

Epidemiological Suicide Surveillance in the Canadian Armed Forces: Trends in Suicide and Risk Factors Over Time

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Introduction

- Present results of 1995-2015 Annual Suicide Report (“2016 Report”)
- Due to small numbers (females) and incomplete data (Reservists), report only includes Regular Force males



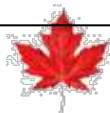
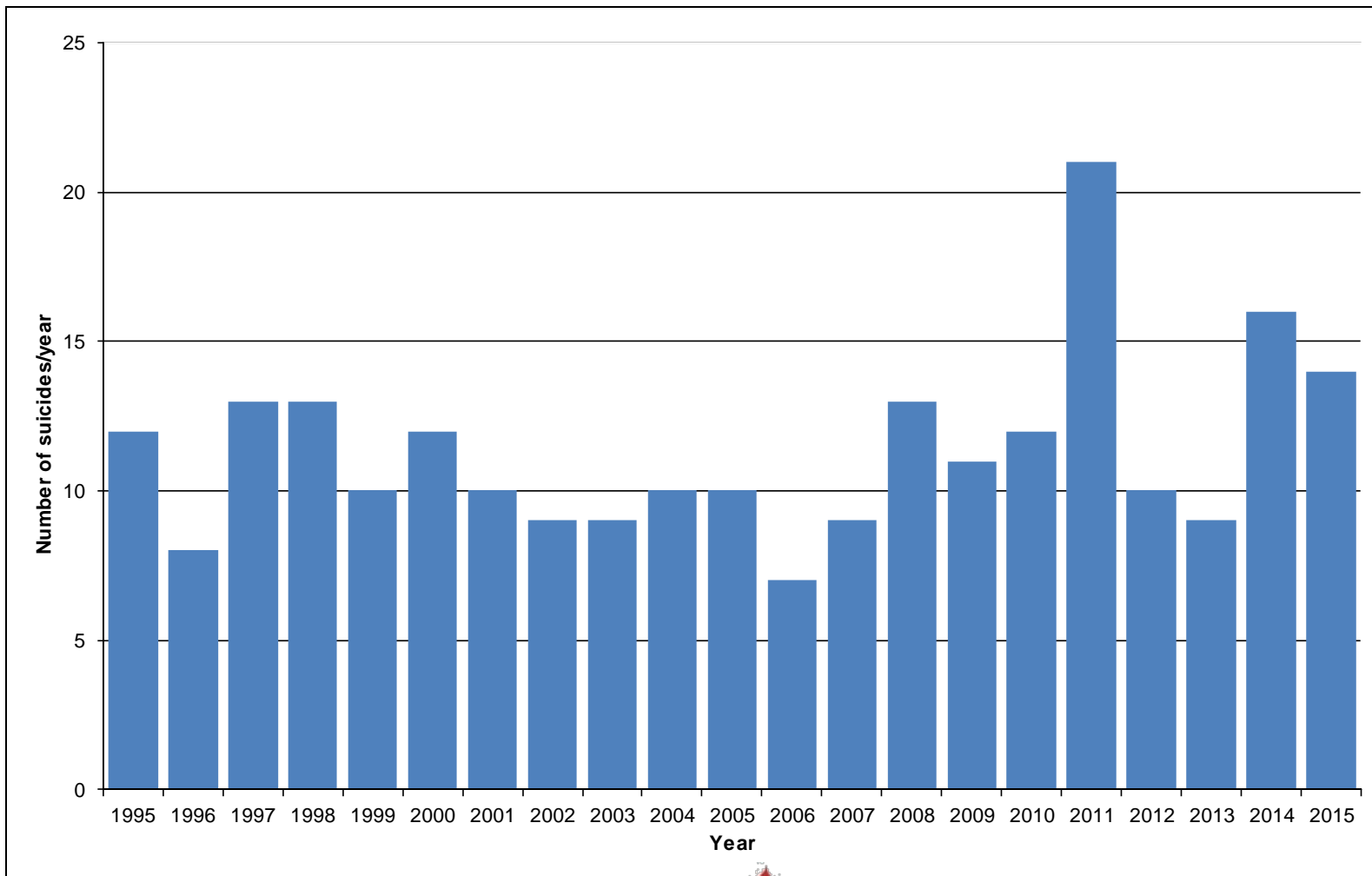
Analyses

- Crude suicide numbers
- Age-standardized rates
- Standardized mortality ratios (SMRs)
- Direct standardization
- Moving averages

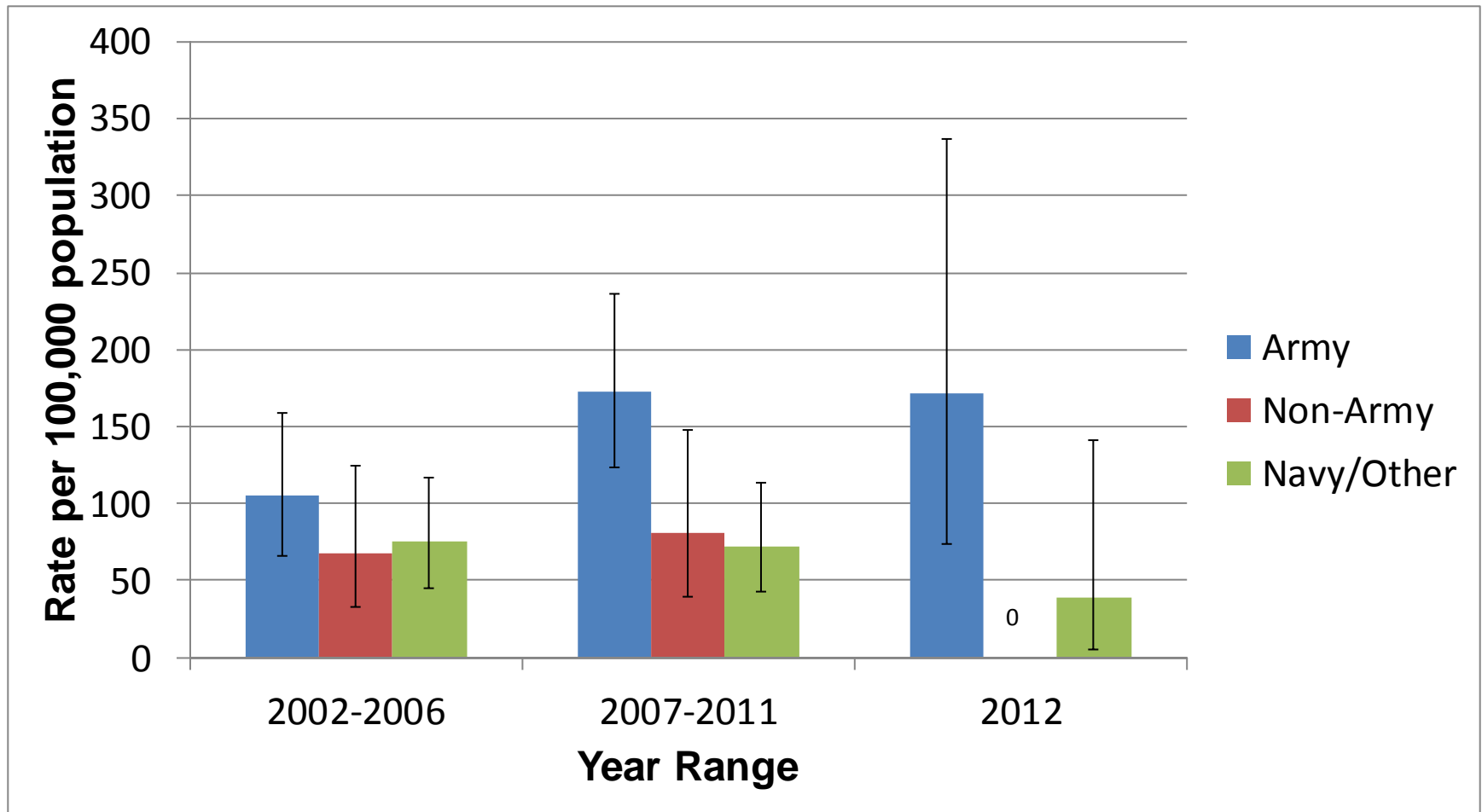


Number of Suicides by Year

Regular Force Males, 1995–2015



Suicide SMRs by Command, Regular Force Males Only, by Year Range



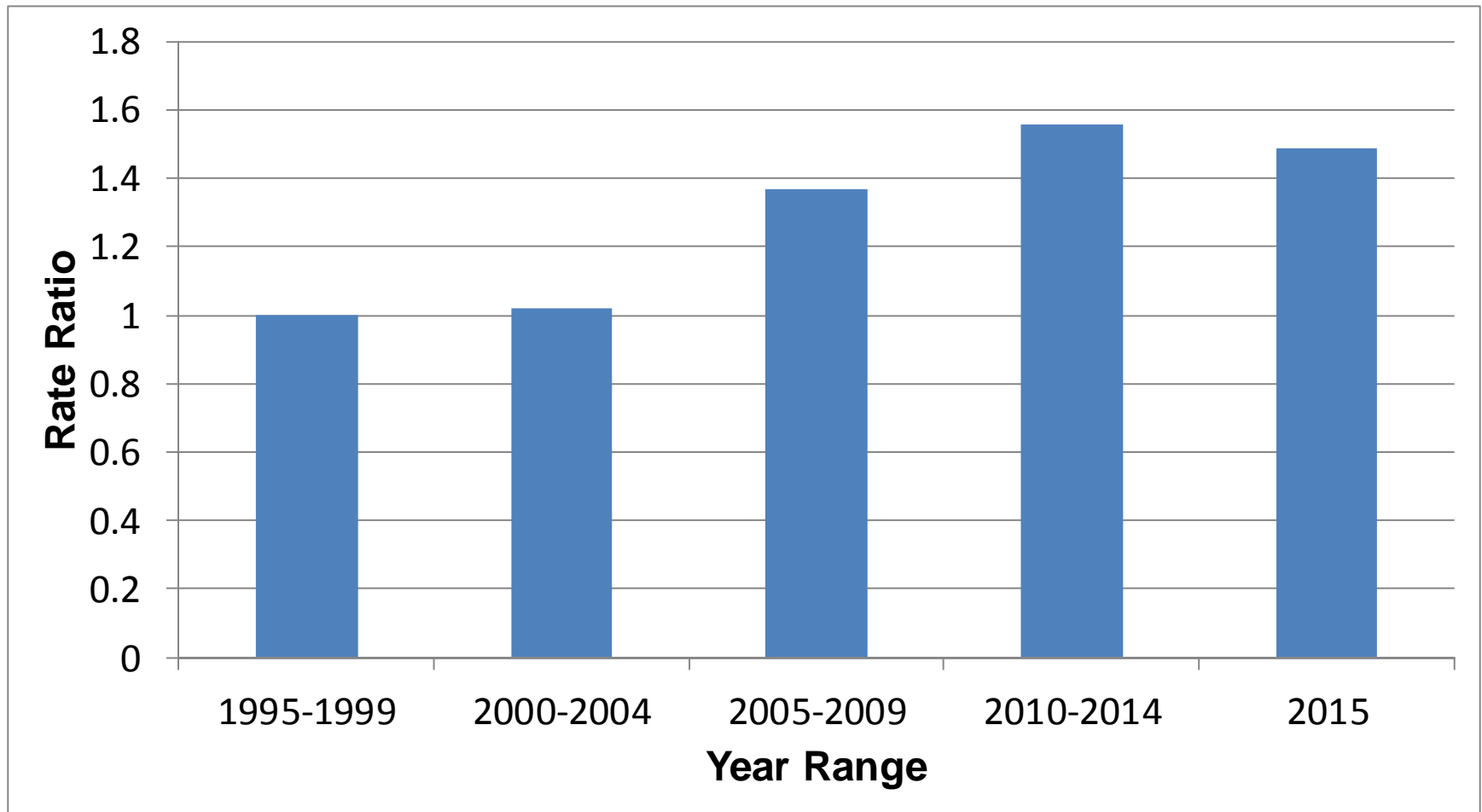
Combat Arms vs Non-Combat Arms (Age-Adjusted)

- Army vs. non-Army
 - Army: 30.14 per 100,000 population
 - Non-Army: 14.95 per 100,000 population

- Combat Arms vs. non-Combat Arms
 - CA: 30.35 per 100,000 population
 - Non-CA: 18.21 per 100,000 population



Suicide Rate Ratio Comparing Deployment History, Regular Force Males, 1995-2015



Key Findings

- No statistically significant increases in the crude suicide rate
- Continued evidence of an emerging trend of increased suicide risk for those with a history of deployment, compared to those who had never been deployed
 - Continues to fall short of statistical significance



Key Findings (II)

- No substantial changes in the groups of highest concern:
 - Army versus non-Army
 - Combat Arms versus non-Combat Arms
- CAF Regular Force male suicide risk profile is multifactorial
 - Particularly high prevalence of substance abuse and relationship difficulties prior to suicides



QUESTIONS?

For more information

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