



In 2007, it was recorded that 200,000 veterans were incarcerated in the United States accounting for 10 percent of the total population. When researchers and treatment providers started to screen the veterans that were incarcerated-it was found around 40% of those veterans had been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Veterans with PTSD have been found to exhibit additional hardships including but not limited to homelessness, income disparities, lack of problem-solving skills, aggressive behavior, memory loss, and much more likely at having relationship problems (Tsai, Finlay et al., 2018).

The first nationally recognized Veterans Treatment Court was established in 2008 in Buffalo, New York. As of 2016, there were a recorded 453 Veterans Treatment Courts across the country. On average this is 56 veterans Treatment Courts being established per year (DeAngelis, 2016). Pierce County District Court staff collaborated after finding there to be a need for a Veterans Treatment Court due to high rate of veteran's involvement in the court system.

According to the United States Census Bureau, Pierce County is resident to over 86,000 military service members and is home to the Joint Base Lewis-McChord military installation. The Veterans Treatment Court emerged in efforts to address and treat mental health disorders, substance use disorders and/or trauma.

Pierce County District Court Veterans Treatment Courts first docket is scheduled for December 12, 2018. You can view the partners page if you or a military member you know needs substance use, mental health and/or trauma services. If you would like further information regarding Veterans Treatment Court please contact the service members attorney of record or contact the court coordinator at 253-798-3456.

Resources

DeAngelis, T. (2016) Courts for veterans see exponential growth. *American Psychological Association*, 47 (11), 20. <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2016/12/courts-veterans.aspx>

Tsai, J., Finaly, A., Flatley, B., Kaspro, W.J., & Clark, S. (2018). A national study of veterans treatment court participants: Who benefits and who recidivates. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services*, 45 (2), 236-244.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5776060/>