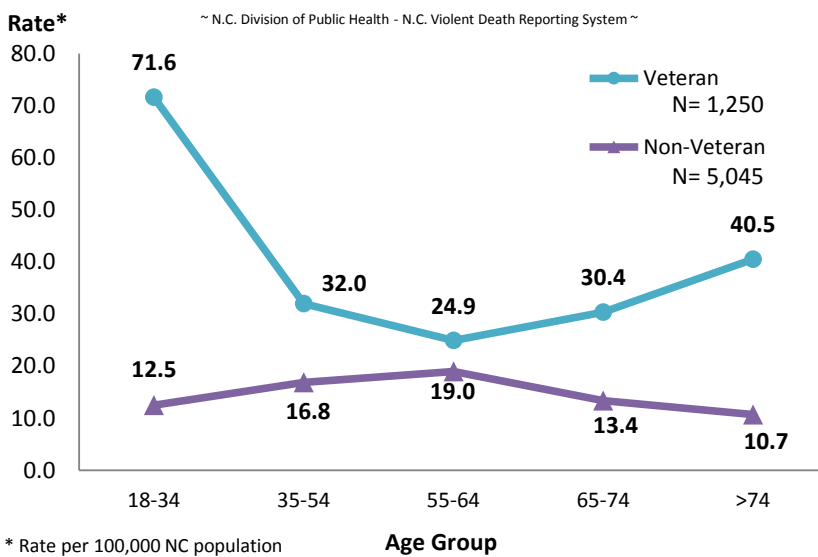


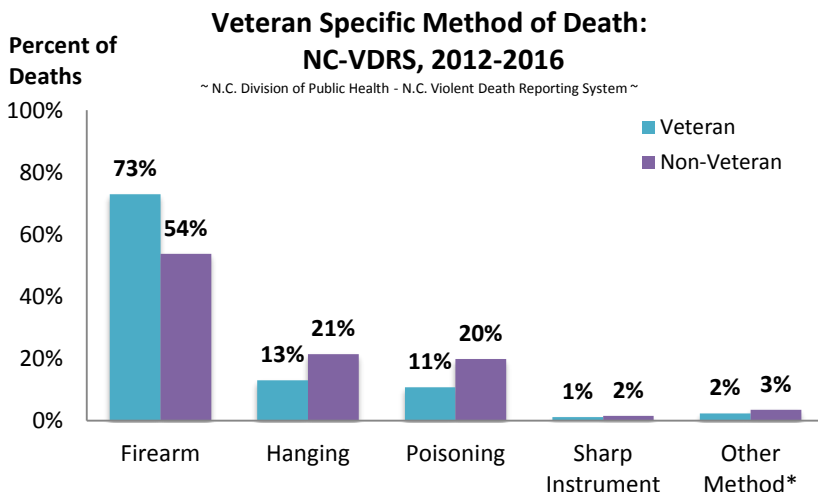
# VETERAN SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2012-2016

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects information on deaths that occur in NC resulting from violence: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention and deaths for which intent could not be determined. NC-VDRS is a multi-source system that gathers information from death certificates, medical examiner and law enforcement reports. The goal of this system is to aid researchers, legislators, and community interest groups in the development of public health prevention strategies to reduce violent deaths. NC-VDRS began collecting data in January 2004. This document summarizes suicide deaths that occurred during 2012-2016 among NC residents who have ever served in the U.S. Military. Data used for rates are Census Estimates from the American Community Survey.



- Veteran status was available for 98.6 percent of the 9,561 violent deaths that occurred among NC residents between 2012 and 2016.
- 1,525 (16.0%) of these deaths occurred among NC Veterans. Most veteran violent deaths were suicides (82.0%).
- The average suicide rate between 2012 and 2016 was 2.3 times higher among veterans than non-veterans (35.2 and 15.1 per 100,000 respectively).
- The suicide rate peaked for veterans ages 18 to 34 with a rate of 71.6 per 100,000, and was 5.7 times higher than the rate for non-veterans among the same age group. Veteran suicide rates were consistently higher than non-veterans across all age groups

- 95.9 percent of veteran suicides were male. The rate among male veterans was 2.3 times that of female veterans (37.1 and 15.9 per 100,000 respectively).
- Most veteran suicide victims were non-Hispanic (NH) white (88.6%), while 7.4 percent were NH black and 3.9 percent were of another race/ethnicity.

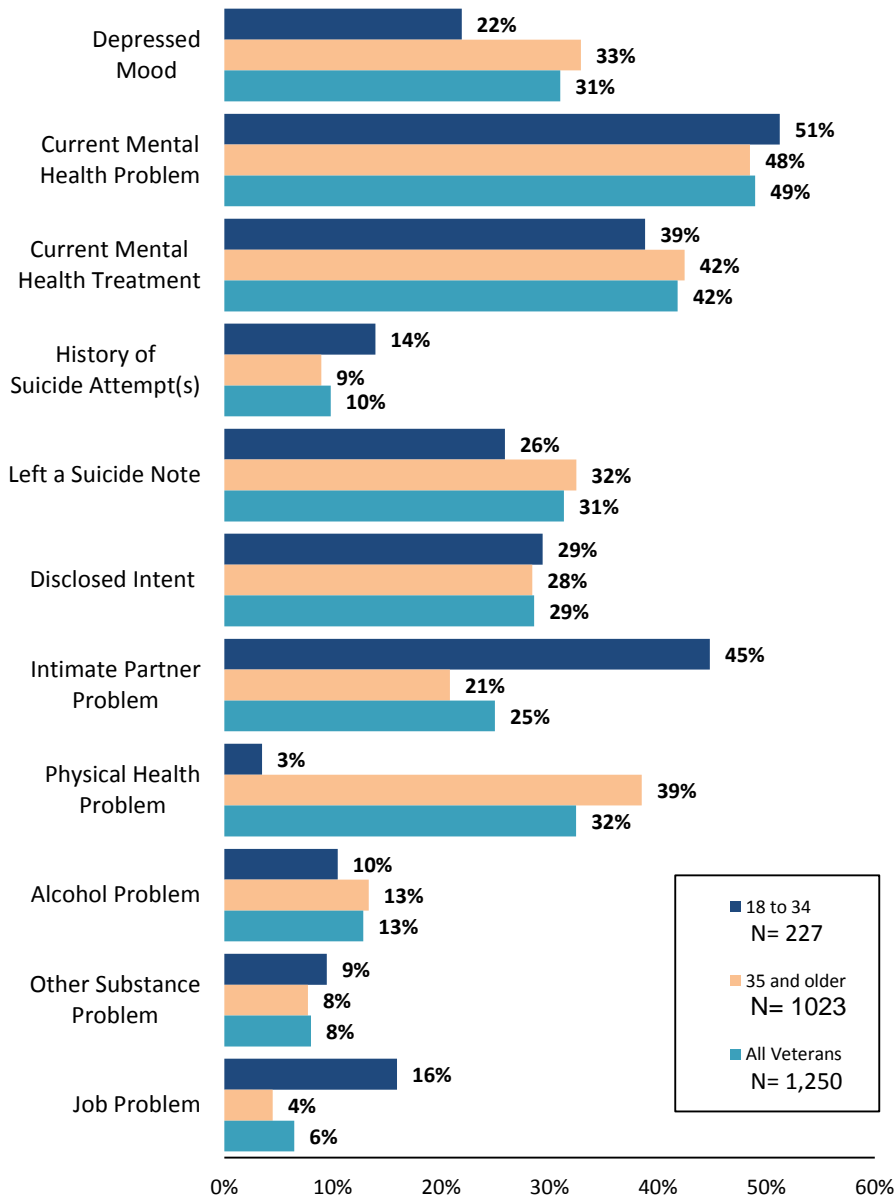


- Most suicides involved a firearm for both veterans (72.9%) and non-veterans (53.7%), however there was a much larger proportion of firearms used among veteran suicides.
- The second leading cause of suicide among North Carolina veterans was hanging (13.0%) followed by poisoning (10.7%).
- Roughly 2 percent of veteran suicides were completed using a method other than a firearm, hanging, or poisoning.

\*Other includes fall, drowning, fire/burns, motor and other transport vehicle, and other methods of death.

## Veteran Suicide Circumstances\* by Age Group: NC-VDRS, 2012-2016

~ N.C. Division of Public Health - N.C. Violent Death Reporting System ~



- The suicides circumstances differed slightly by veteran status. More veterans had a physical health problem (32.4%) than non-veterans (17.9%).

- A smaller proportion of veterans had a history of suicide attempt(s) (9.8%), and fewer had a substance use problem other than alcohol (8.0%) compared to non-veterans (17.5%, and 18.9% respectively).

- Among the veteran suicides, circumstances differed by age group.

- More veteran's ages 18 to 34 had an intimate partner problem (44.8%) than older veterans (20.8%), and were more likely to have had a job-related problem (15.9%) than older veterans (4.5%).

- Veteran's ages 18 to 34 were less likely to have left a suicide note (25.9%), and to be currently receiving mental health treatment (38.8%) than older veterans (32.5% and 42.5%, respectively).

- Veteran's ages 35 and older were much more likely to have had a physical health problem (38.5%) than veterans ages 18 to 34 (3.5%).

\* Among those with reported circumstance information. 93.0% of veteran cases had circumstance information. 26 veterans ages 18-34 and 62 veterans ages 35 and older were missing circumstance information.

### More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

#### State Resource Partners

N.C. Division of Mental Health,  
Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

[www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas)

North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

<http://www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov/>

N.C. Military and Veteran Affairs

<https://www.milvets.nc.gov/nc4vets>

#### National Resources

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center

[www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org)

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

[www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

for suicide crisis calls

1-800-273-8255 press 1 for veterans

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NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Division of Public Health

North Carolina Violent Death  
**NC VDRS**  
Reporting System

N.C. Division of Public Health / [www.publichealth.nc.gov](http://www.publichealth.nc.gov) / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit/ 919-707-5425

N.C. Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432

State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services / [www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov)

N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. 2016 FINAL DATA 11/18

Please see the NC-VDRS 2016 Annual Report for additional data and technical information.