



NORTH DAKOTA MILITARY

data book

2024



ndcares.org

The purpose of the North Dakota Military Data Book is to provide our coalition members, the Legislature, and all stakeholders working on behalf of military and veterans, with the most current data on service members and veterans in North Dakota and nationally. This data provides all entities with a common frame of reference as we work together to maintain North Dakota's strong record as a supportive state for service members, Veterans, families and survivors.





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DEMOGRAPHICS



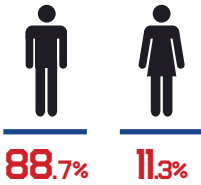
Estimated number of Veterans in North Dakota vary widely between

49,788 - 60,000

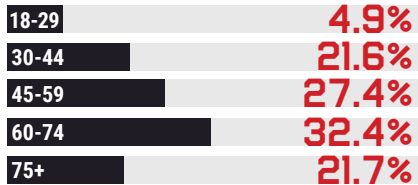
The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, in 2023, estimates 49,788, while PeoplePrism, a Deloitte subsidiary, using advanced analytics from various data sources estimates up to 60,000.

<https://www.data.va.gov/stories/s/hrfz-ifrx>
ND Department of Veterans Affairs information received March 2025.

GENDER



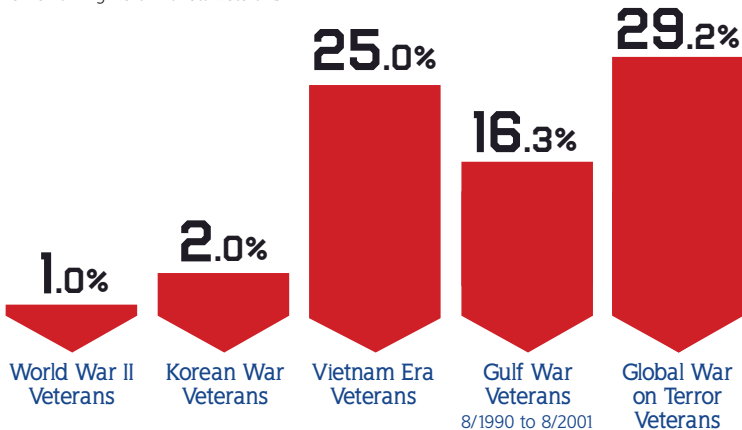
AGE



2024 estimate, https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp

WARTIME PERIOD OF SERVICE

of remaining North Dakota Veterans

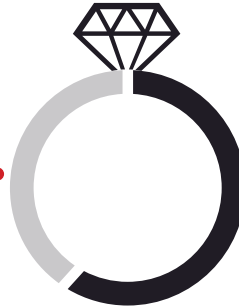


NOTE: 16.5% of ND Veterans are from Peacetime periods of service.

2024 estimate, https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp

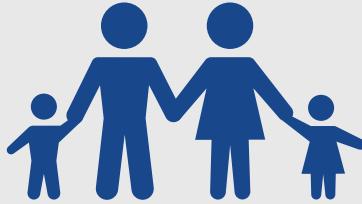
MARRIAGE & CHILDREN

In North Dakota, **44%** of Department of Defense military members are reported as married.



29%

of the total military force in North Dakota has children.



Note: Children include minor dependents age 20 or younger or dependents age 22 and younger enrolled as full-time students.

AGES OF CHILDREN OF ACTIVE DUTY, NATIONAL GUARD, RESERVE, AND RETIREES IN NORTH DAKOTA

TOTAL: 18,755



0-5 years

17%



6-11 years

15%



12-17 years

12%

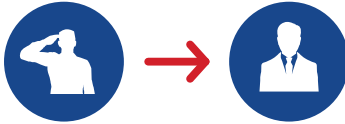


18+ years

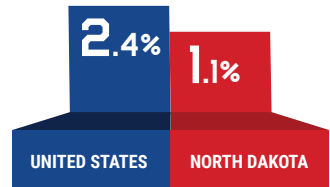
54%

Note: Children ages 21 to 22 must be enrolled as full-time students in order to qualify as dependents; percentages may not total to 100 due to rounding.

EMPLOYMENT



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF VETERANS 2023 (age 18 and older)



5-year annual average

ND Job Service Data, received November 1, 2024

North Dakota employment and education legislation greatly contributes to veterans' success in the job market:

2021 - HB1107 - Resident Student Tuition Rate Armed Forces, Veterans and Dependents

2021 - SB2175 - Military Member and Spouse Licensure Portability, Access and Compacts

2023 - SB2094 - National Guard Out of State Tuition Grants

2023 - HB1222 - Veterans Preference Points within 120 days of discharge

2023 - SB2198 - FMLA to care for veteran/military family member's medical needs

North Dakota Dept. of Veterans Affairs - nd.gov/veterans/legislation

REASONS TO HIRE VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

Current and former members of the military possess attributes that make them excellent employees:

LEADERSHIP - Excellent leaders and outstanding followers: loyal, dedicated, and highly motivated.

PROFESSIONALISM - High degree of integrity, an air of self-respect, and a sense of honor.

RESPONSIBILITY - Know how to make decisions and take responsibility for meeting objectives.

UNDERSTAND DIVERSITY - Succeed in a very diverse workplace and have a high level of cultural sensitivity.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONING - In top physical condition, resilient, and drug-free.

"CAN DO" ATTITUDE - Possess critical skills and understand that nothing is impossible.

CALM UNDER PRESSURE - Resilient and know how to handle stress, both on and off the job.

FIRST CLASS IMAGE - A professional appearance is a must.

ON-TIME, ALL THE TIME - Understands that every second counts and manages their time well.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE - Have experiences that directly relate to current world events.

SKILLS TRANSFER - Possess skills and problem solving ability transferable to civilian jobs.

ADVANCED TRAINING - Exposed to highly advanced technology at a more accelerated rate than their civilian counterparts.

TEAM-BUILDING SKILLS - Can fit into existing teams, define team goals, organize responsibilities and create action plans.

TRUST - Ability to trust co-workers and superiors, which is a significant predictor of high-performing teams.

Adapted from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Fact Sheet 7 and Syracuse University, Institute for Veterans and Military Families - The Business Case for Hiring a Veteran.

HOMELESSNESS

487

**ND VETERANS
SERVICED
IN 2024**

86%
Males

9%
Females

ND Homeless
Management
Information System
(HMIS), 2024



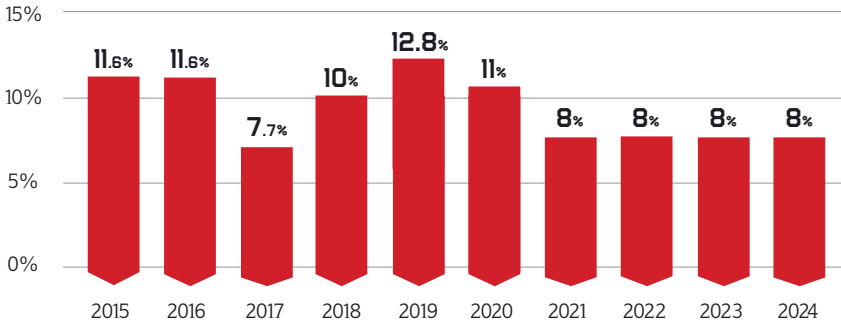
460

**individuals served in the VA
Fargo VA HCS Homeless
Program in 2024.**

271 of the 460 Veterans identified
as experiencing a mental health
disorder. This includes Veterans
who are homeless and those at
the risk of being homeless.

VA Fargo Healthcare System
data received February 19, 2025

PERCENTAGE OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICES IN NORTH DAKOTA WHO ARE VETERANS



ND Homeless Management Information System, data prepared on November 13, 2024.

IN NORTH DAKOTA, HOMELESS VETERANS...



75% have disabilities



13% have a chronic health condition



19% have mental illness



64% are age 45 or older



15% have substance abuse issues



17% have children

ND Homeless Management Information System, data prepared on November 13 and 22, 2024.

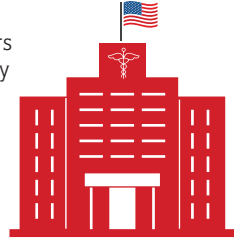
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

THE VETERANS COMPACT ACT

(Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment) allows eligible Veterans in an acute suicidal crisis to receive free emergency care, including emergent transportation, for up to 30 days of inpatient/residential care and up to 90 days of outpatient care, at any U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or non-VA facility whether or not the Veteran is currently part of the VA healthcare system.

290 From 1-17-23 to 11-12-24 there were episodes of care in North Dakota.

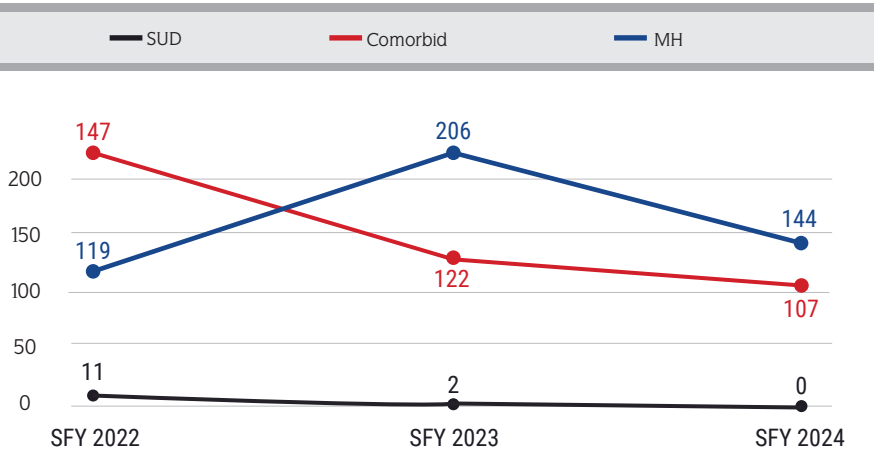
Fargo VA Medical Center information received Nov. 20, 2024



The Fargo VA Medical Center or a Country Veterans Service Officer can provide more information on the provisions of the COMPACT Act.

NORTH DAKOTA HUMAN SERVICE CENTERS

Number of individuals who are Veterans or served in the military who received behavioral health services from the Human Service Centers in North Dakota



ND Department of Human Services; Statewide Field Services Administration; 2024

VETERANS JUSTICE OUTREACH (VJO) MISSION

To avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans by ensuring that eligible justice involved Veterans have timely access to VHA services as clinically indicated.



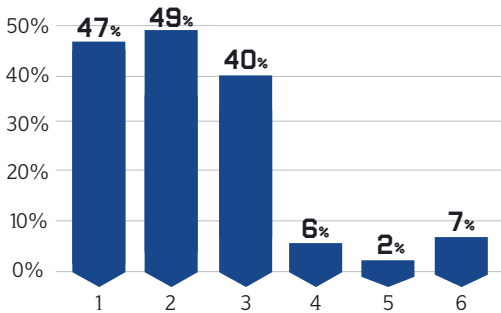
In 2023,
101 VETERANS
received services from the
VJO Office, Fargo VA.

74% report Mental Health issues

59% report Substance Use issues

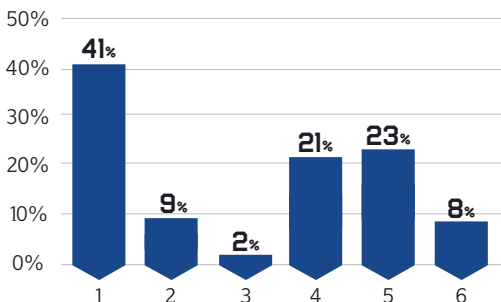
Veterans Justice Program: Connecting Veterans with Veterans Health Administration Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorder Treatment, Fargo VA Health Care System, received on October 23, 2024

PREVALENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER DIAGNOSES



1. Depressive disorders
2. Post-traumatic stress disorder
3. Anxiety disorders
4. Bipolar disorders
5. Schizophrenia
6. Personality disorders

PREVALENCE OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER DIAGNOSES



1. Alcohol use disorder
2. Opioid use disorder
3. Cocaine use disorder
4. Amphetamine use disorder
5. Cannabis use disorder
6. Other drug use disorders

SUICIDE

There were approximately 136 Veteran suicides in North Dakota (ND) between 2019-2024*.

From 2019-2024*, Veterans who died by suicide in ND



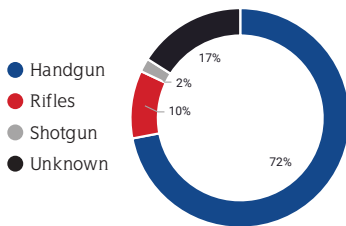
75%
Used firearms.



16.2%
Used hanging, strangulation, or suffocation.



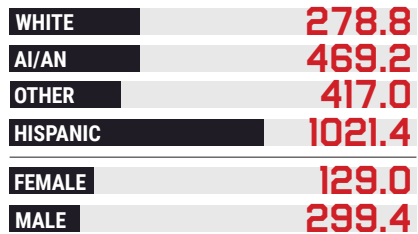
8.8%
Used other methods.



HISPANIC VETERANS IN ND HAVE MORE THAN 3 TIMES HIGHER THE RATES OF SUICIDES THAN WHITE VETERANS.

MALE VETERANS HAVE DOUBLE THE RATE OF SUICIDES THAN FEMALE VETERANS IN THE STATE.

Rates among Veterans who lost their lives by Suicide 2019-2024* (Per 100,000)



ND Population data estimate collected from the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, 2023

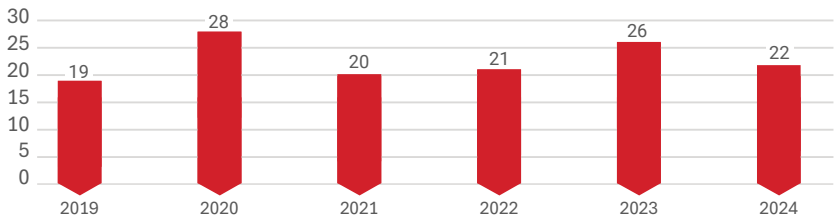
The ND Violent Death Reporting System (NDVDRS) is a state-based surveillance program that collects data on all violent deaths, including suicides.

NDVDRS collects data on suicide deaths from a variety of sources including death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, law enforcement reports, crime laboratory reports, and toxicology results.

The numbers represent both ND residents and out-of-state residents where initial injury occurred in ND.

The Fargo VA Suicide Prevention Team provides **FREE** gun locks to Veterans, their families, active duty and National Guard service members.

NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES BY SUICIDE EACH YEAR

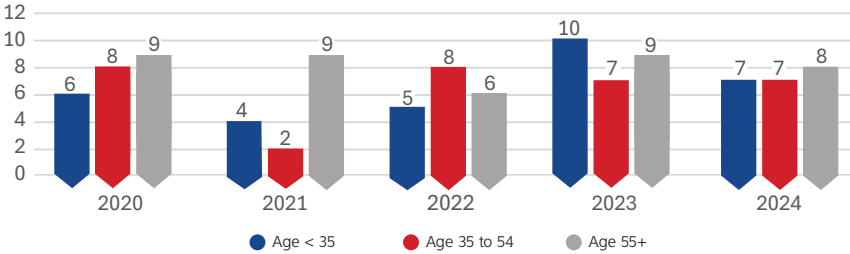


North Dakota National Violent Death Reporting System

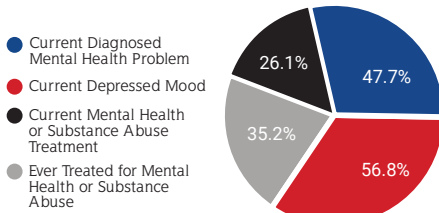
*Provisional Statistics 2023 & 2024. Data is updated as of December 17, 2024

SUICIDE

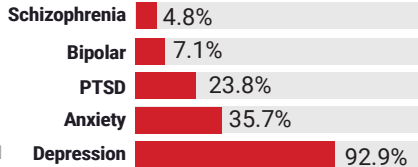
NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES BY SUICIDE FROM 2019-2024* BY AGE



MENTAL HEALTH CIRCUMSTANCES AMONG VETERANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES BY SUICIDE FROM 2019-2024



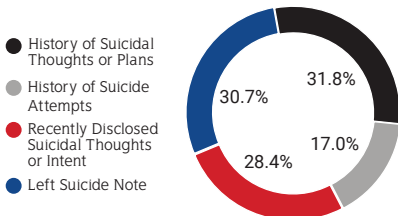
*Circumstance Data was available for 2019-2022 cases, which included 88 Veteran Suicides. The following percentages represent the suicide deaths where the endorsed circumstances were reported by any of the NDVDRS data sources.



Among Veterans who lost their lives to suicide from 2019-2022, the most common mental health problems faced were depression, anxiety and alcohol related problems.

SUICIDE SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES AMONG VETERANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES BY SUICIDE FROM 2019-2022

ND Veterans who lost their lives to suicide disclosed recent suicidal thoughts or intents to intimate partners (68%), friends or coworkers (28%), family (16%), and other people in their lives (12%).



30.7% OF INDIVIDUALS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES TO SUICIDE SAW A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER WITHIN TWO YEARS OF DEATH.

65.9% OF INDIVIDUALS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES TO SUICIDE DIED IN THEIR OWN HOME.

North Dakota National Violent Death Reporting System

*Provisional Statistics 2023 & 2024. Data is updated as of December 17, 2024

ABOUT ND CARES

MISSION: STRENGTHENING AN ACCESSIBLE, SEAMLESS NETWORK OF SUPPORT FOR SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, FAMILIES, AND SURVIVORS.

The purpose of ND Cares is to resolve barriers or gaps in services to ensure those serving and those who have served, their families, and survivors receive the care and assistance they need.

The ND Cares Coalition includes a broad spectrum of military and civilian professionals dedicated to the support of North Dakota Service Members, Veterans, Families, and Survivors (SMVFS).

The coalition uses the broadest definition of Veteran and is working to encompass all individuals who are currently serving or who have served – the “total force.”

ND Cares is not a provider of services; rather, it is dedicated to improving understanding of the needs and services required by our SMVFS.

PRIMARY GOAL

Break down barriers to the use of Behavioral Health Services

STRATEGIC FOCUS

1. Partnerships and capacity-building
2. Training and education
3. Internal and external communication



Governor's Challenge to
Prevent Suicide Among SMVF

North Dakota

The Governor's Challenge is a partnership among the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the State of North Dakota to bring together community leaders and state agencies to prevent suicide among Service Member, Veterans, and their families.

Core team organizations include ND Cares (team lead), VA Fargo, ND Dept. of Veterans Affairs, ND National Guard, FirstLink, ND Dept. of Health & Human Services, ND Suicide Prevention Coalition, University of ND (ND HOPES), American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and Mental Health America of ND.

PRIORITY AREAS

1. Identify SMVFs & Screen for Suicide Risk
2. Promote Connectedness & Care Transitions
3. Promote Lethal Means Safety & Safety Planning

**FOR A LIST OF INITIATIVES
UNDER EACH PRIORITY VISIT:
WWW.NDCARES.ND.GOV**

RESOURCES

NORTH DAKOTA

capnd.org

Community Action Partnership of North Dakota

jobsnd.com

Statewide listing of available jobs

legalassist.org

Low-income legal services

myfirstlink.org

24-hour referrals to crisis services - Dial 211

nd.gov/veterans

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

hhs.nd.gov/behavioral-health/prevention/suicide

Behavioral Health Division Suicide Prevention

nd.gov/dhs/services/

Department of Human Services and Help Listing

ndguard.nd.gov/service-member-family-support-0

National Guard Support Programs

prevention.nd.gov

Substance Abuse Prevention Media Center

parentslead.org

Assists parents to promote behavioral health for their children

veterans.nd.gov/military-outreach

North Dakota Military Outreach Program



NATIONAL

fargo.va.gov/services/caregiver

VA caregiver services support resources

maketheconnection.net

Veterans share real stories of recovery, local mental health resources

militaryonesource.mil

Support for military personnel and families

psycharmor.org

Training videos to educate the civilian community about military culture

samhsa.gov

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

va.gov

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

va.gov/homeless/hudvash.asp

VA Veterans Homeless Housing Programs

TO REQUEST COPIES

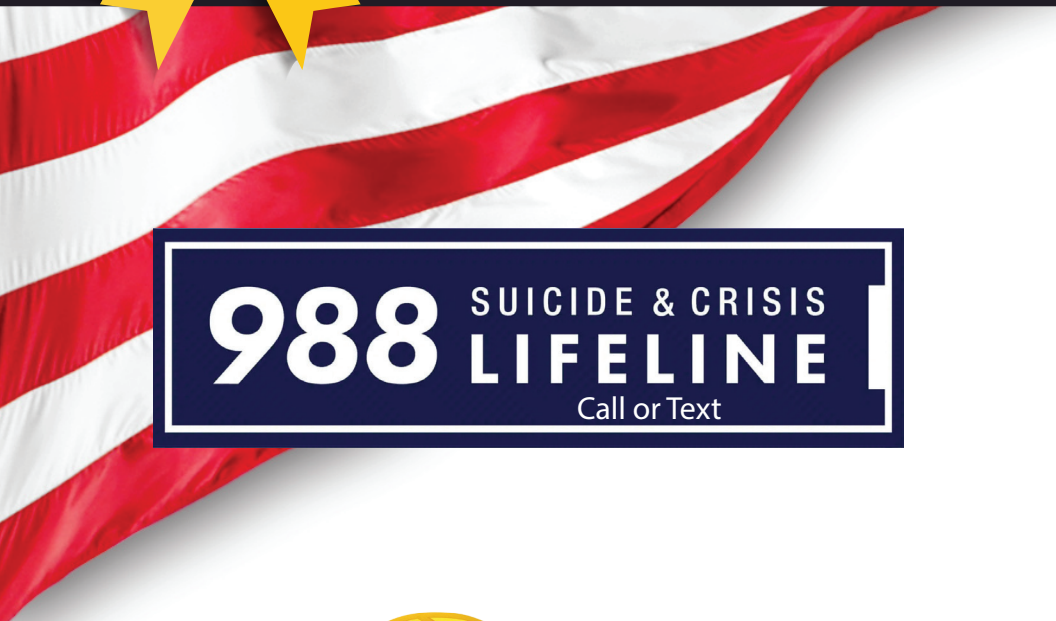
ONLINE : prevention.nd.gov

EMAIL : ndprmc@nd.gov

PHONE : 701.328.8919



Strengthening an accessible,
seamless network of support for
Service Members, Veterans,
Families, and Survivors.



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE
Call or Text



ndcares.org
ndcares@nd.gov
701.333.2012