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**MEDIA
RELEASE**

National Veterans Health Administration Releases Comprehensive Veterans' Suicide Report
Local VA Is Diligently Working to Save Veterans' Lives

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LEBANON, Pa. — The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) just released the most comprehensive study of Veteran suicide ever undertaken. The database includes more than 55 million subjects – both civilians and Veterans from all 50 states. The data indicates that suicide among adults has risen nationally by 23% since 2001. The study also shows that Veterans are at a higher risk of suicide than the public. Approximately 20 Veterans die every day as result of suicide. Significantly, Veterans who use VA health care have drastically lower suicide rates than veterans who do not use VA.

Lebanon VA Medical Center (VAMC) provides acute crisis intervention, inpatient and outpatient long-term and short-term care, and on-going case management with highly trained personnel. Lebanon VAMC provides appropriate same day access to high quality, recovery-oriented mental health care that anticipates and responds to Veterans' needs, supports their reintegration into their communities and protects their dignity and self-worth. Lebanon VAMC has also developed a national best practice, using on demand innovative technology to assist primary care teams (at each location) to immediately engage Veterans experiencing suicidal ideation with a suicide prevention specialist. Additionally the new state of the art 43 bed Residential Recovery Center focuses on holistic health outcomes: complete medical care, stable housing and vocational training to support Veterans through their struggles.

Lebanon VAMC Director, Robert W. Callahan, Jr. stated, "The health and well-being of the courageous men and women who have served in uniform is the highest priority of the Lebanon VAMC. We believe that every Veteran suicide is a tragic outcome. Regardless of the numbers or rates, one Veteran suicide is one too many. We will continue to promote holistic health and healing for all Veterans."

Lebanon VAMC, including its 6 community clinics and 2 Vet Centers, continues to provide the highest quality of mental health care and services to Veterans and their families and continuously seeks to improve the care and services provided. An important component of sustaining and improving the highest quality of integrated mental health care is the recruitment and retention of committed health care providers and staff. Licensed psychiatrists, psychologists, physicians, and nurses who may be interested in serving the nation's Veterans may call Lebanon VAMC at 717-272-6621 to learn more about career opportunities.

Veterans in crisis or their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online ([https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ChatTermsOfService.aspx?account=Veterans Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ChatTermsOfService.aspx?account=Veterans%20Chat)), or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

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