

Department of Defense (DoD) Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR) 2nd Quarter, CY 2018

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The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$6,770 for the 2018 Fiscal Year. This includes \$3,940 in expenses and \$2,830 in DoD labor.



**DEFENSE SUICIDE
PREVENTION OFFICE**

Introduction

The Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) routinely collects and reports surveillance data on suicide mortality in the Department of Defense (DoD). The most up-to-date counts of suicide deaths are reported in the Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR).¹ The QSR seeks to comply with Objective 11.1 of the 2015 DoD Defense Strategy for Suicide Prevention (DSSP) by providing timely and accurate suicide data to guide suicide prevention efforts across the Department.²

Suicide data in this report are obtained via a collaborative effort between DSPO, the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES), and the Suicide Prevention Program Offices of the Military Services (i.e., Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy). AFMES is the official Department of Defense (DoD) entity responsible for verifying and reporting deaths by suicides for the Active Component³ and, to the extent applicable, the Reserve Component⁴ to DSPO. These numbers are reconciled with the Military Services to ensure that the most accurate information is reported.

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

- 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 the 2nd quarter of CY 2018. Data include all suicides (both confirmed and pending) as of June 30, 2018, and include both the Active and Reserve Components. Hence, the numbers represented in this report are preliminary and subject to change in future quarterly reports, as previously unknown suicide cases are reported.

QSR Data

Attachment A provides a detailed breakdown of the number of suicide deaths by Service and Component. For the 2nd Quarter of 2018, the Military Services reported the following:

- 75 suicide deaths in the **Active Component**
- 14 suicide deaths in the **Reserves**

¹ The QSR does not account for changes in population size or natural variation in suicide counts over time. Thus, caution should be used when interpreting longitudinal changes in suicide counts.

² Absolute numbers are often used when there is a need to know the exact burden of a disease or condition in a population. This is often the case for programmatic/intervention/policy planning/decision-making as well as decisions regarding resource allocation.

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

⁴ Reserve Component personnel included in this report are members of the Selected Reserves (SELRES). SELRES are drilling and training members of the National Guard and Reserves, Individual Mobilization Augmentees, and full-time support Active Guard and Reservists. This excludes those members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Inactive National Guard (ING).

- 27 suicide deaths in the **National Guard**

Comparisons of suicide counts between the 2nd Quarter of 2017 and 2018 are provided below.⁵

- For the 2nd Quarter of 2018, the number of **Active Component** suicide deaths is greater by 18 than the 2nd Quarter of 2017 (75 versus 57 deaths)
 - Air Force deaths are up by 7
 - Army deaths are up by 7
 - Marine Corps deaths are up by 4
 - Navy deaths are unchanged
- For the 2nd Quarter of 2018, the number of **Reserve** suicide deaths is lower by 15 than the 2nd Quarter of 2017 (14 versus 29 deaths)
 - Air Force Reserve deaths are down by 3
 - Army Reserve deaths are down by 10
 - Marine Corps Reserve deaths are down by 2
 - Navy Reserve deaths are unchanged
- For the 2nd Quarter of 2018, the number of **National Guard** suicide deaths is lower by 16 than the 2nd Quarter of 2017 (27 versus 43 deaths)
 - Air National Guard deaths are down by 2
 - Army National Guard deaths are down by 14

⁵ Comparisons are made by calendar year quarter to examine the potential influence of seasonal variation. Research on the seasonal effects of suicide death has shown mixed results (Postalache 2012, Gutzwiller 2011, Rossler 2010, McCleary 1994).

Attachment A

| DoD Service and Component | CY 2012 | CY 2013 | | | | | CY 2014 | | | | | CY 2015 | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total 2013 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total 2014 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total 2015 |
| Active Component | 321 | 67 | 61 | 70 | 58 | 256 | 72 | 72 | 59 | 73 | 276 | 60 | 71 | 72 | 63 | 266 |
| Air Force | 50 | 7 | 14 | 15 | 12 | 48 | 19 | 11 | 13 | 19 | 62 | 14 | 17 | 16 | 17 | 64 |
| Army | 165 | 33 | 28 | 33 | 27 | 121 | 26 | 33 | 32 | 35 | 126 | 33 | 28 | 32 | 27 | 120 |
| Marine Corps | 48 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 9 | 46 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 34 | 3 | 12 | 13 | 11 | 39 |
| Navy | 58 | 16 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 41 | 16 | 19 | 8 | 11 | 54 | 10 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 43 |
| Reserve Component | 204 | 55 | 56 | 53 | 56 | 220 | 46 | 34 | 48 | 42 | 170 | 42 | 54 | 72 | 46 | 214 |
| Reserve | 72 | 27 | 16 | 23 | 20 | 86 | 24 | 14 | 20 | 21 | 79 | 13 | 21 | 37 | 18 | 89 |
| Air Force Reserve | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| Army Reserve | 50 | 21 | 11 | 15 | 12 | 59 | 13 | 4 | 15 | 10 | 42 | 9 | 17 | 21 | 8 | 55 |
| Marine Corps Reserve | 11 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 11 |
| Navy Reserve | 8 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 14 |
| National Guard | 132 | 28 | 40 | 30 | 36 | 134 | 22 | 20 | 28 | 21 | 91 | 29 | 33 | 35 | 28 | 125 |
| Air National Guard | 22 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 21 |
| Army National Guard | 110 | 26 | 38 | 24 | 32 | 120 | 16 | 18 | 24 | 19 | 77 | 21 | 28 | 30 | 25 | 104 |

| DoD Service and Component | CY 2016 | | | | | CY 2017 | | | | | CY 2018 | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total 2016 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total 2017 | Q1 | Q2 | Total 2018 |
| Active Component | 62 | 56 | 83 | 79 | 280 | 75 | 57 | 71 | 84 | 287 | 79 | 75 | 154 |
| Air Force | 10 | 15 | 14 | 22 | 61 | 19 | 12 | 14 | 17 | 62 | 9 | 19 | 28 |
| Army | 31 | 20 | 42 | 37 | 130 | 33 | 23 | 27 | 33 | 116 | 35 | 30 | 65 |
| Marine Corps | 12 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 37 | 7 | 9 | 15 | 12 | 43 | 12 | 13 | 25 |
| Navy | 9 | 10 | 19 | 14 | 52 | 16 | 13 | 15 | 22 | 66 | 23 | 13 | 36 |
| Reserve Component | 56 | 51 | 45 | 51 | 203 | 53 | 72 | 65 | 40 | 230 | 45 | 41 | 86 |
| Reserve | 18 | 24 | 18 | 20 | 80 | 21 | 29 | 27 | 16 | 93 | 20 | 14 | 34 |
| Air Force Reserve | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Army Reserve | 6 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 41 | 12 | 20 | 17 | 14 | 63 | 14 | 10 | 24 |
| Marine Corps Reserve | 4 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Navy Reserve | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| National Guard | 38 | 27 | 27 | 31 | 123 | 32 | 43 | 38 | 24 | 137 | 25 | 27 | 52 |
| Air National Guard | 5 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Army National Guard | 33 | 22 | 26 | 28 | 109 | 30 | 39 | 35 | 21 | 125 | 23 | 25 | 48 |

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 30 June 2018.

Highlighted for comparison
 Indicates a change from the previous QSR based on updated information