

Suicide among Veterans and Armed Forces MARYLAND, 2010 - 2014

Data from the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

Maryland Violent Death Reporting System (MVDRS) Joined the NVDRS: 2002 First year of data collection: 2003

Maryland has 24 counties covering 9,700 square miles. It is the 19th most populated state.

Population estimates for Maryland¹ (Average annual estimate, 2010-2014)

Veteran (Age 18+)	416,027
Armed Forces (Age 16+)	26,322
Non-Veteran/Civilian (Age 18+)	4,096,486

Homeless Veterans²
(estimated)

654

Veteran Health Administration facilities in Maryland³

25

Types of violent deaths among veterans and armed forces in Maryland (N=865)



9%	Homicide (82 deaths)
0%	Unintentional firearm (0 deaths)
1%	Legal intervention (7 deaths)
30%	Undetermined (263 deaths)

> 6 times

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

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

17%	Males
1%	Females
14%	Total

Suicide rates in Maryland*+

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

	Veterans/ Armed Forces	Non-Veteran Civilians
Males	25.5	18.2
Females	6.2***	4.5
Total	23.2	10.5

*** Rate based on <20 deaths

Demographics of veterans and armed forces suicide victims in Maryland (N=513)

Race/Ethnicity

81% White, Non-Hispanic

15%	Black, non-Hispanic
2%	Two or more races, other, or unknown race
1%	Hispanic
1%	Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic
<1%	American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic

Marital Status

51% Married**

19%	Divorced
16%	Never married
12%	Widowed
2%	Other/unknown status

** includes civil unions and domestic partnerships

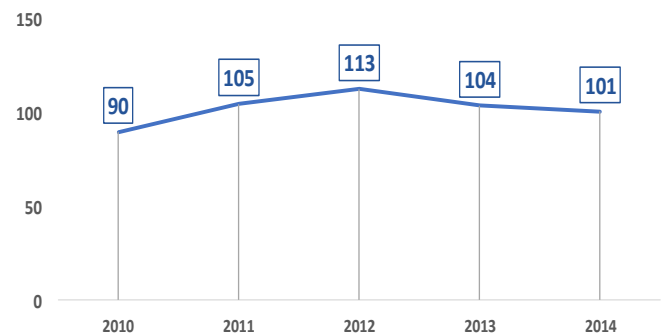
Education Status

46% Some college credit or college degree

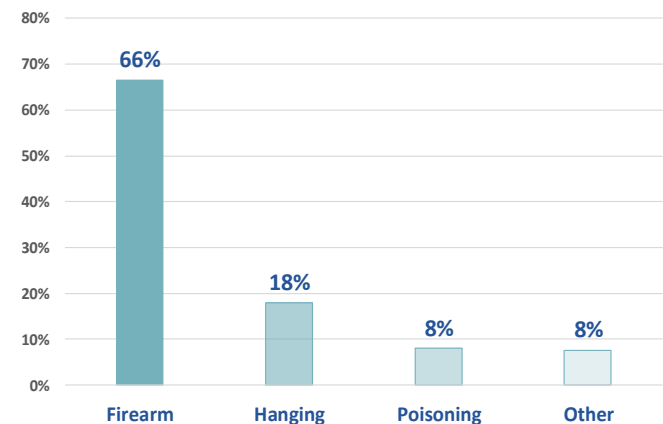
44%	High school or GED graduate
9%	Less than a high school education
1%	Unknown or missing education level

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: ¹U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014; ²U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress; ³U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

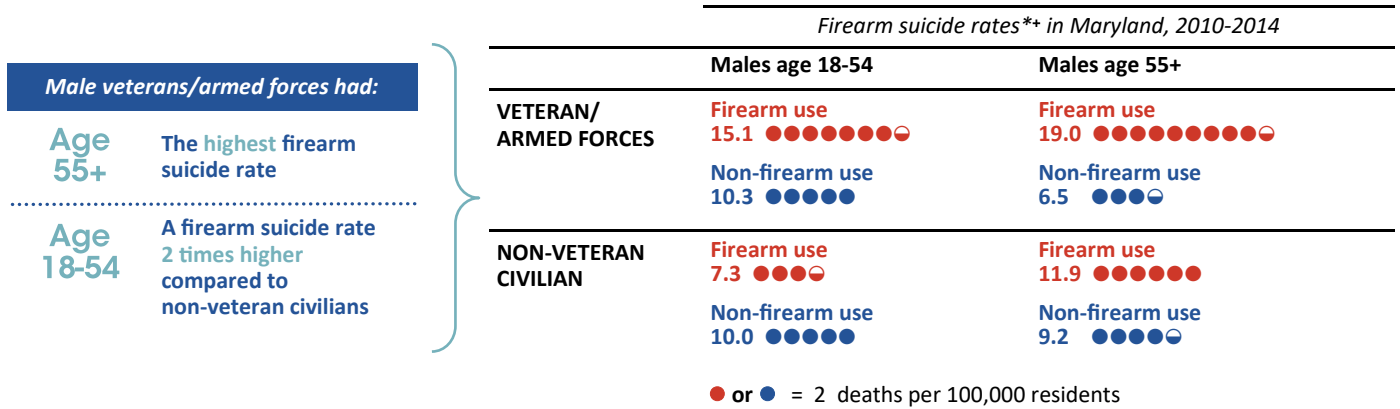
Annual number of suicide deaths among veterans and armed forces in Maryland



Method of suicide deaths among veterans and armed forces in Maryland



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



Male veterans/armed forces had:

Age 55+ The highest firearm suicide rate

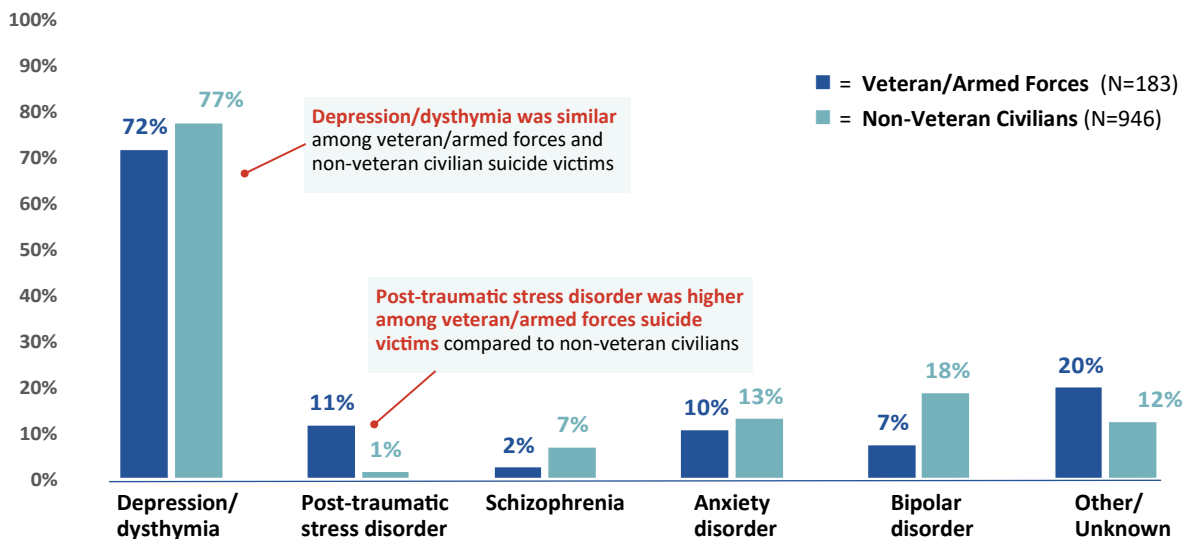
Age 18-54 A firearm suicide rate 2 times higher compared to non-veteran civilians

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

In 91% of Maryland's suicide deaths among male veterans and armed forces, circumstances were documented in the records (N=452). 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.

AGE 18-34 12% (N=54)	AGE 35-54 26% (N=118)	AGE 55-64 18% (N=80)	AGE 65+ 44% (N=200)
39% Current mental health problem	38% Current mental health problem	44% Current mental health problem	50% Physical health problems
37% Intimate partner problems	34% Intimate partner problems	34% Job/financial problems	35% Current mental health problem
30% Ever treated for mental health or substance abuse problem	30% Ever treated for mental health or substance abuse problem	30% Physical health problems	22% Ever treated for mental health or substance abuse problem
20% History of attempting suicide	27% Job/financial problems	30% Ever treated for mental health or substance abuse problem	17% Recent/imminent crisis
17% Job/financial problems	19% Alcohol problem	20% Intimate partner problems	12% Intimate partner problems
17% Recent/imminent crisis			12% Other death of friend or family member
26% Suicide intent disclosed within last month	33% Suicide intent disclosed within last month	33% Suicide intent disclosed within last month	31% Suicide intent disclosed within last month
41% Left a suicide note	38% Left a suicide note	35% Left a suicide note	36% Left a suicide note

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



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