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RATEMYVSO RESEARCH

EVIDENCE CITED IN PTSD BOARD DECISIONS

RESEARCH

How often three retained evidence categories were detected in granted and denied Board issues coded for PTSD.

WHAT IS COUNTED

DECIDED ISSUES CITING EACH EVIDENCE TYPE

Each evidence type has its own citation count. One PTSD issue may cite more than one category, so the rows overlap and cannot be added into a unique-decision total.

RANKED BY TOTAL CITATIONS

EVIDENCE DETECTED MOST OFTEN

GRANTED DENIED

1

STR

MILITARY MEDICAL RECORD

SERVICE TREATMENT RECORDS

72,633

DECIDED ISSUES CITING THIS TYPE

30,712 granted

41,921 denied

OBSERVED GRANT SHARE 42%

2

LAY

PERSONAL OR WITNESS EVIDENCE

BUDDY AND LAY STATEMENTS

68,987

DECIDED ISSUES CITING THIS TYPE

31,964 granted

37,023 denied

OBSERVED GRANT SHARE 46%

3

LIT

PUBLISHED MEDICAL MATERIAL

MEDICAL LITERATURE

3,126

DECIDED ISSUES CITING THIS TYPE

1,475 granted

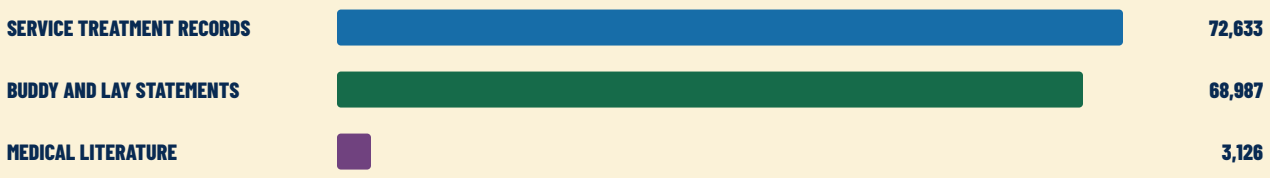
1,651 denied

OBSERVED GRANT SHARE 47%

CITATION VOLUME COMPARISON

MEDICAL LITERATURE APPEARED FAR LESS OFTEN

Bar lengths use service treatment records as the 100% reference.



ASSOCIATION IS NOT EFFECTIVENESS

DO NOT TREAT THE GRANT SHARE AS PROOF THAT EVIDENCE CAUSED THE OUTCOME

The evidence may support the claim, contradict it, or simply appear in the record. Claim theory, evidence quality, credibility, medical opinions, and other facts can differ across the groups.

INTENTIONALLY EXCLUDED FROM THIS DATASET

MEDICAL-OPINION CATEGORIES

Nexus letters, private medical opinions, and VA examinations were removed from this evidence-type artifact because one issue could fall into several overlapping opinion buckets.

- NEXUS LETTER
- PRIVATE MEDICAL OPINION
- VA EXAMINATION

RESEARCH BOUNDARIES

THREE WAYS TO READ THIS CORRECTLY

01 Counts represent coded PTSD issues, not unique Veterans.

02 Only granted and denied outcomes are included in this evidence artifact.

03 Published Board issues are appeals, not all initial VA claims.

RELEVANCE MATTERS MORE THAN CATEGORY. The useful question is what a piece of evidence proves in the individual record, not whether its label appears frequently in a database.

RateMyVSO.net
Research-backed VA claim education

Source: RateMyVSO evidence-types.json, PTSD diagnostic code 9411. Data generated September 23, 2026. Educational use only. Not legal or medical advice.

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