

**TITLE:** Firearm Injuries among Post-9/11 Veterans in Oregon, 2007-2016

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**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Public health practitioners working in violence and injury prevention in Oregon

**ABSTRACT:** Military Veterans are known to have increased risk of injury after combat deployment. However, the risk and combined impact of Veterans' firearm injuries, by outcome (fatal and nonfatal) and intent (violent and unintentional), is unknown. To identify firearm injury events among Veterans in Oregon, we probabilistically linked a roster of all post-9/11 Veterans (n=2.7 million) to four state databases: Vital Records, Violent Death Reporting System, Trauma Registry, and Hospital Discharge Index. International Classification of Diseases codes were used to identify firearm events and to categorize intent. We compared rates and frequencies of fatal and nonfatal injury events, by intent, between Veterans and non-Veterans for the 10-year period between 2007 and 2016. A total of 7,191 firearm injuries were identified, for 10-year rates of 21.4 and 18.0 per 10,000 Veterans and non-Veterans, respectively. More than half (56%) of injury events were fatal and self-inflicted (i.e., suicide). Compared to non-Veterans, larger proportions of Veterans' firearm injuries were nonfatal (69% versus 43%) and, among nonfatal events, unintentional (54% versus 35%). These data suggest systematic differences in severity and intent of firearm injuries between post-9/11 Veterans and non-Veterans in Oregon; future efforts will examine potential reasons for these differences and mechanisms of prevention.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** -Describe the burden of firearm injury events among post-9/11 Veterans and non-Veterans in Oregon.

-Identify potential differences in firearm injury characteristics among post-9/11 Veterans and non-Veterans in Oregon.

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