

Presentation Title: Alcohol and Drug Use Prior to Suicidal Behaviors in Veterans Receiving Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Session Presenters:

Suzanne M. Thomas, MA
Rocky Mountain MIRECC
Denver VA Medical Center

Karson A. Stevenson, BS
Rocky Mountain MIRECC
Denver VA Medical Center

Jennifer Olson-Madden, Ph.D.
Rocky Mountain MIRECC
Denver VA Medical Center

I am...(check as many as apply)

- a. Bereaved by suicide
- b. A suicide attempt survivor
- c. Someone who lives with suicidal intensity (thoughts and feelings)
- X Someone who supports (non-professional – peer, friend or family) someone who has been affected by suicide loss or suicidal behavior
- X A mental health professional
- X A researcher
- X A suicide prevention advocate
- h. Other _____

Presentation Audience (choose one from the left and one from the right column):

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| a. Survivor of Suicide Loss | Beginner |
| b. Attempt Survivor | X Intermediate |
| c. Prevention Efforts | Advanced |
| X Clinician/Peer Support | |

If you presented at a Bridging the Divide Summit in the past, how long ago, what was the title/content of the presentation, and how was it different from the current proposal?

May 18, 2017 Bridging the Divide

Presenters: Ariel Friese, Karson Stevenson

Presentation Title: Intervening to Reduce Suicide Risk in Veterans with Substance Use Disorders

The previous proposal was an overview of the research study, which included a description of the therapeutic conditions, preliminary participant demographics, and the development of a suicide risk protocol for Veterans receiving SUD treatment in a healthcare system. The current proposal reviews data collected within the study, with a focus on reported substance use prior to suicidal behaviors in Veterans receiving SUD treatment.

Educational Objectives: List 2-3 objectives using the format: "At the conclusion of this presentation, the participant should be able to: (define, discuss, distinguish, formulate, evaluate, identify, list, summarize, demonstrate, etc.)"

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- 1) Understand the role of acute substance use (i.e., within 24 and 3 hours prior to suicidal behaviors) in suicidal behaviors among Veterans with SUDs
- 2) Identify the need for interventions that target both substance use and suicidal behaviors
- 3) Discuss therapeutic treatments that could potentially maximize the impact of treatment for Veterans with SUDs who experience suicidal ideation

Abstract (up to 300 words) that clearly describes the session.

Of the psychiatric disorders that have been linked to suicide, Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) represent one of the strongest risk factors for suicide mortality. Acute substance use, particularly alcohol use/abuse, is also implicated in suicide. Similarly, evidence increasingly highlights the intersection of substance use and suicidal behaviors in military personnel. However, the connection between acute substance use and suicidal behaviors in these patients is just beginning to be understood. The current study focuses on reported substance use prior to suicidal behaviors in Veterans receiving SUD treatment. Among Veterans who reported lifetime suicide attempts, 65% reported substance use within 24 hours prior and 57% within 3 hours prior to a suicide attempt. This data suggests that among Veterans with SUDs, substance use may play a central role in their suicidal behaviors. Interventions for this population may have maximal impact if they target both substance use and suicidal behaviors. This presentation would be categorized under the "Research" track.

The learning objectives will be achieved through 1) a presentation of data describing reported acute substance use and suicidal behaviors among Veterans with SUDs, 2) a discussion of our therapeutic interventional approach to treatment of Veterans with SUDs who experience suicidal ideation, including a description of the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Supportive Psychoeducation Control conditions