

Justice-Involved Veterans: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Diagnoses and Treatment Use

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Operational Partners

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Poll

- Who is joining us on the call?
 - VA Researchers
 - Non-VA Researchers
 - HCRV/VJO Specialists
 - Criminal justice system partners
 - Treatment providers/clinicians

Roadmap

- Background
 - Justice-Involved Veterans (JIV)
 - Connection to VA services
- VHA Veterans Justice Programs
- Highlighted Studies
 - Study 1: Examining mental health and substance use disorder diagnoses and treatment use among HCRV and VJO Veterans
 - Study 2: Gender differences in mental health and substance use disorder diagnoses and treatment use among HCRV and VJO Veterans
 - Study 3: Access to pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder among HCRV and VJO Veterans compared to non-justice-programs Veterans
- Building Research-Operations Partnerships
- Developing Areas

Justice-Involved Veterans (JIV)

- 10% of the incarcerated population are Veterans
- ~146,000 released from jails/prisons each year
- 10-12% of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans have interacted with the justice system since returning from deployment

(Elbogen et al., 2012; Greenberg & Rosenheck, 2008; Noonan & Mumola, 2007; Rieckhoff et al., 2012)

Homelessness Common in JIV

- 30% of incarcerated Veterans have a history of homelessness
- Incarceration as an adult male is the single highest risk factor of ever being homeless (NSHAPC/Burt, 1996)
 - Disrupts social and family ties
 - Interferes with ability to maintain employment and housing

(Metraux, Roman, and Cho on prison reentry/jail stays, National Symposium on Homelessness Research, 2007; Tsai et al., 2014)

High Mortality Risk Among JIV

- 13x higher mortality risk during first two weeks post prison release
- VA benefits served as a protective factor for all-cause mortality

(Binswanger et al., 2013; Wortzel et al., 2012)

Less Connection to VA services Among JIV

- Jailed Veterans vs. Homeless Veterans
 - Higher rates of alcohol and drug problems
 - Half as likely to use VA outpatient services

Services	Jailed Veterans	Homeless Veterans
Any VA services	38%	84%
Mental health outpatient	30%	73%
Residential care	4%	11%
Medical and surgical outpatient	29%	60%

(McGuire et al., 2003)

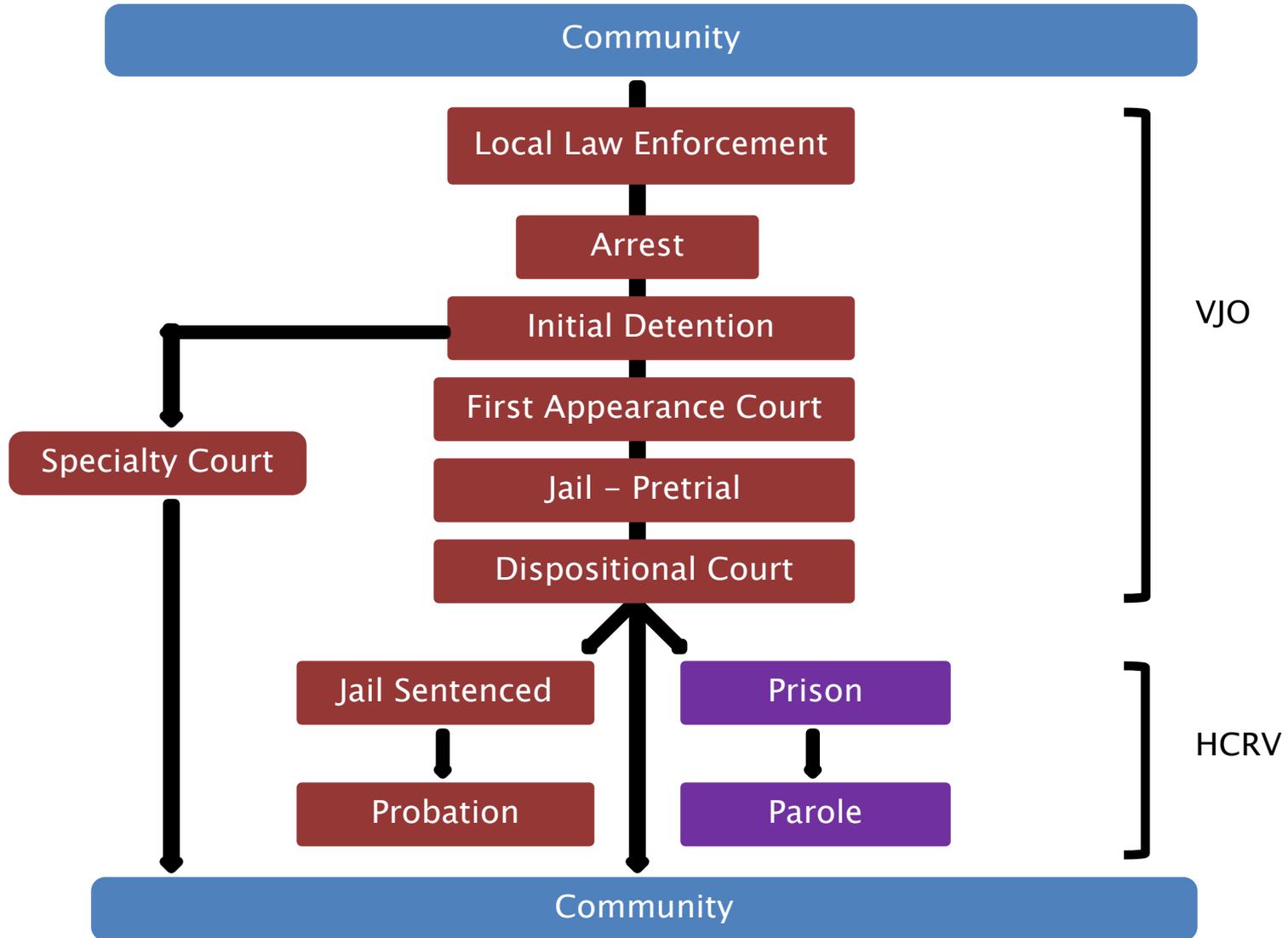
Poll

- Do you have familiarity with Veterans Justice Programs?
 - No
 - Yes, but I have not had contact with any Veterans in the Veterans Justice Programs
 - Yes, and I have contact with Veterans in Veterans Justice Programs

VHA Justice Programs: Mission

To partner with the criminal justice system to identify Veterans who would benefit from treatment as an alternative to incarceration. VJP will ensure access to exceptional care, tailored to individual needs, for justice-involved Veterans by linking each Veteran to VA and community services that will prevent homelessness, improve social and clinical outcomes, facilitate recovery and end Veterans' cyclical contact with the criminal justice system.

Sequential Intercept Model



(Adapted from Blue-Howells et al., 2013)

VHA Justice Outreach Services

Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)

- Gain access to the jail
 - Identify Veterans and Determine Eligibility
 - Conduct outreach, assessment, and case management for Veterans in local courts and jails
 - Provide/coordinate training for law enforcement personnel
 - Linkage to VA and Community Services/Resources
-
- Number of VJO Specialists funded: 248
 - Number of local jail facilities serviced: 1284 (39%) of 3,322 local jails
 - Number of Veterans receiving VJO services (through end FY 14): 87,000+

Health for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV)

- Gain access to the prison
 - Educate Veterans' groups about VA and VA services
 - Identify Veterans and Determine Eligibility
 - Reentry Planning
 - Linkage to VA and Community Services
-
- Number of HCRV Specialists funded: 44
 - Number of state and federal prisons serviced: 998 (81%) of 1,234 US prisons
 - Number of incarcerated Veterans receiving reentry services (through end FY 14): 63,000+

Justice Involvement and VA Health Care

- Can provide:
 - Outreach, assessment, referral and linkage to services
 - Treatment for justice-involved Veterans who are not incarcerated
- Title 38 CFR 17.38 (c)(5) does not allow VHA to provide:
 - Hospital and outpatient care for a Veteran who is
 - Either a patient or inmate in an institution of another government agency
 - If that agency has a duty to give that care or services

VHA Justice Programs: Strategic Goals

1. Improve Veteran identification
2. Build staff capacity/skill
3. Match Veterans to appropriate treatment
4. Reduce stigma
5. **Develop systems for evaluation, research & knowledge**

Study 1: Examining Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Diagnoses and Treatment Use Among JIV

- What are the mental health and substance use disorder treatment needs of Veterans involved in the criminal justice system who are served by HCRV and VJO?
- Are Veterans in HCRV and VJO with mental health or substance use disorders connecting to VHA mental health or substance use disorder treatment?

Study 1: Sample

- HCRV cohort: All Veterans with at least once instance of HCRV clinic visit (591 code) from FY08-FY12
- VJO cohort: All Veterans with at least once instance of VJO clinic visit (592 code) from FY10-FY12
- **Excluded if:**
 - Seen by an HCRV or VJO Specialist without a 591 or 592 stop code in the CPRS record
 - Ineligible for VHA services

HCRV = 22,712 Veterans
VJO = 36,358 Veterans

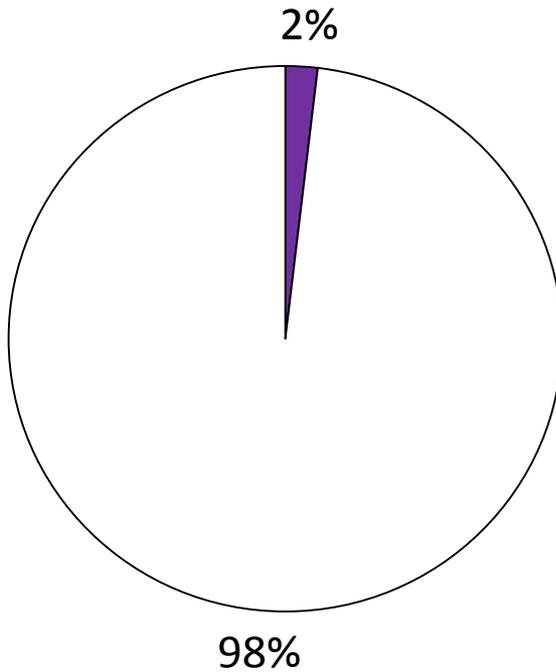
Study 1: Variables

- Sociodemographic characteristics: gender, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, residence, homeless, service-connected disability rating
- Diagnosis: mental health disorders, substance use disorders
 - 1+ instance of a mental health or substance use disorder ICD-9 diagnosis code in one year period after HCRV or VJO outreach visit
- Treatment use: mental health or substance use disorder outpatient, inpatient, or residential treatment; pharmacotherapy for alcohol or opioid use disorders
 - Entry: Any use of treatment in one year period after HCRV or VJO outreach visit
 - Engagement: 6+ outpatient visits or 1+ residential days in one year period after HCRV or VJO outreach visit

Women are Small Minority of JIV

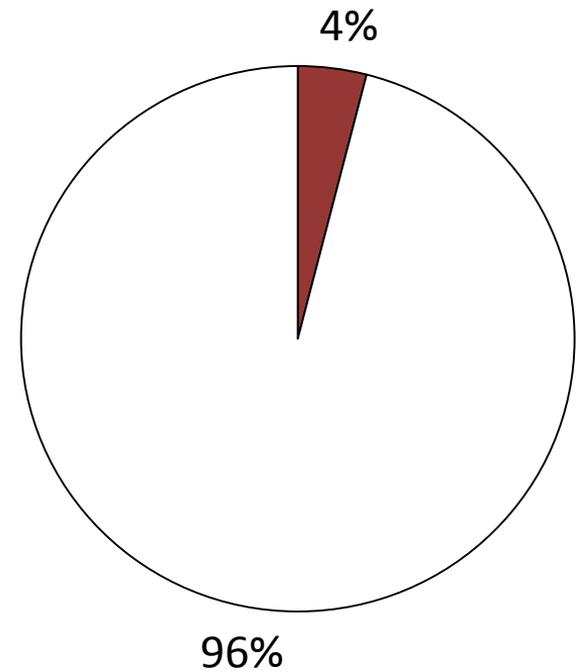
HCRV

■ Women □ Men

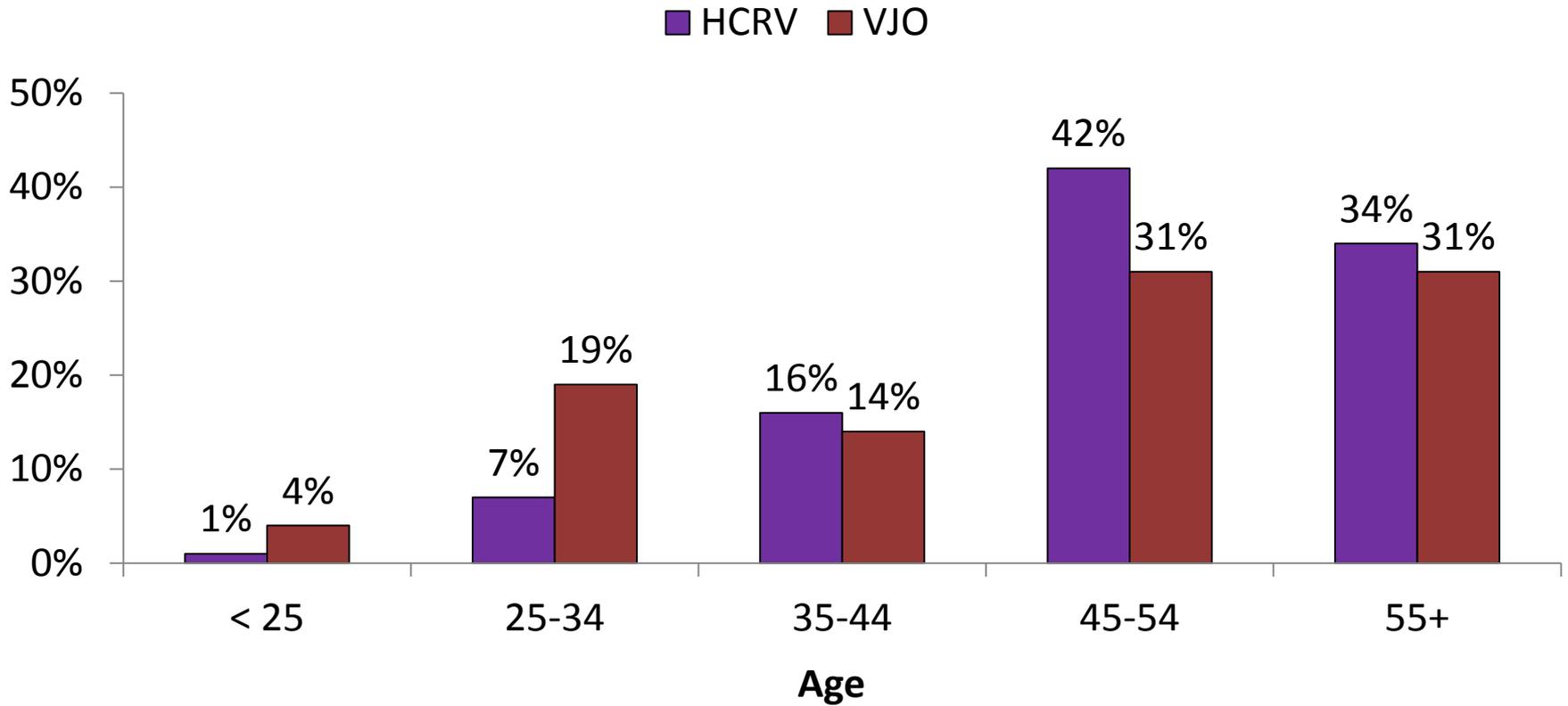


VJO

■ Women □ Men



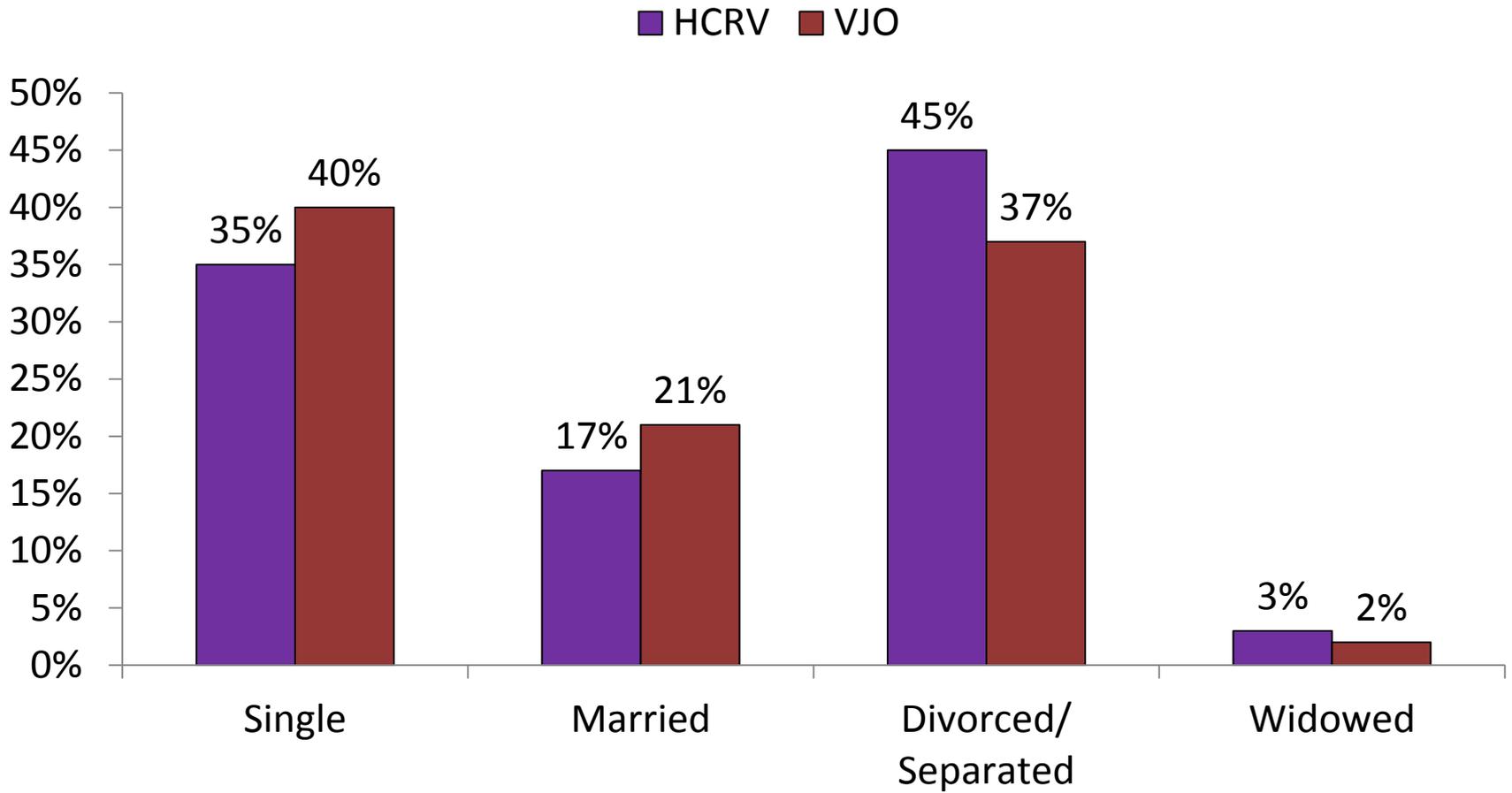
Most JIV are Age 45 or Older



Most JIV are Black/African American or White

Race	HCRV	VJO
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1%	1%
Asian	1%	1%
Black/African American	39%	32%
White	54%	59%
Ethnicity	HCRV	VJO
Hispanic	5%	7%

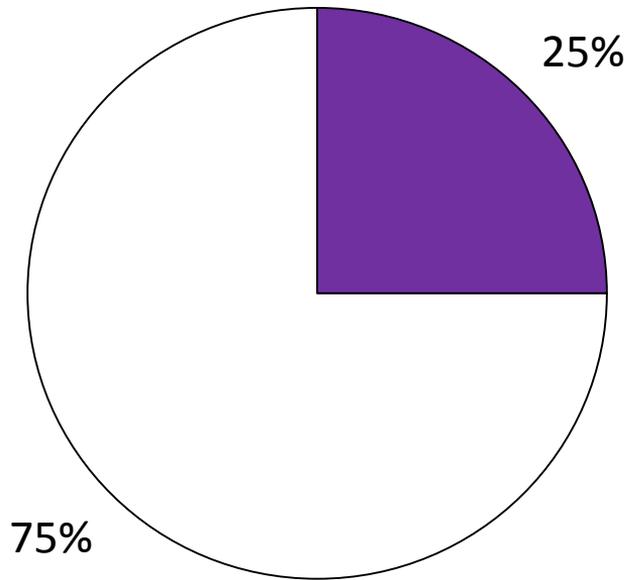
Few JIV are Married



> 20% of JIV Live in Rural Areas

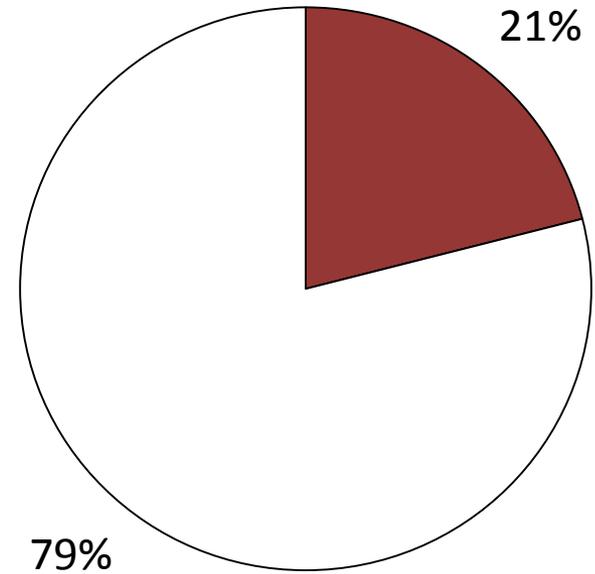
HCRV

■ Rural □ Urban



VJO

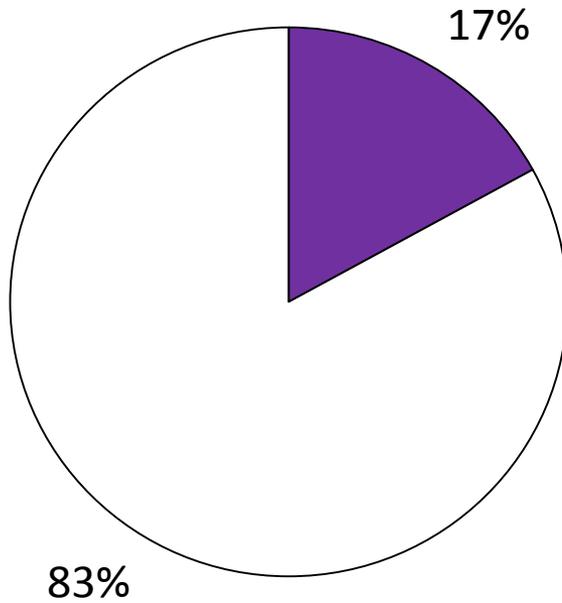
■ Rural □ Urban



Many JIV are Homeless

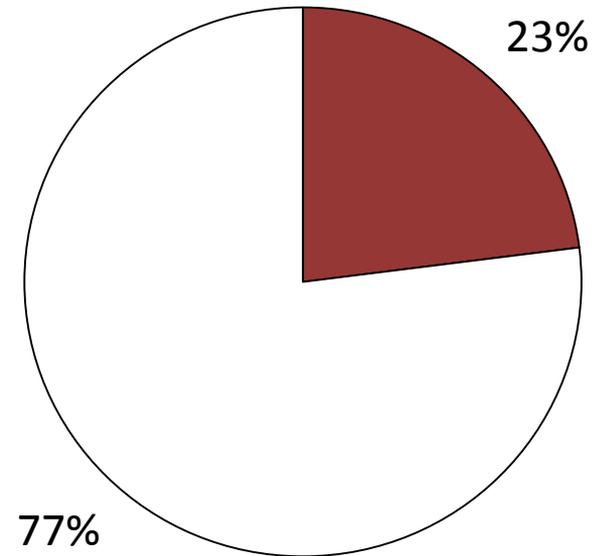
HCRV

■ Homeless



VJO

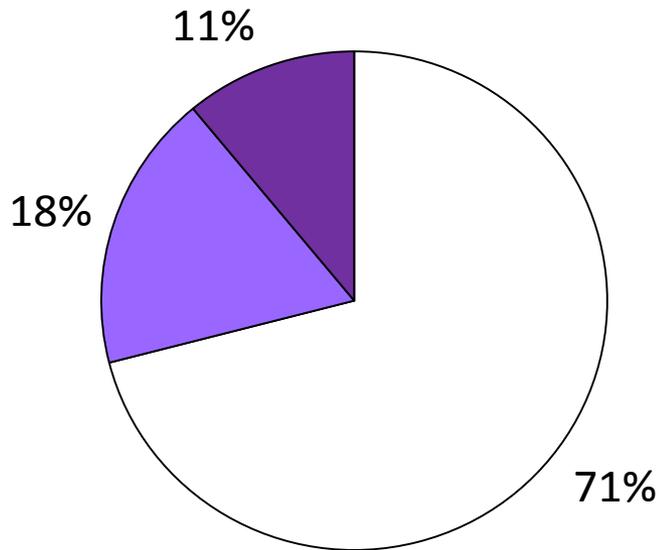
■ Homeless



< 50% of JIV have a Service-Connected Disability Rating

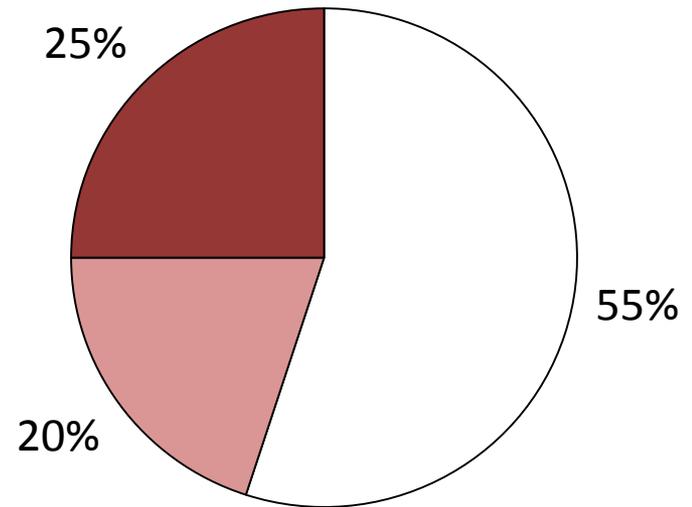
HCRV

□ None ■ < 50 SC ■ ≥ 50 SC



VJO

□ None ■ < 50 SC ■ ≥ 50 SC



Majority of JIV have a Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder

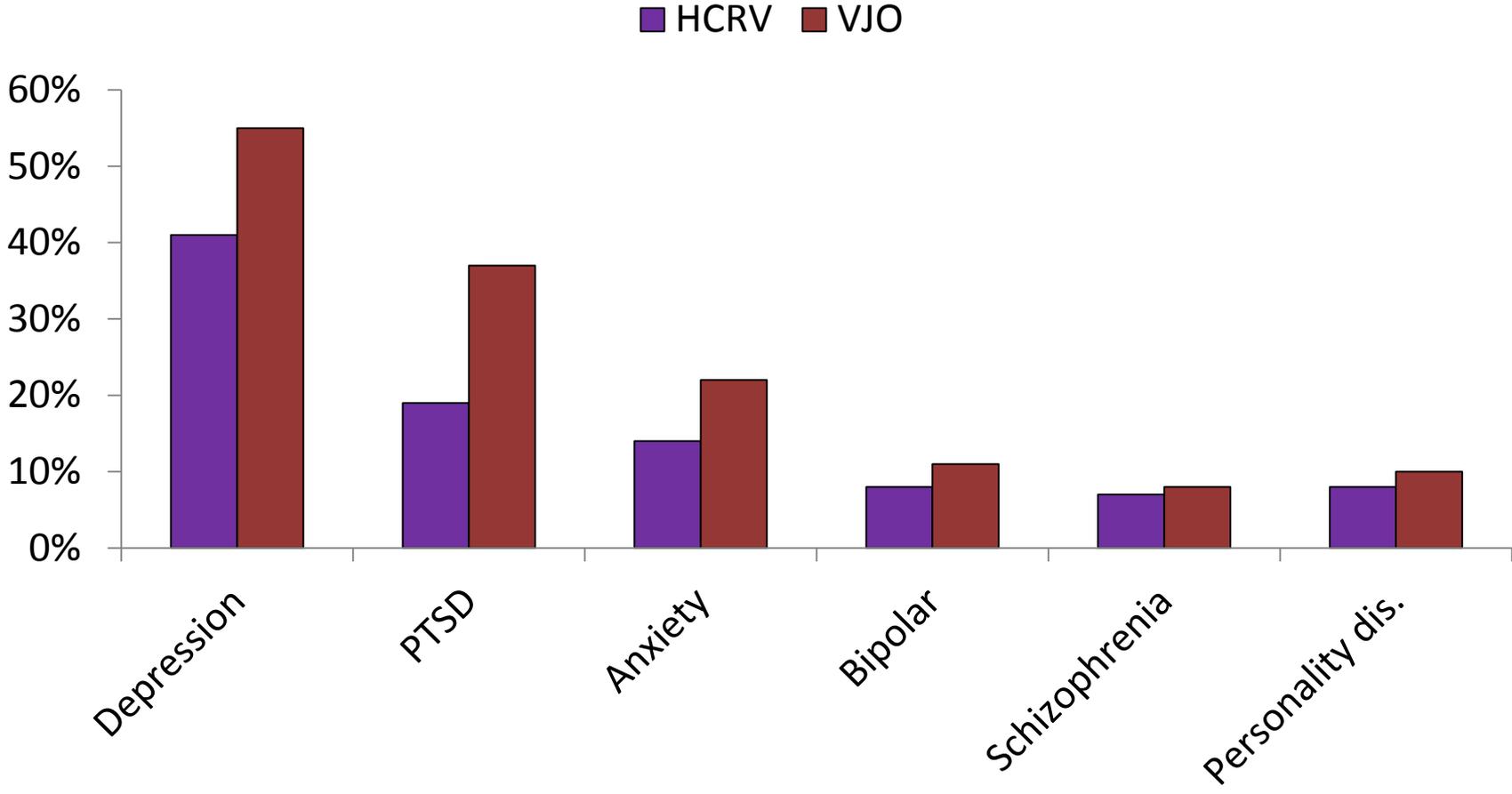
Diagnosis	HCRV	VJO
No mental health or substance use disorders	27%	10%
Mental health disorder	56%	77%
Substance use disorder	55%	71%
Dual (mental health + substance use disorders)	39%	58%

HCRV: n = 13,468 (59% of initial sample); VJO: N= 32,012 (88% of the initial sample)

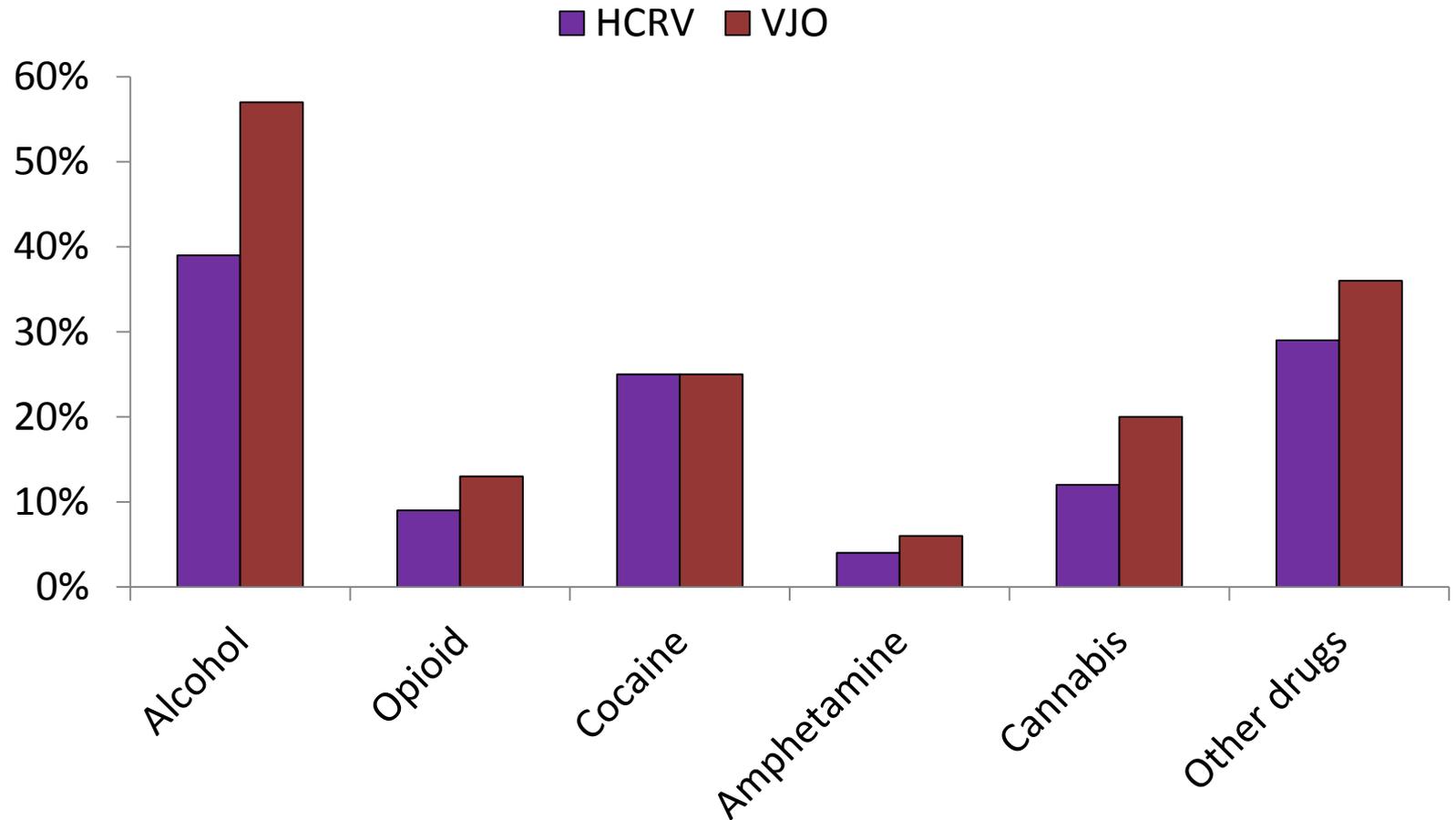
Mental health disorders: Depressive disorders, PTSD, anxiety, bipolar, schizophrenia, personality disorders.

Substance use disorders: Alcohol, opioid, cocaine, amphetamine, cannabis, sedative, and other drug use disorders.

Mental Health Disorders are Common



Substance Use Disorders are Common



Most JIV Entered Mental Health Treatment and Majority Entered Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Mental health treatment among JIV with mental health disorders	HCRV	VJO
Entry	93%	97%
Engagement	64%	78%
Substance use disorder treatment among JIV with substance use disorders	HCRV	VJO
Entry	57%	72%
Engagement	37%	54%
Pharmacotherapy for alcohol use disorder	5%	11%
Pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder	12%	20%

Study 1: Summary

- Mental health and substance use disorder treatment needs are substantial
- HCRV and VJO programs are linking a majority of Veterans with mental health and substance use disorder treatment
- Entry and engagement in substance use disorder treatment may represent a window of opportunity for program enhancements

Questions?

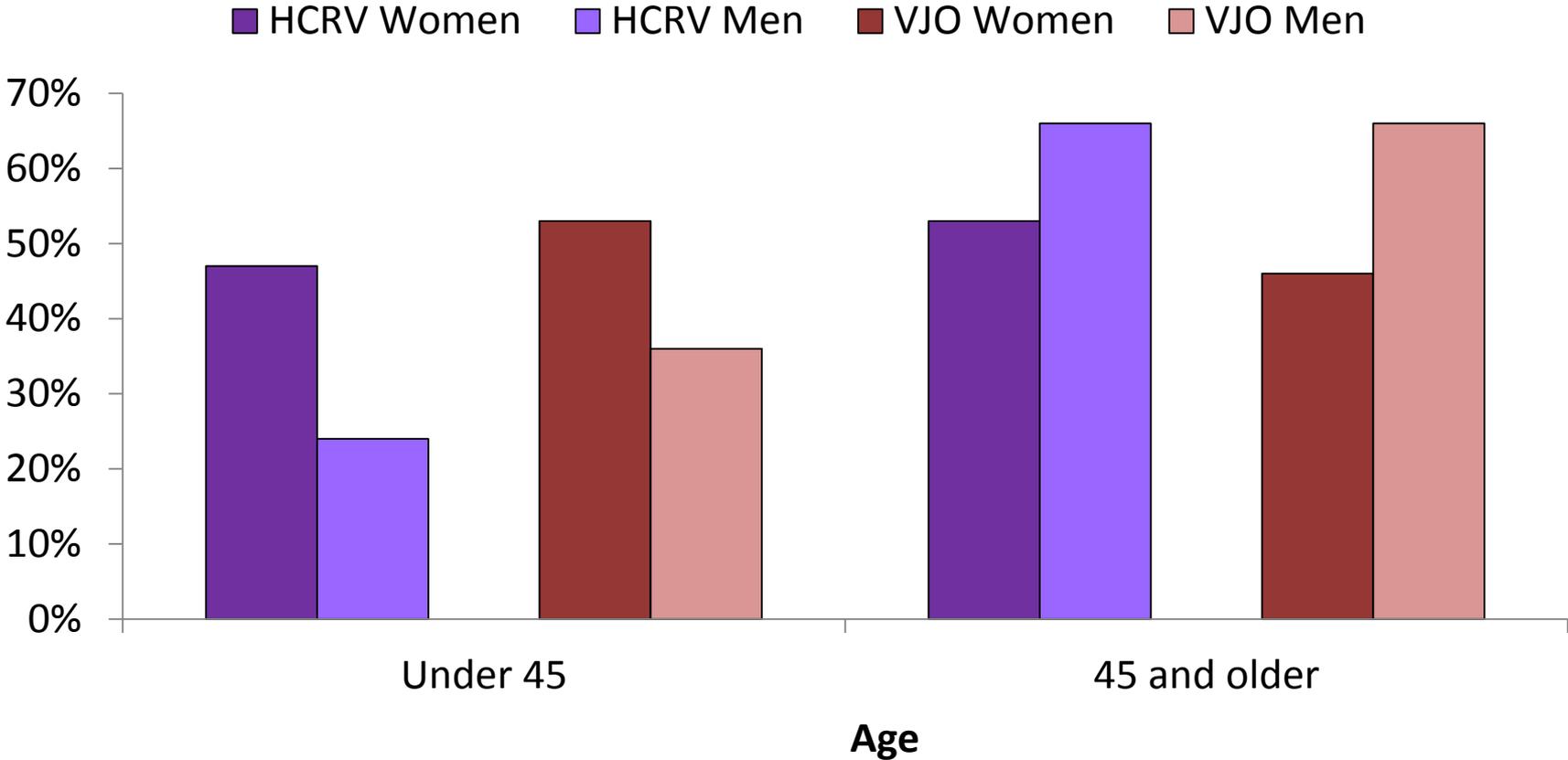
Study 2: Gender Differences in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Diagnoses and Treatment Use Among HCRV and VJO Veterans

- Do the mental health and substance use disorder treatment needs of Veterans in contact with the HCRV or VJO programs differ by gender?
- Same cohort as Study 1

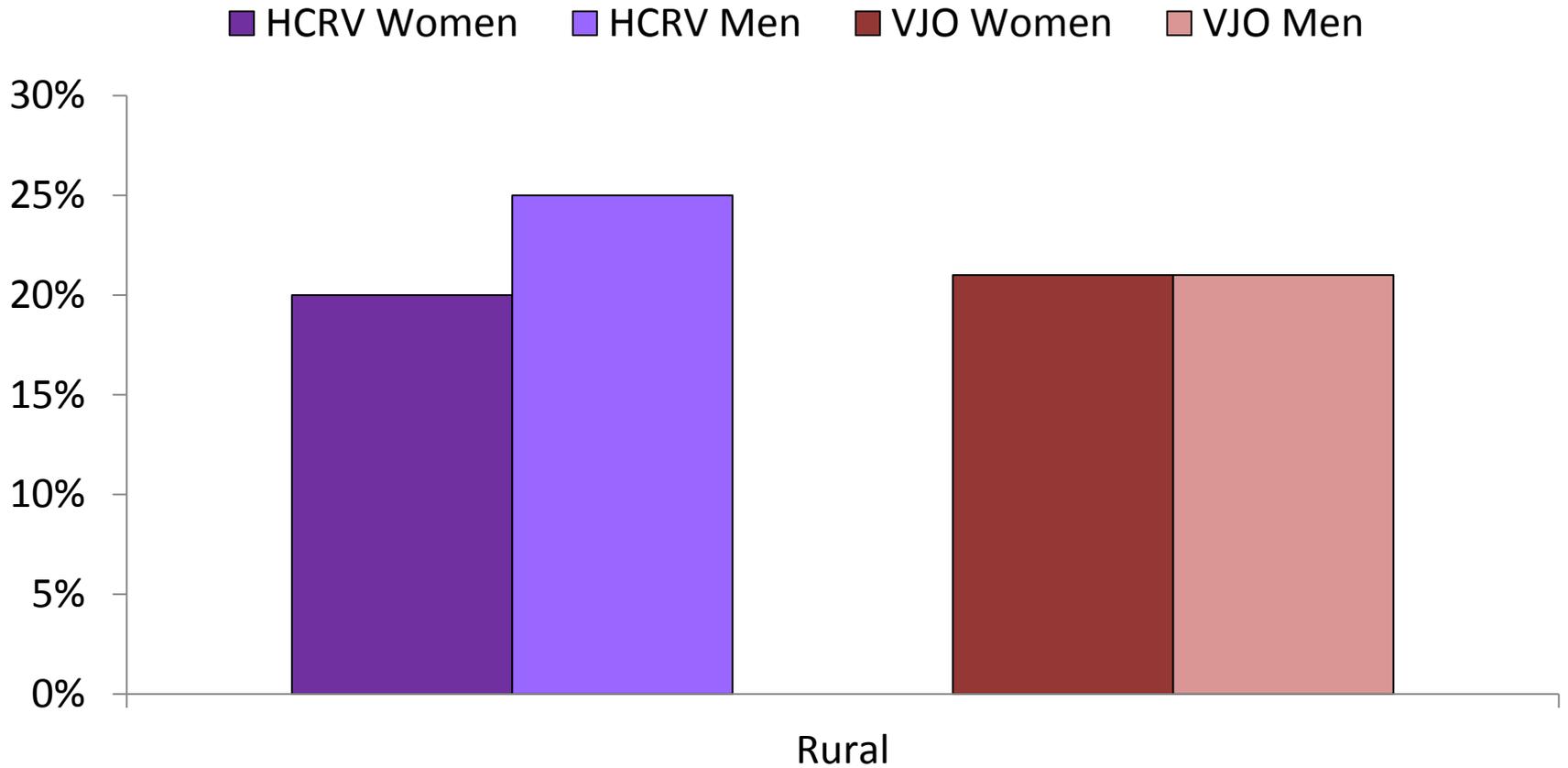
Women = 425 (2%)
Men = 22,287 (98%)

Women = 1,621 (4%)
Men = 34,737 (96%)

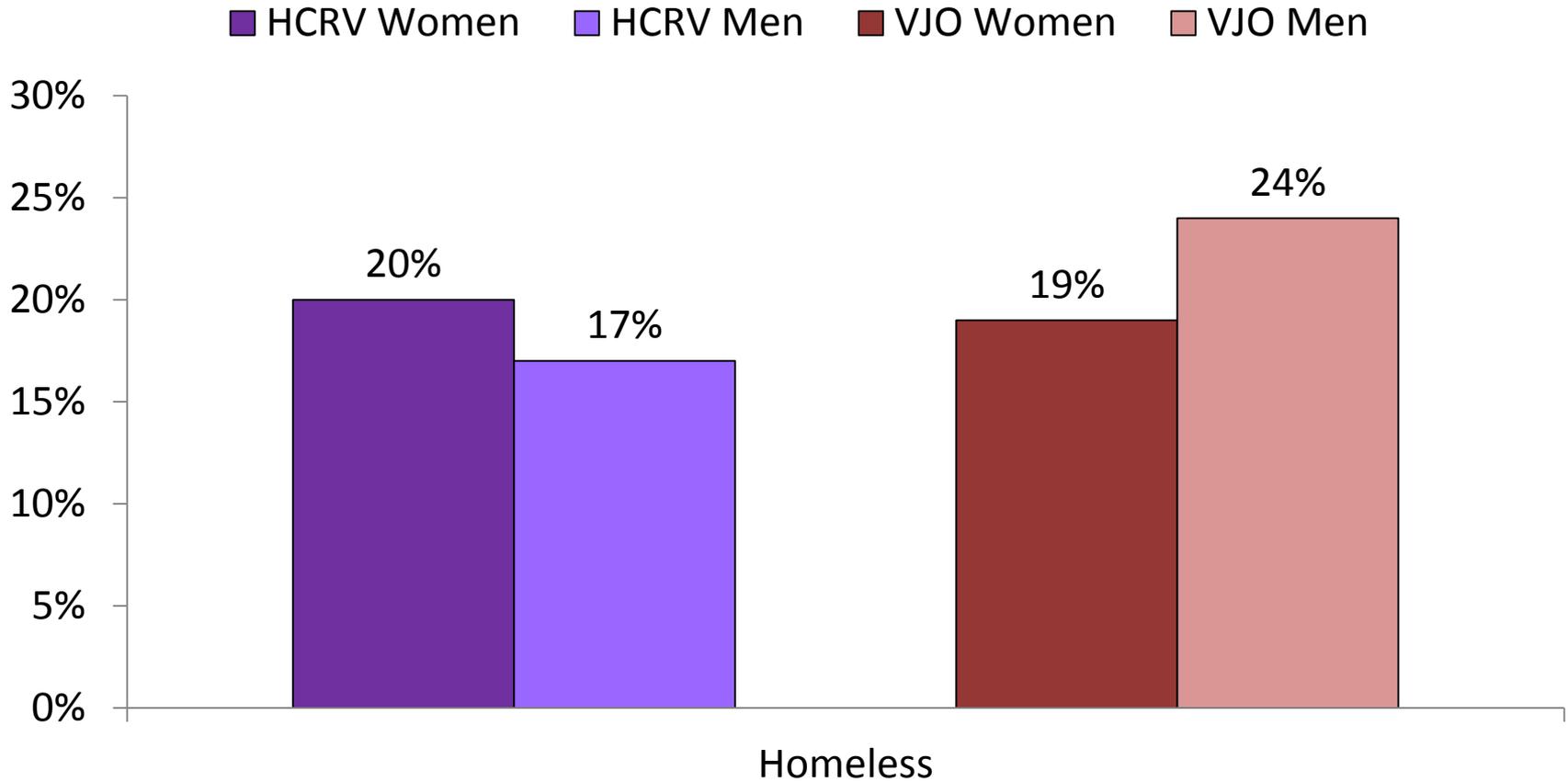
Women are Younger than Men



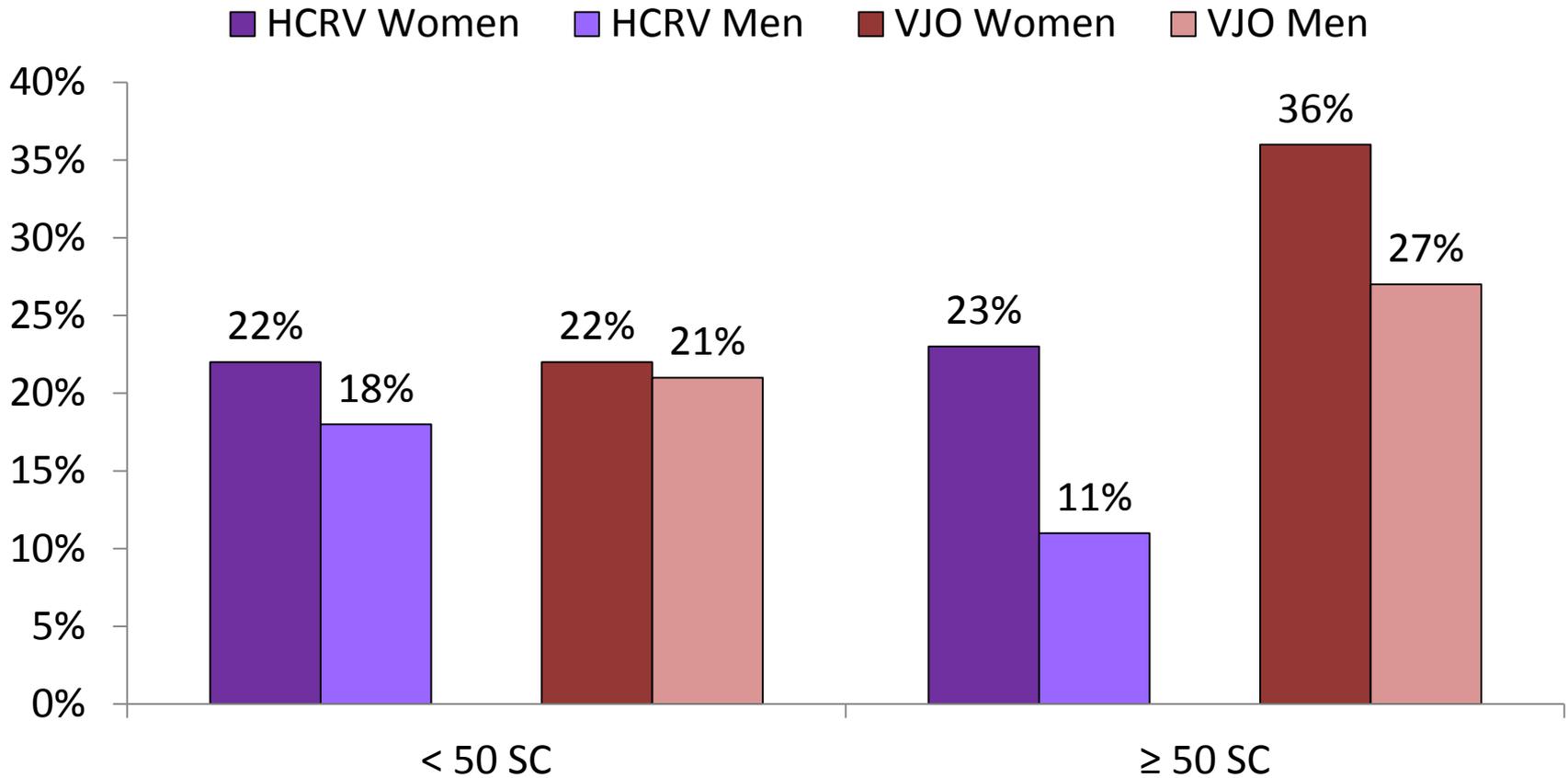
Higher % of HCRV Men are Live in Rural Areas



Homelessness Varies Less for Women



Higher % of Women have a Service-Connected Disability Rating



Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders are Common

Diagnosis	HCRV Women	HCRV Men	VJO Women	VJO Men
No MHD or SUD	17%	28%	8%	10%
MHD	76%	56%	88%	76%
SUD	51%	55%	58%	72%
Dual (MHD+ SUD)	44%	38%	55%	58%

HCRV: 324 women (76% of initial sample); 13,144 men (59% of initial sample).

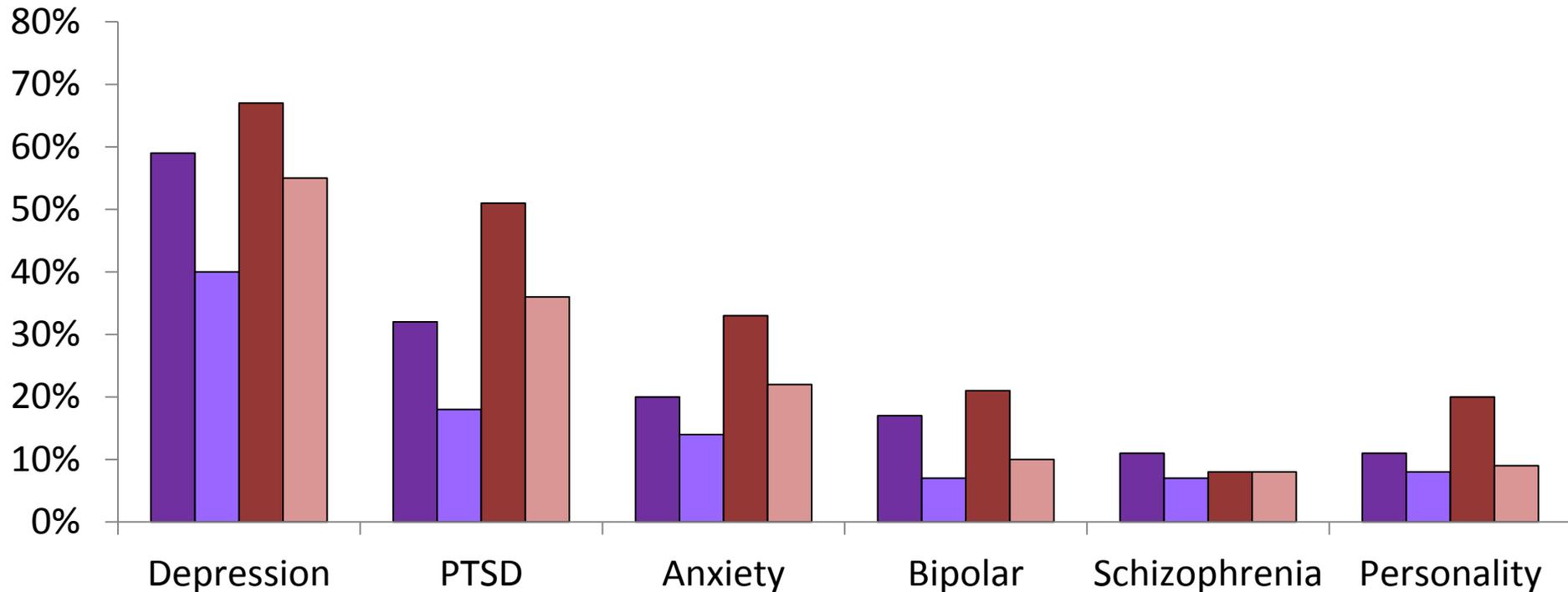
VJO: N= 1,535 women (95% of initial sample); 30,478 men (88% of initial sample).

Mental health disorders: Depressive disorders, PTSD, anxiety, bipolar, schizophrenia, personality disorders.

Substance use disorders: Alcohol, opioid, cocaine, cannabis, and other drug use disorders.

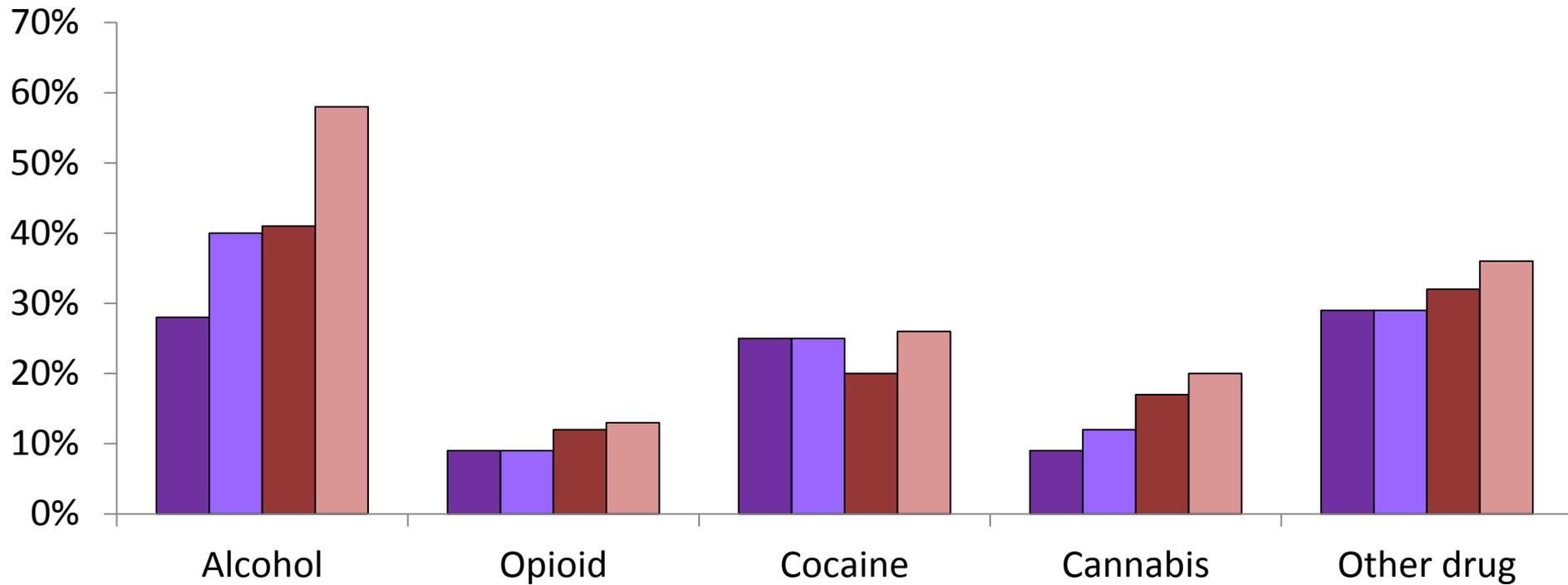
Higher Prevalence of Mental Health Disorders Among Women

HCRV Women HCRV Men VJO Women VJO Men



Lower Prevalence of Substance Use Disorders Among Women

HCRV Women HCRV Men VJO Women VJO Men



More Women Enter and Engage in Treatment

JIVs with mental health disorders	HCRV Women	HCRV Men	VJO Women	VJO Men
Entry - mental health	96%	93%	98%	97%
Engagement – mental health	72%	64%	84%	77%
JIVs with substance use disorders	HCRV Women	HCRV Men	VJO Women	VJO Men
Entry - SUD	62%	57%	75%	54%
Engagement - SUD	41%	37%	56%	53%
Pharmacotherapy for alcohol use disorder	8%	5%	22%	10%
Pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder	20%	11%	18%	20%

Study 2: Summary

- Women have a higher prevalence of mental health disorders.
- Women have a lower prevalence of substance use disorders.
- Women enter and engage in mental health and substance use disorder treatment at higher rates than men.
- Entry and engagement in substance use disorder treatment may represent a window of opportunity for program enhancements for both women and men.

Questions?

Study 3: Access to pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder among HCRV and VJO Veterans compared to non-justice-program Veterans

- Among Veterans diagnosed with opioid use disorder, does access to pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder (i.e., methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone) vary by justice status?
- Retrospective cohort of Veterans in FY2012 who had an opioid use disorder diagnosis

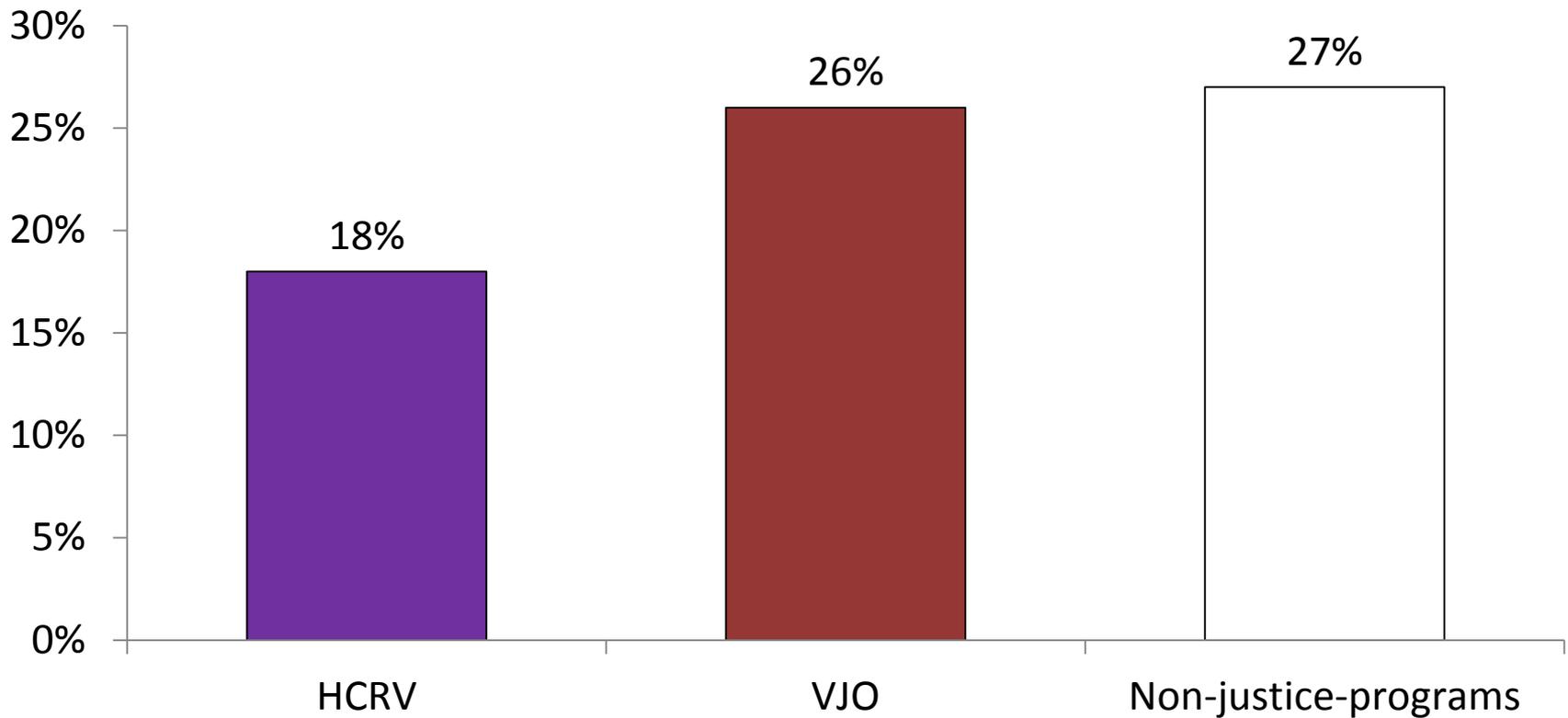
HCRV Veterans = 1,245

VJO Veterans = 3,972

Non-justice-program Veterans = 48,168

Receipt of Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder

■ HCRV ■ VJO □ Non-justice-programs



HCRV and VJO Veterans have Lower Odds of Receiving Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder

Odds of receiving treatment	HCRV	VJO
Pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder	0.66 (0.57-0.78)	0.88 (0.81-0.96)
Outpatient	2.19 (2.07-2.31)	3.99 (3.86-4.14)
Residential	1.39 (1.25-1.55)	2.11 (2.00-2.23)
Pharmacotherapy for alcohol use disorder	1.03 (0.93-1.15)	1.47 (1.39-1.55)

Study 3: Summary

- Veterans in HCRV or VJO are facing barriers to accessing pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder compared to non-justice-program Veterans.
- Increasing receipt of pharmacotherapy for opioid use disorder for Veterans in HCRV and VJO is an important quality improvement target.

Building Partnerships Between Research and Operations

- Long timeframe
- Dynamic partnership
- Clinical education
- Operational needs

VJP Program – Developing Areas

Program Evaluation

Police Intervention Skill Development

Treatment Targeting Recidivism Risk

Trauma Treatment Training of Prison Staff

Telejustice

Child Support Assistance/Legal Support

Employment

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Centers of Innovation (COINs)

- Center for Innovation to Implementation (Ci2i):
<http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/centers/ci2i.cfm>
- All COINs: <http://www.hsrdr.research.va.gov/centers/default.cfm>

Veterans Justice Programs

- Veterans Justice Outreach: <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/VJO.asp>
- Health Care for Reentry Veterans: <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/Reentry.asp>

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