



JUSTICE FOR VETS

15,000
currently served
by veterans
treatment
courts¹

5,700
volunteer
veteran mentors
in VTCs¹

407
VTCs in the
U.S.⁴

460,000
Iraq/Afghanistan
veterans suffer
from PTSD or
depression²

345,000
Iraq/Afghanistan
veterans have a
substance use
disorder²

181,500
incarcerated
veterans in
the U.S.³

BENEFITS THEY'VE EARNED

SUPPORT THEY DESERVE

The majority of our veterans return home strengthened by their military service, but many struggle with trauma, mental illness (such as PTSD) and substance use disorders. These issues can be exacerbated by the loss of structure and camaraderie found in the military. Veterans treatment courts (VTCs) provide treatment, accountability and mentoring, and they help connect justice-involved veterans with the benefits they've earned. VTCs save the lives, families and futures of our veterans while also saving taxpayer dollars.

A study published by the *Community Mental Health Journal* found that **veterans who participate in veterans treatment courts experience significant improvement in:**

- ✓ Depression
- ✓ PTSD
- ✓ Substance use
- ✓ Mental and emotional health
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Relationships and social connection
- ✓ Overall functioning and well-being

¹ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (2016)

² Tanielan, T. & Jaycox, L. (2008). *Invisible Wounds of War: Psychological and Cognitive Injuries, Their Consequences, and Services to Assist Recovery*. Washington, DC: RAND Ctr. for Military Health Policy and Research.

³ Berzofsky, M., Bronson, J., & Noonan, M. (2015). *Veterans in Prison and Jail, 2011-12*. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Available at: <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/vpj1112.pdf>.

⁴ American University School of Public Affairs Justice Programs Office (2019).

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