Suicide among Veterans and Armed Forces
KENTUCKY, 2010 - 2014

Data from the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

Kentucky Violent Death Reporting System (KVDRS)  Joined the NVDRS: 2004  First year of data collection: 2005

Kentucky has 120 counties covering 39,000 square miles. It is the 26th most populated state.

Types of violent deaths among veterans and armed forces in Kentucky (N=574)

- 82% Suicide (552 deaths)
- 9% Homicide (64 deaths)
- 2% Unintentional firearm (13 deaths)
- 1% Legal intervention (6 deaths)
- 6% Undetermined (39 deaths)

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

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

- 21% Males
- 4% Females
- 17% Total

Suicide rates in Kentucky**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Veterans/Armed Forces</th>
<th>Non-Veteran/Civilians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>27.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Method of suicide deaths among veterans and armed forces in Kentucky

Demographics of veterans and armed forces suicide victims in Kentucky (N=552)

Race/Ethnicity
- 94% White, Non-Hispanic
  - 4% Black, non-Hispanic
  - 1% Hispanic
  - 1% Two or more races, other, unknown race
  - <1% Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
  - 0% American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic

Marital Status
- 45% Married
  - 27% Divorced
  - 13% Widowed
  - 11% Never married
  - 5% Other/unknown status

Education Status
- 50% High school/GED graduate
  - 36% Some college credit or college degree
  - 14% Less than a high school education
  - 1% Unknown or missing education level

Percents 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: *U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014; **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress; ¹U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Firearm suicide rates among male veterans/armed forces and non-veteran civilians in Kentucky**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males age 18-54</th>
<th>Males age 55+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>VETERAN/ARMED FORCES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm use</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-firearm use</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-VETERAN CIVILIAN</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearm use</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-firearm use</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* or ** = 2 deaths per 100,000 residents

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

In 68% of Kentucky’s suicide deaths among male veterans and armed forces, circumstances were documented in the records (N=357). 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 Kentucky*

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