

VA Mental Health Diagnoses reach Over 100,000

The psychological wounds of war continue to rise with the influx of returning veterans. As of October 2007, over **100,000** of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who have visited the VA and have been diagnosed with mental health disorders. For many of America's veterans, psychological trauma will be their longest battle.

Frequency of Possible Diagnoses Among OEF and OIF Veterans

Diagnosis (Broad ICD-9 Categories)	(n = 263,909)	
	Frequency *	%
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (001-139)	28,665	10.9
Malignant Neoplasms (140-208)	2,193	0.8
Benign Neoplasms (210-239)	9,129	3.5
Diseases of Endocrine/Nutritional/ Metabolic Systems (240-279)	50,968	19.3
Diseases of Blood and Blood Forming Organs (280-289)	5,086	1.9
Mental Disorders (290-319)	100,580	38.1
Diseases of Nervous System/ Sense Organs (320-389)	83,273	31.6
Diseases of Circulatory System (390-459)	39,633	15.0
Disease of Respiratory System (460-519)	49,464	18.7
Disease of Digestive System (520-579)	81,427	30.9
Diseases of Genitourinary System (580-629)	25,561	9.7
Diseases of Skin (680-709)	38,791	14.7
Diseases of Musculoskeletal System/Connective System (710-739)	117,424	44.5
Symptoms, Signs and Ill Defined Conditions (780-799)	93,093	35.3
Injury/Poisonings (800-999)	48,736	18.5

*These are cumulative data since FY 2002, with data on hospitalizations and outpatient visits as of June 30, 2007; veterans can have multiple diagnoses with each healthcare encounter. A veteran is counted only once in any single diagnostic category but can be counted in multiple categories, so the above numbers add up to greater than 263,909.

NOTE: N=the total number of OIF/OEF veterans who have sought services from the VA. These numbers EXCLUDE veterans who are ineligible for VA care or have not sought services from the VA.

Source: Veterans Health Administration Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards. "Analysis of VA Health Care Utilization among US Southwest Asian War Veterans," October 2007.