



National Conference of State Legislators Conference

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SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR IN THE U.S.

- 47,173 suicides in 2018 (Rate: 14.5 per 100,000)

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- 1,388,000* Suicide Attempts
 - 3,195,000* Made A Suicide Plan
 - 10,642,000* Serious Thoughts Of Suicide
 - 1 In 5 People* Mental Health Conditions

**Estimated*



SUICIDE IN WASHINGTON STATE



255 VETERAN
DEATHS

87 YOUTH DEATHS
(UNDER THE AGE OF 19)

77 DEATHS WITHIN
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

7,782 NEW SUICIDE
LOSS SURVIVORS

VETERAN SUICIDE



Only about 6
out of 20
veterans who
die by suicide
have gotten
VA care

Suicide risk is
2.1x greater
for veterans
vs adult
civilians

The suicide
rate for female
vets increased
by **85%**

2001-2014

VETERAN SUICIDE

	US	American West
Rate of Veteran Suicide (per 100,000)	30	35
General Population Rate of Suicide (per 100,000)	18	19

"I fear they do not know us... I fear they do not comprehend the full weight of the burden we carry..."

- Adm. Michael Mullen, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Source: VA, WA DOH



VETERAN SUICIDE

66-69%
of veteran
suicides were
from self-inflicted
gunshot



58.1%
of all veterans who
die by suicide are
55 years of age or
older

UNDERSTANDING VETERANS



- 10%-30% veterans experience post-traumatic stress disorder
- Veterans with PTS are at higher risk for suicide (58 per 100,000 suicide rate)
- Veterans with opioid use disorder are at higher risk for suicide (140 per 100,000)

WA STATE LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE



2012

HB 2366
All behavioral health professionals required to have suicide prevention training

2013

HB 1336
Increasing the capacity of school districts to recognize and respond to youth at-risk for suicide

2014

HB 2315
All medical professionals required to have suicide prevention training

Statewide prevention plan created

2015

HB 1138
Created a task force on suicide prevention in higher education

HB 1424
Training requirements expanded to include foci on veterans and limiting access to lethal means.

2016

HB 2793
Enacted Safer Homes, Suicide Aware campaign

WA State Action Alliance on Suicide Prevention plan created by Gov. Inslee

2017

HB 1612
All dentists required to have suicide prevention training; Safer Homes, Suicide Aware campaign expanded

Emergency funding to improve crisis response time

2018

SB 6514
Concerning suicide prevention and behavioral health in higher education, with focus on student veterans

2019

HB 1109
Safer Homes, Suicide Aware campaign expanded to workplaces

Largest state investment in suicide prevention to date (over \$12 million)

WHAT WA STATE IS TAKING ACTION ON

- Emphasis on lethal means safety
- Higher education and veterans
- Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs



WHAT WA HOPEFULLY WILL TAKE ACTION ON

- Coordinate postvention response
- Hold Health Plans Accountable to adhering to the Standard of Care for Suicide including collecting patient information about Veteran status



CONTACT INFORMATION

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