

Deployment Health Assessments
U.S. Armed Forces
Annual Summary 2023

Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division

Annual Summary: Deployment Health Assessments, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2023–December 2023

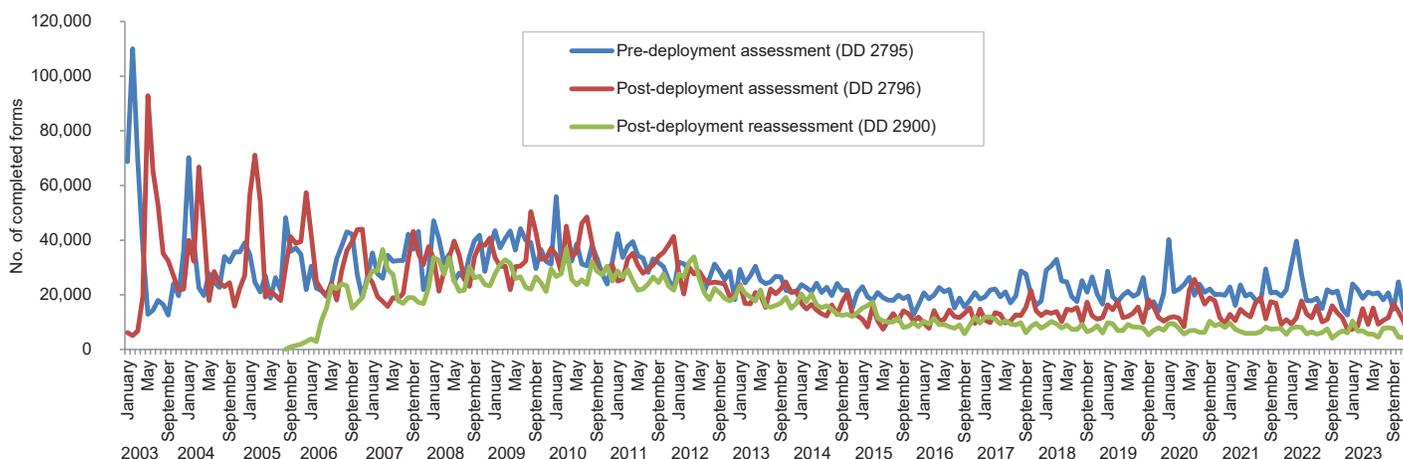
Since January 2003, pronounced fluctuations in the monthly numbers of pre- and post-deployment health assessment forms transmitted to the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division (AFHSD) generally have corresponded to times of departure and return of deployed service members. This report describes service members' responses to questionnaires for the pre-deployment health assessment (DD2795), post-deployment health assessment (PDHA; DD2796), and post-deployment health re-assessment (PDHRA; DD2900). Results are summarized using a denominator totaled to all service members who completed deployment-related assessments; thus, the findings presented here are not inclusive of all service members eligible for the assessments.

The monthly count of pre-deployment health assessment forms in October 2023 (n=24,728) was the highest count during the year (**Table 1**). Over the last decade, the counts of post-deployment health reassessment (PDHRA) forms showed a pronounced downward trend; the average annual number of PDHRA forms peaked in 2010 (n=28,171) and declined through 2023 (n=6,293) (**Figure 1**).

During the past 12 months, the monthly percent of total returned deployers who rated their health as either "fair" or "poor" ranged from 13.8% to 16.4% on PDHA questionnaires and from 11.1% to 14.1% 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 5.9% and 8.3%.

In 2023, the percentages of "exposure concerns" self-reported on PDHA and PDHRA forms were higher among reserve component members than among active component members for all services (**Table 2, Figure 3**). This pattern was most pronounced among Marine Corps members, with those in the reserve component reporting exposure concerns on the PDHA 2.6-times higher than those in the active component of this service (29.9% vs. 11.7%). During the past year, at the time of return from deployment, 28.4% of active component and 27.0% of reserve component service members reported any depression symptoms on the PDHA. In 2023, the percentage of service members being recommended for a mental health referral 3–6 months after deployment on the PDHRA remained relatively comparable to those being recommended for a mental health referral on the PDHA in both the active (4.6% vs. 4.1%) and reserve (4.7% vs. 5.8%) components (**Table 2**).

Figure 1. Numbers of deployment health assessment and reassessment forms,^a by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003–December 2023



^aPre-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.

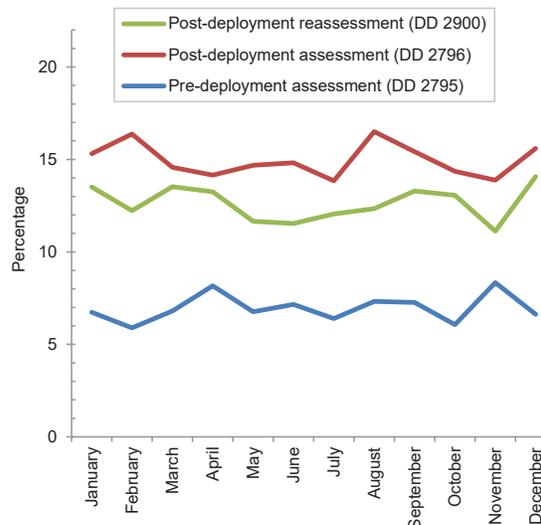
Table 1. Number of deployment-related health assessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2023–December 2023

	Pre-deployment assessment DD 2795		Post-deployment assessment DD 2796		Post-deployment reassessment DD 2900	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	230,334	100	133,008	100	75,511	100
2023						
January	24,021	10.4	7,412	5.6	10,460	13.9
February	21,926	9.5	8,426	6.3	6,715	8.9
March	18,675	8.1	15,023	11.3	6,841	9.1
April	21,046	9.1	9,157	6.9	5,649	7.5
May	20,289	8.8	15,153	11.4	5,646	7.5
June	20,722	9.0	9,264	7.0	4,517	6.0
July	18,193	7.9	10,678	8.0	7,794	10.3
August	20,785	9.0	11,682	8.8	7,931	10.5
September	14,685	6.4	16,792	12.6	7,671	10.2
October	24,728	10.7	13,886	10.4	4,520	6.0
November	14,945	6.5	10,300	7.7	4,388	5.8
December	10,319	4.5	5,235	3.9	3,379	4.5

Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS) as of 11-JAN-2024

Prepared by Defense Health Agency

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 2023–December 2023



2023

Table 2. Percentage of service members who endorsed selected questions or received referrals on health assessment forms, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2023–December 2023

	Army			Navy			Air Force			Marine Corps			All 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= 102,715 %	n= 46,573 %	n= 23,617 %	n= 4,687 %	n= 3,601 %	n= 3,603 %	n= 29,970 %	n= 25,667 %	n= 22,586 %	n= 17,918 %	n= 11,671 %	n= 9,947 %	n= 155,290 %	n= 87,512 %	n= 59,753 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	10.1	18.4	15.6	3.7	11.9	12.5	2.8	8.2	8.3	6.0	15.0	16.2	8.0	14.7	12.8
Health concerns, not wound or injury	9.3	21.7	14.2	7.4	23.5	16.0	5.2	12.8	12.2	6.4	17.8	16.8	8.1	18.7	14.0
Health worse now than before deployed	na	77.5	75.1	na	75.1	76.3	na	69.2	73.0	na	75.8	76.1	na	74.7	74.6
Exposure concerns	na	10.2	8.4	na	23.7	20.0	na	15.1	11.8	na	11.7	11.9	na	12.4	11.0
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	na	10.2	11.2	na	10.5	11.5	na	5.4	5.8	na	6.7	8.8	na	8.3	8.8
Depression symptoms (any)	na	33.5	28.7	na	31.6	31.3	na	18.6	18.1	na	29.1	28.5	na	28.4	24.8
Referral indicated by provider (any)	5.2	15.9	13.9	7.1	38.4	23.2	9.5	18.9	14.2	5.6	26.0	21.5	6.1	19.1	15.8
Mental health referral indicated ^a	2.0	4.2	4.4	1.3	9.3	8.1	0.9	4.3	2.9	0.7	5.4	4.9	1.7	4.6	4.1
Medical visit following referral ^b	96.4	98.6	95.9	87.0	92.3	91.7	99.9	99.3	99.8	90.6	86.5	93.1	96.5	96.1	96.0
Reserve component	n= 30,764 %	n= 28,798 %	n= 7,148 %	n= 1,576 %	n= 1,478 %	n= 1,381 %	n= 10,623 %	n= 9,463 %	n= 6,452 %	n= 589 %	n= 281 %	n= 232 %	n= 43,552 %	n= 40,020 %	n= 15,213 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	2.1	15.9	13.6	1.3	17.1	16.4	1.5	11.4	8.5	1.2	14.6	11.2	1.9	14.9	11.6
Health concerns, not wound or injury	3.0	22.3	13.0	2.9	41.8	19.6	2.6	13.9	8.7	1.7	19.2	9.5	2.9	21.0	11.8
Health worse now than before deployed	na	73.3	74.6	na	81.5	81.3	na	73.4	76.3	na	74.4	73.3	na	73.7	75.9
Exposure concerns	na	23.8	19.4	na	40.0	41.9	na	26.1	19.0	na	29.9	13.8	na	25.0	21.2
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	na	12.6	12.2	na	10.6	12.3	na	6.3	6.5	na	7.5	10.8	na	11.0	9.8
Depression symptoms (any)	na	29.6	24.1	na	30.0	29.6	na	18.5	15.7	na	26.0	19.8	na	27.0	21.0
Referral indicated by provider (any)	2.8	23.2	23.3	7.9	76.8	33.1	5.4	28.5	18.0	5.1	43.4	23.7	3.6	26.5	21.9
Mental health referral indicated ^a	1.1	4.3	6.7	0.8	11.9	9.8	0.5	4.7	3.9	0.7	6.4	8.6	0.9	4.7	5.8
Medical visit following referral ^b	86.3	98.3	50.1	96.4	91.6	63.0	82.1	77.1	68.7	100.0	73.8	55.8	85.6	90.8	59.2

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

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

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 2023

