



Promoting Wellness and Recovery

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Addressing the Needs of Justice-Involved Veterans

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Analysis of Vet-Court Participants vs. Non-Vet-Court Participants (N=61)

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services oversees a statewide initiative made possible by a Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. As a result, Hamilton County implemented a veteran-specific jail diversion program named Project VETS. Designed to address the unique needs of the justice-involved-veteran population, Project VETS connects participating veterans to an array of mental health and addiction treatment and other supportive services. As a result of this program, a Veterans Treatment Court specialized docket was created to provide a structured and closely monitored diversion track for veterans who met legal and health-related criteria.

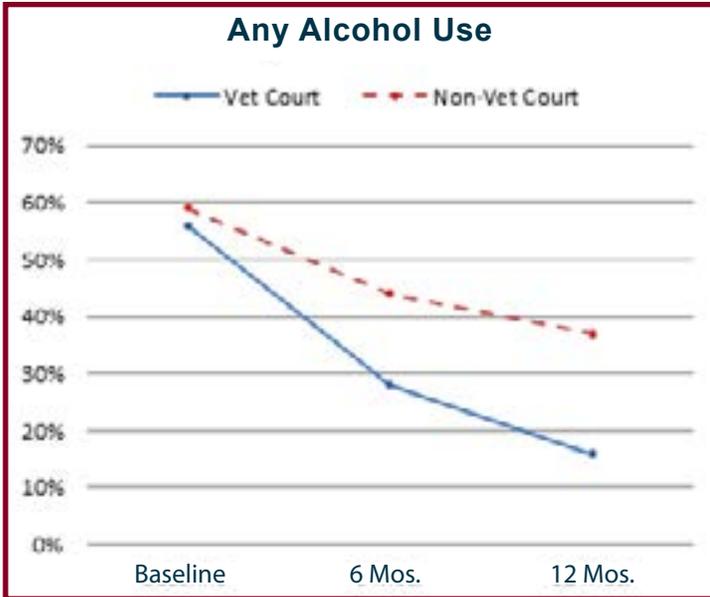
Staff in the department's Office of Quality, Planning and Research provide ongoing evaluation of Project VETS. For this analysis, 61 Project VETS participants at three intervals in the program – at the time of admission, at six months and at 12 months. Of these 61 vets, 33 received the Veterans Treatment Court diversion, and 28 received a less-structured diversion track that included linkages to other services. This analysis reflects the differences between the two groups in mean scores of outcome scales and recovery indicators.

Report Prepared by:

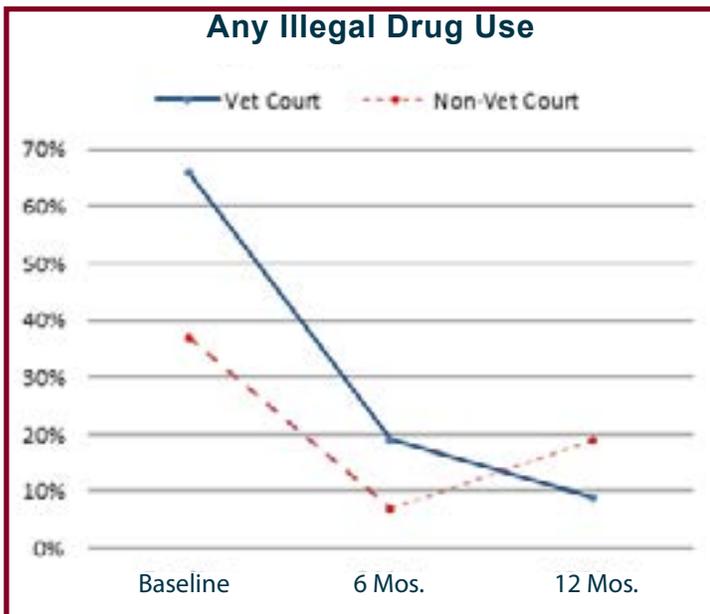
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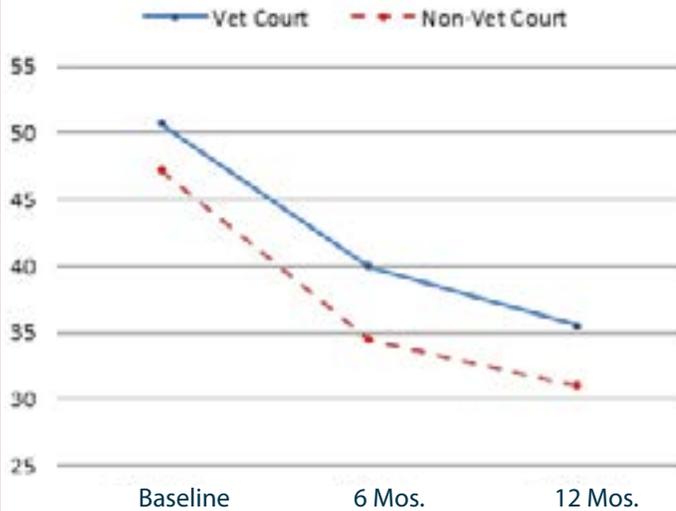


This graph represents alcohol use by the Veterans participating in the program. Around 60% of the Veterans reported alcohol use at baseline. However, Vet Court participants reported no alcohol use at a 20% lower rate than non-Vet Court participants at 12 months.



This graph represents drug use between Vet Court participants and non-participants. Vet Court participants reported 29% more illegal drug use at baseline. While drug use declined among both groups, the Vet Court participants saw a greater and more sustained decrease of about 10%, while non-participants increased to 20% after 6 months.

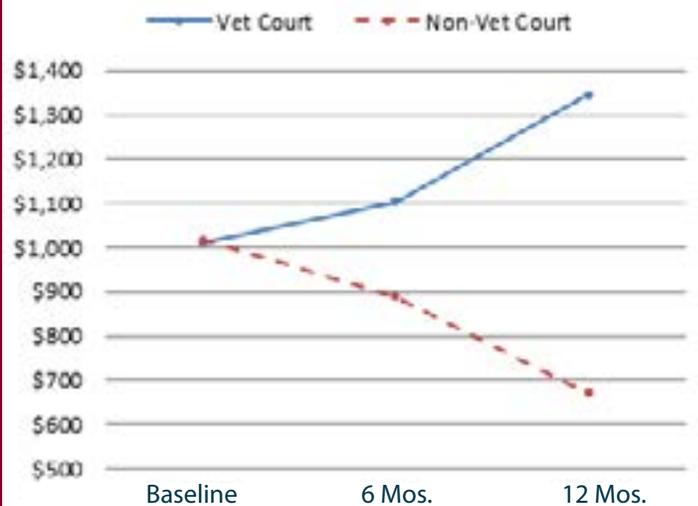
PCL-C Score (PTSD Symptoms)



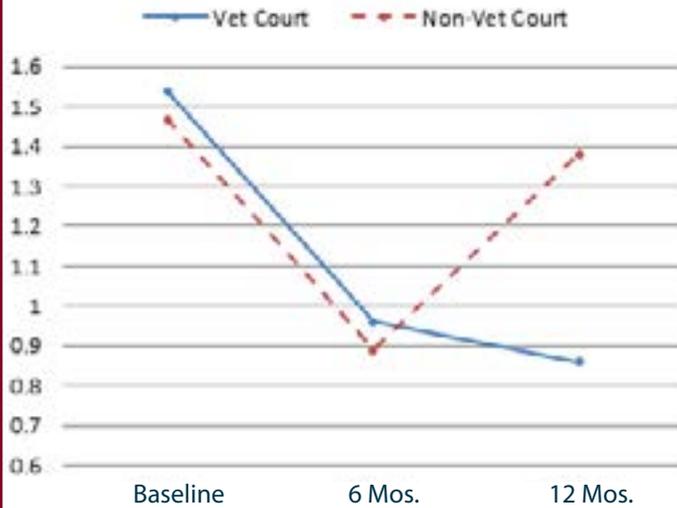
Both groups saw significant decreases in PTSD symptomology reflected by lower PCL-C scores. The Vet Court non-participants tended to exhibit lesser severity of PTSD symptoms, yet both groups made similar decreases in PCL-C scores. The majority of Vet-Court participants scored in the clinical range for a PTSD diagnosis. The average Vet-Court participant's scores dropped 15 points below the clinical range for a PTSD diagnosis.

Vet Court participants earned nearly twice in monthly income (\$1,346) per month after 12 months than non-participants, despite beginning with roughly the same monthly income of just over \$1,000/month.

Mean Monthly Income



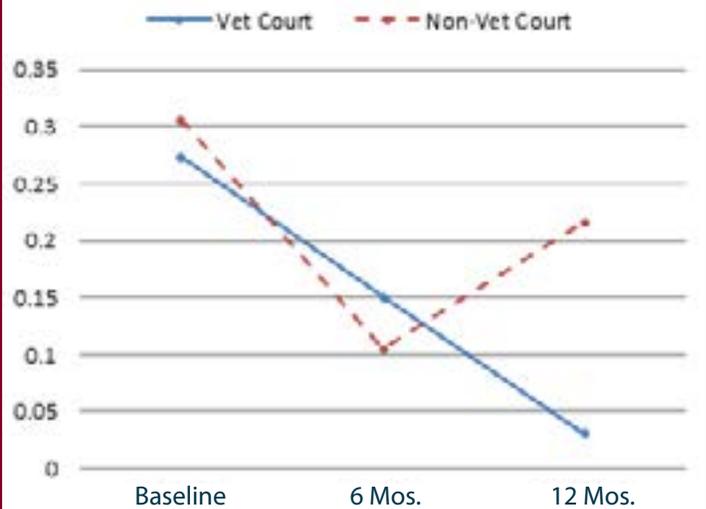
BASIS 24 Full Score Mean



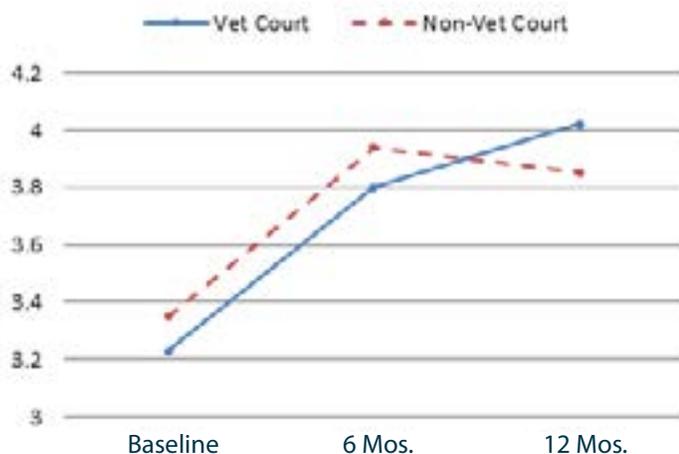
At baseline, both groups scored at the 'moderate to extreme difficulty' range (1.5) on the BASIS 24 Relationship subscale. Vet Court participants saw scores improve into the 'low to no difficulty' range while non-participants improved less.

The BASIS 24 Self Harm subscale measures suicidality, Vet-Court participants' mean scores improved more than non-participants'.

BASIS 24 Self-Harm Scale



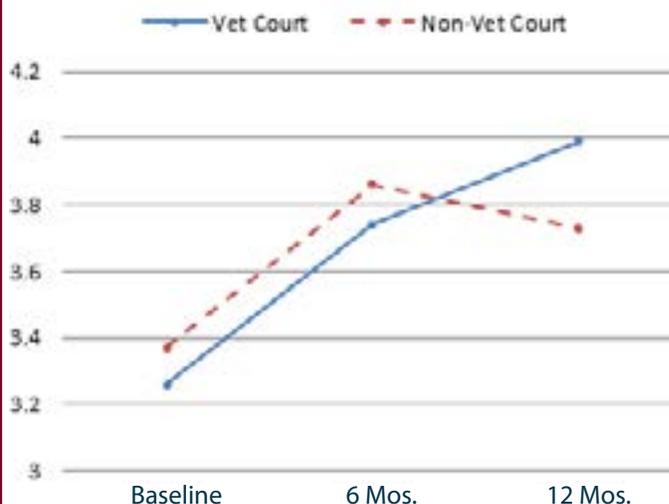
Social Connectedness Mean Score



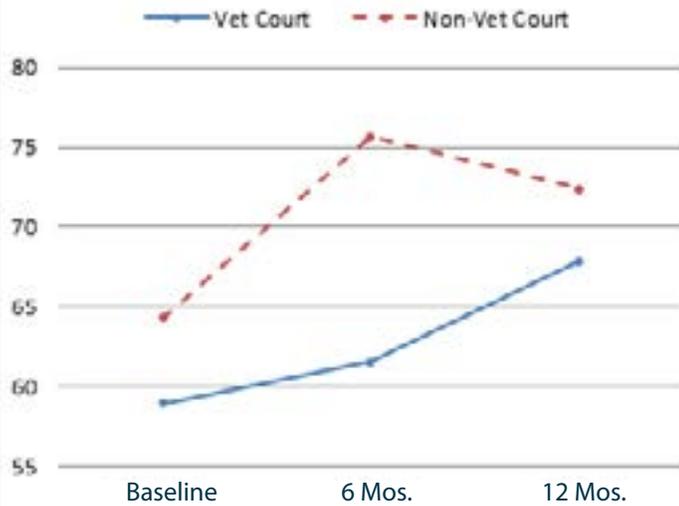
The MHSIP Social Connectedness scale measures the health of interpersonal relationships. Vet-Court participants experienced a larger improvement in social connectedness when compared to non-participants.

The MHSIP Functioning & Outcomes Instrument measures perception of recovery and improved mental health. Vet Court participants scores continued to improve over the year period, while non-participant's functioning decreased.

MHSIP Outcomes Mean Score



Short Form 36 Overall Mean Score



The Short Form 36 is a scale that integrates physical health and well-being with mental health and relationship elements. The Vet Court participants improved over the 12 month period, while the scores of non-participants evidenced a decline after six months.