

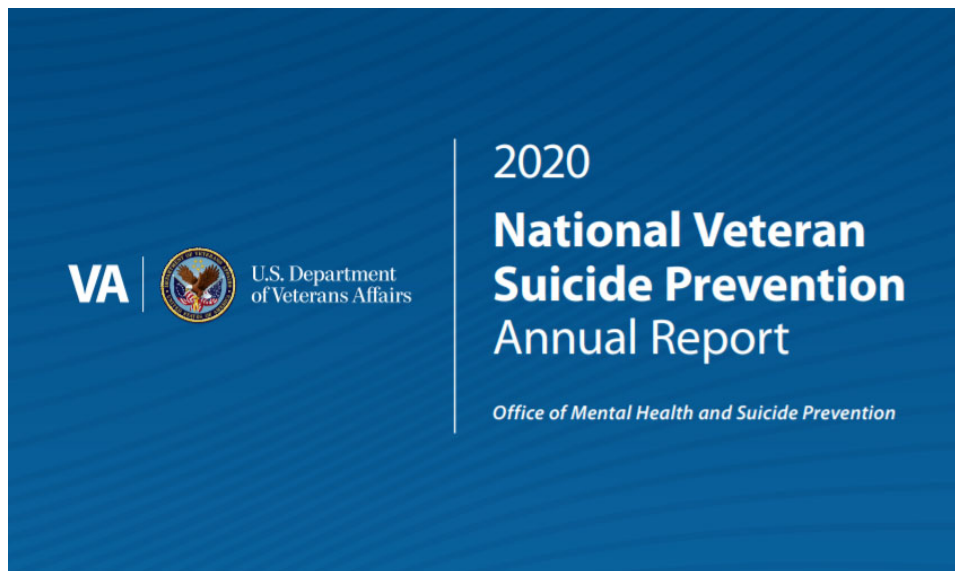


Mental Health Services and Suicide Prevention Efforts

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2020 NATIONAL VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT



- From 2017 to 2018, the average number of Veteran suicides per day rose from 17.5 to 17.6
- The annual total number of Veteran suicide deaths increased by 0.6 percent from 2017 to 2018
- Suicide rates for those engaged in VHA care decreased from 2017 to 2018



IMPLEMENTATION

SSG Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

- 1) Distribution and selection of the grants
- 2) Development of measures and metrics for administering the grant program



IMPLEMENTATION (CONTINUED)

SSG Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program

3) Use of non-traditional and innovative approaches and treatment practices for suicide prevention services

4) Grant entity referral to VA for care for veterans at risk of suicide and other mental or behavioral health conditions



NEW LEGISLATION

Revising and Expediting Actions for the Crisis Hotline (REACH) for Veterans Act

- **Improving staff training**
- **Quality review and management procedures**
- **Responder guidance for High-Risk callers**
- **Staff roles and responsibilities**
- **Research on Crisis line effectiveness**
- **Transitioning to 988 by July 2022**



NEW LEGISLATION H.R. 912

American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act

- Minority veterans
- American Indian
- Alaska Native veterans

- Ensuring that all VA facilities have a **minority veteran coordinator (MVC)**



NEW LEGISLATION H.R. 344

Women Veterans Transitional Residence Utilizing Support and Treatment Act or the Women Veterans **TRUST** Act

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) can lead to the following:

- Family instability
- Homelessness
- Decreased worker productivity
- Declining health
- Increased risk for suicidal behavior



SGT. KETCHUM RURAL VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH ACT OF 2021

On June 30, 2021, **H.R. 2441**, Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act was signed into law by the President (PL-117-21)

Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement (RANGE) Program

- Establishes 3 new centers



DAV CAN HEALTH CARE ALERTS

H.R. 914, Dental Care for Veterans Act

S. 894, Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021

S. 1664, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Processing Claims Improvement Act of 2021

H.R. 3452, Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act



HEARINGS AND MARK-UPS



- June 23, 2021, Legislative hearing on 21 bills from the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC)
- July 14, 2021, Legislative hearing on 12 bills from the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC)

