

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



Marine Corps Suicide Prevention Program (MCSP)

**DoD Task Force on the Prevention of
Suicide among Members of the
Armed Forces**

1 October 2009

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Manner of Death

CY 2008 Ranking

USMC
1. Accident
2. Hostile Action
3. Suicide
4. Natural Causes
5. Homicide

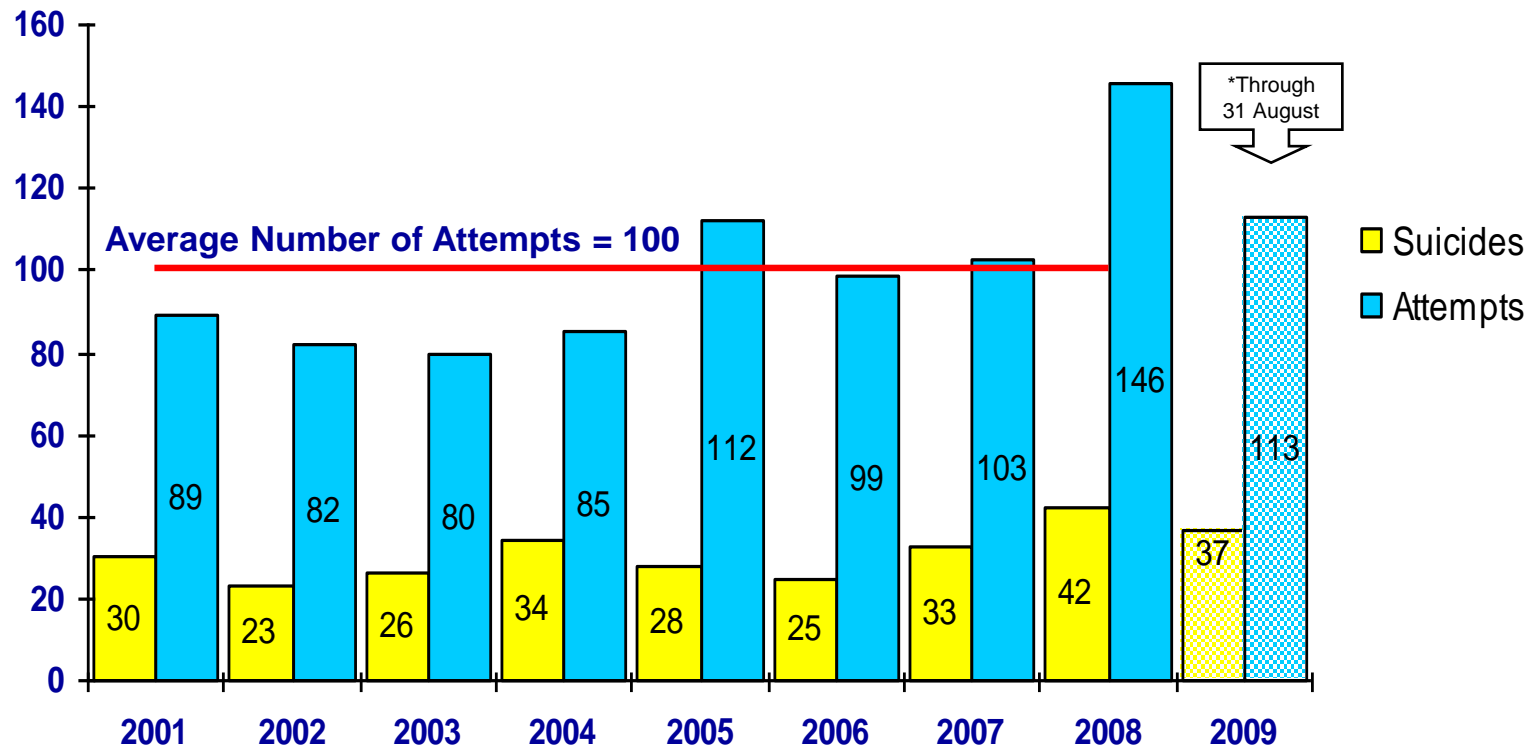
USN
1. Accident
2. Natural Causes
3. Suicide
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DON
1. Accident
2. Suicide
3. Hostile Action
4. Natural Causes
5. Homicide

Source: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Feb 2009



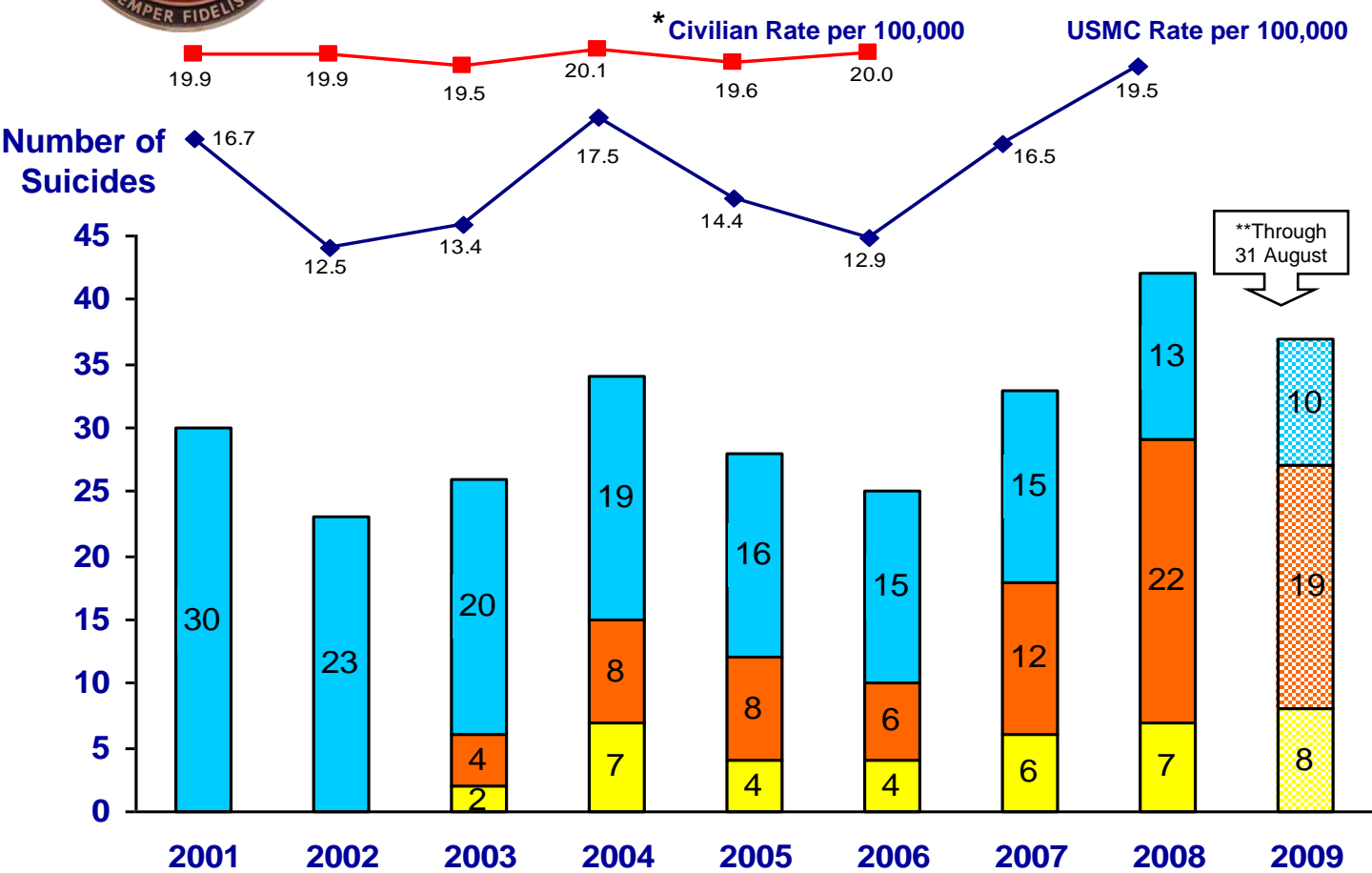
USMC Suicides and Attempts



**A DoD workgroup is meeting to assess and standardize suicide attempt data reporting across all Services.
USMC is finalizing SOP for using DODSER to collect data on suicide attempts.
Expected 1 January 2010**

*Includes 9 suspected suicides that have yet to be confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner.
2001-2009 suicide data is standardized in accord with DoD policy. 2003-2009 data was obtained from START database. 2000-2002 data was manually entered.
Source: HQMC (MRS-4) 2009Sep21

USMC Suicides with Deployment History (confirmed and suspected)



**69% of currently active Marines have been deployed in support of OIF/OEF.
73% of Marine suicides in CY2009 have a deployment history.**

**■ No Deployment History
■ Past Deployment History
■ In-Theater Suicides**

2001-2007 final rates were within range of expected fluctuations around mean of 14.9/100,000

CY2008 final rate was outside of that range

*Last available civilian suicide rate information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Rate adjusted for Marine demographics.

**Includes 9 suspected suicides that have yet to be confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner.

Data from 2001-2008 has been standardized in accord with DoD policy.

Source: HQMC (MRS-4) 2009Sep21



CY09 Suicide Demographics

2009 Month	Suspected Suicides	Suicide Attempts
January	3	13
February	1	16
March	3	14
April	6	9
May	4	15
June	9	16
July	9	17
August	2	13

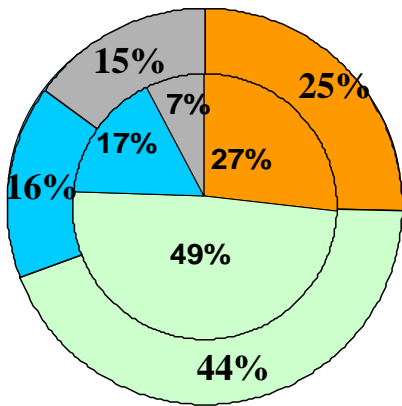
Gender	37 Male	0 Female	
Race	28 Caucasian 4 Hispanic 1 Am.Indian/Alaskan 1 Asian	3 African American	
Age	27 (18-24)	5 (25-29)	5 (30-39)
Marital Status	16 Single 3 Divorced	18 Married	
Paygrade	19 (E1-E3) 1 (WO-CW05)	15 (E4-E5)	2 (E6-E9)
Method	22 Gunshot Laceration 1 Suffocation	12 Hanging	2

Through 31 August 2009



Demographic Risk Factors

Age

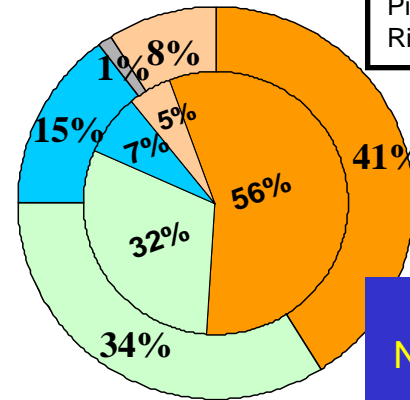


Pie - 2008 USMC Suicides
Ring - 2008 USMC Composition

- 17-20
- 21-25
- 26-30
- 31-45

Most Marines to die by suicide are 18-25 years old

Pay Grade

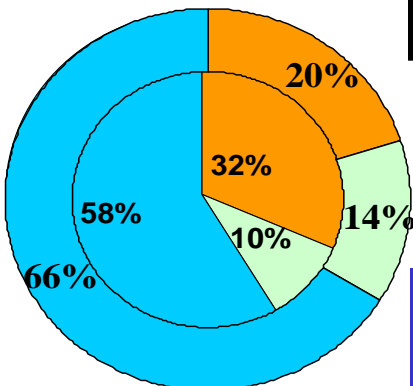


Pie - 2008 USMC Suicides
Ring - 2008 USMC Composition

- E1-E3
- NCO
- SNCO
- CWO
- O1-O10

Junior Marines and NCO are most likely to die by suicide

MOS

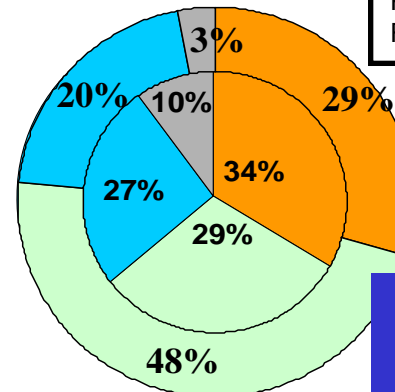


Pie - 2008 USMC Suicides
Ring - 2008 USMC Composition

- Infantry
- Aviation
- Others

Infantry is most likely MOS to die by suicide

Deployment History



Pie - 2008 USMC Suicides
Ring - 2008 USMC Composition

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3

Deployed Marines are not over-represented in suicides



Current Program Initiatives

Training Requirements

Enlisted Training

- Annual Awareness Training
- Recruit Training in Boot Camp
- Commanders All-Hands Stand-down (March 2009)
- NCO Suicide Prevention Course
- Leadership Continuum Training in all formal schools
- Web-based distance learning course
- Frontline Supervisors Training

Officer Training

- Annual Awareness Training
- Commanders All-Hands Stand-down (March 2009)
- Leadership Continuum Training in all formal schools
- Web-based distance learning course
- Frontline Supervisors Training

Provider Training

- Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk
- DoD/VA Military Suicide Prevention Conference

Other Training

- Pre, Re, and Post-Deployment Cycle Training (MOSST)
- Marine Corps Martial Arts Program
- Are You Listening Training (recreation/retail staff)
- DoD/VA Military Suicide Prevention Conference
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)
- Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)

Mandatory Optional Local Initiative

Other Initiatives

Leadership

- Video Messages
CMC and SMMC
Generals and Sergeants Major

Regional Coordinators

- Installation and command based
23 Civ positions to provide single point of contact

Research

- NIMH / Army / Marine Corps - STARRS
5-Year Longitudinal Study
- USUHS – NCO Course Program Evaluation
- MCCDC – USMC Unique Factors in Suicide Risk
- USUHS – Dissertation: Deployment Related Factors in USMC and Air Force

Marketing, Education

- Brochures, Posters, Wallet Cards
Relationship Focus, R.A.C.E.
- Leaders Guide for Managing Marines in Distress
Website and Pocket Guide
- MCSPP Website
- DoD/VA Suicide Prevention Conference

Staffing

- Three new hires at HQMC to support new requirements: Two Program Analysts, one Admin Support Specialist
- Special Assigned: Senior Enlisted Leader Consultant

Collaborative Programs

Installation Support Services

- Chain of Command
- Unit Medical
- Unit Chaplain
- Unit Personal and Family Readiness Program
- Marine and Family Services
- Prevention and Intervention Services
- Medical Treatment Facility
- Deployment Health Clinic
- Marine Corps Family Team Building
- Navy Marine Corps Relief Society
- Combat Operational Stress Control
- Operational Stress Control and Readiness (OSCAR)
- Substance Abuse Rehab Program
- Financial Counseling Program
- Family Advocacy Program
- Single Marine Program

National Support Services

- Federal Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- DCoE Outreach Call Center
- Military OneSource
- Military Mental Health Self-Assessment
- Tricare Behavioral Health Line
- Vet Centers

Deployed Support Services

- Unit Medical (BAS, RAS, etc.)
- Unit Chaplain
- Operational Stress Control and Readiness (OSCAR)
- MLG Surgical Company Forward
- FOB Emergency Services



NCO Suicide Prevention Course

“We’re finally out of the '80s!”

Drama

Evocative 30 minute movie lead-off

Video Clips

11 documentary (survivors/Marines) and movie clip compilations of to highlight training points

Peers

Sergeant instructors

Personal

Instructor uses personal experience to train

Interactive

Small group discussions (2) and full group discussions (5) to engage audience

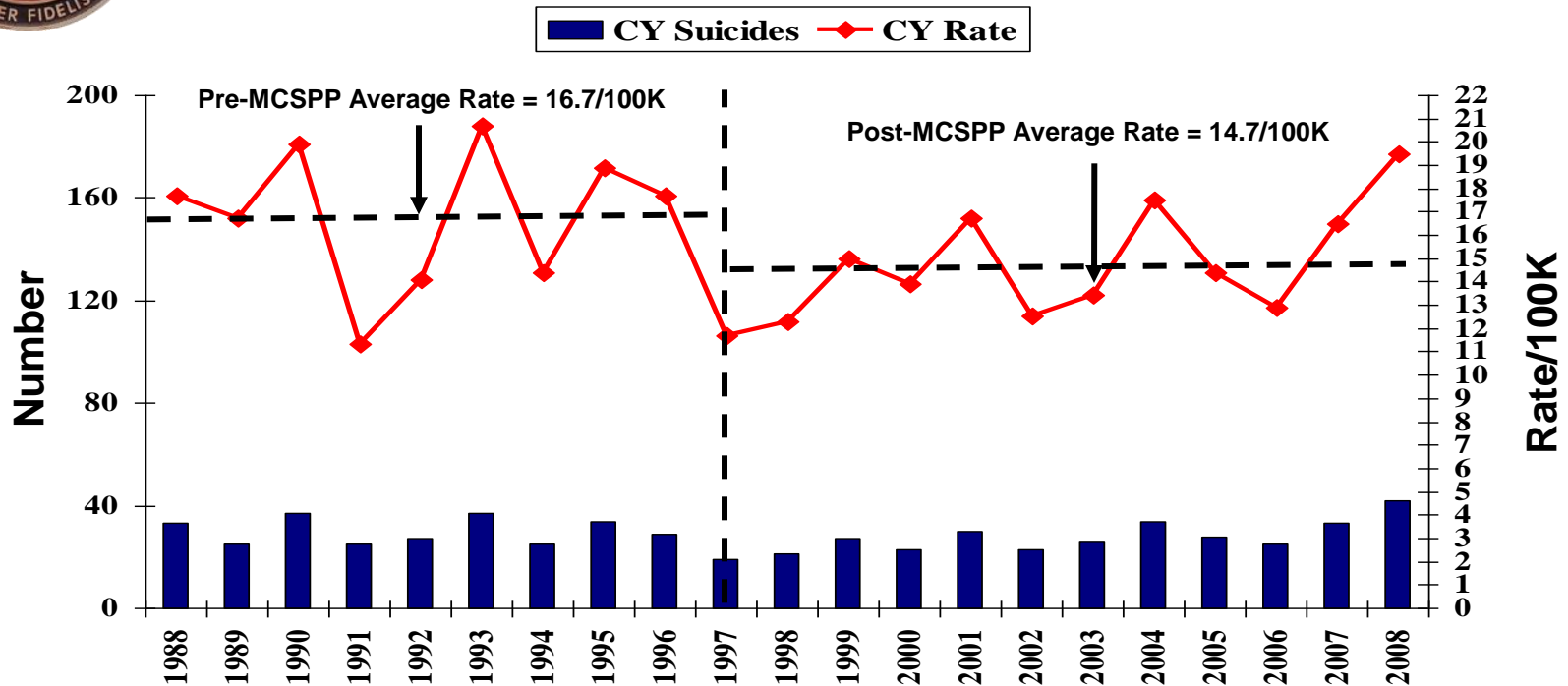
Relevant

True to NCO culture and language -- honest and realistic.

“Very real. Not sugar coated!”



Historic Trends and Program Efficacy



MCO 6200.4A required 1-hour suicide awareness training for all Marines in 1997

Average suicide rate dropped 26% comparing 4 years pre and post implementation

Average suicide rate for 9 years prior to 1997 is significantly higher than the average rate through 2008: T-test: $P < .05$



No stone unturned

- **Marine Corps**

- *“Never in my 30 years in uniform have I seen so many Generals in one place spending so much time discussing suicide prevention.”*

Col Robert Ireland, Program Director for Mental Health Policy, OSD(HA)
at USMC Executive Safety Board, Nov 2008.

- **Department of Defense**

- DoD Task Force on Suicide Prevention
- Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Committee (SPARRC)
 - Training Subcommittee
 - Research/Data Subcommittee
 - Annual Conference Subcommittee
- Nomenclature Workgroup
- Inactive Reserve Workgroup

- **Federal Government**

- Federal Executive Partners
 - HHS Leadership of 13 Federal Agencies/Departments
 - Senior Partners Suicide Prevention Priority Workgroup -- USMC Chairs
 - Action Alliance – public/private partnership with the National Council for Suicide Prevention

- **International**

- International Association of Suicide Prevention
 - International Task Force on Defense and Police Forces – USMC Chairs