Deployment Health Assessments

U.S. Armed Forces

October 2014

(Data through September 2014)

Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center

Report Date: 08 October 2014

Update: Deployment Health Assessments, U.S. Armed Forces, October 2014

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 September 2014, the number of post-deployment reassessment (PDHRA) forms per month ranged from 15,114 to 45,768 **(Table 1, Figure 1).**

During the past 12 months, the proportions of returned deployers who rated their health as "fair" or "poor" were 6–10% on post-deployment health assessment questionnaires and 8–12% on PDHRA questionnaires **(Figure 2).** The proportion of pre-deployment service members who rated their health as "fair" or "poor" ranged from approximately 3–5% during the past 12 months.

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).** Service members in the active and reserve component of the Marine Corps, active component Navy, and reserve component Army 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 and reserve 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 **(Figure 3).**

Table 1. Deployment-related health assessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, October 2013–September 2014

	Pre-deployment assessment DD2795		Post-deployment assessment DD2796		Post-deployment reassessment DD2900	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	263,597	100	200,021	100	258,890	100
2013						
October	21,426	8.1	24,647	12.3	22,106	8.5
November	21,138	8.0	20,747	10.4	18,709	7.2
December	20,869	7.9	21,407	10.7	21,287	8.2
2014						
January	23,610	9.0	16,804	8.4	25,484	9.8
February	22,558	8.6	14,775	7.4	22,544	8.7
March	21,087	8.0	16,363	8.2	26,057	10.1
April	24,114	9.1	14,369	7.2	22,333	8.6
May	21,002	8.0	12,989	6.5	20,374	7.9
June	23,124	8.8	12,584	6.3	21,541	8.3
July	19,848	7.5	16,366	8.2	19,568	7.6
August	23,887	9.1	12,734	6.4	19,986	7.7
September	20,934	7.9	16,236	8.1	18,901	7.3

Figure 2. Proportion of deployment health assessment forms with self-assessed health status as "fair" or "poor," U.S. Armed Forces, October 2013–September 2014

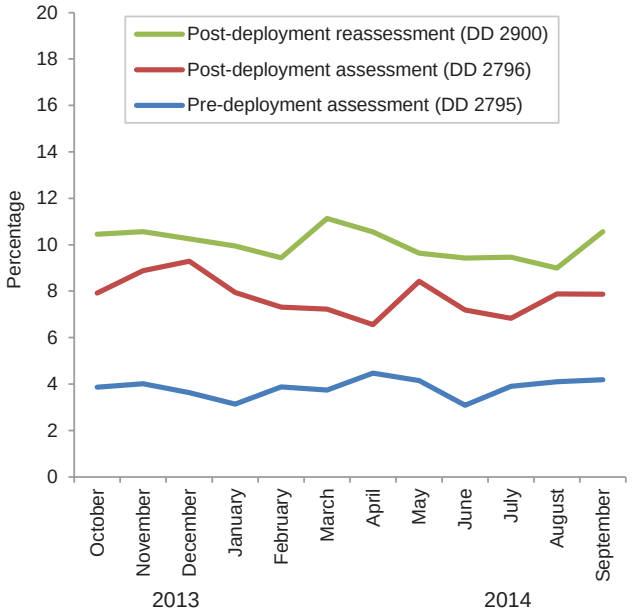
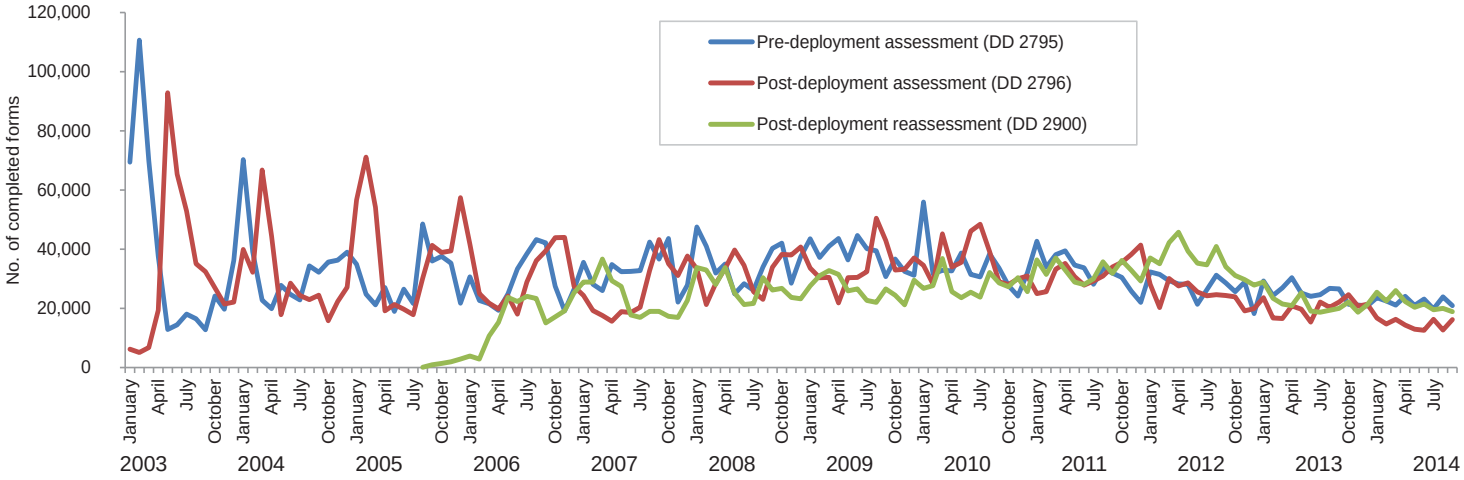


Figure 1. Total deployment health assessment and reassessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003–September 2014



Data Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System

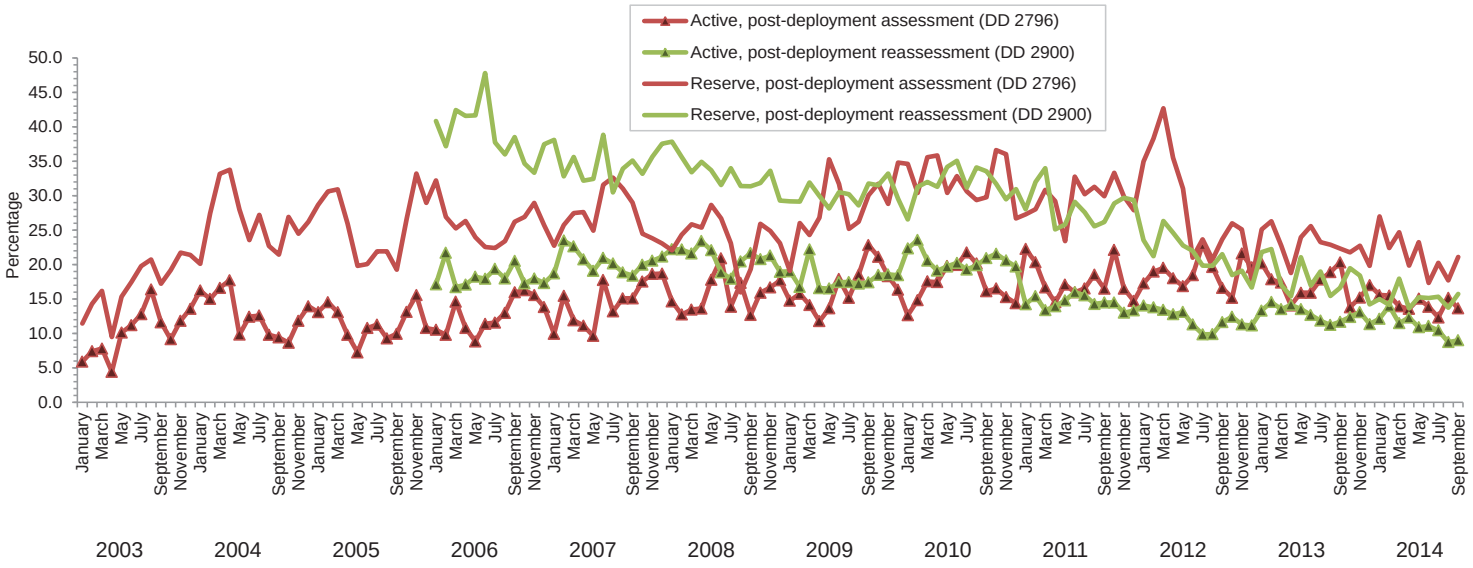
Table 2. Percentage of service members who endorsed selected questions/received referrals on health assessment forms, U.S. Armed Forces, October 2013–September 2014

	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= 114,672 %	n= 72,744 %	n= 86,299 %	n= 7,819 %	n= 7,184 %	n= 8,061 %	n= 41,308 %	n= 41,134 %	n= 74,319 %	n= 24,024 %	n= 20,912 %	n= 19,231 %	n= 187,823 %	n= 141,974 %	n= 187,910 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	5.7	9.9	12.4	1.4	4.1	4.7	1.1	2.7	1.5	2.5	5.3	9.0	4.1	6.8	7.4
Health concerns, not wound or injury	7.1	20.6	17.0	2.9	9.5	7.7	2.8	8.1	6.7	3.5	9.2	9.3	5.5	14.7	11.7
Health worse now than before deployed	na	73.2	72.5	na	68.2	73.1	na	60.8	33.2	na	71.2	78.6	na	69.1	57.6
Exposure concerns	na	16.2	14.1	na	15.3	16.7	na	13.5	4.6	na	10.0	25.4	na	14.4	11.6
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	na	9.1	11.2	na	3.8	6.7	na	2.3	3.4	na	4.4	8.7	na	6.2	7.7
Depression symptoms (any)	na	25.1	24.7	na	14.6	17.8	na	7.9	8.8	na	17.0	22.6	na	18.4	17.9
Referral indicated by provider (any)	9.9	30.5	20.5	10.2	27.4	19.3	4.8	14.5	8.9	4.2	31.0	16.4	8.1	25.8	15.4
Mental health referral indicated[a]	3.3	7.0	17.4	0.7	3.1	14.7	0.8	1.9	7.4	0.6	3.0	13.9	2.3	4.7	13.0
Medical visit following referral[b]	99.2	99.8	98.4	85.8	90.5	86.6	99.8	99.5	100.0	72.7	90.5	88.0	96.4	97.7	96.8

	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
Reserve component	n= 23,077 %	n= 28,858 %	n= 29,238 %	n= 2,667 %	n= 3,055 %	n= 4,392 %	n= 10,268 %	n= 9,187 %	n= 23,874 %	n= 401 %	n= 964 %	n= 907 %	n= 36,413 %	n= 42,064 %	n= 58,411 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	1.3	12.3	14.6	0.4	9.8	8.8	0.8	4.3	1.4	1.5	8.5	9.0	1.1	10.3	8.7
Health concerns, not wound or injury	3.1	24.3	20.9	1.6	37.3	11.5	1.3	9.9	3.4	1.5	22.4	11.5	2.5	22.0	12.9
Health worse now than before deployed	na	73.8	79.3	na	74.8	67.1	na	64.8	25.6	na	74.8	77.6	na	71.9	56.4
Exposure concerns	na	21.4	23.4	na	38.3	27.8	na	16.7	3.9	na	19.6	22.4	na	21.5	15.7
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	na	9.4	14.2	na	7.9	12.2	na	2.3	2.7	na	7.2	14.2	na	7.7	9.3
Depression symptoms (any)	na	23.7	24.4	na	18.0	23.6	na	8.2	7.0	na	17.4	25.8	na	19.8	17.2
Referral indicated by provider (any)	5.9	36.2	49.7	5.1	48.7	37.3	2.5	16.8	8.4	4.5	51.2	39.3	4.8	33.2	31.7
Mental health referral indicated[a]	1.7	8.2	48.9	0.3	3.5	36.8	0.3	1.9	8.1	0.7	6.3	37.9	1.2	6.5	31.1
Medical visit following referral[b]	87.9	99.8	46.4	98.9	98.9	53.8	65.9	77.1	57.1	60.0	91.3	51.2	85.3	96.9	48.1

[a]Includes behavioral health, combat stress and substance abuse referrals.
[b]Record of inpatient or outpatient visit within 6 months after referral.

Figure 3. Proportion of service members who endorsed exposure concerns on post-deployment health assessments, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003–September 2014



Data Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System