

MILITARY SUICIDE

DATA/INFORMATION

DoD/VA TBI/PTSD TREATMENT & SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY

FLAWED:

- DoD & VA TREAT TBI/PTSD AS “MENTAL ILLNESS” NOT INJURY.
 - TREAT MENTAL ILLNESS SYMPTOMS: “MAKE EVIDENCED BASED PSYCHOTHERAPIES WIDELY AVAILABLE”*
- RESULT: MILITARY SUICIDES CAUSED BY INJURY UNABATED.
(SEE SUMMARY ATTACHED).
- SIMILIARILY, VA SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY FLAWED.**
(SEE SUMMARY ATTACHED).

*VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management and Rehabilitation of Post-Acute Traumatic Brain Injury; Version 3.0, June 2021.

**2020 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report by: VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, August 2021.

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- Data From: DoD 1st Qtr 2021 Suicide Report by: Defense Suicide Prevention Office:

<u>TOTAL SUICIDES:</u>	<u>ACTIVE COMPONENT</u>	<u>RESERVE</u>	<u>NATIONAL GRD</u>
CY 2014	273	169	90
CY 2015	267	214	120
CY 2016	280	202	122
CY 2017	287	226	133
C7 2018	326	217	136
CY 2019	350	153	88
CY 2020	385	197	120
QTR 1, 2021	76	39	26

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- VA SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY:
 - INTERVENTION*:
 - + ASSUMES ACCESS TO SUICIDE CANDIDATE; NO WARRIOR ADMITS “MENTAL ILLNESS”.
 - + NO EVIDENCE THAT PAST INTERVENTIONS HAVE HAD ANY EFFECT ON MILITARY SUICIDE.
 - ADVANCE EBM PSYCHOTHERAPIY TREATMENTS IN COMMUNITY*
 - + NO EVIDENCE PSYCHOTHERAPIY TREATMENT HAS HAD ANY EFFECT ON MILITARY SUICIDE.
 - USE “TELEHEALTH CLINICS” TO INCREASE ACCESS TO PLANS*.
 - + NO EVIDENCE THAT VIDEO CONFERENCES WILL INCREASE ACCESS TO POTENTIAL SUICIDE CANDIDATES.

*VA 2020 National Suicide Prevention Annual Report by: Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, August 2021

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APPLICABLE QUESTIONS

- IF TBI IS AN INJURY, WHICH OF THE THERAPIES RECOMMENDED BY THE VA/DOD CLINICAL GUIDELINE ARE INTENDED TO TREAT THE INJURY?
 - SPECIFICALLY, ARE THERE DRUGS OR COUNSELING RECOMMENDED TO HEAL THE TBI WOUND?

- AFTER YEARS OF MILITARY SUICIDE STUDY, IS THERE SCIENCE WHICH PROVIDES THE CAUSE OF THESE?
 - SPECIFICALLY, HAVE INJURED MILITARY, INCLUDING TBI & PTSD INJURIES, BEEN STUDIED TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE INJURIES AND SUICIDE; IN EITHER THE MILITARY INDIVIDUAL INJURED, OR A CARE GIVING FAMILY MEMBER?