



SAN FRANCISCO COLLABORATIVE COURTS

updated May 2019

Veterans Justice Court

About Veterans Justice Court

VJC adheres to the principles of San Francisco's other collaborative court programs: a problem-solving focus, a team approach to decision-making, integration of social and treatment services, judicial supervision of the treatment process, community outreach, and direct interaction between clients and the judge. The VJC addresses the specialized needs of veterans facing criminal charges by providing substance abuse and mental health treatment, rehabilitation, medical assistance, education or training necessary for employment or meaningful activity, and support with legal issues so that clients can lead productive and independent lives.

- 400 veterans referred
- 185 graduates
- 59 not eligible
- 29 court terminated
- 66 opted out
- 21 bench warrant status >60 days

Population Served

- Veterans with criminal cases in San Francisco, regardless of residence location
- Client participation is voluntary
- Average age of clients is 49

Court Capacity*

- 50 active clients (including 10 voluntary participants)
- An average of 121 clients per year are seen in Veterans Justice Court
- 9- to 18-months estimated program length

How the VJC Works

- Candidate is identified in or out of custody and Veteran's military status is determined.
- If a client has full VA medical benefits, they are clinically assessed by Veteran's Justice Outreach Specialist through the San Francisco VA Medical Center. If they are without VA medical benefits, client is assigned to a case manager through San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project.
- Client attends court weekly at outset; frequency of court dates decrease with ongoing compliance.
- Client is linked to services and progress is tracked to maximize success and avoid incarceration.
- Client meets with Veteran Peer Mentor weekly to assist with goals and personal success.
- The VJC team reviews treatment plan, makes necessary legal and/or clinical adjustments.

Operations

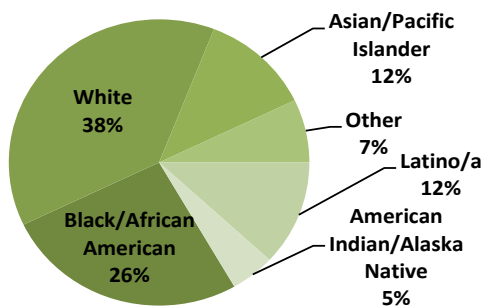
- The VJC operates at 575 Polk Street on Wednesdays at 1:30pm for the out of custody calendar.
- If you have questions or would like to schedule a visit to VJC, contact Allyson West, VJC Coordinator at awest@sftc.org

**All figures on this page represent clients during the time period of 4/1/13 to 3/31/19*

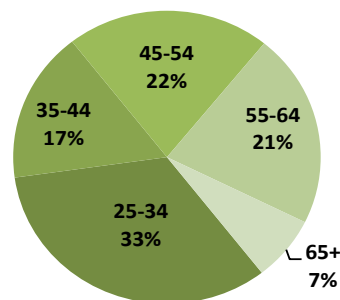
Veteran's Justice Court – 2018

In 2018, 42 clients entered VJC. Ninety five percent of new clients were male, 2% were female.

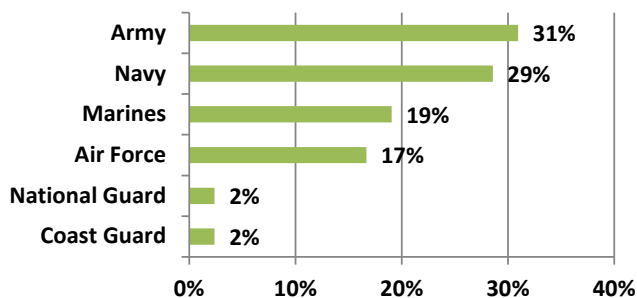
Race - New Clients



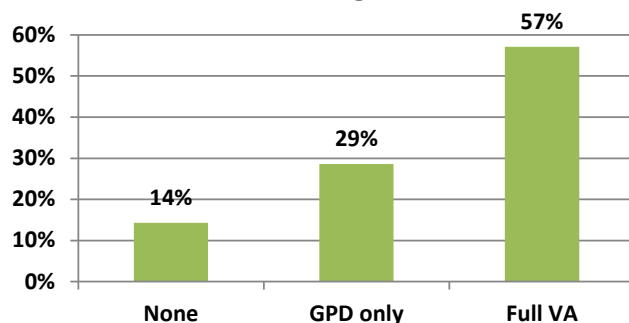
Age - New Clients



Military Branch - New Clients



Health Care Coverage - New Clients



Eighty three clients exited Veteran's Justice Court in 2018; **59%** successfully completed VJC.

- 2018 graduates spent an average of 309 days in the program
- 95% had a source of income at exit
- 88% had stable housing at exit

86% of all VJC Graduates have avoided re-arrest**

61% all time Graduation Rate

69% all time Retention Rate

**Represents graduates from April 2013 to September 2018; San Francisco County arrests only. Graduation and Retention rates calculated from April 2013 to March 2019.