

# The Veterans Metrics Initiative (TVMI) Study: Enhancing Understanding of and Responsiveness to Post 9/11 Veterans' Needs

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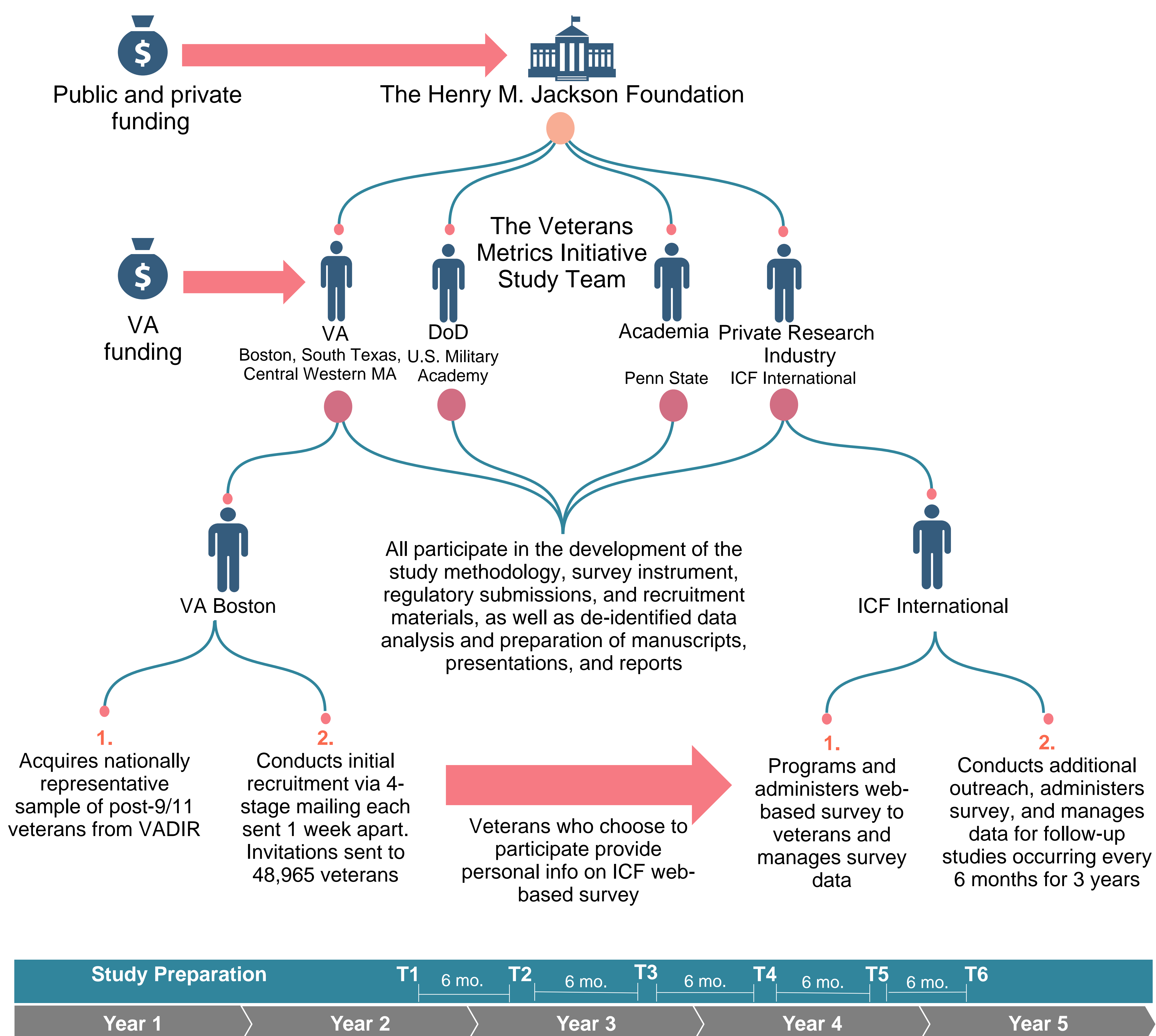
## Critical Gaps in our Understanding of Veteran Reintegration

- Adjusting to civilian life can be challenging for many veterans, especially those with mental and physical health conditions, such as PTSD and TBI.
- Thousands of programs have been developed to address veterans' needs in health, vocational, financial, and social domains.
- Yet, our knowledge regarding veterans' most pressing readjustment concerns, as well as programs that are most likely to meet these needs, is limited.

## The Veterans Metrics Initiative Study

The Veterans Metrics Initiative (TVMI) is a unique public-private research partnership that was designed to address these critical gaps in our understanding of best practices to assist veterans throughout their military to civilian transition.

Figure 1. Nature of TVMI Study Public-Private Partnership



## Study Aims

This study will leverage longitudinal data on approximately 10,000 post-9/11 veterans first surveyed within approximately 3 months of separation from military service to address three key study aims:

### AIM 1:

- Document the well-being of veterans over the first three years of the transition from military service to civilian life
  - **The Well-Being Inventory (WBI; Vogt et al. in prep):** This newly developed and psychometrically sound inventory was used to assess well-being. The inventory includes measures of status, functioning, and satisfaction within the domains of vocation (work, school), finances, health (physical, mental), and social relationships (intimate relationships, parenting, and broader community).
- Identify factors associated with better and worse well-being

### AIM 2:

- Describe programs used by veterans as they reintegrate into civilian life and distill them into their components, identifying common components across programs

### AIM 3:

- Identify program components that are associated with changes in well-being following separation from military service

## Unique Aspects of TVMI Study

	Past Work	TVMI
<b>Public-private research partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most research conducted in either governmental or non-governmental research settings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximizes strengths of both governmental and non-governmental organizations by including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborators from both sectors</li> <li>• Funding from both sectors</li> <li>• Multi-sector data collection strategy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Program components approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited evaluation of transition programs</li> <li>• No consideration of common components across veteran programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will decompose programs into common components</li> <li>• Will identify core components associated with positive outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Applicable to the broader Veteran experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many studies not representative of larger veteran population</li> <li>• Most studies underpowered to address subgroup differences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large study drawn from population-based sampling frame to provide insight into full scope of veterans' readjustment concerns</li> <li>• Ability to address unique concerns of key subgroups (e.g., non-VA users, women)</li> </ul>
<b>Addresses changes in readjustment needs across veterans' reintegration process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few studies collect information at the time of separation from service</li> <li>• Limited use of repeated assessments to evaluate reintegration process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrolled veterans within approximately 3 months after separation, with follow-up surveys every 6 months for 3 years</li> <li>• Insight into needs at different stages</li> </ul>
<b>Comprehensive approach to assessing veterans' well-being and program use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most research:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focuses on health outcomes or impact of health on other life domains</li> <li>• Focuses on Veterans' use of VA programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equal attention to health, vocation, finances, and social relationships, using newly validated Well-Being Inventory (WBI)</li> <li>• Broad assessment of Veterans' use of VA and non-VA programs</li> </ul>
<b>Development of public-use dataset</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing data sources are underutilized due to various regulatory constraints to data sharing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will create broadly accessible de-identified data repository to maximize benefit of data collection</li> </ul>

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