

Arizona Violent Death Reporting System

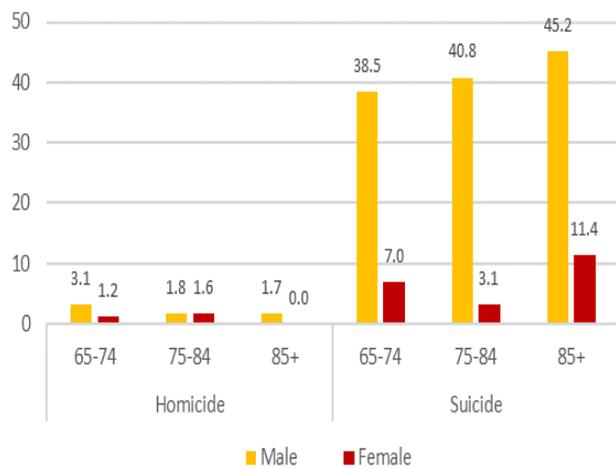
Data-At-A-Glance, 2015: Violent Deaths among Older Adults



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.

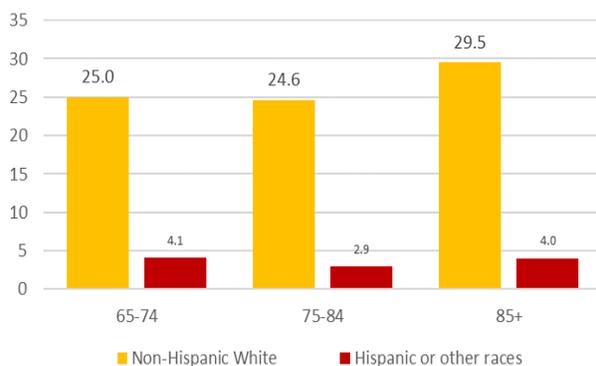
In 2015, there were 271 known occurrent violent deaths among older adults (65 years and older) in the state of Arizona: 238 suicides, 20 homicides, 2 unintentional accidents, and 11 violent deaths of undetermined intent.

Homicide and Suicide Rate per 100,000 among Older Adults by Age and Sex, Arizona 2015



- ◆ Homicide rates were highest among males aged 65-74 (3.1 per 100,000 population; $n=9$).
- ◆ Overwhelmingly, males were at greater risk of suicide (39.2 per 100,000; $n=202$) compared to females (6.0 per 100,000 population; $n=36$).
- ◆ Suicide rates were highest among males aged 85 and older (45.2 per 100,000 population; $n=27$).

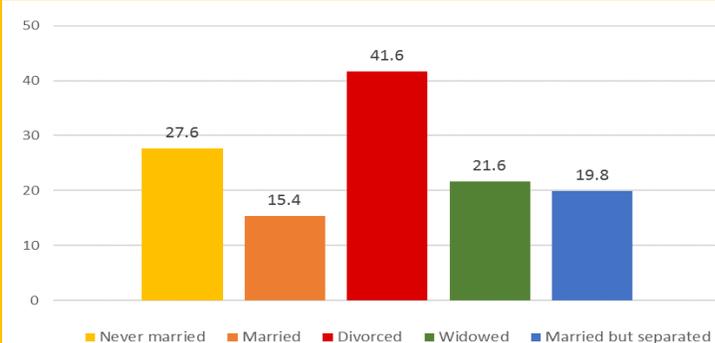
Suicide Rate per 100,000 among Older Adults by Age and Ethnicity, Arizona 2015



- ◆ Overall, the majority of suicide victims were non-Hispanic whites (97.5%; $n=230$).
- ◆ Suicide rates were highest among non-Hispanic whites aged 85 and older (29.5 per 100,000 population; $n=31$).

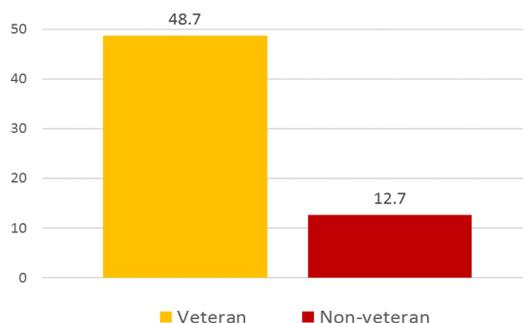
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Suicide Rate per 100,000 among Older Adults by Marital Status, Arizona 2015



Older divorced adults were at high risk for suicide (41.6 per 100,000 population; $n=69$) compared to older married adults (15.4 per 100,000 population; $n=102$).

Suicide Rate per 100,000 among Older Adults by Veteran Status, Arizona 2015



Older adults who were veterans were almost four times more at risk of suicide (48.7 per 100,000 population; $n=126$) than non-veterans (12.7 per 100,000 population; $n=109$).

Concerns:

Suicide rates among older adults is high. Older adults who were male (39.2 per 100,000 population), aged 85 years and older (24.64), were a veteran (48.7), and who were divorced (41.63) were at high risk of suicide compared to their counterparts.

Prevention/Intervention Opportunity:

Primary care providers should implement routine standard screening for suicidal ideation and related issues (e.g., physical symptoms, sleep problems, depression, etc.) in order to increase an older adult's quality of life and decrease suicidal thoughts.