



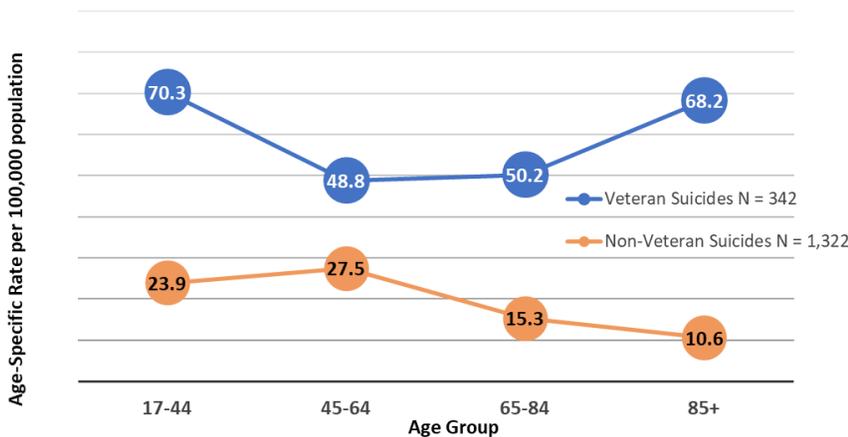
Idaho Violent Death Reporting System

Veteran Suicide in Idaho

The Idaho Violent Death Reporting System (IdVDRS) is part of the National Violent Death Reporting System, which is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The IdVDRS collects data on all violent deaths which occur annually in the state of Idaho. By collecting comprehensive data on violent deaths, IdVDRS prevention partners can create targeted, evidence-based prevention strategies to help reduce the burden of violent deaths in Idaho.

Suicide among military veterans has become an increasing concern around the United States. The data presented on this fact sheet illuminates that Idaho resident veterans are also at higher risk of dying by suicide than Idaho non-veteran residents throughout the state. Suicide deaths were determined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes located on Idaho death certificates. Veteran status was assigned according to death certificate information (Item 10: "Was decedent ever in U.S. Armed Forces?") typically provided by proxy reporting (e.g., spouse, parent, adult child). Rates were then calculated using this data and population estimates. Idaho resident veteran populations are from U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (1) and Idaho resident populations are from National Center for Health Statistics (2).

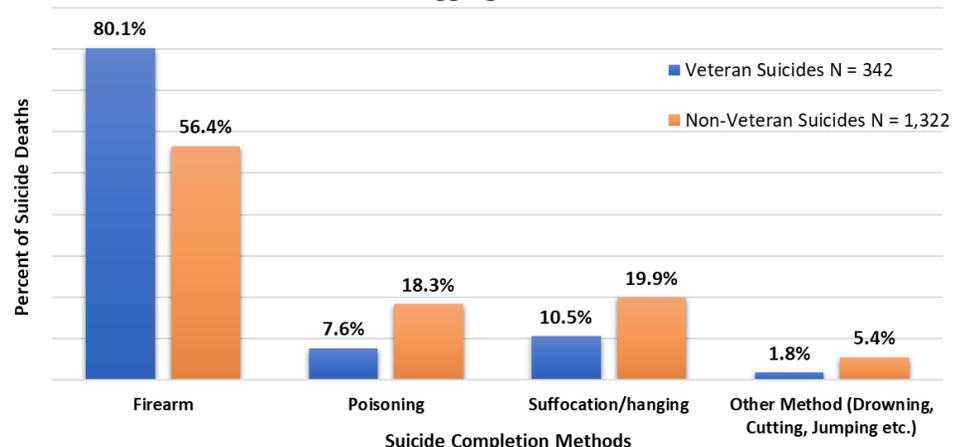
**Idaho Resident Veteran and Non-Veteran Suicides
 Age-Specific Rates, Five Year Aggregate: 2013-2017**



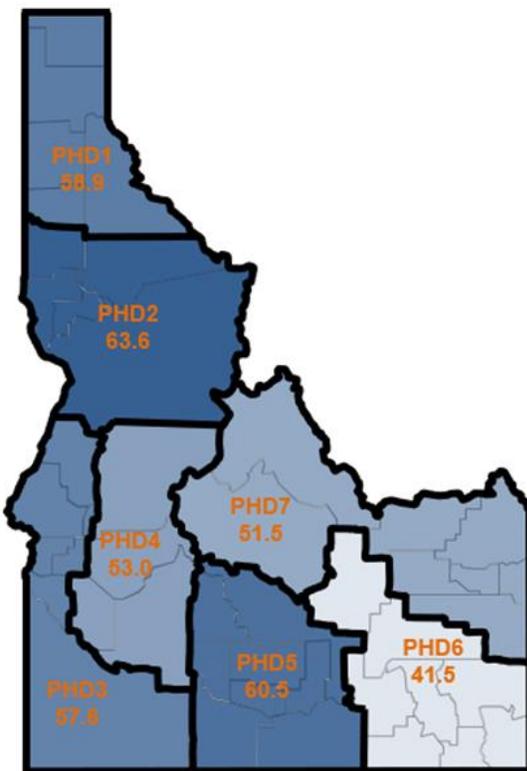
- Across all age groups, Idaho's veterans have an increased rate of suicides compared to non-veterans.
- The average veteran suicide rate is three times higher than the non-veteran. The largest difference occurs in the 85+ age group where the veteran rate is over six times higher than the non-veteran.

- Veterans are three times more likely to complete a suicide using a firearm than any other method.
- Research shows the accessibility and knowledge veterans have of firearms is why they are more likely to use them to complete suicide. (3)
- Non-veterans used poisoning and suffocation/hanging to complete a suicide 38.2% of the time versus 18.1% for veterans.

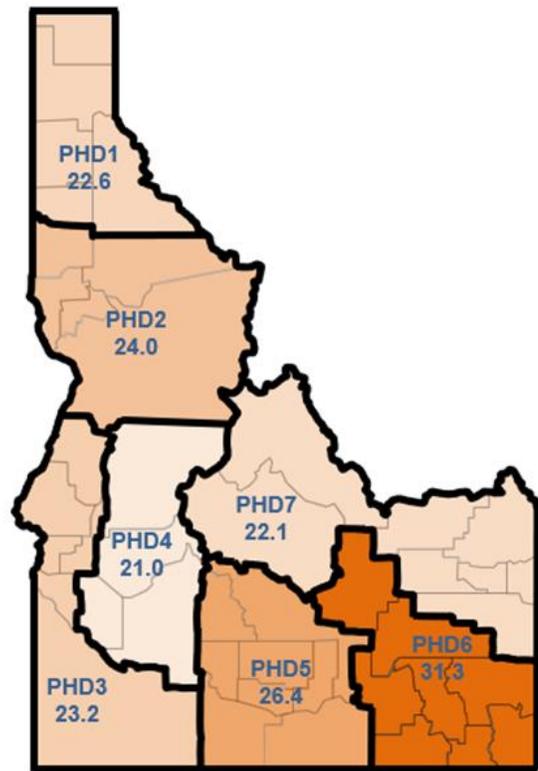
**Idaho Resident Veteran and Non-Veteran Suicides
 Percentages of Suicide Completion Methods
 Five Year Aggregate: 2013-2017**



Idaho Resident Veteran and Non-Veteran Suicides by Idaho Public Health Districts (PHD) per 100,000 residents, Five Year Aggregate: 2013-2017



Veterans



Non-Veterans

- The health district with the lowest rate for veterans (District 6) is over 30% higher than the highest rate for non-veterans (District 6).
- The health district with the highest rate for veterans (District 2) is over twice as high as the highest non-veteran district (District 6).
- The average rate for veterans statewide is 55.2, over double the statewide non-veteran rate of 24.4.

Key Take Away Points

- Veterans have higher rates of suicide than non-veterans in every category analyzed on this fact sheet.
- Firearms are used to complete suicides more often than all other methods combined and over 80% of veteran suicides are completed with a firearm.

IdVDRS Goals

- Collect and analyze timely, high quality data on violent deaths in Idaho.
- Ensure IdVDRS partners, stakeholders and the public receive high quality data to inform policy and prevention activities.
- To better understand factors surrounding violent deaths in the state of Idaho.

References

1. United States Department of Veteran Affairs. VetPop 2015 State Data Tables: http://www.va.gov/VETDATA/Veteran_Population.asp Accessed on June 1, 2019
2. National Center for Health Statistics. U.S. Census Population with Bridged-race Categories (vintage 2010 postcensal estimates): http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race/data_documentation.htm#vintage2015 Accessed on June 1, 2019.
3. Goldberg, S. B., Tucker, R. P., Abbas, M., Schultz, M. E., Hiserodt, M., Thomas, K. A., . . . Wyman, M. F. (2019). Firearm Ownership and Capability for Suicide in Post-Deployment National Guard Service Members. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. doi:10.1111/sltb.12551

Veteran Factsheet, December 2019

