



Legacy of Our Veterans' Military Exposures

Agent Orange Legacy

Physicians Resource



Agent Orange and other Herbicides*TCDD/Dioxin
Jet Fuel*Pesticides*Trichloroethylene

Vietnam veterans have been reporting that their children have been born with birth defects and other health problems for decades. This cry for help has fallen on deaf ears up until now...

The adult children and successive generations of Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange are sick and suffering. Our research indicates they are suffering from a high incidence of birth defects, autoimmune and rare diseases, cancers, mental health illness and learning disabilities. We believe, as do many others, that the children are sick and suffering from their veteran parent(s) exposure.

History: Up to 20 million gallons of Agent Orange was sprayed over South Vietnam during the War from 1961 to 1971 to defoliate the trees providing cover to opposition forces. It was a 50/50 mixture of two herbicides: 2,4D and 2,4,5-T. A toxic contaminant known as dioxin (a highly toxic substance linked to at least 15 classes of cancer and other medical conditions, as well as several birth defects), that did not degrade and is still causing health problems in Vietnam veterans, their children and grandchildren and the Vietnamese.

Background: Birth Defect Research for Children (BDRC) has been working with Vietnam veterans and their families since the early 1980s. BDRC has created a National Birth Defect Registry which is active. Many children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange have registered with BDRC. For many years, BDRC has been gathering research on birth defects in the children of Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Agent Orange/Dioxin Other Toxic Substances Committee (AO/DOTS) has stated that there is a growing concern about the future of the children of veterans with toxic, service-related exposures. Research in the field of Epigenetics has revealed that paternal toxic exposures may play a role in the birth defects of not only the veteran's children but also the future generations of the exposed veteran.

Dioxin: Dioxin was a by-product of the manufacturing process used to make agent orange. It is also a known carcinogen or cancer causing agent, a persistent organic pollutant or POP, teratogenic, mutagenic, immunotoxic, and hepatotoxic. Dioxin is also known to be an ED or endocrine disruptor. Endocrine Disruptor's can disrupt the endocrine system which regulates all of our body's functions. People who are exposed to EDs become sensitive to chemicals, develop allergies, skin rashes and skin related problems.

Become Informed: Agent Orange Legacy has been collecting health data from children of Vietnam veterans (COVV) exposed to Agent Orange since 2007. In addition to the generational effects of Agent Orange, some COVVs have lived on military bases where they have been exposed to other toxic substances such as Trichloroethylene (drinking water contamination at Camp Lejeune).

Our Findings:

1. There is a high incidence of autoimmune and rare diseases in the adult children that provided health data and many respondents reported symptoms and do not been able to get a diagnosis.
2. The adult children experience a much higher risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, and many forms of cancer than the average American and at a much younger age.
3. Routine blood tests will not detect autoimmune diseases. Rare diseases are difficult to diagnose because so few people have them.
4. There is a very high incidence of allergies, skin rashes, and other skin related problems in the adult children who provided health data.
5. Some children of Vietnam veterans have had genetic testing done, after having been diagnosed with a disease that could not be explained or they did not inherit or was very rare, in all cases found a mutated gene. Mutated genes can be traced to environmental exposures.

Important Web Links:

- Legacy of Our Veterans' Military Exposures (LOVME) Reported Illness List: <http://lovme.org/veteran-descendants-health-survey-vietnam-war/>
- Birth Defect Research for Children's (BDRC) National Birth Defect Registry: <http://www.birthdefects.org/registry>.
- Birth Defect Research for Children veteran's research: <http://www.birthdefects.org/research/veterans.php>
- Journal Article written by Betty Mekdeci, Director of BDRC: http://www.vva.org/veteran/1207/agent_orange_feature.html
- Rare Disease Database NORD: <http://www.raredisease.org/rare-disease-information/rare-diseases>
- Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Agent Orange Dioxin and Other Toxic Substances Committee Birth Defects Position Paper: <http://www.vva.org/Committees/AgentOrange/Position-Paper-Birth-Defect.pdf>