|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Table 1. Descriptive statistics for age, gender, race/ethnicity, and method of suicide for Arizona residents who committed suicide by veteran status, 2011 | | |
|  | Non-Veteran | Military Veteran |
|  | % | % |
| *Age group* |  |  |
| 5-14 | 1.1 | 0 |
| 15-24 | 15.1 | 2.9 |
| 25-34 | 16.4 | 9.9 |
| 35-44 | 18.5 | 9.5 |
| 45-54 | 22.9 | 12.8 |
| 55-64 | 16.4 | 21.1 |
| 65-74 | 5.2 | 17.4 |
| 75-84 | 2.7 | 17.4 |
| 85+ | 1.9 | 9.1 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| **Mean age** | **43.6** | **60.0** |
| *Gender* |  |  |
| Male | 72.4 | 96.3 |
| Female | 27.6 | 3.7 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| *Race/ethnicity* |  |  |
| White non-Hispanic | 77.0 | 90.1 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 13.4 | 6.6 |
| Black or African American | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| American Indian | 6.4 | .8 |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | 1.1 | .4 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| *Method of suicide* |  |  |
| Firearm | 53.6 | 83.1 |
| Other | 46.4 | 16.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Notes: Count of resident suicides by military status was taken from the Arizona death database. | | |
|

Table 1 presents descriptive statistics for age, gender, race/ethnicity, and method of suicide for Arizona residents who committed suicide by veteran status in for 2011. Of all Arizona residents who committed suicide in 2011, those who were military veterans were significantly older than those who were not military veterans\*. Military veterans who committed suicide were significantly more likely to be male than non-veteran residents who committed suicide\*. Military veterans who committed suicide were significantly more likely to be White non-Hispanic than those who were not military veterans\*. Finally, military veterans who committed suicide were significantly more likely to use a firearm as the method of suicide than non-military veterans who committed suicide. These findings generally align with recent national veteran suicide information presented by the Department of Veteran Affairs (<http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/Suicide-Data-Report-2012-final.pdf>).

\*All statistical tests were significant at the *p* < .001 level. Statistical test values and degrees of freedom are available upon request.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 1. Crude suicide rates for Arizona residents by military status, 2001 - 2011 | | | | | | | | | |
| Year | AZ Total Population Estimate | AZ Civilian Population Estimate | AZ Veteran Population Estimate | AZ Resident Suicides | | | AZ Resident Crude Suicide Rates (per 100,000 residents) | | |
| Total | Civilian | Veteran | Total | Civilian | Veteran |
| 2001 | 5,307,331 | 4,792,141 | 515,190 | 743 | 543 | 200 | 14.00 | 11.33 | 38.82 |
| 2002 | 5,472,750 | 4,908,908 | 563,842 | 855 | 630 | 225 | 15.62 | 12.83 | 39.90 |
| 2003 | 5,629,870 | 5,067,465 | 562,405 | 822 | 649 | 173 | 14.60 | 12.81 | 30.76 |
| 2004 | 5,832,150 | 5,276,927 | 555,223 | 856 | 654 | 202 | 14.68 | 12.39 | 36.38 |
| 2005 | 6,044,985 | 5,492,022 | 552,963 | 923 | 698 | 225 | 15.27 | 12.71 | 40.69 |
| 2006 | 6,239,482 | 5,689,387 | 550,095 | 923 | 698 | 225 | 14.79 | 12.27 | 40.90 |
| 2007 | 6,432,007 | 5,864,375 | 567,632 | 976 | 752 | 224 | 15.17 | 12.82 | 39.46 |
| 2008 | 6,534,921 | 5,970,125 | 564,796 | 966 | 733 | 233 | 14.78 | 12.28 | 41.25 |
| 2009 | 6,595,778 | 6,034,391 | 561,387 | 1049 | 821 | 228 | 15.90 | 13.61 | 40.61 |
| 2010 | 6,392,017 | 5,835,288 | 556,729 | 1045 | 805 | 240 | 16.35 | 13.80 | 43.11 |
| 2011 | 6,438,178 | 5,886,916 | 551,262 | 1091 | 849 | 242 | 16.95 | 14.42 | 43.90 |
| Notes: Arizona total population estimates taken from ADHS population denominators (http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/menu/info/pd.htm); Arizona veteran population estimates were produced by the VA Office of the Actuary and used in calculation of Veteran expenditure estimates (<http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Expenditures.asp>); Count of resident suicides by military status were taken from the Arizona death database; Crude rates are not adjusted for the population age distribution and should be interpreted with caution. | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1 presents the crude suicide rates for Arizona residents by military veteran status for 2001 through 2011. Crude rates are not adjusted for the population age distribution and should be interpreted with caution. The crude suicide rates for Arizonans with military service were consistently higher than the suicide rates for residents that did not participate in military service. For example, the crude suicide rate in 2011 was around 3 times greater for those participating military service compared to those without military service experience. The difference in crude suicide rates between military and non-military Arizona residents remained fairly consistent over the time period examined. From 2001 to 2011, the suicide rate per 100,000 Arizona residents increased for both military and non-military Arizona residents. Over this time period, the suicide rate for Arizona residents with military service experience increased around 13%, while the increase for residents with no military service was around 27%. These results indicate that Arizona residents who were military veterans were more likely to commit suicide than Arizona residents that were not military veterans, but the change in the crude suicide rate from 2001 to 2011 was actually greater for Arizona residents without military service experience than for those who were military veterans.