Upstream Prevention by Addressing Social Determinants of Health

June 16, 2021

Nicola M. Winkel, MPA
Project Director
Arizona Coalition for Military Families
The Coalition is a public/private partnership and collective impact initiative that engages all helpers, organizations and communities to create a coordinated ecosystem of support. Established in 2009.

Be Connected is our statewide upstream prevention program to support Arizona’s 500,000+ service members, veterans, and their families across all social determinants of health. Established in 2017.
2020 Recap:

Also:

Adapting to new ways for our partnership to operate

Adapting to new ways to reach and serve our community

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2011 – 2013
Took the suicide rate within the Arizona National Guard from highest ever for 3 years to zero for 3 years.

2017 – Present
Program created after suicide rate for Arizona veterans was 3-4x higher than general population during an 18-month period. Focus is 500,000+ service members, veterans & their families.

2020 – 2021+
Development of a data tool with CDC to focus on proactive engagement of those at highest risk.
We can’t use the **SAME** approach for every service member, veteran and family member.

We need crisis response, treatment **AND** proactive prevention.

**ARIZONA’S UPSTREAM PREVENTION MODEL**

**UNIVERSAL | SELECTIVE | INDICATED**
UNIVERSAL = Everyone
THE STRESS CONTINUUM

GREEN ZONE: Ready
No crisis and stress is manageable

YELLOW ZONE: Stress Reaction
Increased signs of distress

ORANGE ZONE: Stress Injury
Urgent situation requiring support

RED ZONE: Stress Illness
Immediate danger or threat to life

Goal = earlier intervention to positively impact social determinants of health
Social Determinants of Health

BASIC NEEDS

EMPLOYMENT

FAMILY & SOCIAL SUPPORTS

FINANCES & BENEFITS

HIGHER EDUCATION

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

LEGAL

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE

PHYSICAL HEALTH

SPIRITUALITY
SELECTIVE = Segments based on higher risk
Example of impact from a recent project. Of the military and veteran households served:

- 71% experienced difficulty meeting basic needs (e.g. food, utility bills, gas, healthcare)
- 38% of nominees and/or family members had experienced illness
- 40% had experienced a reduction in hours or income
- 60% experienced more than one negative impact from the pandemic.
Adaptation Due to COVID-19

Remote Team of Teams

- Moved entire operation online
- Used a system of huddles and online meetings to stay connected
- Leaned into project tools for coordination
- Were able to plan and implement complex projects

Found new ways to connect to those who need help and support

- Nomination process to identify those with essential needs (food, housing, transportation, firewood, etc.) and outbound follow up to identify additional needs
- Public education campaign
- Intercept points with existing service providers

Reinforced our planned path of focusing on those at highest risk with proactive outreach and engagement
Identify high risk segments through combining data, analysis and mapping

Develop approaches and projects for proactively reaching and engaging service members, veterans and family members in focus segment

Implement projects, collect data and monitor outcomes and effectiveness

Iterate and evolve approaches and projects based on outcomes and lessons learned

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Identifying High-Risk Segments - By County

Arizona State
Average:
20.6 veteran deaths by suicide per 100,000

These are counties with rates that are ~3-5x the statewide rate.

Source: Arizona Violent Death Reporting System
Veterans represent **12%** of Arizona’s population.

Any zip code with veteran suicides accounting for more than **12%** of total suicides is deemed at elevated risk.

In **20 zip codes** 100% of suicides were veterans (over a 3-year period).

**100%**

**50-99%**

**30-49%**

**12-29%**

**20 zip codes**

**16 zip codes**

**50 zip codes**

**117 zip codes**

Source: Arizona Violent Death Reporting System

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Combining multiple data sets

• Location
• Age
• Economic factors
• Disability status
• Rate of veteran suicide
Examples of Proactive Prevention Activities

Veterans with a known or potential disability

- Disability is a **predictor** of suicide.
- Every month, the AZ Department of Veterans’ Services serves **3000+** veterans with known or potential disability.
- Goal is to increase the number of these veterans who **proactively referred** to Be Connected for support and connection to resources outside their disability claim.
- A lean management approach is being used to test different ways to make these proactive referrals with an eventual **goal of 100% of clients being offered a proactive referral and increasing the number of referrals**.
- **Next**: Analyzing VA data on veterans with a service-connected disability in Arizona.
Examples of Proactive Prevention Activities

Food Insecurity

- Project supported by a grant from the Bob Woodruff Foundation.
- Community helpers were invited to nominate military and veteran households impacted by COVID-19 for assistance with groceries and delivery when needed.
- We received 138 nominations in 2 weeks, mostly in rural and highly rural areas, including tribal nations.
- Our Be Connected team conducted a comprehensive needs assessment with every person and are providing ongoing follow up.
- **Next**: Partnership with VA and community partners on a statewide food insecurity program.
Thank you!

Special thanks to the Arizona Office of the Governor and the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family for continued partnership in support of all who serve and their families.
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