

Suicide Prevention Program



Our Purpose

We promote open dialogue to address suicide.

Our Vision

To prevent suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and their families by fostering hope.

Contact Our Team:

Connect@dva.wa.gov



SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM TEAM



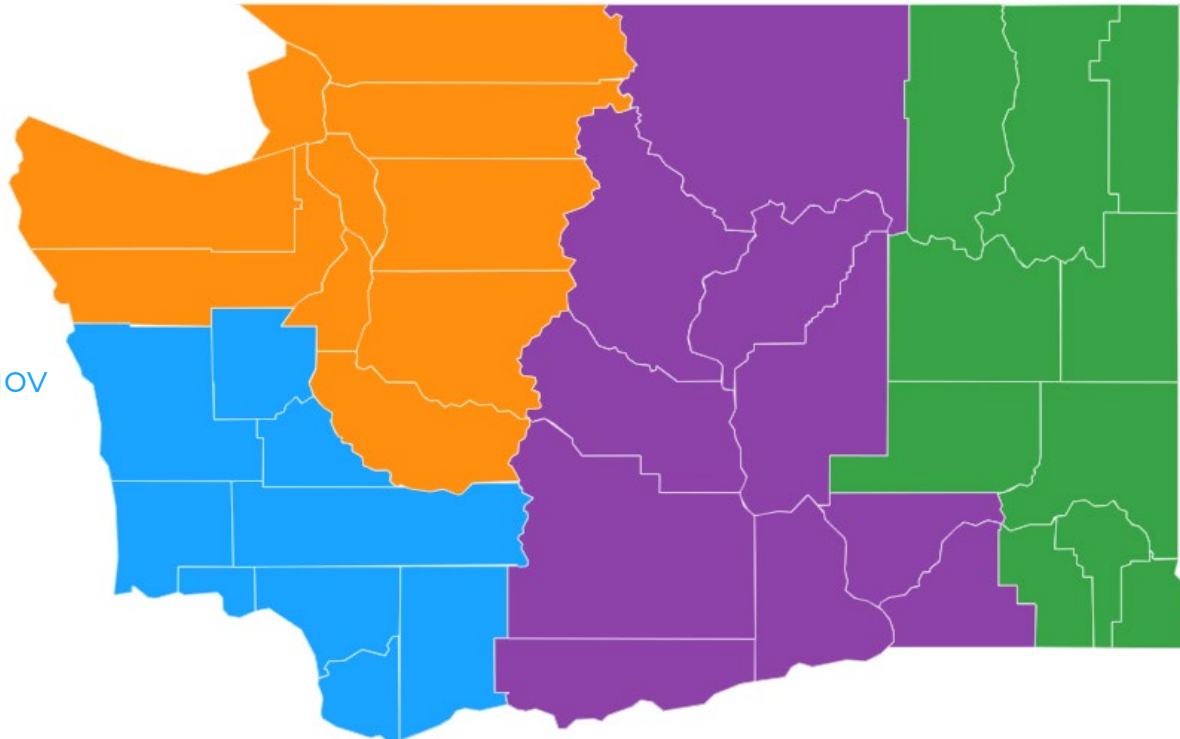
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SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Includes the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Families (SMVF)

SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM

- Community-Based Services Grant
- Veteran & Military Member Suicide Prevention Account
- Military & Veteran Resource Database & Web Application
- Educational Materials for Providers
- Lethal Means Safety and Safe Storage
- 988 Lifeline-There is Hope! Suicide Prevention License Plate Emblem
- Veteran Tobacco Cessation Program



988 LIFELINE | THERE IS HOPE!

Regionally located to provide:

- Community workshops and trainings (no-cost)
- Collaboration with regional agencies & organizations serving SMVF
- Resource referral

Also see <https://dva.wa.gov/SP> for more information!



WASHINGTON STATE VETERANS STATISTICS

2025*		2024		2023		2022	
Total Suicide Deaths	Number of suicide deaths among veterans	Total Suicide Deaths	Number of suicide deaths among veterans	Total Suicide Deaths	Number of suicide deaths among veterans	Total Suicide Deaths	Number of suicide deaths among veterans
1217	212	1216	212	1278	213	1234	268

- *Approximately 494,000 Veterans in WA State*
- *2024: 6% of deaths by overdose in WA State are Veterans (178 of out 3,090 deaths)*
- *Sedatives and synthetic opioids are the most abused substances and found on toxicology reports at the time of death among Veterans; Alcohol Use Disorder is prevalent as well*
- *WA State has significantly higher suicide rates among the general population*

	2022	2023	2024	2025*
	n= 267	n= 213	n=212	n= 212
Firearm	196 (73.4%)	154 (72.3%)	159 (75.0%)	156 (73.6%)
Suffocation	30 (11.2%)	32 (15.0%)	25 (11.8%)	29 (13.7%)
Poisoning	31 (11.6%)	19 (8.9%)	17 (8.0%)	14 (6.6%)
Fall/Jump/Push	**	**	**	**
Other**	**	**	**	**
<i>*2025 data is preliminary and subject to change</i>				
<i>**Other mechanisms include: Cut/Pierce, Land Transport, Unspecified, and Drowning.</i>				

King County:

- *Approximately 82,600-85,740 Veterans*
- *Veterans are ~6% of the county population*
- *2025: 28 deaths by suicide (2nd largest # in the state)*



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Request a class:



- *LEARN Suicide Prevention Training*
 - *Combating Stigma*
 - *PAUSE (Prevent Access Using Safe Engagement) Lethal Means Safety Training*
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- Trainings can be done for any group in the community
 - Virtual, in-person, or hybrid options are available
 - Free and no-cost trainings

GOVERNOR'S CHALLENGE

Washington State joined VA/SAMHSA's Initiative to prevent suicide among SMVF in 2020; Governor Ferguson recommitted our state in 2025

Three Priority Areas:

1. Identify SMVF and Screen for Suicide Risk

-WISR (*Washington's Identify SMVF, Screen for Suicide Risk, and Refer for Resources*)

2. Promoting Connectedness and Improve Care Transitions

-Focusing on connecting with Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)
-Working with ACU on a 988 design on debit/credit cards

3. Lethal Means Safety and Safety Planning

-Lockbox and firearm safety equipment distribution
-Safe storage practice education/training
-Working on developing training for non-clinicians around LMS and effective safety planning



FIREARM/LETHAL MEANS SAFE STORAGE

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND HARM REDUCTION THROUGH SAFE STORAGE PRACTICES

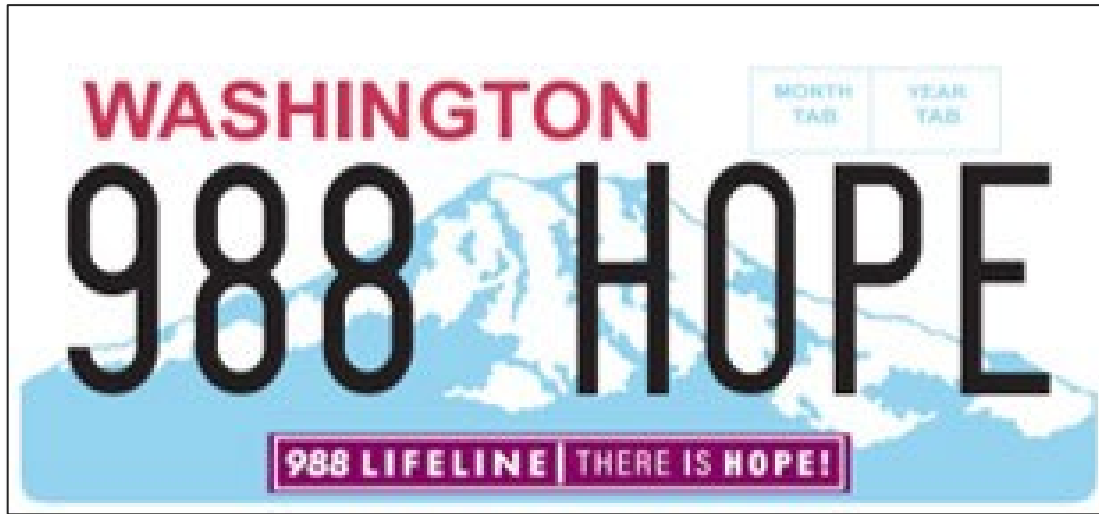
- **WDVA's Suicide Prevention Program offers free/no-cost firearm locking devices through Department of Commerce grant funds for Firearm Violence and Safe Storage practices to prevent suicide among SMVF at risk of suicide.**
- **Locking devices (lockboxes, rifle cases, trigger locks, and chamber locks, as supplies are available) can be provided to:**
 - *Transitioning Service Members*
 - *Veterans ages 55 years or older*
 - *Veterans in rural communities*
- **The Suicide Prevention Program can distribute locking devices at your Safety or Resource Fairs, as well as in conjunction with our no-cost trainings offered in-person or hybrid:**
 - *LEARN Suicide Prevention Training*
 - *Combating Stigma*
 - *PAUSE Lethal Means Safety Training*

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:
CONNECT@DVA.WA.GOV



"Serving Those Who Served"

988 EMBLEM, DONATIONS, & COMMUNITY GRANT FUND



The account consist of revenues received from the prevent veteran suicide emblem sales, & all receipts from gifts, grants, bequests, devises, or other donations from public and private sources.

Funds may be used to expand WDVA's peer corps program and peer support programs and services, including community-based grants.

\$10 each + \$8 one-time processing fee

For more information on how to purchase your 988 emblem, scan the QR code with your phone's camera or visit:



www.dva.wa.gov/suicidepreventionemblem

