[J Psychiatr Res.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28129565" \o "Journal of psychiatric research.) 2017 Jan 5;89:1-5. doi: 10.1016/j.jpsychires.2017.01.002. [Epub ahead of print]

**Cannabis use disorder and suicide attempts in Iraq/Afghanistan-era veterans.**

[Kimbrel NA](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Kimbrel%20NA%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28129565)1, [Newins AR](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Newins%20AR%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28129565)2, [Dedert EA](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Dedert%20EA%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28129565)3, [Van Voorhees EE](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Van%20Voorhees%20EE%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28129565)3, [Elbogen EB](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Elbogen%20EB%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28129565)3, [Naylor JC](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Naylor%20JC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28129565)3, [Ryan Wagner H](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Ryan%20Wagner%20H%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28129565)3, [Brancu M](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Brancu%20M%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28129565)3; [VA Mid-Atlantic MIRECC Workgroup](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=VA%20Mid-Atlantic%20MIRECC%20Workgroup%5BCorporate%20Author%5D)4, [Beckham JC](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Beckham%20JC%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28129565)3, [Calhoun PS](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Calhoun%20PS%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=28129565)5.

[**Author information**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28129565)

* 1Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA; VA Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center, Durham, NC, USA; Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA. Electronic address: Nathan.Kimbrel@va.gov.
* 2University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, USA.
* 3Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA; VA Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center, Durham, NC, USA; Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA.
* 4VA Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center, Durham, NC, USA.
* 5Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA; VA Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center, Durham, NC, USA; Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, USA; VA Center for Health Services Research in Primary Care, Durham, NC, USA.

**Abstract**

The objective of the present research was to examine the association between lifetime cannabis use disorder (CUD), current suicidal ideation, and lifetime history of suicide attempts in a large and diverse sample of Iraq/Afghanistan-era veterans (N = 3233) using a battery of well-validated instruments. As expected, CUD was associated with both current suicidal ideation (OR = 1.683, p = 0.008) and lifetime suicide attempts (OR = 2.306, p < 0.0001), even after accounting for the effects of sex, posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, alcohol use disorder, non-cannabis drug use disorder, history of childhood sexual abuse, and combat exposure. Thus, the findings from the present study suggest that CUD may be a unique predictor of suicide attempts among Iraq/Afghanistan-era veterans; however, a significant limitation of the present study was its cross-sectional design. Prospective research aimed at understanding the complex relationship between CUD, mental health problems, and suicidal behavior among veterans is clearly needed at the present time.