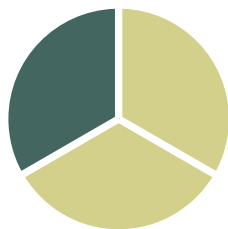


# Media coverage of Lionel Desmond: Application of Mindset guidelines

A recent study examined the extent to which a sample of 66 news media articles about the murder-suicide case of Corporal (ret.) Lionel Desmond applied best-practice reporting guidelines developed by the Canadian Journalism Forum on Violence and Trauma. The guidelines, *Mindset: Reporting on Mental Health*, [are available here](#).

## MINDSET VIOLATIONS

- ✘ **98.5%** of articles did not include help-seeking information
- ✘ **89%** of articles did not include quotes by mental health experts
- ✘ **65.2%** of articles described the method of suicide
- ✘ **64%** of articles did not feature Veteran voices



**One-third of articles linked mental health conditions to violence**


## MINDSET SUCCESSES

### Most articles:

- ✓ Used the case to discuss existing challenges faced by Veterans
- ✓ Included calls for broader system reforms in support of Veterans

1. Whitley, R. & Carmichael, V. (2021). Veterans in the media: Assessing Canadian newspaper coverage of the Lionel Desmond murder-suicide. *Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health*. [Advanced online publication](#)
2. The Canadian Journalism Forum on Violence and Trauma (2014). *Mindset: Reporting on Mental Health*. The Canadian Journalism Forum on Violence and Trauma. <https://www.mindset-mediaguide.ca/>

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