

Military & Veteran Suicides in Massachusetts (2018-2022)

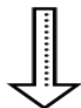


From 2018 to 2022, **327** current military personnel and veterans died by suicide in Massachusetts. This is equivalent to **more than one active service member or veteran dying by suicide every week**. The information below highlights this public health problem and identifies populations most affected by suicide.

The 5-year average annual suicide rate among active service members and veterans was

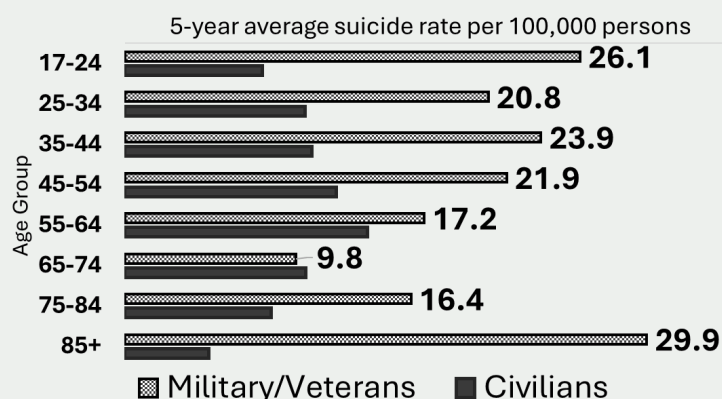
1.7x higher

than the suicide rate among civilians aged 17 and older.



Yearly, there were
17.9 suicide deaths for every 100,000
active service members and veterans.

Military & Veteran Suicide Rates by Age



Military/veterans aged **17-24** and **85+** had suicide rates **4-6X higher** than civilians of the same age group.

Suicide Rates by Sex, Race and Ethnicity

Military/veteran suicide rates among females and most race and ethnicities were **1.5-2X higher** than their civilian counterparts.

18.7
/100,000 people
Male veterans/military

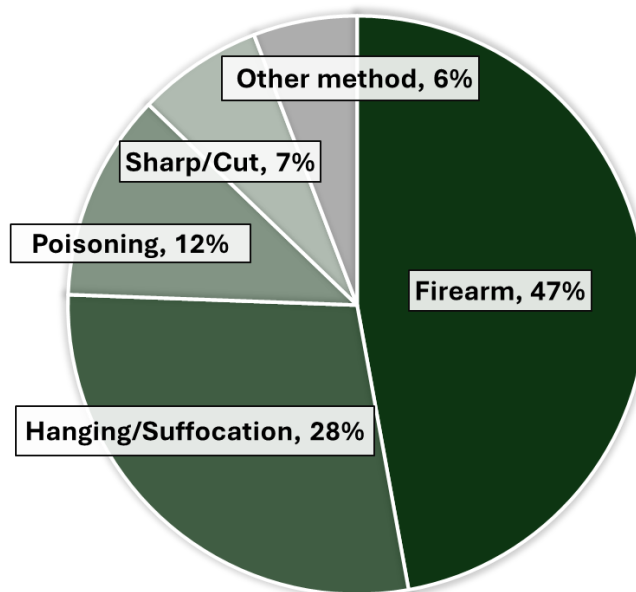
8.2
/100,000 people
Female veterans/military

13.7
/100,000 people
Hispanic/Latino-a-e veterans/military

13.6
/100,000 people
Black, non-Hispanic veterans/military

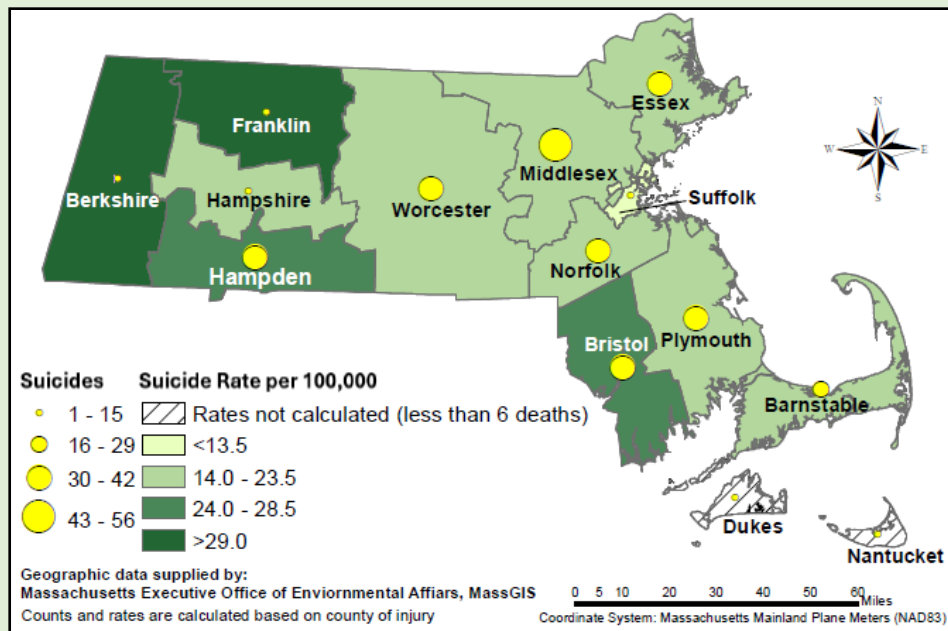
18.6
/100,000 people
White, non-Hispanic veterans/military

Method of Suicide



This is **28% higher** than the proportion of civilians who died by firearm suicide in Massachusetts.

Figure 1. Military & Veteran Suicide Rates and Counts by County (2018-2022)



Current military and veteran 5-year average suicide rates varied by county in Massachusetts. When broken down by county, military and veteran suicide rates were **1.3x to 3.5x greater** than the civilian suicide rate.

Even though the most rural counties of the state had the lowest numbers of military and veteran suicide, they had the highest suicide rates. This indicates **a higher burden** of suicide in the **most rural** geographical areas.

****County populations were generated from civilian veteran population 5 year estimates 2018-2022. Therefore, the county rates shown in this report may be an overestimate of the veteran/current military rates.**

Protective Factors Among Military/Veterans

Education



Military personnel with education above a high school diploma had about **3X lower** suicide rates than those with a GED or high school diploma.

Marriage



Military personnel who were married had **2X lower** suicide rates than those who were never married or divorced and **3X lower** suicide rate than those who were widowed.

Resources for Military & Veterans



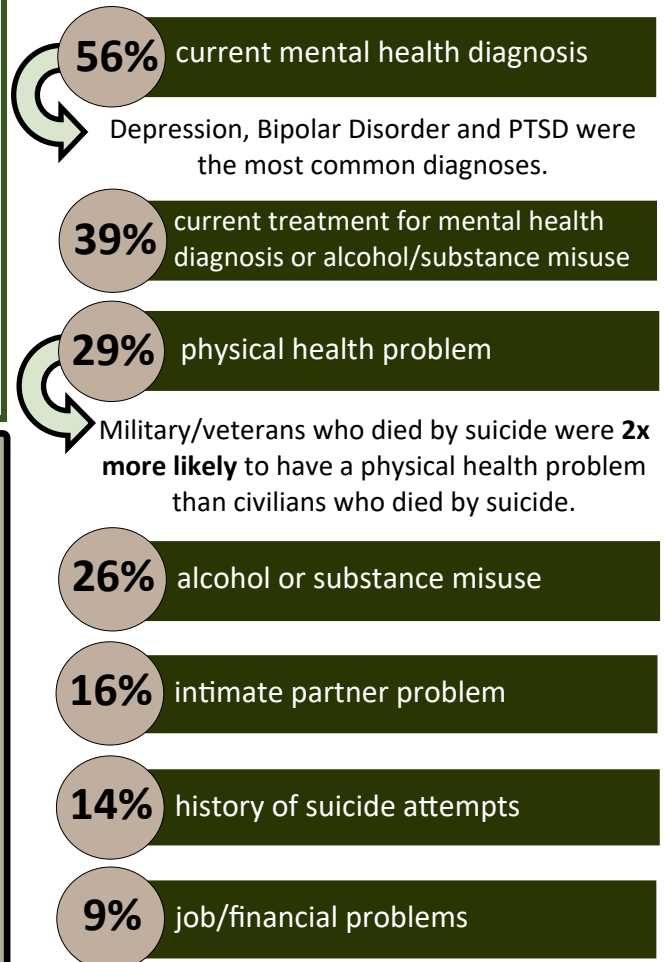
Current military and veterans can dial the **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** and press "1" to reach the Veteran's Crisis Line or text **838255**.

Women veterans can find tailored resources through the [Massachusetts Women Veterans Network](#).

[MassMen](#) empowers working-age men across Massachusetts to take action to feel better emotionally, physically, and spiritually. MassMen offers additional [resources for veterans](#).



Known Circumstances Related to Suicides at Time of Death



Data Source: Massachusetts Violent Death Reporting System (MAVDRS), Massachusetts Department of Public Health; CDC WISQARS
Population estimates: U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year file Public Use Microdata Samples [CSV file]. Retrieved from [PUMS Data \(census.gov\)](#).