

Department of Defense (DoD) Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR) 1st Quarter, CY 2024

**Dr. Liz Clark, Director,
Defense Suicide Prevention Office
(DSPO)**

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$6,770 for the 2024 Fiscal Year. This includes \$3,940 in expenses and \$2,830 in DoD labor.



**DEFENSE SUICIDE
PREVENTION OFFICE**

Introduction

The Department of Defense (DoD) is fully committed to preventing suicides in our military community.

The number of suicide deaths in the current report are subject to change, as previously unknown cases are reported and some known cases are further investigated. The DoD continues to investigate individual cases to make informed determinations, and conduct the necessary statistical analyses to understand trends over time. At this time, it is too early to determine whether suicide rates will increase or decrease for Calendar Year 2024.

To help determine the impact of suicide on the Total Force, the Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) routinely collects and reports surveillance data on suicide mortality across the Department. The most up-to-date counts of suicide deaths are reported in the Quarterly Suicide Report (QSR).¹ The QSR complies with Objective 11.1 of the DoD Defense Strategy for Suicide Prevention (DSSP) by providing timely and accurate suicide data to guide suicide prevention efforts across the Department.

DSPO collects suicide data via collaborative effort with the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) and the Suicide Prevention Program Offices of the Military Services (i.e., Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force)². AFMES is the official DoD entity responsible for verifying and reporting deaths by suicide for the Active Component and, to the extent available, the Reserve Component, to DSPO.^{3,4} These numbers are reconciled with the Military Services to ensure the most accurate information is reported.

Quarters are based upon the Calendar Year (CY) and defined as:

- Quarter 1 (Q1): January 1st – March 31st
- Quarter 2 (Q2): April 1st – June 30th
- Quarter 3 (Q3): July 1st – September 30th
- Quarter 4 (Q4): October 1st – December 31st

The current report presents data from Q1 of CY 2024. Data includes all known or suspected suicides (both confirmed and pending) as of April 15, 2024, for both the Active and Reserve Components. Hence, the numbers presented in this report are subject to change as previously unknown suicide cases are reported and some known cases are further investigated.⁵

Caution should be used when making comparisons across groups and/or interpreting changes in suicide counts across time because counts do not account for changes in population size. Rates account for differences in population sizes; and, as such, provide a more standardized way to

¹ Absolute counts do not account for changes in population size. Consequently, caution should be used when making comparisons across groups and/or interpreting changes in suicide counts across time.

² The QSR does not include suicide data from the United States Coast Guard as they fall under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Homeland Security when not operating as a service in the Department of the Navy.

³ Active Component: Full-time members of the U.S. Armed Forces and Cadets/Midshipmen at the designated military academies.

⁴ Reserve Component: Limited to members of the Selected Reserves (SELRES). SELRES are drilling and training members of the National Guard and Reserve, Individual Mobilization Augmentees, and full-time support Active Guard and Reservists. This excludes members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Inactive National Guard (ING).

⁵ Official annual suicide counts and unadjusted rates are published in the DoD Annual Report on Suicide in the Military. The most recent report is for CY 2022. Available at: <https://www.dspo.mil/Annual-Reports/>.

make comparisons over time or across groups.⁶ For the most recent DoD annual suicide rates and trends/changes over time, please see the DoD Annual Report on Suicide in the Military CY 2022 (<https://www.dspo.mil/Annual-Reports/>). The official annual suicide counts and rates for CY 2024 are not available at this time.

QSR Data

Attachment A details the number of suicide deaths by Service and component. For Q1 of CY 2024, the Military Services reported the following deaths suspected or confirmed to be suicides:

- 94 in the **Active Component**
- 24 in the **Reserve**
- 21 in the **National Guard**

Comparisons of suicide counts between Q1 CY 2023 and Q1 CY 2024 are provided below.⁷ These comparisons are for descriptive purposes and do not reflect statistical increases or decreases nor account for population size.

- For Q1 CY 2024, the number of **Active Component** suicide deaths increased by 3 compared to Q1 CY 2023 (94 versus 91 suicide deaths)
 - Army Active Component suicide deaths decreased by 9
 - Marine Corps Active Component suicide deaths stayed the same
 - Navy Active Component suicide deaths increased by 7
 - Air Force Active Component suicide deaths increased by 4
 - Space Force Active Component suicide deaths increased by 1
- For Q1 CY 2024, the number of **Reserve** suicide deaths increased by 6 compared to Q1 CY 2023 (24 versus 18 suicide deaths)
 - Army Reserve suicide deaths increased by 6
 - Marine Corps Reserve suicide deaths decreased by 1
 - Navy Reserve suicide deaths stayed the same
 - Air Force Reserve suicide deaths increased by 1
- For Q1 CY 2024, the number of **National Guard** suicide deaths decreased by 5 compared to Q1 CY 2023 (21 versus 26 suicide deaths)
 - Army National Guard suicide deaths stayed the same
 - Air National Guard suicide deaths decreased by 5

⁶ Rates are defined as the total number of suicides divided by the population for a given time period.

⁷ Research on the seasonal effects of suicide death has shown mixed results (e.g., Gutzwiller, 2011; McCleary, 1994; Postalache, 2012; Rossler, 2010).

Attachment A

| DoD Component and Service | CY 2016 | CY 2017 | CY 2018 | | | | | CY 2019 | | | | | CY 2020 | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Total | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
| Active Component | 280 | 287 | 81 | 78 | 78 | 89 | 326 | 92 | 71 | 84 | 101 | 348 | 89 | 80 | 113 | 101 | 383 |
| Army | 130 | 116 | 36 | 31 | 40 | 34 | 141 | 31 | 37 | 34 | 43 | 145 | 37 | 41 | 52 | 44 | 174 |
| Marine Corps | 37 | 43 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 57 | 14 | 6 | 11 | 16 | 47 | 14 | 10 | 20 | 19 | 63 |
| Navy | 52 | 65 | 23 | 15 | 11 | 19 | 68 | 22 | 13 | 19 | 19 | 73 | 19 | 11 | 20 | 15 | 65 |
| Air Force | 61 | 63 | 9 | 19 | 12 | 20 | 60 | 25 | 15 | 20 | 23 | 83 | 19 | 18 | 21 | 23 | 81 |
| Space Force | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Reserve Component | 202 | 225 | 49 | 44 | 62 | 62 | 217 | 45 | 43 | 42 | 26 | 156 | 45 | 49 | 44 | 60 | 198 |
| Reserve | 80 | 93 | 22 | 16 | 19 | 24 | 81 | 21 | 16 | 17 | 12 | 66 | 20 | 25 | 13 | 19 | 77 |
| Army Reserve | 41 | 63 | 15 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 48 | 10 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 37 | 9 | 16 | 7 | 10 | 42 |
| Marine Corps Reserve | 19 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 19 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 |
| Navy Reserve | 10 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 13 |
| Air Force Reserve | 10 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| National Guard | 122 | 132 | 27 | 28 | 43 | 38 | 136 | 24 | 27 | 25 | 14 | 90 | 25 | 24 | 31 | 41 | 121 |
| Army National Guard | 108 | 121 | 24 | 26 | 36 | 33 | 119 | 19 | 24 | 22 | 11 | 76 | 22 | 18 | 29 | 36 | 105 |
| Air National Guard | 14 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 17 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 16 |

| DoD Component and Service | CY 2021 | | | | | CY 2022 | | | | | CY 2023 | | | | | CY 2024 | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total | Q1 | Total |
| Active Component | 76 | 97 | 70 | 85 | 328 | 75 | 87 | 91 | 79 | 332 | 91 | 89 | 83 | 100 | 363 | 94 | 94 |
| Army | 44 | 57 | 31 | 43 | 175 | 37 | 33 | 37 | 28 | 135 | 48 | 32 | 35 | 43 | 158 | 39 | 39 |
| Marine Corps | 13 | 8 | 13 | 9 | 43 | 8 | 17 | 25 | 13 | 63 | 13 | 13 | 20 | 18 | 64 | 13 | 13 |
| Navy | 12 | 18 | 14 | 15 | 59 | 14 | 22 | 14 | 21 | 71 | 17 | 21 | 13 | 18 | 69 | 24 | 24 |
| Air Force | 7 | 14 | 12 | 18 | 51 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 63 | 13 | 21 | 15 | 21 | 70 | 17 | 17 |
| Space Force | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Reserve Component | 43 | 43 | 59 | 51 | 196 | 41 | 41 | 34 | 45 | 161 | 44 | 36 | 45 | 34 | 159 | 45 | 45 |
| Reserve | 15 | 15 | 22 | 24 | 76 | 18 | 18 | 15 | 13 | 64 | 18 | 14 | 14 | 21 | 67 | 24 | 24 |
| Army Reserve | 10 | 9 | 13 | 14 | 46 | 10 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 37 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 44 | 14 | 14 |
| Marine Corps Reserve | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 3 |
| Navy Reserve | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Air Force Reserve | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 3 |
| National Guard | 28 | 28 | 37 | 27 | 120 | 23 | 23 | 19 | 32 | 97 | 26 | 22 | 31 | 13 | 92 | 21 | 21 |
| Army National Guard | 26 | 23 | 34 | 22 | 105 | 22 | 18 | 16 | 27 | 83 | 19 | 21 | 26 | 12 | 78 | 19 | 19 |
| Air National Guard | 2 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 14 | 2 | 2 |

Note: All figures above may be subject to change in future publications as updated information becomes available. Suicide counts (both confirmed and pending) are **current as of April 15, 2024**.

Indicates a change from the previous QSR based on updated information.

Highlighted for descriptive purposes. Does not reflect statistical increases or decreases nor account for population size.