

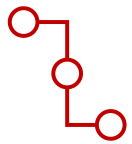
Encouraging the Use of the Veterans Crisis Line Among High-Risk Veterans

A randomized trial of a Crisis Line Facilitation intervention



Veterans Crisis Line (VCL)

Crisis Lines are a valuable resource but are likely underutilized and rarely studied in research projects.



Crisis Line Facilitation (CLF)

A brief, psychoeducational behavioral intervention was developed to increase utilization of the VCL and reduce suicidal behaviors in high-risk Veterans. It consists of:

- Therapist-led educational session
- Opportunity to discuss participant's perception of contacting the VCL
- Practice call placed to the VCL by both the therapist and participant



- 307 Veteran participants
- Recently hospitalized for suicidal crisis
- Reported no contact with VCL in last 12 months
- Randomized clinical trial; CLF compared to Enhanced Usual Care

- ❖ Participants randomized to the CLF intervention were less likely to report suicidal behaviors, including suicide attempts compared to participants randomized to the control condition over 12-months of follow-up
- ❖ No significant differences were found between conditions on VCL utilization

Conclusion: Initial evidence suggests a brief CLF intervention has an impact on reducing suicidal behaviors in Veterans treated in inpatient mental health programs; however, it may not change use of the VCL. This brief intervention could be easily adapted into clinical settings to be delivered by standard clinical staff.