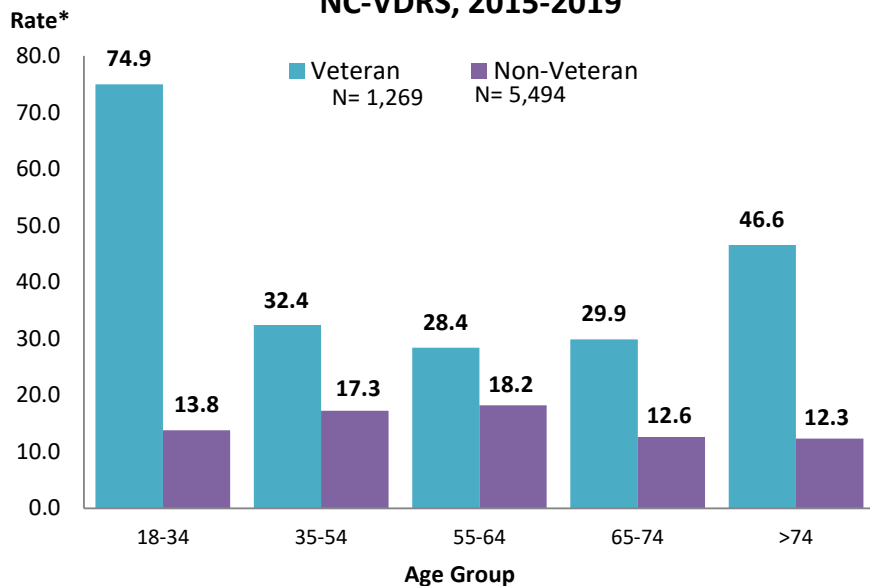


NC Violent Death Reporting System

VETERAN SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2015-2019

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on violent deaths that occur in North Carolina including: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths of undetermined intent. NC-VDRS triangulates information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports to understand and aid in the prevention of violent deaths. For more information, please visit <https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/About/ncVDRS.htm>.

**Suicide Rates by Veteran Status and Age Group
NC-VDRS, 2015-2019**



* Rate per 100,000 NC population
Rates calculated using census population estimates.

- Of veteran suicides, 95.1% were male. The rate among male veterans was 2.1 times that of female veterans (39.9 and 18.6 per 100,000 respectively).
- Most veteran suicide victims were non-Hispanic (NH) white (87.2%), while 8.4% were NH Black and 4.4% were of another race/ethnicity.

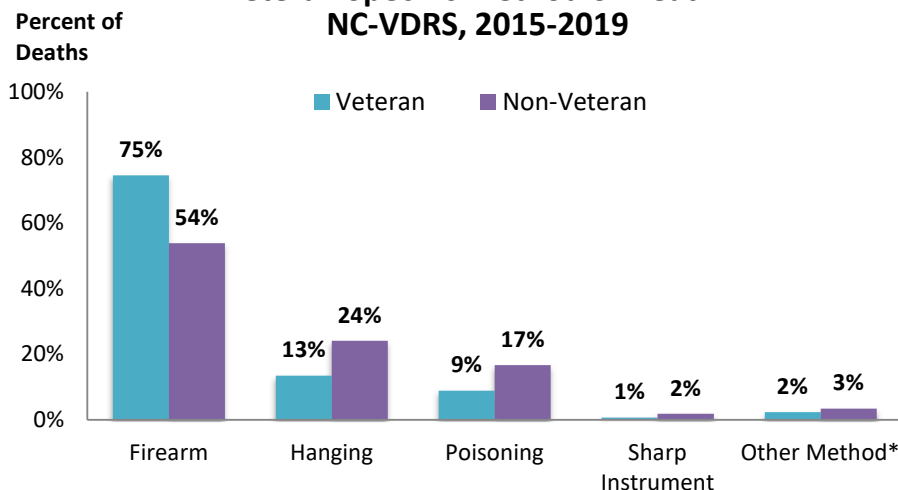
- Veteran status was available for 98.9% of the 10,414 violent deaths that occurred among NC residents ages 18 and older from 2015-2019.

- 1,550 (14.9%) of these deaths occurred among NC veterans. Most veteran violent deaths were suicides (81.9%).

- The average suicide rate from 2015-2019 was 2.4 times higher among veterans than non-veterans (37.8 and 15.5 per 100,000 respectively). Veteran suicide rates were consistently higher than non-veterans across all age groups.

- The suicide rate was highest for veterans ages 18 to 34 with a rate of 74.9 per 100,000, and was 5.4 times higher than the rate for non-veterans among the same age group.

**Veteran Specific Method of Death:
NC-VDRS, 2015-2019**



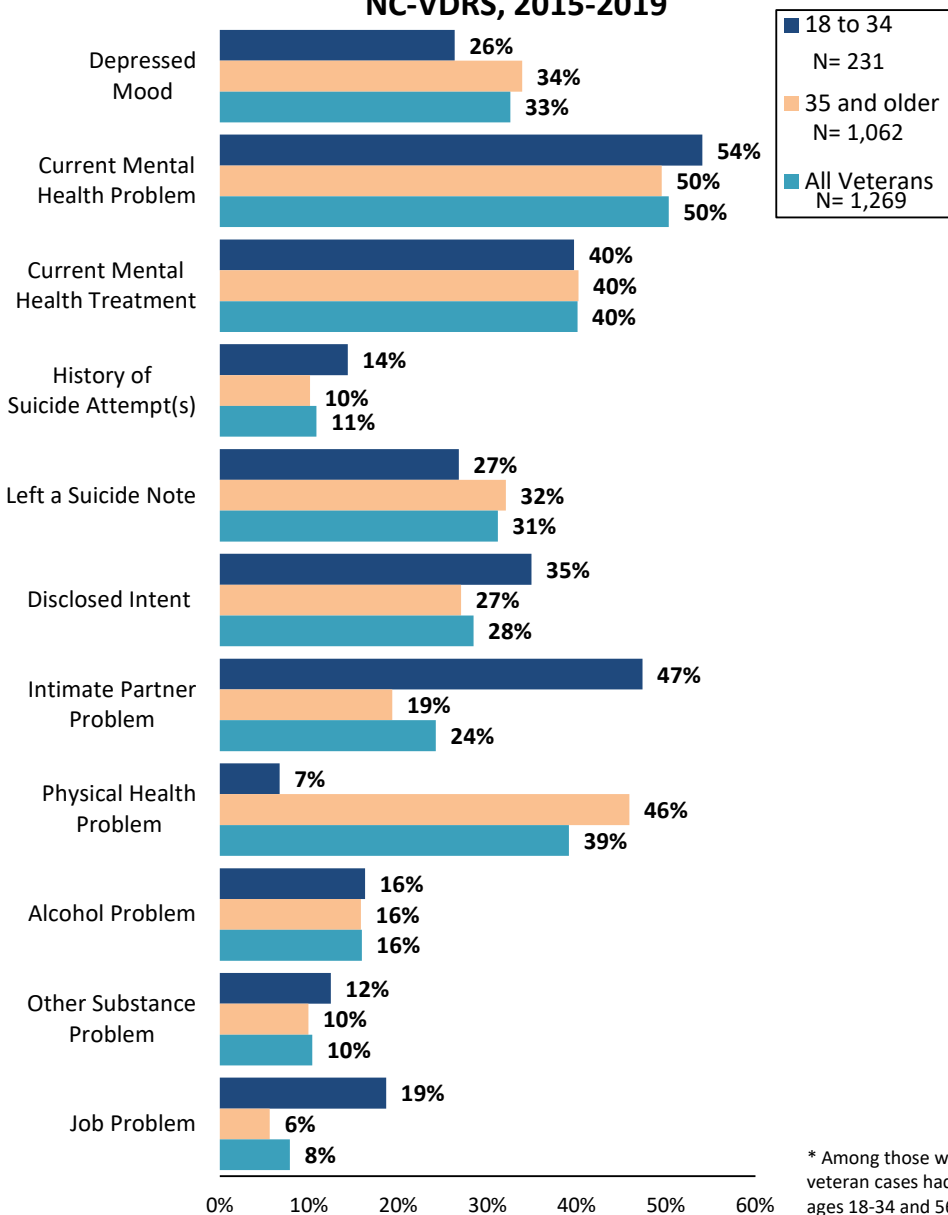
*Other includes fall, drowning, fire/burns, motor and other transport vehicle, and other methods of death.

- Most suicides involved a firearm for both veterans (74.6%) and non-veterans (53.9%), 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 (13.5%) followed by poisoning (8.9%).

- Roughly 2% of veteran suicides were involved a method other than a firearm, hanging, or poisoning.

Veteran Suicide Circumstances* by Age Group: NC-VDRS, 2015-2019



- The suicide circumstances differed slightly by veteran status. More veterans had a physical health problem (39.1%) than non-veterans (25.1%).

- A smaller proportion of veterans had a history of suicide attempt(s) (10.9%), and fewer had a substance use problem other than alcohol (10.4%) compared to non-veterans (18.5%, and 20.8% respectively).

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

- More veterans ages 18 to 34 had an intimate partner problem (47.4%) than older veterans (19.3%), and were more likely to have had a job-related problem (18.7%) than older veterans (5.6%).

- Veterans ages 18 to 34 were less likely to have left a suicide note (26.8%), and to be currently receiving mental health treatment (39.7%) than older veterans (32.1% and 40.2%, respectively).

- Veterans ages 35 and older were much more likely to have had a physical health problem (45.9%) than veterans ages 18 to 34 (6.7%).

* Among those with reported circumstance information. 95.1% of veteran cases had circumstance information. Twenty-four veterans ages 18-34 and 56 veterans ages 35 and older were missing

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**
<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas>

North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
<https://www.ocme.dhhs.nc.gov/>

N.C. Military and Veteran Affairs
<https://www.milvets.nc.gov/nc4vets>

National Resources

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center
<http://www.sprc.org/>

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

<https://afsp.org/>

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
(for suicide crisis calls)
1-800-273-8255

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System is supported by Cooperative Agreement 5NU17/CE002613-05-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

N.C. Division of Public Health / 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

N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

2019 FINAL DATA 8/16/21

Please see the NC-VDRS 2018 Annual Report for additional data and technical information:

<https://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/ViolentDeathData.htm>



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

