

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Mike Braun, Governor

Jacob D. Adams, Director

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Hamilton County Celebrates Reduction in Veteran Suicide Rates

Hamilton County, Indiana – Exciting news from Hamilton County as the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) and the Stronger Veterans, Stronger Communities (SVSC) Coalition announce a significant drop in veteran suicide rates. This milestone showcases the SVSC Coalition's relentless dedication to supporting Service Members, Veterans, and their Families/Caregivers. Since its start in 2022, the Coalition has teamed up with IDVA, as IDVA launched the Indiana Community Challenge to Prevent Suicide among the Indiana Veteran community. This initiative equips community coalitions with crucial resources, like data, training, and funding, to tackle this vital issue head-on.

Carlye Gibson, the Indiana Community Challenge Public Health Coordinator, shared the positive news: "Provisional data for 2024 from Hamilton County shows a decrease in suicide deaths compared to 2023." The Hamilton County Health Department reports that veteran suicides have dropped from 13 in 2021 to fewer than 5 in 2024, marking an impressive 62 percent reduction. This achievement reflects the community's unwavering support for its veterans and highlights the powerful results of collaborative efforts.

Kristen M. Ludeker-Seibert, BA, Director of SVSC, remarked "This milestone, met through three years of collaborative work, demonstrates the collective commitment that continues to remain strong as we move through 2025 and into 2026, continuously reassessing suicide prevention needs in Hamilton County and evolving our approach to better serve the military-connected community." The SVSC is a vibrant network comprising local veterans, veteran-serving organizations, community service providers, government leaders, and passionate volunteers.

IDVA is eager to continue its mission of reducing suicide rates and boosting the well-being of Indiana's Veteran Community. The Community Challenge program is currently collaborating with five community coalitions across the state and is eagerly planning to expand these community coalition partnerships. Along with community coalition support, the IDVA also aligns prevention efforts statewide through its Grants for Veterans Services Program (GVS). The GVS recently allocated \$1,200,000 this fiscal year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) to 32 Indiana nonprofits dedicated to offering essential services and suicide prevention initiatives. For further information, please contact: Joseph J. DeVito, jdevito@dva.in.gov, (317) 264-9873.

About Stronger Veterans, Stronger Communities:

Stronger Veterans, Stronger Communities is the Hamilton County Coalition focused on the Prevention of Suicide for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families/Caregivers. For more information, visit: <https://hamiltoncountyphhc.org/stronger-veterans-stronger-communities/>.

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About the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs:

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) is a state agency dedicated to Supporting, Serving, and Advocating for the Indiana Veterans Community. IDVA is committed to Serve More, Serve Better, and Serve Together. For more information about IDVA and its services, visit: <https://www.in.gov/dva/>.