

# VA Suicide Prevention Program

## Putting Strategy Into Action

### Suicide Prevention Milestones

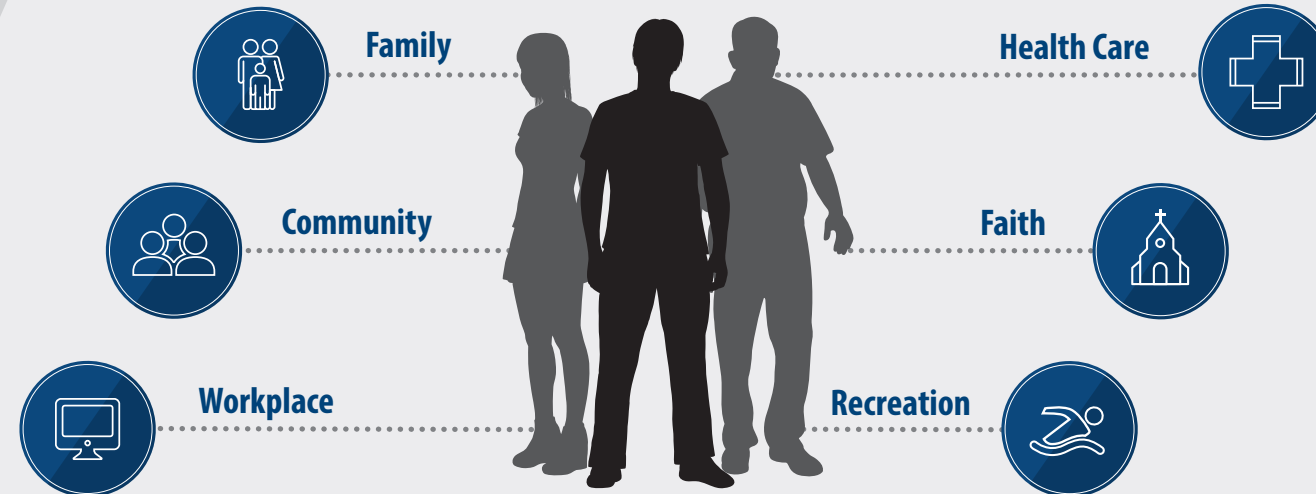
At the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), suicide prevention is a top priority. In the past few years, VA has:

- **Expanded** the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) to three call centers, increasing our capacity for providing 24/7 crisis intervention and support
- **Hired** a Suicide Prevention Coordinator at every VA facility to deliver targeted care to at-risk patients
- **Implemented** S.A.V.E. suicide prevention training to help everyone play a role in preventing Veteran suicide
- **Added** "high risk" flagging to VHA patient charts to integrate suicide prevention with clinical care
- **Expanded** access to mental health care to ensure Veterans get the care they need
- **Launched** the REACH VET predictive analytics program to identify Veterans who may be at risk for suicide
- **Published** the Joint Action Plan for Supporting Veterans During Their Transition From Uniformed Service to Civilian Life
- **Launched** the Mayor's Challenge, empowering cities nationwide to build coalitions to prevent Veteran suicide

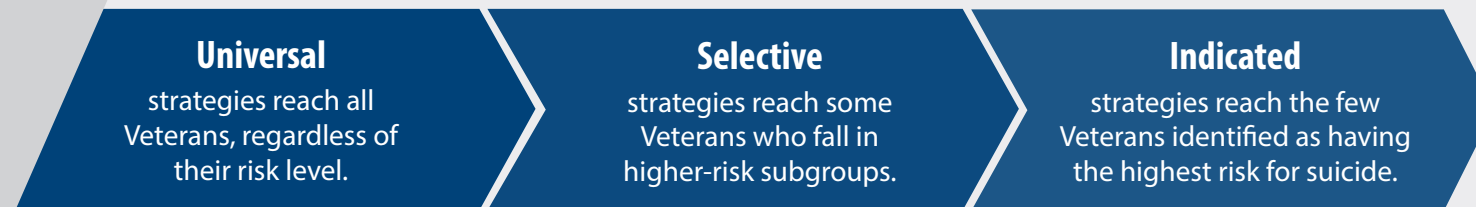
**We have made great strides in suicide prevention. But we must do more.**

### The Way Forward: Leveraging the Public Health Approach

VA's goal is to prevent suicide among **all Veterans, even those not receiving VA care**. Our strategy leverages the **public** health approach to suicide prevention. We are broadening our focus to reach all Veterans where they live and thrive.



**This strategy is grouped into three tiers:**



### Our Implementation Model

To effectively execute this public health approach, we need partners and groups across sectors to help us prevent suicide among those Veterans who do not come to us for health care. We are putting this strategy into action through:



### Veterans and Suicide Fast Facts

Every day, **123 people** die by suicide in the U.S. — and suicide rates are increasing.

There were nearly **45,000 lives** lost to suicide in 2016.

There are approximately **20 million** Veterans in the U.S.

About half of all Veterans use a VA service and about **one-third** use VA health care.

On average, **20 Veterans** die by suicide each day. Six of the 20 recently received VA health care.

Access VA information and resources at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/GetHelp/ResourceLocator.aspx](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/GetHelp/ResourceLocator.aspx).



If you are a Veteran in crisis or having thoughts of suicide – or if you know a Veteran in crisis – call the Veterans Crisis Line at **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text to **838255**.