



# DoD SER

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUICIDE EVENT REPORT

### CALENDAR YEAR 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2)  
Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological  
Health & Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE)

[www.t2health.org](http://www.t2health.org)



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## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

### PERSONNEL AND READINESS

Dear Military Leadership and Community Members:

Suicide prevention is a top priority for the Department of Defense (DoD). Reflecting this, the Secretary of Defense established the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) in November 2011 to serve as the focal point for all DoD suicide prevention programs, policies, and surveillance activities. DSPO is working with its partners to enhance suicide prevention efforts in the military by responding to a range of critical recommendations, including those offered by the DoD's Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces. These efforts include establishing, monitoring, and analyzing the results of suicide prevention research and surveillance activities to identify suicide risk factors and translate findings into policy and strategies. DSPO is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2), among others, on these surveillance efforts.

As one of the surveillance efforts used at DoD to help characterize the suicidal behavior of military personnel, the Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) program was launched in 2008 to refine suicide surveillance within DoD. The DoDSER assesses several areas of interest to suicide prevention efforts, including demographics, behavioral health history, circumstances at the time of the event (e.g., stressors and significant life events), and deployment history.

The DoDSER annual report is one of the significant quantitative efforts undertaken by DoD to inform its suicide prevention efforts. The Calendar Year 2011 Annual Report contains a compilation of detailed statistical information gathered on suicides and suicide attempts among active duty Service members.

Collection and dissemination of the data contained within this report are important steps in arming leaders and the broader military community with valuable information that can guide and refine ongoing programs and research.

I strongly encourage you to read this document and use its findings to enhance and improve your efforts in preventing suicide among members of the Armed Forces.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Laura Junor", is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Laura Junor  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
Readiness

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2) prepared this Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) Annual Report with contributions from many organizations and individuals. We are grateful to the Services' behavioral health providers and Command-designated appointees who collect and verify suicide event data and complete DoDSERs. We also wish to thank the Services' Suicide Prevention Program Managers (SPPMs) and DoDSER Program Managers who oversee the DoDSER data collection process to ensure data integrity and program compliance. In particular, Maj Michael McCarthy (Air Force SPPM), Dr. Amy Millikan (Manager, Behavioral and Social Health Outcomes Program), Mr. Walter Morales (Army SPPM), Mr. John Wills (Army DoDSER Program Manager), LCDR Andrew Martin (Marine Corps SPPM), and LCDR Bonnie Chavez (Navy SPPM) are integral to DoDSER program success. We are also indebted to Ms. Lynne Oetjen-Gerdes, LT Peter Seguin, M.D., MPH, Ms. Sumitha Nagarajan, and Ms. Aparna Vadlamani of the Mortality Surveillance Division of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) and to Ms. Barbara Balison of the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). The AFMES assists the DoDSER program through the notification of confirmed suicides, the provision of the demographic and suicide rate data presented in this report, and through general support for the DoDSER program.



## Authors

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This annual report of the Department of Defense (DoD) Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) program summarizes calendar year (CY) 2011 fatal and nonfatal suicide events reported and submitted by 26 April 2012. This report consists of aggregated DoDSER data for the overall DoD and individually for the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. Personally identifiable information has been redacted from this report.

## Background

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The DoDSER program is a collaborative effort of the National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2) and the Services' suicide prevention program offices. Since 1 January 2008, the DoDSER program has standardized suicide surveillance across the Services with the ultimate goal of facilitating the DoD's suicide prevention mission. When a death is ruled a suicide by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES), a designated professional from the respective Service reviews records, conducts interviews when appropriate, and responds to the DoDSER items via the secure web-based DoDSER application (<https://dodser.t2.health.mil>). As of 1 January 2010, all Services have been collecting data on both suicides and suicide attempts, with some Services collecting data on additional nonfatal suicide events. The DoDSER items collect comprehensive information about the Service Member and the suicide event.

## Results

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The AFMES indicates that 301 Service Members died by suicide in 2011 (Air Force = 50, Army = 167, Marine Corps = 32, Navy = 52). This number includes deaths strongly suspected to be suicides that are pending final determination. DoDSER Points of Contact (POCs) submitted reports for 100% of AFMES confirmed 2011 suicides (Air Force = 46, Army = 159, Marine Corps = 31, Navy = 51) as of the data extraction date (26 April 2012). A total of 915 Service Members attempted suicide in 2011 (Air Force = 241, Army = 432, Marine Corps = 156, Navy = 86). DoDSERs were submitted for 935 suicide attempts (Air Force = 251, Army = 440, Marine Corps = 157, Navy = 87). Of the 915 Service Members who attempted suicide, 896 had one attempt, 18 had two attempts, and 1 had three attempts.

## Dispositional/Personal Factors

- Demographic data and other individual characteristics of 2011 suicides were similar to those of 2010 and 2009 and are consistent with trends of the general US population [1]. Data derived from the AFMES and DoDSERs provided the following information:
- Service Members who were Caucasian, non-Hispanic or Latino, under the age of twenty-five, junior enlisted (E1-E4), or high school educated, were at increased risk for suicide relative to their respective demographic comparison groups in crude rate comparisons.
- The suicide rate for divorced Service Members was 55% higher than the suicide rate for married Service Members.

- The majority of suicides were completed by Regular component Service Members (88.70%), followed by the National Guard (7.31%), and Reserve (3.99%).
- Female Service Members accounted for 5.32% of suicides and 26.52% of suicide attempts in 2011.
- Compared to suicide decedents, a larger percentage of Service Members who attempted suicide were under the age of twenty-five (57.22% of suicide attempts, 37.87% of decedents), junior enlisted (71.02% of suicide attempts, 49.17% of decedents), and had more than a high school education (39.79% of suicide attempts, 20.60% of decedents).

## Suicide Event Details

- Service Members most frequently used firearms to end their lives ( $n = 172$ , 59.93% for all firearms,  $n = 141$ , 49.13% for non-military issue firearms), or hanging ( $n = 59$ , 20.56%). Drug overdose was the most frequent method for suicide attempt ( $n = 559$ , 59.79%), followed by injury with a sharp or blunt object ( $n = 112$ , 11.98%).
- Drug and alcohol use were more common during nonfatal suicide events, with 598 suicide attempts (63.96%) involving drug use and 292 (31.23%) involving the use of alcohol. Among Service Members who attempted suicide with known drug use, prescription drugs were the most frequently misused ( $n = 382$ , 63.88% of any drugs used, 40.86% of total DoDSERs submitted).
- Most Service Members were not known to have communicated their potential for self-harm with others prior to dying by suicide ( $n = 212$ , 73.87%) or attempting suicide ( $n = 709$ , 75.83%). Those who did disclose their potential for self-harm most frequently communicated with spouses, friends, and other family members. These communications were most frequently verbal ( $n = 46$ , 16.03% of suicides;  $n = 129$ , 13.80% of attempted suicides). Other modes of communication included text messages ( $n = 11$ , 3.83% of suicides;  $n = 20$ , 2.14% of attempted suicides) and via Facebook ( $n = 4$ , 1.39% of suicides,  $n = 8$ , 0.86% of attempted suicides).

## Contextual Factors

- Suicide decedents most frequently lived in homes or apartments off of their assigned installations ( $n = 130$ , 45.30%) or in shared living environments on their installations ( $n = 76$ , 26.48%). For Service Members who attempted suicide, 360 (38.50%) lived in homes or apartments off of their assigned installations and 381 (40.75%) lived in shared living environments on their installations.
- Firearms were present in the home or immediate environment of 144 (50.17%) suicide decedents and of 105 (11.23%) Service Members who attempted suicide.

## Clinical Health Factors

- A prior history of self-injurious behavior was reported for 38 suicide decedents (13.24%) and 268 suicide attempts (28.66%).
  - The majority of Service Members who died by suicide ( $n = 158$ , 55.05%) did not have a known history of a
-

behavioral health disorder. Mood disorders were reported for 57 decedents (19.86%); the most frequently reported mood disorder was major depressive disorder ( $n = 32$ , 11.15%). Forty-seven decedents (16.38%) were known to have had an anxiety disorder, most frequently post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD;  $n = 18$ , 6.27%). Approximately one-fourth of Service Members who died by suicide had a known history of substance abuse ( $n = 69$ , 24.04%).

- The majority of Service Members who attempted suicide had a known history of a behavioral health disorder ( $n = 604$ , 64.60%). Mood disorders were reported in 322 suicide attempt DoDSERs (34.44%), most frequently major depressive disorder ( $n = 194$ , 20.75%). Approximately one-fourth of DoDSERs for suicide attempts ( $n = 241$ , 25.78%) reported diagnoses of anxiety disorders, the most frequent were PTSD ( $n = 115$ , 12.30%), followed by other anxiety disorders ( $n = 91$ , 9.73%). More than one-fourth ( $n = 256$ , 27.38%) had a known history of substance abuse.
- Known use of psychotropic medication was reported more frequently for suicide attempts ( $n = 400$ , 42.78%) compared to suicides ( $n = 75$ , 26.13%). Antidepressants were the most frequently used psychotropic medication among suicide decedents ( $n = 64$ , 22.30%) and those who attempted suicide ( $n = 342$ , 36.58%).
- DoDSERs indicated that 48 decedents (16.72%) had received outpatient behavioral health services within the month prior to suicide. Service Members who attempted suicide used outpatient behavioral health services more frequently ( $n = 570$ , 60.96%) than those who died by suicide ( $n = 114$ , 39.72%).

## Historical/Developmental Factors

- Approximately one-half of all DoDSERs included a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship ( $n = 134$ , 46.69% of decedents;  $n = 487$ , 52.09% of suicide attempt DoDSERs), with many experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide ( $n = 79$ , 27.53% of decedents;  $n = 306$ , 32.73% of suicide attempt DoDSERs).
- The most frequent known legal issue was Article 15 proceedings/non-judicial punishment ( $n = 52$ , 18.12% of suicide DoDSERs;  $n = 175$ , 18.72% of suicide attempt DoDSERs), followed by civil legal problems ( $n = 37$ , 12.89% for suicide DoDSERs and  $n = 67$ , 7.17% of suicide attempt DoDSERs).
- DoDSERs for suicides and suicide attempts included more incidents of reported known abuse victimization ( $n = 52$ , 18.12% of suicides,  $n = 612$ , 65.46% of suicide attempts) compared to incidents of reported known abuse perpetration ( $n = 39$ , 13.24% of suicides,  $n = 106$ , 11.34% of suicide attempts). Due to limitations in collecting comprehensive abuse data, interpretation of these data should be made with caution.
- DoDSERs included known history of job loss and instability (e.g., demotion) for 61 suicides (21.25%) and 290 suicide attempts (31.02%).

## Deployment Factors

- A minority of suicides ( $n = 29$ , 10.10%) and suicide attempts ( $n = 23$ , 2.46%) occurred during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation New Dawn (OND) deployments. There were 18 (6.27%) suicides in OEF locations and 11 (3.83%) in OND locations.

- Nearly one-half of suicide decedents had a history of OEF, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), or OND deployment ( $n = 134$ , 46.69%), and twenty-three of these (8.01%) had a history of multiple deployments. Suicide attempt DoDSERs reported more previous deployments than did suicide DoDSERs ( $n = 377$ , 40.32%).
- Direct combat experience was reported for 44 suicide decedents (15.33%) and 158 suicide attempts (16.90%).

## Conclusion

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The DoDSER program has continued to improve the accuracy and comprehensiveness of DoD suicide surveillance data collection since the program's inception in 2008. This DoDSER Annual Report reflects consistent patterns of data across time. Differences that may exist between Service Members with and without suicide events are currently unknown. Until comprehensive control data are available, it is not possible to determine statistically if any given DoDSER variable is a risk factor for suicide. T2 is currently conducting a pilot study to examine a process to collect these control data.

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# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

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## Background

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This report presents results from all the Department of Defense (DoD) Suicide Event Reports (DoDSERs) collected for calendar year (CY) 2011. The DoDSER is a suicide surveillance program that has standardized data collection across the Services since 1 January 2008. All Services collect DoDSERs for Active component Service Members, Active Guard Reserves and Activated Guard and Reserves. Since 1 January 2010, all Services have collected DoDSERs for both suicide completions and suicide attempts that resulted in hospitalization or evacuation. The Army also collects DoDSERs on other nonfatal suicide behaviors (see Method below).

This report provides summary statistics for 2011 along with detailed tables presented for DoDSER items. Supplemental materials will be available on the National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2) website (<http://t2health.org>) upon release of this report, including:

- DoDSER Annual Reports from prior years (2008-2010)
- Timeline data with relevant onset of stressors prior to suicide events (e.g., amount of time between specific legal issues or diagnoses and subsequent suicide events)
- Army and Marine Corps DoDSER data for fatal and nonfatal suicide events that occurred during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation New Dawn (OND) deployments

## Modifications in DoDSER 2011

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The DoDSER program was refined in several ways in 2011. In order to maintain consistency of data collection, the DoDSER items are updated once a year on 1 January. The National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2) leads a series of meetings with a workgroup that consists of all the Services' Suicide Prevention Program Managers (SPPMs) and DoDSER Program Managers. The workgroup reviews feedback received during the prior year as well as advancements reported in the scientific literature. All Service representatives concur with all changes, unless the change relates only to a Service-specific need, in which case the change is integrated into the Service's unique set of DoDSER items.

The DoD Suicide Prevention Task Force Report was released in August, 2010 [2]. The report contained a number of helpful recommendations for the DoDSER program. The workgroup reviewed the report and quickly incorporated a number of changes for 2011. For example, the Task Force Report recommended collecting information about the specific evidence available to suggest intent to die. To address this, DoDSER items were added to capture this information. Other DoDSER items were refined. For example, race and ethnicity options were revised based on recommendations from a draft of the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Self-Directed Violence Surveillance: Uniform Definitions and Recommended Data Elements.

In addition, the workgroup agreed to pilot a system to automate classifications contained in the new DoD-VA-CDC shared suicide nomenclature [3]. The nomenclature contains a significant number of possible classifications, and the VA has had difficulty training providers to correctly identify the correct classifications [4]. As a different approach, T2 has worked closely with the VA's VISN 19 MIRECC to define a potential algorithm that will automate classification based on collected information. An evaluation of this process is ongoing at the time of this writing.

## Method

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### DoDSER Items

DoDSER items were developed to provide a comprehensive set of information from a variety of sources to facilitate suicide prevention efforts and enable comprehensive surveillance across the DoD. Development of the current DoDSER content evolved from structured reviews of the Services' historical surveillance items, workgroup deliberations with representation from all Services (including the Suicide Prevention Program Managers; SPPMs), and a systematic review of the suicide literature. Feedback on content from nationally recognized civilian and military experts was also integrated. In addition, suggestions from senior leaders and other stakeholders were provided by some workgroup members. The complete DoDSER 2011 web form can be found online (<http://t2health.org>). Variables are organized into categories for a theoretically meaningful presentation. Although alternative approaches were available and considered, a relevant model successfully implemented in the violence risk assessment literature [4] was selected. Categories are organized as follows:

- Dispositional or personal factors (e.g., demographics)
- Historical or developmental factors (e.g., family history, prior suicide behaviors, life events)
- Contextual factors (e.g., access to firearms, place of residence, duty status)
- Clinical health factors (e.g., posttraumatic stress disorder, other behavioral health disorders or symptoms)

These categories were combined with a section on deployment history and a comprehensive set of questions related to the event to form the current DoDSER.

### Data Collection Process

The DoDSER is completed using a web form that is available via the Internet and submitted via a secure website. The descriptive DoDSER data presented here were compiled as they were completed and submitted by DoDSER respondents across the DoD. Personally identifiable information has been redacted from this report.

DoDSER data included in this report are for suicide events that occurred in CY 2011, as reported and submitted by 26 April 2012 (data extraction date). This date was selected with the acknowledgement that there is a tension between the competing values of timely reporting and complete data collection. We have considered extending the final reporting date in order to obtain additional DoDSERs, as it may take as long as one year to confirm suicide as the cause of death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) addressed this issue by using longer timeframes for reporting (approximately two years) [1]. However, the DoD

represents a much smaller population, and the vast majority of DoD suicides are determined by 1 April of the following year. The 1 April date was established to maintain consistency with guidance provided by the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) which requires ninety days between the end of the calendar year and calculation of calendar year suicide data [6]. Consistent with these requirements for standardized DoD suicide rate calculation, DoDSERs are submitted for deaths when a Service's SPPM strongly suspects suicide but the case is still awaiting final determination by the AFMES. This is intended to provide leaders and others working to prevent suicide with the most up-to-date information possible. The risk of overestimation is low; variation between final confirmed and suspected suicides DoD-wide is generally one or two cases per year.

Where available, this report provides percentages for 2010 and 2009 DoDSER data for comparison. Specific counts for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

DoDSERs are required for all suicides that occur within the Active component, Active Guard Reserves and Activated Guard and Reserve in the DoD. Some Services exceed this minimum requirement (e.g., collect DoDSERs on Selected Reservists (SELRES) not on Active Duty). DoDSERs are also submitted for suicide attempts, deliberate self-harm and suicidal ideation. In 2009, the Army was the only Service required to collect this data for the entire year, although all Services implemented a similar methodology for suicide attempts by 1 January 2010. Therefore, the 2011 report includes data on suicides and suicide attempts for the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. For the Army, this report additionally includes DoDSERs for other nonfatal self-harm and suicidal ideation.

DoDSERs are submitted by behavioral health providers (psychologists, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, or social workers), health care providers, or command-appointed representatives. Technicians may submit DoDSERs under the supervision of one of these professionals.

DoDSER responses are derived from a review of all relevant records. In addition, interviews are conducted in some cases. Following a suicide, respondents review medical and behavioral health records, personnel records, investigative agency records, and records related to the manner of death. Information is also often collected from co-workers, the responsible investigative agency officer, and other professionals or family members (for some Services). For nonfatal suicide behaviors, DoDSER respondents frequently conduct interviews with Service Members to collect some of the required information.

The processes for identifying suicides and obtaining DoDSERs are similar across all Services. SPPMs coordinate closely with the AFMES at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) to maintain an official list of suicides. In the Army, a DoDSER point of contact (POC) and Command POC at each medical treatment facility are notified when a Service Member's death is confirmed as a suicide where upon they are requested to complete a DoDSER within sixty days. In the Air Force, the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) is the primary data collection agency. In the Navy and Marine Corps, the SPPMs' office contacts the local Command and requests that an appropriate POC meet the requirement.

## Data Quality Control Procedures

Four primary quality control procedures are followed.

First, the data submission website minimizes the possibility of data entry errors. The software uses form field validation to request user clarification when data is not logically possible (e.g., impossible dates). Radio buttons and checkboxes are used to reduce the chances of data entry errors.

Second, data submission requires a DoDSER account in which the user's identity is confirmed with a microchip-containing military identification known as a common access card (CAC). The CAC contains basic information about the owner and is associated with a personal identification number required for login. Therefore, "false" submissions have not occurred. However, suicide events and nonfatal suicide behaviors could be inadvertently misclassified by respondents in the DoDSER system. For example, the manner of death can be ambiguous in some cases, and a well-intentioned DoDSER respondent could misclassify the event. Therefore, DoDSER submissions are confirmed against the official list of DoD suicides provided by AFMES.

Third, DoDSERs are analyzed for incorrect data entry. In rare instances, individuals make data entry mistakes (such as transposing years), and these are corrected when identified. A conservative approach is taken to correct suspected errors such that only obvious mistakes are corrected.

Fourth, all DoDSERs are reviewed to ensure that multiple DoDSERs were not submitted for the same event. Potential duplicates are automatically flagged so that the Service's DoDSER Program Manager can determine which DoDSER submission represents the most complete data and should therefore be used.

## DoDSER Submission Compliance

DoDSER submission compliance rates are calculated for each Service. In the DoD, DoDSERs for suicides are due within sixty days of notification that a death has been confirmed as a suicide by the AFMES [6] (although some individual Service-level policies require submission sooner than sixty days). Therefore, the number of DoDSER submissions for each Service in this 2011 report was compared to the number of suicides confirmed by AFMES as of 31 January 2012 (sixty days prior to the 1 April cut-off date for analysis). As such, DoDSERs that were not yet overdue at the time of the analysis were not counted as being out of compliance.

## Demographic Risk Factors

DoDSER POCs collect data on a variety of demographic variables; however, demographic data are also obtained from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) with assistance from the AFMES. These data provide the opportunity to analyze demographic variables as suicide risk factors with the use of DMDC population data.

The procedures for calculating rates follow standard DoD reporting procedures [6]. DMDC rates are based on September quarter-end strength reports from DMDC and are obtained by the Mortality Surveillance Division of the AFMES. Race data in the DMDC report is obtained from a self-report source. This report reflects the most current data available (at the time of writing), but some data are subject to variation over time due to updates from the various sources used to populate the database. In most cases, DMDC data are used in this report for

demographic analyses. In the few analyses where DMDC data are not available (e.g., nonfatal suicide-related behaviors in the Army Chapter), DoDSER demographic data are used. Suicide rates based on fewer than 20 individuals may be unstable and are therefore suppressed. Suicide rate ratios (RR), based on population rates provided by DMDC data, are calculated to compare groups based on demographic characteristics.

## Interpretive Considerations

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This report provides a broad presentation of DoDSER items to support a wide variety of possible needs. Given the large number of possible combinations and the fact that we do not approach the data with a priori hypotheses, we do not currently compute statistical analyses to compare years. The probability of finding statistically significant results by chance, even when no real difference exists, would be high. Adequate data are presented in most instances to permit readers to conduct such analyses, if of interest. It is important to emphasize, however, that data analyses and descriptive information derived from small samples should always be interpreted with caution due to random error or potential outlier biases inherent in small samples.

DoDSER data are useful to help characterize the nature of suicide events. With a few exceptions (e.g., demographic characteristics), it is not possible to determine statistically whether a given DoDSER variable is a risk factor for suicide. To determine risk, additional data are required about the rate of the prevalence in the population. For example, it is not possible to determine if owning a firearm is a risk factor for suicide without examining the prevalence of owning a firearm in the non-decedent military population. A pilot study to collect control DoDSER data is underway, and other efforts to improve the interpretive value of the DoDSER data are being pursued.

It is also important to consider how the “don’t know” option that is provided for most DoDSER items may influence the interpretation of results. The information required to answer some DoDSER items may only be available for some respondents who benefited from detailed medical records or interviews with Service Members who are familiar with the decedent’s history. Therefore, “don’t know” responses are expected for some items. Percentages are often calculated based on the total number of responses, including “don’t know” responses. If one group has a higher “don’t know” response rate than comparison groups, it influences the way the data appear. In some cases, percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding errors.

The content area of an item of interest should be taken into account when results are interpreted. Some DoDSER items are highly objective and therefore very reliable, whereas others are subjective and reflect the best data available on a difficult to study topic that is provided by a respondent who is knowledgeable about the case. Standardized coding guidance is available to respondents.

## Future Directions

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DoDSER refinements in 2011 were described above including some changes based on the DoD Suicide Prevention Task Force Report. Other, more complex Task Force recommendations are in progress at the time of this writing. For example, the Task Force recommended that the DoDSER system obtain some data directly from DoD's enterprise data systems in order to reduce redundant data collection and increase the availability of control data. In addition, policy that will provide formal standardization of DoDSER procedures and approaches across the Services is in progress at the time of this writing.

There has also been significant interest in how civilian suicide data may be helpful to the military prevention mission. Preliminary results from a project exploring the linkage of suicide data with the CDC's similar surveillance system called the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) were recently published [7]. Further exploration of how the DoDSER and NVDRS data sets may be linked is ongoing.

## CHAPTER 2:

# DoD-WIDE DoDSER RESULTS

### DoDSERs SUBMITTED FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

#### DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance

##### 2011 Reported Suicides

Across all Services, 287 suicides were confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2011 (Table 2.1). The AFMES has accounted for an additional 14 suspected suicides pending final determination. Demographic tables include data for all 301 suicides. Other data for these 14 individuals are not included in this report, as described in Chapter 1. As shown in Table 2.1, a Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) was submitted and analyzed for 287 confirmed suicides, for a submission compliance rate of 100%. The tables in this section include data for those 287 decedents. The tables also provide percentages for 2010 and 2009 DoDSER data for comparisons to previous years. Specific suicide count data for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

**TABLE 2.1. CY 2011 AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DODSERS SUBMITTED**

	2011	2010	2009	2008
Total DoDSERs Included in Annual Report	287	281	291	235
Total AFMES Confirmed and Pending Suicides	301	295	309	268
AFMES Confirmed Suicides (By 31 January)	287	281	299	260
DoDSER Submission Compliance	100%	100%	97%	90%

Data from 1/1/2009 through 12/31/2011 as of 4/26/2012 for CY 2011; as of 1 April for previous years

##### Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have been associated with the suicide events. These factors include decedents' demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

##### Demographics

Tables 2.2 and 2.3 contain demographic data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) and the AFMES. The use of DMDC data permits the calculation of suicide rates using DoD population-level data (described in Chapter 1). In addition, DMDC demographic data were provided for 14 suicides pending AFMES confirmation, for whom DoDSERs were not yet required. Thus, demographic data were available for all suicide cases ( $n = 301$ ), whereas the rest of the report utilizes DoDSER data ( $n = 287$ ). Table 2.2 provides summary data for all DoD Active Duty and Activated or Deployed Reservist and Guard Service Members. Table 2.3 provides these data across Services.

Decedents were primarily male ( $n = 285$ , 94.68%), Caucasian ( $n = 231$ , 76.74%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 283$ , 94.02%), under age twenty-five ( $n = 114$ , 37.87%), junior enlisted ( $n = 148$ , 49.17%), and Regular component ( $n = 267$ , 88.70%).

Many demographic subgroups did not contain enough individuals to calculate a stable rate; therefore some subgroups were combined to allow for comparison. Service Members under age twenty-five were 11% more likely to die by suicide than were older Service Members (RR = 1.11, 95% CI = 0.87 - 1.42). The suicide rate for junior enlisted Service Members (E1 – E4) was 11% higher than for senior enlisted Service Members (E5 – E9; RR = 1.11, 95% CI = 0.87 - 1.42). Service Members who had up to a high school education were more than twice as likely to die by suicide than were those who had a college or technical degree or above (RR = 2.09, 95% CI = 1.52 - 2.93). The suicide rate for divorced Service Members was 55% higher than the suicide rate for married Service Members (RR = 1.55, 95% CI = 0.96 - 2.40). Regular component Active Duty Service Members had a 34% higher risk of suicide than Reservists and Guard (RR = 1.34, 95% CI = 0.94 - 1.98).

**TABLE 2.2. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR SUICIDES**

		2011				2010		2009		2008	
		Suicide		DoD Total %	Rate/100K	Percent	Rate/100K	Percent	Rate/100K	Percent	Rate/100K
		Count	Percent								
TOTAL		301	100.00%	100.00%	18.03	100.00%	17.52	100.00%	18.50	100.00%	16.10
GENDER	Male	285	94.68%	85.14%	20.05	95.37%	19.57	97.09%	21.02	95.15%	18.20
	Female	16	5.32%	14.86%	*	4.63%	*	2.91%	*	4.85%	*
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	6	1.99%	1.51%	*	2.03%	*	3.24%	*	3.36%	*
	Asian or Pacific Islander	17	5.65%	4.23%	*	5.42%	*	4.85%	*	4.10%	*
	Black or African American	37	12.29%	16.53%	13.41	12.20%	12.86	10.68%	11.80	12.31%	11.90
	White or Caucasian	231	76.74%	70.28%	19.69	79.66%	19.80	79.94%	20.82	76.12%	17.40
	Other or Don't Know	10	3.32%	7.45%	*	0.68%	*	1.29%	*	4.10%	*
ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino	18	5.98%	10.86%	*						
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	283	94.02%	89.14%	19.61						
AGE RANGE	Under 25	114	37.87%	35.39%	19.30	47.46%	23.03	46.28%	23.20	52.99%	20.10
	25-29	91	30.23%	23.92%	22.79	25.76%	19.25	23.62%	19.05	14.18%	13.70
	30-34	32	10.63%	15.31%	12.52	10.17%	12.09	13.92%	21.19		
	35-39	36	11.96%	11.50%	18.76	11.19%	16.53	8.41%	12.62	19.78%	12.10
	40-44	22	7.31%	8.13%	16.21	4.75%	*	4.85%	*		
	45+	6	1.99%	5.75%	*	0.68%	*	3.24%	*	13.06%	15.70
RANK	Cadet	0	0.00%	0.85%	*	0.34%	*	0.97%	*	0.37%	*
	E1-E4	148	49.17%	41.95%	21.14	54.58%	22.91	54.37%	24.20	51.49%	20.10
	E5-E9	128	42.52%	40.31%	19.02	40.00%	17.15	36.25%	16.26	38.06%	14.80

**TABLE 2.2. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR SUICIDES (CONT.)**

COMPONENT	Officer	25	8.31%	15.42%	9.72	5.08%	*	7.12%	8.91	9.33%	10.20
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	1.48%	*	0.00%	*	1.29%	*	0.75%	*
	Regular	267	88.70%	85.41%	18.03	91.19%	17.52	92.23%	19.87	87.69%	16.90
	Reserve	12	3.99%	6.43%	*	3.05%	*	2.59%	*	4.48%	*
	National Guard	22	7.31%	8.16%	16.15	5.76%	*	5.18%	*	7.84%	*
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	5	1.66%	0.59%	*	0.68%	*	0.65%	*	3.36%	*
	GED	32	10.63%	4.51%	42.51	8.81%	29.91	14.24%	45.21	8.96%	24.10
	High school graduate	194	64.45%	61.85%	18.79	69.83%	19.77	67.64%	20.01	63.43%	16.40
	Some college or technical school	16	5.32%	2.45%	*	5.08%	*	5.18%	*	1.49%	*
	Degree/certificate less than four years	18	5.98%	8.93%	*	6.10%	*	2.91%	*	9.33%	*
	Four-year college degree	22	7.31%	10.51%	12.54	6.10%	*	5.50%	*	7.46%	*
	Master's degree or greater	6	1.99%	8.39%	*	1.02%	*	2.91%	*	5.97%	*
	Don't Know	8	2.66%	2.77%	*	2.37%	*	0.97%	*	0.00%	*
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	107	35.55%	38.78%	16.53	42.37%	18.99	34.30%	16.20	37.31%	15.20
	Married	167	55.48%	56.06%	17.85	49.83%	15.64	51.13%	16.94	53.73%	15.90
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	0.08%	*	0.34%	*	0.00%	*	0.00%	*
	Divorced	23	7.64%	4.98%	27.65	6.78%	24.20	11.97%	49.61	7.84%	27.60
	Widowed	4	1.33%	0.07%	*	0.00%	*	0.32%	*	0.00%	*
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.03%	*	0.68%	*	2.27%	*	1.12%	*

**Note:** Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals. "DoD Total %" column reflects population-level DMDC data for all Active Duty and Activated or Deployed Reserves. Ethnicity data not reported prior to 2011.

**TABLE 2.3. CY 2011 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR SUICIDES BY SERVICE**

		AIR FORCE				ARMY				MARINE CORPS				NAVY			
		Suicide		Service Total %	Rate/ 100K	Suicide		Service Total %	Rate/ 100K	Suicide		Service Total %	Rate/ 100K	Suicide		Service Total %	Rate/ 100K
		Count	Percent			Count	Percent			Count	Percent			Count	Percent		
TOTAL		50	100.00%	100.00%	13.27	167	100.00%	100.00%	22.90	32	100.00%	100.00%	14.87	52	100.00%	100.00%	14.98
GENDER	Male	46	92.00%	80.77%	15.11	156	93.41%	85.86%	24.90	32	100.00%	93.31%	15.90	51	98.08%	83.33%	17.63
	Female	4	8.00%	19.23%	*	11	6.59%	14.14%	*	0	0.00%	6.69%	*	1	1.92%	16.67%	*
RACE	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	2	4.00%	0.67%	*	1	0.60%	0.79%	*	1	3.13%	1.07%	*	2	3.85%	4.23%	*
	Asian/P.I.	1	2.00%	3.73%	*	12	7.19%	3.74%	*	2	6.25%	3.25%	*	2	3.85%	6.42%	*

TABLE 2.3. CY 2011 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR SUICIDES BY SERVICE (CONT.)

ETHNICITY	African American	8	16.00%	13.72%	*	17	10.18%	19.41%	*	3	9.38%	10.21%	*	9	17.31%	17.43%	*
	Caucasian	34	68.00%	73.10%	12.34	135	80.84%	70.80%	26.13	26	81.25%	78.76%	15.34	36	69.23%	60.88%	17.03
	Other/Don't Know	5	10.00%	8.78%	*	2	1.20%	5.26%	*	0	0.00%	6.71%	*	3	5.77%	11.04%	*
	Hispanic or Latino	1	2.00%	4.80%	*	10	5.99%	10.85%	*	1	3.13%	13.98%	*	6	11.54%	15.55%	*
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	49	98.00%	95.20%	13.86	157	94.01%	89.15%	24.48	31	96.88%	86.02%	16.74	46	88.46%	84.45%	17.48
AGE RANGE	Under 25	21	42.00%	30.52%	18.26	56	33.53%	31.84%	24.10	23	71.88%	55.48%	19.26	14	26.92%	35.67%	*
	25-29	12	24.00%	24.67%	*	56	33.53%	23.76%	32.29	6	18.75%	22.54%	*	17	32.69%	24.30%	*
	30-34	2	4.00%	16.77%	*	20	11.98%	15.84%	17.30	2	6.25%	10.19%	*	8	15.38%	15.80%	*
	35-39	9	18.00%	12.94%	*	19	11.38%	11.87%	*	0	0.00%	6.63%	*	8	15.38%	12.18%	*
	40-44	4	8.00%	9.03%	*	15	8.98%	9.37%	*	0	0.00%	3.56%	*	3	5.77%	7.40%	*
	45+	2	4.00%	6.08%	*	1	0.60%	7.33%	*	1	3.13%	1.60%	*	2	3.85%	4.65%	*
RANK	Cadet	0	0.00%	1.20%	*	0	0.00%	0.65%	*		0.00%	0.00%	*	0	0.00%	1.41%	*
	E1-E4	22	44.00%	33.17%	17.60	86	51.50%	42.92%	27.46	21	65.63%	57.89%	16.85	19	36.54%	39.53%	*
	E5-E9	22	44.00%	46.09%	12.67	69	41.32%	39.03%	24.23	9	28.13%	31.06%	*	28	53.85%	42.48%	18.98
	Officer	6	12.00%	19.55%	*	12	7.19%	14.56%	*	2	6.25%	10.01%	*	5	9.62%	16.10%	*
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0	0.00%	2.85%	*	0	0.00%	1.04%	*	0	0.00%	0.47%	*
COMPONENT	Regular	42	84.00%	88.46%	13.27	142	85.03%	77.58%	25.08	31	96.88%	93.38%	14.87	52	100.00%	93.62%	14.98
	Reserve	3	6.00%	3.74%	*	8	4.79%	7.79%	*	1	3.13%	6.62%	*	0	0.00%	6.38%	*
	National Guard	5	10.00%	7.80%	*	17	10.18%	14.63%	*	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0	0.00%	0.00%	*
EDUCATION	Some high school	0	0.00%	0.08%	*	4	2.40%	0.92%	*	0	0.00%	0.09%	*	1	1.92%	0.77%	*
	GED	0	0.00%	0.03%	*	24	14.37%	8.05%	40.83	4	12.50%	2.99%	*	4	7.69%	2.86%	*
	High school graduate	32	64.00%	52.83%	16.07	101	60.48%	57.90%	23.90	25	78.13%	82.33%	14.11	36	69.23%	67.22%	15.42
	Some college	2	4.00%	0.04%	*	11	6.59%	4.52%	*	0	0.00%	0.85%	*	3	5.77%	1.73%	*
	Degree < four years	7	14.00%	19.85%	*	9	5.39%	6.97%	*	1	3.13%	1.88%	*	1	1.92%	5.57%	*
	Four-year college degree	6	12.00%	12.67%	*	12	7.19%	10.68%	*	2	6.25%	8.79%	*	2	3.85%	8.90%	*
	Master's degree +	3	6.00%	12.69%	*	1	0.60%	8.81%	*	0	0.00%	2.53%	*	2	3.85%	6.48%	*
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	1.82%	*	5	2.99%	2.14%	*	0	0.00%	0.54%	*	3	5.77%	6.47%	*

**TABLE 2.3. CY 2011 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR SUICIDES BY SERVICE (CONT.)**

MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	17	34.00%	34.01%	*	57	34.13%	35.24%	22.16	18	56.25%	47.33%	*	15	28.85%	46.12%	*
	Married	30	60.00%	58.67%	13.57	92	55.09%	58.10%	21.70	12	37.50%	48.47%	*	33	63.46%	53.63%	17.72
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	0.01%	*	0	0.00%	0.13%	*	0	0.00%	0.16%	*	0	0.00%	0.00%	*
	Divorced	3	6.00%	7.22%	*	15	8.98%	6.41%	*	2	6.25%	4.00%	*	3	5.77%	0.17%	*
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.09%	*	3	1.80%	0.10%	*	0	0.00%	0.05%	*	1	1.92%	0.00%	*
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0	0.00%	0.03%	*	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0	0.00%	0.08%	*

**Note:** Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals. "Service Total %" column reflects population-level DMDC data for all Active Duty and Activated or Deployed Reserves. Ethnicity data not reported prior to 2011.

## Event Setting

As summarized in Table 2.4, suicides most frequently took place in the United States ( $n = 235$ , 81.88%), followed by Afghanistan ( $n = 18$ , 6.27%). Suicides primarily occurred in either the Service Members' own residence ( $n = 170$ , 59.23%) or the residence of a friend or family member ( $n = 23$ , 8.01%). "Other" (write-in response) settings included hotels ( $n = 8$ , 2.82%), parks and nature reserves ( $n = 11$ , 3.87%), and vacant property ( $n = 4$ , 1.41%; Table 2.5).

**TABLE 2.4. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	United States	235	81.88%	82.56%	78.79%
	Iraq	10	3.48%	4.27%	10.44%
	Afghanistan	18	6.27%	6.05%	2.36%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.34%
	Djibouti	0	0.00%	0.36%	0.00%
	Asia	4	1.39%	3.91%	2.36%
	Europe	9	3.14%	0.71%	2.69%
	Canada or Mexico	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.34%
	Other	5	1.74%	2.14%	2.36%
	Don't Know	6	2.09%	0.00%	0.34%

**TABLE 2.5. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER EVENT SETTING**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	170	59.23%	55.87%	60.27%
	Residence of friend or family	23	8.01%	11.39%	8.08%
	Work/jobsite	20	6.97%	8.19%	6.06%
	Automobile (away from residence)	18	6.27%	4.63%	5.72%
	Inpatient medical facility	0	0.00%	0.36%	0.00%
	Other	55	19.16%	19.57%	19.87%
	Don't Know	1	0.35%	0.00%	0.00%

## Event Method

Nearly one-half of 2011 suicide decedents used non-military issue firearms to kill themselves ( $n = 141$ , 49.13%), and 10.80% ( $n = 31$ ) used military issue firearms (Table 2.6). Twenty-two of those who used military issue firearms died by suicide in a deployed setting (see Chapter 3 for more details). Hanging accounted for 20.56% of suicides ( $n = 59$ ) and eleven Service Members (3.83%) used drugs to die by suicide in 2011.

**TABLE 2.6. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER EVENT METHOD**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	141	49.13%	48.40%	40.74%
	Firearm, military issue	31	10.80%	13.88%	17.51%
	Hanging	59	20.56%	24.56%	22.90%
	Drugs	11	3.83%	4.63%	3.03%
	Alcohol	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.34%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	3	1.05%	0.36%	3.70%
	Gas, utility (or other)	3	1.05%	2.14%	1.68%
	Chemicals	2	0.70%	0.00%	0.00%
	Drowning	1	0.35%	1.07%	0.00%
	Fire, steam, etc.	1	0.35%	0.36%	0.00%
	Sharp or blunt object	2	0.70%	0.71%	2.69%
	Jumping from high place	4	1.39%	0.71%	1.68%
	Lying in front of moving object	1	0.35%	0.71%	0.67%
	Crashing a motor vehicle	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	4	1.39%	0.36%	3.03%
	Don't Know	24	8.36%	2.14%	2.02%

## Substance Use during the Event

Comprehensive information about known substance use during suicide is unavailable for some suicides in 2011. As summarized in Table 2.7, 21.25% ( $n = 61$ ) of decedents were known to have used alcohol during suicide. Fewer decedents were known to have used drugs ( $n = 25$ , 8.71%). Eight (2.79%) Service Members were known to have used both drugs and alcohol during their suicide events.

**TABLE 2.7. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	61	21.25%	20.64%	22.22%
	No	89	31.01%	38.43%	38.72%
	Don't Know	137	47.74%	40.93%	39.06%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	25	8.71%	9.61%	6.40%
	No	107	37.28%	46.98%	47.14%
	Don't Know	155	54.01%	43.42%	46.46%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	2	0.70%	1.07%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	4	1.39%	1.07%	0.67%
	Were not used	126	43.90%	54.45%	52.86%
	Don't know	155	54.01%	43.42%	46.46%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	6	2.09%	3.20%	2.69%
	Used, no overdose	7	2.44%	3.91%	1.01%
	Were not used	119	41.46%	49.47%	49.83%
	Don't know	155	54.01%	43.42%	46.46%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	8	2.79%	2.14%	0.67%
	Used, no overdose	3	1.05%	0.00%	1.68%
	Were not used	121	42.16%	54.45%	51.18%
	Don't know	155	54.01%	43.42%	46.46%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	8	2.79%	2.85%	3.03%
	No	124	43.21%	47.69%	47.47%
	Don't Know	155	54.01%	49.47%	49.49%

**Note:** Categories are not discrete.

## Communication of Intent

Consistent with the prior three years, most decedents had no known history of communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ( $n = 212$ , 73.87%; Table 2.8). Approximately one-fourth of Service Members were known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their intent to die by suicide ( $n = 75$ , 26.13%). The most frequent mode of communication was verbal ( $n = 46$ , 16.03%; Table 2.9). Eleven decedents used text messages to communicate intent, and four used social media (i.e., Facebook; these cases are included in the "Other" category in Table 2.9). As shown in Table 2.10, the most frequent communications of intent were with spouses ( $n = 37$ , 12.89%), friends ( $n = 19$ , 6.62%), and behavioral health providers ( $n = 11$ , 3.83%). "Other" (write-in) responses included family members ( $n = 5$ , 1.74%) and coworkers ( $n = 3$ , 1.04%).

**TABLE 2.8. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	212	73.87%	65.84%	72.05%
	1	58	20.21%	29.18%	18.18%
	2	11	3.83%	4.27%	6.73%
	3	6	2.09%	0.36%	1.68%
	4	0	0.00%	0.00%	1.01%
	5	0	0.00%	0.36%	0.34%

**TABLE 2.9. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	46	16.03%	21.00%	15.49%
	Written	13	4.53%	4.63%	2.36%
	Other or Unknown	12	4.18%	4.98%	5.72%
	Multiple Modes	4	1.39%	3.56%	4.04%
	No Known Communication	212	73.87%	65.84%	72.39%

**Note:** Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

**TABLE 2.10. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	37	12.89%	10.68%	7.07%
	Friend	19	6.62%	4.63%	4.04%
	Behavioral Health Provider	11	3.83%	4.27%	0.34%
	Chaplain	4	1.39%	0.00%	0.00%
	Supervisor	7	2.44%	1.42%	0.67%
	Other or Unidentified	17	5.92%	8.19%	5.72%
	Made Multiple Communications	17	5.92%	4.98%	9.76%
	No Known Communication	212	73.87%	65.84%	72.39%

**Note:** Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 2.11 provides information about other details of 2011 suicides. Data indicate that the majority of decedents intended to die ( $n = 173$ , 60.28%). There are data that suicides were premeditated or planned by 83 (28.92%) decedents. Fifty-nine decedents (20.56%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others. Fifty-eight Service Members (20.21%) left suicide notes.

**TABLE 2.11. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	173	60.28%	71.53%	76.09%
	No	26	9.06%	8.19%	5.39%
	Don't Know	87	30.31%	20.28%	18.52%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	1.78%	1.35%
	No	223	77.70%	84.34%	84.85%
	Don't Know	64	22.30%	13.88%	13.80%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	83	28.92%	38.43%	39.39%
	No	78	27.18%	34.52%	28.96%
	Don't Know	126	43.90%	27.05%	31.65%

**TABLE 2.11. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION (CONT.)**

OBSERVABLE	Yes	59	20.56%	22.78%	20.54%
	No	165	57.49%	63.35%	68.69%
	Don't Know	63	21.95%	13.88%	10.77%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	58	20.21%	30.60%	24.92%
	No	139	48.43%	50.18%	53.87%
	Don't Know	90	31.36%	19.22%	21.21%

**Note:** Categories are not discrete.

## Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors, such as place of residence, general living situation, and duty environment.

### Situational Factors

Table 2.12 provides details about the living situations for Service Members who died by suicide in 2011. Most decedents lived in a home or apartment outside of their installation ( $n = 130$ , 45.30%) or in a shared living environment on the installation ( $n = 76$ , 26.48%). Of the decedents who were married ( $n = 134$ ), 82 lived with their spouses (61.19% of those who were married, 28.57% of total decedents), and 38 were separated due to relationship issues (28.36% of married, 13.24% of total). One-half of decedents were known to be living with others ( $n = 146$ , 50.87%). Over one-third of decedents had minor children ( $n = 110$ , 38.33%) and 51 (17.77%) of those decedents lived with their children at the time of death. One-half of decedents had access to firearms either in their homes or in other accessible locations ( $n = 144$ , 50.17%).

**TABLE 2.12. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	76	26.48%	33.10%	30.98%
	Bachelor quarters	16	5.57%	3.91%	5.05%
	On-base family housing	17	5.92%	8.54%	4.71%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	130	45.30%	43.06%	47.14%
	Ship	3	1.05%	0.71%	1.01%
	Other	13	4.53%	6.76%	7.07%
	Don't Know	32	11.15%	3.91%	4.04%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resided with spouse	82	28.57%	26.33%	23.57%
	Separated due to relationship issues	38	13.24%	12.46%	9.76%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	14	4.88%	5.69%	11.78%
	Don't Know	8	2.79%	3.20%	4.38%
	Unmarried at time of event	145	50.52%	52.31%	50.51%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	85	29.62%	28.11%	34.34%
	No	146	50.87%	64.06%	56.57%
	Don't Know	56	19.51%	7.83%	9.09%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	110	38.33%	36.65%	37.37%
	No	122	42.51%	63.35%	62.63%

**TABLE 2.12. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)**

	Don't Know	55	19.16%	0.00%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	51	17.77%	18.51%	17.17%
	No	58	20.21%	17.08%	18.52%
	Don't Know	56	19.51%	1.07%	1.68%
	No Children	122	42.51%	63.35%	62.63%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	144	50.17%	51.96%	49.49%
	No	58	20.21%	27.76%	26.26%
	Don't Know	85	29.62%	20.28%	24.24%

## Duty Environment

Consistent with the previous three years, the primary duty environment for decedents was their permanent duty station ( $n = 173$ , 60.28%; Table 2.13). Thirty-one Service Members were deployed (10.80%), 17 (5.92%) were AWOL, and 10 (3.48%) were TDY. Of the 31 decedents who were deployed, one died while Shipboard, one died while on Emergency leave from deployment, and one died while on Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS) status.

**TABLE 2.13. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	173	60.28%	57.65%	53.20%
	Leave	26	9.06%	0.00%	0.00%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	1	0.35%	6.76%	9.09%
	Medical Hold	7	2.44%	0.36%	1.01%
	TDY	10	3.48%	1.07%	1.68%
	AWOL	17	5.92%	2.49%	4.38%
	Under Command Observation	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Deployed	31	10.80%	10.68%	11.45%
	Training	16	5.57%	2.49%	3.03%
	Other	24	8.36%	5.69%	5.39%
	Multiple Duty Environments	32	11.15%	6.41%	8.75%
	Duty Environment Unknown	19	6.62%	6.41%	2.02%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Suicide Completions by Month

As in the prior two years, no clear pattern was evident for suicides by month (Table 2.14).

**TABLE 2.14. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER SUICIDES BY MONTH**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MONTH	January	29	10.10%	9.61%	9.09%
	February	20	6.97%	7.47%	11.11%
	March	19	6.62%	7.83%	6.73%

**TABLE 2.14. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER SUICIDES BY MONTH (CONT.)**

April	32	11.15%	7.47%	7.74%
May	30	10.45%	9.61%	9.76%
June	20	6.97%	8.90%	8.08%
July	32	11.15%	11.03%	9.76%
August	24	8.36%	7.83%	7.07%
September	26	9.06%	8.90%	5.39%
October	25	8.71%	8.54%	10.77%
November	12	4.18%	6.05%	7.07%
December	17	5.92%	6.76%	7.41%

Note: One event occurred on 12/31/2010 and was included in 2011

## Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medications.

### Prior Self-Injury

Thirty-eight Service Members who died by suicide in 2011 (13.24%) had a known history of self-harm (Table 2.15), and 20 decedents (6.97%) were known to have had at least two prior incidents of self-harm.

**TABLE 2.15. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER PRIOR SELF INJURY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	38	13.24%	13.52%	17.17%
	Within 30 days	5	1.74%	1.07%	4.04%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	10	3.48%	2.85%	7.74%
	No	143	49.83%	61.57%	58.25%
	Don't Know	106	36.93%	24.91%	24.58%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	18	6.27%	7.83%	10.10%
	More than one prior event	20	6.97%	5.69%	7.07%
	N/A or Unknown	249	86.76%	86.48%	82.83%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	13	4.53%	3.20%	3.03%
	No	21	7.32%	8.90%	10.10%
	Don't Know	5	1.74%	1.42%	4.04%
	N/A	249	86.76%	86.48%	82.83%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

### Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death.

One hundred twenty-nine (44.95%) Service Members who died by suicide in 2011 had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 2.16). As indicated in Table 2.17, 57 decedents (19.86%) had a mood disorder; the most frequent mood disorder was major depressive disorder ( $n = 32$ , 11.15%). As can be seen in Table 2.18, 47 (16.38%) had an anxiety disorder. Eighteen decedents were known to have been diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder (6.27%). Table 2.19 provides summary data for other disorders. One-fourth of Service Members who died by suicide had a known history of substance abuse ( $n = 69$ , 24.04%). Six decedents had a history of personality disorder (2.09%) and nine (3.14%) had a prior diagnosis of traumatic brain injury.

**TABLE 2.16. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	158	55.05%	56.58%	57.58%
	1 DX	64	22.30%	18.51%	21.55%
	2 DX	29	10.10%	14.95%	13.13%
	3 DX	22	7.67%	5.34%	4.38%
	4 or more DX	14	4.88%	4.63%	3.37%

**TABLE 2.17. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER MOOD DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	57	19.86%	17.08%	24.92%
	No	175	60.98%	68.68%	60.27%
	Don't Know	55	19.16%	14.23%	14.81%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	4	1.39%	0.71%	0.67%
	No	228	79.44%	85.05%	80.47%
	Don't Know	55	19.16%	14.23%	18.86%
Major depression	Yes	32	11.15%	7.12%	11.45%
	No	200	69.69%	78.29%	71.04%
	Don't Know	55	19.16%	14.59%	17.51%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	4	1.39%	1.42%	1.68%
	No	228	79.44%	83.99%	79.12%
	Don't Know	55	19.16%	14.59%	19.19%
Other mood disorder	Yes	21	7.32%	4.98%	5.05%
	No	211	73.52%	80.43%	76.43%
	Don't Know	55	19.16%	14.59%	18.52%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	6	2.09%	1.07%	2.69%
	No	226	78.75%	84.70%	82.49%
	Don't Know	55	19.16%	14.23%	14.81%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	3	1.05%	1.78%	3.37%
	No	229	79.79%	83.99%	81.82%
	Don't Know	55	19.16%	14.23%	14.81%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 2.18. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	47	16.38%	14.95%	17.85%
	No	190	66.20%	72.24%	66.33%
	Don't Know	50	17.42%	12.81%	15.82%
PTSD	Yes	18	6.27%	4.98%	6.40%
	No	219	76.31%	81.49%	76.09%
	Don't Know	50	17.42%	13.52%	17.51%
Panic disorder	Yes	2	0.70%	1.07%	0.00%
	No	235	81.88%	85.41%	82.15%
	Don't Know	50	17.42%	13.52%	17.85%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	11	3.83%	0.36%	1.01%
	No	226	78.75%	85.77%	81.48%
	Don't Know	50	17.42%	13.88%	17.51%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	237	82.58%	86.48%	82.15%
	Don't Know	50	17.42%	13.52%	17.85%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	18	6.27%	4.63%	5.05%
	No	219	76.31%	82.21%	77.44%
	Don't Know	50	17.42%	13.17%	17.51%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	17	5.92%	1.78%	1.68%
	No	220	76.66%	85.41%	82.49%
	Don't Know	50	17.42%	12.81%	15.82%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	19	6.62%	2.14%	3.70%
	No	218	75.96%	85.05%	80.47%
	Don't Know	50	17.42%	12.81%	15.82%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 2.19. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	6	2.09%	3.56%	5.05%
	No	228	79.44%	81.85%	77.78%
	Don't Know	53	18.47%	14.59%	17.17%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	6	2.09%	0.00%	1.01%
	No	229	79.79%	85.41%	82.83%
	Don't Know	52	18.12%	14.59%	16.16%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	69	24.04%	25.62%	21.55%
	No	148	51.57%	56.58%	57.58%
	Don't Know	70	24.39%	17.79%	20.88%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	9	3.14%	2.85%	
	No	224	78.05%	81.14%	
	Don't Know	54	18.82%	16.01%	

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

## Treatment History

Table 2.20 provides data on decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. As with the previous years, the majority of Service Members who died by suicide had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility ( $n = 173$ , 60.28%). Sixty-two Service Members (21.60%) had a known history of a physical health problem.

Forty-seven decedents (16.38%) received substance abuse treatment services, and 21 (7.32%) received help from family advocacy programs. Twenty-five Service Members (8.71%) were known to have used chaplain services. Forty percent of decedents received outpatient behavioral healthcare ( $n = 114$ ), and of those, 48 Service Members (16.72%) attended treatment within the month prior to suicide. Forty-three Service Members (14.98%) received inpatient behavioral health treatment, 11 of whom (3.83%) were treated within the month prior to suicide.

**TABLE 2.20. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	173	60.28%	56.58%	58.92%
	Within 30 days	92	32.06%	38.08%	36.36%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	131	45.64%	46.26%	48.48%
	No	68	23.69%	31.32%	27.27%
	Don't Know	46	16.03%	12.10%	13.80%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	62	21.60%	17.44%	21.55%
	Within 30 days	26	9.06%	11.03%	12.46%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	41	14.29%	13.52%	14.81%
	No	137	47.74%	58.01%	56.23%
	Don't Know	88	30.66%	24.56%	22.22%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	47	16.38%	21.00%	16.50%
	Within 30 days	15	5.23%	7.47%	8.08%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	22	7.67%	9.61%	8.42%
	No	179	62.37%	66.19%	67.68%
	Don't Know	61	21.25%	12.81%	15.82%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	21	7.32%	9.96%	6.40%
	Within 30 days	4	1.39%	1.78%	1.35%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	7	2.44%	4.27%	2.69%
	No	193	67.25%	70.82%	71.38%
	Don't Know	73	25.44%	19.22%	22.22%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	25	8.71%	9.61%	12.79%
	Within 30 days	14	4.88%	6.76%	8.08%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	16	5.57%	7.83%	10.44%
	No	97	33.80%	44.13%	42.09%
	Don't Know	165	57.49%	46.26%	45.12%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	114	39.72%	40.57%	41.08%
	Within 30 days	48	16.72%	22.42%	21.55%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	66	23.00%	28.83%	24.92%

**TABLE 2.20. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)**

INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	No	130	45.30%	47.69%	46.46%
	Don't Know	43	14.98%	11.74%	12.46%
	Yes	43	14.98%	11.39%	15.15%
	Within 30 days	11	3.83%	5.34%	2.02%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	18	6.27%	6.41%	6.06%
	No	193	67.25%	74.73%	70.03%
	Don't Know	51	17.77%	13.88%	14.81%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 2.21 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by decedents prior to suicide. Approximately one-fourth of decedents ( $n = 75$ , 26.13%) had known prescriptions for psychotropic medications; the most frequent were antidepressants ( $n = 64$ , 22.30%) and antianxiety medications ( $n = 30$ , 10.45%).

**TABLE 2.21. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	75	26.13%	24.20%	24.24%
	No	141	49.13%	55.87%	54.55%
	Don't Know	71	24.74%	19.93%	21.21%
Antidepressants	Yes	64	22.30%	19.57%	20.88%
	No	152	52.96%	59.79%	57.58%
	Don't Know	71	24.74%	20.64%	21.55%
Antianxiety	Yes	30	10.45%	9.25%	9.09%
	No	180	62.72%	68.33%	68.35%
	Don't Know	71	24.74%	22.42%	22.56%
Antimanics	Yes	2	0.70%	1.78%	0.67%
	No	214	74.56%	75.44%	76.77%
	Don't Know	71	24.74%	22.78%	22.56%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	4	1.39%	2.14%	2.36%
	No	212	73.87%	75.80%	75.42%
	Don't Know	71	24.74%	22.06%	22.22%
Antipsychotics	Yes	10	3.48%	4.98%	5.05%
	No	206	71.78%	73.31%	72.73%
	Don't Know	71	24.74%	21.71%	22.22%

**Note:** Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories and interpersonal relationships, legal, financial, administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

## Family and Relationship History

Almost one-half of Service Members who died by suicide in 2011 ( $n = 134$ , 46.69%) had a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship; 79 (27.53%) experienced the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 2.22). Twenty-six decedents (9.06%) had a failure in another important relationship, more than one-half of these ( $n = 14$ , 4.88%) occurred within the month prior to suicide.

**TABLE 2.22. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	134	46.69%	49.82%	50.84%
	Within 30 days	79	27.53%	29.89%	27.61%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	99	34.49%	35.94%	34.68%
	No	68	23.69%	29.89%	25.25%
	Don't Know	85	29.62%	20.28%	23.91%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	26	9.06%	14.59%	13.47%
	Within 30 days	14	4.88%	8.54%	8.08%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	19	6.62%	10.32%	9.09%
	No	123	42.86%	49.82%	47.81%
	Don't Know	138	48.08%	35.59%	38.72%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	142	49.48%	53.02%	53.54%
	Within 30 days	83	28.92%	33.45%	29.63%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	105	36.59%	39.50%	36.70%
	No	60	20.91%	26.69%	23.91%
	Don't Know	85	29.62%	20.28%	22.56%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 2.23 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may be associated with the suicide. Thirty-one decedents (10.80%) were known to have a family member with behavioral health problems, and 25 (8.71%) had experienced the death of a family member. Nineteen decedents (6.62%) were known to have had a family member who had died by suicide, and seven (2.44%) had known a friend who died by suicide. Friends of nine decedents (3.14%) had died by other means. Nine decedents (3.14%) were known to have had a family member with physical health problems.

**TABLE 2.23. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER FAMILY HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	219	76.31%	80.43%	84.18%
	Don't Know	68	23.69%	19.57%	15.82%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	19	6.62%	4.27%	3.70%
	No	142	49.48%	60.14%	64.31%
	Don't Know	126	43.90%	35.59%	31.99%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	7	2.44%	2.49%	1.68%
	No	143	49.83%	57.65%	58.59%

**TABLE 2.23. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER FAMILY HISTORY (CONT.)**

	Don't Know	<b>137</b>	<b>47.74%</b>	39.86%	39.73%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	<b>25</b>	<b>8.71%</b>	6.05%	6.06%
	No	<b>140</b>	<b>48.78%</b>	56.94%	58.92%
	Don't Know	<b>122</b>	<b>42.51%</b>	37.01%	35.02%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	<b>9</b>	<b>3.14%</b>	4.98%	3.03%
	No	<b>140</b>	<b>48.78%</b>	54.09%	53.87%
	Don't Know	<b>138</b>	<b>48.08%</b>	40.93%	43.10%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	<b>9</b>	<b>3.14%</b>	4.27%	6.40%
	No	<b>154</b>	<b>53.66%</b>	59.07%	60.94%
	Don't Know	<b>124</b>	<b>43.21%</b>	36.65%	32.66%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	<b>31</b>	<b>10.80%</b>	9.61%	14.81%
	No	<b>93</b>	<b>32.40%</b>	39.15%	30.30%
	Don't Know	<b>163</b>	<b>56.79%</b>	51.25%	54.88%

## Administrative and Legal History

As summarized in Table 2.24, 107 (37.28%) Service Members who died by suicide in 2011 had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and 42 (14.63%) were known to have had more than one. The most frequent administrative or legal issue were Article 15 proceedings or non-judicial punishment ( $n = 52$ , 18.12%), followed by civil legal problems ( $n = 37$ , 12.89%).

**TABLE 2.24. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY**

		<b>2011</b>		2010	2009
		<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	<b>10</b>	<b>3.48%</b>	6.41%	6.40%
	No	<b>208</b>	<b>72.47%</b>	74.38%	79.46%
	Don't Know	<b>70</b>	<b>24.39%</b>	19.22%	14.14%
HX ARTICLE 15 OR NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	<b>52</b>	<b>18.12%</b>	21.35%	17.17%
	No	<b>160</b>	<b>55.75%</b>	60.50%	66.33%
	Don't Know	<b>75</b>	<b>26.13%</b>	18.15%	16.50%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	<b>20</b>	<b>6.97%</b>	9.25%	8.42%
	No	<b>197</b>	<b>68.64%</b>	72.24%	77.78%
	Don't Know	<b>70</b>	<b>24.39%</b>	18.51%	13.80%
HX AWOL	Yes	<b>18</b>	<b>6.27%</b>	8.19%	10.10%
	No	<b>203</b>	<b>70.73%</b>	74.02%	77.44%
	Don't Know	<b>66</b>	<b>23.00%</b>	17.79%	12.46%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	<b>17</b>	<b>5.92%</b>	5.34%	8.08%
	No	<b>207</b>	<b>72.13%</b>	80.78%	79.46%
	Don't Know	<b>63</b>	<b>21.95%</b>	13.88%	12.46%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	<b>37</b>	<b>12.89%</b>	13.17%	12.12%
	No	<b>162</b>	<b>56.45%</b>	64.06%	65.32%
	Don't Know	<b>88</b>	<b>30.66%</b>	22.78%	22.56%

**TABLE 2.24. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	16	5.57%	6.41%	7.74%
	No	187	65.16%	72.24%	74.07%
	Don't Know	84	29.27%	21.35%	18.18%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	107	37.28%	42.70%	41.08%
	No	117	40.77%	39.50%	43.10%
	Don't Know	63	21.95%	17.79%	15.82%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	42	14.63%	17.44%	17.51%
	No	182	63.41%	37.37%	41.08%
	Don't Know	63	21.95%	45.20%	41.41%

## Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 2.25). Nineteen suicide decedents (6.62%) reportedly experienced physical abuse, and 13 (4.53%) reportedly experienced sexual abuse. Nineteen Service Members (6.62%) had reportedly been victims of emotional abuse. Twenty-two decedents (7.67%) had reportedly physically abused others, 10 (3.48%) had reportedly sexually abused others, and 5 (1.74%) had reportedly perpetrated emotional abuse.

**TABLE 2.25. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	19	6.62%	4.98%	6.73%
	No	156	54.36%	61.92%	59.26%
	Don't Know	112	39.02%	33.10%	34.01%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	13	4.53%	2.85%	4.38%
	No	163	56.79%	64.06%	61.62%
	Don't Know	111	38.68%	33.10%	34.01%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	19	6.62%	4.63%	7.07%
	No	152	52.96%	60.14%	57.58%
	Don't Know	116	40.42%	35.23%	35.35%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	0.35%	0.36%	0.34%
	No	173	60.28%	65.12%	63.30%
	Don't Know	113	39.37%	34.52%	36.36%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	22	7.67%	8.54%	8.75%
	No	157	54.70%	60.85%	58.59%
	Don't Know	108	37.63%	30.60%	32.66%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	10	3.48%	2.85%	3.37%
	No	172	59.93%	66.19%	61.95%
	Don't Know	105	36.59%	30.96%	34.68%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	5	1.74%	3.56%	3.03%
	No	169	58.89%	65.12%	60.61%
	Don't Know	113	39.37%	31.32%	36.36%

**TABLE 2.25. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	<b>2</b>	<b>0.70%</b>	0.71%	1.68%
	No	<b>174</b>	<b>60.63%</b>	67.97%	62.63%
	Don't Know	<b>111</b>	<b>38.68%</b>	31.32%	35.69%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace. As summarized in Table 2.26, 25 Service Members who died by suicide in 2011 (8.71%) had experienced significant debt. Sixty-one decedents (21.25%) had lost either a position or experienced job instability. Thirty Service Members (10.45%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with supervisors or coworkers, and 46 (16.03%) had previously received poor work evaluations.

**TABLE 2.26. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	<b>25</b>	<b>8.71%</b>	9.96%	10.77%
	No	<b>137</b>	<b>47.74%</b>	57.65%	54.55%
	Don't Know	<b>125</b>	<b>43.55%</b>	32.38%	34.68%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	<b>61</b>	<b>21.25%</b>	18.51%	27.27%
	No	<b>141</b>	<b>49.13%</b>	58.36%	51.18%
	Don't Know	<b>85</b>	<b>29.62%</b>	23.13%	21.55%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	<b>30</b>	<b>10.45%</b>	12.46%	14.14%
	No	<b>160</b>	<b>55.75%</b>	62.28%	60.61%
	Don't Know	<b>97</b>	<b>33.80%</b>	25.27%	25.25%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	<b>46</b>	<b>16.03%</b>	14.23%	16.84%
	No	<b>156</b>	<b>54.36%</b>	62.63%	62.63%
	Don't Know	<b>85</b>	<b>29.62%</b>	23.13%	20.54%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	<b>3</b>	<b>1.05%</b>	1.78%	1.68%
	No	<b>182</b>	<b>63.41%</b>	74.02%	70.37%
	Don't Know	<b>102</b>	<b>35.54%</b>	24.20%	27.95%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

## Deployment and Combat History

Of the 29 Service Members who died by suicide while deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), or Operation New Dawn (OND), 18 (6.27% of total suicides) took place in Afghanistan, 10 (3.48% of total suicides) took place in Iraq, and 1 (0.35% of total suicides) took place Shipboard as part of OND (Table 2.27). One hundred thirty-four decedents (46.69%) had a history of OEF, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), or OND deployment (Table 2.28). Forty-four decedents (15.33%) had a known history of direct combat experiences. Additional data regarding the types of combat experiences are shown in Table 2.29.

**TABLE 2.27. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER SUICIDES IN THEATER**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	18	6.27%	6.05%	2.36%
	Iraq	10	3.48%	4.27%	10.44%
	Djibouti	0	0.00%	0.36%	0.00%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.34%
	Not OEF/OND	258	89.90%	89.32%	86.87%

Note: One Service Member located Shipboard as part of OND

**TABLE 2.28. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF/OND	Afghanistan	42	14.63%	11.39%	3.70%
	Iraq	65	22.65%	27.05%	37.71%
	Kuwait	4	1.39%	1.07%	3.03%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	23	8.01%	6.41%	7.07%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	153	53.31%	54.09%	48.48%

**TABLE 2.29. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER COMBAT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	44	15.33%	10.68%	17.17%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	25	8.71%	6.76%	11.45%
	Injured in combat	6	2.09%	2.14%	3.37%
	Witnessed killing in combat	16	5.57%	6.41%	9.76%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	15	5.23%	4.98%	9.43%
	Killed others in combat	6	2.09%	3.91%	4.04%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	243	84.67%	89.32%	82.83%

## DODSERS SUBMITTED FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

DoDSERs were submitted for 935 suicide attempts across all Services in 2011. As indicated in Table 2.30, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 915 individuals. Two attempts were reported (DoDSERs submitted) for 18 individuals, and three attempts were reported for 1 individual. One Service Member with a CY 2010 suicide attempt DoDSER died by suicide in 2011 and is included in the preceding section. The tables in this section use a denominator of 915. Percentages for 2010 DoDSER data are provided for comparison. Specific suicide attempt count data for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

**TABLE 2.30. CY 2011 AND 2010 DOD SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSERS**

		Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs		935	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED		915	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL	1	896	97.92%
	2	18	1.97%
	3	1	0.11%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2011 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE		1	0.11%

## Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with the suicide attempts. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide attempt method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

### Demographics

Table 2.31 contains DoDSER demographic data for Service Members who attempted suicide in 2011. The majority of suicide attempts were by male Service Members ( $n = 687$ , 73.48%). Consistent with the previous year of DoDSER data, Service Members were most often Caucasian ( $n = 600$ , 64.17%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 836$ , 89.41%), under age twenty-five ( $n = 535$ , 57.22%), junior enlisted ( $n = 664$ , 71.02%), and Regular component ( $n = 893$ , 95.51%). High school was the highest level of education for majority of Service Members who attempted suicide ( $n = 409$ , 43.74%).

**TABLE 2.31. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
TOTAL		935	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	687	73.48%	75.67%
	Female	248	26.52%	24.33%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	13	1.39%	1.27%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	36	3.85%	2.67%

**TABLE 2.31. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS (CONT.)**

ETHNICITY	Black/African American	172	18.40%	15.41%
	White/Caucasian	600	64.17%	68.02%
	Other/Don't Know	114	12.19%	12.63%
	Hispanic or Latino	99	10.59%	
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	836	89.41%	
AGE RANGE	Under 25	535	57.22%	59.56%
	25-29	220	23.53%	22.02%
	30-39	141	15.08%	14.14%
	40 +	39	4.17%	4.29%
RANK	E1-E4	664	71.02%	71.46%
	E5-E9	240	25.67%	24.25%
	Officer	25	2.67%	3.71%
	Warrant Officer	2	0.21%	0.46%
	Cadet/Midshipman	4	0.43%	0.12%
COMPONENT	Regular	893	95.51%	94.67%
	Reserve	18	1.93%	2.78%
	National Guard	19	2.03%	2.32%
	Other	5	0.53%	0.23%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	2	0.21%	0.81%
	GED	44	4.71%	7.30%
	High school graduate	409	43.74%	46.12%
	Some college or technical school	273	29.20%	24.33%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	55	5.88%	4.98%
	Four-year college degree	31	3.32%	4.52%
	Master's degree or greater	13	1.39%	1.85%
	Don't Know	108	11.55%	10.08%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	390	41.71%	42.18%
	Married	406	43.42%	42.18%
	Legally Separated	28	2.99%	4.75%
	Divorced	80	8.56%	8.46%
	Widowed	1	0.11%	0.12%
	Don't Know	30	3.21%	2.32%

Note: Ethnicity data not reported prior to 2011.

## Event Setting

CY 2011 suicide attempts most frequently took place in the United States ( $n = 830$ , 88.77%). Twenty attempts occurred in Afghanistan (2.14%; Table 2.32). As indicated in Table 2.33, suicide attempts primarily occurred in the Service Members' residence ( $n = 737$ , 78.82%). Hotels were the most frequent "Other" (write-in response) setting ( $n = 20$ , 2.14%).

**TABLE 2.32. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	United States	830	88.77%	81.92%
	Iraq	3	0.32%	3.01%
	Afghanistan	20	2.14%	2.32%
	Asia	36	3.85%	5.21%
	Europe	36	3.85%	5.79%
	Canada or Mexico	2	0.21%	0.35%
	Central or South America	1	0.11%	0.00%
	Other	2	0.21%	1.04%
	Don't Know	4	0.43%	0.35%

**TABLE 2.33. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT SETTING**

EVENT SETTING		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	Residence (own) or barracks	737	78.82%	80.30%
	Residence of friend or family	46	4.92%	3.82%
	Work/jobsite	30	3.21%	3.24%
	Automobile (away from residence)	46	4.92%	4.52%
	Inpatient medical facility	8	0.86%	0.70%
	Other	67	7.17%	7.18%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.23%

## Event Method

As indicated in Table 2.34, drugs were the most frequent method for suicide attempt ( $n = 559$ , 59.79%), followed by injury with a sharp or blunt object ( $n = 112$ , 11.98%).

**TABLE 2.34. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT METHOD**

EVENT METHOD		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	Firearm, non-military issue	44	4.71%	2.67%
	Firearm, military issue	15	1.60%	1.97%
	Hanging	87	9.30%	8.34%
	Drugs	559	59.79%	57.47%
	Alcohol	32	3.42%	3.82%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	20	2.14%	1.16%
	Gas, utility (or other)	2	0.21%	0.58%
	Chemicals	17	1.82%	1.16%
	Drowning	4	0.43%	0.58%
	Fire, steam, etc.	0	0.00%	0.23%
	Sharp or blunt object	112	11.98%	14.14%
	Jumping from high place	10	1.07%	2.55%

**TABLE 2.34. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT METHOD (CONT.)**

Lying in front of moving object	4	0.43%	0.46%
Crashing a motor vehicle	12	1.28%	1.39%
Other	11	1.18%	2.09%
Don't Know	5	0.53%	1.39%

## Substance Use during the Event

Table 2.35 summarizes data regarding known alcohol and drug use during suicide attempts. DoDSERs for almost one-third of Service Members ( $n = 292$ , 31.23%) included known use of alcohol, and over one-half ( $n = 598$ , 63.96%) included known drug use during the suicide attempt (the most frequent were prescription drugs;  $n = 382$ , 63.88% of known drug users, 40.86% of total). These frequencies include Service Members who used drugs as a suicide attempt method as described above. One hundred eighty-four DoDSERs (19.68%) included both alcohol and drug use during the event.

**TABLE 2.35. CY 2011 AND 2010 DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	292	31.23%	33.26%
	No	505	54.01%	54.92%
	Don't Know	137	14.65%	11.82%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	598	63.96%	62.11%
	No	283	30.27%	32.56%
	Don't Know	53	5.67%	5.33%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	52	5.56%	5.45%
	Used, no overdose	20	2.14%	2.55%
	Were not used	806	86.20%	86.67%
	Don't know	56	5.99%	5.33%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	382	40.86%	40.32%
	Used, no overdose	65	6.95%	7.18%
	Were not used	432	46.20%	47.16%
	Don't know	55	5.88%	5.33%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	179	19.14%	16.57%
	Used, no overdose	28	2.99%	3.94%
	Were not used	672	71.87%	74.16%
	Don't know	55	5.88%	5.33%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	184	19.68%	21.67%
	No	595	63.64%	64.43%
	Don't Know	155	16.58%	13.90%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Communication of Intent

Most Service Members who attempted suicide had no known history of communication with others about their intent ( $n = 709$ , 75.83%; Table 2.36). Of those who did communicate with others, the most frequent modes

were verbal ( $n = 129$ , 13.80%) and written ( $n = 46$ , 4.92%; Table 2.37). As indicated in Table 2.38, Service Members most frequently communicated with their spouses ( $n = 77$ , 8.24%) and friends ( $n = 72$ , 7.70%). Family members were the most frequent “Other” (write-in) response ( $n = 31$ , 3.32%).

**TABLE 2.36. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	709	75.83%	77.98%
	1	180	19.25%	17.27%
	2	30	3.21%	3.71%
	3	13	1.39%	0.93%
	4	2	0.21%	0.12%

**TABLE 2.37. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	129	13.80%	16.57%
	Written	46	4.92%	2.67%
	Other or Unknown	33	3.53%	1.97%
	Multiple Modes	17	1.82%	0.81%
	No Known Communication	709	75.83%	77.98%

**Note:** Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

**TABLE 2.38. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	77	8.24%	5.33%
	Friend	72	7.70%	4.63%
	Behavioral Health Provider	33	3.53%	2.32%
	Chaplain	2	0.21%	0.23%
	Supervisor	35	3.74%	1.62%
	Other or Unidentified	57	6.10%	3.13%
	Made Multiple Communications	45	4.81%	4.75%
	No Known Communication	709	75.83%	77.98%

**Note:** Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 2.39 provides information about other details of 2011 suicide attempts. For the majority ( $n = 588$ , 62.89%), there was information to indicate that the Service Members intended to die. More than one-half of the suicide attempts occurred without any evidence of prior planning ( $n = 529$ , 56.58%). Over one-third of the

suicide attempts ( $n = 366$ , 39.14%) took place in a location potentially observable by others. One hundred two (10.91%) Service Members left suicide notes.

**TABLE 2.39. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	588	62.89%	72.19%
	No	149	15.94%	11.94%
	Don't Know	197	21.07%	15.87%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	12	1.28%	1.04%
	No	855	91.44%	90.61%
	Don't Know	67	7.17%	8.34%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	239	25.56%	27.11%
	No	529	56.58%	49.71%
	Don't Know	166	17.75%	23.17%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	366	39.14%	40.90%
	No	419	44.81%	42.06%
	Don't Know	149	15.94%	17.03%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	102	10.91%	11.12%
	No	726	77.65%	71.15%
	Don't Know	106	11.34%	17.73%

## Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors, such as place of residence, general living situation, and duty environment.

### Situational Factors

Table 2.40 provides details about the living situations for Service Members who attempted suicide in 2011. The most frequently reported living environments were shared living environments on installations ( $n = 381$ , 40.75%) or private homes outside of installations ( $n = 360$ , 38.50%). Married Service Members most often lived with their spouses at the time of the suicide attempt ( $n = 221$ , 23.64%), and 99 were separated because of relationship issues (10.59%). Three hundred twenty-three DoDSERs indicated that the Service Members had minor children (34.55%), and 152 resided with their children at the time of the suicide attempt (16.26%). One hundred five DoDSERs indicated that the Service Members (11.23%) were known to have had access to firearms either in their homes or in other accessible locations.

**TABLE 2.40. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	381	40.75%	42.53%
	Bachelor quarters	22	2.35%	3.13%
	On-base family housing	85	9.09%	6.84%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	360	38.50%	37.31%
	Ship	5	0.53%	0.35%

**TABLE 2.40. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)**

	Other	31	3.32%	2.90%
	Don't Know	50	5.35%	6.95%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resides with spouse	221	23.64%	20.05%
	Separated due to relationship issues	99	10.59%	11.01%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	72	7.70%	8.23%
	Unmarried at time of event	13	1.39%	57.82%
	Don't Know	529	56.58%	2.90%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	329	35.19%	37.08%
	No	495	52.94%	50.52%
	Don't Know	110	11.76%	12.40%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	323	34.55%	30.48%
	No	558	59.68%	69.52%
	Don't Know	53	5.67%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	152	16.26%	13.79%
	No	153	16.36%	15.30%
	Don't Know	71	7.59%	1.39%
	No Children	558	59.68%	69.52%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	105	11.23%	11.59%
	No	602	64.39%	64.77%
	Don't Know	227	24.28%	23.64%

## Duty Environment

The primary duty environment for Service Members who attempted suicide was their permanent duty station ( $n = 466$ , 49.84%; Table 2.41). In addition, DoDSERs indicated that 23 suicide attempts (2.46%) took place during a deployment.

**TABLE 2.41. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	466	49.84%	65.59%
	Leave	33	3.53%	0.00%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	4	0.43%	1.85%
	Medical Hold	32	3.42%	1.04%
	TDY	8	0.86%	0.70%
	AWOL	13	1.39%	0.70%
	Under Command Observation	10	1.07%	0.00%
	Deployed	23	2.46%	4.98%
	Training	63	6.74%	4.06%
	Other	31	3.32%	3.01%
	Multiple Duty Environments	36	3.85%	6.95%
	Duty Environment Unknown	290	31.02%	11.12%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Suicide Attempts by Month

No clear pattern was evident for suicide attempts by month (Table 2.42).

**TABLE 2.42. CY 2011 AND 2010 DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH**

MONTH		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	January	87	9.30%	9.39%
	February	93	9.95%	7.88%
	March	90	9.63%	6.60%
	April	95	10.16%	8.23%
	May	59	6.31%	8.57%
	June	62	6.63%	9.62%
	July	75	8.02%	8.57%
	August	87	9.30%	8.11%
	September	69	7.38%	8.69%
	October	71	7.59%	8.81%
	November	87	9.30%	8.11%
	December	59	6.31%	7.42%

## Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

### Prior Self-Injury

As summarized in Table 2.43, DoDSER POCs reported a known history of prior self-harm for more than one-fourth of suicide attempts ( $n = 268$ , 28.66%) and 44 (4.71%) self-harm incidents were known to have occurred within the month prior to attempting suicide. Of those with a prior history of self-harm, 136 had more than one prior self-harm event (50.75% with known prior history, 14.55% of total). One hundred thirty-five suicide attempts (14.44%) were similar to the Service Members' prior self-harm event.

**TABLE 2.43. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY**

HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	Yes	268	28.66%	27.81%
	Within 30 days	44	4.71%	6.03%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	86	9.20%	10.20%
	No	560	59.89%	58.75%
	Don't Know	106	11.34%	13.44%

**TABLE 2.43. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY (CONT.)**

Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	<b>132</b>	<b>14.12%</b>	12.28%
	More than one prior event	<b>136</b>	<b>14.55%</b>	15.53%
	N/A or Unknown	<b>666</b>	<b>71.23%</b>	72.19%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	<b>135</b>	<b>14.44%</b>	15.41%
	No	<b>116</b>	<b>12.41%</b>	9.27%
	Don't Know	<b>17</b>	<b>1.82%</b>	3.13%
	N/A	<b>666</b>	<b>71.23%</b>	72.19%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

## Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide attempt. The majority of DoDSERs for attempted suicide included a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder ( $n = 605$ , 64.71%; Table 2.44). Three hundred twenty-four (34.65%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 2.45, 322 DoDSERs (34.44%) indicated that Service Members had a diagnosis of a mood disorder; the most frequent was major depressive disorder ( $n = 194$ , 20.75%). Two hundred forty-one DoDSERs for suicide attempts (25.78%) included Service Members' diagnoses of anxiety disorders, most frequently PTSD ( $n = 115$ , 12.30%; Table 2.46). As summarized in Table 2.47, 58 DoDSERs (6.20%) included documentation of personality disorders, and 256 (27.38%) included a known history of substance abuse. Thirty-six DoDSERs (3.85%) indicated that Service Members had sustained a traumatic brain injury, and nine (0.96%) included a diagnosis of psychotic disorder.

**TABLE 2.44. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	<b>330</b>	<b>35.29%</b>	36.27%
	1 DX	<b>280</b>	<b>29.95%</b>	26.42%
	2 DX	<b>165</b>	<b>17.65%</b>	19.58%
	3 DX	<b>91</b>	<b>9.73%</b>	10.66%
	4 or more DX	<b>68</b>	<b>7.27%</b>	7.07%

**TABLE 2.45. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	<b>322</b>	<b>34.44%</b>	38.93%
	No	<b>527</b>	<b>56.36%</b>	52.03%
	Don't Know	<b>85</b>	<b>9.09%</b>	9.04%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	<b>33</b>	<b>3.53%</b>	2.43%
	No	<b>289</b>	<b>30.91%</b>	84.24%
	Don't Know	<b>612</b>	<b>65.45%</b>	13.33%
Major depression	Yes	<b>194</b>	<b>20.75%</b>	17.73%
	No	<b>128</b>	<b>13.69%</b>	70.45%

**TABLE 2.45. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS (CONT.)**

	Don't Know	612	65.45%	11.82%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	29	3.10%	1.85%
	No	293	31.34%	84.94%
	Don't Know	612	65.45%	13.21%
Other mood disorder	Yes	90	9.63%	6.72%
	No	232	24.81%	79.84%
	Don't Know	612	65.45%	13.44%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	25	2.67%	4.63%
	No	824	88.13%	86.33%
	Don't Know	85	9.09%	9.04%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	28	2.99%	5.56%
	No	829	88.66%	85.40%
	Don't Know	77	8.24%	9.04%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 2.46. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	241	25.78%	26.07%
	No	611	65.35%	63.96%
	Don't Know	82	8.77%	9.97%
PTSD	Yes	115	12.30%	8.11%
	No	126	13.48%	80.30%
	Don't Know	693	74.12%	11.59%
Panic disorder	Yes	16	1.71%	1.27%
	No	225	24.06%	86.33%
	Don't Know	693	74.12%	12.40%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	54	5.78%	2.78%
	No	187	20.00%	84.70%
	Don't Know	693	74.12%	12.51%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	9	0.96%	0.12%
	No	232	24.81%	87.25%
	Don't Know	693	74.12%	12.63%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	91	9.73%	5.79%
	No	761	81.39%	82.04%
	Don't Know	82	8.77%	12.17%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	12	1.28%	1.97%
	No	840	89.84%	88.06%
	Don't Know	82	8.77%	9.97%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	47	5.03%	6.03%
	No	194	20.75%	84.01%
	Don't Know	693	74.12%	9.97%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 2.47. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	58	6.20%	7.30%
	No	787	84.17%	80.42%
	Don't Know	89	9.52%	12.28%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	9	0.96%	1.27%
	No	843	90.16%	88.30%
	Don't Know	82	8.77%	10.43%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	256	27.38%	23.41%
	No	558	59.68%	64.31%
	Don't Know	120	12.83%	12.28%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	36	3.85%	2.43%
	No	809	86.52%	85.52%
	Don't Know	89	9.52%	12.05%

## Treatment History

Table 2.48 provides data on Service Members' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to attempting suicide. The majority of DoDSERs ( $n = 599$ , 64.06%) indicated that Service Members had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), 416 (44.49%) within the month prior to attempting suicide. Two hundred twenty-seven DoDSERs (24.28%) included evidence of a known physical health problem. Most DoDSERs ( $n = 570$ , 60.96%) indicated that Service Members had received outpatient behavioral health services, many within the month prior to attempting suicide ( $n = 389$ , 41.06%). Two hundred thirty-three DoDSERs (24.92%) indicated that Service Members had previously been hospitalized in an inpatient psychiatry unit, 95 (10.16%) within the month prior to the suicide attempt. One hundred sixty-eight DoDSERs (17.97%) included prior use of substance abuse services.

**TABLE 2.48. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	599	64.06%	52.61%
	Within 30 days	416	44.49%	35.57%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	509	54.44%	45.54%
	No	267	28.56%	37.78%
	Don't Know	68	7.27%	9.62%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	227	24.28%	22.02%
	Within 30 days	136	14.55%	12.75%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	168	17.97%	16.57%
	No	593	63.42%	66.74%
	Don't Know	114	12.19%	11.24%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	168	17.97%	19.70%
	Within 30 days	100	10.70%	8.81%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	116	12.41%	12.86%

**TABLE 2.48. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)**

FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	No	684	73.16%	72.07%
	Don't Know	82	8.77%	8.23%
	Yes	92	9.84%	6.72%
	Within 30 days	41	4.39%	2.67%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	53	5.67%	3.82%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	No	724	77.43%	81.58%
	Don't Know	118	12.62%	11.70%
	Yes	116	12.41%	10.66%
	Within 30 days	71	7.59%	5.21%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	91	9.73%	7.42%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	No	557	59.57%	59.91%
	Don't Know	261	27.91%	29.43%
	Yes	570	60.96%	63.15%
	Within 30 days	389	41.60%	44.15%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	464	49.63%	51.80%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	No	308	32.94%	31.75%
	Don't Know	56	5.99%	5.10%
	Yes	233	24.92%	21.78%
	Within 30 days	95	10.16%	7.88%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	150	16.04%	12.98%
	No	649	69.41%	71.61%
	Don't Know	52	5.56%	6.60%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

As indicated in Table 2.49, four hundred (42.78%) DoDSERs for Service Member suicide attempts indicate psychotropic medication usage prior to the suicide attempt. The most frequently prescribed psychotropic medications were antidepressants ( $n = 342$ , 85.50% of DoDSERs with known prescriptions, 36.58% of total DoDSERs) and antianxiety medications ( $n = 170$ , 42.50% of DoDSERs with known prescriptions, 18.18% of total DoDSERs).

**TABLE 2.49. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	400	42.78%	46.35%
	No	453	48.45%	44.38%
	Don't Know	81	8.66%	9.27%
Antidepressants	Yes	342	36.58%	38.12%
	No	502	53.69%	50.64%
	Don't Know	90	9.63%	11.24%
Antianxiety	Yes	170	18.18%	18.77%
	No	654	69.95%	67.21%
	Don't Know	110	11.76%	14.02%

**TABLE 2.49. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE (CONT.)**

Antimanics	Yes	21	2.25%	2.67%
	No	805	86.10%	82.62%
	Don't Know	108	11.55%	14.72%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	18	1.93%	2.67%
	No	806	86.20%	82.62%
	Don't Know	110	11.76%	14.72%
Antipsychotics	Yes	70	7.49%	7.76%
	No	757	80.96%	77.75%
	Don't Know	107	11.44%	14.48%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial, and administrative difficulties, as well as reports of prior abuse.

### Family and Relationship History

One-half of DoDSERs for Service Members who attempted suicide ( $n = 487$ , 52.09%) had a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, 306 (32.73%) experienced the failure within the month prior to the suicide attempt (Table 2.50). One hundred sixty-seven (17.86%) included a failure in another important relationship, 102 of these (61.08% of those that included a failure in another importation relationship, 10.91% of total) occurred within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

**TABLE 2.50. CY 2011 AND 2010 DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	487	52.09%	53.53%
	Within 30 days	306	32.73%	32.79%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	379	40.53%	40.32%
	No	348	37.22%	37.54%
	Don't Know	99	10.59%	8.92%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	167	17.86%	14.72%
	Within 30 days	102	10.91%	8.11%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	122	13.05%	10.43%
	No	618	66.10%	67.21%
	Don't Know	149	15.94%	18.08%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	538	57.54%	53.53%
	Within 30 days	323	34.55%	36.27%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	398	42.57%	43.57%
	No	301	32.19%	37.54%
	Don't Know	82	8.77%	8.92%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 2.51 summarizes other family and relationship factors. Sixty DoDSERs for Service Members (6.42%) included the loss of a family member to suicide, and 74 (7.91%) included the loss of friend to suicide. Many had experienced the death of a family member ( $n = 148$ , 15.83%) or friend ( $n = 89$ , 9.52%) by other means. Nearly one-third of DoDSERs indicated that Service Members had a family member with behavioral health problems ( $n = 292$ , 31.23%).

**TABLE 2.51. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAMILY HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	3	0.32%	0.23%
	No	848	90.70%	92.00%
	Don't Know	83	8.88%	7.76%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	60	6.42%	6.60%
	No	751	80.32%	79.72%
	Don't Know	123	13.16%	13.67%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	74	7.91%	6.95%
	No	714	76.36%	76.71%
	Don't Know	146	15.61%	16.34%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	148	15.83%	14.37%
	No	656	70.16%	70.45%
	Don't Know	130	13.90%	15.18%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	89	9.52%	8.92%
	No	694	74.22%	74.74%
	Don't Know	151	16.15%	16.34%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	106	11.34%	8.34%
	No	689	73.69%	76.36%
	Don't Know	139	14.87%	15.30%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	292	31.23%	32.10%
	No	466	49.84%	48.44%
	Don't Know	176	18.82%	19.47%

## Administrative and Legal History

Over one-third of DoDSERs for Service Members who attempted suicide included at least one administrative or legal issue ( $n = 367$ , 39.25%), and 142 (15.19%) included more than one issue (Table 2.52). The most frequent administrative or legal problems were Article 15 proceedings or non-judicial punishment ( $n = 175$ , 18.72%) medical board proceedings ( $n = 125$ , 13.37%).

**TABLE 2.52. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	32	3.42%	3.13%
	No	788	84.28%	84.24%
	Don't Know	114	12.19%	12.63%

**TABLE 2.52. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX ARTICLE 15 OR NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	175	18.72%	17.38%
	No	640	68.45%	68.48%
	Don't Know	119	12.73%	14.14%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	80	8.56%	10.43%
	No	730	78.07%	76.83%
	Don't Know	124	13.26%	12.75%
HX AWOL	Yes	44	4.71%	6.14%
	No	779	83.32%	82.73%
	Don't Know	111	11.87%	11.12%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	125	13.37%	8.23%
	No	717	76.68%	81.34%
	Don't Know	92	9.84%	10.43%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	67	7.17%	10.20%
	No	734	78.50%	74.39%
	Don't Know	133	14.22%	15.41%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	43	4.60%	5.45%
	No	730	78.07%	77.06%
	Don't Know	161	17.22%	17.50%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	367	39.25%	39.51%
	No	444	47.49%	48.67%
	Don't Know	123	13.16%	11.82%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	142	15.19%	14.37%
	No	669	71.55%	45.31%
	Don't Know	123	13.16%	40.32%

## Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 2.53). Some DoDSERs for Service Members who attempted suicide in 2011 included an alleged history of emotional abuse ( $n = 211$ , 22.57%), physical abuse ( $n = 201$ , 21.50%), and sexual abuse ( $n = 165$ , 17.65%). Fifty-seven (6.10%) included an alleged history of perpetration of physical abuse.

**TABLE 2.53. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	201	21.50%	19.81%
	No	584	62.46%	65.82%
	Don't Know	149	15.94%	14.37%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	165	17.65%	15.76%
	No	626	66.95%	69.52%
	Don't Know	143	15.29%	14.72%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	211	22.57%	23.06%
	No	564	60.32%	61.88%
	Don't Know	159	17.01%	15.06%

**TABLE 2.53. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	35	3.74%	3.59%
	No	727	77.75%	79.14%
	Don't Know	172	18.40%	17.27%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	57	6.10%	4.98%
	No	730	78.07%	79.03%
	Don't Know	147	15.72%	15.99%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	14	1.50%	1.62%
	No	770	82.35%	82.50%
	Don't Know	150	16.04%	15.87%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	27	2.89%	3.01%
	No	750	80.21%	80.53%
	Don't Know	157	16.79%	16.45%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	8	0.86%	0.46%
	No	774	82.78%	83.20%
	Don't Know	152	16.26%	16.34%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 2.54). Almost one-third of DoDSERs for Service Members who attempted suicide in 2011 included the experience of job loss or instability ( $n = 290$ , 31.02%). Two hundred twenty-nine (24.49%) included problems with either supervisors or coworkers, and 130 (13.90%) included prior poor work evaluations.

**TABLE 2.54. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	123	13.16%	9.97%
	No	636	68.02%	70.68%
	Don't Know	175	18.72%	19.35%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	290	31.02%	31.87%
	No	503	53.80%	54.00%
	Don't Know	141	15.08%	14.14%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	229	24.49%	23.87%
	No	544	58.18%	58.29%
	Don't Know	161	17.22%	17.84%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	130	13.90%	15.18%
	No	621	66.42%	65.01%
	Don't Know	183	19.57%	19.81%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	50	5.35%	4.63%
	No	704	75.29%	74.51%
	Don't Know	180	19.25%	20.86%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

### Deployment and Combat History

Twenty (2.14%) suicide attempts occurred in Afghanistan and three (0.32%) occurred in Iraq (Table 2.55). Three hundred seventy-seven DoDSERs (40.32%) included information about prior OEF, OIF, or OND deployments (Table 2.56). One hundred fifty eight DoDSERs (16.90%) included experiences of direct combat (Table 2.57).

**TABLE 2.55. CY 2011 AND 2010 DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	20	2.14%	2.32%
	Iraq	3	0.32%	3.01%
	Not OEF/OND	911	97.43%	94.67%

**TABLE 2.56. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF/OND	Afghanistan	150	16.04%	7.65%
	Iraq	174	18.61%	27.46%
	Kuwait	14	1.50%	1.04%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	39	4.17%	4.63%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	557	59.57%	59.21%

**TABLE 2.57. CY 2011 AND 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMBAT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	158	16.90%	13.90%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	102	10.91%	8.11%
	Injured in combat	50	5.35%	3.94%
	Witnessed killing in combat	99	10.59%	8.57%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	103	11.02%	8.92%
	Killed others in combat	58	6.20%	5.21%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	776	82.99%	86.10%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Summary

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This chapter provides data on DoD suicides and suicide attempts that occurred in 2011. Data are presented for 287 Service Members who died by suicide and for 915 Service Members who attempted suicide in 935 separate suicide incidents. Decedents and those who attempted suicide were primarily Caucasian, junior enlisted, and Regular component Service Members.

Most suicide events took place in the United States and in the Service Members' own residences. The most frequent methods for Service Members who died by suicide were by non-military issue firearms and hanging. Suicide attempt methods most often used were drug overdose, harming oneself with a sharp or blunt object, and hanging. Drug and alcohol use was more frequent among nonfatal suicide events. The majority of Service Members who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated with others about their likelihood of harming themselves.

Service Members with nonfatal suicide events had more known behavioral health disorders than did suicide decedents, but both groups had similar behavioral health treatment usage prior to the event. Additionally, those who attempted suicide had higher prevalence of prior abuse victimization. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Service Members with suicide events. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was Article 15/non-judicial punishment.

## CHAPTER 3:

# DoDSERS SUBMITTED FOR SERVICE MEMBERS DEPLOYED TO OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) & OPERATION NEW DAWN (OND)

### DODSERS SUBMITTED FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

#### DoDSER Submissions

2011 Reported Suicides during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation New Dawn (OND)

There were 29 suicides confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2011 that occurred during OEF or OND deployments. The tables in this section also include data for Service Members deployed to locations other than OEF/OND and for those not deployed at the time of suicide. Percentages for 2009-2010 DoDSER data are provided for comparison. Specific suicide count data for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

#### Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have been associated with the suicide events. These factors include decedents' demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

#### Demographics

As described in Table 3.1, deployed decedents were primarily male ( $n = 28$ , 96.55%), Caucasian ( $n = 22$ , 75.86%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 28$ , 96.55%), over age twenty-five ( $n = 18$ , 62.07%), junior enlisted ( $n = 16$ , 55.17%), and Regular component ( $n = 20$ , 68.97%).

TABLE 3.1. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
TOTAL		29	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	258	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	28	96.55%	96.67%	89.74%	244	94.57%	95.22%	97.29%
	Female	1	3.45%	3.33%	10.26%	14	5.43%	4.78%	2.71%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	2	0.78%	0.80%	1.94%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	3	10.34%	6.67%	5.13%	12	4.65%	2.39%	3.49%
	Black/African American	3	10.34%	3.33%	15.38%	28	10.85%	11.55%	10.08%
	White/Caucasian	22	75.86%	70.00%	58.97%	171	66.28%	69.72%	68.22%
	Other/Don't Know	1	3.45%	36.67%	28.21%	45	17.44%	26.69%	25.58%
ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino	1	3.45%			16	6.20%		
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	28	96.55%			242	93.80%		
AGE RANGE	Under 25	11	37.93%	60.00%	53.85%	99	38.37%	46.00%	44.57%
	25-29	8	27.59%	30.00%	20.51%	78	30.23%	25.60%	23.64%
	30-39	7	24.14%	6.67%	15.38%	56	21.71%	22.40%	23.26%
	40 +	3	10.34%	3.33%	10.26%	25	9.69%	6.00%	8.53%
RANK	E1-E4	16	55.17%	73.33%	71.79%	127	49.22%	53.78%	52.71%
	E5-E9	9	31.03%	23.33%	17.95%	112	43.41%	40.64%	38.37%
	Officer	4	13.79%	3.33%	10.26%	19	7.36%	5.18%	6.98%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	1.16%
	Cadet/Midshipman	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.40%	0.78%
COMPONENT	Regular	20	68.97%	100.00%	89.74%	239	92.64%	90.84%	94.57%
	Reserve	5	17.24%	0.00%	2.56%	8	3.10%	3.59%	2.33%
	National Guard	4	13.79%	0.00%	7.69%	11	4.26%	4.78%	2.71%
	Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.80%	0.39%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.39%	0.80%	0.78%
	GED	3	10.34%	6.67%	5.13%	9	3.49%	7.57%	4.26%
	High school graduate	20	68.97%	53.33%	33.33%	118	45.74%	41.83%	45.35%
	Some college or technical school	2	6.90%	16.67%	12.82%	27	10.47%	16.33%	17.44%

**TABLE 3.1. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)**

MARITAL STATUS	Degree/certificate of less than four years	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8	3.10%	5.58%	2.71%
	Four-year college degree	4	13.79%	3.33%	2.56%	20	7.75%	5.58%	3.88%
	Master's degree or greater	0	0.00%	0.00%	5.13%	7	2.71%	1.20%	3.49%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	20.00%	41.03%	68	26.36%	21.12%	22.09%
	Never Married	13	44.83%	56.67%	51.28%	79	30.62%	37.45%	32.95%
	Married	15	51.72%	26.67%	41.03%	128	49.61%	50.20%	51.16%
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6	2.33%	3.19%	1.94%
	Divorced	1	3.45%	3.33%	0.00%	17	6.59%	7.17%	10.85%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4	1.55%	0.00%	0.39%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	13.33%	7.69%	24	9.30%	1.99%	2.71%

Note: Ethnicity data unavailable prior to 2011.

## Event Setting

Suicides primarily occurred either at the deployed Service Members' jobsite ( $n = 11$ , 37.93%) or in their barracks ( $n = 10$ , 34.48%; Table 3.2). Latrines were the most frequent "Other" (write-in response) setting ( $n = 3$ , 10.35%).

**TABLE 3.2. CY 2011 DODSER EVENT SETTING FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

EVENT SETTING		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	10	34.48%	43.33%	61.54%	160	62.02%	57.37%	60.08%
	Residence of friend or family	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	23	8.91%	12.75%	9.30%
	Work/jobsite	11	37.93%	33.33%	12.82%	9	3.49%	5.18%	5.04%
	Automobile (away from residence)	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18	6.98%	5.18%	6.59%
	Inpatient medical facility	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.40%	0.00%
	Other	8	27.59%	23.33%	25.64%	47	18.22%	19.12%	18.99%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.39%	0.00%	0.00%

## Event Method

As indicated in Table 3.3, the majority of deployed decedents used military issue firearms to kill themselves ( $n = 22$ , 75.86%).

**TABLE 3.3. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER EVENT METHOD FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	2	6.90%	6.67%	0.00%	139	53.88%	53.39%	46.90%
	Firearm, military issue	22	75.86%	90.00%	97.44%	9	3.49%	4.78%	5.43%
	Hanging	2	6.90%	0.00%	0.00%	57	22.09%	27.49%	26.36%
	Drugs	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11	4.26%	5.18%	3.49%
	Alcohol	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.39%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	1.16%	0.40%	4.26%
	Gas, utility (or other)	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	1.16%	1.99%	1.94%
	Chemicals	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.78%	0.00%	0.00%
	Drowning	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.39%	1.20%	0.00%
	Fire, steam, etc.	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.39%	0.40%	0.00%
	Sharp or blunt object	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.78%	0.80%	3.10%
	Jumping from high place	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4	1.55%	0.80%	1.94%
	Lying in front of moving object	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.39%	0.80%	0.78%
	Crashing a motor vehicle	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	0	0.00%	3.33%	2.56%	4	1.55%	0.40%	3.10%
	Don't Know	3	10.34%	0.00%	0.00%	21	8.14%	2.39%	2.33%

### Substance Use during the Event

As shown in Table 3.4, of the 15 deployed decedents for whom information was available, 1 used drugs (3.45%) and none used alcohol during the event.

TABLE 3.4. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	61	23.64%	23.11%	25.58%
	No	16	55.17%	56.67%	66.67%	73	28.29%	36.25%	34.50%
	Don't Know	13	44.83%	43.33%	33.33%	124	48.06%	40.64%	39.92%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	1	3.45%	0.00%	2.56%	24	9.30%	10.76%	6.98%
	No	14	48.28%	50.00%	64.10%	93	36.05%	46.61%	44.57%
	Don't Know	14	48.28%	50.00%	33.33%	141	54.65%	42.63%	48.45%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.78%	1.20%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4	1.55%	1.20%	0.78%
	Were not used	15	51.72%	50.00%	66.67%	111	43.02%	54.98%	50.78%
	Don't know	14	48.28%	50.00%	33.33%	141	54.65%	42.63%	48.45%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6	2.33%	3.59%	3.10%
	Used, no overdose	1	3.45%	0.00%	2.56%	6	2.33%	4.38%	0.78%
	Were not used	14	48.28%	50.00%	64.10%	105	40.70%	49.40%	47.67%
	Don't know	14	48.28%	50.00%	33.33%	141	54.65%	42.63%	48.45%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8	3.10%	2.39%	0.78%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	1.16%	0.00%	1.94%
	Were not used	15	51.72%	50.00%	66.67%	106	41.09%	54.98%	48.84%
	Don't know	14	48.28%	50.00%	33.33%	141	54.65%	42.63%	48.45%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8	3.10%	3.19%	3.49%
	No	15	51.72%	50.00%	64.10%	126	48.84%	47.41%	44.96%
	Don't Know	14	48.28%	50.00%	35.90%	124	48.06%	49.40%	51.55%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Communication of Intent

Consistent with the prior two years, most deployed suicide decedents had no known history of communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ( $n = 26$ , 89.66%; Table 3.5). Three deployed Service Members were known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their intent to die by suicide (10.35%). These communications were all verbal ( $n = 3$ , 10.35%; Table 3.6) and two of the three communicated with a Chaplain ( $n = 2$ , 6.90%; Table 3.6).

**TABLE 3.5. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	26	89.66%	76.67%	87.18%	186	72.09%	64.54%	69.77%
	1	2	6.90%	16.67%	7.69%	56	21.71%	30.68%	19.77%
	2	0	0.00%	6.67%	2.56%	11	4.26%	3.98%	7.36%
	3	1	3.45%	0.00%	0.00%	5	1.94%	0.40%	1.94%
	4	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.78%
	5	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.40%	0.39%

**TABLE 3.6. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	3	10.34%	20.00%	7.69%	43	16.67%	21.12%	16.67%
	Written	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	13	5.04%	5.18%	2.33%
	Other or Unknown	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12	4.65%	5.58%	6.59%
	Multiple Modes	0	0.00%	3.33%	2.56%	4	1.55%	3.59%	4.26%
	No Known Communication	26	89.66%	76.67%	87.18%	186	72.09%	64.54%	70.16%

**Note:** Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

**TABLE 3.7. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	0	0.00%	6.67%	0.00%	37	14.34%	11.16%	8.14%
	Friend	1	3.45%	6.67%	7.69%	18	6.98%	4.38%	3.49%
	Behavioral Health Provider	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11	4.26%	4.78%	0.39%
	Chaplain	2	6.90%	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.78%	0.00%	0.00%
	Supervisor	1	3.45%	3.33%	0.00%	6	2.33%	1.20%	0.78%

**TABLE 3.7. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)**

Other or Unidentified	<b>1</b>	<b>3.45%</b>	0.00%	0.00%	<b>16</b>	<b>6.20%</b>	9.16%	6.59%
Made Multiple Communications	<b>1</b>	<b>3.45%</b>	6.67%	5.13%	<b>16</b>	<b>6.20%</b>	4.78%	10.47%
No Known Communication	<b>26</b>	<b>89.66%</b>	76.67%	87.18%	<b>186</b>	<b>72.09%</b>	64.54%	70.16%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 3.8 provides information about other details of suicides that occurred during OEF and OND deployment. For the majority ( $n = 19$ , 65.52%), there was information to indicate that the decedents intended to die. Seven of the suicides appeared premeditated (24.14%). Two decedents (6.90%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others and nine deployed Service Members (31.03%) left suicide notes.

**TABLE 3.8. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	<b>19</b>	<b>65.52%</b>	73.33%	89.74%	<b>154</b>	<b>59.69%</b>	71.31%	74.03%
	No	<b>1</b>	<b>3.45%</b>	10.00%	5.13%	<b>25</b>	<b>9.69%</b>	7.97%	5.43%
	Don't Know	<b>9</b>	<b>31.03%</b>	16.67%	5.13%	<b>79</b>	<b>30.62%</b>	20.72%	20.54%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	0.00%	0.00%	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	1.99%	1.55%
	No	<b>23</b>	<b>79.31%</b>	63.33%	92.31%	<b>200</b>	<b>77.52%</b>	86.85%	83.72%
	Don't Know	<b>6</b>	<b>20.69%</b>	36.67%	7.69%	<b>58</b>	<b>22.48%</b>	11.16%	14.73%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	<b>7</b>	<b>24.14%</b>	23.33%	38.46%	<b>76</b>	<b>29.46%</b>	40.24%	39.53%
	No	<b>9</b>	<b>31.03%</b>	36.67%	23.08%	<b>69</b>	<b>26.74%</b>	34.26%	29.84%
	Don't Know	<b>13</b>	<b>44.83%</b>	40.00%	38.46%	<b>113</b>	<b>43.80%</b>	25.50%	30.62%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	<b>2</b>	<b>6.90%</b>	10.00%	12.82%	<b>57</b>	<b>22.09%</b>	24.30%	21.71%
	No	<b>21</b>	<b>72.41%</b>	73.33%	76.92%	<b>144</b>	<b>55.81%</b>	62.15%	67.44%
	Don't Know	<b>6</b>	<b>20.69%</b>	16.67%	10.26%	<b>57</b>	<b>22.09%</b>	13.55%	10.85%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	<b>9</b>	<b>31.03%</b>	20.00%	28.21%	<b>49</b>	<b>18.99%</b>	31.87%	24.42%
	No	<b>9</b>	<b>31.03%</b>	43.33%	51.28%	<b>130</b>	<b>50.39%</b>	51.00%	54.26%
	Don't Know	<b>11</b>	<b>37.93%</b>	36.67%	20.51%	<b>79</b>	<b>30.62%</b>	17.13%	21.32%

## Suicide Completions by Month

As in the prior two years, no clear pattern was evident for suicides by month (Table 3.9).

**TABLE 3.9. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER SUICIDES BY MONTH FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

MONTH		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MONTH	January	3	10.34%	10.00%	10.26%	26	10.08%	9.56%	8.91%
	February	2	6.90%	10.00%	5.13%	18	6.98%	7.17%	12.02%
	March	1	3.45%	3.33%	10.26%	18	6.98%	8.37%	6.20%
	April	7	24.14%	6.67%	17.95%	25	9.69%	7.57%	6.20%
	May	1	3.45%	20.00%	12.82%	29	11.24%	8.37%	9.30%
	June	2	6.90%	23.33%	5.13%	18	6.98%	7.17%	8.53%
	July	2	6.90%	10.00%	2.56%	30	11.63%	11.16%	10.85%
	August	3	10.34%	0.00%	5.13%	21	8.14%	8.76%	7.36%
	September	3	10.34%	6.67%	2.56%	23	8.91%	9.16%	5.81%
	October	4	13.79%	3.33%	7.69%	21	8.14%	9.16%	11.24%
	November	0	0.00%	6.67%	12.82%	12	4.65%	5.98%	6.20%
	December	1	3.45%	0.00%	7.69%	16	6.20%	7.57%	7.36%

Note: One event occurred on 12/31/2010 and was included in 2011

## Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

### Prior Self-Injury

No deployed Service Members who died by suicide in 2011 had a known history of self-harm (Table 3.10).

**TABLE 3.10. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	0	0.00%	10.00%	12.82%	38	14.73%	13.94%	17.83%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	5	1.94%	1.20%	4.26%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	10	3.88%	3.19%	8.53%
	No	17	58.62%	40.00%	64.10%	126	48.84%	64.14%	57.36%
	Don't Know	12	41.38%	50.00%	23.08%	94	36.43%	21.91%	24.81%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	0	0.00%	3.33%	5.13%	18	6.98%	8.37%	10.85%
	More than one prior event	0	0.00%	6.67%	7.69%	20	7.75%	5.58%	6.98%
	N/A or Unknown	29	100.00%	90.00%	87.18%	220	85.27%	86.06%	82.17%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13	5.04%	3.59%	3.49%
	No	0	0.00%	6.67%	7.69%	21	8.14%	9.16%	10.47%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	3.33%	5.13%	4	1.55%	1.20%	3.88%
	N/A	29	100.00%	90.00%	87.18%	220	85.27%	86.06%	82.17%

## Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death. Eight deployed Service Members who died by suicide in 2011 (27.58%) had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 3.11). Four decedents (13.79%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Tables 3.12, 3.13 and 3.14, deployed decedents had fewer known behavioral health disorders as compared to other decedents.

**TABLE 3.11. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	21	72.41%	76.67%	71.79%	137	53.10%	54.18%	55.43%
	1 DX	4	13.79%	13.33%	17.95%	60	23.26%	19.12%	22.09%
	2 DX	1	3.45%	6.67%	2.56%	28	10.85%	15.94%	14.73%
	3 DX	3	10.34%	3.33%	5.13%	19	7.36%	5.58%	4.26%
	4 or more DX	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	14	5.43%	5.18%	3.49%

**TABLE 3.12. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	5	17.24%	3.33%	10.26%	52	20.16%	18.73%	27.13%
	No	19	65.52%	66.67%	69.23%	156	60.47%	68.92%	58.91%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	30.00%	20.51%	50	19.38%	12.35%	13.95%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4	1.55%	0.80%	0.78%
	No	24	82.76%	70.00%	71.79%	204	79.07%	86.85%	81.78%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	30.00%	28.21%	50	19.38%	12.35%	17.44%
Major depression	Yes	4	13.79%	0.00%	2.56%	28	10.85%	7.97%	12.79%
	No	20	68.97%	66.67%	71.79%	180	69.77%	79.68%	70.93%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	33.33%	25.64%	50	19.38%	12.35%	16.28%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4	1.55%	1.59%	1.94%
	No	24	82.76%	66.67%	71.79%	204	79.07%	86.06%	80.23%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	33.33%	28.21%	50	19.38%	12.35%	17.83%
Other mood disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	21	8.14%	5.18%	5.81%
	No	24	82.76%	66.67%	71.79%	187	72.48%	82.07%	77.13%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	30.00%	28.21%	50	19.38%	12.75%	17.05%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	1	3.45%	0.00%	5.13%	5	1.94%	1.20%	2.33%
	No	23	79.31%	70.00%	74.36%	203	78.68%	86.45%	83.72%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	30.00%	20.51%	50	19.38%	12.35%	13.95%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	3	1.16%	1.99%	3.49%
	No	24	82.76%	70.00%	76.92%	205	79.46%	85.66%	82.56%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	30.00%	20.51%	50	19.38%	12.35%	13.95%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

TABLE 3.13. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	5	17.24%	6.67%	12.82%	42	16.28%	15.94%	18.60%
	No	19	65.52%	60.00%	61.54%	171	66.28%	73.71%	67.05%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	33.33%	25.64%	45	17.44%	10.36%	14.34%
PTSD	Yes	3	10.34%	3.33%	2.56%	15	5.81%	5.18%	6.98%
	No	21	72.41%	63.33%	69.23%	198	76.74%	83.67%	77.13%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	33.33%	28.21%	45	17.44%	11.16%	15.89%
Panic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.78%	1.20%	0.00%
	No	24	82.76%	66.67%	71.79%	211	81.78%	87.65%	83.72%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	33.33%	28.21%	45	17.44%	11.16%	16.28%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	2	6.90%	0.00%	2.56%	9	3.49%	0.40%	0.78%
	No	22	75.86%	66.67%	71.79%	204	79.07%	88.05%	82.95%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	33.33%	25.64%	45	17.44%	11.55%	16.28%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	24	82.76%	66.67%	71.79%	213	82.56%	88.84%	83.72%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	33.33%	28.21%	45	17.44%	11.16%	16.28%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	18	6.98%	5.18%	5.43%
	No	24	82.76%	66.67%	69.23%	195	75.58%	84.06%	78.68%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	33.33%	28.21%	45	17.44%	10.76%	15.89%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	17	6.59%	1.99%	1.94%
	No	24	82.76%	66.67%	74.36%	196	75.97%	87.65%	83.72%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	33.33%	25.64%	45	17.44%	10.36%	14.34%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	0	0.00%	3.33%	5.13%	19	7.36%	1.99%	3.49%
	No	24	82.76%	63.33%	69.23%	194	75.19%	87.65%	82.17%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	33.33%	25.64%	45	17.44%	10.36%	14.34%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 3.14. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	6	2.33%	3.98%	5.43%
	No	25	86.21%	66.67%	71.79%	203	78.68%	83.67%	78.68%
	Don't Know	4	13.79%	33.33%	25.64%	49	18.99%	12.35%	15.89%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	6	2.33%	0.00%	0.78%
	No	25	86.21%	66.67%	74.36%	204	79.07%	87.65%	84.11%
	Don't Know	4	13.79%	33.33%	23.08%	48	18.60%	12.35%	15.12%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	2	6.90%	13.33%	15.38%	67	25.97%	27.09%	22.48%
	No	13	44.83%	43.33%	61.54%	135	52.33%	58.17%	56.98%
	Don't Know	14	48.28%	43.33%	23.08%	56	21.71%	14.74%	20.54%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	1	3.45%	0.00%	0.00%	8	3.10%	3.19%	0.39%
	No	23	79.31%	56.67%	30.77%	201	77.91%	84.06%	59.30%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	43.33%	69.23%	49	18.99%	12.75%	40.31%

## Treatment History

Table 3.15 provides data on decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. These data should be interpreted with caution, as treatment available to deployed Service Members can differ greatly from treatment available in other locations. Nearly one-half of deployed Service Members who died by suicide ( $n = 12$ , 41.38%) had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Four Service Members (13.79%) had a known history of a physical health problem.

No deployed decedents received substance abuse treatment services or help from family advocacy programs. Six Service Members (20.69%) utilized chaplain services. One-fourth of decedents received outpatient behavioral healthcare ( $n = 7$ , 24.14%) and one (3.45%) had received inpatient behavioral health treatment.

TABLE 3.15. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	12	41.38%	33.33%	41.03%	161	62.40%	59.36%	61.63%
	Within 30 days	3	10.34%	20.00%	17.95%	89	34.50%	40.24%	39.15%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	6	20.69%	20.00%	25.64%	125	48.45%	49.40%	51.94%
	No	12	41.38%	40.00%	41.03%	56	21.71%	30.28%	25.19%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	26.67%	17.95%	41	15.89%	10.36%	13.18%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	4	13.79%	20.00%	5.13%	58	22.48%	17.13%	24.03%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	10.00%	2.56%	26	10.08%	11.16%	13.95%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	10.34%	10.00%	2.56%	38	14.73%	13.94%	16.67%
	No	12	41.38%	36.67%	66.67%	125	48.45%	60.56%	54.65%
	Don't Know	13	44.83%	43.33%	28.21%	75	29.07%	22.31%	21.32%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	0	0.00%	13.33%	7.69%	47	18.22%	21.91%	17.83%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	15	5.81%	8.37%	9.30%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	22	8.53%	10.76%	9.69%
	No	22	75.86%	56.67%	69.23%	157	60.85%	67.33%	67.44%
	Don't Know	7	24.14%	30.00%	23.08%	54	20.93%	10.76%	14.73%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	0	0.00%	3.33%	2.56%	21	8.14%	10.76%	6.98%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4	1.55%	1.99%	1.55%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7	2.71%	4.78%	3.10%
	No	22	75.86%	53.33%	66.67%	171	66.28%	72.91%	72.09%
	Don't Know	7	24.14%	43.33%	30.77%	66	25.58%	16.33%	20.93%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	6	20.69%	16.67%	20.51%	19	7.36%	8.76%	11.63%
	Within 30 days	5	17.24%	13.33%	17.95%	9	3.49%	5.98%	6.59%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	5	17.24%	13.33%	20.51%	11	4.26%	7.17%	8.91%
	No	8	27.59%	40.00%	46.15%	89	34.50%	44.62%	41.47%
	Don't Know	15	51.72%	43.33%	33.33%	150	58.14%	46.61%	46.90%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	7	24.14%	26.67%	35.90%	107	41.47%	42.23%	41.86%
	Within 30 days	1	3.45%	16.67%	15.38%	47	18.22%	23.11%	22.48%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	10.34%	16.67%	20.51%	63	24.42%	30.28%	25.58%

**TABLE 3.15. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)**

INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	No	19	65.52%	50.00%	46.15%	111	43.02%	47.41%	46.51%
	Don't Know	3	10.34%	23.33%	17.95%	40	15.50%	10.36%	11.63%
	Yes	1	3.45%	6.67%	5.13%	42	16.28%	11.95%	16.67%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	11	4.26%	5.58%	2.33%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	18	6.98%	6.77%	6.98%
	No	23	79.31%	66.67%	69.23%	170	65.89%	75.70%	70.16%
	Don't Know	5	17.24%	26.67%	25.64%	46	17.83%	12.35%	13.18%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 3.16 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by deployed Service Members prior to suicide. Six decedents (20.69%) had known prescriptions for psychotropic medications, most frequently antidepressants ( $n = 5$ , 17.24%).

**TABLE 3.16. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	6	20.69%	13.33%	12.82%	69	26.74%	25.50%	25.97%
	No	17	58.62%	43.33%	61.54%	124	48.06%	57.37%	53.49%
	Don't Know	6	20.69%	43.33%	25.64%	65	25.19%	17.13%	20.54%
Antidepressants	Yes	5	17.24%	10.00%	7.69%	59	22.87%	20.72%	22.87%
	No	18	62.07%	46.67%	66.67%	134	51.94%	61.35%	56.20%
	Don't Know	6	20.69%	43.33%	25.64%	65	25.19%	17.93%	20.93%
Antianxiety	Yes	2	6.90%	3.33%	5.13%	28	10.85%	9.96%	9.69%
	No	21	72.41%	50.00%	69.23%	165	63.95%	70.52%	68.22%
	Don't Know	6	20.69%	46.67%	25.64%	65	25.19%	19.52%	22.09%
Antimanics	Yes	0	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	2	0.78%	1.59%	0.78%
	No	23	79.31%	46.67%	74.36%	191	74.03%	78.88%	77.13%
	Don't Know	6	20.69%	50.00%	25.64%	65	25.19%	19.52%	22.09%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	0	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	4	1.55%	1.99%	2.71%
	No	23	79.31%	50.00%	74.36%	189	73.26%	78.88%	75.58%
	Don't Know	6	20.69%	46.67%	25.64%	65	25.19%	19.12%	21.71%

**TABLE 3.16. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)**

Antipsychotics	Yes	1	3.45%	0.00%	2.56%	9	3.49%	5.58%	5.43%
	No	22	75.86%	53.33%	71.79%	184	71.32%	75.70%	72.87%
	Don't Know	6	20.69%	46.67%	25.64%	65	25.19%	18.73%	21.71%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories and interpersonal relationships, legal, financial, and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

### Family and Relationship History

Thirteen deployed Service Members who died by suicide in 2011 (44.83%) had a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with seven (24.14%) experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 3.17). One decedent (3.45%) had a failure in another important relationship, with this event (3.45%) occurring within the month prior to suicide.

**TABLE 3.17. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES-**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011	2010	2009		2011	2010	2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	13	44.83%	43.33%	46.15%	121	46.90%	50.60%	51.55%
	Within 30 days	7	24.14%	23.33%	25.64%	72	27.91%	30.68%	27.91%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	9	31.03%	3.33%	7.69%	90	34.88%	6.37%	6.98%
	No	6	20.69%	30.00%	25.64%	62	24.03%	29.88%	25.19%
	Don't Know	10	34.48%	26.67%	28.21%	75	29.07%	19.52%	23.26%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	1	3.45%	13.33%	17.95%	25	9.69%	14.74%	12.79%
	Within 30 days	1	3.45%	3.33%	15.38%	13	5.04%	9.16%	6.98%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	3.45%	3.33%	2.56%	18	6.98%	1.59%	0.78%
	No	8	27.59%	30.00%	41.03%	115	44.57%	52.19%	48.84%
	Don't Know	20	68.97%	56.67%	41.03%	118	45.74%	33.07%	38.37%

**TABLE 3.17. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)**

HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	13	44.83%	43.33%	46.15%	129	50.00%	50.60%	51.55%
	Within 30 days	7	24.14%	23.33%	35.90%	76	29.46%	34.66%	28.68%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	9	31.03%	3.33%	7.69%	96	37.21%	6.37%	6.98%
	No	3	10.34%	30.00%	25.64%	49	18.99%	29.88%	25.19%
	Don't Know	10	34.48%	26.67%	28.21%	71	27.52%	19.52%	23.26%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 3.18 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may have been associated with the suicide. One deployed suicide decedent (3.45%) had lost a family member to suicide, and two had lost a family member by other means (6.90%). Four decedents (13.79%) were known to have a family member with behavioral health problems.

**TABLE 3.18. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER FAMILY HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	21	72.41%	63.33%	79.49%	198	76.74%	82.47%	84.88%
	Don't Know	8	27.59%	36.67%	20.51%	60	23.26%	17.53%	15.12%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	1	3.45%	0.00%	2.56%	18	6.98%	4.78%	3.88%
	No	11	37.93%	43.33%	61.54%	131	50.78%	62.15%	64.73%
	Don't Know	17	58.62%	56.67%	35.90%	109	42.25%	33.07%	31.40%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	6.67%	2.56%	7	2.71%	1.99%	1.55%
	No	11	37.93%	40.00%	61.54%	132	51.16%	59.76%	58.14%
	Don't Know	18	62.07%	53.33%	35.90%	119	46.12%	38.25%	40.31%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	2	6.90%	10.00%	5.13%	23	8.91%	5.58%	6.20%
	No	8	27.59%	50.00%	61.54%	132	51.16%	57.77%	58.53%
	Don't Know	19	65.52%	40.00%	33.33%	103	39.92%	36.65%	35.27%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	0	0.00%	6.67%	0.00%	9	3.49%	4.78%	3.49%
	No	10	34.48%	43.33%	64.10%	130	50.39%	55.38%	52.33%
	Don't Know	19	65.52%	50.00%	35.90%	119	46.12%	39.84%	44.19%

**TABLE 3.18. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER FAMILY HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)**

HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	0	0.00%	3.33%	7.69%	9	3.49%	4.38%	6.20%
	No	10	34.48%	46.67%	56.41%	144	55.81%	60.56%	61.63%
	Don't Know	19	65.52%	50.00%	35.90%	105	40.70%	35.06%	32.17%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	4	13.79%	10.00%	17.95%	27	10.47%	9.56%	14.34%
	No	7	24.14%	26.67%	28.21%	86	33.33%	40.64%	30.62%
	Don't Know	18	62.07%	63.33%	53.85%	145	56.20%	49.80%	55.04%

## Administrative and Legal History

As summarized in Table 3.19, seven deployed Service Members who died by suicide in 2011 (24.14%) had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and one (3.45%) had more than one issue. The most frequent administrative or legal issues were Article 15 proceedings or non-judicial punishment ( $n = 4$ , 13.79%) or civil legal problems ( $n = 3$ , 10.34%).

**TABLE 3.19. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	1	3.45%	0.00%	0.00%	9	3.49%	7.17%	7.36%
	No	19	65.52%	56.67%	87.18%	188	72.87%	76.49%	78.29%
	Don't Know	9	31.03%	43.33%	12.82%	61	23.64%	16.33%	14.34%
HX ARTICLE 15 OR NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	4	13.79%	26.67%	12.82%	48	18.60%	20.72%	17.83%
	No	15	51.72%	40.00%	76.92%	145	56.20%	62.95%	64.73%
	Don't Know	10	34.48%	33.33%	10.26%	65	25.19%	16.33%	17.44%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	20	7.75%	10.36%	9.30%
	No	19	65.52%	56.67%	84.62%	178	68.99%	74.10%	76.74%
	Don't Know	10	34.48%	43.33%	12.82%	60	23.26%	15.54%	13.95%
HX AWOL	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18	6.98%	9.16%	11.63%
	No	21	72.41%	63.33%	87.18%	182	70.54%	75.30%	75.97%
	Don't Know	8	27.59%	36.67%	12.82%	58	22.48%	15.54%	12.40%

**TABLE 3.19. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)**

HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	17	6.59%	5.98%	9.30%
	No	21	72.41%	63.33%	87.18%	186	72.09%	82.87%	78.29%
	Don't Know	8	27.59%	36.67%	12.82%	55	21.32%	11.16%	12.40%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	3	10.34%	3.33%	5.13%	34	13.18%	14.34%	13.18%
	No	12	41.38%	56.67%	76.92%	150	58.14%	64.94%	63.57%
	Don't Know	14	48.28%	40.00%	17.95%	74	28.68%	20.72%	23.26%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	0	0.00%	3.33%	5.13%	16	6.20%	6.77%	8.14%
	No	17	58.62%	60.00%	79.49%	170	65.89%	73.71%	73.26%
	Don't Know	12	41.38%	36.67%	15.38%	72	27.91%	19.52%	18.60%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	7	24.14%	30.00%	20.51%	100	38.76%	44.22%	44.19%
	No	14	48.28%	36.67%	66.67%	103	39.92%	39.84%	39.53%
	Don't Know	8	27.59%	33.33%	12.82%	55	21.32%	15.94%	16.28%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	1	3.45%	3.33%	5.13%	41	15.89%	19.12%	19.38%
	No	20	68.97%	33.33%	64.10%	162	62.79%	37.85%	37.60%
	Don't Know	8	27.59%	63.33%	30.77%	55	21.32%	43.03%	43.02%

## Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 3.20). Two deployed suicide decedents (6.90%) had reportedly experienced physical abuse, one (3.45%) had reportedly experienced sexual abuse, four (13.79%) had reportedly experienced emotional abuse, and one (3.45%) had reportedly experienced sexual harassment. One decedent (3.45%) had reportedly sexually abused others and one (3.45%) had reportedly perpetrated sexual harassment.

**TABLE 3.20. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	2	6.90%	6.67%	7.69%	17	6.59%	4.78%	6.59%
	No	11	37.93%	36.67%	71.79%	145	56.20%	64.94%	57.36%
	Don't Know	16	55.17%	56.67%	20.51%	96	37.21%	30.28%	36.05%

**TABLE 3.20. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)**

HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	1	3.45%	0.00%	5.13%	12	4.65%	3.19%	4.26%
	No	11	37.93%	46.67%	74.36%	152	58.91%	66.14%	59.69%
	Don't Know	17	58.62%	53.33%	20.51%	94	36.43%	30.68%	36.05%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	4	13.79%	6.67%	10.26%	15	5.81%	4.38%	6.59%
	No	10	34.48%	33.33%	66.67%	142	55.04%	63.35%	56.20%
	Don't Know	15	51.72%	60.00%	23.08%	101	39.15%	32.27%	37.21%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	3.45%	0.00%	2.56%	0	0.00%	0.40%	0.00%
	No	13	44.83%	43.33%	74.36%	160	62.02%	67.73%	61.63%
	Don't Know	15	51.72%	56.67%	23.08%	98	37.98%	31.87%	38.37%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	6.67%	7.69%	22	8.53%	8.76%	8.91%
	No	12	41.38%	40.00%	64.10%	145	56.20%	63.35%	57.75%
	Don't Know	17	58.62%	53.33%	28.21%	91	35.27%	27.89%	33.33%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	1	3.45%	0.00%	5.13%	9	3.49%	3.19%	3.10%
	No	12	41.38%	46.67%	66.67%	160	62.02%	68.53%	61.24%
	Don't Know	16	55.17%	53.33%	28.21%	89	34.50%	28.29%	35.66%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	5.13%	5	1.94%	3.98%	2.71%
	No	12	41.38%	46.67%	66.67%	157	60.85%	67.33%	59.69%
	Don't Know	17	58.62%	53.33%	28.21%	96	37.21%	28.69%	37.60%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	3.45%	3.33%	5.13%	1	0.39%	0.40%	1.16%
	No	12	41.38%	46.67%	64.10%	162	62.79%	70.52%	62.40%
	Don't Know	16	55.17%	50.00%	30.77%	95	36.82%	29.08%	36.43%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace. As summarized in Table 3.21, three deployed Service Members who died by suicide in 2011 (10.34%) had experienced significant debt. Seven decedents (24.14%) had either lost a position or experienced job instability. Six Service Members (20.69%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with their supervisors or coworkers and six (20.69%) had previously received poor work evaluations. Two decedents (6.90%) were known to have been victims of hazing in the unit or the workplace.

**TABLE 3.21. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	3	10.34%	13.33%	12.82%	22	8.53%	9.56%	10.47%
	No	7	24.14%	50.00%	56.41%	130	50.39%	58.57%	54.26%
	Don't Know	19	65.52%	36.67%	30.77%	106	41.09%	31.87%	35.27%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	7	24.14%	20.00%	35.90%	54	20.93%	18.33%	25.97%
	No	9	31.03%	46.67%	43.59%	132	51.16%	59.76%	52.33%
	Don't Know	13	44.83%	33.33%	20.51%	72	27.91%	21.91%	21.71%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	6	20.69%	30.00%	35.90%	24	9.30%	10.36%	10.85%
	No	11	37.93%	36.67%	38.46%	149	57.75%	65.34%	63.95%
	Don't Know	12	41.38%	33.33%	25.64%	85	32.95%	24.30%	25.19%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	6	20.69%	10.00%	28.21%	40	15.50%	14.74%	15.12%
	No	14	48.28%	43.33%	53.85%	142	55.04%	64.94%	63.95%
	Don't Know	9	31.03%	46.67%	17.95%	76	29.46%	20.32%	20.93%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	2	6.90%	6.67%	5.13%	1	0.39%	1.20%	1.16%
	No	15	51.72%	50.00%	58.97%	167	64.73%	76.89%	72.09%
	Don't Know	12	41.38%	43.33%	35.90%	90	34.88%	21.91%	26.74%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

### Deployment and Combat History

Of the 29 Service Members who died by suicide while on OEF or OND deployment, 18 (62.07%) took place in Afghanistan, 10 (34.48%) took place in Iraq, and 1 occurred shipboard (3.45%; Table 3.22). As indicated in Table 3.23, four decedents were known to have had multiple deployments (13.79%). Ten deployed decedents (34.48%) were known to have had direct combat experiences, including participating in combat that resulted in injuries for others ( $n = 4$ , 13.79%), sustaining injuries ( $n = 1$ , 3.45%), witnessing killing ( $n = 3$ , 10.34%), seeing dead bodies ( $n = 2$ , 6.90%), and killing others ( $n = 2$ , 6.90%; Table 3.24).

**TABLE 3.22. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER SUICIDES IN THEATER FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	18	62.07%	56.67%	17.95%	9	3.49%	0.00%	0.00%
	Iraq	10	34.48%	40.00%	79.49%	18	6.98%	0.00%	0.00%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Djibuti	0	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	7	2.71%	0.00%	0.00%
	Not OEF/OND	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	224	86.82%	100.00%	100.00%

Note: One Service Member located Shipboard as part of OND

**TABLE 3.23. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER DEPLOYMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF/OND	Afghanistan	16	55.17%	43.33%	5.13%	26	10.08%	7.97%	3.88%
	Iraq	9	31.03%	43.33%	69.23%	56	21.71%	25.50%	32.95%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	7.69%	4	1.55%	1.20%	2.33%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	4	13.79%	13.33%	17.95%	19	7.36%	5.58%	5.43%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	153	59.30%	59.76%	55.43%

**TABLE 3.24. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 DODSER COMBAT HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

		OEF/OND				Other			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	10	34.48%	20.00%	10.26%	34	13.18%	9.56%	18.22%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	4	13.79%	13.33%	2.56%	21	8.14%	5.98%	12.79%
	Injured in combat	1	3.45%	3.33%	0.00%	5	1.94%	1.99%	3.88%
	Witnessed killing in combat	3	10.34%	10.00%	2.56%	13	5.04%	5.98%	10.85%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	2	6.90%	6.67%	2.56%	13	5.04%	4.78%	10.47%
	Killed others in combat	2	6.90%	6.67%	0.00%	4	1.55%	3.59%	4.65%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	19	65.52%	80.00%	89.74%	224	86.82%	90.44%	81.78%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## OEF AND OND DODSERS SUBMITTED FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

DoDSER POCs submitted 23 DoDSERs for 2011 OEF and OND suicide attempts. As indicated in Table 3.25, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 23 individuals. The “Other” column includes aggregate data for all Service Members who were either not deployed at the time of their suicide attempt or deployed to locations other than OEF and OND. Percentages for 2010 DoDSER data are provided for comparison. Specific suicide attempt count data for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

**TABLE 3.25. CY 2011 OEF/OND SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSERS**

		Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs		23	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED		23	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL	1	23	100.00%
	2	0	0.00%
	3	0	0.00%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2011 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE		0	0.00%

## Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with the suicide attempts. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide attempt method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

### Demographics

Table 3.26 contains DoDSER demographic data for Service Members deployed to OEF or OND who attempted suicide in 2011. Deployed Service Members who attempted suicide were most frequently male ( $n = 16$ , 69.57%), Caucasian ( $n = 12$ , 52.17%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 20$ , 86.96%), under age twenty-five ( $n = 10$ , 43.48%), junior enlisted ( $n = 15$ , 65.22%), Regular component ( $n = 23$ , 100.00%), and without a college degree ( $n = 20$ , 86.96%).

TABLE 3.26. CY 2011 DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
TOTAL		23	100.00%	100.00%	934	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	16	69.57%	76.09%	670	71.73%	75.64%
	Female	7	30.43%	23.91%	241	25.80%	24.36%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0.00%	0.00%	13	1.39%	1.35%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	3	13.04%	4.35%	33	3.53%	2.57%
	Black/African American	6	26.09%	26.09%	166	17.77%	14.81%
	White/Caucasian	12	52.17%	56.52%	587	62.85%	68.67%
	Other/Don't Know	2	8.70%	13.04%	112	11.99%	12.61%
ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino	3	13.04%		96	10.28%	
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	20	86.96%		815	87.26%	
AGE RANGE	Under 25	10	43.48%	52.17%	524	56.10%	59.98%
	25-29	8	34.78%	19.57%	212	22.70%	22.15%
	30-39	2	8.70%	21.74%	139	14.88%	13.71%
	40 +	3	13.04%	6.52%	36	3.85%	4.16%
RANK	E1-E4	15	65.22%	58.70%	648	69.38%	72.18%
	E5-E9	6	26.09%	34.78%	234	25.05%	23.65%
	Officer	2	8.70%	6.52%	23	2.46%	3.55%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.21%	0.49%
	Cadet/Midshipman	0	0.00%	0.00%	4	0.43%	0.12%
COMPONENT	Regular	23	100.00%	82.61%	869	93.04%	95.35%
	Reserve	0	0.00%	4.35%	18	1.93%	2.69%
	National Guard	0	0.00%	13.04%	19	2.03%	1.71%
	Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	5	0.54%	0.24%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.21%	0.86%
	GED	2	8.70%	10.87%	42	4.50%	7.10%
	High school graduate	14	60.87%	41.30%	395	42.29%	46.39%
	Some college or technical school	4	17.39%	19.57%	269	28.80%	24.60%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	2	8.70%	8.70%	53	5.67%	4.77%

**TABLE 3.26. CY 2011 DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)**

MARITAL STATUS	Four-year college degree	0	0.00%	6.52%	31	3.32%	4.41%
	Master's degree or greater	0	0.00%	4.35%	12	1.28%	1.71%
	Don't Know	1	4.35%	8.70%	107	11.46%	10.16%
	Never Married	8	34.78%	34.78%	382	40.90%	42.59%
	Married	12	52.17%	58.70%	393	42.08%	41.25%
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	4.35%	28	3.00%	4.77%
	Divorced	3	13.04%	2.17%	77	8.24%	8.81%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.11%	0.12%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	30	3.21%	2.45%

**Note:** Ethnicity data not reported prior to 2011.

## Event Setting

As indicated in Table 3.27, suicide attempts occurred primarily in the Service Members' barracks ( $n = 20$ , 86.96%).

**TABLE 3.27. CY 2011 DODSER EVENT SETTING FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

EVENT SETTING		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
	Residence (own) or barracks	20	86.96%	86.96%	717	76.77%	79.93%
	Residence of friend or family	0	0.00%	0.00%	46	4.93%	4.04%
	Work/jobsite	3	13.04%	8.70%	27	2.89%	2.94%
	Automobile (away from residence)	0	0.00%	2.17%	46	4.93%	4.65%
	Inpatient medical facility	0	0.00%	0.00%	8	0.86%	0.73%
	Other	0	0.00%	2.17%	67	7.17%	7.47%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.24%

## Event Method

As indicated in Table 3.28, drugs were the most frequent method for suicide attempt ( $n = 12$ , 52.17%), followed by use of military issue firearm ( $n = 9$ , 39.13%).

TABLE 3.28. CY 2011 DODSER EVENT METHOD FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

EVENT METHOD		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	0	0.00%	0.00%	44	4.71%	2.82%
	Firearm, military issue	9	39.13%	30.43%	6	0.64%	0.37%
	Hanging	1	4.35%	6.52%	86	9.21%	8.45%
	Drugs	12	52.17%	54.35%	547	58.57%	57.65%
	Alcohol	0	0.00%	0.00%	32	3.43%	4.04%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	0	0.00%	0.00%	20	2.14%	1.22%
	Gas, utility (or other)	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.21%	0.61%
	Drowning	0	0.00%	0.00%	17	1.82%	0.61%
	Fire, steam, etc.	0	0.00%	0.00%	4	0.43%	0.24%
	Sharp or blunt object	0	0.00%	6.52%	0	0.00%	14.57%
	Jumping from high place	1	4.35%	0.00%	111	11.88%	2.69%
	Lying in front of moving object	0	0.00%	0.00%	10	1.07%	0.49%
	Crashing a motor vehicle	0	0.00%	0.00%	4	0.43%	1.47%
	Chemicals	0	0.00%	2.17%	12	1.28%	1.10%
	Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	11	1.18%	2.20%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	5	0.54%	1.47%

### Substance Use During the Event

As summarized in Table 3.29, of deployed Service Members for whom information was available, none had used alcohol during the event. Twelve deployed Service Members (52.17%) were known to have used drugs during their suicide attempts; the misuse of prescription ( $n = 6$ , 26.09%) and over-the-counter medication ( $n = 6$ , 26.09%) were the most frequent.

**TABLE 3.29. CY 2011 DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	292	31.26%	35.01%
	No	22	95.65%	95.65%	483	51.71%	52.63%
	Don't Know	1	4.35%	2.17%	136	14.56%	12.36%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	12	52.17%	58.70%	587	62.85%	62.30%
	No	11	47.83%	39.13%	271	29.01%	32.19%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	2.17%	53	5.67%	5.51%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	3	13.04%	0.00%	49	5.25%	5.75%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	2.17%	20	2.14%	2.57%
	Were not used	20	86.96%	95.65%	786	84.15%	86.17%
	Don't know	0	0.00%	2.17%	56	6.00%	5.51%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	6	26.09%	36.96%	376	40.26%	40.51%
	Used, no overdose	1	4.35%	4.35%	64	6.85%	7.34%
	Were not used	16	69.57%	56.52%	416	44.54%	46.63%
	Don't know	0	0.00%	2.17%	55	5.89%	5.51%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	6	26.09%	21.74%	173	18.52%	16.28%
	Used, no overdose	1	4.35%	0.00%	27	2.89%	4.16%
	Were not used	16	69.57%	76.09%	656	70.24%	74.05%
	Don't know	0	0.00%	2.17%	55	5.89%	5.51%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	184	19.70%	22.77%
	No	22	95.65%	95.65%	573	61.35%	62.67%
	Don't Know	1	4.35%	2.17%	154	16.49%	14.57%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Communication of Intent

DoDSER POCs indicated that prior to suicide attempts, most deployed Service Members did not communicate their potential for self-harm with others ( $n = 18$ , 78.26%; Table 3.30). Five Service Members (21.74%) were known to have communicated their intent to hurt themselves to at least one individual. These communications were most frequently verbal ( $n = 2$ , 8.70%) or written ( $n = 2$ , 8.70%; Table 3.31). As indicated in Table 3.32, Service Members most frequently communicated potential for self-harm with their friends ( $n = 3$ , 13.04%) or spouses ( $n = 2$ , 8.70%).

**TABLE 3.30. CY 2011 DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	18	78.26%	80.43%	691	73.98%	77.85%
	1	4	17.39%	13.04%	176	18.84%	17.50%
	2	1	4.35%	4.35%	29	3.10%	3.67%
	3	0	0.00%	2.17%	13	1.39%	0.86%
	4	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.21%	0.12%

**TABLE 3.31. CY 2011 DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	2	8.70%	13.04%	127	13.60%	16.77%
	Written	2	8.70%	2.17%	44	4.71%	2.69%
	Other or Unknown	1	4.35%	4.35%	32	3.43%	1.84%
	Multiple Modes	0	0.00%	0.00%	17	1.82%	0.86%
	No Known Communication	18	78.26%	80.43%	691	73.98%	77.85%

**Note:** Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

**TABLE 3.32. CY 2011 DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	2	8.70%	6.52%	75	8.03%	5.26%
	Friend	3	13.04%	2.17%	69	7.39%	4.77%
	Behavioral Health Provider	0	0.00%	0.00%	33	3.53%	2.45%
	Chaplain	0	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.21%	0.24%
	Supervisor	1	4.35%	4.35%	34	3.64%	1.47%
	Other or Unidentified	0	0.00%	0.00%	57	6.10%	3.30%
	Made Multiple Communications	1	4.35%	6.52%	44	4.71%	4.65%
	No Known Communication	18	78.26%	80.43%	691	73.98%	77.85%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 3.33 provides information about other details of 2011 OEF and OND suicide attempts. There was information to indicate that the majority of Service Members intended to die ( $n = 16$ , 69.57%). Over one-third of suicide attempts ( $n = 9$ , 39.13%) appeared planned or premeditated. Ten suicide attempts (43.48%) took place in a location potentially observable by others. Three Service Members (13.04%) left suicide notes.

**TABLE 3.33. CY 2011 DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	16	69.57%	76.09%	572	61.24%	71.97%
	No	4	17.39%	4.35%	145	15.52%	12.36%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	19.57%	194	20.77%	15.67%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	12	1.28%	1.10%
	No	21	91.30%	91.30%	834	89.29%	90.58%
	Don't Know	2	8.70%	8.70%	65	6.96%	8.32%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	9	39.13%	26.09%	230	24.63%	27.17%
	No	11	47.83%	41.30%	518	55.46%	50.18%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	32.61%	163	17.45%	22.64%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	10	43.48%	39.13%	356	38.12%	41.00%
	No	9	39.13%	43.48%	410	43.90%	41.98%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	17.39%	145	15.52%	17.01%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	3	13.04%	17.39%	99	10.60%	10.77%
	No	15	65.22%	58.70%	711	76.12%	71.85%
	Don't Know	5	21.74%	23.91%	101	10.81%	17.38%

## Suicide Attempts by Month

No clear pattern was evident for suicide attempts by month (Table 3.34).

**TABLE 3.34. CY 2011 DODSER SUICIDE EVENTS BY MONTH FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

MONTH		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
	January	2	8.70%	8.70%	85	9.10%	9.42%
	February	5	21.74%	8.70%	88	9.42%	7.83%
	March	2	8.70%	6.52%	88	9.42%	6.61%
	April	3	13.04%	8.70%	92	9.85%	8.20%
	May	2	8.70%	10.87%	57	6.10%	8.45%
	June	5	21.74%	2.17%	57	6.10%	10.04%
	July	1	4.35%	2.17%	74	7.92%	8.94%
	August	0	0.00%	19.57%	87	9.31%	7.47%
	September	3	13.04%	8.70%	66	7.07%	8.69%
	October	0	0.00%	2.17%	71	7.60%	9.18%
	November	0	0.00%	6.52%	87	9.31%	8.20%
	December	0	0.00%	15.22%	59	6.32%	6.98%

## Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

### Prior Self-Injury

As indicated in Table 3.35, suicide attempt DoDSERs for nearly one-fourth of deployed Service Members included a known history of prior self-harm ( $n = 5$ , 21.74%), and one (4.35%) included history of self-harm within the month prior to attempting suicide. Of those DoDSERs for suicide attempts with prior history of self-harm, one (20.00%, 4.35% of total) had more than one prior event. For three Service Members (13.04%), their suicide attempts were similar to their prior self-harm events.

**TABLE 3.35. CY 2011 DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	5	21.74%	26.09%	263	28.16%	27.91%
	Within 30 days	1	4.35%	6.52%	43	4.60%	6.00%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	4.35%	6.52%	85	9.10%	10.40%
	No	13	56.52%	63.04%	547	58.57%	58.51%
	Don't Know	5	21.74%	10.87%	101	10.81%	13.59%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	4	17.39%	13.04%	128	13.70%	12.24%
	More than one prior event	1	4.35%	13.04%	135	14.45%	15.67%
	N/A or Unknown	18	78.26%	73.91%	648	69.38%	72.09%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	3	13.04%	13.04%	132	14.13%	15.54%
	No	2	8.70%	13.04%	114	12.21%	9.06%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	17	1.82%	3.30%
	N/A	18	78.26%	73.91%	648	69.38%	72.09%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

## Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide attempt. DoDSERs for fifteen deployed Service Member suicide attempts (65.22%) included the history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 3.36). Four DoDSERs (17.39%) included at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Tables 3.37 and 3.38, three DoDSERs (13.04%) included a diagnosis of mood disorder, and five (21.74%) included an anxiety disorder. As summarized in Table 3.39, two DoDSERs (8.70%) included a known history of substance abuse.

**TABLE 3.36. CY 2011 DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	8	34.78%	47.83%	322	34.48%	35.62%
	1 DX	11	47.83%	19.57%	269	28.80%	26.81%
	2 DX	3	13.04%	23.91%	162	17.34%	19.34%
	3 DX	1	4.35%	8.70%	90	9.64%	10.77%
	4 or more DX	0	0.00%	0.00%	68	7.28%	7.47%

**TABLE 3.37. CY 2011 DODSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	3	13.04%	19.57%	319	34.15%	40.02%
	No	16	69.57%	71.74%	511	54.71%	50.92%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	8.70%	81	8.67%	9.06%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	33	3.53%	2.57%
	No	3	13.04%	86.96%	286	30.62%	84.09%
	Don't Know	20	86.96%	13.04%	592	63.38%	13.34%
Major depression	Yes	2	8.70%	6.52%	192	20.56%	18.36%
	No	1	4.35%	80.43%	127	13.60%	69.89%
	Don't Know	20	86.96%	13.04%	592	63.38%	11.75%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	29	3.10%	1.96%
	No	3	13.04%	86.96%	290	31.05%	84.82%
	Don't Know	20	86.96%	13.04%	592	63.38%	13.22%
Other mood disorder	Yes	1	4.35%	6.52%	89	9.53%	6.73%
	No	2	8.70%	80.43%	230	24.63%	79.80%
	Don't Know	20	86.96%	13.04%	592	63.38%	13.46%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	6.52%	25	2.68%	4.53%
	No	19	82.61%	84.78%	805	86.19%	86.41%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	8.70%	81	8.67%	9.06%

**TABLE 3.37. CY 2011 DODSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)**

Multiple mood DX	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	28	3.00%	5.88%
	No	19	82.61%	91.30%	810	86.72%	85.07%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	8.70%	73	7.82%	9.06%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 3.38. CY 2011 DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS-**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	5	21.74%	19.57%	236	25.27%	26.44%
	No	14	60.87%	69.57%	597	63.92%	63.65%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	10.87%	78	8.35%	9.91%
PTSD	Yes	1	4.35%	4.35%	114	12.21%	8.32%
	No	4	17.39%	84.78%	122	13.06%	80.05%
	Don't Know	18	78.26%	10.87%	675	72.27%	11.63%
Panic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	16	1.71%	1.35%
	No	5	21.74%	86.96%	220	23.55%	86.29%
	Don't Know	18	78.26%	13.04%	675	72.27%	12.36%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	1	4.35%	0.00%	53	5.67%	2.94%
	No	4	17.39%	89.13%	183	19.59%	84.46%
	Don't Know	18	78.26%	10.87%	675	72.27%	12.61%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	9	0.96%	0.12%
	No	5	21.74%	86.96%	227	24.30%	87.27%
	Don't Know	18	78.26%	13.04%	675	72.27%	12.61%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	4	17.39%	13.04%	87	9.31%	5.39%
	No	15	65.22%	73.91%	746	79.87%	82.50%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	13.04%	78	8.35%	12.12%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	12	1.28%	2.08%
	No	19	82.61%	89.13%	821	87.90%	88.00%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	10.87%	78	8.35%	9.91%

**TABLE 3.38. CY 2011 DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)**

Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	1	4.35%	2.17%	46	4.93%	6.24%
	No	4	17.39%	86.96%	190	20.34%	83.84%
	Don't Know	18	78.26%	10.87%	675	72.27%	9.91%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 3.39. CY 2011 DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS-**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	6.52%	58	6.21%	7.34%
	No	19	82.61%	80.43%	768	82.23%	80.42%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	13.04%	85	9.10%	12.24%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	9	0.96%	1.22%
	No	20	86.96%	86.96%	823	88.12%	88.37%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	10.87%	79	8.46%	10.40%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	2	8.70%	17.39%	254	27.19%	23.75%
	No	15	65.22%	71.74%	543	58.14%	63.89%
	Don't Know	6	26.09%	10.87%	114	12.21%	12.36%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	36	3.85%	2.45%
	No	20	86.96%	89.13%	789	84.48%	85.31%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	8.70%	86	9.21%	12.24%

## Treatment History

Table 3.40 provides data on Service Members' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to attempting suicide. These data should be interpreted with caution, as treatment available to deployed Service Members differs from treatment available in other locations. Over one-third of DoDSERs for deployed Service Members ( $n = 9$ , 39.13%) included the history of some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), seven (30.43%) within the month prior to attempting suicide. Four DoDSERs (17.39%) included a known physical health problem. Six DoDSERs (26.09%) included a history of chaplain services, four of these (17.39%) within the month prior to the suicide attempt. Most DoDSERs for deployed

Service Members included history of outpatient behavioral health services ( $n = 15$ , 65.22%), over one-half within the month prior to attempting suicide ( $n = 8$ , 34.78%). Four DoDSERs (17.39%) included history of hospitalization at an inpatient psychiatry unit.

**TABLE 3.40. CY 2011 DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011	2010		2011	2010	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	9	39.13%	32.61%	590	63.17%	53.73%
	Within 30 days	7	30.43%	10.87%	409	43.79%	36.96%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	9	39.13%	17.39%	500	53.53%	47.12%
	No	7	30.43%	56.52%	260	27.84%	36.72%
	Don't Know	7	30.43%	10.87%	61	6.53%	9.55%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	4	17.39%	17.39%	223	23.88%	22.28%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	4.35%	136	14.56%	13.22%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	4.35%	6.52%	167	17.88%	17.14%
	No	17	73.91%	71.74%	576	61.67%	66.46%
	Don't Know	2	8.70%	10.87%	112	11.99%	11.26%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	1	4.35%	2.17%	167	17.88%	20.69%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	0.00%	100	10.71%	9.30%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	0.00%	116	12.42%	13.59%
	No	19	82.61%	91.30%	665	71.20%	70.99%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	6.52%	79	8.46%	8.32%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	92	9.85%	6.98%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	0.00%	41	4.39%	2.82%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	0.00%	53	5.67%	4.04%
	No	19	82.61%	91.30%	705	75.48%	81.03%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	6.52%	114	12.21%	12.00%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	6	26.09%	21.74%	110	11.78%	10.04%
	Within 30 days	4	17.39%	8.70%	67	7.17%	5.02%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	6	26.09%	15.22%	85	9.10%	6.98%
	No	10	43.48%	58.70%	547	58.57%	59.98%
	Don't Know	7	30.43%	19.57%	254	27.19%	29.99%

**TABLE 3.40. CY 2011 DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)**

OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	15	65.22%	60.87%	555	59.42%	63.28%
	Within 30 days	8	34.78%	36.96%	381	40.79%	44.55%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	13	56.52%	50.00%	451	48.29%	51.90%
	No	5	21.74%	36.96%	303	32.44%	31.46%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	2.17%	53	5.67%	5.26%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	4	17.39%	6.52%	229	24.52%	22.64%
	Within 30 days	3	13.04%	0.00%	92	9.85%	8.32%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	13.04%	2.17%	147	15.74%	13.59%
	No	17	73.91%	91.30%	632	67.67%	70.50%
	Don't Know	2	8.70%	2.17%	50	5.35%	6.85%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

As indicated in Table 3.41, nearly one-half of DoDSERs for deployed Service Members who attempted suicide ( $n = 11$ , 47.83%) included known prescriptions for psychotropic medication prior to the suicide attempt. The most frequent prescriptions were for antidepressants ( $n = 10$ , 43.48%).

**TABLE 3.41. CY 2011 DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	11	47.83%	50.00%	389	41.65%	46.14%
	No	9	39.13%	45.65%	444	47.54%	44.31%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	4.35%	78	8.35%	9.55%
Antidepressants	Yes	10	43.48%	34.78%	332	35.55%	38.31%
	No	10	43.48%	56.52%	492	52.68%	50.31%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	8.70%	87	9.31%	11.38%
Antianxiety	Yes	4	17.39%	13.04%	166	17.77%	19.09%
	No	14	60.87%	76.09%	640	68.52%	66.71%
	Don't Know	5	21.74%	10.87%	105	11.24%	14.20%
Antimanics	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	21	2.25%	2.82%
	No	20	86.96%	89.13%	785	84.05%	82.25%

**TABLE 3.41. CY 2011 DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)**

Anticonvulsants	Don't Know	3	13.04%	10.87%	105	11.24%	14.93%
	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	18	1.93%	2.82%
	No	20	86.96%	89.13%	786	84.15%	82.25%
Antipsychotics	Don't Know	3	13.04%	10.87%	107	11.46%	14.93%
	Yes	1	4.35%	4.35%	69	7.39%	7.96%
	No	19	82.61%	84.78%	738	79.01%	77.36%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	10.87%	104	11.13%	14.69%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories and interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

### Family and Relationship History

A large number of DoDSERs for deployed Service Members who attempted suicide included a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship ( $n = 10$ , 43.48%), with seven (30.43%) indicating the failure occurred within the month prior to attempting suicide (Table 3.42). Eight DoDSERs (34.78%) indicated a failure in another important relationship, with all of these occurring within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

**TABLE 3.42. CY 2011 DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO EVENT FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	10	43.48%	58.70%	477	51.07%	53.24%
	Within 30 days	7	30.43%	43.48%	299	32.01%	32.19%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	7	30.43%	50.00%	372	39.83%	39.78%
	No	10	43.48%	36.96%	338	36.19%	37.58%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	4.35%	96	10.28%	9.18%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	8	34.78%	17.39%	159	17.02%	14.57%
	Within 30 days	8	34.78%	13.04%	94	10.06%	7.83%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	8	34.78%	13.04%	114	12.21%	10.28%

**TABLE 3.42. CY 2011 DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO EVENT FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)**

	No	12	52.17%	63.04%	606	64.88%	67.44%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	19.57%	146	15.63%	17.99%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	11	47.83%	65.22%	527	56.42%	53.24%
	Within 30 days	8	34.78%	47.83%	315	33.73%	35.62%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	8	34.78%	54.35%	390	41.76%	42.96%
	No	9	39.13%	30.43%	292	31.26%	37.58%
	Don't Know	2	8.70%	4.35%	80	8.57%	9.18%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 3.43 summarizes other family and relationship factors. Two DoDSERs (8.70%) indicated a history of loss of a friend to suicide. Three DoDSERs (13.04%) included a death of a family member by means other than suicide, and three (13.04%) included a non-suicide death of a friend. One DoDSER for a deployed Service Member (4.35%) included a significant physical health problem for a family member, and four DoDSERs (17.39%) indicated a behavioral health problem for a family member.

**TABLE 3.43. CY 2011 DODSER FAMILY HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011	2010		2011	2010	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	3	0.32%	0.24%
	No	23	100.00%	93.48%	825	88.33%	91.92%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	6.52%	83	8.89%	7.83%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	10.87%	60	6.42%	6.36%
	No	21	91.30%	73.91%	730	78.16%	80.05%
	Don't Know	2	8.70%	15.22%	121	12.96%	13.59%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	2	8.70%	8.70%	72	7.71%	6.85%
	No	18	78.26%	76.09%	696	74.52%	76.74%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	15.22%	143	15.31%	16.40%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	3	13.04%	4.35%	145	15.52%	14.93%
	No	18	78.26%	78.26%	638	68.31%	70.01%
	Don't Know	2	8.70%	17.39%	128	13.70%	15.06%

**TABLE 3.43. CY 2011 DODSER FAMILY HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)**

HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	3	13.04%	10.87%	86	9.21%	8.81%
	No	15	65.22%	71.74%	679	72.70%	74.91%
	Don't Know	5	21.74%	17.39%	146	15.63%	16.28%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	1	4.35%	10.87%	105	11.24%	8.20%
	No	18	78.26%	71.74%	671	71.84%	76.62%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	17.39%	135	14.45%	15.18%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	4	17.39%	36.96%	288	30.84%	31.82%
	No	14	60.87%	45.65%	452	48.39%	48.59%
	Don't Know	5	21.74%	17.39%	171	18.31%	19.58%

## Administrative and Legal History

As summarized in Table 3.44, over one-fourth of DoDSERs for deployed Service Members who attempted suicide included at least one administrative or legal issue ( $n = 7$ , 30.43%), and two (8.70%) included more than one issue. The most frequent administrative or legal problems were Article 15 proceedings or non-judicial punishment ( $n = 4$ , 17.39%), civil legal problems ( $n = 3$ , 13.04%), and non-selection for advancement ( $n = 2$ , 8.70%).

**TABLE 3.44. CY 2011 DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	32	3.43%	3.18%
	No	20	86.96%	86.96%	768	82.23%	84.09%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	10.87%	111	11.88%	12.73%
HX ARTICLE 15 OR NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	4	17.39%	23.91%	171	18.31%	17.01%
	No	13	56.52%	65.22%	627	67.13%	68.67%
	Don't Know	6	26.09%	10.87%	113	12.10%	14.32%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	80	8.57%	10.89%
	No	18	78.26%	86.96%	712	76.23%	76.25%
	Don't Know	5	21.74%	10.87%	119	12.74%	12.85%

**TABLE 3.44. CY 2011 DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)**

HX AWOL	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	44	4.71%	6.36%
	No	18	78.26%	86.96%	761	81.48%	82.50%
	Don't Know	5	21.74%	10.87%	106	11.35%	11.14%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	125	13.38%	8.57%
	No	19	82.61%	86.96%	698	74.73%	81.03%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	10.87%	88	9.42%	10.40%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	3	13.04%	8.70%	64	6.85%	10.28%
	No	16	69.57%	73.91%	718	76.87%	74.42%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	17.39%	129	13.81%	15.30%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	2	8.70%	6.52%	41	4.39%	5.39%
	No	15	65.22%	73.91%	715	76.55%	77.23%
	Don't Know	6	26.09%	19.57%	155	16.60%	17.38%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	7	30.43%	34.78%	360	38.54%	39.78%
	No	10	43.48%	54.35%	434	46.47%	48.35%
	Don't Know	6	26.09%	10.87%	117	12.53%	11.87%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	2	8.70%	13.04%	140	14.99%	14.44%
	No	15	65.22%	54.35%	654	70.02%	44.80%
	Don't Know	6	26.09%	32.61%	117	12.53%	40.76%

## Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 3.45). DoDSERs for deployed Service Members who attempted suicide included an alleged history of physical abuse ( $n = 4$ , 17.39%), sexual abuse ( $n = 2$ , 8.70%), emotional abuse ( $n = 3$ , 13.04%), and sexual harassment ( $n = 1$ , 4.35%). One DoDSER (4.35%) included an alleged history of perpetration of physical abuse, and one included alleged perpetration of sexual harassment (4.35%).

**TABLE 3.45. CY 2011 DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011		2010	2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	4	17.39%	19.57%	197	21.09%	19.83%
	No	16	69.57%	56.52%	568	60.81%	66.34%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	23.91%	146	15.63%	13.83%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	2	8.70%	19.57%	163	17.45%	15.54%
	No	18	78.26%	60.87%	608	65.10%	70.01%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	19.57%	140	14.99%	14.44%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	3	13.04%	23.91%	208	22.27%	23.01%
	No	16	69.57%	52.17%	548	58.67%	62.42%
	Don't Know	4	17.39%	23.91%	155	16.60%	14.57%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	4.35%	4.35%	34	3.64%	3.55%
	No	16	69.57%	71.74%	711	76.12%	79.56%
	Don't Know	6	26.09%	23.91%	166	17.77%	16.89%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	1	4.35%	2.17%	56	6.00%	5.14%
	No	19	82.61%	78.26%	711	76.12%	79.07%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	19.57%	144	15.42%	15.79%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	14	1.50%	1.59%
	No	20	86.96%	78.26%	750	80.30%	82.74%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	19.57%	147	15.74%	15.67%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	27	2.89%	3.18%
	No	20	86.96%	80.43%	730	78.16%	80.54%
	Don't Know	3	13.04%	19.57%	154	16.49%	16.28%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	4.35%	0.00%	7	0.75%	0.49%
	No	20	86.96%	80.43%	754	80.73%	83.35%
	Don't Know	2	8.70%	19.57%	150	16.06%	16.16%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 3.46). The most frequent responses on DoDSERs for deployed Service Members who attempted suicide indicated history of interpersonal problems with job loss or instability ( $n = 13$ , 56.52%), issues with supervisors or coworkers ( $n = 11$ , 47.83%), poor work evaluations ( $n = 4$ , 17.39%), unit or workplace hazing ( $n = 2$ , 8.70%), and excessive debt ( $n = 1$ , 4.35%).

**TABLE 3.46. CY 2011 DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011	2010		2011	2010	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	1	4.35%	13.04%	122	13.06%	9.79%
	No	17	73.91%	63.04%	619	66.27%	71.11%
	Don't Know	5	21.74%	23.91%	170	18.20%	19.09%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	13	56.52%	36.96%	277	29.66%	31.58%
	No	9	39.13%	54.35%	494	52.89%	53.98%
	Don't Know	1	4.35%	8.70%	140	14.99%	14.44%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	11	47.83%	41.30%	218	23.34%	22.89%
	No	10	43.48%	45.65%	534	57.17%	59.00%
	Don't Know	2	8.70%	13.04%	159	17.02%	18.12%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	4	17.39%	17.39%	126	13.49%	15.06%
	No	13	56.52%	65.22%	608	65.10%	64.99%
	Don't Know	6	26.09%	17.39%	177	18.95%	19.95%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	2	8.70%	6.52%	48	5.14%	4.53%
	No	14	60.87%	71.74%	690	73.88%	74.66%
	Don't Know	7	30.43%	21.74%	173	18.52%	20.81%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

## Deployment and Combat History

The data in this section include the Service Members' prior deployments as well as the deployment during which their suicide attempts took place. Twenty suicide attempts occurred in Afghanistan (86.96%) and three occurred in Iraq (13.04%; Table 3.47). Seven DoDSERs (30.43%) included experiences of direct combat (Table 3.49).

**TABLE 3.47. CY 2011 DODSERS SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011	2010		2011	2010	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	20	86.96%	43.48%	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Iraq	3	13.04%	56.52%	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Not OEF/OND	0	0.00%	0.00%	911	97.54%	100.00%

**TABLE 3.48. CY 2011 DODSER DEPLOYMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011	2010		2011	2010	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF/OND	Afghanistan	20	86.96%	28.26%	130	13.92%	6.49%
	Iraq	3	13.04%	50.00%	171	18.31%	26.19%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	14	1.50%	1.10%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	0	0.00%	21.74%	4	0.43%	3.67%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	0	0.00%	0.00%	592	63.38%	62.55%

**TABLE 3.49. CY 2011 DODSER COMBAT HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		OEF/OND			Other		
		2011	2010		2011	2010	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	7	30.43%	13.04%	151	16.17%	13.95%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	3	13.04%	6.52%	99	10.60%	8.20%
	Injured in combat	2	8.70%	4.35%	48	5.14%	3.92%

**TABLE 3.49. CY 2011 DODSER COMBAT HISTORY FOR OEF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)**

Witnessed killing in combat	<b>3</b>	<b>13.04%</b>	6.52%	<b>96</b>	<b>10.28%</b>	8.69%
Saw dead bodies in combat	<b>4</b>	<b>17.39%</b>	8.70%	<b>99</b>	<b>10.60%</b>	8.94%
Killed others in combat	<b>1</b>	<b>4.35%</b>	4.35%	<b>57</b>	<b>6.10%</b>	5.26%
NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	<b>16</b>	<b>69.57%</b>	86.96%	<b>760</b>	<b>81.37%</b>	86.05%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Summary

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This chapter provides data on suicides and suicide attempts that occurred during OEF and OND deployments in 2011. Data are presented for 29 Service Members who died by suicide and for 23 Service Members who attempted suicide in 23 separate incidents. Decedents and those who attempted suicide were primarily male, Caucasian, non-Hispanic or Latino, under age twenty-five, junior enlisted, Regular component, and without a college degree.

The most frequent method for suicide was military-issue firearm use. Suicide attempt methods were most frequently drug overdose and use of military issue firearm. Drug and alcohol use during suicide events was less frequent among deployed Service Members compared to non-deployed Service Members. The majority of Service Members who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated with others about the intent to harm themselves.

Service Members with nonfatal suicide events had more known behavioral health disorders but similar behavioral health treatment usage prior to the event. Service Members who attempted suicide had higher prevalence of prior abuse victimization. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Service Members with suicide events. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was Article 15 proceedings or non-judicial punishment.

## CHAPTER 4: AIR FORCE DoDSER

### AIR FORCE RESULTS FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

#### Air Force DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance

##### 2011 Reported Suicides

Forty-six Air Force suicides were confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2011 (Table 4.1). Air Force Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports (DoDSERs) were submitted and analyzed for all 46 confirmed suicides for a submission compliance rate of 100%. The tables in this section include data for all decedents. In addition, the tables provide percentages for 2010 and 2009 DoDSER data for comparison. Specific counts for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

**TABLE 4.1. AIR FORCE AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DODSERS SUBMITTED**

	2011	2010	2009	2008
Total DoDSERs Included in Annual Report	46	59	43	35
Total AFMES Confirmed and Pending Suicides	50	60	43	45
AFMES Confirmed Suicides (By 31 January)	46	59	43	45
DoDSER Submission Compliance	100%	100%	100%	78%

Data from 1/1/2009 through 12/31/2011 as of 4/26/2012 for CY 2011; as of 1 April for previous years

#### Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have been associated with or contributed to the suicide events. These factors include decedents' demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

##### Demographics

Table 4.2 contains demographic data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). All but four of the 50 Air Force 2011 suicides were completed by males. Decedents were primarily Caucasian ( $n = 34$ , 68.00%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 49$ , 98.00%), over age twenty-five ( $n = 25$ , 54.35%), E5 and above ( $n = 24$ , 52.17%), Regular component ( $n = 42$ , 84.00%), and without a college degree ( $n = 34$ , 68.00%).

**TABLE 4.2 CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR AIR FORCE SUICIDES**

		2011				2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Service Total %	Rate/100K	(N = 59) Percent	(N = 46) Percent
TOTAL		50	100.00%	100.00%	13.27	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	46	92.00%	80.77%	15.11	96.61%	95.65%
	Female	4	8.00%	19.23%	*	3.39%	4.35%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	2	4.00%	0.67%	*	1.69%	4.35%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	1	2.00%	3.73%	*	1.69%	2.17%
	Black/African American	8	16.00%	13.72%	*	13.56%	10.87%
	White/Caucasian	34	68.00%	73.10%	12.34	77.97%	78.26%
	Other/Don't Know	5	10.00%	8.78%	*	1.69%	4.35%
ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino	1	2.00%	4.80%	*		
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	49	98.00%	95.20%	13.86		
AGE RANGE	Under 25	21	42.00%	30.52%	18.26	33.90%	36.96%
	25-29	12	24.00%	24.67%	*	27.12%	23.91%
	30-34	2	4.00%	16.77%	*	8.47%	17.39%
	35-39	9	18.00%	12.94%	*	23.73%	4.35%
	40-44	4	8.00%	9.03%	*	5.08%	8.70%
	45+	2	4.00%	6.08%	*	1.69%	8.70%
RANK	Cadet	0	0.00%	1.20%	*	1.69%	0.00%
	E1-E4	22	44.00%	33.17%	17.60	40.68%	45.65%
	E5-E9	22	44.00%	46.09%	12.67	52.54%	43.48%
	Officer	6	12.00%	19.55%	*	5.08%	10.87%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00%	0.00%
COMPONENT	Regular	42	84.00%	88.46%	13.27	89.83%	89.13%
	Reserve	3	6.00%	3.74%	*	0.00%	6.52%
	National Guard	5	10.00%	7.80%	*	10.17%	4.35%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	0	0.00%	0.08%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	GED	0	0.00%	0.03%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	High school graduate	32	64.00%	52.83%	16.07	71.19%	76.09%
	Some college or technical school	2	4.00%	0.04%	*	10.17%	2.17%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	7	14.00%	19.85%	*	8.47%	8.70%
	Four-year college degree	6	12.00%	12.67%	*	8.47%	0.00%
	Master's degree or greater	3	6.00%	12.69%	*	0.00%	8.70%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	1.82%	*	1.69%	4.35%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	17	34.00%	34.01%	*	30.51%	30.43%
	Married	30	60.00%	7.22%	13.57	57.63%	56.52%
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	0.01%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Divorced	3	6.00%	58.67%	*	10.17%	13.04%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.09%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	1.69%	0.00%

**Note:** Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals. "DoD Total %" column reflects population-level DMDC data for all Active Duty and Activated or Deployed Reserves. Ethnicity data not reported prior to 2011.

## Event Setting

As in the previous three years, Air Force suicides most frequently took place in the United States ( $n = 38$ , 82.61%). Two suicides occurred during deployment to Afghanistan (4.35%), and one occurred during deployment to Iraq (2.17%; Table 4.3). Suicides occurred primarily in the Service Members' own residences ( $n = 33$ , 71.74%; Table 4.4).

**TABLE 4.3. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
	United States	38	82.61%	88.14%	89.13%
	Iraq	1	2.17%	0.00%	2.17%
	Afghanistan	2	4.35%	1.69%	2.17%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.17%
	Asia	1	2.17%	5.08%	2.17%
	Europe	0	0.00%	1.69%	2.17%
	Other	4	8.70%	3.39%	0.00%

**TABLE 4.4. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER EVENT SETTING**

EVENT SETTING		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
	Residence (own) or barracks	33	71.74%	67.80%	67.39%
	Residence of friend or family	1	2.17%	11.86%	4.35%
	Work/jobsite	5	10.87%	5.08%	0.00%
	Automobile (away from residence)	1	2.17%	6.78%	6.52%
	Inpatient medical facility	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	6	13.04%	8.47%	21.74%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

## Event Method

As indicated in Table 4.5, approximately one-half of 2011 Air Force suicides involved non-military issue firearms ( $n = 27$ , 58.70%). Hanging ( $n = 9$ , 19.57%) and use of a military issue firearm ( $n = 6$ , 13.04%) were the other primary suicide methods.

**TABLE 4.5. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER EVENT METHOD**

EVENT METHOD		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
	Firearm, non-military issue	27	58.70%	50.85%	54.35%
	Firearm, military issue	6	13.04%	6.78%	10.87%
	Hanging	9	19.57%	33.90%	17.39%
	Drugs	0	0.00%	3.39%	2.17%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	1	2.17%	1.69%	0.00%
	Gas, utility (or other)	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.17%
	Sharp or blunt object	0	0.00%	0.00%	4.35%

**TABLE 4.5. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER EVENT METHOD (CONT.)**

Jumping from high place	1	2.17%	0.00%	2.17%
Crashing a motor vehicle	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other	2	4.35%	0.00%	2.17%
Don't Know	0	0.00%	3.39%	4.35%

## Substance Use during the Event

Comprehensive information about substance use during suicide was unavailable for many Air Force suicides in 2011. Of those for whom information was available, almost one-third were known to have used alcohol during the suicide event ( $n = 10$ , 37.04% of DoDSERs with alcohol use data, 21.74% of total; Table 4.6). Fewer were known to have used drugs ( $n = 3$ , 13.64% of DoDSERs with drug use data, 6.52% of total).

**TABLE 4.6. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	10	21.74%	16.95%	36.96%
	No	17	36.96%	40.68%	17.39%
	Don't Know	19	41.30%	42.37%	45.65%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	3	6.52%	8.47%	13.04%
	No	19	41.30%	54.24%	41.30%
	Don't Know	24	52.17%	37.29%	45.65%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	1.69%	0.00%
	Were not used	22	47.83%	61.02%	54.35%
	Don't know	24	52.17%	37.29%	45.65%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	1.69%	2.17%
	Used, no overdose	1	2.17%	5.08%	2.17%
	Were not used	21	45.65%	55.93%	50.00%
	Don't know	24	52.17%	37.29%	45.65%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	1	2.17%	0.00%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	1	2.17%	0.00%	8.70%
	Were not used	20	43.48%	62.71%	45.65%
	Don't know	24	52.17%	37.29%	45.65%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	1	2.17%	1.69%	13.04%
	No	21	45.65%	50.85%	39.13%
	Don't Know	24	52.17%	47.46%	47.83%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Communication of Intent

Consistent with the previous three years, most Air Force decedents had no known history of communicating their intent to harm themselves ( $n = 30$ , 65.22%; Table 4.7). Approximately one-third of Airmen were known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their potential to die by suicide ( $n = 16$ , 34.78%).

The most frequent mode of communication was verbal ( $n = 9$ , 19.57%). As indicated in Table 4.9, decedents most frequently communicated with their spouses ( $n = 7$ , 15.22%) and friends ( $n = 5$ , 10.87%).

**TABLE 4.7. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	30	65.22%	61.02%	73.91%
	1	13	28.26%	37.29%	13.04%
	2	1	2.17%	1.69%	6.52%
	3	2	4.35%	0.00%	6.52%

**TABLE 4.8. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	9	19.57%	23.73%	13.04%
	Written	4	8.70%	1.69%	2.17%
	Other or Unknown	1	2.17%	8.47%	2.17%
	Multiple Modes	2	4.35%	5.08%	8.70%
	No Known Communication	30	65.22%	61.02%	73.91%

**Note:** Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

**TABLE 4.9. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	7	15.22%	13.56%	4.35%
	Friend	5	10.87%	5.08%	0.00%
	Behavioral Health Provider	1	2.17%	6.78%	0.00%
	Chaplain	1	2.17%	0.00%	0.00%
	Supervisor	2	4.35%	1.69%	0.00%
	Other or Unidentified	4	8.70%	10.17%	8.70%
	Made Multiple Communications	3	6.52%	1.69%	13.04%
	No Known Communication	30	65.22%	61.02%	73.91%

**Note:** Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 4.10 provides information about other details of 2011 Air Force suicides. There was information to indicate that the majority of decedents ( $n = 32$ , 69.57%) intended to die. Approximately one-fourth of the suicides appeared to be premeditated ( $n = 13$ , 28.26%). Ten Air Force decedents (21.74%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others. Nine Service Members (19.57%) left suicide notes.

**TABLE 4.10. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	32	69.57%	81.36%	71.74%
	No	5	10.87%	3.39%	4.35%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	15.25%	23.91%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	46	100.00%	88.14%	71.74%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	11.86%	28.26%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	13	28.26%	47.46%	30.43%
	No	30	65.22%	33.90%	21.74%
	Don't Know	3	6.52%	18.64%	47.83%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	10	21.74%	25.42%	19.57%
	No	31	67.39%	64.41%	54.35%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	10.17%	26.09%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	9	19.57%	40.68%	23.91%
	No	26	56.52%	40.68%	47.83%
	Don't Know	11	23.91%	18.64%	28.26%

## Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation, and duty environment.

### Situational Factors

Table 4.11 provides details about the living situations for Airmen who died by suicide in 2011. Decedents most frequently lived in homes or apartments outside of their installations ( $n = 29$ , 63.04%). Eight lived in shared living environments on their installations (17.39%). Of those who were married ( $n = 25$ ), most lived with their spouses ( $n = 19$ , 76.00% of married, 41.30% of total), and six were separated or apart for other reasons (24.00% of married, 13.05% of total). Approximately one-half of decedents lived alone ( $n = 22$ , 47.83%). Twenty (43.48%) Air Force decedents had minor children and 12 (26.09%) lived with their children at the time of death. Over one-half of decedents had access to firearms either in their homes or other accessible locations ( $n = 28$ , 60.87%).

**TABLE 4.11. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	8	17.39%	22.03%	17.39%
	Bachelor quarters	3	6.52%	0.00%	0.00%
	On-base family housing	3	6.52%	3.39%	6.52%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	29	63.04%	67.80%	65.22%
	Other	3	6.52%	3.39%	6.52%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	3.39%	4.35%

**TABLE 4.11. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)**

MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resided with spouse	19	41.30%	40.68%	34.78%
	Separated due to relationship issues	4	8.70%	6.78%	4.35%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	2	4.35%	1.69%	4.35%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	1.69%	8.70%
	Unmarried at time of event	20	43.48%	49.15%	47.83%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	22	47.83%	40.68%	43.48%
	No	23	50.00%	55.93%	43.48%
	Don't Know	1	2.17%	3.39%	13.04%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	20	43.48%	45.76%	39.13%
	No	25	54.35%	54.24%	60.87%
	Don't Know	1	2.17%	0.00%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	12	26.09%	27.12%	23.91%
	No	8	17.39%	16.95%	10.87%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	1.69%	4.35%
	No Children	25	54.35%	54.24%	60.87%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	28	60.87%	45.76%	45.65%
	No	16	34.78%	38.98%	28.26%
	Don't Know	2	4.35%	15.25%	26.09%

## Duty Environment

Consistent with the previous three years, the primary duty environment of decedents was their permanent duty station ( $n = 33$ , 71.74%; Table 4.12).

**TABLE 4.12. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	33	71.74%	66.10%	60.87%
	Leave	4	8.70%	0.00%	0.00%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	0	0.00%	6.78%	6.52%
	Medical Hold	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.17%
	TDY	1	2.17%	1.69%	0.00%
	AWOL	3	6.52%	1.69%	0.00%
	Deployed	3	6.52%	1.69%	4.35%
	Training	2	4.35%	1.69%	0.00%
	Other	4	8.70%	8.47%	8.70%
	Multiple Duty Environments	6	13.04%	1.69%	10.87%
	Duty Environment Unknown	2	4.35%	10.17%	6.52%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Suicide Completions by Month

As in the previous three years, no clear pattern existed for Air Force suicides by month (Table 4.13).

**TABLE 4.13. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER SUICIDES BY MONTH**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MONTH	January	6	13.04%	8.47%	6.52%
	February	6	13.04%	5.08%	13.04%
	March	2	4.35%	8.47%	0.00%
	April	4	8.70%	8.47%	13.04%
	May	5	10.87%	11.86%	4.35%
	June	4	8.70%	3.39%	8.70%
	July	6	13.04%	11.86%	8.70%
	August	2	4.35%	5.08%	6.52%
	September	3	6.52%	6.78%	10.87%
	October	2	4.35%	15.25%	13.04%
	November	3	6.52%	6.78%	8.70%
	December	3	6.52%	8.47%	6.52%

## Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

### Prior Self-Injury

Eight Airmen who died by suicide in 2011 (17.39%) had a known history of self-harm (Table 4.14), and five decedents (10.87%) were known to have at least two prior incidents of self-harm.

**TABLE 4.14. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	8	17.39%	15.25%	19.57%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	0.00%	4.35%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	1.69%	6.52%
	No	25	54.35%	64.41%	47.83%
	Don't Know	13	28.26%	20.34%	32.61%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	3	6.52%	8.47%	15.22%
	More than one prior event	5	10.87%	6.78%	4.35%
	N/A or Unknown	38	82.61%	84.75%	80.43%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	2	4.35%	3.39%	0.00%
	No	5	10.87%	10.17%	10.87%
	Don't Know	1	2.17%	1.69%	8.70%
	N/A	38	82.61%	84.75%	80.43%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

## Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death. Nineteen (41.30%) Airmen who died by suicide in 2011 had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 4.15). Eight (17.39%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 4.16, thirteen decedents (28.26%) had a mood disorder; the most frequent diagnosis was major depression ( $n = 8$ , 17.39%). As summarized in Table 4.17, five (10.87%) had an anxiety disorder, including PTSD ( $n = 2$ , 4.35%) and generalized anxiety disorder ( $n = 1$ , 2.17%). Personality disorders were rare ( $n = 1$ , 2.17%), as were psychotic disorders ( $n = 1$ , 2.17%; Table 4.18). No decedents were known to have a history of traumatic brain injury, and six (13.04%) had a known history of substance abuse.

**TABLE 4.15. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	27	58.70%	54.24%	60.87%
	1 DX	11	23.91%	22.03%	15.22%
	2 DX	5	10.87%	13.56%	19.57%
	3 DX	3	6.52%	10.17%	4.35%
	4 or more DX	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

**TABLE 4.16. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER MOOD DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	13	28.26%	15.25%	28.26%
	No	27	58.70%	76.27%	54.35%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	17.39%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	1	2.17%	0.00%	2.17%
	No	39	84.78%	91.53%	78.26%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	19.57%
Major depression	Yes	8	17.39%	3.39%	8.70%
	No	32	69.57%	88.14%	69.57%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	21.74%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	1.69%	2.17%
	No	40	86.96%	89.83%	73.91%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	23.91%
Other mood disorder	Yes	3	6.52%	10.17%	15.22%
	No	37	80.43%	81.36%	65.22%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	19.57%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	3	6.52%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	37	80.43%	91.53%	82.61%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	17.39%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	2	4.35%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	38	82.61%	91.53%	82.61%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	17.39%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 4.17. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	5	10.87%	15.25%	23.91%
	No	35	76.09%	77.97%	56.52%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	6.78%	19.57%
PTSD	Yes	2	4.35%	3.39%	4.35%
	No	38	82.61%	88.14%	71.74%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	23.91%
Panic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	3.39%	0.00%
	No	40	86.96%	88.14%	76.09%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	23.91%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	1	2.17%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	39	84.78%	91.53%	76.09%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	23.91%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	40	86.96%	91.53%	76.09%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	23.91%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	1	2.17%	1.69%	15.22%
	No	39	84.78%	89.83%	63.04%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	21.74%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	2	4.35%	5.08%	4.35%
	No	38	82.61%	88.14%	76.09%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	6.78%	19.57%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	1	2.17%	1.69%	0.00%
	No	39	84.78%	91.53%	80.43%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	6.78%	19.57%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 4.18. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	1	2.17%	3.39%	4.35%
	No	39	84.78%	88.14%	71.74%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	23.91%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	1	2.17%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	39	84.78%	91.53%	80.43%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	8.47%	19.57%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	6	13.04%	18.64%	13.04%
	No	30	65.22%	69.49%	56.52%
	Don't Know	10	21.74%	11.86%	30.43%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	0	0.00%	1.69%	
	No	40	86.96%	88.14%	
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	10.17%	

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

## Treatment History

Table 4.19 provides data on Air Force suicide decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. The majority ( $n = 32$ , 69.57%) had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Sixteen decedents (34.78%) were treated at a MTF within one month of their suicides. Eleven Airmen (23.91%) had a known history of a physical health problem, and five decedents (10.87%) had received physical health diagnoses within the month prior to suicide.

Eight Air Force decedents (17.39%) received substance abuse treatment services, and four (8.70%) received help from family advocacy programs. Only one Airman (2.17%) utilized chaplain services. Seventeen of the decedents (36.96%) had received outpatient behavioral health treatment; six (35.29%, 13.04% of total) had received treatment within the month prior to suicide. Eight Airmen (17.39%) received inpatient behavioral health treatment, three of whom (37.50%, 6.52% of total) had been treated during the month prior to suicide.

**TABLE 4.19. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	32	69.57%	62.71%	60.87%
	Within 30 days	16	34.78%	44.07%	32.61%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	28	60.87%	52.54%	43.48%
	No	10	21.74%	25.42%	15.22%
	Don't Know	4	8.70%	11.86%	23.91%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	11	23.91%	15.25%	34.78%
	Within 30 days	5	10.87%	8.47%	13.04%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	7	15.22%	11.86%	17.39%
	No	28	60.87%	62.71%	36.96%
	Don't Know	7	15.22%	22.03%	28.26%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	8	17.39%	22.03%	21.74%
	Within 30 days	1	2.17%	6.78%	10.87%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	2	4.35%	8.47%	10.87%
	No	34	73.91%	71.19%	60.87%
	Don't Know	4	8.70%	6.78%	17.39%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	4	8.70%	11.86%	6.52%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	2.17%	5.08%	2.17%
	No	38	82.61%	81.36%	71.74%
	Don't Know	4	8.70%	6.78%	21.74%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	1	2.17%	10.17%	10.87%
	Within 30 days	1	2.17%	6.78%	4.35%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	2.17%	8.47%	6.52%
	No	17	36.96%	44.07%	23.91%
	Don't Know	28	60.87%	45.76%	65.22%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	17	36.96%	44.07%	39.13%
	Within 30 days	6	13.04%	18.64%	21.74%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	9	19.57%	28.81%	23.91%
	No	25	54.35%	49.15%	45.65%

**TABLE 4.19. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)**

INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Don't Know	4	8.70%	6.78%	15.22%
	Yes	8	17.39%	13.56%	17.39%
	Within 30 days	3	6.52%	6.78%	0.00%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	6.52%	6.78%	2.17%
	No	33	71.74%	77.97%	60.87%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	8.47%	21.74%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 4.20 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by decedents prior to suicide. Eleven decedents (23.91%) had known prescriptions for psychotropic medications, most frequently antidepressants ( $n = 9$ , 19.57%).

**TABLE 4.20. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	11	23.91%	23.73%	21.74%
	No	25	54.35%	62.71%	54.35%
	Don't Know	10	21.74%	13.56%	23.91%
Antidepressants	Yes	9	19.57%	22.03%	21.74%
	No	27	58.70%	64.41%	54.35%
	Don't Know	10	21.74%	13.56%	23.91%
Antianxiety	Yes	6	13.04%	11.86%	6.52%
	No	30	65.22%	72.88%	67.39%
	Don't Know	10	21.74%	15.25%	26.09%
Antimanic	Yes	0	0.00%	3.39%	0.00%
	No	36	78.26%	81.36%	73.91%
	Don't Know	10	21.74%	15.25%	26.09%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	1	2.17%	0.00%	2.17%
	No	35	76.09%	86.44%	71.74%
	Don't Know	10	21.74%	13.56%	26.09%
Antipsychotics	Yes	3	6.52%	5.08%	4.35%
	No	33	71.74%	81.36%	71.74%
	Don't Know	10	21.74%	13.56%	23.91%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories and interpersonal relationships, legal, financial, administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

## Family and Relationship History

Almost one-half of the 2011 Air Force DoDSERs ( $n = 21$ , 45.65%) indicated a history of a failed intimate relationship; three (14.29%, 6.52% of total) also reported failure of another important relationship. Twelve (57.14%, 26.09% of total) decedents experienced a failed relationship during the month prior to suicide.

**TABLE 4.21. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	21	45.65%	50.85%	56.52%
	Within 30 days	12	26.09%	37.29%	23.91%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	14	30.43%	38.98%	32.61%
	No	15	32.61%	35.59%	23.91%
	Don't Know	10	21.74%	13.56%	19.57%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	3	6.52%	22.03%	6.52%
	Within 30 days	1	2.17%	10.17%	4.35%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	2.17%	11.86%	4.35%
	No	25	54.35%	52.54%	47.83%
	Don't Know	18	39.13%	25.42%	45.65%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	21	45.65%	54.24%	56.52%
	Within 30 days	12	26.09%	38.98%	23.91%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	14	30.43%	40.68%	32.61%
	No	15	32.61%	32.20%	23.91%
	Don't Know	10	21.74%	13.56%	19.57%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 4.22 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may be associated with the suicide. Seven Air Force decedents (15.22%) were known to have had a family member with behavioral health problems, and six (13.04%) had experienced the death of a family member by suicide. Four decedents (8.70%) were known to have experienced the death of a family member by means other than suicide.

**TABLE 4.22. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER FAMILY HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	42	91.30%	83.05%	76.09%
	Don't Know	4	8.70%	16.95%	23.91%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	6	13.04%	0.00%	6.52%
	No	29	63.04%	74.58%	50.00%
	Don't Know	11	23.91%	25.42%	43.48%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	3.39%	4.35%
	No	32	69.57%	67.80%	41.30%
	Don't Know	14	30.43%	28.81%	54.35%

**TABLE 4.22. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER FAMILY HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	4	8.70%	13.56%	6.52%
	No	30	65.22%	59.32%	36.96%
	Don't Know	12	26.09%	27.12%	56.52%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	1	2.17%	1.69%	2.17%
	No	33	71.74%	67.80%	39.13%
	Don't Know	12	26.09%	30.51%	58.70%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	1	2.17%	3.39%	4.35%
	No	30	65.22%	69.49%	45.65%
	Don't Know	15	32.61%	27.12%	50.00%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	7	15.22%	16.95%	15.22%
	No	18	39.13%	45.76%	30.43%
	Don't Know	21	45.65%	37.29%	54.35%

## Administrative and Legal History

Ten Airmen who died by suicide in 2011 (21.74%) had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and four (8.70%) had more than one issue (Table 4.23). The most frequent administrative or legal issue was Article 15 proceedings ( $n = 5$ , 10.87%), followed by civil legal problems ( $n = 4$ , 8.70%).

**TABLE 4.23. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	0	0.00%	6.78%	4.35%
	No	40	86.96%	74.58%	71.74%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	18.64%	23.91%
HX ARTICLE 15	Yes	5	10.87%	15.25%	10.87%
	No	36	78.26%	66.10%	60.87%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	18.64%	28.26%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	2	4.35%	6.78%	2.17%
	No	38	82.61%	77.97%	71.74%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	15.25%	26.09%
HX AWOL	Yes	2	4.35%	3.39%	2.17%
	No	39	84.78%	79.66%	71.74%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	16.95%	26.09%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	3	6.52%	6.78%	8.70%
	No	37	80.43%	77.97%	71.74%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	15.25%	19.57%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	4	8.70%	13.56%	15.22%
	No	33	71.74%	66.10%	52.17%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	20.34%	32.61%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	0	0.00%	3.39%	10.87%
	No	38	82.61%	77.97%	56.52%
	Don't Know	8	17.39%	18.64%	32.61%

**TABLE 4.23. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY (CONT.)**

HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	10	21.74%	33.90%	32.61%
	No	31	67.39%	47.46%	41.30%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	18.64%	26.09%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	4	8.70%	18.64%	17.39%
	No	37	80.43%	45.76%	41.30%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	35.59%	41.30%

## Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both reported abuse victimization and reported abuse perpetration (Table 4.24). Two Air Force suicide decedents (4.35%) were reportedly victims of physical abuse, and four (8.70%) were reportedly victims of sexual abuse. None of the decedents were reportedly victims of emotional abuse or sexual harassment. Reported frequencies of perpetration of abuse were low among Air Force decedents, with two (4.35%) reports each for physical and sexual abuse perpetration, and one (2.17%) report each for emotional abuse and sexual harassment perpetration.

**TABLE 4.24. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	2	4.35%	8.47%	4.35%
	No	35	76.09%	71.19%	65.22%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	20.34%	30.43%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	4	8.70%	1.69%	2.17%
	No	36	78.26%	76.27%	67.39%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	22.03%	30.43%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	8.47%	6.52%
	No	37	80.43%	71.19%	63.04%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	20.34%	30.43%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	38	82.61%	79.66%	65.22%
	Don't Know	8	17.39%	20.34%	34.78%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	2	4.35%	10.17%	10.87%
	No	35	76.09%	71.19%	50.00%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	18.64%	39.13%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	2	4.35%	5.08%	4.35%
	No	38	82.61%	77.97%	54.35%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	16.95%	41.30%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	1	2.17%	3.39%	0.00%
	No	36	78.26%	79.66%	54.35%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	16.95%	45.65%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	2.17%	0.00%	2.17%
	No	38	82.61%	83.05%	54.35%
	Don't Know	7	15.22%	16.95%	43.48%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 4.25). Two Airmen (4.35%) who died by suicide in 2011 had experienced significant debt. Ten decedents (21.74%) either had lost a position or experienced job instability. Six Airmen (13.04%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with their supervisors or coworkers and five airmen (10.87%) had received poor work evaluations.

**TABLE 4.25. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	2	4.35%	10.17%	8.70%
	No	29	63.04%	67.80%	54.35%
	Don't Know	15	32.61%	22.03%	36.96%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	10	21.74%	13.56%	30.43%
	No	30	65.22%	71.19%	41.30%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	15.25%	28.26%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	6	13.04%	10.17%	8.70%
	No	33	71.74%	71.19%	56.52%
	Don't Know	7	15.22%	18.64%	34.78%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	5	10.87%	10.17%	15.22%
	No	34	73.91%	71.19%	54.35%
	Don't Know	7	15.22%	18.64%	30.43%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	0	0.00%	1.69%	0.00%
	No	38	82.61%	76.27%	63.04%
	Don't Know	8	17.39%	22.03%	36.96%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

## Deployment and Combat History

Two Airmen died by suicide while deployed in Afghanistan (4.35%) and one occurred while deployed in Iraq (2.17%, Table 4.26). Nine of the Airmen who died by suicide in 2011 (19.57%) had previously served in OEF, OIF, or OND locations (Table 4.27). One decedent (2.17%) was known to have had direct combat experience, but was not injured and did not witness combat-related killing (Table 4.28).

**TABLE 4.26. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER SUICIDES IN THEATER**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	2	4.35%	1.69%	2.17%
	Iraq	1	2.17%	0.00%	2.17%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.17%
	Not OEF/OND	43	93.48%	98.31%	93.48%

**TABLE 4.27. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF/OND	Afghanistan	2	4.35%	10.17%	8.70%
	Iraq	4	8.70%	11.86%	13.04%
	Kuwait	1	2.17%	0.00%	4.35%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	2	4.35%	1.69%	2.17%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	37	80.43%	76.27%	71.74%

**TABLE 4.28. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 AIR FORCE DODSER COMBAT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	1	2.17%	5.08%	6.52%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	0	0.00%	3.39%	4.35%
	Injured in combat	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.17%
	Witnessed killing in combat	0	0.00%	3.39%	4.35%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	0	0.00%	3.39%	2.17%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	45	97.83%	94.92%	93.48%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## AIR FORCE DODSERS SUBMITTED FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

DoDSER POCs submitted 251 DoDSERs for 2011 Air Force suicide attempts. As indicated in Table 4.29, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 241 individuals. Two attempts were reported (DoDSERs submitted) for 8 (3.29%) individuals, and three attempts were reported by 1 individual. The tables in this section use a denominator of 243. Percentages for 2010 DoDSER data are provided for comparison. Specific suicide attempt count data for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

**TABLE 4.29. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSERS**

		Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs		251	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED		241	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL	1	232	96.27%
	2	8	3.32%
	3	1	0.41%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2011 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE		0	0.00%

## Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with or contributed to the suicide attempts. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide attempt method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

### Demographics

Table 4.30 contains DoDSER demographic data for Airmen who attempted suicide in 2011. Airmen who attempted suicide were most often male ( $n = 161$ , 64.14%), Caucasian ( $n = 178$ , 70.92%), under age twenty-five ( $n = 131$ , 52.19%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 231$ , 92.03%), junior enlisted ( $n = 158$ , 62.95%), Regular component ( $n = 241$ , 96.02%), and without a college education ( $n = 192$ , 76.50%).

**TABLE 4.30. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
TOTAL		251	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	161	64.14%	63.49%
	Female	90	35.86%	36.51%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	3	1.20%	0.41%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	8	3.19%	1.66%
	Black/African American	46	18.33%	15.35%
	White/Caucasian	178	70.92%	74.69%
	Other/Don't Know	16	6.37%	7.88%
ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino	20	7.97%	
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	231	92.03%	

**TABLE 4.30. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS (CONT.)**

AGE RANGE	Under 25	131	52.19%	56.43%
	25-29	63	25.10%	23.65%
	30-39	49	19.52%	16.18%
	40 +	8	3.19%	3.73%
RANK	E1-E4	158	62.95%	64.58%
	E5-E9	82	32.67%	30.00%
	Officer	9	3.59%	5.00%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	0.42%
	Cadet/Midshipman	3	1.20%	0.00%
COMPONENT	Regular	241	96.02%	97.50%
	Reserve	4	1.59%	0.83%
	National Guard	2	0.80%	1.25%
	Other	4	1.59%	0.42%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	1	0.40%	0.42%
	GED	1	0.40%	0.42%
	High school graduate	101	40.24%	40.42%
	Some college or technical school	89	35.46%	36.25%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	30	11.95%	6.25%
	Four-year college degree	8	3.19%	5.83%
	Master's degree or greater	2	0.80%	2.92%
	Don't Know	19	7.57%	7.50%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	104	41.43%	47.30%
	Married	102	40.64%	36.93%
	Legally Separated	8	3.19%	4.15%
	Divorced	32	12.75%	10.37%
	Widowed	1	0.40%	0.00%
	Don't Know	4	1.59%	1.24%

**Note:** Ethnicity data unavailable prior to 2011.

## Event Setting

The most frequent location for Air Force suicide attempts was in the United States ( $n = 223$ , 88.84%), followed by Asian countries other than Iraq and Afghanistan ( $n = 10$ , 3.98%; Table 4.31). As indicated in Table 4.32, suicide attempts primarily occurred in the Service Members' residences ( $n = 197$ , 78.49%). The most frequent "Other" settings include parks or nature reserves ( $n = 5$ , 1.99%), hotels ( $n = 3$ , 1.20%), and on base ( $n = 3$ , 1.20%).

**TABLE 4.31. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	United States	223	88.84%	78.84%
	Iraq	2	0.80%	0.41%
	Afghanistan	4	1.59%	0.83%
	Asia	10	3.98%	7.88%
	Europe	7	2.79%	9.13%
	Canada or Mexico	1	0.40%	0.41%
	Other	1	0.40%	1.66%
	Don't Know	3	1.20%	0.83%

**TABLE 4.32. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT SETTING**

EVENT SETTING		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	Residence (own) or barracks	197	78.49%	81.74%
	Residence of friend or family	17	6.77%	3.32%
	Work/jobsite	6	2.39%	1.66%
	Automobile (away from residence)	10	3.98%	2.49%
	Inpatient medical facility	1	0.40%	0.00%
	Other	20	7.97%	9.96%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.83%

## Event Method

As indicated in Table 4.33, drug use was the most frequent method for suicide attempt ( $n = 148$ , 58.96%), followed by injury with a sharp or blunt object ( $n = 41$ , 16.33%).

**TABLE 4.33. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT METHOD**

EVENT METHOD		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	Firearm, non-military issue	12	4.78%	1.66%
	Firearm, military issue	1	0.40%	0.00%
	Hanging	23	9.16%	7.05%
	Drugs	148	58.96%	60.17%
	Alcohol	6	2.39%	5.39%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	3	1.20%	1.24%
	Gas, utility (or other)	0	0.00%	0.83%
	Chemicals	4	1.59%	0.00%
	Drowning	3	1.20%	1.24%
	Fire, steam, etc.	0	0.00%	0.41%
	Sharp or blunt object	41	16.33%	15.77%
	Jumping from high place	2	0.80%	2.49%
	Lying in front of moving object	3	1.20%	0.41%

**TABLE 4.33. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT METHOD (CONT.)**

Crashing a motor vehicle	2	0.80%	0.83%
Other	2	0.80%	0.83%
Don't Know	1	0.40%	1.66%

## Substance Use during the Event

DoDSER POCs collected data on known alcohol and drug use during Air Force suicide attempts. As indicated in Table 4.34, 78 Air Force suicide attempt DoDSERs (31.08%) included evidence of alcohol use, and 158 (62.95%) included evidence of drug use during the suicide attempt. Forty-six DoDSERs (18.33%) included information about both drugs and alcohol. These frequencies include Airmen who used drugs as a suicide attempt method ( $n = 148$ , 58.96%), as described above.

**TABLE 4.34. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	78	31.08%	40.25%
	No	144	57.37%	53.11%
	Don't Know	29	11.55%	6.64%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	158	62.95%	65.15%
	No	82	32.67%	31.54%
	Don't Know	11	4.38%	3.32%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	9	3.59%	4.56%
	Used, no overdose	8	3.19%	2.49%
	Were not used	223	88.84%	89.63%
	Don't know	11	4.38%	3.32%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	96	38.25%	42.74%
	Used, no overdose	20	7.97%	7.88%
	Were not used	124	49.40%	46.06%
	Don't know	11	4.38%	3.32%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	49	19.52%	18.26%
	Used, no overdose	8	3.19%	6.22%
	Were not used	183	72.91%	72.20%
	Don't know	11	4.38%	3.32%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	46	18.33%	26.56%
	No	172	68.53%	65.15%
	Don't Know	33	13.15%	8.30%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Communication of Intent

Most DoDSERs for Air Force suicide attempts included no known history of Airmen communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ( $n = 190$ , 75.70%; Table 4.35). Approximately one-fourth of DoDSERs ( $n = 61$ , 24.30%) indicated that Airmen had communicated their intent to hurt themselves to at least one individual prior to attempting suicide. These communications were most frequently verbal ( $n = 35$ , 57.38%, 13.94% of

total; Table 4.36). As indicated in Table 4.37, Airmen most frequently communicated with their spouses ( $n = 17$ , 27.87%, 6.77% of total) or friends ( $n = 16$ , 26.23%, 6.37% of total).

**TABLE 4.35. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	190	75.70%	69.71%
	1	49	19.52%	23.24%
	2	11	4.38%	5.81%
	3	1	0.40%	1.24%
	4	0	0.00%	0.00%

**TABLE 4.36. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	35	13.94%	24.07%
	Written	13	5.18%	2.07%
	Other or Unknown	9	3.59%	2.90%
	Multiple Modes	4	1.59%	1.24%
	No Known Communication	190	75.70%	69.71%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

**TABLE 4.37. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	17	6.77%	6.22%
	Friend	16	6.37%	6.22%
	Behavioral Health Provider	6	2.39%	3.32%
	Chaplain	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Supervisor	12	4.78%	2.49%
	Other or Unidentified	20	7.97%	4.98%
	Made Multiple Communications	12	4.78%	7.05%
	No Known Communication	190	75.70%	69.71%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 4.38 provides information about other details of 2011 Air Force suicide attempts. There was information to indicate that the majority of the Airmen ( $n = 162$ , 64.54%) had intended to die. Approximately one-fourth of suicide attempts ( $n = 60$ , 23.90%) appeared planned or premeditated. One hundred two suicide attempts (40.64%) took place in a location potentially observable by others, and 30 (11.95%) left suicide notes.

**TABLE 4.38. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	162	64.54%	70.12%
	No	43	17.13%	14.11%
	Don't Know	46	18.33%	15.77%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	1	0.40%	0.83%
	No	243	96.81%	93.36%
	Don't Know	7	2.79%	5.81%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	60	23.90%	25.31%
	No	146	58.17%	53.53%
	Don't Know	45	17.93%	21.16%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	102	40.64%	41.08%
	No	111	44.22%	44.81%
	Don't Know	38	15.14%	14.11%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	30	11.95%	12.86%
	No	196	78.09%	74.27%
	Don't Know	25	9.96%	12.86%

## Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

### Situational Factors

Table 4.39 provides details about the living situations of Airmen who attempted suicide in 2011. Most DoDSERs indicated that the Airmen lived in homes or apartments outside of their installations ( $n = 128$ , 51.00%), while 73 (29.08%) lived in shared living environments on their installations. Married Airmen ( $n = 102$ ) most often lived with their spouses at the time of their suicide attempts ( $n = 57$ , 55.88% of married Airmen, 22.71% of total), and 27 were separated due to relationship issues (26.47% of married Airmen, 10.76% of total). About one-third of Airmen had minor children ( $n = 86$ , 34.26%), and most resided with their children at the time of the suicide attempt ( $n = 50$ , 58.14% of Airmen with children, 19.92% of total). Twenty-two (8.76%) Airmen were known to have had access to firearms either in their homes or in other accessible locations.

**TABLE 4.39. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	73	29.08%	33.61%
	Bachelor quarters	8	3.19%	3.73%
	On-base family housing	28	11.16%	7.88%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	128	51.00%	43.57%
	Other	10	3.98%	3.73%
	Don't Know	4	1.59%	7.47%

**TABLE 4.39. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)**

MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resides with spouse	57	22.71%	21.16%
	Separated due to relationship issues	27	10.76%	7.05%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	16	6.37%	4.15%
	Don't Know	2	0.80%	4.56%
	Unmarried at time of event	149	59.36%	63.07%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	126	50.20%	48.55%
	No	117	46.61%	43.57%
	Don't Know	8	3.19%	7.88%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	86	34.26%	24.07%
	No	161	64.14%	75.93%
	Don't Know	4	1.59%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	50	19.92%	13.28%
	No	33	13.15%	9.54%
	Don't Know	7	2.79%	1.24%
	No Children	161	64.14%	75.93%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	22	8.76%	9.96%
	No	190	75.70%	75.52%
	Don't Know	39	15.54%	14.52%

## Duty Environment

The primary duty environment for Airmen who attempted suicide was their permanent duty station ( $n = 167$ , 66.53%; Table 4.40). Other environments with higher frequencies of suicide attempts included training ( $n = 17$ , 6.77%), leave ( $n = 14$ , 5.58%), and medical hold ( $n = 11$ , 4.38%).

**TABLE 4.40. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	167	66.53%	76.76%
	Leave	14	5.58%	0.00%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	4	1.59%	1.66%
	Medical Hold	11	4.38%	0.41%
	TDY	1	0.40%	0.41%
	AWOL	2	0.80%	0.00%
	Under Command Observation	4	1.59%	0.00%
	Deployed	5	1.99%	2.07%
	Training	17	6.77%	2.07%
	Other	12	4.78%	4.15%
	Multiple Duty Environments	17	6.77%	2.90%
	Duty Environment Unknown	32	12.75%	9.54%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Suicide Attempts by Month

No clear pattern was evident for Air Force suicide attempts by month (Table 4.41).

**TABLE 4.41. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH**

MONTH		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	January	20	7.97%	7.05%
	February	23	9.16%	5.81%
	March	20	7.97%	5.81%
	April	28	11.16%	9.13%
	May	20	7.97%	9.54%
	June	18	7.17%	8.30%
	July	21	8.37%	9.96%
	August	24	9.56%	8.71%
	September	12	4.78%	13.28%
	October	24	9.56%	10.79%
	November	26	10.36%	6.64%
	December	15	5.98%	4.98%

## Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

### Prior Self-Injury

As summarized in Table 4.42, approximately one-third of DoDSERs included evidence of prior history of self-harm ( $n = 78$ , 31.08%), and 13 (5.18%) in the month prior to the attempt. DoDSERs indicated that Airmen had harmed themselves during the month prior to attempting suicide. Of those with a prior history of self-harm, 36 (46.15%, 14.34% of total) had more than one prior event. Thirty-nine DoDSERs (15.54%) indicated that the suicide attempts were similar to prior self-harm events.

**TABLE 4.42. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	78	31.08%	26.97%
	Within 30 days	13	5.18%	7.47%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	30	11.95%	12.86%
	No	162	64.54%	63.90%
	Don't Know	11	4.38%	9.13%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	42	16.73%	13.69%
	More than one prior event	36	14.34%	13.28%

**TABLE 4.42. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY (CONT.)**

	N/A or Unknown	<b>173</b>	<b>68.92%</b>	73.03%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	<b>39</b>	<b>15.54%</b>	16.60%
	No	<b>35</b>	<b>13.94%</b>	7.88%
	Don't Know	<b>4</b>	<b>1.59%</b>	2.49%
	N/A	<b>173</b>	<b>68.92%</b>	73.03%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

## Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about the history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide attempt. One hundred seventy Airmen who attempted suicide (67.73%) had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 4.43). Seventy-nine (31.47%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 4.44, 109 Airmen (43.43%) had a diagnosis of any mood disorder, most frequently major depressive disorder ( $n = 56$ , 54.90%, 22.31% of total). One hundred two Airmen (40.64%) had a diagnosis of an anxiety disorder; the most frequent were of unspecified type ( $n = 52$ , 75.36%, 20.72% of total; Table 4.45). Table 4.46 summarizes the data regarding other behavioral health diagnoses. Seventeen Airmen (6.77%) were known to have a personality disorder, 58 Airmen (23.11%) had a known history of substance abuse, 6 Airmen (2.39%) had a known traumatic brain injury, and 3 (1.20%) had a diagnosis of psychotic disorder.

**TABLE 4.43. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	<b>81</b>	<b>32.27%</b>	33.20%
	1 DX	<b>91</b>	<b>36.25%</b>	29.46%
	2 DX	<b>56</b>	<b>22.31%</b>	18.26%
	3 DX	<b>17</b>	<b>6.77%</b>	10.79%
	4 or more DX	<b>6</b>	<b>2.39%</b>	8.30%

**TABLE 4.44. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	<b>109</b>	<b>43.43%</b>	42.32%
	No	<b>133</b>	<b>52.99%</b>	53.94%
	Don't Know	<b>9</b>	<b>3.59%</b>	3.73%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	<b>12</b>	<b>4.78%</b>	2.90%
	No	<b>230</b>	<b>91.63%</b>	91.70%
	Don't Know	<b>9</b>	<b>3.59%</b>	5.39%
Major depression	Yes	<b>56</b>	<b>22.31%</b>	16.60%
	No	<b>186</b>	<b>74.10%</b>	78.84%
	Don't Know	<b>9</b>	<b>3.59%</b>	4.56%

**TABLE 4.44. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS (CONT.)**

Dysthymic disorder	Yes	14	5.58%	2.07%
	No	228	90.84%	92.12%
	Don't Know	9	3.59%	5.81%
Other mood disorder	Yes	39	15.54%	6.22%
	No	203	80.88%	88.38%
	Don't Know	9	3.59%	5.39%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	10	3.98%	6.22%
	No	232	92.43%	90.04%
	Don't Know	9	3.59%	3.73%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	10	3.98%	8.30%
	No	232	92.43%	87.97%
	Don't Know	9	3.59%	3.73%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 4.45. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	102	40.64%	29.46%
	No	132	52.59%	65.98%
	Don't Know	17	6.77%	4.56%
PTSD	Yes	23	9.16%	7.05%
	No	211	84.06%	87.97%
	Don't Know	17	6.77%	4.98%
Panic disorder	Yes	3	1.20%	2.07%
	No	231	92.03%	92.95%
	Don't Know	17	6.77%	4.98%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	14	5.58%	3.73%
	No	220	87.65%	91.29%
	Don't Know	17	6.77%	4.98%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	3	1.20%	0.00%
	No	231	92.03%	95.02%
	Don't Know	17	6.77%	4.98%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	17	6.77%	4.98%
	No	217	86.45%	90.04%
	Don't Know	17	6.77%	4.98%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	52	20.72%	2.49%
	No	182	72.51%	92.95%
	Don't Know	17	6.77%	4.56%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	9	3.59%	9.13%
	No	225	89.64%	86.31%
	Don't Know	17	6.77%	4.56%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 4.46. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	17	6.77%	8.71%
	No	223	88.84%	84.65%
	Don't Know	11	4.38%	6.64%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	3	1.20%	0.00%
	No	241	96.02%	95.44%
	Don't Know	7	2.79%	4.56%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	58	23.11%	21.99%
	No	180	71.71%	68.88%
	Don't Know	13	5.18%	9.13%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	6	2.39%	0.41%
	No	232	92.43%	89.21%
	Don't Know	13	5.18%	10.37%

## Treatment History

Table 4.47 provides data on use of medical and behavioral health treatment by Airmen prior to suicide attempts. The majority of Air Force suicide attempt DoDSERs ( $n = 188$ , 74.90%) included a history of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), 137 (72.87%, 54.58% of total) within the month prior to attempting suicide. Seventy-one DoDSERs (28.29%) included a known physical health problem. Most DoDSERs reported use of outpatient behavioral health services ( $n = 169$ , 67.33%), over one-half within the month prior to attempting suicide ( $n = 116$ , 68.64%, 46.22% of total). Seventy DoDSERs (27.89%) indicated that the Airmen had previously been hospitalized at an inpatient psychiatry unit, 35 (50.00%, 13.94% of total) within the month prior to the suicide attempt. Approximately one-fifth of DoDSERs ( $n = 49$ , 19.52%) included previous substance abuse treatment.

**TABLE 4.47. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	188	74.90%	64.73%
	Within 30 days	137	54.58%	45.23%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	167	66.53%	58.09%
	No	51	20.32%	23.65%
	Don't Know	12	4.78%	11.62%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	71	28.29%	28.22%
	Within 30 days	39	15.54%	16.60%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	50	19.92%	21.58%
	No	163	64.94%	61.83%
	Don't Know	17	6.77%	9.96%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	49	19.52%	23.65%
	Within 30 days	27	10.76%	11.62%

**TABLE 4.47. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)**

FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	34	13.55%	16.18%
	No	197	78.49%	73.44%
	Don't Know	5	1.99%	2.90%
	Yes	36	14.34%	7.47%
	Within 30 days	12	4.78%	2.49%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	19	7.57%	3.73%
	No	210	83.67%	89.21%
	Don't Know	5	1.99%	3.32%
	Yes	40	15.94%	6.64%
	Within 30 days	23	9.16%	2.90%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	29	11.55%	4.56%
	No	142	56.57%	63.90%
	Don't Know	69	27.49%	29.46%
	Yes	169	67.33%	69.71%
	Within 30 days	116	46.22%	53.11%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	134	53.39%	58.51%
	No	76	30.28%	27.39%
	Don't Know	6	2.39%	2.90%
	Yes	70	27.89%	24.90%
	Within 30 days	35	13.94%	9.96%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	50	19.92%	15.35%
	No	175	69.72%	71.78%
	Don't Know	6	2.39%	3.32%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

As indicated in Table 4.48, 177 Airmen who attempted suicide (70.52%) included known prescriptions for psychotropic medication prior to the suicide attempt. Antidepressants ( $n = 87$ , 49.15% of those with known prescriptions, 34.66% of total) and antianxiety ( $n = 51$ , 28.81% of those with known prescriptions, 20.32% of total) were the most frequently prescribed psychotropic medications.

**TABLE 4.48. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	177	70.52%	52.28%
	No	68	27.09%	41.08%
	Don't Know	6	2.39%	6.64%
Antidepressants	Yes	87	34.66%	43.98%
	No	82	32.67%	47.72%
	Don't Know	82	32.67%	8.30%
Antianxiety	Yes	51	20.32%	23.24%
	No	117	46.61%	65.56%
	Don't Know	83	33.07%	11.20%

**TABLE 4.48. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE (CONT.)**

Antimaniacs	Yes	11	4.38%	2.49%
	No	158	62.95%	85.89%
	Don't Know	82	32.67%	11.62%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	8	3.19%	4.56%
	No	160	63.75%	84.23%
	Don't Know	83	33.07%	11.20%
Antipsychotics	Yes	25	9.96%	7.47%
	No	144	57.37%	80.91%
	Don't Know	82	32.67%	11.62%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories and interpersonal relationships, legal, financial, administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

### Family and Relationship History

Over one-half of DoDSERs for Airmen who attempted suicide ( $n = 147$ , 58.57%) included a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with 97 (65.99%, 38.65% of total) indicating the failure occurred within the month prior to suicide (Table 4.49). Fifty-two DoDSERs (20.72%) included a failure in another important relationship, with 36 of these (69.23%, 14.34% of total) occurring within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

**TABLE 4.49. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	147	58.57%	53.53%
	Within 30 days	97	38.65%	36.93%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	125	49.80%	43.15%
	No	88	35.06%	38.59%
	Don't Know	16	6.37%	7.88%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	52	20.72%	14.94%
	Within 30 days	36	14.34%	7.88%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	42	16.73%	11.20%
	No	174	69.32%	67.63%
	Don't Know	25	9.96%	17.43%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	165	65.74%	58.51%
	Within 30 days	106	42.23%	41.49%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	136	54.18%	47.30%
	No	70	27.89%	34.02%
	Don't Know	16	6.37%	7.47%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 4.50 summarizes other family and relationship factors. Nineteen DoDSERs for Airmen (7.57%) included the loss of a family member to suicide, and 19 (7.57%) indicated that a friend of the Airmen had died by suicide. Many DoDSERs included the death of a family member ( $n = 39$ , 15.54%) or friend ( $n = 12$ , 4.78%) by other means. Approximately one-third of DoDSERs indicated a family member had behavioral health problems ( $n = 87$ , 34.66%).

**TABLE 4.50. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAMILY HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	1	0.40%	0.00%
	No	240	95.62%	90.87%
	Don't Know	10	3.98%	9.13%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	19	7.57%	8.71%
	No	215	85.66%	77.18%
	Don't Know	17	6.77%	14.11%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	19	7.57%	6.22%
	No	207	82.47%	74.27%
	Don't Know	25	9.96%	19.50%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	39	15.54%	15.35%
	No	191	76.10%	66.80%
	Don't Know	21	8.37%	17.84%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	12	4.78%	8.71%
	No	215	85.66%	74.69%
	Don't Know	24	9.56%	16.60%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	31	12.35%	9.13%
	No	197	78.49%	72.61%
	Don't Know	23	9.16%	18.26%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	87	34.66%	41.91%
	No	125	49.80%	41.91%
	Don't Know	39	15.54%	16.18%

## Administrative and Legal History

Over one-third of DoDSERs for Airmen who attempted suicide included at least one administrative or legal issue ( $n = 103$ , 41.04%), and 32 (12.75%) included more than one issue (Table 4.51). The most frequent administrative or legal problems were medical board proceedings ( $n = 38$ , 15.14%) and Article 15 proceedings ( $n = 33$ , 13.15%).

**TABLE 4.51. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	9	3.59%	2.49%
	No	212	84.46%	88.38%
	Don't Know	30	11.95%	9.13%

**TABLE 4.51. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX ARTICLE 15	Yes	33	13.15%	13.69%
	No	127	50.60%	77.18%
	Don't Know	91	36.25%	9.13%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	21	8.37%	6.64%
	No	198	78.88%	85.48%
	Don't Know	32	12.75%	7.88%
HX AWOL	Yes	10	3.98%	3.73%
	No	213	84.86%	88.38%
	Don't Know	28	11.16%	7.88%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	38	15.14%	10.79%
	No	203	80.88%	84.65%
	Don't Know	10	3.98%	4.56%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	16	6.37%	11.20%
	No	204	81.27%	78.01%
	Don't Know	31	12.35%	10.79%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	16	6.37%	7.05%
	No	215	85.66%	83.40%
	Don't Know	20	7.97%	9.54%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	103	41.04%	35.68%
	No	138	54.98%	55.60%
	Don't Know	10	3.98%	8.71%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	32	12.75%	13.28%
	No	209	83.27%	54.36%
	Don't Know	10	3.98%	32.37%

## Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 4.52). Several DoDSERs for Airmen who attempted suicide in 2011 indicated a history of victimization by physical abuse ( $n = 62$ , 24.70%), sexual abuse ( $n = 53$ , 21.12%), emotional abuse ( $n = 68$ , 27.09%), and sexual harassment ( $n = 8$ , 3.19%). DoDSERs for Airmen who attempted suicide reported a lower frequency of perpetration of physical abuse ( $n = 14$ , 5.58%), sexual abuse ( $n = 4$ , 1.59%), emotional abuse ( $n = 14$ , 5.58%), and sexual harassment ( $n = 2$ , 0.80%).

**TABLE 4.52. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	62	24.70%	21.16%
	No	174	69.32%	68.05%
	Don't Know	15	5.98%	10.79%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	53	21.12%	19.09%
	No	188	74.90%	69.71%
	Don't Know	10	3.98%	11.20%

**TABLE 4.52. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	68	27.09%	29.05%
	No	165	65.74%	60.58%
	Don't Know	18	7.17%	10.37%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	8	3.19%	3.32%
	No	219	87.25%	82.99%
	Don't Know	24	9.56%	13.69%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	14	5.58%	5.81%
	No	216	86.06%	83.40%
	Don't Know	21	8.37%	10.79%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	4	1.59%	1.24%
	No	230	91.63%	88.80%
	Don't Know	17	6.77%	9.96%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	14	5.58%	2.90%
	No	214	85.26%	85.89%
	Don't Know	23	9.16%	11.20%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	2	0.80%	0.41%
	No	229	91.24%	87.97%
	Don't Know	20	7.97%	11.62%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 4.53). Approximately one-third of DoDSERs for Airmen who attempted suicide in 2011 indicated a history of job loss or instability (n = 81, 32.27%). Seventy DoDSERs (27.89%) included interpersonal problems with either supervisors or coworkers, and 40 (15.94%) included prior poor work evaluations.

**TABLE 4.53. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	32	12.75%	9.13%
	No	170	67.73%	74.69%
	Don't Know	49	19.52%	16.18%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	81	32.27%	35.68%
	No	151	60.16%	53.53%
	Don't Know	19	7.57%	10.79%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	70	27.89%	26.56%
	No	135	53.78%	61.83%
	Don't Know	46	18.33%	11.62%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	40	15.94%	12.86%
	No	184	73.31%	75.52%
	Don't Know	27	10.76%	11.62%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	9	3.59%	3.32%
	No	218	86.85%	80.91%
	Don't Know	24	9.56%	15.77%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as the history of direct combat operations.

### Deployment and Combat History

Four Airmen (1.59%) attempted suicide while deployed in Afghanistan, and two Airmen attempted suicide while deployed in Iraq (0.80%; Table 4.54). Sixteen Air Force suicide attempt DoDSERs (6.37%) included information about prior OEF/OIF/OND deployments (Table 4.55). Thirty-seven DoDSERs (14.74%) included experiences of direct combat (Table 4.56).

**TABLE 4.54. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	4	1.59%	0.83%
	Iraq	2	0.80%	0.41%
	Not OEF/OND	245	97.61%	98.76%

**TABLE 4.55. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF/OND	Afghanistan	9	3.59%	4.98%
	Iraq	6	2.39%	15.35%
	Kuwait	1	0.40%	1.24%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	0	0.00%	2.07%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	235	93.63%	76.35%

**TABLE 4.56. CY 2011 AND 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMBAT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	37	14.74%	6.22%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	14	5.58%	2.07%
	Injured in combat	7	2.79%	0.41%
	Witnessed killing in combat	14	5.58%	2.90%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	15	5.98%	2.90%
	Killed others in combat	7	2.79%	1.24%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	214	85.26%	93.78%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Summary

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This chapter provides data on Air Force suicides and suicide attempts that occurred in 2011. Data are presented for 46 Airmen who died by suicide and 241 Airmen who attempted suicide in 251 separate incidents. Decedents and those who attempted suicide were primarily male, Caucasian, non-Hispanic or Latino, under age twenty-five, junior enlisted, Regular component, and without a college degree.

Most suicide events took place in the United States in the personal residences of Airmen. The most frequent methods for Airmen who died by suicide were by use of non-military issue firearms and hanging. Suicide attempt methods were most frequently drug overdose, harming oneself with a sharp or blunt object, and hanging. Drug and alcohol use was much more frequent among nonfatal Air Force suicide events. The majority of Airmen who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated with others about their likelihood of harming themselves.

Airmen with nonfatal suicide events had more known behavioral health disorders. Additionally, those who attempted suicide had a higher prevalence of prior abuse victimization. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Airmen with suicide events. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was Article 15 proceedings.

Few Airmen were deployed at the time of their suicide events. For those with prior deployments, only one had experienced direct combat.

## CHAPTER 5:

# ARMY DoDSER

### ARMY RESULTS FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

#### Army DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance

##### 2011 Reported Suicides

One hundred fifty-nine Army suicides were confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2011 (Table 5.1). Army Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports (DoDSERs) were submitted and analyzed for all 159 confirmed suicides for a submission compliance rate of 100%. In addition, the tables provide percentages for 2009 and 2010 DoDSER data for comparison. Specific counts for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

**TABLE 5.1. ARMY AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DODSERS SUBMITTED**

	2011	2010	2009	2008
Total DoDSERs Included in Annual Report	159	147	154	121
Total AFMES Confirmed and Pending Suicides	167	160	164	140
AFMES Confirmed Suicides (By 31 January)	159	147	162	135
DoDSER Submission Compliance	100%	100%	95%	89%

Data from 1/1/2009 through 12/31/2011 as of 4/26/2012 for CY 2011; as of 1 April for previous years

#### Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have been associated with the suicide events. These factors include decedents' demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

##### Demographics

Table 5.2 contains demographic data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). The majority of Army 2011 suicides were completed by males ( $n = 156$ , 93.41%). Decedents were primarily Caucasian ( $n = 135$ , 80.84%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 157$ , 94.01%), junior enlisted ( $n = 86$ , 51.50%), Regular component ( $n = 142$ , 85.03%), and without a college degree ( $n = 140$ , 83.84%).

TABLE 5.2. CY 2011 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR ARMY SUICIDES

		2011				2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Service Total %	Rate/100K	(N = 160) Percent	(N = 166) Percent
TOTAL		167	100.00%	100.00%	22.90	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	156	93.41%	85.86%	24.90	94.38%	97.59%
	Female	11	6.59%	14.14%	*	5.63%	2.41%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	0.60%	0.79%	*	2.50%	2.41%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	12	7.19%	3.74%	*	6.88%	6.63%
	Black/African American	17	10.18%	19.41%	*	12.50%	11.45%
	White/Caucasian	135	80.84%	70.80%	26.13	78.13%	79.52%
	Other/Don't Know	2	1.20%	5.26%	*	0.00%	0.00%
ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino	10	5.99%	10.85%	*		
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	157	94.01%	89.15%	24.48		
AGE RANGE	Under 25	56	33.53%	31.84%	24.10	47.50%	43.64%
	25-29	56	33.53%	23.76%	32.29	28.75%	29.70%
	30-34	20	11.98%	15.84%	17.30	10.63%	11.52%
	35-39	19	11.38%	11.87%	*	6.88%	8.48%
	40-44	15	8.98%	9.37%	*	6.25%	5.45%
	45+	1	0.60%	7.33%	*	0.00%	1.21%
RANK	Cadet	0	0.00%	0.65%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	E1-E4	86	51.50%	42.92%	27.46	58.13%	58.43%
	E5-E9	69	41.32%	39.03%	24.23	38.13%	30.12%
	Officer	12	7.19%	14.56%	*	3.75%	9.04%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	2.85%	*	0.00%	1.20%
COMPONENT	Regular	142	85.03%	77.58%	25.08	88.75%	89.16%
	Reserve	8	4.79%	7.79%	*	4.38%	1.81%
	National Guard	17	10.18%	14.63%	*	6.88%	9.04%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	4	2.40%	0.92%	*	1.25%	1.20%
	GED	24	14.37%	8.05%	40.83	13.13%	20.48%
	High school graduate	101	60.48%	57.90%	23.90	65.00%	58.43%
	Some college or technical school	11	6.59%	4.52%	*	4.38%	6.63%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	9	5.39%	6.97%	*	6.88%	1.81%
	Four-year college degree	12	7.19%	10.68%	*	6.88%	7.83%
	Master's degree or greater	1	0.60%	8.81%	*	0.00%	2.41%
	Don't Know	5	2.99%	2.14%	*	2.50%	1.20%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	57	34.13%	35.24%	22.16	41.88%	36.14%
	Married	92	55.09%	6.41%	21.70	50.63%	50.60%
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	0.13%	*	0.00%	1.81%
	Divorced	15	8.98%	58.10%	*	6.88%	10.84%
	Widowed	3	1.80%	0.10%	*	0.00%	0.60%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.03%	*	0.63%	0.00%

Note: Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals. "DoD Total %" column reflects population-level DMDC data for all Active Duty and Activated or Deployed Reserves. Ethnicity data not reported prior to 2011.

## Event Setting

As in the previous two years, Army suicides most frequently took place in the United States ( $n = 126$ , 79.25%). Nine suicides occurred during deployment in Iraq (5.66%) and 14 occurred in Afghanistan (8.81%; Table 5.3). As summarized in Table 5.4, suicides primarily occurred in either the Soldiers' own residences ( $n = 88$ , 55.35%) or the residences of friends or family members ( $n = 14$ , 8.81%). "Other" settings included hotels ( $n = 5$ , 3.21%), parks and nature reserves ( $n = 3$ , 1.92%), vacant or secluded property ( $n = 2$ , 1.28%), and latrines ( $n = 3$ , 1.92%).

**TABLE 5.3. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	United States	126	79.25%	78.91%	73.20%
	Iraq	9	5.66%	8.16%	14.38%
	Afghanistan	14	8.81%	8.16%	1.96%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Asia	1	0.63%	3.40%	3.27%
	Europe	7	4.40%	0.68%	4.58%
	Canada or Mexico	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.65%
	Other	0	0.00%	0.68%	1.31%
	Don't Know	2	1.26%	0.00%	0.65%

**TABLE 5.4. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER EVENT SETTING**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	88	55.35%	53.06%	58.17%
	Residence of friend or family	14	8.81%	12.93%	9.15%
	Work/jobsite	10	6.29%	7.48%	5.23%
	Automobile (away from residence)	11	6.92%	4.76%	6.54%
	Inpatient medical facility	0	0.00%	0.68%	0.00%
	Other	36	22.64%	21.09%	20.92%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

## Event Method

As indicated in Table 5.5, the primary methods for Army suicide in 2011 were the use of non-military issue firearms ( $n = 74$ , 46.54%), hanging ( $n = 28$ , 17.61%), and use of military issue firearms ( $n = 20$ , 12.58%).

**TABLE 5.5. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER EVENT METHOD**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	74	46.54%	48.98%	40.52%
	Firearm, military issue	20	12.58%	19.05%	18.95%
	Hanging	28	17.61%	21.09%	21.57%

**TABLE 5.5. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER EVENT METHOD (CONT.)**

Drugs	4	2.52%	4.08%	4.58%
Alcohol	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.65%
Gas, vehicle exhaust	1	0.63%	0.00%	4.58%
Gas, utility (or other)	0	0.00%	0.68%	1.31%
Drowning	0	0.00%	2.04%	0.00%
Fire, steam, etc.	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sharp or blunt object	1	0.63%	0.00%	0.65%
Jumping from high place	2	1.26%	0.00%	1.31%
Lying in front of moving object	1	0.63%	0.68%	1.31%
Other	3	1.89%	0.68%	2.61%
Don't Know	23	14.47%	2.72%	1.96%

## Substance Use during the Event

Comprehensive information about substance use during suicide is unavailable for many Army suicides in 2011. As summarized in Table 5.6, approximately one-fourth of decedents for whom information was available used alcohol during the suicide event ( $n = 34$ , 47.22% of DoDSERs with alcohol use data, 21.38% of total). Fewer were known to have used drugs during the event ( $n = 12$ , 18.75% of DoDSERs with drug use data, 7.55% of total). Four Soldiers used both drugs and alcohol during their suicide events (6.25% of DoDSERs with substance abuse data, 2.52% of total). As in the previous two years, drug use most frequently consisted of misuse of over-the-counter drugs ( $n = 5$ , 3.14%). These frequencies include Soldiers who used drugs as a suicide method ( $n = 4$ , 2.52%), as described above.

**TABLE 5.6. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	34	21.38%	22.45%	21.57%
	No	38	23.90%	38.10%	39.22%
	Don't Know	87	54.72%	39.46%	39.22%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	12	7.55%	8.84%	5.88%
	No	52	32.70%	44.90%	46.41%
	Don't Know	95	59.75%	46.26%	47.71%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	1.36%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	1	0.63%	1.36%	0.65%
	Were not used	63	39.62%	51.02%	51.63%
	Don't know	95	59.75%	46.26%	47.71%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	4	2.52%	2.72%	3.92%
	Used, no overdose	4	2.52%	3.40%	0.00%
	Were not used	56	35.22%	47.62%	48.37%
	Don't know	95	59.75%	46.26%	47.71%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	5	3.14%	2.04%	1.31%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Were not used	59	37.11%	51.70%	50.98%
	Don't know	95	59.75%	46.26%	47.71%

**TABLE 5.6. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE (CONT.)**

BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	4	2.52%	4.08%	1.31%
	No	57	35.85%	46.94%	47.06%
	Don't Know	98	61.64%	48.98%	51.63%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Communication of Intent

Consistent with the prior two years, most Army decedents had no known history of communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ( $n = 120$ , 75.47%; Table 5.7). Approximately one-fifth of Soldiers who died by suicide were known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their potential to die by suicide ( $n = 31$ , 19.50%). These communications were most frequently verbal ( $n = 24$ , 15.09%; Table 5.8). DoDSER POCs indicated that six Soldiers used text messages to indicate potential for self-harm (3.77%) and two used Facebook (1.26%); included in "Other" category and "Multiple Modes". As indicated in Table 5.9, decedents most frequently communicated with their spouses ( $n = 18$ , 11.32%) and behavioral health providers ( $n = 8$ , 5.03%). The predominant "Other" response was family members ( $n = 4$ , 40.00% of "Other", 2.52% of total).

**TABLE 5.7. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	120	75.47%	67.35%	70.59%
	1	31	19.50%	27.89%	19.61%
	2	6	3.77%	4.08%	6.54%
	3	2	1.26%	0.68%	1.31%
	4	0	0.00%	0.00%	1.31%
	5	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.65%

**TABLE 5.8. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	24	15.09%	20.41%	16.34%
	Written	6	3.77%	5.44%	3.92%
	Other or Unknown	6	3.77%	2.72%	7.19%
	Multiple Modes	3	1.89%	4.08%	1.96%
	No Known Communication	120	75.47%	67.35%	70.59%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

**TABLE 5.9. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	18	11.32%	11.56%	7.19%
	Friend	8	5.03%	4.08%	5.23%
	Behavioral Health Provider	8	5.03%	4.76%	0.65%
	Chaplain	2	1.26%	0.00%	0.00%

**TABLE 5.9. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT (CONT.)**

Supervisor	2	1.26%	1.36%	1.31%
Other or Unidentified	10	6.29%	6.12%	5.23%
Made Multiple Communications	8	5.03%	4.76%	9.80%
No Known Communication	120	75.47%	67.35%	70.59%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 5.10 provides information about other details of 2011 Army suicides. For the majority ( $n = 88$ , 55.35%), there was information to indicate that the decedents intended to die. Over one-fourth of the suicides appeared premeditated ( $n = 46$ , 28.93%). Forty-one Army decedents (25.79%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others. Twenty-nine Service Members (18.24%) left suicide notes.

**TABLE 5.10. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	88	55.35%	68.03%	76.47%
	No	6	3.77%	11.56%	6.54%
	Don't Know	65	40.88%	20.41%	16.99%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	2.72%	1.96%
	No	106	66.67%	80.27%	86.93%
	Don't Know	53	33.33%	17.01%	11.11%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	46	28.93%	34.69%	42.48%
	No	35	22.01%	35.37%	30.72%
	Don't Know	78	49.06%	29.93%	26.80%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	41	25.79%	25.85%	22.88%
	No	68	42.77%	58.50%	69.28%
	Don't Know	50	31.45%	15.65%	7.84%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	29	18.24%	25.85%	24.84%
	No	60	37.74%	51.02%	53.59%
	Don't Know	70	44.03%	23.13%	21.57%

## Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

### Situational Factors

Table 5.11 provides details about the living situations of Soldiers who died by suicide in 2011. Decedents most frequently lived in homes or apartments outside of their installations ( $n = 60$ , 37.74%) or shared living environments on their installations ( $n = 54$ , 33.96%). Of those who were married ( $n = 72$ ), over one-half lived with their spouses ( $n = 42$ , 58.33% of married, 26.42% of total), and 20 were known to be separated due to

relationship issues (27.78% of married, 12.58% of total). Most decedents lived with others ( $n = 70$ , 44.03%). Fifty-nine (37.11%) Army decedents had minor children, and 25 (15.72%) lived with their children at the time of death. One-half of decedents had access to firearms in either their homes or immediate environments ( $n = 72$ , 45.28%).

**TABLE 5.11. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	54	33.96%	39.46%	41.83%
	Bachelor quarters	1	0.63%	0.68%	0.65%
	On-base family housing	7	4.40%	10.88%	4.58%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	60	37.74%	35.37%	39.87%
	Other	7	4.40%	7.48%	9.15%
	Don't Know	30	18.87%	6.12%	3.92%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resided with spouse	42	26.42%	24.49%	20.26%
	Separated due to relationship issues	20	12.58%	14.29%	11.76%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	4	2.52%	5.44%	11.76%
	Don't Know	6	3.77%	4.08%	3.27%
	Unmarried at time of event	87	54.72%	51.70%	52.94%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	40	25.16%	24.49%	32.68%
	No	70	44.03%	63.27%	54.90%
	Don't Know	49	30.82%	12.24%	12.42%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	59	37.11%	38.10%	39.87%
	No	47	29.56%	61.90%	60.13%
	Don't Know	53	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	25	15.72%	17.01%	14.38%
	No	33	20.75%	19.73%	24.18%
	Don't Know	54	33.96%	1.36%	1.31%
	No Children	47	29.56%	61.90%	60.13%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	72	45.28%	53.74%	52.29%
	No	20	12.58%	21.77%	23.53%
	Don't Know	67	42.14%	24.49%	24.18%

## Duty Environment

Consistent with the previous two years, the primary duty environment of Army suicide decedents was their permanent duty station ( $n = 93$ , 58.49%; Table 5.12). Twenty-five were deployed (15.72%) and 10 (6.29%) were on leave at the time of death. Of the 25 decedents who were deployed, one died while on emergency leave from deployment and one died while on Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS) status.

**TABLE 5.12. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	93	58.49%	51.70%	51.63%
	Leave	10	6.29%	0.00%	0.00%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	0	0.00%	8.16%	9.80%

**TABLE 5.12. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)**

Medical Hold	4	2.52%	0.68%	0.65%
TDY	3	1.89%	0.00%	0.65%
AWOL	7	4.40%	2.72%	3.92%
Under Command Observation	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Deployed	25	15.72%	16.33%	16.34%
Training	8	5.03%	1.36%	2.61%
Other	12	7.55%	4.76%	5.23%
Multiple Duty Environments	15	9.43%	7.48%	8.50%
Duty Environment Unknown	15	9.43%	6.80%	0.65%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Suicide Completions by Month

As in the prior two years, no clear pattern existed for Army suicides by month (Table 5.13).

**TABLE 5.13. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER SUICIDES BY MONTH**

MONTH		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
	January	16	10.06%	10.20%	12.42%
	February	5	3.14%	8.84%	13.07%
	March	8	5.03%	8.16%	7.84%
	April	21	13.21%	7.48%	5.88%
	May	18	11.32%	6.12%	11.76%
	June	8	5.03%	13.61%	5.23%
	July	21	13.21%	8.84%	7.84%
	August	15	9.43%	9.52%	6.54%
	September	15	9.43%	11.56%	4.58%
	October	17	10.69%	5.44%	12.42%
	November	6	3.77%	5.44%	6.54%
	December	9	5.66%	4.76%	5.88%

## Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

### Prior Self-Injury

Nineteen Soldiers who died by suicide in 2011 (11.95%) had a known history of self-harm (Table 5.14), and 10 decedents (6.29%) were known to have at least two prior incidents of self-harm.

**TABLE 5.14. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	19	11.95%	14.97%	19.61%
	Within 30 days	3	1.89%	2.04%	3.92%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	5	3.14%	4.08%	7.19%
	No	64	40.25%	54.42%	56.86%
	Don't Know	76	47.80%	30.61%	23.53%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	9	5.66%	8.84%	10.46%
	More than one prior event	10	6.29%	6.12%	9.15%
	N/A or Unknown	140	88.05%	85.03%	80.39%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	8	5.03%	3.40%	3.27%
	No	10	6.29%	9.52%	12.42%
	Don't Know	1	0.63%	2.04%	3.92%
	N/A	140	88.05%	85.03%	80.39%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

## Behavioral Health Disorders

The DoDSER items collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death. Seventy-five Soldiers who died by suicide in 2011 (47.17%) had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 5.15). Forty-three (27.04%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 5.16, thirty-three decedents (20.75%) had a mood disorder, most frequently major depressive disorder ( $n = 18$ , 11.32%). Thirty-four Soldiers (21.38%) were known to have had an anxiety disorder, including posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD;  $n = 15$ , 9.43%; Table 5.17). As summarized in Table 5.18, three decedents (1.89%) were known to have personality disorders and seven (4.40%) had previously sustained a traumatic brain injury. Over one-fourth of Army decedents ( $n = 40$ , 25.16%) had a known history of substance abuse.

**TABLE 5.15. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	84	52.83%	54.42%	54.25%
	1 DX	32	20.13%	17.01%	22.22%
	2 DX	17	10.69%	18.37%	13.73%
	3 DX	16	10.06%	4.08%	5.23%
	4 or more DX	10	6.29%	6.12%	4.58%

**TABLE 5.16. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER MOOD DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	33	20.75%	17.69%	27.45%
	No	93	58.49%	63.27%	62.09%
	Don't Know	33	20.75%	19.05%	10.46%

**TABLE 5.16. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER MOOD DISORDERS (CONT.)**

Bipolar disorder	Yes	3	1.89%	0.68%	0.65%
	No	123	77.36%	80.27%	86.27%
	Don't Know	33	20.75%	19.05%	13.07%
Major depression	Yes	18	11.32%	8.84%	13.73%
	No	108	67.92%	71.43%	74.51%
	Don't Know	33	20.75%	19.73%	11.76%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	2	1.26%	1.36%	1.31%
	No	124	77.99%	78.91%	86.27%
	Don't Know	33	20.75%	19.73%	12.42%
Other mood disorder	Yes	13	8.18%	3.40%	3.27%
	No	113	71.07%	77.55%	83.66%
	Don't Know	33	20.75%	19.05%	13.07%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	2	1.26%	1.36%	3.27%
	No	124	77.99%	79.59%	86.27%
	Don't Know	33	20.75%	19.05%	10.46%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	2	1.26%	2.04%	5.23%
	No	124	77.99%	78.91%	84.31%
	Don't Know	33	20.75%	19.05%	10.46%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 5.17. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	34	21.38%	16.33%	18.95%
	No	95	59.75%	66.67%	69.28%
	Don't Know	30	18.87%	17.01%	11.76%
PTSD	Yes	15	9.43%	6.12%	9.15%
	No	114	71.70%	76.19%	78.43%
	Don't Know	30	18.87%	17.69%	12.42%
Panic disorder	Yes	1	0.63%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	128	80.50%	82.31%	86.93%
	Don't Know	30	18.87%	17.69%	13.07%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	10	6.29%	0.68%	1.31%
	No	119	74.84%	81.63%	86.27%
	Don't Know	30	18.87%	17.69%	12.42%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	129	81.13%	82.31%	86.93%
	Don't Know	30	18.87%	17.69%	13.07%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	10	6.29%	6.80%	3.92%
	No	119	74.84%	76.19%	82.35%
	Don't Know	30	18.87%	17.01%	13.73%

**TABLE 5.17. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS (CONT.)**

Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	9	5.66%	0.68%	1.31%
	No	120	75.47%	82.31%	86.93%
	Don't Know	30	18.87%	17.01%	11.76%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	11	6.92%	2.04%	3.27%
	No	118	74.21%	80.95%	84.97%
	Don't Know	30	18.87%	17.01%	11.76%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 5.18. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	3	1.89%	3.40%	4.58%
	No	122	76.73%	78.23%	83.01%
	Don't Know	34	21.38%	18.37%	12.42%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	3	1.89%	0.00%	1.31%
	No	122	76.73%	81.63%	86.93%
	Don't Know	34	21.38%	18.37%	11.76%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	40	25.16%	27.89%	22.88%
	No	72	45.28%	48.98%	60.13%
	Don't Know	47	29.56%	23.13%	16.99%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	7	4.40%	4.08%	
	No	117	73.58%	77.55%	
	Don't Know	35	22.01%	18.37%	

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

## Treatment History

Table 5.19 provides data on Army suicide decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. The majority ( $n = 97$ , 61.01%) had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Fifty-three decedents (33.33%) were treated at a MTF within the month prior to suicide. Thirty-two Soldiers (20.13%) had a known history of a physical health problem and 15 decedents (9.43%) had received physical health diagnoses within the month prior to suicide.

Twenty-six Army decedents (16.35%) had received substance abuse treatment services, and 13 (8.18%) received help from family advocacy programs. Eleven Soldiers (6.92%) utilized chaplain services. Nearly one-half of decedents ( $n = 76$ , 47.80%) had received outpatient behavioral health treatment, with 34 (21.38%) receiving treatment within the month prior to suicide. Twenty-four Soldiers (15.09%) had received inpatient behavioral health treatment, five of whom (3.14%) were treated within the month prior to suicide. Seven Army decedents (4.40%) were assigned to a Warrior Transition Unit.

**TABLE 5.19. CY 2011 AND 2009-2008 ARMY DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	97	61.01%	57.14%	62.09%
	Within 30 days	53	33.33%	36.73%	40.52%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	71	44.65%	43.54%	53.59%
	No	29	18.24%	27.21%	28.76%
	Don't Know	33	20.75%	15.65%	9.15%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	32	20.13%	18.37%	22.88%
	Within 30 days	15	9.43%	12.93%	16.34%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	24	15.09%	14.97%	18.30%
	No	57	35.85%	48.30%	52.94%
	Don't Know	70	44.03%	33.33%	24.18%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	26	16.35%	23.81%	14.38%
	Within 30 days	12	7.55%	8.16%	7.19%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	13	8.18%	10.88%	7.19%
	No	92	57.86%	60.54%	72.55%
	Don't Know	41	25.79%	15.65%	13.07%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	13	8.18%	8.84%	6.54%
	Within 30 days	2	1.26%	1.36%	1.96%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	4	2.52%	2.72%	2.61%
	No	98	61.64%	68.71%	75.82%
	Don't Know	48	30.19%	22.45%	17.65%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	11	6.92%	7.48%	10.46%
	Within 30 days	8	5.03%	4.76%	9.15%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	9	5.66%	6.12%	9.80%
	No	104	65.41%	35.37%	41.18%
	Don't Know	44	27.67%	57.14%	48.37%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	76	47.80%	44.22%	50.33%
	Within 30 days	34	21.38%	26.53%	28.10%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	46	28.93%	30.61%	32.03%
	No	58	36.48%	42.18%	42.48%
	Don't Know	25	15.72%	13.61%	7.19%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	24	15.09%	12.24%	18.95%
	Within 30 days	5	3.14%	6.12%	2.61%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	8	5.03%	7.48%	9.15%
	No	101	63.52%	70.75%	71.24%
	Don't Know	34	21.38%	17.01%	9.80%
IN A WARRIOR TRANSITION UNIT	Yes	7	4.40%	4.76%	
	No	124	77.99%	27.21%	
	Don't Know	28	17.61%	68.03%	

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

**Note:** Warrior Transition Unit data unavailable prior to 2010.

Table 5.20 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by decedents prior to suicide. Forty-seven decedents (29.56%) had known prescriptions for psychotropic medications, most frequently antidepressants ( $n = 43$ , 27.04%) and antianxiety medication ( $n = 18$ , 11.32%).

**TABLE 5.20. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	47	29.56%	28.57%	35.95%
	No	70	44.03%	48.98%	49.67%
	Don't Know	42	26.42%	22.45%	14.38%
Antidepressants	Yes	43	27.04%	22.45%	30.07%
	No	74	46.54%	53.74%	55.56%
	Don't Know	42	26.42%	23.81%	14.38%
Antianxiety	Yes	18	11.32%	9.52%	13.73%
	No	99	62.26%	64.63%	70.59%
	Don't Know	42	26.42%	25.85%	15.69%
Antimanics	Yes	2	1.26%	1.36%	0.65%
	No	115	72.33%	72.11%	83.66%
	Don't Know	42	26.42%	26.53%	15.69%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	3	1.89%	3.40%	2.61%
	No	114	71.70%	70.75%	82.35%
	Don't Know	42	26.42%	25.85%	15.03%
Antipsychotics	Yes	6	3.77%	4.76%	7.84%
	No	111	69.81%	70.07%	76.47%
	Don't Know	42	26.42%	25.17%	15.69%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories and interpersonal relationships, legal, financial, administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

### Family and Relationship History

Seventy-one 2011 Army decedents (44.65%) had a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship; 36 (22.64%) experienced the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 5.21). Thirteen decedents (8.18%) had a failure in another important relationship, many of these ( $n = 6$ , 3.77%) occurred within the month prior to suicide. Almost one-half of all Soldiers who died by suicide in 2011 had some form of failed relationship ( $n = 75$ , 47.17%), with 38 (23.90%) that occurred within the month prior to death.

**TABLE 5.21. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	71	44.65%	51.02%	50.33%
	Within 30 days	36	22.64%	27.89%	27.45%

**TABLE 5.21. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE (CONT.)**

HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	51	32.08%	33.33%	35.29%
	No	25	15.72%	23.13%	21.57%
	Don't Know	63	39.62%	25.85%	28.10%
	Yes	13	8.18%	14.29%	15.03%
	Within 30 days	6	3.77%	8.84%	10.46%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	10	6.29%	10.88%	11.76%
	No	54	33.96%	42.86%	46.41%
	Don't Know	92	57.86%	42.86%	38.56%
	Yes	75	47.17%	53.74%	54.90%
	Within 30 days	38	23.90%	32.65%	31.37%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	55	34.59%	38.10%	39.22%
	No	21	13.21%	20.41%	18.95%
	Don't Know	63	39.62%	25.85%	26.14%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 5.22 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may have been associated with the suicide. Eighteen Army decedents (11.32%) were known to have had a family member with behavioral health problems, 8 (5.03%) had experienced the death of a family member by suicide, and 13 (8.18%) had experienced non-suicide deaths of a family member. Friends of six decedents (3.77%) had died by suicide prior to the Soldiers' deaths, and five decedents' friends (3.14%) had died by other means. Four decedents (2.52%) were known to have had family members with significant physical health problems.

**TABLE 5.22. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER FAMILY HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	101	63.52%	72.79%	81.70%
	Don't Know	58	36.48%	27.21%	18.30%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	8	5.03%	2.72%	3.92%
	No	61	38.36%	50.34%	64.05%
	Don't Know	90	56.60%	46.94%	32.03%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	6	3.77%	3.40%	0.65%
	No	61	38.36%	45.58%	60.78%
	Don't Know	90	56.60%	51.02%	38.56%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	13	8.18%	2.72%	4.58%
	No	60	37.74%	51.02%	61.44%
	Don't Know	86	54.09%	46.26%	33.99%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	5	3.14%	7.48%	3.27%
	No	58	36.48%	44.22%	56.21%
	Don't Know	96	60.38%	48.30%	40.52%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	4	2.52%	3.40%	7.84%
	No	69	43.40%	51.02%	60.78%
	Don't Know	86	54.09%	45.58%	31.37%

**TABLE 5.22. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER FAMILY HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	18	11.32%	7.48%	20.26%
	No	42	26.42%	34.01%	30.72%
	Don't Know	99	62.26%	58.50%	49.02%

## Administrative and Legal History

Approximately one-third of Soldiers who died by suicide in 2011 ( $n = 51$ , 32.08%) had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and 19 (11.95%) had more than one issue (Table 5.23). The most frequent administrative or legal issues were Article 15 proceedings ( $n = 21$ , 13.21%) and civil legal problems ( $n = 21$ , 13.21%).

**TABLE 5.23. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	4	2.52%	4.76%	7.19%
	No	94	59.12%	67.35%	75.16%
	Don't Know	61	38.36%	27.89%	17.65%
HX ARTICLE 15	Yes	21	13.21%	21.09%	12.42%
	No	75	47.17%	53.06%	66.67%
	Don't Know	63	39.62%	25.85%	20.92%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	9	5.66%	12.93%	9.15%
	No	91	57.23%	59.86%	73.20%
	Don't Know	59	37.11%	27.21%	17.65%
HX AWOL	Yes	6	3.77%	6.80%	9.15%
	No	96	60.38%	68.03%	75.82%
	Don't Know	57	35.85%	25.17%	15.03%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	7	4.40%	6.12%	10.46%
	No	100	62.89%	75.51%	74.51%
	Don't Know	52	32.70%	18.37%	15.03%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	21	13.21%	14.29%	11.11%
	No	71	44.65%	56.46%	63.40%
	Don't Know	67	42.14%	29.25%	25.49%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	5	3.14%	4.76%	5.88%
	No	84	52.83%	63.95%	71.90%
	Don't Know	70	44.03%	31.29%	22.22%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	51	32.08%	44.22%	39.87%
	No	56	35.22%	32.65%	41.18%
	Don't Know	52	32.70%	23.13%	18.95%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	19	11.95%	16.33%	15.03%
	No	88	55.35%	29.93%	38.56%
	Don't Know	52	32.70%	53.74%	46.41%

## Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 5.24). Ten Army suicide decedents (6.29%) were reported to have been victims of physical abuse, and seven (4.40%) were reported to have been victims of sexual abuse. Thirteen Soldiers (8.18%) had reportedly been victims of emotional abuse. Fourteen decedents (8.81%) had reportedly physically abused others, six (3.77%) had reportedly sexually abused others, and two (1.26%) were reported to have perpetrated emotional abuse.

**TABLE 5.24 CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	10	6.29%	4.76%	6.54%
	No	68	42.77%	53.74%	53.59%
	Don't Know	81	50.94%	41.50%	39.87%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	7	4.40%	2.04%	3.92%
	No	70	44.03%	56.46%	56.86%
	Don't Know	82	51.57%	41.50%	39.22%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	13	8.18%	3.40%	6.54%
	No	62	38.99%	53.74%	52.29%
	Don't Know	84	52.83%	42.86%	41.18%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	0.63%	0.68%	0.65%
	No	76	47.80%	56.46%	58.17%
	Don't Know	82	51.57%	42.86%	41.18%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	14	8.81%	8.16%	9.15%
	No	63	39.62%	48.30%	52.94%
	Don't Know	82	51.57%	43.54%	37.91%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	6	3.77%	2.72%	3.92%
	No	71	44.65%	55.10%	55.56%
	Don't Know	82	51.57%	42.18%	40.52%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	2	1.26%	4.08%	3.92%
	No	72	45.28%	53.06%	54.90%
	Don't Know	85	53.46%	42.86%	41.18%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	1.36%	2.61%
	No	73	45.91%	56.46%	55.56%
	Don't Know	86	54.09%	42.18%	41.83%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

The DoDSER includes data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 5.25). Thirteen Soldiers who died by suicide in 2011 (8.18%) had experienced significant debt. Thirty-four decedents (21.38%) had either lost a position or had experienced job instability. Eighteen Soldiers (11.32%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with their supervisors or coworkers. Poor evaluations were reported for 24 decedents (15.09%). Three Army suicide decedents (1.89%) were known to have been hazed in the workplace.

**TABLE 5.25. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	13	8.18%	11.56%	7.84%
	No	60	37.74%	46.94%	55.56%
	Don't Know	86	54.09%	41.50%	36.60%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	34	21.38%	21.09%	25.49%
	No	54	33.96%	45.58%	47.06%
	Don't Know	71	44.65%	33.33%	27.45%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	18	11.32%	13.61%	13.07%
	No	64	40.25%	51.02%	54.90%
	Don't Know	77	48.43%	35.37%	32.03%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	24	15.09%	14.29%	15.69%
	No	62	38.99%	51.70%	58.82%
	Don't Know	73	45.91%	34.01%	25.49%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	3	1.89%	2.72%	2.61%
	No	72	45.28%	63.27%	62.09%
	Don't Know	84	52.83%	34.01%	35.29%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER items capture detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as the history of direct combat operations

### Deployment and Combat History

Of the 23 Soldiers who died by suicide (14.47%) while deployed to either Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) or Operation New Dawn (OND), 14 (8.81% of total) took place in Afghanistan and 9 (5.66% of total) took place in Iraq (Table 5.26). The majority of decedents ( $n = 95$ , 59.75%) reported a history of OEF, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), or OND deployment (Table 5.27). Thirty decedents (18.87%) had known direct combat experiences, including participation in combat that resulted in injuries ( $n = 16$ , 10.06%), sustaining injuries ( $n = 4$ , 2.52%), witnessing killing ( $n = 12$ , 7.55%), seeing dead bodies ( $n = 11$ , 6.92%), and killing others ( $n = 4$ , 2.52%; Table 5.28).

**TABLE 5.26. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER SUICIDES IN THEATER**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	14	8.81%	8.16%	1.96%
	Iraq	9	5.66%	8.16%	14.38%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Not OEF/OND	136	85.53%	83.67%	83.66%

**TABLE 5.27. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF/OND	Afghanistan	31	19.50%	13.61%	1.96%
	Iraq	47	29.56%	38.10%	51.63%
	Kuwait	2	1.26%	1.36%	3.27%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	15	9.43%	8.84%	8.50%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	64	40.25%	38.10%	34.64%

**TABLE 5.28. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER COMBAT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	30	18.87%	14.29%	24.84%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	16	10.06%	8.84%	20.26%
	Injured in combat	4	2.52%	2.04%	5.88%
	Witnessed killing in combat	12	7.55%	8.84%	15.69%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	11	6.92%	6.12%	15.69%
	Killed others in combat	4	2.52%	6.12%	7.84%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	129	81.13%	85.71%	75.16%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## ARMY DODSERS SUBMITTED FOR NONFATAL EVENTS

DoDSER POCs submitted 440 DoDSERs for 2011 Army suicide attempts. As indicated in Table 5.29, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 432 individuals. Two suicide attempt DoDSERs were submitted for 8 (1.85%) individuals. The tables in this section use a denominator of 432 for suicide attempts. Percentages for 2009 and 2010 DoDSER data are provided for comparison. Specific suicide attempt, self-harm, and ideation count data for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

**TABLE 5.29. CY 2011 ARMY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSERS**

		Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs		440	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED		432	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL	1	424	98.51%
	2	8	1.85%
	3	0	0.00%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2011 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE		0	0.00%

One hundred eighty-eight Army DoDSERs were submitted for 186 individuals who were known to harm themselves without intent to die (Table 5.30). The tables in this section use a denominator of 186 for self-harm without intent to die.

**TABLE 5.30. CY 2011 ARMY DODSERS FOR SELF-HARM WITHOUT INTENT TO DIE**

		Count	Percent
TOTAL SELF-HARM DoDSERs		188	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED		186	100.00%
SELF-HARM DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL	1	186	100.00%
	2	2	1.08%
	3	0	0.00%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2011 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE		0	0.00%

Eight hundred eighty eight Army DoDSERs for suicidal ideation without self-harm behavior were submitted for 859 individuals (Table 5.31). Twenty-seven individual Soldiers (3.14%) had two 2011 Army DoDSERs for suicidal ideation, and two Soldiers (0.23%) had three 2011 Army DoDSERs. The tables in this section use a denominator of 859 for suicidal ideation.

**TABLE 5.31. CY 2011 ARMY SUICIDAL IDEATION DODSERS**

		Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDAL IDEATION DoDSERs		888	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED		859	100.00%
SUICIDAL IDEATION DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL	1	859	100.00%
	2	27	3.14%
	3	2	0.23%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2011 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDAL IDEATION AND SUICIDE		2	0.23%

## Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with the suicide events. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, self-harm method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

### Demographics

Table 5.32 contains DoDSER demographic data for Soldiers who attempted suicide, harmed themselves without intent to die, or were known to experience suicidal ideation in 2011. Soldiers who attempted suicide were most often male ( $n = 334$ , 75.91%), Caucasian ( $n = 244$ , 55.45%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 389$ , 88.41%), under the age of twenty-five ( $n = 229$ , 52.05%), junior enlisted ( $n = 332$ , 75.45%), Regular component ( $n = 411$ , 93.41%), and without a college degree ( $n = 330$ , 75.00%).

**TABLE 5.32. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
TOTAL		440	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	188	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	888	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	334	75.91%	79.42%	74.31%	134	71.28%	73.84%	71.76%	700	78.83%	79.85%	77.22%
	Female	106	24.09%	20.58%	25.69%	54	28.72%	26.16%	28.24%	188	21.17%	20.15%	22.78%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	7	1.59%	1.69%	1.19%	1	0.53%	1.27%	0.29%	7	0.79%	0.98%	0.83%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	20	4.55%	2.42%	2.77%	5	2.66%	3.38%	3.75%	22	2.48%	2.29%	2.73%
	Black/African American	85	19.32%	17.19%	15.81%	30	15.96%	14.35%	11.53%	148	16.67%	15.03%	15.41%
	White/Caucasian	244	55.45%	63.92%	67.19%	129	68.62%	65.82%	72.05%	586	65.99%	67.54%	66.78%
	Other/Don't Know	84	19.09%	14.77%	13.04%	23	12.23%	15.19%	12.39%	125	14.08%	14.16%	14.25%
ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino	51	11.59%			21	11.17%			96	10.81%		
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	389	88.41%			167	88.83%			792	89.19%		
AGE RANGE	Under 25	229	52.05%	53.03%	59.49%	106	56.38%	55.27%	64.27%	485	54.62%	53.38%	63.02%
	25-29	112	25.45%	25.18%	23.91%	39	20.74%	27.00%	21.61%	201	22.64%	22.66%	18.99%
	30-39	71	16.14%	15.74%	13.44%	34	18.09%	13.50%	10.66%	136	15.32%	16.56%	13.52%
	40 +	28	6.36%	6.05%	3.16%	9	4.79%	4.22%	3.46%	66	7.43%	7.41%	4.48%

**TABLE 5.32. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 ARMY DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)**

RANK	E1-E4	332	75.45%	72.15%	74.31%	146	77.66%	78.90%	79.83%	675	76.01%	75.05%	80.38%
	E5-E9	99	22.50%	23.49%	21.54%	35	18.62%	14.77%	14.70%	184	20.72%	19.61%	15.63%
	Officer	7	1.59%	3.63%	2.57%	4	2.13%	3.80%	3.46%	25	2.82%	3.81%	2.00%
	Warrant Officer	2	0.45%	0.73%	0.20%	3	1.60%	0.84%	0.29%	2	0.23%	0.11%	0.42%
	Cadet/Midshipman	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.40%	0	0.00%	1.27%	1.44%	2	0.23%	1.42%	1.58%
COMPONENT	Regular	411	93.41%	93.22%	91.30%	175	93.09%	92.41%	90.78%	773	87.05%	91.18%	89.19%
	Reserve	11	2.50%	2.66%	3.16%	4	2.13%	4.22%	1.44%	49	5.52%	3.59%	3.08%
	National Guard	17	3.86%	4.12%	4.94%	8	4.26%	2.11%	6.63%	64	7.21%	3.92%	6.65%
	Other	1	0.23%	0.00%	0.59%	1	0.53%	1.27%	1.15%	3	0.34%	1.31%	1.08%
EDUCATION	Some high school	1	0.23%	0.97%	1.38%	3	1.60%	0.84%	1.44%	15	1.69%	1.53%	0.58%
	GED	39	8.86%	13.80%	17.59%	19	10.11%	14.35%	13.54%	71	8.00%	11.11%	13.87%
	High school graduate	155	35.23%	38.50%	33.99%	96	51.06%	42.62%	49.28%	412	46.40%	40.52%	47.51%
	Some college	135	30.68%	22.76%	28.46%	43	22.87%	24.89%	20.46%	223	25.11%	23.64%	20.60%
	Degree less than four years	20	4.55%	6.05%	4.15%	2	1.06%	3.38%	1.44%	30	3.38%	4.36%	3.07%
	Four-year college degree	12	2.73%	4.36%	3.75%	4	2.13%	4.22%	4.32%	28	3.15%	3.92%	3.65%
	Master's degree or greater	8	1.82%	1.94%	0.59%	2	1.06%	1.27%	1.73%	14	1.58%	1.74%	1.08%
	Don't Know	70	15.91%	11.62%	10.08%	19	10.11%	8.44%	7.78%	95	10.70%	13.18%	9.63%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	158	35.91%	35.35%	43.08%	82	43.62%	37.97%	47.26%	391	44.03%	41.07%	48.88%
	Married	213	48.41%	44.79%	43.68%	89	47.34%	52.74%	42.36%	381	42.91%	43.90%	38.26%
	Legally Separated	15	3.41%	6.54%	3.16%	4	2.13%	2.53%	3.17%	27	3.04%	5.45%	3.90%
	Divorced	33	7.50%	9.69%	7.91%	6	3.19%	4.22%	5.76%	56	6.31%	6.75%	5.98%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.24%	0.40%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.11%	0.33%	0.00%
	Don't Know	21	4.77%	3.39%	1.78%	7	3.72%	2.53%	1.44%	33	3.72%	2.51%	2.99%

Note: Ethnicity data unavailable prior to 2011.

## Event Setting

Army nonfatal suicide events in 2011 most frequently occurred in the United States ( $n = 389$ , 88.41%; Table 5.33). As indicated in Table 5.34, suicide attempts occurred primarily in the Soldiers' residences ( $n = 351$ , 79.77%) or the residences of friends or family members ( $n = 22$ , 5.00%). The most frequent "Other" settings for Army suicide attempts included hotels ( $n = 5$ , 3.21%) and parks and nature reserves ( $n = 3$ , 1.92%).

**TABLE 5.33. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 ARMY DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	United States	389	88.41%	81.84%	78.85%	171	90.96%	84.39%	85.30%	842	94.82%	91.29%	88.98%
	Iraq	1	0.23%	6.05%	8.70%	5	2.66%	4.22%	5.19%	16	1.80%	1.96%	4.14%
	Afghanistan	13	2.95%	3.39%	1.58%	6	3.19%	2.53%	1.73%	10	1.13%	0.76%	0.75%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.59%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.58%	1	0.11%	0.33%	0.25%
	Asia	16	3.64%	3.15%	3.56%	2	1.06%	5.06%	2.02%	1	0.11%	1.20%	0.50%
	Europe	14	3.18%	4.60%	4.74%	2	1.06%	3.38%	4.03%	11	1.24%	3.92%	4.39%
	Canada or Mexico	1	0.23%	0.24%	0.59%	1	0.53%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.11%	0.25%
	Central or South America	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.11%	0.00%	0.08%
	Other	6	1.36%	0.73%	0.79%	1	0.53%	0.42%	0.58%	5	0.56%	0.44%	0.00%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.59%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.58%	1	0.11%	0.00%	0.66%

**TABLE 5.34. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 ARMY DODSER EVENT SETTING FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	351	79.77%	80.87%	79.45%	164	87.23%	78.48%	83.57%
	Residence of friend or family	22	5.00%	3.39%	5.14%	3	1.60%	5.49%	2.88%
	Work/jobsite	15	3.41%	3.39%	1.98%	4	2.13%	3.80%	4.03%
	Automobile (away from residence)	16	3.64%	5.08%	5.34%	8	4.26%	1.69%	2.59%
	Inpatient medical facility	4	0.91%	1.45%	0.59%	1	0.53%	3.38%	2.02%
	Other	32	7.27%	5.81%	7.51%	8	4.26%	7.17%	4.90%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

## Event Method

As indicated in Table 5.35, drug use was the most frequent method for suicide attempt ( $n = 266$ , 60.45%), followed by injury with a sharp or blunt object ( $n = 45$ , 10.23%) and hanging ( $n = 37$ , 8.41%).

**TABLE 5.35. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER EVENT METHOD FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

EVENT METHOD		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	19	4.32%	3.39%	3.75%	3	1.60%	3.80%	2.02%
	Firearm, military issue	11	2.50%	3.63%	5.34%	2	1.06%	0.84%	2.59%
	Hanging	37	8.41%	8.47%	8.10%	8	4.26%	2.95%	4.32%
	Drugs	266	60.45%	57.63%	55.93%	81	43.09%	53.16%	48.99%
	Alcohol	17	3.86%	2.91%	2.17%	6	3.19%	2.11%	4.61%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	12	2.73%	1.21%	0.79%	1	0.53%	0.00%	0.58%
	Gas, utility (or other)	2	0.45%	0.24%	0.40%	0	0.00%	0.84%	0.00%
	Chemicals	10	2.27%	1.45%	1.38%	3	1.60%	0.84%	0.29%
	Drowning	0	0.00%	0.24%	0.20%	0	0.00%	0.42%	0.58%
	Fire, steam, etc.	0	0.00%	0.24%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.42%	0.29%
	Sharp or blunt object	45	10.23%	12.11%	15.22%	50	26.60%	27.43%	27.67%
	Jumping from high place	5	1.14%	2.18%	0.99%	2	1.06%	1.27%	1.44%
	Lying in front of moving object	2	0.45%	0.48%	0.79%	0	0.00%	0.42%	0.29%
	Crashing a motor vehicle	6	1.36%	1.94%	2.17%	2	1.06%	0.00%	0.58%
	Other	5	1.14%	1.94%	1.98%	21	11.17%	2.53%	3.46%
	Don't Know	3	0.68%	1.94%	0.79%	9	4.79%	2.95%	2.31%

## Substance Use during the Event

DoDSER POCs collected data on alcohol and drug use during nonfatal suicide events (Table 5.36). For both suicide attempts and self-harm without intent to die, drug use was more frequent than the use of alcohol. DoDSERs included alcohol use for 134 Army suicide attempts (30.45%) and included drug use for 267 Army suicide attempts (60.68%). Drug use most frequently involved the misuse of prescription drugs ( $n = 176$ , 40.00%). These frequencies include Soldiers who used drugs as a suicide attempt method, as described above.

**TABLE 5.36. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	134	30.45%	30.27%	27.47%	43	22.87%	20.25%	27.09%
	No	228	51.82%	58.11%	64.03%	135	71.81%	70.89%	67.44%
	Don't Know	78	17.73%	11.62%	8.50%	10	5.32%	8.86%	5.48%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	267	60.68%	63.20%	59.68%	89	47.34%	53.16%	50.14%
	No	146	33.18%	31.96%	34.78%	91	48.40%	41.35%	45.53%
	Don't Know	27	6.14%	4.84%	5.53%	8	4.26%	5.49%	4.32%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	27	6.14%	7.02%	3.36%	9	4.79%	3.38%	2.59%
	Used, no overdose	4	0.91%	2.66%	2.37%	5	2.66%	2.95%	2.59%
	Were not used	382	86.82%	85.47%	78.85%	166	88.30%	88.19%	84.44%
	Don't know	27	6.14%	4.84%	15.42%	8	4.26%	5.49%	10.37%

**TABLE 5.36. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 ARMY DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)**

Prescription	Overdose	176	40.00%	42.86%	39.13%	36	19.15%	21.94%	23.05%
	Used, no overdose	27	6.14%	6.78%	5.93%	27	14.36%	17.72%	14.12%
	Were not used	210	47.73%	45.52%	47.04%	117	62.23%	54.85%	56.20%
	Don't know	27	6.14%	4.84%	7.91%	8	4.26%	5.49%	6.63%
OTC	Overdose	75	17.05%	15.01%	15.61%	13	6.91%	8.44%	9.22%
	Used, no overdose	12	2.73%	2.42%	2.77%	10	5.32%	4.22%	4.90%
	Were not used	326	74.09%	77.72%	67.00%	157	83.51%	81.86%	75.50%
	Don't know	27	6.14%	4.84%	14.62%	8	4.26%	5.49%	10.37%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	85	19.32%	20.58%	17.39%	21	11.17%	10.55%	13.54%
	No	271	61.59%	65.62%	71.94%	154	81.91%	78.48%	78.10%
	Don't Know	84	19.09%	13.80%	10.67%	13	6.91%	10.97%	8.36%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Communication of Intent

As summarized in Table 5.37, DoDSERs indicated that most Soldiers were not known to communicate with others prior to attempting suicide ( $n = 325$ , 73.86%) or harming themselves in other ways without intent to die ( $n = 159$ , 84.57%). As indicated in Table 5.38, the most frequent mode of communication of intent was verbal ( $n = 64$  suicide attempts, 14.55% and  $n = 19$  self-harm events, 10.11%). Table 5.39 shows with whom Soldiers communicated.

**TABLE 5.37. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 ARMY DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	325	73.86%	78.93%	76.88%	159	84.57%	86.08%	84.15%
	1	94	21.36%	16.71%	17.59%	22	11.70%	11.81%	12.39%
	2	12	2.73%	3.15%	3.75%	6	3.19%	1.69%	2.88%
	3	8	1.82%	0.97%	1.19%	0	0.00%	0.42%	0.58%
	4	1	0.23%	0.24%	0.40%	1	0.53%	0.00%	0.00%
	5	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.20%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

**TABLE 5.38. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 ARMY DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	64	14.55%	15.50%	16.60%	19	10.11%	10.97%	12.39%
	Written	23	5.23%	3.87%	2.77%	7	3.72%	1.69%	1.44%
	Other or Unknown	19	4.32%	0.97%	1.19%	2	1.06%	1.27%	0.86%
	Multiple Modes	9	2.05%	0.73%	1.98%	1	0.53%	0.00%	0.58%
	No Known Communication	325	73.86%	78.93%	77.47%	159	84.57%	86.08%	84.73%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

**TABLE 5.39. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	46	10.45%	5.81%	4.74%	8	4.26%	2.11%	2.02%
	Friend	35	7.95%	4.36%	3.36%	10	5.32%	2.11%	2.59%
	Behavioral Health Provider	18	4.09%	1.94%	3.16%	8	4.26%	3.80%	3.17%
	Chaplain	0	0.00%	0.48%	0.40%	0	0.00%	1.27%	0.00%
	Supervisor	16	3.64%	1.69%	1.19%	2	1.06%	1.69%	2.59%
	Other or Unidentified	26	5.91%	2.42%	4.15%	8	4.26%	0.84%	1.44%
	Multiple Communications	21	4.77%	4.36%	5.53%	7	3.72%	2.11%	3.46%
	No Known Communication	325	73.86%	78.93%	77.47%	159	84.57%	86.08%	84.73%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 5.40 provides information about other details of 2011 Army suicide attempts. For the majority of suicide attempts ( $n = 298$ , 67.73%), there was information to indicate that the Soldiers intended to die. The high proportion of “Don’t Know” responses suggests that all inferences should be made with caution.

**TABLE 5.40. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	298	67.73%	72.64%	70.36%				
	No	62	14.09%	9.44%	12.25%				
	Don’t Know	80	18.18%	17.92%	17.39%				
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	7	1.59%	0.73%	1.58%	1	0.53%	1.27%	0.29%
	No	395	89.77%	88.62%	92.09%	181	96.28%	94.51%	97.69%
	Don’t Know	38	8.64%	10.65%	6.32%	6	3.19%	4.22%	2.02%
PLANNED/ PREMEDITATED	Yes	117	26.59%	27.60%	27.27%	20	10.64%	12.24%	10.66%
	No	248	56.36%	47.46%	58.30%	143	76.06%	72.15%	74.35%
	Don’t Know	75	17.05%	24.94%	14.43%	25	13.30%	15.61%	14.99%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	173	39.32%	39.95%	46.25%	115	61.17%	46.41%	55.91%
	No	192	43.64%	41.16%	38.34%	50	26.60%	32.91%	29.97%
	Don’t Know	75	17.05%	18.89%	15.42%	23	12.23%	20.68%	14.12%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	46	10.45%	10.90%	12.45%	2	1.06%	2.53%	2.02%
	No	346	78.64%	69.01%	76.48%	178	94.68%	88.19%	89.05%
	Don’t Know	48	10.91%	20.10%	11.07%	8	4.26%	9.28%	8.93%

## Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation, and duty environment.

### Situational Factors

Table 5.41 provides details about the living situations of Soldiers with nonfatal suicide events in 2011. Army suicide attempt DoDSERs indicated that the most frequent living environments were shared living environments on installations ( $n = 203$ , 46.14%) or private homes or apartments outside of installations ( $n = 143$ , 32.50%). Married Soldiers most often lived with their spouses at the time of the suicide attempt ( $n = 113$ , 25.68%) and many were separated due to relationship issues ( $n = 56$ , 12.73%). One hundred seventy-one Army suicide attempt DoDSERs indicated that the Soldiers had minor children ( $n = 171$ , 38.86%). DoDSERs for 66 Army suicide attempts (15.00%) included known access to firearms.

**TABLE 5.41. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	203	46.14%	48.91%	58.89%	93	49.47%	55.27%	58.21%	456	51.35%	49.89%	64.37%
	Bachelor quarters	2	0.45%	0.97%	0.79%	0	0.00%	0.84%	0.00%	9	1.01%	0.65%	0.75%
	On-base family housing	43	9.77%	7.51%	6.32%	15	7.98%	5.91%	5.19%	70	7.88%	8.17%	6.46%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	143	32.50%	36.08%	24.51%	72	38.30%	29.11%	26.80%	268	30.18%	32.14%	20.96%
	Ship	1	0.23%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.08%
	Other	16	3.64%	1.69%	4.35%	5	2.66%	5.06%	4.32%	36	4.05%	3.70%	2.98%
	Don't Know	32	7.27%	4.84%	5.14%	3	1.60%	3.80%	5.48%	49	5.52%	5.45%	4.39%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resides with spouse	113	25.68%	21.07%	19.96%	51	27.13%	22.78%	21.90%	197	22.18%	23.64%	16.82%
	Separated	56	12.73%	11.62%	8.70%	18	9.57%	14.35%	8.36%	85	9.57%	9.59%	8.45%
	Apart (not separated)	38	8.64%	11.14%	13.44%	18	9.57%	14.77%	9.80%	78	8.78%	9.69%	11.35%
	Don't Know	6	1.36%	0.97%	1.98%	2	1.06%	0.84%	2.59%	21	2.36%	0.98%	1.49%
	Unmarried at time of event	227	51.59%	55.21%	55.93%	99	52.66%	47.26%	57.35%	507	57.09%	56.10%	61.89%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	145	32.95%	38.26%	26.68%	49	26.06%	28.69%	17.87%	234	26.35%	28.98%	18.89%
	No	248	56.36%	49.88%	60.28%	116	61.70%	57.81%	66.57%	572	64.41%	60.46%	69.18%
	Don't Know	47	10.68%	11.86%	13.04%	23	12.23%	13.50%	15.56%	82	9.23%	10.57%	11.93%

**TABLE 5.41. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)**

HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	171	38.86%	37.77%	35.18%	48	25.53%	32.07%	25.94%	287	32.32%	34.75%	26.35%
	No	231	52.50%	62.23%	64.82%	107	56.91%	67.93%	74.06%	540	60.81%	65.25%	73.57%
	Don't Know	38	8.64%	0.00%	0.00%	33	17.55%	0.00%	0.00%	61	6.87%	0.00%	0.08%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	71	16.14%	14.53%	11.07%	29	15.43%	13.08%	9.80%	114	12.84%	15.47%	8.70%
	No	91	20.68%	21.79%	22.92%	16	8.51%	18.57%	15.56%	163	18.36%	17.86%	15.82%
	Don't Know	27	6.14%	1.45%	1.19%	36	19.15%	0.42%	0.58%	71	8.00%	1.42%	1.91%
	No Children	231	52.50%	62.23%	64.82%	107	56.91%	67.93%	74.06%	540	60.81%	65.25%	73.57%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	66	15.00%	14.77%	15.61%	13	6.91%	11.81%	10.37%	112	12.61%	9.37%	11.52%
	No	263	59.77%	62.95%	66.01%	152	80.85%	76.37%	72.91%	610	68.69%	73.09%	72.66%
	Don't Know	111	25.23%	22.28%	18.38%	23	12.23%	11.81%	16.71%	166	18.69%	17.54%	15.82%

## Duty Environment

Table 5.42 summarizes duty environments of Soldiers with nonfatal suicide events. The majority of DoDSERs for Army suicide attempts indicated that the Soldiers were stationed at their permanent duty station ( $n = 284$ , 64.55%). Thirteen DoDSERs (2.95%) indicated that the Soldiers were deployed during the suicide event, and 32 were in training (7.27%).

**TABLE 5.42. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	284	64.55%	58.11%	61.07%	125	66.49%	65.40%	67.44%	510	57.43%	64.16%	64.95%
	Leave	13	2.95%	0.00%	0.40%	5	2.66%	0.42%	0.29%	19	2.14%	0.11%	0.50%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	1	0.23%	1.69%	2.37%	0	0.00%	1.27%	0.58%	4	0.45%	1.63%	0.41%
	Medical Hold	17	3.86%	1.45%	1.98%	6	3.19%	0.42%	2.59%	10	1.13%	0.87%	1.91%
	TDY	5	1.14%	0.00%	0.20%	2	1.06%	0.00%	0.29%	0	0.00%	0.22%	0.17%
	AWOL	5	1.14%	0.97%	0.99%	1	0.53%	0.84%	1.15%	15	1.69%	0.22%	0.66%
	Under Command Observation	4	0.91%	0.00%	0.59%	1	0.53%	0.00%	0.00%	7	0.79%	0.33%	0.25%
	Deployed	13	2.95%	7.99%	10.08%	11	5.85%	4.64%	6.63%	34	3.83%	2.83%	4.72%
	Training	32	7.27%	4.60%	10.67%	29	15.43%	4.64%	6.92%	129	14.53%	6.10%	12.01%

**TABLE 5.42. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)**

Other	18	4.09%	0.73%	2.96%	4	2.13%	1.27%	1.15%	30	3.38%	1.42%	1.82%
Multiple Duty Environments	30	6.82%	10.41%	6.13%	19	10.11%	14.35%	10.09%	50	5.63%	4.47%	6.46%
Duty Environment Unknown	79	17.95%	14.04%	2.57%	24	12.77%	6.75%	2.88%	183	20.61%	17.65%	6.13%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Nonfatal Suicide Events by Month

No clear pattern was evident for Army nonfatal suicide events by month (Table 5.43).

**TABLE 5.43. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS BY MONTH**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011	2010	2009		2011	2010	2009		2011	2010	2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MONTH	January	39	8.86%	10.41%	14.03%	20	10.64%	7.59%	10.66%	87	9.80%	8.39%	8.37%
	February	50	11.36%	7.99%	6.92%	20	10.64%	6.75%	8.93%	58	6.53%	8.71%	8.45%
	March	36	8.18%	5.81%	11.07%	17	9.04%	12.24%	12.68%	103	11.60%	9.37%	8.78%
	April	43	9.77%	6.54%	8.70%	20	10.64%	7.17%	8.07%	58	6.53%	9.37%	10.02%
	May	27	6.14%	6.30%	8.30%	10	5.32%	10.97%	7.49%	76	8.56%	9.80%	10.52%
	June	32	7.27%	10.65%	8.70%	17	9.04%	8.44%	8.07%	86	9.68%	8.39%	10.44%
	July	34	7.73%	8.47%	8.70%	20	10.64%	10.97%	9.80%	92	10.36%	8.93%	8.53%
	August	41	9.32%	8.72%	9.49%	13	6.91%	6.33%	8.65%	61	6.87%	7.73%	8.53%
	September	35	7.95%	7.75%	8.70%	19	10.11%	8.02%	4.61%	86	9.68%	9.59%	7.54%
	October	28	6.36%	7.51%	8.30%	10	5.32%	7.17%	8.65%	65	7.32%	8.39%	8.29%
	November	43	9.77%	9.44%	3.75%	13	6.91%	9.28%	6.92%	73	8.22%	6.32%	5.14%
	December	32	7.27%	10.41%	3.36%	9	4.79%	5.06%	5.48%	43	4.84%	5.01%	5.39%

## Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

## Prior Self-Injury

Nearly one-third of Army DoDSERs for attempted suicide included a known history of prior self-harm ( $n = 128$ , 29.09%; Table 5.44). Sixty-nine DoDSERs for Army suicide attempts (15.68%) included evidence of more than one prior event.

**TABLE 5.44. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	128	29.09%	30.99%	39.33%	52	27.66%	31.65%	35.16%	195	21.96%	26.91%	26.01%
	Within 30 days	20	4.55%	6.05%	6.92%	17	9.04%	6.75%	7.49%	44	4.95%	4.47%	4.14%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	35	7.95%	9.93%	11.07%	28	14.89%	12.24%	11.24%	67	7.55%	7.95%	6.55%
	No	253	57.50%	56.90%	52.96%	125	66.49%	54.01%	54.18%	582	65.54%	60.02%	61.64%
	Don't Know	59	13.41%	12.11%	7.71%	11	5.85%	14.35%	10.66%	111	12.50%	13.07%	12.34%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	59	13.41%	12.59%	9.72%	19	10.11%	15.61%	8.43%	103	11.60%	13.83%	7.65%
	More than one prior event	69	15.68%	18.40%	29.37%	33	17.55%	16.03%	26.16%	92	10.36%	13.07%	18.12%
	N/A or Unknown	312	70.91%	69.01%	60.91%	136	72.34%	68.35%	65.41%	693	78.04%	73.09%	74.23%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	67	15.23%	17.19%	19.21%	36	19.15%	16.46%	22.48%				
	No	51	11.59%	10.41%	16.44%	7	3.72%	9.28%	8.93%				
	Don't Know	10	2.27%	3.39%	3.56%	9	4.79%	5.91%	3.75%				
	N/A	312	70.91%	69.01%	60.79%	136	72.34%	68.35%	64.84%				

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

## Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide event. Most DoDSERs for Army suicide attempts included history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder ( $n = 264$ , 60.00%; Table 5.45). As indicated in Table 5.46, over one-third of Army suicide attempt DoDSERs ( $n = 163$ , 37.05%) included known history of a mood disorder, primarily major depressive disorder ( $n = 100$ , 22.73%). Nearly one-fourth of DoDSERs for Army suicide attempts included known history of an anxiety disorder ( $n = 172$ , 39.09%), the most frequent were of unspecified type ( $n = 83$ , 18.86%), followed by PTSD ( $n = 61$ , 13.86%; Table 5.47). As summarized in Table 5.48, 24 DoDSERs (5.45%) included known personality

disorders, 3 (0.68%) included psychosis, 127 (28.86%) included known substance abuse history, and 19 Army suicide attempt DoDSERs (4.32%) included traumatic brain injuries.

**TABLE 5.45. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIOR- AL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	176	40.00%	35.11%	43.08%	74	39.36%	37.97%	39.19%	429	48.31%	39.76%	45.57%
	1 DX	143	32.50%	25.42%	29.25%	53	28.19%	24.47%	26.51%	217	24.44%	26.69%	29.00%
	2 DX	68	15.45%	22.28%	15.02%	35	18.62%	15.19%	19.31%	138	15.54%	16.34%	15.49%
	3 DX	39	8.86%	10.17%	8.50%	21	11.17%	13.92%	11.82%	60	6.76%	10.13%	6.55%
	4 or more DX	14	3.18%	7.02%	4.15%	5	2.66%	8.44%	3.17%	44	4.95%	7.08%	3.40%

**TABLE 5.46. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	163	37.05%	38.98%	38.54%	58	30.85%	34.18%	39.48%	218	24.55%	31.37%	36.37%
	No	231	52.50%	50.36%	51.58%	122	64.89%	51.90%	51.59%	564	63.51%	58.71%	52.78%
	Don't Know	46	10.45%	10.65%	9.88%	8	4.26%	13.92%	8.93%	106	11.94%	9.91%	10.85%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	16	3.64%	2.18%	3.16%	2	1.06%	2.95%	2.88%	25	2.82%	2.40%	3.81%
	No	378	85.91%	81.60%	84.39%	178	94.68%	80.59%	86.46%	757	85.25%	85.51%	83.51%
	Don't Know	46	10.45%	16.22%	12.45%	8	4.26%	16.46%	10.66%	106	11.94%	12.09%	12.68%
Major depression	Yes	100	22.73%	18.64%	18.77%	32	17.02%	18.14%	18.16%	132	14.86%	13.94%	15.33%
	No	294	66.82%	67.55%	69.76%	148	78.72%	66.67%	71.76%	650	73.20%	74.18%	72.41%
	Don't Know	46	10.45%	13.80%	11.46%	8	4.26%	15.19%	10.09%	106	11.94%	11.87%	12.26%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	11	2.50%	1.21%	0.79%	5	2.66%	2.11%	2.02%	8	0.90%	1.53%	1.74%
	No	383	87.05%	83.78%	86.36%	175	93.09%	81.43%	86.46%	774	87.16%	85.29%	85.75%
	Don't Know	46	10.45%	15.01%	12.85%	8	4.26%	16.46%	11.53%	106	11.94%	13.18%	12.51%
Other mood disorder	Yes	33	7.50%	8.23%	8.89%	17	9.04%	6.75%	10.66%	57	6.42%	6.21%	9.86%
	No	361	82.05%	76.27%	78.66%	163	86.70%	77.64%	78.10%	725	81.64%	80.72%	77.38%
	Don't Know	46	10.45%	15.50%	12.45%	8	4.26%	15.61%	11.24%	106	11.94%	13.07%	12.76%

**TABLE 5.46. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)**

Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	21	4.77%	4.60%	0.99%	6	3.19%	1.69%	1.15%	18	2.03%	2.51%	1.24%
	No	373	84.77%	84.75%	89.13%	174	92.55%	84.39%	89.91%	764	86.04%	87.58%	87.90%
	Don't Know	46	10.45%	10.65%	9.88%	8	4.26%	13.92%	8.93%	106	11.94%	9.91%	10.85%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	11	2.50%	4.12%	5.93%	1	0.53%	2.53%	4.61%	10	1.13%	4.79%	4.39%
	No	383	87.05%	85.23%	84.19%	179	95.21%	83.54%	86.46%	772	86.94%	85.29%	84.76%
	Don't Know	46	10.45%	10.65%	9.88%	8	4.26%	13.92%	8.93%	106	11.94%	9.91%	10.85%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 5.47. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	172	39.09%	28.09%	23.91%	47	25.00%	30.80%	27.95%	169	19.03%	24.07%	17.81%
	No	225	51.14%	60.77%	67.19%	130	69.15%	57.81%	63.11%	612	68.92%	66.34%	72.08%
	Don't Know	43	9.77%	11.14%	8.89%	11	5.85%	11.39%	8.93%	107	12.05%	9.59%	10.11%
PTSD	Yes	61	13.86%	9.69%	9.68%	20	10.64%	12.66%	10.95%	92	10.36%	9.91%	7.46%
	No	336	76.36%	76.51%	79.84%	157	83.51%	75.53%	79.25%	689	77.59%	79.85%	81.77%
	Don't Know	43	9.77%	13.80%	10.47%	11	5.85%	11.81%	9.80%	107	12.05%	10.24%	10.77%
Panic disorder	Yes	10	2.27%	0.97%	0.79%	4	2.13%	0.84%	0.58%	13	1.46%	0.44%	0.33%
	No	387	87.95%	84.26%	88.74%	173	92.02%	85.65%	88.76%	768	86.49%	88.13%	88.15%
	Don't Know	43	9.77%	14.77%	10.47%	11	5.85%	13.50%	10.66%	107	12.05%	11.44%	11.52%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	29	6.59%	2.42%	1.98%	12	6.38%	4.64%	3.17%	46	5.18%	1.85%	2.32%
	No	368	83.64%	83.29%	87.15%	165	87.77%	81.86%	86.74%	735	82.77%	86.38%	86.25%
	Don't Know	43	9.77%	14.29%	10.87%	11	5.85%	13.50%	10.09%	107	12.05%	11.76%	11.43%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	6	1.36%	0.24%	0.40%	0	0.00%	0.84%	0.00%	6	0.68%	0.44%	0.00%
	No	391	88.86%	85.23%	89.13%	177	94.15%	85.65%	89.34%	775	87.27%	88.13%	88.57%
	Don't Know	43	9.77%	14.53%	10.47%	11	5.85%	13.50%	10.66%	107	12.05%	11.44%	11.43%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	20	4.55%	7.26%	5.34%	16	8.51%	3.38%	5.48%	39	4.39%	5.12%	3.23%
	No	377	85.68%	78.69%	84.98%	161	85.64%	84.39%	83.86%	742	83.56%	83.12%	85.34%
	Don't Know	43	9.77%	14.04%	9.68%	11	5.85%	12.24%	10.66%	107	12.05%	11.76%	11.43%

**TABLE 5.47. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)**

Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	83	18.86%	2.42%	1.19%	2	1.06%	0.84%	0.58%	10	1.13%	0.65%	0.91%
	No	314	71.36%	86.44%	89.92%	175	93.09%	87.76%	90.49%	771	86.82%	89.76%	88.98%
	Don't Know	43	9.77%	11.14%	8.89%	11	5.85%	11.39%	8.93%	107	12.05%	9.59%	10.11%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	30	6.82%	5.08%	4.55%	6	3.19%	7.59%	7.20%	31	3.49%	5.66%	3.56%
	No	367	83.41%	83.78%	86.56%	171	90.96%	81.01%	83.86%	750	84.46%	84.75%	86.33%
	Don't Know	43	9.77%	11.14%	8.89%	11	5.85%	11.39%	8.93%	107	12.05%	9.59%	10.11%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 5.48. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	24	5.45%	5.81%	6.13%	5	2.66%	5.06%	11.24%	28	3.15%	3.27%	5.97%
	No	362	82.27%	81.11%	83.60%	169	89.89%	81.86%	77.23%	749	84.35%	85.62%	83.10%
	Don't Know	54	12.27%	13.08%	10.28%	14	7.45%	13.08%	11.53%	111	12.50%	11.11%	10.94%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	3	0.68%	1.94%	0.79%	1	0.53%	1.27%	0.29%	9	1.01%	0.87%	1.66%
	No	384	87.27%	86.68%	89.53%	173	92.02%	86.50%	89.91%	774	87.16%	89.11%	88.57%
	Don't Know	53	12.05%	11.38%	9.68%	14	7.45%	12.24%	9.80%	105	11.82%	10.02%	9.78%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	127	28.86%	24.21%	27.87%	51	27.13%	28.69%	29.97%	222	25.00%	24.18%	26.68%
	No	256	58.18%	63.68%	62.25%	124	65.96%	57.38%	61.96%	576	64.86%	65.36%	63.05%
	Don't Know	57	12.95%	12.11%	9.88%	13	6.91%	13.92%	8.07%	90	10.14%	10.46%	10.27%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	19	4.32%	3.15%		1	0.53%	3.38%		25	2.82%	4.79%	
	No	370	84.09%	85.47%		173	92.02%	83.12%		757	85.25%	85.51%	
	Don't Know	51	11.59%	11.38%		14	7.45%	13.50%		106	11.94%	9.69%	

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

## Treatment History

Table 5.49 provides data on the use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to nonfatal suicide events. Over one-half of Army suicide attempt DoDSERs ( $n = 272$ , 61.82%) indicated that Soldiers had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), 201

(73.79% of MTF treatment seekers, 45.68% of total) within the month prior to attempting suicide. One hundred sixteen Army suicide attempt DoDSERs (26.36%) included evidence of a known physical health problem. Eighty DoDSERs (18.18%) indicated prior substance abuse treatment.

Most Army suicide attempt DoDSERs ( $n = 270$ , 61.36%) indicated that Soldiers had received outpatient behavioral health services, many within the month prior to attempting suicide ( $n = 205$ , 46.59%). One hundred fifteen DoDSERs (26.14%) indicated that the Soldiers had previously been hospitalized at an inpatient psychiatry unit; 44 (10.00%) had been hospitalized within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

**TABLE 5.49. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 ARMY DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	272	61.82%	50.61%	43.48%	92	48.94%	48.95%	40.06%	500	56.31%	62.53%	47.47%
	Within 30 days	201	45.68%	34.14%	27.87%	66	35.11%	34.18%	25.36%	313	35.25%	38.78%	33.80%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	233	52.95%	42.62%	34.98%	77	40.96%	42.19%	31.70%	396	44.59%	50.65%	42.09%
	No	131	29.77%	42.13%	45.65%	87	46.28%	37.55%	49.57%	318	35.81%	28.32%	42.17%
	Don't Know	37	8.41%	7.26%	10.87%	9	4.79%	13.50%	10.37%	70	7.88%	9.15%	10.36%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	116	26.36%	21.55%	20.55%	23	12.23%	21.94%	16.71%	171	19.26%	20.70%	19.14%
	Within 30 days	77	17.50%	13.08%	12.85%	14	7.45%	11.39%	9.51%	82	9.23%	11.00%	8.86%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	90	20.45%	16.71%	15.42%	17	9.04%	16.03%	13.26%	100	11.26%	13.29%	12.43%
	No	252	57.27%	68.77%	69.17%	152	80.85%	68.78%	78.39%	613	69.03%	72.44%	72.74%
	Don't Know	72	16.36%	9.69%	10.28%	13	6.91%	9.28%	4.90%	104	11.71%	6.86%	8.12%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	80	18.18%	19.37%	15.02%	27	14.36%	19.83%	17.29%	113	12.73%	16.01%	16.24%
	Within 30 days	54	12.27%	9.44%	7.91%	17	9.04%	9.70%	9.80%	64	7.21%	9.59%	9.36%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	59	13.41%	13.56%	9.88%	22	11.70%	13.08%	12.97%	81	9.12%	11.66%	12.26%
	No	317	72.05%	73.12%	75.69%	153	81.38%	67.51%	73.78%	696	78.38%	76.58%	73.49%
	Don't Know	43	9.77%	7.51%	9.29%	8	4.26%	12.66%	8.93%	79	8.90%	7.41%	10.27%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	42	9.55%	7.02%	6.13%	12	6.38%	5.06%	6.34%	51	5.74%	7.41%	5.14%
	Within 30 days	23	5.23%	2.91%	2.17%	7	3.72%	1.27%	2.02%	26	2.93%	3.81%	1.74%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	27	6.14%	4.12%	4.35%	9	4.79%	2.53%	4.03%	32	3.60%	4.68%	3.07%
	No	334	75.91%	83.05%	83.79%	163	86.70%	81.01%	83.00%	739	83.22%	83.88%	84.01%
	Don't Know	64	14.55%	9.93%	10.08%	13	6.91%	13.92%	10.66%	98	11.04%	8.71%	10.85%

**TABLE 5.49. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)**

CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	50	11.36%	13.08%	18.18%	11	5.85%	10.97%	12.10%	120	13.51%	14.92%	17.32%
	Within 30 days	31	7.05%	7.26%	11.46%	7	3.72%	7.59%	7.20%	85	9.57%	10.46%	12.59%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	42	9.55%	9.20%	16.21%	9	4.79%	9.28%	9.51%	104	11.71%	12.53%	15.66%
	No	260	59.09%	60.77%	60.47%	129	68.62%	58.65%	62.82%	615	69.26%	54.47%	50.79%
	Don't Know	130	29.55%	26.15%	21.34%	48	25.53%	30.38%	25.07%	153	17.23%	30.61%	31.90%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	270	61.36%	66.59%	56.92%	105	55.85%	62.03%	61.96%	451	50.79%	65.36%	62.88%
	Within 30 days	205	46.59%	45.52%	41.11%	82	43.62%	41.77%	43.23%	304	34.23%	47.82%	44.82%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	229	52.05%	54.00%	47.83%	95	50.53%	48.10%	50.72%	366	41.22%	54.25%	51.78%
	No	136	30.91%	29.06%	36.96%	77	40.96%	28.27%	31.41%	365	41.10%	29.63%	30.65%
	Don't Know	34	7.73%	4.36%	6.13%	6	3.19%	9.70%	6.63%	72	8.11%	5.01%	6.46%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	115	26.14%	24.94%	27.67%	40	21.28%	26.16%	29.68%	161	18.13%	27.23%	26.68%
	Within 30 days	44	10.00%	9.69%	11.26%	20	10.64%	9.28%	10.95%	63	7.09%	11.55%	10.69%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	71	16.14%	15.01%	17.19%	26	13.83%	16.03%	19.60%	101	11.37%	16.88%	16.16%
	No	289	65.68%	69.01%	65.22%	140	74.47%	62.87%	62.82%	650	73.20%	66.12%	65.53%
	Don't Know	36	8.18%	6.05%	7.11%	8	4.26%	10.97%	7.49%	77	8.67%	6.64%	7.79%
IN A WARRIOR TRANSITION UNIT	Yes	29	6.59%	6.54%		14	7.45%	9.28%		25	2.82%	6.64%	
	No	259	58.86%	8.47%		135	71.81%	2.53%		588	66.22%	5.56%	
	Don't Know	152	34.55%	84.99%		39	20.74%	88.19%		275	30.97%	87.80%	

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

**Note:** Warrior Transition Unit data unavailable prior to 2010.

As indicated in Table 5.50, over two-thirds of DoDSERs for Soldiers who attempted suicide ( $n = 296$ , 67.27%) indicated known prescriptions for psychotropic medication prior to the suicide event. The most frequently prescribed psychotropic medications were antidepressants ( $n = 159$ , 53.72% of those with known prescriptions, 36.14% of total) and antianxiety medications ( $n = 78$ , 26.35% of those with known prescriptions, 17.73% of total).

**TABLE 5.50. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	296	67.27%	48.18%	40.51%	74	39.36%	46.84%	44.67%	282	31.76%	42.37%	41.18%
	No	116	26.36%	42.86%	51.38%	102	54.26%	42.19%	45.24%	502	56.53%	47.17%	47.97%
	Don't Know	28	6.36%	8.96%	8.10%	12	6.38%	10.97%	10.09%	104	11.71%	10.46%	10.85%
Antidepressants	Yes	159	36.14%	38.50%	35.18%	66	35.11%	41.77%	40.06%	236	26.58%	37.36%	35.87%
	No	132	30.00%	50.36%	56.13%	110	58.51%	45.99%	49.57%	542	61.04%	50.54%	51.70%
	Don't Know	149	33.86%	11.14%	8.70%	12	6.38%	12.24%	10.37%	110	12.39%	12.09%	12.43%
Antianxiety	Yes	78	17.73%	20.10%	15.61%	0	0.00%	21.10%	19.02%	112	12.61%	17.10%	14.66%
	No	203	46.14%	65.86%	73.32%	102	54.26%	63.71%	68.30%	651	73.31%	69.50%	71.09%
	Don't Know	159	36.14%	14.04%	11.07%	86	45.74%	15.19%	12.68%	125	14.08%	13.40%	14.25%
Antimaniacs	Yes	7	1.59%	3.15%	1.38%	3	1.60%	2.11%	1.73%	10	1.13%	2.51%	2.40%
	No	276	62.73%	81.84%	86.17%	170	90.43%	82.70%	85.30%	755	85.02%	84.10%	82.60%
	Don't Know	157	35.68%	15.01%	12.45%	15	7.98%	15.19%	12.97%	123	13.85%	13.40%	15.00%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	8	1.82%	2.18%	1.58%	2	1.06%	1.69%	2.59%	13	1.46%	2.07%	2.15%
	No	273	62.05%	82.57%	86.56%	171	90.96%	83.12%	84.73%	750	84.46%	84.20%	82.93%
	Don't Know	159	36.14%	15.25%	11.86%	15	7.98%	15.19%	12.68%	125	14.08%	13.73%	14.91%
Antipsychotics	Yes	31	7.05%	7.75%	9.29%	22	11.70%	8.44%	11.82%	37	4.17%	5.99%	7.21%
	No	252	57.27%	77.24%	78.66%	151	80.32%	76.37%	76.37%	731	82.32%	80.72%	78.29%
	Don't Know	157	35.68%	15.01%	12.06%	15	7.98%	15.19%	11.82%	120	13.51%	13.29%	14.50%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories and interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

### Family and Relationship History

DoDSERs for one-half of Soldiers who attempted suicide ( $n = 224$ , 50.91%) indicated the known failure of a spousal or intimate relationship, with

137 (31.14%) indicating that the failure occurred within the month prior to attempting suicide (Table 5.51). Eighty-two (18.64%) indicated the failure of another important relationship, with over one-fourth of these ( $n = 47$ , 10.68%) occurring within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

**TABLE 5.51. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	224	50.91%	54.00%	50.00%	81	43.09%	52.32%	52.74%	335	37.73%	44.66%	39.35%
	Within 30 days	137	31.14%	33.66%	30.24%	39	20.74%	23.21%	25.65%	130	14.64%	22.44%	17.56%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	168	38.18%	41.16%	37.94%	58	30.85%	37.97%	40.92%	205	23.09%	30.94%	26.51%
	No	160	36.36%	37.53%	41.70%	99	52.66%	39.66%	40.63%	474	53.38%	49.35%	53.02%
	Don't Know	56	12.73%	8.47%	8.30%	8	4.26%	8.02%	6.63%	79	8.90%	5.99%	7.62%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	82	18.64%	15.50%	17.00%	18	9.57%	10.97%	11.24%	148	16.67%	11.76%	12.43%
	Within 30 days	47	10.68%	9.44%	8.89%	7	3.72%	7.59%	5.48%	57	6.42%	5.56%	5.05%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	58	13.18%	11.38%	11.66%	8	4.26%	8.86%	7.49%	81	9.12%	7.30%	7.46%
	No	273	62.05%	68.77%	69.37%	151	80.32%	76.79%	80.40%	625	70.38%	77.02%	76.80%
	Don't Know	85	19.32%	15.74%	13.64%	19	10.11%	12.24%	8.36%	115	12.95%	11.22%	10.77%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	248	56.36%	57.87%	55.53%	87	46.28%	56.12%	56.20%	373	42.00%	46.95%	44.16%
	Within 30 days	144	32.73%	37.29%	34.39%	39	20.74%	27.00%	28.82%	138	15.54%	24.40%	20.55%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	175	39.77%	44.55%	41.90%	58	30.85%	41.77%	43.80%	214	24.10%	32.46%	29.33%
	No	136	30.91%	34.38%	36.17%	91	48.40%	35.86%	37.18%	436	49.10%	47.28%	48.47%
	Don't Know	56	12.73%	7.75%	8.30%	8	4.26%	8.02%	6.63%	79	8.90%	5.77%	7.37%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 5.52 summarizes other family and relationship factors. The most frequent family-related stressor was family behavioral health problems ( $n = 122$  suicide attempt DoDSERs, 27.73%;  $n = 49$  self-harm DoDSERs, 26.06%;  $n = 187$  suicidal ideation DoDSERs, 21.06%).

**TABLE 5.52. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 ARMY DODSER FAMILY HISTORY FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	2	0.45%	0.00%	0.20%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.29%	1	0.11%	0.11%	0.08%
	No	378	85.91%	93.70%	91.90%	176	93.62%	94.09%	94.52%	805	90.65%	95.32%	93.37%
	Don't Know	60	13.64%	6.30%	7.91%	12	6.38%	5.91%	5.19%	82	9.23%	4.58%	6.55%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	28	6.36%	6.30%	6.13%	7	3.72%	4.22%	3.75%	52	5.86%	7.08%	4.47%
	No	334	75.91%	81.84%	82.61%	164	87.23%	87.34%	89.34%	724	81.53%	85.95%	86.50%
	Don't Know	78	17.73%	11.86%	11.26%	17	9.04%	8.44%	6.92%	112	12.61%	6.97%	9.03%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	43	9.77%	7.75%	7.51%	6	3.19%	5.06%	4.03%	73	8.22%	5.99%	6.63%
	No	309	70.23%	78.69%	80.43%	163	86.70%	85.23%	89.05%	694	78.15%	85.95%	83.68%
	Don't Know	88	20.00%	13.56%	12.06%	19	10.11%	9.70%	6.92%	121	13.63%	8.06%	9.69%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	76	17.27%	15.25%	13.24%	24	12.77%	15.19%	8.93%	156	17.57%	14.71%	10.69%
	No	281	63.86%	72.88%	75.69%	147	78.19%	75.95%	84.44%	622	70.05%	77.67%	80.28%
	Don't Know	83	18.86%	11.86%	11.07%	17	9.04%	8.86%	6.63%	110	12.39%	7.63%	9.03%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	54	12.27%	9.69%	9.88%	17	9.04%	11.39%	5.48%	125	14.08%	12.09%	9.20%
	No	293	66.59%	76.76%	77.08%	152	80.85%	78.90%	88.18%	646	72.75%	78.54%	81.11%
	Don't Know	93	21.14%	13.56%	13.04%	19	10.11%	9.70%	6.34%	117	13.18%	9.37%	9.69%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	48	10.91%	7.99%	8.30%	13	6.91%	8.86%	9.80%	90	10.14%	8.39%	6.79%
	No	305	69.32%	79.42%	79.45%	161	85.64%	82.28%	83.57%	683	76.91%	82.46%	83.18%
	Don't Know	87	19.77%	12.59%	12.25%	14	7.45%	8.86%	6.63%	117	13.18%	9.15%	10.02%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	122	27.73%	26.63%	32.02%	49	26.06%	27.00%	32.28%	187	21.06%	28.87%	29.25%
	No	218	49.55%	53.51%	51.38%	118	62.77%	56.96%	54.47%	551	62.05%	56.86%	53.11%
	Don't Know	100	22.73%	19.85%	16.60%	21	11.17%	16.03%	13.26%	150	16.89%	14.27%	17.65%

## Administrative and Legal History

Table 5.53 summarizes administrative and legal problems reported by Army DoDSER POCs for nonfatal suicide events in 2011. One hundred seventy-three DoDSERs for Soldiers who attempted suicide (39.32%) included at least one administrative or legal issue and 49 (11.14%) included

more than one issue. The most frequent administrative or legal problems were medical board proceedings ( $n = 63$ , 14.32%), Article 15 proceedings ( $n = 49$ , 11.14%), administrative separation ( $n = 35$ , 7.95%), and civil legal issues ( $n = 35$ , 7.95%).

**TABLE 5.53. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 ARMY DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	12	2.73%	2.66%	4.15%	3	1.60%	0.84%	3.75%	20	2.25%	2.83%	3.07%
	No	376	85.45%	86.44%	84.58%	168	89.36%	90.30%	88.76%	780	87.84%	87.69%	86.83%
	Don't Know	52	11.82%	10.90%	11.26%	17	9.04%	8.86%	7.49%	88	9.91%	9.48%	10.11%
HX ARTICLE 15	Yes	49	11.14%	19.37%	19.76%	26	13.83%	15.61%	20.46%	129	14.53%	14.92%	17.07%
	No	223	50.68%	67.07%	68.18%	147	78.19%	74.26%	70.32%	654	73.65%	74.73%	71.33%
	Don't Know	168	38.18%	13.56%	12.06%	15	7.98%	10.13%	9.22%	105	11.82%	10.35%	11.60%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	35	7.95%	12.83%	10.67%	20	10.64%	9.70%	9.51%	74	8.33%	8.93%	10.44%
	No	349	79.32%	74.09%	78.46%	153	81.38%	80.17%	82.13%	722	81.31%	80.07%	79.54%
	Don't Know	56	12.73%	13.08%	10.87%	15	7.98%	10.13%	8.36%	92	10.36%	11.00%	10.02%
HX AWOL	Yes	21	4.77%	7.26%	6.13%	8	4.26%	5.91%	9.22%	57	6.42%	6.32%	9.11%
	No	365	82.95%	82.81%	83.79%	166	88.30%	84.81%	85.59%	748	84.23%	84.64%	82.10%
	Don't Know	54	12.27%	9.93%	10.08%	14	7.45%	9.28%	5.19%	83	9.35%	9.04%	8.78%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	63	14.32%	8.47%	7.71%	18	9.57%	10.13%	8.07%	78	8.78%	11.00%	6.46%
	No	319	72.50%	79.90%	81.62%	157	83.51%	78.48%	86.17%	721	81.19%	78.32%	84.18%
	Don't Know	58	13.18%	11.62%	10.67%	13	6.91%	11.39%	5.76%	89	10.02%	10.68%	9.36%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	35	7.95%	10.41%	9.29%	10	5.32%	6.33%	6.63%	67	7.55%	8.28%	6.46%
	No	343	77.95%	74.82%	79.05%	161	85.64%	83.54%	85.01%	727	81.87%	81.59%	83.43%
	Don't Know	62	14.09%	14.77%	11.66%	17	9.04%	10.13%	8.36%	94	10.59%	10.13%	10.11%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	19	4.32%	5.57%	2.96%	2	1.06%	2.11%	3.46%	35	3.94%	3.81%	1.66%
	No	328	74.55%	77.48%	83.79%	165	87.77%	88.19%	87.32%	734	82.66%	83.33%	86.25%
	Don't Know	93	21.14%	16.95%	13.24%	21	11.17%	9.70%	9.22%	119	13.40%	12.85%	12.10%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	173	39.32%	42.62%	38.14%	66	35.11%	34.18%	37.75%	293	33.00%	38.13%	33.72%
	No	215	48.86%	46.00%	52.96%	109	57.98%	57.38%	57.35%	512	57.66%	53.92%	57.91%
	Don't Know	52	11.82%	11.38%	8.89%	13	6.91%	8.44%	4.90%	83	9.35%	7.95%	8.37%

**TABLE 5.53. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)**

HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	49	11.14%	16.22%	14.03%	16	8.51%	9.70%	15.56%	108	12.16%	12.20%	13.42%
	No	339	77.05%	42.62%	49.01%	159	84.57%	53.16%	53.31%	697	78.49%	51.20%	54.27%
	Don't Know	52	11.82%	41.16%	36.96%	13	6.91%	37.13%	31.12%	83	9.35%	36.60%	32.31%

## Abuse History

Table 5.54 provides Army DoDSER data about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration. DoDSERs for Soldiers who attempted suicide included a reported history of physical abuse ( $n = 88$ , 20.00%), sexual abuse ( $n = 78$ , 17.73%), emotional abuse ( $n = 92$ , 20.91%), and sexual harassment ( $n = 18$ , 4.09%). Army suicide attempt DoDSERs included less frequently reported histories of perpetration of physical abuse ( $n = 33$ , 7.50%), sexual abuse ( $n = 7$ , 1.59%), emotional abuse ( $n = 10$ , 2.27%), and sexual harassment ( $n = 3$ , 0.68%).

**TABLE 5.54. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	88	20.00%	21.79%	22.13%	27	14.36%	18.57%	20.46%	174	19.59%	19.72%	20.30%
	No	256	58.18%	64.89%	65.02%	117	62.23%	58.65%	63.69%	573	64.53%	69.50%	65.70%
	Don't Know	96	21.82%	13.32%	12.85%	44	23.40%	22.78%	15.85%	141	15.88%	10.78%	14.00%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	78	17.73%	17.19%	16.40%	34	18.09%	15.61%	14.41%	101	11.37%	16.78%	12.84%
	No	269	61.14%	69.98%	70.16%	111	59.04%	64.56%	69.16%	644	72.52%	73.09%	71.75%
	Don't Know	93	21.14%	12.83%	13.44%	43	22.87%	19.83%	16.43%	143	16.10%	10.13%	15.41%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	92	20.91%	22.76%	24.51%	28	14.89%	19.41%	18.44%	176	19.82%	19.06%	20.96%
	No	252	57.27%	63.68%	61.26%	114	60.64%	58.65%	63.69%	564	63.51%	69.50%	64.04%
	Don't Know	96	21.82%	13.56%	14.23%	46	24.47%	21.94%	17.87%	148	16.67%	11.44%	15.00%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	18	4.09%	5.33%	3.75%	3	1.60%	4.64%	2.02%	29	3.27%	2.51%	3.31%
	No	321	72.95%	80.39%	81.03%	138	73.40%	71.73%	81.27%	710	79.95%	86.06%	80.86%
	Don't Know	101	22.95%	14.29%	15.22%	47	25.00%	23.63%	16.71%	150	16.89%	11.44%	15.82%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	33	7.50%	5.57%	5.53%	5	2.66%	3.38%	5.19%	23	2.59%	3.70%	4.56%
	No	315	71.59%	79.42%	80.63%	140	74.47%	73.42%	78.96%	721	81.19%	84.31%	82.35%
	Don't Know	92	20.91%	15.01%	13.83%	43	22.87%	23.21%	15.85%	144	16.22%	11.98%	13.09%

**TABLE 5.54. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 ARMY DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)**

HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	7	1.59%	2.42%	1.58%	0	0.00%	1.27%	0.86%	6	0.68%	0.54%	0.99%
	No	337	76.59%	82.81%	84.39%	145	77.13%	75.95%	83.00%	737	83.00%	87.25%	85.50%
	Don't Know	96	21.82%	14.77%	14.03%	43	22.87%	22.78%	16.14%	145	16.33%	12.20%	13.50%
HX PERPETRATOR EMO- TIONAL ABUSE	Yes	10	2.27%	3.63%	2.96%	4	2.13%	2.11%	0.86%	14	1.58%	1.42%	2.32%
	No	331	75.23%	80.87%	82.21%	141	75.00%	75.11%	82.13%	723	81.42%	85.84%	84.18%
	Don't Know	99	22.50%	15.50%	14.82%	43	22.87%	22.78%	17.00%	151	17.00%	12.75%	13.50%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	3	0.68%	0.73%	0.20%	0	0.00%	0.42%	0.29%	1	0.11%	0.22%	1.08%
	No	339	77.05%	84.02%	85.18%	144	76.60%	76.37%	83.00%	740	83.33%	87.47%	85.58%
	Don't Know	98	22.27%	15.25%	14.62%	44	23.40%	23.21%	16.71%	147	16.55%	12.31%	13.34%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

Table 5.55 provides Army DoDSER data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace. Nearly one-third of DoDSERs for Soldiers who attempted suicide in 2011 included experience of job loss or instability ( $n = 138$ , 31.36%). One hundred nine (24.77%) included problems with either supervisors or coworkers, and 63 (14.32%) included prior poor work evaluations.

**TABLE 5.55. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 ARMY DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANK- RUPTCY	Yes	54	12.27%	12.11%	9.68%	18	9.57%	12.24%	10.37%	98	11.04%	11.66%	10.44%
	No	304	69.09%	68.04%	75.69%	151	80.32%	77.22%	78.96%	671	75.56%	77.45%	78.96%
	Don't Know	82	18.64%	19.85%	14.62%	19	10.11%	10.55%	10.66%	119	13.40%	10.89%	10.60%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABIL- ITY	Yes	138	31.36%	33.90%	27.87%	45	23.94%	27.85%	30.26%	231	26.01%	27.67%	29.83%
	No	222	50.45%	54.00%	60.28%	132	70.21%	64.56%	63.98%	554	62.39%	65.25%	61.81%
	Don't Know	80	18.18%	12.11%	11.86%	11	5.85%	7.59%	5.76%	103	11.60%	7.08%	8.37%
HX SUPERVISOR/CO- WORKER ISSUES	Yes	109	24.77%	24.94%	24.70%	39	20.74%	24.05%	28.24%	202	22.75%	23.75%	26.68%
	No	257	58.41%	58.60%	60.87%	135	71.81%	63.71%	63.98%	572	64.41%	67.10%	63.13%
	Don't Know	74	16.82%	16.46%	14.43%	14	7.45%	12.24%	7.78%	114	12.84%	9.15%	10.19%

**TABLE 5.55. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)**

HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	<b>63</b>	<b>14.32%</b>	17.43%	13.04%	<b>25</b>	<b>13.30%</b>	16.88%	22.77%	<b>130</b>	<b>14.64%</b>	14.38%	16.49%
	No	<b>282</b>	<b>64.09%</b>	61.02%	72.33%	<b>140</b>	<b>74.47%</b>	71.73%	67.72%	<b>629</b>	<b>70.83%</b>	73.31%	71.58%
	Don't Know	<b>95</b>	<b>21.59%</b>	21.55%	14.62%	<b>23</b>	<b>12.23%</b>	11.39%	9.51%	<b>129</b>	<b>14.53%</b>	12.31%	11.93%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	<b>29</b>	<b>6.59%</b>	5.57%	5.73%	<b>4</b>	<b>2.13%</b>	3.38%	3.75%	<b>50</b>	<b>5.63%</b>	4.47%	2.90%
	No	<b>310</b>	<b>70.45%</b>	74.09%	78.85%	<b>166</b>	<b>88.30%</b>	82.28%	88.47%	<b>712</b>	<b>80.18%</b>	81.92%	85.42%
	Don't Know	<b>101</b>	<b>22.95%</b>	20.34%	15.42%	<b>18</b>	<b>9.57%</b>	14.35%	7.78%	<b>126</b>	<b>14.19%</b>	13.62%	11.68%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Soldiers' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as the history of direct combat operations.

### Deployment and Combat History

As summarized in Table 5.56, DoDSERs for Army suicide attempts included one suicide attempt in Iraq (0.23%) and 13 in Afghanistan (2.95%). Twenty-five Army suicide attempt DoDSERs (5.59%) included at least one OEF, OIF, or OND deployment (Table 5.57), and 145 DoDSERs for Army suicide attempts (32.95%) included direct combat history (Table 5.58).

**TABLE 5.56. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS IN THEATER**

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	<b>13</b>	<b>2.95%</b>	3.39%	1.58%	<b>6</b>	<b>3.19%</b>	2.53%	1.73%	<b>10</b>	<b>1.13%</b>	0.76%	0.75%
	Iraq	<b>1</b>	<b>0.23%</b>	6.05%	8.70%	<b>5</b>	<b>2.66%</b>	4.22%	5.19%	<b>16</b>	<b>1.80%</b>	1.96%	4.14%
	Kuwait	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	0.00%	0.59%	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	0.00%	0.58%	<b>1</b>	<b>0.11%</b>	0.33%	0.25%
	Not OEF/OND	<b>426</b>	<b>96.82%</b>	90.56%	89.13%	<b>177</b>	<b>94.15%</b>	93.25%	92.51%	<b>861</b>	<b>96.96%</b>	96.95%	94.86%

TABLE 5.57. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/ OIF/OND	Afghanistan	19	4.32%	9.93%	2.17%	36	19.15%	11.39%	3.75%	17	1.91%	15.03%	2.98%
	Iraq	6	1.36%	34.38%	41.50%	56	29.79%	29.96%	31.12%	24	2.70%	26.80%	31.81%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.97%	2.37%	1	0.53%	0.84%	2.02%	1	0.11%	1.20%	1.74%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	0	0.00%	7.51%	2.57%	1	0.53%	6.33%	3.46%	7	0.79%	6.64%	3.15%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	415	94.32%	47.22%	51.38%	94	50.00%	51.48%	59.65%	839	94.48%	50.33%	60.31%

TABLE 5.58. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 ARMY DODSER COMBAT HISTORY FOR NONFATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009	2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	145	32.95%	19.61%	24.11%	21	11.17%	16.03%	18.16%	169	19.03%	20.04%	15.66%
	Resulted in injuries/casualties	54	12.27%	12.35%	17.59%	12	6.38%	11.81%	10.37%	114	12.84%	14.49%	10.69%
	Injured in combat	24	5.45%	5.33%	4.94%	0	0.00%	5.49%	4.03%	37	4.17%	4.79%	4.56%
	Witnessed killing in combat	49	11.14%	13.56%	16.80%	12	6.38%	11.81%	9.80%	110	12.39%	14.38%	10.52%
	Saw dead bodies	50	11.36%	14.29%	18.18%	13	6.91%	12.24%	10.37%	116	13.06%	14.81%	10.44%
	Killed others in combat	28	6.36%	8.96%	8.30%	0	0.00%	4.64%	4.61%	51	5.74%	8.50%	4.97%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	295	67.05%	80.39%	75.89%	167	88.83%	83.97%	81.84%	719	80.97%	79.96%	84.34%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Summary

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This chapter provides data on Army suicides and nonfatal suicide events that occurred in 2011. Data are presented for 159 Soldiers who died by suicide and 424 Soldiers who attempted suicide in 440 separate incidents. Decedents and those with nonfatal suicide events were primarily male, Caucasian, non-Hispanic or Latino, under age twenty-five, junior enlisted, Regular component Soldiers, and without a college degree.

Most suicide events took place in the United States in the Soldiers' own residences. The most frequent methods for Soldiers who died by suicide were non-military issue firearm usage and hanging. Suicide attempt methods were most often drug overdose, harming oneself with a sharp or blunt object, and hanging. Drug and alcohol use was much more frequent among nonfatal Army suicide events than among fatal Army suicide events. The majority of Soldiers who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated with others about their likelihood of harming themselves.

Soldiers with nonfatal suicide events had more known behavioral health disorders than Soldiers with fatal suicide events, but they had similar behavioral health treatment usage prior to the event. Additionally, those who attempted suicide had a higher prevalence of prior abuse victimization. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Soldiers with suicide events. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was medical board proceedings.

## CHAPTER 6:

# MARINE CORPS DoDSER

### MARINE CORPS RESULTS FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

#### Marine Corps DoDSER Submissions & Point of Contact (POC) Compliance

##### 2011 Reported Suicides

Thirty-one Marine Corps suicides were confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2011 (Table 6.1). Marine Corps Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports (DoDSERs) were submitted and analyzed for all 31 confirmed suicides for a submission compliance rate of 100%. The tables in this section include data for all decedents. In addition, the tables provide the percentages from 2009 and 2010 DoDSER data for comparison. Specific counts for previous years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

**TABLE 6.1. MARINE CORPS AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DODSERS SUBMITTED**

	2011	2010	2009	2008
Total DoDSERs Included in Annual Report	31	37	51	42
Total AFMES Confirmed and Pending Suicides	32	37	52	42
AFMES Confirmed Suicides (By 31 January)	31	37	51	41
DoDSER Submission Compliance	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data from 1/1/2009 through 12/31/2011 as of 4/26/2012 for CY 2011; as of 4/1/2012 for previous years

#### Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have been associated with the suicide events. These factors include decedents' demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

##### Demographics

Table 6.2 contains demographic data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). All Marine Corps suicides were completed by males in 2011. Decedents were primarily Caucasian ( $n = 26$ , 81.25%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 31$ , 96.88%), under age twenty-five ( $n = 23$ , 71.88%), junior enlisted ( $n = 21$ , 65.63%), Regular component ( $n = 31$ , 96.88%), and without a college degree ( $n = 29$ , 90.63%).

**TABLE 6.2. CY 2011 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR MARINE CORPS SUICIDES**

		2011				2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Service Total %	Rate/ 100K	(N = 37) Percent	(N = 52) Percent
TOTAL		32	100.00%	100.00%	14.87	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	32	100.00%	93.31%	15.90	97.30%	100.00%
	Female	0	0.00%	6.69%	*	2.70%	0.00%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	3.13%	1.07%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2	6.25%	3.25%	*	5.41%	1.92%
	Black/African American	3	9.38%	10.21%	*	8.11%	5.77%
	White/Caucasian	26	81.25%	78.76%	15.34	86.49%	92.31%
	Other/Don't Know	0	0.00%	6.71%	*	0.00%	0.00%
ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino	1	3.13%	13.98%	*		
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	31	96.88%	86.02%	16.74		
AGE RANGE	Under 25	23	71.88%	55.48%	19.26	59.46%	76.92%
	25-29	6	18.75%	22.54%	*	21.62%	9.62%
	30-34	2	6.25%	10.19%	*	13.51%	5.77%
	35-39	0	0.00%	6.63%	*	2.70%	5.77%
	40-44	0	0.00%	3.56%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	45+	1	3.13%	1.60%	*	2.70%	1.92%
RANK	Cadet	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	E1-E4	21	65.63%	57.89%	16.85	59.46%	75.00%
	E5-E9	9	28.13%	31.06%	*	32.43%	21.15%
	Officer	2	6.25%	10.01%	*	8.11%	1.92%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	1.04%	*	0.00%	1.92%
COMPONENT	Regular	31	96.88%	93.38%	14.87	97.30%	100.00%
	Reserve	1	3.13%	6.62%	*	2.70%	0.00%
	National Guard	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00%	0.00%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	0	0.00%	0.09%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	GED	4	12.50%	2.99%	*	2.70%	13.46%
	High school graduate	25	78.13%	82.33%	14.11	81.08%	80.77%
	Some college or technical school	0	0.00%	0.85%	*	2.70%	3.85%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	1	3.13%	1.88%	*	2.70%	0.00%
	Four-year college degree	2	6.25%	8.79%	*	5.41%	1.92%
	Master's degree or greater	0	0.00%	2.53%	*	5.41%	0.00%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.54%	*	0.00%	0.00%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	18	56.25%	47.33%	*	48.65%	48.08%
	Married	12	37.50%	4.00%	*	45.95%	42.31%
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	0.16%	*	2.70%	0.00%
	Divorced	2	6.25%	48.47%	*	2.70%	9.62%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.05%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00%	0.00%

**Note:** Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals. "DoD Total %" column reflects population-level DMDC data for all Active Duty and Activated or Deployed Reserves. Ethnicity data not reported prior to 2011.

## Event Setting

As in the previous two years, Marine Corps suicides most frequently took place in the United States ( $n = 28$ , 90.32%). Two suicides occurred during deployment to Afghanistan (6.45%) and one occurred in Asia (3.23%, Table 6.3). As shown in Table 6.4, suicides primarily occurred in the Marines' own residences ( $n = 15$ , 48.39%), followed by the residences of friends or family ( $n = 4$ , 12.90%) and automobile (away from residence;  $n = 3$ , 9.68%). "Other" (write-in) responses included public parks ( $n = 3$ , 9.68%), secluded or vacant property ( $n = 1$ , 3.23%), and jumping off a bridge ( $n = 1$ , 3.23%).

**TABLE 6.3. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	United States	28	90.32%	81.08%	75.00%
	Iraq	0	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%
	Afghanistan	2	6.45%	10.81%	5.77%
	Djibouti	0	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%
	Asia	1	3.23%	5.41%	0.00%
	Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	3.85%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

**TABLE 6.4. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER EVENT SETTING**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	15	48.39%	51.35%	61.54%
	Residence of friend or family	4	12.90%	8.11%	11.54%
	Work/jobsite	2	6.45%	13.51%	5.77%
	Automobile (away from residence)	3	9.68%	5.41%	7.69%
	Inpatient medical facility	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	7	22.58%	21.62%	13.46%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

## Event Method

As indicated in Table 6.5, the primary methods for suicide included the use of non-military issue firearms ( $n = 14$ , 45.16%), hanging ( $n = 7$ , 22.58%), and the use of military issue firearms ( $n = 3$ , 9.68%).

**TABLE 6.5. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER EVENT METHOD**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	14	45.16%	45.95%	30.77%
	Firearm, military issue	3	9.68%	18.92%	28.85%
	Hanging	7	22.58%	21.62%	30.77%
	Drugs	2	6.45%	2.70%	0.00%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	0	0.00%	0.00%	1.92%

**TABLE 6.5. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER EVENT METHOD (CONT.)**

Gas, utility (or other)	2	6.45%	5.41%	0.00%
Fire, steam, etc.	1	3.23%	2.70%	0.00%
Sharp or blunt object	1	3.23%	0.00%	3.85%
Lying in front of moving object	0	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%
Crashing a motor vehicle	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other	1	3.23%	0.00%	1.92%
Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	1.92%

## Substance Use during the Event

Comprehensive information about substance use during suicide is unavailable for most Marine Corps suicides in 2011 ( $n = 17$ , 54.84%; Table 6.6). Where information was available, it indicated that four Marines used alcohol during the suicide event (22.22% of DoDSERs with alcohol use data, 12.90% of total). Fewer were known to have used drugs ( $n = 3$ , 21.43% of DoDSERs with drug use data, 9.68% of total). These frequencies include two Marines who used drugs as a suicide method, as described above.

**TABLE 6.6. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	4	12.90%	18.92%	13.46%
	No	14	45.16%	35.14%	42.31%
	Don't Know	13	41.94%	45.95%	44.23%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	3	9.68%	5.41%	5.77%
	No	11	35.48%	37.84%	36.54%
	Don't Know	17	54.84%	56.76%	57.69%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	1	3.23%	0.00%	1.92%
	Were not used	13	41.94%	43.24%	40.38%
	Don't know	17	54.84%	56.76%	57.69%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	1	3.23%	2.70%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	2.70%	3.85%
	Were not used	13	41.94%	37.84%	38.46%
	Don't know	17	54.84%	56.76%	57.69%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	1	3.23%	0.00%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Were not used	13	41.94%	43.24%	42.31%
	Don't know	17	54.84%	56.76%	57.69%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	1.92%
	No	14	45.16%	40.54%	38.46%
	Don't Know	17	54.84%	59.46%	59.62%

## Communication of Intent

Consistent with the previous two years, most Marine Corps decedents had no known history of communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ( $n = 26$ , 83.87%; Table 6.7). Only five Marines who died by suicide were known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their potential to die by suicide (16.13%). These communications were most frequently verbal ( $n = 4$ , 12.90%; Table 6.8). One DoDSER included text messages as an “Other” (write-in) response (3.23%). As indicated in Table 6.9, decedents most frequently communicated with their spouse ( $n = 3$ , 9.68%). “Other” (write-in) responses included the use of Facebook ( $n = 1$ , 3.23%).

**TABLE 6.7. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	26	83.87%	67.57%	73.08%
	1	5	16.13%	24.32%	15.38%
	2	0	0.00%	5.41%	9.62%
	4	0	0.00%	0.00%	1.92%
	5	0	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%

**TABLE 6.8. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	4	12.90%	10.81%	17.31%
	Written	0	0.00%	5.41%	0.00%
	Other or Unknown	1	3.23%	13.51%	3.85%
	Multiple Modes	0	0.00%	2.70%	5.77%
	No Known Communication	26	83.87%	67.57%	73.08%

**Note:** Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

**TABLE 6.9. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	3	9.68%	0.00%	5.77%
	Friend	0	0.00%	8.11%	3.85%
	Behavioral Health Provider	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Chaplain	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Supervisor	0	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%
	Other or Unidentified	2	6.45%	13.51%	5.77%
	Made Multiple Communications	0	0.00%	8.11%	11.54%
	No Known Communication	26	83.87%	67.57%	73.08%

**Note:** Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 6.10 provides information about other details of 2011 Marine Corps suicides. There was evidence 17 (54.84%) decedents intended to die. Eight suicides appeared to be premeditated (25.81%). Two Marine Corps decedents (6.45%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others. Nearly one-fourth left suicide notes ( $n = 7$ , 22.58%).

**TABLE 6.10. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	17	54.84%	64.86%	73.08%
	No	7	22.58%	5.41%	5.77%
	Don't Know	7	22.58%	29.73%	21.15%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%
	No	31	100.00%	81.08%	84.62%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	16.22%	15.38%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	8	25.81%	40.54%	34.62%
	No	9	29.03%	27.03%	30.77%
	Don't Know	14	45.16%	32.43%	34.62%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	2	6.45%	16.22%	11.54%
	No	27	87.10%	70.27%	75.00%
	Don't Know	2	6.45%	13.51%	13.46%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	7	22.58%	37.84%	17.31%
	No	19	61.29%	45.95%	59.62%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	16.22%	23.08%

## Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation, and duty environment.

### Situational Factors

Table 6.11 provides details about the living situations of Marines who died by suicide in 2011. The most frequent living environment for decedents were private homes and apartments outside of their installations ( $n = 13$ , 41.94%) or shared military housing on their installations ( $n = 7$ , 22.58%). Of those who were married ( $n = 12$ ), over one-half lived with their spouses ( $n = 7$ , 53.85% of married, 22.58% of total) and four were separated (30.77% of married, 12.90% of total). Most decedents lived with others ( $n = 24$ , 77.42%). Five Marine Corps decedents (16.13%) had minor children, and two (6.45%) lived with their children at the time of death. Nearly one-half of decedents had access to firearms in either their homes or other accessible locations ( $n = 14$ , 45.16%).

**TABLE 6.11. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	7	22.58%	37.84%	36.54%
	Bachelor quarters	6	19.35%	16.22%	19.23%
	On-base family housing	2	6.45%	8.11%	3.85%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	13	41.94%	32.43%	28.85%
	Ship	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	3	9.68%	5.41%	5.77%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	5.77%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resided with spouse	7	22.58%	16.22%	15.38%
	Separated due to relationship issues	4	12.90%	10.81%	5.77%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	1	3.23%	18.92%	19.23%
	Don't Know	1	3.23%	0.00%	5.77%
	Unmarried at time of event	18	58.06%	54.05%	53.85%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	7	22.58%	24.32%	25.00%
	No	24	77.42%	70.27%	71.15%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	5.41%	3.85%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	5	16.13%	29.73%	21.15%
	No	26	83.87%	70.27%	78.85%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	2	6.45%	16.22%	7.69%
	No	3	9.68%	13.51%	11.54%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	1.92%
	No Children	26	83.87%	70.27%	78.85%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	14	45.16%	54.05%	50.00%
	No	11	35.48%	29.73%	28.85%
	Don't Know	6	19.35%	16.22%	21.15%

## Duty Environment

The primary duty environment of Marine Corps suicides was their permanent duty station ( $n = 15$ , 48.39%; Table 6.12). Five Marines died by suicide while on leave (16.13%).

**TABLE 6.12. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	15	48.39%	62.16%	42.31%
	Leave	5	16.13%	0.00%	0.00%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	0	0.00%	2.70%	7.69%
	Medical Hold	1	3.23%	0.00%	0.00%
	TDY	3	9.68%	5.41%	5.77%
	AWOL	4	12.90%	2.70%	7.69%
	Deployed	2	6.45%	13.51%	13.46%
	Training	1	3.23%	2.70%	5.77%

**TABLE 6.12. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)**

Other	3	9.68%	2.70%	1.92%
Multiple Duty Environments	4	12.90%	2.70%	15.38%
Duty Environment Unknown	1	3.23%	5.41%	0.00%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Suicide Completions by Month

As in the prior two years, no clear pattern existed for Marine Corps suicides by month (Table 6.13).

**TABLE 6.13. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDES BY MONTH**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MONTH	January	2	6.45%	18.92%	5.77%
	February	2	6.45%	5.41%	1.92%
	March	4	12.90%	8.11%	7.69%
	April	2	6.45%	5.41%	9.62%
	May	2	6.45%	18.92%	7.69%
	June	5	16.13%	2.70%	17.31%
	July	4	12.90%	16.22%	17.31%
	August	2	6.45%	5.41%	3.85%
	September	3	9.68%	5.41%	1.92%
	October	2	6.45%	8.11%	7.69%
	November	2	6.45%	0.00%	7.69%
	December	1	3.23%	5.41%	11.54%

## Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

### Prior Self-Injury

Four Marines who died by suicide in 2011 (12.90%) had a known history of self-harm (Table 6.14) and one decedent (3.23%) was known to have at least two prior incidents of self-harm.

**TABLE 6.14. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	4	12.90%	16.22%	13.46%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	0.00%	5.77%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	2.70%	9.62%

**TABLE 6.14. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY (CONT.)**

Number prior self-injuries	No	22	70.97%	72.97%	65.38%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	10.81%	21.15%
	One prior event	3	9.68%	10.81%	5.77%
	More than one prior event	1	3.23%	5.41%	7.69%
	N/A or Unknown	27	87.10%	83.78%	86.54%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	1	3.23%	2.70%	3.85%
	No	3	9.68%	13.51%	9.62%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	N/A	27	87.10%	83.78%	86.54%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

## Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death. Thirteen Marines who died by suicide in 2011 (41.94%) had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 6.15). Four (12.90%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Tables 6.16 and 6.17, five decedents (16.13%) had a mood disorder, and four (12.90%) had an anxiety disorder. One Marine was previously diagnosed with a personality disorder (3.23%), and one decedent (3.23%) had sustained a traumatic brain injury (Table 6.18). Ten decedents (32.26%) had a known history of substance abuse.

**TABLE 6.15. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	18	58.06%	62.16%	53.85%
	1 DX	9	29.03%	18.92%	28.85%
	2 DX	0	0.00%	8.11%	7.69%
	3 DX	2	6.45%	2.70%	3.85%
	4 or more DX	2	6.45%	8.11%	5.77%

**TABLE 6.16. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER MOOD DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	5	16.13%	21.62%	21.15%
	No	21	67.74%	72.97%	63.46%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	15.38%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%
	No	26	83.87%	91.89%	75.00%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	25.00%
Major depression	Yes	1	3.23%	8.11%	9.62%
	No	25	80.65%	86.49%	69.23%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	21.15%

**TABLE 6.16. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER MOOD DISORDERS (CONT.)**

Dysthymic disorder	Yes	1	3.23%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	25	80.65%	94.59%	75.00%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	25.00%
Other mood disorder	Yes	3	9.68%	2.70%	3.85%
	No	23	74.19%	89.19%	73.08%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	8.11%	23.08%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	2.70%	3.85%
	No	26	83.87%	91.89%	80.77%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	15.38%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	0	0.00%	5.41%	3.85%
	No	25	80.65%	89.19%	80.77%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	15.38%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 6.17. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS-**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	4	12.90%	10.81%	13.46%
	No	22	70.97%	83.78%	67.31%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	19.23%
PTSD	Yes	1	3.23%	5.41%	1.92%
	No	25	80.65%	89.19%	76.92%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	21.15%
Panic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	26	83.87%	94.59%	78.85%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	21.15%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	1.92%
	No	26	83.87%	94.59%	76.92%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	21.15%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	26	83.87%	94.59%	78.85%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	21.15%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	2	6.45%	2.70%	0.00%
	No	24	77.42%	91.89%	80.77%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	19.23%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	1	3.23%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	26	83.87%	94.59%	80.77%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	19.23%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	2	6.45%	2.70%	9.62%
	No	25	80.65%	91.89%	71.15%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	19.23%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 6.18. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	1	3.23%	8.11%	7.69%
	No	27	87.10%	83.78%	75.00%
	Don't Know	3	9.68%	8.11%	17.31%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	1	3.23%	0.00%	1.92%
	No	27	87.10%	91.89%	82.69%
	Don't Know	3	9.68%	8.11%	15.38%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	10	32.26%	27.03%	28.85%
	No	17	54.84%	64.86%	55.77%
	Don't Know	4	12.90%	8.11%	15.38%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	1	3.23%	2.70%	
	No	27	87.10%	81.08%	
	Don't Know	3	9.68%	16.22%	

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

## Treatment History

Table 6.19 provides data on Marine Corps suicide decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. Fifteen (48.39%) had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Ten decedents (32.26%) were treated at an MTF within the month prior to suicide. Eight Marines (25.81%) had a known history of a physical health problem and three decedents (9.68%) had received physical health diagnoses within the month prior to suicide.

Eight Marine Corps decedents (25.81%) received substance abuse treatment services, one (3.23%) received help from a family advocacy program, and one Marine (3.23%) was known to have utilized chaplain services. Nearly one-fifth of decedents ( $n = 6$ , 19.35%) had received outpatient behavioral health treatment. Three (9.68%) received treatment within the month prior to suicide. Three Marines (9.68%) received inpatient behavioral health treatment, one of whom (3.23%) was treated within the month prior to suicide.

**TABLE 6.19. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	15	48.39%	45.95%	59.62%
	Within 30 days	10	32.26%	32.43%	36.54%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	12	38.71%	40.54%	46.15%
	No	13	41.94%	45.95%	28.85%
	Don't Know	3	9.68%	8.11%	11.54%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	8	25.81%	24.32%	7.69%
	Within 30 days	3	9.68%	13.51%	5.77%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	5	16.13%	16.22%	7.69%
	No	19	61.29%	67.57%	75.00%
	Don't Know	4	12.90%	8.11%	17.31%

**TABLE 6.19. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)**

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	8	25.81%	18.92%	17.31%
	Within 30 days	2	6.45%	10.81%	11.54%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	4	12.90%	10.81%	11.54%
	No	18	58.06%	67.57%	65.38%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	13.51%	17.31%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	1	3.23%	13.51%	5.77%
	Within 30 days	1	3.23%	2.70%	1.92%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	3.23%	5.41%	5.77%
	No	23	74.19%	64.86%	65.38%
	Don't Know	7	22.58%	21.62%	28.85%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	1	3.23%	21.62%	21.15%
	Within 30 days	1	3.23%	16.22%	11.54%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	3.23%	16.22%	15.38%
	No	17	54.84%	54.05%	55.77%
	Don't Know	11	35.48%	24.32%	23.08%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	6	19.35%	32.43%	34.62%
	Within 30 days	3	9.68%	16.22%	15.38%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	9.68%	27.03%	21.15%
	No	22	70.97%	54.05%	50.00%
	Don't Know	3	9.68%	13.51%	15.38%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	3	9.68%	13.51%	7.69%
	Within 30 days	1	3.23%	2.70%	1.92%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	3.23%	5.41%	3.85%
	No	26	83.87%	78.38%	73.08%
	Don't Know	2	6.45%	8.11%	19.23%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 6.20 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by decedents prior to suicide. Five decedents (16.13%) had known prescriptions for psychotropic medications, most frequently antidepressants ( $n = 4$ , 12.90%).

**TABLE 6.20. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	5	16.13%	16.22%	9.62%
	No	19	61.29%	64.86%	65.38%
	Don't Know	7	22.58%	18.92%	25.00%
Antidepressants	Yes	4	12.90%	10.81%	7.69%
	No	20	64.52%	70.27%	65.38%
	Don't Know	7	22.58%	18.92%	26.92%
Antianxiety	Yes	2	6.45%	2.70%	3.85%
	No	22	70.97%	78.38%	69.23%
	Don't Know	7	22.58%	18.92%	26.92%

**TABLE 6.20. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE (CONT.)**

Antimaniacs	Yes	0	0.00%	2.70%	1.92%
	No	24	77.42%	78.38%	71.15%
	Don't Know	7	22.58%	18.92%	26.92%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	0	0.00%	2.70%	3.85%
	No	24	77.42%	78.38%	69.23%
	Don't Know	7	22.58%	18.92%	26.92%
Antipsychotics	Yes	1	3.23%	10.81%	1.92%
	No	23	74.19%	70.27%	71.15%
	Don't Know	7	22.58%	18.92%	26.92%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories and interpersonal relationships, legal, financial, administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

### Family and Relationship History

Thirteen 2011 Marine Corps suicide decedents (41.94%) had a known failure of a spousal or intimate relationship, with 11 (35.48%) experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 6.21). Four decedents (12.90%) had a failure in another important relationship; two of these (6.45%) occurred in the month prior to the suicide event.

**TABLE 6.21. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE-**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	13	41.94%	35.14%	42.31%
	Within 30 days	11	35.48%	18.92%	26.92%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	12	38.71%	29.73%	28.85%
	No	13	41.94%	48.65%	32.69%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	16.22%	25.00%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	4	12.90%	8.11%	9.62%
	Within 30 days	2	6.45%	5.41%	5.77%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	9.68%	5.41%	5.77%
	No	15	48.39%	62.16%	44.23%
	Don't Know	12	38.71%	29.73%	46.15%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	16	51.61%	40.54%	42.31%
	Within 30 days	12	38.71%	21.62%	26.92%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	14	45.16%	32.43%	28.85%
	No	6	19.35%	43.24%	32.69%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	16.22%	25.00%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 6.22 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may be associated with the suicide. One Marine Corps decedent (3.23%) was known to have a family member who had died by suicide and one (3.23%) was known to have a friend who had died by suicide. One decedent (3.23%) was known to have family members with behavioral health problems.

**TABLE 6.22. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER FAMILY HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	29	93.55%	94.59%	92.31%
	Don't Know	2	6.45%	5.41%	7.69%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	1	3.23%	10.81%	3.85%
	No	21	67.74%	70.27%	65.38%
	Don't Know	9	29.03%	18.92%	30.77%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	1	3.23%	0.00%	1.92%
	No	20	64.52%	72.97%	63.46%
	Don't Know	10	32.26%	27.03%	34.62%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	0	0.00%	8.11%	1.92%
	No	21	67.74%	70.27%	67.31%
	Don't Know	10	32.26%	21.62%	30.77%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	1.92%
	No	21	67.74%	67.57%	53.85%
	Don't Know	10	32.26%	32.43%	44.23%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	0	0.00%	2.70%	3.85%
	No	23	74.19%	67.57%	63.46%
	Don't Know	8	25.81%	29.73%	32.69%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	1	3.23%	5.41%	7.69%
	No	14	45.16%	40.54%	21.15%
	Don't Know	16	51.61%	54.05%	71.15%

## Administrative and Legal History

Over one-half of Marines who died by suicide in 2011 ( $n = 19$ , 61.29%) had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and 10 (32.26%) had more than one issue (Table 6.23). The most frequent administrative or legal issue was non-judicial punishment ( $n = 15$ , 48.39%), followed by absence without leave ( $n = 6$ , 19.35%), administrative separation ( $n = 4$ , 12.90%), and civil legal problems ( $n = 4$ , 12.90%).

**TABLE 6.23. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	3	9.68%	13.51%	7.69%
	No	27	87.10%	83.78%	86.54%
	Don't Know	1	3.23%	2.70%	5.77%

**TABLE 6.23. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	15	48.39%	35.14%	38.46%
	No	13	41.94%	62.16%	59.62%
	Don't Know	31	100.00%	2.70%	1.92%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	4	12.90%	5.41%	11.54%
	No	26	83.87%	89.19%	84.62%
	Don't Know	1	3.23%	5.41%	3.85%
HX AWOL	Yes	6	19.35%	18.92%	15.38%
	No	24	77.42%	78.38%	82.69%
	Don't Know	1	3.23%	2.70%	1.92%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	3	9.68%	5.41%	1.92%
	No	27	87.10%	91.89%	90.38%
	Don't Know	1	3.23%	2.70%	7.69%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	4	12.90%	10.81%	5.77%
	No	20	64.52%	75.68%	78.85%
	Don't Know	7	22.58%	13.51%	15.38%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	6	19.35%	13.51%	9.62%
	No	23	74.19%	83.78%	84.62%
	Don't Know	2	6.45%	2.70%	5.77%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	19	61.29%	54.05%	50.00%
	No	11	35.48%	40.54%	46.15%
	Don't Know	1	3.23%	5.41%	3.85%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	10	32.26%	24.32%	19.23%
	No	20	64.52%	40.54%	46.15%
	Don't Know	1	3.23%	35.14%	34.62%

## Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 6.24). Five Marine Corps suicide decedents (16.13%) had reportedly experienced physical abuse, one (3.23%) had reportedly experienced sexual abuse, and three (9.68%) had reportedly been victims of emotional abuse. There was evidence that three decedents (9.68%) had physically abused others.

**TABLE 6.24. CY 2011 AND 2009–2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	5	16.13%	5.41%	5.77%
	No	17	54.84%	72.97%	59.62%
	Don't Know	9	29.03%	21.62%	34.62%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	1	3.23%	5.41%	9.62%
	No	20	64.52%	72.97%	55.77%
	Don't Know	10	32.26%	21.62%	34.62%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	3	9.68%	5.41%	7.69%
	No	17	54.84%	67.57%	57.69%
	Don't Know	11	35.48%	27.03%	34.62%

**TABLE 6.24. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	20	64.52%	75.68%	61.54%
	Don't Know	11	35.48%	24.32%	38.46%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	3	9.68%	13.51%	7.69%
	No	22	70.97%	70.27%	65.38%
	Don't Know	6	19.35%	16.22%	26.92%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%
	No	25	80.65%	70.27%	73.08%
	Don't Know	6	19.35%	27.03%	26.92%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	5.41%	1.92%
	No	23	74.19%	72.97%	71.15%
	Don't Know	8	25.81%	21.62%	26.92%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	24	77.42%	72.97%	73.08%
	Don't Know	7	22.58%	27.03%	26.92%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 6.25). Over one-fourth of Marines who died by suicide in 2011 ( $n = 9$ , 29.03%) had received a poor work evaluation. Eight decedents (25.81%) had experienced job loss or instability, and four (12.90%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with their supervisors or coworkers. Excessive debt or bankruptcy was reported for four decedents (12.90%).

**TABLE 6.25. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	4	12.90%	5.41%	15.38%
	No	17	54.84%	70.27%	48.08%
	Don't Know	10	32.26%	24.32%	36.54%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	8	25.81%	16.22%	28.85%
	No	20	64.52%	72.97%	55.77%
	Don't Know	3	9.68%	10.81%	15.38%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	4	12.90%	16.22%	23.08%
	No	21	67.74%	72.97%	63.46%
	Don't Know	6	19.35%	10.81%	13.46%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	9	29.03%	24.32%	28.85%
	No	21	67.74%	67.57%	61.54%
	Don't Know	1	3.23%	8.11%	9.62%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	1.92%
	No	26	83.87%	94.59%	82.69%
	Don't Know	5	16.13%	5.41%	15.38%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as the history of direct combat operations.

### Deployment and Combat History

Two Marine Corps suicides in 2011 (6.45%) took place while deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan (Table 6.26). Sixteen of the Marines (51.61%) had previously served in Afghanistan, Iraq, or Kuwait (Table 6.27), and two (6.45%) had been deployed to more than one location. Nine decedents (29.03%) had known direct combat experiences, including participation in combat that resulted in injuries for others ( $n = 6$ , 19.35%), injuries for themselves ( $n = 2$ , 6.45%), witnessing killing ( $n = 3$ , 9.68%), seeing dead bodies ( $n = 3$ , 9.68%), and killing others ( $n = 1$ , 3.23%; Table 6.28).

**TABLE 6.26. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDES IN THEATER**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	2	6.45%	10.81%	5.77%
	Djibouti	0	0.00%	2.70%	0.00%
	Iraq	0	0.00%	0.00%	15.38%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Not OEF/OND	29	93.55%	86.49%	78.85%

**TABLE 6.27. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF/OND	Afghanistan	8	18.81%	13.51%	5.77%
	Iraq	6	19.35%	29.73%	48.08%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	2.70%	1.92%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	2	6.45%	10.81%	11.54%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	15	48.39%	43.24%	32.69%

**TABLE 6.28. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER COMBAT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	9	29.03%	8.11%	17.31%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	6	19.35%	5.41%	1.92%
	Injured in combat	2	6.45%	5.41%	0.00%
	Witnessed killing in combat	3	9.68%	5.41%	3.85%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	3	9.68%	5.41%	3.85%
	Killed others in combat	1	3.23%	5.41%	0.00%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	22	70.97%	91.89%	82.69%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## MARINE CORPS DODSERS SUBMITTED FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

DoDSER POCs submitted 157 DoDSERs for 2011 Marine Corps suicide attempts. Seven additional Marine Corps suicide attempts (including one second attempt) did not have DoDSERs submitted at the time of this report. As indicated in Table 6.29, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 156 individuals. Two attempts were reported (DoDSERs submitted) for 1 individual. Additionally, one Marine with a 2011 suicide attempt DoDSER subsequently died by suicide in 2011 and was included in the preceding section. The tables in this section use a denominator of 156. The percentages for 2010 DoDSER data are provided for comparison. Specific suicide attempt count data for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

**TABLE 6.29. CY 2011 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSERS**

		Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs		157	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED		156	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL	1	156	99.36%
	2	1	0.64%
	3	0	0.00%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2011 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE		1	0.64%

## Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with the suicide attempts. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide attempt method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

### Demographics

Table 6.30 contains DoDSER demographic data for Marines who attempted suicide in 2011. Marines who attempted suicide were most often male ( $n = 128$ , 81.53%), Caucasian ( $n = 114$ , 72.61%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 138$ , 87.90%), under age twenty-five ( $n = 115$ , 73.25%), junior enlisted ( $n = 120$ , 76.43%), Regular component ( $n = 155$ , 98.73%), and without a college degree ( $n = 137$ , 87.26%).

**TABLE 6.30. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
TOTAL		157	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	128	81.53%	84.77%
	Female	29	18.47%	15.23%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	2	1.27%	1.32%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	5	3.18%	4.64%
	Black/African American	25	15.92%	9.93%
	White/Caucasian	114	72.61%	70.86%
	Other/Don't Know	11	7.01%	13.25%

**TABLE 6.30. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS (CONT.)**

ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino	19	12.10%	
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	138	87.90%	
AGE RANGE	Under 25	115	73.25%	83.44%
	25-29	30	19.11%	11.92%
	30-39	8	5.10%	3.97%
	40 +	4	2.55%	0.66%
RANK	E1-E4	120	76.43%	86.09%
	E5-E9	32	20.38%	12.58%
	Officer	4	2.55%	1.32%
	Warrant Officer	1	0.64%	0.00%
	Cadet/Midshipman	0	0.00%	0.00%
COMPONENT	Regular	155	98.73%	96.69%
	Reserve	2	1.27%	3.31%
	National Guard	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	0	0.00%	0.00%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	0	0.00%	1.32%
	GED	2	1.27%	1.32%
	High school graduate	115	73.25%	75.50%
	Some college or technical school	20	12.74%	9.93%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	1	0.64%	0.66%
	Four-year college degree	7	4.46%	1.32%
	Master's degree or greater	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Don't Know	12	7.64%	9.93%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	81	51.59%	47.02%
	Married	63	40.13%	46.36%
	Legally Separated	4	2.55%	1.99%
	Divorced	6	3.82%	3.97%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Don't Know	3	1.91%	0.66%

**Note:** Ethnicity data not reported prior to 2011.

## Event Setting

In 2011, Marine Corps suicide attempts most frequently took place in the United States ( $n = 138$ , 87.90%) followed by Asian countries other than Iraq and Afghanistan ( $n = 15$ , 9.55%; Table 6.31). As indicated in Table 6.32, suicide attempts occurred primarily in the Marines' residences ( $n = 126$ , 80.25%), followed by automobiles ( $n = 8$ , 5.10%) or residence of friends or family members ( $n = 8$ , 5.10%). The most frequent "Other" (write-in response) setting was in hotels ( $n = 3$ , 1.91%).

**TABLE 6.31. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	United States	138	87.90%	90.07%
	Afghanistan	2	1.27%	2.65%
	Asia	15	9.55%	4.64%
	Europe	0	0.00%	0.66%
	Canada or Mexico	1	0.64%	0.66%
	Other	2	1.27%	1.32%

**TABLE 6.32. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT SETTING**

EVENT SETTING		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	Residence (own) or barracks	126	80.25%	80.13%
	Residence of friend or family	8	5.10%	3.97%
	Work/jobsite	3	1.91%	3.31%
	Automobile (away from residence)	8	5.10%	6.62%
	Inpatient medical facility	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	12	7.64%	5.96%

## Event Method

As indicated in Table 6.33, drug use was the most frequent method for suicide attempts ( $n = 101$ , 64.33%), injury with a sharp or blunt object ( $n = 17$ , 10.83%), and followed by hanging ( $n = 15$ , 9.55%).

**TABLE 6.33. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT METHOD**

EVENT METHOD		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
	Firearm, non-military issue	6	3.82%	1.32%
	Firearm, military issue	2	1.27%	1.99%
	Hanging	15	9.55%	11.26%
	Drugs	101	64.33%	55.63%
	Alcohol	4	2.55%	4.64%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	2	1.27%	0.66%
	Gas, utility (or other)	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Chemicals	5	3.18%	0.66%
	Drowning	1	0.64%	0.00%
	Fire, steam, etc.	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Sharp or blunt object	17	10.83%	15.23%
	Jumping from high place	0	0.00%	3.31%
	Lying in front of moving object	1	0.64%	0.66%
	Crashing a motor vehicle	3	1.91%	2.65%
	Other	0	0.00%	1.99%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%

## Substance Use during the Event

DoDSER POCs collected data on alcohol and drug use during Marine Corps suicide attempts (Table 6.34). Fifty-two DoDSERs (33.12%) reported alcohol use during the suicide attempt, and 102 (64.97%) reported drug use. Twenty-seven DoDSERs (17.20%) reported both drugs and alcohol. These frequencies include Marines who used drugs as a suicide attempt method, as described above.

**TABLE 6.34. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	52	33.12%	31.13%
	No	64	40.76%	47.68%
	Don't Know	41	26.11%	21.19%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	102	64.97%	58.28%
	No	38	24.20%	31.79%
	Don't Know	17	10.83%	9.93%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	4	2.55%	3.97%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	3.31%
	Were not used	134	85.35%	82.78%
	Don't know	19	12.10%	9.93%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	59	37.58%	33.77%
	Used, no overdose	13	8.28%	7.28%
	Were not used	66	42.04%	49.01%
	Don't know	19	12.10%	9.93%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	35	22.29%	19.21%
	Used, no overdose	3	1.91%	3.31%
	Were not used	101	64.33%	67.55%
	Don't know	18	11.46%	9.93%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	27	17.20%	18.54%
	No	81	51.59%	56.95%
	Don't Know	49	31.21%	24.50%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Communication of Intent

Most DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide included no history of communication with others about intent to self-harm ( $n = 137$ , 87.26%; Table 6.35). Twenty DoDSERs (12.74%) indicated that Marines were known to have communicated their intent to hurt themselves to at least one individual. These communications were most frequently verbal ( $n = 13$ , 8.28%; Table 6.36). One DoDSER included text messages as an "Other" (write-in) response (0.64%). As indicated in Table 6.37, Marines most frequently communicated their potential for self-harm to a spouse ( $n = 9$ , 5.73%) or friends ( $n = 7$ , 4.46%).

**TABLE 6.35. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	137	87.26%	85.43%
	1	18	11.46%	11.26%
	2	2	1.27%	3.31%
	3	0	0.00%	0.00%
	4	0	0.00%	0.00%

**TABLE 6.36. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	13	8.28%	10.60%
	Written	5	3.18%	0.66%
	Multiple Modes	1	0.64%	0.00%
	Other or Unknown	1	0.64%	3.31%
	No Known Communication	137	87.26%	85.43%

**TABLE 6.37. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	9	5.73%	4.64%
	Friend	7	4.46%	3.31%
	Behavioral Health Provider	2	1.27%	1.32%
	Chaplain	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Supervisor	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Other or Unidentified	4	2.55%	1.99%
	Made Multiple Communications	2	1.27%	3.31%
	No Known Communication	137	87.26%	85.43%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 6.38 provides information about other details of 2011 Marine Corps suicide attempts. For the majority ( $n = 83$ , 52.87%), there was information to indicate that the decedents had intended to die. Nearly one-fourth of suicide attempts ( $n = 36$ , 22.93%) appeared to be planned or premeditated. Nearly one-half of the suicide attempts ( $n = 70$ , 44.59%) occurred in a location potentially observable by others. Ten Marines (6.37%) left suicide notes.

**TABLE 6.38. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	83	52.87%	69.54%
	No	22	14.01%	15.23%
	Don't Know	52	33.12%	15.23%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	1.32%
	No	147	93.63%	90.07%
	Don't Know	10	6.37%	8.61%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	36	22.93%	24.50%
	No	85	54.14%	50.33%
	Don't Know	36	22.93%	25.17%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	70	44.59%	46.36%
	No	54	34.39%	32.45%
	Don't Know	33	21.02%	21.19%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	10	6.37%	8.61%
	No	124	78.98%	72.85%
	Don't Know	23	14.65%	18.54%

## Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation, and duty environment.

### Situational Factors

Table 6.39 provides details about the living situations of Marines who attempted suicide in 2011. DoDSERs most frequently reported that Marines lived in shared military housing on their installations ( $n = 76$ , 48.41%). Approximately one-third lived in private homes outside of the installation ( $n = 54$ , 34.39%). Of the 63 married Marines (40.13%), 33 (52.39% of married Marines, 21.02% of total) resided with their spouses at the time of the suicide attempt, and 13 (20.64% of married Marines, 8.28% of total) were separated due to relationship issues. Forty-two DoDSERs indicated that Marines had minor children (26.75%), 18 of whom resided with their children at the time of the suicide attempt (42.86% of Marines with children, 11.46% of total). Ten DoDSERs for suicide attempts (6.37%) indicated that the Marines were known to have access to firearms in either their homes or other accessible locations.

**TABLE 6.39. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	76	48.41%	44.37%
	Bachelor quarters	7	4.46%	7.28%
	On-base family housing	7	4.46%	4.64%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	54	34.39%	24.50%
	Other	2	1.27%	5.30%
	Don't Know	11	7.01%	13.91%

**TABLE 6.39. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)**

MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resides with spouse	33	21.02%	16.56%
	Separated due to relationship issues	13	8.28%	16.56%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	13	8.28%	6.62%
	Don't Know	94	59.87%	6.62%
	Unmarried at time of event	4	2.55%	53.64%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	23	14.65%	15.89%
	No	90	57.32%	61.59%
	Don't Know	44	28.03%	22.52%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	42	26.75%	21.19%
	No	106	67.52%	78.81%
	Don't Know	9	5.73%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	18	11.46%	10.60%
	No	19	12.10%	8.61%
	Don't Know	14	8.92%	1.99%
	No Children	106	67.52%	78.81%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	10	6.37%	7.95%
	No	84	53.50%	53.64%
	Don't Know	63	40.13%	38.41%

## Duty Environment

The primary duty environment for Marine Corps suicide attempts was with permanent duty station ( $n = 22$ , 14.01%), followed by training ( $n = 11$ , 7.01%; Table 6.40).

**TABLE 6.40. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	22	14.01%	72.19%
	Leave	5	3.18%	0.00%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	0	0.00%	2.65%
	Medical Hold	9	5.73%	0.00%
	TDY	2	1.27%	1.32%
	AWOL	3	1.91%	0.66%
	Under Command Observation	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Deployed	2	1.27%	1.99%
	Training	11	7.01%	5.96%
	Other	6	3.82%	4.64%
	Multiple Duty Environments	0	0.00%	4.64%
	Duty Environment Unknown	97	61.78%	5.96%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Suicide Attempts by Month

No clear pattern was evident for Marine Corps suicide attempts by month (Table 6.41).

**TABLE 6.41. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH**

MONTH		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
MONTH	January	14	8.92%	11.26%
	February	21	13.38%	11.92%
	March	14	8.92%	9.27%
	April	15	9.55%	11.26%
	May	8	5.10%	12.58%
	June	11	7.01%	7.95%
	July	15	9.55%	5.96%
	August	11	7.01%	7.95%
	September	13	8.28%	3.97%
	October	9	5.73%	5.96%
	November	12	7.64%	9.27%
	December	14	8.92%	2.65%

## Clinical Health Factors

DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

### Prior Self-Injury

Approximately one-fourth of DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide included history of prior self-harm ( $n = 34$ , 21.66%), and five (3.18%) indicated that the Marines had harmed themselves within the month prior to attempting suicide (Table 6.42). Of those with prior history of self-harm, 17 DoDSERs (10.83%) included more than one prior event.

**TABLE 6.42. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	34	21.66%	20.53%
	Within 30 days	5	3.18%	2.65%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	8	5.10%	4.64%
	No	93	59.24%	56.29%
	Don't Know	30	19.11%	23.18%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	17	10.83%	9.93%
	More than one prior event	17	10.83%	10.60%
	N/A or Unknown	123	78.34%	79.47%

**TABLE 6.42. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY (CONT.)**

Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	17	10.83%	11.26%
	No	15	9.55%	5.30%
	Don't Know	2	1.27%	3.97%
	N/A	123	78.34%	79.47%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

## Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about the history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide attempt. One hundred one DoDSERs for Marines in 2011 (64.33%) included a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 6.43). Forty-six (29.30%) included at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 6.44, nearly one-third of Marine DoDSERs for suicide attempts ( $n = 46$ , 29.30%) included a diagnosis of mood disorder, most frequently major depressive disorder ( $n = 24$ , 15.29%). Thirty-six DoDSERs (22.93%) included the diagnosis of an anxiety disorder, most frequently PTSD ( $n = 24$ , 15.29%; Table 6.45). Fifty-three (33.76%) indicated a known history of substance abuse, and 14 (8.92%) indicated a known personality disorder (Table 6.46). Eight DoDSERs for Marines (5.10%) indicated history of traumatic brain injury, and one (0.64%) included a history of psychotic disorder.

**TABLE 6.43. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	56	35.67%	43.71%
	1 DX	55	35.03%	23.84%
	2 DX	24	15.29%	17.22%
	3 DX	14	8.92%	9.93%
	4 or more DX	8	5.10%	5.30%

**TABLE 6.44. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	46	29.30%	31.79%
	No	90	57.32%	52.98%
	Don't Know	21	13.38%	15.23%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	6	3.82%	3.31%
	No	40	25.48%	75.50%
	Don't Know	111	70.70%	21.19%
Major depression	Yes	24	15.29%	13.25%
	No	22	14.01%	65.56%
	Don't Know	111	70.70%	21.19%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	4	2.55%	3.31%
	No	42	26.75%	74.83%
	Don't Know	111	70.70%	21.85%

**TABLE 6.44. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS (CONT.)**

Other mood disorder	Yes	12	7.64%	4.64%
	No	34	21.66%	73.51%
	Don't Know	111	70.70%	21.85%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	4	2.55%	3.31%
	No	132	84.08%	81.46%
	Don't Know	21	13.38%	15.23%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	3	1.91%	3.97%
	No	135	85.99%	80.79%
	Don't Know	19	12.10%	15.23%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 6.45. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	36	22.93%	16.56%
	No	104	66.24%	66.89%
	Don't Know	17	10.83%	16.56%
PTSD	Yes	24	15.29%	5.30%
	No	12	7.64%	76.82%
	Don't Know	121	77.07%	17.88%
Panic disorder	Yes	1	0.64%	0.66%
	No	35	22.29%	80.13%
	Don't Know	121	77.07%	19.21%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	4	2.55%	1.99%
	No	32	20.38%	77.48%
	Don't Know	121	77.07%	20.53%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%
	No	36	22.93%	79.47%
	Don't Know	121	77.07%	20.53%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	11	7.01%	4.64%
	No	129	82.17%	76.16%
	Don't Know	17	10.83%	19.21%
Unspecified anxiety disorder	Yes	2	1.27%	0.00%
	No	138	87.90%	83.44%
	Don't Know	17	10.83%	16.56%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	5	3.18%	3.97%
	No	31	19.75%	79.47%
	Don't Know	121	77.07%	16.56%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 6.46. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	14	8.92%	9.27%
	No	127	80.89%	69.54%
	Don't Know	16	10.19%	21.19%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	1	0.64%	1.99%
	No	141	89.81%	79.47%
	Don't Know	15	9.55%	18.54%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	53	33.76%	23.84%
	No	63	40.13%	56.29%
	Don't Know	41	26.11%	19.87%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	8	5.10%	3.31%
	No	130	82.80%	77.48%
	Don't Know	19	12.10%	19.21%

## Treatment History

Table 6.47 provides data on Marines' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to attempting suicide. Ninety DoDSERs (57.32%) included history of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF); 46 (29.30%) Marines received treatment within the month prior to attempting suicide. Twenty-four DoDSERs (15.29%) included a known physical health problem. Eighty-six DoDSERs (54.78%) included treatment from outpatient behavioral health services; 45 (28.66%) within the month prior to attempting suicide. Twenty-nine DoDSERs (18.47%) included history of hospitalization in an inpatient psychiatry unit, 9 (5.73%) within the month prior to the suicide attempt. Twenty-eight DoDSERs (17.83%) indicated prior treatment for substance abuse.

**TABLE 6.47. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	90	57.32%	45.03%
	Within 30 days	46	29.30%	29.80%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	69	43.95%	38.41%
	No	52	33.12%	41.72%
	Don't Know	15	9.55%	13.25%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	24	15.29%	17.22%
	Within 30 days	12	7.64%	9.27%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	19	12.10%	12.58%
	No	114	72.61%	64.24%
	Don't Know	19	12.10%	18.54%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	28	17.83%	17.22%
	Within 30 days	13	8.28%	5.30%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	15	9.55%	8.61%
	No	101	64.33%	63.58%
	Don't Know	28	17.83%	19.21%

**TABLE 6.47. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)**

FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	9	5.73%	4.64%
	Within 30 days	4	2.55%	1.32%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	5	3.18%	1.99%
	No	111	70.70%	66.23%
	Don't Know	37	23.57%	29.14%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	10	6.37%	8.61%
	Within 30 days	6	3.82%	2.65%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	8	5.10%	5.30%
	No	82	52.23%	50.33%
	Don't Know	65	41.40%	41.06%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	86	54.78%	50.33%
	Within 30 days	45	28.66%	32.45%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	62	39.49%	42.38%
	No	61	38.85%	39.07%
	Don't Know	10	6.37%	10.60%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	29	18.47%	9.93%
	Within 30 days	9	5.73%	0.66%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	15	9.55%	4.64%
	No	122	77.71%	75.50%
	Don't Know	6	3.82%	14.57%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

As indicated in Table 6.48, one-third of DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide ( $n = 55$ , 35.03%) included known prescriptions for psychotropic medication prior to the suicide attempt. The most frequently prescribed psychotropics included antidepressants ( $n = 50$ , 90.91% of those with known prescriptions, 31.85% of total), antianxiety medication ( $n = 18$ , 32.73% of those with known prescriptions, 11.46% of total), and antipsychotics ( $n = 14$ , 25.45% of those with known prescriptions, 8.92% of total).

**TABLE 6.48. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	55	35.03%	34.44%
	No	86	54.78%	49.67%
	Don't Know	16	10.19%	15.89%
Antidepressants	Yes	50	31.85%	29.14%
	No	91	57.96%	52.98%
	Don't Know	16	10.19%	17.88%
Antianxiety	Yes	18	11.46%	9.27%
	No	117	74.52%	70.20%
	Don't Know	22	14.01%	20.53%
Antimanics	Yes	3	1.91%	2.65%
	No	133	84.71%	76.16%
	Don't Know	21	13.38%	21.19%

**TABLE 6.48. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE (CONT.)**

Anticonvulsants	Yes	1	0.64%	0.66%
	No	135	85.99%	78.15%
	Don't Know	21	13.38%	21.19%
Antipsychotics	Yes	14	8.92%	8.61%
	No	122	77.71%	71.52%
	Don't Know	21	13.38%	19.87%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories and interpersonal relationships, legal, financial, administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

### Family and Relationship History

Nearly one-half of DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide ( $n = 77$ , 49.04%) indicated a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship; 46 (29.30%) Marines experienced the failure within the month prior to suicide attempt (Table 6.49). Sixteen (10.19%) indicated the failure in another important relationship, the majority of these ( $n = 10$ , 62.50% of those with a failure in another important relationship, 6.37% of total) occurred within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

**TABLE 6.49. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT-**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	77	49.04%	50.33%
	Within 30 days	46	29.30%	23.84%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	55	35.03%	33.77%
	No	61	38.85%	36.42%
	Don't Know	19	12.10%	13.25%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	16	10.19%	13.91%
	Within 30 days	10	6.37%	5.96%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	11	7.01%	8.61%
	No	112	71.34%	60.26%
	Don't Know	29	18.47%	25.83%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	82	52.23%	50.33%
	Within 30 days	47	29.94%	25.83%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	57	36.31%	35.76%
	No	55	35.03%	36.42%
	Don't Know	17	10.83%	13.25%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 6.50 summarizes other family and relationship factors. Fifty-three DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide (33.76%) included the known history of a family member with a behavioral health problem. Seven DoDSERs (4.46%) included the experience of a family member's suicide and 19 (12.10%) included the experience of a non-suicide death of a family member. Five DoDSERs (3.18%) included the history of a friend's death by suicide, and 11 (7.01%) included the death of a friend by other means.

**TABLE 6.50. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAMILY HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%
	No	148	94.27%	88.08%
	Don't Know	9	5.73%	11.92%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	7	4.46%	4.64%
	No	130	82.80%	76.82%
	Don't Know	20	12.74%	18.54%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	5	3.18%	5.96%
	No	129	82.17%	73.51%
	Don't Know	23	14.65%	20.53%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	19	12.10%	8.61%
	No	118	75.16%	68.87%
	Don't Know	20	12.74%	22.52%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	11	7.01%	6.62%
	No	120	76.43%	69.54%
	Don't Know	26	16.56%	23.84%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	11	7.01%	7.28%
	No	123	78.34%	72.19%
	Don't Know	23	14.65%	20.53%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	53	33.76%	29.14%
	No	78	49.68%	45.70%
	Don't Know	26	16.56%	25.17%

## Administrative and Legal History

Fifty-nine DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide included at least one administrative or legal issue (37.58%) and 20 (12.74%) included more than one issue (Table 6.51). The most frequent administrative or legal problems were non-judicial punishment ( $n = 30$ , 19.11%), medical board proceedings ( $n = 13$ , 8.28%), and administrative separation ( $n = 12$ , 7.64%).

**TABLE 6.51. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	6	3.82%	5.30%
	No	128	81.53%	70.20%
	Don't Know	23	14.65%	24.50%

**TABLE 6.51. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY (CONT.)**

NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	30	19.11%	16.56%
	No	101	64.33%	60.26%
	Don't Know	26	16.56%	23.18%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	12	7.64%	11.26%
	No	118	75.16%	68.87%
	Don't Know	27	17.20%	19.87%
HX AWOL	Yes	10	6.37%	6.62%
	No	126	80.25%	72.85%
	Don't Know	21	13.38%	20.53%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	13	8.28%	4.64%
	No	125	79.62%	76.82%
	Don't Know	19	12.10%	18.54%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	10	6.37%	9.27%
	No	114	72.61%	65.56%
	Don't Know	33	21.02%	25.17%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	4	2.55%	3.97%
	No	115	73.25%	65.56%
	Don't Know	38	24.20%	30.46%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	59	37.58%	39.07%
	No	67	42.68%	42.38%
	Don't Know	31	19.75%	18.54%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	20	12.74%	11.92%
	No	106	67.52%	35.76%
	Don't Know	31	19.75%	52.32%

## Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 6.52). DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide in 2011 included a reported history of emotional abuse ( $n = 25$ , 15.92%), physical abuse ( $n = 29$ , 18.47%), and sexual abuse ( $n = 21$ , 13.38%). Six (3.82%) included a reported history of physically abusing others and three included a reported history of perpetrating emotional abuse (1.91%). Two DoDSERs included a reported history of perpetrating sexual abuse (1.27%).

**TABLE 6.52. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	29	18.47%	15.89%
	No	98	62.42%	61.59%
	Don't Know	30	19.11%	22.52%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	21	13.38%	10.60%
	No	104	66.24%	64.90%
	Don't Know	32	20.38%	24.50%

**TABLE 6.52. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	25	15.92%	17.88%
	No	94	59.87%	57.62%
	Don't Know	38	24.20%	24.50%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	6	3.82%	0.66%
	No	114	72.61%	70.86%
	Don't Know	37	23.57%	28.48%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	6	3.82%	1.99%
	No	124	78.98%	71.52%
	Don't Know	27	17.20%	26.49%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	2	1.27%	0.66%
	No	126	80.25%	72.85%
	Don't Know	29	18.47%	26.49%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	3	1.91%	1.32%
	No	126	80.25%	72.85%
	Don't Know	28	17.83%	25.83%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%
	No	129	82.17%	73.51%
	Don't Know	28	17.83%	26.49%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 6.53). Ten DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide in 2011 (6.37%) included a known history of excessive debt. Forty DoDSERs included job loss or instability (25.48%), 24 (15.29%) included problems with either supervisors or coworkers, and 19 (12.10%) included poor work evaluations. DoDSER data indicated that seven (4.56%) Marines were victims of hazing in the workplace.

**TABLE 6.53. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	10	6.37%	6.62%
	No	96	61.15%	68.21%
	Don't Know	51	32.48%	25.17%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	40	25.48%	21.85%
	No	84	53.50%	50.99%
	Don't Know	33	21.02%	27.15%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	24	15.29%	20.53%
	No	88	56.05%	47.68%
	Don't Know	45	28.66%	31.79%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	19	12.10%	14.57%
	No	90	57.32%	54.30%
	Don't Know	48	30.57%	31.13%

**TABLE 6.53. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES (CONT.)**

HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	7	4.46%	4.64%
	No	106	67.52%	63.58%
	Don't Know	44	28.03%	31.79%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as the history of direct combat operations.

### Deployment and Combat History

Two suicide attempts (1.27%) occurred in Afghanistan during OEF deployment (Table 6.54). Seventy-three DoDSERs (46.50%) included information about prior OEF, OIF, or OND deployments (Table 6.55). Thirty-six DoDSERs (22.93%) included experiences of direct combat (Table 6.56).

**TABLE 6.54. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	2	1.27%	2.65%
	Iraq	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Not OEF/OND	155	98.73%	97.35%

**TABLE 6.55. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF/OND	Afghanistan	36	22.93%	7.95%
	Iraq	26	16.56%	27.15%
	Kuwait	1	0.64%	0.66%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	10	6.37%	2.65%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	84	53.50%	61.59%

**TABLE 6.56. CY 2011 AND 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMBAT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	36	22.93%	12.58%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	26	16.56%	6.62%
	Injured in combat	14	8.92%	5.30%
	Witnessed killing in combat	25	15.92%	4.64%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	26	16.56%	4.64%
	Killed others in combat	18	11.46%	1.99%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	121	77.07%	87.42%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Summary

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This chapter provides data on Marine Corps suicides and suicide attempts that occurred in 2011. Data are presented for 31 Marines who died by suicide and 156 Marines who attempted suicide in 157 separate incidents. Decedents and those who attempted suicide were primarily male, Caucasian, non-Hispanic or Latino, under age twenty-five, enlisted, Regular component Marines, and without a college degree.

Most suicide events took place in the United States and in the personal residences. Non-military issue firearm use was the most frequent method of suicide. The most frequent suicide attempt methods were drug overdose, harming oneself with a sharp or blunt object, and hanging. Drug and alcohol use was more frequent among nonfatal Marine Corps suicide events. The majority of Marines who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated to others their likelihood of harming themselves.

The percentage of known behavioral health disorders was higher for Marines who attempted suicide than for those who died by suicide. Known behavioral health treatment use was also higher among Marines who attempted suicide compared to decedents. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Marines with suicide events. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was non-judicial punishment.

CHAPTER 7:  
NAVY DoDSER

NAVY RESULTS FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

Navy DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance

2011 Reported Suicides

Fifty-one Navy suicides were confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2011 (Table 7.1). Navy Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports (DoDSERs) were submitted and analyzed for all 51 confirmed suicides, for a submission compliance rate of 100%. The tables in this section include data for all decedents. In addition, the tables provide percentages for 2010 and 2009 DoDSER data for comparison. Specific data counts for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

TABLE 7.1. NAVY AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DODSERS SUBMITTED

	2011	2010	2009	2008
Total DoDSERs Included in Annual Report	51	38	46	41
Total AFMES Confirmed and Pending Suicides	52	38	47	41
AFMES Confirmed Suicides (By 31 January)	51	38	45	39
DoDSER Submission Compliance	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data from 1/1/2009 through 12/31/2011 as of 4/26/2012 for CY 2011; as of 1 April for previous years

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have been associated with the suicide events. These factors include decedents’ demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Table 7.2 contains demographic data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). All but 1 of the 52 Navy 2011 suicides were completed by males ( $n = 51$ , 98.08%). Decedents were primarily Caucasian ( $n = 36$ , 69.23%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 46$ , 88.46%), over age twenty-five ( $n = 37$ , 72.55%), junior enlisted ( $n = 19$ , 36.54%), Regular component ( $n = 52$ , 100%), and without a college degree ( $n = 44$ , 84.61%).

TABLE 7.2. CY 2011 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR NAVY SUICIDES (N = 39)

		2011				2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Service Total %	Rate/ 100K	(N = 39) Percent	(N = 48) Percent
TOTAL		52	100.00%	100.00%	14.98	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	51	98.08%	83.33%	17.63	94.87%	95.83%
	Female	1	1.92%	16.67%	*	5.13%	4.17%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	2	3.85%	4.23%	*	2.56%	6.25%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2	3.85%	6.42%	*	5.13%	4.17%
	Black/African American	9	17.31%	17.43%	*	12.82%	12.50%
	White/Caucasian	36	69.23%	60.88%	17.03	76.92%	72.92%
	Other/Don't Know	3	5.77%	11.04%	*	2.56%	4.17%
ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino	6	11.54%	15.55%	*		
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	46	88.46%	84.45%	17.48		
AGE RANGE	Under 25	14	26.92%	35.67%	*	56.41%	28.26%
	25-29	17	32.69%	24.30%	*	15.38%	17.39%
	30-34	8	15.38%	15.80%	*	7.69%	28.26%
	35-39	8	15.38%	12.18%	*	17.95%	15.22%
	40-44	3	5.77%	7.40%	*	2.56%	4.35%
	45+	2	3.85%	4.65%	*	0.00%	6.52%
RANK	Cadet	0	0.00%	1.41%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	E1-E4	19	36.54%	39.53%	*	0.29	56.41%
	E5-E9	28	53.85%	42.48%	18.98	0.65	35.90%
	Officer	5	9.62%	16.10%	*	0.04	7.69%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	0.47%	*	0.02	0.00%
COMPONENT	Regular	52	100.00%	93.62%	14.98	97.44%	95.83%
	Reserve	0	0.00%	6.38%	*	2.56%	4.17%
	National Guard	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00%	0.00%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	1	1.92%	0.77%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	GED	4	7.69%	2.86%	*	10.26%	6.25%
	High school graduate	36	69.23%	67.22%	15.42	76.92%	72.92%
	Some college or technical school	3	5.77%	1.73%	*	2.56%	4.17%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	1	1.92%	5.57%	*	2.56%	4.17%
	Four-year college degree	2	3.85%	8.90%	*	0.00%	8.33%
	Master's degree or greater	2	3.85%	6.48%	*	2.56%	0.00%
	Don't Know	3	5.77%	6.47%	*	5.13%	4.17%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	15	28.85%	46.12%	*	56.41%	16.67%
	Married	33	63.46%	0.17%	17.72	38.46%	60.42%
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Divorced	3	5.77%	53.63%	*	5.13%	8.33%
	Widowed	1	1.92%	0.00%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.08%	*	0.00%	14.58%

Note: Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals. "DoD Total %" column reflects population-level DMDC data for all Active Duty and Activated or Deployed Reserves. Ethnicity data not reported prior to 2011.

## Event Setting

As in the previous three years, Navy suicides most frequently took place in the United States ( $n = 44$ , 86.27%; Table 7.3). Suicides primarily occurred in the Sailors' own residences ( $n = 34$ , 66.67%; Table 7.4). "Other" (write-in response) settings included parks, or other outdoor settings ( $n = 3$ , 5.88%) and hotel rooms ( $n = 2$ , 3.92%).

**TABLE 7.3. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	United States	44	86.27%	89.47%	91.30%
	Iraq	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Asia	1	1.96%	2.63%	2.17%
	Europe	2	3.92%	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	3	5.88%	5.26%	6.52%
	Don't Know	1	1.96%	2.63%	0.00%

**TABLE 7.4. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER EVENT SETTING**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	34	66.67%	52.63%	58.70%
	Residence of friend or family	4	7.84%	7.89%	4.35%
	Work/jobsite	3	5.88%	10.53%	15.22%
	Automobile (away from residence)	3	5.88%	0.00%	0.00%
	Inpatient medical facility	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	6	11.76%	28.95%	21.74%
	Don't Know	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%

## Event Method

As indicated in Table 7.5, Sailors primarily used non-military issue firearms as the suicide method ( $n = 26$ , 50.98%), followed by hanging ( $n = 15$ , 29.41%). One Sailor died using a military issue firearm. Methods used for the remaining suicides included drugs ( $n = 4$ , 7.84%), vehicle exhaust ( $n = 1$ , 1.96%) utility gas ( $n = 1$ , 1.96%), drowning ( $n = 1$ , 1.96%), and jumping from a high place ( $n = 1$ , 1.96%).

**TABLE 7.5. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER EVENT METHOD**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	26	50.98%	44.74%	39.13%
	Firearm, military issue	1	1.96%	0.00%	6.52%
	Hanging	15	29.41%	26.32%	23.91%
	Drugs	4	7.84%	10.53%	2.17%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	1	1.96%	0.00%	6.52%
	Gas, utility (or other)	1	1.96%	7.89%	4.35%

**TABLE 7.5. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER EVENT METHOD (CONT.)**

Drowning	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%
Sharp or blunt object	0	0.00%	5.26%	6.52%
Jumping from high place	1	1.96%	5.26%	4.35%
Lying in front of moving object	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other	1	1.96%	0.00%	6.52%

## Substance Use during the Event

Comprehensive information about substance use during suicide is unavailable for many Navy suicides in 2011. Where information was available it indicated that over one-third used alcohol during the suicide event ( $n = 13$ , 39.39% of DoDSERs with alcohol use data, 25.49% of total; Table 7.6). One-fifth of Sailors ( $n = 7$ , 21.88% of DoDSERs with drug use data, 13.73% of total) were known to have used drugs during the suicide event. These frequencies include Sailors who used drugs as a suicide method ( $n = 4$ , 7.84%), as described above.

**TABLE 7.6. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	13	25.49%	21.05%	19.57%
	No	20	39.22%	39.47%	54.35%
	Don't Know	18	35.29%	39.47%	26.09%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	7	13.73%	18.42%	2.17%
	No	25	49.02%	52.63%	67.39%
	Don't Know	19	37.25%	28.95%	30.43%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	2	3.92%	2.63%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	2	3.92%	0.00%	0.00%
	Were not used	28	54.90%	68.42%	69.57%
	Don't know	19	37.25%	28.95%	30.43%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	1	1.96%	7.89%	2.17%
	Used, no overdose	2	3.92%	5.26%	0.00%
	Were not used	29	56.86%	57.89%	67.39%
	Don't know	19	37.25%	28.95%	30.43%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	1	1.96%	7.89%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	2	3.92%	0.00%	2.17%
	Were not used	29	56.86%	63.16%	67.39%
	Don't know	19	37.25%	28.95%	30.43%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	3	5.88%	2.63%	0.00%
	No	28	54.90%	52.63%	67.39%
	Don't Know	20	39.22%	44.74%	32.61%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Communication of Intent

Consistent with the previous three years, most Navy decedents had no known history of communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ( $n = 36$ , 70.59%; Table 7.7). Fifteen Sailors who died by suicide were

known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their potential to die by suicide (29.41%). These communications were most frequently verbal ( $n = 8$ , 15.69%; Table 7.8). As indicated in Table 7.9, decedents most frequently communicated with either their spouses ( $n = 8$ , 15.69%) or friends ( $n = 7$ , 13.73%).

**TABLE 7.7. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	36	70.59%	65.79%	73.91%
	1	10	19.61%	26.32%	21.74%
	2	4	7.84%	7.89%	4.35%
	3	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%

**TABLE 7.8. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	8	15.69%	28.95%	13.04%
	Written	3	5.88%	5.26%	0.00%
	Other or Unknown	4	7.84%	0.00%	6.52%
	Multiple Modes	0	0.00%	0.00%	4.35%
	No Known Communication	36	70.59%	65.79%	76.09%

**Note:** Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

**TABLE 7.9. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	8	15.69%	13.16%	10.87%
	Friend	7	13.73%	2.63%	4.35%
	Behavioral Health Provider	1	1.96%	2.63%	0.00%
	Chaplain	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%
	Supervisor	2	3.92%	0.00%	0.00%
	Other or Unidentified	1	1.96%	7.89%	4.35%
	Made Multiple Communications	5	9.80%	7.89%	4.35%
	No Known Communication	36	70.59%	65.79%	76.09%

**Note:** Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 7.10 provides information about other details of 2011 Navy suicides. There was information to indicate that the majority of decedents ( $n = 36$ , 70.59%) intended to die. Approximately one-third of the suicides appeared to be premeditated ( $n = 15$ , 29.41%). Six Navy decedents (11.76%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others. Nearly one-fourth ( $n = 12$ , 23.53%) left suicide notes.

**TABLE 7.10. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	36	70.59%	76.32%	82.61%
	No	8	15.69%	5.26%	2.17%
	Don't Know	7	13.73%	18.42%	15.22%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.17%
	No	49	96.08%	97.37%	91.30%
	Don't Know	2	3.92%	2.63%	6.52%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	15	29.41%	36.84%	43.48%
	No	20	39.22%	39.47%	28.26%
	Don't Know	16	31.37%	23.68%	28.26%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	6	11.76%	13.16%	23.91%
	No	39	76.47%	73.68%	73.91%
	Don't Know	6	11.76%	13.16%	2.17%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	12	23.53%	26.32%	34.78%
	No	35	68.63%	65.79%	54.35%
	Don't Know	4	7.84%	7.89%	10.87%

## Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation, and duty environment.

### Situational Factors

Table 7.11 provides details about the living situations of Sailors who died by suicide in 2011. The most frequent living environments for decedents were homes or apartments outside of their installations ( $n = 28$ , 54.90%). Of decedents who were married ( $n = 31$ , 60.78%), approximately one-half lived with their spouses ( $n = 14$ , 45.16% of married, 27.45% of total), and 10 were separated due to relationship issues (32.26% of married, 19.61% of total). Most decedents lived with others ( $n = 29$ , 56.86%). Twenty-six Navy decedents (50.98%) had minor children, and 12 (23.53%) lived with their children at the time of death. Over one-half of decedents had access to firearms either in their homes or other accessible locations ( $n = 29$ , 56.86%).

**TABLE 7.11. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	6	11.76%	21.05%	2.17%
	Bachelor quarters	7	13.73%	10.53%	8.70%
	On-base family housing	5	9.80%	7.89%	4.35%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	28	54.90%	44.74%	73.91%
	Ship	3	5.88%	5.26%	6.52%
	Other	0	0.00%	10.53%	2.17%
	Don't Know	2	3.92%	0.00%	2.17%

**TABLE 7.11. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)**

MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resided with spouse	14	27.45%	21.05%	32.61%
	Separated due to relationship issues	10	19.61%	15.79%	13.04%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	6	11.76%	0.00%	10.87%
	Don't Know	1	1.96%	5.26%	2.17%
	Unmarried at time of event	20	39.22%	57.89%	41.30%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	16	31.37%	26.32%	41.30%
	No	29	56.86%	73.68%	58.70%
	Don't Know	6	11.76%	0.00%	0.00%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	26	50.98%	23.68%	45.65%
	No	24	47.06%	76.32%	54.35%
	Don't Know	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	12	23.53%	13.16%	30.43%
	No	14	27.45%	10.53%	15.22%
	Don't Know	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%
	No Children	24	47.06%	76.32%	54.35%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	29	56.86%	52.63%	43.48%
	No	12	23.53%	31.58%	30.43%
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	15.79%	26.09%

## Duty Environment

The primary duty environment of Navy suicides was their permanent duty station ( $n = 32$ , 62.75%; Table 7.12). Other environments where suicides occurred included during leave ( $n = 7$ , 13.73%) and training ( $n = 5$ , 9.80%). One Sailor (1.96%) died by suicide shipboard.

**TABLE 7.12. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	32	62.75%	63.16%	63.04%
	Leave	7	13.73%	0.00%	0.00%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	1	1.96%	5.26%	10.87%
	Medical Hold	2	3.92%	0.00%	2.17%
	TDY	3	5.88%	0.00%	2.17%
	AWOL	3	5.88%	2.63%	6.52%
	Deployed	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%
	Training	5	9.80%	7.89%	4.35%
	Other	4	7.84%	7.89%	6.52%
	Multiple Duty Environments	7	13.73%	13.16%	0.00%
	Duty Environment Unknown	1	1.96%	0.00%	4.35%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Suicide Completions by Month

As in the previous three years, no clear pattern existed for Navy suicides by month (Table 7.13).

**TABLE 7.13. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER SUICIDES BY MONTH**

MONTH		2011	2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent
	January	5	9.80%	0.00%
	February	7	13.73%	7.89%
	March	5	9.80%	5.26%
	April	5	9.80%	7.89%
	May	6	11.76%	10.53%
	June	3	5.88%	5.26%
	July	1	1.96%	13.16%
	August	5	9.80%	7.89%
	September	5	9.80%	5.26%
	October	4	7.84%	10.53%
	November	1	1.96%	13.16%
	December	3	5.88%	13.16%

Note: One event occurred on 12/31/2010 and was included in 2011

## Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

### Prior Self-Injury

Eight Sailors who died by suicide in 2011 (15.69%) had a known history of self-harm (Table 7.14). Of these eight Sailors, five (62.50% of those with a known history of self-harm; 9.80% of total) had more than one known occurrence of self-harm.

**TABLE 7.14. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY**

		2011	2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	8	15.69%	2.63%
	Within 30 days	2	3.92%	0.00%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	5	9.80%	0.00%
	No	31	60.78%	73.68%
	Don't Know	12	23.53%	23.68%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	3	5.88%	0.00%
	More than one prior event	5	9.80%	2.63%
	N/A or Unknown	43	84.31%	97.37%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	2	3.92%	2.63%
	No	4	7.84%	0.00%
	Don't Know	2	3.92%	0.00%
	N/A	43	84.31%	97.37%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

## Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death. Twenty-two Sailors who died by suicide in 2011 (43.14%) had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 7.15). Ten (19.61%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Tables 7.16 and 7.17, nine decedents (17.65%) were known to have had a mood disorder and seven (13.73%) were known to have had an anxiety disorder. Thirteen decedents (25.49%) had a known history of substance abuse (Table 7.18).

**TABLE 7.15. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	29	56.86%	63.16%	69.57%
	1 DX	12	23.53%	18.42%	17.39%
	2 DX	7	13.73%	10.53%	10.87%
	3 DX	1	1.96%	5.26%	2.17%
	4 or more DX	2	3.92%	2.63%	0.00%

**TABLE 7.16. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER MOOD DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	9	17.65%	13.16%	17.39%
	No	31	60.78%	73.68%	56.52%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	13.16%	26.09%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	40	78.43%	86.84%	69.57%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	13.16%	30.43%
Major depression	Yes	5	9.80%	5.26%	8.70%
	No	36	70.59%	81.58%	63.04%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	13.16%	28.26%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	1	1.96%	2.63%	4.35%
	No	39	76.47%	84.21%	65.22%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	13.16%	30.43%
Other mood disorder	Yes	2	3.92%	5.26%	2.17%
	No	38	74.51%	81.58%	67.39%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	13.16%	30.43%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	2	3.92%	0.00%	2.17%
	No	37	72.55%	86.84%	71.74%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	13.16%	26.09%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	39	76.47%	86.84%	73.91%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	13.16%	26.09%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 7.17. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	7	13.73%	13.16%	13.04%
	No	34	66.67%	73.68%	65.22%
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	13.16%	21.74%
PTSD	Yes	0	0.00%	2.63%	4.35%
	No	41	80.39%	84.21%	71.74%
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	13.16%	23.91%
Panic disorder	Yes	1	1.96%	2.63%	0.00%
	No	40	78.43%	84.21%	76.09%
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	13.16%	23.91%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	40	78.43%	84.21%	76.09%
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	15.79%	23.91%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	41	80.39%	86.84%	76.09%
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	13.16%	23.91%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	5	9.80%	2.63%	4.35%
	No	36	70.59%	84.21%	71.74%
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	13.16%	23.91%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	5	9.80%	2.63%	2.17%
	No	36	70.59%	84.21%	76.09%
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	13.16%	21.74%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	5	9.80%	2.63%	2.17%
	No	36	70.59%	84.21%	76.09%
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	13.16%	21.74%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 7.18. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	1	1.96%	0.00%	4.35%
	No	40	78.43%	84.21%	69.57%
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	15.79%	26.09%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	41	80.39%	84.21%	71.74%
	Don't Know	9	17.65%	15.79%	28.26%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	13	25.49%	26.32%	17.39%
	No	29	56.86%	57.89%	52.17%
	Don't Know	9	17.65%	15.79%	30.43%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	1	1.96%	0.00%	
	No	40	78.43%	84.21%	
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	15.79%	

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

## Treatment History

Table 7.19 provides data on Navy suicide decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. The majority ( $n = 29$ , 56.86%) had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Thirteen decedents (25.49%) were treated at an MTF within one month prior to suicide. Eleven Sailors (21.57%) had a known history of a physical health problem, and three decedents (5.88%) had received physical health diagnoses within the month prior to suicide.

Five Navy decedents (9.80%) had received substance abuse treatment services, and three (5.88%) received help from family advocacy programs. Ten Sailors (19.61%) utilized chaplain services. Over one-fourth of decedents ( $n = 15$ , 29.41%) had received outpatient behavioral health treatment, and five (9.80%) had received treatment within the month prior to suicide. Eight Sailors (15.69%) received inpatient behavioral health treatment, two (3.92%) of whom received treatment within the month prior to suicide.

**TABLE 7.19. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	29	56.86%	55.26%	45.65%
	Within 30 days	13	25.49%	39.47%	26.09%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	20	39.22%	52.63%	39.13%
	No	16	31.37%	42.11%	32.61%
	Don't Know	6	11.76%	2.63%	21.74%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	11	21.57%	10.53%	19.57%
	Within 30 days	3	5.88%	5.26%	6.52%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	5	9.80%	7.89%	8.70%
	No	33	64.71%	78.95%	65.22%
	Don't Know	7	13.73%	10.53%	15.22%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	5	9.80%	10.53%	17.39%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	2.63%	4.35%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	5.88%	5.26%	6.52%
	No	35	68.63%	78.95%	60.87%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	10.53%	21.74%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	3	5.88%	7.89%	6.52%
	Within 30 days	1	1.96%	5.26%	0.00%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	1.96%	7.89%	0.00%
	No	34	66.67%	68.42%	63.04%
	Don't Know	14	27.45%	23.68%	30.43%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	10	19.61%	5.26%	13.04%
	Within 30 days	4	7.84%	5.26%	4.35%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	5	9.80%	5.26%	10.87%
	No	19	37.25%	68.42%	47.83%
	Don't Know	22	43.14%	26.32%	39.13%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	15	29.41%	28.95%	19.57%
	Within 30 days	5	9.80%	18.42%	6.52%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	8	15.69%	23.68%	6.52%
	No	25	49.02%	60.53%	56.52%

**TABLE 7.19. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)**

INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Don't Know	11	21.57%	10.53%	23.91%
	Yes	8	15.69%	2.63%	8.70%
	Within 30 days	2	3.92%	2.63%	2.17%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	6	11.76%	2.63%	2.17%
	No	33	64.71%	81.58%	71.74%
	Don't Know	10	19.61%	15.79%	19.57%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 7.20 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by decedents prior to suicide. Approximately one-fourth of decedents ( $n = 12$ , 23.53%) had known prescriptions for psychotropic medications, most frequently antidepressants ( $n = 8$ , 15.69%).

**TABLE 7.20. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	12	23.53%	15.79%	4.35%
	No	27	52.94%	63.16%	58.70%
	Don't Know	12	23.53%	21.05%	36.96%
Antidepressants	Yes	8	15.69%	13.16%	4.35%
	No	31	60.78%	65.79%	58.70%
	Don't Know	12	23.53%	21.05%	36.96%
Antianxiety	Yes	4	7.84%	10.53%	2.17%
	No	35	68.63%	65.79%	60.87%
	Don't Know	12	23.53%	23.68%	36.96%
Antimanic	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	39	76.47%	76.32%	63.04%
	Don't Know	12	23.53%	23.68%	36.96%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	39	76.47%	76.32%	63.04%
	Don't Know	12	23.53%	23.68%	36.96%
Antipsychotics	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	39	76.47%	76.32%	63.04%
	Don't Know	12	23.53%	23.68%	36.96%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories and interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

## Family and Relationship History

The majority of 2011 Navy decedents ( $n = 29$ , 56.86%) had a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship; 20 (39.22%) were known to have experienced the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 7.21). Six decedents (11.76%) experienced a failure in another important relationship; most of these ( $n = 5$ , 9.80%) occurred within the month prior to suicide. Most Sailors who died by suicide in 2011 had some form of failed relationship ( $n = 30$ , 58.82%); twenty-one (41.18%) of these occurred within the month prior to suicide.

**TABLE 7.21. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	29	56.86%	57.89%	56.52%
	Within 30 days	20	39.22%	36.84%	32.61%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	22	43.14%	47.37%	41.30%
	No	15	29.41%	28.95%	30.43%
	Don't Know	7	13.73%	13.16%	13.04%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	6	11.76%	10.53%	19.57%
	Within 30 days	5	9.80%	7.89%	6.52%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	5	9.80%	10.53%	8.70%
	No	29	56.86%	60.53%	56.52%
	Don't Know	16	31.37%	28.95%	23.91%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	30	58.82%	60.53%	58.70%
	Within 30 days	21	41.18%	39.47%	32.61%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	23	45.10%	50.00%	41.30%
	No	13	25.49%	26.32%	30.43%
	Don't Know	7	13.73%	13.16%	10.87%

\*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 7.22 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may be associated with the suicide. Five Navy decedents (9.80%) were known to have lost a family member to suicide, and eight (15.69%) were known to have experienced a death of a family member by other means. Three Sailors had experienced the death of a friend (5.88%). Four decedents (7.84%) were known to have had family members with a significant illness, and six (11.76%) were known to have had family members with behavioral health problems.

**TABLE 7.22. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER FAMILY HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	47	92.16%	92.11%	91.30%
	Don't Know	4	7.84%	7.89%	8.70%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	5	9.80%	10.53%	0.00%
	No	30	58.82%	65.79%	78.26%
	Don't Know	16	31.37%	23.68%	21.74%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.17%
	No	30	58.82%	73.68%	63.04%

**TABLE 7.22. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER FAMILY HISTORY (CONT.)**

	Don't Know	21	41.18%	26.32%	34.78%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	8	15.69%	5.26%	15.22%
	No	29	56.86%	63.16%	63.04%
	Don't Know	14	27.45%	31.58%	21.74%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	3	5.88%	5.26%	4.35%
	No	28	54.90%	57.89%	60.87%
	Don't Know	20	39.22%	36.84%	34.78%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	4	7.84%	10.53%	6.52%
	No	32	62.75%	65.79%	73.91%
	Don't Know	15	29.41%	23.68%	19.57%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	6	11.76%	10.53%	4.35%
	No	19	37.25%	47.37%	39.13%
	Don't Know	26	50.98%	42.11%	56.52%

## Administrative and Legal History

Approximately one-half of Sailors who died by suicide in 2011 ( $n = 25$ , 49.02%) had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and nine (17.65%) had more than one issue (Table 7.23). The most frequent administrative or legal issue was non-judicial punishment ( $n = 11$ , 21.57%), followed by civil legal problems ( $n = 8$ , 15.69%), administrative separation ( $n = 5$ , 9.80%), and history of non-selection for promotion ( $n = 5$ , 9.80%).

**TABLE 7.23. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	3	5.88%	5.26%	4.35%
	No	46	90.20%	92.11%	93.48%
	Don't Know	2	3.92%	2.63%	2.17%
NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	11	21.57%	18.42%	15.22%
	No	36	70.59%	78.95%	78.26%
	Don't Know	4	7.84%	2.63%	6.52%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	5	9.80%	2.63%	8.70%
	No	42	82.35%	94.74%	91.30%
	Don't Know	4	7.84%	2.63%	0.00%
HX AWOL	Yes	4	7.84%	10.53%	15.22%
	No	44	86.27%	84.21%	82.61%
	Don't Know	3	5.88%	5.26%	2.17%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	4	7.84%	0.00%	6.52%
	No	43	84.31%	94.74%	91.30%
	Don't Know	4	7.84%	5.26%	2.17%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	8	15.69%	10.53%	19.57%
	No	38	74.51%	78.95%	69.57%
	Don't Know	5	9.80%	10.53%	10.87%

**TABLE 7.23. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	5	9.80%	10.53%	8.70%
	No	42	82.35%	84.21%	86.96%
	Don't Know	4	7.84%	5.26%	4.35%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	25	49.02%	39.47%	43.48%
	No	24	47.06%	52.63%	47.83%
	Don't Know	2	3.92%	7.89%	8.70%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	9	17.65%	13.16%	23.91%
	No	40	78.43%	50.00%	43.48%
	Don't Know	2	3.92%	36.84%	32.61%

## Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 7.24). Two Navy decedents (3.92%) reportedly experienced physical abuse, one (1.96%) reportedly experienced sexual abuse, and three (5.88%) reportedly experienced emotional abuse. Three decedents (5.88%) reportedly perpetrated physical abuse, two decedents (3.92%) reportedly perpetrated sexual abuse, and two decedents (3.92%) reportedly perpetrated emotional abuse. One decedent (1.96%) reportedly perpetrated sexual harassment.

**TABLE 7.24. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	2	3.92%	0.00%	10.87%
	No	36	70.59%	68.42%	71.74%
	Don't Know	13	25.49%	31.58%	17.39%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	1	1.96%	5.26%	2.17%
	No	37	72.55%	65.79%	78.26%
	Don't Know	13	25.49%	28.95%	19.57%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	3	5.88%	2.63%	8.70%
	No	36	70.59%	60.53%	69.57%
	Don't Know	12	23.53%	36.84%	21.74%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	39	76.47%	65.79%	80.43%
	Don't Know	12	23.53%	34.21%	19.57%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	3	5.88%	2.63%	6.52%
	No	37	72.55%	84.21%	78.26%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	13.16%	15.22%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	2	3.92%	0.00%	4.35%
	No	38	74.51%	86.84%	78.26%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	13.16%	17.39%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	2	3.92%	0.00%	4.35%
	No	38	74.51%	81.58%	73.91%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	18.42%	21.74%

**TABLE 7.24. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	39	76.47%	84.21%	82.61%
	Don't Know	11	21.57%	15.79%	17.39%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 7.25). Six Sailors (11.76%) who died by suicide in 2011 had experienced significant debt. Nine decedents (17.65%) had either lost a position or experienced job instability. Two Sailors (3.92%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with their supervisors or coworkers. Eight decedents (15.69%) had a history of poor work evaluations. No decedents were known to have experienced unit or workplace hazing.

**TABLE 7.25. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	6	11.76%	7.89%	17.39%
	No	31	60.78%	71.05%	58.70%
	Don't Know	14	27.45%	21.05%	23.91%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	9	17.65%	18.42%	28.26%
	No	37	72.55%	73.68%	69.57%
	Don't Know	5	9.80%	7.89%	2.17%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	2	3.92%	7.89%	13.04%
	No	42	82.35%	81.58%	80.43%
	Don't Know	7	13.73%	10.53%	6.52%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	8	15.69%	10.53%	8.70%
	No	39	76.47%	86.84%	84.78%
	Don't Know	4	7.84%	2.63%	6.52%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	46	90.20%	92.11%	91.30%
	Don't Know	5	9.80%	7.89%	8.70%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Sailors' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as the history of direct combat operations.

### Deployment and Combat History

One Navy suicide event (1.96%) occurred on Shipboard during OND deployment (Table 7.26). Fourteen of the Sailors who died by suicide in 2011 (27.45%) had previously served as part of OEF, OIF, or OND; and four (7.84%) had multiple deployments (Table 7.27). Four decedents (7.84%) had direct combat experiences,

including participation in combat that resulted in injuries ( $n = 3$ , 5.88%), witnessing killing ( $n = 1$ , 1.96%), seeing dead bodies ( $n = 1$ , 1.96%, and killing others in combat ( $n = 1$ , 1.96%; Table 7.28).

**TABLE 7.26. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER SUICIDES IN THEATER**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
THEATER	OND	1	1.96%	0.00%	0.00%
	Not OEF/OND	50	98.04%	100.00%	100.00%

**TABLE 7.27. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF/OND	Afghanistan	1	1.96%	2.63%	2.17%
	Iraq	8	15.69%	5.26%	4.35%
	Kuwait	1	1.96%	0.00%	2.17%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	4	7.84%	0.00%	2.17%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	37	72.55%	92.11%	89.13%

**TABLE 7.28. CY 2011 AND 2009-2010 NAVY DODSER COMBAT HISTORY**

		2011		2010	2009
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	4	7.84%	7.89%	2.17%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	3	5.88%	5.26%	0.00%
	Injured in combat	0	0.00%	2.63%	0.00%
	Witnessed killing in combat	1	1.96%	2.63%	2.17%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	1	1.96%	2.63%	2.17%
	Killed others in combat	1	1.96%	2.63%	2.17%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	47	92.16%	92.11%	97.83%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## NAVY DODSERS SUBMITTED FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

DoDSER POCs submitted 87 DoDSERs for 2011 Navy suicide attempts. As indicated in Table 7.29, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 86 individuals. Two attempts were reported (DoDSERs submitted) for one individual. The tables in this section use a denominator of 87. Percentages for 2010 DoDSER data are provided for comparison. Specific suicide attempt count data for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

**TABLE 7.29. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSERS**

		Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs		87	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED		86	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL	1	85	98.84%
	2	1	1.16%
	3	0	0.00%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2011 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE		0	0.00%

## Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with the suicide attempts. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide attempt method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

### Demographics

Table 7.30 contains DoDSER demographic data for Sailors who attempted suicide in 2011. Males represented the majority ( $n = 64$ , 73.56%). Sailors who attempted suicide were predominantly Caucasian ( $n = 63$ , 72.41%), non-Hispanic or Latino ( $n = 78$ , 89.66%), under age twenty-five ( $n = 54$ , 62.07%), junior enlisted ( $n = 54$ , 62.07%), Regular component ( $n = 86$ , 98.85%), and without a college degree ( $n = 69$ , 79.31%).

**TABLE 7.30. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
TOTAL		87	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	64	73.56%	75.86%
	Female	23	26.44%	24.14%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	1.15%	1.72%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	3	3.45%	3.45%
	Black/African American	17	19.54%	17.24%
	White/Caucasian	63	72.41%	62.07%
	Other/Don't Know	3	3.45%	15.52%
ETHNICITY	Hispanic or Latino	9	10.34%	
	Non-Hispanic or Latino	78	89.66%	

**TABLE 7.30. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS (CONT.)**

AGE RANGE	Under 25	54	62.07%	56.90%
	25-29	15	17.24%	18.97%
	30-39	17	19.54%	20.69%
	40 +	1	1.15%	3.45%
RANK	E1-E4	54	62.07%	56.90%
	E5-E9	27	31.03%	36.21%
	Officer	5	5.75%	5.17%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Cadet/Midshipman	1	1.15%	1.72%
COMPONENT	Regular	86	98.85%	87.93%
	Reserve	1	1.15%	10.34%
	National Guard	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	0	0.00%	1.72%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	0	0.00%	0.00%
	GED	2	2.30%	5.17%
	High school graduate	38	43.68%	48.28%
	Some college or technical school	29	33.33%	24.14%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	4	4.60%	3.45%
	Four-year college degree	4	4.60%	8.62%
	Master's degree or greater	3	3.45%	1.72%
	Don't Know	7	8.05%	8.62%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	47	54.02%	56.90%
	Married	28	32.18%	34.48%
	Legally Separated	1	1.15%	1.72%
	Divorced	9	10.34%	3.45%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Don't Know	2	2.30%	3.45%

Note: Ethnicity data not reported prior to 2011

## Event Setting

In 2011, Navy suicide attempts most frequently occurred in the United States ( $n = 78$ , 89.66%), followed by Europe ( $n = 4$ , 4.60%; Table 7.31). As indicated in Table 7.32, suicide attempts occurred primarily in the Sailors' residences ( $n = 68$ , 78.16%), followed by automobiles ( $n = 7$ , 8.05%).

**TABLE 7.31. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION**

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	United States	78	89.66%	74.14%
	Iraq	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Afghanistan	1	1.15%	0.00%
	Asia	2	2.30%	10.34%
	Europe	4	4.60%	5.17%
	Other	0	0.00%	8.62%
	Don't Know	2	2.30%	1.72%

**TABLE 7.32. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT SETTING**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	68	78.16%	70.69%
	Residence of friend or family	1	1.15%	8.62%
	Work/jobsite	1	1.15%	8.62%
	Automobile (away from residence)	7	8.05%	3.45%
	Inpatient medical facility	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	10	11.49%	8.62%

## Event Method

As indicated in Table 7.33, drugs were the most frequent method for suicide attempt (n = 48, 55.17%), followed by injury with a sharp or blunt object (n = 11, 12.64%), hanging (n = 9, 10.34%), and non-military firearm use (n = 6, 6.90%).

**TABLE 7.33. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT METHOD**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	6	6.90%	50.00%
	Firearm, military issue	1	1.15%	0.00%
	Hanging	9	10.34%	1.72%
	Drugs	48	55.17%	1.72%
	Alcohol	5	5.75%	3.45%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	2	2.30%	1.72%
	Gas, utility (or other)	0	0.00%	5.17%
	Chemicals	1	1.15%	1.72%
	Drowning	0	0.00%	3.45%
	Sharp or blunt object	11	12.64%	18.97%
	Jumping from high place	2	2.30%	3.45%
	Lying in front of moving object	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Crashing a motor vehicle	2	2.30%	0.00%
	Other	0	0.00%	8.62%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%

## Substance Use during the Event

DoDSER POCs collected data on alcohol and drug use during Navy suicide attempts (Table 7.34). Thirty-two DoDSERs (36.78%) included alcohol use during the suicide attempt, and fifty-two (59.77%) included drug use. The most frequent type of drug use was the misuse of prescription medication ( $n = 34$ , 39.08%). These counts include Sailors who used drugs as a suicide attempt method ( $n = 48$ , 55.17%), as described above.

**TABLE 7.34. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	32	36.78%	31.03%
	No	47	54.02%	58.62%
	Don't Know	8	9.20%	10.34%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	52	59.77%	51.72%
	No	31	35.63%	43.10%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	5.17%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	6	6.90%	1.72%
	Used, no overdose	4	4.60%	0.00%
	Were not used	73	83.91%	93.10%
	Don't know	4	4.60%	5.17%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	34	39.08%	29.31%
	Used, no overdose	6	6.90%	6.90%
	Were not used	43	49.43%	58.62%
	Don't know	4	4.60%	5.17%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	16	18.39%	13.79%
	Used, no overdose	4	4.60%	6.90%
	Were not used	63	72.41%	74.14%
	Don't know	4	4.60%	5.17%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	19	21.84%	17.24%
	No	57	65.52%	72.41%
	Don't Know	11	12.64%	10.34%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Communication of Intent

Most Sailors who attempted suicide were not known to have communicated with others about their intent to harm themselves ( $n = 75$ , 86.21%; Table 7.35). Of those who did communicate with others, the most frequent mode of communication was verbal ( $n = 7$ , 8.05%; Table 7.36). As indicated in Table 7.37, Sailors most frequently communicated with their spouses ( $n = 3$ , 3.45%), friends ( $n = 4$ , 4.60%), or behavioral healthcare providers ( $n = 3$ , 3.45%).

**TABLE 7.35. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	75	86.21%	86.21%
	1	9	10.34%	12.07%
	2	3	3.45%	0.00%
	3	0	0.00%	1.72%

**TABLE 7.36. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	7	8.05%	8.62%
	Written	2	2.30%	1.72%
	Other or Unknown	1	1.15%	1.72%
	Multiple Modes	2	2.30%	1.72%
	No Known Communication	75	86.21%	86.21%

**Note:** Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

**TABLE 7.37. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	3	3.45%	0.00%
	Friend	4	4.60%	3.45%
	Behavioral Health Provider	3	3.45%	3.45%
	Supervisor	1	1.15%	1.72%
	Other or Unidentified	2	2.30%	3.45%
	Made Multiple Communications	3	3.45%	1.72%
	No Known Communication	75	86.21%	86.21%

**Note:** Categories are not discrete.

## Additional Event Information

Table 7.38 provides information about other details of 2011 Navy suicide attempts. There was information to indicate that the majority of ( $n = 60$ , 68.97%) Sailors intended to die. Eighteen suicide attempts (20.69%) appeared to be planned or premeditated. Twenty-six suicide attempts (29.89%) occurred in a location potentially observable by others. Nine Sailors (10.34%) left suicide notes.

**TABLE 7.38. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	60	68.97%	84.48%
	No	19	21.84%	12.07%
	Don't Know	8	9.20%	3.45%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	3.45%
	No	80	91.95%	94.83%
	Don't Know	7	8.05%	1.72%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	18	20.69%	37.93%
	No	53	60.92%	48.28%
	Don't Know	16	18.39%	13.79%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	26	29.89%	32.76%
	No	42	48.28%	62.07%
	Don't Know	19	21.84%	5.17%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	9	10.34%	12.07%
	No	69	79.31%	68.97%
	Don't Know	9	10.34%	18.97%

## Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation, and duty environment.

### Situational Factors

Table 7.39 provides details about the living situations of Sailors who attempted suicide in 2011. The most frequent living environments were private homes outside of installations ( $n = 36$ , 41.38%) and shared living environments on installations ( $n = 29$ , 33.33%). Most DoDSERs indicated that the Sailors were unmarried at the time of the event ( $n = 59$ , 67.82%). Over one-half of married Sailors ( $n = 18$ , 64.29% of married Sailors, 20.69% of total) had been living with their spouses at the time of their suicide attempts, and four were separated because of relationship issues (14.29% of married Sailors, 4.60% of total). Twenty-five DoDSERs indicated that the Sailors had minor children (28.74%), and approximately one-half resided with their children at the time of the suicide attempt ( $n = 13$ , 52.00% of Sailors with children, 14.94% of total). Seven DoDSERs (8.05%) indicated that the Sailors were known to have access to firearms in either their homes or in other accessible locations.

**TABLE 7.39. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	29	33.33%	29.31%
	Bachelor quarters	5	5.75%	5.17%
	On-base family housing	7	8.05%	3.45%

**TABLE 7.39. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)**

	Owned or leased apartment or house	36	41.38%	53.45%
	Ship	4	4.60%	5.17%
	Other	3	3.45%	1.72%
	Don't Know	3	3.45%	1.72%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resides with spouse	18	20.69%	17.24%
	Separated due to relationship issues	4	4.60%	8.62%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	5	5.75%	8.62%
	Don't Know	1	1.15%	0.00%
	Unmarried at time of event	59	67.82%	65.52%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	35	40.23%	36.21%
	No	41	47.13%	55.17%
	Don't Know	11	12.64%	8.62%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	25	28.74%	29.31%
	No	60	68.97%	70.69%
	Don't Know	2	2.30%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	13	14.94%	18.97%
	No	11	12.64%	10.34%
	Don't Know	1	1.15%	0.00%
	No Children	60	68.97%	70.69%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	7	8.05%	5.17%
	No	66	75.86%	62.07%
	Don't Know	14	16.09%	32.76%

## Duty Environment

The primary duty environment for Sailors who attempted suicide was their permanent duty station ( $n = 67$ , 77.01%; Table 7.40).

**TABLE 7.40. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	67	77.01%	55.17%
	Leave	2	2.30%	0.00%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	0	0.00%	1.72%
	Medical Hold	0	0.00%	3.45%
	TDY	1	1.15%	5.17%
	AWOL	2	2.30%	1.72%
	Under Command Observation	1	1.15%	0.00%
	Deployed	1	1.15%	3.45%
	Training	6	6.90%	3.45%
	Other	0	0.00%	10.34%
	Multiple Duty Environments	3	3.45%	5.17%
	Duty Environment Unknown	10	11.49%	10.34%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Suicide Attempts by Month

As in the prior three years, no clear pattern existed for Navy suicide attempts by month (Table 7.41).

**TABLE 7.41. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
MONTH	January	7	8.05%	6.90%
	February	12	13.79%	5.17%
	March	14	16.09%	8.62%
	April	9	10.34%	8.62%
	May	5	5.75%	10.34%
	June	2	2.30%	12.07%
	July	8	9.20%	10.34%
	August	5	5.75%	1.72%
	September	7	8.05%	8.62%
	October	7	8.05%	17.24%
	November	8	9.20%	1.72%
	December	3	3.45%	8.62%

## Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

### Prior Self-Injury

DoDSER POCs reported a known history of prior self-harm for one-third of suicide attempts ( $n = 29$ , 33.33%), and six (6.90%) self-harm incidents were known to have occurred within the month prior to the suicide attempt (Table 7.42). Of those with prior history of self-harm, 14 (48.28%, 16.09% of total) had more than one prior event. Thirteen suicide attempts (14.94%) were similar to the Sailors' prior self-harm events.

**TABLE 7.42. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	29	33.33%	27.59%
	Within 30 days	6	6.90%	8.62%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	13	14.94%	15.52%
	No	52	59.77%	56.90%
	Don't Know	6	6.90%	15.52%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	15	17.24%	10.34%
	More than one prior event	14	16.09%	17.24%
	N/A or Unknown	58	66.67%	72.41%

**TABLE 7.42. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY (CONT.)**

Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	13	14.94%	8.62%
	No	15	17.24%	17.24%
	Don't Know	1	1.15%	1.72%
	N/A	58	66.67%	72.41%

## Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about the history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide event. The majority of Navy DoDSERs for attempted suicide included a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder ( $n = 51$ , 58.62%; Table 7.43). Twenty (22.99%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 7.44, 28 DoDSERs (32.18%) indicated that Sailors had been diagnosed with a mood disorder; the most frequent was major depressive disorder ( $n = 15$ , 29.41%, 17.24% of total). Thirty-five DoDSERs for suicide attempts (40.23%) included Sailors' known diagnoses of anxiety disorders, the most frequent were of unspecified type ( $n = 22$ , 25.29%), followed by PTSD ( $n = 7$ , 8.05%) and generalized anxiety disorder ( $n = 7$ , 8.05%; Table 7.45). Three DoDSERs (3.45%) included documentation of personality disorders, and 18 (20.69%) included a known history of substance abuse (Table 7.46). Three DoDSERs (3.45%) indicated that Sailors had sustained a traumatic brain injury.

**TABLE 7.43. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	36	41.38%	37.93%
	1 DX	31	35.63%	27.59%
	2 DX	17	19.54%	12.07%
	3 DX	2	2.30%	15.52%
	4 or more DX	1	1.15%	6.90%

**TABLE 7.44. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	28	32.18%	43.10%
	No	54	62.07%	53.45%
	Don't Know	5	5.75%	3.45%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	3	3.45%	0.00%
	No	868	997.70%	94.83%
	Don't Know	5	5.75%	5.17%
Major depression	Yes	15	17.24%	27.59%
	No	67	77.01%	68.97%
	Don't Know	5	5.75%	3.45%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	1.72%
	No	82	94.25%	89.66%

**TABLE 7.44. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS (CONT.)**

Other mood disorder	Don't Know	5	5.75%	8.62%
	Yes	6	6.90%	3.45%
	No	76	87.36%	86.21%
Unspecified mood disorder	Don't Know	5	5.75%	10.34%
	Yes	5	5.75%	1.72%
	No	77	88.51%	94.83%
Multiple mood DX	Don't Know	5	5.75%	3.45%
	Yes	0	0.00%	8.62%
	No	82	94.25%	87.93%
	Don't Know	5	5.75%	3.45%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 7.45. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	35	40.23%	22.41%
	No	48	55.17%	70.69%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	6.90%
PTSD	Yes	7	8.05%	8.62%
	No	76	87.36%	84.48%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	6.90%
Panic disorder	Yes	2	2.30%	1.72%
	No	81	93.10%	89.66%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	8.62%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	7	8.05%	3.45%
	No	76	87.36%	86.21%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	10.34%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%
	No	83	95.40%	89.66%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	10.34%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	1.72%
	No	83	95.40%	87.93%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	10.34%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	22	25.29%	1.72%
	No	61	70.11%	91.38%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	6.90%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	3	3.45%	5.17%
	No	80	91.95%	87.93%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	6.90%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

**TABLE 7.46. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	3	3.45%	6.90%
	No	76	87.36%	86.21%
	Don't Know	8	9.20%	6.90%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	2	2.30%	0.00%
	No	78	89.66%	93.10%
	Don't Know	7	8.05%	6.90%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	18	20.69%	22.41%
	No	60	68.97%	70.69%
	Don't Know	9	10.34%	6.90%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	3	3.45%	3.45%
	No	78	89.66%	91.38%
	Don't Know	6	6.90%	5.17%

## Treatment History

Table 7.47 provides data on Sailors' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to attempting suicide. Over one-half of Navy DoDSERs ( $n = 50$ , 57.47%) indicated that Sailors had received some form of treatment at an MTF, 33 (66.00%, 37.93% of total) within the month prior to attempting suicide. Sixteen Navy DoDSERs (18.39%) included evidence of a known physical health problem. Forty-six Navy DoDSERs (52.87%) indicated that Sailors had received outpatient behavioral health services, many within the month prior to attempting suicide ( $n = 24$ , 52.17%, 27.59% of total). Nineteen Navy DoDSERs (21.84%) indicated that the Sailors had previously been hospitalized at an inpatient psychiatry unit; seven of those Sailors (36.84%, 8.05% of total) had been hospitalized within the month prior to the suicide attempt. Eleven Navy suicide attempt DoDSERs (12.64%) included prior substance abuse treatment.

**TABLE 7.47. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	50	57.47%	36.21%
	Within 30 days	33	37.93%	20.69%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	41	47.13%	32.76%
	No	33	37.93%	55.17%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	8.62%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	16	18.39%	12.07%
	Within 30 days	8	9.20%	3.45%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	9	10.34%	5.17%
	No	65	74.71%	79.31%
	Don't Know	6	6.90%	8.62%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	11	12.64%	12.07%
	Within 30 days	6	6.90%	1.72%

**TABLE 7.47. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)**

	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	8	9.20%	5.17%
	No	70	80.46%	81.03%
	Don't Know	6	6.90%	6.90%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	5	5.75%	6.90%
	Within 30 days	2	2.30%	5.17%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	2	2.30%	6.90%
	No	70	80.46%	79.31%
	Don't Know	12	13.79%	13.79%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	10	11.49%	15.52%
	Within 30 days	5	5.75%	6.90%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	7	8.05%	12.07%
	No	57	65.52%	62.07%
	Don't Know	20	22.99%	22.41%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	46	52.87%	44.83%
	Within 30 days	24	27.59%	27.59%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	40	45.98%	32.76%
	No	35	40.23%	50.00%
	Don't Know	6	6.90%	5.17%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	19	21.84%	17.24%
	Within 30 days	7	8.05%	5.17%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	14	16.09%	10.34%
	No	64	73.56%	79.31%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	3.45%

As indicated in Table 7.48, DoDSERs for 52 Navy suicide attempts (59.77%) included psychotropic medication usage prior to the suicide attempt. Antidepressants ( $n = 34$ , 65.38% of DoDSERs with known prescriptions, 39.08% of total DoDSERs) and antianxiety medication ( $n = 16$ , 30.77% of DoDSERs with known prescriptions, 18.39% of total DoDSERs) were the most frequently prescribed psychotropics.

**TABLE 7.48. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	52	59.77%	39.66%
	No	34	39.08%	55.17%
	Don't Know	1	1.15%	5.17%
Antidepressants	Yes	34	39.08%	34.48%
	No	38	43.68%	58.62%
	Don't Know	15	17.24%	6.90%
Antianxiety	Yes	16	18.39%	15.52%
	No	53	60.92%	75.86%
	Don't Know	18	20.69%	8.62%

**TABLE 7.48. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE (CONT.)**

Antimanics	Yes	1	1.15%	0.00%
	No	68	78.16%	91.38%
	Don't Know	18	20.69%	8.62%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	0	0.00%	3.45%
	No	69	79.31%	87.93%
	Don't Know	18	20.69%	8.62%
Antipsychotics	Yes	6	6.90%	6.90%
	No	63	72.41%	84.48%
	Don't Know	18	20.69%	8.62%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories and interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

### Family and Relationship History

Forty DoDSERs for Sailors who attempted suicide (45.98%) included a known failure of a spousal or intimate relationship; 27 (31.03%) Sailors experienced the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 7.49). Seventeen Navy DoDSERs (19.54%) included a failure in another important relationship; nine (10.34%) of those failures occurred within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

**TABLE 7.49 CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	40	45.98%	58.62%
	Within 30 days	27	31.03%	32.76%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	32	36.78%	39.66%
	No	39	44.83%	36.21%
	Don't Know	8	9.20%	5.17%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	17	19.54%	10.34%
	Within 30 days	9	10.34%	5.17%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	11	12.64%	5.17%
	No	60	68.97%	72.41%
	Don't Know	10	11.49%	17.24%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	44	50.57%	62.07%
	Within 30 days	27	31.03%	34.48%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	32	36.78%	41.38%
	No	35	40.23%	34.48%
	Don't Know	8	9.20%	3.45%

Table 7.50 summarizes other family and relationship factors. DoDSERs did not indicate that Sailors who attempted suicide had histories of loss of a spouse to suicide; however, six (6.90%) included the loss of a family member to suicide and eight (9.20%) included the loss of a friend to suicide. Fifteen had experienced the death of a family member (17.24%), and 12 had experienced the death of a friend (13.79%) by means other than suicide. Approximately one-third of DoDSERs indicated that Sailors had a family member with behavioral health problems ( $n = 30$ , 34.48%), and 16 Navy DoDSERs (18.39%) included a history of clinically-significant family illness.

**TABLE 7.50. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAMILY HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	3.45%
	No	83	95.40%	94.83%
	Don't Know	4	4.60%	1.72%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	6	6.90%	5.17%
	No	73	83.91%	82.76%
	Don't Know	8	9.20%	12.07%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	8	9.20%	6.90%
	No	69	79.31%	81.03%
	Don't Know	10	11.49%	12.07%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	15	17.24%	18.97%
	No	66	75.86%	72.41%
	Don't Know	6	6.90%	8.62%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	12	13.79%	10.34%
	No	67	77.01%	74.14%
	Don't Know	8	9.20%	15.52%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	16	18.39%	10.34%
	No	65	74.71%	81.03%
	Don't Know	6	6.90%	8.62%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	30	34.48%	37.93%
	No	46	52.87%	46.55%
	Don't Know	11	12.64%	15.52%

## Administrative and Legal History

Thirty-one DoDSERs for Sailors who attempted suicide included at least one administrative or legal issue (35.63%) and 14 (16.09%) included more than one issue (Table 7.51). The most frequent administrative or legal problems were administrative separation ( $n = 12$ , 13.79%) and medical board ( $n = 11$ , 12.64%).

**TABLE 7.51. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	4	4.60%	3.45%
	No	75	86.21%	87.93%
	Don't Know	8	9.20%	8.62%

**TABLE 7.51. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY (CONT.)**

NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	9	10.34%	20.69%
	No	75	86.21%	63.79%
	Don't Know	3	3.45%	15.52%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	12	13.79%	6.90%
	No	66	75.86%	81.03%
	Don't Know	9	10.34%	12.07%
HX AWOL	Yes	6	6.90%	6.90%
	No	74	85.06%	84.48%
	Don't Know	7	8.05%	8.62%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	11	12.64%	5.17%
	No	71	81.61%	89.66%
	Don't Know	5	5.75%	5.17%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	7	8.05%	6.90%
	No	68	78.16%	79.31%
	Don't Know	12	13.79%	13.79%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	4	4.60%	1.72%
	No	73	83.91%	77.59%
	Don't Know	10	11.49%	20.69%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	31	35.63%	34.48%
	No	53	60.92%	55.17%
	Don't Know	3	3.45%	10.34%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	14	16.09%	12.07%
	No	70	80.46%	51.72%
	Don't Know	3	3.45%	36.21%

## Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 7.52). DoDSERs for Sailors who attempted suicide in 2011 included a reported history of physical abuse ( $n = 23$ , 26.44%), sexual abuse ( $n = 13$ , 14.94%), emotional abuse ( $n = 26$ , 29.89%), and sexual harassment ( $n = 3$ , 3.45%). The frequencies of abuse perpetration were lower than those for victimization. There was evidence that four (4.60%) reportedly perpetrated physical abuse, one (1.15%) each reportedly perpetrated sexual and emotional abuse, and three (3.45%) reportedly perpetrated sexual harassment.

**TABLE 7.52. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	23	26.44%	10.34%
	No	56	64.37%	74.14%
	Don't Know	8	9.20%	15.52%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	13	14.94%	5.17%
	No	66	75.86%	77.59%
	Don't Know	8	9.20%	17.24%

**TABLE 7.52. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)**

HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	26	29.89%	13.79%
	No	54	62.07%	65.52%
	Don't Know	7	8.05%	20.69%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	3	3.45%	0.00%
	No	74	85.06%	75.86%
	Don't Know	10	11.49%	24.14%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	4	4.60%	5.17%
	No	76	87.36%	77.59%
	Don't Know	7	8.05%	17.24%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	1	1.15%	0.00%
	No	78	89.66%	79.31%
	Don't Know	8	9.20%	20.69%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	1	1.15%	3.45%
	No	79	90.80%	75.86%
	Don't Know	7	8.05%	20.69%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	3	3.45%	0.00%
	No	78	89.66%	82.76%
	Don't Know	6	6.90%	17.24%

## Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 7.53). The most frequently reported difficulty was job loss or instability ( $n = 31$ , 35.63%), followed by supervisor or coworker issues ( $n = 19$ , 21.84%).

**TABLE 7.53. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	10	11.49%	6.90%
	No	67	77.01%	79.31%
	Don't Know	10	11.49%	13.79%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	31	35.63%	27.59%
	No	47	54.02%	63.79%
	Don't Know	9	10.34%	8.62%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	19	21.84%	13.79%
	No	58	66.67%	68.97%
	Don't Know	10	11.49%	17.24%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	8	9.20%	10.34%
	No	66	75.86%	77.59%
	Don't Know	13	14.94%	12.07%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	5	5.75%	3.45%
	No	71	81.61%	79.31%
	Don't Know	11	12.64%	17.24%

## Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Sailors' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as the history of direct combat operations.

### Deployment and Combat History

One Navy suicide attempt in 2011 (1.15%) took place while deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan (Table 7.54). Two DoDSERs (2.30%) included information about prior OEF, OIF, or OND deployments (Table 7.55). Twenty-six DoDSERs (29.89%) included experiences of direct combat, as summarized in Table 7.56.

**TABLE 7.54. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	1	1.15%	0.00%
	Iraq	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Not OEF/OND	86	98.85%	0.00%

**TABLE 7.55. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF/OND	Afghanistan	2	2.30%	1.72%
	Iraq	0	0.00%	22.41%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	1.72%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	0	0.00%	0.00%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	85	97.70%	74.14%

**TABLE 7.56. CY 2011 AND 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMBAT HISTORY**

		2011		2010
		Count	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	26	29.89%	8.62%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	11	12.64%	6.90%
	Injured in combat	5	5.75%	5.17%
	Witnessed killing in combat	11	12.64%	6.90%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	10	11.49%	6.90%
	Killed others in combat	6	6.90%	3.45%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	61	70.11%	91.38%

Note: Categories are not discrete.

## Summary

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This chapter provides data on Navy suicides and suicide attempts that occurred in 2011. Data are presented for 51 Sailors who died by suicide and 86 Sailors who attempted suicide in 87 separate incidents. Both decedents and those who attempted suicide were primarily male, Caucasian, non-Hispanic or Latino, under age twenty-five, junior enlisted, Regular component, and without a college degree.

Most suicide events took place in the United States and in the Sailors' own residences. The most frequent methods for Sailors who died by suicide were non-military issue firearm use and hanging. Suicide attempt methods were most often drug overdose and use of sharp or blunt objects. Drug and alcohol use was more frequent among nonfatal Navy suicide events. The majority of Sailors who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated with others about their likelihood of harming themselves.

Sailors with nonfatal suicide events had more known behavioral health disorders and more behavioral health treatment use prior to the event. Additionally, those who attempted suicide had a higher prevalence of prior abuse victimization. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Sailors with suicide events.

## APPENDIX A:

# GLOSSARY

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<b>Article 15</b>	A provision under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) which gives commanding officers ability to impose nonjudicial punishment upon soldiers who commit minor offenses within their units.
<b>Death-risk gambling</b>	Any game of chance with death or serious injury as a potential outcome. Examples include "Russian roulette."
<b>Deployed</b>	Deployment ashore (boots on the ground) with duties involving outside the continental United States operations without a fixed US Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Examples include OEF and OND deployments.
<b>Self harm (without intent to die)</b>	A self-inflicted, potentially injurious behavior for which there is evidence (either implicit or explicit) that the person did not intend to kill himself/herself (i.e., had no intent to die).
<b>Medical Evaluation Board</b>	Informal proceeding evaluating the medical history of a Service Member to determine how the injury/disease will respond to treatment protocols. This is used to determine if the medical condition and/or physical defect will render the Service Member unfit for duty.
<b>Planned and/or premeditated</b>	Evidence the event was planned and/or premeditated includes verbal discussion of plan, written notes, email/chat-room discussion, or other evidence of plan such as preparatory behaviors (e.g., giving possessions away, purchase of materials to facilitate suicide, etc.).
<b>Psychotropic Medications</b>	A type of medication that directly affects the mental, emotional and behavioral states when consumed by an individual. Such medications are used to treat disorders such as depression or bipolar.
<b>Suicide</b>	Self-inflicted death with evidence (either explicit or implicit) of intent to die.
<b>Suicide attempt</b>	A self-inflicted potentially injurious behavior with a non-fatal outcome for which there is evidence (either explicit or implicit) of intent to die.
<b>Suicidal ideation</b>	Any self-reported thoughts of engaging in suicide-related behaviors.

- Traumatic Brain Injury** A traumatically induced structural injury and/or physiological disruption of brain function as a result of an external force that is indicated by new onset or worsening of at least one of the following clinical signs, immediately following the event:
- a) Any period of loss of or a decreased level of consciousness;
  - b) Any loss of memory for events immediately before or after the injury;
  - c) Any alteration in mental state at the time of the injury (confusion, disorientation, slowed thinking, etc.) Neurological deficits (weakness, loss of balance, change in vision, praxis, paresis/plegia, sensory loss, aphasia, etc.) that may or may not be transient Intracranial lesion.

## APPENDIX B:

# ACRONYMS

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<b>AF</b>	Air Force
<b>AFMES</b>	Armed Forces Medical Examiner System
<b>AFIP</b>	Armed Forces Institute of Pathology
<b>AWOL</b>	Absent without leave
<b>CAC</b>	Common access card
<b>CDC</b>	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<b>CY</b>	Calendar year
<b>DMDC</b>	Defense Manpower Data Center
<b>DoD</b>	Department of Defense
<b>DoDSER</b>	Department of Defense Suicide Event Report
<b>DX</b>	Diagnosis
<b>GED</b>	General equivalency diploma
<b>HX</b>	History
<b>MTF</b>	Medical treatment facility
<b>OEF</b>	Operation Enduring Freedom
<b>OND</b>	Operation New Dawn
<b>OSI</b>	Office of Special Investigations
<b>OTC</b>	Over the counter
<b>POC</b>	Point of contact
<b>PTSD</b>	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
<b>RR</b>	Rate ratio
<b>SPPM</b>	Suicide Prevention Program Manager
<b>T2</b>	National Center for Telehealth & Technology
<b>TDY</b>	Temporary duty
<b>UCMJ</b>	Uniform Code of Military Justice

## APPENDIX C:

# REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX D:

# FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS

In a continuing effort to provide an annual DoDSER that is useful to the DoD community it serves, we request your feedback on the information we've provided and your suggestions for ways we could make the DoDSER annual report more useful.

**Please return your completed survey by mail, fax, or email to:**

National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2)  
9933 West Hayes, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA 98431

Fax: 253.968.4192  
suicide.reporting@us.army.mil

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I found the information in the 2011 DoDSER Annual Report helpful.					
What other statistics or comparisons would you like to have in future annual DoDSER reports?					
How did/will you use this report?					
Do you have any other feedback or suggestions?					

Optional

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_