Puerto Rico Veteran Suicide Data Sheet

The 2015 state data sheets contain the most up-to-date Veteran suicide information for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. These sheets reflect the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ expanded analysis of suicide rates and include data that has become available since the release of the 2014 state data sheets.

This Puerto Rico Veteran Suicide Data Sheet is based on a collaborative effort among the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The statistics herein are derived from multiple data sources, including the VA Office of Enterprise Integration, the VA Serious Mental Illness Treatment Resource and Evaluation Center, VA Post-Deployment Health Services, the VA Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention, and the Defense Suicide Prevention Office. Cause of death was identified through the NCHS National Death Index (NDI). For additional information, please email Dr. Megan McCarthy, National Deputy Director for Suicide Prevention, VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, at megan.mccarthy@va.gov.

Puerto Rico Veteran Suicide Deaths, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Veteran Suicides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>10–15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because some of Puerto Rico’s Veteran populations are relatively small, suicide deaths are presented in ranges rather than precise counts to protect confidentiality.

Puerto Rico Veteran and Total Puerto Rico Suicide Deaths, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Puerto Rico Veteran Suicides</th>
<th>Puerto Rico Total Suicides</th>
<th>Puerto Rico Veteran Suicide Rate</th>
<th>Puerto Rico Total Suicide Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>16.0*</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rates calculated from suicide counts lower than 20 are considered unreliable.
Puerto Rico Veteran and National Suicide Deaths by Method, 2015

Veteran statistics contained herein are derived from the U.S. adult population 18 years of age or older, whereas total statistics include the total population (all ages). National figures include the contiguous United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. The total national counts and rates presented are for the general U.S. population, which includes both Veterans and non-Veterans.

Suicide rates presented are unadjusted mortality rates per 100,000 people. These rates are the number of suicide deaths in 2015 divided by the estimated population, multiplied by 100,000. Veteran suicide data was obtained from the VA/DoD Joint Suicide Data Repository (SDR). Veteran suicide rates are calculated using the Veteran Population Projection Model 2016 (VetPop2016) population estimates. General U.S. population rates are obtained from the National Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 66 No. 6.

Rates are marked with an asterisk (*) when the rate is calculated from fewer than 20 deaths. Rates based on small numbers of deaths are considered unreliable because a small change in the number of deaths might result in a large change in the rate.

Suicide deaths for this data sheet are based on the underlying cause of death listed on the state death certificate as recorded in the SDR. Underlying cause of death, based on the International Classification of Diseases 10th revision (ICD-10), is defined as (a) the disease or injury that initiated the train of events leading directly to death, or (b) the circumstances of the accident or violence that produced the fatal injury. The ICD-10 codes used to define suicide deaths are X60–X84 and Y87.0.

For the percentages of suicide deaths by method, when the number of deaths in any one category is lower than 10, the categories with the smallest numbers are combined until a minimum count of 10 is reached.

Veteran Population Model 2016 (VetPop2016), Predictive Analytics and Actuary, Office of Enterprise Integration, Department of Veterans Affairs.


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