

Department of Defense (DoD) Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR) 1st 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 Q1 of CY 2024. Data includes all known or suspected suicides (both confirmed and pending) as of April 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 account for differences in population sizes; and, as such, provide a more standardized way to

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 2022. Available at: <https://www.dspo.mil/Annual-Reports/>.

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 2022 (<https://www.dspo.mil/Annual-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 Q1 of CY 2024, the Military Services reported the following deaths suspected or confirmed to be suicides:

- 94 in the **Active Component**
- 24 in the **Reserve**
- 21 in the **National Guard**

Comparisons of suicide counts between Q1 CY 2023 and Q1 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 Q1 CY 2024, the number of **Active Component** suicide deaths increased by 3 compared to Q1 CY 2023 (94 versus 91 suicide deaths)
 - Army Active Component suicide deaths decreased by 9
 - Marine Corps Active Component suicide deaths stayed the same
 - Navy Active Component suicide deaths increased by 7
 - Air Force Active Component suicide deaths increased by 4
 - Space Force Active Component suicide deaths increased by 1
- For Q1 CY 2024, the number of **Reserve** suicide deaths increased by 6 compared to Q1 CY 2023 (24 versus 18 suicide deaths)
 - Army Reserve suicide deaths increased by 6
 - Marine Corps Reserve suicide deaths decreased by 1
 - Navy Reserve suicide deaths stayed the same
 - Air Force Reserve suicide deaths increased by 1
- For Q1 CY 2024, the number of **National Guard** suicide deaths decreased by 5 compared to Q1 CY 2023 (21 versus 26 suicide deaths)
 - Army National Guard suicide deaths stayed the same
 - Air National Guard suicide deaths decreased by 5

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 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018					CY 2019					CY 2020				
	Total	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Active Component	280	287	81	78	78	89	326	92	71	84	101	348	89	80	113	101	383
Army	130	116	36	31	40	34	141	31	37	34	43	145	37	41	52	44	174
Marine Corps	37	43	13	13	15	16	57	14	6	11	16	47	14	10	20	19	63
Navy	52	65	23	15	11	19	68	22	13	19	19	73	19	11	20	15	65
Air Force	61	63	9	19	12	20	60	25	15	20	23	83	19	18	21	23	81
Space Force	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Reserve Component	202	225	49	44	62	62	217	45	43	42	26	156	45	49	44	60	198
Reserve	80	93	22	16	19	24	81	21	16	17	12	66	20	25	13	19	77
Army Reserve	41	63	15	11	13	9	48	10	8	11	8	37	9	16	7	10	42
Marine Corps Reserve	19	10	4	1	4	10	19	5	1	1	2	9	2	2	2	4	10
Navy Reserve	10	9	3	3	2	3	11	2	2	3	0	7	5	3	2	3	13
Air Force Reserve	10	11	0	1	0	2	3	4	5	2	2	13	4	4	2	2	12
National Guard	122	132	27	28	43	38	136	24	27	25	14	90	25	24	31	41	121
Army National Guard	108	121	24	26	36	33	119	19	24	22	11	76	22	18	29	36	105
Air National Guard	14	11	3	2	7	5	17	5	3	3	3	14	3	6	2	5	16

DoD Component and Service	CY 2021					CY 2022					CY 2023					CY 2024	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Total
Active Component	76	97	70	85	328	75	87	91	79	332	91	89	83	100	363	94	94
Army	44	57	31	43	175	37	33	37	28	135	48	32	35	43	158	39	39
Marine Corps	13	8	13	9	43	8	17	25	13	63	13	13	20	18	64	13	13
Navy	12	18	14	15	59	14	22	14	21	71	17	21	13	18	69	24	24
Air Force	7	14	12	18	51	16	15	15	17	63	13	21	15	21	70	17	17
Space Force	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	1
Reserve Component	43	43	59	51	196	41	41	34	45	161	44	36	45	34	159	45	45
Reserve	15	15	22	24	76	18	18	15	13	64	18	14	14	21	67	24	24
Army Reserve	10	9	13	14	46	10	12	9	6	37	8	10	12	14	44	14	14
Marine Corps Reserve	2	4	4	4	14	2	1	1	2	6	4	3	0	1	8	3	3
Navy Reserve	3	1	1	5	10	2	3	1	1	7	4	0	2	2	8	4	4
Air Force Reserve	0	1	4	1	6	4	2	4	4	14	2	1	0	4	7	3	3
National Guard	28	28	37	27	120	23	23	19	32	97	26	22	31	13	92	21	21
Army National Guard	26	23	34	22	105	22	18	16	27	83	19	21	26	12	78	19	19
Air National Guard	2	5	3	5	15	1	5	3	5	14	7	1	5	1	14	2	2

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 April 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.