



Why Have Veterans Treatment Court?

Developed by:
Justice For Vets

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OJP – BJS – Veterans in Prison & Jail 2011-12

December 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of veterans incarcerated in state and federal prison and local jail decreased from 203,000 in 2004 to 181,500 in 2011–12.
- The total incarceration rate in 2011–12 for veterans (855 per 100,000 veterans in the United States) was lower than the rate for nonveterans (968 per 100,000 U.S. residents).
- Non-Hispanic black and Hispanic inmates made up a significantly smaller proportion of incarcerated veterans (38% in prison and 44% in jail), compared to incarcerated non-Hispanic black and Hispanic nonveterans (63% in prison and 59% in jail).
- A greater percentage of veterans (64%) than nonveterans (48%) were sentenced for violent offenses.
- An estimated 43% of veterans and 55% of nonveterans in prison had four or more prior arrests.
- More than three-quarters (77%) of incarcerated veterans received military discharges that were honorable or under honorable conditions.
- An estimated two-thirds of veterans in prison (67%) and jail (66%) were discharged from military service between 1974 and 2000.
- From 2001 to 2012, veterans discharged during Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn accounted for 13% of veterans in prison and 25% of veterans in jail.
- Nearly half of veterans in prison (48%) and jail (44%) served less than 3 years in the military.
- A quarter of veterans in prison (25%) and less than a third of veterans in jail (31%) reported that they had been in combat while in the military.
- About half of all veterans in prison (48%) and jail (55%) had been told by a mental health professional they had a mental disorder.
- Incarcerated veterans who saw combat (60% in prison and 67% in jail) were more likely than noncombat veterans (44% in prison and 49% in jail) to have been told they had a mental disorder.

Why Have A Veterans Treatment Court?

Military Culture is unique. Current and former service members that become justice involved have needs and risk that require clinical and criminogenic interventions which are culturally sensitive to them.

At the same time, recognizing that these tailored interventions are most effective when balanced with an adherence to the best practices and standards that are implemented in the treatment court model.



Warrior Ethos

Sense of Purpose
Code of Conduct
Common Purpose
Identity
Morality
Selflessness
Sacrifice
Loyalty
Honor



The Impact of Transition



**Today's military deploys and
redeploys (Home) exceedingly quick**

Discharge/Out processing

Disconnected from civilian society

Loss of support

Loss of identity

Loss of purpose

Where to go for assistance?





“The State of the American Veteran: The Chicagoland Veterans Study”

- ✓ 45%: Feel that their military skills and experience are often dismissed.
- ✓ 69%: “Civilians do not understand the problems faced by veterans”.
- ✓ 48%: “I feel so distant from people.”
- ✓ 48%: “Even around people I know, I don’t feel that I really belong.”
- ✓ 41%: “Even around my friends, there is no sense of sister/brotherhood.”

Sample of 1,294 Social Connectedness

Kintzle, Sara; Rasheed, Janice M.; and Castro, Carl A., The State of the American Veteran: The Chicagoland Veterans Study, 2016.



Defining VTCs – Ten Key Components



KEY COMPONENTS 1-5

- 1. Veterans Treatment Court integrate alcohol, drug treatment, and mental health services with justice system case processing**
- 2. Using a nonadversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights**
- 3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Veterans Treatment Court program**
- 4. Veterans Treatment Court provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health and other related treatment and rehabilitation services**
- 5. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing**



KEY COMPONENTS 6-10

6. A coordinated strategy governs Veterans Treatment Court responses to participants' compliance
7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each Veteran is essential
8. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness
9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Veterans Treatment Court planning, implementation, and operations
10. Forging partnerships among Veterans Treatment Court, Veterans Administration, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Veteran Treatment Court effectiveness



RECOVERY



Success is a Welcome Home!

“Instead of throwing me in
prison, veterans treatment
court offered me the chance
of a lifetime.”

- *VTC Graduate*



Uniform Law Commission

The Model Veterans Treatment Court Act (MVTCA) allows a state to implement diversionary courts for veterans of the U.S. armed services. The MVTCA provides guidelines for the establishment of veterans' courts while permitting substantial local discretion necessary to accommodate particular circumstances in different communities. The act is drafted so it can also be adopted as court rules



Uniform Law Commission

For more information about the
MVTCA please contact
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TRAINING

We are the experts.

Justice For Vets is a national training and technical assistance provider for the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice.



Implementation Training

Receive implementation and enhancement training



Operational Tune-up

Advanced training for seasoned programs



Technical Assistance

Request TA for your program



Veteran Mentors

Learn more about our Mentor Boot Camp training



Training – Veterans Treatment Court Planning Initiative (VTCPI)

- 3-days onsite –
WE COME TO YOU!
- Multi-disciplinary
training from subject
matter experts
- Work **with** you to
build your program




VTCPi - Requirements

- Total team participation
 - Judge
 - Prosecutor & Defense Counsel
 - Treatment Provider
 - Coordinator
 - Community Supervision
 - Law Enforcement
 - Evaluator / Researcher
 - Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) coordinator
 - Mentor Coordinator
- Training Location
- Pre- and Post-training activities
- Communication with the Justice For Vets Staff
- 3-day Commitment



VTCPi - Results


NDCI
 NATIONAL DRUG
 COURT INSTITUTE

Time Task Plan

Jurisdiction/State: _____

Contact Person: _____

Program Start Date: _____

Activity	Time Frame	Individual Responsible

- An Action Plan for next steps after the training
- Identified policies and procedures
- Tools and Samples for drafting manuals
- An understanding of veteran and military culture
- An understanding of behavior modification in the criminal justice setting
- An understanding of appropriate supervision for justice-involved veterans

Point of Contact

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