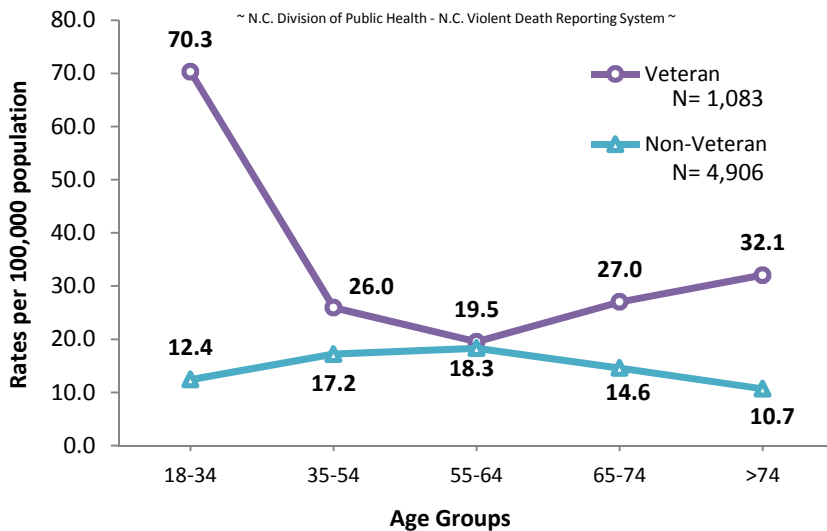


# VETERAN SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2010-2014

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on deaths that occur in North Carolina resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner reports and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes suicide deaths that occurred during 2010-2014 among North Carolina residents who have ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Population data used for rate calculation are Census Estimates from the American Community Survey.

**Veteran Specific Suicide Rates by Age Group  
NC-VDRS, 2010-2014**



- Veteran status was available for 98.6 percent of the 8,978 violent deaths that occurred among NC residents between 2010 and 2014.

- 1,323 (14.7%) of these deaths occurred among NC Veterans. Most veteran violent deaths were suicides (81.9%).

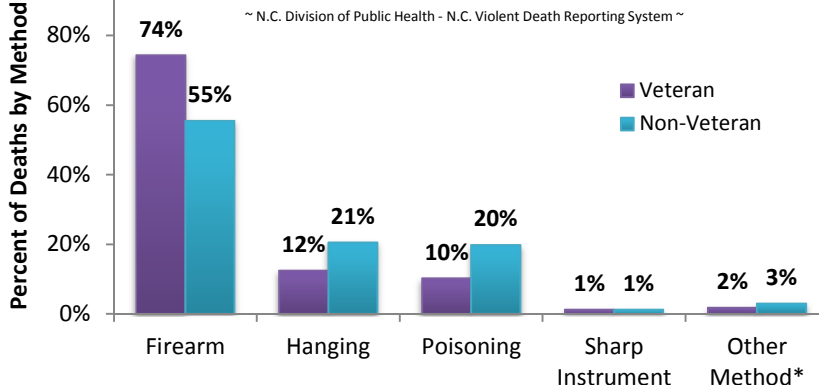
- The average suicide rate between 2010 and 2014 was 1.9 times higher among veterans than non-veterans (29.6 and 15.2 per

- The suicide rate peaked for veterans ages 18 to 34 with a rate of 70.3 per 100,000, and was 5.7 times higher than for non-veterans among the same age group. Veteran suicide rates were consistently higher than non-veterans across all age groups.

- 96.4 percent of veteran suicides were male. The rate among male veterans was 2.5 times that of female veterans (31.2 and 12.4 per 100,000 respectively).

- Most veteran suicide victims were non-Hispanic (NH) white (90.4%), while 7.8 percent were NH black and 1.8 percent were of another race/ethnicity.

**Veteran Specific Method of Death:  
NC-VDRS, 2010-2014**



\*Other includes fall, drowning, fire/burns, motor and other transport vehicle, and other methods of death.

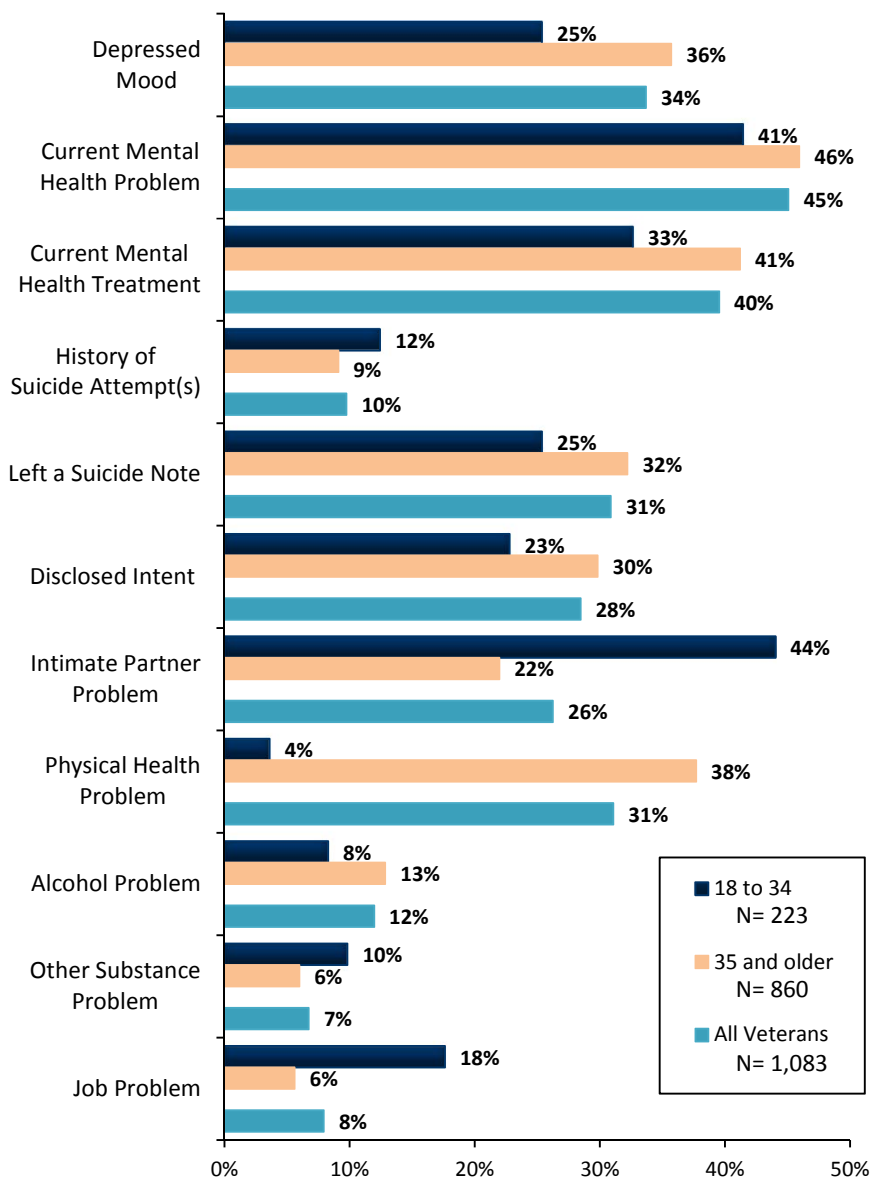
- Most suicides involved a firearm for both veterans (74.3%) and non-veterans (55.5%), however there was a much larger proportion of firearms used among veteran suicides.

- The second leading cause of suicide among North Carolina veterans was hanging (12.5%) followed by poisoning (10.3%).

- Less than two percent of veteran suicides were accomplished using a method other than a firearm, hanging, or poisoning.

## Veteran Suicide Circumstances\* by Age Group: NC-VDRS, 2010-2014

~ N.C. Division of Public Health - N.C. Violent Death Reporting System ~



- The suicides circumstances differed slightly by veteran status. More veterans had a physical health problem (31.1%) than non-veterans (18.4%).

- A smaller proportion of veterans had a history of suicide attempt(s) (9.8%), and fewer had a substance use problem other than alcohol (6.7%) compared to non-veterans (17.9%, and 16.1% respectively).

- Among the veteran suicides, circumstances differed by age group.

- More veteran's ages 18 to 34 had an intimate partner problem (44.0%) than non-veterans (22.0%), and were more likely to have had a job-related problem (17.6%) than non-veterans (5.6%).

- Veteran's ages 18 to 34 were less likely to have had disclosed their suicide intent (22.8%), left a suicide note (25.4%), were currently receiving mental health treatment (32.6%) than older veterans (29.8%, 32.2%, and 41.2% respectively).

- Veteran's ages 35 and older were much more likely to have had a physical health problem (37.7%) than veterans ages 18 to 34 (3.6%).

\* Among those with reported circumstance information. 91.8% of veteran cases had circumstance information. 30 veterans ages 18-34 and 59 veterans ages 35 and older were missing circumstance information.

### More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

#### State Resource Partners

N.C. Division of Mental Health,  
Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

[www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas)

North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

<http://www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov/>

N.C. Military and Veteran Affairs

<https://www.milvets.nc.gov/nc4vets>

#### National Resources

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center

[www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org)

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

[www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

for suicide crisis calls

1-800-273-8255 press 1 for veterans

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5U17/CE002613-03 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



N.C. Division of Public Health / [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://www.publichealth.nc.gov) / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425  
N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / [www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov)

N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. 2014 FINAL DATA =N5

Please see the NC-VDRS 2014 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.