statistics

The Agent Orange Registry began in mid-1978 to respond to the health-related concerns of veterans returning from Vietnam and their families. The examinations are available at nearly all Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities. (For more information on the exam, go to www.va.gov/AgentOrange.) The following are statistics about the Agent Orange Registry as of June 1, 2008:

- Initial Examinations – 454,069
- Follow-Up Examinations – 52,115
- Total Agent Orange Registry Examinations – 506,184
- Total Examinations in 2003 – 28,337
- Total Examinations in 2004 – 30,142
- Total Examinations in 2005 – 29,705
- Total Examinations in 2006 – 27,360
- Total Examinations in 2007- 22,632
- Total Examinations January 2008-April 2008- 4,563
- Total Agent Orange Registry Examination – Female – 8,791

Q's & A's

The "Review" includes a questions-and-answers feature in response to questions sent by readers. Vietnam veterans and their families and friends often have questions and concerns about health issues relating to military service in Vietnam. They want answers and knowledge about what VA and other Federal departments and agencies are doing to help these veterans. Readers often ask about VA disability policy.

Q. What is the status of Blue Water Navy veterans following the most recent court activity?

A. The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims found that VA did not have a good reason to exclude Blue Water Navy veterans from the Agent Orange presumptions. VA disagreed with that finding and appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal District. On May 8, 2008, the United States Appeals Court ruled in VA's favor and reversed the decision of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The representatives for the veteran who appealed VA's decision have filed a motion for reconsideration in the federal circuit that is pending. Processing of Blue Water Navy cases will remain stayed until the court renders its decision.

Updates will be included in future editions of the Review.