

Department of Defense (DoD) Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR) 3rd Quarter, CY 2024

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The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$6,770 for the 2024 Fiscal Year. This includes \$3,940 in expenses and \$2,830 in DoD labor.



**DEFENSE SUICIDE
PREVENTION OFFICE**

Introduction

The Department of Defense (DoD) is fully committed to preventing suicides in our military community.

The number of suicide deaths in the current report are subject to change, as previously unknown cases are reported and some known cases are further investigated. The DoD continues to investigate individual cases to make informed determinations and conduct the necessary statistical analyses to understand trends over time. At this time, it is too early to determine whether suicide rates will increase or decrease for Calendar Year 2024.

To help determine the impact of suicide on the Total Force, the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) routinely collects and reports surveillance data on suicide mortality across the Department. The most up-to-date counts of suicide deaths are reported in the Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR).¹ The QSR complies with Objective 11.1 of the DoD Defense Strategy for Suicide Prevention (DSSP) by providing timely and accurate suicide data to guide suicide prevention efforts across the Department.

DSPO collects suicide data via collaborative effort with the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) and the Suicide Prevention Program Offices of the Military Services (i.e., Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force)². AFMES is the official DoD entity responsible for verifying and reporting deaths by suicide for the Active Component and, to the extent available, the Reserve Component, to DSPO.^{3,4} These numbers are reconciled with the Military Services to ensure the most accurate information is reported.

Quarters are based upon the Calendar Year (CY) and defined as:

- Quarter 1 (Q1): January 1st – March 31st
- Quarter 2 (Q2): April 1st – June 30th
- Quarter 3 (Q3): July 1st – September 30th
- Quarter 4 (Q4): October 1st – December 31st

The current report presents data from Q3 of CY 2024. Data includes all known or suspected suicides (both confirmed and pending) as of October 15, 2024, for both the Active and Reserve Components. Hence, the numbers presented in this report are subject to change as previously unknown suicide cases are reported and some known cases are further investigated.⁵

Caution should be used when making comparisons across groups and/or interpreting changes in suicide counts across time because counts do not account for changes in population size. Rates

¹ Absolute counts do not account for changes in population size. Consequently, caution should be used when making comparisons across groups and/or interpreting changes in suicide counts across time.

² The QSR does not include suicide data from the United States Coast Guard as they fall under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Homeland Security when not operating as a service in the Department of the Navy.

³ Active Component: Full-time members of the U.S. Armed Forces and Cadets/Midshipmen at the designated military academies.

⁴ Reserve Component: Limited to members of the Selected Reserves (SELRES). SELRES are drilling and training members of the National Guard and Reserve, Individual Mobilization Augmentees, and full-time support Active Guard and Reservists. This excludes members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Inactive National Guard (ING).

⁵ Official annual suicide counts and unadjusted rates are published in the DoD Annual Report on Suicide in the Military. The most recent report is for CY 2023. Available at: <https://www.dspo.mil/Home/Tools/Reports/>.

account for differences in population sizes; and, as such, provide a more standardized way to make comparisons over time or across groups.⁶ For the most recent DoD annual suicide rates and trends/changes over time, please see the DoD Annual Report on Suicide in the Military CY 2023 (<https://www.dspo.mil/Home/Tools/Reports/>). The official annual suicide counts and rates for CY 2024 are not available at this time.

QSR Data

Attachment A details the number of suicide deaths by Service and component. For Q3 of CY 2024, the Military Services reported the following deaths suspected or confirmed to be suicides:

- 74 in the **Active Component**
- 5 in the **Reserve**
- 27 in the **National Guard**

Comparisons of suicide counts between Q3 CY 2023 and Q3 CY 2024 are provided below.⁷ These comparisons are for descriptive purposes and do not reflect statistical increases or decreases nor account for population size.

- For Q3 CY 2024, the number of **Active Component** suicide deaths decreased by 9 compared to Q3 CY 2023 (74 versus 83 suicide deaths)
 - Army Active Component suicide deaths decreased by 2
 - Marine Corps Active Component suicide deaths decreased by 6
 - Navy Active Component suicide deaths remained the same
 - Air Force Active Component suicide deaths decreased by 2
 - Space Force Active Component suicide deaths increased by 1
- For Q3 CY 2024, the number of **Reserve** suicide deaths decreased by 11 compared to Q3 CY 2023 (5 versus 16 suicide deaths)
 - Army Reserve suicide deaths decreased by 10
 - Marine Corps Reserve suicide deaths remained the same
 - Navy Reserve suicide deaths decreased by 1
 - Air Force Reserve suicide deaths remained the same
- For Q3 CY 2024, the number of **National Guard** suicide deaths decreased by 3 compared to Q3 CY 2023 (27 versus 30 suicide deaths)
 - Army National Guard suicide deaths decreased by 6
 - Air National Guard suicide deaths increased by 3

⁶ Rates are defined as the total number of suicides divided by the population for a given time period.

⁷ Research on the seasonal effects of suicide death has shown mixed results (e.g., Gutzwiller, 2011; McCleary, 1994; Postalache, 2012; Rossler, 2010).

Attachment A

DoD Component and Service	CY 2022					CY 2023					CY 2024			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Total
Active Component	75	87	90	79	331	91	89	83	100	363	92	70	74	236
Army	37	33	37	28	135	48	32	35	43	158	38	27	33	98
Marine Corps	8	17	25	13	63	13	13	19	17	62	13	11	13	37
Navy	14	22	14	21	71	17	21	12	18	68	23	15	12	50
Air Force	16	15	14	17	62	13	21	17	22	73	17	16	15	48
Space Force	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	1	3
Reserve Component	42	41	34	46	163	44	35	46	35	160	46	41	32	119
Reserve	19	18	15	13	65	18	14	16	21	69	24	17	5	46
Army Reserve	10	12	9	6	37	8	10	12	14	44	14	11	2	27
Marine Corps Reserve	3	1	1	2	7	4	3	1	2	10	3	1	1	5
Navy Reserve	2	3	1	1	7	4	0	2	2	8	4	2	1	7
Air Force Reserve	4	2	4	4	14	2		1	3	7	3	3	1	7
National Guard	23	23	19	33	98	26	21	30	14	91	22	24	27	73
Army National Guard	22	18	16	27	83	19	20	26	12	77	20	21	20	61
Air National Guard	1	5	3	6	15	7	1	4	2	14	2	3	7	12

DoD Component and Service	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018	CY 2019					CY 2020					CY 2021				
	Total	Total	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Active Component	280	287	326	93	71	84	101	349	89	80	114	101	384	76	97	70	85	328
Army	130	116	141	32	37	34	43	146	37	41	53	44	175	44	57	31	43	175
Marine Corps	37	43	57	14	6	11	16	47	14	10	20	19	63	13	8	13	9	43
Navy	52	65	68	22	13	19	19	73	19	11	20	15	65	12	18	14	15	59
Air Force	61	63	60	25	15	20	23	83	19	18	21	23	81	7	14	12	18	51
Space Force	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0	0
Reserve Component	202	226	217	45	43	42	26	156	45	49	44	60	198	43	42	59	51	195
Reserve	80	93	81	21	16	17	12	66	20	25	13	19	77	15	14	21	24	74
Army Reserve	41	63	48	10	8	11	8	37	9	16	7	10	42	10	9	13	14	46
Marine Corps Reserve	19	10	19	5	1	1	2	9	2	2	2	4	10	2	3	4	4	13
Navy Reserve	10	9	11	2	2	3	0	7	5	3	2	3	13	3	1	1	5	10
Air Force Reserve	10	11	3	4	5	2	2	13	4	4	2	2	12	0	1	3	1	5
National Guard	122	133	136	24	27	25	14	90	25	24	31	41	121	28	28	38	27	121
Army National Guard	108	121	119	19	24	22	11	76	22	18	29	36	105	26	23	34	22	105
Air National Guard	14	12	17	5	3	3	3	14	3	6	2	5	16	2	5	4	5	16

Note: All figures above may be subject to change in future publications as updated information becomes available. Suicide counts (both confirmed and pending) are **current as of October 15, 2024**.

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

Highlighted for descriptive purposes. Does not reflect statistical increases or decreases nor account for population size.