Montana Veteran Suicide Data Sheet, 2016

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is leading efforts to understand suicide risk factors, develop evidence-based prevention programs, and prevent Veteran suicide through a public health approach. As part of its work, VA analyzes data at the national and state levels to guide the design and execution of the most effective strategies to prevent Veteran suicide.

The 2016 state data sheets present the latest findings from VA’s ongoing analysis of suicide rates and include the most up-to-date state-level suicide information for the United States. This data sheet includes information about Montana Veteran suicides by age, sex, and suicide method and compares this with regional and national data.

Montana Veteran Suicide Deaths, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Veteran Suicides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>40-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To protect confidentiality, suicide death counts are presented in ranges when the number of deaths in any one category was lower than 10.

Montana, Western Region, and National Veteran Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Montana Veteran Suicides</th>
<th>Western Region Veteran Suicides</th>
<th>National Veteran Suicides</th>
<th>Montana Veteran Suicide Rate</th>
<th>Western Region Veteran Suicide Rate</th>
<th>National Veteran Suicide Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1,576</td>
<td>6,079</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–34</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35–54</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>1,648</td>
<td>59.1*</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55–74</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>2,259</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>1,274</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After accounting for age differences, the Veteran suicide rate in Montana:
- Was not significantly different from the national Veteran suicide rate
- Was significantly higher than the national suicide rate

Montana Veteran and Total Montana, Western Region, and National Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Montana Veteran Suicides</th>
<th>Montana Total Suicides</th>
<th>Western Region Total Suicides</th>
<th>National Total Suicides</th>
<th>Montana Veteran Suicide Rate</th>
<th>Montana Suicide Rate</th>
<th>Western Region Suicide Rate</th>
<th>National Suicide Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>11,105</td>
<td>43,427</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–34</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>3,061</td>
<td>11,997</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35–54</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>3,854</td>
<td>15,467</td>
<td>59.1*</td>
<td>33.1</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55–74</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>3,155</td>
<td>12,162</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1,035</td>
<td>3,801</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>20.2*</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rates calculated from suicide counts lower than 20 are considered unreliable.
Montana Veteran and Total Montana, Western Region, and National Suicide Deaths by Method, 2016

Montana Veteran Suicides
- 28.6% (12) Firearms
- 9.6% (24) Suffocation
- 24.0% (60) Poisoning
- 2.9% (6) Other Suicide
- 30

Montana Total Suicides
- 4.4% (11) Firearms
- 9.6% (24) Suffocation
- 47.2% (5,239) Poisoning
- 26.5% (2,939) Other Suicide
- 155

Western Region Suicides
- 9.7% (1,073) Firearms
- 16.7% (1,854) Suffocation
- 51.4% (22,383) Poisoning
- 25.1% (10,906) Other Suicide
- 10,906

National Suicides
- 8.3% (3,595) Firearms
- 15.3% (6,623) Suffocation
- 25.1% (155) Poisoning
- 28.6% (12) Other Suicide
- 155

These 2016 state data sheets are 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 presented 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 DoD Defense Suicide Prevention Office. For additional information, please email VASPDdataRequest@va.gov.

These sheets include information on the Veteran population and general U.S. population age 18 and older, with deaths reported in the contiguous United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. The total state, regional, and national counts and rates presented include both Veterans and non-Veterans.

Suicide deaths are identified based on the underlying cause of death indicated on the state death certificate. For Veteran decedents, this information comes from the NCHS National Death Index (NDI) and was obtained from the joint VA/DoD Suicide Data Repository (SDR). Suicide death counts for the general U.S. population were obtained from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) WONDER (Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research). Underlying cause of death 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 (International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision) codes used to define suicide deaths are X60–X84 and Y87.0.

Suicide rates presented are unadjusted rates per 100,000, calculated as the number of suicide deaths in 2016 divided by the estimated population and multiplied by 100,000. Significance statements are based on the ratio of direct age-adjusted rates, using the 2000 standard U.S. population. The Veteran Population Projection Model 2016 (VetPop2016) was used in calculating rates to estimate the Veteran population for each state and age group. The U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) one-year estimates were used to estimate the general U.S. population.

Veteran age-specific counts may not sum to the total counts because there is a small number of deaths for which age information is unavailable. These deaths are included in overall counts and rates but are not distributed among age groups; therefore, they are not included in age-specific counts, age-specific rates, or age-adjusted rates. 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 statistically unreliable because a small change in the number of deaths might result in a large change in the rate. Because suicide rates based on fewer than 20 suicide deaths are considered statistically unreliable, any comparisons between age-adjusted rates and underlying age-specific rates based on fewer than 20 suicide deaths should be interpreted with caution.

To protect privacy and to prevent revealing information that may identify specific decedents, counts and rates are suppressed when based on 0–9 individuals. For suicide deaths by method, in cases where the number of deaths in any one of the categories was lower than 10, the categories with the smallest counts were combined until the minimum count of 10 was reached, to maintain confidentiality.

For additional information, please email VASPDdataRequest@va.gov.

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Download the full set of 2016 state data sheets: