

Infographic for Immediate Release

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Pennsylvania's Veterans Treatment Courts Make a Difference for Veterans

HARRISBURG—Pennsylvania's veteran population ranks fourth in the U.S. with over 697,655 veterans as of 2023. Since 2009, <u>Pennsylvania's Veterans Treatment Courts</u> have been assisting veterans who are charged with crimes and are struggling with substance abuse disorder, mental illness or other co-occurring disorders.

Veterans Treatment Court participants appear before a judge on a regular basis; receive support and guidance from veteran mentors; and get treatment to address underlying problems often caused by post-traumatic stress disorder. In 2023, 147 veteran participants successfully graduated from a Veterans Treatment Court in the Pennsylvania, which represents an 75% successful completion rate.

In Pennsylvania, 54 of 67 counties currently have treatment courts (Drug, DUI, Mental Health, and/or Veterans Treatment Court) in which veterans can participate if they meet the eligibility criteria. Additionally, all justice-involved veterans are entitled to a <u>Veteran Justice Outreach</u> (VJO) program specialist to help them navigate the Veterans Affairs system and get them connected with services available to them.

A high-resolution file of the graphic is available for download at www.pacourts.us under Media Resources.



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