Suicide among Veterans and Armed Forces

SOUTH CAROLINA, 2010-2012

Data from the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

South Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (SCVDRS)  Joined the NVDRS: 2002  First year of data collection: 2003

South Carolina has 46 counties covering 30,000 square miles. It is the 23rd most populous state.

Population estimates for South Carolina*  (Average annual estimate, 2010-2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veteran (Age 18+)</td>
<td>399,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Forces (Age 16+)</td>
<td>34,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Veteran/Civilian (Age 18+)</td>
<td>3,165,466</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Homeless Veterans2 (estimated)  703
Veteran Health Administration facilities in South Carolina3  21

Types of violent deaths among veterans and armed forces in South Carolina (N=521)

- 82% Suicide (427 deaths)
- 15% Homicide (80 deaths)
- 2% Unintentional firearm (8 deaths)
- <1% Legal intervention (1 death)
- 1% Undetermined (5 deaths)

SUICIDE was the most common type of violent death among veterans and armed forces in South Carolina, occurring more than five times as often as homicide during 2010-2012.

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

- 28% Males
- 3% Females
- 22% Total

Suicide rates were higher among veterans and armed forces in South Carolina in 2010-2012

Suicide rates among veterans and armed forces in South Carolina

Veterans/ Armed Forces  Non-Veterans/Civilian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>9.9***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32.8</td>
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</table>

*** Rate based on <20 deaths

Demographics of veterans and armed forces suicide victims in South Carolina (N=427)

Race/Ethnicity

- 89% White, Non-Hispanic
- 8% Black, non-Hispanic
- 2% Two or more races, other, or unknown race
- <1% Hispanic
- <1% American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic
- 0% Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic

Marital Status

- 48% Married*
- 16% Divorced
- 13% Widowed
- 13% Never married
- 10% Other/unknown status

*includes civil unions and domestic partnerships

Education Status

- 48% Some college credit or college degree
- 43% High school or GED graduate
- 8% Less than a high school education
- 1% Unknown or missing education level

Method of suicide deaths among veterans and armed forces in South Carolina

- 76% Firearm
- 11% Hanging
- 10% Poisoning
- 4% Other

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Suicide rates among veterans and armed forces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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 South Carolina

In 79% of South Carolina’s suicide deaths among male veterans and armed forces, circumstances were documented in the records (N=328). 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Intimate partner problems</th>
<th>Job/financial problems</th>
<th>Current mental health problem</th>
<th>Ever treated for mental health or substance abuse problem</th>
<th>History of attempting suicide</th>
<th>Suicide intent disclosed within last month</th>
<th>Left a suicide note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGE 18-34</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N=41)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AGE 35-54</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N=78)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE 55-64</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N=69)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE 65+</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N=140)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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