

FACT SHEET

For Mental Health and Addictions Treatment Providers

STARTLING STATISTICS

- Of the 2.4 million active duty and reserves who were deployed to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, almost 30 percent (**730,000 men and women**) will have a mental health condition.
- Many of those who have been injured return home with **posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, traumatic brain injury, and substance use**, and far too many die from **suicide**.
- **Mental health disorders caused more hospitalizations** among U.S. troops in 2009 than any other reason.
- Less than half of returning veterans needing mental health services received any treatment. Of those receiving treatment for PTSD and major depression, **only 30 percent are receiving evidence-based care**.
- **One in three homeless men are veterans**, and almost 60 percent of homeless veterans are minorities.
- Between 2005 and 2009, **one member of the Armed Forces took his or her life every 36 hours**.
- The suicide rate among active duty soldiers dropped slightly in 2010, but the number of **suicides** in the **National Guard and Reserves increased by 55 percent**.

Source: National Council for Behavioral Health. (November 2012) "Meeting the Behavioral Health Needs of Veterans" Retrieved on January 21, 2014 from <http://www.thenationalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Veterans-BH-Needs-Report.pdf>

AN UNMET NEED

Increasingly, civilian practitioners are treating returning veterans and their families. Unfortunately, many of these mental health and addictions treatment providers are not properly trained or prepared to serve returning veterans. Few clinicians understand the military orientation—a culture of its own—and therefore, do not understand how to provide culturally competent and clinically sound services to veterans and their families.

That's why the National Council for Behavioral Health has partnered with the U.S. Department of Defense Center for Deployment Psychology and Relias Learning to launch the **Serving Our Veterans: Behavioral Health Certificate**.

SERVING OUR VETERANS: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE 15 self-directed, self-paced online courses earning up to 20+ hours

- Best Practices in Substance Use Treatment Compliance
- Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD in Veterans and Military Personnel
- Depression in Service Members and Veterans
- Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence
- Epidemiology of PTSD in Military Personnel and Veterans
- Fundamentals of Traumatic Brain Injury
- Identification, Prevention, and Treatment of Suicidal Behavior for Service Members and Veterans
- Meeting the Behavioral Health Needs of Returning Veterans
- Military Cultural Competence
- Prolonged Exposure Therapy for PTSD for Veterans and Military Service Personnel
- Provider Resiliency and Self-Care: An Ethical Issue
- PTSD Then and Now, There and Here
- The Impact of Deployment and Combat Stress on Families and Children:
 - Part I: Understanding Military Families and the Deployment Cycle
 - Part II: Enhancing the Resilience of Military Families
- Working with the Homeless Part 1: An Overview

To earn the certificate, individuals must complete the entire suite of courses and successfully pass a post-test on each course.