

# Deployment Health Assessments

**U.S. Armed Forces**

**August 2012**

(Data through July 2012)

Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center

# Update: Deployment Health Assessments, U.S. Armed Forces, August 2012

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 July 2012, the number of post-deployment reassessment (PDHRA) forms per month ranged from 15,309 to 36,845 (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 10-13% on PDHRA questionnaires (Figure 2).

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). In general, 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 (Table 2).

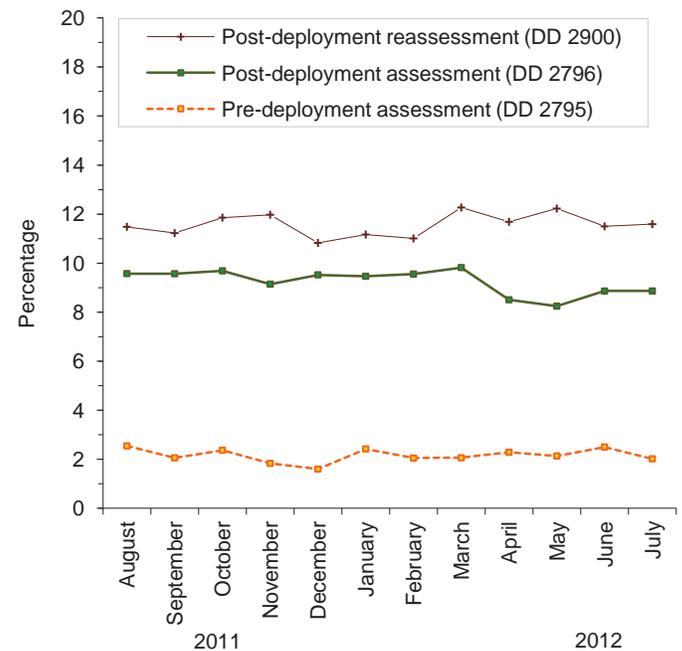
At the time of return from deployment, soldiers serving in the active component of the Army were the most likely of all deployers to receive mental health referrals; three to six months after returning, reservists in the Army and Marine Corps were more likely than their active component counterparts 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 and reassessments (Figure 3).

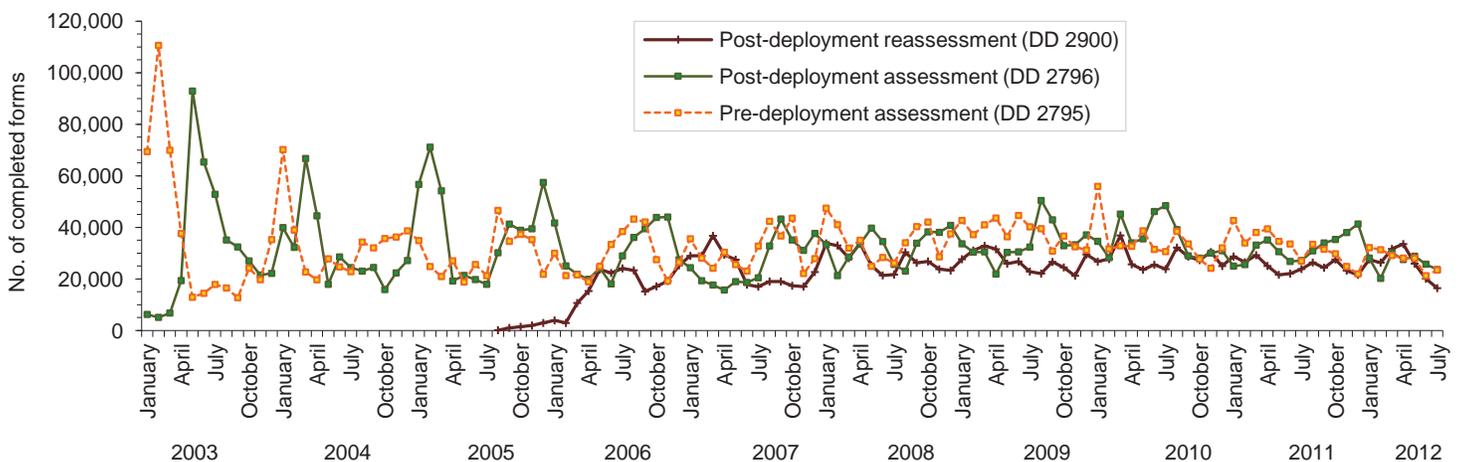
**Table 1.** Deployment-related health assessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, August 2011-July 2012

	Pre-deployment assessment DD2795		Post-deployment assessment DD2796		Post-deployment reassessment DD2900	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Total</b>	334,826	100	363,553	100	304,588	100
<b>2011</b>						
August	33,422	10.0	30,893	8.5	26,362	8.7
September	31,506	9.4	33,951	9.3	24,357	8.0
October	29,762	8.9	35,312	9.7	27,554	9.0
November	24,809	7.4	38,002	10.5	23,235	7.6
December	21,957	6.6	41,318	11.4	21,616	7.1
<b>2012</b>						
January	32,154	9.6	28,076	7.7	27,549	9.0
February	31,321	9.4	20,220	5.6	26,321	8.6
March	29,102	8.7	30,094	8.3	31,668	10.4
April	28,081	8.4	27,526	7.6	33,522	11.0
May	28,002	8.4	28,805	7.9	25,940	8.5
June	21,266	6.4	25,717	7.1	20,045	6.6
July	23,444	7.0	23,639	6.5	16,419	5.4

**Figure 2.** Proportion of deployment health assessment forms with self-assessed health status as “fair” or “poor,” U.S. Armed Forces, August 2011-July 2012



**Figure 1.** Total deployment health assessment and reassessment forms, by month, U.S. Armed Forces, January 2003-July 2012



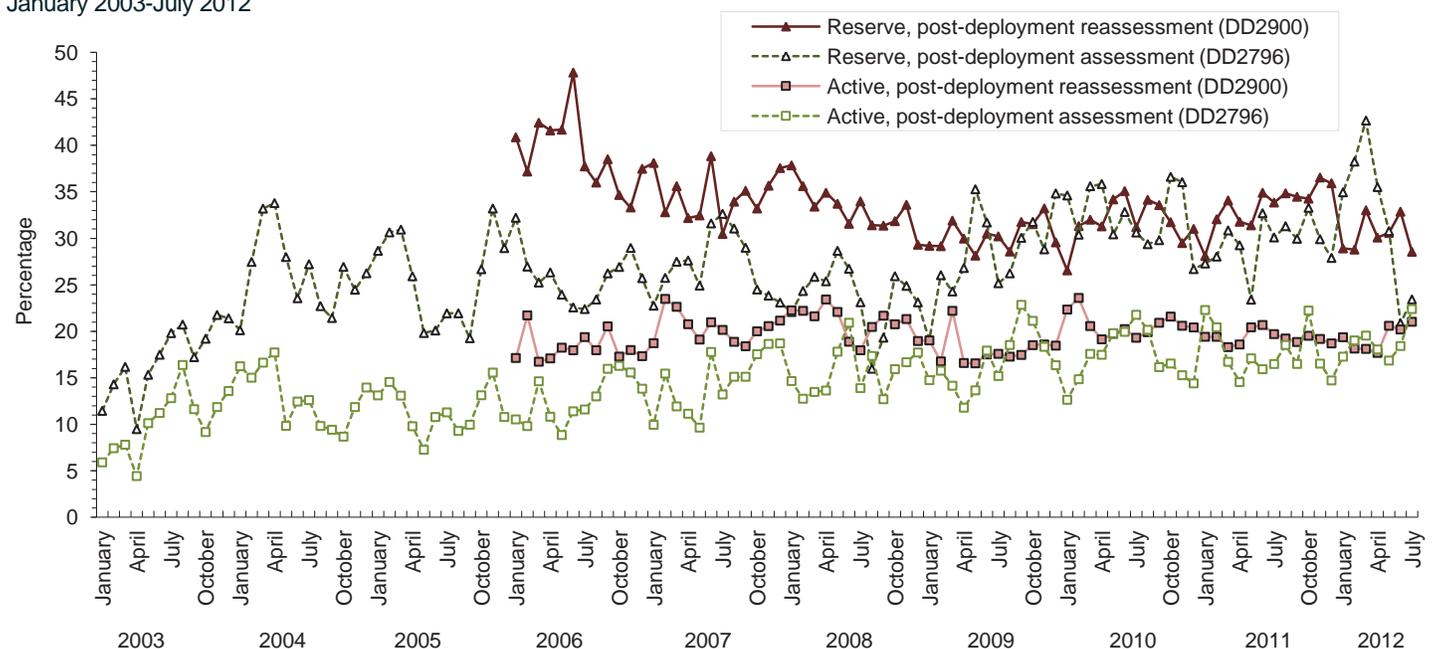
Data Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System

**Table 2.** Percentage of service members who endorsed selected questions/received referrals on health assessment forms, U.S. Armed Forces, August 2011-July 2012

	Army			Navy			Air Force			Marine Corps			All service members		
	Pre-deploy DD2795 n= %	Post-deploy DD2796 n= %	Reassessmt DD2900 n= %	Pre-deploy DD2795 n= %	Post-deploy DD2796 n= %	Reassessmt DD2900 n= %	Pre-deploy DD2795 n= %	Post-deploy DD2796 n= %	Reassessmt DD2900 n= %	Pre-deploy DD2795 n= %	Post-deploy DD2796 n= %	Reassessmt DD2900 n= %	Pre-deploy DD2795 n= %	Post-deploy DD2796 n= %	Reassessmt DD2900 n= %
Active component	118,550	122,154	127,581	13,357	14,588	18,828	50,104	51,430	44,027	32,316	39,592	36,068	214,327	227,764	226,504
General health "fair" or "poor"	3.8	10.8	14.3	1.1	4.5	6.0	0.6	3.3	3.9	1.4	7.4	10.2	2.5	8.1	10.9
Health concerns, not wound or injury	16.3	26.3	24.8	3.0	14.9	15.0	2.5	7.5	11.4	2.8	14.3	20.3	10.2	19.2	20.7
Health worse now than before deployed	0.0	23.4	27.0	0.0	11.9	13.5	0.0	8.8	8.9	0.0	17.1	20.8	0.0	18.3	21.3
Exposure concerns	0.0	18.2	17.0	0.0	16.4	23.6	0.0	19.1	15.1	0.0	16.4	29.2	0.0	18.0	19.1
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	0.0	12.1	14.0	0.0	6.3	8.9	0.0	2.7	3.1	0.0	6.9	11.9	0.0	8.7	11.1
Depression symptoms (any)	0.0	29.4	31.5	0.0	20.6	27.5	0.0	11.5	12.8	0.0	26.9	32.2	0.0	24.4	27.7
Referral indicated by provider (any)	5.1	39.4	24.9	2.9	23.3	17.7	2.0	18.8	9.3	2.6	25.0	22.0	3.9	31.2	20.8
Mental health referral indicated <sup>a</sup>	1.8	10.3	8.9	0.5	3.2	5.7	0.4	2.3	3.0	0.3	2.6	7.0	1.2	6.7	7.2
Medical visit following referral <sup>b</sup>	99.5	99.8	98.9	89.3	94.3	91.7	98.7	98.7	99.7	61.2	87.4	90.4	94.7	97.8	97.0
Reserve component	46,295	55,727	51,905	3,576	3,665	5,879	15,538	13,478	12,167	1,689	3,785	3,619	67,098	76,655	73,570
General health "fair" or "poor"	0.8	11.6	15.3	0.2	6.5	9.6	0.3	5.3	5.5	0.8	13.4	14.1	0.7	10.3	13.1
Health concerns, not wound or injury	10.9	33.8	41.4	1.2	36.9	35.0	0.7	9.8	17.8	2.8	28.5	44.5	7.8	29.5	37.1
Health worse now than before deployed	0.0	26.3	31.1	0.0	19.3	23.2	0.0	13.8	12.5	0.0	31.4	32.7	0.0	24.1	27.5
Exposure concerns	0.0	32.9	33.7	0.0	36.9	38.6	0.0	25.9	21.8	0.0	32.9	37.8	0.0	31.9	32.3
PTSD symptoms (2 or more)	0.0	10.2	18.0	0.0	6.9	13.6	0.0	2.9	3.6	0.0	10.6	21.3	0.0	8.8	15.4
Depression symptoms (any)	0.0	27.7	32.8	0.0	23.0	32.0	0.0	13.1	14.9	0.0	34.6	39.4	0.0	25.3	30.1
Referral indicated by provider (any)	3.7	44.1	51.4	1.9	40.9	33.7	0.8	24.6	14.2	2.0	35.4	45.1	2.9	40.1	43.5
Mental health referral indicated <sup>a</sup>	0.5	6.7	21.4	0.2	4.6	14.0	0.1	1.8	3.9	0.3	4.3	21.6	0.4	5.6	17.9
Medical visit following referral <sup>b</sup>	79.2	98.2	43.6	100.0	95.6	45.5	55.2	67.2	55.2	87.5	90.8	41.7	78.1	94.7	44.3

<sup>a</sup>Includes behavioral health, combat stress and substance abuse referrals.  
<sup>b</sup>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-July 2012



Data Source: Defense Medical Surveillance System