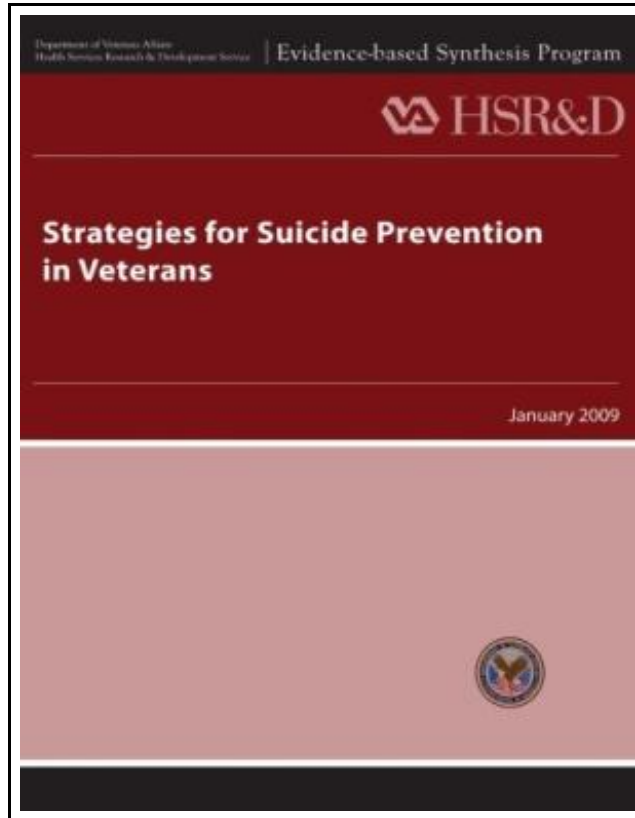


Strategies for Suicide Prevention in Veterans



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STRATEGIES FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION IN VETERANS

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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 86 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.2in. Suicide is a devastating outcome of major public health importance. Suicide rates for patients abusing alcohol and other substances, or suffering from other mental health conditions may be elevated. Because suicide prevention is a priority of the Veterans Health Administration, the VA wishes to expand and enhance use of evidence-based prevention or reduction methods. Suicide is a major problem in public health. In the US suicide is roughly the 10th leading cause of death, corresponding to about 30, 000 deaths per year. Suicide is now understood as a multifactorial phenomenon, with biological, psychological, and socialenvironmental risk vulnerabilities and triggers. The majority of suicides at least 90 by some studies in the US implicate a psychiatric disorder, usually a mood disorder. US military veterans are a large population with multiple, and often significant risk factors for suicide. The Veterans Health Study, which screened 2160 male outpatients at Boston-area VA clinics, reported depressive symptoms in 31 of the sample, a rate more than twice that of the general population. A study of over 800, 000 depressed veterans reported a suicide rate about 7 times higher than the baseline risk in the general population. The same study also showed that substance abuse elevated the suicide risk in depressed veterans. A recent report on the prevalence of mental health disorders in soldiers returning from the current Iraq conflict found clinician-identified mental health problems in 20 of active duty personnel, and in over 40 of National Guard and reserve personnel. Suicide in these newly discharged veterans has also received considerable political and media scrutiny. The main problem confronting those working in suicide prevention is that while the absolute number of suicides in a...



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