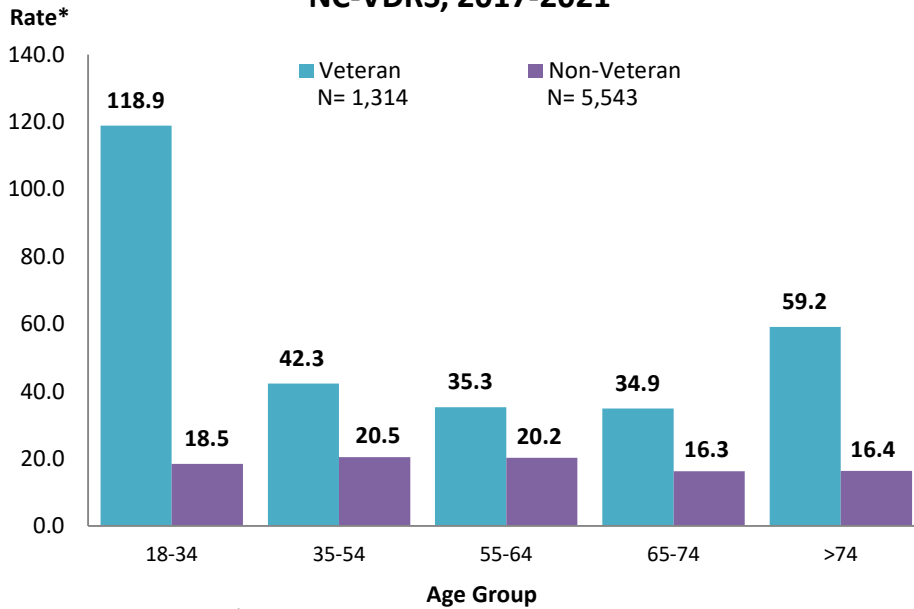


NC Violent Death Reporting System

VETERAN SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2017-2021

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on violent deaths that occur in North Carolina including: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths of undetermined intent. NC-VDRS triangulates information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports to understand and aid in the prevention of violent deaths. For more information, please visit <https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

**Suicide Rates by Veteran Status and Age Group
NC-VDRS, 2017-2021**

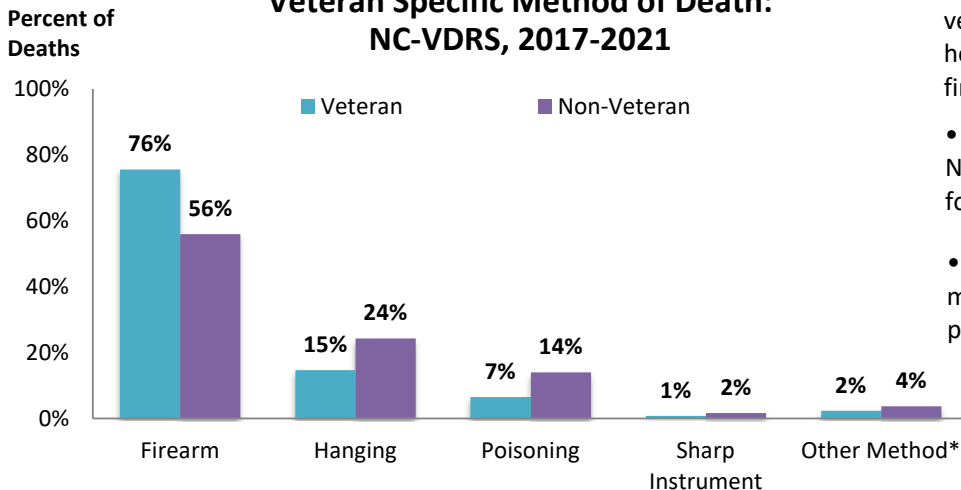


* Rate per 100,000 NC population
Rates calculated using census population estimates.

- Veteran status was available for 99.1% of the 11,015 violent deaths that occurred among NC residents ages 18 and older from 2017-2021.
- 1,603 (14.6%) of these deaths occurred among NC veterans. Most veteran violent deaths were suicides (82.0%).
- The average suicide rate from 2017-2021 was 2.6 times higher among veterans than non-veterans (49.9 and 19.0 per 100,000 respectively). Veteran suicide rates were consistently higher than non-veterans across all age groups.
- The suicide rate was highest for veterans ages 18 to 34 with a rate of 118.9 per 100,000, and was 6.4 times higher than the rate for non-veterans among the same age group.

- Of veteran suicides, 94.3% were male. The rate among male veterans was 1.9 times that of female veterans (52.5 and 27.5 per 100,000 respectively).
- Most veteran suicide victims were non-Hispanic (NH) white (85.2%), while 8.8% were NH Black and 5.9% were of another race/ethnicity.

**Veteran Specific Method of Death:
NC-VDRS, 2017-2021**



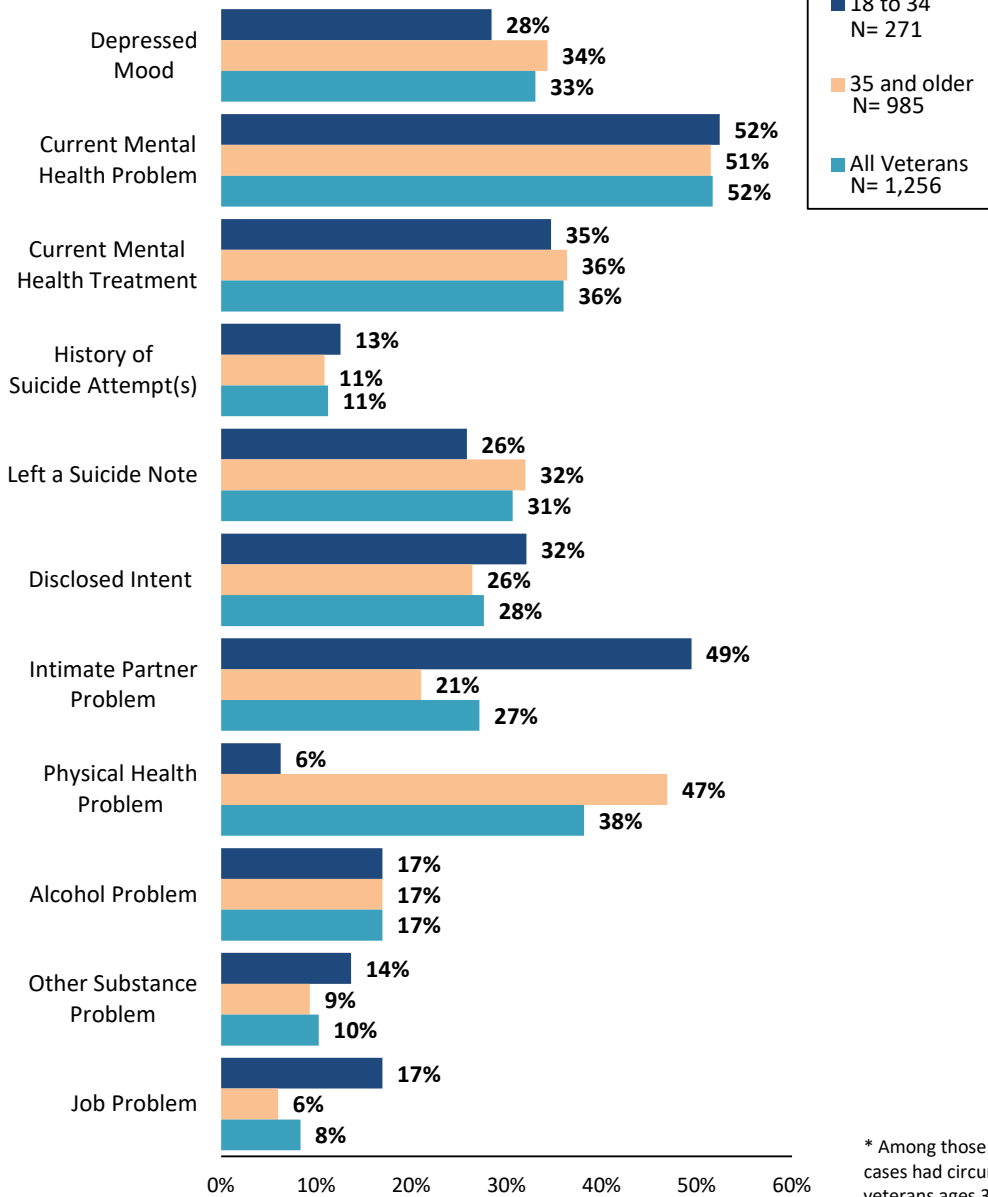
*Other includes fall, drowning, fire/burns, motor and other transport vehicle, and other methods of death.

- Most suicides involved a firearm for both veterans (75.6%) and non-veterans (56.0%), however there was a much larger proportion of firearms used in veteran suicides.
- The second leading cause of suicide among North Carolina veterans was hanging (14.8%) followed by poisoning (6.5%).
- Roughly 2% of veteran suicides involved a method other than a firearm, hanging, or poisoning.

If you or someone you know needs support now,

call or text 988
or chat
988lifeline.org

Veteran Suicide Circumstances* by Age Group: NC-VDRS, 2017-2021



- Circumstances surrounding suicides differed slightly by veteran status. More veterans had a physical health problem (38.1%) than non-veterans (25.7%).
- A smaller proportion of veterans had a history of suicide attempt(s) (11.2%), and fewer had a substance use problem other than alcohol (10.3%) compared to non-veterans (18.7%, and 21.5% respectively).
- Among veteran suicides, many circumstances differed by age group.
 - More veterans ages 18 to 34 had an intimate partner problem (49.5%) than older veterans (21.0%), and were more likely to have had a job-related problem (17.0%) than older veterans (6.0%).
 - Veterans ages 18 to 34 were less likely to have left a suicide note (25.8%) than older veterans (32.0%).
 - Veterans ages 35 and older were much more likely to have had a physical health problem (46.9%) than veterans ages 18 to 34 (6.3%).

* Among those with reported circumstance information. 95.6% of veteran cases had circumstance information. Thirty-three veterans ages 18-34 and 25 veterans ages 35 and older were missing circumstance information.

More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

State Resource Partners

NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas>
North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
<https://www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov/>
NC Military and Veteran Affairs
<https://www.milvets.nc.gov/>
NC Injury and Violence Prevention's Suicide Prevention Website
<https://injuryfreenc.dph.ncdhhs.gov/preventionResources/Suicide.htm>

National Resources

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center
<http://www.sprc.org/>
The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
<https://afsp.org/>
The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
 call or text 988
 or chat 988lifeline.org

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5NU17/CE002613-05-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

NC Division of Public Health / www.publichealth.nc.gov/ / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425

NC Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

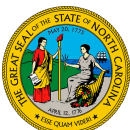
State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / www.ncdhhs.gov

NC DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

2021 FINAL DATA 8/14/2023

Please see the NC-VDRS 2021 Annual Report for additional data and technical information:

<https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/ViolentDeathData.htm>



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 Division of Public Health

