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Department of Defense Quarterly Suicide Report Calendar Year 2014 2nd Quarter

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Purpose

The Department of Defense (DoD) Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR) summarizes suicide counts and annual rates for the Active Component, Reserves, and National Guard. The purpose of the QSR is to communicate DoD suicide data to stakeholders external to DoD on a routine and frequent basis. The 2014 2nd Quarter DoD QSR shows calendar year 2014 2nd quarter suicide counts for each of the Services.

Summary of Results

The 2014 2nd Quarter suicide count for Active Component Service members was 70. For the Reserves, the count was 14. For the National Guard, the count was 20.

Quarterly suicide counts are available in Table 1.

Data Sources and Collection Process

Suicide mortality data in this report are provided by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) with inputs from the Service suicide prevention programs. Population data are collected from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC).

AFMES tracks suicide data for the Active Component and that portion of the Reserves and National Guard on Active Duty status; i.e., Activated Service members on Title 10 orders. For all other Service members whom AFMES does not track, suicide data originates from civilian authorities and is made available through the Services.

DMDC is the DoD's human resource information source and serves as the authoritative source of information on the DoD population.

Suicide Counts

Suicide counts are broken down by component and Service. The Active Component, as defined in DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1215.06, "Uniform Reserve, Training, and Retirement Categories for the Reserve Components," is that portion of the Military Services identified in annual authorization acts as "active forces" and in section 115(a)(1) of Title 10 of the United States Code as those active duty personnel paid from funds appropriated for active duty personnel. The Active Component counts and rates provided in this report also include the Cadets and Midshipmen at the military academies.

Counts are also provided for the Reserves and National Guard. These Reserve and National Guard Service members "consist of those units and individuals in the Ready Reserve designated by their respective Service, and approved by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as so essential to initial wartime missions that they have priority over all other Reserves" (DoDI 1215.06). The counts and rates provided here include Reserve and National Guard suicides regardless of the Service member's duty status at the time of death.



Because Service member populations on the Temporary or Permanent Disability Retired Lists (TDRL, PDRL) may overlap with Department of Veterans Affairs data, they are excluded from suicide counts in this report. In addition, retirees are not captured in the data.

Suicide Rates

Suicide rates for 2014 will not be calculated until data for all four quarters are available. Suicide rates for 2012 and 2013 are presented in Table 1.

Suicide rates are presented as annual rates per 100,000 Service members. When the number of suicides for a particular population is below 20, a rate is not presented because rates based on such small numbers of events are statistically unreliable.

For each annual rate, the denominator is the average of the 12 monthly end-strengths for that segment of the population. This averaging approach accounts for the changing size of the Service member populations throughout the course of the calendar year.

Additionally, the denominators exclude TDRL and PDRL Service members.

The rates are not adjusted for any demographic factors of the populations; e.g., age or gender distributions. As a result, comparisons between the rates of the populations presented here, comparisons with the rates of other populations, or comparisons with rates across time may be misleading.

Results

Table 1. Suicide Counts and Annual Rates by Component and Service

DoD Component and Service	2012		2013		2014	
	Total Suicide Counts	Annual Suicide Rate‡	Total Suicide Counts	Annual Suicide Rate‡	Q1 Suicide Counts	Q2 Suicide Counts
Active Component	320	22.7	254*	18.7	74	70
Air Force	50	15	48	14.4	19	11
Army	164	29.7	120	23	28	31
Marine Corps	48	24.3	45	23.1	11	9
Navy	58	17.8	41*	13.4	16	19
Reserves	72	19.3	86*	23.4	24	14
Air Force Reserve	3		11*		2	1
Army Reserve	50	24.7	59	30.1	13	4
Marine Corps Reserve	11		11		4	5
Navy Reserve	8		5*		5	4
National Guard	130	28.1	134	28.9	22	20
Air National Guard	20	19.1	14		6	2
Army National Guard	110	30.8	120	33.7	16	18

Note: All figures above may be subject to change in future publications as updated information becomes available.

Suicide counts are current as of September 30, 2014. Counts will be updated quarterly, as needed.

* Indicates a change from the previous QSR based on updated information.

‡ Suicide rates correspond to the DoD Suicide Event Report Annual Report for their respective years. Rate is per 100,000 Service members. Rates based on counts below 20 are not shown, due to statistical unreliability.