SUICIDE

Background

This case definition was developed by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) for the purpose of epidemiological surveillance of a condition important to military-associated populations.

Clinical Description

Suicide is “self-inflicted death with evidence (either explicit or implicit) of intent to die.”¹

Case Definition and Incidence Rules

For surveillance purposes, a case of suicide is defined as:

- An individual whose manner of death is categorized as ‘Suicide’ in the Casualty Table provided to the AFHSC by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner (AFME). (See Comments section).
- Case definition includes completed suicides only.

Incidence rules:

- None.

Exclusions:

- None.

Codes

The following ICD-9 codes are included in the case definition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>ICD-9-CM codes</th>
<th>CPT Codes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Development and Revisions

This case definition was determined by a consensus to adopt AFME’s case definition at the AFHSC’s Surveillance Methods and Standards (SMS) meeting in March 2010.

¹ OTSG/MEDCOM Policy Memo 09-032
Reports

None

Review

Mar 2010 Case definition reviewed and adopted by the AFHSC Surveillance Methods and Standards (SMS) working group.

Comments

- Case definition does not include incomplete suicide attempts.

- The AFME provides data on suicides in the form of a casualty table, which categorizes DoD active duty casualties by manner of death. Categories for manner of death include: accident, combat, homicide, natural, suicide, terrorist activity, pending and undetermined.

- The DoD Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) is the official source for DoD suicide events. The DoDSER is a surveillance program that standardizes suicide event reporting across the Services (OSD Memo from Dr. Clark).

- The AFSHC is not the official source of DoD suicide numbers.