

## U.S. Service Members and Suicide<sup>1</sup>

*\*all rates are per 100,000 populations*

- The suicide rate among those in active duty (all Services\*\*) is 21.1\*, among those in the Reserve (all Services\*\*) is 22.0\*, and among those in the National Guard (Air Force and Army) is 27.3\*.
- There is an average of 82 days between the last suicide attempt and completed suicide.
- 18.7% of all Service member suicides are non-Hispanic, White males between the ages of 20-24 ranked E1-E4, with a high school education.<sup>3</sup>

### By age<sup>1</sup>...

- Of those in active duty (all Services\*\*), the rate of suicide is 27.1\* among ages 20-24, 21.5\* among ages 25-29, 17.6\* among ages 35-39, and 16.6\* among ages 30-34.
- Of Service members in the Reserve (all Services\*\*), the rate of suicide is 34.5\* among ages 25-29 and 34.0\* among ages 20-24.
- Of Service members in the National Guard (Select Reserves, Air Force, and Army), the rate of suicide is 39.0\* among ages 20-24 and 38.6\* among ages 25-29.

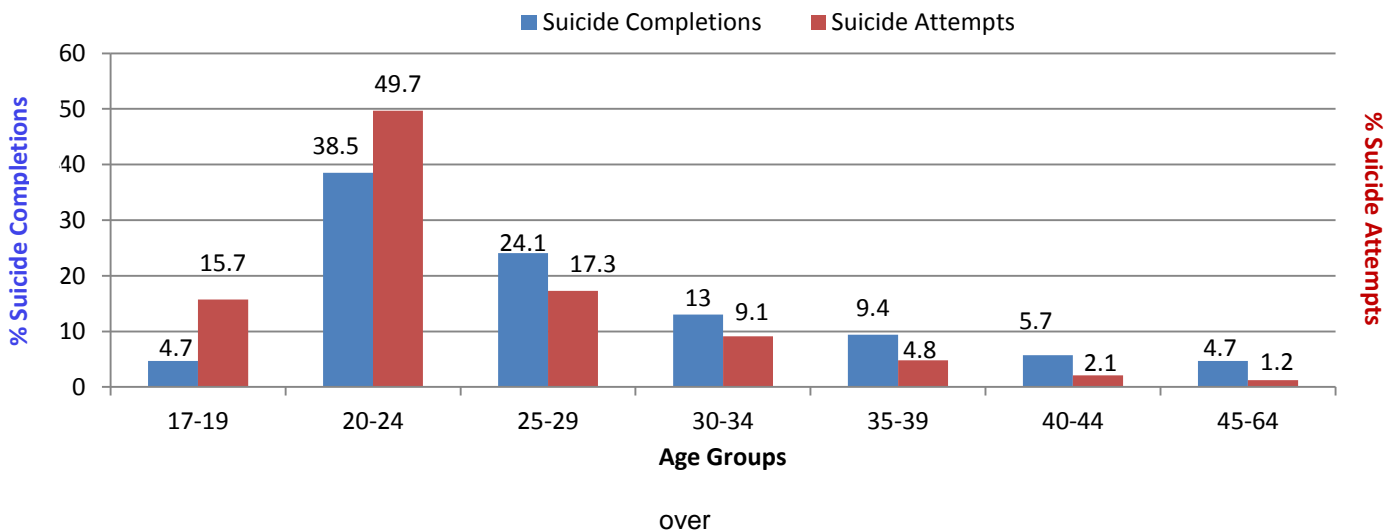
### By gender<sup>1</sup>...

- Among all Service members that completed suicide, 93% were among males and 7% among females.
  - Among all Service members that attempted suicide, 69.2% were male and 30.8% were female.
- Among Service members in active duty (all Services\*\*), the rate of suicide is 23.3\* among males and 9.7\* among females.
- Among Service members of the Reserve (all Services\*\*), the rate of suicide is 26.7\* among males and minimal among females.
- Among Service members of the National Guard component (Selective Reserves, Air Force, and Army), the rate of suicide is 31.4\* among males and minimal among females.

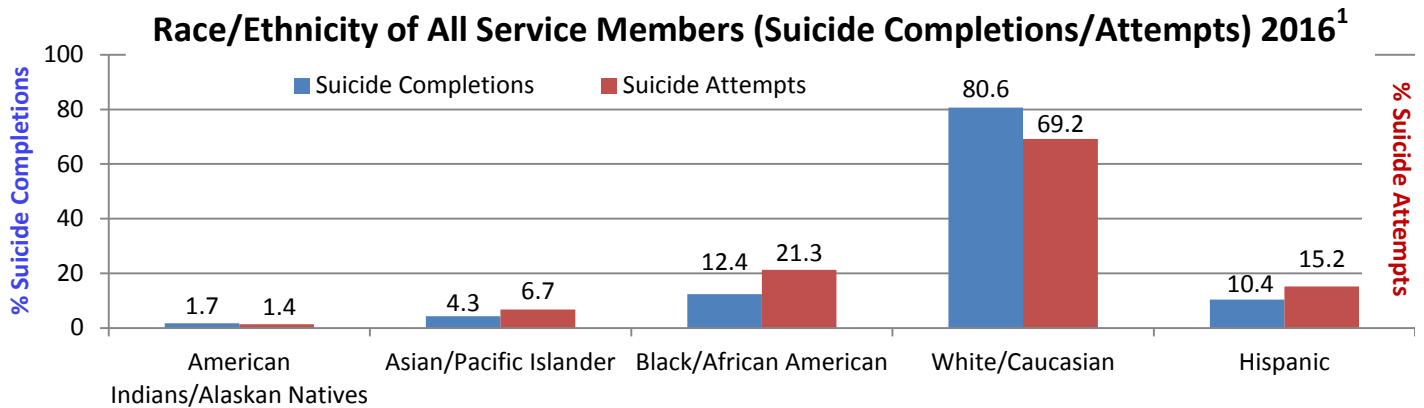
### By race/ethnicity<sup>1</sup>...

- 80.6% of suicides completions among all Service members were White/Caucasian.
  - 69.2% of suicide attempts among all Service members were White/Caucasian.
- 12.4% of all suicide completions among all Service members were Black/African American.
  - 21.3% of all suicide attempts among all Service members were Black/African American.
- Of all Service members' suicide completion, 1.7% occurred among American Indians/Alaskan Natives and 4.3% occurred among Asian/Pacific Islanders, and 10.4% occurred among Hispanics.

**Suicide Completions/Attempts of All Service Members by Age 2016<sup>1</sup>**



\*all rates are per 100,000 populations



### By military characteristics<sup>1</sup>...

- 91.6% of suicide completions occur among active duty Service members.
  - 94.6% of suicide attempts occur among active duty Service members.
- 45.8% of suicide completions occurred among E1-E4's and 40.5% of suicide completions occurred among E5-E9's.
  - 72.6% of suicide attempts occurred among E1-E4's and 21.6% of suicide attempts occurred among E5-E9's.
- The occupations with the highest prevalence of suicide are infantry, gun crews, and seamanship specialists (18.4%), electrical/mechanical equipment repairers (16.7%), functional support and administration (12.4%), and communications and intelligence specialists (11.7%).

### By behavior<sup>1</sup>...

- 23.4% of Service members communicated about their desire of death before completing suicide.
  - 14.4% of communication was verbal and 10.4% was electronic (texting).
  - 8.7% of communication was with a spouse and 9.0% was with a friend.
  - 26.1% of completed suicides had suicide notes left behind.
- 62.2% of completed suicides were by means of firearms.
- 56.8% of injuries resulting from suicide attempts were by means of drug and/or alcohol overdose.

### By health characteristics<sup>1</sup>...

- 44.1% of Service member who completed suicide had at least one current or past behavioral health diagnosis.
  - 21.7% had a mood disorder, 21.4% had an adjustment disorder, 20.7% had a substance use disorder, and 18.7% had an anxiety disorder.
  - 58.5% of the Service members that died by suicide visited health facilities 90 days prior to suicide completion.
- 61.8% of Service member who attempted suicide had at least one current or past behavioral health diagnosis.
  - 31% had a mood disorder, 27.7% had an adjustment disorder, 23% had an anxiety disorder, and 22.5% had a substance use disorder.
  - 69.3% of the Service members that attempted suicide visited health facilities 90 days prior to their attempt.

\*\*All Services: Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy

<sup>1</sup>Defense Suicide Prevention Office. The 2016 Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER). Available at: [http://www.dsps.mil/Portals/113/Documents/DoDSER%20CY%202016%20Annual%20Report\\_For%20Public%20Release.pdf?ver=2018-07-02-104254-717](http://www.dsps.mil/Portals/113/Documents/DoDSER%20CY%202016%20Annual%20Report_For%20Public%20Release.pdf?ver=2018-07-02-104254-717)