



# CSI Study Newsletter

ISSUE 8 • SPRING 2025

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## Questions? Contact us!

[carealumni@umich.edu](mailto:carealumni@umich.edu)

We will respond to you within  
48 hours

## Check out our website:

CAREConsortium.net

Find links to scientific publications  
and helpful resources

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## MARCH IS BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

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March is Brain Injury Awareness Month, a time to recognize and support the millions of survivors and loved ones affected by brain injuries in America. No two brain injuries look the same or follow the same recovery path, so we encourage you to share your story with friends, loved ones, and on social media platforms, to help others in the brain injury community know they are not alone in their recovery journeys.

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), which is the oldest and largest brain injury advocacy organization, offers information, resources, and support following a brain injury by calling the information center at 1-800-444-6443. The CARE Consortium website (CAREConsortium.net) also offers a list of resources including websites and phone numbers for survivors and caregivers following a brain injury.

Your continued involvement in the CARE Consortium studies is crucial to our understanding of the long term effects of concussion on neurological, psychological, and physical health. Whether you sustained a concussion or are a “control” participant (never sustained a concussion), your contribution to these important studies can help change policy and the standard of care for those who have had a brain injury.

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## CSI TIER 1 ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY UPDATES MILITARY AND CIVILIAN COHORTS

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To date, over 11,000 participants have completed the “Tier 1” online questionnaires for the CSI Study. While this is an excellent response so far, we still need your participation to reach our CSI Study goals. A member of our professional interviewer team from the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan may be calling, emailing, or texting you to request your participation in the following months.

As a reminder, the Tier 1 online study questionnaires take approximately one hour to complete, and you can stop and restart where you left off if you do not finish all the questionnaires in one session. Upon your first completion of the CSI Tier 1 online questionnaires, you will receive a \$50 incentive payment.

# CSI STUDY CHARACTERISTICS

## TIER 1 and TIER 2, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN COHORTS



### STUDY ENROLLMENT

**11,030**

CSI Tier 1 Study

**724**

CSI Tier 2 Study

**282**

Completed both Tier 1 and Tier 2

**605**

MRIs



**719**

Blood Draw



**44**

PET Scans



### CSI PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

**26**

Average Age



**43%**

Female

**57%**

Male



**60%**

Civilians

**40%**

Military



### CSI PARTICIPANT DATA

**1,885**

Concussions Reported



**11%**

have had a concussion

### TOP SPORTS PLAYED



Football



Cross-Country



Soccer



Rowing



Swimming



Baseball

### MOST COMMON PROFESSIONS



Active Duty Service Member



Media



Business & Finance



Architecture



Sales



Engineering



Art



Computer



Entertainment



Mathematics



Sports

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## CSI TIER 2 IN-PERSON STUDY UPDATES CIVILIAN COHORT

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The CSI “Tier 2” in-person study is conducted at both civilian and military locations. The civilian sites – located at Indiana University School of Medicine (IU) in Indianapolis, IN and the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in Milwaukee, WI – continue to recruit for full-day, in-person visits. To date, nearly 600 visits have been completed or are scheduled. This puts us at 60% of our enrollment goal but we still need your help! We are specifically looking for former student-athletes who competed in a high exposure sport (football, rugby, lacrosse, ice hockey, boxing, soccer, and water polo), both with and without concussion(s).

We also extend our thanks to the >40 individuals who have completed Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scans, and the additional 16 who are scheduled. The extra time (at the study site) and effort from these participants is greatly appreciated! We are nearly 50% of the way to our goal, so please consider participation in this sub-study as well. Eligible Tier 2 in person study participants will receive a stipend for completing the Tier 2 in person visit, and travel expenses are covered by the study.

Study team members from IU and MCW will continue to reach out to eligible participants over this next year. We look forward to your continued support of this important study!

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## CSI TIER 2 IN-PERSON STUDY UPDATES MILITARY COHORT

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The Tier 2 in-person military sites have had a busy year – over 160 participants have completed study visits across our four sites, with enrollment up significantly across the past six months. The study teams look forward to scheduling and seeing more participants in 2025!

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## CSI TIER 2 IN-PERSON STUDY UPDATES AT NICoE

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The National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) site, located at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), has been actively enrolling participants since January 2024. The team has completed 44 participant visits to date. Thanks to the enthusiasm of our military participants, recruitment has been active and consistent, with increasing eligibility screenings and an average of 7 subjects scheduled per month, and we’re currently scheduled through June 2025!

NICoE has been actively collecting brain imaging and biomarker data since the study began. To date, NICoE has completed MRI scans for 41 participants and has provided 4 batches of blood samples to the Indiana University Biobank.

Individuals interested in participating in Tier 2 at NICoE can reach out to the study team at [csi\\_wrnmmc-ggg@usuhs.edu](mailto:csi_wrnmmc-ggg@usuhs.edu).

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## CSI TIER 2 IN-PERSON STUDY UPDATES AT FORT LIBERTY

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As of Feb 1, 2025, Ft. Liberty has officially finished their first full year of seeing participants for the CSI Tier 2 in-person Study. The team has hit a stride as their enrollment has reached 42 individuals consented with 41 completed over the course of the first year. With the new approval of the site's modification for expanding eligibility criteria, the team is looking forward to ramping up their recruitment efforts to get closer to their goal of 250 participants completed at the site. Our team would like to give a big shout out to the Intrepid Spirit Center for their continued assistance with the project. We are appreciative of their willingness to continue to offer space and support for staff to conduct the research project despite the real estate challenges they have faced; it truly is a TEAM effort!

**Brain Injury Awareness Month is on the horizon and as such, Ft. Liberty's Intrepid Spirit Center is getting ready to host an open house event on March 7, 2025 from 1200-1500.** This event will include door prizes, a food truck, and tables set up for folks all over Ft. Liberty to come and experience the Intrepid Spirit Center. Staff are encouraged to use this time to speak to attendees about the purpose of brain injury awareness and why it is important to prioritize your brain health. CSI study team members, Megan and Olyvia, plan on having a table set up for folks to swing by and hear more about the CSI Tier 2 in-person study and how the CARE Consortium is devoted to contributing to a better scientific understanding of concussions. If you are in the area, please stop by and say hello to the team!

Individuals interested in participating in Tier 2 at Fort Liberty can reach out to the study team at [csi\\_liberty-ggg@usuhs.edu](mailto:csi_liberty-ggg@usuhs.edu).

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## CSI TIER 2 IN-PERSON STUDY UPDATES AT JBLM

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The Joint Base Lewis-McChord study team based at the Madigan Army Medical Center Intrepid Sprit Center has been actively recruiting from November 2023. So far, we have screened 152 subjects, enrolled 80, and 37 have completed their initial visits. Of the 37, 3 have also completed the MRI portion of the study. We are continuing to see participants each week and are scheduling future enrollees and previous participants into July.

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Erik Dedekam, Mr. Derek Riggle, and their radiology team, the MRI portion of the study officially started in late January 2025. Our study team is now coordinating with the radiology team to include MRI scans at the start of all participant visits going forward. The study team is also reaching out to previous CSI Tier 2 participants to return and complete the MRI phase of the study. We greet all participants when they arrive at the MRI Annex and aim to kick off their appointment days the right way.

Individuals interested in participating in Tier 2 at JBLM can reach out to the study team at [csi\\_jblm-ggg@usuhs.edu](mailto:csi_jblm-ggg@usuhs.edu).

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## CSI TIER 2 IN-PERSON STUDY UPDATES AT FORT CAVAZOS

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Since accepting our first participant in April 2024, we have completed 43 visits. Along with the STRONG STAR Research Consortium, the Fort Cavazos team participated in the Intrepid Spirit Center (ISC) strategic planning and research forum on December 13, 2024. We provided detailed information regarding the purpose of the CSI research and the role of the CSI Tier 2 in-person military sites. The team continues to re-evaluate and streamline the QA/QC process, to improve data quality and accurate reporting. Recruitment procedures are active, which have resulted in 8 participants for the month of February- our largest number per month to date!

The Fort Cavazos site received our upgraded imaging system, completed a volunteer participant, and verified the quality of our data with Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). As such, we are very much looking forward to starting MR scans and continuing our partnership with the radiology department. In the interim, the imaging system is used to provide high quality treatment to Soldiers and serves as a training tool for radiology staff. The Fort Cavazos site continues to strive for excellence and is committed to providing support to other military sites with respect to regulatory concerns and neuropsychological testing/scoring.

Individuals interested in participating in Tier 2 at Fort Cavazos can reach out to the study team at [csi\\_cavazos-ggg@usuhs.edu](mailto:csi_cavazos-ggg@usuhs.edu).



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## CSI EGLIN EOD STUDY UPDATES MILITARY COHORT

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The Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Cohort Study has welcomed new leadership – LT R. Colin McNamara, MD, joined the study as the Site Principal Investigator. He has been enthusiastic in supporting the study at Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal (NAVSCOLEOD) at Eglin AFB and is leading the team in finding better ways to share our research findings with the military community.

Recruitment at Eglin is going strong, with over 1250 participants enrolled to date. In addition, approximately 200 EOD Cohort participants are now eligible to participate in the CSI Tier 1 online assessments. Look out for an email or phone call from the University of Michigan Institute of Social Research study team inviting you to participate in Tier 1.

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## CSI TIER 3 INTEGRATED DATA REPOSITORY

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CSI “Tier 3” is up and running – nearly 200 participants are enrolled to date! All military-affiliated participants from any past or current CARE Consortium study are eligible for Tier 3. If you attended a military service academy between 2014 and 2021, you are likely eligible! Look out for an email from the CSI team!

Tier 3 is the military health record integration project, which links information from existing CARE datasets with electronic health records to characterize and understand the relationship between concussion/repetitive head impact exposure, military performance, and long-range health outcomes. Military participants have options about which data they choose to share as part of Tier 3, and all data is stored securely behind the DHA firewall.

Military CARE participants interested in CSI Tier 3 are welcome to reach out to the Study Coordinator at 301-550-0350 or [csi\\_tier3-ggg@usuhs.edu](mailto:csi_tier3-ggg@usuhs.edu).