

# **BNTVA Nuclear Veteran Family Tree Snapshot Survey**

## **Final Report**

**June 2015**

# Final report of the findings of the BNTVA Snapshot Survey into NTV Family health.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2014 The BNTVA launched a 'Snapshot survey' to capture, in layman's terms, the general health status across British Nuclear Test Veteran's (NTV) family trees.

The concept was to produce an overview of the levels of health problems present in each generation of NTV family groups. This information could then be used to illustrate major differences in the health and wellbeing NTV families experience contrasted to that of the general population.

## Survey Operation

Using a self reporting internet survey tool combined with a manual form return the survey looks at the following basic questions.

Respondents relation to a British Nuclear Test Veteran.  
Email address  
For each generation of the family, the number of:  
Children conceived  
Miscarriage/Stillbirths  
Congenital defects  
Serious Illness  
Significant Illness  
Healthy

The respondent had to categorise the health of their individual family members with the following guidance:

- Congenital Defect is a health condition present at birth or within the first month of life, usually caused by genetic abnormality.
- Serious Illness is an illness or condition which requires daily or continuing treatment as certified by a health care provider.
- Significant Illness is an illness or condition which does not require regular medical treatment but impacts on your ability to enjoy a full healthy lifestyle

By 19<sup>th</sup> November data had been collected on 207 nuclear test veteran's family groups representing 1472 conceived offspring. The data was collated and processed to produce the final results, individual duplications were validated and the incorrect data discounted as was duplication of family tree data by different family members.

The progression of this activity produced the following results which, where possible, have been contrasted with levels published by other bodies.

## Generational Results

### Breakdown Number of Children Conceived by Generation

Veteran	583
1st Generation	715
2nd Generation	174

### Number of Miscarriage and Stillbirths per Generation

(Stillbirth rate: **SANDS** 1:200 = 0.5% Miscarriage Rate: **NHS** 1:8 = 12.5% thus 13% combined is reasonable expectation)

Veteran	104	(17.84%)
1st Generation	109	(15.24%)
2nd Generation	12	

### Number of Live Births per Generation

Veteran	479
1st Generation	606
2nd Generation	162

### Children with Health Problems per Generation <sup>\*1</sup>

(as a % of Live Births per generation)

Veteran	301	(62.84%)
1st Generation	208	(34.32%)
2nd Generation	47	(29.01%)

### Children with Congenital or Serious Health Problems per Generation <sup>\*1</sup>

(as a % of Live Births per generation)

(2011 **BINOCAR** Statistic – 1:46 apx 2.2% Congenital Defect Rate. **EUROCAT** rate = 2%)

Veteran	187	(39.04%)
1st Generation	117	(19.31%)
2nd Generation	25	(15.43%)

<sup>\*1</sup> The recording of health problems was not exclusive per individual as an individual may suffer a multitude of conditions. Thus one person may be classified as having Health Problems AND Congenital condition or Serious health problems.

## Overall Picture

Each of the 207 Veteran's family tree's has an average of 6 genetic descendents.

Miscarriage/Still birth	225	(15.29% of all conceptions)
Health Problems	556	(44.59% of live births)
Congenital Defects / Serious Illness	329	(26.38% of live births)

## Considerations

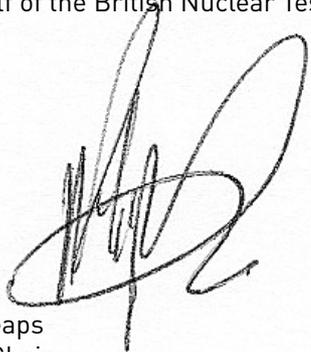
If we accept around 21,000 British Service personnel attended the tests and they procreated to the level experienced in the survey then there are in excess of 120,000 potential descendents. Of these some 31,000 could be suffering Serious Health or Congenital problems and over 52,000 people could be enduring some form of health issue affecting their daily lives.

## Applicable Legislation

This survey is not a scientific or medical experimentation, it has been conducted to provide the layman with an appreciation of the levels of health problems amongst our Nuclear Veterans family tree. All data is managed by the BNTVA in accord with our strict data protection policy compliant with the UK DPA 88. All personal data has been deleted on completion of this final survey report.

**N Heaps June 2015:** *"The health effects our children and grandchildren struggle with on a daily basis, is the real legacy of British Nuclear Testing."*

On behalf of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association. Regd Charity 1131134.



Nigel Heaps  
BNTVA Chair  
June 2015