

Deployment Health Assessments
U.S. Armed Forces
Annual Summary 2022

Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division

Annual Summary: Deployment Health Assessments, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2022–December 2022

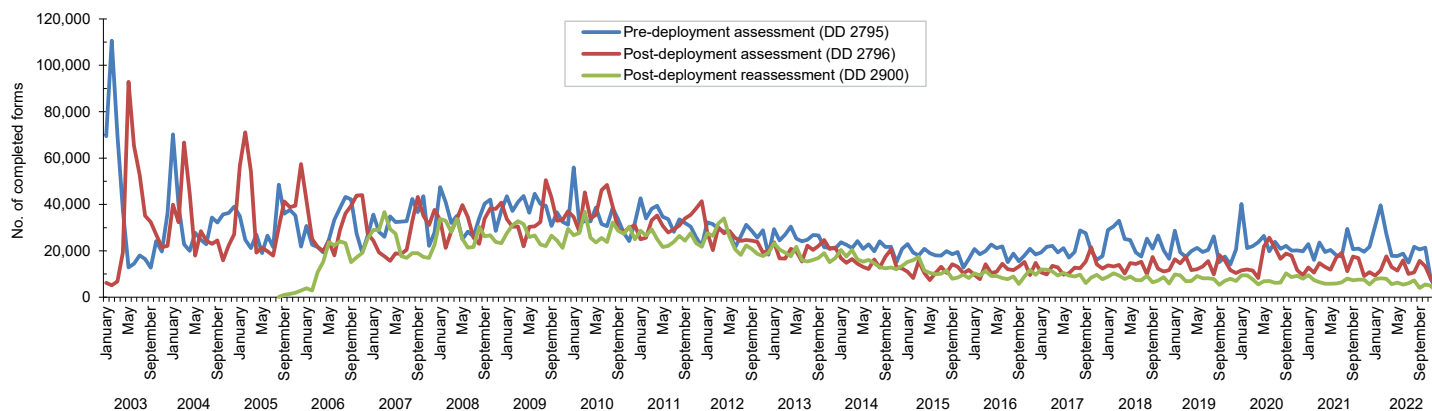
Since January 2003, pronounced fluctuations in the monthly numbers of pre- and post-deployment health assessment (PDHA) forms transmitted to the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division (AFHSD) generally have corresponded to times of departure and return of large numbers of service members who deployed. 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 2018 through December 2022, monthly counts of pre-deployment health assessment forms showed the greatest variation compared to the other deployment health assessment forms (Figure 1). The monthly count of pre-deployment health assessment forms in February 2022 (39,613) 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 (5,937) during the most recent 12 months (January 2022–December 2022) was the single lowest 1-year average since tracking began on 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 9.4% to 16.9% on PDHA questionnaires and from 9.0% to 12.8% 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 3.4% and 8.9%.

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 2.8 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, 26.2% of active component and 21.9% of reserve component service members reported any depression symptoms. Service members in the active and reserve components were 3.5 and 6.4 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, a by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003–December 2022



*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 2022–December 2022

	Pre-deployment assessment DD 2795		Post-deployment assessment DD 2796		Post-deployment reassessment DD 2900	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	241,966	100.0	140,854	100.0	71,240	100.0
Average	20,164	.	11,738	.	5,937	.
2022						
January	30,860	12.8	9,325	6.6	7,722	10.8
February	39,613	16.4	11,541	8.2	8,124	11.4
March	27,422	11.3	17,624	12.5	7,954	11.2
April	17,852	7.4	12,971	9.2	5,638	7.9
May	17,713	7.3	11,482	8.2	6,324	8.9
June	18,788	7.8	15,910	11.3	5,426	7.6
July	14,922	6.2	9,995	7.1	5,989	8.4
August	21,770	9.0	10,692	7.6	7,264	10.2
September	20,591	8.5	15,661	11.1	3,929	5.5
October	21,328	8.8	13,311	9.5	5,482	7.7
November	7,988	3.3	8,024	5.7	4,926	6.9
December	3,119	1.3	4,318	3.1	2,462	3.5

Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS) as of 9-JAN-2023
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 2022–December 2022

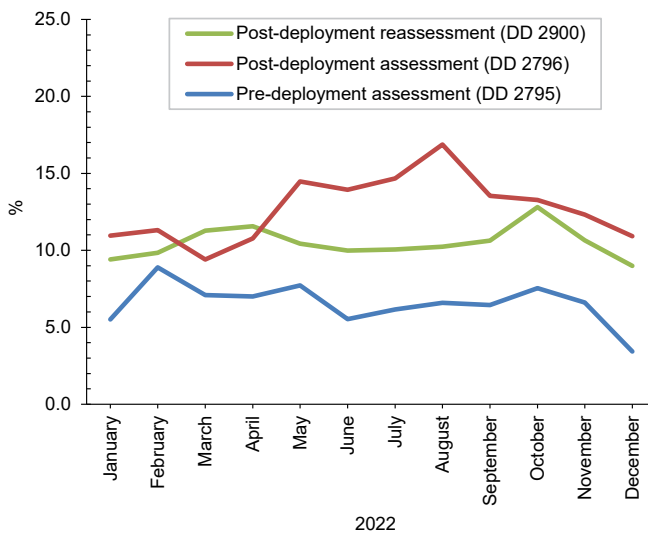


Table 2. Percentage of service members who endorsed selected questions or received referrals on health assessment forms, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2022–December 2022

	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= 108,241 %	n= 40,513 %	n= 13,664 %	n= 5,522 %	n= 3,969 %	n= 3,670 %	n= 31,199 %	n= 28,375 %	n= 26,590 %	n= 16,060 %	n= 12,022 %	n= 8,629 %	n= 161,022 %	n= 84,879 %	n= 52,553 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	10.2	18.1	13.3	3.5	10.1	11.2	2.9	7.6	7.7	5.2	11.9	14.6	8.0	13.3	10.5
Health concerns, not wound or injury	9.5	20.7	11.8	6.6	20.0	15.9	4.9	11.6	10.3	6.2	15.5	14.4	8.1	16.9	11.8
Health worse now than before deployed	na	77.4	72.9	na	74.3	76.3	na	67.6	72.6	na	73.6	76.0	na	73.5	73.5
Exposure concerns	na	9.5	11.0	na	21.3	22.6	na	13.8	10.6	na	9.5	11.0	na	11.5	11.6
PTSD symptoms (two or more)	na	9.4	12.5	na	7.4	12.3	na	5.2	6.3	na	4.8	11.1	na	7.3	9.1
Depression symptoms (any)	na	32.0	26.6	na	27.8	29.6	na	17.9	17.0	na	25.3	27.9	na	26.2	22.2
Referral indicated by provider (any)	6.4	11.7	14.5	6.9	31.9	23.2	8.5	21.4	12.7	5.0	26.4	22.2	6.7	18.0	15.5
Mental health referral indicated ^a	1.9	2.9	11.8	1.8	8.0	20.8	1.9	4.9	11.2	0.8	3.9	20.9	1.8	3.9	13.7
Medical visit following referral ^b	92.4	87.3	88.3	87.6	87.4	86.2	95.7	93.9	94.9	90.5	82.7	88.7	92.9	88.9	90.7
	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= 32,963 %	n= 38,456 %	n= 5,042 %	n= 1,920 %	n= 1,727 %	n= 2,049 %	n= 10,221 %	n= 10,877 %	n= 10,673 %	n= 298 %	n= 648 %	n= 447 %	n= 45,402 %	n= 51,708 %	n= 18,211 %
General health "fair" or "poor"	1.8	11.9	13.4	1.1	12.7	11.0	1.4	8.3	7.3	0.3	13.9	11.6	1.6	11.2	9.5
Health concerns, not wound or injury	2.6	17.7	12.9	2.9	41.6	16.7	2.6	10.8	6.5	2.3	21.1	10.3	2.6	17.1	9.5
Health worse now than before deployed	na	72.7	71.3	na	77.8	78.9	na	71.6	75.9	na	76.9	81.2	na	72.7	75.1
Exposure concerns	na	15.7	15.4	na	39.5	36.3	na	18.8	14.2	na	27.0	21.3	na	17.3	17.2
PTSD symptoms (two or more)	na	8.8	15.5	na	9.0	10.9	na	5.4	5.4	na	5.2	10.5	na	8.0	9.0
Depression symptoms (any)	na	22.9	24.7	na	27.8	28.3	na	17.0	13.4	na	25.5	23.9	na	21.9	18.4
Referral indicated by provider (any)	3.4	14.2	24.0	6.6	78.3	35.3	4.2	23.4	19.9	5.0	29.5	29.8	3.7	18.5	23.0
Mental health referral indicated ^a	0.6	2.5	18.5	0.7	12.7	34.3	0.8	4.5	19.0	0.7	4.8	28.6	0.7	3.3	20.9
Medical visit within 6 months after referral ^b	76.6	81.9	47.3	93.8	91.4	64.3	86.0	81.5	79.3	85.7	82.4	53.2	80.7	83.0	64.5

^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 2022

