

# 2022

## NATIONAL VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT

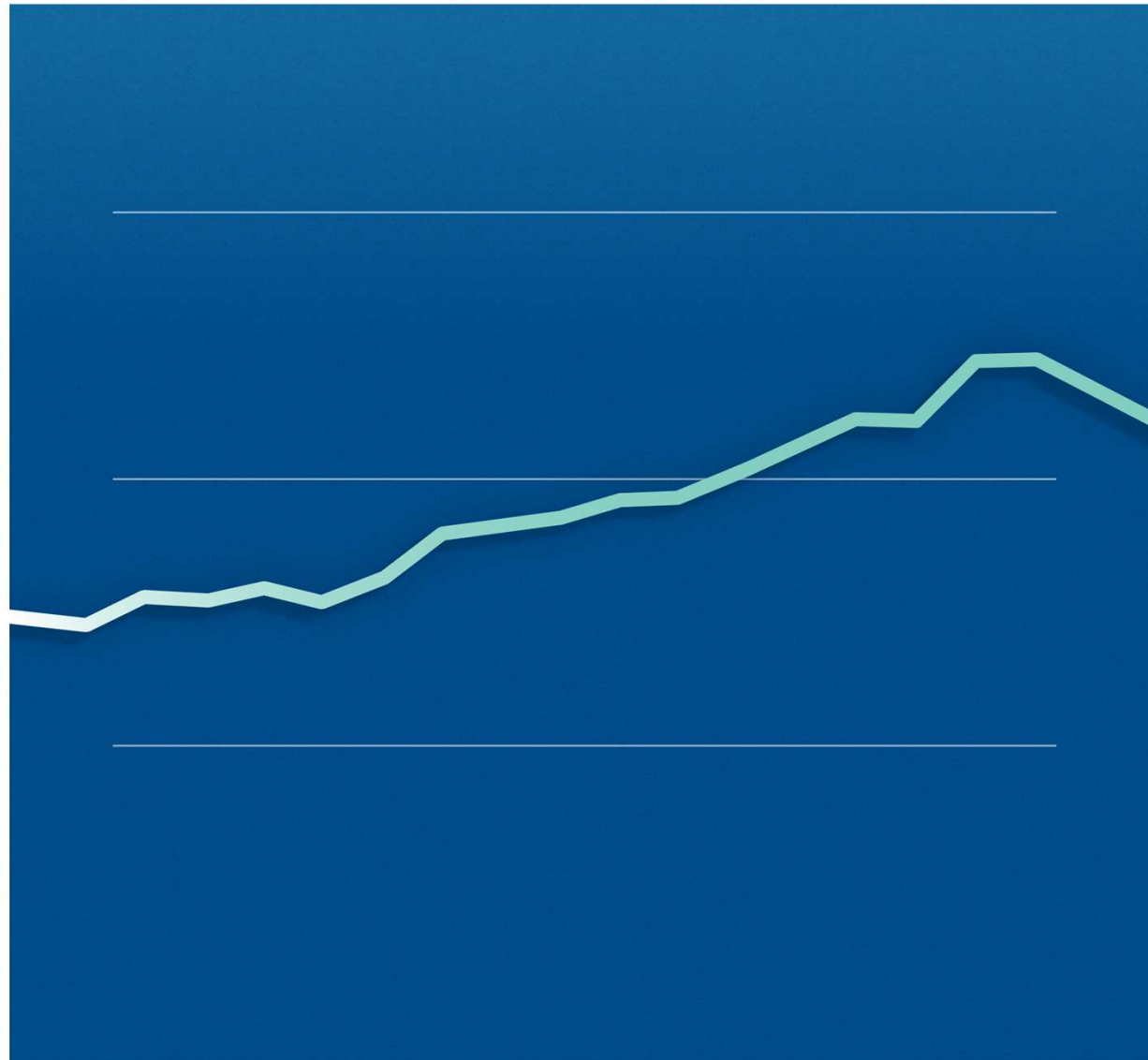
VA Suicide Prevention  
Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention  
September 2022

**Presented to you by:** Stephanie N. Miller, Ph.D.  
Suicide Prevention Coordinator (Tampa VA)  
& Troy Howell, MD – Suicide Prevention Coordinator  
(JAHVA)

**VA**



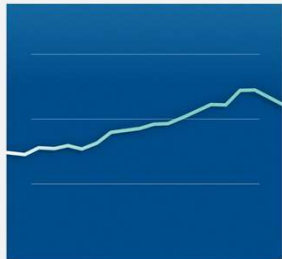
U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



# Executive Summary

**Presents the most comprehensive information available regarding Veteran population and suicide mortality, for all years examined.**

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**Downward trends in Veteran suicide 2018-2020.**

Two decades of Veteran suicide information, from 2001 through 2020, including:

- Suicide among Veterans in comparison to non-Veteran U.S. adults
- Veteran suicide by count, average suicide/day, and rates
- Veteran suicide by method
- Veteran suicide by age, sex, race, and ethnicity
- Suicide among Veteran subpopulations, including those recently using Veterans Health Administration (VHA), those without recent VHA use, and those receiving Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) services

# Anchors of Hope

While we embrace these **anchors of hope**, hope must be transformed into action with each of you.



**343 fewer** Veterans died from suicide in 2020 than in 2019.



Number of Veteran suicides **decreased in 2019 and 2020**, with the lowest number of Veteran suicides since 2006.



Age-adjusted suicide rates in 2020 were the **lowest since 2016 for Veteran men** and the **lowest since 2013 for Veteran women**.



From 2018 through 2020, adjusted rates for Veterans **fell by 9.7%**, as compared to a 5.5% decline for non-Veteran U.S. adults.



Despite onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, age- and sex-adjusted suicide rates among Veterans **fell 4.8%** from 2019 to 2020, versus a 3.6% decline among non-Veteran U.S. adults.

## High-Level Data Points

### Veteran Suicide: Number

**6,146**

Veteran suicide deaths in 2020

### Veteran Suicide: Average Per Day

**16.8**

average number of Veteran suicides per day in 2020

### Veteran Suicide: Rate

**31.7** per 100,000

unadjusted rate of suicide in 2020 among U.S. Veterans

- Each year from 2001 through 2020, age- and sex-adjusted suicide rates of Veterans exceeded those of non-Veteran U.S. adults.
  - The difference in rates was greatest in 2017, when Veteran adjusted rates were 66.2% greater than those of non-Veteran adults.
  - In 2020, this differential fell to 57.3%.

# Key Data Categories

## Race

Veteran suicide rates for all race groups **decreased** from 2019 to 2020.

## Age

Suicide was the second leading cause of death among Veterans ages 18-44.

## Sex

From 2019 through 2020, among Veteran men, the age-adjusted suicide rate **fell by 0.7%**, and among women, the age-adjusted suicide rate **fell by 14.1%**.

## Method

In 2020, **71.0%** of Veteran suicide deaths are by firearm compared to 50.3% of suicides in non-Veteran U.S. adults.

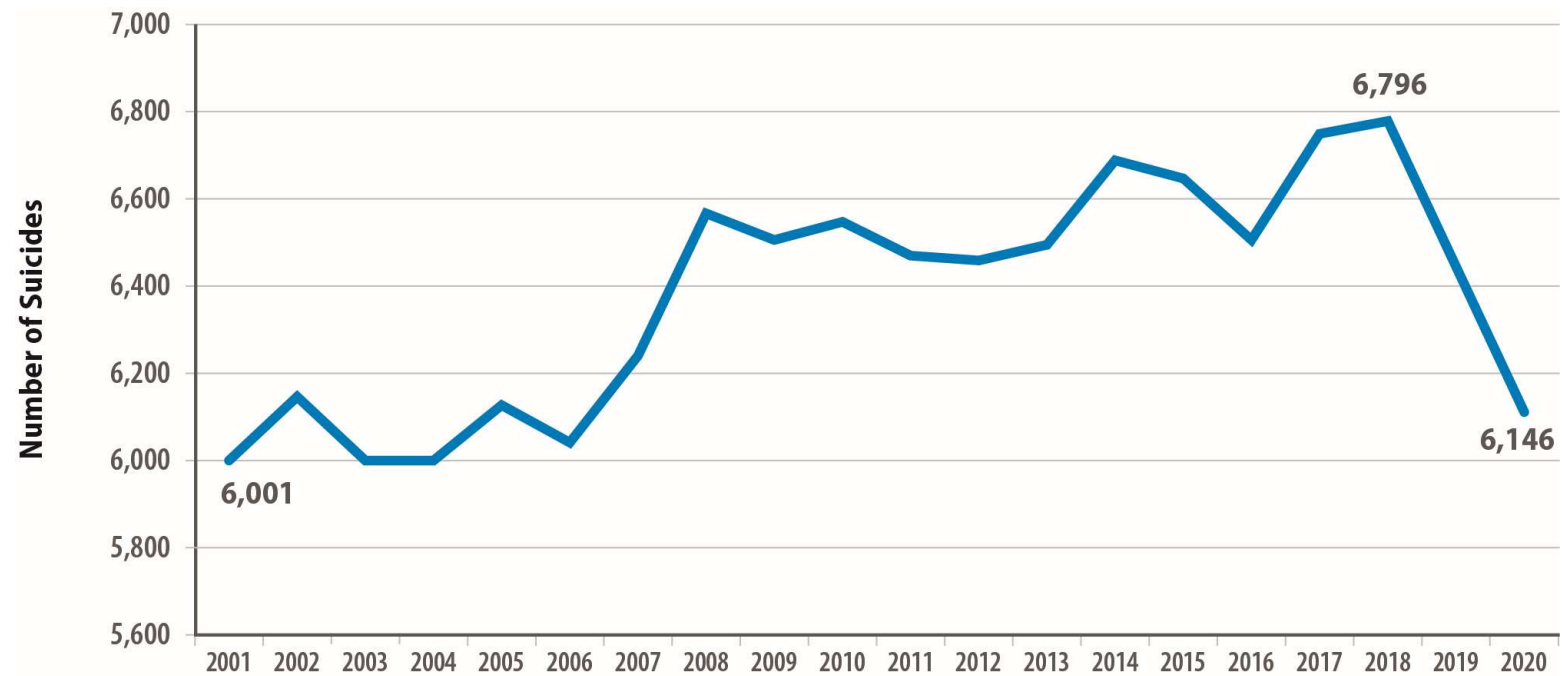
## VHA Serves a Veteran Subpopulation with Higher Suicide Rates

From 2001 through 2020, age- and sex-adjusted suicide rates were higher among Veterans with Recent VHA Use (in the year or prior year) than for Other Veterans.

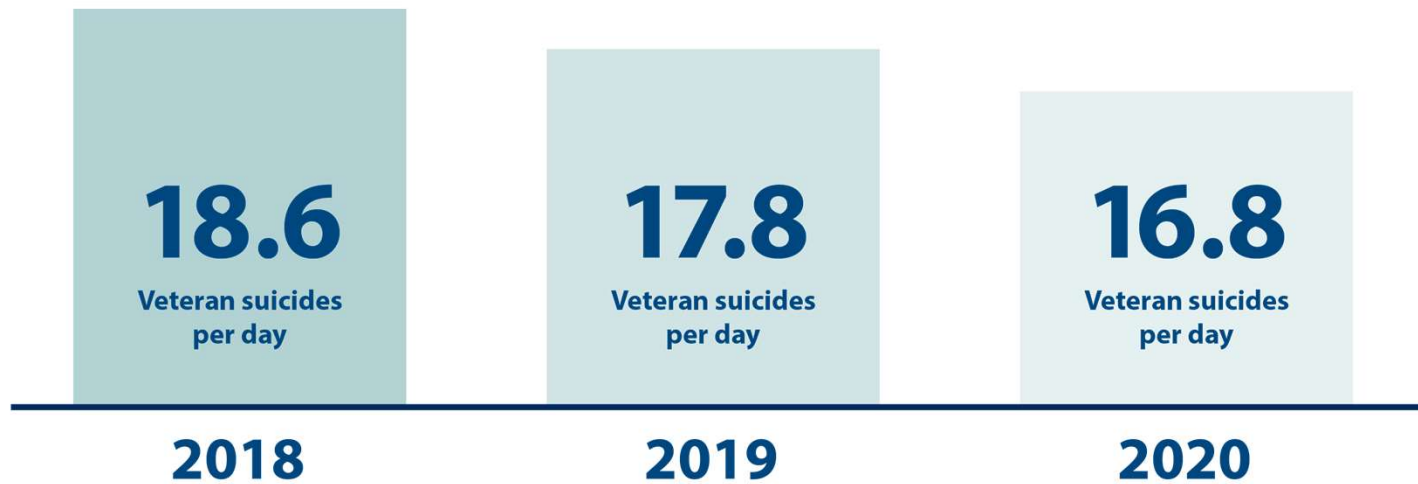
## Most Veteran Suicides Occur Among Veterans Without Recent VHA Use

60.3% of Veterans who died from suicide in 2020 had not received VHA care in either 2019 or 2020.

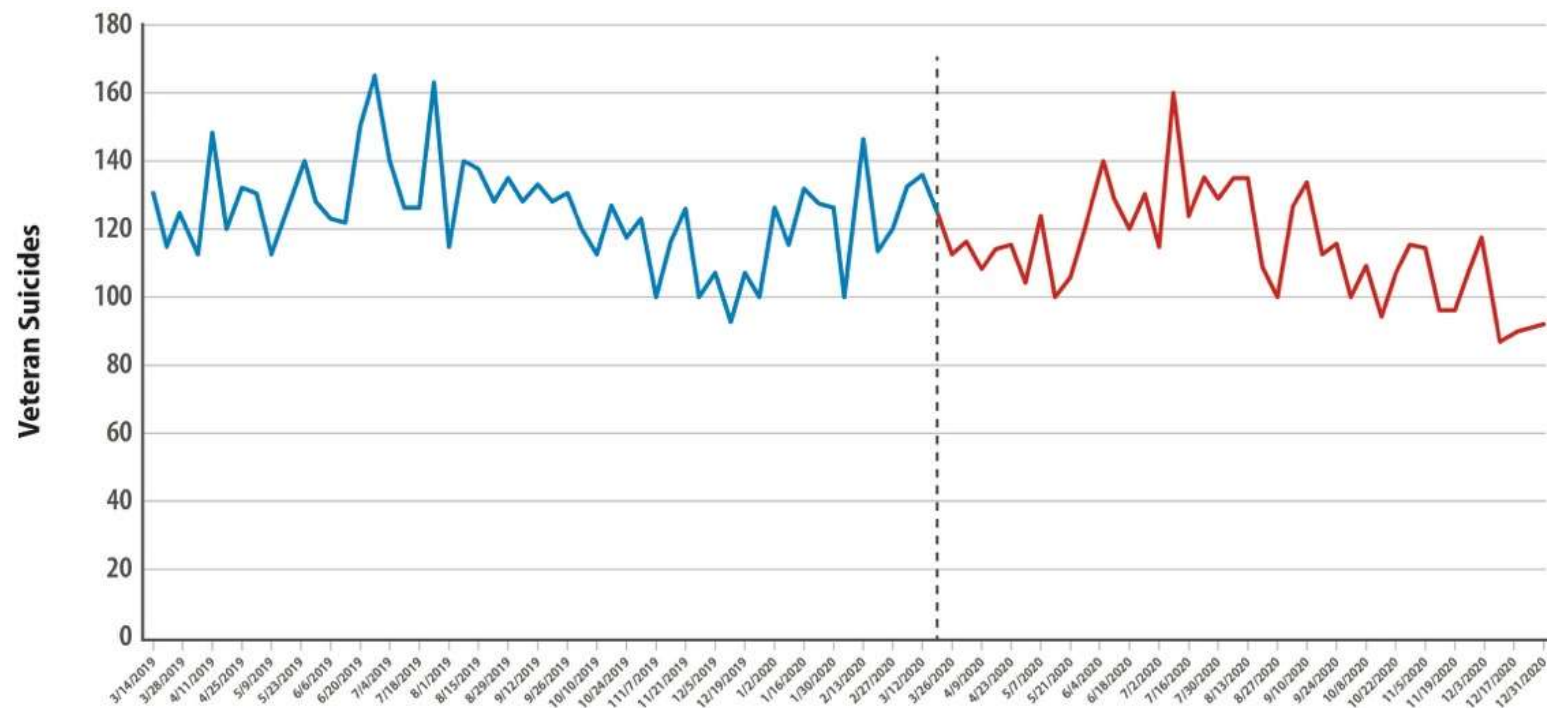
# Veteran Suicide Deaths, 2001-2020



## Average Number of Suicides Per Day



# Veteran Suicide Deaths, By Week, 12 Months Prior to Onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Through 2020

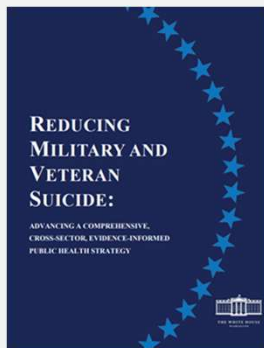
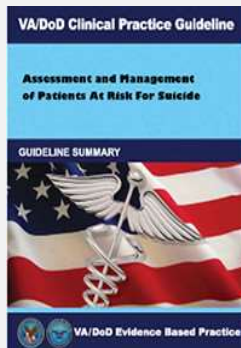
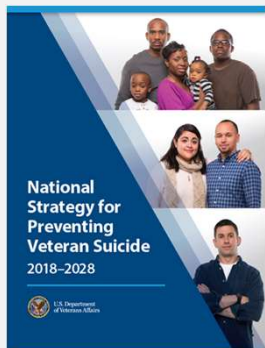




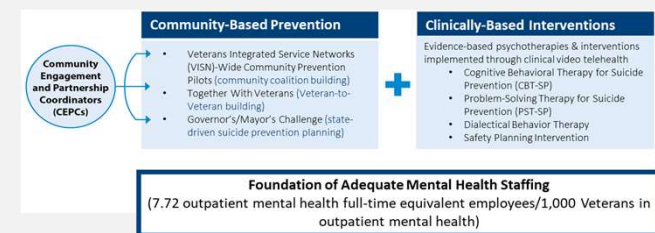
# Key Points: Strategic Direction - Public Health Approach

## VA's Top Clinical Priority: Suicide Prevention

Data from the *National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report* informs VA's strategic efforts, which are guided by the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide (2018), VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline (2019), and White House Strategy on Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide (2021).



### SP 2.0

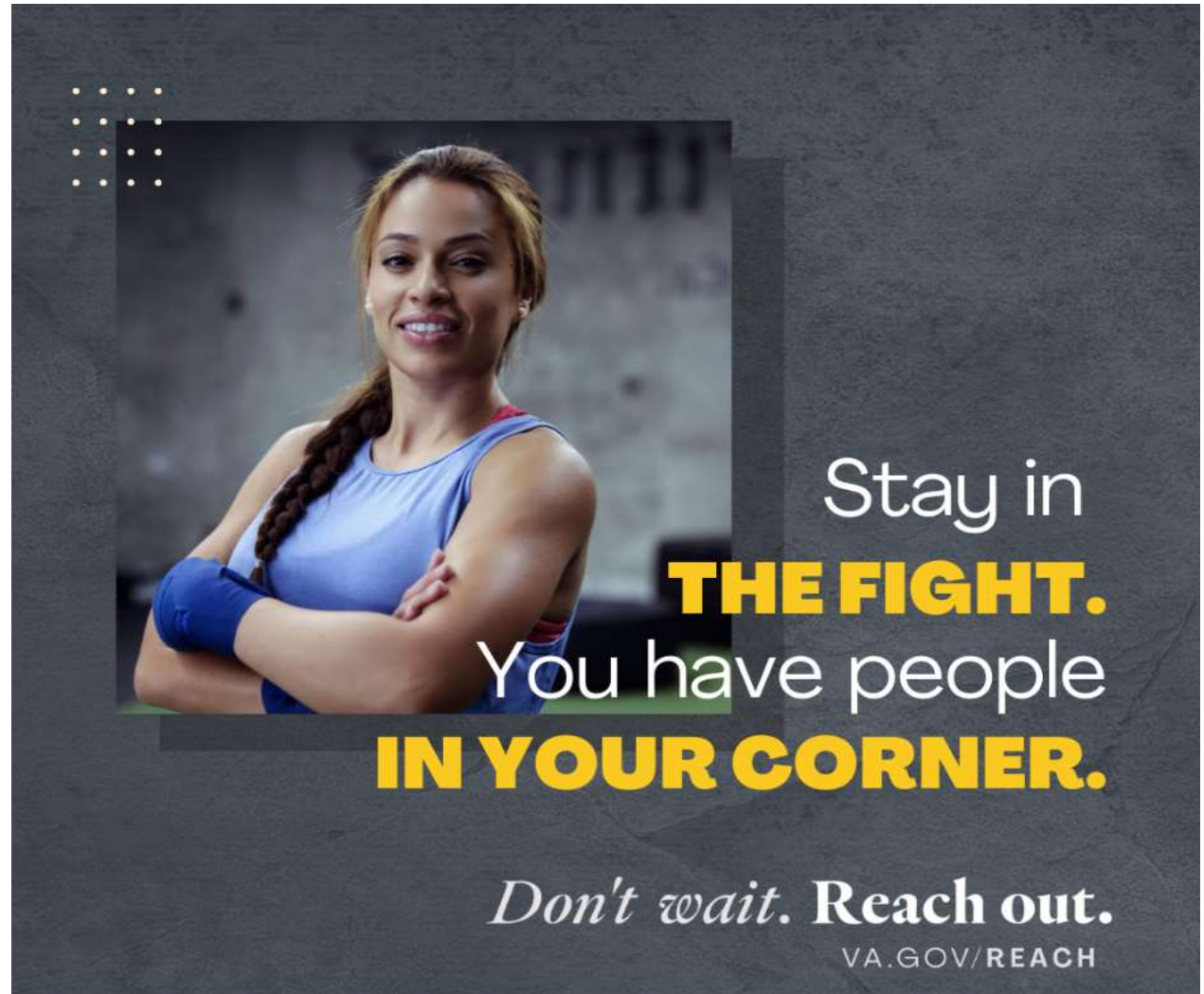


### SP Now



### Veterans Crisis Line





Suicide Prevention  
Month Campaign 2022:  
*Don't wait. Reach Out.*  
[www.va.gov/REACH](http://www.va.gov/REACH)



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Resources

# Annual Report Resources

**[Veteran Suicide Data And Reporting](#)**: To view all collective resources for the 2022 Annual Report, visit the data page. All other links will take you directly to the products listed.

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## **[2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#)**

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**[National Data Appendix](#)**: The data presented here is meant to accompany the annual report.

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**[State Data Appendix](#)**: The data presented here is meant to accompany the annual report.

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**[Report FAQs](#)**: This document focuses on frequently asked questions about the annual report.

**[Methods Report](#)**: This document provides background regarding the methods used by the VA's Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention to assess suicide mortality among Veterans. This represents a supplement to information included in the annual report.

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**[\\*State Data Sheets](#)**: The 2020 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 link will take you to the general Suicide Prevention Data page. You must scroll halfway down the page and click on View Individual State Data Sheets, to view data for each U.S. state, island, and territory.*

# VA Tools and Resources for Veterans and Supporters

**Make the Connection**: VA's mental health literacy and anti-stigma website highlights Veterans' real, inspiring stories of recovery and connects Veterans and their family members and friends with local resources.

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**Reach Out**: Get support designed specifically for you. Family members or friends can find resources that are designed for the Veterans in your life.

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**Safety Planning**: Information on safety planning and a template for developing a safety plan. A safety plan is a written list of coping strategies and sources of support that at-risk Veterans can use before or during a suicidal crisis.

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**VA Mental Health**: VA's repository of mental health resources, information, and data materials.

# VA Tools and Resources for Veterans and Supporters

**VA S.A.V.E. Training**: Training designed to teach anyone who interacts with Veterans how to recognize warning signs of crisis and what to do to help a Veteran who may be at risk.

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**VA Suicide Prevention**: Explore suicide prevention resources to build networks of support among community-based organizations, Veterans Service Organizations, health care providers, and other members of your community that strengthen protective factors for Veterans.

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**VA Resource Locator**: This tool can help Veterans find local mental health and suicide prevention resources, including their local suicide prevention coordinator.

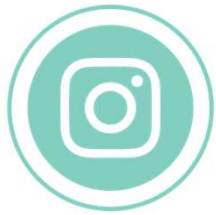
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**Veterans Crisis Line**: A free, anonymous, confidential resource available to Veterans in crisis, as well as concerned family members and friends. **Dial 988 then Press 1**, chat at **VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat**, or text **838255**.



# Stay Connected

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[Veterans Health  
Administration](#)

[\*Make the Connection\*](#)



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# FLORIDA Veteran Suicide Data Sheet, 2020

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 2020 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 Florida Veteran suicides by age, sex, and suicide method and compares this with regional and national data.

After accounting for age differences,<sup>b</sup> the Veteran suicide rate in Florida:

- Was not significantly different from the national Veteran suicide rate
- Was significantly higher than the national general population suicide rate



## Southern Region

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- West Virginia

## Florida Veteran Suicide Deaths, 2020

Sex	Veteran Suicides
Male	471
Female	22
All	493

## Florida, Southern Region, and National Veteran Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2020<sup>c</sup>

Age Group	Florida Veteran Suicides	Southern Region Veteran Suicides	National Veteran Suicides	Florida Veteran Suicide Rate	Southern Region Veteran Suicide Rate	National Veteran Suicide Rate
18–34	47	377	843	40.9	45.9	46.1
35–54	92	693	1,575	26.5	30.4	31.8
55–74	193	923	2,222	30.7	26.9	27.4
75+	158	621	1,451	36.8	35.3	32.0
All	493	2,643	6,146	32.4	31.9	31.7

## Florida Veteran and Total Florida, Southern Region, and National Suicide Deaths by Age Group, 2020<sup>c</sup>

Age Group	Florida Veteran Suicides	Florida Total Suicides	Southern Region Total Suicides	National Total Suicides	Florida Veteran Suicide Rate	Florida Suicide Rate	Southern Region Suicide Rate	National Suicide Rate
18–34	47	732	5,452	13,438	40.9	16.1	18.8	17.7
35–54	92	868	5,888	14,563	26.5	16.2	18.5	17.7
55–74	193	981	4,664	11,876	30.7	17.9	16.4	15.8
75+	158	462	1,788	4,421	36.8	22.0	20.4	19.1
All	493	3,043	17,792	44,298	32.4	17.4	18.1	17.3



# FLORIDA Veteran Suicide Data Sheet, 2020

Florida Veteran and Total Florida, Southern Region, and National Suicide Deaths by Method,<sup>d</sup> 2020

