

# Who is the OEF/OIF Veteran?

# ***OEF/OIF Veterans & VA Health Care Utilization***

**1,207,428** OEF and OIF Veterans have left active duty and become eligible for VA health care since FY 2002

- **53% (638,774)** Former Active Duty troops
- **47% (568,654)** Reserve and National Guard

**49% (593,634)** of total separated OEF/OIF Veterans have obtained VA health care since FY 2002 (cumulative total)

# Demographic Characteristics of OEF/OIF Veterans Utilizing VA Health Care

**% OEF/OIF Veterans  
(n = 593,634)**

**% OEF/OIF Veterans  
(n = 593,634)**

## **Sex**

Male	88.1
Female	11.9

## **Unit Type**

Active Duty	53.5
Reserve/Guard	46.5

## **Birth Year Cohort\***

1980 – 1993	41.7
1970 – 1979	27.9
1960 – 1969	22.0
1950 – 1959	7.2
1926 – 1949	1.2

## **Branch**

Air Force	12.1
Army	62.2
Marines	13.3
Navy	12.3

## **Rank**

Enlisted	91.3
Officer	8.7

# Frequency of Possible Diagnoses among OEF/OIF Veterans presenting for VA Care

Diagnosis (Broad ICD-9 Categories)	Frequency	Percent
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (001-139)	68,569	13.5
Malignant Neoplasms (140-208)	5,809	1.1
Benign Neoplasms (210-239)	25,491	5.0
Diseases of Endocrine/Nutritional/ Metabolic Systems (240-279)	135,250	26.6
Diseases of Blood and Blood Forming Organs (280-289)	14,342	2.8
Mental Disorders (290-319)	243,685	48.0
Diseases of Nervous System/ Sense Organs (320-389)	202,298	39.8
Diseases of Circulatory System (390-459)	94,671	18.6
Disease of Respiratory System (460-519)	116,308	22.9
Disease of Digestive System (520-579)	172,462	33.9
Diseases of Genitourinary System (580-629)	63,421	12.5
Diseases of Skin (680-709)	93,635	18.4
Diseases of Musculoskeletal System/Connective System (710-739)	265,450	52.2
Symptoms, Signs and Ill Defined Conditions (780-799)	233,443	45.9
Injury/Poisonings (800-999)	130,300	25.6

\*These are cumulative data since FY 2002, with data on hospitalizations and outpatient visits as of September 30, 2009; Veterans can have multiple diagnoses with each health care encounter. A Veteran is counted only once in any single diagnostic category but can be counted in multiple categories, so the above numbers add up to greater than 508,152; percentages add up to greater than 100 for the same reason.

Cumulative from 1st Quarter FY 2002  
through 4th Quarter FY 2009

# *Frequency of Possible Mental Disorders among OEF/OIF Veterans since 2002<sup>1</sup>*

<b>Disease Category (ICD 290-319 code)</b>	<b>Total Number of OEF/OIF Veterans<sup>2</sup></b>
PTSD (ICD-9CM 309.81) <sup>3</sup>	129,654
Depressive Disorders (311)	90,936
Neurotic Disorders (300)	74,559
Affective Psychoses (296)	52,982
Nondependent Abuse of Drugs (ICD 305) <sup>4</sup>	41,980
Alcohol Dependence Syndrome (303)	24,454
Specific Nonpsychotic Mental Disorder due to Organic Brain Damage (310)	15,040
Special Symptoms, Not Elsewhere Classified (307)	14,531
Sexual Deviations and Disorders (302)	12,382
Persistent Mental Disorders due to Conditions Classified Elsewhere (294)	12,029

<sup>1</sup> These are cumulative data since FY 2002. ICD diagnoses used in these analyses are obtained from computerized administrative data. Although diagnoses are made by trained health care providers, up to one-third of coded diagnoses may not be confirmed when initially coded because the diagnosis is provisional, pending further evaluation.

<sup>2</sup> A total of 243,685 unique patients received a diagnosis of a possible mental disorder. A Veteran may have more than one mental disorder diagnosis and each diagnosis is entered separately in this table; therefore, the total number above will be higher than 243,685.

<sup>3</sup> This row of data does not include information on PTSD from VA's Vet Centers or data from Veterans not enrolled for VA health care. Also, this row does not include Veterans who did not receive a diagnosis of PTSD (ICD 309.81) but had a diagnosis of adjustment reaction (ICD-9 309).

<sup>4</sup> This category currently excludes 67,172 Veterans who have a diagnosis of tobacco use disorder (ICD-9CM 305.1) and no other ICD-9CM 305 diagnoses.

# Data Summary

- Because the **593,634** OEF and OIF Veterans who have accessed VA health care were not randomly selected and represent **just 25%** of the approximately 2.04 million OEF/OIF Veterans<sup>1</sup>, they **do not constitute a representative sample** of all OEF/OIF Veterans.
- Reported diagnostic data are only applicable to the 508,152 VA patients – a population actively seeking health care -- and not to all OEF/OIF Veterans.
  - For example, the fact that about 48% of VA patient encounters were coded as related to a possible mental disorder does not indicate that approximately half of all recent Veterans are suffering from a mental health problem. Only well-designed epidemiological studies can evaluate the overall health of OEF/OIF Veterans.

<sup>1</sup> As provided by the Armed Force Health Surveillance Center (Personal Communication), 01/20/2010

# OEF/OIF Veterans and VA Healthcare

VA provides enhanced enrollment opportunity and **five years of cost-free health care** to Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations, for any injury or illness associated with this service

# OEF/OIF Care Management

- **Available at every VA Medical Center nationwide**
- Screening of all new OEF/OIF Veterans
- Case Management at varying levels of intensity based on needs of Veteran/Servicemember
- Collaboration with assigned Medical & Mental Health providers
- Education on applicable benefits & referrals for benefits assistance
- Linkage with community agencies as indicated
- Coordination with VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics
- Advocacy
- Liaisons with the Military Health System, Department of Defense, VBA & other federal, state and community agencies

# OEF/OIF Outreach Efforts

- Contact & offer services to **all** OEF/OIF Veterans as they enroll in the VA Healthcare System
- Provide VA Healthcare & benefits briefings to local Guard & Reserve Units
- Outreach to OEF/OIF Veterans at local community events
- Host annual OEF/OIF Welcome Home events & Focus Groups
- Provide training to community agencies upon request
- Integral in the development of specific VA Healthcare briefings to separating Servicemembers at Fort Drum, NY

# **Syracuse VA OEF/OIF Program**

First floor of the VA medical center

Call us at 425-4426