

Department of Defense (DoD) Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR) 4th Quarter, CY 2018

**Karin Orvis, Ph.D., Director
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
(DSPO)**

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$6,770 for the 2019 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.

DSPO collects suicide data via a 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., Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy). AFMES is the official DoD entity responsible for verifying and reporting deaths by suicide for the Active Component and, to the extent applicable, the Reserve Component,^{2,3} 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 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 Q4 of CY 2018. Data include all known or suspected suicide deaths (both confirmed and pending) occurring as of December 31, 2018 for both the Active and Reserve Components. This report also includes data for the full CY 2018 (January 1 to December 31). The numbers presented in this report are preliminary and subject to change in future quarterly reports, as previously unknown suicide cases are reported. Note that the official annual suicide counts and unadjusted rates for CY 2018 will be released in the DoD Annual Suicide Report (in summer 2019).

QSR Data

Attachment A details the number of suicide deaths by Service and Component. For CY 2018, the Military Services reported the following suicide deaths:

- 325 in the **Active Component**
- 81 in the **Reserve**

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

³ Reserve Component: Limited to 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 members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Inactive National Guard (ING).

- 135 in the **National Guard**

Comparisons of suicide counts between CY 2018 and CY 2017 are provided below.

- For CY 2018, the number of **Active Component** suicide deaths increased by 40 compared to CY 2017 (325 versus 285 suicide deaths)
 - Air Force Active Component suicide deaths decreased by 3
 - Army Active Component suicide deaths increased by 25
 - Marine Corps Active Component suicide deaths increased by 15
 - Navy Active Component suicide deaths increased by 3
- For CY 2018, the number of **Reserve** suicide deaths decreased by 12 compared to CY 2017 (81 versus 93 suicide deaths)
 - Air Force Reserve suicide deaths decreased by 8
 - Army Reserve suicide deaths decreased by 15
 - Marine Corps Reserve suicide deaths increased by 9
 - Navy Reserve suicide deaths increased by 2
- For CY 2018, the number of **National Guard** suicide deaths increased by 2 compared to CY 2017 (135 versus 133 suicide deaths)
 - Air National Guard suicide deaths increased by 5
 - Army National Guard suicide deaths decreased by 3

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	Q3	Q4	Total 2018
Active Component	62	56	83	79	280	74	57	71	83	285	81	78	76	90	325
Air Force	10	15	14	22	61	19	12	14	18	63	9	19	12	20	60
Army	31	20	42	37	130	32	23	27	32	114	36	31	38	34	139
Marine Corps	12	11	8	6	37	7	9	15	12	43	13	13	15	17	58
Navy	9	10	19	14	52	16	13	15	21	65	23	15	11	19	68
Reserve Component	56	51	45	50	202	53	68	65	40	226	49	44	61	62	216
Reserve	18	24	18	20	80	21	29	27	16	93	22	16	19	24	81
Air Force Reserve	5	2	1	2	10	2	4	5	0	11	0	1	0	2	3
Army Reserve	6	13	11	11	41	12	20	17	14	63	15	11	13	9	48
Marine Corps Reserve	4	6	5	4	19	5	3	2	0	10	4	1	4	10	19
Navy Reserve	3	3	1	3	10	2	2	3	2	9	3	3	2	3	11
National Guard	38	27	27	30	122	32	39	38	24	133	27	28	42	38	135
Air National Guard	5	5	1	3	14	2	4	3	3	12	3	2	7	5	17
Army National Guard	33	22	26	27	108	30	35	35	21	121	24	26	35	33	118

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

Suicide counts include all confirmed and pending suicide deaths reported to AFMES by 31 March 2019.

Official annual suicide counts and unadjusted rates for CY 2018 will be released the DoD Annual Suicide Report (summer 2019).

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

 Highlighted for comparison.