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 Maryland
(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 Veterans
(estimated)   654
Veteran Health Administration facilities in Maryland   25

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

- 59% Suicide (513 deaths)
- 9% Homicide (82 deaths)
- 0% Unintentional firearm (0 deaths)
- 1% Legal intervention (7 deaths)
- 30% Undetermined (263 deaths)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Veterans/Armed Forces</th>
<th>Non-Veteran/Civilian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>6.2***</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** Rate based on <20 deaths

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Method of suicide deaths among veterans and armed forces in Maryland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firearm</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanging</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poisoning</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
- 9% 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: 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.
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.

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