

NORTH CAROLINA PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE



MH | DD | SAS
Division of Mental Health,
Developmental Disabilities,
& Substance Abuse Services



Governor's Institute
on Substance Abuse

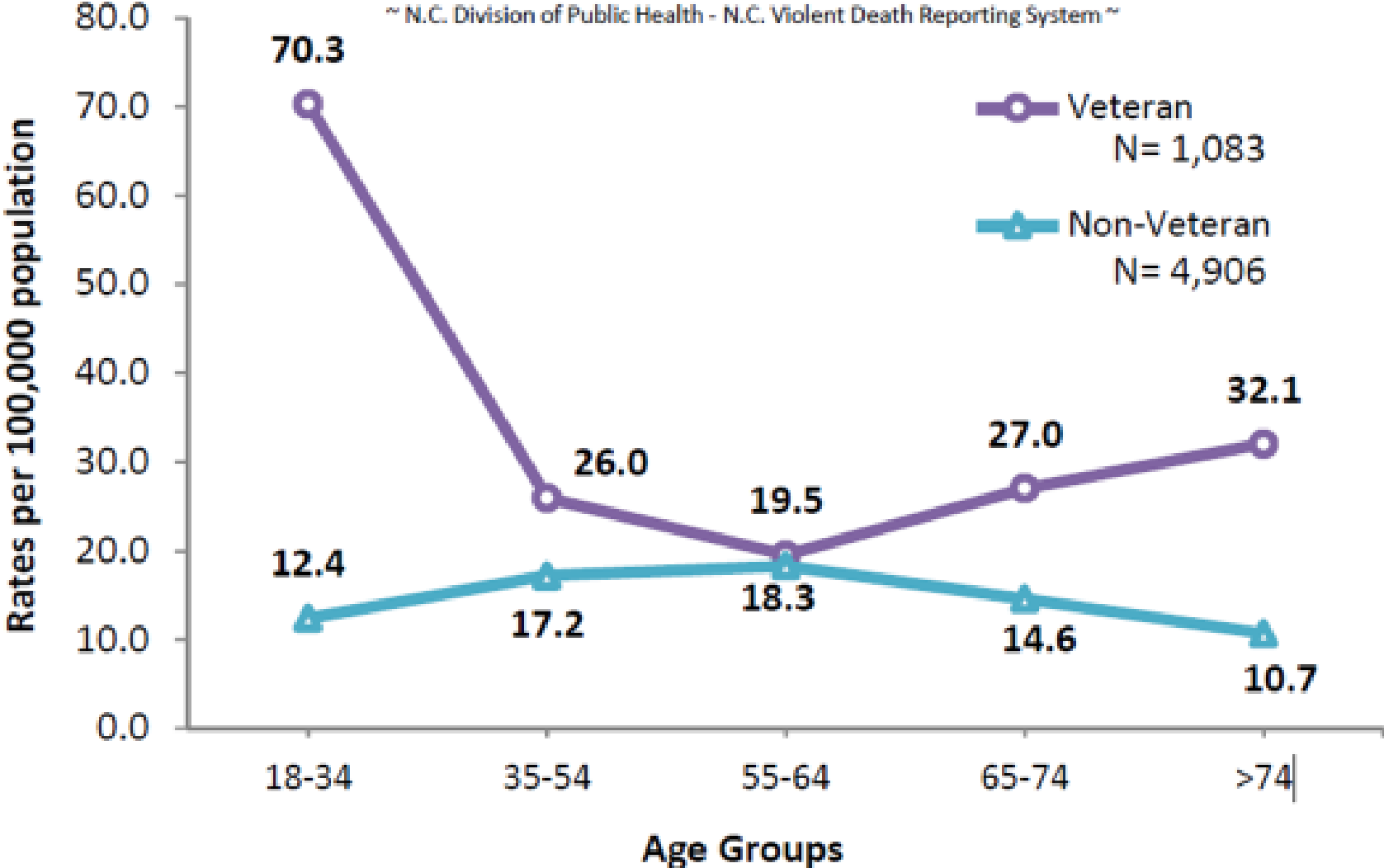


Situation: In North Carolina, five Veterans die by suicide every week. Veterans in the State die by suicide at a rate of **37.0** per 100,000 compared with Veterans in 18 southern states who die by suicide at a rate of 17.7 per 100,000.

Veteran Specific Suicide Rates by Age Group

NC-VDRS, 2010-2014

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

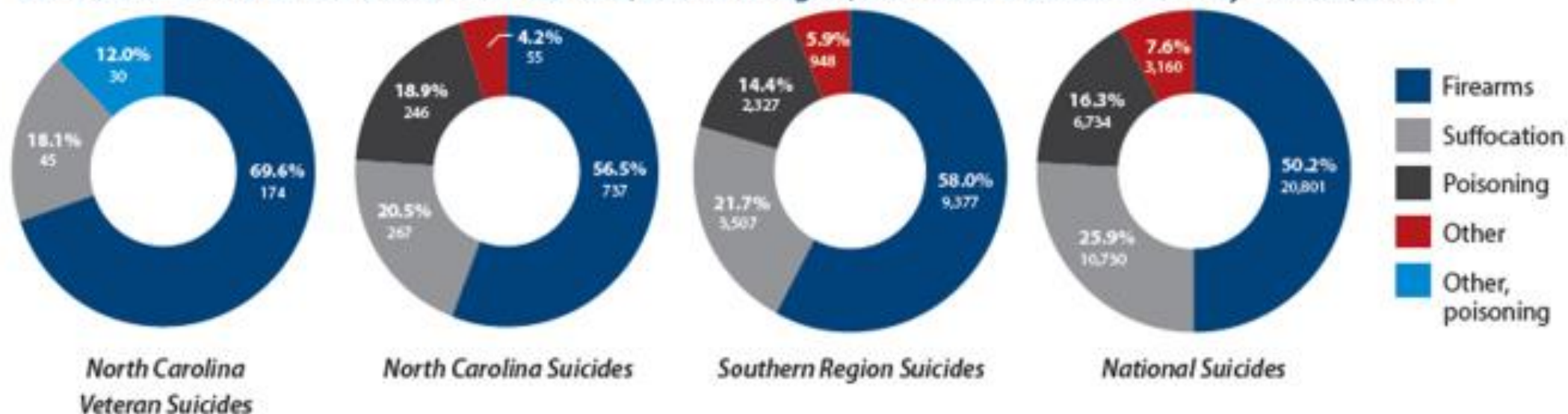


North Carolina Veteran and Overall North Carolina, Southern Region^a, and National Suicide Deaths^{b,c}, by Age Group, 2014

Age Group	North Carolina Veteran Suicides	North Carolina Total Suicides	Southern Region Total Suicides	National Total Suicides	North Carolina Veteran Suicide Rate	North Carolina Suicide Rate	Southern Region Suicide Rate	National Suicide Rate
Total	249	1,305	16,159	41,425	37.0	17.2	17.7	17.0
18-34	49	329	4,123	10,732	75.9	14.9	14.9	14.5
35-54	78	465	6,015	15,473	44.5	17.4	19.1	18.4
55-74	87	411	4,622	11,637	28.6	19.5	18.6	17.5
75+	35	100	1,399	3,583	27.0	16.9	19.4	18.1

After accounting for differences in age, the Veteran suicide rate in North Carolina was significantly higher than the overall national suicide rate ($p < .0001$)^d.

North Carolina Veteran and Overall North Carolina, Southern Region, and National Suicide Deaths by Method^f, 2014



VA



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(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

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VA Secretary Formalizes Expansion of Emergency Mental Health Care to Former Service Members With Other-Than-Honorable Discharges

Secretary Announced Plans to Expand Coverage in March

WASHINGTON — Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today released finalized plans that lay the framework for providing emergency mental health coverage to former service members with other-than-honorable (OTH) administrative discharges.

This is the first time a VA Secretary has implemented an initiative specifically focused on this group of former service members who are in mental health distress.

“Suicide prevention is my top clinical priority,” said Secretary Shulkin, also a physician. “We want these former service members to know there is someplace they can turn if they are facing a mental health emergency — whether it means urgent care at a VA emergency department, a Vet Center or through the Veterans Crisis Line.”

Effective July 5, all Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical centers will be prepared to offer emergency stabilization care for former service members who present at the facility with an emergent mental health need. Under this initiative, former service members with an OTH administrative discharge may receive care for their mental health emergency for an initial period of up to 90 days, which can include inpatient, residential or outpatient care.

During this time, VHA and the Veterans Benefits Administration will work together to determine if the mental health condition is a result of a service-related injury, making the service member eligible for ongoing coverage for that condition.

Since Secretary Shulkin announced his intent in March to expand VA mental health coverage to service members with OTH administrative discharges, VA has worked with key internal and external stakeholders, including members of Congress, Veterans Service Organizations and community partners on the issue.

Veterans in crisis should call the Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 (press 1), or text 838255.

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	Vietnam Veterans	OEF/OIF/OND Service Members and Veterans	Military-connected Adolescents and Young Adults
Training co-workers or professionals	14	5	3
Developing partnerships	3	4	2
Educating the community	2	3	4
Identifying risk through screening	4	2	1
Educating Veterans and/or family members	2	2	3
Conducting or participating in MHFA training	4	1	1
Sharing materials and/or resources	2	2	2
Sharing information	2	1	2
Becoming a peer support specialist	3	1	
Educating places of worship	1	2	1
Working with schools	1		3
Educating through newsletters, social media, or marketing	1		3
Working with GWG on suicide prevention initiative	2	1	
Posting helpline numbers	1	2	
Developing materials for professionals	1	1	

WHAT WILL YOU DO IN
THE NEXT 30 DAYS?