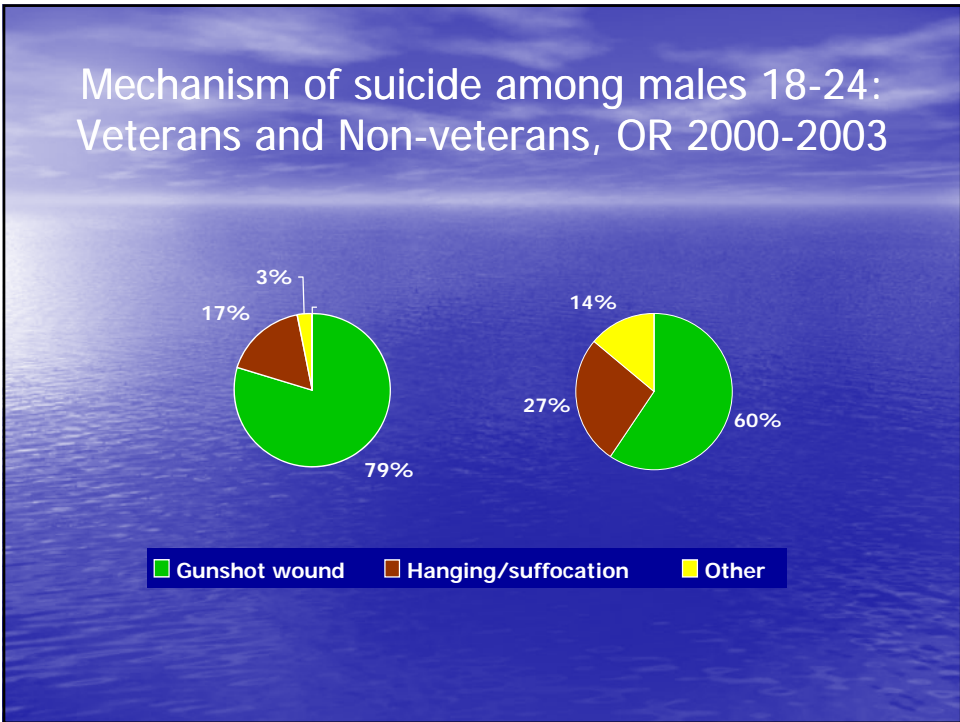
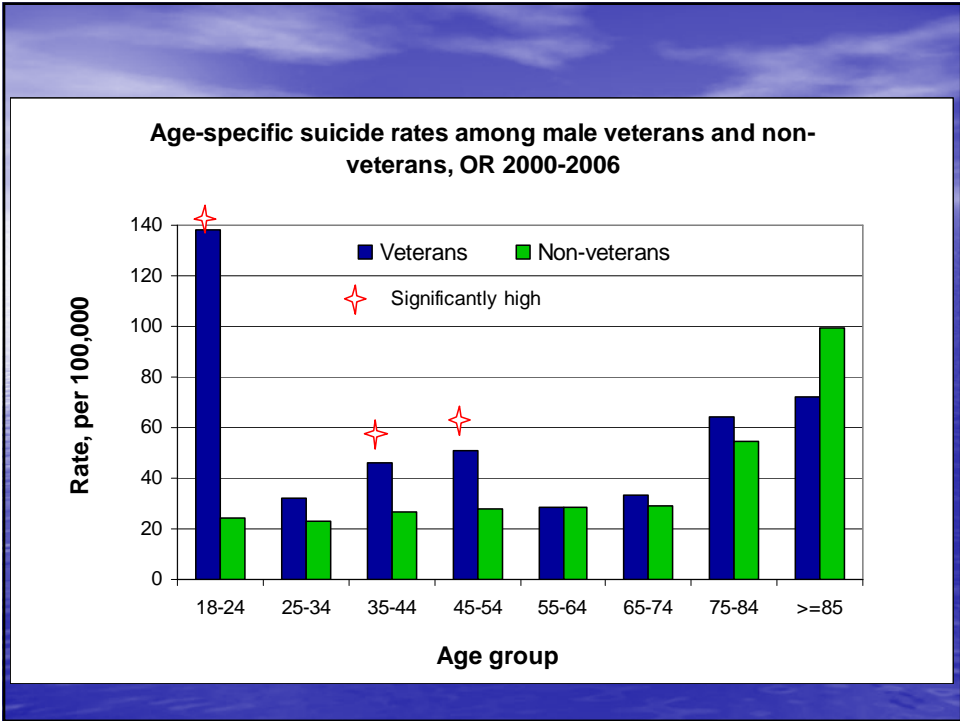


Suicide Among Oregon Veterans

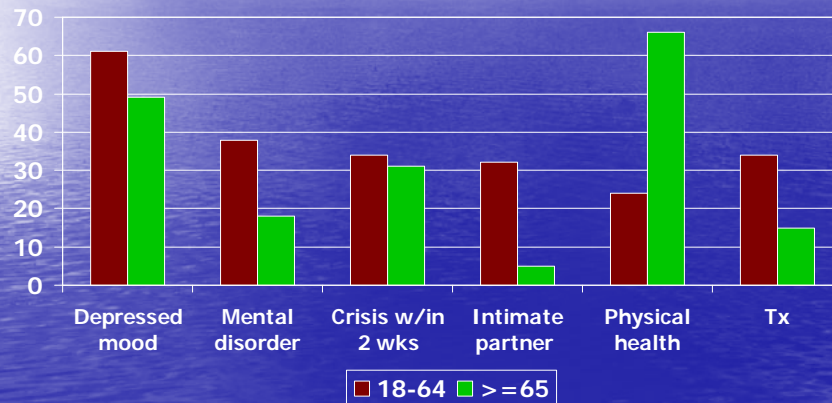
Donna Noonan, MPH
Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator
Oregon Public Health Division
GLS Grantee Meeting, January 6, 2009

Overview - Oregon

- 29% of suicides were among veterans, 2000-2006
- 97% veteran suicides are males
- Leading cause of death among male veterans 18-24



Frequency of circumstances among male veterans



Factors Possibly Increasing Suicide Risk for Veterans

- Combat exposure, PTSD
- Brain injury
- Other physical problems
- Readjustment to civilian life
- Strong value of self-reliance
- Stigma, honor
- Accessibility of guns
- Lack of access to mental health care

Prevention Approaches

- No single intervention will fix this problem
- Need to address multiple factors in addition to provision of individual mental health care
- Need a multi-faceted, comprehensive approach
- Multiple approaches are complementary

Oregon Prevention Activities

- Support ASIST trainers within Guard
- Provide ASIST trainings
 - 1:50 for next deployment
 - All ranks
 - Mandatory
 - Scholarships for local ONG

Oregon Prevention Activities

- Work with:
 - Chaplains in National Guard
 - Project Managers
 - Reintegration Teams
 - VA
 - Community Network (ONG)