

## SUICIDE

### Background

This case definition was developed by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) for the purpose of epidemiological surveillance of a condition important to military-associated populations.

### Clinical Description

Suicide is “self-inflicted death with evidence (either explicit or implicit) of intent to die.”<sup>1</sup>

#### Case Definition and Incidence Rules

For surveillance purposes, a case of suicide is defined as:

- An individual whose manner of death is categorized as ‘Suicide’ in the Casualty Table provided to the AFHSC by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner (AFME). (See *Comments* section).
- Case definition includes *completed suicides only*.

#### Incidence rules:

- None.

#### Exclusions:

- None.

### Codes

The following ICD-9 codes are included in the case definition:

Condition	ICD-9-CM codes	CPT Codes
Suicide	NA	NA

### Development and Revisions

This case definition was determined by a consensus to adopt AFME’s case definition at the AFHSC’s Surveillance Methods and Standards (SMS) meeting in March 2010.

<sup>1</sup> OTSG/MEDCOM Policy Memo 09-032



**Reports**

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None

**Review**

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Mar 2010 Case definition reviewed and adopted by the AFHSC Surveillance Methods and Standards (SMS) working group.

**Comments**

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- Case definition does *not* include incomplete suicide attempts.
- The AFME provides data on suicides in the form of a casualty table, which categorizes DoD active duty casualties by manner of death. Categories for manner of death include: accident, combat, homicide, natural, suicide, terrorist activity, pending and undetermined.
- The DoD Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) is the official source for DoD suicide events. The DoDSER is a surveillance program that standardizes suicide event reporting across the Services (OSD Memo from Dr. Clark).
- The AFSHC is *not* the official source of DoD suicide numbers.

