

IDENTIFYING AND EXPLORING ARREST BEHAVIORS
AMONG VETERANS WITH HISTORIES OF
INCARCERATION: METHODS AND PRELIMINARY
FINDINGS FROM A PILOT STUDY

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Arrest Risk-Reduction Evaluation and Standardization Tool (ARREST) –Pilot Research Project

Problem: Arrest and incarceration can have a significant negative impact on Veterans' treatment, employment, housing, prosocial networks

Early identification of Veterans at-risk of arrest is critical to successful biopsychosocial interventions

STUDY GOALS

OVERALL STUDY GOALS

1. Increase our knowledge and understanding of Veterans lived experiences with incarceration through qualitative interviews
 - Addresses an identified barrier to successful interventions & rehabilitation produced by reliance on quantitative data
2. Identify key transitions and turning points that may be precursors to arrest (Life Course Theory)
 - **Transitions:** Specific events that take place over short time spans (i.e., starting new job, having a child, being incarcerated)
 - **Turning points:** Changes in an individual's life course triggered by positive events (i.e., marriage, employment, military service) and negative events (i.e., substance use, job instability, incarceration)

PILOT – QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTION FEASIBILITY

- Evaluate effectiveness of novel interview script
- Test the feasibility of recruiting and enrolling eligible Veterans
- Evaluate the effectiveness in identifying and capturing hypothesized Veteran-centric arrest behaviors

LONG-TERM OUTCOME/GOALS

ARREST Pilot Study is being used to support a Career Development Award (CDA-1) grant application

- Fully analyze interviews (qualitative data coding scheme + ATLAS.ti)
 - Identify and explore behaviors associated with arrest at more granular level
- Develop and implement survey instrument to capture identified themes across a larger sample

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK— INTERVIEW PROCESS

GROUNDED THEORY

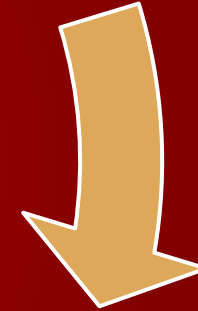
Grounded Theory: Identifying/developing a theory that is 'grounded' in the captured and analyzed data

- Simultaneous and iterative process of collecting and analyzing data captured through the interview process
- 'Saturation' of ideas/concepts

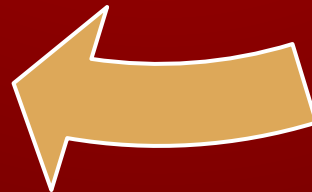
Compare with
Previous
Interviews



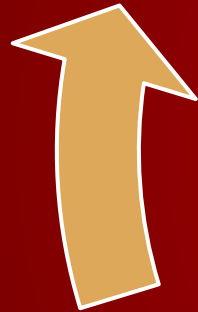
Conduct
Interview



Preliminary
Analysis



Identify
Categories &
Subcategories



PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM INTERVIEWS

16 Veterans interviewed

Transitions & Turning Points:

- Self-isolation
- Distancing from prosocial activities, peers, or networks
- Self-medicating with licit/illicit drugs in lieu of perceived ineffectiveness of prescribed psychiatric medications

Provide a more granular & nuanced understanding of arrest behaviors

METHODOLOGICAL THEME – FUTURE RESEARCH

EMPOWER/CENTER VETERAN IDENTITIES & VOICES

Empower and center Veteran voices

- All stages of the research process (i.e., recruitment – interview)
- Semi-structured interview process
- Allowed research to ‘discover’ new/unanticipated findings

Center Veteran identity and views

- Recruitment process – help other Veterans
- Establish trust with research and process (my Veteran identity as researcher)

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?