

Suicide Prevention Programs

Review 1

Bagley, S. S., Munjas, B., & Shekelle, P. (2012). A systematic review of suicide prevention programs for military or veterans. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 40(3), 257–265. PubMed abstract available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20560747>.

Objectives	Assess the effectiveness of published studies on suicide prevention for military personnel and veterans. This review is part of a larger evidence synthesis project conducted for the Veterans Affairs Office of Research and Development to identify new or improved suicide prevention strategies.
Studies Included	Ten U.S. and international studies published from 1990 to 2007
Participants in the Studies	U.S. military personnel and veterans and international military from Serbia, Montenegro, and Ukraine
Settings	Some of the reported settings were the U.S. Navy training command center, mental health center, naval base, residential or outpatient treatment facility, and Veterans Administration site.
Outcomes	Reduction of suicide risk
Limitations of the Studies	Weaknesses in study designs or reporting did not allow inferring causality from the reported associations. Heterogeneity of study populations for the studies involving veterans limited the ability to draw strong conclusions in that area.

Results

Multicomponent interventions in military personnel were consistent in reporting reductions in suicide, but the decline coincided with declines in the general population. The authors assessed the overall quality of evidence for outcomes using a method (GRADE) developed to classify the grade of evidence across outcomes. The reporting of sufficient data to make a proper comparison is incomplete, and the quality of the analysis reported was generally poor. Therefore, the authors assigned a GRADE quality of evidence of low. There were insufficient studies of U.S. veterans to reach conclusions, and the authors assigned a GRADE quality of evidence of very low because any estimate of effect was uncertain. Further research in this area is warranted to guide the implementation and monitoring of effective suicide reduction programs.