

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 Carolina¹ (Average annual estimate, 2010-2012)

Veteran (Age 18+)	399,931
Armed Forces (Age 16+)	34,066
Non-Veteran/Civilian (Age 18+)	3,165,466

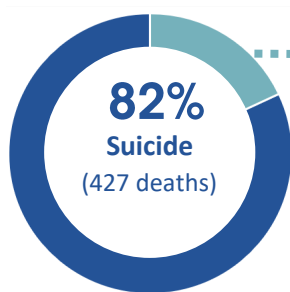
Homeless Veterans²
(estimated)

703

Veteran Health Administration facilities in South Carolina³

21

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



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

> 5 times

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 in South Carolina* +

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

	Veterans/ Armed Forces	Non-Veteran Civilians
Males	35.1	26.1
Females	9.9***	7.9
Total	32.8	15.6

*** 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

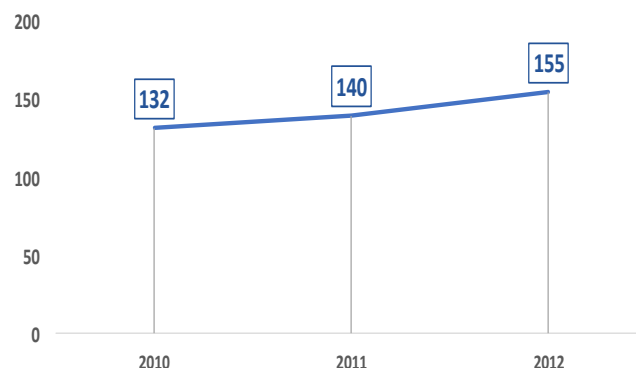
** includes civil unions and domestic partnerships

Education Status

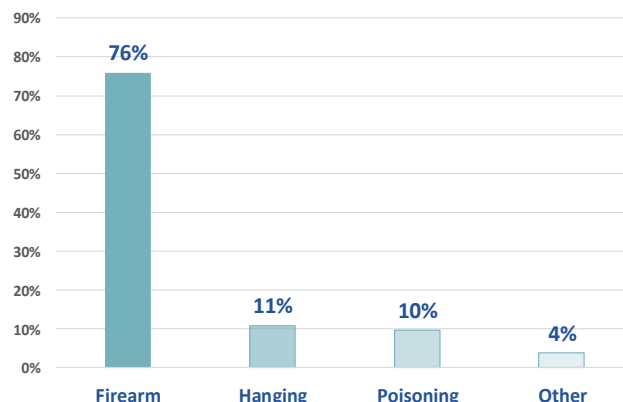
48% Some college credit or college degree

- 43% High school or GED graduate
- 8% Less than a high school education
- 1% Unknown or missing education level

Annual number of suicide deaths among veterans and armed forces in South Carolina



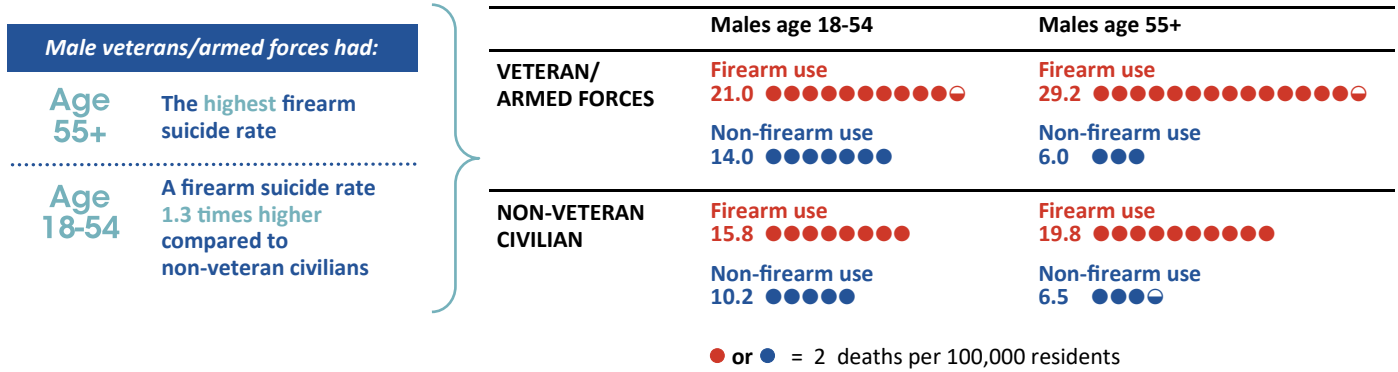
Method of suicide deaths among veterans and armed forces in South Carolina



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

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

Firearm suicide rates** in South Carolina, 2010-2012



Male veterans/armed forces had:

Age 55+ The highest firearm suicide rate

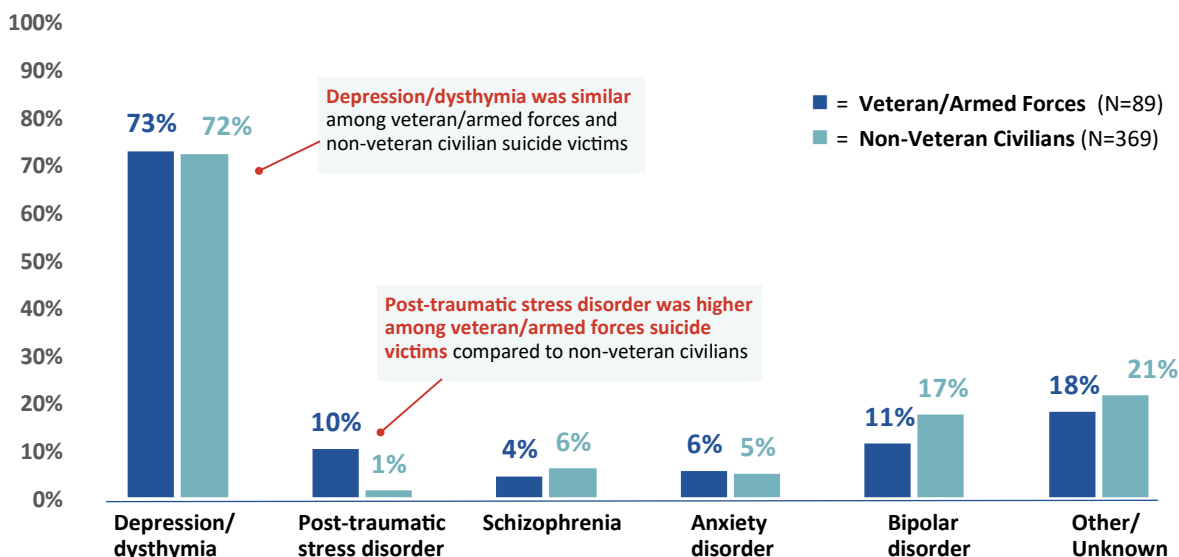
Age 18-54 A firearm suicide rate 1.3 times higher compared to non-veteran civilians

► 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.

AGE 18-34 13% (N=41)	AGE 35-54 24% (N=78)	AGE 55-64 21% (N=69)	AGE 65+ 43% (N=140)
37% Intimate partner problems	41% Current mental health problem	30% Physical health problems	61% Physical health problems
24% Job/financial problems	37% Intimate partner problems	26% Current mental health problem	18% Current mental health problem
22% Current mental health problem	26% Job/financial problems	25% Job/financial problems	11% Intimate partner problems
12% Ever treated for mental health or substance abuse problem	21% Ever treated for mental health or substance abuse problem	16% History of attempting suicide	11% Ever treated for mental health or substance abuse problem
12% History of attempting suicide	21% History of attempting suicide	14% Alcohol problem	8% Alcohol problem
29% Suicide intent disclosed within last month	26% Suicide intent disclosed within last month	20% Suicide intent disclosed within last month	28% Suicide intent disclosed within last month
27% Left a suicide note	26% Left a suicide note	30% Left a suicide note	30% Left a suicide note

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



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