

KEY FACTS:

The Health & Mental Health of Returning Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars

DID YOU KNOW? ▶▶



- ✦ Close to 2 million Americans have served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
- ✦ According to the 2008 RAND *Invisible Wounds* study, 20% of returning soldiers suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or depression
- ✦ The RAND study also revealed that 47% of veterans with PTSD or Major Depression did not seek care and half of those who sought care did not receive minimally adequate services
- ✦ The number of suicides reported by the Army has risen to the highest level since record-keeping began three decades ago
- ✦ As of June 2009, there were 900,000 outstanding VA claims and appeals made by veterans
- ✦ A 2008 study revealed that 37% of mental health professionals felt unprepared to help veterans with reintegration issues
- ✦ Women comprise 11% of those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001
- ✦ As of May 2007, approximately 15% of female Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who have gone to the VA for care have screened positive for Military Sexual Trauma
- ✦ Approximately 40% of troops currently deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan are parents
- ✦ In 2007, approximately 2 million children were impacted by their parents being deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan
- ✦ Preliminary data from the VA suggests that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans already comprise 1.8% of the homeless veteran population, and this figure is expected to rise

NEW YORK STATE STATISTICS

- ✦ According to the 2000 U.S. Census, New York is home to 1.4 million veterans
- ✦ Approximately 85,000 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have returned to New York State
- ✦ As of June 2009, there were approximately 13,000 outstanding VA claims made by veterans in New York State



For more information,
visit www.nyshealth.org.