

Deployment Health Assessments
U.S. Armed Forces
Annual Summary 2021

Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division

Update: Deployment Health Assessments, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2021–December 2021

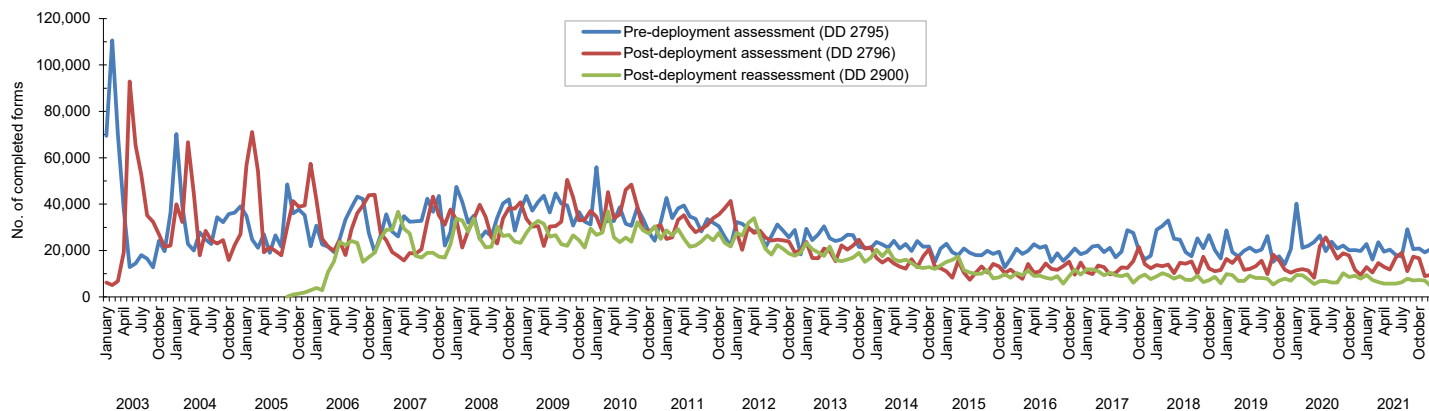
Since January 2003, pronounced fluctuations in the monthly numbers of pre- and post-deployment health assessment (PDHA) forms transmitted to the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division (AFHSD) generally have corresponded to times of departure and return of large numbers of service members who deployed. 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.

From January 2017 through December 2021, monthly counts of pre-deployment health assessment forms showed the greatest variation compared to the other deployment health assessment forms (Figure 1). The most pronounced fluctuations in monthly counts of pre-deployment health assessment forms during this period occurred from June 2017 through February 2020 (Figure 1). The monthly count of pre-deployment health assessment forms in August 2021 (29,221) was the highest count during the most recent 12 months (Table 1) and the highest count since January 2020 (Figure 1). For the past 10 years, counts of post-deployment health reassessment (PDHRA) forms showed a pronounced downward trend; since June 2017, the monthly counts of these questionnaires were consistently lower than the monthly counts of PDHA forms (Figure 1). The average monthly number of PDHRA forms (6,716) during the most recent 12 months (January 2021–December 2021) was the single lowest 1-year average since July 2006, the first full year of data for this form (Table 1, data not shown).

During the past 12 months, the percentages of total returned deployers who rated their health as either "fair" or "poor" ranged from 6.8% to 12.0% on PDHA questionnaires and from 6.5% to 10.2% on PDHRA questionnaires (Figure 2). The percentages of total service members who rated their health as either "fair" or "poor" on pre-deployment questionnaires during this period varied between 3.1% and 6.8%.

In general, the percentages of "exposure concerns" self-reported on PDHA and PDHRA forms were higher among reserve component members than among active component members (Table 2, Figure 3). This pattern was most pronounced among Marine Corps members with those in the reserve component 3.9 times as likely to report exposure concerns on the PDHA as those in the active component of this service. During the past year, at the time of return from deployment, 21.8% of active component and 18.4% of reserve component service members reported any depression symptoms. Service members in the active and reserve components were 3.2 and 5.5 times as likely, respectively, to receive a mental health referral 3–6 months after deployment, compared to the time of their return from deployment (Table 2).

Figure 1. Numbers of deployment health assessment and reassessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003–December 2021



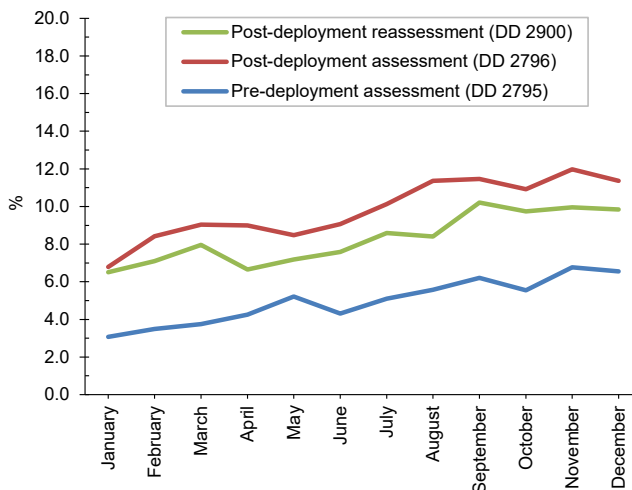
*Pre-deployment health assessment forms are completed 30–90 days prior to departure for deployment. Post-deployment assessment forms are completed 1–30 days after return from deployment. Post-deployment health reassessment forms are completed 90–180 days after return from deployment.

Table 1. Number of deployment-related health assessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2021–December 2021

	Pre-deployment assessment DD 2795		Post-deployment assessment DD 2796		Post-deployment reassessment DD 2900	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	248,200	100.0	162,436	100.0	80,595	100.0
Average	20,683	.	13,536	.	6,716	.
2021						
January	22,848	9.2	12,868	7.9	9,465	11.7
February	16,048	6.5	10,528	6.5	7,251	9.0
March	23,582	9.5	14,641	9.0	6,403	7.9
April	19,470	7.8	12,987	8.0	5,738	7.1
May	20,330	8.2	11,803	7.3	5,725	7.1
June	18,082	7.3	16,995	10.5	5,754	7.1
July	17,403	7.0	19,000	11.7	6,298	7.8
August	29,221	11.8	11,081	6.8	7,856	9.7
September	20,571	8.3	17,377	10.7	7,082	8.8
October	20,886	8.4	16,679	10.3	7,267	9.0
November	19,222	7.7	8,955	5.5	7,102	8.8
December	20,537	8.3	9,522	5.9	4,654	5.8

Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS) as of 10-JAN-2022
No., number.

Figure 2. Percentages of deployment health assessment forms with self-assessed health status rated as either "fair" or "poor," by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2021–December 2021



2021

Table 2. Percentage of service members who endorsed selected questions or received referrals on health assessment forms, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2021–December 2021

	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= 99,066 %	n= 39,182 %	n= 20,778 %	n= 5,218 %	n= 4,471 %	n= 4,232 %	n= 34,114 %	n= 32,306 %	n= 28,459 %	n= 15,311 %	n= 12,226 %	n= 6,959 %	n= 153,709 %	n= 88,185 %	n= 60,428 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	8.0	13.6	11.5	2.7	8.2	8.1	2.4	5.6	5.7	4.3	11.5	12.4	6.2	10.1	8.7
Health concerns, not wound or injury	7.9	19.1	11.2	6.1	18.1	12.9	4.4	9.6	9.2	5.3	15.3	13.2	6.8	15.1	10.6
Health worse now than before deployed	na	76.0	74.8	na	72.8	76.3	na	64.9	72.3	na	72.7	76.6	na	71.3	73.9
Exposure concerns	na	10.8	10.2	na	17.4	17.5	na	12.5	9.6	na	9.0	10.9	na	11.5	10.5
PTSD symptoms (two or more)	na	8.1	9.7	na	7.6	9.0	na	4.5	4.6	na	8.2	6.9	na	6.8	7.0
Depression symptoms (any)	na	26.5	24.3	na	25.3	24.6	na	14.6	13.7	na	24.4	22.7	na	21.8	19.1
Referral indicated by provider (any)	5.5	13.6	13.4	5.2	27.7	19.6	8.6	17.9	11.7	3.5	25.2	21.9	6.0	17.5	14.0
Mental health referral indicated ^a	1.8	2.8	10.6	0.9	6.8	17.6	1.6	4.0	10.5	0.7	5.4	20.0	1.6	3.8	12.1
Medical visit following referral ^b	96.3	97.3	97.7	93.1	88.8	92.4	98.4	96.0	98.0	82.8	85.7	89.2	96.2	93.3	95.4
	Army			Navy			Air Force			Marine Corps			All reserve 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
Reserve component	n= 44,950 %	n= 51,493 %	n= 4,234 %	n= 1,959 %	n= 2,601 %	n= 3,066 %	n= 12,885 %	n= 13,916 %	n= 11,757 %	n= 685 %	n= 279 %	n= 553 %	n= 60,479 %	n= 68,289 %	n= 19,610 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	1.8	9.8	7.1	0.9	10.9	10.9	1.3	7.6	4.8	2.5	11.8	11.9	1.7	9.4	6.5
Health concerns, not wound or injury	2.5	14.2	8.7	2.9	33.4	14.4	2.2	9.9	5.0	3.8	26.2	10.7	2.5	14.1	7.4
Health worse now than before deployed	na	73.4	69.1	na	77.2	78.3	na	72.1	74.6	na	75.6	77.6	na	73.3	74.1
Exposure concerns	na	11.2	12.6	na	25.4	25.9	na	16.8	9.8	na	34.8	19.0	na	13.0	13.2
PTSD symptoms (two or more)	na	7.2	8.7	na	7.6	9.2	na	4.4	3.8	na	7.5	7.1	na	6.6	5.8
Depression symptoms (any)	na	19.5	17.5	na	24.1	23.7	na	13.5	10.0	na	19.4	21.0	na	18.4	14.0
Referral indicated by provider (any)	2.8	14.2	17.3	9.4	49.7	30.3	4.6	20.0	17.3	4.8	33.7	27.7	3.4	16.8	19.6
Mental health referral indicated ^a	0.6	3.0	10.8	0.8	6.8	29.2	0.8	3.4	16.6	0.4	4.3	26.9	0.7	3.2	17.6
Medical visit following referral ^b	75.4	89.6	62.5	97.9	81.7	66.4	93.2	85.7	78.4	58.8	91.3	44.1	83.6	87.6	70.4

^aIncludes behavioral health, combat stress, and substance abuse referrals.
^bRecord of inpatient or outpatient encounter within 6 months after referral.
 PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder.

Figure 3. Percentages of service members with completed assessments who endorsed exposure concerns on post-deployment health assessments or reassessments, by component, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003–December 2021

