

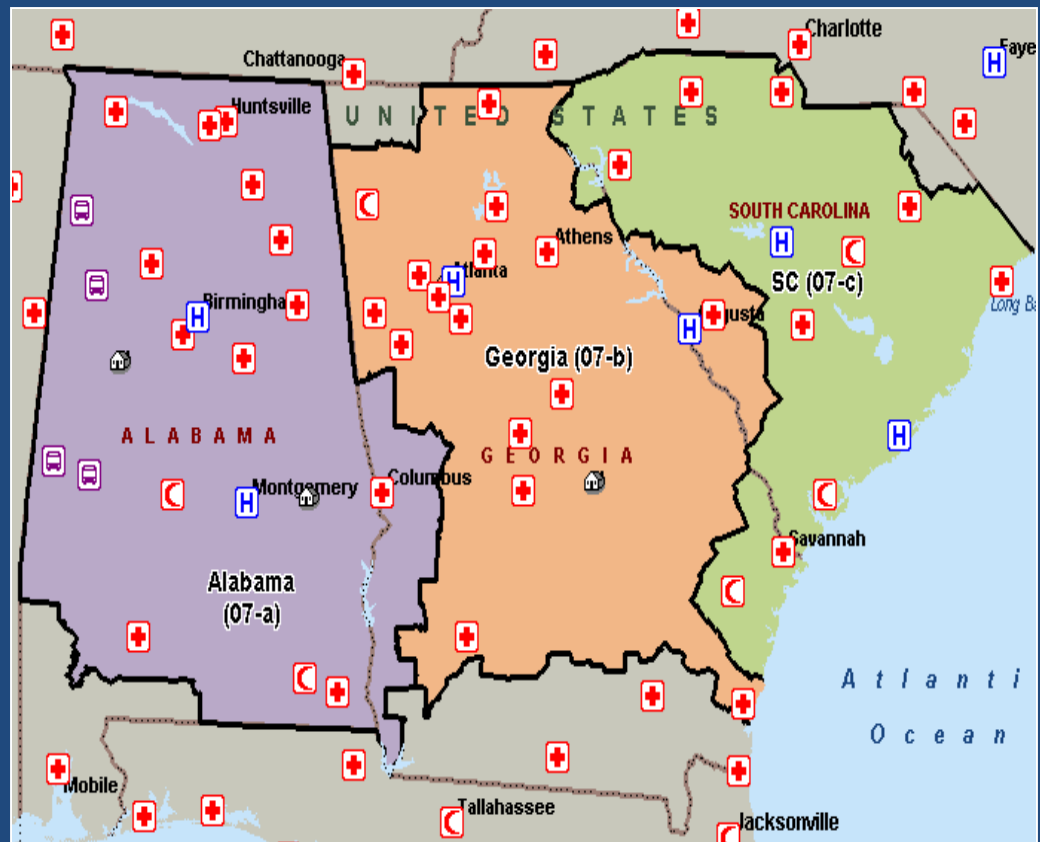
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS





VISN 7 Footprint

- Square Miles: 121,029
- Veteran Enrollees: 568,506 (approximate as of FY13)
- States: 3
- Senators: 6
- Congressional Districts: 28
- VAMCs: 8
- CBOCs: 42
- Vet Centers: 14
- State Veterans Homes: 8
- VBA Regional Offices: 3
- National Cemeteries: 7
- State Veteran Cemeteries: 3





VISN 7 Homeless Programs

- Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program (Outreach)
- Grant and Per Diem (GPD)
- VA Supportive Housing (VASH)
- Supported Services for Veterans Families (SSVF)
- Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV)
- Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV)
- Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO)
- Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)
- Supported Employment (SE)
- National Homeless Hotline



Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)

- The central goal of HCHV programs is to reduce homelessness among Veterans by conducting outreach to those who are the most vulnerable and are not currently receiving services and engaging them in treatment and rehabilitative programs.



Five Year Plan

- Ending homelessness among Veterans
- Rapid expansion of proven programs
 - Health Care for Homeless Veterans
 - HUD-VASH
 - Grant & Per Diem
 - Compensated Work Therapy
- New initiatives to address unmet needs
 - Supportive Services for Veteran Families
 - HUD/VA Prevention Pilot
 - National Homeless Call Center (1-877-4AID VET)
 - www.va.gov/homeless



Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)

- Core of the program is its outreach component.
- It is to reduce homelessness among veterans by providing outreach to those who are the most vulnerable and are not currently receiving services.
 - Engaging them in treatment
 - Engaging them in rehabilitation programs



Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)

- Operational since 2007
- Conduct outreach/assessment while incarcerated before release date.
- Engage in treatment and rehabilitation to:
 - Prevent homelessness
 - Readjust to community life
 - Desist from commission of new crimes or parole or probation violations
- Promote successful community integration of reentry Veterans



HCRV: Progress

- Prisons engaged
 - Visiting Veterans in 955 of 1319 U.S. State and Federal Prisons (72%) FY10, up from 344 prisons in FY08
- Veterans contacted
 - Over 23,000 since September 2007
 - Number of Veterans released from prison each year: 29-56,000 (Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) estimate)
 - Average number of previous arrests: 8



Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program

- Operational since 2009
- Outreach to Veterans in contact with law enforcement, jails, and courts
- Goal is to provide timely access to VA services for eligible justice-involved Veterans to avoid unnecessary criminalization and incarceration of Veteran defendants and offenders with mental illness and/or traumatic brain injury (TBI).
 - In communities where justice programs relevant for Veterans exist, VA will take the initiative in building working relationships to see that eligible justice-involved Veterans get needed care
 - In communities where no such programs exist, VA will reach out to potential justice system partners to connect eligible justice-involved Veterans with VA services



Veteran Justice Outreach

- Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) indicates that 9.3% people incarcerated in jails are Veterans (2002).
- 70% were incarcerated for non-violent controlling offense.
- 45% had served two or more prison sentences
- 90,000 of unique inmates are Veterans who are released from jail annually.
- 82% are eligible for VA services having been released under honorable (65%) or general with honorable (17%) conditions.



Justice-Involved Veterans

- A justice-involved Veteran is:
 - A Veteran in contact with local law enforcement who can be appropriately diverted from arrest into mental health or substance abuse treatment;
 - A Veteran in a local jail, either pre-trial or serving a sentence; or,
 - A Veteran involved in adjudication or monitoring by a court
- Most (82%) justice-involved Veterans are likely eligible for VA health care (BJS)



Justice-Involved Veterans: Estimates

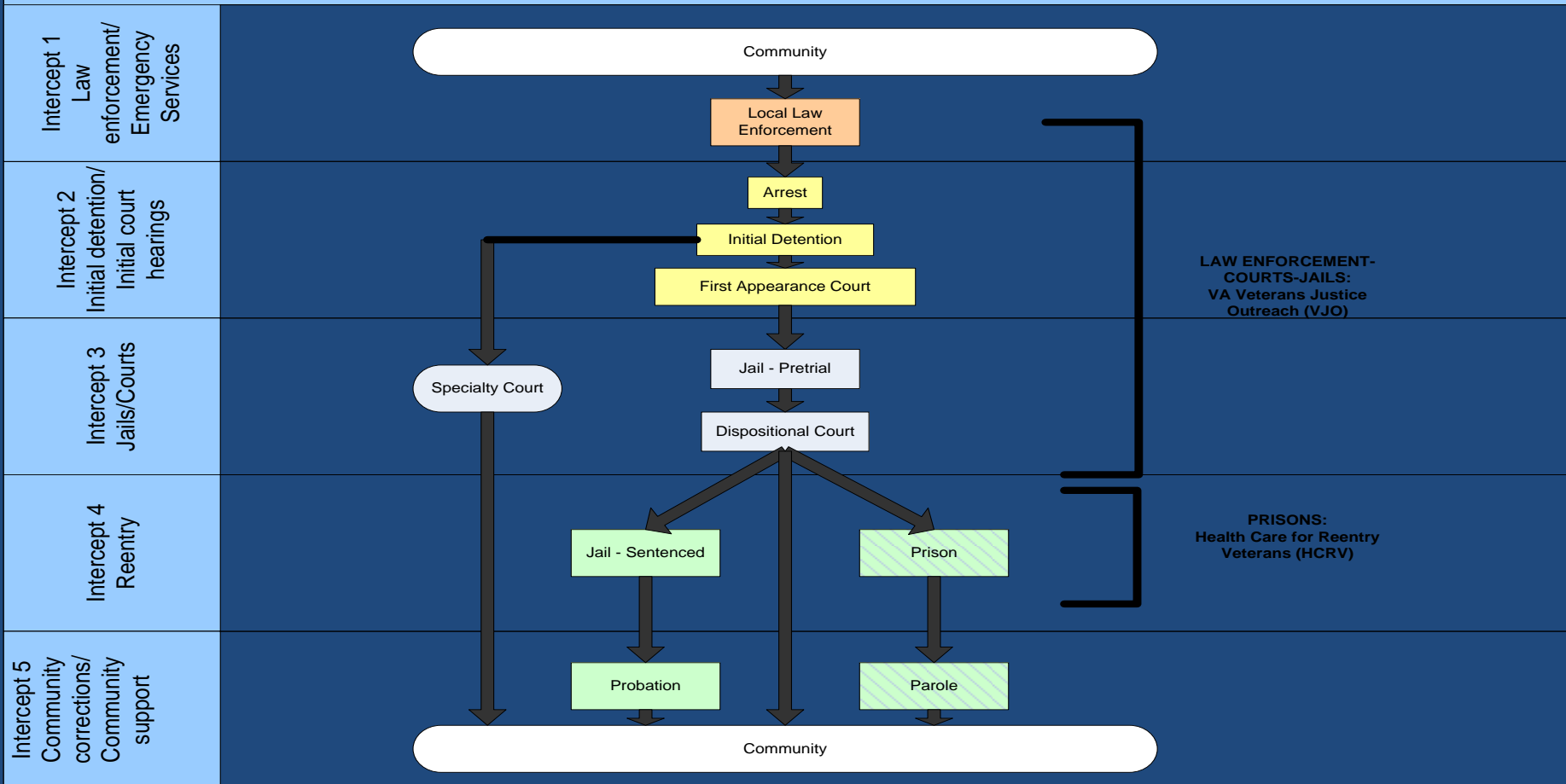
- Estimated number of military Veterans, 2007:
 - Probation supervision: 399,300
 - Parole or supervised release: 75,000
 - Local jail custody: 72,600
 - State prison custody: 136,800
 - Federal prison custody: 19,300
 - Total, correctional supervision: 703,000
 - Arrests: **1,159,500**

Source: U.S. Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice Statistics



VJO and Re-Entry

Sequential Intercept Model





Limits on VA Authorization

- Can provide:
 - Outreach, assessment, referral and linkage to services
 - Treatment for justice-involved Veterans who are not incarcerated
- Title 38 CFR 17.38 does not allow VHA to provide:
 - Hospital and outpatient care for a Veteran who is
 - Either a patient or inmate in an institution of another government agency
 - If that agency has a duty to give that care or services



VA benefits for justice-involved Veterans

- Health:
 - Physical health: prevention, medical and specialty
 - Mental health: medication, inpatient, outpatient, mental health/substance abuse services, homeless/housing services, evidence-based treatments; supported employment, consumer/peer supports
- Benefits: disability compensation, pensions, education and training, vocational rehabilitation, home loan guaranty, life insurance
- Cemetery: burial and memorial benefits



VJO Specialists

- Designated at medical center level (153 VAMCs)
 - 120 centrally funded full time positions
- Responsible for
 - Outreach, assessment, case management for justice involved Veterans in local courts and jails
 - Liaison with local justice system partners
 - Providing/coordinating training for law enforcement personnel
- Specialists will
 - Assist in eligibility determination and enrollment
 - Function as members of court treatment teams
 - Refer and link Veterans to appropriate providers
- Prevalence of SMI among jail inmates (Steadman, et al):
 - Male 14.5%
 - Female 31.0%



Treatment Courts

- Long-term judicially-supervised treatment as an alternative to incarceration or other sanctions
- Drug courts
 - > 2400 operational
- Mental Health courts
 - > 300 operational
- Veterans courts
 - A growing number operational



Treatment Courts Work

- Positive impacts on recidivism, treatment outcomes, budgets



VJO: Ongoing Issues/Priorities

- Building awareness of VA – and Veterans – in justice system
 - PTSD, TBI, other clinical needs
 - Types and quality of VA services
 - Access to VA services
 - Veterans' reported satisfaction with VA services
- “Calendar Clustering”
 - Court identifies Veteran defendants and schedules their hearings at the same time
 - Economy of effort for VJO Specialist in court
 - Alternative (or precursor) to fully-realized Veterans Court



Next Steps

- Maintain close relationships with key partners
 - DoL Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program
 - State Departments of Veterans Affairs
 - Office of Child Support Enforcement - Pilot
 - Veteran Service Organizations
 - Vet Centers
 - Local justice system partners
- Work with Crisis Intervention Team programs and special courts in each area
- Work with other stakeholders to establish these programs where they do not currently exist



Points of Contact

- Your local VJOs and HCRV Specialists for Alabama
 - Ahmad Brewer (Ahmad.Brewer@va.gov)
 - Natalie Hood (Natalie.Hood@va.gov)
 - Margurita High (Marguerita.High@va.gov)
- Health Care for Reentry Veterans Specialists:
 - <http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/Reentry.asp>
- Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists by medical center:
 - <http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/VJO.asp>
- Sean Clark, National Coordinator, Veterans Justice Outreach
 - Sean.Clark2@va.gov