Suicide Among Oregon Veterans

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Overview - Oregon

• 29% of suicides were among veterans, 2000-2006

• 97% veteran suicides are males

• Leading cause of death among male veterans 18-24
Age-specific suicide rates among male veterans and non-veterans, OR 2000-2006

Factors Possibly Increasing Suicide Risk for Veterans

• Combat exposure, PTSD
• Brain injury
• Other physical problems
• Readjustment to civilian life
• Strong value of self-reliance
• Stigma, honor
• Accessibility of guns
• Lack of access to mental health care
Prevention Approaches

• No single intervention will fix this problem
• Need to address multiple factors in addition to provision of individual mental health care
• Need a multi-faceted, comprehensive approach
• Multiple approaches are complementary

Oregon Prevention Activities

• Support ASIST trainers within Guard

• Provide ASIST trainings
  • 1:50 for next deployment
  • All ranks
  • Mandatory
  • Scholarships for local ONG
Oregon Prevention Activities

• Work with:
  • Chaplains in National Guard
  • Project Managers
  • Reintegration Teams
  • VA
  • Community Network (ONG)