

Deployment Health Assessments

U.S. Armed Forces

January 2011

(Data through December 2010)

Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center

Update: Deployment Health Assessments, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2011

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 December 2010, the number of post-deployment reassessment (PDHRA) forms per month ranged from 15,600 to 46,900 (Table 1, Figure 1).

During the past 12 months, the proportions of returned deployers who rated their health as “fair” or “poor” were 8-10% on post-deployment health assessment questionnaires and 10-14% on PDHRA questionnaires (Figure 2).

In general, on post-deployment assessments and reassessments, deployers in the Army and in reserve components were more likely than their respective counterparts to report health and exposure-related concerns (Table 2, Figure 3). Both active and reserve component members were more likely to report exposure concerns three to six months after, compared to the time of return from deployment (Figure 3).

At the time of return from deployment, soldiers serving in the active component were the most likely of all deployers to receive mental health referrals; however, three to six months after returning, active component soldiers were less likely than Army Reservists 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 postdeployment assessments and reassessments (Figure 3).

Table 1. Deployment-related health assessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2010-December 2010

	Pre-deployment assessment DD2795		Post-deployment assessment DD2796		Post-deployment reassessment DD2900	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	404,139	100	415,727	100	323,233	100
2010						
January	55,710	13.8	34,271	8.2	25,861	8.0
February	31,509	7.8	27,794	6.7	27,118	8.4
March	32,687	8.1	44,826	10.8	35,970	11.1
April	32,352	8.0	33,616	8.1	24,985	7.7
May	38,444	9.5	35,461	8.5	22,840	7.1
June	31,245	7.7	45,383	10.9	24,754	7.7
July	30,435	7.5	46,897	11.3	23,030	7.1
August	38,136	9.4	37,366	9.0	31,615	9.8
September	33,109	8.2	27,729	6.7	28,009	8.7
October	27,348	6.8	27,549	6.6	26,722	8.3
November	23,364	5.8	28,490	6.9	29,238	9.0
December	29,800	7.4	26,345	6.3	23,091	7.1

Figure 2. Proportion of deployment health assessment forms with self-assessed health status as “fair” or “poor”, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2010-December 2010

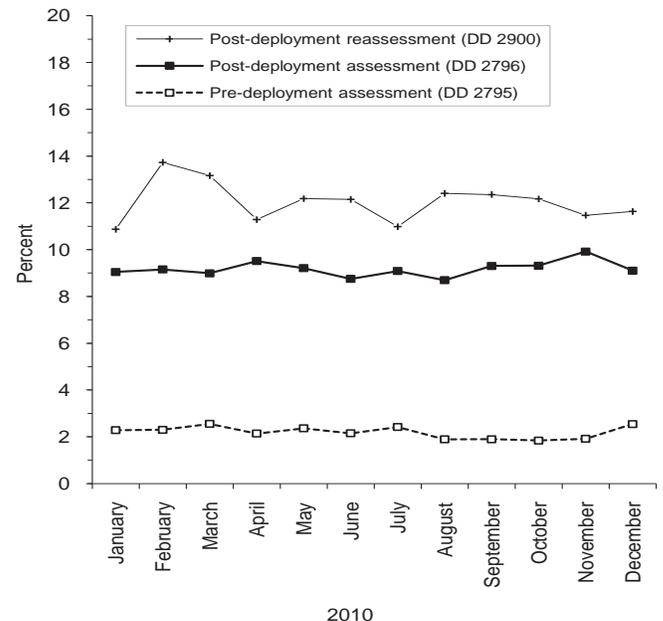


Figure 1. Total deployment health assessment and reassessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003-December 2010

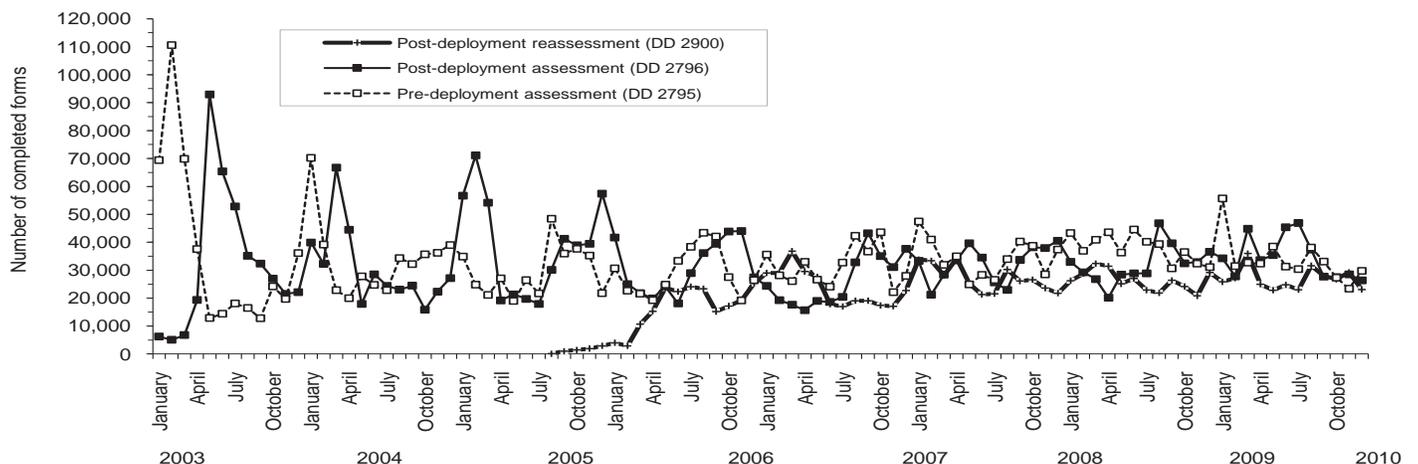


Table 2. Percentage of service members who endorsed selected questions/received referrals on health assessment forms, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2010-December 2010

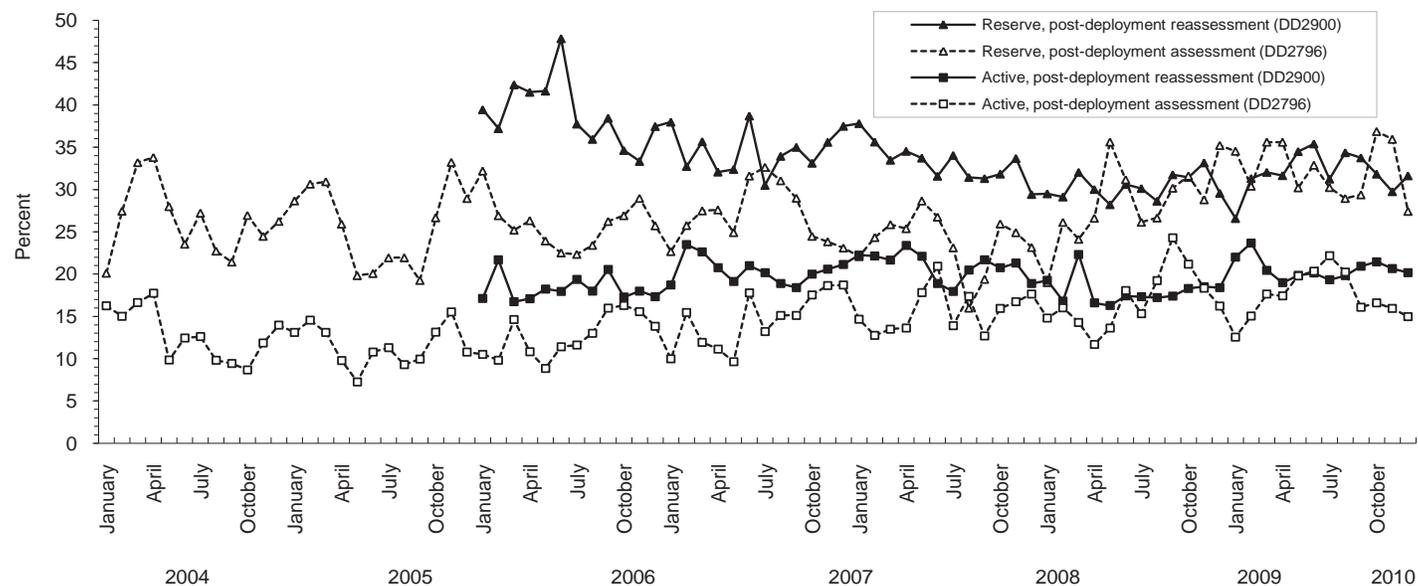
Active component	Army			Navy			Air Force			Marine Corps			All service members		
	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassess DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassess DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassess DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassess DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassess DD2900
	n=	n=	n=	n=	n=	n=									
	145,415	135,815	128,316	17,582	16,329	14,045	58,774	52,717	50,980	31,416	30,060	31,384	253,187	234,921	224,725
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
General health "fair" or "poor"	3.7	9.7	14.2	1.1	4.6	5.7	0.4	3.3	4.2	1.4	7.7	10.4	2.5	7.7	10.9
Health concerns, not wound or injury	12.9	26.6	25.7	3.0	11.9	15.0	1.3	5.5	10.9	2.4	12.0	18.9	8.2	18.9	20.7
Health worse now than before deployed	na	21.5	24.0	na	11.8	13.6	na	8.4	8.7	na	17.4	20.2	na	17.4	19.3
Exposure concerns	na	20.7	21.9	na	19.7	22.0	na	10.0	14.3	na	15.0	25.3	na	17.5	20.7
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	na	9.2	11.3	na	5.9	8.3	na	2.6	2.9	na	8.0	10.6	na	7.4	9.1
Depression symptoms (any)	na	30.4	32.8	na	22.5	25.1	na	13.1	13.7	na	26.3	31.5	na	25.4	27.8
Referral indicated by provider (any)	5.2	34.1	29.8	3.4	21.9	18.4	2.1	12.5	7.2	2.3	21.2	30.9	4.0	26.8	24.1
Mental health referral indicated ^a	1.4	7.2	16.9	0.5	3.0	5.9	0.5	1.6	2.2	0.2	2.3	6.1	1.0	5.0	11.4
Medical visit following referral ^b	99.3	99.7	98.3	89.1	90.0	93.6	86.4	95.9	97.5	52.4	78.3	93.9	93.1	96.8	97.2

Reserve component	Army			Navy			Air Force			Marine Corps			All service members		
	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassess DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassess DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassess DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassess DD2900	Pre-deploy DD2795	Post-deploy DD2796	Reassess DD2900
	n=	n=	n=	n=	n=	n=									
	66,228	80,057	68,191	4,775	4,904	5,169	16,266	14,659	15,120	1,961	2,853	6,176	89,230	102,473	94,656
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
General health "fair" or "poor"	1.0	11.8	16.6	0.5	10.2	10.5	0.3	5.1	5.5	0.9	8.3	10.4	0.9	10.7	14.1
Health concerns, not wound or injury	15.9	35.5	43.0	1.4	33.7	31.7	0.7	9.6	15.7	2.0	23.6	35.7	12.1	31.4	37.5
Health worse now than before deployed	na	26.4	31.7	na	20.6	20.8	na	13.3	11.4	na	24.0	25.5	na	24.2	27.4
Exposure concerns	na	33.9	34.3	na	47.3	35.8	na	17.7	21.6	na	16.2	31.8	na	31.7	32.2
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	na	9.5	18.4	na	5.8	12.8	na	2.9	3.3	na	6.8	13.4	na	8.3	15.3
Depression symptoms (any)	na	30.7	34.0	na	25.9	25.5	na	15.3	14.2	na	32.0	27.7	na	28.3	30.0
Referral indicated by provider (any)	3.6	38.1	39.4	3.5	30.8	25.3	0.4	16.7	9.7	2.7	34.6	35.1	3.0	34.6	33.6
Mental health referral indicated ^a	0.4	5.2	14.7	0.2	2.8	7.8	0.1	1.0	1.8	0.2	2.8	11.6	0.3	4.4	12.0
Medical visit following referral ^b	87.7	99.0	40.0	95.9	97.0	47.8	70.2	69.9	50.9	73.9	79.3	40.1	87.6	96.5	40.8

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

^bRecord 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 2004-December 2010



Data Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System