EMS Provider Suicide

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National Suicide Statistics

• One suicide attempt every 30 seconds
• One suicide completion every 8 minutes
• 836,000 ED Visits
• 10th leading cause of death (all ages)
• 13 per 100,000 deaths
• 41,149 deaths total
• Means:
  • 21,175 firearms
  • 10,062 suffocation
  • 6,637 poison
  • 3,275 other means [5]
Military Suicides [9]

- 24-to-25-per-100,000, roughly 20% to 25% higher general public
- 20 Veterans commit suicide everyday
- 1 every 72 minutes
- Lost more to suicide in 2016 (7303) than 15 years of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan (6912).
- Most current public safety research is based of military data
EMS Suicide Statistics

- Best state data available:
  - Straub Caulkins Center for Suicide Research [6]
  - Minnesota Ambulance Association
  - 97% verification
  - 121 suicides from 1995 to 2015
  - Rate of suicide in general population 12.6 per 100,000
  - Rate of suicide in EMS providers 64.9 per 100,000
EMS Suicide Research

• Issues
  Classification of death issues
  Employment classification issues
  Veteran status
  Limited prior research with conflicting results
EMS Suicide Research

• Current study

Minnesota EMS database of 29501 emails
Emailed intro letter with link to anonymous survey
~1500 invalid addresses
Open data collection period through 1/1/2018
emc.eku.edu/suicide-survey

20 quantitative questions

Preliminary results 59% of an attempt or completion
41% have considered while 25% have a plan/means
1.6% would like to speak to somebody
References


5. Caulkins, C. (2016) *EMS Suicide Research: Preliminary Results*. Presentation conducted at the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services board, Minneapolis, MN.


References


