

Research Team

Principal Investigator:

Nazanin Bahraini, PhD

Co-Investigators:

Lisa Brenner, PhD
Patricia Alexander, PhD
Jeri E. Forster, PhD
Stephen Bensen, PhD

Research Coordinator:

Marie Devore, MS

Resources

Association for Contextual Behavioral Science

<http://contextualpsychology.org/act>



VISN 19 MIRECC
1055 Clermont St.
Denver, CO 80220

CONTACT PERSON:
Marie Devore

CONTACT PHONE:
303.399.8020 x 5611

www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19

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Current as of June 2012

Examining the relationship
between personal values,
interpersonal needs, and
suicidal ideation in a Veteran
population

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CURRENT RESEARCH:
Examining personal values and
suicidal ideation

Veterans Integrated Service
Network (VISN) 19 Mental Illness
Research, Education, and Clinical
Center (MIRECC)



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Study Description and Background

Suicide is a particularly pertinent issue among military Veterans. Research aimed at understanding factors contributing to increased risk for suicide in this population has been substantial, yet no studies have attempted to examine the influence of personal values on suicidality in the Veteran population.

Military Veterans share a distinct culture whose foundation rests on certain values and principles. For some, these values and principles continue to have a significant impact, long after their military service has ended.

Understanding the nature of these values and identifying ways in which these values can be applied to life outside of the military is essential in helping Veterans maintain a sense of purpose, efficacy, and connection to others.

Given the importance of values in contributing to a sense of purpose in life, research examining the relationship between values and various risk factors for suicide has several potential implications for the treatment of Veterans who may be struggling to identify or connect with reasons to continue living.

This observational study will examine the relationships between variables collected from the study measures.

Hypotheses, Study Aims, and Short-term Goals

The primary aim of this study is to examine if certain value dimensions (e.g., value importance and value success) are associated with suicidal ideation in a sample of U.S. Veterans.

This study will also explore whether or not certain value priorities (e.g., relationships, power, achievement) are significantly correlated with suicidal ideation and other potential risk factors for suicidality in a sample of U.S. Veterans.



Progress Report

We are no longer recruiting and enrolling participants into this research study. We are currently in the data analysis phase of the study.

Long-term Goals: Putting Research into Practice

Through this research we hope to understand which values (e.g., power, achievement, security) and value dimensions (e.g., importance, success) have the strongest impact on suicidality in this population.

This knowledge can be used to inform treatment, and may provide stronger support for the use of value-based interventions, such as acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) in the Veteran population.

