

Arizona Violent Death Reporting System

Data-At-A-Glance, Violent Deaths Involving Veteran Victims:

January 1, 2015—June 30, 2016

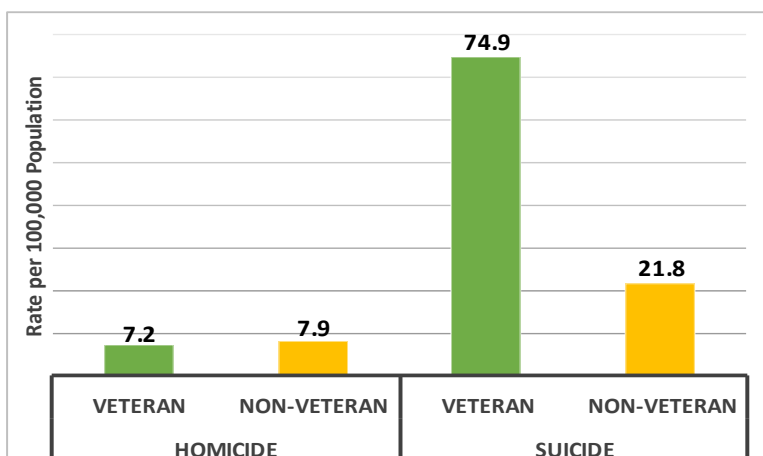


The Arizona Violent Death Reporting System collects violent death data from multiple sources, including death certificates issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services, police reports obtained from investigating agencies, and autopsy and toxicology reports from medical examiner offices. The purpose of the project is to assist stakeholders in strategic planning and prevention efforts aimed toward reducing the number of violent deaths occurring each year.

Violent Death Rates by Veteran Status in Arizona, January 1, 2015—June 30, 2016

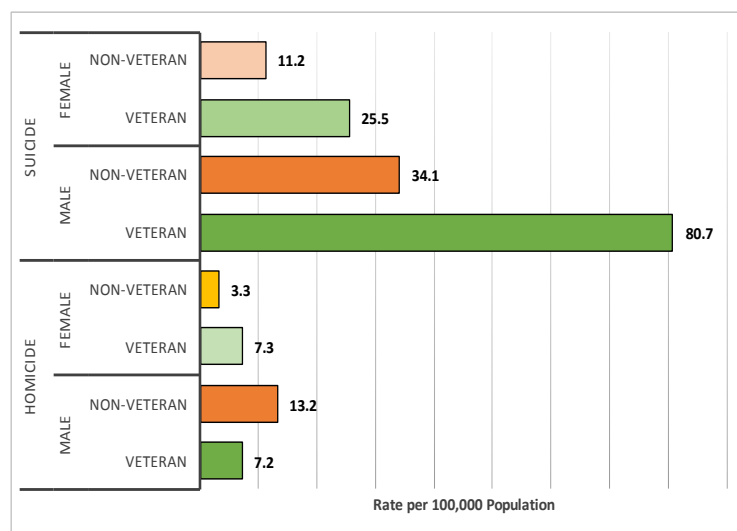
Comparing violent death rates among veterans and non-veterans in Arizona reveals a substantial and significant difference in suicide rates per 100,000 population. Specifically, the suicide rate among non-veterans was 21.8 per 100,000 population, compared to 74.9 per 100,000 population among veterans in Arizona.

Between January 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, there were 431 known occurrent violent deaths involving veteran victims in the state of Arizona: 393 suicides, 38 homicides.



There are an estimated 524,521 veterans residing in Arizona, according to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. For this report, we used data on 431 (38 homicides, 393 suicides) violent deaths of veterans, and 1,871 non-veteran violent deaths (497 homicides, 1,374 suicides).

Homicide and Suicide Rate per 100,000 by Veteran Status and Sex, Arizona January 1, 2015—June 30, 2016

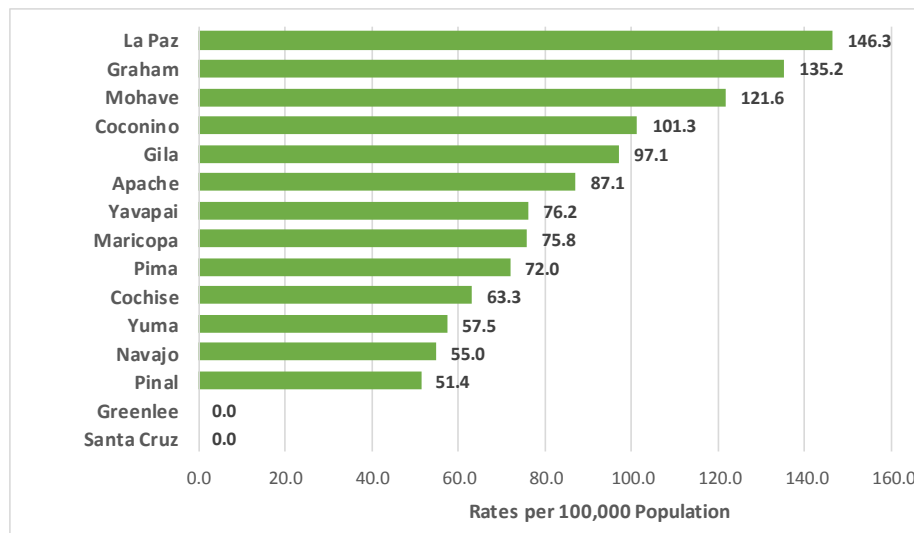


- ◆ Suicide rates were highest among veteran males (80.7 per 100,000; n=379), at more than twice the rate for non-veteran males (34.1; n=994).
- ◆ Homicide rates were highest among non-veteran males (13.2 per 100,000 population; n=386), compared to 3.3 (n=111) for non-veteran females, 7.2 (n=34) for veteran males and 7.3 for veteran females (n=4).
- ◆ Notably, veteran females were at significantly higher risk for both homicide (7.3, n=4) and suicide (25.5, n=14), than non-veteran females (3.3, n=111 and 11.2, n=380, respectively).

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Center website: cvpcs.asu.edu

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Suicide Rates per 100,000 Population among Veterans by County: January 1, 2015 — June 30, 2016



Suicides among Veterans

The statewide average rate per 100,000 population for veteran suicides in Arizona is 74.9 (n=393).

Greenlee and Santa Cruz counties had no veteran suicides, and Pinal, Navajo, Yuma and Cochise had low rates of veteran suicide.

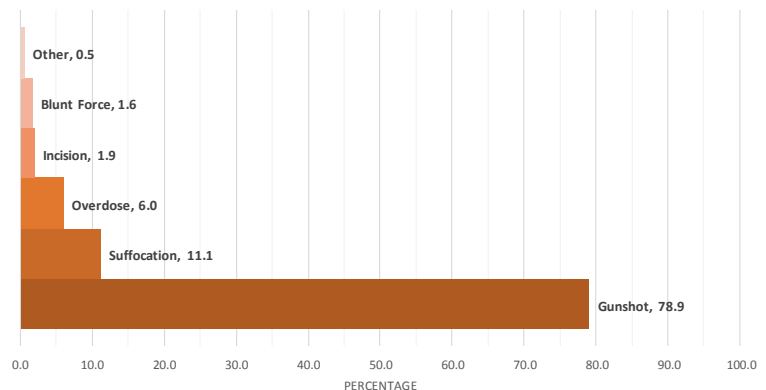
La Paz, Graham, Mohave, Coconino, Gila and Apache counties all have suicide rates well above the Arizona average rate.

Violent Deaths Involving Veterans: Method of Death Percentages, Arizona January 1, 2015—June 30, 2016

Gunshot wounds were the most common method of death among Arizona veterans (78.9%), followed by suffocation (including hangings) at 11.1%, overdoses (including other poisonings, 6.0%), incision wounds (including sharp force and stabbing, 1.9%) blunt force trauma (1.6%) and other means (0.5%).

The table below provides the method of death for homicides and suicides separately. Gunshot wounds remained the dominant method, with 73.7% of homicides and 79.4% of suicides involving a firearm.

Method of Death by Veterans (percentage)



Violent Deaths among Veterans by Manner and Method (%)

	Homicide	Suicide
Gunshot	73.7	79.4
Suffocation	2.6	12.0
Overdose	0.0	6.6
Incision	10.5	1.0
Blunt Force	10.5	0.8
Other	2.6	0.3

General Trends:

Violent deaths among veterans in Arizona was significantly higher for male suicides (80.7 per 100,000 population, compared to 34.1 for non-veteran males) and for female veterans in both homicides (7.3) and suicides (25.5), particularly compared to non-veteran females (3.3 and 11.2, respectively). La Paz, Graham and Mohave counties had very high veteran suicide rates (146.3, 136.2 and 121.6, respectively).

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For more detail on the data used in this report, or others, and for more information about the project, its partners, or putting the data into action, please visit ASU's Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety's AZ-VDRS webpage at:

<https://cvpcs.asu.edu/projects/arizona-violent-death-reporting-system>.