Deployment Health Assessments

U.S. Armed Forces

August 2016

(Data through July 2016)

Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch

Report Date: 01 Sept 2016

Update: Deployment Health Assessments, U.S. Armed Forces, August 2016

Since January 2003, pronounced fluctuations in the monthly numbers of pre- and post-deployment health assessment forms transmitted to the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch generally have corresponded to times of departure and return of large numbers of service members who deployed. Between April 2006 and July 2016, the number of post-deployment health reassessment (PDHRA) forms per month ranged from 7,123 to 36,863 (Figure 1). The rolling one-year averages for monthly numbers of pre- and post-deployment assessments for most recent 12-month period (August 2015–July 2016) were the 12 lowest averages since January 2004 (data not shown). For the purposes of this report about service members' responses to the assessment questions, it is important to note that the denominator is the total number of service members who completed deployment-related assessments, not the total number of service members eligible for the assessments.

During the past 12 months, the percentages of total returned deployers who rated their health as either "fair" or "poor" ranged from 5.9%–7.8% on post-deployment health assessment questionnaires and 6.5%–8.9% on PDHRA questionnaires (**Figure 2**). The percentages of total service members who rated their health as either "fair" or "poor" on the pre-deployment questionnaires during this period varied between 3.1% and 4.4%.

In general, the percentages of reserve component members reporting "health concerns" and "exposure concerns" on post-deployment assessments and reassessments have been higher than among active component members (Table 2, Figure 3). Compared to their respective counterparts, service members in the active component of the Marine Corps and reserve component of the Army were more likely to report exposure concerns 3–6 months after deployment than at the time of return from deployment (Table 2).

At the time of return from deployment, 16.0% of active component and 15.0% of reserve component service members reported any depression symptoms. Service members in the active and reserve components were more than five and twelve times more likely, respectively, to receive a mental health referral at the time of the PDHRA compared to the time of return from deployment. Moreover, at the time of the PDHRA (3-6 months after return), reservists were more than twice as likely to receive a mental health referral as members of the active component (Table 2).

Table 1. Number of deployment-related health assessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, August 2015–July 2016

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	Pre-depl assess DD 2	sment	Post-dep assess DD 2	sment	Post-deployment reassessment DD 2900			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Total Average	225,508 18,792	100.0	138,610 11,551	100.0	109,836 9,153	100.0		
2015								
August	19,853	8.8	10,461	7.5	11,556	10.5		
September	18,522	8.2	14,136	10.2	7,958	7.2		
October	19,505	8.6	13,074	9.4	8,419	7.7		
November	12,670	5.6	10,311	7.4	9,721	8.9		
December	16,430	7.3	11,772	8.5	8,237	7.5		
2016								
January	20,627	9.1	9,537	6.9	10,277	9.4		
February	18,119	8.0	7,576	5.5	9,287	8.5		
March	19,278	8.5	13,659	9.9	11,253	10.2		
April	22,663	10.0	10,329	7.5	8,945	8.1		
May	21,475	9.5	10,936	7.9	8,986	8.2		
June	22,181	9.8	14,955	10.8	8,074	7.4		
July	14,185	6.3	11,864	8.6	7,123	6.5		

Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS) as of 08AUG2016 Prepared by Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch (AFHSB)

Figure 2. Percentages of deployment health assessment forms with self-assessed health status rated as "fair" or "poor", by month, U.S. Armed Forces, August 2015–July 2016

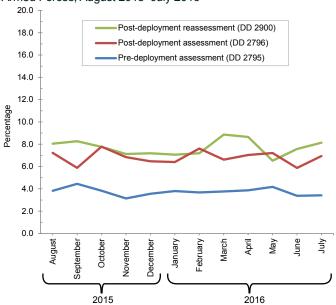


Figure 1. Numbers of deployment health assessment and reassessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003–July 2016

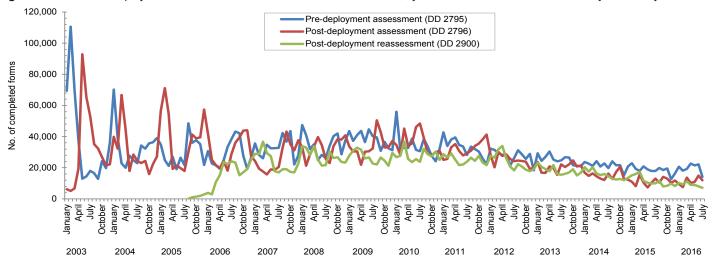
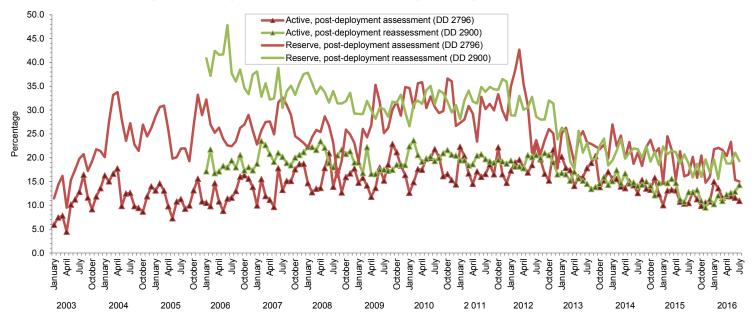


Table 2. Percentage of service members who endorsed selected questions or received referrals on health assessment forms, U.S. Armed Forces, August 2015–July 2016

	Army		Navy		Air Force			Marine Corps			All active component service members				
	Pre- deploy DD2795	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy DD2795	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy DD2795	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy DD2795	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy DD2795	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900
Active component	n= 93,864	n= 45,678	n= 32,840	n= 6,638	n= 6,386	n= 6,544	n= 36,811	n= 33,780	n= 32,286	n= 16,020	n= 14,331	n= 11,392	n= 153,333	n= 100,175	n= 83,062
, toure dempending	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
General health "fair" or "poor"	5.8	9.2	11.3	1.9	5.0	5.0	1.2	2.9	3.1	3.0	5.2	7.9	4.2	6.2	7.2
Health concerns, not wound or injury	7.0	19.6	16.2	3.1	11.4	6.8	3.2	7.8	7.1	3.3	7.9	7.7	5.5	13.4	10.7
Health worse now than before deployed	na	71.9	77.4	na	70.0	75.0	na	61.0	71.2	na	70.0	78.2	na	67.8	74.9
Exposure concerns	na	12.5	13.0	na	14.5	14.1	na	12.1	8.1	na	7.5	17.7	na	11.8	11.8
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	na	5.9	8.4	na	3.8	5.0	na	2.3	2.8	na	2.8	6.4	na	4.1	5.7
Depression symptoms (any)	na	21.9	22.4	na	15.8	15.6	na	8.6	8.7	na	14.7	18.3	na	16.0	16.0
Referral indicated by provider (any)	6.9	17.5	16.1	6.7	27.0	13.7	6.1	13.8	12.6	5.6	14.8	14.3	6.5	16.5	14.3
Mental health referral indicated ^a	2.0	2.9	13.7	0.9	4.2	10.8	0.8	1.7	10.6	0.7	1.8	12.1	1.5	2.4	12.1
Medical visit following referral ^b	99.1	99.7	98.2	91.9	84.7	86.7	99.3	99.5	99.6	86.4	89.9	93.0	97.5	96.5	97.0
	Army		Navy		Air Force		Marine Corps			All reserve component service members					
		Army			Navy			Air For	ce	ļ '	viarine C	orps			
	Pre- deploy DD2795	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy DD2795	Post- deploy	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy DD2795	Post- deploy	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy DD2795	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy		
Reserve component	deploy	Post- deploy	Reassessmt	deploy	Post- deploy	Reassessmt	deploy	Post- deploy	Reassessmt	Pre- deploy	Post- deploy	Reassessmt	Pre- deploy	rvice me Post- deploy	mbers Reassessmt
Reserve component	deploy DD2795 n=	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	deploy DD2795 n=	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	deploy DD2795 n=	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy DD2795 n=	Post- deploy DD2796	Reassessmt DD2900	Pre- deploy DD2795	rvice me Post- deploy DD2796 n=	mbers Reassessmt DD2900 n=
Reserve component General health "fair" or "poor"	deploy DD2795 n= 24,328	Post- deploy DD2796 n= 16,576	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 13,665	deploy DD2795 n= 2,326	Post- deploy DD2796 n= 1,882	Reassessmt DD2900	deploy DD2795 n= 13,262	Post- deploy DD2796 n= 11,019	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 9,186	Pre- deploy DD2795 n= 599	Post- deploy DD2796 n= 272	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 643	Pre- deploy DD2795 n= 40,515	Post- deploy DD2796 n= 29,749	mbers Reassessmt DD2900 n= 25,519
·	deploy DD2795 n= 24,328 %	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 16,576 %	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 13,665 %	deploy DD2795 n= 2,326 %	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 1,882	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 2,025 %	deploy DD2795 n= 13,262 %	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 11,019	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 9,186 %	Predeploy DD2795 n= 599	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 272 %	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 643 %	Pre- deploy DD2795 n= 40,515	Post- deploy DD2796 n= 29,749	Reassessmt DD2900
General health "fair" or "poor"	deploy DD2795 n= 24,328 % 1.2	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 16,576 %	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 13,665 % 12.2	deploy DD2795 n= 2,326 % 0.3	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 1,882 %	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 2,025 % 9.4	deploy DD2795 n= 13,262 % 0.9	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 11,019 %	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 9,186 % 4.5	Predeploy DD2795 n= 599 % 0.7	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 272 % 6.6	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 643 % 8.6	ser Pre- deploy DD2795 n= 40,515 %	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 29,749 %	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 25,519 % 9.1
General health "fair" or "poor" Health concerns, not wound or injury Health worse now than before	deploy DD2795 n= 24,328 % 1.2 2.5	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 16,576 % 10.4 22.8	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 13,665 % 12.2 18.7	deploy DD2795 n= 2,326 % 0.3 1.3	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 1,882 % 9.0 39.7	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 2,025 % 9.4 11.7	deploy DD2795 n= 13,262 % 0.9 1.7	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 11,019 % 4.6 9.5	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 9,186 % 4.5 5.7	Pre- deploy DD2795 n= 599 % 0.7 2.2	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 272 % 6.6 23.2	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 643 % 8.6 9.0	Pre- deploy DD2795 n= 40,515 % 1.1 2.2	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 29,749 % 8.1 18.9	mbers Reassessmt DD2900 n= 25,519 % 9.1 13.2
General health "fair" or "poor" Health concerns, not wound or injury Health worse now than before deployed	deploy DD2795 n= 24,328 % 1.2 2.5 na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 16,576 % 10.4 22.8 70.8	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 13,665 % 12.2 18.7 77.3	deploy DD2795 n= 2,326 % 0.3 1.3 na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 1,882 % 9.0 39.7 76.5	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 2,025 % 9.4 11.7 77.3	deploy DD2795 n= 13,262 % 0.9 1.7 na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 11,019 % 4.6 9.5 65.3	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 9,186 % 4.5 5.7 73.3	Pre- deploy DD2795 n= 599 % 0.7 2.2 na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 272 % 6.6 23.2 74.3	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 643 % 8.6 9.0 79.0	Pre- deploy DD2795 n= 40,515 % 1.1 2.2 na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 29,749 % 8.1 18.9 69.1	mbers Reassessmt DD2900 n= 25,519 % 9.1 13.2 75.9
General health "fair" or "poor" Health concerns, not wound or injury Health worse now than before deployed Exposure concerns	deploy DD2795 n= 24,328 % 1.2 2.5 na na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 16,576 % 10.4 22.8 70.8 17.6	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 13,665 % 12.2 18.7 77.3 20.6	deploy DD2795 n= 2,326 % 0.3 1.3 na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 1,882 % 9.0 39.7 76.5 40.0	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 2,025 % 9.4 11.7 77.3 32.8	deploy DD2795 n= 13,262 % 0.9 1.7 na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 11,019 % 4.6 9.5 65.3 16.1	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 9,186 % 4.5 5.7 73.3 11.6	Predeploy DD2795 n= 599 % 0.7 2.2 na na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 272 % 6.6 23.2 74.3 27.6	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 643 % 8.6 9.0 79.0 20.5	Pre- deploy DD2795 n= 40,515 % 1.1 2.2 na	Post-deploy DD2796	mbers Reassessmt DD2900 n= 25,519 % 9.1 13.2 75.9 18.3
General health "fair" or "poor" Health concerns, not wound or injury Health worse now than before deployed Exposure concerns PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	deploy DD2795 n= 24,328 % 1.2 2.5 na na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 16,576 % 10.4 22.8 70.8 17.6 6.9	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 13,665 % 12.2 18.7 77.3 20.6 11.9	deploy DD2795 n= 2,326 % 0.3 1.3 na na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 1.882	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 2,025 % 9.4 11.7 77.3 32.8 10.5	deploy DD2795 n= 13,262 % 0.9 1.7 na na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 11,019 % 4.6 9.5 65.3 16.1 1.8	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 9,186 % 4.5 5.7 73.3 11.6 2.6	Predeploy DD2795 n= 599 % 0.7 2.2 na na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 272 % 6.6 23.2 74.3 27.6 7.4	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 643 % 8.6 9.0 79.0 20.5 12.9	Pre-deploy DD2795 n= 40,515 % 1.1 2.2 na na	Post-deploy DD2796 9-29,749 % 8.1 18.9 69.1 18.5 5.0	mbers Reassessmt DD2900 n= 25,519 % 9.1 13.2 75.9 18.3 8.5
General health "fair" or "poor" Health concerns, not wound or injury Health worse now than before deployed Exposure concerns PTSD symptoms (2 or more) Depression symptoms (any)	deploy DD2795 n= 24,328 % 1.2 2.5 na na na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 16,576 % 10.4 22.8 70.8 17.6 6.9 18.8	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 13,665 % 12.2 18.7 77.3 20.6 11.9 21.4	deploy DD2795 n= 2,326 % 0.3 1.3 na na na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 1,882 % 9.0 39.7 76.5 40.0 6.3 17.6	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 2,025 % 9.4 11.7 77.3 32.8 10.5 22.8	deploy DD2795 n= 13,262 % 0.9 1.7 na na na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 11,019 % 4.6 9.5 65.3 16.1 1.8 8.6	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 9,186 % 4.5 5.7 73.3 11.6 2.6 7.7	Predeploy DD2795 n= 599 % 0.7 2.2 na na na	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 272 % 6.6 23.2 74.3 27.6 7.4 15.1	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 643 % 8.6 9.0 79.0 20.5 12.9 22.4	Predeploy DD2795 n= 40,515 % 1.1 2.2 na na na	rvice me Post- deploy DD2796 n= 29,749 % 8.1 18.9 69.1 18.5 5.0 15.0	mbers Reassessmt DD2900 n= 25,519
General health "fair" or "poor" Health concerns, not wound or injury Health worse now than before deployed Exposure concerns PTSD symptoms (2 or more) Depression symptoms (any) Referral indicated by provider (any)	deploy DD2795 n= 24,328 % 1.2 2.5 na na na ana 3.3	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 16,576 % 10.4 22.8 70.8 17.6 6.9 18.8 24.0	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 13,665 % 12.2 18.7 77.3 20.6 11.9 21.4 42.3	deploy DD2795 n= 2,326 % 0.3 1.3 na na na na 6.0	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 1,882 % 9.0 39.7 76.5 40.0 6.3 17.6 42.3	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 2,025 % 9.4 11.7 77.3 32.8 10.5 22.8 38.6	deploy DD2795 n= 13,262 % 0.9 1.7 na na na 3.1	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 11,019 % 4.6 9.5 65.3 16.1 1.8 8.6 16.3	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 9,186 % 4.5 5.7 73.3 11.6 2.6 7.7 20.9	Predeploy DD2795 n= 599 % 0.7 2.2 na na na 4.8	Post-deploy DD2796 n= 272 % 6.6 23.2 74.3 27.6 7.4 15.1 37.9	Reassessmt DD2900 n= 643 % 8.6 9.0 79.0 20.5 12.9 22.4 32.5	sel Pre- deploy DD2795 n= 40,515 % 1.1 2.2 na na na a.3.4	rvice me Post- deploy DD2796 n= 29,749 % 8.1 18.9 69.1 18.5 5.0 15.0 22.4	mbers Reassessmt DD2900 n= 25,519 % 9.1 13.2 75.9 18.3 8.5 16.6 34.1

^aIncludes behavioral health, combat stress and substance abuse referrals.

Figure 3. Percentages of service members who completed assessments and endorsed exposure concerns on post-deployment health assessments or reassessments, by component, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003–July 2016



^bRecord of inpatient or outpatient visit within 6 months after referral.