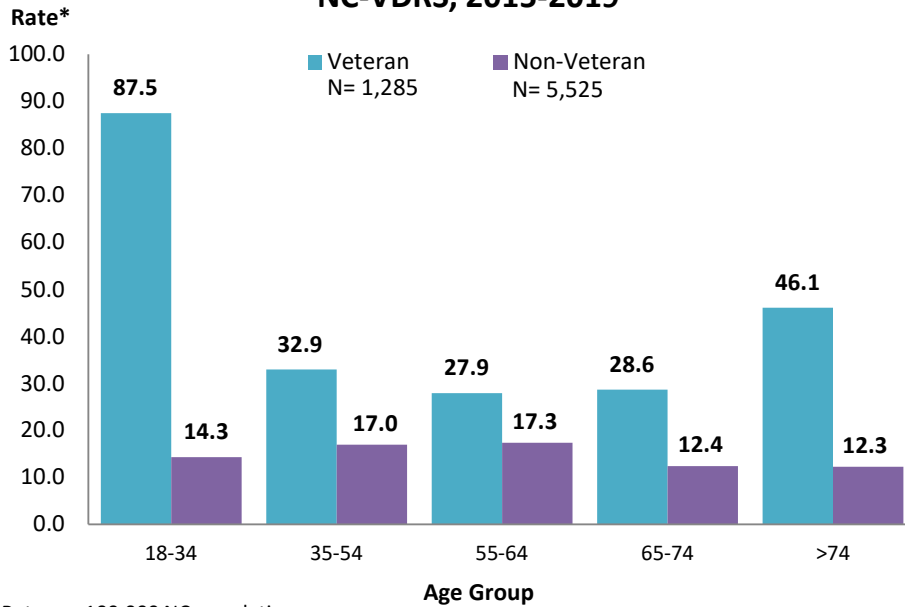


NC Violent Death Reporting System

VETERAN SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2016-2020

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, 2015-2019

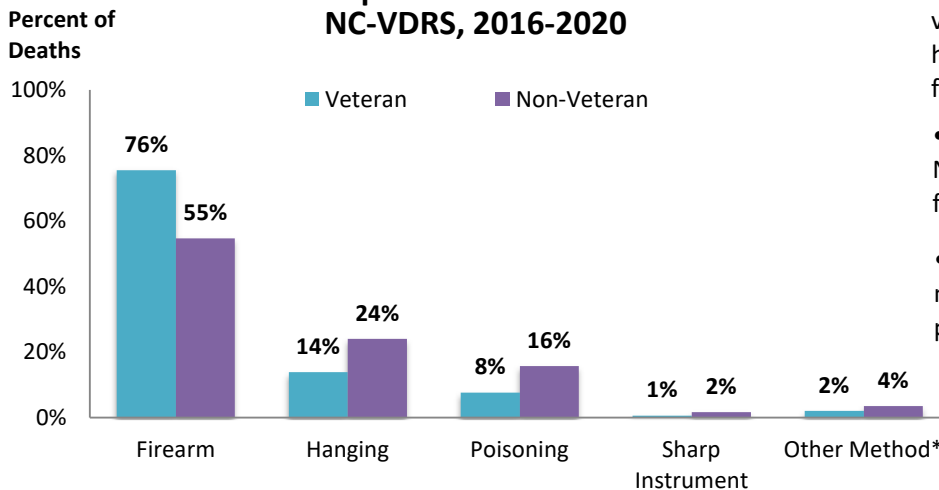


* Rate per 100,000 NC population
Rates calculated using census population estimates.

- Veteran status was available for 99.0% of the 10,716 violent deaths that occurred among NC residents ages 18 and older from 2016-2020.
- 1,588 (14.8%) of these deaths occurred among NC veterans. Most veteran violent deaths were suicides (80.9%).
- The average suicide rate from 2016-2020 was 2.5 times higher among veterans than non-veterans (38.7 and 15.3 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 87.5 per 100,000, and was 6.1 times higher than the rate for non-veterans among the same age group.

- Of veteran suicides, 94.1% were male. The rate among male veterans was 1.8 times that of female veterans (40.6 and 22.5 per 100,000 respectively).
- Most veteran suicide victims were non-Hispanic (NH) white (85.7%), while 8.9% were NH Black and 5.4% were of another race/ethnicity.

Veteran Specific Method of Death: NC-VDRS, 2016-2020



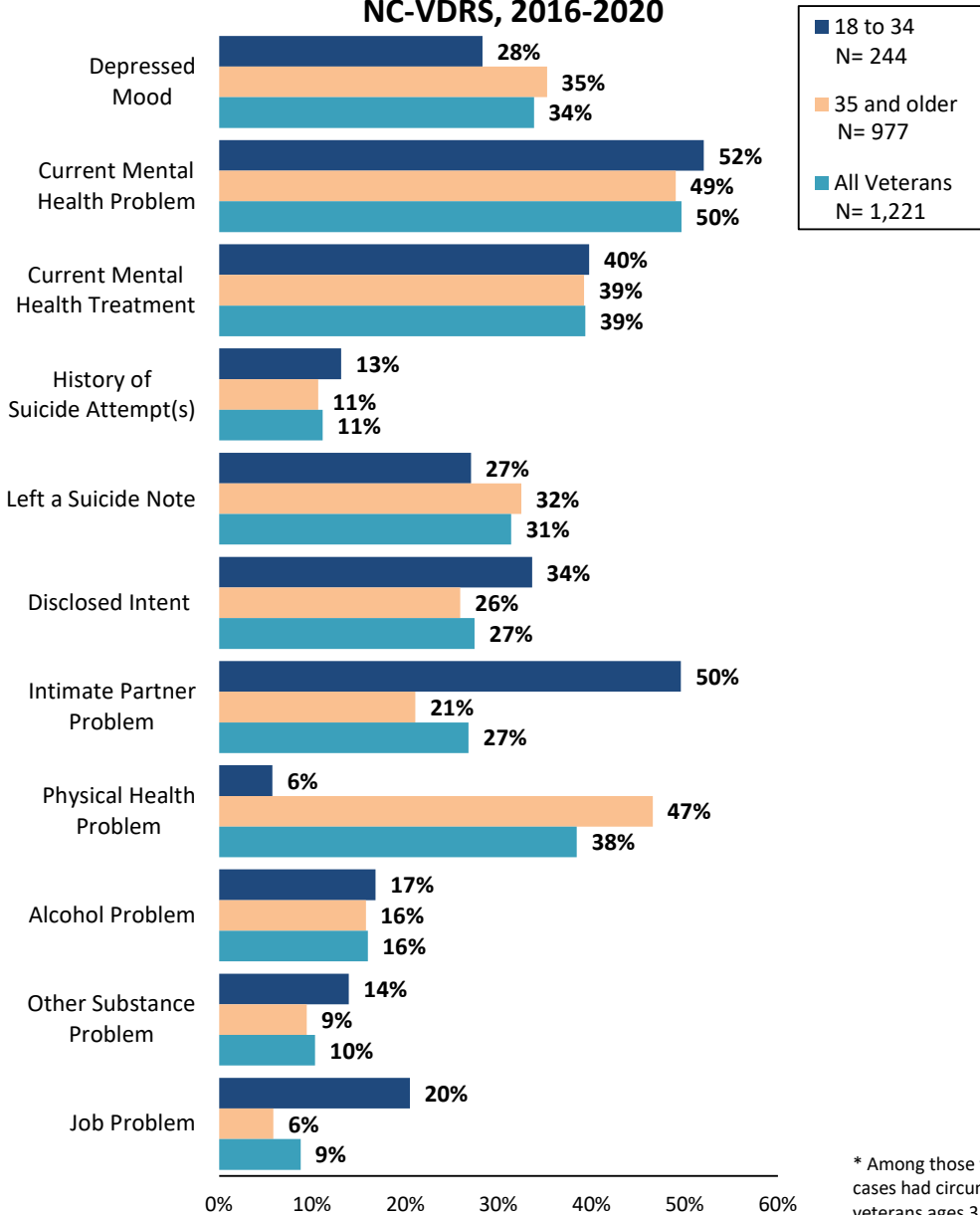
*Other includes fall, drowning, fire/burns, motor and other transport vehicle, and other methods of death.

- Most suicides involved a firearm for both veterans (75.6%) and non-veterans (54.8%), 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 (13.9%) followed by poisoning (7.7%).
- 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, 2016-2020



- Circumstances surrounding suicides differed slightly by veteran status. More veterans had a physical health problem (38.4%) than non-veterans (25.4%).
- A smaller proportion of veterans had a history of suicide attempt(s) (11.1%), and fewer had a substance use problem other than alcohol (10.3%) compared to non-veterans (18.7%, and 21.4% respectively).
- Among veteran suicides, many circumstances differed by age group.
 - More veterans ages 18 to 34 had an intimate partner problem (49.6%) than older veterans (21.1%), and were more likely to have had a job-related problem (20.5%) than older veterans (5.8%).
 - Veterans ages 18 to 34 were less likely to have left a suicide note (27.1%) than older veterans (32.5%).
 - Veterans ages 35 and older were much more likely to have had a physical health problem (46.6%) than veterans ages 18 to 34 (5.7%).

* Among those with reported circumstance information. 95.0% of veteran cases had circumstance information. Thirty-five veterans ages 18-34 and 29 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 Abuse 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/nc4vets>

NC Injury and Violence Prevention's Suicide Prevention Website

National Resources

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center

<http://www.sprc.org/>

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

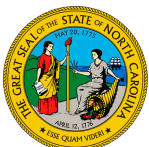
<https://afsp.org/>

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

call or text 988

or chat [988lifeline.org](https://www.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 DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

NORTH CAROLINA VIOLENT DEATH
NC VDRS
REPORTING SYSTEM

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.
2020 FINAL DATA 6/20/2022

Please see the NC-VDRS 2020 Annual Report for additional data and technical information:

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