



Massachusetts Military & Veteran Suicides 2020

This publication contains information on current or former military personnel who died by suicide in Massachusetts in 2020

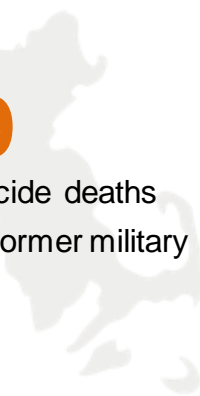
68

current or former military
personnel
died by suicide
in Massachusetts
in 2020



1 in 9

of all Massachusetts suicide deaths
in 2020 were current or former military
personnel



Common circumstances surrounding military suicides include:

65%

Had a known
current mental
health condition

32%

Had a known alcohol/
substance use problem

25%

Had a known physical health problem

21%

Had a known intimate partner
problem

10%

Had a known job/financial problem

90%

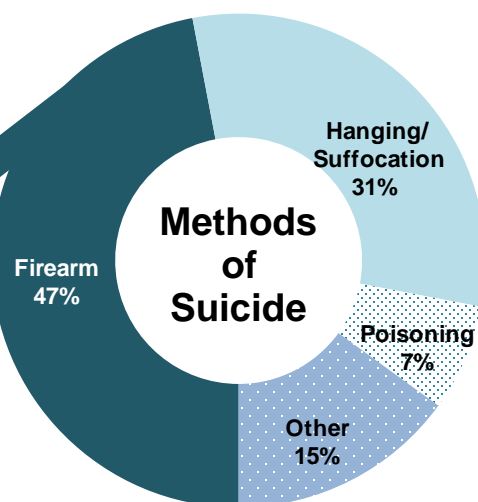
were white, non-
Hispanic males

47% of military suicide deaths
involved a firearm

That's over 2 times higher than the
proportion of all suicide deaths in 2020 in
Massachusetts that involved firearms

57%

who were 75+ years
died by firearm



Of those
tested*,

36%

tested
positive for
alcohol



Of those
tested*,

35%

tested
positive for
antidepressants



Of those
tested*,

17%

tested
positive for
opioids



REACH OUT FOR HELP:

Statewide Advocacy for Veterans' Empowerment (SAVE)
In Collaboration with the Department of Public Health

(617) 210-5743
Toll-free: (888) 844-2838



Veterans Crisis Line: 24-Hour Help
Dial 988, Press 1 for Veterans
Text: 838255
Online Chat: veteranscrisisline.net
TTY: (800) 799-4TTY (4880)

*Toxicology data: 97% of decedents were tested for alcohol, opiates, and antidepressants.

People icon: asianson.design from the Noun Project | Massachusetts icon: Linseed Studio from the Noun Project | Alcohol icon: Artem Kovyazin from the Noun Project

Prescription icon: Ken Murray from the Noun Project | Drugs icon: kareemovic2000 from the Noun Project

Data Source: Massachusetts Violent Death Reporting System (MAVDRS), Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). All suicide data were ascertained using guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and are based upon the International Classification of Disease codes (ICD-10) for mortality.