## Deployment Health Assessments

U.S. Armed Forces

September 2012

(Data through August 2012)

Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center

## Update: Deployment Health Assessments, U.S. Armed Forces, September 2012

Since January 2003, peaks and troughs in the numbers of pre- and post-deployment health assessment forms transmitted to the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center generally corresponded to times of departure and return of large numbers of deployers. Between April 2006 and August 2012, the number of post-deployment reassessment (PDHRA) forms per month ranged from 15,309 to 36,845 (Table 1, Figure 1).

During the past 12 months, the proportions of returned deployers who rated their health as "fair" or "poor" were 8-10% on post-deployment health assessment questionnaires and 10-13% on PDHRA questionnaires (Figure 2).

In general, on post-deployment assessments and reassessments, deployers in reserve components were more likely than their respective counterparts to report health and exposure-related concerns (Table 2, Figure 3). In general, active and reserve component members were more likely to report exposure concerns three to six months after, compared to the time of return from deployment (Table 2).

At the time of return from deployment, soldiers serving in the active component of the Army were the most likely of all deployers to receive mental health referrals; three to six months after returning, reservists in all services were more likely than their active component counterparts to receive mental health referrals (**Table 2**).

Finally, during the past three years, reserve component members have been more likely than active component service members to report "exposure concerns" on post-deployment assessments and reassessments (Figure 3).

**Table 1.** Deployment-related health assessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, September 2011-August 2012

	Pre-deployment assessment DD2795		Post-deplo assessm DD279	nent	Post-deployment reassessment DD2900					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%				
Total	331,971	100	357,379	100	299,666	100				
2011										
September	31,508	9.5	33,955	9.5	24,362	8.1				
October	29,770	9.0	35,323	9.9	27,567	9.2				
November	24,820	7.5	38,019	10.6	23,245	7.8				
December	21,963	6.6	41,328	11.6	21,633	7.2				
2012										
January	32,167	9.7	28,093	7.9	27,577	9.2				
February	31,323	9.4	20,225	5.7	26,363	8.8				
March	29,104	8.8	30,096	8.4	31,707	10.6				
April	28,093	8.5	27,566	7.7	33,591	11.2				
May	27,955	8.4	28,674	8.0	25,755	8.6				
June	21,298	6.4	25,704	7.2	20,175	6.7				
July	25,978	7.8	24,575	6.9	17,644	5.9				
August	27,992	8.4	23,821	6.7	20,047	6.7				

**Figure 2.** Proportion of deployment health assessment forms with self-assessed health status as "fair" or "poor," U.S. Armed Forces, September 2011-August 2012

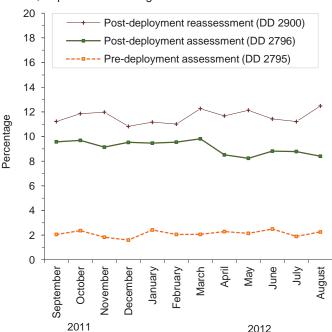
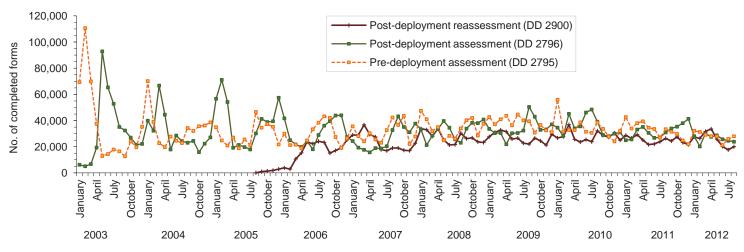


Figure 1. Total deployment health assessment and reassessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003-August 2012



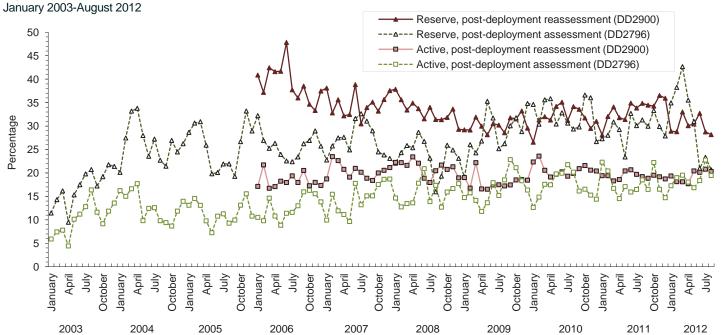
**Data Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System** 

**Table 2.** Percentage of service members who endorsed selected questions/received referrals on health assessment forms, U.S. Armed Forces, September 2011-August 2012

	Army			Navy		Air Force		Marine Corps			All service members				
	Pre- deploy DD2795	deploy	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy DD2795	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessm DD2900									
Active component	n= 119,779 %	n= 120,299 %	n= 125,878 %	n= 13,228 %	n= 15,045 %	n= 18,386 %	n= 48,664 %	n= 49,909 %	n= 42,258 %	n= 31,655 %	n= 41,152 %	n= 34,250 %	n= 213,326 %	n= 226,405 %	n= 220,772 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	3.7	10.7	14.3	1.1	4.6	6.1	0.5	3.4	3.9	1.4	7.3	10.2	2.5	8.1	11.0
Health concerns, not wound or injury	16.1	25.6	24.9	2.8	14.3	15.1	2.4	7.4	11.4	2.9	14.3	20.0	10.2	18.7	20.8
Health worse now than before deployed	0.0	23.2	27.0	na	12.2	13.6	na	8.8	9.0	na	17.1	20.8	na	18.2	21.5
Exposure concerns	0.0	18.0	17.1	na	16.3	23.6	na	19.7	15.2	na	16.7	29.3	na	18.0	19.2
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	0.0	11.9	14.1	na	6.2	8.9	na	2.6	3.1	na	6.9	11.7	na	8.6	11.2
Depression symptoms (any)	0.0	29.3	31.7	na	21.0	27.5	na	11.5	12.8	na	26.8	32.3	na	24.4	27.8
Referral indicated by provider (any)	5.0	38.8	24.9	2.7	23.4	17.9	1.9	19.0	9.2	2.7	25.3	21.7	3.8	31.0	20.8
Mental health referral indicated <sup>a</sup>	1.8	10.2	8.7	0.5	3.1	5.6	0.4	2.3	3.0	0.3	2.6	6.9	1.2	6.6	7.1
Medical visit following referral <sup>b</sup>	99.2	99.8	98.9	89.7	94.4	91.2	99.1	98.6	99.8	60.3	87.1	92.2	94.2	97.5	97.2
	Army			Navy		Air Force		Marine Corps		All service members					
	Pre- deploy DD2795	deploy	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy DD2795	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessm DD2900									
Reserve component	n= 47,643 %	n= 55,381 %	n= 52,974 %	n= 3,704 %	n= 3,608 %	n= 5,739 %	n= 14,508 %	n= 13,051 %	n= 12,059 %	n= 1,532 %	n= 3,547 %	n= 3,743 %	n= 67,387 %	n= 75,587 %	n= 74,515 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	0.8	11.4	15.1	0.2	6.7	9.4	0.3	5.2	5.3	0.7	13.4	13.5	0.7	10.2	13.0
Health concerns, not wound or injury	10.7	32.5	40.9	1.1	37.6	34.9	0.7	9.5	17.6	2.1	27.4	43.8	7.8	28.5	36.8
Health worse now than before deployed	0.0	25.7	30.7	na	19.5	23.1	na	13.6	12.2	na	31.6	31.6	na	23.6	27.2
Exposure concerns	0.0	31.2	32.9	na	36.7	38.2	na	28.0	22.1	na	25.7	37.2	na	30.6	31.8
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	0.0	10.0	18.0	na	6.8	13.4	na	2.9	3.4	na	10.2	20.4	na	8.6	15.4
Depression symptoms (any)	0.0	27.2	32.6	na	23.0	31.8	na	13.0	14.5	na	34.3	38.2	na	24.9	29.9
Referral indicated by provider (any)	3.8	43.5	51.3	1.8	40.4	34.0	8.0	25.0	14.1	1.5	38.2	45.6	3.0	39.9	43.7
Mental health referral indicated <sup>a</sup>	0.5	6.8	21.5	0.2	4.7	14.1	0.1	1.8	3.8	0.3	4.3	21.3	0.4	5.7	18.0
Medical visit following referral <sup>b</sup>	83.1	98.2	44.2	100.0	95.6	46.8	52.5	67.9	54.9	66.7	91.4	39.4	81.3	94.5	44.8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Includes behavioral health, combat stress and substance abuse referrals.

Figure 3. Proportion of service members who endorsed exposure concerns on post-deployment health assessments, U.S. Armed Forces,



**Data Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Record of inpatient or outpatient visit within 6 months after referral.