

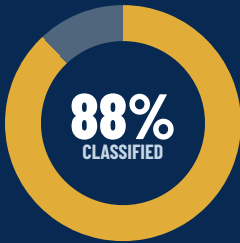


A primary-reason analysis of denied PTSD service-connection issues in published Board of Veterans' Appeals decisions.

STUDY POPULATION

34,720 DENIED SERVICE-CONNECTION ISSUES

PTSD issues coded under diagnostic code 9411 in the research dataset.



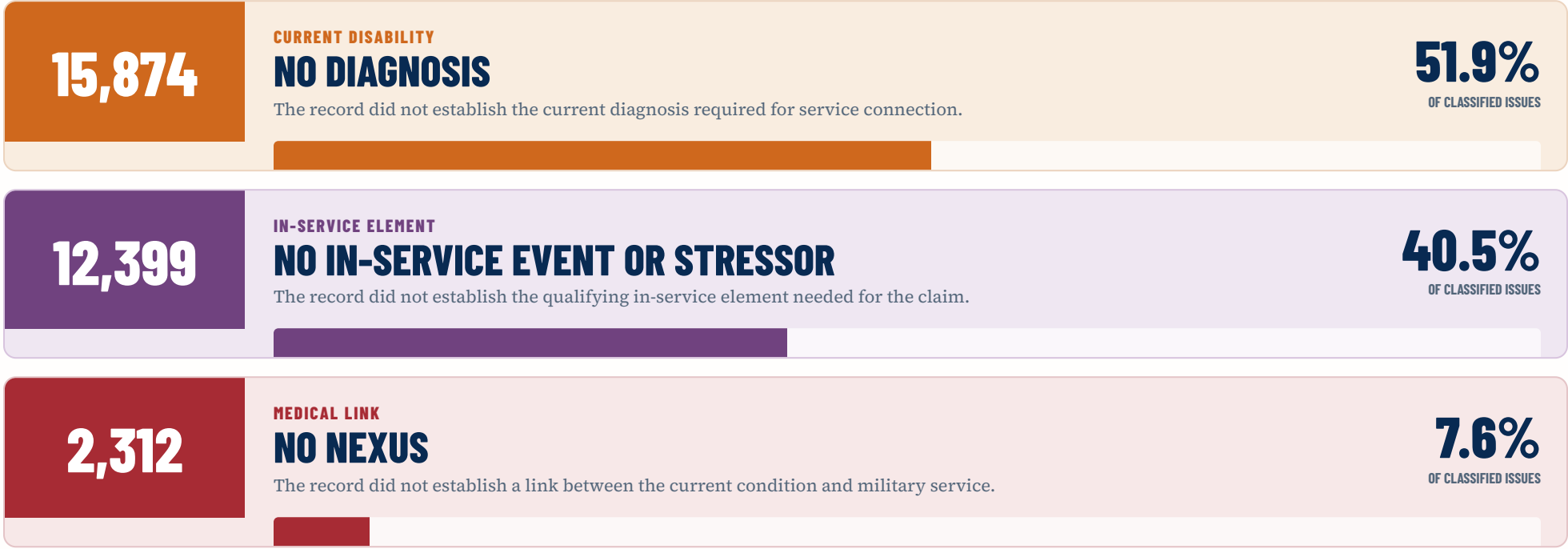
30,585

assigned to one of the three primary reason categories

PRIMARY REASON AMONG CLASSIFIED ISSUES

NO CURRENT DIAGNOSIS WAS THE LEADING BARRIER

Percentages use the 30,585 classified issues as the denominator.



51.9% VS 40.5% No current diagnosis was cited more often than No in-service element among classified denials, a gap of about 11.4 percentage points. Both remain common reasons for denial.

FULL DENIED POPULATION

WHAT CHANGES WHEN ALL 34,720 ARE SHOWN



4,135 UNCLASSIFIED ISSUES These were part of the denied service-connection population but were not assigned to one of the three primary categories. They remain in the denominator rather than being silently removed.

READ THE CHART CORRECTLY

THIS IS A CLASSIFICATION OF BOARD DECISIONS

One primary category per classified issue. The three classified counts do not overlap.

Issue counts are not unique veterans. One Board decision may contain multiple issues.

Board appeals are not initial claims. These results describe published appellate decisions and do not predict an individual claim outcome.



SOURCE AND SCOPE

RateMyVSO analysis of published Board decisions coded for PTSD under diagnostic code 9411. Data generated September 23, 2026. Drawn from a research corpus containing more than 1.9 million published BVA decisions. Chart-specific population: 34,720 denied PTSD service-connection issues.