

Working Together to Implement VA's Public Health Model for Suicide Prevention

VA



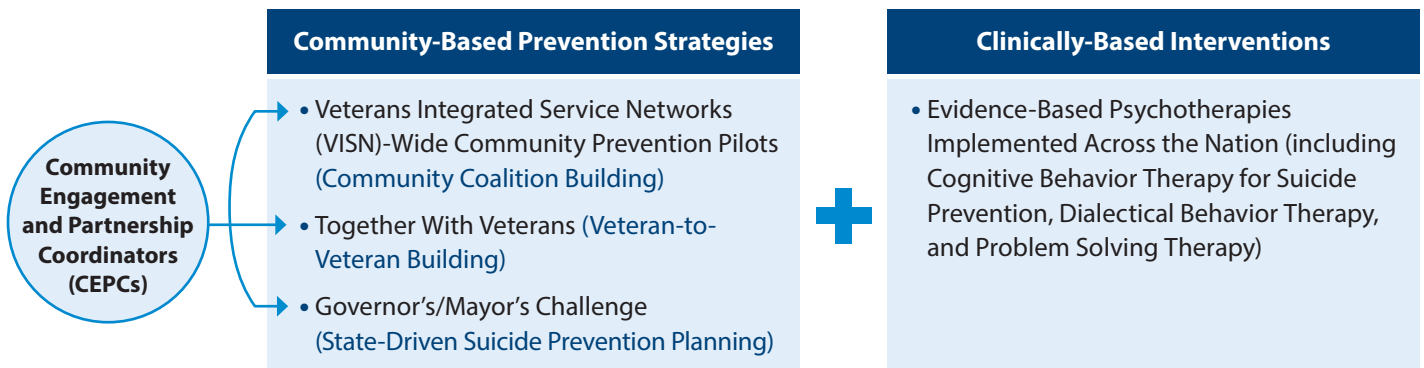
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)'s public health strategy combines partnerships with communities to implement tailored, local prevention plans while also focusing on evidence based clinical strategies for intervention. Our approach focuses on both what we can do now, in the short term, and over the long term, to implement VA's **National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide**.



Suicide Prevention 2.0 (SP 2.0): *Combining Community & Clinical Interventions with a Long-Term Vision*



The success of SP 2.0 is dependent on the critical foundation of adequate mental health staffing, defined as: 7.72 outpatient mental health full-time equivalent employees per 1,000 Veterans in outpatient mental health



The Now Plan: *Prevention Strategies to Implement in the Short Term*



Strategy 1

Lethal Means Safety: Securing Firearms, Medications, and Other Items to Save Lives

- **Goal:** Promote the dissemination of lethal means safety materials and training to empower Veterans, community members, providers, and loved ones to ask the question and save lives
- **Outcome:** Increase education and awareness across healthcare providers within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and in communities across the nation on lethal means safety



Strategy 2

Caring for Veterans in Specific Medical Populations

- **Goal:** Promote suicide screening and management of “medical bad news” in specific populations that may be at risk for suicide
- **Outcome:** Increase suicide risk screening, assessment, and follow-up with Veterans



Strategy 3

Re-Engaging Prior VHA Users: Directly Reaching Veterans

- **Goal:** Conduct outreach and encourage prior VHA users to reengage in VHA care
- **Outcome:** Increase contact with Veterans who previously received care from VHA in order to offer additional referrals for VHA care and learn more about their current healthcare access



Strategy 4

Suicide Prevention Program Enhancement

- **Goal:** Establish and improve VHA processes for identifying and intervening with Veterans at increased risk
- **Outcome:** Increase use of clinical resources such as patient record flags, safety planning, Recovery Engagement and Coordination for Health — Veterans Enhanced Treatment (REACH VET), and additional best practices to decrease suicide and engage Veterans at increased risk



Strategy 5

Reaching All Veterans Through Powerful Messages of Hope: Nearly 20 Million Veterans, 2 National Campaigns

- **Goal:** Reach Veterans inside and outside VA to engage them in treatment and access to needed services
- **Outcome:** Implement public health messaging campaign to increase awareness and engagement in Veteran-centric resources across the nation



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