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**ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Veterans in the Maricopa County  
Arrestee Population: Prevalence,  
Problems and Implications**

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**ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY**

***Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety***

# Background

- Prevalence of mental health problems among returning Veterans (Iraq and Afghanistan)
  - 1 in 8 suffers from PTSD (AP, 2004)
  - 15-20% of frontline infantry experienced traumatic brain injury (TBI; Hoge et al. 2008)
- The # of returning veterans to Maricopa County is likely to increase dramatically in the next 2 yrs

# The Problem

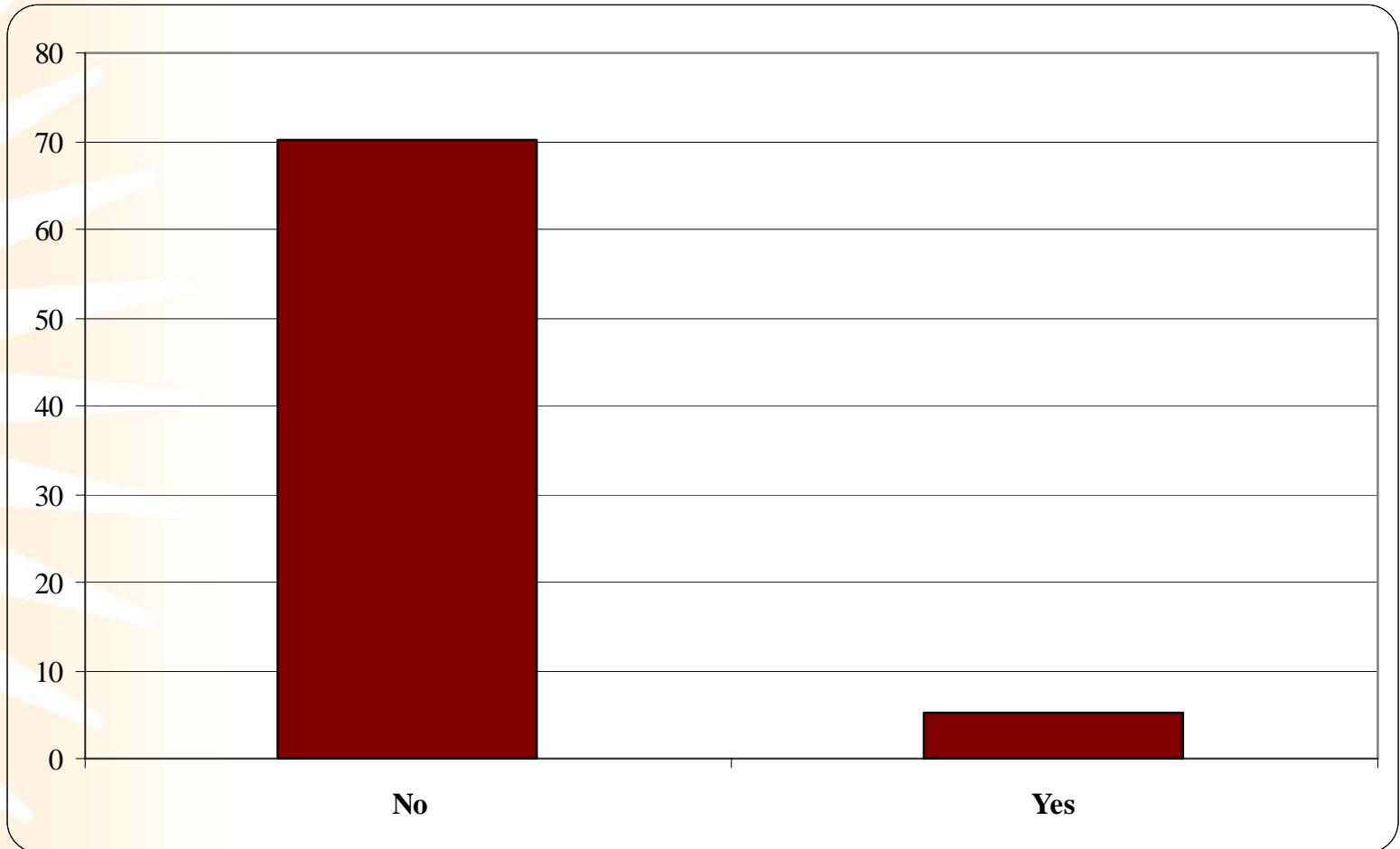
- Links between these issues, substance abuse and other forms of anti-social behavior unknown
- Well-established literature on how mentally ill find themselves in the CJ system
- The movement to create Veterans Courts
  - Applying drug court model to special problem of veterans in the CJ system
  - Buffalo (NY) and a handful of others
  - The Maricopa County Exploratory Committee

# Using the AARIN Platform

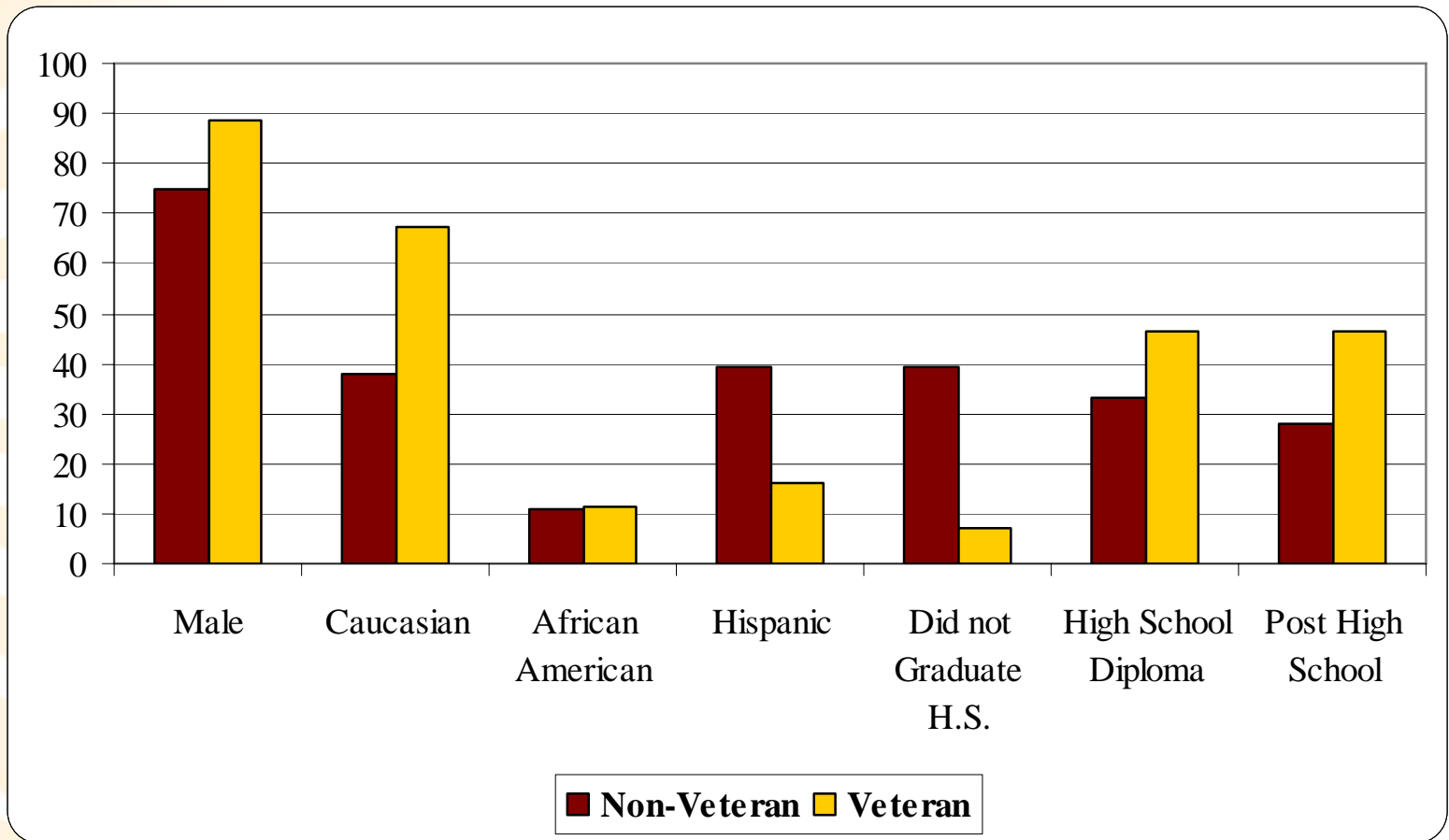
- Little available data on veterans to inform the work of the Exploratory Committee
- **The Veterans Addendum**
  - Series of questions on military service and service-related problems (post-discharge)
  - First Quarter 2009: 617 completed AARIN interviews

# Preliminary Findings: Veterans Addendum

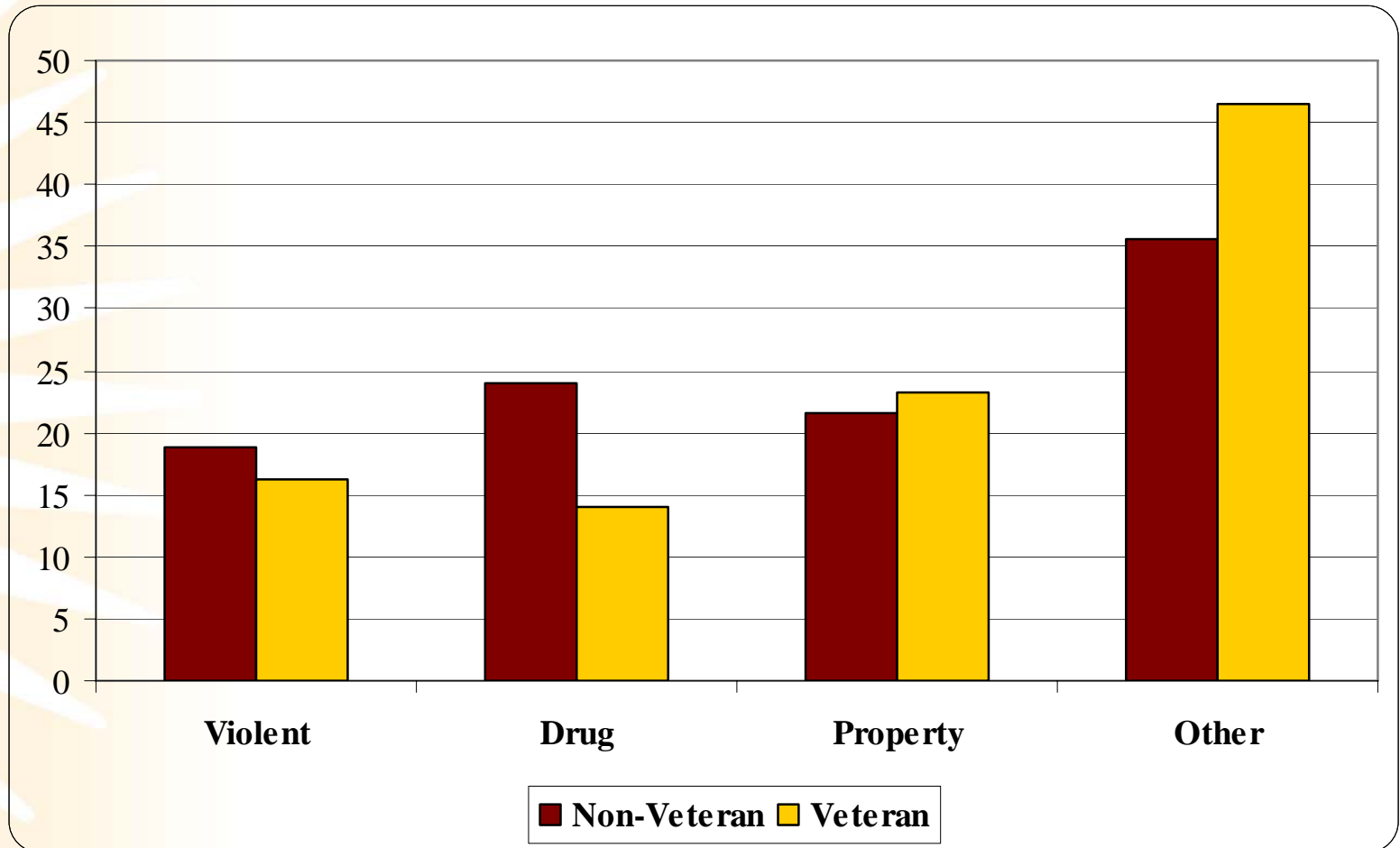
# Percent of Respondents Who are Veterans (n=617)



# Selected Demographics Comparing Veteran and Non-Veteran Arrestees



# Most Serious Type of Offense at Arrest

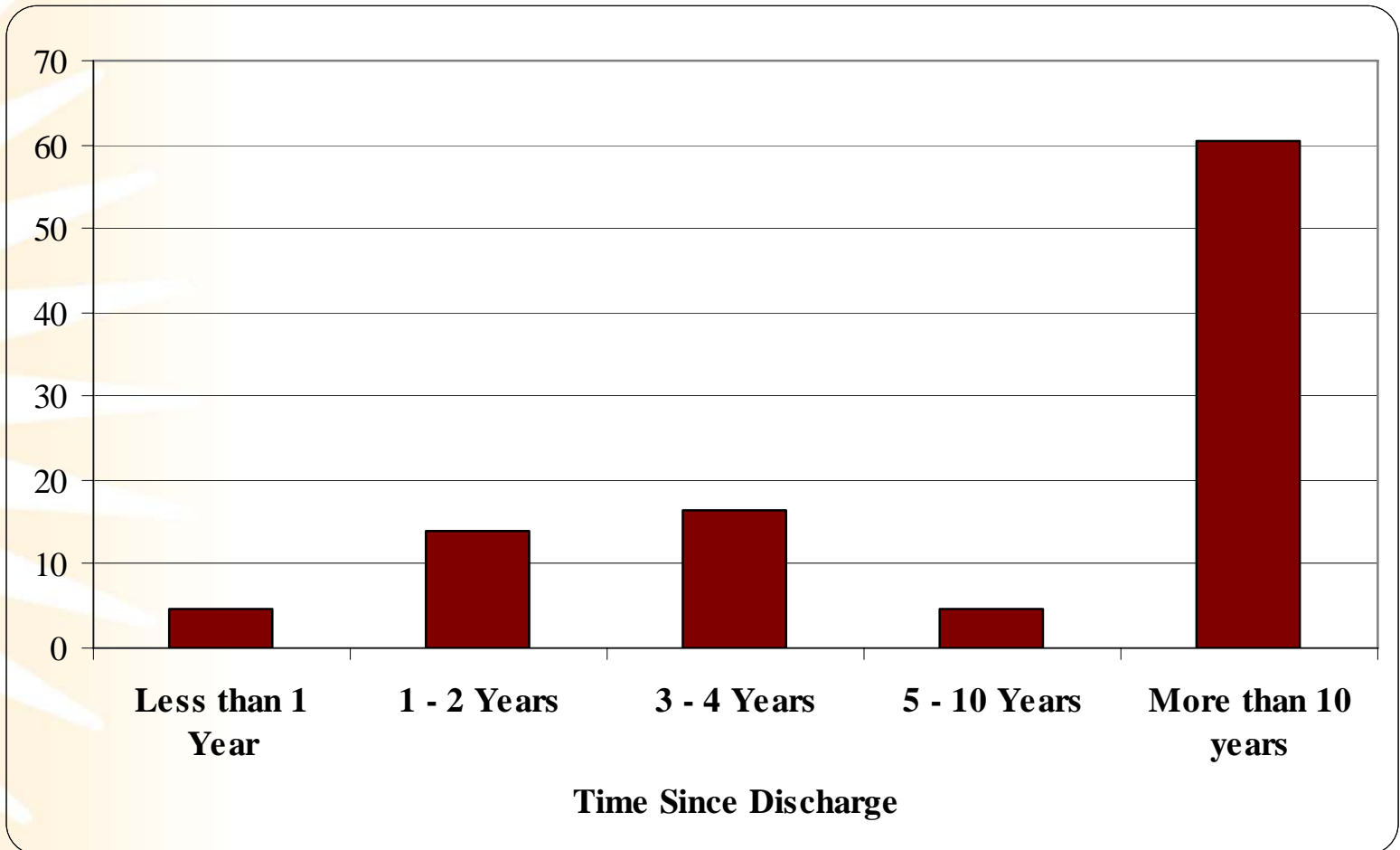




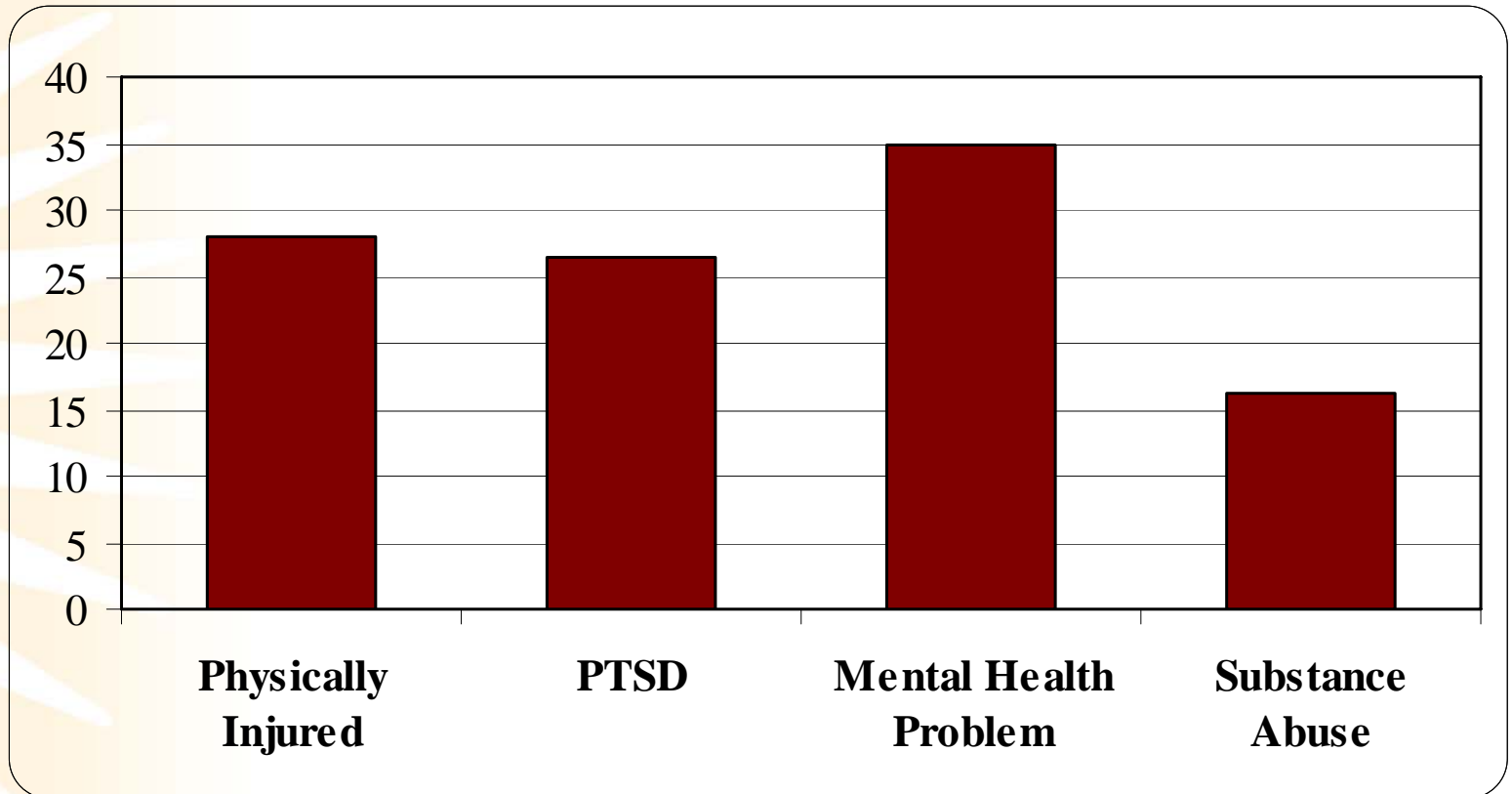
# Length of Service (n=43)



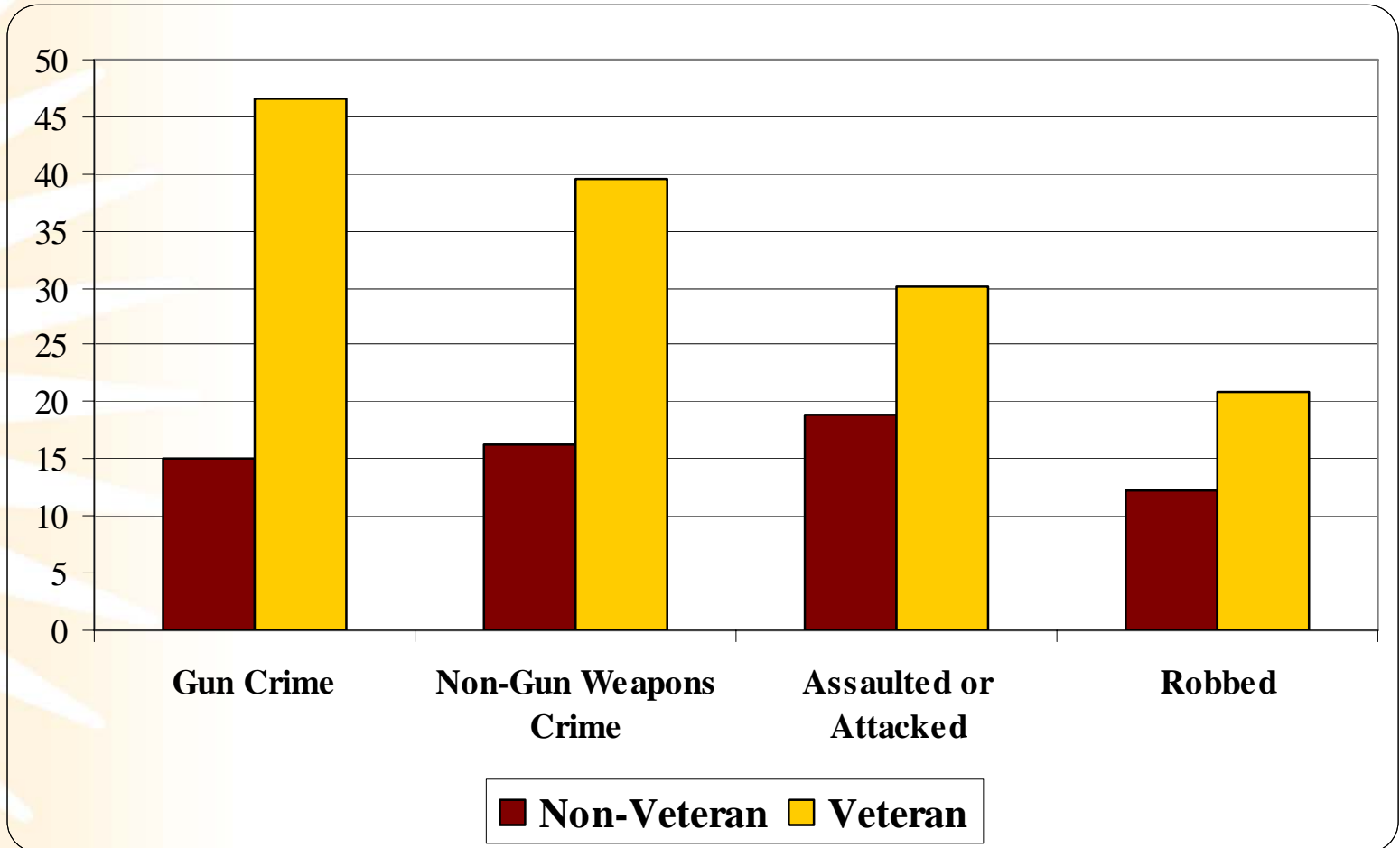
# Time Since Discharge (n=43)



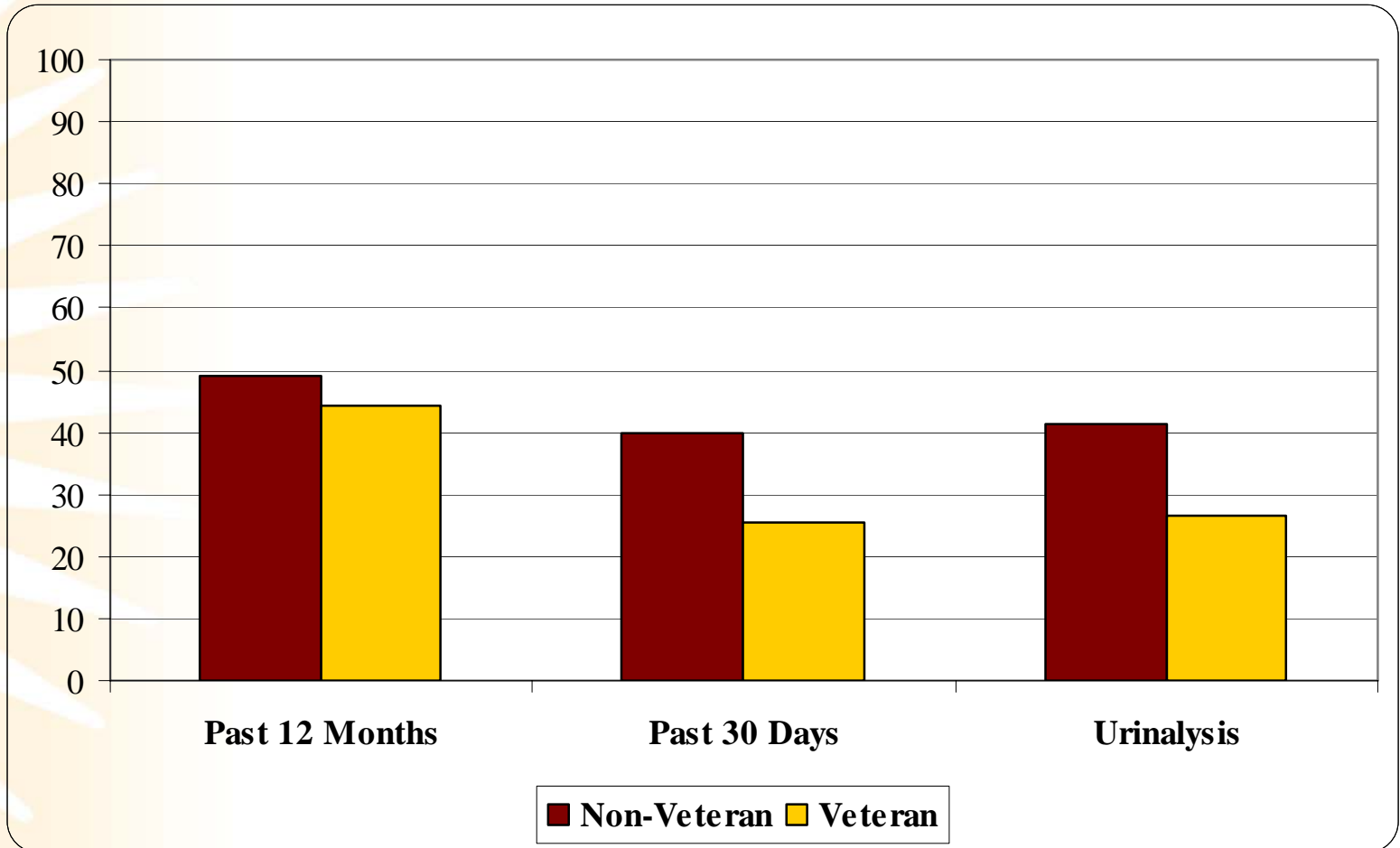
# Physical Injuries, PTSD, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Problems



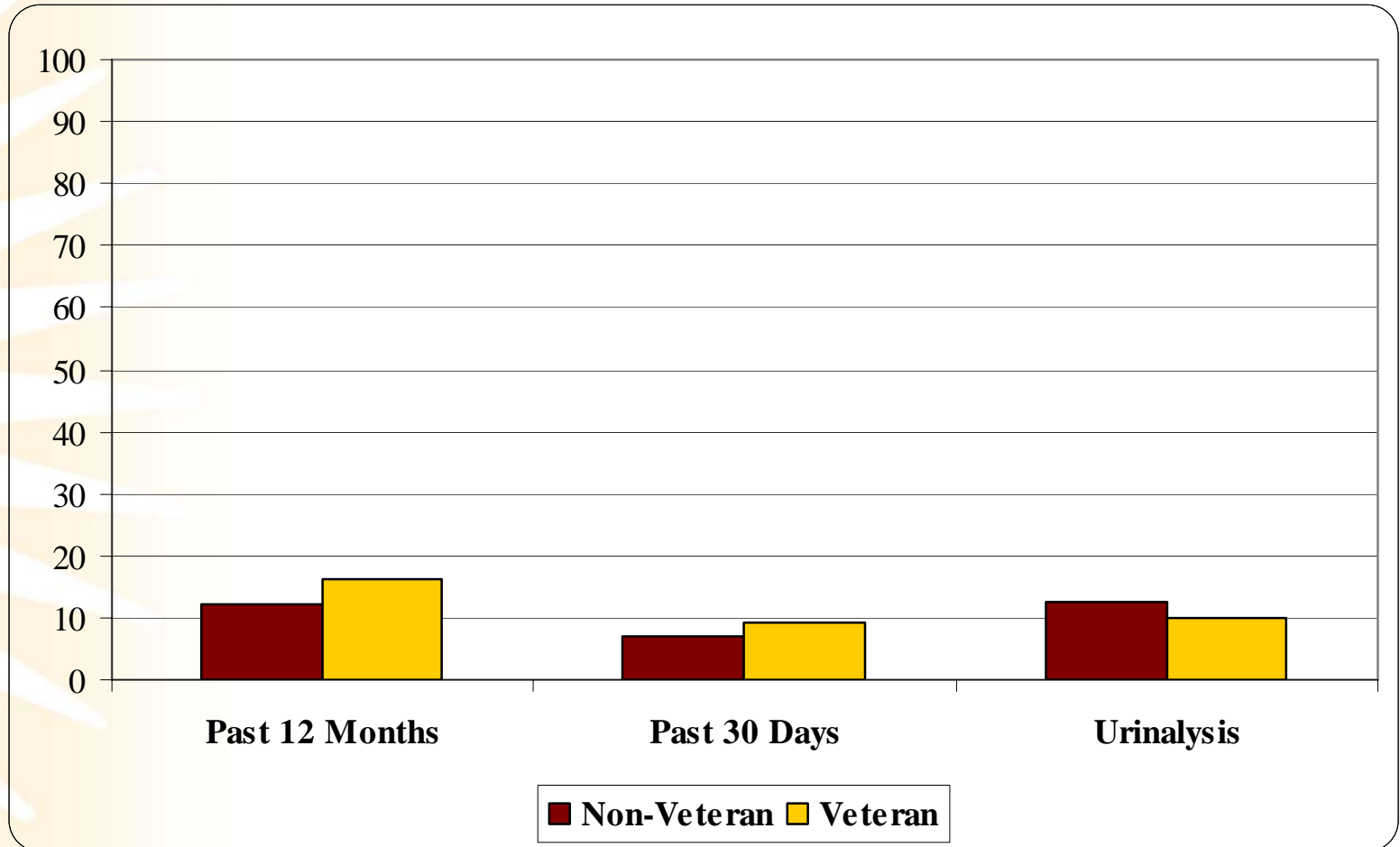
# Violent Victimization in Past 12 Months



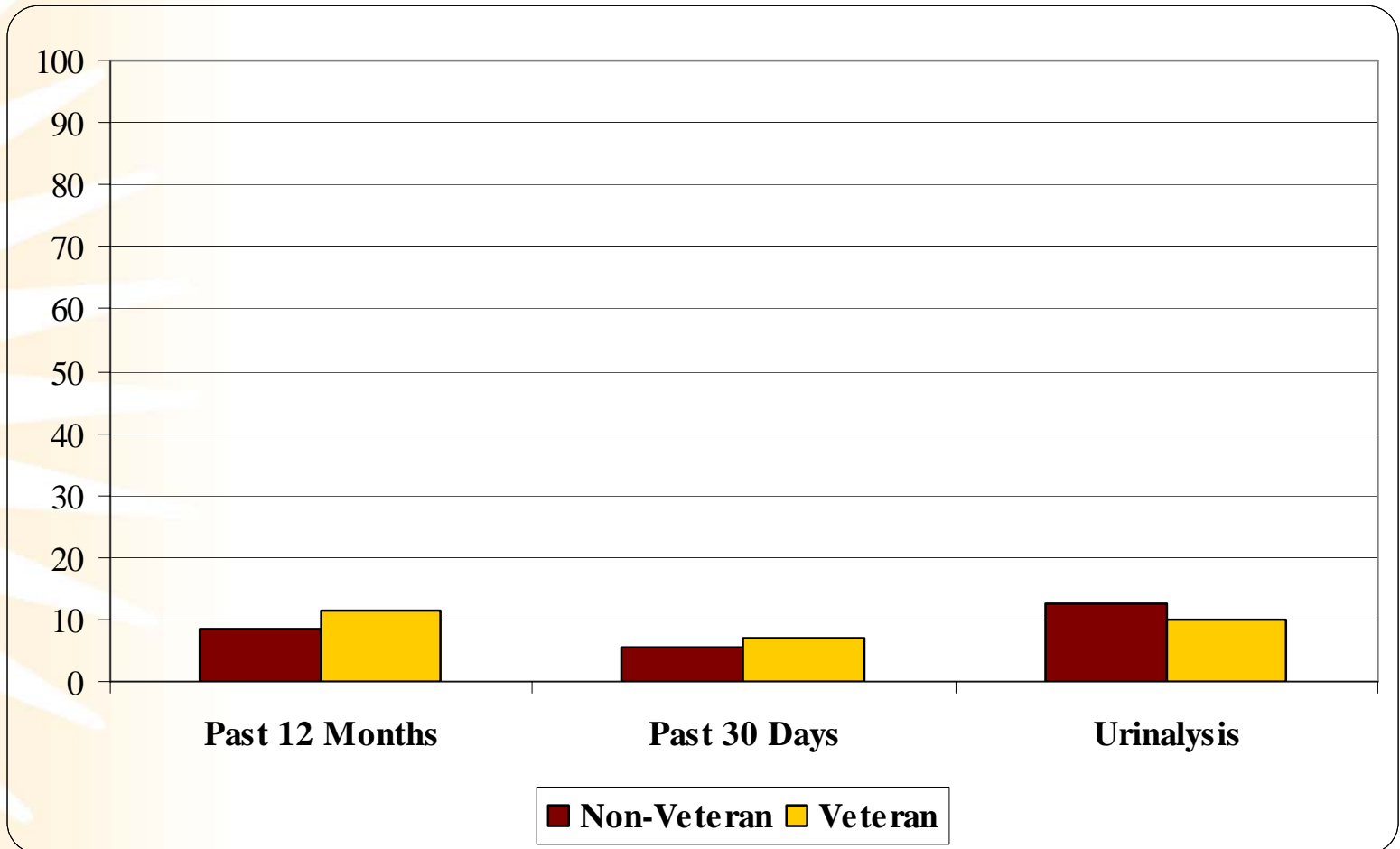
# Marijuana Use and Urinalysis by Veteran Status



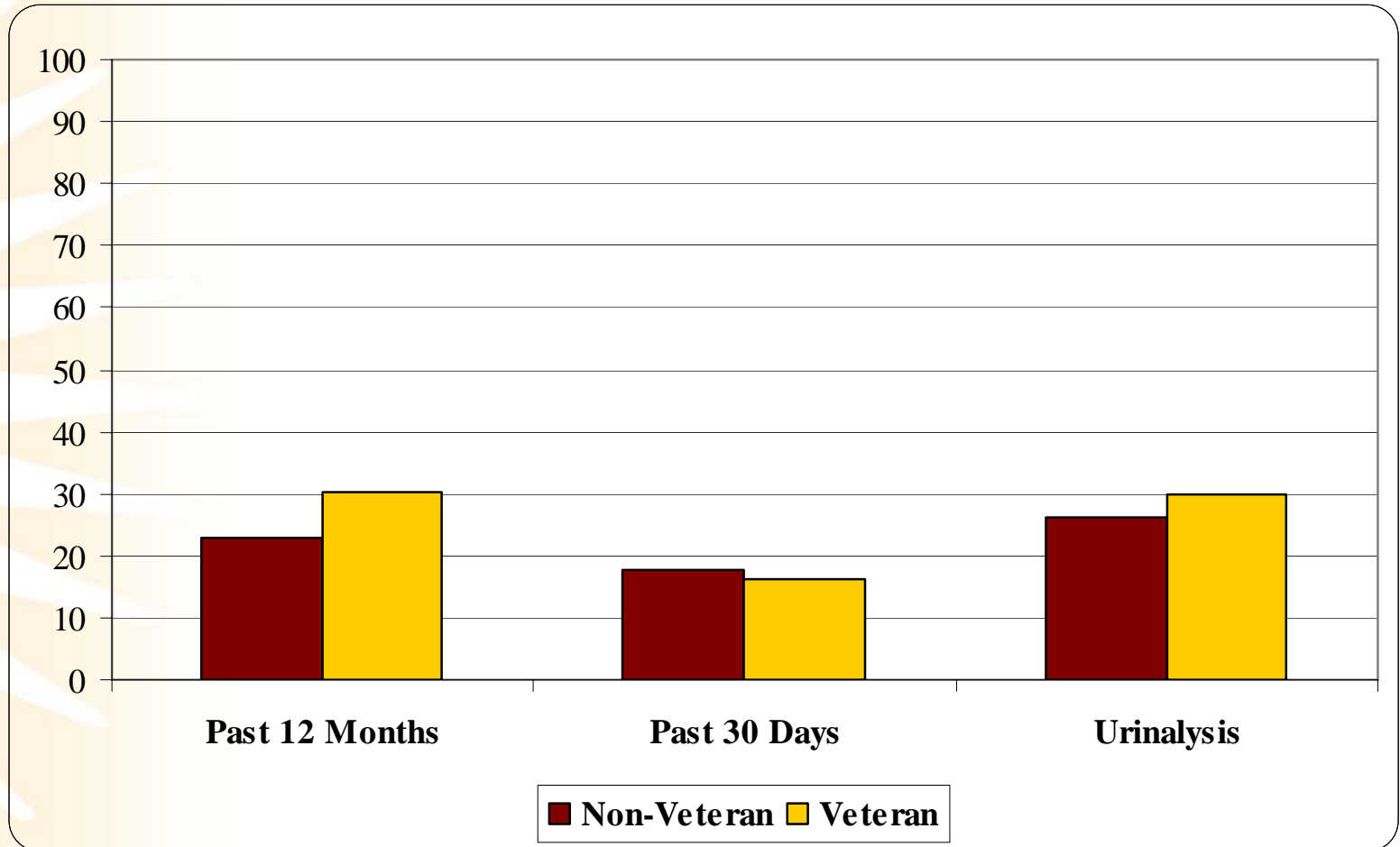
# Powder Cocaine Use and Urinalysis by Veteran Status



# Crack Cocaine Use and Urinalysis by Veteran Status



# Methamphetamine Use and Urinalysis by Veteran Status





# Conclusions & Next Steps

## ■ Conclusions:

- Veterans – 7% of arrestees
- Many suffering from service-related problems (56%)

## ■ Next Steps

- Continue data collection
  - Currently collecting 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter data
- Working with VA: 2010-11 returning veterans from Iraq/Afghanistan

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