



CENTER FOR DEPLOYMENT PSYCHOLOGY



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UC4



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***Would You Know I'm a Veteran on Campus
If I Weren't in Uniform?***
Student Veterans and Suicide Risk

Center for Deployment Psychology
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences



Student Suicide Risk

Students on Campus

6.6% “Seriously considered suicide”

1.1% “Attempted suicide”

N = 27,224

American College Health Association, Fall 2011 Reference Group
Executive Summary

Veterans on Campus

20% Suicidal thoughts with a plan

10.4% Thinking of suicide “often or very often”

7.7% Previous suicide attempt

3.8% Suicide attempt is either “likely” or “very likely”

N = 525

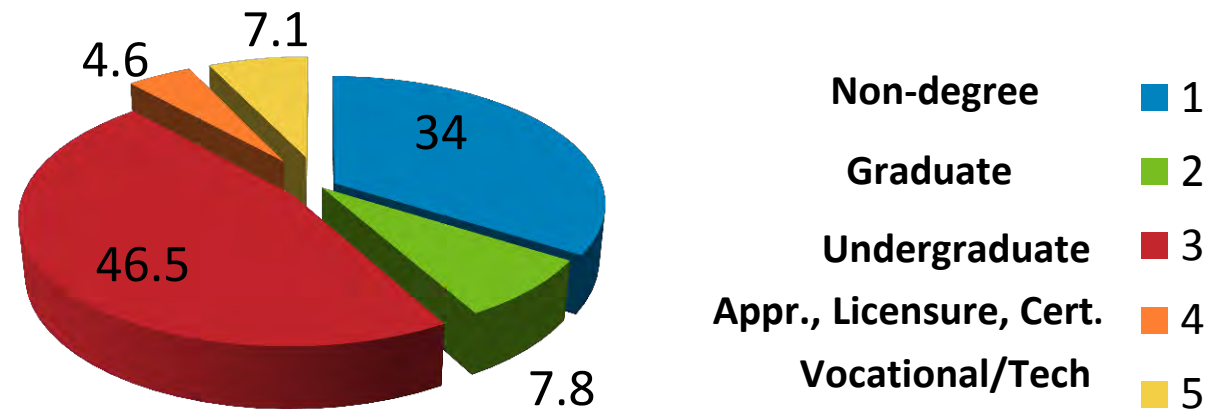
Rudd et al (2011), National Center for Veterans Studies at Univ of Utah in partnership with the Student Veterans of America



Educational Benefits for Student Veterans

- FY10: 819,281 recipients - 365,000 Served in Iraq/Afghanistan
- FY11: 923,836 recipients - 555,329 Served in Iraq/Afghanistan

FY11- % Types of Enrollment:



-VBA Annual Report, 2011



Would You Know Me if I Weren't in Uniform?

- Visibility and Identity
 - Uniform
 - ROTC vs. veteran
 - Student vs. service member
 - Women veterans





Service Members on Campus





Service Members on Campus



SGT Stephenie Austin



Service Members on Campus



SGT Stephenie Austin



Service Members and Veterans on Campus (2007 -2008)

- Represented 4% of all undergraduates in post-secondary education
 - 75% veterans
 - 25% active duty, reserve, and national guard
 - 85% 24 or older
 - 73% male
 - 60% non-Hispanic white
 - 62% had a spouse, child, or both



Military Representation in Counseling Center Clientele

Have you ever been enlisted in any branch of the US military?
(Active Duty or Guard/Reserve)

	overall (%) n=74,547	male (%) n=26,409	female (%) n=47,455
No	98.1	96.4	99.1
Yes	1.9	3.6	0.9

120 University and College Counseling Centers Surveyed



Military Representation in Counseling Center Clientele

Did your military experience include any traumatic or highly stressful experiences which continue to bother you?

	overall (%) n=1,303	male (%) n=894	female (%) n=393
No	70.7	68.9	75.6
Yes	29.3	31.1	24.4

120 University and College Counseling Centers Surveyed



Traumatic or Highly Stressful Military Experiences...

May Contribute to Injuries:



Damir Sagolj / Reuters

- ***Physical***
- ***Psychological***
- ***Moral /Spiritual***



Military Suicide Risk Factors

- Relationship Problems
- Hopelessness/Worthlessness
- Alcohol Abuse/Dependence
- Feelings of Disgrace/Isolation
- Stressful Military Life Events
- Easy Access to Firearms
- Unexplained Mood Change/Depression
- Financial, Legal or Job Performance Problems
- Medical or Administrative Discharge Processing
- Previous Suicide Attempt (*strongest risk factor*)





Veteran Suicide Risk Factors

- Combat Exposure
- Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
- Psychiatric Disorder
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Poor Social Support
- Access to Lethal Means





Campus Challenges for Student Veterans

- Administrative
- Academic
- Social
- Financial /GI Bill
- Family
- Politics
- Stigma
- Developmental





The Perfect Storm





Model of Suicide Risk

