Ireland and Afghanistan Impact Report
January 2012

For this quarterly report Veterans for Common Sense (VCS) combines several government documents about U.S. military service members and veterans who deployed to the Iraq - Afghanistan war zone since September 11, 2011. VCS uses only primary source documents from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) obtained by VCS under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) on a consistent basis since 2006.

Military Deployments to War Zone 1
• 2,333,972 Total Service Members Deployed
  o 1,002,106 Number Deployed Twice or More to War Zone (43%)

Military Casualties in War Zone 2
• 112,019 Total War Zone Casualties
  o 6,324 Deaths (5%), Includes 309 War Zone Suicides
  o 47,409 Non-Fatal Wounded in Action (42%)
  o 58,286 Non-Fatal Medical Evacuations Due to Injury or Disease (52%)

Veteran Post-Deployment Healthcare Use 3 4
• 1,526,746 Veterans Eligible for VA Healthcare
  o 741,954 Veteran Patients Treated (49% of Veterans Eligible)
  o 385,711 Veterans with Mental Health Condition (52% of Patients)
  o 223,609 Veterans with Potential PTSD (30% of Patients)
  o ~ 9,700 Average New Veteran Patients Each Month

Veteran Post-Deployment Disability Claim Activity 5
• 1,526,746 Veterans Eligible for VA Disability Benefits
  o 676,774 Veterans Filed Disability Claims (44% of Veterans Eligible)
  o 158,238 Veterans Awaiting VA Decision (23% of Claims)
  o 119,446 Veterans with Approved PTSD Claim (53% of PTSD Patients)
  o ~ 9,500 Average New Claims Filed by Veterans Each Month
Estimated Long-Term Impact on VA

- ~ 1,032,000  Total New Veteran Patients, Dec. 31, 2013
- ~ 938,000  Total New Veteran Claims, Dec. 31, 2013
- up to $900 Billion  VA Healthcare and Benefit Spending Over 40 Years

Service Member and Veteran Suicide

- 541,360  Total Calls to VA’s Veterans Crisis Line
  - 314,059  Calls from Veterans from Any Period of Service
  - 7,152  Calls from Active Duty Service Members
  - 220,149  Calls from Others / Family
- 19,823  “Rescues” of Suicidal Veterans and Service Members
- 2,293  Active Duty Suicides Since January 2011
  - 298  Suicides While Deployed in War Zone
  - 1,995  Suicides After Deploying to War Zone
- Unknown  Suicides Among Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

Veterans’ Claims Pending at VA for All Periods of Service

- 1,131,556  Dec. 2011, Pending Veterans’ Claims and Appeals
- 568,711  Mar. 2003, Pending Veterans’ Claims and Appeals
- 562,785  Pending Claim Increase, Mar. 2003 to Dec. 2011

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6 VCS estimate based on current rate of 9,700 new patients per month.
7 VCS estimate based on current rate of 9,500 new claimants per month.