

Arizona Violent Death Reporting System

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

January 1, 2016— December 31, 2016

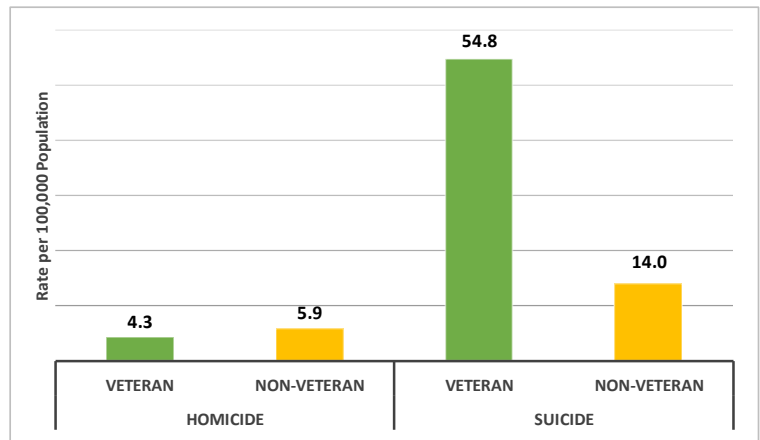


The Arizona Violent Death Reporting System collects violent death data from multiple sources, including death certificates issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services, police reports obtained from investigating agencies, and autopsy and toxicology reports from medical examiner offices. The purpose 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, 2016-December 31, 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 14.0 per 100,000 population, compared to 54.8 per 100,000 population among veterans in Arizona.

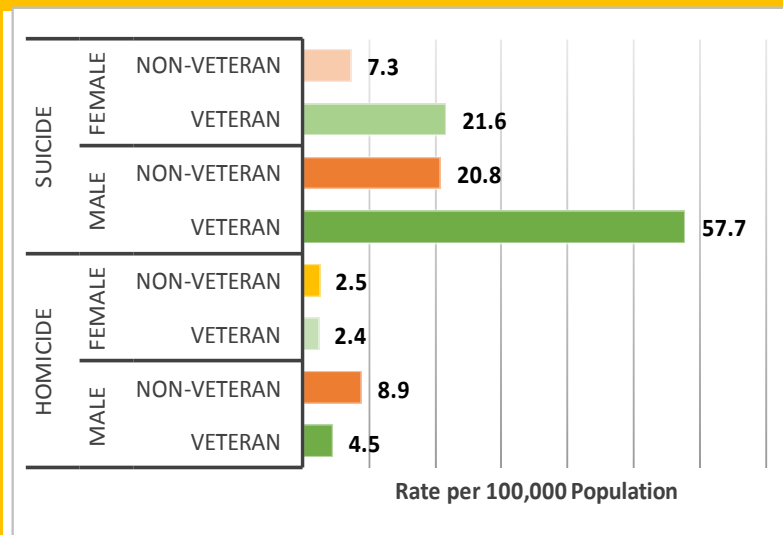
Between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016, there were 299 known occurred violent deaths involving veteran victims in the state of Arizona: 277 suicides, 22 homicides.



There are an estimated 505,794 veterans residing in Arizona, according to the U.S. Census and American Community Survey 2016 estimates. For this report, we used data on 299 (22 homicides, 277 suicides) violent deaths of veterans, and 1,257 non-veteran violent deaths (370 homicides, 887 suicides).

Homicide and Suicide Rate per 100,000 by Veteran Status and Sex, Arizona

January 1, 2016—December 31, 2016

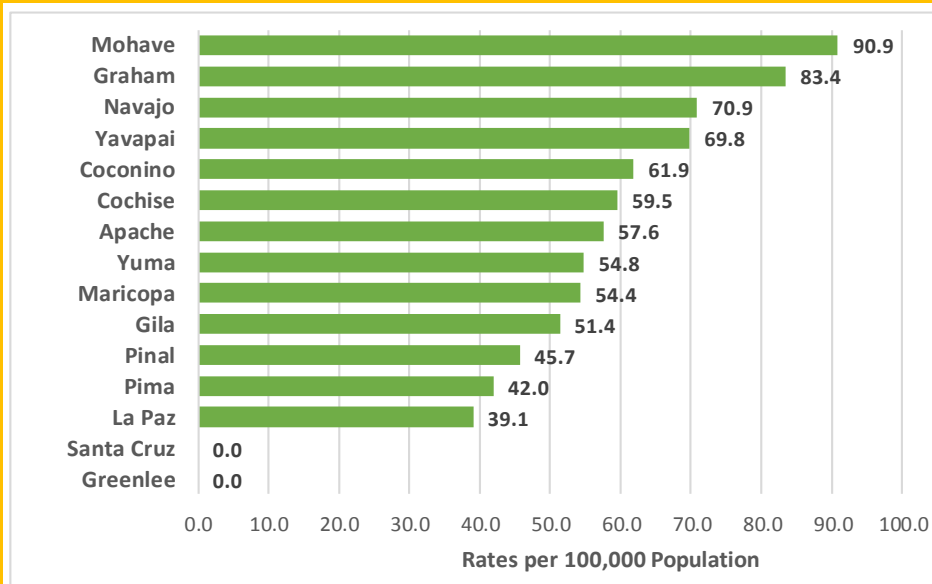


- ◆ Suicide rates were highest among veteran males (57.7 per 100,000; n=268), at nearly three times the rate for non-veteran males (20.8; n=654).
- ◆ Homicide rates were highest among non-veteran males (8.9 per 100,000 population; n=280), compared to 2.5 (n=81) for non-veteran females, 4.5 (n=21) for veteran males and 2.4 for veteran females (n=1).
- ◆ Notably, veteran females were at significantly higher risk for suicide (21.6, n=9), than non-veteran females (7.3, n=233).

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Suicide Rates per 100,000 Population among Veterans by County: January 1, 2016 — December 31, 2016



Suicides among Veterans

The statewide average rate per 100,000 population for veteran suicides in Arizona is 54.8 (n=277).

Greenlee and Santa Cruz counties had no veteran suicides, and La Paz, Pima and Pinal had low rates of veteran suicide.

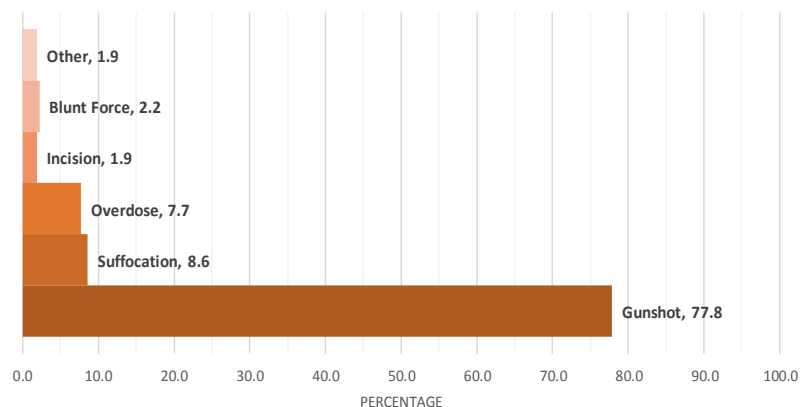
Mohave, Graham, Navajo and Yavapai counties all have suicide rates well-above the Arizona average rate.

Violent Deaths Involving Veterans: Method of Death Percentages, Arizona January 1, 2016—December 31, 2016

Gunshot wounds were the most common method of death among Arizona veterans (77.8%), followed by suffocation (including hangings) at 8.6%, overdoses (including other poisonings, 7.7%), blunt force trauma (2.2%), incision wounds (including sharp force and stabbing, 1.9%) and other means (0.9%).

The table below provides the method of death for homicides and suicides separately. Gunshot wounds remained the dominant method, with 77.3% of homicides and 83.4% 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 (57.7 per 100,000 population, compared to 20.8 for non-veteran males) as well as for female veterans in suicides (21.6), compared to non-veteran females (7.3). Compared to the statewide average, Mohave, Graham, Navajo and Yavapai counties had very high veteran suicide rates (90.9, 83.4, 70.9 and 69.8, respectively).

Contact Charles M. Katz (ckatz@asu.edu) or David E. Choate (dchoate@asu.edu) for more information about the AZ-VDRS.
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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>.