



VHA Innovation Ecosystem

VHA's Innovative Approach to Preventing Veteran Suicide

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning



Hello, I'm Suzy Shirley

Director, Community Engagement and Fellowship at VA Innovation Ecosystem

The Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning

“As the innovation arm of VA, we are focused on driving transformational change for VA through innovation, clinical learning, and pilot initiatives in order to advance care for our Veterans, further positioning VA as a global leader in healthcare innovation.”

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VHA Innovation Ecosystem

Mission Daybreak Overview

- Preventing Veteran suicide is VA's top clinical priority and a top priority of the Biden-Harris Administration
- The Department of Veterans Affairs has a decades-long history of innovation in the healthcare arena and has been leading the nation in prioritizing and addressing Veteran suicide since 2007.
- VA leadership in suicide prevention, healthcare innovation, and public health, led to the creation of Mission Daybreak.
- Mission Daybreak, received more than 1,300 innovation submissions that showed promising suicide prevention solutions offering healing and recovery for Veterans

**MISSION
DAYBREAK**

**A \$20 million
grand challenge to
reduce Veteran suicides**

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MissionDaybreak.net
#MissionDaybreak

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Reducing Veteran Suicide

How can you help?

- Visit Mission Daybreaks Website
 - <https://www.missiondaybreak.net>
- Learn more about the winners and the innovations they're creating
- Take note of the 988 National Veteran Crisis Line
- Amplify the message of secure storage of all firearms

Suicide has no single cause

No single strategy can end Veteran suicide — that's why VA is fostering suicide prevention solutions across a broad spectrum of focus areas.

Source: VA



MISSION
DAYBREAK

MissionDaybreak.net
#MissionDaybreak

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VA Innovations for Suicide Prevention

VA Immersive-XR Technology

VA is leveraging immersive technology to offer a non-pharmaceutical approach to help Veterans address the day-to-day challenges of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, acute and chronic pain and more.



Over
1,200
Virtual Reality Headsets

Used in
160
Medical Centers and
Outpatient Clinics

Located in all
50
States & Puerto Rico

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VR for Firearm Safety Training

- VHA Office of Health Innovation and Learning (HIL) and Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP) have partnered to create the **Firearms Safe Handling virtual reality (VR) experience**.
- This immersive experience is to increase VA healthcare providers' familiarity with firearms, enabling them to better support Veterans in crisis
- The Firearms Safe Handling VR experience provides a non-threatening environment for clinicians to learn about firearms and proper handling techniques
- This virtual but experiential introduction to firearms, ammunition, and methods leads to safely secure and stored firearms leads to more confidence and comfort for clinicians





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THANK YOU

**National Veteran Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:
CALL 988**

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