

VETERANS MOVING FORWARD

WHAT IS VMF?

In 2015, SANDAG received a National Institute of Justice (NIJ) grant to conduct an impact and process evaluation of the San Diego County's Sheriff's Department's Veterans Moving Forward (VMF) program. VMF is a therapeutic model offered to veterans incarcerated at the Vista Detention Facility (VDF).

The SANDAG evaluation will:

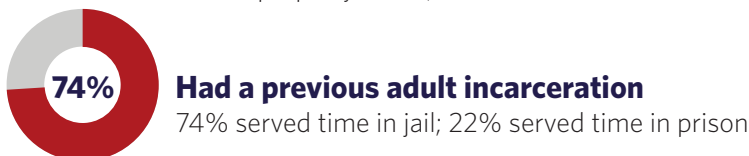
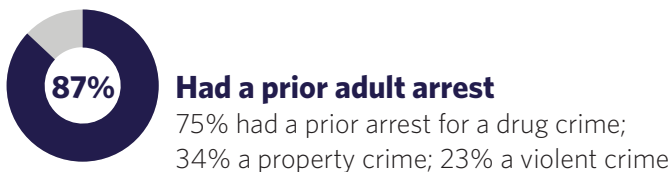
- Document the implementation of VMF
- Track recidivism (new arrest and conviction) 12 months post-release from jail
- Analyze cost-effectiveness of VMF

VMF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

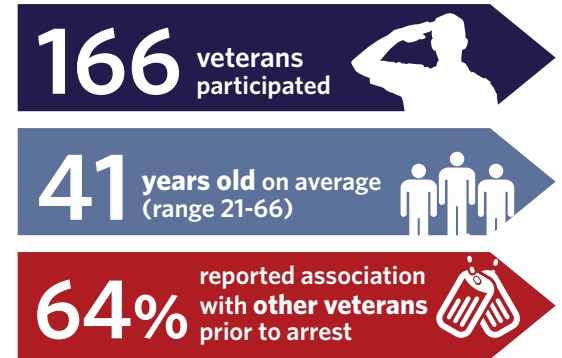
- 1 **Two modules** at the VDF, housing up to **64 veterans**
- 2 Veterans of **different races and ages** are housed together in the modules
- 3 **Staffed by** deputies who are **veterans**
- 4 Daily programming including **cognitive based therapy, art classes, yoga, meditation, resumes**
- 5 On-site access to the **Veterans Administration (VA) staff** and **services**
- 6 On-site access to a **correctional counselor**

HOW INVOLVED IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM WERE VMF PARTICIPANTS?

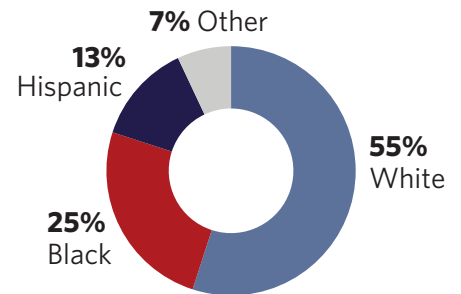
Participants had a history of criminal justice involvement.



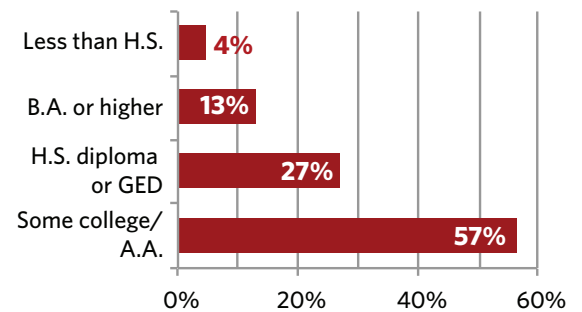
WHO ARE VMF PARTICIPANTS?



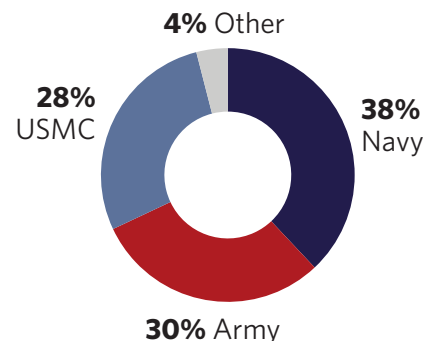
Race & Ethnicity



Education

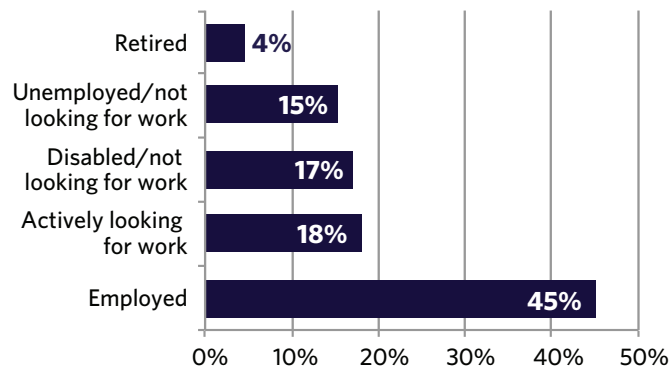


Military Branch

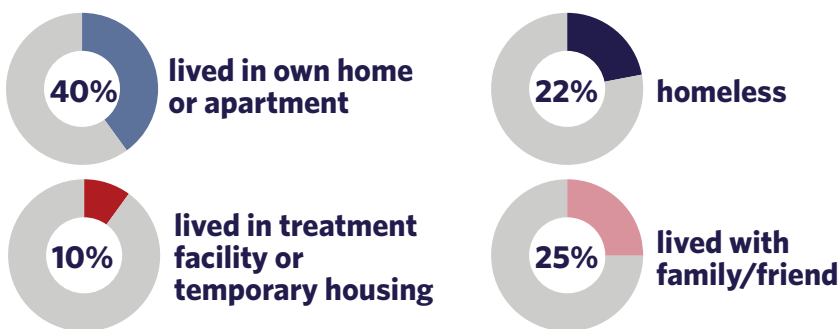


WHAT CHALLENGES ARE VMF PARTICIPANTS FACING?

Employment Status (at time of arrest)



Housing Status (at time of arrest)



WHY DID PARTICIPANTS WANT TO BE HOUSED IN VMF MODULES?

Preparing for reentry was the most common reason given as to why they decided to be housed in VMF, with half doing so to receive services while in jail and/or after release (51%, each). However, two in five (41%) reported doing so for the additional incentives offered in VMF (e.g. extra mattress, vending machines) and a similar proportion (40%) wanted to be housed with other veterans.



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WHAT TYPE OF SUPPORT DO VMF PARTICIPANTS WANT?

Economic security, help with their physical health needs, and addressing relationship issues topped the needs participants are hoping VMF can help them with.

Economic

82% Personal Finances
71% Education
71% Employment

Health

78% Physical Health
64% Mental Health
61% Substance Abuse

Social

73% Family Relationships
63% Spiritual/Personal Development
59% Criminal Thinking

"I want to change the person I once was. This program is making a big change in my way of thinking and reacting, and I like it."

"I wanted to be somewhere I could get the right building blocks to never come back and learn as much as I can and take in all resources possible to ensure I never end back up in jail. I'm very happy I did. Life changing indeed ..."

"I would just like to gain the most out of the program, so I may be able to move forward finally with my life, and truly come to grasp with my issues."

"I think this is a wonderful program for veterans who are incarcerated. Thank you for your concern."