

# Suicide among Veterans and Armed Forces ALASKA, 2010 - 2014

Data from the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

Alaska Violent Death Reporting System (AKVDRS) Joined the NVDRS: 2002

First year of data collection: 2003

Alaska is the largest state in the U.S. in land area, covering 570,000 square miles. It is the 48th most populated state.

### Population estimates for Alaska<sup>1</sup> (Average annual estimate, 2010-2014)

Veteran (Age 18+)	70,370
Armed Forces (Age 16+)	16,776
Non-Veteran/Civilian (Age 18+)	453,064

Homeless Veterans<sup>2</sup>  
(estimated)

89

Veteran Health Administration facilities in Alaska<sup>3</sup>

9

## Types of violent deaths among veterans and armed forces in Alaska (N=221)



- 9% Homicide (20 deaths)
- 4% Unintentional firearm (9 deaths)
- 1% Legal intervention (2 deaths)
- 9% Undetermined (20 deaths)

> 8 times

SUICIDE was the most common type of violent death among veterans and armed forces in Alaska, occurring more than eight times as often as homicide during 2010-2014.

Percent of all suicide victims in Alaska in 2010-2014 identified as veterans or armed forces

25% Males  
7% Females  
22% Total

## Suicide rates in Alaska\*\*

Suicide rates among veterans and armed forces were slightly lower for males and higher for females in Alaska in 2010-2014

	Veterans/ Armed Forces	Non-Veteran Civilians
Males	41.7	42.6
Females	20.1***	10.9
Total	39.0	25.4

\*\*\* Rate based on <20 deaths

## Demographics of veterans and armed forces suicide victims in Alaska (N=170)

### Race/Ethnicity

78% White, Non-Hispanic

- 8% American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 6% Black, non-Hispanic
- 5% Hispanic
- 2% Two or more races, other, or unknown race
- 0% Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic

### Marital Status

44% Married\*\*

- 29% Never married
- 20% Divorced
- 6% Widowed
- 1% Other/unknown status

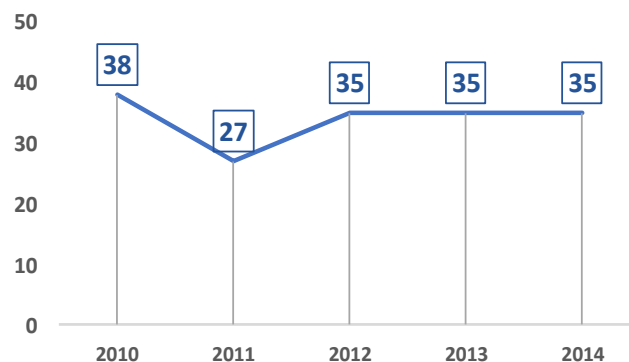
\*\* includes civil unions and domestic partnerships

### Education Status

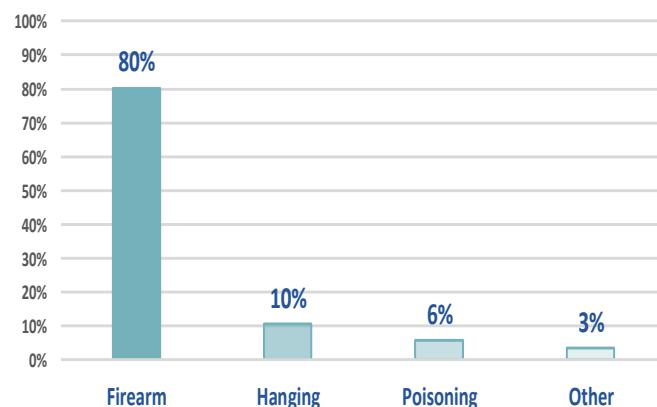
42% High school/GED graduate

- 32% Some college credit or college degree
- 4% Less than a high school education
- 22% Unknown or missing education level

## Annual number of suicide deaths among veterans and armed forces in Alaska



## Method of suicide deaths among veterans and armed forces in Alaska



Percents may not equal 100% due to rounding. \*All rates are occurrent ratios based on the number of resident and non-resident deaths that occurred in the state per 100,000 resident population. \*Statistical testing was not conducted. Differences between veterans/armed forces and non-veteran civilians may not be statistically significant. Sources: <sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014; <sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress; <sup>3</sup>U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

