

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

Session Presenters:

Ariel H. Friese, MC  
Rocky Mountain MIRECC  
Denver VA Medical Center

Karson A. Stevenson, BS  
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 the presentation was previously given: when, where and how many attendees:

Presentation was previously provided at a break-out session at the American Association of Suicidology Conference on April 2, 2016 with 30 attendees.

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 unique treatment needs of suicidal individuals seen in substance use disorder treatment programs, and
- 2) Identify specific strategies for suicide risk assessment and management in the context of a research project, particularly for individuals receiving concurrent care within a large health system.

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

Substance use disorders (SUDs) are key risk factors for both fatal and non-fatal suicidal behaviors. Consequently, SUD treatment program providers are in frequent contact with high-risk individuals. However, no prior work has explored the efficacy of suicide-specific interventions conducted in SUD treatment. Researchers at the University of Michigan and Eastern Colorado Health Care System are conducting an ongoing multi-site randomized controlled trial of a Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention versus a Supportive Psycho-Educational Control for suicidal Veterans seen in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) intensive outpatient SUD treatment. The current presentation would be categorized under the “Research” track. The proposed workshop has four primary components: an overview of the research project (Ariel Friese) a presentation on preliminary participant demographics (Karson Stevenson), a description of the therapeutic conditions (Karson Stevenson), and a presentation on the development and utilization of a suicide risk protocol with individuals receiving ongoing care within a large health system (Ariel Friese).

The learning objectives will be achieved through 1) a presentation of preliminary data describing participant demographics, including drug of choice, suicidal ideation and previous attempt history, and mental health status, 2) a discussion of our approach to suicide risk assessment, including the development of our risk protocol, techniques for training staff, and challenges related to suicide risk assessment in the context of a research project.