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The (Psychological) Cost of War - Infographic

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Abstract

Infographics are used to simplify complicated subjects or turn an otherwise boring subject into a captivating experience. This type of data visualization can be used as a tool to educate and inform audiences.

The following document explains the research plan for developing the infographic "The (Psychological) Cost of War." Often when we think of the cost of war, we visualize the fiscal requirements or even the casualties. However, research shows that there are major psychological effects on those in combat. This infographic will expose the true cost of war, the economic, the psychological, and how they intertwine.

Introduction

The infographic “The (Psychological) Cost of War” will be a narrative infographic that analyses both the monetary and non-monetary sacrifices of war. The purpose of this infographic is to reveal the cost of war for the individual as opposed to the nation. In 2012, the number of individuals in the military diagnosed with PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) jumped 50% and that’s only the reported and diagnosed cases (PTSD United 2013). According to National Institutes of Health, people with PTSD have among the highest rates of healthcare service use in the country.

“[PTSD] can occur following a life-threatening event like military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or violent personal assaults. Most survivors of trauma return to normal given a little time. However, some people have stress reactions that don't go away on their own, or may even get worse over time. These individuals may develop PTSD. People who suffer from PTSD often suffer from nightmares, flashbacks, difficulty sleeping, and feeling emotionally numb. These symptoms can significantly impair a person's daily life” (Military.com 2018).

Research Questions:

1. How many individuals are diagnosed with PTSD in the United States? How many of them are members of the military?
1. What services (if any) does the military offer to those impacted by PTSD and other mental disorders?
2. What are the statistics for race, gender, and class in the military?
3. What is the military’s hierarchical structure? How many individuals serve in the military?
4. What are the salaries/benefits of individuals in military?
5. What are the healthcare costs of individuals in the military? What are the costs for those individuals also diagnosed with a mental disorder? How do healthcare costs differ while on active duty and as a veteran?
6. What are the differences between healthcare costs for men and women in the military? Is PTSD more common in women or men and why? Are the same services offered for men and women?
7. How does PTSD affect a person’s daily life and their families? What are the symptoms? What are myths about PTSD? What does PTSD treatment cost? What type of research exists for PTSD? Is it well funded? If not, why?
8. How do different healthcare providers support those with PTSD? Is there more or less support under Tricare (military healthcare provider)?

9. How much is the current military spending? How is the money allocated?

Sources: The information will be gathered from various reputable sources including:

- dataworldbank.org.
- va.org
- usa.gov
- nationalpriorities.org
- sipri.org
- nimh.nih.gov
- data.gov.