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Resources

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19>

<https://momrp.amedd.army.mil/>

<http://msrc.fsu.edu/>



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Current as of June 2012

Military Suicide Research Consortium (MSRC)



CURRENT RESEARCH:

Develop more effective prevention interventions, risk assessment methods, and treatments to decrease suicide in the military

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

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Consortium Background and Description

Although suicide rates within the civilian population have remained relatively stable between 2001 and 2007, suicide rates for both the Army and the Marine Corps have increased steadily. Navy and Air Force suicide rates have also demonstrated a slight increase; however, it is not clear at this junction if it is the beginning of an upward trend.

As part of the Department of Defense's comprehensive suicide prevention strategy, the MSRC will research the causes and prevention of military suicide. Findings will provide the scientific basis for suicide prevention policy recommendations and clinical practice guidelines.

Service members from all branches will participate in the research conducted by MSRC members and may be drawn from active duty, reservist, and Veteran populations. Non-military participants will also be recruited as relevant to individual studies.

The MSRC has separate core components that focus on information management and scientific communications, monitoring military and civilian research, and database and statistical management.



Consortium Aims

The aims of the MSRC are to facilitate cutting edge empirical studies on:

- Screening and Risk Assessment
- Prevention
- Treatment and Case Management
- Postvention
- Basic Research

Progress Report

The MSRC funds the following research:

- ◆ A Behavioral Sleep Intervention for Suicidal Behaviors in Military Veterans (Rebecca Bernert, PhD)
- ◆ Usability and Utility of a Virtual Hope Box for Reducing Suicidal Ideation (Nigel Bush, PhD)
- ◆ Suicide Bereavement in Veterans and Military Families (Julie Cerel, PhD)
- ◆ Window to Hope: Evaluating a psychological treatment for hopelessness among Veterans with TBI (Lisa Brenner, PhD, ABPP)
- ◆ Toward a Gold Standard for Suicide Risk Assessment for Military Personnel (Peter Gutierrez, PhD & Thomas Joiner, PhD)
- ◆ Suicide Risk Assessments within Suicide Specific Group Therapy Treatment for Veterans (Lora Johnson, PhD)
- ◆ Brief Intervention for Short-Term Risk Reduction in Military Populations (Craig Bryan, PsyD, ABPP)
- ◆ Military Continuity Project (MCP) (Katherine Comtois, PhD)
- ◆ Development and Evaluation of a Brief, Suicide Prevention Intervention Reducing Anxiety Sensitivity (Norman B. Schmidt, PhD)

Long-term Goals: Putting Research into Practice

The Military Suicide Research Consortium's (MSRC) overall mission can be summarized as follows (each function is developed with the goal of clear military relevance):

- 1) Produce new scientific knowledge about suicidal behavior in the military that will improve mental health outcomes for our men and women in uniform.
- 2) Use high-quality research methods and analyses to address problems in policy and practice that will have a direct impact on suicide-related and other mental health outcomes for military personnel.
- 3) Disseminate MSRC knowledge, information, and findings through a variety of methods appropriate for decision makers, practitioners, and others who are accountable for ensuring the mental health of military personnel. Technical assistance and support for decision makers and others is an integral aspect of this MSRC function.
- 4) Train future leaders in military suicide research through experience within a multi-disciplinary setting for Ph.D. students and postdoctoral scholars interested in research questions on military suicide of both a basic and applied nature.