

TALKING POINTS

WHO WE ARE

Suicide is a complex problem that disproportionately impacts the military community. Stop Soldier Suicide is the only national nonprofit focused solely on solving the issue of suicide among U.S. veterans and service members. Our team is laser-focused on research and care that is specific to reducing veteran and service member suicide.

- › Our vision is a nation where veterans and service members have no greater risk for suicide than any other American.
- › We have an aggressive goal to reduce the military suicide rate by 40% no later than 2030.

- › Our **ROGER** wellness service offers evidence-based, suicide-specific care 100% free to U.S. veterans and service members.
- › We serve all veterans and service members, from every branch and every generation, regardless of discharge status.

With a reimagined service model and proven results, SSS is now poised to bring its life-saving care to scale. Together, this is our moment. We can create a new future where suicide is no longer an expected outcome of the military experience.

THE PROBLEM

Suicide is a complex problem that disproportionately impacts the military community.

- › Veterans are at 72% higher risk of suicide than those who haven't served.
- › Military suicide has claimed more lives than we've lost in most individual major conflicts, including World War I, the Vietnam War, and the Global War on Terror.
- › Despite decades of effort, modern veteran suicide prevention practices fall short. The rate of U.S. veteran and service member deaths by suicide continues to increase.

- › Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in veterans under age 45.
- › Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among post-9/11 veterans.
- › More than 6,000 U.S. veterans have died each year for the last 20 consecutive years.

**Sources: U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Veterans Health Administration; Journal of Clinical Psychology; National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics; Pew Research Center*

“Leading research indicates each suicide affects 135 lives, meaning these untimely deaths have affected more than 16 million Americans in the last two decades... It's easy to focus on this problem in terms of numbers, percentages, and statistics, but these are real people who had friends, family members, and loved ones.”

— Chris Ford, USAF (Ret.), CEO, Stop Soldier Suicide

OUR IMPACT

Stop Soldier Suicide is squarely focused **ONLY** on solving the issue of military suicide. While adjacent therapies are helpful, no other veteran service provider is exclusively focused on suicide.

- › We served more than 1,300 U.S. veterans and service members in 2023.
- › Of our most at-risk clients, more than 90% completed a crisis response plan in 2023, giving them tools and resources to cope in moments of crisis.
- › 49% of our clients reported a decrease in psychological pain in 2022.
- › 48% of our clients said Stop Soldier Suicide's services

prevented an attempt on their life in 2022.

- › As a nimble, mobile operation, we can move fast to provide evidence-based suicide interventions and enact changes to programming based on research and suicide intelligence.
- › Our team leverages leading-edge technology and data insights, which power innovative strategies to find veterans and service members at the highest risk for suicide and deliver suicide-specific intervention services.
- › We're one of Facebook's verified nonprofits, and we've earned top ratings from independent evaluators of non profit organizations like GuideStar and Charity Navigator.

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HOW WE HELP

- › Stop Soldier Suicide programs include evidence-based therapies and suicide-specific interventions for the most at-risk veterans and service members, as well as research and suicide intelligence, firearm safety, and more. As we gain new insights from our research and from partners in the field, our programs and approaches may evolve.
- › We are veteran-led and veteran-founded. Our staff are a mix of veterans, military family members, and people who are passionate about serving the military community.
- › Our **ROGER** wellness service provides crisis intervention and counseling with a core focus on reducing suicidal risk factors for at-risk veterans and service members.
- › Our services are confidential. We're an independent organization, not affiliated with the DoD or VA, so clients are in safe hands when it comes to clearance, career track, and chain of command.
- › The **ROGER** team can also provide pathways to our network of over 4,000 validated providers to address major factors driving suicide risk (e.g., substance abuse, chronic pain, PTSD, TBI, housing, food insecurity, unemployment, financial issues, domestic violence intervention, etc.).
- › Through research and consultation with several of the nation's leading suicidologists, we built our own suicide intervention model uniquely positioned to help the military population.
- › Our in-house Research & Evaluation (R&E) team uses the most advanced data science and technology to accelerate learning and gain new insights into the root causes of suicidal thoughts and behavior.
- › SSS offers the broadest collection of evidence-based tools specifically for suicide risk determination, suicide prevention, and suicide intervention such as the Chronological Assessment of Suicide Events (CASE), Crisis Response Planning (CRP), Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS), Brief Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Suicide Prevention (BCBT-SP) and, by next quarter, Caring Contacts.