



A summary of the strongest descriptive findings from RateMyVSO's PTSD research. Every panel identifies its own population.

START WITH THE DENOMINATORS

THESE FINDINGS COME FROM DIFFERENT STUDY POPULATIONS

Do not treat the numbers below as if they were calculated from one universal PTSD sample.

172,640

PTSD issues scanned for selected stressor-proof markers

27,653

granted PTSD decisions in the symptom analysis

34,720

denied PTSD service-connection issues in the denial analysis

CLAIM THEORY

OBSERVED GRANT SHARE VARIED BY THEORY

Granted divided by granted plus denied within each coded theory group.



44.4%

DIRECT

n = 63,924



49.9%

SECONDARY

n = 9,644



86.3%

AGGRAVATION

n = 285

Small-sample caution: The aggravation group is much smaller than the other two groups. This is an observed appellate pattern, not a forecast.

GRANTED DECISIONS

NIGHTMARES LED THE DETECTED SYMPTOMS

Share of 27,653 granted decisions containing each selected term pattern.



Detected documentation frequency is not a symptom checklist and does not establish a rating.

DENIED SERVICE CONNECTION

NO NEXUS AND NO DIAGNOSIS WERE TIED

Primary reason among 30,585 classified denied issues.

51.9%

NO DIAGNOSIS

15,874 issues

40.5%

NO IN-SERVICE ELEMENT

12,399 issues

7.6%

NO NEXUS

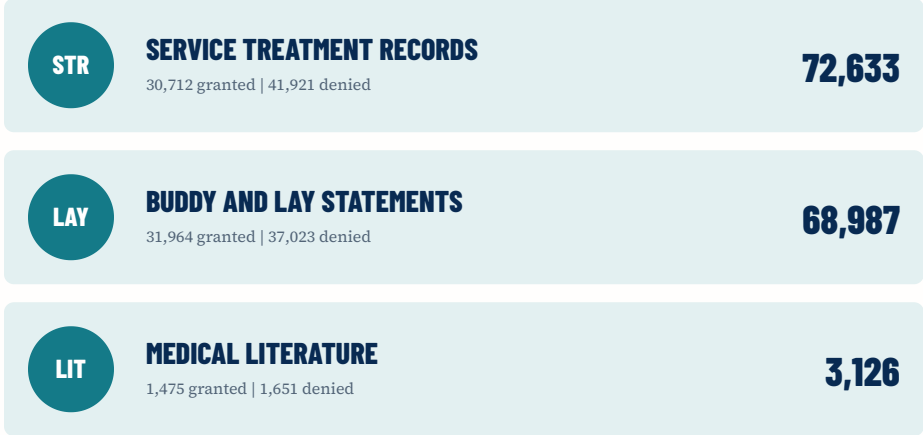
2,312 issues

Coverage: 30,585 of 34,720 denied service-connection issues were classified. The remaining 4,135 were unclassified.

EVIDENCE CITATIONS

MILITARY RECORDS AND LAY EVIDENCE DOMINATED

Decided PTSD issues citing each retained evidence category.



Rows overlap. One issue may cite more than one evidence category.

STRESSOR PROOF

CONTEXT, VERIFICATION, AND FINDINGS ARE SEPARATE

Selected marker counts among 172,640 scanned PTSD issues.



Markers overlap and do not form a complete stressor-type ranking.

THE RESPONSIBLE CONCLUSION

USE THE DATA TO UNDERSTAND PATTERNS, NOT TO PREDICT A CLAIM

Board appeals are not initial claims. They represent cases that reached the Board.

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

Detection is descriptive. A cited symptom, record, or marker does not prove that it caused the outcome.

