SAFE STATES

VETERANS AND THE CDC INJURY CENTER

The CDC Injury Center is the nation's leading authority tasked with addressing injury and violence and is a critical partner in addressing the unique challenges our veterans face.

18 veterans die by suicide daily

400,000+ veterans live with a TBI

Veterans are disproportionately impacted by injury and violence, including suicide, traumatic brain injuries (TBI), and overdose.

CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST

Provide $761 million to the CDC Injury Center in FY27 to support lifesaving prevention work for veterans nationwide.

Key Injury Center Programs Supporting Veterans



VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION EVALUATION PROGRAM (VSPE)

- Strengthens Veteran Service Organizations' (VSOs) ability to evaluate and improve services designed to reduce suicide risk among veterans.
- Objective Zero Foundation (OZF), a **South Dakota**-based VSO, utilized VSPE to evaluate its app, which connects veterans with mental health support and resources, to increase engagement and connect veterans with care before a crisis.



COMPREHENSIVE SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM (CSP)

- Supports state and local programs dedicated to reducing veteran suicide and suicide attempts through a comprehensive public health approach. ***States and local programs that received CSP funding reported a 6.5% reduction in veteran and service member suicide rates*** between 2019 and 2021.
- Utilizing CSP funding, **Florida** implemented the Veteran Suicide Prevention Training series to help community members and healthcare providers better recognize and respond to veterans at risk and connect them to veteran-specific resources.



NATIONAL VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM (NVDRS)

- A national data system that provides a fuller picture of the circumstances surrounding a violent death, including veteran suicide, to inform more effective prevention efforts.
- OR-VDRS data identified key suicide risk factors and trends among **Oregon** veterans and informed targeted prevention efforts, including training for National Guard members and improved tracking of veteran suicides.



INJURY CONTROL RESEARCH CENTERS (ICRCS)

- Academic research centers dedicated to understanding and preventing injury and violence, including suicide, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and related health outcomes among veterans.
- Researchers at an ICRC-funded center in **Colorado** are developing and testing public health messages to determine the most effective strategies for preventing veteran suicide.

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Data sources available: https://www.safestates.org/VeteransandtheCDCInjuryCenter

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