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Veteran suicides and NYS demographics; a snapshot

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Key Findings from NATIONAL VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORT 2022

- In 2020, there were 6,146 Veteran suicides. This was on average 16.8 per day. In 2020, there were **343 fewer Veteran suicides** than in 2019, and the number of Veteran suicides was lower than each prior year since 2006.
- From 2018 to 2020, age- and sex-adjusted suicide rates for Veterans fell by 9.7%. This was a larger percentage decrease than was observed for non-Veteran U.S. adults (5.5%).
- In 2020, adjusting for population age and sex differences, the suicide rate for Veterans was 57.3% greater than for non-Veteran U.S. adults.



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Key Findings continued

- From 2019 to 2020, the age- and sex-adjusted suicide rate for Veterans fell by **4.8%**, while for non-Veteran U.S. adults, the adjusted rate fell by **3.6%**.
- From 2019 to 2020, among Veteran men, the age-adjusted suicide rate fell by **0.7%**, and among Veteran women, the age-adjusted suicide rate fell by **14.1%**.
- By comparison, among non-Veteran U.S. men, the age-adjusted rate fell by **2.1%**, and among non-Veteran women, the age-adjusted rate fell by **8.4%**.
- Among U.S. adults who died from suicide in 2020, firearms were more commonly involved among Veterans (**71.0%**) than non-Veterans (**50.3%**).



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Anchors of Hope

- There were **343 fewer** Veterans who died from suicide in 2020 than in 2019, and **2020 had the lowest number of Veteran suicides since 2006.**
- From 2001 through 2018, the number of Veteran suicides increased on average by 47 deaths per year.
- **From 2019 to 2020, there were consecutive reductions, of 307 and 343 suicides,** respectively, an unprecedented decrease since 2001.
- From 2018 to 2020, adjusted rates for Veterans fell by **9.7%**. By comparison, the adjusted rate for non-Veteran U.S. adults fell by **5.5%**.
- The age-adjusted suicide rate for women Veterans in 2020 was the lowest since 2013, and the age-adjusted suicide rate for Veteran men was the lowest since 2016.



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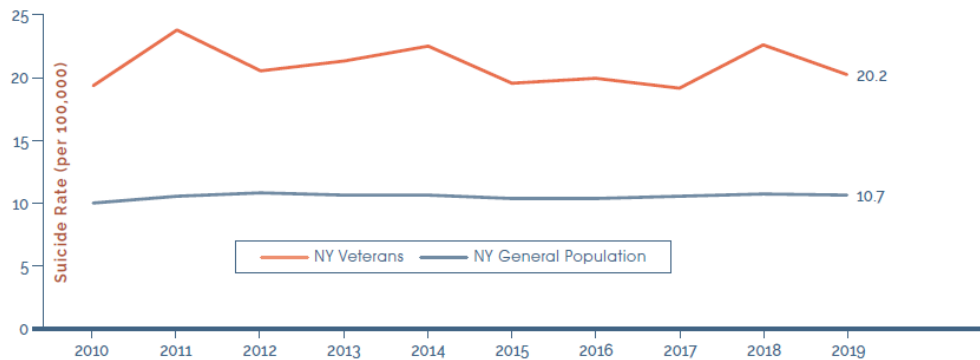


NYS Veterans Suicide

Veteran Suicide in New York State

In 2019, 156 veterans died by suicide in New York.²⁶ From 2015–2018, more than 3% of veterans in New York thought about suicide in the past 12 months. This was a similar percentage as for the general population.²⁷ However, veterans in New York die by suicide at a much higher rate than the general State population (nearly twice as high in 2019).²⁸

Comparing Veteran and General Population Suicide Rates in New York State, 2010–2019



Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. "2020 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report: State Data Appendix." https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/data.asp.

Part of the reason for the difference in suicide rates between the veteran and general population may be attributable to the mode of suicide attempts. Veterans are more likely than the general population to use firearms as a method of suicide.²⁹

- Percent of NY veteran suicides in 2019 that used a firearm: **55.1%**
- Percent of NY general population suicides in 2019 that used a firearm: **26.8%**



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NYS Veterans demographics Snapshot

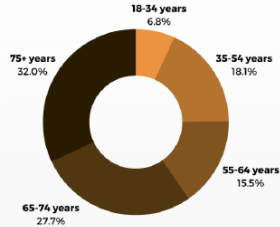
Approximately **4.36%**
of adults who live in New York
are veterans.

STATE DATA

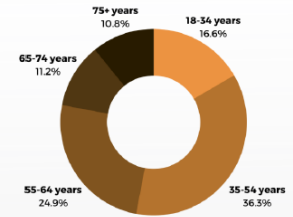
Approximately
624,000 male
veterans live in
New York.
(92.89%)

Approximately
48,000 female
veterans live
in New York.
(7.11%)

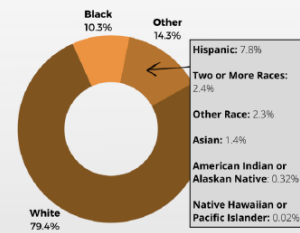
MALE VETERANS BY AGE



FEMALE VETERANS BY AGE



MALE VETERANS BY RACE



FEMALE VETERANS BY RACE

