Suicide among Veterans and Armed Forces
COLORADO, 2010 - 2014

Data from the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

Colorado Violent Death Reporting System (COVDRS)  Joined the NVDRS: 2003  First year of data collection: 2004

Colorado has 64 counties covering 103,000 square miles. It is the 22nd most populated state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population estimates for Colorado*</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Average annual estimate, 2010-2014)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran (Age 18+)</td>
<td>395,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Forces (Age 16+)</td>
<td>31,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Veteran/Civilian (Age 18+)</td>
<td>3,536,136</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Homeless Veterans** (estimated) 27
Veteran Health Administration facilities in Colorado 753

Types of violent deaths among veterans and armed forces in Colorado (N=1064)

- **86% Suicide (910 deaths)**
- 8% Homicide (88 deaths)
- 1% Unintentional firearm (9 deaths)
- 1% Legal intervention (12 deaths)
- 4% Undetermined (45 deaths)

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

Annual number of suicide deaths among veterans and armed forces in Colorado

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Firearm</th>
<th>Hanging</th>
<th>Poisoning</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Method of suicide deaths among veterans and armed forces in Colorado

- 69% Firearm
- 12% Hanging
- 15% Poisoning
- 4% Other

Suicide rates in Colorado**

- Suicide rates were higher among veterans and armed forces in Colorado in 2010-2014
- 24% Males
- 3% Females
- 19% Total

Suicide rates were higher among veterans and armed forces in Colorado in 2010-2014

Veterans/Armed Forces  Non-Veteran/Civilian
Males  45.9  34.9
Females  13.3  11.0
Total  42.6  21.8

Demographics of veterans and armed forces suicide victims in Colorado (N=910)

Race/Ethnicity
- 90% White, Non-Hispanic
- 6% Hispanic
- 2% Black, non-Hispanic
- 1% Two or more races, other, or unknown race
- <1% American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- <1% Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic

Marital Status
- 47% Married*
- 25% Divorced
- 16% Never married
- 10% Widowed
- 1% Other/unknown status

Education Status
- 56% Some college credit or college degree
- 38% High school or GED graduate
- 4% Less than a high school education
- 1% Unknown or missing education level

**Includes civil unions and domestic partnerships

Percent may not equal 100% due to rounding. *All rates are occurrence 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: 1. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014; 2. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress; 3. U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
In 91% of Colorado’s suicide deaths among male veterans and armed forces, circumstances were documented in the records (N=801). More than one circumstance may have been noted in the record. The five most frequent circumstances by age group, as well as information about suicide intent, and a suicide note, are shown below. Circumstances by age group were not calculated for females due to small numbers.

**Firearm suicide rates among male veterans/armed forces and non-veteran civilians in Colorado**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Males age 18-54</th>
<th>Males age 55+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VETERAN/ARMED FORCES</strong></td>
<td><strong>Firearm use</strong></td>
<td><strong>Firearm use</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29.9</td>
<td>33.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-VETERAN CIVILIAN</strong></td>
<td><strong>Firearm use</strong></td>
<td><strong>Firearm use</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- or = 2 deaths per 100,000 residents

**Suicide circumstances by life stage among male veterans and armed forces in Colorado**

In 91% of Colorado’s suicide deaths among male veterans and armed forces, circumstances were documented in the records (N=801). More than one circumstance may have been noted in the record. The five most frequent circumstances by age group, as well as information about suicide intent, and a suicide note, are shown below. Circumstances by age group were not calculated for females due to small numbers.

**Diagnoses among suicide victims with a current mental health problem in Colorado**

- Depression/dysthymia
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Schizophrenia
- Anxiety disorder
- Bipolar disorder
- Other/Unknown

Percentages will not add up to 100% as individuals may have had more than one diagnosis.