SUICIDE

Includes Suicide Only; Does Not Include Suicidal Ideation or Suicide Attempt

Background

The AFHSD is not the official source of Department of Defense (DoD) suicide numbers.

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

This case definition was developed by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division (AFHSD) for the purpose of epidemiological surveillance of suicide in military-associated populations.

Clinical Description

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

Case Definition and Incidence Rules

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

- An individual whose manner of death is categorized as ‘Suicide’ in the Casualty Table provided to the AFHSD by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner (AFME).

  The casualty table categorizes DoD active duty casualties by manner of death. Categories include the following: accident, combat, homicide, natural, suicide, terrorist activity, pending and undetermined.

Incidence rules:

- None

Exclusions:

- None

Codes

The following ICD9 and ICD10 codes are included in the case definition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>ICD-9/ ICD-10-CM codes</th>
<th>CPT Codes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Office of the Surgeon General / U.S. Army Medical Command (OTSG/MEDCOM), Policy Memo 09-03.
**Development and Revisions**

In March of 2012, the AFHSC Surveillance Methods and Standards (SMS) workgroup determined, by consensus opinion, to adopt AFME’s suicide surveillance and reporting.

**Reports**

The AFHSD reports on suicide in the following reports:

- Periodic MSMR articles.²

**Review**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2022</td>
<td>Case definition reviewed by the AFHSD Surveillance Methods and Standards (SMS) working group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td>Case definition reviewed and updated by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch (AFHSB) SMS working group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2010</td>
<td>Case definition adopted by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) SMS working group.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comments**

None

---