

Snapshot: Health Care Access Issues for Veterans in Our Local Justice Systems



Challenge: Veterans who are arrested do not forfeit their eligibility for medical care. However, current regulations prevent the VA from providing hospital and outpatient care to an incarcerated veteran while they're in the custody of a local jail.



181,000 **THE NUMBER OF VETERANS IN U.S. JAILS AND PRISONS**

50,000 **THE NUMBER OF THOSE DETAINED IN LOCAL JAILS.**
(2012, Bureau of Justice Statistics)



ABOUT 55%

OF VETERANS IN JAIL REPORTED EXPERIENCING A MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER.

(2012, Bureau of Justice Statistics)

Left untreated, mental health disorders common to veterans – including substance use and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) – can lead to involvement with the criminal justice system
(2019, Justice for Vets)

Case Study: Justice-Involved Veterans (JIV) Initiative in Dakota County, Minn.

In 2018, **Dakota County, Minn. established the Justice-Involved Veterans (JIV) program** to improve service delivery to veterans involved with the county's criminal justice system. The Justice Involved Veterans (JIV) program is an integrated service delivery model that was created to not only identify the unique issues faced by veterans in the criminal justice system, but existing systems they interact with and services needed that are not currently available. Through collaboration with the Community Corrections Department, the Sheriff's office and the Veterans Services department, the program creates a network of care that addresses the underlying behavioral health and other issues that lead veterans into the criminal justice system.

