

# *Headquarters U.S. Air Force*

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## **AF Suicide Prevention Program**



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AF Suicide Prevention Program Manager**

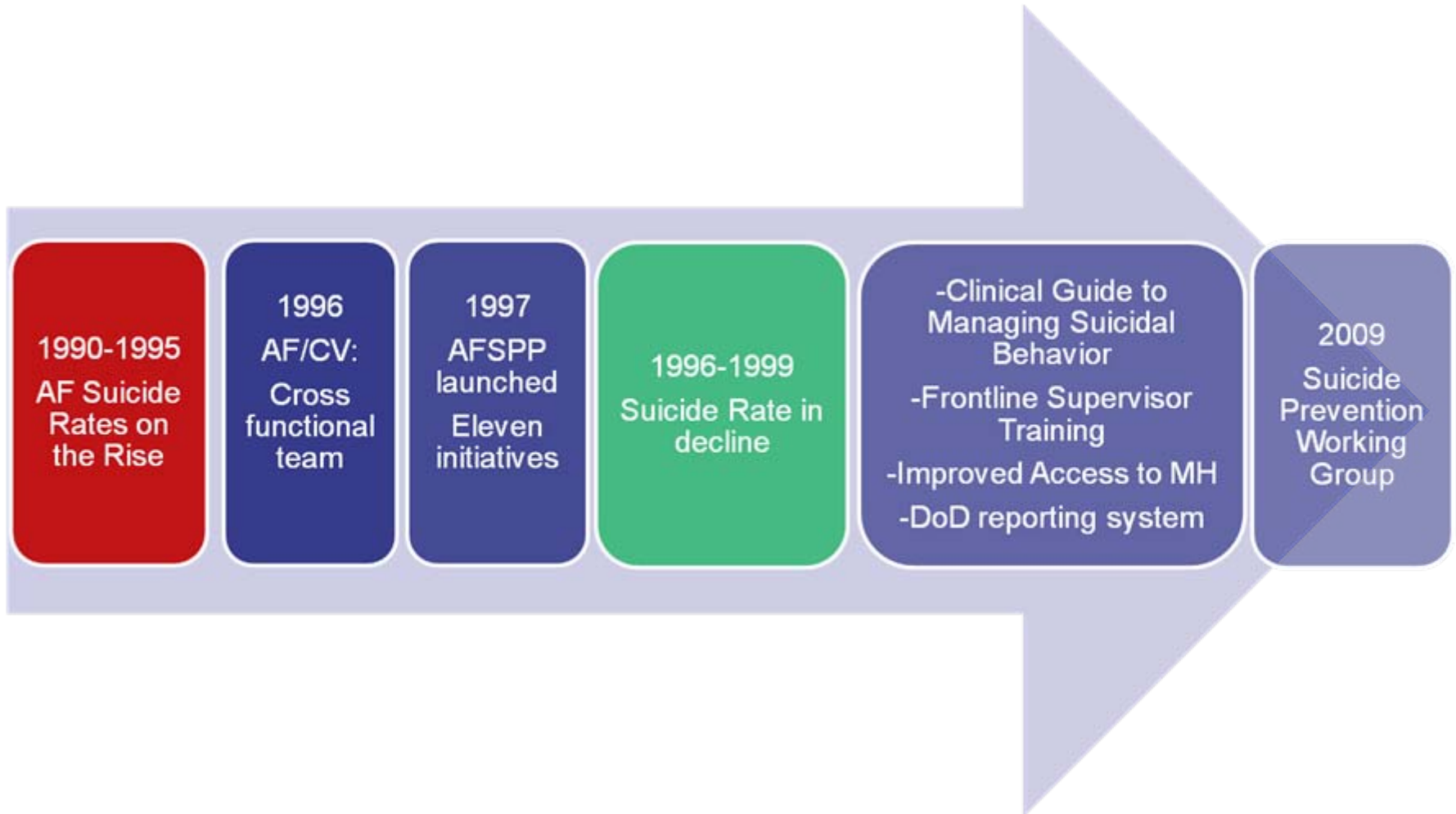
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# *The Air Force Suicide Prevention Program (AFSPP)*



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# ***AFSPP 11 Elements***

- 1. Leadership Involvement**
- 2. Suicide Prevention in Professional Military Education**
- 3. CC's Guide for Managing Personnel in Distress**
- 4. Community Preventive Services**
- 5. Community Education and Training**
- 6. Investigative Interview Policy**
- 7. Critical Incident Stress Management**
- 8. Integrated Delivery System (IDS)**
- 9. Limited Privilege Suicide Prevention Program**
- 10. IDS Consultation Assessment Tool**
- 11. DoD Suicide Event Report**



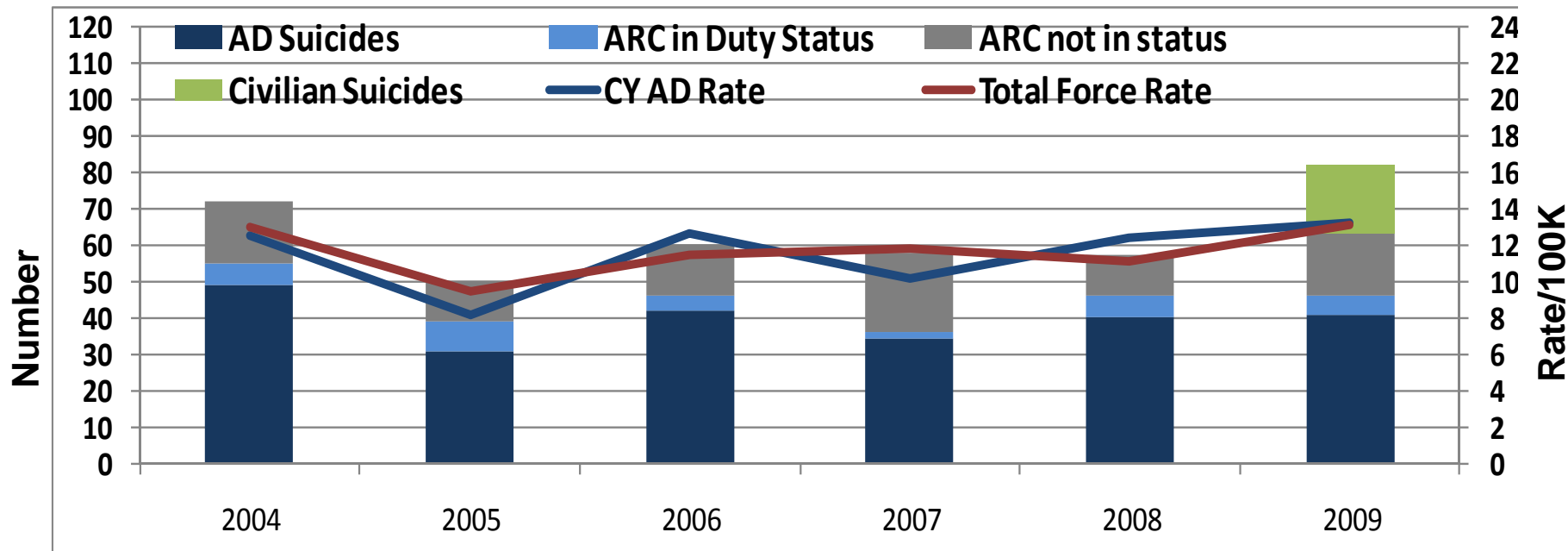
- **University of Rochester Study, British Medical Journal Dec 03**
  - Published AF data from 1990-2002, analysis ongoing
  - No significant change in population demographics
- **Implementation of AFSPP correlated with:**
  - 33% reduction in suicides
  - 18% increase in mild family violence
  - 30% reduction in moderate family violence
  - 54% reduction in severe family violence
  - 51% reduction in homicides
  - 18% reduction in accidental deaths
- **One of 10 suicide prevention programs listed on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs & Practices**



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# Air Force Suicides

**24 Dec 2009**



19 Dec: 38 y/o male ANG SrA (not in status), assigned to 124 LRS at Boise, ID, died by gunshot

**AD AF Suicides through 24 Dec**

*CY08/CY09 #s*

*CY09 Rate/100K*

40/41

12.9

**Total Force Suicides through 24 Dec:**

--/82

13.1

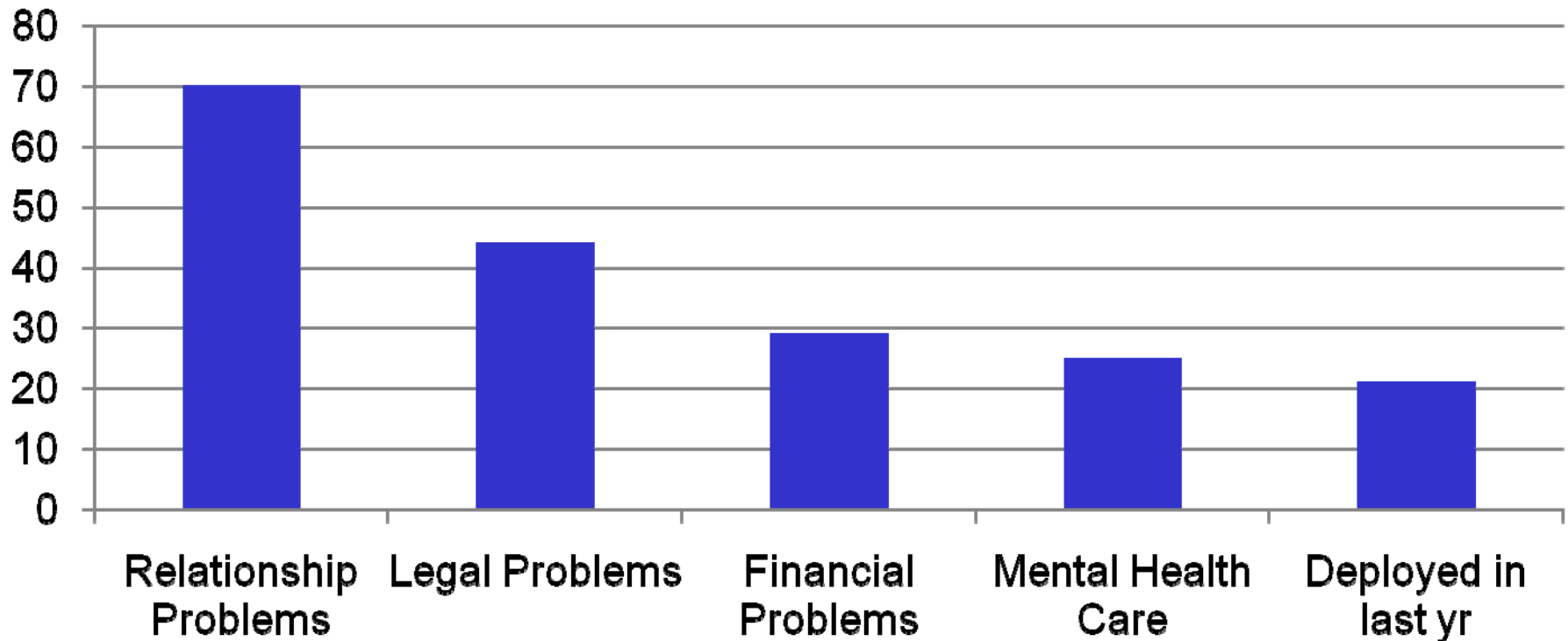
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# Who Commits Suicide?

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**% of CY03-08 AF Suicide Victims**



The risk factors highlight benefits of an individualized approach and watchful eye by wingmen and leadership at all levels

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# *Senior Leader Involvement*

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- **SECAF/CSAF and AF leaders are notified immediately on all suspected suicides via AF Watch**
- **VCSAF and senior medical leaders receive weekly updates on suicide incidents/trends each Friday**
- **AF Community Action Information Board (CAIB) reviews AF Suicide Prevention Program quarterly**
  - **CAIB engages in ongoing process improvement of AFSPP**
  - **AF CAIB chair elevates issues to CSAF as needed**
  - **Policy requires event review board after each suicide; lessons learned will be sent out via CAIB/IDS channels**
- **Annual AF Suicide Lessons Learned review sent to senior leadership and to field**



# *Continuing Improvement*

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- **To enhance the 11 Elements of the Suicide Prevention Program the AF has launched new initiatives**
  - **Clinical Guide to Managing Suicidal Behavior**
  - **Frontline Supervisor Training**
  - **Improved access to MH care and decreasing stigma**
- **Suicide Prevention Working Group**
  - **Initiated by CSAF tasking Safety to work with SG to review and enhance program**
  - **Included SG, Safety, OSI, Chaplain, Personnel and Reserve reps**
  - **Task: Top-to-bottom review of all current AF suicide prevention policies and procedures**
  - **Findings: Program has a commendable track record, but there are areas to improve**





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# ***Current Initiatives***

- **Renewed line leadership emphasis on program execution**
- **Initiated Event Review Boards for improved data collection**
- **Enhanced tracking to include AFRC, ANG and civilian suicides**
- **Developing new training tools including Advanced Distributed Learning Service (ADLS) videos**



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# ***Current Initiatives***

- **Return to live, small group training is under consideration**
- **Reviewing all PME curricula**
- **Revising policy to improve program performance**