



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
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DoD SER

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUICIDE EVENT REPORT

CALENDAR YEAR 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2)

Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health & Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE)

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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

09-20-2011

Dear Military Leadership and Community Members:

The calendar year 2010 Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) contains a compilation of detailed statistical information gathered on suicide events among active duty Service members within the Department. The DoDSER program was launched in 2008 to refine the DoD's suicide surveillance system. The DoDSER program adapted the best practices from each of the Services' individual surveillance systems to develop a single standardized program across the DoD.

The DoDSER program is one of the primary methods used in the DoD to help characterize suicide behaviors that occur among military personnel. The DoDSER thoroughly assesses several areas of interest to suicide prevention efforts: physical and behavioral health histories, military history, circumstances at the time of the event (e.g., stressors and significant life events), and demographic data. This report was developed to support a wide range of possible needs with the ultimate goal of preventing suicides among active duty service members. This annual report represents the combined efforts of the National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2), all the Services' suicide prevention programs, and the DoD's Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Committee (SPARRC).

Suicide prevention is a top priority in the Department. While suicide prevention is everyone's business, leaders at all levels play an especially important role in creating a command climate that encourages and supports help-seeking behaviors among the troops they lead. Collection and dissemination of these data is an important step in arming leaders, helping agencies, and providing the broader military community with valuable information that can guide programs and research and help refine ongoing efforts.

The 2010 Annual Report is available on two websites: 1) T2's website, www.t2health.org, and 2) the DoD's Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Committee (SPARRC) website, www.suicideoutreach.org. The DoDSER program undergoes regular efforts to continue to refine the system and we invite comments on improvements to this effort.

I strongly encourage you to read this document and use the information contained herein to enhance and improve your role in preventing suicide among members of the Armed Forces. Suicide is preventable and your efforts can and do make a difference!

Dr. Laura Juhn
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Readiness

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2) prepared this Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) annual report with contributions from many organizations and individuals. We are grateful to the Services' behavioral health providers and Command-designated appointees who collect and verify suicide event data and later complete DoDSERs. We also thank the Services' Suicide Prevention Program Managers (SPPMs) and DoDSER Program Managers who oversee the DoDSER data collection process to ensure data integrity and program compliance. In particular, Maj Michael McCarthy (Air Force SPPM), Dr. Amy Millikan (Manager, Behavioral and Social Health Outcomes Program), Mr. Walter Morales (Army SPPM), Mr. John Wills (Army DoDSER Program Manager), LCDR Andrew Martin (Marine Corps SPPM), Mr. Todd Shuttleworth (Marine Corps DoDSER Program Manager) and LCDR Bonnie Chavez (Navy SPPM) are integral to DoDSER program success. We are also indebted to Ms. Lynne Oetjen-Gerdes and CAPT Joyce Cantrell, M.D., MPH, of the Mortality Surveillance Division of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES). The AFMES assists the DoDSER program through the reporting of confirmed suicides, the provision of the demographic and suicide rate data presented in this report, and general support for the DoDSER program.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report of the Department of Defense (DoD) Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) program summarizes calendar year (CY) 2010 fatal and non-fatal suicide events reported and submitted by 1 April 2011. This report presents aggregated DoDSER data for the overall DoD and individually for the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps. Personally identifiable information has been redacted from this report.

Background

The DoDSER program is a collaborative effort among the National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2) and the Services' suicide prevention program offices. Beginning 1 January 2008, the DoDSER program has standardized suicide surveillance across the Services with the ultimate goal of facilitating the DoD's suicide prevention mission. When a death is ruled a suicide by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES), a designated professional in the respective Service reviews records, conducts interviews when appropriate, and responds to the DoDSER items via the secure web-based DoDSER application (<https://dodser.t2.health.mil>). As of 1 January 2010, all Services have been collecting data on both suicides and suicide attempts, with some Services collecting data on non-fatal self harm and suicidal ideation. The DoDSER items collect comprehensive information about the Service Member and the suicide event.

Results

The AFMES indicates that 295 Service Members died by suicide in 2010 (Air Force = 59, Army = 160, Marine Corps = 37, Navy = 39). This number includes deaths strongly suspected to be suicides but pending final determination.

Since inception of the DoDSER program, DoDSER data have increased in comprehensiveness and reliability. DoDSER Points of Contact (POCs) submitted reports for 100% of AFMES confirmed 2010 suicides as of 1 April 2011. This represents an improvement compared to calendar years 2009 (DoDSERs submitted for 97% of confirmed suicides) and 2008 (DoDSERs submitted for 90% of confirmed suicides). Further, the amount of missing data has steadily decreased since 2008.

Dispositional/Personal Factors

Demographic data and other individual characteristics of 2010 suicides were similar to those of 2009 and 2008. Data derived from the AFMES and DoDSERs provided the following information:

- As in 2009, Service Members who were Caucasian, under the age of 25, junior enlisted (E1-E4), or high school educated were at increased risk for suicide relative to their respective demographic comparison groups in crude rate comparisons.
- The suicide rate for divorced Service Members was 55% higher than the suicide rate for married Service Members
- The majority of suicides were completed by Regular component Service Members (91%). Regular

component Active Duty Service Members had a 70% higher risk of suicide than did Activated and Deployed Reservists and Guard.

- Female Service Members accounted for approximately one fourth of known suicide attempts in 2010.
- Compared to suicide decedents, a larger percentage of Service Members who attempted suicide were under the age of 25 (60% compared to 47%), junior enlisted (71% compared to 55%) and had more than a high school education (36% compared to 18%).

Suicide Event Details

- Service Members most frequently used firearms to die by suicide ($n = 175$, 62.28% for all firearms, $n = 136$, 48.40% for non-military issue firearms), or hanging ($n = 69$, 24.56%). Drug overdose was the most frequent method for suicide attempt ($n = 496$, 57.47%), followed by injury with a sharp or blunt object ($n = 122$, 14.14%).
- Drug and alcohol use was more frequent during non-fatal suicide events, with 536 suicide attempts (62.11%) involving drug use, and 287 (33.26%) involving alcohol use. Both drug and alcohol use were used during 187 (21.67%) suicide attempts. Known drug use was most frequently misuse of prescription medications.
- Most Service Members were not known to have communicated their potential for self-harm with others prior to suicide ($n = 185$, 65.84%) or attempted suicide ($n = 673$, 77.98%). Those who did disclose their potential for self-harm most often communicated with spouses, friends and other family members. These communications were most often verbal ($n = 59$, 21.00% of suicides; $n = 143$, 16.57% of attempted suicides), but an increased number of Service Members used text messages ($n = 15$, 5.34% of suicides; $n = 11$, 1.27% of attempted suicides) compared to prior years.

Contextual Factors

- Suicide decedents most frequently lived in homes or apartments outside of their assigned installations ($n = 121$, 43.06%) or in a shared living environment on their installations ($n = 93$, 33.10%). Similar data were reported for those who attempted suicide.
- Firearms were present in the home or immediate environment of 146 (51.96%) suicide decedents and 100 (11.59%) of those who attempted suicide.

Clinical Health Factors

- Prior self-injurious behavior was known for 38, (13.52%) suicides and 240 (27.81%) suicide attempts.
- The majority of Service Members who died by suicide ($n = 159$, 56.58%) did not have a known history of a behavioral health disorder. Mood disorders were reported for 48 decedents (17.08%), most frequently major depressive disorder ($n = 20$, 7.12%) and 42 decedents (14.95%) were known to have had an anxiety disorder, most frequently posttraumatic stress disorder ($n = 14$, 4.98%). Approximately one fourth of

Service Members who died by suicide had a known history of substance abuse ($n = 72$, 25.62%).

- The majority of DoDSERs for attempted suicide included a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder ($n = 550$, 63.73%). Mood disorders were reported in 336 suicide attempt DoDSERs (38.93%), most frequently major depressive disorder ($n = 153$, 17.73%). One fourth of DoDSERs for suicide attempts ($n = 225$, 26.07%) included Service Members' diagnoses of anxiety disorders, most frequently PTSD ($n = 70$, 8.19%). Nearly one fourth ($n = 202$, 23.41%) included a known history of substance abuse.
- Known use of psychotropic medication was more frequently reported in DoDSERs for suicide attempts ($n = 400$, 46.35%) than for suicides ($n = 68$, 24.20%).
- DoDSERs indicated that 63 decedents (22.42%) had received outpatient behavioral health services within the month prior to suicide. Treatment use in the month prior was more frequent among those who attempted suicide ($n = 381$, 44.15% of suicide attempt DoDSERs).

Historical/Developmental Factors

- Half of DoDSERs included a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship ($n = 140$, 49.82% of decedents; $n = 462$, 53.53% of suicide attempt DoDSERs), with many experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide ($n = 84$, 29.89% of decedents; $n = 283$, 32.79% of suicide attempt DoDSERs).
- The most frequent known legal issue was Article 15 proceedings/non-judicial punishment ($n = 60$, 21.35% of suicide DoDSERs; $n = 150$, 17.38% of suicide attempt DoDSERs), followed by civil legal problems.
- DoDSERs for suicide completions included more incidents of known abuse perpetration than did DoDSERs for suicide attempts, and DoDSERs for suicide attempts included more incidents of known abuse victimization than did suicide DoDSERs. Due to limitations in collecting comprehensive abuse data, interpretation of this data should be made with caution.
- DoDSERs included known history of job loss and instability (e.g., demotion) for 52 suicide completions (18.51%) and 275 suicide attempts (31.87%).

Deployment Factors

- The minority of suicides ($n = 30$, 10.68%) and attempted suicides ($n = 46$, 5.33%) occurred during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and Operation New Dawn (OND) deployments. There were 18 (6.40%) suicides in OEF locations and 12 (4.27%) in Iraq.
- Nearly half of suicide decedents had a history of OEF, OIF or OND deployment ($n = 129$, 45.91%), and 18 (6.41%) had a history of multiple deployments to Iraq or OEF locations. Suicide attempt DoDSERs included slightly fewer previous deployments than did suicide DoDSERs ($n = 352$, 40.79% included at least one OEF/OIF/OND deployment; $n = 40$, 4.63% included more than one deployment).
- Direct combat experience was reported for 30 suicide decedents (10.68%) and 120 suicide attempts

(13.90%).

Conclusion

The DoDSER program has improved the accuracy and comprehensiveness of DoD suicide surveillance data collection since its inception in 2008. This DoDSER annual report reflects generally consistent patterns of data across time. However, differences that may exist between Service Members with and without reported suicide events are currently unknown. Until comprehensive control data are available, it is not possible to determine statistically if a given DoDSER variable is a true risk factor for suicide. T2 is currently conducting a pilot study to examine a potential process to collect these control data.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Background

This report presents results from the Department of Defense (DoD) Suicide Event Reports (DoDSERs) collected for calendar year (CY) 2010 for all Active Duty Service Members and Activated Guard and Reserves. The DoDSER is a suicide surveillance program that has standardized data collection across the Services since 1 January 2008. Since 1 January 2010, all Services have collected DoDSERs for suicide attempts that resulted in hospitalization or evacuation. The Army also collects DoDSERs on other non-fatal suicide behaviors (see Method below).

This report provides summary statistics for 2010, with detailed tables presented for DoDSER items. Supplemental materials will be available on the National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2) website (<http://t2health.org>) after this report is released, including:

- CY 2009 and CY 2008 DoDSER Annual Reports
- Timeline data with relevant onset of stressors prior to suicide events (e.g., amount of time between specific legal issues or diagnoses and subsequent suicide events)
- Army and Marine Corps DoDSER data for fatal and non-fatal suicide events that occurred in theater during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND) deployments

Modifications in DoDSER 2010

The DoDSER items and process are improved annually through a collaboration of the Services and T2. One noteworthy change in 2010 is that all Services began collecting DoDSERs for suicide attempts. In addition, the revised 2010 DoDSER includes data on diagnoses of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and assignment in Warrior Transition Units (WTUs).

Method

DoDSER Items

DoDSER items were developed to provide a comprehensive set of information from a variety of sources to facilitate suicide prevention efforts and enable comprehensive surveillance across the DoD. Development of the current DoDSER content evolved from structured reviews of the Services' historical surveillance items, workgroup deliberations with representation from all Services (including the Suicide Prevention Program Managers; SPPMs), and a systematic review of the literature. Feedback from the Services' historical efforts to develop the best possible content informed the development process. Feedback on content from nationally recognized civilian and military experts was also integrated. In addition, suggestions from senior leaders and

other stakeholders were provided by some workgroup members. The complete DoDSER 2010 webform can be found online at <http://t2health.org>.

Variables are organized into categories for a theory-based, meaningful presentation. Although alternative approaches were available and considered, a relevant model successfully implemented in the violence risk assessment literature [1] was selected. Categories are organized as follows:

- Dispositional or personal factors (e.g., demographics, details about the suicide event)
- Historical or developmental factors (e.g., family history, prior suicide behaviors, life events)
- Contextual factors (e.g., access to firearms, place of residence, duty status)
- Clinical health factors (e.g., posttraumatic stress disorder, other behavioral health disorders or symptoms)

These categories were combined with a section on deployment history and a comprehensive set of questions related to the event to form the current DoDSER.

DoDSER items are updated once a year on 1 January. T2 leads a series of meetings with all the Services' SPPMs and DoDSER Program Managers. Feedback received during the prior year, and any implications from the evolving scientific literature, are reviewed by the workgroup. All Service representatives concur with all item changes, unless the change relates only to a Service-specific need, in which case it is integrated into the Service's unique items.

Data Collection Process

The DoDSER is completed using a webform that is available via the Internet and submitted via a secure website. The descriptive DoDSER data presented here were compiled as they were completed and submitted by DoDSER respondents across the DoD. Personally identifiable information has been redacted from this report.

DoDSER data included in this report are for suicide events that occurred in CY 2010, that are reported and submitted by 1 April 2011. This date was selected with an acknowledgement that there is a tension between the competing values of timely reporting and complete data collection. We have considered extending the final reporting date in order to obtain additional DoDSERs, as it may take as long as one year to confirm suicide as the cause of death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) addressed this issue by using longer timeframes for reporting (approximately two years) [1]. However, the DoD represents a much smaller population, and the vast majority of DoD suicides are determined by 1 April of the following year. The 1 April date was established to maintain consistency with guidance provided by the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) which requires 90 days between the end of the calendar year and calculation of calendar year suicide data [2].

Where available, this report provides percentages for 2009 and 2008 DoDSER data for comparison. Specific counts for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

DoDSERs are required for all Active component and Activated Guard and Reserve suicides in the DoD. Some Services exceed this minimum requirement (e.g., collect DoDSERs on Selected Reservists (SELRES) not on Active Duty). In addition, consistent with requirements for standardized DoD suicide rate calculation [3], DoDSERs are submitted for deaths when a Service's SPPM strongly suspects suicide but the case is still awaiting final determination by the AFMES. This is intended to provide leaders and others working to prevent suicide with the most up-to-date information possible. The risk of overestimation is low; variation between final confirmed and suspected suicides is generally one or two cases per year, DoD-wide.

DoDSERs are also submitted for selected suicide-related behaviors, including suicide attempts, deliberate self-harm and suicidal ideation. In 2009, the Army was the only Service required to collect this data for the entire year, although all Services implemented a similar methodology for suicide attempts by 1 January 2010. Therefore, this 2010 report includes data on suicides and suicide attempts for the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy. For the Army, this report additionally includes DoDSERs for other non-fatal self-harm and suicidal ideation.

DoDSERs are submitted by behavioral health providers (psychologists, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses or social workers), health care providers or command-appointed representative. Technicians may submit DoDSERs under the supervision of one of these professionals.

DoDSER responses are derived from a review of all relevant records. In addition, interviews are conducted in some cases. Following a suicide, respondents review medical and behavioral health records, personnel records, investigative agency records, and records related to the manner of death. Information is also often collected from co-workers, the responsible investigative agency officer, and other professionals or family members (for some Services). For non-fatal suicide behaviors, DoDSER respondents frequently conduct interviews with Service Members to collect some of the required information.

The process for identifying suicides and obtaining DoDSERs is similar across all Services. SPPMs coordinate closely with the AFMES at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) to maintain an official list of suicides. In the Army, a DoDSER point of contact (POC) and Command POC at each medical treatment facility are notified when a Service Member's death is confirmed as a suicide and are requested to complete a DoDSER within 60 days. In the Air Force, the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) is the primary data collection agency. In the Navy and Marine Corps, the SPPMs' office contacts the local Command and requests an appropriate POC to meet the requirement within 15 working days.

Data Quality Control Procedures

Four primary quality control procedures are followed. First, the data submission website minimizes the possibility of data entry errors. The software uses form field validation to request user clarification when data are not logically possible (e.g., impossible dates). Radio buttons and checkboxes are used to reduce the chances of data entry errors.

Second, data submission requires a DoDSER account in which a user's identity is confirmed with a microchip-containing military identification known as a common access card (CAC). The CAC contains basic information about the owner and is associated with a personal identification number required for login. Therefore, "false" submissions have not occurred. However, suicide events and non-fatal suicide behaviors can be inadvertently

misclassified by respondents in the DoDSER system. For example, the manner of death can be ambiguous in some cases, and a well-intentioned DoDSER respondent can misclassify an event. Therefore, DoDSER submissions are confirmed against the official list of DoD suicides provided by AFMES.

Third, DoDSERs are analyzed for incorrect data entry. In rare instances, individuals make data entry mistakes (such as transposing years) and these are corrected when identified. A conservative approach is taken to correct suspected errors such that only clear mistakes are corrected.

Fourth, all DoDSERs are reviewed to ensure that two or more DoDSERs were not submitted for the same event. Potential duplicates are automatically flagged for the Service's DoDSER Program Manager to determine which submission represents the most complete data, and this DoDSER is used in analyses.

DoDSER Submission Compliance

DoDSER submission compliance rates are calculated for each Service. In the DoD, DoDSERs for suicides are due within 60 days of notification that a death has been confirmed as a suicide by the AFMES [2] (although some individual Service-level policies require submission sooner than 60 days). Therefore, the number of DoDSER submissions for each Service in this 2010 report was compared to the number of suicides confirmed by AFMES as of 31 January 2011 (60 days prior to the 1 April cut-off date for analysis). As such, DoDSERs that were not yet overdue at the time of the analysis were not counted as being out of compliance.

Demographic Risk Factors

DoDSER POCs collect data on a variety of demographic variables. However, because DoDSERs are not available for 100% of individuals, demographic data are obtained from the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) with assistance from the AFMES. This provides the opportunity to analyze demographic variables as suicide risk factors with the use of DMDC population data. The demographic categories presented in this report are those provided by DMDC.

Procedures for calculating rates follow standard DoD reporting procedures [3]. DMDC rates are based on September quarter-end strength reports from DMDC and are obtained by the Mortality Surveillance Division of the AFMES. Race data in the DMDC report is obtained from a self-report source. This report reflects the most current data available at the time of writing, but some data are subject to variation over time due to updates from the various sources used to populate the database. In most cases, DMDC data are used in this report for demographic analyses. In a few analyses where DMDC data are not available (e.g., non-fatal suicide-related behaviors in the Army Chapter), DoDSER demographic data are used. Suicide rates based on fewer than 20 individuals may be unstable and are therefore suppressed. Suicide rate ratios (RR), based on population rates provided by DMDC data, are calculated to compare groups based on demographic characteristics.

Interpretive Considerations

This report provides a broad presentation of DoDSER items to support a wide variety of possible needs. Given the very large number of possible combinations and the fact that we do not approach the data with *a priori* hypotheses, we do not currently compute statistical analyses to compare years. The probability of

finding statistically significant results by chance, even when no real difference exists, would be high. Adequate data are presented in most cases to permit readers to conduct such analyses, if of interest. It is important to emphasize, however, that data analyses and descriptive information derived from small samples should always be interpreted with caution due to random error or potential outlier biases inherent in small samples.

DoDSER data are useful to help characterize the nature of suicide events. With a few exceptions (e.g., demographic characteristics), it is not possible to determine statistically whether a given DoDSER variable is a risk factor for suicide. To determine risk, additional data are required about the rate of the variable in the population. For example, it is not possible to determine if owning a firearm is a risk factor for suicide without examining the rate of owning a firearm in the overall military population. A pilot study to collect control DoDSER data is underway, and other efforts to improve the interpretive value of the DoDSER data are being pursued.

It is also important to note how the “don’t know” option that is provided for most DoDSER items can influence the interpretation of data. The information required to answer some DoDSER items may only be available for some respondents who benefited from detailed medical records or interviews with knowledgeable Service Members familiar with the decedent’s history. Therefore, “don’t know” responses are expected for some items. Percentages are often calculated based on the total number of responses, including “don’t know” responses. If one group has a higher “don’t know” response rate than comparison groups, it influences the way the data appear.

The objective and subjective nature of the item of interest should be taken into account when results are interpreted. Some DoDSER items are highly objective, whereas others are more subjective. Some results are therefore very reliable, while others reflect the best data available on a difficult to study topic that is provided by a respondent who is knowledgeable about the case. Reliability and validity of DoDSER items is not known at this time. Standardized coding guidance is available to respondents for many DoDSER items.

Future Directions

The DoDSER program continues to evolve, largely due to feedback received from leadership in the Services, SPPMs, and others (see Appendix D: FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS on page 242). In 2010, one of the 11 foundational recommendations of the DoD Task Force on Suicide Prevention was to, “Mature and expand the DoDSER to serve as the main surveillance method to inform future suicide prevention efforts” [4]. Specific feedback and recommendations contained in the DoD Task Force Report are being considered for future refinement to the DoDSER program at the time of this writing. Future revisions to the DoDSER program will be aimed at helping the Services’ Suicide Prevention Offices and Military Leadership better understand the factors underlying Military suicide while maintaining our ability to compare data across years.

CHAPTER 2: DoD-WIDE DoDSER RESULTS

DoDSERS SUBMITTED FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance

2010 Reported Suicides

Across all Services, 281 suicides were confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2010 (Table 2.1). The AFMES has accounted for an additional 14 pending suicides. Demographic tables include data for all 295 suicides. Other data for these 14 individuals are not included in this report, as described in Chapter 1. Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports (DoDSERs) were submitted and analyzed for all 281 confirmed suicides, for a submission compliance rate of 100%. The tables in this section include data for all 281 decedents. The tables also provide percentages for 2009 and 2008 DoDSER data for comparison. Specific suicide count data for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

TABLE 2.1. AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DoDSERS SUBMITTED

	2010	2009	2008
Total DoDSERs Included in Annual Report	281	291	235
Total AFMES Confirmed and Pending Suicides	295	309	268
AFMES Confirmed Suicides (By 31 January)	281	299	260
DoDSER Submission Compliance	100%	97%	90%

Data from 1/1/2008 through 12/31/2010 as of 4/1/2011

As summarized in Table 2.2, over one third of DoDSERs in 2010 had one or fewer missing or “Unknown” primary data points. Primary data points include any variables that are accessible using standard DoDSER methods (including accessing medical and military records). DoDSERs for 88 Service Members (31.32%) had five or more missing data points.

TABLE 2.2. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA

NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN	Count	2010	2009	2008
		Percent	Percent	Percent
0	66	23.49%	20.20%	16.46%
1	45	16.01%	13.80%	10.29%
2	35	12.46%	12.46%	15.23%
3	28	9.96%	13.13%	10.70%
4	19	6.76%	6.06%	6.58%
5 or More	88	31.32%	34.34%	40.74%

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have been associated with the suicide events. These factors include decedents' demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Tables 2.3 and 2.4 contain demographic data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) and the AFMES. Although the DoDSER system does collect demographic data, use of DMDC data permits the calculation of suicide rates using DoD population-level data (described in Chapter 1). In addition, DMDC demographic data were provided for 14 suicides pending AFMES confirmation, for whom DoDSERs were not required. Thus, demographic data were available for all suicide cases ($n=295$), whereas the rest of the report utilizes DoDSER data ($n=281$). Table 2.3 provides summary data for all DoD Active Duty and Activated or Deployed Reservist and Guard Service Members. Table 2.4 provides these data across Services.

Decedents were primarily male ($n = 281$, 95.37%), Caucasian ($n = 235$, 79.66%), under age 25 ($n = 140$, 47.46%), junior enlisted ($n = 161$, 54.58%), and Regular component ($n = 269$, 91.19%).

Many demographic subgroups did not contain enough individuals to calculate a stable rate, therefore some subgroups were combined to allow for comparison. Service Members under age 25 were 60% more likely to die by suicide than were older Service Members (RR = 1.60). The suicide rate for junior enlisted Service Members (E1 – E4) was 67% higher than for senior enlisted Service Members (E5 – E9) and officers (RR = 1.67). Service Members who had up to a high school education were more than twice as likely to die by suicide than were those who had a college or technical degree or above (RR = 2.39). The suicide rate for divorced Service Members was 55% higher than the suicide rate for married Service Members (RR = 1.55). Regular component Active Duty Service Members had a 70% higher risk of suicide than did Activated and Deployed Reservists and Guard (RR = 1.70).

TABLE 2.3. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR SUICIDES

		2010			2009			2008			
		Suicide		DoD Total %	Rate/ 100K	Count	Percent	Rate/ 100K	Count	Percent	
		Count	Percent								
TOTAL		295	100.00%	100.00%	17.52	309	100.00%	18.50	268	100.00%	16.1
GENDER	Male	281	95.37%	85.28%	19.57	300	97.09%	21.02	255	95.15%	18.2
	Female	14	4.63%	14.72%	*	9	2.91%	*	13	4.85%	*
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	6	2.03%	1.55%	*	10	3.24%	*	9	3.36%	*
	Asian or Pacific Islander	16	5.42%	4.11%	*	15	4.85%	*	11	4.10%	*
	Black/African American	36	12.20%	16.62%	12.86	33	10.68%	11.80	33	12.31%	11.9
	White/Caucasian	235	79.66%	70.49%	19.80	247	79.94%	20.82	204	76.12%	17.4
	Other/Don't Know	2	0.68%	7.23%	*	4	1.29%	*	11	4.10%	*
AGE RANGE	Under 25	140	47.46%	36.10%	23.03	143	46.28%	23.20	142	52.99%	20.10
	25-29	76	25.76%	23.44%	19.25	73	23.62%	19.05	38	14.18%	13.70
	30-34	30	10.17%	14.73%	12.09	43	13.92%	21.19			
	35-39	33	11.19%	11.85%	16.53	26	8.41%	12.62	53	19.78%	12.10
	40-44	14	4.75%	8.09%	*	15	4.85%	*			
	45+	2	0.68%	5.78%	*	10	3.24%	*	35	13.06%	15.7
RANK	Cadet	1	0.34%	0.85%	*	3	0.97%	*	1	0.37%	*
	E1-E4	161	54.58%	41.73%	22.91	168	54.37%	24.20	138	51.49%	20.1
	E5-E9	118	40.00%	40.86%	17.15	112	36.25%	16.26	102	38.06%	14.8
	Officer	15	5.08%	15.15%	*	22	7.12%	8.91	25	9.33%	10.2
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	1.42%	*	4	1.29%	*	2	0.75%	*
COMPONENT	Regular	269	91.19%	85.02%	17.52	285	92.23%	19.87	235	87.69%	16.9
	Reserve	9	3.05%	6.76%	*	8	2.59%	*	12	4.48%	*
	National Guard	17	5.76%	8.22%	*	16	5.18%	*	21	7.84%	*
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	2	0.68%	0.73%	*	2	0.65%	*	9	3.36%	*
	GED	26	8.81%	5.16%	29.91	44	14.24%	45.21	24	8.96%	24.1
	High school graduate	206	69.83%	61.87%	19.77	209	67.64%	20.01	170	63.43%	16.4
	Some college or technical school	15	5.08%	2.41%	*	16	5.18%	*	4	1.49%	*
	Degree/certificate less than four years	18	6.10%	8.64%	*	9	2.91%	*	25	9.33%	*

TABLE 2.3. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR SUICIDES (CONT.)

Four-year college degree	18	6.10%	10.22%	*	17	5.50%	*	20	7.46%	*	
Master's degree or greater	3	1.02%	8.12%	*	9	2.91%	*	16	5.97%	*	
Don't Know	7	2.37%	2.85%	*	3	0.97%	*	0	0.00%	*	
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	125	42.37%	39.09%	18.99	106	34.30%	16.20	100	37.31%	15.2
	Married	147	49.83%	55.83%	15.64	158	51.13%	16.94	144	53.73%	15.9
	Legally Separated	1	0.34%	0.08%	*	0	0.00%	*	0	0.00%	*
	Divorced	20	6.78%	4.91%	24.20	37	11.97%	49.61	21	7.84%	27.6
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.07%	*	1	0.32%	*	0	0.00%	*
	Don't Know	2	0.68%	0.02%	*	7	2.27%	*	3	1.12%	*

Note: Data include 14 suicides still pending determination by AFMES as of 1 MAR 2011. Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals. "DoD Total %" column reflects population-level DMDC data for all Active Duty and Activated or Deployed Reserves.

TABLE 2.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR SUICIDES BY SERVICE

		AIR FORCE			ARMY			MARINE CORPS			NAVY		
		Suicide Count	Suicide Percent	Service Total %	Rate/ 100K	Suicide Count	Suicide Percent	Service Total %	Rate/ 100K	Suicide Count	Suicide Percent	Service Total %	Rate/ 100K
TOTAL		59	100.00%	100.00%	15.51	160	100.00%	100.00%	21.72	37	100.00%	100.00%	17.21
GENDER	Male	57	96.61%	80.68%	18.57	151	94.38%	86.00%	23.84	36	97.30%	93.42%	17.92
	Female	2	3.39%	19.32%	*	9	5.63%	14.00%	*	1	2.70%	6.58%	*
RACE	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	1	1.69%	0.65%	*	4	2.50%	0.79%	*	0	0.00%	1.08%	*
	Asian/P.I.	1	1.69%	3.57%	*	11	6.88%	3.53%	*	2	5.41%	3.14%	*
	African American	8	13.56%	13.88%	*	20	12.50%	19.33%	14.05	3	8.11%	10.24%	*
	Caucasian	46	77.97%	73.38%	17.20	125	78.13%	70.95%	23.92	32	86.49%	78.48%	18.96
	Other/Don't Know	1	1.69%	8.52%	*	0	0.00%	5.40%	*	0	0.00%	7.05%	*
AGE RANGE	Under 25	20	33.90%	30.54%	23.03	76	47.50%	32.69%	31.56	22	59.46%	57.19%	17.89
	25-29	16	27.12%	23.89%	*	46	28.75%	23.71%	26.34	8	21.62%	21.46%	*
	30-34	5	8.47%	16.20%	*	17	10.63%	15.13%	*	5	13.51%	9.78%	*
	35-39	14	23.73%	13.18%	*	11	6.88%	12.31%	*	1	2.70%	6.63%	*
	40-44	3	5.08%	9.59%	*	10	6.25%	9.06%	*	0	0.00%	3.34%	*
	45+	1	1.69%	6.61%	*	0	0.00%	7.10%	*	1	2.70%	1.59%	*
										0	0.00%	4.69%	*

TABLE 2.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR SUICIDES BY SERVICE (CONT.)

RANK	Cadet	1	1.69%	1.25%	*	0	0.00%	0.65%	*	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0	0.00%	1.37%	*
	E1-E4	24	40.68%	32.60%	19.35	93	58.13%	42.95%	29.40	22	59.46%	58.93%	17.36	22	56.41%	38.52%	16.23
	E5-E9	31	52.54%	46.55%	17.51	61	38.13%	39.59%	20.92	12	32.43%	30.23%	*	14	35.90%	43.86%	*
	Officer	3	5.08%	19.60%	*	6	3.75%	14.09%	*	3	8.11%	9.84%	*	3	7.69%	15.77%	*
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0	0.00%	2.72%	*	0	0.00%	1.00%	*	0	0.00%	0.47%	*
COMPONENT	Regular	53	89.83%	87.91%	15.85	142	88.75%	76.94%	25.06	36	97.30%	94.23%	17.77	38	97.44%	93.18%	11.08
	Reserve	0	0.00%	3.94%	*	7	4.38%	8.48%	*	1	2.70%	5.77%	*	1	2.56%	6.82%	*
	National Guard	6	10.17%	8.15%	*	11	6.88%	14.58%	*	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0	0.00%	0.00%	*
EDUCATION	Some high school	0	0.00%	0.07%	*	2	1.25%	1.17%	*	0	0.00%	0.12%	*	0	0.00%	0.88%	*
	GED	0	0.00%	0.04%	*	21	13.13%	9.28%	30.74	1	2.70%	3.45%	*	4	10.26%	3.13%	*
	High school graduate	42	71.19%	53.53%	20.63	104	65.00%	57.35%	24.62	30	81.08%	82.18%	16.98	30	76.92%	67.93%	12.55
	Some college	6	10.17%	0.03%	*	7	4.38%	4.40%	*	1	2.70%	0.87%	*	1	2.56%	1.76%	*
	Degree < four years	5	8.47%	19.48%	*	11	6.88%	6.76%	*	1	2.70%	1.79%	*	1	2.56%	5.06%	*
	Four-year college degree	5	8.47%	12.67%	*	11	6.88%	10.32%	*	2	5.41%	8.72%	*	0	0.00%	8.27%	*
	Master's degree +	0	0.00%	12.46%	*	0	0.00%	8.47%	*	2	5.41%	2.44%	*	1	2.56%	6.18%	*
	Don't Know	1	1.69%	1.71%	*	4	2.50%	2.26%	*	0	0.00%	0.43%	*	2	5.13%	6.78%	*
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	18	30.51%	33.72%	*	67	41.88%	36.21%	25.12	18	48.65%	47.39%	*	22	56.41%	45.84%	13.64
	Married	34	57.63%	59.00%	15.15	81	50.63%	57.22%	19.22	17	45.95%	48.49%	*	15	38.46%	53.96%	*
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	0.01%	*	0	0.00%	0.14%	*	1	2.70%	0.16%	*	0	0.00%	0.00%	*
	Divorced	6	10.17%	7.18%	*	11	6.88%	6.30%	*	1	2.70%	3.92%	*	2	5.13%	0.16%	*
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.09%	*	0	0.00%	0.10%	*	0	0.00%	0.04%	*	0	0.00%	0.00%	*
	Don't Know	1	1.69%	0.00%	*	1	0.63%	0.03%	*	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0	0.00%	0.04%	*

Note: Data include 14 suicides still pending determination by AFMES as of 1 MAR 2011. Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals. "Service Total %" column reflects population-level DMDC data for all Active Duty and Activated or Deployed Reserves. P.I. = Pacific Islander.

Event Setting

As summarized in Table 2.5, suicides most frequently took place in the United States ($n = 232$, 82.56%). Suicides primarily occurred in either the Service Members' own residences ($n = 157$, 55.87%) or the residence of a friend or family member ($n = 32$, 11.39%). "Other" (write-in response) settings included hotels ($n = 13$, 4.63%), parks and nature reserves ($n = 9$, 3.20%), and vacant property ($n = 5$, 1.78%; Table 2.6).

TABLE 2.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
United States		232	82.56%	78.79%
Iraq		12	4.27%	10.44%
Afghanistan		17	6.05%	2.36%
Kuwait		0	0.00%	0.34%
Djibouti		1	0.36%	0.00%
Asia		11	3.91%	2.36%
Europe		2	0.71%	2.69%
Canada or Mexico		0	0.00%	0.34%
Other		6	2.14%	2.36%
Don't Know		0	0.00%	0.34%

TABLE 2.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER EVENT SETTING

EVENT SETTING		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
Residence (own) or barracks		157	55.87%	60.27%
Residence of friend or family		32	11.39%	8.08%
Work/jobsite		23	8.19%	6.06%
Automobile (away from residence)		13	4.63%	5.72%
Inpatient medical facility		1	0.36%	0.00%
Other		55	19.57%	19.87%
Don't Know		0	0.00%	0.00%

Event Method

Nearly half of 2010 suicide decedents used non-military issue firearms ($n = 136$, 48.40%), and 13.88% ($n = 39$) used military issue firearms to kill themselves (Table 2.7). Twenty-seven of those who used military issue firearms died by suicide in a deployed setting, as further described in Chapter 3. Hanging accounted for approximately one fourth of suicides ($n = 69$, 24.56%). Thirteen Service Members (4.63%) used drugs to die by suicide.

TABLE 2.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER EVENT METHOD

EVENT METHOD		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
Firearm, non-military issue		136	48.40%	40.74%
Firearm, military issue		39	13.88%	17.51%

TABLE 2.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER EVENT METHOD (CONT.)

Hanging	69	24.56%	22.90%	20.99%
Drugs	13	4.63%	3.03%	4.53%
Alcohol	0	0.00%	0.34%	0.41%
Gas, vehicle exhaust	1	0.36%	3.70%	2.47%
Gas, utility (or other)	6	2.14%	1.68%	0.41%
Drowning	3	1.07%	0.00%	0.41%
Fire, steam, etc.	1	0.36%	0.00%	0.41%
Sharp or blunt object	2	0.71%	2.69%	0.82%
Jumping from high place	2	0.71%	1.68%	1.23%
Lying in front of moving object	2	0.71%	0.67%	0.82%
Crashing a motor vehicle	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.82%
Other	1	0.36%	3.03%	0.82%
Don't Know	6	2.14%	2.02%	2.88%

Substance Use during the Event

Comprehensive information about known substance use during suicide is unavailable for some suicides in 2010. As summarized in Table 2.8, of decedents for whom information was available, approximately one third were known to have used alcohol during the suicide event ($n = 58$, 34.94% of DoDSERs with alcohol use data, 20.64% of total). Fewer were known to have used drugs ($n = 27$, 16.98% of DoDSERs with drug use data, 9.61% of total). Eight Service Members were known to have used both drugs and alcohol during their suicide events (7.92% of DoDSERs with substance abuse data, 2.85% of total). As in the prior two years, drug use most frequently consisted of misuse of prescription drugs. These frequencies include Service Members who used drugs as a suicide method ($n = 13$, 4.63%), as described above.

TABLE 2.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	58	20.64%	22.22%	22.63%
	No	108	38.43%	38.72%	39.09%
	Don't Know	115	40.93%	39.06%	38.27%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	27	9.61%	6.40%	7.00%
	No	132	46.98%	47.14%	50.21%
	Don't Know	122	43.42%	46.46%	42.80%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	3	1.07%	0.00%	0.41%
	Used, no overdose	3	1.07%	0.67%	0.00%
	Were not used	153	54.45%	52.86%	53.91%
	Don't know	122	43.42%	46.46%	45.68%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	9	3.20%	2.69%	4.53%
	Used, no overdose	11	3.91%	1.01%	1.65%
	Were not used	139	49.47%	49.83%	50.62%
	Don't know	122	43.42%	46.46%	43.21%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	6	2.14%	0.67%	2.06%

TABLE 2.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE (CONT.)

	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	1.68%	0.82%
	Were not used	153	54.45%	51.18%	51.85%
	Don't know	122	43.42%	46.46%	45.27%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	8	2.85%	3.03%	2.47%
	No	134	47.69%	47.47%	52.26%
	Don't Know	139	49.47%	49.49%	45.27%

Communication of Intent

Consistent with the prior two years, most decedents had no known history of communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ($n = 185$, 65.84%; Table 2.9). Approximately one third of Service Members who died by suicide were known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their intent to die by suicide ($n = 96$, 34.17%). These communications were most frequently verbal ($n = 59$, 21.00%; Table 2.10). Fifteen DoDSERs included text messages as an “Other” (write-in) response (5.34%). As indicated in Table 2.11, decedents most frequently communicated with their spouses ($n = 30$, 10.68%), friends ($n = 13$, 4.63%), and behavioral health providers ($n = 12$, 4.27%). “Other” (write-in) responses included family members ($n = 10$, 3.56%) and coworkers ($n = 8$, 2.85%).

TABLE 2.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
0		185	65.84%	72.05%
1		82	29.18%	18.18%
2		12	4.27%	6.73%
3		1	0.36%	1.68%
4		0	0.00%	1.01%
5		1	0.36%	0.34%

TABLE 2.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
Verbal		59	21.00%	15.49%
Written		13	4.63%	2.36%
Other or Unknown		14	4.98%	5.72%
Multiple Modes		10	3.56%	4.04%
No Known Communication		185	65.84%	72.39%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

TABLE 2.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	30	10.68%	7.07%	6.58%
	Friend	13	4.63%	4.04%	4.94%
	Behavioral Health Provider	12	4.27%	0.34%	1.23%
	Chaplain	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.82%
	Supervisor	4	1.42%	0.67%	0.41%
	Other or Unidentified	23	8.19%	5.72%	8.64%
	Made Multiple Communications	14	4.98%	9.76%	8.23%
	No Known Communication	185	65.84%	72.39%	69.14%

Additional Event Information

Table 2.12 provides information about other details of 2010 suicides. For the majority ($n = 201$, 71.53%), data indicate that the decedents intended to die. Over one third of the suicides appeared premeditated ($n = 108$, 38.43%). Sixty-four decedents (22.78%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others. Eighty-six Service Members (30.60%) left suicide notes. Five Service Members (1.78%) were known to have died while engaging in death risk gambling (e.g., “Russian roulette”).

TABLE 2.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	201	71.53%	76.09%	70.37%
	No	23	8.19%	5.39%	6.17%
	Don't Know	57	20.28%	18.52%	23.46%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	5	1.78%	1.35%	2.06%
	No	237	84.34%	84.85%	69.96%
	Don't Know	39	13.88%	13.80%	27.98%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	108	38.43%	39.39%	37.86%
	No	97	34.52%	28.96%	26.75%
	Don't Know	76	27.05%	31.65%	35.39%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	64	22.78%	20.54%	19.34%
	No	178	63.35%	68.69%	58.85%
	Don't Know	39	13.88%	10.77%	21.81%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	86	30.60%	24.92%	22.63%
	No	141	50.18%	53.87%	46.09%
	Don't Know	54	19.22%	21.21%	31.28%

Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

Situational Factors

Table 2.13 provides details about the living situations for Service Members who died by suicide in 2010. Decedents most frequently lived in homes or apartments outside of their installations ($n = 121$, 43.06%) or in a shared living environment on the installation ($n = 93$, 33.10%). Of those who were married ($n = 125$), most lived with their spouses ($n = 74$, 59.20% of married, 26.33% of total), and 35 were separated due to relationship issues (28.00% of married, 12.46% of total). Most decedents lived with others ($n = 180$, 64.06%). Approximately one third of Service Members had minor children ($n = 103$, 36.65%) and 52 (18.51%) lived with their children at the time of death. Half of decedents had access to firearms either in their homes, at work, or other accessible locations ($n = 146$, 51.96%).

TABLE 2.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	93	33.10%	30.98%	29.22%
	Bachelor quarters	11	3.91%	5.05%	5.35%
	On-base family housing	24	8.54%	4.71%	4.53%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	121	43.06%	47.14%	39.51%
	Ship	2	0.71%	1.01%	2.06%
	Other	19	6.76%	7.07%	6.17%
	Don't Know	11	3.91%	4.04%	13.17%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resided with spouse	74	26.33%	23.57%	21.81%
	Separated due to relationship issues	35	12.46%	9.76%	12.76%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	16	5.69%	11.78%	9.47%
	Don't Know	9	3.20%	4.38%	4.94%
	Unmarried at time of event	147	52.31%	50.51%	51.03%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	79	28.11%	34.34%	24.28%
	No	180	64.06%	56.57%	60.49%
	Don't Know	22	7.83%	9.09%	15.23%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	103	36.65%	37.37%	32.51%
	No	178	63.35%	62.63%	67.49%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	52	18.51%	17.17%	13.58%
	No	48	17.08%	18.52%	17.70%
	Don't Know	3	1.07%	1.68%	1.23%
	No Children	178	63.35%	62.63%	67.49%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	146	51.96%	49.49%	54.73%
	No	78	27.76%	26.26%	14.81%
	Don't Know	57	20.28%	24.24%	30.45%

Duty Environment

Consistent with the previous two years, the primary duty environment for decedents was their permanent duty station ($n = 162$, 57.65%; Table 2.14). In addition, 30 Service Members were deployed (10.68%) and 19

(6.76%) were hospitalized in an inpatient psychiatry unit at the time of event.

TABLE 2.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	162	57.65%	53.20%
	Leave	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	19	6.76%	9.09%
	Medical Hold	1	0.36%	1.01%
	TDY	3	1.07%	1.68%
	AWOL	7	2.49%	4.38%
	Under Command Observation	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Deployed	30	10.68%	11.45%
	Training	7	2.49%	3.03%
	Other	16	5.69%	5.39%
	Multiple Duty Environments	18	6.41%	8.75%
	Duty Environment Unknown	18	6.41%	2.02%

Suicide Completions by Month

As in the prior two years, no clear pattern was evident for suicides by month (Table 2.15).

TABLE 2.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUICIDES BY MONTH

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
MONTH	January	27	9.61%	9.09%
	February	21	7.47%	11.11%
	March	22	7.83%	6.73%
	April	21	7.47%	7.74%
	May	27	9.61%	9.76%
	June	25	8.90%	8.08%
	July	31	11.03%	9.76%
	August	22	7.83%	7.07%
	September	25	8.90%	5.39%
	October	24	8.54%	10.77%
	November	17	6.05%	7.07%
	December	19	6.76%	7.41%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

Thirty-eight Service Members who died by suicide in 2010 (13.52%) had a known history of self-harm (Table 2.16), and 16 decedents (5.69%) were known to have at least two prior incidents of self-harm.

TABLE 2.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	38	13.52%	17.17%	13.58%
	Within 30 days	3	1.07%	4.04%	2.47%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	8	2.85%	7.74%	4.94%
	No	173	61.57%	58.25%	45.68%
	Don't Know	70	24.91%	24.58%	40.74%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	22	7.83%	10.10%	0.00%
	More than one prior event	16	5.69%	7.07%	12.13%
	N/A or Unknown	243	86.48%	82.83%	87.87%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	9	3.20%	3.03%	2.47%
	No	25	8.90%	10.10%	8.64%
	Don't Know	4	1.42%	4.04%	2.47%
	N/A	243	86.48%	82.83%	86.42%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death. One hundred and twenty-two (43.42%) Service Members who died by suicide in 2010 had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 2.17). One fourth of decedents ($n = 70$, 24.91%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Tables 2.18 and 2.19, 48 decedents (17.08%) had a mood disorder, most frequently major depressive disorder ($n = 20$, 7.12%) and 42 (14.95%) had an anxiety disorder, most frequently posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD; $n = 14$, 4.98%). Table 2.20 provides summary data for other disorders. One fourth of Service Members who died by suicide had a known history of substance abuse ($n = 72$, 25.62%). Ten decedents had a history of personality disorder (3.56%) and eight (2.85%) had a prior diagnosis of traumatic brain injury.

TABLE 2.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	159	56.58%	57.58%	67.49%
	1 DX	52	18.51%	21.55%	22.63%
	2 DX	42	14.95%	13.13%	4.53%
	3 DX	15	5.34%	4.38%	4.12%
	4 or more DX	13	4.63%	3.37%	1.23%

TABLE 2.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes		48	17.08%	24.92%	18.93%
	No		193	68.68%	60.27%	58.44%
	Don't Know		40	14.23%	14.81%	22.63%
Bipolar disorder	Yes		2	0.71%	0.67%	0.82%
	No		239	85.05%	80.47%	72.02%
	Don't Know		40	14.23%	18.86%	27.16%
Major depression	Yes		20	7.12%	11.45%	5.35%
	No		220	78.29%	71.04%	68.72%
	Don't Know		41	14.59%	17.51%	25.93%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes		4	1.42%	1.68%	0.82%
	No		236	83.99%	79.12%	72.43%
	Don't Know		41	14.59%	19.19%	26.75%
Other mood disorder	Yes		14	4.98%	5.05%	8.64%
	No		226	80.43%	76.43%	64.20%
	Don't Know		41	14.59%	18.52%	27.16%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes		3	1.07%	2.69%	2.47%
	No		238	84.70%	82.49%	74.90%
	Don't Know		40	14.23%	14.81%	22.63%
Multiple mood DX	Yes		5	1.78%	3.37%	0.82%
	No		236	83.99%	81.82%	76.54%
	Don't Know		40	14.23%	14.81%	22.63%

TABLE 2.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes		42	14.95%	17.85%	10.29%
	No		203	72.24%	66.33%	67.90%
	Don't Know		36	12.81%	15.82%	21.81%
PTSD	Yes		14	4.98%	6.40%	2.47%
	No		229	81.49%	76.09%	72.43%
	Don't Know		38	13.52%	17.51%	25.10%
Panic disorder	Yes		3	1.07%	0.00%	0.41%
	No		240	85.41%	82.15%	73.66%
	Don't Know		38	13.52%	17.85%	25.93%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes		1	0.36%	1.01%	0.41%
	No		241	85.77%	81.48%	74.07%
	Don't Know		39	13.88%	17.51%	25.51%
Acute stress disorder	Yes		0	0.00%	0.00%	0.41%
	No		243	86.48%	82.15%	74.49%
	Don't Know		38	13.52%	17.85%	25.10%

TABLE 2.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS (CONT.)

Other anxiety disorder	Yes	13	4.63%	5.05%	2.47%
	No	231	82.21%	77.44%	71.60%
	Don't Know	37	13.17%	17.51%	25.93%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	5	1.78%	1.68%	1.65%
	No	240	85.41%	82.49%	76.54%
	Don't Know	36	12.81%	15.82%	21.81%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	6	2.14%	3.70%	2.47%
	No	239	85.05%	80.47%	75.72%
	Don't Know	36	12.81%	15.82%	21.81%

TABLE 2.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009	2008
				Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	10	3.56%	5.05%	4.94%
	No	230	81.85%	77.78%	72.02%
	Don't Know	41	14.59%	17.17%	23.05%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	1.01%	0.82%
	No	240	85.41%	82.83%	76.95%
	Don't Know	41	14.59%	16.16%	22.22%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	72	25.62%	21.55%	20.16%
	No	159	56.58%	57.58%	55.14%
	Don't Know	50	17.79%	20.88%	24.69%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	8	2.85%		
	No	228	81.14%		
	Don't Know	45	16.01%		

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

Treatment History

Table 2.21 provides data on decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. The majority of Service Members who died by suicide ($n = 159$, 56.58%) had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Forty-nine Service Members (17.44%) had a known history of a physical health problem and 31 of these (63.27%, 11.03% of total) had received treatment for the physical health problem within the month prior to suicide.

Fifty-nine decedents (21.00%) received substance abuse treatment services, and 28 (9.96%) were involved in family advocacy programs. Twenty-seven Service Members (9.61%) utilized chaplain services. Forty-one percent of decedents received outpatient behavioral healthcare ($n = 114$), with 63 Service Members (22.42%) having received treatment within the month prior to suicide. Thirty-two Service Members (11.39%) received inpatient behavioral health treatment, 15 of whom (5.34%) were treated within the month prior to suicide.

TABLE 2.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes		159	56.58%	58.92%	51.85%
	Within 30 days		107	38.08%	36.36%	29.22%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		130	46.26%	48.48%	39.51%
	No		88	31.32%	27.27%	26.75%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Don't Know		34	12.10%	13.80%	21.40%
	Yes		49	17.44%	21.55%	20.16%
	Within 30 days		31	11.03%	12.46%	11.11%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		38	13.52%	14.81%	16.46%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	No		163	58.01%	56.23%	55.97%
	Don't Know		69	24.56%	22.22%	23.87%
	Yes		59	21.00%	16.50%	11.11%
	Within 30 days		21	7.47%	8.08%	4.12%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		27	9.61%	8.42%	6.17%
	No		186	66.19%	67.68%	67.08%
	Don't Know		36	12.81%	15.82%	21.81%
	Yes		28	9.96%	6.40%	6.17%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Within 30 days		5	1.78%	1.35%	3.29%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		12	4.27%	2.69%	3.70%
	No		199	70.82%	71.38%	69.55%
	Don't Know		54	19.22%	22.22%	24.28%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes		27	9.61%	12.79%	13.99%
	Within 30 days		19	6.76%	8.08%	7.41%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		22	7.83%	10.44%	10.29%
	No		124	44.13%	42.09%	42.39%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Don't Know		130	46.26%	45.12%	43.62%
	Yes		114	40.57%	41.08%	32.92%
	Within 30 days		63	22.42%	21.55%	16.87%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		81	28.83%	24.92%	22.22%
	No		134	47.69%	46.46%	51.03%
	Don't Know		33	11.74%	12.46%	16.05%
	Yes		32	11.39%	15.15%	10.29%
	Within 30 days		15	5.34%	2.02%	4.12%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		18	6.41%	6.06%	5.35%
	No		210	74.73%	70.03%	67.90%
	Don't Know		39	13.88%	14.81%	21.81%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 2.22 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by decedents prior to suicide. One fourth of decedents ($n = 68$, 24.20%) had known prescriptions for psychotropic medications, most frequently antidepressants ($n = 55$, 19.57%) and antianxiety medications ($n = 26$, 9.25%).

TABLE 2.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes		68	24.20%	24.24%	20.99%
	No		157	55.87%	54.55%	52.26%
	Don't Know		56	19.93%	21.21%	26.75%
Antidepressants	Yes		55	19.57%	20.88%	17.70%
	No		168	59.79%	57.58%	53.91%
	Don't Know		58	20.64%	21.55%	28.40%
Antianxiety	Yes		26	9.25%	9.09%	6.58%
	No		192	68.33%	68.35%	64.61%
	Don't Know		63	22.42%	22.56%	28.81%
Antimanics	Yes		5	1.78%	0.67%	0.82%
	No		212	75.44%	76.77%	69.14%
	Don't Know		64	22.78%	22.56%	30.04%
Anticonvulsants	Yes		6	2.14%	2.36%	2.06%
	No		213	75.80%	75.42%	67.90%
	Don't Know		62	22.06%	22.22%	30.04%
Antipsychotics	Yes		14	4.98%	5.05%	2.47%
	No		206	73.31%	72.73%	67.90%
	Don't Know		61	21.71%	22.22%	29.63%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

Half of Service Members who died by suicide in 2010 ($n = 140$, 49.82%) had a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with 84 (29.89%) experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 2.23). Forty-one decedents (14.59%) had a failure in another important relationship, more than half of these ($n = 24$, 8.54%) occurring within the month prior to suicide.

TABLE 2.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes		140	49.82%	50.84%	52.26%
	Within 30 days		84	29.89%	27.61%	32.92%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		101	35.94%	34.68%	43.21%
	No		84	29.89%	25.25%	23.87%
	Don't Know		57	20.28%	23.91%	23.87%

TABLE 2.23. CY 2010 AND 2008–2009 DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE (CONT.)

HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	41	14.59%	13.47%	14.40%
	Within 30 days	24	8.54%	8.08%	7.82%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	29	10.32%	9.09%	10.70%
	No	140	49.82%	47.81%	43.62%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/ OR OTHER)	Don't Know	100	35.59%	38.72%	41.98%
	Yes	149	53.02%	53.54%	56.38%
	Within 30 days	94	33.45%	29.63%	36.21%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	111	39.50%	36.70%	46.09%
	No	75	26.69%	23.91%	20.58%
	Don't Know	57	20.28%	22.56%	23.05%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 2.24 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may be associated with the suicide. Twenty-seven decedents (9.61%) were known to have a family member with behavioral health problems, and 17 (6.05%) had experienced the death of a family member. Twelve decedents (4.27%) had a family member who had died by suicide, and seven (2.49%) had known a friend who died by suicide. Friends of 14 decedents (4.98%) had died by other means. Twelve decedents (4.27%) were known to have family members with physical health problems.

TABLE 2.24. CY 2010 AND 2008–2009 DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.41%
	No	226	80.43%	84.18%	72.84%
	Don't Know	55	19.57%	15.82%	26.75%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	12	4.27%	3.70%	4.53%
	No	169	60.14%	64.31%	48.97%
	Don't Know	100	35.59%	31.99%	46.50%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	7	2.49%	1.68%	1.23%
	No	162	57.65%	58.59%	50.21%
	Don't Know	112	39.86%	39.73%	48.56%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	17	6.05%	6.06%	7.00%
	No	160	56.94%	58.92%	48.15%
	Don't Know	104	37.01%	35.02%	44.86%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	14	4.98%	3.03%	4.94%
	No	152	54.09%	53.87%	41.56%
	Don't Know	115	40.93%	43.10%	53.50%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	12	4.27%	6.40%	4.94%
	No	166	59.07%	60.94%	45.27%
	Don't Know	103	36.65%	32.66%	49.79%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	27	9.61%	14.81%	8.64%
	No	110	39.15%	30.30%	18.93%
	Don't Know	144	51.25%	54.88%	72.43%

Administrative and Legal History

As summarized in Table 2.25, 120 Service Members who died by suicide in 2010 (42.70%) had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and 49 (17.44%) had more than one. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was Article 15 proceedings or non-judicial punishment ($n = 60$, 21.35%), followed by civil legal problems ($n = 37$, 13.17%).

TABLE 2.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	18	6.41%	6.40%	1.23%
	No	209	74.38%	79.46%	81.89%
	Don't Know	54	19.22%	14.14%	16.87%
HX ARTICLE 15 OR NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	60	21.35%	17.17%	14.81%
	No	170	60.50%	66.33%	67.08%
	Don't Know	51	18.15%	16.50%	18.11%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	26	9.25%	8.42%	5.76%
	No	203	72.24%	77.78%	74.07%
	Don't Know	52	18.51%	13.80%	20.16%
HX AWOL	Yes	23	8.19%	10.10%	5.76%
	No	208	74.02%	77.44%	74.90%
	Don't Know	50	17.79%	12.46%	19.34%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	15	5.34%	8.08%	3.70%
	No	227	80.78%	79.46%	76.13%
	Don't Know	39	13.88%	12.46%	20.16%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	37	13.17%	12.12%	13.17%
	No	180	64.06%	65.32%	62.14%
	Don't Know	64	22.78%	22.56%	24.69%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	18	6.41%	7.74%	4.12%
	No	203	72.24%	74.07%	63.79%
	Don't Know	60	21.35%	18.18%	32.10%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	120	42.70%	41.08%	29.22%
	No	111	39.50%	43.10%	51.03%
	Don't Know	50	17.79%	15.82%	19.75%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	49	17.44%	17.51%	10.70%
	No	105	37.37%	41.08%	43.21%
	Don't Know	127	45.20%	41.41%	46.09%

Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 2.26). Fourteen suicide decedents (4.98%) reportedly experienced physical abuse, and eight (2.85%) reportedly experienced sexual abuse. Thirteen Service Members (4.63%) had reportedly been victims of emotional abuse. Twenty-four decedents (8.54%) had allegedly physically abused others, eight (2.85%) had allegedly sexually abused others, and ten (3.56%) had allegedly perpetrated emotional abuse.

TABLE 2.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	14	4.98%	6.73%	4.12%
	No	174	61.92%	59.26%	47.33%
	Don't Know	93	33.10%	34.01%	48.56%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	8	2.85%	4.38%	2.47%
	No	180	64.06%	61.62%	50.21%
	Don't Know	93	33.10%	34.01%	47.33%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	13	4.63%	7.07%	4.53%
	No	169	60.14%	57.58%	46.50%
	Don't Know	99	35.23%	35.35%	48.97%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	0.36%	0.34%	0.00%
	No	183	65.12%	63.30%	51.85%
	Don't Know	97	34.52%	36.36%	48.15%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	24	8.54%	8.75%	5.35%
	No	171	60.85%	58.59%	47.74%
	Don't Know	86	30.60%	32.66%	46.91%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	8	2.85%	3.37%	3.70%
	No	186	66.19%	61.95%	51.03%
	Don't Know	87	30.96%	34.68%	45.27%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	10	3.56%	3.03%	3.29%
	No	183	65.12%	60.61%	50.21%
	Don't Know	88	31.32%	36.36%	46.50%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	2	0.71%	1.68%	1.23%
	No	191	67.97%	62.63%	53.09%
	Don't Know	88	31.32%	35.69%	45.68%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace. As summarized in Table 2.27, 28 Service Members who died by suicide in 2010 (9.96%) had experienced significant debt. Fifty-two decedents (18.51%) either had lost a position or experienced job instability. Thirty-five Service Members (12.46%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with their supervisors or coworkers and 40 (14.23%) had previously received poor work evaluations.

TABLE 2.27. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	28	9.96%	10.77%	10.29%
	No	162	57.65%	54.55%	51.44%
	Don't Know	91	32.38%	34.68%	38.27%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	52	18.51%	27.27%	18.11%
	No	164	58.36%	51.18%	61.32%
	Don't Know	65	23.13%	21.55%	20.58%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	35	12.46%	14.14%	10.70%
	No	175	62.28%	60.61%	55.97%
	Don't Know	71	25.27%	25.25%	33.33%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	40	14.23%	16.84%	11.11%
	No	176	62.63%	62.63%	59.67%
	Don't Know	65	23.13%	20.54%	29.22%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	5	1.78%	1.68%	0.82%
	No	208	74.02%	70.37%	65.02%
	Don't Know	68	24.20%	27.95%	34.16%

Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

Of the 30 Service Members who died by suicide while deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), or Operation New Dawn (OND), 17 (6.05% of total) took place in Afghanistan, one (0.36% of total) took place in Djibouti and 12 (4.27% of total) took place in Iraq (Table 2.28). Given that OND began in 2010, Service Members with suicides in Iraq may have participated in both OIF and/or OND. Nearly half of decedents ($n = 129$, 45.91%) had a history of OEF, OIF or OND deployment (Table 2.29). Thirty decedents (10.68%) had known direct combat experiences, including participating in combat that resulted in injuries ($n = 19$, 6.76%), sustaining injuries ($n = 6$, 2.14%), witnessing killing ($n = 18$, 6.41%), seeing dead bodies ($n = 14$, 4.98%) and killing others ($n = 11$, 3.91%; Table 2.30).

TABLE 2.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUICIDES IN THEATER

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	17	6.05%	2.36%	2.88%
	Iraq	12	4.27%	10.44%	12.76%
	Djibouti	1	0.36%	0.00%	0.00%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.34%	0.41%
	Not OEF/OIF/OND	251	89.32%	86.87%	83.95%

TABLE 2.29. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF	Afghanistan	32	11.39%	3.70%	0.00%
	Iraq	76	27.05%	37.71%	34.57%
	Kuwait	3	1.07%	3.03%	2.88%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	18	6.41%	7.07%	1.65%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	152	54.09%	48.48%	60.91%

TABLE 2.30. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	30	10.68%	17.17%	16.05%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	19	6.76%	11.45%	9.05%
	Injured in combat	6	2.14%	3.37%	3.29%
	Witnessed killing in combat	18	6.41%	9.76%	8.23%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	14	4.98%	9.43%	7.00%
	Killed others in combat	11	3.91%	4.04%	3.29%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	251	89.32%	82.83%	83.95%

DoDSERS SUBMITTED FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

DoDSERs were submitted for 863 suicide attempts across all Services in 2010. As indicated in Table 2.31, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 837 individuals. Two attempts were reported (DoDSERs submitted) for 22 (2.63%) individuals, and two individuals (0.24%) had DoDSERs for three discrete suicide attempts. Six Service Members with CY 2010 suicide attempt DoDSERs (0.72%) subsequently died by suicide in 2010 and were also included in the preceding section. The tables in this section use a denominator of 863.

TABLE 2.31. CY 2010 DOD SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS

	Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS	863	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED	837	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL		
1	813	97.13%
2	22	2.63%
3	2	0.24%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2010 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE	6	0.72%

As summarized in Table 2.32, the majority of DoDSERs for 2010 suicide attempts had one or fewer missing or unknown primary data points ($n = 542$, 62.80%). Primary data points include any variables that are accessible using standard DoDSER methods (including accessing medical and military records). DoDSER POCs often interview Service Members after non-fatal suicide events, sometimes leading to more thorough data.

TABLE 2.32. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA

	Count	Percent
NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN		
0	391	45.31%
1	151	17.50%
2	80	9.27%
3	40	4.63%
4	31	3.59%
5 or More	170	19.70%

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with the suicide attempts. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide attempt method, substance use during the event, and intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Table 2.33 contains DoDSER demographic data for Service Members who attempted suicide in 2010. Males represented the majority of suicide attempts ($n = 653$, 75.67%). Service Members were most often Caucasian ($n = 587$, 68.02%), under age 25 ($n = 514$, 59.56%), junior enlisted ($n = 616$, 71.46%), Regular component ($n = 817$, 94.67%) and without a college degree ($n = 678$, 78.56%).

TABLE 2.33. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER DEMOGRAPHICS

		Count	Percent
TOTAL		863	100.00%
GENDER	Male	653	75.67%
	Female	210	24.33%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	11	1.27%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	23	2.67%
	Black/African American	133	15.41%
	White/Caucasian	587	68.02%
	Other	53	6.14%
	Don't Know	56	6.49%
AGE RANGE	Under 25	514	59.56%
	25-29	190	22.02%
	30-39	122	14.14%
	40 +	37	4.29%
RANK	E1-E4	616	71.46%
	E5-E9	209	24.25%
	Officer	32	3.71%
	Warrant Officer	4	0.46%
	Cadet/Midshipman	1	0.12%
COMPONENT	Regular	817	94.67%
	Reserve	24	2.78%
	National Guard	20	2.32%
	Other	2	0.23%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	7	0.81%
	GED	63	7.30%
	High school graduate	398	46.12%
	Some college or technical school	210	24.33%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	43	4.98%
	Four-year college degree	39	4.52%
	Master's degree or greater	16	1.85%
	Don't Know	87	10.08%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	364	42.18%
	Married	364	42.18%
	Legally Separated	41	4.75%
	Divorced	73	8.46%
	Widowed	1	0.12%
	Don't Know	20	2.32%

Event Setting

CY 2010 suicide attempts most frequently took place in the United States ($n = 707$, 81.92%), followed by European countries ($n = 50$, 5.79%) and Asian countries other than Iraq and Afghanistan ($n = 45$, 5.21%; Table

2.34). As indicated in Table 2.35, suicide attempts primarily occurred in the Service Members' residence ($n = 693$, 80.30%). Hotels were the most frequent "Other" (write-in response) setting ($n = 15$, 1.74%).

TABLE 2.34. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

		Count	Percent
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	United States	707	81.92%
	Iraq	26	3.01%
	Afghanistan	20	2.32%
	Asia	45	5.21%
	Europe	50	5.79%
	Canada or Mexico	3	0.35%
	Other	9	1.04%
	Don't Know	3	0.35%

TABLE 2.35. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT SETTING

		Count	Percent
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	693	80.30%
	Residence of friend or family	33	3.82%
	Work/jobsite	28	3.24%
	Automobile (away from residence)	39	4.52%
	Inpatient medical facility	6	0.70%
	Other	62	7.18%
	Don't Know	2	0.23%

Event Method

As indicated in Table 2.36, drugs were the most frequent method for suicide attempt ($n = 496$, 57.47%), followed by injury with a sharp or blunt object ($n = 122$, 14.14%).

TABLE 2.36. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT METHOD

		Count	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	23	2.67%
	Firearm, military issue	17	1.97%
	Hanging	72	8.34%
	Drugs	496	57.47%
	Alcohol	33	3.82%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	10	1.16%
	Gas, utility (or other)	5	0.58%
	Chemicals	10	1.16%
	Drowning	5	0.58%
	Fire, steam, etc.	2	0.23%
	Sharp or blunt object	122	14.14%
	Jumping from high place	22	2.55%

TABLE 2.36. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT METHOD (CONT.)

Lying in front of moving object	4	0.46%
Crashing a motor vehicle	12	1.39%
Other	18	2.09%
Don't Know	12	1.39%

Substance Use during the Event

Table 2.37 summarizes known alcohol and drug use during suicide attempts. DoDSERs for one third of Service Members ($n = 287$, 33.26%) included known use of alcohol, and over half ($n = 536$, 62.11%) included known drug use during the suicide attempt, most frequently misused prescription drugs. These frequencies include Service Members who used drugs as a suicide attempt method ($n = 496$, 57.47%), as described above. One hundred eighty-seven DoDSERs (21.67%) included both alcohol and drug use during the event.

TABLE 2.37. CY 2010 DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		Count	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	287	33.26%
	No	474	54.92%
	Don't Know	102	11.82%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	536	62.11%
	No	281	32.56%
	Don't Know	46	5.33%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	47	5.45%
	Used, no overdose	22	2.55%
	Were not used	748	86.67%
	Don't know	46	5.33%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	348	40.32%
	Used, no overdose	62	7.18%
	Were not used	407	47.16%
	Don't know	46	5.33%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	143	16.57%
	Used, no overdose	34	3.94%
	Were not used	640	74.16%
	Don't know	46	5.33%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	187	21.67%
	No	556	64.43%
	Don't Know	120	13.90%

Communication of Intent

Most Service Members who attempted suicide had no known history of communicating with others about intending to harm themselves ($n = 673$, 77.98%; Table 2.38). Of those who did communicate with others, these communications were most frequently verbal ($n = 143$, 16.57%) or written ($n = 23$, 2.67%; Table 2.39). Eleven

DoDSER POCs included text messages as an “Other” (write-in) response (1.27%). As indicated in Table 2.40, Service Members most frequently communicated with their spouses ($n = 46$, 5.33%) and friends ($n = 40$, 4.63%). Family members were the most frequent “Other” (write-in) response ($n = 17$, 1.97%).

TABLE 2.38. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	673	77.98%
	1	149	17.27%
	2	32	3.71%
	3	8	0.93%
	4	1	0.12%

TABLE 2.39. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	143	16.57%
	Written	23	2.67%
	Other or Unknown	17	1.97%
	Multiple Modes	7	0.81%
	No Known Communication	673	77.98%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

TABLE 2.40. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	46	5.33%
	Friend	40	4.63%
	Behavioral Health Provider	20	2.32%
	Chaplain	2	0.23%
	Supervisor	14	1.62%
	Other or Unidentified	27	3.13%
	Made Multiple Communications	41	4.75%
	No Known Communication	673	77.98%

Additional Event Information

Table 2.41 provides information about other details of 2010 suicide attempts. For the majority ($n = 623$, 72.19%), there were data to indicate that the decedents intended to die. Half of the suicide attempts appeared spontaneous, without any prior planning ($n = 429$, 49.71%). Over one third of the suicide attempts ($n = 353$, 40.90%) took place in a location potentially observable by others. Ninety-six (11.12%) left suicide notes.

TABLE 2.41. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

		Count	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	623	72.19%
	No	103	11.94%

TABLE 2.41. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION (CONT.).

	Don't Know	137	15.87%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	9	1.04%
	No	782	90.61%
	Don't Know	72	8.34%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	234	27.11%
	No	429	49.71%
	Don't Know	200	23.17%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	353	40.90%
	No	363	42.06%
	Don't Know	147	17.03%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	96	11.12%
	No	614	71.15%
	Don't Know	153	17.73%

Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

Situational Factors

Table 2.42 provides details about the living situations for Service Members who attempted suicide in 2010. DoDSERs most frequently reported shared living environments on installations ($n = 367$, 42.53%) or private homes outside of installations ($n = 322$, 37.31%). Married Service Members ($n = 339$) most often lived with their spouses at the time of their suicide attempts ($n = 173$, 51.03% of married Service Members, 20.05% of total), and 95 were separated because of relationship issues (28.02% of married Service Members, 11.01% of total). Two hundred sixty-three DoDSERs indicated that the Service Members had minor children (30.48%) and most resided with their children at the time of the suicide attempt ($n = 119$, 45.08% of Service Members with children, 13.79% of total). One hundred DoDSERs indicated that the Service Members (11.59%) were known to have access to firearms either in their homes, at work, or in other accessible locations.

TABLE 2.42. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT

		Count	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	367	42.53%
	Bachelor quarters	27	3.13%
	On-base family housing	59	6.84%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	322	37.31%
	Ship	3	0.35%
	Other	25	2.90%
	Don't Know	60	6.95%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resides with spouse	173	20.05%
	Separated due to relationship issues	95	11.01%

TABLE 2.42. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)

	Apart for other reasons/deployed	71	8.23%
	Don't Know	25	2.90%
	Unmarried at time of event	499	57.82%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	320	37.08%
	No	436	50.52%
	Don't Know	107	12.40%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	263	30.48%
	No	600	69.52%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	119	13.79%
	No	132	15.30%
	Don't Know	12	1.39%
	No Children	600	69.52%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	100	11.59%
	No	559	64.77%
	Don't Know	204	23.64%

Duty Environment

The primary duty environment for Service Members who attempted suicide was their permanent duty station ($n = 566$, 65.59%; Table 2.43). In addition, DoDSERs indicated that 43 suicide attempts (4.98%) took place during a deployment.

TABLE 2.43. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT

		Count	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	566	65.59%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	16	1.85%
	Medical Hold	9	1.04%
	TDY	6	0.70%
	AWOL	6	0.70%
	Deployed	43	4.98%
	Training	35	4.06%
	Other	26	3.01%
	Multiple Duty Environments	60	6.95%
	Duty Environment Unknown	96	11.12%

Suicide Attempts by Month

No clear pattern was evident for suicide attempts by month (Table 2.44).

TABLE 2.44. CY 2010 DoDSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH

		Count	Percent
MONTH	January	81	9.39%

TABLE 2.44. CY 2010 DoDSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH (CONT.)

February	68	7.88%
March	57	6.60%
April	71	8.23%
May	74	8.57%
June	83	9.62%
July	74	8.57%
August	70	8.11%
September	75	8.69%
October	76	8.81%
November	70	8.11%
December	64	7.42%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

As summarized in Table 2.45, DoDSER POCs reported a known history of prior self-harm for over one fourth of suicide attempts ($n = 240$, 27.81%), and 52 (6.03%) self-harm incidents were known to have occurred within the month prior to attempting suicide. Of those with prior history of self-harm, 134 (55.83%, 15.53% of total) had more than one prior event. One hundred thirty-three suicide attempts (15.41%) were similar to the Service Members' prior self-harm events.

TABLE 2.45. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY

		Count	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	240	27.81%
	Within 30 days	52	6.03%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	88	10.20%
	No	507	58.75%
	Don't Know	116	13.44%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	106	12.28%
	More than one prior event	134	15.53%
	N/A or Unknown	623	72.19%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	133	15.41%
	No	80	9.27%
	Don't Know	27	3.13%
	N/A	623	72.19%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide attempt. The majority of DoDSERs for attempted suicide included a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder ($n = 550$, 63.73%; Table 2.46). Three hundred twenty-two (37.31%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 2.47, 336 DoDSERs (38.93%) indicated that Service Members had a diagnosis of a mood disorder, most frequently major depressive disorder ($n = 153$, 17.73%). Two hundred twenty-five DoDSERs for suicide attempts (26.07%) included Service Members' diagnoses of anxiety disorders, most frequently PTSD ($n = 70$, 8.11%; Table 2.48). As summarized in Table 2.49, 63 DoDSERs (7.30%) included documentation of personality disorders, and 202 (23.41%) included a known history of substance abuse. Twenty-one DoDSERs (2.43%) indicated that Service Members had sustained a traumatic brain injury, and eleven (1.27%) included a diagnosis of psychotic disorder.

TABLE 2.46. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES

		Count	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	313	36.27%
	1 DX	228	26.42%
	2 DX	169	19.58%
	3 DX	92	10.66%
	4 or more DX	61	7.07%

TABLE 2.47. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	336	38.93%
	No	449	52.03%
	Don't Know	78	9.04%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	21	2.43%
	No	727	84.24%
	Don't Know	115	13.33%
Major depression	Yes	153	17.73%
	No	608	70.45%
	Don't Know	102	11.82%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	16	1.85%
	No	733	84.94%
	Don't Know	114	13.21%
Other mood disorder	Yes	58	6.72%
	No	689	79.84%
	Don't Know	116	13.44%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	40	4.63%
	No	745	86.33%
	Don't Know	78	9.04%

Multiple mood DX	Yes	48	5.56%
	No	737	85.40%
	Don't Know	78	9.04%

TABLE 2.48. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	225	26.07%
	No	552	63.96%
	Don't Know	86	9.97%
PTSD	Yes	70	8.11%
	No	693	80.30%
	Don't Know	100	11.59%
Panic disorder	Yes	11	1.27%
	No	745	86.33%
	Don't Know	107	12.40%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	24	2.78%
	No	731	84.70%
	Don't Know	108	12.51%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	1	0.12%
	No	753	87.25%
	Don't Know	109	12.63%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	50	5.79%
	No	708	82.04%
	Don't Know	105	12.17%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	17	1.97%
	No	760	88.06%
	Don't Know	86	9.97%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	52	6.03%
	No	725	84.01%
	Don't Know	86	9.97%

TABLE 2.49. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	63	7.30%
	No	694	80.42%
	Don't Know	106	12.28%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	11	1.27%
	No	762	88.30%
	Don't Know	90	10.43%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	202	23.41%
	No	555	64.31%

TABLE 2.49. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoD SER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS (CONT.)

DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Don't Know	106	12.28%
	Yes	21	2.43%
	No	738	85.52%
	Don't Know	104	12.05%

Treatment History

Table 2.50 provides data on Service Members' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to attempting suicide. The majority of DoD SERs ($n = 454$, 52.61%) indicated that Service Members had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), 307 (35.57%) within the month prior to attempting suicide. One hundred ninety DoD SERs (22.02%) included evidence of a known physical health problem. Most DoD SERs ($n = 545$, 63.15%) indicated that Service Members had received outpatient behavioral health services, many within the month prior to attempting suicide ($n = 381$, 44.15%). One hundred eighty-eight DoD SERs (21.78%) indicated that the Service Members had previously been hospitalized in an inpatient psychiatry unit, 68 (7.88%) within the month prior to the suicide attempt. One hundred seventy DoD SERs (19.70%) included prior substance abuse treatment.

TABLE 2.50. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoD SER TREATMENT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	454	52.61%
	Within 30 days	307	35.57%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	393	45.54%
	No	326	37.78%
	Don't Know	83	9.62%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	190	22.02%
	Within 30 days	110	12.75%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	143	16.57%
	No	576	66.74%
	Don't Know	97	11.24%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	170	19.70%
	Within 30 days	76	8.81%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	111	12.86%
	No	622	72.07%
	Don't Know	71	8.23%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	58	6.72%
	Within 30 days	23	2.67%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	33	3.82%
	No	704	81.58%
	Don't Know	101	11.70%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	92	10.66%
	Within 30 days	45	5.21%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	64	7.42%

TABLE 2.50. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)

OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	No	517	59.91%
	Don't Know	254	29.43%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	545	63.15%
	Within 30 days	381	44.15%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	447	51.80%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	No	274	31.75%
	Don't Know	44	5.10%
	Yes	188	21.78%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Within 30 days	68	7.88%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	112	12.98%
	No	618	71.61%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Don't Know	57	6.60%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

As indicated in Table 2.51, DoDSERs almost half of Service Member suicide attempts ($n = 400$, 46.35%) included psychotropic medication use prior to the suicide attempt. Antidepressants ($n = 329$, 82.25% of DoDSERs with known prescriptions, 38.12% of total DoDSERs) and antianxiety medication ($n = 162$, 40.50% of DoDSERs with known prescriptions, 18.77% of total DoDSERs) were the most frequently prescribed psychotropics.

TABLE 2.51. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE

		Count	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	400	46.35%
	No	383	44.38%
	Don't Know	80	9.27%
Antidepressants	Yes	329	38.12%
	No	437	50.64%
	Don't Know	97	11.24%
Antianxiety	Yes	162	18.77%
	No	580	67.21%
	Don't Know	121	14.02%
Antimanics	Yes	23	2.67%
	No	713	82.62%
	Don't Know	127	14.72%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	23	2.67%
	No	713	82.62%
	Don't Know	127	14.72%
Antipsychotics	Yes	67	7.76%
	No	671	77.75%
	Don't Know	125	14.48%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

Half of DoDSERs for Service Members who attempted suicide ($n = 462$, 53.53%) included a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with 283 (32.79%) experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide attempt (Table 2.52). One hundred twenty-seven (14.72%) included a failure in another important relationship, with many of these ($n = 70$, 8.11%) occurring within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

TABLE 2.52. CY 2010 DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT

		Count	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	462	53.53%
	Within 30 days	283	32.79%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	348	40.32%
	No	324	37.54%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Don't Know	77	8.92%
	Yes	127	14.72%
	Within 30 days	70	8.11%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	90	10.43%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/ OR OTHER)	No	580	67.21%
	Don't Know	156	18.08%
	Yes	462	53.53%
	Within 30 days	313	36.27%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	376	43.57%
	No	324	37.54%
	Don't Know	77	8.92%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 2.53 summarizes other family and relationship factors. Fifty-seven DoDSERs for Service Members (6.60%) included the loss of a family member to suicide, and 60 (6.95%) included the loss of friend to suicide. Many had experienced the death of a family member ($n = 124$, 14.37%) or friend ($n = 77$, 8.92%) by other means. Nearly one third of DoDSERs indicated that Service Members had a family member with behavioral health problems ($n = 277$, 32.10%).

TABLE 2.53. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	2	0.23%
	No	794	92.00%
	Don't Know	67	7.76%

TABLE 2.53. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY (CONT.)

HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	57	6.60%
	No	688	79.72%
	Don't Know	118	13.67%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	60	6.95%
	No	662	76.71%
	Don't Know	141	16.34%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	124	14.37%
	No	608	70.45%
	Don't Know	131	15.18%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	77	8.92%
	No	645	74.74%
	Don't Know	141	16.34%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	72	8.34%
	No	659	76.36%
	Don't Know	132	15.30%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	277	32.10%
	No	418	48.44%
	Don't Know	168	19.47%

Administrative and Legal History

Over one third of DoDSERs for Service Members who attempted suicide included at least one administrative or legal issue ($n = 341$, 39.51%), and 124 (14.37%) included more than one (Table 2.54). The most frequent administrative or legal problems were Article 15 proceedings or non-judicial punishment ($n = 150$, 17.38%), civil legal problems ($n = 88$, 10.20%), and medical board proceedings ($n = 71$, 8.23%).

TABLE 2.54. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	27	3.13%
	No	727	84.24%
	Don't Know	109	12.63%
HX ARTICLE 15 OR NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	150	17.38%
	No	591	68.48%
	Don't Know	122	14.14%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	90	10.43%
	No	663	76.83%
	Don't Know	110	12.75%
HX AWOL	Yes	53	6.14%
	No	714	82.73%
	Don't Know	96	11.12%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	71	8.23%
	No	702	81.34%
	Don't Know	90	10.43%

TABLE 2.54. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY (CONT.)

HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	88	10.20%
	No	642	74.39%
	Don't Know	133	15.41%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	47	5.45%
	No	665	77.06%
	Don't Know	151	17.50%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	341	39.51%
	No	420	48.67%
	Don't Know	102	11.82%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	124	14.37%
	No	391	45.31%
	Don't Know	348	40.32%

Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 2.55). Some DoDSERs for Service Members who attempted suicide in 2010 included a history of reported emotional abuse ($n = 199$, 23.06%), physical abuse ($n = 171$, 19.81%), and sexual abuse ($n = 136$, 15.76%). Forty-three (4.98%) included an alleged history of physically abusing others.

TABLE 2.55. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	171	19.81%
	No	568	65.82%
	Don't Know	124	14.37%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	136	15.76%
	No	600	69.52%
	Don't Know	127	14.72%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	199	23.06%
	No	534	61.88%
	Don't Know	130	15.06%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	31	3.59%
	No	683	79.14%
	Don't Know	149	17.27%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	43	4.98%
	No	682	79.03%
	Don't Know	138	15.99%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	14	1.62%
	No	712	82.50%
	Don't Know	137	15.87%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	26	3.01%
	No	695	80.53%

TABLE 2.55. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)

HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Don't Know	142	16.45%
	Yes	4	0.46%
	No	718	83.20%
	Don't Know	141	16.34%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 2.56). Almost one third of DoDSERs for Service Members who attempted suicide in 2010 included the experience of job loss or instability ($n = 275$, 31.87%). Two hundred six (23.87%) included problems with either supervisors or coworkers, and 131 (15.18%) included prior poor work evaluations.

TABLE 2.56. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES

		Count	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	86	9.97%
	No	610	70.68%
	Don't Know	167	19.35%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	275	31.87%
	No	466	54.00%
	Don't Know	122	14.14%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	206	23.87%
	No	503	58.29%
	Don't Know	154	17.84%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	131	15.18%
	No	561	65.01%
	Don't Know	171	19.81%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	40	4.63%
	No	643	74.51%
	Don't Know	180	20.86%

Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

Twenty-six (3.01%) suicide attempts occurred in Iraq and 20 (2.32%) occurred in Afghanistan (Table 2.57). Three hundred fifty-two DoDSERs (40.79%) included information about prior OEF, OIF or OND deployments (Table 2.58). One hundred twenty DoDSERs (13.90%) included experiences of direct combat (Table 2.59).

TABLE 2.57. CY 2010 DoDSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER

		Count	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	20	2.32%
	Iraq	26	3.01%
	Not OEF/OIF/OND	817	94.67%

TABLE 2.58. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF	Afghanistan	66	7.65%
	Iraq	237	27.46%
	Kuwait	9	1.04%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	40	4.63%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	511	59.21%

TABLE 2.59. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	120	13.90%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	70	8.11%
	Injured in combat	34	3.94%
	Witnessed killing in combat	74	8.57%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	77	8.92%
	Killed others in combat	45	5.21%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	743	86.10%

Summary

This chapter provides data on DoD suicides and suicide attempts that occurred in 2010. Data are presented for 281 Service Members who died by suicide and for 839 Service Members who attempted suicide in 865 separate suicide incidents. Decedents and those who attempted suicide were primarily Caucasian, enlisted, and Regular component Service Members.

Most suicide events took place in the United States, in the Service Members' own residences. The most frequent methods for Service Members who died by suicide were non-military issue firearm use and hanging. Suicide attempt methods were most often drug overdose, harming oneself with a sharp or blunt object, and hanging. Drug and alcohol use was more frequent among non-fatal suicide events. The majority of Service Members who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated with others about their likelihood of harming themselves.

Service Members with non-fatal suicide events had more reported behavioral health disorders than did suicide decedents but similar behavioral health treatment use prior to the event. Additionally, those who attempted suicide had higher prevalence of prior abuse victimization. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Service Members with suicide events. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was Article 15 proceedings.

CHAPTER 3:

DoDSERs SUBMITTED FOR SERVICE MEMBERS DEPLOYED TO OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) & OPERATION NEW DAWN (OND)

DoDSERS SUBMITTED FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

DoDSER Submissions

2010 Reported Suicides during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND)

Across all Services, 30 suicides confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2010 occurred during OEF, OIF or OND deployments. Given that Operation New Dawn (OND) began 1 September 2010, Service Members with suicides in Iraq may have participated in both OIF and/or OND. The tables in this section also include data for Service Members deployed to locations other than OIF/OEF/OND and those not deployed at the time of suicide. Percentages for 2009 and 2008 DoDSER data are provided for comparison. Specific suicide count data for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have been associated with the suicide events. These factors include decedents' demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

As described in Table 3.1, deployed decedents were primarily male ($n = 29$, 96.67%), Caucasian ($n = 21$, 70.00%), junior enlisted ($n = 22$, 73.33%), and Regular component ($n = 30$, 100.00%).

TABLE 3.1. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
TOTAL		30	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	251	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	29	96.67%	97.44%	89.74%	239	95.22%	97.29%	95.59%
	Female	1	3.33%	2.56%	10.26%	12	4.78%	2.71%	4.41%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	2	0.80%	1.94%	0.98%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2	6.67%	2.56%	5.13%	6	2.39%	3.49%	3.43%
	Black/African American	1	3.33%	17.95%	15.38%	29	11.55%	10.08%	11.27%
	White/Caucasian	21	70.00%	64.10%	58.97%	175	69.72%	68.22%	71.08%
	Other	1	3.33%	5.13%	7.69%	11	4.38%	6.98%	5.88%
	Don't Know	5	16.67%	10.26%	10.26%	28	11.16%	9.30%	7.35%
AGE RANGE	Under 25	18	60.00%	58.97%	53.85%	115	46.00%	44.57%	48.53%
	25-29	9	30.00%	25.64%	20.51%	64	25.60%	23.64%	20.10%
	30-39	2	6.67%	10.26%	15.38%	56	22.40%	23.26%	20.10%
	40 +	1	3.33%	5.13%	10.26%	15	6.00%	8.53%	11.27%
RANK	E1-E4	22	73.33%	71.79%	71.79%	135	53.78%	52.71%	50.00%
	E5-E9	7	23.33%	23.08%	17.95%	102	40.64%	38.37%	40.20%
	Officer	1	3.33%	5.13%	10.26%	13	5.18%	6.98%	7.84%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	1.16%	0.98%
	Cadet/Midshipman	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.40%	0.78%	0.49%
	Does Not Apply	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.49%
COMPONENT	Regular	30	100.00%	89.74%	89.74%	228	90.84%	94.57%	94.12%
	Reserve	0	0.00%	2.56%	2.56%	9	3.59%	2.33%	2.45%
	National Guard	0	0.00%	7.69%	7.69%	12	4.78%	2.71%	3.43%
	Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.80%	0.39%	0.00%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.80%	0.78%	0.00%
	GED	2	6.67%	10.26%	5.13%	19	7.57%	4.26%	2.45%
	High school graduate	16	53.33%	61.54%	33.33%	105	41.83%	45.35%	36.76%
	Some college or technical school	5	16.67%	10.26%	12.82%	41	16.33%	17.44%	7.84%

TABLE 3.1. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)

	Degree/certificate of less than four years	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	14	5.58%	2.71%	2.45%
	Four-year college degree	1	3.33%	5.13%	2.56%	14	5.58%	3.88%	7.35%
	Master's degree or greater	0	0.00%	2.56%	5.13%	3	1.20%	3.49%	2.45%
	Don't Know	6	20.00%	7.69%	41.03%	53	21.12%	22.09%	40.69%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	17	56.67%	51.28%	51.28%	94	37.45%	32.95%	33.33%
	Married	8	26.67%	35.90%	41.03%	126	50.20%	51.16%	50.00%
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	8	3.19%	1.94%	3.92%
	Divorced	1	3.33%	10.26%	0.00%	18	7.17%	10.85%	7.35%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.39%	0.00%
	Don't Know	4	13.33%	0.00%	7.69%	5	1.99%	2.71%	5.39%

Event Setting

Suicides primarily occurred in either the deployed Service Members' own barracks ($n = 13$, 43.33%) or their jobsite ($n = 10$, 33.33%; Table 3.2).

TABLE 3.2. CY 2010 DoDSER EVENT SETTING FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND			Other				
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	13	43.33%	61.54%	51.28%	144	57.37%	60.08%	57.84%
	Residence of friend or family	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	32	12.75%	9.30%	8.82%
	Work/jobsite	10	33.33%	12.82%	28.21%	13	5.18%	5.04%	5.39%
	Automobile (away from residence)	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13	5.18%	6.59%	7.84%
	Inpatient medical facility	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.40%	0.00%	0.49%
	Other	7	23.33%	25.64%	20.51%	48	19.12%	18.99%	19.61%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Event Method

As indicated in Table 3.3, the majority of deployed suicide decedents used military issue firearms ($n = 27$, 90.00%).

TABLE 3.3. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER EVENT METHOD FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND			Other		
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	2	6.67%	0.00%	0.00%	134	53.39%
	Firearm, military issue	27	90.00%	97.44%	94.87%	12	4.78%
	Hanging	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	69	27.49%
	Drugs	0	0.00%	0.00%	5.13%	13	5.18%
	Alcohol	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.40%
	Gas, utility (or other)	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5	1.99%
	Drowning	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	1.20%
	Fire, steam, etc.	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.40%
	Sharp or blunt object	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.80%
	Jumping from high place	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.80%
	Lying in front of moving object	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.80%
	Crashing a motor vehicle	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%
	Other	1	3.33%	2.56%	0.00%	1	0.40%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6	2.39%

Substance Use during the Event

As summarized in Table 3.4, of deployed decedents for whom information was available, none used alcohol or drugs.

TABLE 3.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND & OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND			Other		
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	58	23.11%
	No	17	56.67%	66.67%	64.10%	91	36.25%
	Don't Know	13	43.33%	33.33%	35.90%	102	40.64%

TABLE 3.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND & OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)

ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	0	0.00%	2.56%	5.13%	27	10.76%	6.98%	7.35%
	No	15	50.00%	64.10%	53.85%	117	46.61%	44.57%	49.51%
	Don't Know	15	50.00%	33.33%	41.03%	107	42.63%	48.45%	43.14%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	1.20%	0.00%	0.49%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3	1.20%	0.78%	0.00%
	Were not used	15	50.00%	66.67%	58.97%	138	54.98%	50.78%	52.94%
	Don't know	15	50.00%	33.33%	41.03%	107	42.63%	48.45%	46.57%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	5.13%	9	3.59%	3.10%	4.41%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	11	4.38%	0.78%	1.96%
	Were not used	15	50.00%	64.10%	53.85%	124	49.40%	47.67%	50.00%
	Don't know	15	50.00%	33.33%	41.03%	107	42.63%	48.45%	43.63%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6	2.39%	0.78%	2.45%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	0	0.00%	1.94%	0.49%
	Were not used	15	50.00%	66.67%	56.41%	138	54.98%	48.84%	50.98%
	Don't know	15	50.00%	33.33%	41.03%	107	42.63%	48.45%	46.08%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8	3.19%	3.49%	2.94%
	No	15	50.00%	64.10%	58.97%	119	47.41%	44.96%	50.98%
	Don't Know	15	50.00%	35.90%	41.03%	124	49.40%	51.55%	46.08%

Communication of Intent

Consistent with the prior two years, most deployed suicide decedents had no known history of communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ($n = 23$, 76.67%; Table 3.5). Seven deployed Service Members were known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their intent to die by suicide (23.33%). These communications were most frequently verbal ($n = 6$, 20.00%; Table 3.6). As indicated in Table 3.7, decedents most frequently communicated with their spouses ($n = 2$, 6.67%) and friends ($n = 2$, 6.67%).

TABLE 3.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	23	76.67%	87.18%	82.05%	162	64.54%	69.77%	66.67%
	1	5	16.67%	7.69%	17.95%	77	30.68%	19.77%	23.53%
	2	2	6.67%	2.56%	0.00%	10	3.98%	7.36%	7.35%
	3	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.40%	1.94%	2.45%
	4	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.78%	0.00%
	5	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.40%	0.39%	0.00%

TABLE 3.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	6	20.00%	7.69%	15.38%	53	21.12%	16.67%	23.04%
	Written	0	0.00%	2.56%	2.56%	13	5.18%	2.33%	0.98%
	Other or Unknown	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14	5.58%	6.59%	4.41%
	Multiple Modes	1	3.33%	2.56%	0.00%	9	3.59%	4.26%	4.90%
	No Known Communication	23	76.67%	87.18%	82.05%	162	64.54%	70.16%	66.67%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

TABLE 3.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	23	76.67%	87.18%	82.05%	162	64.54%	69.77%	66.67%
	1	5	16.67%	7.69%	17.95%	77	30.68%	19.77%	23.53%
	2	2	6.67%	2.56%	0.00%	10	3.98%	7.36%	7.35%
	3	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.40%	1.94%	2.45%

TABLE 3.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)

4	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.78%	0.00%
5	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.40%	0.39%	0.00%

Additional Event Information

Table 3.8 provides information about other details of suicides that occurred during OEF, OIF and OND deployment. For the majority ($n = 22$, 73.33%), data indicate that the decedents intended to die. Seven of the suicides appeared premeditated (23.33%). Three decedents (10.00%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others. Six deployed Service Members (20.00%) left suicide notes.

TABLE 3.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	22	73.33%	89.74%	74.36%	179	71.31%	74.03%	69.61%
	No	3	10.00%	5.13%	2.56%	20	7.97%	5.43%	6.86%
	Don't Know	5	16.67%	5.13%	23.08%	52	20.72%	20.54%	23.53%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	5	1.99%	1.55%	1.96%
	No	19	63.33%	92.31%	79.49%	218	86.85%	83.72%	68.14%
	Don't Know	11	36.67%	7.69%	17.95%	28	11.16%	14.73%	29.90%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	7	23.33%	38.46%	38.46%	101	40.24%	39.53%	37.75%
	No	11	36.67%	23.08%	25.64%	86	34.26%	29.84%	26.96%
	Don't Know	12	40.00%	38.46%	35.90%	64	25.50%	30.62%	35.29%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	3	10.00%	12.82%	12.82%	61	24.30%	21.71%	20.59%
	No	22	73.33%	76.92%	76.92%	156	62.15%	67.44%	55.39%
	Don't Know	5	16.67%	10.26%	10.26%	34	13.55%	10.85%	24.02%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	6	20.00%	28.21%	28.21%	80	31.87%	24.42%	21.57%
	No	13	43.33%	51.28%	41.03%	128	51.00%	54.26%	47.06%
	Don't Know	11	36.67%	20.51%	30.77%	43	17.13%	21.32%	31.37%

Suicide Completions by Month

As in the prior two years, no clear pattern was evident for suicides by month (Table 3.9).

TABLE 3.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER SUICIDES BY MONTH FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
MONTH	Month	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
	January	3	10.00%	10.26%	5.13%	24	9.56%	8.91%	9.80%
	February	3	10.00%	5.13%	7.69%	18	7.17%	12.02%	5.88%
	March	1	3.33%	10.26%	2.56%	21	8.37%	6.20%	8.33%
	April	2	6.67%	17.95%	10.26%	19	7.57%	6.20%	8.33%
	May	6	20.00%	12.82%	7.69%	21	8.37%	9.30%	8.33%
	June	7	23.33%	5.13%	12.82%	18	7.17%	8.53%	6.86%
	July	3	10.00%	2.56%	10.26%	28	11.16%	10.85%	9.31%
	August	0	0.00%	5.13%	12.82%	22	8.76%	7.36%	7.35%
	September	2	6.67%	2.56%	10.26%	23	9.16%	5.81%	7.84%
	October	1	3.33%	7.69%	5.13%	23	9.16%	11.24%	8.82%
	November	2	6.67%	12.82%	7.69%	15	5.98%	6.20%	11.27%
	December	0	0.00%	7.69%	7.69%	19	7.57%	7.36%	7.84%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoD SER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

Three deployed Service Members who died by suicide in 2010 (10.00%) had a known history of self-harm (Table 3.10), and two decedents (6.67%) were known to have at least two prior incidents of self-harm.

TABLE 3.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	3	10.00%	12.82%	10.26%	35	13.94%	17.83%	14.22%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	3	1.20%	4.26%	2.94%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	2.56%	2.56%	8	3.19%	8.53%	5.39%
	No	12	40.00%	64.10%	43.59%	161	64.14%	57.36%	46.08%
Number prior self-injuries	Don't Know	15	50.00%	23.08%	46.15%	55	21.91%	24.81%	39.71%
	One prior event	1	3.33%	5.13%	0.00%	21	8.37%	10.85%	0.00%
	More than one prior event	2	6.67%	7.69%	10.26%	14	5.58%	6.98%	12.50%
	N/A or Unknown	27	90.00%	87.18%	89.74%	216	86.06%	82.17%	87.50%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9	3.59%	3.49%	2.94%
	No	2	6.67%	7.69%	10.26%	23	9.16%	10.47%	8.33%
	Don't Know	1	3.33%	5.13%	0.00%	3	1.20%	3.88%	2.94%
	N/A	27	90.00%	87.18%	89.74%	216	86.06%	82.17%	85.78%

Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death. Twenty-three deployed Service Members who died by suicide in 2010 (76.67%) had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 3.11). Three decedents (10.00%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Tables 3.12, 3.13 and 3.14, deployed decedents had fewer reported behavioral health disorders as compared to other decedents.

TABLE 3.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	23	76.67%	71.79%	69.23%	136	54.18%	55.43%	67.16%
	1 DX	4	13.33%	17.95%	15.38%	48	19.12%	22.09%	24.02%

TABLE 3.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER COMORBIDITY RATES FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)

2 DX	2	6.67%	2.56%	5.13%	40	15.94%	14.73%	4.41%
3 DX	1	3.33%	5.13%	10.26%	14	5.58%	4.26%	2.94%
4 or more DX	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	13	5.18%	3.49%	1.47%

TABLE 3.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER MOOD DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	1	3.33%	10.26%	23.08%	47	18.73%	27.13%	18.14%
	No	20	66.67%	69.23%	51.28%	173	68.92%	58.91%	59.80%
	Don't Know	9	30.00%	20.51%	25.64%	31	12.35%	13.95%	22.06%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2	0.80%	0.78%	0.98%
	No	21	70.00%	71.79%	71.79%	218	86.85%	81.78%	72.06%
	Don't Know	9	30.00%	28.21%	28.21%	31	12.35%	17.44%	26.96%
Major depression	Yes	0	0.00%	2.56%	10.26%	20	7.97%	12.79%	4.41%
	No	20	66.67%	71.79%	61.54%	200	79.68%	70.93%	70.10%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	25.64%	28.21%	31	12.35%	16.28%	25.49%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4	1.59%	1.94%	0.98%
	No	20	66.67%	71.79%	74.36%	216	86.06%	80.23%	72.06%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	28.21%	25.64%	31	12.35%	17.83%	26.96%
Other mood disorder	Yes	1	3.33%	0.00%	12.82%	13	5.18%	5.81%	7.84%
	No	20	66.67%	71.79%	61.54%	206	82.07%	77.13%	64.71%
	Don't Know	9	30.00%	28.21%	25.64%	32	12.75%	17.05%	27.45%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	5.13%	0.00%	3	1.20%	2.33%	2.94%
	No	21	70.00%	74.36%	74.36%	217	86.45%	83.72%	75.00%
	Don't Know	9	30.00%	20.51%	25.64%	31	12.35%	13.95%	22.06%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	5	1.99%	3.49%	0.98%
	No	21	70.00%	76.92%	74.36%	215	85.66%	82.56%	76.96%
	Don't Know	9	30.00%	20.51%	25.64%	31	12.35%	13.95%	22.06%

TABLE 3.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND			Other		
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	2	6.67%	12.82%	12.82%	40	15.94%
	No	18	60.00%	61.54%	61.54%	185	73.71%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	25.64%	25.64%	26	10.36%
PTSD	Yes	1	3.33%	2.56%	5.13%	13	5.18%
	No	19	63.33%	69.23%	64.10%	210	83.67%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	28.21%	30.77%	28	11.16%
Panic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	3	1.20%
	No	20	66.67%	71.79%	66.67%	220	87.65%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	28.21%	30.77%	28	11.16%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	1	0.40%
	No	20	66.67%	71.79%	66.67%	221	88.05%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	25.64%	33.33%	29	11.55%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%
	No	20	66.67%	71.79%	66.67%	223	88.84%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	28.21%	33.33%	28	11.16%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	2.56%	2.56%	13	5.18%
	No	20	66.67%	69.23%	66.67%	211	84.06%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	28.21%	30.77%	27	10.76%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5	1.99%
	No	20	66.67%	74.36%	74.36%	220	87.65%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	25.64%	25.64%	26	10.36%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	1	3.33%	5.13%	2.56%	5	1.99%
	No	19	63.33%	69.23%	71.79%	220	87.65%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	25.64%	25.64%	26	10.36%

TABLE 3.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	2.56%	2.56%	10	3.98%	5.43%	5.39%
	No	20	66.67%	71.79%	64.10%	210	83.67%	78.68%	73.53%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	25.64%	33.33%	31	12.35%	15.89%	21.08%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.78%	0.98%
	No	20	66.67%	74.36%	71.79%	220	87.65%	84.11%	77.94%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	23.08%	28.21%	31	12.35%	15.12%	21.08%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	4	13.33%	15.38%	17.95%	68	27.09%	22.48%	20.59%
	No	13	43.33%	61.54%	51.28%	146	58.17%	56.98%	55.88%
	Don't Know	13	43.33%	23.08%	30.77%	37	14.74%	20.54%	23.53%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8	3.19%	0.39%	0.00%
	No	17	56.67%	30.77%	0.00%	211	84.06%	59.30%	0.49%
	Don't Know	13	43.33%	69.23%	100.00%	32	12.75%	40.31%	99.51%

Treatment History

Table 3.15 provides data on decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. These data should be interpreted with caution, as treatment available to deployed Service Members can differ greatly from treatment available in other locations. One third of deployed Service Members who died by suicide ($n = 10$, 33.33%) had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Six Service Members (20.00%) had a known history of a physical health problem.

Four decedents (13.33%) received substance abuse treatment services, and one (3.33%) was involved in family advocacy programs. Five Service Members (16.67%) utilized chaplain services. One fourth of decedents received outpatient behavioral healthcare ($n = 8$, 26.67%) and two (6.67%) had received inpatient behavioral health treatment.

TABLE 3.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010		2009	2008	2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	10	33.33%	41.03%	48.72%	149	59.36%	61.63%	52.45%
	Within 30 days	6	20.00%	17.95%	30.77%	101	40.24%	39.15%	28.92%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	6	20.00%	25.64%	41.03%	124	49.40%	51.94%	39.22%
	No	12	40.00%	41.03%	23.08%	76	30.28%	25.19%	27.45%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Don't Know	8	26.67%	17.95%	28.21%	26	10.36%	13.18%	20.10%
	Yes	6	20.00%	5.13%	12.82%	43	17.13%	24.03%	21.57%
	Within 30 days	3	10.00%	2.56%	7.69%	28	11.16%	13.95%	11.76%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	10.00%	2.56%	12.82%	35	13.94%	16.67%	17.16%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	No	11	36.67%	66.67%	64.10%	152	60.56%	54.65%	54.41%
	Don't Know	13	43.33%	28.21%	23.08%	56	22.31%	21.32%	24.02%
	Yes	4	13.33%	7.69%	5.13%	55	21.91%	17.83%	12.25%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	21	8.37%	9.30%	4.90%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27	10.76%	9.69%	7.35%
	No	17	56.67%	69.23%	64.10%	169	67.33%	67.44%	67.65%
	Don't Know	9	30.00%	23.08%	30.77%	27	10.76%	14.73%	20.10%
	Yes	1	3.33%	2.56%	0.00%	27	10.76%	6.98%	7.35%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5	1.99%	1.55%	3.92%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12	4.78%	3.10%	4.41%
	No	16	53.33%	66.67%	69.23%	183	72.91%	72.09%	69.61%
	Don't Know	13	43.33%	30.77%	30.77%	41	16.33%	20.93%	23.04%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	5	16.67%	20.51%	23.08%	22	8.76%	11.63%	12.25%
	Within 30 days	4	13.33%	17.95%	17.95%	15	5.98%	6.59%	5.39%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	4	13.33%	20.51%	20.51%	18	7.17%	8.91%	8.33%
	No	12	40.00%	46.15%	33.33%	112	44.62%	41.47%	44.12%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Don't Know	13	43.33%	33.33%	43.59%	117	46.61%	46.90%	43.63%
	Within 30 days	5	16.67%	15.38%	23.08%	58	23.11%	22.48%	15.69%

TABLE 3.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)

	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	5	16.67%	20.51%	28.21%	76	30.28%	25.58%	21.08%
	No	15	50.00%	46.15%	46.15%	119	47.41%	46.51%	51.96%
	Don't Know	7	23.33%	17.95%	12.82%	26	10.36%	11.63%	16.67%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	2	6.67%	5.13%	7.69%	30	11.95%	16.67%	10.78%
	Within 30 days	1	3.33%	0.00%	0.00%	14	5.58%	2.33%	4.90%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	3.33%	0.00%	0.00%	17	6.77%	6.98%	6.37%
	No	20	66.67%	69.23%	74.36%	190	75.70%	70.16%	66.67%
	Don't Know	8	26.67%	25.64%	17.95%	31	12.35%	13.18%	22.55%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 3.16 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by deployed Service Members prior to suicide. Four decedents (13.33%) had known prescriptions for psychotropic medications, most frequently antidepressants ($n = 3$, 10.00%).

TABLE 3.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND			Other				
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	4	13.33%	12.82%	28.21%	64	25.50%	25.97%	19.61%
	No	13	43.33%	61.54%	48.72%	144	57.37%	53.49%	52.94%
	Don't Know	13	43.33%	25.64%	23.08%	43	17.13%	20.54%	27.45%
Antidepressants	Yes	3	10.00%	7.69%	23.08%	52	20.72%	22.87%	16.67%
	No	14	46.67%	66.67%	51.28%	154	61.35%	56.20%	54.41%
	Don't Know	13	43.33%	25.64%	25.64%	45	17.93%	20.93%	28.92%
Antianxiety	Yes	1	3.33%	5.13%	10.26%	25	9.96%	9.69%	5.88%
	No	15	50.00%	69.23%	61.54%	177	70.52%	68.22%	65.20%
	Don't Know	14	46.67%	25.64%	28.21%	49	19.52%	22.09%	28.92%
Antimanics	Yes	1	3.33%	0.00%	0.00%	4	1.59%	0.78%	0.98%
	No	14	46.67%	74.36%	69.23%	198	78.88%	77.13%	69.12%
	Don't Know	15	50.00%	25.64%	30.77%	49	19.52%	22.09%	29.90%

TABLE 3.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)

Anticonvulsants	Yes	1	3.33%	0.00%	0.00%	5	1.99%	2.71%	2.45%
	No	15	50.00%	74.36%	69.23%	198	78.88%	75.58%	67.65%
	Don't Know	14	46.67%	25.64%	30.77%	48	19.12%	21.71%	29.90%
Antipsychotics	Yes	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	14	5.58%	5.43%	2.94%
	No	16	53.33%	71.79%	69.23%	190	75.70%	72.87%	67.65%
	Don't Know	14	46.67%	25.64%	30.77%	47	18.73%	21.71%	29.41%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

Thirteen deployed Service Members who died by suicide in 2010 (43.33%) had a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with seven (23.33%) experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 3.17). Four decedents (13.33%) had a failure in another important relationship, with one of these (3.33%) occurring within the month prior to suicide.

TABLE 3.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	13	43.33%	46.15%	46.15%	127	50.60%	51.55%	53.43%
	Within 30 days	7	23.33%	25.64%	33.33%	77	30.68%	27.91%	32.84%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	3.33%	7.69%	5.13%	16	6.37%	6.98%	11.27%
	No	9	30.00%	25.64%	23.08%	75	29.88%	25.19%	24.02%
	Don't Know	8	26.67%	28.21%	30.77%	49	19.52%	23.26%	22.55%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	4	13.33%	17.95%	10.26%	37	14.74%	12.79%	15.20%
	Within 30 days	1	3.33%	15.38%	7.69%	23	9.16%	6.98%	7.84%

TABLE 3.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)

	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	3.33%	2.56%	0.00%	4	1.59%	0.78%	3.43%
	No	9	30.00%	41.03%	33.33%	131	52.19%	48.84%	45.59%
	Don't Know	17	56.67%	41.03%	56.41%	83	33.07%	38.37%	39.22%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	13	43.33%	46.15%	46.15%	127	50.60%	51.55%	53.43%
	Within 30 days	7	23.33%	35.90%	38.46%	87	34.66%	28.68%	35.78%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	3.33%	7.69%	2.56%	16	6.37%	6.98%	11.27%
	No	9	30.00%	25.64%	23.08%	75	29.88%	25.19%	24.02%
	Don't Know	8	26.67%	28.21%	30.77%	49	19.52%	23.26%	22.55%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 3.18 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may be associated with the suicide. Two deployed suicide decedents (6.67%) had lost a friend to suicide, and friends of two had lost a friend by other means (6.67%). Three decedents (10.00%) had experienced a death of a family member. One decedent (3.33%) was known to have a family member with physical health problems and three were known to have a family member with behavioral health problems (10.00%).

TABLE 3.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER FAMILY HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.49%
	No	19	63.33%	79.49%	79.49%	207	82.47%	84.88%	71.57%
	Don't Know	11	36.67%	20.51%	20.51%	44	17.53%	15.12%	27.94%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	2.56%	2.56%	12	4.78%	3.88%	4.90%
	No	13	43.33%	61.54%	61.54%	156	62.15%	64.73%	46.57%
	Don't Know	17	56.67%	35.90%	35.90%	83	33.07%	31.40%	48.53%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	2	6.67%	2.56%	0.00%	5	1.99%	1.55%	1.47%
	No	12	40.00%	61.54%	61.54%	150	59.76%	58.14%	48.04%
	Don't Know	16	53.33%	35.90%	38.46%	96	38.25%	40.31%	50.49%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	3	10.00%	5.13%	5.13%	14	5.58%	6.20%	7.35%
	No	15	50.00%	61.54%	58.97%	145	57.77%	58.53%	46.08%

TABLE 3.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)

	Don't Know	12	40.00%	33.33%	35.90%	92	36.65%	35.27%	46.57%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	2	6.67%	0.00%	5.13%	12	4.78%	3.49%	4.90%
	No	13	43.33%	64.10%	51.28%	139	55.38%	52.33%	39.71%
	Don't Know	15	50.00%	35.90%	43.59%	100	39.84%	44.19%	55.39%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	1	3.33%	7.69%	5.13%	11	4.38%	6.20%	4.90%
	No	14	46.67%	56.41%	48.72%	152	60.56%	61.63%	44.61%
	Don't Know	15	50.00%	35.90%	46.15%	88	35.06%	32.17%	50.49%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	3	10.00%	17.95%	12.82%	24	9.56%	14.34%	7.84%
	No	8	26.67%	28.21%	17.95%	102	40.64%	30.62%	19.12%
	Don't Know	19	63.33%	53.85%	69.23%	125	49.80%	55.04%	73.04%

Administrative and Legal History

As summarized in Table 3.19, nine deployed Service Members who died by suicide in 2010 (30.00%) had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and one (3.33%) had more than one. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was Article 15 proceedings or non-judicial punishment ($n = 8$, 26.67%).

TABLE 3.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	18	7.17%	7.36%	0.98%
	No	17	56.67%	87.18%	76.92%	192	76.49%	78.29%	82.84%
	Don't Know	13	43.33%	12.82%	20.51%	41	16.33%	14.34%	16.18%
HX ARTICLE 15 OR NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	8	26.67%	12.82%	17.95%	52	20.72%	17.83%	14.22%
	No	12	40.00%	76.92%	64.10%	158	62.95%	64.73%	67.65%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	10.26%	17.95%	41	16.33%	17.44%	18.14%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	0	0.00%	2.56%	5.13%	26	10.36%	9.30%	5.88%
	No	17	56.67%	84.62%	76.92%	186	74.10%	76.74%	73.53%
	Don't Know	13	43.33%	12.82%	17.95%	39	15.54%	13.95%	20.59%

TABLE 3.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)

HX AWOL	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	23	9.16%	11.63%	6.37%
	No	19	63.33%	87.18%	82.05%	189	75.30%	75.97%	73.53%
	Don't Know	11	36.67%	12.82%	15.38%	39	15.54%	12.40%	20.10%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.56%	15	5.98%	9.30%	3.92%
	No	19	63.33%	87.18%	79.49%	208	82.87%	78.29%	75.49%
	Don't Know	11	36.67%	12.82%	17.95%	28	11.16%	12.40%	20.59%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	1	3.33%	5.13%	10.26%	36	14.34%	13.18%	13.73%
	No	17	56.67%	76.92%	64.10%	163	64.94%	63.57%	61.76%
	Don't Know	12	40.00%	17.95%	25.64%	52	20.72%	23.26%	24.51%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	1	3.33%	5.13%	2.56%	17	6.77%	8.14%	4.41%
	No	18	60.00%	79.49%	64.10%	185	73.71%	73.26%	63.73%
	Don't Know	11	36.67%	15.38%	33.33%	49	19.52%	18.60%	31.86%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	9	30.00%	20.51%	30.77%	111	44.22%	44.19%	28.92%
	No	11	36.67%	66.67%	48.72%	100	39.84%	39.53%	51.47%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	12.82%	20.51%	40	15.94%	16.28%	19.61%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	1	3.33%	5.13%	7.69%	48	19.12%	19.38%	11.27%
	No	10	33.33%	64.10%	43.59%	95	37.85%	37.60%	43.14%
	Don't Know	19	63.33%	30.77%	48.72%	108	43.03%	43.02%	45.59%

Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 3.20). Two deployed suicide decedents (6.67%) had reportedly experienced physical abuse, and two (6.67%) had reportedly experienced emotional abuse. Two decedents (6.67%) had allegedly physically abused others and one (3.33%) had allegedly perpetrated sexual harassment.

TABLE 3.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	2	6.67%	7.69%	5.13%	12	4.78%	6.59%	3.92%

TABLE 3.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)

	No	11	36.67%	71.79%	41.03%	163	64.94%	57.36%	48.53%
	Don't Know	17	56.67%	20.51%	53.85%	76	30.28%	36.05%	47.55%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	5.13%	5.13%	8	3.19%	4.26%	1.96%
	No	14	46.67%	74.36%	43.59%	166	66.14%	59.69%	51.47%
	Don't Know	16	53.33%	20.51%	51.28%	77	30.68%	36.05%	46.57%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	2	6.67%	10.26%	5.13%	11	4.38%	6.59%	4.41%
	No	10	33.33%	66.67%	41.03%	159	63.35%	56.20%	47.55%
	Don't Know	18	60.00%	23.08%	53.85%	81	32.27%	37.21%	48.04%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	2.56%	0.00%	1	0.40%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	13	43.33%	74.36%	48.72%	170	67.73%	61.63%	52.45%
	Don't Know	17	56.67%	23.08%	51.28%	80	31.87%	38.37%	47.55%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	2	6.67%	7.69%	0.00%	22	8.76%	8.91%	6.37%
	No	12	40.00%	64.10%	56.41%	159	63.35%	57.75%	46.08%
	Don't Know	16	53.33%	28.21%	43.59%	70	27.89%	33.33%	47.55%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	5.13%	2.56%	8	3.19%	3.10%	3.92%
	No	14	46.67%	66.67%	56.41%	172	68.53%	61.24%	50.00%
	Don't Know	16	53.33%	28.21%	41.03%	71	28.29%	35.66%	46.08%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	5.13%	2.56%	10	3.98%	2.71%	3.43%
	No	14	46.67%	66.67%	56.41%	169	67.33%	59.69%	49.02%
	Don't Know	16	53.33%	28.21%	41.03%	72	28.69%	37.60%	47.55%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	3.33%	5.13%	2.56%	1	0.40%	1.16%	0.98%
	No	14	46.67%	64.10%	56.41%	177	70.52%	62.40%	52.45%
	Don't Know	15	50.00%	30.77%	41.03%	73	29.08%	36.43%	46.57%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace. As summarized in Table 3.21, four deployed Service Members who died by suicide in 2010 (13.33%) had experienced significant debt. Six decedents (20.00%) either had lost a position or experienced job instability. Nine Service Members (30.00%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with their supervisors or coworkers and three (10.00%) had previously received poor work evaluations. Two decedents (6.67%) were known to have been victims of hazing in the unit or workplace.

TABLE 3.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND			Other		
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	4	13.33%	12.82%	5.13%	24	9.56%
	No	15	50.00%	56.41%	53.85%	147	58.57%
	Don't Know	11	36.67%	30.77%	41.03%	80	31.87%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	6	20.00%	35.90%	23.08%	46	18.33%
	No	14	46.67%	43.59%	53.85%	150	59.76%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	20.51%	23.08%	55	21.91%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	9	30.00%	35.90%	25.64%	26	10.36%
	No	11	36.67%	38.46%	48.72%	164	65.34%
	Don't Know	10	33.33%	25.64%	25.64%	61	24.30%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	3	10.00%	28.21%	17.95%	37	14.74%
	No	13	43.33%	53.85%	51.28%	163	64.94%
	Don't Know	14	46.67%	17.95%	30.77%	51	20.32%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	2	6.67%	5.13%	2.56%	3	1.20%
	No	15	50.00%	58.97%	61.54%	193	76.89%
	Don't Know	13	43.33%	35.90%	35.90%	55	21.91%

Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

Of the 30 Service Members who died by suicide while on OEF, OIF or OND deployment, 17 (56.67%) took place in Afghanistan, 12 (40.00%) took place in Iraq, and one took place in Djibouti (3.33%; Table 3.22). As indicated in Table 3.23, four decedents were known to have had multiple deployments (13.33%). Six deployed decedents (20.00%) were known to have had direct combat experiences, including participating in combat

that resulted in injuries for others ($n = 4$, 13.33%), sustaining injuries ($n = 1$, 3.33%), witnessing killing ($n = 3$, 10.00%), seeing dead bodies ($n = 2$, 6.67%) and killing others ($n = 2$, 6.67%; Table 3.24).

TABLE 3.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUICIDES IN THEATER FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	17	56.67%	17.95%	17.95%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Iraq	12	40.00%	79.49%	79.49%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	2.56%	2.56%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Djibouti	1	3.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Not OEF/OIF/OND	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	251	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

TABLE 3.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER DEPLOYMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF	Afghanistan	13	43.33%	5.13%	10.26%	20	7.97%	3.88%	0.00%
	Iraq	13	43.33%	69.23%	76.92%	64	25.50%	32.95%	26.47%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	7.69%	5.13%	3	1.20%	2.33%	2.45%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	4	13.33%	17.95%	7.69%	14	5.58%	5.43%	0.49%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	150	59.76%	55.43%	70.59%

TABLE 3.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES

		OEF/OIF/OND				Other			
		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	6	20.00%	10.26%	17.95%	24	9.56%	18.22%	15.69%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	4	13.33%	2.56%	10.26%	15	5.98%	12.79%	8.82%

TABLE 3.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoD SER COMBAT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)

Injured in combat	1	3.33%	0.00%	2.56%	5	1.99%	3.88%	3.43%
Witnessed killing in combat	3	10.00%	2.56%	7.69%	15	5.98%	10.85%	8.33%
Saw dead bodies in combat	2	6.67%	2.56%	7.69%	12	4.78%	10.47%	6.86%
Killed others in combat	2	6.67%	0.00%	2.56%	9	3.59%	4.65%	3.43%
NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	24	80.00%	89.74%	82.05%	227	90.44%	81.78%	84.31%

OEF, OIF & OND DoDSERS SUBMITTED FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

DoDSER POCs submitted 46 DoDSERs for 2010 OEF, OIF and OND suicide attempts. As indicated in Table 3.25, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 45 individuals. Two attempts were reported (DoDSERs submitted) for one individual (2.22%). Additionally, one deployed Service Member with a 2010 suicide attempt DoDSER (2.22%) subsequently died by suicide in 2010 while in the United States, and was included in Chapter 2. The tables in this section use a denominator of 46. The “Other” column includes aggregated data for all Service Members who were either not deployed at the time of their suicide attempts or were deployed to locations other than OEF, OIF and OND.

TABLE 3.25. CY 2010 OEF/OIF SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS

	Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs	46	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED	45	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL		
1	44	99.78%
2	1	2.22%
3	0	0.00%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2010 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE	1	2.22%

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with the suicide attempts. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide attempt method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Table 3.26 contains DoDSER demographic data for Service Members deployed to OEF, OIF or OND who attempted suicide in 2010. Males represented the majority ($n = 35$, 76.09%). Deployed Service Members that attempted suicide were most often male ($n = 35$, 76.09%), Caucasian ($n = 26$, 56.52%), under age 25 ($n = 24$, 52.17%), junior enlisted ($n = 27$, 58.70%), Regular component ($n = 38$, 82.61%), and without a college degree ($n = 33$, 71.74%).

TABLE 3.26. CY 2010 DoDSER DEMOGRAPHICS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
TOTAL		46	100.00%	817	100.00%
GENDER	Male	35	76.09%	618	75.64%
	Female	11	23.91%	199	24.36%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0.00%	11	1.35%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2	4.35%	21	2.57%
	Black/African American	12	26.09%	121	14.81%

TABLE 3.26. CY 2010 DoDSER DEMOGRAPHICS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

	White/Caucasian	26	56.52%	561	68.67%
	Other	4	8.70%	49	6.00%
	Don't Know	2	4.35%	54	6.61%
AGE RANGE	Under 25	24	52.17%	490	59.98%
	25-29	9	19.57%	181	22.15%
	30-39	10	21.74%	112	13.71%
	40 +	3	6.52%	34	4.16%
RANK	E1-E4	27	58.70%	589	72.18%
	E5-E9	16	34.78%	193	23.65%
	Officer	3	6.52%	29	3.55%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	4	0.49%
	Cadet/Midshipman	0	0.00%	1	0.12%
COMPONENT	Regular	38	82.61%	779	95.35%
	Reserve	2	4.35%	22	2.69%
	National Guard	6	13.04%	14	1.71%
	Other	0	0.00%	2	0.24%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	0	0.00%	7	0.86%
	GED	5	10.87%	58	7.10%
	High school graduate	19	41.30%	379	46.39%
	Some college or technical school	9	19.57%	201	24.60%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	4	8.70%	39	4.77%
	Four-year college degree	3	6.52%	36	4.41%
	Master's degree or greater	2	4.35%	14	1.71%
	Don't Know	4	8.70%	83	10.16%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	16	34.78%	348	42.59%
	Married	27	58.70%	337	41.25%
	Legally Separated	2	4.35%	39	4.77%
	Divorced	1	2.17%	72	8.81%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	1	0.12%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	20	2.45%

Event Setting

As indicated in Table 3.27, suicide attempts primarily occurred in the Service Members' barracks ($n = 40$, 86.96%).

TABLE 3.27. CY 2010 DoDSER EVENT SETTING FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

EVENT SETTING		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
	Residence (own) or barracks	40	86.96%	653	79.93%
	Residence of friend or family	0	0.00%	33	4.04%
	Work/Jobsite	4	8.70%	24	2.94%

TABLE 3.27. CY 2010 DoDSER EVENT SETTING FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

Automobile (away from residence)	1	2.17%	38	4.65%
Inpatient medical facility	0	0.00%	6	0.73%
Other	1	2.17%	61	7.47%
Don't Know	0	0.00%	2	0.24%

Event Method

As indicated in Table 3.28, drugs were the most frequent method for suicide attempt ($n = 25$, 54.35%), followed by use of military issue firearm ($n = 14$, 30.43%).

TABLE 3.28. CY 2010 DoDSER EVENT METHOD FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

EVENT METHOD		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
	Firearm, non-military issue	0	0.00%	23	2.82%
	Firearm, military issue	14	30.43%	3	0.37%
	Hanging	3	6.52%	69	8.45%
	Drugs	25	54.35%	471	57.65%
	Alcohol	0	0.00%	33	4.04%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	0	0.00%	10	1.22%
	Gas, utility (or other)	0	0.00%	5	0.61%
	Drowning	0	0.00%	5	0.61%
	Fire, steam, etc.	0	0.00%	2	0.24%
	Sharp or blunt object	3	6.52%	119	14.57%
	Jumping from high place	0	0.00%	22	2.69%
	Lying in front of moving object	0	0.00%	4	0.49%
	Crashing a motor vehicle	0	0.00%	12	1.47%
	Chemicals	1	2.17%	9	1.10%
	Other	0	0.00%	18	2.20%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	12	1.47%

Substance Use during the Event

Known alcohol use during OEF, OIF and OND suicide attempts was rare ($n = 1$, 2.17%; Table 3.29). Twenty-seven deployed Service Members (58.70%) were known to have used drugs during suicide attempts, most frequently the misuse of prescription medication. These frequencies include Service Members who used drugs as a suicide attempt method ($n = 25$, 54.35%), as described above.

TABLE 3.29. CY 2010 DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

ALCOHOL USED		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
	Yes	1	2.17%	286	35.01%
	No	44	95.65%	430	52.63%

TABLE 3.29. CY 2010 DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

	Don't Know	1	2.17%	101	12.36%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	27	58.70%	509	62.30%
	No	18	39.13%	263	32.19%
	Don't Know	1	2.17%	45	5.51%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	47	5.75%
	Used, no overdose	1	2.17%	21	2.57%
	Were not used	44	95.65%	704	86.17%
	Don't know	1	2.17%	45	5.51%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	17	36.96%	331	40.51%
	Used, no overdose	2	4.35%	60	7.34%
	Were not used	26	56.52%	381	46.63%
	Don't know	1	2.17%	45	5.51%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	10	21.74%	133	16.28%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	34	4.16%
	Were not used	35	76.09%	605	74.05%
	Don't know	1	2.17%	45	5.51%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	1	2.17%	186	22.77%
	No	44	95.65%	512	62.67%
	Don't Know	1	2.17%	119	14.57%

Communication of Intent

DoDSER POCs indicated that prior to suicide attempts, most deployed Service Members did not communicate their potential for self-harm with others ($n = 37$, 80.43%; Table 3.30). Nine Service Members (19.57%) were known to have communicated their intent to hurt themselves to at least one individual. These communications were most frequently verbal ($n = 6$, 13.04%; Table 3.31). As indicated in Table 3.32, Service Members most frequently communicated potential for self-harm with their spouses ($n = 3$, 6.52%).

TABLE 3.30. CY 2010 DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
0	37	80.43%	636	77.85%
1	6	13.04%	143	17.50%
2	2	4.35%	30	3.67%
3	1	2.17%	7	0.86%
4	0	0.00%	1	0.12%

TABLE 3.31. CY 2010 DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Verbal	6	13.04%	137	16.77%

TABLE 3.31. CY 2010 DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

Written	1	2.17%	22	2.69%
Other or Unknown	2	4.35%	15	1.84%
Multiple Modes	0	0.00%	7	0.86%
No Known Communication	37	80.43%	636	77.85%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

TABLE 3.32. CY 2010 DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

COMMUNICATION		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
	Spouse	3	6.52%	43	5.26%
	Friend	1	2.17%	39	4.77%
	Behavioral Health Provider	0	0.00%	20	2.45%
	Chaplain	0	0.00%	2	0.24%
	Supervisor	2	4.35%	12	1.47%
	Other or Unidentified	0	0.00%	27	3.30%
	Made Multiple Communications	3	6.52%	38	4.65%
	No Known Communication	37	80.43%	636	77.85%

Additional Event Information

Table 3.33 provides information about other details of 2010 OEF, OIF and OND suicide attempts. For the majority ($n = 35$, 76.09%), there were data to indicate that the Service Members intended to die. One fourth of suicide attempts ($n = 12$, 26.09%) appeared planned or premeditated. Eighteen suicide attempts (39.13%) took place in a location potentially observable by others. Eight (17.39%) left suicide notes.

TABLE 3.33. CY 2010 DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	35	76.09%	588	71.97%
	No	2	4.35%	101	12.36%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	128	15.67%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	9	1.10%
	No	42	91.30%	740	90.58%
	Don't Know	4	8.70%	68	8.32%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	12	26.09%	222	27.17%
	No	19	41.30%	410	50.18%
	Don't Know	15	32.61%	185	22.64%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	18	39.13%	335	41.00%
	No	20	43.48%	343	41.98%
	Don't Know	8	17.39%	139	17.01%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	8	17.39%	88	10.77%

TABLE 3.33. CY 2010 DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

No	27	58.70%	587	71.85%
Don't Know	11	23.91%	142	17.38%

Suicide Attempts by Month

No clear pattern was evident for suicide attempts by month (Table 3.34).

TABLE 3.34. CY 2010 DoDSER SUICIDE EVENTS BY MONTH FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

MONTH		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
January		4	8.70%	77	9.42%
February		4	8.70%	64	7.83%
March		3	6.52%	54	6.61%
April		4	8.70%	67	8.20%
May		5	10.87%	69	8.45%
June		1	2.17%	82	10.04%
July		1	2.17%	73	8.94%
August		9	19.57%	61	7.47%
September		4	8.70%	71	8.69%
October		1	2.17%	75	9.18%
November		3	6.52%	67	8.20%
December		7	15.22%	57	6.98%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

As indicated in Table 3.35, suicide attempt DoDSERs for approximately one fourth of deployed Service Members included a known history of prior self-harm ($n = 12$, 26.09%), and three (6.52%) included history of self-harm within the month prior to attempting suicide. Of those DoDSERs for suicide attempts with prior history of self-harm, six (50.00%, 13.04% of total) had more than one prior event. For six Service Members (13.04%), their suicide attempts were similar to their prior self-harm events.

TABLE 3.35. CY 2010 DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes		12	26.09%	228	27.91%

TABLE 3.35. CY 2010 DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

	Within 30 days	3	6.52%	49	6.00%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	6.52%	85	10.40%
	No	29	63.04%	478	58.51%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	111	13.59%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	6	13.04%	100	12.24%
	More than one prior event	6	13.04%	128	15.67%
	N/A or Unknown	34	73.91%	589	72.09%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	6	13.04%	127	15.54%
	No	6	13.04%	74	9.06%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	27	3.30%
	N/A	34	73.91%	589	72.09%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide attempt. DoDSERs for twenty-four deployed Service Member suicide attempts (52.17%) included the history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 3.36). Fifteen DoDSERs (32.61%) included at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Tables 3.37 and 3.38, nine DoDSERs (19.57%) included a diagnosis of mood disorder, and nine (19.57%) included an anxiety disorder. As summarized in Table 3.39, eight DoDSERs (17.39%) included a known history of substance abuse. Three DoDSERs (6.52%) included known personality disorders, one Service Member (2.17%) had a diagnosis of psychotic disorder and one (2.17%) had a known traumatic brain injury.

TABLE 3.36. CY 2010 DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
No DX	22	47.83%	291	35.62%
1 DX	9	19.57%	219	26.81%
2 DX	11	23.91%	158	19.34%
3 DX	4	8.70%	88	10.77%
4 or more DX	0	0.00%	61	7.47%

TABLE 3.37. CY 2010 DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	OEF/OIF/OND		Other		
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Yes	9	19.57%	327	40.02%	
No	33	71.74%	416	50.92%	
Don't Know	4	8.70%	74	9.06%	
Bipolar disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	21	2.57%
	No	40	86.96%	687	84.09%

TABLE 3.37. CY 2010 DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

	Don't Know	6	13.04%	109	13.34%
Major depression	Yes	3	6.52%	150	18.36%
	No	37	80.43%	571	69.89%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	96	11.75%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	16	1.96%
	No	40	86.96%	693	84.82%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	108	13.22%
Other mood disorder	Yes	3	6.52%	55	6.73%
	No	37	80.43%	652	79.80%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	110	13.46%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	3	6.52%	37	4.53%
	No	39	84.78%	706	86.41%
	Don't Know	4	8.70%	74	9.06%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	0	0.00%	48	5.88%
	No	42	91.30%	695	85.07%
	Don't Know	4	8.70%	74	9.06%

TABLE 3.38. CY 2010 DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	9	19.57%	216	26.44%
	No	32	69.57%	520	63.65%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	81	9.91%
PTSD	Yes	2	4.35%	68	8.32%
	No	39	84.78%	654	80.05%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	95	11.63%
Panic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	11	1.35%
	No	40	86.96%	705	86.29%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	101	12.36%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	24	2.94%
	No	41	89.13%	690	84.46%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	103	12.61%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	1	0.12%
	No	40	86.96%	713	87.27%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	103	12.61%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	6	13.04%	44	5.39%
	No	34	73.91%	674	82.50%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	99	12.12%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	0	0.00%	17	2.08%
	No	41	89.13%	719	88.00%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	81	9.91%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	1	2.17%	51	6.24%

TABLE 3.38. CY 2010 DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

No	40	86.96%	685	83.84%
Don't Know	5	10.87%	81	9.91%

TABLE 3.39. CY 2010 DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	3	6.52%	60	7.34%
	No	37	80.43%	657	80.42%
	Don't Know	6	13.04%	100	12.24%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	1	2.17%	10	1.22%
	No	40	86.96%	722	88.37%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	85	10.40%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	8	17.39%	194	23.75%
	No	33	71.74%	522	63.89%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	101	12.36%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	1	2.17%	20	2.45%
	No	41	89.13%	697	85.31%
	Don't Know	4	8.70%	100	12.24%

Treatment History

Table 3.40 provides data on use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to attempting suicide. These data should be interpreted with caution, as treatment available to deployed Service Members differs from treatment available in other locations. One third of DoDSERs for deployed Service Members ($n = 15$, 32.61%) included the history of some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), five (10.87%) within the month prior to attempting suicide. Eight (17.39%) included a known physical health problem. Ten DoDSERs (21.74%) included history of chaplain services, four (8.70%) within the month prior to the suicide attempt. Most DoDSERs for deployed Service Members included history of outpatient behavioral health services ($n = 28$, 60.87%), over half within the month prior to attempting suicide ($n = 17$, 36.96%). Three DoDSERs (6.52%) included history of hospitalization in an inpatient psychiatry unit.

TABLE 3.40. CY 2010 DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	15	32.61%	439	53.73%
	Within 30 days	5	10.87%	302	36.96%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	8	17.39%	385	47.12%
	No	26	56.52%	300	36.72%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	78	9.55%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	8	17.39%	182	22.28%
	Within 30 days	2	4.35%	108	13.22%

TABLE 3.40. CY 2010 DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	6.52%	140	17.14%
	No	33	71.74%	543	66.46%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	92	11.26%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	1	2.17%	169	20.69%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	76	9.30%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	111	13.59%
	No	42	91.30%	580	70.99%
	Don't Know	3	6.52%	68	8.32%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	1	2.17%	57	6.98%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	23	2.82%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	0	0.00%	33	4.04%
	No	42	91.30%	662	81.03%
	Don't Know	3	6.52%	98	12.00%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	10	21.74%	82	10.04%
	Within 30 days	4	8.70%	41	5.02%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	7	15.22%	57	6.98%
	No	27	58.70%	490	59.98%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	245	29.99%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	28	60.87%	517	63.28%
	Within 30 days	17	36.96%	364	44.55%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	23	50.00%	424	51.90%
	No	17	36.96%	257	31.46%
	Don't Know	1	2.17%	43	5.26%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	3	6.52%	185	22.64%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	68	8.32%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	2.17%	111	13.59%
	No	42	91.30%	576	70.50%
	Don't Know	1	2.17%	56	6.85%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

As indicated in Table 3.41, one half of DoDSERs for deployed Service Members who attempted suicide ($n = 23$, 50.00%) included known prescriptions for psychotropic medication prior to the suicide attempt, most frequently antidepressants ($n = 16$, 34.78%).

TABLE 3.41. CY 2010 DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	23	50.00%	377	46.14%
	No	21	45.65%	362	44.31%
	Don't Know	2	4.35%	78	9.55%
Antidepressants	Yes	16	34.78%	313	38.31%
	No	26	56.52%	411	50.31%

TABLE 3.41. CY 2010 DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

	Don't Know	4	8.70%	93	11.38%
Antianxiety	Yes	6	13.04%	156	19.09%
	No	35	76.09%	545	66.71%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	116	14.20%
Antimanics	Yes	0	0.00%	23	2.82%
	No	41	89.13%	672	82.25%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	122	14.93%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	0	0.00%	23	2.82%
	No	41	89.13%	672	82.25%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	122	14.93%
Antipsychotics	Yes	2	4.35%	65	7.96%
	No	39	84.78%	632	77.36%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	120	14.69%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

The majority of DoDSERs for deployed Service Members who attempted suicide ($n = 27$, 58.70%) included a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with 20 (43.48%) indicating the failure occurred within the month prior to attempting suicide (Table 3.42). Eight DoDSERs (17.39%) indicated a failure in another important relationship, with most of these ($n = 6$, 13.04%) occurring within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

TABLE 3.42. CY 2010 DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO EVENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	27	58.70%	435	53.24%
	Within 30 days	20	43.48%	263	32.19%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	23	50.00%	325	39.78%
	No	17	36.96%	307	37.58%
	Don't Know	2	4.35%	75	9.18%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	8	17.39%	119	14.57%
	Within 30 days	6	13.04%	64	7.83%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	6	13.04%	84	10.28%
	No	29	63.04%	551	67.44%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	147	17.99%

TABLE 3.42. CY 2010 DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO EVENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/ OR OTHER)	Yes	30	65.22%	435	53.24%
	Within 30 days	22	47.83%	291	35.62%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	25	54.35%	351	42.96%
	No	14	30.43%	307	37.58%
	Don't Know	2	4.35%	75	9.18%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 3.43 summarizes other family and relationship factors. Five DoDSERs (10.87%) included history of losing a family member to suicide, and four (8.70%) included a friend's suicide. Two DoDSERs (4.35%) included a death of a family member by means other than suicide, and five (10.87%) included a non-suicide death of a friend. DoDSERs for five deployed Service Members (10.87%) included a significant physical health problem for a family member and 17 (36.96%) included a behavioral health problem for a family member.

TABLE 3.43. CY 2010 DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	2	0.24%
	No	43	93.48%	751	91.92%
	Don't Know	3	6.52%	64	7.83%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	5	10.87%	52	6.36%
	No	34	73.91%	654	80.05%
	Don't Know	7	15.22%	111	13.59%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	4	8.70%	56	6.85%
	No	35	76.09%	627	76.74%
	Don't Know	7	15.22%	134	16.40%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	2	4.35%	122	14.93%
	No	36	78.26%	572	70.01%
	Don't Know	8	17.39%	123	15.06%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	5	10.87%	72	8.81%
	No	33	71.74%	612	74.91%
	Don't Know	8	17.39%	133	16.28%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	5	10.87%	67	8.20%
	No	33	71.74%	626	76.62%
	Don't Know	8	17.39%	124	15.18%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	17	36.96%	260	31.82%
	No	21	45.65%	397	48.59%
	Don't Know	8	17.39%	160	19.58%

Administrative and Legal History

As summarized in Table 3.44, approximately one third of DoDSERs for deployed Service Members who attempted suicide included at least one administrative or legal issue ($n = 16$, 34.78%), and six (13.04%)

included more than one. The most frequent administrative or legal problems were Article 15 proceedings ($n = 11$, 23.91%), civil legal problems ($n = 4$, 8.70%), and non-selection for advancement ($n = 3$, 6.52%).

TABLE 3.44. CY 2010 DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	1	2.17%	26	3.18%
	No	40	86.96%	687	84.09%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	104	12.73%
HX ARTICLE 15 OR NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	11	23.91%	139	17.01%
	No	30	65.22%	561	68.67%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	117	14.32%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	1	2.17%	89	10.89%
	No	40	86.96%	623	76.25%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	105	12.85%
HX AWOL	Yes	1	2.17%	52	6.36%
	No	40	86.96%	674	82.50%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	91	11.14%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	1	2.17%	70	8.57%
	No	40	86.96%	662	81.03%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	85	10.40%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	4	8.70%	84	10.28%
	No	34	73.91%	608	74.42%
	Don't Know	8	17.39%	125	15.30%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	3	6.52%	44	5.39%
	No	34	73.91%	631	77.23%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	142	17.38%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	16	34.78%	325	39.78%
	No	25	54.35%	395	48.35%
	Don't Know	5	10.87%	97	11.87%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	6	13.04%	118	14.44%
	No	25	54.35%	366	44.80%
	Don't Know	15	32.61%	333	40.76%

Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 3.45). DoDSERs for deployed Service Members who attempted suicide included a history of reported physical abuse ($n = 9$, 19.57%), sexual abuse ($n = 9$, 19.57%), emotional abuse ($n = 11$, 23.91%), and sexual harassment ($n = 2$, 4.35%). One DoDSER (2.17%) included a history of allegedly perpetrating physical abuse, and one included alleged perpetration of sexual abuse (2.17%).

TABLE 3.45. CY 2010 DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	9	19.57%	162	19.83%
	No	26	56.52%	542	66.34%
	Don't Know	11	23.91%	113	13.83%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	9	19.57%	127	15.54%
	No	28	60.87%	572	70.01%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	118	14.44%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	11	23.91%	188	23.01%
	No	24	52.17%	510	62.42%
	Don't Know	11	23.91%	119	14.57%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	2	4.35%	29	3.55%
	No	33	71.74%	650	79.56%
	Don't Know	11	23.91%	138	16.89%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	1	2.17%	42	5.14%
	No	36	78.26%	646	79.07%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	129	15.79%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	1	2.17%	13	1.59%
	No	36	78.26%	676	82.74%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	128	15.67%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	26	3.18%
	No	37	80.43%	658	80.54%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	133	16.28%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	4	0.49%
	No	37	80.43%	681	83.35%
	Don't Know	9	19.57%	132	16.16%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 3.46). The most frequent responses on DoDSERs for deployed Service Members who attempted suicide indicated history of interpersonal problems with coworkers or supervisors ($n = 19$, 41.30%), job loss or instability ($n = 17$, 36.96%), poor work evaluations ($n = 8$, 17.39%), and excessive debt ($n = 6$, 13.04%).

TABLE 3.46. CY 2010 DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	6	13.04%	80	9.79%
	No	29	63.04%	581	71.11%
	Don't Know	11	23.91%	156	19.09%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	17	36.96%	258	31.58%

TABLE 3.46. CY 2010 DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS (CONT.)

	No	25	54.35%	441	53.98%
	Don't Know	4	8.70%	118	14.44%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	19	41.30%	187	22.89%
	No	21	45.65%	482	59.00%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Don't Know	6	13.04%	148	18.12%
	Yes	8	17.39%	123	15.06%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	No	30	65.22%	531	64.99%
	Don't Know	8	17.39%	163	19.95%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	3	6.52%	37	4.53%
	No	33	71.74%	610	74.66%
	Don't Know	10	21.74%	170	20.81%

Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

The data in this section include the Service Members' prior deployments as well as the deployment during which their suicide attempts took place. Twenty-six suicide attempts occurred in Iraq (56.52%) and 20 occurred in Afghanistan (43.48%; Table 3.47). As summarized in Table 3.48, 10 DoDSERs for Service Members (21.74%) included history of multiple OEF/OIF deployments. Six DoDSERs (13.04%) included experiences of direct combat (Table 3.49).

TABLE 3.47. CY 2010 DoDSERS SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

THEATER		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
	Afghanistan	20	43.48%	0	0.00%
	Iraq	26	56.52%	0	0.00%
	Not OEF/OIF/OND	0	0.00%	817	100.00%

TABLE 3.48. CY 2010 DoDSER DEPLOYMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
	Afghanistan	13	28.26%	53	6.49%
	Iraq	23	50.00%	214	26.19%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	9	1.10%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	10	21.74%	30	3.67%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	0	0.00%	511	62.55%

TABLE 3.49. CY 2010 DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		OEF/OIF/OND		Other	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	6	13.04%	114	13.95%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	3	6.52%	67	8.20%
	Injured in combat	2	4.35%	32	3.92%
	Witnessed killing in combat	3	6.52%	71	8.69%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	4	8.70%	73	8.94%
	Killed others in combat	2	4.35%	43	5.26%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	40	86.96%	703	86.05%

Summary

This chapter provides data on suicide events that occurred during OEF, OIF and OND deployments in 2010, including suicides and suicide attempts. Data are presented for 30 Service Members who died by suicide and for 45 Service Members who attempted suicide in 46 separate incidents. Decedents and those who attempted suicide were primarily male Caucasian, under age 25, enlisted, Regular component Service Members, and without a college degree.

The most frequent method for Service Members who died by suicide was military issue firearm use. Suicide attempt methods were most often drug overdose and use of military issue firearm. Drug and alcohol use was less frequent during suicide events on deployment. The majority of Service Members who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated with others about their likelihood of harming themselves.

Service Members with non-fatal suicide events had more reported behavioral health disorders than did decedents, but similar behavioral health treatment use prior to the event. Additionally, those who attempted suicide had higher prevalence of prior abuse victimization. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Service Members with suicide events. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was Article 15 proceedings.

CHAPTER 4: AIR FORCE DoDSER

AIR FORCE RESULTS FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

Air Force DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance

2010 Reported Suicides

Fifty-nine Air Force suicides were confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2010 (Table 4.1). Air Force Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports (DoDSERs) were submitted and analyzed for all 59, for a submission compliance rate of 100%. The tables in this section include data for all decedents. In addition, the tables provide percentages for 2009 and 2008 DoDSER data for comparison. Specific counts for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

TABLE 4.1. AIR FORCE AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DoDSERS SUBMITTED

	2010	2009	2008
	59	43	35
	60	43	45
	59	43	45
	100%	100%	78%

Data from 1/1/2008 through 12/31/2010 as of 4/1/2011

As summarized in Table 4.2, half of DoDSERs for 2010 Air Force suicides had one or fewer “Unknown” or missing primary data points ($n = 30$, 50.85%). DoDSERs for 17 Airmen (28.81%) had five or more missing data points. Primary data points include any variables that are accessible using standard DoDSER methods (including accessing medical and military records). Since 2008, the amount of missing data has greatly decreased.

TABLE 4.2. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA

NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
0		20	33.90%	13.04%
1		10	16.95%	13.04%
2		7	11.86%	13.04%
3		3	5.08%	17.39%
4		2	3.39%	4.35%
5 or More		17	28.81%	39.13%

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have been associated with or contributed to the suicide events. These factors include decedents' demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Table 4.3 contains demographic data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). All but two of the 59 Air Force 2010 suicides were completed by males. Decedents were primarily Caucasian ($n = 48$, 81.36%), enlisted ($n = 55$, 93.22%), and Regular component ($n = 53$, 89.33%).

TABLE 4.3. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR AIR FORCE SUICIDES

		2010			(N = 46) Percent	2009 (N = 45) Percent	2008 (N = 45) Percent
		Count	Percent	Service Total %			
TOTAL		59	100.00%	100.00%	15.51	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	57	96.61%	80.68%	18.57	95.65%	95.56%
	Female	2	3.39%	19.32%	*	4.35%	4.44%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	1.69%	0.65%	*	4.35%	8.89%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	1	1.69%	3.57%	*	2.17%	2.22%
	Black/African American	8	13.56%	13.88%	*	10.87%	8.89%
	White/Caucasian	46	77.97%	73.38%	17.20	78.26%	66.67%
	Other/Don't Know	1	1.69%	8.52%	*	4.35%	13.33%
AGE RANGE	Under 25	20	33.90%	30.54%	23.03	36.96%	44.44%
	25-29	16	27.12%	23.89%	*	23.91%	8.89%
	30-34	5	8.47%	16.20%	*	17.39%	24.44%
	35-39	14	23.73%	13.18%	*	4.35%	
	40-44	3	5.08%	9.59%	*	8.70%	22.22%
	45+	1	1.69%	6.61%	*	8.70%	
RANK	Cadet	1	1.69%	1.25%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	E1-E4	24	40.68%	32.60%	19.35	45.65%	33.33%
	E5-E9	31	52.54%	46.55%	17.51	43.48%	51.11%
	Officer	3	5.08%	19.60%	*	10.87%	15.56%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00%	0.00%
COMPONENT	Regular	53	89.83%	87.91%	15.85	89.13%	86.67%
	Reserve	0	0.00%	3.94%	*	6.52%	2.22%
	National Guard	6	10.17%	8.15%	*	4.35%	11.11%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	0	0.00%	0.07%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	GED	0	0.00%	0.04%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	High school graduate	42	71.19%	53.53%	20.63	76.09%	60.00%
	Some college or technical school	6	10.17%	0.03%	*	2.17%	0.00%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	5	8.47%	19.48%	*	8.70%	17.78%

TABLE 4.3 CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR AIR FORCE SUICIDES (CONT.)

	Four-year college degree	5	8.47%	12.67%	*	0.00%	11.11%
	Master's degree or greater	0	0.00%	12.46%	*	8.70%	11.11%
	Don't Know	1	1.69%	1.71%	*	4.35%	0.00%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	18	30.51%	33.72%	*	30.43%	26.67%
	Married	34	57.63%	59.00%	15.15	56.52%	57.78%
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	0.01%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Divorced	6	10.17%	7.18%	*	13.04%	15.56%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.09%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Don't Know	1	1.69%	0.00%	*	0.00%	0.00%

Note: Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals.

Event Setting

In 2010, as in the previous two years, Air Force suicides most frequently took place in the United States ($n = 52$, 88.14%), with one suicide occurring during deployment to Afghanistan (1.69%) and none in Iraq (Table 4.4). Suicides primarily occurred in either the Service Members' own residences ($n = 40$, 67.80%) or the residence of a friend or family member ($n = 7$, 11.86%). Other settings included vehicles ($n = 4$, 6.78%) and job sites ($n = 3$, 5.08%; Table 4.5).

TABLE 4.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
United States		52	88.14%	89.13%
Iraq		0	0.00%	2.17%
Afghanistan		1	1.69%	2.17%
Kuwait		0	0.00%	2.17%
Asia		3	5.08%	2.17%
Europe		1	1.69%	2.17%
Other		2	3.39%	0.00%

TABLE 4.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER EVENT SETTING

EVENT SETTING		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
Residence (own) or barracks		40	67.80%	67.39%
Residence of friend or family		7	11.86%	4.35%
Work/jobsite		3	5.08%	0.00%
Automobile (away from residence)		4	6.78%	6.52%
Inpatient medical facility		0	0.00%	0.00%
Other		5	8.47%	21.74%
Don't Know		0	0.00%	0.00%

Event Method

As indicated in Table 4.6, approximately half of 2010 Air Force suicides involved non-military issue firearms ($n = 30$, 50.85%), and hanging accounted for approximately one third ($n = 20$, 33.90%). As in the prior two years, few Airmen died by suicide using military issue firearms ($n = 4$, 6.78%). Methods used for the remaining suicides included drugs ($n = 2$, 3.39%) and vehicle gas or exhaust ($n = 1$, 1.69%).

TABLE 4.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER EVENT METHOD

EVENT METHOD		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
Firearm, non-military issue	30	50.85%	54.35%	48.57%
Firearm, military issue	4	6.78%	10.87%	2.86%
Hanging	20	33.90%	17.39%	25.71%
Drugs	2	3.39%	2.17%	0.00%
Gas, vehicle exhaust	1	1.69%	0.00%	8.57%
Gas, utility (or other)	0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
Sharp or blunt object	0	0.00%	4.35%	0.00%
Jumping from high place	0	0.00%	2.17%	2.86%
Crashing a motor vehicle	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.86%
Other	0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
Don't Know	2	3.39%	4.35%	8.57%

Substance Use during the Event

Comprehensive information about substance use during suicide is unavailable for many Air Force suicides in 2010. Of those for whom information was available, almost one third used alcohol during the suicide event ($n = 10$, 29.41% of DoDSERs with alcohol use data, 16.95% of total; Table 4.7). Fewer were known to have used drugs ($n = 5$, 13.51% of DoDSERs with drug use data, 8.47% of total). As in the prior two years, drug use most frequently consisted of misuse of prescription drugs. These frequencies include one Airman who used drugs as a suicide attempt method (1.69%), as described above.

TABLE 4.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	10	16.95%	36.96%
	No	24	40.68%	17.39%
	Don't Know	25	42.37%	45.65%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	5	8.47%	13.04%
	No	32	54.24%	41.30%
	Don't Know	22	37.29%	45.65%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	1	1.69%	0.00%
	Were not used	36	61.02%	54.35%
	Don't know	22	37.29%	45.65%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	1	1.69%	2.17%
	Used, no overdose	3	5.08%	2.17%
	Were not used	33	55.93%	50.00%

TABLE 4.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT (CONT.)

	Don't know	22	37.29%	45.65%	31.43%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	8.70%	2.86%
	Were not used	37	62.71%	45.65%	62.86%
	Don't know	22	37.29%	45.65%	34.29%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	1	1.69%	13.04%	8.57%
	No	30	50.85%	39.13%	60.00%
	Don't Know	28	47.46%	47.83%	31.43%

Communication of Intent

Consistent with the prior two years, most Air Force decedents had no known history of communicating with others about their intent to harm themselves ($n = 36$, 61.02%; Table 4.8). Over one third of Airmen were known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their potential to die by suicide ($n = 22$, 37.29%). These communications were most frequently verbal ($n = 13$, 22.03%) or text messages ($n = 5$, 8.47%; Table 4.9). One decedent communicated intent to self-harm via a post on a social networking site. As indicated in Table 4.10, decedents most frequently communicated with their spouses ($n = 8$, 13.56%), behavioral health providers ($n = 5$, 8.47%), and friends ($n = 3$, 5.08%).

TABLE 4.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	36	61.02%	73.91%
	1	22	37.29%	13.04%
	2	1	1.69%	6.52%
	3	0	0.00%	6.52%
				2.86%

TABLE 4.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	14	23.73%	13.04%
	Written	1	1.69%	2.17%
	Other or Unknown	5	8.47%	2.17%
	Multiple Modes	3	5.08%	8.70%
	No Known Communication	36	61.02%	73.91%
				71.43%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

TABLE 4.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	8	13.56%	4.35%
	Friend	3	5.08%	0.00%
				2.86%

TABLE 4.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT (CONT.)

Behavioral Health Provider	4	6.78%	0.00%	5.71%
Chaplain	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Supervisor	1	1.69%	0.00%	0.00%
Other or Unidentified	6	10.17%	8.70%	17.14%
Made Multiple Communications	1	1.69%	13.04%	2.86%
No Known Communication	36	61.02%	73.91%	71.43%

Additional Event Information

Table 4.11 provides information about other details of 2010 Air Force suicides. For the majority ($n= 48$, 81.36%), there were data to indicate that the decedents intended to die. No Airmen were known to have died while engaging in death risk gambling (e.g., “Russian roulette”). Almost half of the suicides appeared premeditated ($n = 28$, 47.46%). Fifteen Air Force decedents (25.42%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others. Twenty-four (40.68%) left suicide notes.

TABLE 4.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	48	81.36%	71.74%
	No	2	3.39%	4.35%
	Don't Know	9	15.25%	23.91%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%
	No	52	88.14%	71.74%
	Don't Know	7	11.86%	28.26%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	28	47.46%	30.43%
	No	20	33.90%	21.74%
	Don't Know	11	18.64%	47.83%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	15	25.42%	19.57%
	No	38	64.41%	54.35%
	Don't Know	6	10.17%	26.09%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	24	40.68%	23.91%
	No	24	40.68%	47.83%
	Don't Know	11	18.64%	28.26%

Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

Situational Factors

Table 4.12 provides details about the living situations for Airmen who died by suicide in 2010. Decedents most frequently lived in homes or apartments outside of their installations ($n = 40$, 67.80%). Nearly one fourth lived in shared living environments on their installations ($n = 13$, 22.03%). Of those who were married ($n = 29$), most lived with their spouses ($n = 24$, 82.76% of married, 40.68% of total), and four were separated (13.79% of married, 6.78% of total). Most decedents lived with others ($n = 33$, 55.93%). Twenty-seven (45.76%) Air Force decedents had minor children, and 16 (27.12%) lived with their children at the time of death. Nearly half of decedents had access to firearms either in their homes, at work, or other accessible locations ($n = 27$, 45.76%).

TABLE 4.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	13	22.03%	17.39%	0.00%
	On-base family housing	2	3.39%	6.52%	5.71%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	40	67.80%	65.22%	31.43%
	Other	2	3.39%	6.52%	2.86%
	Don't Know	2	3.39%	4.35%	60.00%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resided with spouse	24	40.68%	34.78%	42.86%
	Separated due to relationship issues	4	6.78%	4.35%	2.86%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	1	1.69%	4.35%	0.00%
	Don't Know	1	1.69%	8.70%	11.43%
	Unmarried at time of event	29	49.15%	47.83%	42.86%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	24	40.68%	43.48%	17.14%
	No	33	55.93%	43.48%	48.57%
	Don't Know	2	3.39%	13.04%	34.29%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	27	45.76%	39.13%	34.29%
	No	32	54.24%	60.87%	65.71%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	16	27.12%	23.91%	31.43%
	No	10	16.95%	10.87%	0.00%
	Don't Know	1	1.69%	4.35%	2.86%
	No Children	32	54.24%	60.87%	65.71%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	27	45.76%	45.65%	34.29%
	No	23	38.98%	28.26%	0.00%
	Don't Know	9	15.25%	26.09%	65.71%

Duty Environment

Consistent with the previous two years, the primary duty environment of decedents was their permanent duty station ($n = 39$, 66.10%; Table 4.13). In addition, four (6.78%) were hospitalized in an inpatient psychiatry unit at the time of event.

TABLE 4.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	39	66.10%	60.87%	77.14%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	4	6.78%	6.52%	2.86%
	Medical Hold	0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
	TDY	1	1.69%	0.00%	0.00%
	AWOL	1	1.69%	0.00%	0.00%
	Deployed	1	1.69%	4.35%	0.00%
	Training	1	1.69%	0.00%	0.00%
	Other	5	8.47%	8.70%	8.57%
	Multiple Duty Environments	1	1.69%	10.87%	0.00%
	Duty Environment Unknown	6	10.17%	6.52%	11.43%

Suicide Completions by Month

As in the prior two years, no clear pattern existed for Air Force suicides by month (Table 4.14).

TABLE 4.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUICIDES BY MONTH

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
MONTH	January	5	8.47%	6.52%	11.43%
	February	3	5.08%	13.04%	5.71%
	March	5	8.47%	0.00%	2.86%
	April	5	8.47%	13.04%	11.43%
	May	7	11.86%	4.35%	2.86%
	June	2	3.39%	8.70%	5.71%
	July	7	11.86%	8.70%	17.14%
	August	3	5.08%	6.52%	2.86%
	September	4	6.78%	10.87%	11.43%
	October	9	15.25%	13.04%	14.29%
	November	4	6.78%	8.70%	14.29%
	December	5	8.47%	6.52%	0.00%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

Nine Airmen who died by suicide in 2010 (15.25%) had a known history of self-harm (Table 4.15), and four decedents (6.78%) were known to have at least two prior incidents of self-harm.

TABLE 4.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	9	15.25%	19.57%	8.57%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	4.35%	0.00%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	1.69%	6.52%	5.71%
	No	38	64.41%	47.83%	0.00%
	Don't Know	12	20.34%	32.61%	91.43%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	5	8.47%	15.22%	0.00%
	More than one prior event	4	6.78%	4.35%	0.00%
	N/A or Unknown	50	84.75%	80.43%	100.00%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	2	3.39%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	6	10.17%	10.87%	0.00%
	Don't Know	1	1.69%	8.70%	8.57%
	N/A	50	84.75%	80.43%	91.43%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death. Twenty-seven (45.76%) Airmen who died by suicide in 2010 had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 4.16). Fourteen (23.73%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 4.17, nine decedents (15.25%) had a mood disorder. As summarized in Table 4.18, nine (15.25%) had an anxiety disorder, including PTSD ($n = 2$, 3.39%) and panic disorder ($n = 2$, 3.39%). Personality disorders were rare ($n = 2$, 3.39%), as was traumatic brain injury ($n = 1$, 1.69%; Table 4.19). Eleven decedents (18.64%) had a known history of substance abuse.

TABLE 4.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	32	54.24%	60.87%	74.29%
	1 DX	13	22.03%	15.22%	25.71%
	2 DX	8	13.56%	19.57%	0.00%
	3 DX	6	10.17%	4.35%	0.00%
	4 or more DX	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

TABLE 4.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes		9	15.25%	28.26%	14.29%
	No		45	76.27%	54.35%	45.71%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	17.39%	40.00%
Bipolar disorder	Yes		0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
	No		54	91.53%	78.26%	45.71%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	19.57%	54.29%
Major depression	Yes		2	3.39%	8.70%	0.00%
	No		52	88.14%	69.57%	45.71%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	21.74%	54.29%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes		1	1.69%	2.17%	0.00%
	No		53	89.83%	73.91%	45.71%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	23.91%	54.29%
Other mood disorder	Yes		6	10.17%	15.22%	2.86%
	No		48	81.36%	65.22%	45.71%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	19.57%	51.43%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes		0	0.00%	0.00%	11.43%
	No		54	91.53%	82.61%	48.57%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	17.39%	40.00%
Multiple mood DX	Yes		0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No		54	91.53%	82.61%	60.00%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	17.39%	40.00%

TABLE 4.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes		9	15.25%	23.91%	11.43%
	No		46	77.97%	56.52%	51.43%
	Don't Know		4	6.78%	19.57%	37.14%
PTSD	Yes		2	3.39%	4.35%	2.86%
	No		52	88.14%	71.74%	51.43%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	23.91%	45.71%
Panic disorder	Yes		2	3.39%	0.00%	0.00%
	No		52	88.14%	76.09%	51.43%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	23.91%	48.57%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes		0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No		54	91.53%	76.09%	51.43%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	23.91%	48.57%
Acute stress disorder	Yes		0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No		54	91.53%	76.09%	51.43%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	23.91%	48.57%

TABLE 4.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS (CONT.)

Other anxiety disorder	Yes	1	1.69%	15.22%	0.00%
	No	53	89.83%	63.04%	51.43%
	Don't Know	5	8.47%	21.74%	48.57%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	3	5.08%	4.35%	8.57%
	No	52	88.14%	76.09%	54.29%
	Don't Know	4	6.78%	19.57%	37.14%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	1	1.69%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	54	91.53%	80.43%	62.86%
	Don't Know	4	6.78%	19.57%	37.14%

TABLE 4.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	2	3.39%	4.35%
	No	52	88.14%	71.74%
	Don't Know	5	8.47%	23.91%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%
	No	54	91.53%	80.43%
	Don't Know	5	8.47%	19.57%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	11	18.64%	13.04%
	No	41	69.49%	56.52%
	Don't Know	7	11.86%	30.43%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	1	1.69%	
	No	52	88.14%	
	Don't Know	6	10.17%	

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

Treatment History

Table 4.20 provides data on Air Force suicide decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. The majority ($n = 37$, 62.71%) had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Twenty-six decedents (44.07%) were treated at a MTF within a month of their suicides. These percentages are higher than in previous years, but are likely due to improved reporting as indicated by the decrease in "Don't Know" responses. Nine Airmen (15.25%) had a known history of a physical health problem and five decedents (8.47%) had received physical health diagnoses within the month prior to suicide.

Thirteen Air Force decedents (22.03%) received substance abuse treatment services, and seven (11.86%) were involved in family advocacy programs. Six Airmen (10.17%) utilized chaplain services. Nearly half of decedents ($n = 26$, 44.07%) had received outpatient behavioral health treatment, with 11 (18.64%) receiving treatment within the month prior to suicide. Eight Airmen (13.56%) received inpatient behavioral health treatment, four of whom (6.78%) were treated within the month prior to suicide.

TABLE 4.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes		37	62.71%	60.87%	48.57%
	Within 30 days		26	44.07%	32.61%	8.57%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		31	52.54%	43.48%	20.00%
	No		15	25.42%	15.22%	17.14%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Don't Know		7	11.86%	23.91%	34.29%
	Yes		9	15.25%	34.78%	17.14%
	Within 30 days		5	8.47%	13.04%	2.86%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		7	11.86%	17.39%	11.43%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	No		37	62.71%	36.96%	22.86%
	Don't Know		13	22.03%	28.26%	60.00%
	Yes		13	22.03%	21.74%	5.71%
	Within 30 days		4	6.78%	10.87%	2.86%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		5	8.47%	10.87%	2.86%
	No		42	71.19%	60.87%	54.29%
	Don't Know		4	6.78%	17.39%	40.00%
	Yes		7	11.86%	6.52%	8.57%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Within 30 days		0	0.00%	0.00%	2.86%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		3	5.08%	2.17%	5.71%
	No		48	81.36%	71.74%	51.43%
	Don't Know		4	6.78%	21.74%	40.00%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes		6	10.17%	10.87%	8.57%
	Within 30 days		4	6.78%	4.35%	2.86%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		5	8.47%	6.52%	8.57%
	No		26	44.07%	23.91%	51.43%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Don't Know		27	45.76%	65.22%	40.00%
	Yes		26	44.07%	39.13%	25.71%
	Within 30 days		11	18.64%	21.74%	20.00%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		17	28.81%	23.91%	22.86%
	No		29	49.15%	45.65%	34.29%
	Don't Know		4	6.78%	15.22%	40.00%
	Yes		8	13.56%	17.39%	0.00%
	Within 30 days		4	6.78%	0.00%	0.00%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		4	6.78%	2.17%	0.00%
	No		46	77.97%	60.87%	34.29%
	Don't Know		5	8.47%	21.74%	65.71%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 4.21 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by decedents prior to suicide. Relative percentages are higher in 2010 than in the previous two years, but this change is likely a result of improved reporting as indicated by decreases in "Don't Know" responses. Fourteen decedents (23.73%) had

known prescriptions for psychotropic medications, most frequently antidepressants ($n = 13$, 22.03%).

TABLE 4.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes		14	23.73%	21.74%	2.86%
	No		37	62.71%	54.35%	25.71%
	Don't Know		8	13.56%	23.91%	71.43%
Antidepressants	Yes		13	22.03%	21.74%	2.86%
	No		38	64.41%	54.35%	25.71%
	Don't Know		8	13.56%	23.91%	71.43%
Antianxiety	Yes		7	11.86%	6.52%	0.00%
	No		43	72.88%	67.39%	28.57%
	Don't Know		9	15.25%	26.09%	71.43%
Antimanics	Yes		2	3.39%	0.00%	0.00%
	No		48	81.36%	73.91%	28.57%
	Don't Know		9	15.25%	26.09%	71.43%
Anticonvulsants	Yes		0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
	No		51	86.44%	71.74%	28.57%
	Don't Know		8	13.56%	26.09%	71.43%
Antipsychotics	Yes		3	5.08%	4.35%	0.00%
	No		48	81.36%	71.74%	28.57%
	Don't Know		8	13.56%	23.91%	71.43%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

Half of 2010 Air Force decedents ($n = 30$, 50.85%) had a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with 22 (37.29%) experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 4.22). Thirteen decedents (22.03%) had a failure in another important relationship, half of these ($n = 6$, 10.17%) occurring a month prior to suicide. More than half of Airmen who died by suicide in 2010 had some form of failed relationship ($n = 32$, 54.24%), with twenty-three (38.98%) occurring within the month prior to death.

TABLE 4.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes		30	50.85%	56.52%	40.00%
	Within 30 days		22	37.29%	23.91%	8.57%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		23	38.98%	32.61%	40.00%

TABLE 4.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE (CONT.)

HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	No	21	35.59%	23.91%	17.14%
	Don't Know	8	13.56%	19.57%	42.86%
	Yes	13	22.03%	6.52%	20.00%
	Within 30 days	6	10.17%	4.35%	0.00%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/ OR OTHER)	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	7	11.86%	4.35%	17.14%
	No	31	52.54%	47.83%	20.00%
	Don't Know	15	25.42%	45.65%	60.00%
	Yes	32	54.24%	56.52%	42.86%
	Within 30 days	23	38.98%	23.91%	8.57%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	24	40.68%	32.61%	40.00%
	No	19	32.20%	23.91%	14.29%
	Don't Know	8	13.56%	19.57%	42.86%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 4.23 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may be associated with the suicide. Ten Air Force decedents (16.95%) were known to have a family member with behavioral health problems, and eight (13.56%) had experienced the death of a family member. Friends of two decedents (3.39%) had died by suicide prior to the Airmen's deaths, and one decedent's friend (1.69%) had died by other means. Two decedents (3.39%) were known to have family members with physical health problems.

TABLE 4.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY

			2010	2009	2008
			Count	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes		0	0.00%	0.00%
	No		49	83.05%	76.09%
	Don't Know		10	16.95%	23.91%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes		0	0.00%	6.52%
	No		44	74.58%	50.00%
	Don't Know		15	25.42%	43.48%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes		2	3.39%	4.35%
	No		40	67.80%	41.30%
	Don't Know		17	28.81%	54.35%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes		8	13.56%	6.52%
	No		35	59.32%	36.96%
	Don't Know		16	27.12%	56.52%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes		1	1.69%	2.17%
	No		40	67.80%	39.13%
	Don't Know		18	30.51%	58.70%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes		2	3.39%	4.35%
	No		41	69.49%	45.65%
	Don't Know		16	27.12%	50.00%

TABLE 4.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY (CONT.)

HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	10	16.95%	15.22%	2.86%
	No	27	45.76%	30.43%	0.00%
	Don't Know	22	37.29%	54.35%	97.14%

Administrative and Legal History

For 2010 Air Force suicide events, DoDSER POCs provided more data compared to prior years, as indicated by decreases in “Don’t Knows.” As such, increases in “Yes” responses below (Table 4.24) likely result from improved reporting rather than an increase in administrative and legal problems. Approximately one third of Airmen who died by suicide in 2010 (33.90%) had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and 11 (18.64%) had more than one. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was Article 15 proceedings ($n = 9$, 15.25%), followed by civil legal problems ($n = 8$, 13.56%).

TABLE 4.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY

		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	4	6.78%	4.35%	0.00%
	No	44	74.58%	71.74%	54.29%
	Don't Know	11	18.64%	23.91%	45.71%
HX ARTICLE 15	Yes	9	15.25%	10.87%	5.71%
	No	39	66.10%	60.87%	51.43%
	Don't Know	11	18.64%	28.26%	42.86%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	4	6.78%	2.17%	0.00%
	No	46	77.97%	71.74%	28.57%
	Don't Know	9	15.25%	26.09%	71.43%
HX AWOL	Yes	2	3.39%	2.17%	0.00%
	No	47	79.66%	71.74%	25.71%
	Don't Know	10	16.95%	26.09%	74.29%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	4	6.78%	8.70%	0.00%
	No	46	77.97%	71.74%	11.43%
	Don't Know	9	15.25%	19.57%	88.57%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	8	13.56%	15.22%	2.86%
	No	39	66.10%	52.17%	45.71%
	Don't Know	12	20.34%	32.61%	51.43%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	2	3.39%	10.87%	0.00%
	No	46	77.97%	56.52%	0.00%
	Don't Know	11	18.64%	32.61%	100.00%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	20	33.90%	32.61%	8.57%
	No	28	47.46%	41.30%	42.86%
	Don't Know	11	18.64%	26.09%	48.57%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	11	18.64%	17.39%	0.00%
	No	27	45.76%	41.30%	0.00%
	Don't Know	21	35.59%	41.30%	100.00%

Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 4.25). Five Air Force suicide decedents (8.47%) reportedly experienced physical abuse, and one (1.69%) reportedly experienced sexual abuse. Five Airmen (8.47%) had reportedly been victims of emotional abuse. Six decedents (10.17%) had allegedly physically abused others, three (5.08%) had allegedly sexually abused others, and two (3.39%) had allegedly perpetrated emotional abuse.

TABLE 4.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	5	8.47%	4.35% 0.00%
	No	42	71.19%	65.22% 0.00%
	Don't Know	12	20.34%	30.43% 100.00%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	1	1.69%	2.17% 0.00%
	No	45	76.27%	67.39% 0.00%
	Don't Know	13	22.03%	30.43% 100.00%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	5	8.47%	6.52% 0.00%
	No	42	71.19%	63.04% 0.00%
	Don't Know	12	20.34%	30.43% 100.00%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00% 0.00%
	No	47	79.66%	65.22% 0.00%
	Don't Know	12	20.34%	34.78% 100.00%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	6	10.17%	10.87% 0.00%
	No	42	71.19%	50.00% 0.00%
	Don't Know	11	18.64%	39.13% 100.00%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	3	5.08%	4.35% 0.00%
	No	46	77.97%	54.35% 0.00%
	Don't Know	10	16.95%	41.30% 100.00%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	2	3.39%	0.00% 0.00%
	No	47	79.66%	54.35% 0.00%
	Don't Know	10	16.95%	45.65% 100.00%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17% 0.00%
	No	49	83.05%	54.35% 0.00%
	Don't Know	10	16.95%	43.48% 100.00%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 4.26). Six Airmen (10.17%) who died by suicide in 2010 had experienced significant debt. Eight decedents (13.56%) either had lost a position or experienced job instability. Six Airmen (10.17%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with their supervisors or coworkers. Poor evaluations were reported for six decedents (10.17%).

TABLE 4.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes		6	10.17%	8.70%	20.00%
	No		40	67.80%	54.35%	22.86%
	Don't Know		13	22.03%	36.96%	57.14%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes		8	13.56%	30.43%	22.86%
	No		42	71.19%	41.30%	31.43%
	Don't Know		9	15.25%	28.26%	45.71%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes		6	10.17%	8.70%	0.00%
	No		42	71.19%	56.52%	0.00%
	Don't Know		11	18.64%	34.78%	100.00%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes		6	10.17%	15.22%	5.71%
	No		42	71.19%	54.35%	8.57%
	Don't Know		11	18.64%	30.43%	85.71%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes		1	1.69%	0.00%	0.00%
	No		45	76.27%	63.04%	0.00%
	Don't Know		13	22.03%	36.96%	100.00%

Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

One Airman died while deployed on OEF in Afghanistan (1.69%; Table 4.27). Fourteen of the Airmen who died by suicide in 2010 (23.73%) had previously served in Afghanistan or Iraq (Table 4.28). Three decedents (5.08%) had known direct combat experiences, including participating in combat that resulted in injuries ($n = 2$, 3.39%), witnessing killing ($n = 2$, 3.39%), and seeing dead bodies ($n = 2$, 3.39%; Table 4.29).

TABLE 4.27. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUICIDES IN THEATER

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan		1	1.69%	2.17%	0.00%
	Iraq		0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
	Kuwait		0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
	Not OEF/OIF/OND		58	98.31%	93.48%	100.00%

TABLE 4.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF	Afghanistan	6	10.17%	8.70%	0.00%
	Iraq	7	11.86%	13.04%	2.86%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	4.35%	0.00%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	1	1.69%	2.17%	0.00%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	45	76.27%	71.74%	97.14%

TABLE 4.29. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	3	5.08%	6.52%	0.00%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	2	3.39%	4.35%	0.00%
	Injured in combat	0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
	Witnessed killing in combat	2	3.39%	4.35%	0.00%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	2	3.39%	2.17%	0.00%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	56	94.92%	93.48%	100.00%

AIR FORCE DoDSERs SUBMITTED FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

DoDSER POCs submitted 241 DoDSERs for 2010 Air Force suicide attempts. As indicated in Table 4.30, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 230 individuals. Two attempts were reported (DoDSERs submitted) for nine (3.91%) individuals, and three for one individual (0.43%). Additionally, one Airman with a 2010 suicide attempt DoDSER subsequently died by suicide in 2010 and was also included in the preceding section. The tables in this section use a denominator of 241.

TABLE 4.30. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS

	Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs	241	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED	230	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL		
1	220	95.65%
2	9	3.91%
3	1	0.43%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2010 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE	1	0.43%

As summarized in Table 4.31, half of DoDSERs for 2010 Air Force suicide attempts had no missing or “Unknown” primary data points ($n = 122$, 50.62%). Primary data points include any variables that are accessible using standard DoDSER methods (including accessing medical and military records).

TABLE 4.31. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA

	Count	Percent
NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN		
0	122	50.62%
1	49	20.33%
2	23	9.54%
3	9	3.73%
4	10	4.15%
5 or More	28	11.62%

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with or contributed to the suicide attempts. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide attempt method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Table 4.32 contains DoDSER demographic data for Airmen who attempted suicide in 2010. Airmen who attempted suicide were most often male ($n = 153$; 63.49%), Caucasian ($n = 180$, 74.69%), under age 25 ($n = 136$, 56.43%), junior enlisted ($n = 155$, 64.58%), Regular component ($n = 234$, 97.50%) and without a college education ($n = 186$, 77.18%).

TABLE 4.32. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER DEMOGRAPHICS

		Count	Percent
TOTAL		241	100.00%
GENDER	Male	153	63.49%
	Female	88	36.51%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	0.41%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	4	1.66%
	Black/African American	37	15.35%
	White/Caucasian	180	74.69%
	Other	9	3.73%
	Don't Know	10	4.15%
AGE RANGE	Under 25	136	56.43%
	25-29	57	23.65%
	30-39	39	16.18%
	40 +	9	3.73%
RANK	E1-E4	155	64.58%
	E5-E9	72	30.00%
	Officer	12	5.00%
	Warrant Officer	1	0.42%
COMPONENT	Regular	234	97.50%
	Reserve	2	0.83%
	National Guard	3	1.25%
	Other	1	0.42%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	1	0.42%
	GED	1	0.42%
	High school graduate	97	40.42%
	Some college or technical school	87	36.25%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	15	6.25%
	Four-year college degree	14	5.83%
	Master's degree or greater	7	2.92%
	Don't Know	18	7.50%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	114	47.30%
	Married	89	36.93%
	Legally Separated	10	4.15%
	Divorced	25	10.37%
	Don't Know	3	1.24%

Event Setting

CY 2010 Air Force suicide attempts most frequently took place in the United States ($n = 190$, 78.84%), followed by European countries ($n = 22$, 9.13%) and Asian countries other than Iraq and Afghanistan ($n = 19$, 7.88%; Table 4.33). As indicated in Table 4.34, suicide attempts primarily occurred in the Service Members'

residences ($n = 197$, 81.74%). The most frequent “Other” settings include hotels ($n = 6$, 2.49%) and parks ($n = 3$, 1.24%).

TABLE 4.33. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

		Count	Percent
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	United States	190	78.84%
	Iraq	1	0.41%
	Afghanistan	2	0.83%
	Asia	19	7.88%
	Europe	22	9.13%
	Canada or Mexico	1	0.41%
	Other	4	1.66%
	Don't Know	2	0.83%

TABLE 4.34. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT SETTING

		Count	Percent
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	197	81.74%
	Residence of friend or family	8	3.32%
	Work/jobsite	4	1.66%
	Automobile (away from residence)	6	2.49%
	Other	24	9.96%
	Don't Know	2	0.83%

Event Method

As indicated in Table 4.35, drugs were the most frequent method for suicide attempt ($n = 145$, 60.17%), followed by injury with a sharp or blunt object ($n = 38$, 15.77%).

TABLE 4.35. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT METHOD

		Count	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	4	1.66%
	Hanging	17	7.05%
	Drugs	145	60.17%
	Alcohol	13	5.39%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	3	1.24%
	Gas, utility (or other)	2	0.83%
	Drowning	3	1.24%
	Fire, steam, etc.	1	0.41%
	Sharp or blunt object	38	15.77%
	Jumping from high place	6	2.49%
	Lying in front of moving object	1	0.41%
	Chemicals	2	0.83%
	Other	2	0.83%
	Don't Know	4	1.66%

Substance Use during the Event

DoDSER POCs collected data on known alcohol and drug use during Air Force suicide attempts. As indicated in Table 4.36, 97 Air Force suicide attempt DoDSERs (40.25%) included evidence of alcohol use, and 157 (65.15%) included evidence of drug use during the suicide attempt. Sixty-four DoDSERs (26.56%) included information about both drugs and alcohol. These frequencies include Airmen who used drugs as a suicide attempt method ($n = 145$, 60.17%), as described above.

TABLE 4.36. CY 2010 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		Count	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	97	40.25%
	No	128	53.11%
	Don't Know	16	6.64%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	157	65.15%
	No	76	31.54%
	Don't Know	8	3.32%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	11	4.56%
	Used, no overdose	6	2.49%
	Were not used	216	89.63%
	Don't know	8	3.32%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	103	42.74%
	Used, no overdose	19	7.88%
	Were not used	111	46.06%
	Don't know	8	3.32%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	44	18.26%
	Used, no overdose	15	6.22%
	Were not used	174	72.20%
	Don't know	8	3.32%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	64	26.56%
	No	157	65.15%
	Don't Know	20	8.30%

Communication of Intent

Most DoDSERs regarding Air Force suicide attempts included no known history of Airmen communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ($n = 168$, 69.71%; Table 4.37). Almost one fourth of DoDSERs ($n = 56$, 23.24%) indicated that Airmen communicated their intent to hurt themselves to at least one individual prior to attempting suicide. These communications were most frequently verbal ($n = 58$, 24.07%) or text messages ($n = 6$, 2.49%; Table 4.38). As indicated in Table 4.39, Airmen most frequently communicated with their spouses ($n = 15$, 6.22%), friends ($n = 15$, 6.22%), and other family members ($n = 10$, 4.15%).

TABLE 4.37. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	168	69.71%
	1	56	23.24%
	2	14	5.81%
	3	3	1.24%

TABLE 4.38. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	58	24.07%
	Written	5	2.07%
	Other or Unknown	7	2.90%
	Multiple Modes	3	1.24%
	No Known Communication	168	69.71%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

TABLE 4.39. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	15	6.22%
	Friend	15	6.22%
	Behavioral Health Provider	8	3.32%
	Supervisor	6	2.49%
	Other or Unidentified	12	4.98%
	Made Multiple Communications	17	7.05%
	No Known Communication	168	69.71%

Additional Event Information

Table 4.40 provides information about other details of 2010 Air Force suicide attempts. For the majority ($n = 169$, 70.12%), there were data to indicate that the Airmen intended to die. One fourth of suicide attempts ($n = 61$, 25.31%) appeared planned or premeditated. Ninety-nine suicide attempts (41.08%) took place in a location potentially observable by others. Thirty-one (12.86%) left suicide notes.

TABLE 4.40. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

		Count	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	169	70.12%
	No	34	14.11%
	Don't Know	38	15.77%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	2	0.83%
	No	225	93.36%
	Don't Know	14	5.81%

TABLE 4.40. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION (CONT.)

PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	61	25.31%
	No	129	53.53%
	Don't Know	51	21.16%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	99	41.08%
	No	108	44.81%
	Don't Know	34	14.11%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	31	12.86%
	No	179	74.27%
	Don't Know	31	12.86%

Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

Situational Factors

Table 4.41 provides details about the living situations for Airmen who attempted suicide in 2010. Most DoDSERs indicated the Airmen lived in homes or apartments outside of their installations ($n = 105$, 43.57%). One third lived in a shared living environment on the installation ($n = 81$, 33.61%). Married Airmen ($n = 78$) most often lived with their spouses at the time of their suicide attempts ($n = 51$, 65.38% of married Airmen, 21.16% of total), and 17 were separated due to relationship issues (21.79% of married Airmen, 7.05% of total). About one fourth of Airmen had minor children ($n = 58$, 24.07%), and most resided with their children at the time of the suicide attempt ($n = 32$, 54.24% of Airmen with children, 13.28% of total). Twenty-four of those (9.96%) were known to have access to firearms either in their homes, at work, or in other accessible locations.

TABLE 4.41. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT

		Count	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	81	33.61%
	Bachelor quarters	9	3.73%
	On-base family housing	19	7.88%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	105	43.57%
	Other	9	3.73%
	Don't Know	18	7.47%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resides with spouse	51	21.16%
	Separated due to relationship issues	17	7.05%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	10	4.15%
	Don't Know	11	4.56%
	Unmarried at time of event	152	63.07%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	117	48.55%
	No	105	43.57%

TABLE 4.41. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)

	Don't Know	19	7.88%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	58	24.07%
	No	183	75.93%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	32	13.28%
	No	23	9.54%
	Don't Know	3	1.24%
	No Children	183	75.93%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	24	9.96%
	No	182	75.52%
	Don't Know	35	14.52%

Duty Environment

The primary duty environment for Airmen who attempted suicide was their permanent duty station ($n = 185$, 76.76%; Table 4.42). In addition, five (2.07%) were deployed at the time of event.

TABLE 4.42. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT

		Count	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	185	76.76%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	4	1.66%
	Medical Hold	1	0.41%
	TDY	1	0.41%
	Deployed	5	2.07%
	Training	5	2.07%
	Other	10	4.15%
	Multiple Duty Environments	7	2.90%
	Duty Environment Unknown	23	9.54%

Suicide Attempts by Month

No clear pattern was evident for Air Force suicide attempts by month (Table 4.43).

TABLE 4.43. CY 2010 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH

		Count	Percent
MONTH	January	17	7.05%
	February	14	5.81%
	March	14	5.81%
	April	22	9.13%
	May	23	9.54%
	June	20	8.30%
	July	24	9.96%

TABLE 4.43. CY 2010 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH (CONT.)

August	21	8.71%
September	32	13.28%
October	26	10.79%
November	16	6.64%
December	12	4.98%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

As summarized in Table 4.44, approximately one fourth of DoDSERs included evidence of prior history of self-harm ($n = 65$, 26.97%), and 18 (7.47%) DoDSERs indicated Airmen harmed themselves within the month prior to attempting suicide. Of those with prior history of self-harm, 32 (49.23%, 13.28% of total) had more than one prior event. Forty DoDSERs for Airmen (16.60%) indicated that the suicide attempts were similar to prior self-harm events.

TABLE 4.44. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY

		Count	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	65	26.97%
	Within 30 days	18	7.47%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	31	12.86%
	No	154	63.90%
Number prior self-injuries	Don't Know	22	9.13%
	One prior event	33	13.69%
	More than one prior event	32	13.28%
	N/A or Unknown	176	73.03%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	40	16.60%
	No	19	7.88%
	Don't Know	6	2.49%
	N/A	176	73.03%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide attempt. One hundred and sixty-one Airmen who attempted suicide (66.80%) had a history of at least one

documented behavioral health disorder (Table 4.45). Ninety (37.34%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 4.46, 102 of Airmen (42.32%) had a diagnosis of mood disorder, most frequently major depressive disorder ($n = 40$, 16.60%). Seventy-one Airmen (29.46%) had a diagnosis of an anxiety disorder, most frequently PTSD ($n = 17$, 7.05%; Table 4.47). Table 4.48 summarizes the data regarding other behavioral health diagnoses. Twenty-one (8.71%) were known to have a personality disorder. Fifty-three Airmen (21.99%) had a known history of substance abuse. One individual (0.41%) had a known traumatic brain injury, and none had a diagnosis of psychotic disorder.

TABLE 4.45. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES

		Count	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	80	33.20%
	1 DX	71	29.46%
	2 DX	44	18.26%
	3 DX	26	10.79%
	4 or more DX	20	8.30%

TABLE 4.46. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	102	42.32%
	No	130	53.94%
	Don't Know	9	3.73%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	7	2.90%
	No	221	91.70%
	Don't Know	13	5.39%
Major depression	Yes	40	16.60%
	No	190	78.84%
	Don't Know	11	4.56%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	5	2.07%
	No	222	92.12%
	Don't Know	14	5.81%
Other mood disorder	Yes	15	6.22%
	No	213	88.38%
	Don't Know	13	5.39%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	15	6.22%
	No	217	90.04%
	Don't Know	9	3.73%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	20	8.30%
	No	212	87.97%
	Don't Know	9	3.73%

TABLE 4.47. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	71	29.46%
	No	159	65.98%
	Don't Know	11	4.56%
PTSD	Yes	17	7.05%
	No	212	87.97%
	Don't Know	12	4.98%
Panic disorder	Yes	5	2.07%
	No	224	92.95%
	Don't Know	12	4.98%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	9	3.73%
	No	220	91.29%
	Don't Know	12	4.98%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	229	95.02%
	Don't Know	12	4.98%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	12	4.98%
	No	217	90.04%
	Don't Know	12	4.98%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	6	2.49%
	No	224	92.95%
	Don't Know	11	4.56%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	22	9.13%
	No	208	86.31%
	Don't Know	11	4.56%

TABLE 4.48. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	21	8.71%
	No	204	84.65%
	Don't Know	16	6.64%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	230	95.44%
	Don't Know	11	4.56%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	53	21.99%
	No	166	68.88%
	Don't Know	22	9.13%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	1	0.41%
	No	215	89.21%
	Don't Know	25	10.37%

Treatment History

Table 4.49 provides data on use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to attempting suicide. The majority of Air Force suicide attempt DoDSERs ($n = 156$, 64.73%) included a history of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), 109 (45.23%) within the month prior to attempting suicide. Sixty-eight DoDSERs (28.22%) included a known physical health problem. Most DoDSERs included outpatient behavioral health services ($n = 168$, 69.71%), over half within the month prior to attempting suicide ($n = 128$, 53.11%). Sixty DoDSERs (24.90%) indicated the Airmen had previously been hospitalized in an inpatient psychiatry unit, 24 (9.96%) within the month prior to the suicide attempt. Almost one fourth of DoDSERs ($n = 57$, 23.65%) included previous substance abuse treatment.

TABLE 4.49. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	156	64.73%
	Within 30 days	109	45.23%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	140	58.09%
	No	57	23.65%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Don't Know	28	11.62%
	Yes	57	23.65%
	Within 30 days	28	11.62%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	39	16.18%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	No	177	73.44%
	Don't Know	7	2.90%
	Yes	18	7.47%
	Within 30 days	6	2.49%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	9	3.73%
	No	215	89.21%
	Don't Know	8	3.32%
	Yes	16	6.64%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Within 30 days	7	2.90%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	11	4.56%
	No	154	63.90%
	Don't Know	71	29.46%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	168	69.71%
	Within 30 days	128	53.11%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	141	58.51%
	No	66	27.39%
	Don't Know	7	2.90%
	Yes	60	24.90%
	Within 30 days	24	9.96%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	37	15.35%
	No	173	71.78%
	Don't Know	8	3.32%

TABLE 4.49. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)

HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	68	28.22%
	Within 30 days	40	16.60%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	52	21.58%
	No	149	61.83%
	Don't Know	24	9.96%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

As indicated in Table 4.50, approximately half of DoDSERs for Airmen who attempted suicide ($n = 126$, 52.28%) included known prescriptions for psychotropic medication prior to the suicide attempt. Antidepressants ($n = 106$, 84.13% of those with known prescriptions, 43.98% of total) and antianxiety medication ($n = 56$, 44.44% of those with known prescriptions, 23.24% of total) were the most frequently prescribed psychotropics.

TABLE 4.50. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE

		Count	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	126	52.28%
	No	99	41.08%
	Don't Know	16	6.64%
Antidepressants	Yes	106	43.98%
	No	115	47.72%
	Don't Know	20	8.30%
Antianxiety	Yes	56	23.24%
	No	158	65.56%
	Don't Know	27	11.20%
Antimanics	Yes	6	2.49%
	No	207	85.89%
	Don't Know	28	11.62%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	11	4.56%
	No	203	84.23%
	Don't Know	27	11.20%
Antipsychotics	Yes	18	7.47%
	No	195	80.91%
	Don't Know	28	11.62%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

Half of DoDSERs for Airmen who attempted suicide ($n = 129$, 53.53%) included a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with 89 (36.93%) indicating the failure occurred within the month prior to suicide (Table 4.51). Thirty-six DoDSERs (14.94%) included a failure in another important relationship, with half of these ($n = 19$, 7.88%) occurring within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

TABLE 4.51. CY 2010 AIR FORCE DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT

		Count	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	129	53.53%
	Within 30 days	89	36.93%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	104	43.15%
	No	93	38.59%
	Don't Know	19	7.88%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	36	14.94%
	Within 30 days	19	7.88%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	27	11.20%
	No	163	67.63%
	Don't Know	42	17.43%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/ OR OTHER)	Yes	141	58.51%
	Within 30 days	100	41.49%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	114	47.30%
	No	82	34.02%
	Don't Know	18	7.47%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 4.52 summarizes other family and relationship factors. Twenty-one DoDSERs for Airmen (8.71%) included the loss of a family member to suicide, and 15 (6.22%) indicated that a friend of the Airmen had died by suicide. Many DoDSERs included the death of a family member ($n = 37$, 15.35%) or friend ($n = 21$, 8.71%) by other means. Nearly half of DoDSERs indicated a family member had behavioral health problems ($n = 101$, 41.91%).

TABLE 4.52. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	219	90.87%
	Don't Know	22	9.13%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	21	8.71%
	No	186	77.18%
	Don't Know	34	14.11%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	15	6.22%
	No	179	74.27%
	Don't Know	47	19.50%

TABLE 4.52. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY (CONT.)

HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	37	15.35%
	No	161	66.80%
	Don't Know	43	17.84%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	21	8.71%
	No	180	74.69%
	Don't Know	40	16.60%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	22	9.13%
	No	175	72.61%
	Don't Know	44	18.26%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	101	41.91%
	No	101	41.91%
	Don't Know	39	16.18%

Administrative and Legal History

Over one third of DoDSERs for Airmen who attempted suicide included at least one administrative or legal issue ($n = 86$, 35.68%), and 32 (13.28%) included more than one (Table 4.53). The most frequent administrative or legal problems were Article 15 proceedings ($n = 33$, 13.69%), civil legal problems ($n = 27$, 11.20%), and medical board proceedings ($n = 26$, 10.79%).

TABLE 4.53. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	6	2.49%
	No	213	88.38%
	Don't Know	22	9.13%
HX ARTICLE 15	Yes	33	13.69%
	No	186	77.18%
	Don't Know	22	9.13%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	16	6.64%
	No	206	85.48%
	Don't Know	19	7.88%
HX AWOL	Yes	9	3.73%
	No	213	88.38%
	Don't Know	19	7.88%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	26	10.79%
	No	204	84.65%
	Don't Know	11	4.56%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	27	11.20%
	No	188	78.01%
	Don't Know	26	10.79%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	17	7.05%
	No	201	83.40%
	Don't Know	23	9.54%

TABLE 4.53. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY (CONT.)

HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	86	35.68%
	No	134	55.60%
	Don't Know	21	8.71%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	32	13.28%
	No	131	54.36%
	Don't Know	78	32.37%

Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 4.54). Airmen who attempted suicide in 2010 had a history of reported emotional abuse ($n = 70$, 29.05%), physical abuse ($n = 51$, 21.16%), and sexual abuse ($n = 46$, 19.09%). Fourteen (5.81%) had a history of allegedly physically abusing others.

TABLE 4.54. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	51	21.16%
	No	164	68.05%
	Don't Know	26	10.79%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	46	19.09%
	No	168	69.71%
	Don't Know	27	11.20%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	70	29.05%
	No	146	60.58%
	Don't Know	25	10.37%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	8	3.32%
	No	200	82.99%
	Don't Know	33	13.69%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	14	5.81%
	No	201	83.40%
	Don't Know	26	10.79%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	3	1.24%
	No	214	88.80%
	Don't Know	24	9.96%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	7	2.90%
	No	207	85.89%
	Don't Know	27	11.20%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	0.41%
	No	212	87.97%
	Don't Know	28	11.62%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 4.55). Over one third of DoDSERs for Airmen who attempted suicide in 2010 indicated a history of job loss or instability ($n = 86$, 35.68%). Sixty-four DoDSERs (26.56%) included interpersonal problems with either supervisors or coworkers, and 31 (12.86%) included prior poor work evaluations.

TABLE 4.55. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES

		Count	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	22	9.13%
	No	180	74.69%
	Don't Know	39	16.18%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	86	35.68%
	No	129	53.53%
	Don't Know	26	10.79%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	64	26.56%
	No	149	61.83%
	Don't Know	28	11.62%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	31	12.86%
	No	182	75.52%
	Don't Know	28	11.62%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	8	3.32%
	No	195	80.91%
	Don't Know	38	15.77%

Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

Two Airmen (0.83%) attempted suicide while deployed in Afghanistan and one Airman attempted suicide while deployed in Iraq (0.41%; Table 4.56). Fifty-seven Air Force suicide attempt DoDSERs (23.65%) included information about prior OEF, OIF or OND deployments (Table 4.57). Fifteen DoDSERs (6.22%) included experiences of direct combat (Table 4.58).

TABLE 4.56. CY 2010 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER

		Count	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	2	0.83%
	Iraq	1	0.41%
	Not OEF/OIF/OND	238	98.76%

TABLE 4.57. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF	Afghanistan	12	4.98%
	Iraq	37	15.35%
	Kuwait	3	1.24%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	5	2.07%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	184	76.35%

TABLE 4.58. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	15	6.22%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	5	2.07%
	Injured in combat	1	0.41%
	Witnessed killing in combat	7	2.90%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	7	2.90%
	Killed others in combat	3	1.24%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	226	93.78%

Summary

This chapter provides data on Air Force suicides and suicide attempts that occurred in 2010. Data are presented for 59 Airmen who died by suicide and for 230 Airmen who attempted suicide in 241 separate incidents. Decedents and those who attempted suicide were primarily male, Caucasian, under age 25, enlisted, Regular component Airmen, and without a college degree.

Most suicide events took place in the United States in the Service Members' own residences. The most frequent methods for Airmen who died by suicide were non-military issue firearm use and hanging. Suicide attempt methods were most often drug overdose, harming oneself with a sharp or blunt object, and hanging. Drug and alcohol use was much more frequent among non-fatal Air Force suicide events. The majority of Airmen who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated with others about their likelihood of harming themselves.

Airmen with non-fatal suicide events had more reported behavioral health disorders than did decedents, but similar behavioral health treatment use prior to the event. Additionally, those who attempted suicide had higher prevalence of prior abuse victimization. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Airmen with suicide events. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was Article 15 proceedings.

Few Airmen were deployed at the time of their suicide events. For those with prior deployments, few had experienced direct combat.

CHAPTER 5: ARMY DoDSER

ARMY RESULTS FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

Army DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance

2010 Reported Suicides

One hundred forty-seven Army suicides were confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2010 (Table 5.1). An additional 13 Army suicides remained pending at the time of analysis, per the timeline described in Chapter 1. Army Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports (DoDSERs) were submitted and analyzed for all 147 confirmed suicides for a submission compliance rate of 100%. The tables in this section include data for 147 decedents. In addition, the tables provide percentages for 2009 and 2008 DoDSER data for comparison. Specific counts for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

TABLE 5.1. ARMY AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DoDSERS SUBMITTED

	2010	2009	2008
Total DoDSERs Included in Annual Report	147	154	121
Total AFMES Confirmed and Pending Suicides	160	164	140
AFMES Confirmed Suicides (By 31 January)	147	162	135
DoDSER Submission Compliance	100%	95%	89%

Data from 1/1/2008 through 12/31/2010 as of 4/1/2011

As summarized in Table 5.2, nearly one third of DoDSERs for 2010 Army suicides had one or fewer “Unknown” or missing primary data points ($n = 46$, 31.29%). DoDSERs for 57 Soldiers (38.78%) had five or more missing data points. Primary data points include any variables that are accessible using standard DoDSER methods (including accessing medical and military records).

TABLE 5.2. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA

NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN	Count	2010	2009	2008
		Percent	Percent	Percent
0	22	14.97%	18.30%	16.67%
1	24	16.33%	16.34%	11.11%
2	16	10.88%	10.46%	15.08%
3	16	10.88%	9.80%	14.29%
4	12	8.16%	7.84%	8.73%
5 or More	57	38.78%	37.25%	34.13%

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have been associated with the suicide events. These factors include decedents' demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Table 5.3 contains demographic data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). The majority of Army 2010 suicides were completed by males ($n = 151$, 94.38%). Decedents were primarily Caucasian ($n = 125$, 78.13%), junior enlisted ($n = 93$, 58.13%), and Regular component ($n = 142$, 88.75%).

TABLE 5.3. CY 2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR ARMY SUICIDES (N = 160)

		2010		Service Total %	Rate/ 100K	2009	2008
		Count	Percent			(N = 166) Percent	(N = 140) Percent
TOTAL		160	100.00%	100.00%	21.72	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	151	94.38%	86.00%	23.84	97.59%	94.29%
	Female	9	5.63%	14.00%	*	2.41%	5.71%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	4	2.50%	0.79%	*	2.41%	0.71%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	11	6.88%	3.53%	*	6.63%	5.00%
	Black/African American	20	12.50%	19.33%	14.05	11.45%	14.29%
	White/Caucasian	125	78.13%	70.95%	23.92	79.52%	77.86%
	Other/Don't Know	0	0.00%	5.40%	*	0.00%	4.29%
AGE RANGE	Under 25	76	47.50%	32.69%	31.56	43.64%	50.00%
	25-29	46	28.75%	23.71%	26.34	29.70%	15.71%
	30-34	17	10.63%	15.13%	*	11.52%	21.43%
	35-39	11	6.88%	12.31%	*	8.48%	
	40-44	10	6.25%	9.06%	*	5.45%	12.86%
	45+	0	0.00%	7.10%	*	1.21%	
RANK	Cadet	0	0.00%	0.65%	*	0.00%	0.71%
	E1-E4	93	58.13%	42.95%	29.40	58.43%	55.71%
	E5-E9	61	38.13%	39.59%	20.92	30.12%	32.86%
	Officer	6	3.75%	14.09%	*	9.04%	9.29%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	2.72%	*	1.20%	1.43%
COMPONENT	Regular	142	88.75%	76.94%	25.06	89.16%	82.86%
	Reserve	7	4.38%	8.48%	*	1.81%	5.71%
	National Guard	11	6.88%	14.58%	*	9.04%	11.43%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	2	1.25%	1.17%	*	1.20%	2.86%
	GED	21	13.13%	9.28%	30.74	20.48%	15.71%
	High school graduate	104	65.00%	57.35%	24.62	58.43%	57.86%
	Some college or technical school	7	4.38%	4.40%	*	6.63%	0.00%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	11	6.88%	6.76%	*	1.81%	10.71%

TABLE 5.3. CY 2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR ARMY SUICIDES (N = 160) (CONT.)

	Four-year college degree	11	6.88%	10.32%	*	7.83%	7.14%
	Master's degree or greater	0	0.00%	8.47%	*	2.41%	5.71%
	Don't Know	4	2.50%	2.26%	*	1.20%	0.00%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	67	41.88%	36.21%	25.12	36.14%	38.57%
	Married	81	50.63%	57.22%	19.22	50.60%	55.00%
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	0.14%	*	1.81%	0.00%
	Divorced	11	6.88%	6.30%	*	10.84%	5.71%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.10%	*	0.60%	0.00%
	Don't Know	1	0.63%	0.03%	*	0.00%	0.71%

Note: Data include 13 suicides still pending determination by AFMES as of 1 MAR 2011. Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals.

Event Setting

In 2010, as in the previous two years, Army suicides most frequently took place in the United States ($n = 116$, 78.91%), with 12 suicides occurring during deployment in Iraq (8.16%) and 12 in Afghanistan (8.16%; Table 5.4). As summarized in Table 5.5, suicides primarily occurred in either the Soldiers' own residences ($n = 78$, 53.06%) or the residence of a friend or family member ($n = 19$, 12.93%). "Other" settings included hotels ($n = 6$, 4.08%), parks and nature reserves ($n = 5$, 3.40%), vacant or secluded property ($n = 3$, 2.04%), and latrines ($n = 3$, 2.04%)

TABLE 5.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
United States		116	78.91%	73.20%	71.43%
Iraq		12	8.16%	14.38%	19.84%
Afghanistan		12	8.16%	1.96%	5.56%
Kuwait		0	0.00%	0.00%	0.79%
Asia		5	3.40%	3.27%	0.00%
Europe		1	0.68%	4.58%	1.59%
Canada or Mexico		0	0.00%	0.65%	0.00%
Other		1	0.68%	1.31%	0.00%
Don't Know		0	0.00%	0.65%	0.79%

TABLE 5.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT SETTING

EVENT SETTING		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
Residence (own) or barracks		78	53.06%	58.17%	58.73%
Residence of friend or family		19	12.93%	9.15%	7.94%
Work/jobsite		11	7.48%	5.23%	8.73%
Automobile (away from residence)		7	4.76%	6.54%	5.56%
Inpatient medical facility		1	0.68%	0.00%	0.79%
Other		31	21.09%	20.92%	18.25%
Don't Know		0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Event Method

As indicated in Table 5.6, the primary methods for Army suicide in 2010 were use of non-military issue firearms ($n = 72$, 48.98%), hanging ($n = 31$, 21.09%), and use of military issue firearms ($n = 28$, 19.05%).

TABLE 5.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT METHOD

EVENT METHOD		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
	Firearm, non-military issue	72	48.98%	40.52%
	Firearm, military issue	28	19.05%	18.95%
	Hanging	31	21.09%	21.57%
	Drugs	6	4.08%	4.58%
	Alcohol	0	0.00%	0.65%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	0	0.00%	4.58%
	Gas, utility (or other)	1	0.68%	1.31%
	Drowning	3	2.04%	0.00%
	Fire, steam, etc.	0	0.00%	0.00%
	Sharp or blunt object	0	0.00%	0.65%
	Jumping from high place	0	0.00%	1.31%
	Lying in front of moving object	1	0.68%	1.31%
	Other	1	0.68%	2.61%
	Don't Know	4	2.72%	1.96%
				3.17%

Substance Use during the Event

Comprehensive information about substance use during suicide is unavailable for many Army suicides in 2010. As summarized in Table 5.7, of decedents for whom information was available, over one third used alcohol during the suicide event ($n = 33$, 37.08% of DoDSERs with alcohol use data, 22.45% of total). Fewer were known to have used drugs ($n = 13$, 16.46% of DoDSERs with drug use data, 8.84% of total). Six Soldiers used both drugs and alcohol during their suicide events (10.91% of DoDSERs with substance abuse data, 4.08% of total). As in the prior two years, drug use most frequently consisted of misuse of prescription drugs. These frequencies include Soldiers who used drugs as a suicide method ($n = 6$, 4.08%), as described above.

TABLE 5.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	33	22.45%	21.57%
	No	56	38.10%	39.22%
	Don't Know	58	39.46%	39.22%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	13	8.84%	5.88%
	No	66	44.90%	46.41%
	Don't Know	68	46.26%	47.71%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	2	1.36%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	2	1.36%	0.65%
				0.00%

TABLE 5.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE (CONT.)

	Were not used	75	51.02%	51.63%	49.21%
	Don't know	68	46.26%	47.71%	50.00%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	4	2.72%	3.92%	8.73%
	Used, no overdose	5	3.40%	0.00%	0.00%
	Were not used	70	47.62%	48.37%	43.65%
	Don't know	68	46.26%	47.71%	47.62%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	3	2.04%	1.31%	3.17%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.79%
	Were not used	76	51.70%	50.98%	46.03%
	Don't know	68	46.26%	47.71%	50.00%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	6	4.08%	1.31%	1.59%
	No	69	46.94%	47.06%	48.41%
	Don't Know	72	48.98%	51.63%	50.00%

Communication of Intent

Consistent with the prior two years, most Army decedents had no known history of communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ($n = 99$, 67.35%; Table 5.8). One third of Soldiers who died by suicide were known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their potential to die by suicide ($n = 48$, 32.65%). These communications were most frequently verbal ($n = 30$, 20.41%; Table 5.9). DoDSER POCs indicated that seven Soldiers used text messages to indicate potential for self-harm (4.76%; included in "Other" category and "Multiple Modes"). As indicated in Table 5.10, decedents most frequently communicated with their spouses ($n = 17$, 11.56%) and behavioral health providers ($n = 7$, 4.76%). The predominant "Other" response was family members ($n = 5$, 3.40%).

TABLE 5.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	99	67.35%	70.59%
	1	41	27.89%	19.61%
	2	6	4.08%	6.54%
	3	1	0.68%	1.31%
	4	0	0.00%	1.31%
	5	0	0.00%	0.00%

TABLE 5.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	30	20.41%	16.34%
	Written	8	5.44%	3.92%
	Other or Unknown	4	2.72%	7.19%

TABLE 5.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT (CONT.)

Multiple Modes	6	4.08%	1.96%	5.56%
No Known Communication	99	67.35%	70.59%	72.22%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

TABLE 5.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	17	11.56%	7.19%	7.14%
	Friend	6	4.08%	5.23%	4.76%
	Behavioral Health Provider	7	4.76%	0.65%	0.00%
	Chaplain	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.79%
	Supervisor	2	1.36%	1.31%	0.79%
	Other or Unidentified	9	6.12%	5.23%	3.97%
	Made Multiple Communications	7	4.76%	9.80%	10.32%
	No Known Communication	99	67.35%	70.59%	72.22%

Additional Event Information

Table 5.11 provides information about other details of 2010 Army suicides. For the majority ($n = 100$, 68.03%), there were data to indicate that the decedents intended to die. Four Soldiers (2.72%) were known to have died while engaging in death risk gambling (e.g., “Russian roulette”). One third of the suicides appeared premeditated ($n = 51$, 34.69%). Thirty-eight Army decedents (25.85%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others. Thirty-eight (25.85%) left suicide notes.

TABLE 5.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	100	68.03%	76.47%	84.13%
	No	17	11.56%	6.54%	5.56%
	Don't Know	30	20.41%	16.99%	10.32%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	4	2.72%	1.96%	1.59%
	No	118	80.27%	86.93%	80.16%
	Don't Know	25	17.01%	11.11%	18.25%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	51	34.69%	42.48%	42.86%
	No	52	35.37%	30.72%	31.75%
	Don't Know	44	29.93%	26.80%	25.40%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	38	25.85%	22.88%	23.02%
	No	86	58.50%	69.28%	66.67%
	Don't Know	23	15.65%	7.84%	10.32%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	38	25.85%	24.84%	26.98%
	No	75	51.02%	53.59%	49.21%
	Don't Know	34	23.13%	21.57%	23.81%

Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

Situational Factors

Table 5.12 provides details about the living situations for Soldiers who died by suicide in 2010. Decedents most frequently lived in shared living environments on their installations ($n = 58$, 39.46%) or homes or apartments outside of their installations ($n = 52$, 35.37%). Of those who were married ($n = 65$), over half lived with their spouses ($n = 36$, 55.38% of married, 24.49% of total), and 21 were known to be separated due to relationship issues (32.31% of married, 14.29% of total). Most decedents lived with others ($n = 93$, 63.27%). Fifty-six (38.10%) Army decedents had minor children, and 25 (17.01%) lived with their children at the time of death. Half of decedents had access to firearms either in their homes, at work, or other accessible locations ($n = 79$, 53.74%).

TABLE 5.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	58	39.46%	41.83%	47.62%
	Bachelor quarters	1	0.68%	0.65%	0.00%
	On-base family housing	16	10.88%	4.58%	3.97%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	52	35.37%	39.87%	37.30%
	Other	11	7.48%	9.15%	5.56%
	Don't Know	9	6.12%	3.92%	5.56%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resided with spouse	36	24.49%	20.26%	19.05%
	Separated due to relationship issues	21	14.29%	11.76%	13.49%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	8	5.44%	11.76%	12.70%
	Don't Know	6	4.08%	3.27%	1.59%
	Unmarried at time of event	76	51.70%	52.94%	53.17%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	36	24.49%	32.68%	27.78%
	No	93	63.27%	54.90%	57.14%
	Don't Know	18	12.24%	12.42%	15.08%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	56	38.10%	39.87%	33.33%
	No	91	61.90%	60.13%	66.67%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	25	17.01%	14.38%	11.11%
	No	29	19.73%	24.18%	21.43%
	Don't Know	2	1.36%	1.31%	0.79%
	No Children	91	61.90%	60.13%	66.67%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	79	53.74%	52.29%	63.49%
	No	32	21.77%	23.53%	10.32%
	Don't Know	36	24.49%	24.18%	26.19%

Duty Environment

Consistent with the previous two years, the primary duty environment of Army suicide decedents was their permanent duty station ($n = 76$, 51.70%; Table 5.13). Twenty-four were deployed (16.33%) and 12 (8.16%) were hospitalized in an inpatient psychiatry unit at the time of death.

TABLE 5.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	76	51.70%	51.63%	46.03%
	Leave	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.79%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	12	8.16%	9.80%	9.52%
	Medical Hold	1	0.68%	0.65%	0.79%
	TDY	0	0.00%	0.65%	0.00%
	AWOL	4	2.72%	3.92%	2.38%
	Under Command Observation	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.79%
	Deployed	24	16.33%	16.34%	24.60%
	Training	2	1.36%	2.61%	1.59%
	Other	7	4.76%	5.23%	7.14%
	Multiple Duty Environments	11	7.48%	8.50%	4.76%
	Duty Environment Unknown	10	6.80%	0.65%	1.59%

Suicide Completions by Month

As in the prior two years, no clear pattern existed for Army suicides by month (Table 5.14).

TABLE 5.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER SUICIDES BY MONTH

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
MONTH	January	15	10.20%	12.42%	3.97%
	February	13	8.84%	13.07%	8.73%
	March	12	8.16%	7.84%	7.94%
	April	11	7.48%	5.88%	9.52%
	May	9	6.12%	11.76%	6.35%
	June	20	13.61%	5.23%	9.52%
	July	13	8.84%	7.84%	7.94%
	August	14	9.52%	6.54%	10.32%
	September	17	11.56%	4.58%	9.52%
	October	8	5.44%	12.42%	8.73%
	November	8	5.44%	6.54%	9.52%
	December	7	4.76%	5.88%	7.94%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

Twenty-two Soldiers who died by suicide in 2010 (14.97%) had a known history of self-harm (Table 5.15), and nine decedents (6.12%) were known to have at least two prior incidents of self-harm.

TABLE 5.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	22	14.97%	19.61%	15.87%
	Within 30 days	3	2.04%	3.92%	1.59%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	6	4.08%	7.19%	3.17%
	No	80	54.42%	56.86%	51.59%
Number prior self-injuries	Don't Know	45	30.61%	23.53%	32.54%
	One prior event	13	8.84%	10.46%	0.00%
	More than one prior event	9	6.12%	9.15%	15.20%
Event similar to prior self-injury	N/A or Unknown	125	85.03%	80.39%	84.80%
	Yes	5	3.40%	3.27%	1.59%
	No	14	9.52%	12.42%	12.70%
	Don't Know	3	2.04%	3.92%	1.59%
	N/A	125	85.03%	80.39%	84.13%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Behavioral Health Disorders

The DoDSER items collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death. Sixty-seven Soldiers who died by suicide in 2010 (45.58%) had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 5.16). Forty-two (28.57%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 5.17, twenty-six decedents (17.69%) had a mood disorder, most frequently major depressive disorder ($n = 13$, 8.84%). Twenty-four Soldiers (16.33%) were known to have had an anxiety disorder, including posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD; $n = 9$, 6.12%; Table 5.18). As summarized in Table 5.19, five decedents (3.40%) were known to have personality disorders and six (4.08%) had previously sustained a traumatic brain injury. Over one fourth of Army decedents ($n = 41$, 27.89%) had a known history of substance abuse.

TABLE 5.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES

			2010	2009	2008
			Count	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX		80	54.42%	54.25%
	1 DX		25	17.01%	22.22%
	2 DX		27	18.37%	13.73%
	3 DX		6	4.08%	5.23%
	4 or more DX		9	6.12%	4.58%

TABLE 5.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS

			2010	2009	2008
			Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes		26	17.69%	27.45%
	No		93	63.27%	62.09%
	Don't Know		28	19.05%	10.46%
Bipolar disorder	Yes		1	0.68%	0.65%
	No		118	80.27%	86.27%
	Don't Know		28	19.05%	13.07%
Major depression	Yes		13	8.84%	13.73%
	No		105	71.43%	74.51%
	Don't Know		29	19.73%	11.76%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes		2	1.36%	1.31%
	No		116	78.91%	86.27%
	Don't Know		29	19.73%	12.42%
Other mood disorder	Yes		5	3.40%	3.27%
	No		114	77.55%	83.66%
	Don't Know		28	19.05%	13.07%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes		2	1.36%	3.27%
	No		117	79.59%	86.27%
	Don't Know		28	19.05%	10.46%
Multiple mood DX	Yes		3	2.04%	5.23%
	No		116	78.91%	84.31%
	Don't Know		28	19.05%	19.84%

TABLE 5.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS

			2010	2009	2008
			Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes		24	16.33%	18.95%
	No		98	66.67%	69.28%
	Don't Know		25	17.01%	20.63%
PTSD	Yes		9	6.12%	9.15%
	No		112	76.19%	78.43%

TABLE 5.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS (CONT.)

	Don't Know	26	17.69%	12.42%	22.22%
Panic disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.79%
	No	121	82.31%	86.93%	76.19%
	Don't Know	26	17.69%	13.07%	23.02%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	1	0.68%	1.31%	0.00%
	No	120	81.63%	86.27%	76.19%
	Don't Know	26	17.69%	12.42%	23.81%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	121	82.31%	86.93%	76.19%
	Don't Know	26	17.69%	13.07%	23.81%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	10	6.80%	3.92%	3.97%
	No	112	76.19%	82.35%	72.22%
	Don't Know	25	17.01%	13.73%	23.81%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	1	0.68%	1.31%	0.79%
	No	121	82.31%	86.93%	78.57%
	Don't Know	25	17.01%	11.76%	20.63%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	3	2.04%	3.27%	2.38%
	No	119	80.95%	84.97%	76.98%
	Don't Know	25	17.01%	11.76%	20.63%

TABLE 5.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	5	3.40%	4.58%
	No	115	78.23%	83.01%
	Don't Know	27	18.37%	12.42%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	1.31%
	No	120	81.63%	86.93%
	Don't Know	27	18.37%	11.76%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	41	27.89%	22.88%
	No	72	48.98%	60.13%
	Don't Know	34	23.13%	16.99%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	6	4.08%	
	No	114	77.55%	
	Don't Know	27	18.37%	

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

Treatment History

Table 5.20 provides data on Army suicide decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. The majority ($n = 84$, 57.14%) had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Fifty-four decedents (36.73%) were treated at a MTF within the month prior to suicide. Twenty-seven

Soldiers (18.37%) had a known history of a physical health problem and nineteen decedents (12.93%) had received physical health diagnoses within the month prior to suicide.

Thirty-five Army decedents (23.81%) received substance abuse treatment services, and thirteen (8.84%) were involved in family advocacy programs. Eleven Soldiers (7.48%) utilized chaplain services. Nearly half of decedents ($n = 65$, 44.22%) had received outpatient behavioral health treatment, with 39 (26.53%) receiving treatment within the month prior to suicide. Eighteen Soldiers (12.24%) received inpatient behavioral health treatment, nine of whom (6.12%) were treated within the month prior to suicide. Seven Army decedents (4.76%) were assigned to a Warrior Transition Unit.

TABLE 5.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	84	57.14%	62.09%	59.52%
	Within 30 days	54	36.73%	40.52%	38.89%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	64	43.54%	53.59%	50.00%
	No	40	27.21%	28.76%	21.43%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	27	18.37%	22.88%	24.60%
	Within 30 days	19	12.93%	16.34%	15.08%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	22	14.97%	18.30%	21.43%
	No	71	48.30%	52.94%	58.73%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	35	23.81%	14.38%	15.08%
	Within 30 days	12	8.16%	7.19%	6.35%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	16	10.88%	7.19%	9.52%
	No	89	60.54%	72.55%	65.08%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	13	8.84%	6.54%	6.35%
	Within 30 days	2	1.36%	1.96%	3.17%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	4	2.72%	2.61%	3.17%
	No	101	68.71%	75.82%	73.81%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	33	22.45%	17.65%	19.84%
	Within 30 days	11	7.48%	10.46%	15.87%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	7	4.76%	9.15%	10.32%
	No	9	6.12%	9.80%	11.90%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	84	57.14%	48.37%	49.21%
	Within 30 days	65	44.22%	50.33%	42.86%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	39	26.53%	28.10%	21.43%
	No	45	30.61%	32.03%	29.37%
	Don't Know	62	42.18%	42.48%	46.03%
	Don't Know	20	13.61%	7.19%	11.11%

TABLE 5.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)

INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	18	12.24%	18.95%	15.87%
	Within 30 days	9	6.12%	2.61%	6.35%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	11	7.48%	9.15%	7.94%
	No	104	70.75%	71.24%	71.43%
	Don't Know	25	17.01%	9.80%	12.70%
IN A WARRIOR TRANSITION UNIT	Yes	7	4.76%		
	No	40	27.21%		
	Don't Know	100	68.03%		

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Note: Warrior Transition Unit data unavailable prior to 2010.

Table 5.21 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by decedents prior to suicide. Forty-two decedents (28.57%) had known prescriptions for psychotropic medications, most frequently antidepressants ($n = 33$, 22.45%) and antianxiety medication ($n = 14$, 9.52%).

TABLE 5.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	42	28.57%	35.95%	33.33%
	No	72	48.98%	49.67%	48.41%
	Don't Know	33	22.45%	14.38%	18.25%
Antidepressants	Yes	33	22.45%	30.07%	27.78%
	No	79	53.74%	55.56%	51.59%
	Don't Know	35	23.81%	14.38%	20.63%
Antianxiety	Yes	14	9.52%	13.73%	10.32%
	No	95	64.63%	70.59%	67.46%
	Don't Know	38	25.85%	15.69%	22.22%
Antimanics	Yes	2	1.36%	0.65%	0.79%
	No	106	72.11%	83.66%	75.40%
	Don't Know	39	26.53%	15.69%	23.81%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	5	3.40%	2.61%	3.17%
	No	104	70.75%	82.35%	73.02%
	Don't Know	38	25.85%	15.03%	23.81%
Antipsychotics	Yes	7	4.76%	7.84%	3.97%
	No	103	70.07%	76.47%	73.02%
	Don't Know	37	25.17%	15.69%	23.02%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

Half of 2010 Army decedents ($n = 75$, 51.02%) had a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with 41 (27.89%) experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 5.22). Twenty-one decedents (14.29%) had a failure in another important relationship, over half of these ($n = 13$, 8.84%) occurring within the month prior to suicide. More than half of Soldiers who died by suicide in 2010 had some form of failed relationship ($n = 79$, 53.74%), with 48 (32.65%) occurring within the month prior to death.

TABLE 5.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	75	51.02%	50.33%	54.76%
	Within 30 days	41	27.89%	27.45%	39.68%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	49	33.33%	35.29%	45.24%
	No	34	23.13%	21.57%	23.81%
	Don't Know	38	25.85%	28.10%	21.43%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	21	14.29%	15.03%	14.29%
	Within 30 days	13	8.84%	10.46%	7.94%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	16	10.88%	11.76%	8.73%
	No	63	42.86%	46.41%	45.24%
	Don't Know	63	42.86%	38.56%	40.48%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/ OR OTHER)	Yes	79	53.74%	54.90%	58.73%
	Within 30 days	48	32.65%	31.37%	42.06%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	56	38.10%	39.22%	47.62%
	No	30	20.41%	18.95%	20.63%
	Don't Know	38	25.85%	26.14%	20.63%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 5.23 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may be associated with the suicide. Eleven Army decedents (7.48%) were known to have a family member with behavioral health problems, four (2.72%) had experienced the death of a family member by suicide, and four (2.72%) had experienced non-suicide deaths of family. Friends of five decedents (3.40%) had died by suicide prior to the Soldiers' deaths, and eleven decedents' friends (7.48%) had died by other means. Five decedents (3.40%) were known to have family members with significant physical health problems.

TABLE 5.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.79%
	No	107	72.79%	81.70%	80.95%
	Don't Know	40	27.21%	18.30%	18.25%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	4	2.72%	3.92%	4.76%
	No	74	50.34%	64.05%	54.76%
	Don't Know	69	46.94%	32.03%	40.48%

TABLE 5.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY (CONT.)

HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	5	3.40%	0.65%	1.59%
	No	67	45.58%	60.78%	57.14%
	Don't Know	75	51.02%	38.56%	41.27%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	4	2.72%	4.58%	9.52%
	No	75	51.02%	61.44%	51.59%
	Don't Know	68	46.26%	33.99%	38.89%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	11	7.48%	3.27%	6.35%
	No	65	44.22%	56.21%	46.03%
	Don't Know	71	48.30%	40.52%	47.62%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	5	3.40%	7.84%	5.56%
	No	75	51.02%	60.78%	48.41%
	Don't Know	67	45.58%	31.37%	46.03%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	11	7.48%	20.26%	11.11%
	No	50	34.01%	30.72%	24.60%
	Don't Know	86	58.50%	49.02%	64.29%

Administrative and Legal History

Nearly one half of Soldiers who died by suicide in 2010 ($n = 65$, 44.22%) had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and 24 (16.33%) had more than one (Table 5.24). The most frequent administrative or legal issues were Article 15 proceedings ($n = 31$, 21.09%), followed by civil legal problems ($n = 21$, 14.29%).

TABLE 5.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	7	4.76%	7.19%	1.59%
	No	99	67.35%	75.16%	78.57%
	Don't Know	41	27.89%	17.65%	19.84%
HX ARTICLE 15	Yes	31	21.09%	12.42%	19.05%
	No	78	53.06%	66.67%	58.73%
	Don't Know	38	25.85%	20.92%	22.22%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	19	12.93%	9.15%	7.14%
	No	88	59.86%	73.20%	74.60%
	Don't Know	40	27.21%	17.65%	18.25%
HX AWOL	Yes	10	6.80%	9.15%	7.14%
	No	100	68.03%	75.82%	76.19%
	Don't Know	37	25.17%	15.03%	16.67%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	9	6.12%	10.46%	3.97%
	No	111	75.51%	74.51%	82.54%
	Don't Know	27	18.37%	15.03%	13.49%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	21	14.29%	11.11%	19.84%
	No	83	56.46%	63.40%	54.76%

TABLE 5.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY (CONT.)

	Don't Know	43	29.25%	25.49%	25.40%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	7	4.76%	5.88%	2.38%
	No	94	63.95%	71.90%	67.46%
	Don't Know	46	31.29%	22.22%	30.16%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	65	44.22%	39.87%	36.51%
	No	48	32.65%	41.18%	43.65%
	Don't Know	34	23.13%	18.95%	19.84%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	24	16.33%	15.03%	13.49%
	No	44	29.93%	38.56%	40.48%
	Don't Know	79	53.74%	46.41%	46.03%

Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 5.25). Seven Army suicide decedents (4.76%) were reported to have experienced physical abuse and three (2.04%) were reported to have experienced sexual abuse. Five Soldiers (3.40%) had reportedly been victims of emotional abuse. Twelve decedents (8.16%) had allegedly physically abused others, four (2.27%) had allegedly sexually abused others, and six (4.08%) were alleged to have perpetrated emotional abuse.

TABLE 5.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	7	4.76%	6.54%
	No	79	53.74%	53.59%
	Don't Know	61	41.50%	39.87%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	3	2.04%	3.92%
	No	83	56.46%	56.86%
	Don't Know	61	41.50%	39.22%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	5	3.40%	6.54%
	No	79	53.74%	52.29%
	Don't Know	63	42.86%	41.18%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	0.68%	0.65%
	No	83	56.46%	58.17%
	Don't Know	63	42.86%	41.18%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	12	8.16%	9.15%
	No	71	48.30%	52.94%
	Don't Know	64	43.54%	45.24%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	4	2.72%	3.92%
	No	81	55.10%	55.56%
	Don't Know	62	42.18%	40.52%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	6	4.08%	3.92%
	No	78	53.06%	54.90%

TABLE 5.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)

	Don't Know	63	42.86%	41.18%	44.44%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	2	1.36%	2.61%	0.79%
	No	83	56.46%	55.56%	53.97%
	Don't Know	62	42.18%	41.83%	45.24%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

The DoDSER includes data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 5.26). Seventeen Soldiers who died by suicide in 2010 (11.56%) had experienced significant debt. Thirty-one decedents (21.09%) either had lost a position or had experienced job instability. Twenty Soldiers (13.61%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with their supervisors or coworkers. Poor evaluations were reported for 21 decedents (14.29%). Four Army suicide decedents (2.72%) were known to have been hazed in the workplace.

TABLE 5.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	17	11.56%	7.84%	8.73%
	No	69	46.94%	55.56%	51.59%
	Don't Know	61	41.50%	36.60%	39.68%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	31	21.09%	25.49%	19.84%
	No	67	45.58%	47.06%	57.94%
	Don't Know	49	33.33%	27.45%	22.22%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	20	13.61%	13.07%	14.29%
	No	75	51.02%	54.90%	57.14%
	Don't Know	52	35.37%	32.03%	28.57%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	21	14.29%	15.69%	13.49%
	No	76	51.70%	58.82%	57.94%
	Don't Know	50	34.01%	25.49%	28.57%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	4	2.72%	2.61%	1.59%
	No	93	63.27%	62.09%	66.67%
	Don't Know	50	34.01%	35.29%	31.75%

Deployment Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

Of the 24 Soldiers who died by suicide while deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), or Operation New Dawn (OND) deployment, 12 (8.16% of total) took place in Afghanistan and 12 (8.16% of total) took place in Iraq (Table 5.27). The majority of decedents ($n = 91$, 61.90%) had a history

of OEF, OIF or OND deployment (Table 5.28). Twenty-one decedents (14.29%) had known direct combat experiences, including participating in combat that resulted in injuries ($n = 13$, 8.84%), sustaining injuries ($n = 3$, 2.04%), witnessing killing ($n = 13$, 8.84%), seeing dead bodies ($n = 9$, 6.12%) and killing others ($n = 9$, 6.12%; Table 5.29).

TABLE 5.27. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER SUICIDES IN THEATER

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	12	8.16%	1.96%	5.56%
	Iraq	12	8.16%	14.38%	19.84%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.79%
	Not OEF/OIF/OND	123	83.67%	83.66%	73.81%

TABLE 5.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF	Afghanistan	20	13.61%	1.96%	0.00%
	Iraq	56	38.10%	51.63%	46.03%
	Kuwait	2	1.36%	3.27%	5.56%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	13	8.84%	8.50%	3.17%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	56	38.10%	34.64%	45.24%

TABLE 5.29. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	21	14.29%	24.84%	19.05%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	13	8.84%	20.26%	9.52%
	Injured in combat	3	2.04%	5.88%	3.17%
	Witnessed killing in combat	13	8.84%	15.69%	6.35%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	9	6.12%	15.69%	7.14%
	Killed others in combat	9	6.12%	7.84%	0.79%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	126	85.71%	75.16%	80.95%

ARMY DoDSERS SUBMITTED FOR NON-FATAL EVENTS

DoDSER POCs submitted 413 DoDSERs for 2010 Army suicide attempts. As indicated in Table 5.30, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 400 individuals. Two attempts were reported (DoDSERs submitted) for 11 (2.75%) individuals, and three for one individual (0.25%). Additionally, four Soldiers with a 2010 suicide attempt DoDSER subsequently died by suicide in 2010 and were also included in the preceding section. The tables in this section use a denominator of 413 for suicide attempts.

TABLE 5.30. CY 2010 ARMY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS

	Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS	413	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED	400	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL		
1	388	97.00%
2	11	2.75%
3	1	0.25%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2010 DoDSERS FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE	4	1.00%

Two hundred thirty seven Army DoDSERs were submitted for 228 individuals who were known to harm themselves without intent to die (Table 5.31). Four Soldiers with a 2010 self-harm DoDSER subsequently died by suicide in 2010 and were also included in the preceding section. The tables in this section use a denominator of 237 for self-harm without intent to die.

TABLE 5.31. CY 2010 ARMY DoDSERS FOR SELF-HARM WITHOUT INTENT TO DIE

	Count	Percent
TOTAL SELF-HARM DoDSERS	237	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED	228	100.00%
SELF-HARM DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL		
1	219	96.05%
2	9	3.95%
3	0	0.00%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2010 DoDSERS FOR BOTH SELF-HARM AND SUICIDE	4	1.75%

Nine hundred eighteen Army DoDSERs for suicidal ideation without self-harm behavior were submitted for 863 individuals (Table 5.33). Forty-three individual Soldiers (4.98%) had two 2010 Army DoDSERs for suicidal ideation, and six Soldiers (0.70%) had three. The tables in this section use a denominator of 918 for suicidal ideation.

TABLE 5.32. CY 2010 ARMY SUICIDAL IDEATION DODSERS

	Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDAL IDEATION DoDSERS	918	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED	863	100.00%
SUICIDAL IDEATION DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL		
1	814	94.32%
2	43	4.98%

TABLE 5.32. CY 2010 ARMY SUICIDAL IDEATION DoDSERS (CONT.)

INDIVIDUALS WITH 2010 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDAL IDEATION AND	3	6	0.70%
		1	0.12%

As summarized in Table 5.33, the majority of DoDSERs for 2010 Army suicide attempts ($n = 259$, 62.71%) and deliberate self-harm without intent to die ($n = 155$, 65.40%) had one or fewer missing or “Unknown” primary data points. DoDSER POCs often interview Service Members after non-fatal suicide events, sometimes leading to more thorough data.

TABLE 5.33. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN	Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
	2010		2009	2008	2010		2009	2008
	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	191	46.25%	60.08%	54.45%	112	47.26%	48.99%	54.57%
1	68	16.46%	13.44%	13.11%	43	18.14%	20.46%	13.22%
2	42	10.17%	5.93%	5.38%	16	6.75%	10.09%	8.89%
3	17	4.12%	4.15%	5.38%	13	5.49%	2.88%	4.57%
4	15	3.63%	1.19%	3.87%	10	4.22%	2.02%	4.33%
5 or More	80	19.37%	15.22%	17.82%	43	18.14%	15.56%	14.42%

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with the suicide events. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, self-harm method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Table 5.34 contains DoDSER demographic data for Soldiers who attempted suicide, harmed themselves without intent to die, or were known to experience suicidal ideation in 2010. Soldiers who attempted suicide were most often male ($n = 328$, 79.42%), Caucasian ($n = 264$, 63.92%), under 25 ($n = 219$, 53.03%), junior enlisted ($n = 298$, 72.15%), Regular component ($n = 385$, 93.22%) and without a college degree ($n = 314$, 76.03%).

DoDSER POCs provided similar demographic data for other non-fatal suicide events.

TABLE 5.34. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoD SER DEMOGRAPHICS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009	2008	2010		2009	2008	2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
TOTAL		413	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	237	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	918	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
GENDER	Male	328	79.42%	74.31%	76.64%	175	73.84%	71.76%	73.56%	733	79.85%	77.22%	80.55%
	Female	85	20.58%	25.69%	23.36%	62	26.16%	28.24%	26.44%	185	20.15%	22.78%	19.45%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	7	1.69%	1.19%	1.18%	3	1.27%	0.29%	1.92%	9	0.98%	0.83%	1.09%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	10	2.42%	2.77%	2.02%	8	3.38%	3.75%	1.92%	21	2.29%	2.73%	2.67%
	Black/African American	71	17.19%	15.81%	13.11%	34	14.35%	11.53%	10.82%	138	15.03%	15.41%	12.34%
	White/Caucasian	264	63.92%	67.19%	70.42%	156	65.82%	72.05%	71.15%	620	67.54%	66.78%	69.69%
	Other	23	5.57%	9.09%	8.57%	12	5.06%	6.34%	8.65%	73	7.95%	8.45%	8.69%
	Don't Know	38	9.20%	3.95%	4.71%	24	10.13%	6.05%	5.53%	57	6.21%	5.80%	5.53%
AGE RANGE	Under 25	219	53.03%	59.49%	64.37%	131	55.27%	64.27%	69.47%	490	53.38%	63.02%	63.87%
	25-29	104	25.18%	23.91%	17.82%	64	27.00%	21.61%	19.23%	208	22.66%	18.99%	17.28%
	30-39	65	15.74%	13.44%	14.12%	32	13.50%	10.66%	9.62%	152	16.56%	13.52%	14.31%
	40 +	25	6.05%	3.16%	3.70%	10	4.22%	3.46%	1.68%	68	7.41%	4.48%	4.54%
RANK	E1-E4	298	72.15%	74.31%	78.15%	187	78.90%	79.83%	85.34%	689	75.05%	80.38%	81.24%
	E5-E9	97	23.49%	21.54%	17.82%	35	14.77%	14.70%	13.46%	180	19.61%	15.63%	15.89%
	Officer	15	3.63%	2.57%	3.53%	9	3.80%	3.46%	0.96%	35	3.81%	2.00%	1.78%
	Warrant Officer	3	0.73%	0.20%	0.00%	2	0.84%	0.29%	0.24%	1	0.11%	0.42%	0.20%
	Cadet/Midshipman	0	0.00%	0.40%	0.17%	3	1.27%	1.44%	0.00%	12	1.31%	0.75%	0.49%
	Does Not Apply	0	0.00%	0.99%	0.34%	1	0.42%	0.29%	0.00%	1	0.11%	0.83%	0.39%
COMPONENT	Regular	385	93.22%	91.30%	89.92%	219	92.41%	90.78%	92.31%	837	91.18%	89.19%	89.63%
	Reserve	11	2.66%	3.16%	4.37%	10	4.22%	1.44%	2.88%	33	3.59%	3.08%	3.36%
	National Guard	17	4.12%	4.94%	5.38%	5	2.11%	6.63%	4.81%	36	3.92%	6.65%	6.32%
	Other	0	0.00%	0.59%	0.34%	3	1.27%	1.15%	0.00%	12	1.31%	1.08%	0.69%
EDUCATION	Some high school	4	0.97%	1.38%	1.18%	2	0.84%	1.44%	1.68%	14	1.53%	0.58%	1.38%
	GED	57	13.80%	17.59%	17.98%	34	14.35%	13.54%	12.98%	102	11.11%	13.87%	14.41%
	High school graduate	159	38.50%	33.99%	40.50%	101	42.62%	49.28%	50.72%	372	40.52%	47.51%	43.34%

TABLE 5.34. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER DEMOGRAPHICS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

Some college	94	22.76%	28.46%	17.65%	59	24.89%	20.46%	19.47%	217	23.64%	20.60%	20.24%	
Degree less than four years	25	6.05%	4.15%	4.71%	8	3.38%	1.44%	2.40%	40	4.36%	3.07%	3.65%	
Four-year college degree	18	4.36%	3.75%	4.54%	10	4.22%	4.32%	1.44%	36	3.92%	3.65%	2.27%	
Master's degree or greater	8	1.94%	0.59%	1.34%	3	1.27%	1.73%	0.72%	16	1.74%	1.08%	1.09%	
Don't Know	48	11.62%	10.08%	12.10%	20	8.44%	7.78%	10.58%	121	13.18%	9.63%	13.62%	
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	146	35.35%	43.08%	44.37%	90	37.97%	47.26%	47.36%	377	41.07%	48.88%	46.89%
	Married	185	44.79%	43.68%	43.03%	125	52.74%	42.36%	41.11%	403	43.90%	38.26%	41.76%
	Legally Separated	27	6.54%	3.16%	3.36%	6	2.53%	3.17%	2.16%	50	5.45%	3.90%	2.76%
	Divorced	40	9.69%	7.91%	6.39%	10	4.22%	5.76%	6.73%	62	6.75%	5.98%	5.63%
	Widowed	1	0.24%	0.40%	0.67%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.72%	3	0.33%	0.00%	0.20%
	Don't Know	14	3.39%	1.78%	2.18%	6	2.53%	1.44%	1.92%	23	2.51%	2.99%	2.76%

Event Setting

Army non-fatal suicide events in 2010 most frequently took place in the United States ($n = 338$, 81.84%; Table 5.35). As indicated in Table 5.36, suicide attempts primarily occurred in the Soldiers' residences ($n = 334$, 80.87%) and vehicles ($n = 21$, 5.08%). The most frequent "Other" settings for Army suicide attempts included hotels ($n = 6$, 1.45%) and parks and nature reserves ($n = 5$, 1.21%). Proportions were similar for other non-fatal suicide events.

TABLE 5.35. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
	2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
United States	338	81.84%	78.85%	75.13%	200	84.39%	85.30%	83.89%	838	91.29%	88.98%	91.31%
Iraq	25	6.05%	8.70%	13.95%	10	4.22%	5.19%	8.41%	18	1.96%	4.14%	5.73%
Afghanistan	14	3.39%	1.58%	1.68%	6	2.53%	1.73%	0.72%	7	0.76%	0.75%	0.59%
Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.59%	0.34%	0	0.00%	0.58%	0.48%	3	0.33%	0.25%	0.20%
Asia	13	3.15%	3.56%	3.03%	12	5.06%	2.02%	2.40%	11	1.20%	0.50%	0.99%
Europe	19	4.60%	4.74%	5.21%	8	3.38%	4.03%	3.37%	36	3.92%	4.39%	1.18%
Canada or Mexico	1	0.24%	0.59%	0.17%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.11%	0.25%	0.00%

TABLE 5.35. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

Central or South America	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.17%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.08%	0.00%
Other	3	0.73%	0.79%	0.00%	1	0.42%	0.58%	0.00%	4	0.44%	0.00%	0.00%
Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.59%	0.34%	0	0.00%	0.58%	0.72%	0	0.00%	0.66%	0.00%

TABLE 5.36. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT SETTING FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

EVENT SETTING		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2010		2009	2008	2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
Residence (own) or barracks		334	80.87%	79.45%	79.33%	186	78.48%	83.57%	85.82%
Residence of friend or family		14	3.39%	5.14%	4.71%	13	5.49%	2.88%	2.64%
Work/jobsite		14	3.39%	1.98%	4.20%	9	3.80%	4.03%	3.85%
Automobile (away from residence)		21	5.08%	5.34%	3.03%	4	1.69%	2.59%	1.92%
Inpatient medical facility		6	1.45%	0.59%	0.67%	8	3.38%	2.02%	0.00%
Other		24	5.81%	7.51%	8.07%	17	7.17%	4.90%	5.77%
Don't Know		0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Event Method

As indicated in Table 5.37, drugs were the most common method for suicide attempt ($n = 238$, 57.63%), followed by injury with a sharp or blunt object ($n = 50$, 12.11%), and hanging ($n = 35$, 8.47%). Similar patterns were reported for self-harm events without intent to die.

TABLE 5.37. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT METHOD FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

EVENT METHOD		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2010		2009	2008	2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
Firearm, non-military issue		14	3.39%	3.75%	2.18%	9	3.80%	2.02%	1.20%
Firearm, military issue		15	3.63%	5.34%	5.88%	2	0.84%	2.59%	1.44%
Hanging		35	8.47%	8.10%	9.08%	7	2.95%	4.32%	4.09%
Drugs		238	57.63%	55.93%	58.99%	126	53.16%	48.99%	48.08%

TABLE 5.37. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT METHOD FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

Alcohol	12	2.91%	2.17%	3.19%	5	2.11%	4.61%	5.53%
Gas, vehicle exhaust	5	1.21%	0.79%	0.67%	0	0.00%	0.58%	0.00%
Gas, utility (or other)	1	0.24%	0.40%	0.00%	2	0.84%	0.00%	0.00%
Drowning	1	0.24%	0.20%	0.17%	1	0.42%	0.58%	0.24%
Fire, steam, etc.	1	0.24%	0.00%	0.00%	1	0.42%	0.29%	0.72%
Sharp or blunt object	50	12.11%	15.22%	12.27%	65	27.43%	27.67%	29.33%
Jumping from high place	9	2.18%	0.99%	1.01%	3	1.27%	1.44%	0.48%
Lying in front of moving object	2	0.48%	0.79%	0.17%	1	0.42%	0.29%	0.24%
Crashing a motor vehicle	8	1.94%	2.17%	1.34%	0	0.00%	0.58%	0.96%
Chemicals	6	1.45%	1.38%	1.34%	2	0.84%	0.29%	0.96%
Other	8	1.94%	1.98%	2.02%	6	2.53%	3.46%	4.09%
Don't Know	8	1.94%	0.79%	1.68%	7	2.95%	2.31%	2.64%

Substance Use during the Event

DoDSER POCs collected data on alcohol and drug use during Army non-fatal suicide events (Table 5.38). For both suicide attempts and self-harm without intent to die, drug use was more frequent than was alcohol use. DoDSERs included alcohol use for 125 Army suicide attempts (30.27%), and included drug use for 261 Army suicide attempts (63.20%). Drug use most frequently involved misuse of prescription drugs. These frequencies include Soldiers who used drugs as a suicide attempt method ($n = 239$, 57.87%), as described above.

TABLE 5.38. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	125	30.27%	27.47%	24.71%	48	20.25%	27.09%	26.20%
	No	240	58.11%	64.03%	64.71%	168	70.89%	67.44%	60.82%
	Don't Know	48	11.62%	8.50%	10.59%	21	8.86%	5.48%	12.98%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	261	63.20%	59.68%	58.99%	126	53.16%	50.14%	48.80%
	No	132	31.96%	34.78%	33.78%	98	41.35%	45.53%	41.83%
	Don't Know	20	4.84%	5.53%	7.23%	13	5.49%	4.32%	9.38%

TABLE 5.38. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

Illegal drugs	Overdose	29	7.02%	3.36%	3.03%	8	3.38%	2.59%	1.20%
	Used, no overdose	11	2.66%	2.37%	2.18%	7	2.95%	2.59%	3.13%
	Were not used	353	85.47%	78.85%	69.75%	209	88.19%	84.44%	77.16%
	Don't know	20	4.84%	15.42%	25.04%	13	5.49%	10.37%	18.51%
Prescription	Overdose	177	42.86%	39.13%	36.47%	52	21.94%	23.05%	23.80%
	Used, no overdose	28	6.78%	5.93%	6.89%	42	17.72%	14.12%	11.78%
	Were not used	188	45.52%	47.04%	45.04%	130	54.85%	56.20%	52.40%
	Don't know	20	4.84%	7.91%	11.60%	13	5.49%	6.63%	12.02%
OTC	Overdose	62	15.01%	15.61%	15.46%	20	8.44%	9.22%	8.65%
	Used, no overdose	10	2.42%	2.77%	3.36%	10	4.22%	4.90%	4.33%
	Were not used	321	77.72%	67.00%	58.66%	194	81.86%	75.50%	69.47%
	Don't know	20	4.84%	14.62%	22.52%	13	5.49%	10.37%	17.55%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	85	20.58%	17.39%	15.63%	25	10.55%	13.54%	14.18%
	No	271	65.62%	71.94%	71.93%	186	78.48%	78.10%	70.67%
	Don't Know	57	13.80%	10.67%	12.44%	26	10.97%	8.36%	15.14%

Communication of Intent

As summarized in Table 5.39, DoDSERs indicated that most Soldiers were not known to communicate with others prior to attempting suicide ($n = 326$, 78.93%) or harming themselves in other ways without intent to die ($n = 204$, 86.08%). As indicated in Table 5.40, those Soldiers who did communicate with others primarily verbally indicated their potential for self-harm ($n = 64$ suicide attempts, 15.50% and $n = 26$ self-harm events, 10.97%). Table 5.41 describes the most frequent individuals with whom Soldiers communicated.

TABLE 5.39. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
	2010		2009		2010		2009	
	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	326	78.93%	76.88%	78.32%	204	86.08%	84.15%	85.58%
1	69	16.71%	17.59%	13.78%	28	11.81%	12.39%	10.82%
2	13	3.15%	3.75%	5.88%	4	1.69%	2.88%	1.68%

TABLE 5.39. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

3	4	0.97%	1.19%	1.51%	1	0.42%	0.58%	1.20%
4	1	0.24%	0.40%	0.17%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.72%
5	0	0.00%	0.20%	0.34%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

TABLE 5.40. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2010		2009		2008		2010	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
Verbal		64	15.50%	16.60%	17.31%	26	10.97%	12.39%	12.98%
Written		16	3.87%	2.77%	1.68%	4	1.69%	1.44%	0.72%
Other or Unknown		4	0.97%	1.19%	0.00%	3	1.27%	0.86%	0.24%
Multiple Modes		3	0.73%	1.98%	2.69%	0	0.00%	0.58%	0.24%
No Known Communication		326	78.93%	77.47%	78.32%	204	86.08%	84.73%	85.82%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

TABLE 5.41. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

COMMUNICATION		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2010		2009		2008		2010	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
Spouse		24	5.81%	4.74%	1.51%	5	2.11%	2.02%	1.92%
Friend		18	4.36%	3.36%	4.87%	5	2.11%	2.59%	1.44%
Behavioral Health Provider		8	1.94%	3.16%	2.86%	9	3.80%	3.17%	2.88%
Chaplain		2	0.48%	0.40%	0.17%	3	1.27%	0.00%	0.24%
Supervisor		7	1.69%	1.19%	0.84%	4	1.69%	2.59%	1.44%
Other or Unidentified		10	2.42%	4.15%	3.53%	2	0.84%	1.44%	2.64%
Multiple Communications		18	4.36%	5.53%	7.90%	5	2.11%	3.46%	3.61%
No Known Communication		326	78.93%	77.47%	78.32%	204	86.08%	84.73%	85.82%

Additional Event Information

Table 5.42 provides information about other details of 2010 Army suicide attempts. For the majority of suicide attempts ($n = 300, 72.64\%$), there were data to indicate that the Soldiers intended to die. The high proportion of “Don’t Know” responses suggests that all inferences should be made with caution.

TABLE 5.42. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)			
		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	300	72.64%	70.36%	64.20%				
	No	39	9.44%	12.25%	13.61%				
	Don’t Know	74	17.92%	17.39%	22.18%				
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	3	0.73%	1.58%	1.34%	3	1.27%	0.29%	3.13%
	No	366	88.62%	92.09%	91.09%	224	94.51%	97.69%	91.59%
	Don’t Know	44	10.65%	6.32%	7.56%	10	4.22%	2.02%	5.29%
PLANNED/ PREMEDITATED	Yes	114	27.60%	27.27%	26.55%	29	12.24%	10.66%	10.10%
	No	196	47.46%	58.30%	54.62%	171	72.15%	74.35%	78.37%
	Don’t Know	103	24.94%	14.43%	18.82%	37	15.61%	14.99%	11.54%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	165	39.95%	46.25%	40.34%	110	46.41%	55.91%	52.64%
	No	170	41.16%	38.34%	43.70%	78	32.91%	29.97%	33.65%
	Don’t Know	78	18.89%	15.42%	15.97%	49	20.68%	14.12%	13.70%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	45	10.90%	12.45%	14.79%	6	2.53%	2.02%	2.40%
	No	285	69.01%	76.48%	71.60%	209	88.19%	89.05%	88.94%
	Don’t Know	83	20.10%	11.07%	13.61%	22	9.28%	8.93%	8.65%

Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

Situational Factors

Table 5.43 provides details about the living situations for Soldiers with non-fatal suicide events in 2010. Army suicide attempt DoDSERs indicated that Soldiers most frequently lived in shared living environments on their installations ($n = 202$, 48.91%) or private homes or apartments outside of their installations ($n = 149$, 36.08%). Married Soldiers most often lived with their spouses at the time of their suicide attempts ($n = 87$, 21.07%), but many were separated due to relationship issues ($n = 48$, 11.62%). The minority of Army suicide attempt DoDSERs indicated that the Soldiers had minor children ($n = 156$, 37.77%). DoDSERs for 61 Army suicide attempts (14.77%) included known access to firearms. Data were similar for other non-fatal suicide events.

TABLE 5.43. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	202	48.91%	58.89%	66.89%	131	55.27%	58.21%	64.42%	458	49.89%	64.37%	62.98%
	Bachelor quarters	4	0.97%	0.79%	1.01%	2	0.84%	0.00%	0.72%	6	0.65%	0.75%	0.49%
	On-base family housing	31	7.51%	6.32%	4.20%	14	5.91%	5.19%	7.69%	75	8.17%	6.46%	5.63%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	149	36.08%	24.51%	21.01%	69	29.11%	26.80%	22.36%	295	32.14%	20.96%	22.51%
	Ship	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.08%	0.00%
	Other	7	1.69%	4.35%	2.86%	12	5.06%	4.32%	2.40%	34	3.70%	2.98%	2.67%
	Don't Know	20	4.84%	5.14%	4.03%	9	3.80%	5.48%	2.40%	50	5.45%	4.39%	5.73%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resides with spouse	87	21.07%	19.96%	16.97%	54	22.78%	21.90%	21.63%	217	23.64%	16.82%	19.55%
	Separated	48	11.62%	8.70%	8.57%	34	14.35%	8.36%	7.45%	88	9.59%	8.45%	8.39%
	Apart (not separated)	46	11.14%	13.44%	16.81%	35	14.77%	9.80%	11.54%	89	9.69%	11.35%	11.06%
	Don't Know	4	0.97%	1.98%	0.84%	2	0.84%	2.59%	0.48%	9	0.98%	1.49%	3.06%
	Unmarried at time of event	228	55.21%	55.93%	56.81%	112	47.26%	57.35%	58.89%	515	56.10%	61.89%	57.95%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	158	38.26%	26.68%	27.06%	68	28.69%	17.87%	23.32%	266	28.98%	18.89%	19.45%
	No	206	49.88%	60.28%	61.18%	137	57.81%	66.57%	69.23%	555	60.46%	69.18%	71.57%
	Don't Know	49	11.86%	13.04%	11.76%	32	13.50%	15.56%	7.45%	97	10.57%	11.93%	8.98%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	156	37.77%	35.18%	31.60%	76	32.07%	25.94%	21.63%	319	34.75%	26.35%	27.34%
	No	257	62.23%	64.82%	68.24%	161	67.93%	74.06%	78.13%	599	65.25%	73.57%	72.66%

TABLE 5.43. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.17%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.24%	0	0.00%	0.08%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	60	14.53%	11.07%	10.42%	31	13.08%	9.80%	6.25%	142	15.47%	8.70%	10.17%
	No	90	21.79%	22.92%	20.84%	44	18.57%	15.56%	15.38%	164	17.86%	15.82%	16.49%
	Don't Know	6	1.45%	1.19%	0.50%	1	0.42%	0.58%	0.24%	13	1.42%	1.91%	0.69%
	No Children	257	62.23%	64.82%	68.24%	161	67.93%	74.06%	78.13%	599	65.25%	73.57%	72.66%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	61	14.77%	15.61%	18.99%	28	11.81%	10.37%	13.46%	86	9.37%	11.52%	13.52%
	No	260	62.95%	66.01%	57.14%	181	76.37%	72.91%	66.59%	671	73.09%	72.66%	63.57%
	Don't Know	92	22.28%	18.38%	23.87%	28	11.81%	16.71%	19.95%	161	17.54%	15.82%	22.90%

Duty Environment

Table 5.44 summarizes duty environments for Soldiers with non-fatal suicide events. The majority of DoDSERs for Army suicide attempts indicated that the Soldiers were stationed at their permanent duty station ($n = 240$, 58.11%). Thirty-three DoDSERs (7.99%) indicated the Soldiers were deployed during the suicide event, and 19 were in training (4.60%). Similar proportions were reported for other non-fatal suicide events.

TABLE 5.44. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

DUTY ENVIRONMENT		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	240	58.11%	61.07%	55.13%	155	65.40%	67.44%	62.98%	589	64.16%	64.95%	61.99%
	Leave	0	0.00%	0.40%	0.17%	1	0.42%	0.29%	0.00%	1	0.11%	0.50%	0.30%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	7	1.69%	2.37%	2.35%	3	1.27%	0.58%	0.96%	15	1.63%	0.41%	0.89%
	Medical Hold	6	1.45%	1.98%	1.34%	1	0.42%	2.59%	1.20%	8	0.87%	1.91%	1.88%
	TDY	0	0.00%	0.20%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.29%	0.72%	2	0.22%	0.17%	0.20%
	AWOL	4	0.97%	0.99%	0.84%	2	0.84%	1.15%	0.72%	2	0.22%	0.66%	1.09%
	Under Command Observation	0	0.00%	0.59%	0.17%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.48%	3	0.33%	0.25%	0.39%
	Deployed	33	7.99%	10.08%	11.60%	11	4.64%	6.63%	6.73%	26	2.83%	4.72%	5.33%
	Training	19	4.60%	10.67%	12.94%	11	4.64%	6.92%	14.66%	56	6.10%	12.01%	16.39%
	Other	3	0.73%	2.96%	4.37%	3	1.27%	1.15%	3.37%	13	1.42%	1.82%	4.34%
	Multiple Duty Environments	43	10.41%	6.13%	10.76%	34	14.35%	10.09%	6.73%	41	4.47%	6.46%	5.33%
	Duty Environment Unknown	58	14.04%	2.57%	0.34%	16	6.75%	2.88%	1.44%	162	17.65%	6.13%	1.88%

Non-fatal Suicide Events by Month

No clear pattern was evident for Army non-fatal suicide events by month (Table 5.45).

TABLE 5.45. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS BY MONTH

MONTH		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
January		43	10.41%	14.03%	9.92%	18	7.59%	10.66%	7.93%	77	8.39%	8.37%	6.52%
February		33	7.99%	6.92%	8.91%	16	6.75%	8.93%	5.05%	80	8.71%	8.45%	6.12%
March		24	5.81%	11.07%	8.07%	29	12.24%	12.68%	7.45%	86	9.37%	8.78%	4.44%
April		27	6.54%	8.70%	6.39%	17	7.17%	8.07%	7.21%	86	9.37%	10.02%	6.81%
May		26	6.30%	8.30%	6.55%	26	10.97%	7.49%	9.13%	90	9.80%	10.52%	6.22%
June		44	10.65%	8.70%	9.08%	20	8.44%	8.07%	10.58%	77	8.39%	10.44%	8.88%
July		35	8.47%	8.70%	9.58%	26	10.97%	9.80%	9.13%	82	8.93%	8.53%	9.48%
August		36	8.72%	9.49%	9.92%	15	6.33%	8.65%	9.38%	71	7.73%	8.53%	9.87%
September		32	7.75%	8.70%	9.08%	19	8.02%	4.61%	9.62%	88	9.59%	7.54%	11.85%
October		31	7.51%	8.30%	8.57%	17	7.17%	8.65%	10.34%	77	8.39%	8.29%	11.55%
November		39	9.44%	3.75%	7.06%	22	9.28%	6.92%	5.77%	58	6.32%	5.14%	9.77%
December		43	10.41%	3.36%	6.89%	12	5.06%	5.48%	8.41%	46	5.01%	5.39%	8.49%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

Nearly one third of Army DoDSERs for attempted suicide included a known history of prior self-harm ($n = 128$, 30.99%; Table 5.46). Seventy-six DoDSERs for Army suicide attempts (18.40%) included evidence of more than one prior event. Similar data were provided in Army DoDSERs for

self-harm without intent to die and suicidal ideation

TABLE 5.46. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoD SER PRIOR SELF-INJURY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	128	30.99%	39.33%	37.14%	75	31.65%	35.16%	35.58%	247	26.91%	26.01%	25.57%
	Within 30 days	25	6.05%	6.92%	2.69%	16	6.75%	7.49%	3.37%	41	4.47%	4.14%	2.67%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	41	9.93%	11.07%	5.04%	29	12.24%	11.24%	6.01%	73	7.95%	6.55%	4.84%
	No	235	56.90%	52.96%	49.41%	128	54.01%	54.18%	54.09%	551	60.02%	61.64%	59.33%
Number prior self-injuries	Don't Know	50	12.11%	7.71%	13.45%	34	14.35%	10.66%	10.34%	120	13.07%	12.34%	15.10%
	One prior event	52	12.59%	9.72%	0.00%	37	15.61%	8.43%	0.00%	127	13.83%	7.65%	0.20%
	More than one prior event	76	18.40%	29.37%	36.39%	38	16.03%	26.16%	34.79%	120	13.07%	18.12%	24.78%
	N/A or Unknown	285	69.01%	60.91%	63.61%	162	68.35%	65.41%	65.21%	671	73.09%	74.23%	75.02%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	71	17.19%	19.21%	19.50%	39	16.46%	22.48%	22.60%				
	No	43	10.41%	16.44%	14.12%	22	9.28%	8.93%	8.89%				
	Don't Know	14	3.39%	3.56%	3.53%	14	5.91%	3.75%	4.09%				
	N/A	285	69.01%	60.79%	62.86%	162	68.35%	64.84%	64.42%				

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Behavioral Health Disorders

DoD SER POCs collect information about history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide event. Most DoD SERs for Army suicide attempts included history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder ($n = 268$, 64.89%; Table 5.47). As indicated in Table 5.48, over one third of Army suicide attempt DoD SERs ($n = 161$, 38.98%) included known history of a mood disorder, primarily major depressive disorder ($n = 77$, 18.64%). Over one fourth of DoD SERs for Army suicide attempts included known history of an anxiety disorder ($n = 116$, 28.09%), most frequently PTSD ($n = 40$, 9.69%; Table 5.49). As summarized in Table 5.50, 24 DoD SERs (5.81%) included known personality disorders, eight (1.94%) included psychosis, 100 (24.21%) included known substance abuse history, and 13 Army suicide attempt DoD SERs (3.15%) included traumatic brain injuries. Similar patterns were evident for all types of non-fatal suicide events.

TABLE 5.47. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only									
		2010		2009		2008		2010		2009		2008		2010		2009		2008	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent		
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	145	35.11%	43.08%	44.20%	90	37.97%	39.19%	48.80%	365	39.76%	45.57%	50.25%						
	1 DX	105	25.42%	29.25%	27.23%	58	24.47%	26.51%	26.92%	245	26.69%	29.00%	27.44%						
	2 DX	92	22.28%	15.02%	17.48%	36	15.19%	19.31%	17.55%	150	16.34%	15.49%	14.12%						
	3 DX	42	10.17%	8.50%	8.07%	33	13.92%	11.82%	5.77%	93	10.13%	6.55%	5.33%						
	4 or more DX	29	7.02%	4.15%	3.03%	20	8.44%	3.17%	0.96%	65	7.08%	3.40%	2.86%						

TABLE 5.48. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only									
		2010		2009		2008		2010		2009		2008		2010		2009		2008	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent		
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	161	38.98%	38.54%	41.34%	81	34.18%	39.48%	37.26%	288	31.37%	36.37%	33.96%						
	No	208	50.36%	51.58%	45.55%	123	51.90%	51.59%	53.37%	539	58.71%	52.78%	51.92%						
	Don't Know	44	10.65%	9.88%	13.11%	33	13.92%	8.93%	9.38%	91	9.91%	10.85%	14.12%						
Bipolar disorder	Yes	9	2.18%	3.16%	2.86%	7	2.95%	2.88%	5.29%	22	2.40%	3.81%	3.16%						
	No	337	81.60%	84.39%	79.50%	191	80.59%	86.46%	82.45%	785	85.51%	83.51%	80.55%						
	Don't Know	67	16.22%	12.45%	17.65%	39	16.46%	10.66%	12.26%	111	12.09%	12.68%	16.29%						
Major depression	Yes	77	18.64%	18.77%	23.53%	43	18.14%	18.16%	15.63%	128	13.94%	15.33%	16.19%						
	No	279	67.55%	69.76%	60.84%	158	66.67%	71.76%	72.60%	681	74.18%	72.41%	67.62%						
	Don't Know	57	13.80%	11.46%	15.63%	36	15.19%	10.09%	11.78%	109	11.87%	12.26%	16.19%						
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	5	1.21%	0.79%	0.34%	5	2.11%	2.02%	0.96%	14	1.53%	1.74%	1.18%						
	No	346	83.78%	86.36%	81.51%	193	81.43%	86.46%	86.06%	783	85.29%	85.75%	82.03%						
	Don't Know	62	15.01%	12.85%	18.15%	39	16.46%	11.53%	12.98%	121	13.18%	12.51%	16.78%						
Other mood disorder	Yes	34	8.23%	8.89%	8.07%	16	6.75%	10.66%	9.62%	57	6.21%	9.86%	6.81%						
	No	315	76.27%	78.66%	73.28%	184	77.64%	78.10%	78.85%	741	80.72%	77.38%	76.90%						
	Don't Know	64	15.50%	12.45%	18.66%	37	15.61%	11.24%	11.54%	120	13.07%	12.76%	16.29%						
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	19	4.60%	0.99%	1.85%	4	1.69%	1.15%	1.68%	23	2.51%	1.24%	2.37%						
	No	350	84.75%	89.13%	85.04%	200	84.39%	89.91%	88.94%	804	87.58%	87.90%	83.51%						

TABLE 5.48. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

	Don't Know	44	10.65%	9.88%	13.11%	33	13.92%	8.93%	9.38%	91	9.91%	10.85%	14.12%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	17	4.12%	5.93%	4.71%	6	2.53%	4.61%	4.09%	44	4.79%	4.39%	4.24%
	No	352	85.23%	84.19%	82.18%	198	83.54%	86.46%	86.54%	783	85.29%	84.76%	81.64%
	Don't Know	44	10.65%	9.88%	13.11%	33	13.92%	8.93%	9.38%	91	9.91%	10.85%	14.12%

TABLE 5.49. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	116	28.09%	23.91%	23.36%	73	30.80%	27.95%	16.11%	221	24.07%	17.81%	19.74%
	No	251	60.77%	67.19%	61.51%	137	57.81%	63.11%	72.84%	609	66.34%	72.08%	65.45%
	Don't Know	46	11.14%	8.89%	15.13%	27	11.39%	8.93%	11.06%	88	9.59%	10.11%	14.81%
PTSD	Yes	40	9.69%	9.68%	11.60%	30	12.66%	10.95%	7.45%	91	9.91%	7.46%	8.09%
	No	316	76.51%	79.84%	72.10%	179	75.53%	79.25%	80.05%	733	79.85%	81.77%	76.11%
	Don't Know	57	13.80%	10.47%	16.30%	28	11.81%	9.80%	12.50%	94	10.24%	10.77%	15.79%
Panic disorder	Yes	4	0.97%	0.79%	0.67%	2	0.84%	0.58%	0.72%	4	0.44%	0.33%	0.89%
	No	348	84.26%	88.74%	81.68%	203	85.65%	88.76%	86.30%	809	88.13%	88.15%	83.22%
	Don't Know	61	14.77%	10.47%	17.65%	32	13.50%	10.66%	12.98%	105	11.44%	11.52%	15.89%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	10	2.42%	1.98%	2.69%	11	4.64%	3.17%	1.68%	17	1.85%	2.32%	2.76%
	No	344	83.29%	87.15%	79.66%	194	81.86%	86.74%	85.82%	793	86.38%	86.25%	81.24%
	Don't Know	59	14.29%	10.87%	17.65%	32	13.50%	10.09%	12.50%	108	11.76%	11.43%	15.99%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	1	0.24%	0.40%	0.00%	2	0.84%	0.00%	0.24%	4	0.44%	0.00%	0.20%
	No	352	85.23%	89.13%	81.51%	203	85.65%	89.34%	87.02%	809	88.13%	88.57%	83.51%
	Don't Know	60	14.53%	10.47%	18.49%	32	13.50%	10.66%	12.74%	105	11.44%	11.43%	16.29%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	30	7.26%	5.34%	3.53%	8	3.38%	5.48%	3.85%	47	5.12%	3.23%	3.46%
	No	325	78.69%	84.98%	78.82%	200	84.39%	83.86%	83.89%	763	83.12%	85.34%	80.95%
	Don't Know	58	14.04%	9.68%	17.65%	29	12.24%	10.66%	12.26%	108	11.76%	11.43%	15.60%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	10	2.42%	1.19%	1.01%	2	0.84%	0.58%	0.48%	6	0.65%	0.91%	0.89%
	No	357	86.44%	89.92%	83.87%	208	87.76%	90.49%	88.46%	824	89.76%	88.98%	84.30%
	Don't Know	46	11.14%	8.89%	15.13%	27	11.39%	8.93%	11.06%	88	9.59%	10.11%	14.81%

TABLE 5.49. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	21	5.08%	4.55%	3.87%	18	7.59%	7.20%	1.68%	52	5.66%	3.56%	3.46%
	No	346	83.78%	86.56%	81.01%	192	81.01%	83.86%	87.26%	778	84.75%	86.33%	81.74%
	Don't Know	46	11.14%	8.89%	15.13%	27	11.39%	8.93%	11.06%	88	9.59%	10.11%	14.81%

TABLE 5.50. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	24	5.81%	6.13%	7.56%	12	5.06%	11.24%	9.86%	30	3.27%	5.97%	6.12%
	No	335	81.11%	83.60%	74.62%	194	81.86%	77.23%	77.88%	786	85.62%	83.10%	78.68%
	Don't Know	54	13.08%	10.28%	17.82%	31	13.08%	11.53%	12.26%	102	11.11%	10.94%	15.20%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	8	1.94%	0.79%	2.02%	3	1.27%	0.29%	1.92%	8	0.87%	1.66%	1.88%
	No	358	86.68%	89.53%	84.37%	205	86.50%	89.91%	87.74%	818	89.11%	88.57%	84.30%
	Don't Know	47	11.38%	9.68%	13.61%	29	12.24%	9.80%	10.34%	92	10.02%	9.78%	13.82%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	100	24.21%	27.87%	26.89%	68	28.69%	29.97%	25.96%	222	24.18%	26.68%	24.38%
	No	263	63.68%	62.25%	58.99%	136	57.38%	61.96%	62.50%	600	65.36%	63.05%	61.90%
	Don't Know	50	12.11%	9.88%	14.12%	33	13.92%	8.07%	11.54%	96	10.46%	10.27%	13.72%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	13	3.15%			8	3.38%			44	4.79%		
	No	353	85.47%			197	83.12%			785	85.51%		
	Don't Know	47	11.38%			32	13.50%			89	9.69%		

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

Treatment History

Table 5.51 provides data on use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to non-fatal suicide events. Half of Army suicide attempt DoDSERs ($n = 209$, 50.61%) indicated that Soldiers had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), 141 (34.14%) within the month prior to attempting suicide. Eighty-nine Army suicide attempt DoDSERs (21.55%) included evidence of a known physical health problem. Eighty DoDSERs (19.37%) included prior substance abuse treatment.

Most Army suicide attempt DoDSERs ($n = 275$, 66.59%) indicated that Soldiers had received outpatient behavioral health services, many within the month prior to attempting suicide ($n = 188$, 45.52%). One hundred three DoDSERs (24.94%) indicated that the Soldiers had previously been hospitalized in an inpatient psychiatry unit, 40 (9.69%) within the month prior to the suicide event. Similar treatment use patterns were reported in DoDSERs for self-harm without intent to die and suicidal ideation.

TABLE 5.51. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoD SER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	209	50.61%	43.48%	43.70%	116	48.95%	40.06%	42.79%	574	62.53%	47.47%	47.38%
	Within 30 days	141	34.14%	27.87%	32.27%	81	34.18%	25.36%	32.69%	356	38.78%	33.80%	31.79%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	176	42.62%	34.98%	40.00%	100	42.19%	31.70%	40.87%	465	50.65%	42.09%	41.07%
	No	174	42.13%	45.65%	46.22%	89	37.55%	49.57%	48.32%	260	28.32%	42.17%	41.86%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Don't Know	30	7.26%	10.87%	10.08%	32	13.50%	10.37%	8.89%	84	9.15%	10.36%	10.76%
	Yes	89	21.55%	20.55%	17.65%	52	21.94%	16.71%	14.42%	190	20.70%	19.14%	18.16%
	Within 30 days	54	13.08%	12.85%	9.08%	27	11.39%	9.51%	9.86%	101	11.00%	8.86%	8.69%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	69	16.71%	15.42%	11.93%	38	16.03%	13.26%	12.02%	122	13.29%	12.43%	12.24%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	No	284	68.77%	69.17%	71.09%	163	68.78%	78.39%	76.92%	665	72.44%	72.74%	69.99%
	Don't Know	40	9.69%	10.28%	11.26%	22	9.28%	4.90%	8.65%	63	6.86%	8.12%	11.85%
	Yes	80	19.37%	15.02%	16.30%	47	19.83%	17.29%	16.11%	147	16.01%	16.24%	12.64%
	Within 30 days	39	9.44%	7.91%	7.90%	23	9.70%	9.80%	7.45%	88	9.59%	9.36%	5.13%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	56	13.56%	9.88%	10.59%	31	13.08%	12.97%	11.30%	107	11.66%	12.26%	8.00%
	No	302	73.12%	75.69%	72.61%	160	67.51%	73.78%	74.28%	703	76.58%	73.49%	75.91%
	Don't Know	31	7.51%	9.29%	11.09%	30	12.66%	8.93%	9.62%	68	7.41%	10.27%	11.45%
	Yes	29	7.02%	6.13%	4.20%	12	5.06%	6.34%	5.53%	68	7.41%	5.14%	4.34%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Within 30 days	12	2.91%	2.17%	1.18%	3	1.27%	2.02%	2.16%	35	3.81%	1.74%	2.17%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	17	4.12%	4.35%	2.35%	6	2.53%	4.03%	3.85%	43	4.68%	3.07%	2.96%
	No	343	83.05%	83.79%	82.86%	192	81.01%	83.00%	84.13%	770	83.88%	84.01%	81.24%
	Don't Know	41	9.93%	10.08%	12.94%	33	13.92%	10.66%	10.34%	80	8.71%	10.85%	14.41%
Yes	54	13.08%	18.18%	16.47%	26	10.97%	12.10%	14.18%	137	14.92%	17.32%	14.61%	
	Within 30 days	30	7.26%	11.46%	10.25%	18	7.59%	7.20%	10.10%	96	10.46%	12.59%	11.15%

TABLE 5.51. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	38	9.20%	16.21%	13.61%	22	9.28%	9.51%	12.50%	115	12.53%	15.66%	13.23%
	No	251	60.77%	60.47%	56.13%	139	58.65%	62.82%	59.86%	500	54.47%	50.79%	45.80%
	Don't Know	108	26.15%	21.34%	27.39%	72	30.38%	25.07%	25.96%	281	30.61%	31.90%	39.59%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	275	66.59%	56.92%	59.50%	147	62.03%	61.96%	56.49%	600	65.36%	62.88%	59.82%
	Within 30 days	188	45.52%	41.11%	39.33%	99	41.77%	43.23%	36.78%	439	47.82%	44.82%	42.84%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	223	54.00%	47.83%	48.07%	114	48.10%	50.72%	45.19%	498	54.25%	51.78%	50.15%
	No	120	29.06%	36.96%	33.95%	67	28.27%	31.41%	39.66%	272	29.63%	30.65%	31.89%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Don't Know	18	4.36%	6.13%	6.55%	23	9.70%	6.63%	3.85%	46	5.01%	6.46%	8.29%
	Yes	103	24.94%	27.67%	25.55%	62	26.16%	29.68%	21.63%	250	27.23%	26.68%	24.19%
	Within 30 days	40	9.69%	11.26%	9.92%	22	9.28%	10.95%	7.21%	106	11.55%	10.69%	11.35%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	62	15.01%	17.19%	15.97%	38	16.03%	19.60%	12.98%	155	16.88%	16.16%	16.39%
IN A WARRIOR TRANSITION UNIT	No	285	69.01%	65.22%	66.55%	149	62.87%	62.82%	72.60%	607	66.12%	65.53%	66.63%
	Don't Know	25	6.05%	7.11%	7.90%	26	10.97%	7.49%	5.77%	61	6.64%	7.79%	9.18%
	Yes	27	6.54%			22	9.28%			61	6.64%		
	No	35	8.47%			6	2.53%			51	5.56%		
	Don't Know	351	84.99%			209	88.19%			806	87.80%		

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Note: Warrior Transition Unit data unavailable prior to 2010.

As indicated in Table 5.52, nearly half of DoDSERs for Soldiers who attempted suicide ($n = 199$, 48.18%) included known prescriptions for psychotropic medication prior to the suicide event. Antidepressants ($n = 159$, 79.90% of those with known prescriptions, 38.50% of total) and antianxiety medication ($n = 83$, 41.71% of those with known prescriptions, 20.10% of total) were the most frequently prescribed psychotropics. Similar data were included in self-harm DoDSERs and suicidal ideation DoDSERs.

TABLE 5.52. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
	Yes	199	48.18%	40.51%	40.50%	111	46.84%	44.67%	36.78%	389	42.37%	41.18%	33.56%
	No	177	42.86%	51.38%	48.74%	100	42.19%	45.24%	54.81%	433	47.17%	47.97%	53.21%
	Don't Know	37	8.96%	8.10%	10.76%	26	10.97%	10.09%	8.41%	96	10.46%	10.85%	13.23%

TABLE 5.52. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

Antidepressants	Yes	159	38.50%	35.18%	35.63%	99	41.77%	40.06%	31.97%	343	37.36%	35.87%	29.22%
	No	208	50.36%	56.13%	52.44%	109	45.99%	49.57%	58.89%	464	50.54%	51.70%	56.27%
	Don't Know	46	11.14%	8.70%	11.93%	29	12.24%	10.37%	9.13%	111	12.09%	12.43%	14.51%
Antianxiety	Yes	83	20.10%	15.61%	16.13%	50	21.10%	19.02%	10.82%	157	17.10%	14.66%	12.64%
	No	272	65.86%	73.32%	68.24%	151	63.71%	68.30%	76.68%	638	69.50%	71.09%	70.88%
	Don't Know	58	14.04%	11.07%	15.63%	36	15.19%	12.68%	12.50%	123	13.40%	14.25%	16.49%
Antimanics	Yes	13	3.15%	1.38%	2.35%	5	2.11%	1.73%	3.61%	23	2.51%	2.40%	2.27%
	No	338	81.84%	86.17%	79.83%	196	82.70%	85.30%	84.62%	772	84.10%	82.60%	81.54%
	Don't Know	62	15.01%	12.45%	17.82%	36	15.19%	12.97%	11.78%	123	13.40%	15.00%	16.19%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	9	2.18%	1.58%	1.85%	4	1.69%	2.59%	1.68%	19	2.07%	2.15%	1.38%
	No	341	82.57%	86.56%	81.18%	197	83.12%	84.73%	85.82%	773	84.20%	82.93%	82.23%
	Don't Know	63	15.25%	11.86%	16.97%	36	15.19%	12.68%	12.50%	126	13.73%	14.91%	16.39%
Antipsychotics	Yes	32	7.75%	9.29%	9.08%	20	8.44%	11.82%	7.69%	55	5.99%	7.21%	7.31%
	No	319	77.24%	78.66%	74.96%	181	76.37%	76.37%	79.81%	741	80.72%	78.29%	76.11%
	Don't Know	62	15.01%	12.06%	15.97%	36	15.19%	11.82%	12.50%	122	13.29%	14.50%	16.58%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

DoDSERs for half of Soldiers who attempted suicide ($n = 223$, 54.00%) indicated a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with 139 (33.66%) indicating the failure occurred within the month prior to attempting suicide (Table 5.53). Sixty-four (15.50%) indicated a failure in another important relationship, with over half of these ($n = 39$, 9.44%) occurring within the month prior to the suicide attempt. Data were similar in DoDSERs for Soldiers with self-harm without intent to die and suicidal ideation.

TABLE 5.53. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	223	54.00%	50.00%	46.72%	124	52.32%	52.74%	43.27%	410	44.66%	39.35%	35.44%
	Within 30 days	139	33.66%	30.24%	27.23%	55	23.21%	25.65%	20.91%	206	22.44%	17.56%	17.67%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	170	41.16%	37.94%	36.30%	90	37.97%	40.92%	31.01%	284	30.94%	26.51%	26.55%
	No	155	37.53%	41.70%	43.19%	94	39.66%	40.63%	47.84%	453	49.35%	53.02%	52.32%
	Don't Know	35	8.47%	8.30%	10.08%	19	8.02%	6.63%	8.89%	55	5.99%	7.62%	12.24%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	64	15.50%	17.00%	11.76%	26	10.97%	11.24%	8.65%	108	11.76%	12.43%	9.67%
	Within 30 days	39	9.44%	8.89%	5.55%	18	7.59%	5.48%	5.05%	51	5.56%	5.05%	4.44%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	47	11.38%	11.66%	7.90%	21	8.86%	7.49%	6.97%	67	7.30%	7.46%	6.32%
	No	284	68.77%	69.37%	71.76%	182	76.79%	80.40%	78.13%	707	77.02%	76.80%	73.74%
	Don't Know	65	15.74%	13.64%	16.47%	29	12.24%	8.36%	13.22%	103	11.22%	10.77%	16.58%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	239	57.87%	55.53%	50.08%	133	56.12%	56.20%	45.67%	431	46.95%	44.16%	39.88%
	Within 30 days	154	37.29%	34.39%	28.91%	64	27.00%	28.82%	22.84%	224	24.40%	20.55%	19.64%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	184	44.55%	41.90%	37.82%	99	41.77%	43.80%	32.45%	298	32.46%	29.33%	28.53%
	No	142	34.38%	36.17%	40.00%	85	35.86%	37.18%	45.91%	434	47.28%	48.47%	48.27%
	Don't Know	32	7.75%	8.30%	9.92%	19	8.02%	6.63%	8.41%	53	5.77%	7.37%	11.85%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 5.54 summarizes other family and relationship factors. The most frequent family-related stressor was family behavioral health problems ($n = 110$ suicide attempt DoDSERs, 26.63%; $n = 64$ self-harm DoDSERs, 27.00%; $n = 265$ suicidal ideation DoDSERs, 28.87%).

TABLE 5.54. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.20%	0.34%	0	0.00%	0.29%	0.24%	1	0.11%	0.08%	0.20%
	No	387	93.70%	91.90%	89.41%	223	94.09%	94.52%	92.31%	875	95.32%	93.37%	87.86%
	Don't Know	26	6.30%	7.91%	10.25%	14	5.91%	5.19%	7.45%	42	4.58%	6.55%	11.94%

TABLE 5.54. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoD SER FAMILY HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	26	6.30%	6.13%	6.39%	10	4.22%	3.75%	4.09%	65	7.08%	4.47%	4.24%
	No	338	81.84%	82.61%	80.34%	207	87.34%	89.34%	85.82%	789	85.95%	86.50%	81.24%
	Don't Know	49	11.86%	11.26%	13.28%	20	8.44%	6.92%	10.10%	64	6.97%	9.03%	14.51%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	32	7.75%	7.51%	6.05%	12	5.06%	4.03%	5.53%	55	5.99%	6.63%	4.54%
	No	325	78.69%	80.43%	79.33%	202	85.23%	89.05%	83.41%	789	85.95%	83.68%	79.96%
	Don't Know	56	13.56%	12.06%	14.62%	23	9.70%	6.92%	11.06%	74	8.06%	9.69%	15.50%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	63	15.25%	13.24%	15.46%	36	15.19%	8.93%	10.34%	135	14.71%	10.69%	13.03%
	No	301	72.88%	75.69%	71.09%	180	75.95%	84.44%	78.61%	713	77.67%	80.28%	72.16%
	Don't Know	49	11.86%	11.07%	13.45%	21	8.86%	6.63%	11.06%	70	7.63%	9.03%	14.81%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	40	9.69%	9.88%	11.76%	27	11.39%	5.48%	6.97%	111	12.09%	9.20%	9.58%
	No	317	76.76%	77.08%	73.61%	187	78.90%	88.18%	81.25%	721	78.54%	81.11%	74.23%
	Don't Know	56	13.56%	13.04%	14.62%	23	9.70%	6.34%	11.78%	86	9.37%	9.69%	16.19%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	33	7.99%	8.30%	11.26%	21	8.86%	9.80%	8.65%	77	8.39%	6.79%	10.66%
	No	328	79.42%	79.45%	74.79%	195	82.28%	83.57%	77.88%	757	82.46%	83.18%	72.75%
	Don't Know	52	12.59%	12.25%	13.95%	21	8.86%	6.63%	13.46%	84	9.15%	10.02%	16.58%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	110	26.63%	32.02%	35.97%	64	27.00%	32.28%	32.45%	265	28.87%	29.25%	30.21%
	No	221	53.51%	51.38%	42.35%	135	56.96%	54.47%	48.08%	522	56.86%	53.11%	47.68%
	Don't Know	82	19.85%	16.60%	21.68%	38	16.03%	13.26%	19.47%	131	14.27%	17.65%	22.11%

Administrative and Legal History

Table 5.55 summarizes administrative and legal problems reported by Army DoD SER POCs for non-fatal suicide events in 2010. One hundred seventy-six DoD SERs for Soldiers who attempted suicide (42.62%) included at least one administrative or legal issue and 67 (16.22%) included more than one. The most frequent administrative or legal problems were Article 15 proceedings ($n = 80$, 19.37%), administrative separation ($n = 53$, 12.83%), and civil legal issues ($n = 43$, 10.41%). Similar patterns were evident in DoD SERs for Soldiers with self-harm without intent to die and suicidal ideation.

TABLE 5.55. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	11	2.66%	4.15%	2.02%	2	0.84%	3.75%	2.40%	26	2.83%	3.07%	2.96%
	No	357	86.44%	84.58%	84.37%	214	90.30%	88.76%	87.98%	805	87.69%	86.83%	83.22%
	Don't Know	45	10.90%	11.26%	13.61%	21	8.86%	7.49%	9.62%	87	9.48%	10.11%	13.82%
HX ARTICLE 15	Yes	80	19.37%	19.76%	19.16%	37	15.61%	20.46%	19.23%	137	14.92%	17.07%	16.09%
	No	277	67.07%	68.18%	68.24%	176	74.26%	70.32%	70.19%	686	74.73%	71.33%	68.21%
	Don't Know	56	13.56%	12.06%	12.61%	24	10.13%	9.22%	10.58%	95	10.35%	11.60%	15.70%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	53	12.83%	10.67%	10.59%	23	9.70%	9.51%	10.82%	82	8.93%	10.44%	9.48%
	No	306	74.09%	78.46%	75.13%	190	80.17%	82.13%	78.61%	735	80.07%	79.54%	74.53%
	Don't Know	54	13.08%	10.87%	14.29%	24	10.13%	8.36%	10.58%	101	11.00%	10.02%	15.99%
HX AWOL	Yes	30	7.26%	6.13%	6.05%	14	5.91%	9.22%	6.49%	58	6.32%	9.11%	9.08%
	No	342	82.81%	83.79%	83.19%	201	84.81%	85.59%	84.86%	777	84.64%	82.10%	78.68%
	Don't Know	41	9.93%	10.08%	10.76%	22	9.28%	5.19%	8.65%	83	9.04%	8.78%	12.24%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	35	8.47%	7.71%	8.40%	24	10.13%	8.07%	8.17%	101	11.00%	6.46%	5.73%
	No	330	79.90%	81.62%	80.17%	186	78.48%	86.17%	83.65%	719	78.32%	84.18%	80.85%
	Don't Know	48	11.62%	10.67%	11.43%	27	11.39%	5.76%	8.17%	98	10.68%	9.36%	13.43%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	43	10.41%	9.29%	7.90%	15	6.33%	6.63%	7.93%	76	8.28%	6.46%	6.81%
	No	309	74.82%	79.05%	78.32%	198	83.54%	85.01%	77.88%	749	81.59%	83.43%	75.62%
	Don't Know	61	14.77%	11.66%	13.78%	24	10.13%	8.36%	14.18%	93	10.13%	10.11%	17.57%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	23	5.57%	2.96%	1.18%	5	2.11%	3.46%	2.40%	35	3.81%	1.66%	1.78%
	No	320	77.48%	83.79%	84.87%	209	88.19%	87.32%	82.45%	765	83.33%	86.25%	79.76%
	Don't Know	70	16.95%	13.24%	13.95%	23	9.70%	9.22%	15.14%	118	12.85%	12.10%	18.46%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	176	42.62%	38.14%	38.15%	81	34.18%	37.75%	36.30%	350	38.13%	33.72%	32.58%
	No	190	46.00%	52.96%	51.76%	136	57.38%	57.35%	53.13%	495	53.92%	57.91%	52.91%
	Don't Know	47	11.38%	8.89%	10.08%	20	8.44%	4.90%	10.58%	73	7.95%	8.37%	14.51%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	67	16.22%	14.03%	12.10%	23	9.70%	15.56%	15.38%	112	12.20%	13.42%	12.34%
	No	176	42.62%	49.01%	48.57%	126	53.16%	53.31%	49.76%	470	51.20%	54.27%	50.35%
	Don't Know	170	41.16%	36.96%	39.33%	88	37.13%	31.12%	34.86%	336	36.60%	32.31%	37.31%

Abuse History

Table 5.56 provides non-fatal Army DoD SER data about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration. DoD SERs for Soldiers who attempted suicide included a history of reported physical abuse ($n = 90$, 21.79%), sexual abuse ($n = 71$, 17.19%), emotional abuse ($n = 94$, 22.76%), and sexual harassment ($n = 22$, 5.33%). Army suicide attempt DoD SERs included less frequent alleged history of perpetrating physical abuse ($n = 23$, 5.57%), sexual abuse ($n = 10$, 2.42%), emotional abuse ($n = 15$, 3.63%), and sexual harassment ($n = 3$, 0.73%). DoD SERs for self-harm without intent to die and suicidal ideation included similar proportions.

TABLE 5.56. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoD SER ABUSE HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	90	21.79%	22.13%	18.66%	44	18.57%	20.46%	18.03%	181	19.72%	20.30%	18.07%
	No	268	64.89%	65.02%	64.37%	139	58.65%	63.69%	66.59%	638	69.50%	65.70%	63.28%
	Don't Know	55	13.32%	12.85%	16.97%	54	22.78%	15.85%	15.38%	99	10.78%	14.00%	18.66%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	71	17.19%	16.40%	11.93%	37	15.61%	14.41%	11.30%	154	16.78%	12.84%	12.34%
	No	289	69.98%	70.16%	70.25%	153	64.56%	69.16%	72.36%	671	73.09%	71.75%	69.50%
	Don't Know	53	12.83%	13.44%	17.82%	47	19.83%	16.43%	16.35%	93	10.13%	15.41%	18.16%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	94	22.76%	24.51%	20.50%	46	19.41%	18.44%	17.07%	175	19.06%	20.96%	18.26%
	No	263	63.68%	61.26%	61.18%	139	58.65%	63.69%	65.63%	638	69.50%	64.04%	63.57%
	Don't Know	56	13.56%	14.23%	18.32%	52	21.94%	17.87%	17.31%	105	11.44%	15.00%	18.16%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	22	5.33%	3.75%	4.54%	11	4.64%	2.02%	1.20%	23	2.51%	3.31%	2.86%
	No	332	80.39%	81.03%	76.13%	170	71.73%	81.27%	80.53%	790	86.06%	80.86%	76.11%
	Don't Know	59	14.29%	15.22%	19.33%	56	23.63%	16.71%	18.27%	105	11.44%	15.82%	21.03%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	23	5.57%	5.53%	4.54%	8	3.38%	5.19%	4.57%	34	3.70%	4.56%	4.15%
	No	328	79.42%	80.63%	78.66%	174	73.42%	78.96%	79.09%	774	84.31%	82.35%	76.41%
	Don't Know	62	15.01%	13.83%	16.81%	55	23.21%	15.85%	16.35%	110	11.98%	13.09%	19.45%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	10	2.42%	1.58%	0.84%	3	1.27%	0.86%	0.96%	5	0.54%	0.99%	1.18%
	No	342	82.81%	84.39%	81.51%	180	75.95%	83.00%	82.45%	801	87.25%	85.50%	79.57%
	Don't Know	61	14.77%	14.03%	17.65%	54	22.78%	16.14%	16.59%	112	12.20%	13.50%	19.25%

TABLE 5.56. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	15	3.63%	2.96%	2.35%	5	2.11%	0.86%	2.40%	13	1.42%	2.32%	1.28%
	No	334	80.87%	82.21%	79.16%	178	75.11%	82.13%	81.01%	788	85.84%	84.18%	78.38%
	Don't Know	64	15.50%	14.82%	18.49%	54	22.78%	17.00%	16.59%	117	12.75%	13.50%	20.34%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	3	0.73%	0.20%	0.34%	1	0.42%	0.29%	0.72%	2	0.22%	1.08%	0.39%
	No	347	84.02%	85.18%	82.02%	181	76.37%	83.00%	82.21%	803	87.47%	85.58%	79.76%
	Don't Know	63	15.25%	14.62%	17.65%	55	23.21%	16.71%	17.07%	113	12.31%	13.34%	19.84%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

Table 5.57 provides Army DoDSER data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace. One third of DoDSERs for Soldiers who attempted suicide in 2010 included experience of job loss or instability ($n = 140$, 33.90%). One hundred three (24.94%) included problems with either supervisors or coworkers, and 72 (17.43%) included prior poor work evaluations. Data were similar in Army DoDSERs for other non-fatal suicide events.

TABLE 5.57. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	50	12.11%	9.68%	11.09%	29	12.24%	10.37%	12.50%	107	11.66%	10.44%	11.15%
	No	281	68.04%	75.69%	69.58%	183	77.22%	78.96%	69.71%	711	77.45%	78.96%	69.30%
	Don't Know	82	19.85%	14.62%	19.33%	25	10.55%	10.66%	17.79%	100	10.89%	10.60%	19.55%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	140	33.90%	27.87%	26.39%	66	27.85%	30.26%	32.45%	254	27.67%	29.83%	30.21%
	No	223	54.00%	60.28%	58.32%	153	64.56%	63.98%	54.81%	599	65.25%	61.81%	55.58%
	Don't Know	50	12.11%	11.86%	15.29%	18	7.59%	5.76%	12.74%	65	7.08%	8.37%	14.22%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	103	24.94%	24.70%	23.87%	57	24.05%	28.24%	31.01%	218	23.75%	26.68%	27.74%
	No	242	58.60%	60.87%	57.98%	151	63.71%	63.98%	54.81%	616	67.10%	63.13%	56.27%
	Don't Know	68	16.46%	14.43%	18.15%	29	12.24%	7.78%	14.18%	84	9.15%	10.19%	15.99%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	72	17.43%	13.04%	15.13%	40	16.88%	22.77%	23.56%	132	14.38%	16.49%	19.35%
	No	252	61.02%	72.33%	64.87%	170	71.73%	67.72%	59.38%	673	73.31%	71.58%	62.19%
	Don't Know	89	21.55%	14.62%	20.00%	27	11.39%	9.51%	17.07%	113	12.31%	11.93%	18.46%

TABLE 5.57. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS (CONT.)

HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING Yes	23	5.57%	5.73%	3.87%	8	3.38%	3.75%	3.37%	41	4.47%	2.90%	2.57%
No	306	74.09%	78.85%	75.80%	195	82.28%	88.47%	77.64%	752	81.92%	85.42%	77.10%
Don't Know	84	20.34%	15.42%	20.34%	34	14.35%	7.78%	18.99%	125	13.62%	11.68%	20.34%

Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Soldiers' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

As summarized in Table 5.58, DoDSERs for Army suicide attempts included 25 suicide attempts in Iraq (6.05%) and 14 in Afghanistan (3.39%). Two hundred eighteen Army suicide attempt DoDSERs (52.78%) included at least one OEF, OIF or OND deployment (Table 5.59), and 81 DoDSERs for Army suicide attempts (19.61%) included direct combat history (Table 5.60). DoDSER POCs provided similar data for other non-fatal suicide events.

TABLE 5.58. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS IN THEATER

THEATER		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	14	3.39%	1.58%	1.68%	6	2.53%	1.73%	0.72%	7	0.76%	0.75%	0.59%
	Iraq	25	6.05%	8.70%	13.95%	10	4.22%	5.19%	8.41%	18	1.96%	4.14%	5.73%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	0.59%	0.34%	0	0.00%	0.58%	0.48%	3	0.33%	0.25%	0.20%
	Not OEF/OIF/OND	374	90.56%	89.13%	84.03%	221	93.25%	92.51%	90.38%	890	96.95%	94.86%	93.48%

TABLE 5.59. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF	Afghanistan	41	9.93%	2.17%	0.67%	27	11.39%	3.75%	0.00%	138	15.03%	2.98%	0.20%
	Iraq	142	34.38%	41.50%	39.16%	71	29.96%	31.12%	36.78%	246	26.80%	31.81%	31.98%

TABLE 5.59. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY (CONT.)

Kuwait	4	0.97%	2.37%	4.03%	2	0.84%	2.02%	3.61%	11	1.20%	1.74%	5.13%
Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	31	7.51%	2.57%	2.35%	15	6.33%	3.46%	1.44%	61	6.64%	3.15%	2.37%
No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	195	47.22%	51.38%	53.78%	122	51.48%	59.65%	58.17%	462	50.33%	60.31%	60.32%

TABLE 5.60. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

COMBAT HISTORY		Suicide Attempt				Self-Harm (no intent to die)				Ideation Only			
		2010		2009		2010		2009		2010		2009	
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent	Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	81	19.61%	24.11%	23.03%	38	16.03%	18.16%	17.07%	184	20.04%	15.66%	17.87%
	Resulted in injuries/casualties	51	12.35%	17.59%	14.79%	28	11.81%	10.37%	11.06%	133	14.49%	10.69%	12.54%
	Injured in combat	22	5.33%	4.94%	5.71%	13	5.49%	4.03%	3.13%	44	4.79%	4.56%	4.54%
	Witnessed killing in combat	56	13.56%	16.80%	13.95%	28	11.81%	9.80%	10.58%	132	14.38%	10.52%	12.44%
	Saw dead bodies	59	14.29%	18.18%	13.95%	29	12.24%	10.37%	12.26%	136	14.81%	10.44%	12.83%
	Killed others in combat	37	8.96%	8.30%	8.07%	11	4.64%	4.61%	5.53%	78	8.50%	4.97%	6.12%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	332	80.39%	75.89%	76.97%	199	83.97%	81.84%	82.93%	734	79.96%	84.34%	82.13%

Summary

This chapter provides data on Army suicides and non-fatal suicide events that occurred in 2010. Data are presented for 147 Soldiers who died by suicide and for 400 Soldiers who attempted suicide in 413 separate incidents. Decedents and those with non-fatal suicide events were primarily male, Caucasian, under age 25, junior enlisted, Regular component Soldiers, and without a college degree.

Most suicide events took place in the United States in the Soldiers' own residences. The most frequent methods for Soldiers who died by suicide were non-military issue firearm use and hanging. Suicide attempt methods were most often drug overdose, harming oneself with a sharp or blunt object, and hanging. Drug and alcohol use was much more frequent among non-fatal Army suicide events. The majority of Soldiers who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated with others about their likelihood of harming themselves.

Soldiers with non-fatal suicide events had more reported behavioral health disorders than did decedents, but similar behavioral health treatment use prior to the event. Additionally, those who attempted suicide had higher prevalence of prior abuse victimization. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Soldiers with suicide events. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was Article 15 proceedings.

Army DoDSER data were largely consistent across all types of non-fatal suicide events.

CHAPTER 6:

MARINE CORPS DoDSER

MARINE CORPS RESULTS FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

Marine Corps DoDSER Submissions & Point of Contact (POC) Compliance

2010 Reported Suicides

Thirty-seven Marine Corps suicides were confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2010 (Table 6.1). Marine Corps Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports (DoDSERs) were submitted and analyzed for all 37, for a submission compliance rate of 100%. The tables in this section include data for all decedents. In addition, the tables provide percentages for 2009 and 2008 DoDSER data for comparison. Specific counts for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

TABLE 6.1. MARINE CORPS AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DODSERS SUBMITTED

	2010	2009	2008
Total DoDSERs Included in Annual Report	37	51	42
Total AEMES Confirmed and Pending Suicides	37	52	42
AEMES Confirmed Suicides (By 31 January)	37	51	41
DoDSER Submission Compliance	100%	100%	100%

Data from 1/1/2008 through 12/31/2010 as of 4/1/2011

As summarized in Table 6.2, fifteen DoDSERs for 2010 Marine Corps suicides (40.54%) had one or fewer "Unknown" or missing primary data points. DoDSERs for five Marines (13.51%) had five or more missing data points.

TABLE 6.2. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA

NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN	Count	2010		2009	2008
		Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	10	27.03%	23.08%	24.39%	
1	5	13.51%	9.62%	19.51%	
2	6	16.22%	23.08%	26.83%	
3	7	18.92%	19.23%	7.32%	
4	4	10.81%	3.85%	7.32%	
5 or More	5	13.51%	21.15%	14.63%	

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have been associated with the suicide events. These factors include decedents' demographic characteristics, event

setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Table 6.3 contains demographic data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). All but one of the 37 Marine Corps 2010 suicides were completed by males (97.30%). Decedents were primarily Caucasian ($n = 32$, 86.49%), under age 25 ($n = 22$, 59.46%), enlisted ($n = 34$, 91.89%), Regular component ($n = 36$, 97.30%) and without a college degree ($n = 32$, 87.20%).

TABLE 6.3. CY 2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR MARINE CORPS SUICIDES

		2010			2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Service Total %	Rate/ 100K	(N = 52) Percent
TOTAL		37	100.00%	100.00%	17.21	100.00% 100.00%
GENDER	Male	36	97.30%	93.42%	17.92	100.00% 95.24%
	Female	1	2.70%	6.58%	*	0.00% 4.76%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0.00%	1.08%	*	0.00% 0.00%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2	5.41%	3.14%	*	1.92% 0.00%
	Black/African American	3	8.11%	10.24%	*	5.77% 4.76%
	White/Caucasian	32	86.49%	78.48%	18.96	92.31% 88.10%
	Other/Don't Know	0	0.00%	7.05%	*	0.00% 7.14%
AGE RANGE	Under 25	22	59.46%	57.19%	17.89	76.92% 73.81%
	25-29	8	21.62%	21.46%	*	9.62% 14.29%
	30-34	5	13.51%	9.78%	*	5.77% 7.14%
	35-39	1	2.70%	6.63%	*	5.77%
	40-44	0	0.00%	3.34%	*	0.00% 4.76%
	45+	1	2.70%	1.59%	*	1.92%
RANK	Cadet	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00% 0.00%
	E1-E4	22	59.46%	58.93%	17.36	75.00% 64.29%
	E5-E9	12	32.43%	30.23%	*	21.15% 30.95%
	Officer	3	8.11%	9.84%	*	1.92% 4.76%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	1.00%	*	1.92% 0.00%
COMPONENT	Regular	36	97.30%	94.23%	17.77	100.00% 95.24%
	Reserve	1	2.70%	5.77%	*	0.00% 4.76%
	National Guard	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00% 0.00%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	0	0.00%	0.12%	*	0.00% 7.14%
	GED	1	2.70%	3.45%	*	13.46% 2.38%
	High school graduate	30	81.08%	82.18%	16.98	80.77% 78.57%
	Some college or technical school	1	2.70%	0.87%	*	3.85% 0.00%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	1	2.70%	1.79%	*	0.00% 4.76%
	Four-year college degree	2	5.41%	8.72%	*	1.92% 4.76%
	Master's degree or greater	2	5.41%	2.44%	*	0.00% 2.38%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.43%	*	0.00% 0.00%

TABLE 6.3. CY 2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR MARINE CORPS SUICIDES (CONT.)

MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	18	48.65%	47.39%	*	48.08%	45.24%
	Married	17	45.95%	48.49%	*	42.31%	42.86%
	Legally Separated	1	2.70%	0.16%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Divorced	1	2.70%	3.92%	*	9.62%	7.14%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.04%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00%	4.76%

Note: Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals.

Event Setting

In 2010, as in the previous two years, Marine Corps suicides most frequently took place in the United States ($n = 30$, 81.08%), with four suicides occurring during deployment to Afghanistan (10.81%) and one in Djibouti (2.70%, Table 6.4). As summarized in Table 6.5, suicides primarily occurred in the Marines' own residences ($n = 19$, 51.35%), followed by worksites ($n = 5$, 13.51%) and residences of friends or family ($n = 3$, 8.11%). "Other" (write-in) responses included public parks ($n = 2$, 5.41%), a hotel ($n = 1$, 2.70%), and a correctional facility ($n = 1$, 2.70%).

TABLE 6.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
United States		30	81.08%	75.00%
Iraq		0	0.00%	15.38%
Afghanistan		4	10.81%	5.77%
Djibouti		1	2.70%	0.00%
Asia		2	5.41%	0.00%
Other		0	0.00%	3.85%
Don't Know		0	0.00%	4.88%

TABLE 6.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER EVENT SETTING

EVENT SETTING		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
Residence (own) or barracks		19	51.35%	61.54%
Residence of friend or family		3	8.11%	11.54%
Work/jobsite		5	13.51%	5.77%
Automobile (away from residence)		2	5.41%	7.69%
Inpatient medical facility		0	0.00%	0.00%
Other		8	21.62%	13.46%
Don't Know		0	0.00%	0.00%

Event Method

As indicated in Table 6.6, the primary methods for suicide included use of non-military issue firearms ($n = 17$,

45.95%), hanging ($n = 8$, 21.62%), and use of military issue firearms ($n = 7$, 18.92%).

TABLE 6.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER EVENT METHOD

		2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, non-military issue	17	45.95%	30.77%	39.02%
	Firearm, military issue	7	18.92%	28.85%	29.27%
	Hanging	8	21.62%	30.77%	29.27%
	Drugs	1	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	0	0.00%	1.92%	0.00%
	Gas, utility (or other)	2	5.41%	0.00%	0.00%
	Fire, steam, etc.	1	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%
	Sharp or blunt object	0	0.00%	3.85%	0.00%
	Lying in front of moving object	1	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%
	Crashing a motor vehicle	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.44%
	Other	0	0.00%	1.92%	0.00%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	1.92%	0.00%

Substance Use during the Event

Comprehensive information about substance use during suicide is unavailable for most Marine Corps suicides in 2010 ($n = 27$, 72.97%; Table 6.7). Of those for whom information was available, almost one third used alcohol during the suicide event ($n = 7$, 35.00% of DoDSERs with alcohol use data, 18.92% of total). Fewer were known to have used drugs ($n = 2$, 12.50% of DoDSERs with drug use data, 5.41% of total). These frequencies include one Marine who used drugs as a suicide method (2.70%), as described above.

TABLE 6.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE

		2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	7	18.92%	13.46%	24.39%
	No	13	35.14%	42.31%	36.59%
	Don't Know	17	45.95%	44.23%	39.02%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	2	5.41%	5.77%	2.44%
	No	14	37.84%	36.54%	53.66%
	Don't Know	21	56.76%	57.69%	43.90%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	1.92%	0.00%
	Were not used	16	43.24%	40.38%	53.66%
	Don't know	21	56.76%	57.69%	46.34%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	1	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	1	2.70%	3.85%	2.44%
	Were not used	14	37.84%	38.46%	53.66%
	Don't know	21	56.76%	57.69%	43.90%

TABLE 6.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE (CONT.)

Over the counter drugs	Overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Were not used	16	43.24%	42.31%	53.66%
	Don't know	21	56.76%	57.69%	46.34%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	0	0.00%	1.92%	0.00%
	No	15	40.54%	38.46%	53.66%
	Don't Know	22	59.46%	59.62%	46.34%

Communication of Intent

Consistent with the prior two years, most Marine Corps decedents had no known history of communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ($n = 25$, 67.57%; Table 6.8). Approximately one third of Marines who died by suicide were known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their potential to die by suicide ($n = 12$, 32.43%). These communications were most frequently verbal ($n = 4$, 10.81%; Table 6.9). Three DoDSERs included text messages as an “Other” (write-in) response (8.10%). As indicated in Table 6.10, decedents most frequently communicated with friends ($n = 3$, 8.11%). “Other” (write-in) responses included other Marines ($n = 4$, 10.81%) and family ($n = 1$, 2.70%)

TABLE 6.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	25	67.57%	73.08%	68.29%
	1	9	24.32%	15.38%	26.83%
	2	2	5.41%	9.62%	4.88%
	4	0	0.00%	1.92%	0.00%
	5	1	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%

TABLE 6.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	4	10.81%	17.31%	19.51%
	Written	2	5.41%	0.00%	2.44%
	Other or Unknown	5	13.51%	3.85%	7.32%
	Multiple Modes	1	2.70%	5.77%	2.44%
	No Known Communication	25	67.57%	73.08%	68.29%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

TABLE 6.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	0	0.00%	5.77%	9.76%
	Friend	3	8.11%	3.85%	0.00%

TABLE 6.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT (CONT.)

Behavioral Health Provider	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.44%
Chaplain	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Supervisor	1	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%
Other or Unidentified	5	13.51%	5.77%	14.63%
Made Multiple Communications	3	8.11%	11.54%	4.88%
No Known Communication	25	67.57%	73.08%	68.29%

Additional Event Information

Table 6.11 provides information about other details of 2010 Marine Corps suicides. For the majority ($n = 24$, 64.86%), there were data to indicate that the decedents intended to die. One Marine (2.70%) was known to have died while engaging in death risk gambling (e.g., “Russian roulette”). Fifteen suicides appeared premeditated ($n = 15$, 40.54%). Six Marine Corps decedents (16.22%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others. Over one third left suicide notes ($n = 14$, 37.84%).

TABLE 6.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	24	64.86%	73.08%	73.17%
	No	2	5.41%	5.77%	7.32%
	Don't Know	11	29.73%	21.15%	19.51%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	1	2.70%	0.00%	2.44%
	No	30	81.08%	84.62%	82.93%
	Don't Know	6	16.22%	15.38%	14.63%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	15	40.54%	34.62%	34.15%
	No	10	27.03%	30.77%	43.90%
	Don't Know	12	32.43%	34.62%	21.95%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	6	16.22%	11.54%	21.95%
	No	26	70.27%	75.00%	78.05%
	Don't Know	5	13.51%	13.46%	0.00%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	14	37.84%	17.31%	31.71%
	No	17	45.95%	59.62%	56.10%
	Don't Know	6	16.22%	23.08%	12.20%

Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

Situational Factors

Table 6.12 provides details about the living situations for Marines who died by suicide in 2010. Decedents most frequently lived in shared military housing on their installations ($n = 14$, 37.84%) or private homes and apartments outside of their installations ($n = 12$, 32.43%). Of those who were married ($n = 17$), less than half lived with their spouses ($n = 6$, 30.00% of married, 16.22% of total), and four were separated (20.00% of married, 10.81% of total). Most decedents lived with others ($n = 26$, 70.27%). Eleven Marine Corps decedents (29.73%) had minor children, and six (16.22%) lived with their children at the time of death. Half of decedents had access to firearms either in their homes, at work, or other accessible locations ($n = 20$, 54.05%).

TABLE 6.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT

		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	14	37.84%	36.54%	24.39%
	Bachelor quarters	6	16.22%	19.23%	19.51%
	On-base family housing	3	8.11%	3.85%	4.88%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	12	32.43%	28.85%	41.46%
	Ship	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.44%
	Other	2	5.41%	5.77%	7.32%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	5.77%	0.00%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resided with spouse	6	16.22%	15.38%	17.07%
	Separated due to relationship issues	4	10.81%	5.77%	17.07%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	7	18.92%	19.23%	9.76%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	5.77%	2.44%
	Unmarried at time of event	20	54.05%	53.85%	53.66%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	9	24.32%	25.00%	21.95%
	No	26	70.27%	71.15%	73.17%
	Don't Know	2	5.41%	3.85%	4.88%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	11	29.73%	21.15%	24.39%
	No	26	70.27%	78.85%	75.61%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	6	16.22%	7.69%	12.20%
	No	5	13.51%	11.54%	12.20%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	1.92%	0.00%
	No Children	26	70.27%	78.85%	75.61%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	20	54.05%	50.00%	56.10%
	No	11	29.73%	28.85%	31.71%
	Don't Know	6	16.22%	21.15%	12.20%

Duty Environment

The primary duty environment for Marine Corps suicides was with their permanent duty station ($n = 23$, 62.16%; Table 6.13). Five Marines died by suicide while deployed to OEF, OIF or OND (13.51%).

TABLE 6.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT

		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	23	62.16%	42.31%	41.46%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	1	2.70%	7.69%	9.76%
	Medical Hold	0	0.00%	0.00%	4.88%
	TDY	2	5.41%	5.77%	4.88%
	AWOL	1	2.70%	7.69%	7.32%
	Deployed	5	13.51%	13.46%	9.76%
	Training	1	2.70%	5.77%	2.44%
	Other	1	2.70%	1.92%	4.88%
	Multiple Duty Environments	1	2.70%	15.38%	14.63%
	Duty Environment Unknown	2	5.41%	0.00%	0.00%

Suicide Completions by Month

As in the prior two years, no clear pattern existed for Marine Corps suicides by month (Table 6.14).

TABLE 6.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDES BY MONTH

		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
MONTH	January	7	18.92%	5.77%	17.07%
	February	2	5.41%	1.92%	2.44%
	March	3	8.11%	7.69%	9.76%
	April	2	5.41%	9.62%	2.44%
	May	7	18.92%	7.69%	14.63%
	June	1	2.70%	17.31%	7.32%
	July	6	16.22%	17.31%	7.32%
	August	2	5.41%	3.85%	14.63%
	September	2	5.41%	1.92%	4.88%
	October	3	8.11%	7.69%	4.88%
	November	0	0.00%	7.69%	2.44%
	December	2	5.41%	11.54%	12.20%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

Six Marines who died by suicide in 2010 (16.22%) had a known history of self-harm (Table 6.15), and two decedents (5.41%) were known to have at least two prior incidents of self-harm.

TABLE 6.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	6	16.22%	13.46%	14.63%
	Within 30 days	0	0.00%	5.77%	4.88%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	2.70%	9.62%	7.32%
	No	27	72.97%	65.38%	58.54%
Number prior self-injuries	Don't Know	4	10.81%	21.15%	26.83%
	One prior event	4	10.81%	5.77%	0.00%
	More than one prior event	2	5.41%	7.69%	14.63%
	N/A or Unknown	31	83.78%	86.54%	85.37%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	1	2.70%	3.85%	2.44%
	No	5	13.51%	9.62%	9.76%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.44%
	N/A	31	83.78%	86.54%	85.37%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death. Fourteen Marines who died by suicide in 2010 (37.84%) had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 6.16). Seven (18.92%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Tables 6.17 and 6.18, eight decedents (21.62%) had a mood disorder, and four (10.81%) had an anxiety disorder. Three Marines were previously diagnosed with personality disorders (8.11%), and one decedent (2.70%) had sustained a traumatic brain injury (Table 6.19). Ten decedents (27.03%) had a known history of substance abuse.

TABLE 6.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	23	62.16%	53.85%	73.17%
	1 DX	7	18.92%	28.85%	24.39%
	2 DX	3	8.11%	7.69%	2.44%
	3 DX	1	2.70%	3.85%	0.00%
	4 or more DX	3	8.11%	5.77%	0.00%

TABLE 6.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER MOOD DISORDERS

			2010	2009	2008
			Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes		8	21.62%	21.15%
	No		27	72.97%	63.46%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	15.38%
Bipolar disorder	Yes		1	2.70%	0.00%
	No		34	91.89%	75.00%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	14.63%
Major depression	Yes		3	8.11%	9.62%
	No		32	86.49%	69.23%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	12.20%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes		0	0.00%	0.00%
	No		35	94.59%	75.00%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	14.63%
Other mood disorder	Yes		1	2.70%	3.85%
	No		33	89.19%	73.08%
	Don't Know		3	8.11%	14.63%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes		1	2.70%	3.85%
	No		34	91.89%	80.77%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	7.32%
Multiple mood DX	Yes		2	5.41%	3.85%
	No		33	89.19%	92.68%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	7.32%

TABLE 6.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS

			2010	2009	2008
			Count	Percent	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes		4	10.81%	13.46%
	No		31	83.78%	67.31%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	7.32%
PTSD	Yes		2	5.41%	0.00%
	No		33	89.19%	90.24%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	9.76%
Panic disorder	Yes		0	0.00%	0.00%
	No		35	94.59%	90.24%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	9.76%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes		0	0.00%	2.44%
	No		35	94.59%	87.80%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	9.76%
Acute stress disorder	Yes		0	0.00%	2.44%
	No		35	94.59%	90.24%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	7.32%

TABLE 6.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS (CONT.)

Other anxiety disorder	Yes	1	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	34	91.89%	80.77%	90.24%
	Don't Know	2	5.41%	19.23%	9.76%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	35	94.59%	80.77%	92.68%
	Don't Know	2	5.41%	19.23%	7.32%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	1	2.70%	9.62%	0.00%
	No	34	91.89%	71.15%	92.68%
	Don't Know	2	5.41%	19.23%	7.32%

TABLE 6.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS

		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	3	8.11%	7.69%	4.88%
	No	31	83.78%	75.00%	90.24%
	Don't Know	3	8.11%	17.31%	4.88%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	1.92%	0.00%
	No	34	91.89%	82.69%	92.68%
	Don't Know	3	8.11%	15.38%	7.32%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	10	27.03%	28.85%	14.63%
	No	24	64.86%	55.77%	70.73%
	Don't Know	3	8.11%	15.38%	14.63%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	1	2.70%		
	No	30	81.08%		
	Don't Know	6	16.22%		

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

Treatment History

Table 6.20 provides data on Marine Corps suicide decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. Seventeen (45.95%) had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Twelve decedents (32.43%) were treated at a MTF within the month prior to suicide. Nine Marines (24.32%) had a known history of a physical health problem and five decedents (13.51%) had received physical health diagnoses within the month prior to suicide.

Seven Marine Corps decedents (18.92%) received substance abuse treatment services, and five (13.51%) were involved in family advocacy programs. Eight Marines (21.62%) were known to have utilized chaplain services. Nearly one third of decedents ($n = 12$, 32.43%) had received outpatient behavioral health treatment, with six (16.22%) receiving treatment within the month prior to suicide. Five Marines (13.51%) received inpatient behavioral health treatment, one of whom (2.70%) was treated within the month prior to suicide.

TABLE 6.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes		17	45.95%	59.62%	53.66%
	Within 30 days		12	32.43%	36.54%	24.39%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		15	40.54%	46.15%	39.02%
	No		17	45.95%	28.85%	39.02%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Don't Know		3	8.11%	11.54%	7.32%
	Yes		9	24.32%	7.69%	21.95%
	Within 30 days		5	13.51%	5.77%	12.20%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		6	16.22%	7.69%	14.63%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	No		25	67.57%	75.00%	73.17%
	Don't Know		3	8.11%	17.31%	4.88%
	Yes		7	18.92%	17.31%	4.88%
	Within 30 days		4	10.81%	11.54%	0.00%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		4	10.81%	11.54%	0.00%
	No		25	67.57%	65.38%	78.05%
	Don't Know		5	13.51%	17.31%	17.07%
	Yes		5	13.51%	5.77%	7.32%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Within 30 days		1	2.70%	1.92%	4.88%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		2	5.41%	5.77%	4.88%
	No		24	64.86%	65.38%	73.17%
	Don't Know		8	21.62%	28.85%	19.51%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes		8	21.62%	21.15%	12.20%
	Within 30 days		6	16.22%	11.54%	7.32%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		6	16.22%	15.38%	9.76%
	No		20	54.05%	55.77%	60.98%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Don't Know		9	24.32%	23.08%	26.83%
	Yes		12	32.43%	34.62%	29.27%
	Within 30 days		6	16.22%	15.38%	12.20%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		10	27.03%	21.15%	14.63%
	No		20	54.05%	50.00%	65.85%
	Don't Know		5	13.51%	15.38%	4.88%
	Yes		5	13.51%	7.69%	4.88%
	Within 30 days		1	2.70%	1.92%	4.88%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		2	5.41%	3.85%	7.32%
	No		29	78.38%	73.08%	78.05%
	Don't Know		3	8.11%	19.23%	17.07%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 6.21 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by decedents prior to suicide. Six decedents (16.22%) had known prescriptions for psychotropic medications, most frequently antidepressants ($n = 4$, 10.81%) and antipsychotics ($n = 4$, 10.81%).

TABLE 6.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes		6	16.22%	9.62%	9.76%
	No		24	64.86%	65.38%	75.61%
	Don't Know		7	18.92%	25.00%	14.63%
Antidepressants	Yes		4	10.81%	7.69%	9.76%
	No		26	70.27%	65.38%	75.61%
	Don't Know		7	18.92%	26.92%	14.63%
Antianxiety	Yes		1	2.70%	3.85%	0.00%
	No		29	78.38%	69.23%	85.37%
	Don't Know		7	18.92%	26.92%	14.63%
Antimanics	Yes		1	2.70%	1.92%	2.44%
	No		29	78.38%	71.15%	82.93%
	Don't Know		7	18.92%	26.92%	14.63%
Anticonvulsants	Yes		1	2.70%	3.85%	2.44%
	No		29	78.38%	69.23%	82.93%
	Don't Know		7	18.92%	26.92%	14.63%
Antipsychotics	Yes		4	10.81%	1.92%	2.44%
	No		26	70.27%	71.15%	82.93%
	Don't Know		7	18.92%	26.92%	14.63%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

Thirteen 2010 Marine Corps suicide decedents (35.14%) had a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with seven (18.92%) experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 6.22). Three decedents (8.11%) had a failure in another important relationship, two of these (5.41%) occurring a month prior to suicide.

TABLE 6.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes		13	35.14%	42.31%	56.10%
	Within 30 days		7	18.92%	26.92%	34.15%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		11	29.73%	28.85%	43.90%
	No		18	48.65%	32.69%	29.27%
	Don't Know		6	16.22%	25.00%	14.63%

TABLE 6.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE (CONT.)

HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	3	8.11%	9.62%	9.76%
	Within 30 days	2	5.41%	5.77%	9.76%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	2	5.41%	5.77%	9.76%
	No	23	62.16%	44.23%	58.54%
Don't Know		11	29.73%	46.15%	31.71%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/ OR OTHER)	Yes	15	40.54%	42.31%	58.54%
	Within 30 days	8	21.62%	26.92%	41.46%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	12	32.43%	28.85%	48.78%
	No	16	43.24%	32.69%	26.83%
Don't Know		6	16.22%	25.00%	14.63%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 6.23 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may be associated with the suicide. Four Marine Corps decedents (10.81%) were known to have a family member who had died by suicide, and three (8.11%) had experienced a non-suicide death of a family member. Two decedents (5.41%) were known to have family members with behavioral health problems, and one Marine (2.70%) had a family member with significant physical health problems.

TABLE 6.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER FAMILY HISTORY

		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	35	94.59%	92.31%	95.12%
	Don't Know	2	5.41%	7.69%	4.88%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	4	10.81%	3.85%	7.32%
	No	26	70.27%	65.38%	70.73%
	Don't Know	7	18.92%	30.77%	21.95%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	1.92%	2.44%
	No	27	72.97%	63.46%	70.73%
	Don't Know	10	27.03%	34.62%	26.83%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	3	8.11%	1.92%	7.32%
	No	26	70.27%	67.31%	73.17%
	Don't Know	8	21.62%	30.77%	19.51%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	0	0.00%	1.92%	4.88%
	No	25	67.57%	53.85%	58.54%
	Don't Know	12	32.43%	44.23%	36.59%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	1	2.70%	3.85%	7.32%
	No	25	67.57%	63.46%	68.29%
	Don't Know	11	29.73%	32.69%	24.39%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	2	5.41%	7.69%	4.88%
	No	15	40.54%	21.15%	14.63%
	Don't Know	20	54.05%	71.15%	80.49%

Administrative and Legal History

Over half of Marines who died by suicide in 2010 ($n = 20$, 54.05%) had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and nine (24.32%) had more than one (Table 6.24). The most frequent administrative or legal issue was non-judicial punishment ($n = 13$, 35.14%), followed by absence without leave ($n = 7$, 18.92%), courts martial ($n = 5$, 13.51%) and non-selection for promotion ($n = 5$, 13.51%).

TABLE 6.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY

			2010		2009	2008
			Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes		5	13.51%	7.69%	2.44%
	No		31	83.78%	86.54%	97.56%
	Don't Know		1	2.70%	5.77%	0.00%
HX NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes		13	35.14%	38.46%	12.20%
	No		23	62.16%	59.62%	87.80%
	Don't Know		1	2.70%	1.92%	0.00%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes		2	5.41%	11.54%	9.76%
	No		33	89.19%	84.62%	87.80%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	3.85%	2.44%
HX AWOL	Yes		7	18.92%	15.38%	12.20%
	No		29	78.38%	82.69%	87.80%
	Don't Know		1	2.70%	1.92%	0.00%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes		2	5.41%	1.92%	9.76%
	No		34	91.89%	90.38%	90.24%
	Don't Know		1	2.70%	7.69%	0.00%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes		4	10.81%	5.77%	4.88%
	No		28	75.68%	78.85%	85.37%
	Don't Know		5	13.51%	15.38%	9.76%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes		5	13.51%	9.62%	12.20%
	No		31	83.78%	84.62%	85.37%
	Don't Know		1	2.70%	5.77%	2.44%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes		20	54.05%	50.00%	29.27%
	No		15	40.54%	46.15%	68.29%
	Don't Know		2	5.41%	3.85%	2.44%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes		9	24.32%	19.23%	17.07%
	No		15	40.54%	46.15%	68.29%
	Don't Know		13	35.14%	34.62%	14.63%

Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 6.25). Two Marine Corps suicide decedents (5.41%) had reportedly experienced physical abuse, two (5.41%) had reportedly experienced sexual abuse, and two (5.41%) had reportedly been victims of emotional abuse. Five decedents (13.51%) had allegedly physically abused others, one (2.70%) had allegedly sexually abused

others, and two (5.41%) were alleged to have perpetrated emotional abuse.

TABLE 6.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER ABUSE HISTORY

		2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	2	5.41%	5.77%	4.88%
	No	27	72.97%	59.62%	70.73%
	Don't Know	8	21.62%	34.62%	24.39%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	2	5.41%	9.62%	0.00%
	No	27	72.97%	55.77%	75.61%
	Don't Know	8	21.62%	34.62%	24.39%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	2	5.41%	7.69%	4.88%
	No	25	67.57%	57.69%	68.29%
	Don't Know	10	27.03%	34.62%	26.83%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	28	75.68%	61.54%	78.05%
	Don't Know	9	24.32%	38.46%	21.95%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	5	13.51%	7.69%	9.76%
	No	26	70.27%	65.38%	73.17%
	Don't Know	6	16.22%	26.92%	17.07%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	1	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	26	70.27%	73.08%	82.93%
	Don't Know	10	27.03%	26.92%	17.07%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	2	5.41%	1.92%	0.00%
	No	27	72.97%	71.15%	82.93%
	Don't Know	8	21.62%	26.92%	17.07%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.44%
	No	27	72.97%	73.08%	80.49%
	Don't Know	10	27.03%	26.92%	17.07%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 6.26). One fourth of Marines who died by suicide in 2010 ($n = 9$, 24.32%) had received a poor work evaluation. Six decedents (16.22%) had experienced job loss or instability and six (16.22%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with their supervisors or coworkers. Excessive debt or bankruptcy was reported for two decedents (5.41%).

TABLE 6.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES

		2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	2	5.41%	15.38%	9.76%
	No	26	70.27%	48.08%	58.54%
	Don't Know	9	24.32%	36.54%	31.71%

TABLE 6.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES (CONT.)

HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	6	16.22%	28.85%	17.07%
	No	27	72.97%	55.77%	80.49%
	Don't Know	4	10.81%	15.38%	2.44%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	6	16.22%	23.08%	12.20%
	No	27	72.97%	63.46%	82.93%
	Don't Know	4	10.81%	13.46%	4.88%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	9	24.32%	28.85%	14.63%
	No	25	67.57%	61.54%	85.37%
	Don't Know	3	8.11%	9.62%	0.00%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	0	0.00%	1.92%	0.00%
	No	35	94.59%	82.69%	97.56%
	Don't Know	2	5.41%	15.38%	100.00%

Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

Four Marine Corps suicides in 2010 (10.81%) took place while deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan (Table 6.27). Twenty-one of the Marines (56.76%) had previously served in Afghanistan, Iraq, or Kuwait (Table 6.28), and four (10.81%) had been deployed to more than one location. Three decedents (8.11%) had known direct combat experiences, including participating in combat that resulted in injuries for others ($n = 2$, 5.41%), injuries for themselves ($n = 2$, 5.41%), witnessing killing ($n = 2$, 5.41%), seeing dead bodies ($n = 2$, 5.41%), and killing others ($n = 2$, 5.41%; Table 6.29).

TABLE 6.27. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDES IN THEATER

THEATER		2010	2009	2008	
		Count	Percent	Percent	
Afghanistan		4	10.81%	5.77%	0.00%
Djibouti		1	2.70%	0.00%	0.00%
Iraq		0	0.00%	15.38%	14.63%
Kuwait		0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Not OEF/OIF/OND		32	86.49%	78.85%	85.37%

TABLE 6.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF		2010	2009	2008	
		Count	Percent	Percent	
Afghanistan		5	13.51%	5.77%	0.00%
Iraq		11	29.73%	48.08%	56.10%
Kuwait		1	2.70%	1.92%	0.00%

TABLE 6.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY (CONT.)

Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	4	10.81%	11.54%	0.00%
No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	16	43.24%	32.69%	43.90%

TABLE 6.29. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER COMBAT HISTORY

		2010	2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	3	8.11%	17.31%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	2	5.41%	1.92%
	Injured in combat	2	5.41%	0.00%
	Witnessed killing in combat	2	5.41%	3.85%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	2	5.41%	3.85%
	Killed others in combat	2	5.41%	0.00%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	34	91.89%	82.69%
				63.41%

MARINE CORPS DoDSERS SUBMITTED FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

DoDSER POCs submitted 151 DoDSERs for 2010 Marine Corps suicide attempts. As indicated in Table 6.30, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 150 individuals. Two attempts were reported (DoDSERs submitted) for one individual. Additionally, one Marine with a 2010 suicide attempt DoDSER subsequently died by suicide in 2010 and was included in the preceding section. The tables in this section use a denominator of 151.

TABLE 6.30. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSERS

	Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS	151	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED	150	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL		
1	149	99.33%
2	1	0.67%
3	0	0.00%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2010 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE	1	0.67%

As summarized in Table 6.31, nearly half of DoDSERs for 2010 Marine Corps suicide attempts had one or fewer missing or “Unknown” primary data points ($n = 72$, 47.68%). Primary data points include any variables that are accessible using standard DoDSER methods (including accessing medical and military records). DoDSER POCs often interview Service Members after non-fatal suicide events, sometimes leading to more thorough data.

TABLE 6.31. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA

	Count	Percent
NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN		
0	46	30.46%
1	26	17.22%
2	12	7.95%
3	10	6.62%
4	4	2.65%
5 or More	53	35.10%

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with the suicide attempts. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide attempt method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Table 6.32 contains DoDSER demographic data for Marines who attempted suicide in 2010. Marines who attempted suicide were most often male ($n = 128$, 84.77%), Caucasian ($n = 107$, 70.86%), under age 25 ($n =$

126, 83.44%), junior enlisted ($n = 130$, 86.09%), Regular component ($n = 146$, 96.69%), and without a college degree ($n = 133$, 88.08%).

TABLE 6.32. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS

		Count	Percent
TOTAL		151	100.00%
GENDER	Male	128	84.77%
	Female	23	15.23%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	2	1.32%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	7	4.64%
	Black/African American	15	9.93%
	White/Caucasian	107	70.86%
	Other	14	9.27%
	Don't Know	6	3.97%
AGE RANGE	Under 25	126	83.44%
	25-29	18	11.92%
	30-39	6	3.97%
	40 +	1	0.66%
RANK	E1-E4	130	86.09%
	E5-E9	19	12.58%
	Officer	2	1.32%
COMPONENT	Regular	146	96.69%
	Reserve	5	3.31%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	2	1.32%
	GED	2	1.32%
	High school graduate	114	75.50%
	Some college or technical school	15	9.93%
	Degree/tech certificate less than 4 years	1	0.66%
	Four-year college degree	2	1.32%
	Don't Know	15	9.93%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	71	47.02%
	Married	70	46.36%
	Legally Separated	3	1.99%
	Divorced	6	3.97%
	Don't Know	1	0.66%

Event Setting

In 2010, Marine Corps suicide attempts most frequently took place in the United States ($n = 136$, 90.07%), followed by Asian countries other than Iraq and Afghanistan ($n = 7$, 4.64%; Table 6.33), and Afghanistan ($n = 4$, 2.65%). As indicated in Table 6.34, suicide attempts primarily occurred in the Marines' residences ($n = 121$, 80.13%), followed by automobiles ($n = 10$, 6.62%). The most frequent "Other" (write-in response) setting was in hotels ($n = 2$, 1.32%).

TABLE 6.33. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

		Count	Percent
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	United States	136	90.07%
	Afghanistan	4	2.65%
	Asia	7	4.64%
	Europe	1	0.66%
	Canada or Mexico	1	0.66%
	Other	2	1.32%

TABLE 6.34. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT SETTING

		Count	Percent
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	121	80.13%
	Residence of friend or family	6	3.97%
	Work/jobsite	5	3.31%
	Automobile (away from residence)	10	6.62%
	Other	9	5.96%

Event Method

As indicated in Table 6.35, drugs were the most frequent method for suicide attempt ($n = 84$, 55.63%), followed by injury with a sharp or blunt object ($n = 23$, 15.23%) and hanging ($n = 17$, 11.26%).

TABLE 6.35. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT METHOD

		Count	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Firearm, military issue	2	1.32%
	Firearm, non-military issue	3	1.99%
	Hanging	17	11.26%
	Drugs	84	55.63%
	Alcohol	7	4.64%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	1	0.66%
	Chemicals	1	0.66%
	Sharp or blunt object	23	15.23%
	Jumping from high place	5	3.31%
	Lying in front of moving object	1	0.66%
	Crashing a motor vehicle	4	2.65%
	Other	3	1.99%

Substance Use during the Event

DoDSER POCs collected data on alcohol and drug use during Marine Corps suicide attempts (Table 6.36). Forty-seven DoDSERs (31.13%) included alcohol use during the suicide attempt, and 88 (58.28%) included drug use. Twenty-eight DoDSERs (18.54%) included both drugs and alcohol. These frequencies include Marines who used drugs as a suicide attempt method ($n = 84$, 55.63%), as described above.

TABLE 6.36. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		Count	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	47	31.13%
	No	72	47.68%
	Don't Know	32	21.19%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	88	58.28%
	No	48	31.79%
	Don't Know	15	9.93%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	6	3.97%
	Used, no overdose	5	3.31%
	Were not used	125	82.78%
	Don't know	15	9.93%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	51	33.77%
	Used, no overdose	11	7.28%
	Were not used	74	49.01%
	Don't know	15	9.93%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	29	19.21%
	Used, no overdose	5	3.31%
	Were not used	102	67.55%
	Don't know	15	9.93%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	28	18.54%
	No	86	56.95%
	Don't Know	37	24.50%

Communication of Intent

Most DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide included no history of communication with others about intent to self-harm ($n = 129$, 85.43%; Table 6.37). Twenty-two DoDSERs (14.57%) indicated that Marines were known to have communicated their intent to hurt themselves to at least one individual. These communications were most frequently verbal ($n = 16$, 10.60%; Table 6.38). Two DoDSERs included text messages as an “Other” (write-in) response (1.32%). As indicated in Table 6.39, Marines most frequently communicated their potential for self-harm to their spouses ($n = 7$, 4.64%) and friends ($n = 5$, 3.31%).

TABLE 6.37. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	129	85.43%
	1	17	11.26%
	2	5	3.31%

TABLE 6.38. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	16	10.60%

TABLE 6.38. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT (CONT.)

Written	1	0.66%
Other or Unknown	5	3.31%
No Known Communication	129	85.43%

TABLE 6.39. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Spouse	7	4.64%
	Friend	5	3.31%
	Behavioral Health Provider	2	1.32%
	Other or Unidentified	3	1.99%
	Made Multiple Communications	5	3.31%
	No Known Communication	129	85.43%

Additional Event Information

Table 6.40 provides information about other details of 2010 Marine Corps suicide attempts. For the majority ($n = 105$, 69.54%), there were data to indicate that the decedents intended to die. One fourth of suicide attempts ($n = 37$, 24.50%) appeared planned or premeditated. Nearly half of the suicide attempts ($n = 70$, 46.36%) took place in a location potentially observable by others. Thirteen (8.61%) left suicide notes.

TABLE 6.40. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

		Count	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	105	69.54%
	No	23	15.23%
	Don't Know	23	15.23%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	2	1.32%
	No	136	90.07%
	Don't Know	13	8.61%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	37	24.50%
	No	76	50.33%
	Don't Know	38	25.17%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	70	46.36%
	No	49	32.45%
	Don't Know	32	21.19%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	13	8.61%
	No	110	72.85%
	Don't Know	28	18.54%

Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

Situational Factors

Table 6.41 provides details about the living situations for Marines who attempted suicide in 2010. DoDSERs most frequently reported that Marines lived in shared military housing on their installations ($n = 67$, 44.37%). One fourth lived in private homes outside of the installation ($n = 37$, 24.50%). Of the 65 married Marines, 25 (38.46% of married Marines, 16.56% of total) resided with their spouses at the time of attempted suicide, and 25 (38.46% of married Marines, 16.56% of total) were separated due to relationship issues. Thirty-two DoDSERs indicated that Marines had minor children (21.19%), half of whom resided with their children at the time of the suicide attempt ($n = 16$, 50.00% of Marines with children, 10.60% of total). Twelve DoDSERs for suicide attempts (7.95%) indicated that the Marines were known to have access to firearms either in their homes, at work, or in other accessible locations.

TABLE 6.41. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT

		Count	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	67	44.37%
	Bachelor quarters	11	7.28%
	On-base family housing	7	4.64%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	37	24.50%
	Other	8	5.30%
	Don't Know	21	13.91%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resides with spouse	25	16.56%
	Separated due to relationship issues	25	16.56%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	10	6.62%
	Don't Know	10	6.62%
	Unmarried at time of event	81	53.64%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	24	15.89%
	No	93	61.59%
	Don't Know	34	22.52%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	32	21.19%
	No	119	78.81%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	16	10.60%
	No	13	8.61%
	Don't Know	3	1.99%
	No Children	119	78.81%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	12	7.95%
	No	81	53.64%
	Don't Know	58	38.41%

Duty Environment

The primary duty environment for Marine Corps suicide attempts was with permanent duty station ($n = 109$, 72.19%; Table 6.42).

TABLE 6.42. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT

		Count	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	109	72.19%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	4	2.65%
	TDY	2	1.32%
	AWOL	1	0.66%
	Deployed	3	1.99%
	Training	9	5.96%
	Other	7	4.64%
	Multiple Duty Environments	7	4.64%
	Duty Environment Unknown	9	5.96%

Suicide Attempts by Month

No clear pattern was evident for Marine Corps suicide attempts by month (Table 6.43).

TABLE 6.43. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH

		Count	Percent
MONTH	January	17	11.26%
	February	18	11.92%
	March	14	9.27%
	April	17	11.26%
	May	19	12.58%
	June	12	7.95%
	July	9	5.96%
	August	12	7.95%
	September	6	3.97%
	October	9	5.96%
	November	14	9.27%
	December	4	2.65%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

Approximately one fourth of DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide included history of prior self-harm ($n = 31$, 20.53%), and four (2.65%) indicated the Marines had harmed themselves within the month prior to attempting suicide (Table 6.44). Of those with prior history of self-harm, 16 DoDSERs (51.61%, 10.60% of total) included more than one prior event.

TABLE 6.44. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY

		Count	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	31	20.53%
	Within 30 days	4	2.65%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	7	4.64%
	No	85	56.29%
Number prior self-injuries	Don't Know	35	23.18%
	One prior event	15	9.93%
	More than one prior event	16	10.60%
	N/A or Unknown	120	79.47%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	17	11.26%
	No	8	5.30%
	Don't Know	6	3.97%
	N/A	120	79.47%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide attempt. Eighty-five DoDSERs for Marines in 2010 (56.29%) included a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 6.45). Forty-nine (32.45%) included at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 6.46, nearly one third of Marine DoDSERs for suicide attempts ($n = 48$, 31.79%) included a diagnosis of mood disorder, most frequently major depressive disorder ($n = 20$, 13.25%). Twenty-five DoDSERs (16.56%) included a diagnosis of an anxiety disorder, most frequently PTSD ($n = 8$, 5.30%; Table 6.47). Thirty-six (23.84%) indicated a known history of substance abuse and 14 (9.27%) indicated a known personality disorder (Table 6.48). Five DoDSERs for Marines (3.31%) indicated history of sustaining a traumatic brain injury, and three (1.99%) included history of a psychotic disorder.

TABLE 6.45. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES

		Count	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	66	43.71%
	1 DX	36	23.84%
	2 DX	26	17.22%
	3 DX	15	9.93%
	4 or more DX	8	5.30%

TABLE 6.46. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	48	31.79%
	No	80	52.98%
	Don't Know	23	15.23%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	5	3.31%
	No	114	75.50%
	Don't Know	32	21.19%
Major depression	Yes	20	13.25%
	No	99	65.56%
	Don't Know	32	21.19%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	5	3.31%
	No	113	74.83%
	Don't Know	33	21.85%
Other mood disorder	Yes	7	4.64%
	No	111	73.51%
	Don't Know	33	21.85%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	5	3.31%
	No	123	81.46%
	Don't Know	23	15.23%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	6	3.97%
	No	122	80.79%
	Don't Know	23	15.23%

TABLE 6.47. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	25	16.56%
	No	101	66.89%
	Don't Know	25	16.56%
PTSD	Yes	8	5.30%
	No	116	76.82%
	Don't Know	27	17.88%
Panic disorder	Yes	1	0.66%
	No	121	80.13%
	Don't Know	29	19.21%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	3	1.99%
	No	117	77.48%
	Don't Know	31	20.53%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	120	79.47%
	Don't Know	31	20.53%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	7	4.64%
	No	115	76.16%

TABLE 6.47. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS (CONT.)

	Don't Know	29	19.21%
Unspecified anxiety disorder	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	126	83.44%
	Don't Know	25	16.56%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	6	3.97%
	No	120	79.47%
	Don't Know	25	16.56%

TABLE 6.48. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	14	9.27%
	No	105	69.54%
	Don't Know	32	21.19%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	3	1.99%
	No	120	79.47%
	Don't Know	28	18.54%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	36	23.84%
	No	85	56.29%
	Don't Know	30	19.87%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	5	3.31%
	No	117	77.48%
	Don't Know	29	19.21%

Treatment History

Table 6.49 provides data on Marines' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to attempting suicide. Sixty-eight DoDSERs (45.03%) included history of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), 45 (29.80%) within the month prior to attempting suicide. Twenty-six DoDSERs (17.22%) included a known physical health problem. Half of the DoDSERs included treatment from outpatient behavioral health services ($n = 76$, 50.33%), many within the month prior to attempting suicide ($n = 49$, 32.45%). Fifteen DoDSERs (9.93%) included history of hospitalization in an inpatient psychiatry unit, one (0.66%) within the month prior to the suicide attempt. Twenty-six DoDSERs (17.22%) included prior treatment for substance abuse.

TABLE 6.49. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	68	45.03%
	Within 30 days	45	29.80%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	58	38.41%
	No	63	41.72%
	Don't Know	20	13.25%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	26	17.22%
	Within 30 days	8	5.30%

TABLE 6.49. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)

	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	13	8.61%
	No	96	63.58%
	Don't Know	29	19.21%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	7	4.64%
	Within 30 days	2	1.32%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	1.99%
	No	100	66.23%
	Don't Know	44	29.14%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	13	8.61%
	Within 30 days	4	2.65%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	8	5.30%
	No	76	50.33%
	Don't Know	62	41.06%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	76	50.33%
	Within 30 days	49	32.45%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	64	42.38%
	No	59	39.07%
	Don't Know	16	10.60%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	15	9.93%
	Within 30 days	1	0.66%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	7	4.64%
	No	114	75.50%
	Don't Know	22	14.57%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	26	17.22%
	Within 30 days	14	9.27%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	19	12.58%
	No	97	64.24%
	Don't Know	28	18.54%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

As indicated in Table 6.50, one third of DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide ($n = 52$, 34.44%) included known prescriptions for psychotropic medication prior to the suicide attempt. The most frequently prescribed psychotropics included antidepressants ($n = 44$, 84.62% of those with known prescriptions, 29.14% of total), antianxiety medication ($n = 14$, 26.92% of those with known prescriptions, 9.27% of total), and antipsychotics ($n = 13$, 25.00% of those with known prescriptions, 8.61% of total).

TABLE 6.50. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE

		Count	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	52	34.44%
	No	75	49.67%
	Don't Know	24	15.89%
Antidepressants	Yes	44	29.14%

TABLE 6.50. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE (CONT.)

	No	80	52.98%
	Don't Know	27	17.88%
Antianxiety	Yes	14	9.27%
	No	106	70.20%
	Don't Know	31	20.53%
Antimanics	Yes	4	2.65%
	No	115	76.16%
	Don't Know	32	21.19%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	1	0.66%
	No	118	78.15%
	Don't Know	32	21.19%
Antipsychotics	Yes	13	8.61%
	No	108	71.52%
	Don't Know	30	19.87%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

Half of DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide ($n = 76$, 50.33%) indicated a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with 36 (23.84%) experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 6.51). Twenty-one (13.91%) indicated a failure in another important relationship, with almost half of these ($n = 9$, 5.96%) occurring within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

TABLE 6.51. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT

		Count	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	76	50.33%
	Within 30 days	36	23.84%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	51	33.77%
	No	55	36.42%
	Don't Know	20	13.25%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	21	13.91%
	Within 30 days	9	5.96%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	13	8.61%
	No	91	60.26%
	Don't Know	39	25.83%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes	76	50.33%
	Within 30 days	39	25.83%

TABLE 6.51. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT (CONT.)

Within 90 days (inclusive)*	54	35.76%
No	55	36.42%
Don't Know	20	13.25%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 6.52 summarizes other family and relationship factors. Forty-four DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide (29.14%) included known history of a family member with a behavioral health problem. Seven DoDSERs (4.64%) included the experience of a suicide of a family member and 13 (8.61%) included the experience of a non-suicide death of a family member. Nine DoDSERs (5.96%) included the history of a friend's death by suicide, and 10 (6.62%) included the death of a friend by other means.

TABLE 6.52. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAMILY HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	133	88.08%
	Don't Know	18	11.92%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	7	4.64%
	No	116	76.82%
	Don't Know	28	18.54%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	9	5.96%
	No	111	73.51%
	Don't Know	31	20.53%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	13	8.61%
	No	104	68.87%
	Don't Know	34	22.52%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	10	6.62%
	No	105	69.54%
	Don't Know	36	23.84%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	11	7.28%
	No	109	72.19%
	Don't Know	31	20.53%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	44	29.14%
	No	69	45.70%
	Don't Know	38	25.17%

Administrative and Legal History

Fifty-nine DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide included at least one administrative or legal issue (39.07%) and 18 (11.92%) included more than one (Table 6.53. The most frequent administrative or legal problems were non-judicial punishment ($n = 25$, 16.56%), administrative separation ($n = 17$, 11.26%) and civil legal problems ($n = 14$, 9.27%).

TABLE 6.53. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	8	5.30%
	No	106	70.20%
	Don't Know	37	24.50%
NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	25	16.56%
	No	91	60.26%
	Don't Know	35	23.18%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	17	11.26%
	No	104	68.87%
	Don't Know	30	19.87%
HX AWOL	Yes	10	6.62%
	No	110	72.85%
	Don't Know	31	20.53%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	7	4.64%
	No	116	76.82%
	Don't Know	28	18.54%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	14	9.27%
	No	99	65.56%
	Don't Know	38	25.17%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	6	3.97%
	No	99	65.56%
	Don't Know	46	30.46%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	59	39.07%
	No	64	42.38%
	Don't Know	28	18.54%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	18	11.92%
	No	54	35.76%
	Don't Know	79	52.32%

Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 6.54). DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide in 2010 included a history of reported emotional abuse ($n = 27$, 17.88%), physical abuse ($n = 24$, 15.89%), and sexual abuse ($n = 16$, 10.60%). Three (1.99%) included a history of allegedly physically abusing others and two included an alleged history of perpetrating emotional abuse (1.32%). One DoDSER included a history of allegedly perpetrating sexual abuse (0.66%).

TABLE 6.54. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ABUSE HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	24	15.89%
	No	93	61.59%
	Don't Know	34	22.52%

TABLE 6.54. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)

HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	16	10.60%
	No	98	64.90%
	Don't Know	37	24.50%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	27	17.88%
	No	87	57.62%
	Don't Know	37	24.50%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	1	0.66%
	No	107	70.86%
	Don't Know	43	28.48%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	3	1.99%
	No	108	71.52%
	Don't Know	40	26.49%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	1	0.66%
	No	110	72.85%
	Don't Know	40	26.49%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	2	1.32%
	No	110	72.85%
	Don't Know	39	25.83%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	111	73.51%
	Don't Know	40	26.49%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 6.55). Ten DoDSERs for Marines who attempted suicide in 2010 (6.62%) included a known history of excessive debt. Thirty-three DoDSERs included job loss or instability (21.85%), 31 (20.53%) included problems with either supervisors or coworkers, and 22 (14.57%) included poor work evaluations. Seven DoDSERs (4.64%) indicated victimization of hazing in the workplace.

TABLE 6.55. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES

		Count	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	10	6.62%
	No	103	68.21%
	Don't Know	38	25.17%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	33	21.85%
	No	77	50.99%
	Don't Know	41	27.15%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	31	20.53%
	No	72	47.68%
	Don't Know	48	31.79%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	22	14.57%

TABLE 6.55. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES (CONT.)

HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	No	82	54.30%
	Don't Know	47	31.13%
	Yes	7	4.64%
	No	96	63.58%
	Don't Know	48	31.79%

Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Service Members' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

Four suicide attempts (2.65%) occurred in Afghanistan during OEF deployment (Table 6.56). Fifty-eight DoDSERs (38.41%) included information about prior OEF, OIF or OND deployments (Table 6.57). Nineteen DoDSERs (12.58%) included experiences of direct combat (Table 6.58).

TABLE 6.56. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER

		Count	Percent
THEATER	Afghanistan	4	2.65%
	Iraq	0	0.00%
	Not OEF/OIF/OND	147	97.35%

TABLE 6.57. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF	Afghanistan	12	7.95%
	Iraq	41	27.15%
	Kuwait	1	0.66%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	4	2.65%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	93	61.59%

TABLE 6.58. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMBAT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	19	12.58%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	10	6.62%
	Injured in combat	8	5.30%
	Witnessed killing in combat	7	4.64%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	7	4.64%
	Killed others in combat	3	1.99%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	132	87.42%

Summary

This chapter provides data on Marine Corps suicides and suicide attempts that occurred in 2010. Data are presented for 37 Marines who died by suicide and for 152 Marines who attempted suicide in 153 separate incidents. Decedents and those who attempted suicide were primarily male, Caucasian, under age 25, enlisted, Regular component Marines, and without a college degree.

Most suicide events took place in the United States in the Service Members' own residences. The most frequent methods for Marines who died by suicide were non-military issue firearm use. Suicide attempt methods were most often drug overdose, harming oneself with a sharp or blunt object, and hanging. Drug and alcohol use was more frequent among non-fatal Marine Corps suicide events. The majority of Marines who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated to others their likelihood of harming themselves.

Marines with non-fatal suicide events had more reported behavioral health disorders than did decedents, but similar behavioral health treatment use prior to the event. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Marines with suicide events. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was non-judicial punishment.

CHAPTER 7:

NAVY DoDSER

NAVY RESULTS FOR COMPLETED SUICIDES

Navy DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance

2010 Reported Suicides

Thirty-eight Navy suicides were confirmed by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) for calendar year (CY) 2010 (Table 7.1). Navy Department of Defense Suicide Event Reports (DoDSERs) were submitted and analyzed for all 38, for a submission compliance rate of 100%. The tables in this section include data for all decedents. In addition, the tables provide percentages for 2009 and 2008 DoDSER data for comparison. Specific data counts for prior years are available in the previous DoDSER annual reports and are available for download at <http://t2health.org>.

TABLE 7.1. NAVY AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DODSERS SUBMITTED

	2010	2009	2008
Total DoDSERs Included in Annual Report	38	46	41
Total AFMES Confirmed and Pending Suicides	38	47	41
AFMES Confirmed Suicides (By 31 January)	38	45	39
DoDSER Submission Compliance	100%	100%	100%

Data from 1/1/2008 through 12/31/2010 as of 4/1/2011

As summarized in Table 7.2, a majority of DoDSERs for 2010 Navy suicides had one or fewer “Unknown” or missing primary data points. DoDSERs for nine Sailors (23.68%) had five or more missing data points. Primary data points include any variables that are accessible using standard DoDSER methods (including accessing medical and military records). Since 2008, the amount of missing data in Navy DoDSERs has decreased.

TABLE 7.2. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA

NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN	Count	2010	2009	2008
		Percent	Percent	Percent
0	14	36.84%	30.43%	21.95%
1	6	15.79%	10.87%	7.32%
2	6	15.79%	6.52%	12.20%
3	2	5.26%	13.04%	12.20%
4	1	2.63%	2.17%	2.44%
5 or More	9	23.68%	36.96%	43.90%

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors of decedents that may have

been associated with the suicide events. These factors include decedents' demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide method, substance use during the event, possible motive and intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Table 7.3 contains demographic data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). All but two of the 39 Navy 2010 suicides were completed by males ($n = 37$, 97.30%). Decedents were primarily Caucasian ($n = 30$, 76.92%), under age 25 ($n = 22$, 56.41%), junior enlisted ($n = 22$, 56.41%), Regular component ($n = 38$, 97.44%), and without a college degree ($n = 35$, 89.74%).

TABLE 7.3. CY 2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR NAVY SUICIDES (N=39)

		2010			2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Service Total %	Rate/ 100K	(N = 48) Percent
TOTAL		39	100.00%	100.00%	11.08	100.00%
GENDER	Male	37	94.87%	83.78%	19.57	95.83%
	Female	2	5.13%	16.22%	*	4.17%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	2.56%	4.41%	*	6.25%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2	5.13%	6.47%	*	4.17%
	Black/African American	5	12.82%	17.83%	12.86	12.50%
	White/Caucasian	30	76.92%	61.51%	19.80	72.92%
	Other/Don't Know	1	2.56%	9.77%	*	4.17%
AGE RANGE	Under 25	22	56.41%	36.36%	23.03	28.26%
	25-29	6	15.38%	23.60%	19.25	17.39%
	30-34	3	7.69%	15.34%	12.09	28.26%
	35-39	7	17.95%	12.66%	16.53	15.22%
	40-44	1	2.56%	7.35%	*	4.35%
	45+	0	0.00%	4.69%	*	6.52%
RANK	Cadet	0	0.00%	1.37%	*	0.00%
	E1-E4	22	56.41%	38.52%	22.91	29.17%
	E5-E9	14	35.90%	43.86%	17.15	64.58%
	Officer	3	7.69%	15.77%	*	4.17%
	Warrant Officer	0	0.00%	0.47%	*	2.08%
COMPONENT	Regular	38	97.44%	93.18%	17.52	95.83%
	Reserve	1	2.56%	6.82%	*	4.17%
	National Guard	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00%
EDUCATION	Some high school, did not graduate	0	0.00%	0.88%	*	0.00%
	GED	4	10.26%	3.13%	29.91	6.25%
	High school graduate	30	76.92%	67.93%	19.77	72.92%
	Some college or technical school	1	2.56%	1.76%	*	4.17%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	1	2.56%	5.06%	*	4.17%
	Four-year college degree	0	0.00%	8.27%	*	8.33%

TABLE 7.3. CY 2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR NAVY SUICIDES (N = 39) (CONT.)

	Master's degree or greater	1	2.56%	6.18%	*	0.00%	4.88%
	Don't Know	2	5.13%	6.78%	*	4.17%	0.00%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	22	56.41%	45.84%	18.99	16.67%	36.59%
	Married	15	38.46%	53.96%	15.64	60.42%	56.10%
	Legally Separated	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Divorced	2	5.13%	0.16%	24.20	8.33%	7.32%
	Widowed	0	0.00%	0.00%	*	0.00%	0.00%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.04%	*	14.58%	0.00%

Note: Data include 1 suicide still pending determination by AFMES as of 1 MAR 2011. Rates calculated only for cells with at least 20 individuals.

Event Setting

In 2010, as in the previous two years, Navy suicides most frequently took place in the United States ($n = 34$, 89.47%; Table 7.4). Suicides primarily occurred in the Sailors' own residences ($n = 20$, 52.63%; Table 7.5). "Other" (write-in response) settings included hotel rooms ($n = 5$, 13.16%) and parks or other outdoor settings ($n = 4$, 10.53%).

TABLE 7.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
United States		34	89.47%	91.30%	90.24%
Asia		1	2.63%	2.17%	0.00%
Other		2	5.26%	6.52%	0.00%
Don't Know		1	2.63%	0.00%	9.76%

TABLE 7.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER EVENT SETTING

EVENT SETTING		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
Residence (own) or barracks		20	52.63%	58.70%	51.22%
Residence of friend or family		3	7.89%	4.35%	7.32%
Work/jobsite		4	10.53%	15.22%	9.76%
Automobile (away from residence)		0	0.00%	0.00%	12.20%
Inpatient medical facility		0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other		11	28.95%	21.74%	19.51%
Don't Know		0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Event Method

As indicated in Table 7.6, death by non-military issue firearm was the primary suicide method employed by Sailors ($n = 17$, 44.74%), followed by hanging ($n = 10$, 26.32%). No Sailors died using military issue firearms. Methods used for the remaining suicides included drugs ($n = 4$, 10.53%), utility gas ($n = 3$, 7.89%), self-injury with a sharp or blunt object ($n = 2$, 5.26%) and jumping from a high place ($n = 2$, 5.26%).

TABLE 7.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER EVENT METHOD

EVENT METHOD		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
	Firearm, non-military issue	17	44.74%	39.13%	43.90%
	Firearm, military issue	0	0.00%	6.52%	7.32%
	Hanging	10	26.32%	23.91%	26.83%
	Drugs	4	10.53%	2.17%	2.44%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	0	0.00%	6.52%	4.88%
	Gas, utility (or other)	3	7.89%	4.35%	0.00%
	Drowning	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.44%
	Sharp or blunt object	2	5.26%	6.52%	4.88%
	Jumping from high place	2	5.26%	4.35%	0.00%
	Lying in front of moving object	0	0.00%	0.00%	4.88%
	Other	0	0.00%	6.52%	2.44%

Substance Use during the Event

Comprehensive information about substance use during suicide is unavailable for many Navy suicides in 2010. Of those for whom information was available, over one third used alcohol during the suicide event ($n = 8$, 34.78% of DoDSERs with alcohol use data, 21.05% of total; Table 7.7). One fourth of Sailors with relevant information were known to have used drugs ($n = 7$, 25.93% of DoDSERs with drug use data, 18.42% of total). These frequencies include Sailors who used drugs as a suicide method ($n = 4$, 10.53%), as described above.

TABLE 7.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE

		Count	2010	2009	2008
			Percent	Percent	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	8	21.05%	19.57%	24.39%
	No	15	39.47%	54.35%	41.46%
	Don't Know	15	39.47%	26.09%	34.15%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	7	18.42%	2.17%	4.88%
	No	20	52.63%	67.39%	58.54%
	Don't Know	11	28.95%	30.43%	36.59%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	1	2.63%	0.00%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	Were not used	26	68.42%	69.57%	58.54%
	Don't know	11	28.95%	30.43%	41.46%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	3	7.89%	2.17%	0.00%
	Used, no overdose	2	5.26%	0.00%	2.44%
	Were not used	22	57.89%	67.39%	58.54%
	Don't know	11	28.95%	30.43%	39.02%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	3	7.89%	0.00%	2.44%
	Used, no overdose	0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
	Were not used	24	63.16%	67.39%	58.54%
	Don't know	11	28.95%	30.43%	39.02%

TABLE 7.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE (CONT.)

BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	1	2.63%	0.00%	2.44%
	No	20	52.63%	67.39%	56.10%
	Don't Know	17	44.74%	32.61%	41.46%

Communication of Intent

Consistent with the prior two years, most Navy decedents had no known history of communicating with others about intent to harm themselves ($n = 25$, 65.79%; Table 7.8). Thirteen Sailors who died by suicide were known to have communicated with at least one individual regarding their potential to die by suicide (34.21%). These communications were most frequently verbal ($n = 11$, 28.95%; Table 7.9). As indicated in Table 7.10, decedents most frequently communicated with their spouses ($n = 5$, 13.16%).

TABLE 7.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT		2010	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
		Count		
0		25	65.79%	73.91%
1		10	26.32%	21.74%
2		3	7.89%	4.35%

TABLE 7.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT		2010	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
		Count		
Verbal		11	28.95%	13.04%
Written		2	5.26%	0.00%
Other or Unknown		0	0.00%	6.52%
Multiple Modes		0	0.00%	4.35%
No Known Communication		25	65.79%	76.09%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

TABLE 7.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

COMMUNICATION		2010	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
		Count		
Spouse		5	13.16%	10.87%
Friend		1	2.63%	4.35%
Behavioral Health Provider		1	2.63%	0.00%
Chaplain		0	0.00%	0.00%
Supervisor		0	0.00%	0.00%
Other or Unidentified		3	7.89%	4.35%
Made Multiple Communications		3	7.89%	4.35%
No Known Communication		25	65.79%	76.09%

Additional Event Information

Table 7.11 provides information about other details of 2010 Navy suicides. For the majority ($n = 29$, 76.32%), there were data to indicate that the decedents intended to die. No Sailors were known to have died while engaging in death risk gambling (e.g., “Russian roulette”). Over one third of the suicides appeared premeditated ($n = 14$, 36.84%). Five Navy decedents (13.16%) died in a location where the suicide was potentially observable by others. One fourth ($n = 10$, 26.32%) left suicide notes.

TABLE 7.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	29	76.32%	82.61%	56.10%
	No	2	5.26%	2.17%	12.20%
	Don't Know	7	18.42%	15.22%	31.71%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	4.88%
	No	37	97.37%	91.30%	85.37%
	Don't Know	1	2.63%	6.52%	9.76%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	14	36.84%	43.48%	43.90%
	No	15	39.47%	28.26%	17.07%
	Don't Know	9	23.68%	28.26%	39.02%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	5	13.16%	23.91%	21.95%
	No	28	73.68%	73.91%	65.85%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	2.17%	12.20%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	10	26.32%	34.78%	19.51%
	No	25	65.79%	54.35%	65.85%
	Don't Know	3	7.89%	10.87%	14.63%

Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

Situational Factors

Table 7.12 provides details about the living situations for Sailors who died by suicide in 2010. Decedents most frequently lived in homes or apartments outside of their installations ($n = 17$, 44.74%). “Other” (write-in) responses consisted of temporary living situations such as hotels and friends’ homes. Of decedents who were married ($n = 14$), over half lived with their spouses ($n = 8$, 57.14% of married, 21.05% of total), and six were separated due to relationship issues (42.86% of married, 15.79% of total). Most decedents lived with others ($n = 28$, 73.68%). Nine Navy decedents (23.68%) had minor children, and five (13.16%) lived with their children at the time of death. One half of decedents had access to firearms either in their homes, at work, or other accessible locations ($n = 20$, 52.63%).

TABLE 7.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	8	21.05%	2.17%	2.44%
	Bachelor quarters	4	10.53%	8.70%	12.20%
	On-base family housing	3	7.89%	4.35%	4.88%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	17	44.74%	73.91%	51.22%
	Ship	2	5.26%	6.52%	9.76%
	Other	4	10.53%	2.17%	9.76%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Don't Know	0	0.00%	2.17%	9.76%
	Resided with spouse	8	21.05%	32.61%	17.07%
	Separated due to relationship issues	6	15.79%	13.04%	14.63%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	0	0.00%	10.87%	7.32%
	Don't Know	2	5.26%	2.17%	12.20%
	Unmarried at time of event	22	57.89%	41.30%	48.78%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	10	26.32%	41.30%	21.95%
	No	28	73.68%	58.70%	68.29%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	9.76%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	9	23.68%	45.65%	36.59%
	No	29	76.32%	54.35%	63.41%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	5	13.16%	30.43%	7.32%
	No	4	10.53%	15.22%	26.83%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.44%
	No Children	29	76.32%	54.35%	63.41%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	20	52.63%	43.48%	43.90%
	No	12	31.58%	30.43%	24.39%
	Don't Know	6	15.79%	26.09%	31.71%

Duty Environment

The primary duty environment for Navy suicides was with their permanent duty station ($n = 24$, 63.16%; Table 7.13).

TABLE 7.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	24	63.16%	63.04%	70.73%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	2	5.26%	10.87%	17.07%
	Medical Hold	0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
	TDY	0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
	AWOL	1	2.63%	6.52%	0.00%
	Deployed	0	0.00%	0.00%	4.88%
	Training	3	7.89%	4.35%	4.88%

TABLE 7.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT (CONT.)

Other	3	7.89%	6.52%	0.00%
Multiple Duty Environments	5	13.16%	0.00%	2.44%
Duty Environment Unknown	0	0.00%	4.35%	0.00%

Suicide Completions by Month

As in the prior two years, no clear pattern existed for Navy suicides by month (Table 7.14).

TABLE 7.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER SUICIDES BY MONTH

MONTH		2010	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
		Count		
January		0	0.00%	4.35%
February		3	7.89%	13.04%
March		2	5.26%	8.70%
April		3	7.89%	6.52%
May		4	10.53%	10.87%
June		2	5.26%	6.52%
July		5	13.16%	8.70%
August		3	7.89%	13.04%
September		2	5.26%	6.52%
October		4	10.53%	6.52%
November		5	13.16%	6.52%
December		5	13.16%	8.70%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

One Sailor who died by suicide in 2010 (2.63%) had a known history of self-harm (Table 7.15).

TABLE 7.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY

HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY		2010	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
		Count		
Yes		1	2.63%	10.87%
Within 30 days		0	0.00%	2.17%
Within 90 days (inclusive)*		0	0.00%	8.70%
No		28	73.68%	65.22%

TABLE 7.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY (CONT.)

	Don't Know	9	23.68%	23.91%	36.59%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	0	0.00%	8.70%	0.00%
	More than one prior event	1	2.63%	2.17%	9.76%
	N/A or Unknown	37	97.37%	89.13%	90.24%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	1	2.63%	4.35%	7.32%
	No	0	0.00%	2.17%	2.44%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%	4.35%	0.00%
	N/A	37	97.37%	89.13%	90.24%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about decedents' history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of death. Fourteen Sailors who died by suicide in 2010 (36.84%) had a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder (Table 7.16). Seven (18.42%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Tables 7.17 and 7.18, five decedents (13.16%) were known to have had a mood disorder and five (13.16%) were known to have had an anxiety disorder. Ten decedents (26.32%) had a known history of substance abuse (Table 7.19).

TABLE 7.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES

NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES		2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	24	63.16%	69.57%	78.05%
	1 DX	7	18.42%	17.39%	12.20%
	2 DX	4	10.53%	10.87%	2.44%
	3 DX	2	5.26%	2.17%	4.88%
	4 or more DX	1	2.63%	0.00%	2.44%

TABLE 7.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER MOOD DISORDERS

DX W/ MOOD DISORDER		2010		2009	2008
		Count	Percent	Percent	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	5	13.16%	17.39%	7.32%
	No	28	73.68%	56.52%	60.98%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	26.09%	31.71%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	33	86.84%	69.57%	68.29%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	30.43%	31.71%
Major depression	Yes	2	5.26%	8.70%	2.44%
	No	31	81.58%	63.04%	65.85%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	28.26%	31.71%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	1	2.63%	4.35%	0.00%
	No	32	84.21%	65.22%	68.29%

TABLE 7.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER MOOD DISORDERS (CONT.)

	Don't Know	5	13.16%	30.43%	31.71%
Other mood disorder	Yes	2	5.26%	2.17%	4.88%
	No	31	81.58%	67.39%	60.98%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	30.43%	34.15%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
	No	33	86.84%	71.74%	68.29%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	26.09%	31.71%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	33	86.84%	73.91%	68.29%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	26.09%	31.71%

TABLE 7.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	5	13.16%	13.04%	9.76%
	No	28	73.68%	65.22%	63.41%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	21.74%	26.83%
PTSD	Yes	1	2.63%	4.35%	0.00%
	No	32	84.21%	71.74%	68.29%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	23.91%	31.71%
Panic disorder	Yes	1	2.63%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	32	84.21%	76.09%	68.29%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	23.91%	31.71%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	32	84.21%	76.09%	73.17%
	Don't Know	6	15.79%	23.91%	26.83%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	33	86.84%	76.09%	73.17%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	23.91%	26.83%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	1	2.63%	4.35%	2.44%
	No	32	84.21%	71.74%	68.29%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	23.91%	29.27%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	1	2.63%	2.17%	0.00%
	No	32	84.21%	76.09%	73.17%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	21.74%	26.83%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	1	2.63%	2.17%	7.32%
	No	32	84.21%	76.09%	65.85%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	21.74%	26.83%

TABLE 7.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	4.35%	0.00%
	No	32	84.21%	69.57%	73.17%
	Don't Know	6	15.79%	26.09%	26.83%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	32	84.21%	71.74%	73.17%
	Don't Know	6	15.79%	28.26%	26.83%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	10	26.32%	17.39%	14.63%
	No	22	57.89%	52.17%	56.10%
	Don't Know	6	15.79%	30.43%	29.27%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	0	0.00%		
	No	32	84.21%		
	Don't Know	6	15.79%		

Note: Traumatic Brain Injury data unavailable prior to 2010.

Treatment History

Table 7.20 provides data on Navy suicide decedents' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to death. The majority ($n = 21$, 55.26%) had received some form of treatment at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Fifteen decedents (39.47%) were treated at a MTF within a month of their suicides. These percentages are higher than in previous years, but are likely due to improved reporting as indicated by the decrease in "Don't Know" responses. Four Sailors (10.53%) had a known history of a physical health problem and two decedents (5.26%) had received physical health diagnoses within the month prior to suicide.

Four Navy decedents (10.53%) received substance abuse treatment services, and three (7.89%) were involved in family advocacy programs. Two Sailors (5.26%) utilized chaplain services. Over one fourth of decedents ($n = 11$, 28.95%) had received outpatient behavioral health treatment, with seven (18.42%) receiving treatment within the month prior to suicide. One Sailor (2.63%) received inpatient behavioral health treatment, which occurred within the month prior to suicide.

TABLE 7.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	21	55.26%	45.65%	29.27%
	Within 30 days	15	39.47%	26.09%	21.95%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	20	52.63%	39.13%	24.39%
HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	No	16	42.11%	32.61%	39.02%
	Don't Know	1	2.63%	21.74%	31.71%
Yes	4	10.53%	19.57%	7.32%	
	Within 30 days	2	5.26%	6.52%	4.88%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	7.89%	8.70%	7.32%
No					
	30	78.95%	65.22%	58.54%	

TABLE 7.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)

	Don't Know	4	10.53%	15.22%	34.15%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Yes	4	10.53%	17.39%	9.76%
	Within 30 days	1	2.63%	4.35%	2.44%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	2	5.26%	6.52%	4.88%
	No	30	78.95%	60.87%	73.17%
	Don't Know	4	10.53%	21.74%	17.07%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	Yes	3	7.89%	6.52%	2.44%
	Within 30 days	2	5.26%	0.00%	2.44%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	7.89%	0.00%	2.44%
	No	26	68.42%	63.04%	68.29%
	Don't Know	9	23.68%	30.43%	29.27%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Yes	2	5.26%	13.04%	14.63%
	Within 30 days	2	5.26%	4.35%	2.44%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	2	5.26%	10.87%	7.32%
	No	26	68.42%	47.83%	39.02%
	Don't Know	10	26.32%	39.13%	46.34%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	11	28.95%	19.57%	12.20%
	Within 30 days	7	18.42%	6.52%	4.88%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	9	23.68%	6.52%	7.32%
	No	23	60.53%	56.52%	65.85%
	Don't Know	4	10.53%	23.91%	21.95%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	1	2.63%	8.70%	7.32%
	Within 30 days	1	2.63%	2.17%	0.00%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	1	2.63%	2.17%	0.00%
	No	31	81.58%	71.74%	75.61%
	Don't Know	6	15.79%	19.57%	17.07%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 7.21 summarizes psychotropic medications known to have been used by decedents prior to suicide. Six decedents (15.79%) had known prescriptions for psychotropic medications, most frequently antidepressants ($n = 5$, 13.16%).

TABLE 7.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	6	15.79%	4.35%	9.76%
	No	24	63.16%	58.70%	63.41%
	Don't Know	8	21.05%	36.96%	26.83%
Antidepressants	Yes	5	13.16%	4.35%	7.32%
	No	25	65.79%	58.70%	63.41%
	Don't Know	8	21.05%	36.96%	29.27%
Antianxiety	Yes	4	10.53%	2.17%	7.32%

TABLE 7.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE (CONT.)

	No	25	65.79%	60.87%	65.85%
	Don't Know	9	23.68%	36.96%	26.83%
Antimanics	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	29	76.32%	63.04%	70.73%
	Don't Know	9	23.68%	36.96%	29.27%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	29	76.32%	63.04%	70.73%
	Don't Know	9	23.68%	36.96%	29.27%
Antipsychotics	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	29	76.32%	63.04%	70.73%
	Don't Know	9	23.68%	36.96%	29.27%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

The majority of 2010 Navy decedents ($n = 22$, 57.89%) had a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with 14 (36.84%) experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 7.22). Four decedents (10.53%) had a failure in another important relationship, most of these ($n = 3$, 7.89%) occurring within the month prior to suicide. Most Sailors who died by suicide in 2010 had some form of failed relationship ($n = 23$, 60.53%), with fifteen (39.47%) occurring within the month prior to suicide.

TABLE 7.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE

			2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes		22	57.89%	56.52%	51.22%
	Within 30 days		14	36.84%	32.61%	31.71%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		18	47.37%	41.30%	39.02%
	No		11	28.95%	30.43%	24.39%
	Don't Know		5	13.16%	13.04%	24.39%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes		4	10.53%	19.57%	14.63%
	Within 30 days		3	7.89%	6.52%	12.20%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		4	10.53%	8.70%	12.20%
	No		23	60.53%	56.52%	43.90%
	Don't Know		11	28.95%	23.91%	41.46%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER)	Yes		23	60.53%	58.70%	58.54%
	Within 30 days		15	39.47%	32.61%	36.59%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*		19	50.00%	41.30%	43.90%

TABLE 7.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE (CONT.)

No	10	26.32%	30.43%	19.51%
Don't Know	5	13.16%	10.87%	21.95%

*Data presented for "Within 90 days" includes all individuals with history "Within 30 days."

Table 7.23 summarizes other family and relationship factors that may be associated with the suicide. Four Navy decedents (10.53%) were known to have lost a family member to suicide, and two (5.26%) were known to have experienced a clinically significant death of a family member by other means. Two Sailors had experienced the death of a friend (5.26%). Four decedents (10.53%) were known to have family members with a significant illness, and four (10.53%) were known to have family members with behavioral health problems.

TABLE 7.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER FAMILY HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	35	92.11%	91.30%	85.37%
	Don't Know	3	7.89%	8.70%	14.63%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	4	10.53%	0.00%	4.88%
	No	25	65.79%	78.26%	51.22%
	Don't Know	9	23.68%	21.74%	43.90%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	0	0.00%	2.17%	0.00%
	No	28	73.68%	63.04%	51.22%
	Don't Know	10	26.32%	34.78%	48.78%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	2	5.26%	15.22%	2.44%
	No	24	63.16%	63.04%	53.66%
	Don't Know	12	31.58%	21.74%	43.90%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	2	5.26%	4.35%	4.88%
	No	22	57.89%	60.87%	46.34%
	Don't Know	14	36.84%	34.78%	48.78%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	4	10.53%	6.52%	4.88%
	No	25	65.79%	73.91%	51.22%
	Don't Know	9	23.68%	19.57%	43.90%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	4	10.53%	4.35%	9.76%
	No	18	47.37%	39.13%	21.95%
	Don't Know	16	42.11%	56.52%	68.29%

Administrative and Legal History

Over one third of Sailors who died by suicide in 2010 ($n = 15$, 39.47%) had at least one known administrative or legal issue, and five (13.16%) had more than one (Table 7.24). The most frequent administrative or legal issue was non-judicial punishment ($n = 7$, 18.42%), followed by absence without leave ($n = 4$, 10.53%), civil legal problems ($n = 4$, 10.53%), and history of non-selection for promotion ($n = 4$, 10.53%).

TABLE 7.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	2	5.26%	4.35%	0.00%
	No	35	92.11%	93.48%	100.00%
	Don't Know	1	2.63%	2.17%	0.00%
NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	7	18.42%	15.22%	12.20%
	No	30	78.95%	78.26%	85.37%
	Don't Know	1	2.63%	6.52%	2.44%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	1	2.63%	8.70%	2.44%
	No	36	94.74%	91.30%	97.56%
	Don't Know	1	2.63%	0.00%	0.00%
HX AWOL	Yes	4	10.53%	15.22%	0.00%
	No	32	84.21%	82.61%	100.00%
	Don't Know	2	5.26%	2.17%	0.00%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	0	0.00%	6.52%	0.00%
	No	36	94.74%	91.30%	97.56%
	Don't Know	2	5.26%	2.17%	2.44%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	4	10.53%	19.57%	9.76%
	No	30	78.95%	69.57%	75.61%
	Don't Know	4	10.53%	10.87%	14.63%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	4	10.53%	8.70%	4.88%
	No	32	84.21%	86.96%	85.37%
	Don't Know	2	5.26%	4.35%	9.76%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	15	39.47%	43.48%	24.39%
	No	20	52.63%	47.83%	63.41%
	Don't Know	3	7.89%	8.70%	12.20%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	5	13.16%	23.91%	4.88%
	No	19	50.00%	43.48%	63.41%
	Don't Know	14	36.84%	32.61%	31.71%

Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 7.25). Two Navy suicide decedents (5.26%) had reportedly experienced sexual abuse, and one (2.63%) had reportedly experienced emotional abuse. One decedent (2.63%) had an alleged record of perpetrating physical abuse.

TABLE 7.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER ABUSE HISTORY

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	10.87%	2.44%
	No	26	68.42%	71.74%	53.66%
	Don't Know	12	31.58%	17.39%	43.90%

TABLE 7.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER ALLEGED ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)

HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	2	5.26%	2.17%	0.00%
	No	25	65.79%	78.26%	60.98%
	Don't Know	11	28.95%	19.57%	39.02%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	1	2.63%	8.70%	2.44%
	No	23	60.53%	69.57%	56.10%
	Don't Know	14	36.84%	21.74%	41.46%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	25	65.79%	80.43%	60.98%
	Don't Know	13	34.21%	19.57%	39.02%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	1	2.63%	6.52%	2.44%
	No	32	84.21%	78.26%	60.98%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	15.22%	36.59%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	4.35%	4.88%
	No	33	86.84%	78.26%	60.98%
	Don't Know	5	13.16%	17.39%	34.15%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%	4.35%	0.00%
	No	31	81.58%	73.91%	63.41%
	Don't Know	7	18.42%	21.74%	36.59%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	2.44%
	No	32	84.21%	82.61%	68.29%
	Don't Know	6	15.79%	17.39%	29.27%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 7.26). Three Sailors (7.89%) who died by suicide in 2010 had experienced significant debt. Seven decedents (18.42%) either had lost a position or experienced job instability. Three Sailors (7.89%) were known to have had interpersonal issues with their supervisors or coworkers. History of prior poor work evaluations were reported for four decedents (10.53%).

TABLE 7.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES

		2010 Count	2010 Percent	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	3	7.89%	17.39%	7.32%
	No	27	71.05%	58.70%	68.29%
	Don't Know	8	21.05%	23.91%	24.39%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	7	18.42%	28.26%	9.76%
	No	28	73.68%	69.57%	78.05%
	Don't Know	3	7.89%	2.17%	12.20%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	3	7.89%	13.04%	7.32%
	No	31	81.58%	80.43%	73.17%
	Don't Know	4	10.53%	6.52%	19.51%

TABLE 7.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES (CONT.)

HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	4	10.53%	8.70%	4.88%
	No	33	86.84%	84.78%	82.93%
	Don't Know	1	2.63%	6.52%	12.20%
HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
	No	35	92.11%	91.30%	82.93%
	Don't Know	3	7.89%	8.70%	17.07%

Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Sailors' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

Two of the Sailors who died by suicide in 2010 (5.26%) had previously served in Iraq and one (2.63%) had served in Afghanistan (Table 7.27). Three decedents (7.89%) had known direct combat experiences, including participating in combat that resulted in injuries ($n = 2$, 5.26%), sustaining injuries in combat ($n = 1$, 2.63%), witnessing killing ($n = 1$, 2.63%), and seeing dead bodies ($n = 1$, 2.63%; Table 7.28).

TABLE 7.27. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

		2010	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
		Count		
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF	Afghanistan	1	2.63%	2.17%
	Iraq	2	5.26%	4.35%
	Kuwait	0	0.00%	2.17%
	Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations	0	0.00%	2.17%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	35	92.11%	89.13%

TABLE 7.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER COMBAT HISTORY

		2010	2009 Percent	2008 Percent
		Count		
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	3	7.89%	2.17%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	2	5.26%	0.00%
	Injured in combat	1	2.63%	0.00%
	Witnessed killing in combat	1	2.63%	2.17%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	1	2.63%	2.17%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	35	92.11%	97.83%

NAVY DoDSERS SUBMITTED FOR SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

DoDSER POCs submitted 58 DoDSERs for 2010 Navy suicide attempts. As indicated in Table 7.29, these DoDSERs provide data on suicide attempts for 57 individuals. Two attempts were reported (DoDSERs submitted) for one individual. The tables in this section use a denominator of 58.

TABLE 7.29. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSERS

	Count	Percent
TOTAL SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS	58	100.00%
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED	57	100.00%
SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERs SUBMITTED PER INDIVIDUAL		
1	56	98.25%
2	1	1.75%
3	0	0.00%
INDIVIDUALS WITH 2010 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDE ATTEMPT AND SUICIDE	0	0.00%

As summarized in Table 7.30, the majority of DoDSERs for 2010 Navy suicide attempts had no missing or “Unknown” primary data points ($n = 32$, 55.17%). Primary data points include any variables that are accessible using standard DoDSER methods (including accessing medical and military records). DoDSER POCs often interview Service Members after non-fatal suicide events, sometimes leading to more thorough data.

TABLE 7.30. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA

	Count	Percent
NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN		
0	32	55.17%
1	8	13.79%
2	3	5.17%
3	4	6.90%
4	2	3.45%
5 or More	9	15.52%

Dispositional/Personal Factors

This section reports data that describe individual characteristics and behaviors that may have been associated with the suicide attempts. These factors include demographic characteristics, event setting, suicide attempt method, substance use during the event, intent to die, and communication of intent with others.

Demographics

Table 7.31 contains DoDSER demographic data for Sailors who attempted suicide in 2010. Males represented the majority ($n = 44$, 75.86%). Sailors who attempted suicide were most often Caucasian ($n = 36$, 62.07%), under age 25 ($n = 33$, 56.90%), junior enlisted ($n = 33$, 56.90%), Regular component ($n = 51$, 87.93%) and without a college degree ($n = 45$, 77.59%).

TABLE 7.31. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS

		Count	Percent
TOTAL		58	100.00%
GENDER	Male	44	75.86%
	Female	14	24.14%
RACE	American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	1.72%
	Asian or Pacific Islander	2	3.45%
	Black/African American	10	17.24%
	White/Caucasian	36	62.07%
	Other	7	12.07%
	Don't Know	2	3.45%
AGE RANGE	Under 25	33	56.90%
	25-29	11	18.97%
	30-39	12	20.69%
	40 +	2	3.45%
RANK	E1-E4	33	56.90%
	E5-E9	21	36.21%
	Officer	3	5.17%
	Cadet/Midshipman	1	1.72%
COMPONENT	Regular	51	87.93%
	Reserve	6	10.34%
	Other	1	1.72%
EDUCATION	GED	3	5.17%
	High school graduate	28	48.28%
	Some college or technical school	14	24.14%
	Degree/certificate less than four years	2	3.45%
	Four-year college degree	5	8.62%
	Master's degree or greater	1	1.72%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	33	56.90%
	Married	20	34.48%
	Legally Separated	1	1.72%
	Divorced	2	3.45%
	Don't Know	2	3.45%

Event Setting

In 2010, Navy suicide attempts most frequently took place in the United States ($n = 43$, 74.14%), followed by Asian countries other than Iraq and Afghanistan ($n = 6$, 10.34%; Table 7.32). As indicated in Table 7.33, suicide attempts primarily occurred in the Sailors' residences ($n = 41$, 70.69%).

TABLE 7.32. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

		Count	Percent
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	United States	43	74.14%
	Asia	6	10.34%
	Europe	3	5.17%
	Other	5	8.62%
	Don't Know	1	1.72%

TABLE 7.33. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT SETTING

		Count	Percent
EVENT SETTING	Residence (own) or barracks	41	70.69%
	Residence of friend or family	5	8.62%
	Work/jobsite	5	8.62%
	Automobile (away from residence)	2	3.45%
	Other	5	8.62%

Event Method

As indicated in Table 7.34, drugs were the most frequent method for suicide attempt ($n = 29$, 50.00%), followed by injury with a sharp or blunt object ($n = 11$, 18.97%).

TABLE 7.34. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT METHOD

		Count	Percent
EVENT METHOD	Drugs	29	50.00%
	Alcohol	1	1.72%
	Gas, vehicle exhaust	1	1.72%
	Gas, utility (or other)	2	3.45%
	Chemicals	1	1.72%
	Hanging	3	5.17%
	Drowning	1	1.72%
	Firearm, non-military issue	2	3.45%
	Sharp or blunt object	11	18.97%
	Jumping from high place	2	3.45%
	Other	5	8.62%

Substance Use during the Event

DoDSER POCs collected data on alcohol and drug use during Navy suicide attempts (Table 7.35). Eighteen DoDSERs (31.03%) included alcohol use during suicide attempts and thirty (51.72%) included drug use, most frequently misuse of prescription medication. These frequencies include Sailors who used drugs as a suicide attempt method ($n = 29$, 50.00%), as described above.

TABLE 7.35. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

		Count	Percent
ALCOHOL USED	Yes	18	31.03%
	No	34	58.62%
	Don't Know	6	10.34%
ANY DRUGS USED	Yes	30	51.72%
	No	25	43.10%
	Don't Know	3	5.17%
Illegal drugs	Overdose	1	1.72%
	Were not used	54	93.10%
	Don't know	3	5.17%
Prescription drugs	Overdose	17	29.31%
	Used, no overdose	4	6.90%
	Were not used	34	58.62%
	Don't know	3	5.17%
Over the counter drugs	Overdose	8	13.79%
	Used, no overdose	4	6.90%
	Were not used	43	74.14%
	Don't know	3	5.17%
BOTH ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USED	Yes	10	17.24%
	No	42	72.41%
	Don't Know	6	10.34%

Communication of Intent

Most Sailors who attempted suicide had no known history of communicating with others about intending to harm themselves ($n = 50$, 86.21%; Table 7.36). Of those who did communicate with others, these communications were most frequently verbal ($n = 5$, 8.62%; Table 7.37). As indicated in Table 7.38, Sailors most frequently communicated with their friends ($n = 2$, 3.45%) and behavioral healthcare providers ($n = 2$, 3.45%).

TABLE 7.36. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	0	50	86.21%
	1	7	12.07%
	2	0	0.00%
	3	1	1.72%

TABLE 7.37. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT	Verbal	5	8.62%
	Written	1	1.72%
	Other or Unknown	1	1.72%

TABLE 7.37. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT (CONT.)

Multiple Modes	1	1.72%
No Known Communication	50	86.21%

Note: Multiple modes include a combination of verbal, written, or other mode of communicating intent to suicide (e.g., text).

TABLE 7.38. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT

		Count	Percent
COMMUNICATION	Friend	2	3.45%
	Behavioral Health Provider	2	3.45%
	Supervisor	1	1.72%
	Other or Unidentified	2	3.45%
	Made Multiple Communications	1	1.72%
	No Known Communication	50	86.21%

Additional Event Information

Table 7.39 provides information about other details of 2010 Navy suicide attempts. For the majority ($n = 49$, 84.48%), there were data to indicate that the Sailors intended to die. Two Sailors (3.45%) were known to have engaged in death risk gambling (e.g., “Russian roulette”). Over one third of suicide attempts ($n = 22$, 37.93%) appeared planned or premeditated. Nineteen suicide attempts (32.76%) took place in a location potentially observable by others. Seven Sailors (12.07%) left suicide notes.

TABLE 7.39. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

		Count	Percent
INTENDED TO DIE	Yes	49	84.48%
	No	7	12.07%
	Don't Know	2	3.45%
DEATH RISK GAMBLING	Yes	2	3.45%
	No	55	94.83%
	Don't Know	1	1.72%
PLANNED/PREMEDITATED	Yes	22	37.93%
	No	28	48.28%
	Don't Know	8	13.79%
OBSERVABLE	Yes	19	32.76%
	No	36	62.07%
	Don't Know	3	5.17%
SUICIDE NOTE LEFT	Yes	7	12.07%
	No	40	68.97%
	Don't Know	11	18.97%

Contextual Factors

This section describes DoDSER data that pertain to situational and contextual factors such as place of residence, general living situation and duty environment.

Situational Factors

Table 7.40 provides details about the living situations for Sailors who attempted suicide in 2010. DoDSERs most frequently reported private homes outside of installations ($n = 31$, 53.45%) and shared living environments on installations ($n = 17$, 29.31%). Half of married Sailors ($n = 10$, 50.00% of married Sailors, 17.24% of total) lived with their spouses at the time of their suicide attempts and five were separated because of relationship issues (25.00% of married Sailors, 8.62% of total). Seventeen DoDSERs indicated that the Sailors had minor children (29.31%), and most resided with their children at the time of the suicide attempt ($n = 11$, 64.71% of Sailors with children, 18.97% of total). Three DoDSERs (5.17%) indicated that the Sailors were known to have access to firearms either in their homes, at work, or in other accessible locations.

TABLE 7.40. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT

		Count	Percent
RESIDENCE AT TIME OF EVENT	Shared military living environment	17	29.31%
	Bachelor quarters	3	5.17%
	On-base family housing	2	3.45%
	Owned or leased apartment or house	31	53.45%
	Ship	3	5.17%
	Other	1	1.72%
	Don't Know	1	1.72%
MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE	Resides with spouse	10	17.24%
	Separated due to relationship issues	5	8.62%
	Apart for other reasons/deployed	5	8.62%
	Unmarried at time of event	38	65.52%
RESIDED ALONE	Yes	21	36.21%
	No	32	55.17%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
HAD MINOR CHILDREN	Yes	17	29.31%
	No	41	70.69%
	Don't Know	0	0.00%
CHILDREN RESIDED WITH	Yes	11	18.97%
	No	6	10.34%
	No Children	41	70.69%
FIREARM IN IMMEDIATE/LIVING ENVIRONMENT	Yes	3	5.17%
	No	36	62.07%
	Don't Know	19	32.76%

Duty Environment

The primary duty environment for Sailors who attempted suicide was their permanent duty station (n = 32, 55.17%; Table 7.41).

TABLE 7.41. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT

		Count	Percent
DUTY ENVIRONMENT	Permanent Duty Station	32	55.17%
	Psychiatric Hospitalization	1	1.72%
	Medical Hold	2	3.45%
	TDY	3	5.17%
	AWOL	1	1.72%
	Deployed	2	3.45%
	Training	2	3.45%
	Other	6	10.34%
	Multiple Duty Environments	3	5.17%
	Duty Environment Unknown	6	10.34%

Suicide Attempts by Month

No clear pattern was evident for Navy suicide attempts by month (Table 7.42).

TABLE 7.42. CY 2010 NAVY DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH

		Count	Percent
MONTH	January	4	6.90%
	February	3	5.17%
	March	5	8.62%
	April	5	8.62%
	May	6	10.34%
	June	7	12.07%
	July	6	10.34%
	August	1	1.72%
	September	5	8.62%
	October	10	17.24%
	November	1	1.72%
	December	5	8.62%

Clinical Health Factors

The DoDSER items capture detailed information on behavioral and symptom factors that may be associated with subsequent suicidal behavior. These factors include data on prior self-harm, previous diagnoses of behavioral health disorders and behavioral health issues, and relevant treatment histories, including prescribed medication.

Prior Self-Injury

Prior self-harm was known for over one fourth of suicide attempts ($n = 16$, 27.59%), and five (8.62%) self-harm incidents were known to have occurred within the month prior to attempting suicide (Table 7.43). Of those with prior history of self-harm, ten (62.50%, 17.24% of total) had more than one prior event. Five suicide attempts (8.62%) were similar to the Sailors' prior self-harm events.

TABLE 7.43. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY

		Count	Percent
HX PRIOR SELF-INJURY	Yes	16	27.59%
	Within 30 days	5	8.62%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	9	15.52%
	No	33	56.90%
	Don't Know	9	15.52%
Number prior self-injuries	One prior event	6	10.34%
	More than one prior event	10	17.24%
	N/A or Unknown	42	72.41%
Event similar to prior self-injury	Yes	5	8.62%
	No	10	17.24%
	Don't Know	1	1.72%
	N/A	42	72.41%

Behavioral Health Disorders

DoDSER POCs collect information about history of behavioral health diagnoses. The data below reflect any known history of behavioral health disorders and are not limited to diagnoses at the time of the suicide event. The majority of Navy DoDSERs for attempted suicide included a history of at least one documented behavioral health disorder ($n = 36$, 62.07%; Table 7.44). Twenty (34.48%) had at least two co-occurring diagnoses. As indicated in Table 7.45, 25 DoDSERs (43.10%) indicated that Sailors had a diagnosis of a mood disorder, most frequently major depressive disorder ($n = 16$, 27.59%). Thirteen DoDSERs for suicide attempts (22.41%) included Sailors' diagnoses of anxiety disorders, most frequently PTSD ($n = 5$, 8.62%; Table 7.46). Four DoDSERs (6.90%) included documentation of personality disorders, and 13 (22.41%) included a known history of substance abuse (Table 7.47). Two DoDSERs (3.45%) indicated that Sailors had sustained a traumatic brain injury.

TABLE 7.44. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES

		Count	Percent
NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES	No DX	22	37.93%
	1 DX	16	27.59%
	2 DX	7	12.07%
	3 DX	9	15.52%
	4 or more DX	4	6.90%

TABLE 7.45. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/ MOOD DISORDER	Yes	25	43.10%
	No	31	53.45%
	Don't Know	2	3.45%
Bipolar disorder	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	55	94.83%
	Don't Know	3	5.17%
Major depression	Yes	16	27.59%
	No	40	68.97%
	Don't Know	2	3.45%
Dysthymic disorder	Yes	1	1.72%
	No	52	89.66%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
Other mood disorder	Yes	2	3.45%
	No	50	86.21%
	Don't Know	6	10.34%
Unspecified mood disorder	Yes	1	1.72%
	No	55	94.83%
	Don't Know	2	3.45%
Multiple mood DX	Yes	5	8.62%
	No	51	87.93%
	Don't Know	2	3.45%

TABLE 7.46. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER	Yes	13	22.41%
	No	41	70.69%
	Don't Know	4	6.90%
PTSD	Yes	5	8.62%
	No	49	84.48%
	Don't Know	4	6.90%
Panic disorder	Yes	1	1.72%
	No	52	89.66%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
Generalized anxiety disorder	Yes	2	3.45%
	No	50	86.21%
	Don't Know	6	10.34%
Acute stress disorder	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	52	89.66%
	Don't Know	6	10.34%
Other anxiety disorder	Yes	1	1.72%

TABLE 7.46. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS (CONT.)

	No	51	87.93%
	Don't Know	6	10.34%
Unspecified anxiety DX	Yes	1	1.72%
	No	53	91.38%
	Don't Know	4	6.90%
Multiple anxiety DX	Yes	3	5.17%
	No	51	87.93%
	Don't Know	4	6.90%

TABLE 7.47. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS

		Count	Percent
DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER	Yes	4	6.90%
	No	50	86.21%
	Don't Know	4	6.90%
DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	54	93.10%
	Don't Know	4	6.90%
HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE	Yes	13	22.41%
	No	41	70.69%
	Don't Know	4	6.90%
DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	Yes	2	3.45%
	No	53	91.38%
	Don't Know	3	5.17%

Treatment History

Table 7.48 provides data on Sailors' use of medical and behavioral health treatment prior to attempting suicide. Over one third of Navy DoDSERs ($n = 21$, 36.21%) indicated that Sailors had received some form of treatment at a MTF, 12 (20.69%) within the month prior to attempting suicide. Seven Navy DoDSERs (12.07%) included evidence of a known physical health problem. Twenty-six Navy DoDSERs (44.83%) indicated that Sailors had received outpatient behavioral health services, many within the month prior to attempting suicide ($n = 16$, 27.59%). Ten Navy DoDSERs (17.24%) indicated that the Sailors had previously been hospitalized in an inpatient psychiatry unit, three (5.17%) within the month prior to the suicide attempt. Seven Navy suicide attempt DoDSERs (12.07%) included prior substance abuse treatment.

TABLE 7.48. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
SEEN AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITY	Yes	21	36.21%
	Within 30 days	12	20.69%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	19	32.76%
	No	32	55.17%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%

TABLE 7.48. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY (CONT.)

HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM	Yes	7	12.07%
	Within 30 days	2	3.45%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	5.17%
	No	46	79.31%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	Don't Know	5	8.62%
	Yes	7	12.07%
	Within 30 days	1	1.72%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	5.17%
FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS	No	47	81.03%
	Don't Know	4	6.90%
	Yes	4	6.90%
	Within 30 days	3	5.17%
CHAPLAIN SERVICES	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	4	6.90%
	No	46	79.31%
	Don't Know	8	13.79%
	Yes	9	15.52%
OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Within 30 days	4	6.90%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	7	12.07%
	No	36	62.07%
	Don't Know	13	22.41%
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Yes	26	44.83%
	Within 30 days	16	27.59%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	19	32.76%
	No	29	50.00%
	Don't Know	3	5.17%
	Yes	10	17.24%
	Within 30 days	3	5.17%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	6	10.34%
	No	46	79.31%
	Don't Know	2	3.45%

As indicated in Table 7.49, DoDSERs for twenty-three Navy suicide attempts (39.66%) included psychotropic medication use prior to the suicide attempt. Antidepressants ($n = 20$, 86.96% of DoDSERs with known prescriptions, 34.48% of total DoDSERs) and antianxiety medication ($n = 9$, 39.13% of DoDSERs with known prescriptions, 15.52% of total DoDSERs) were the most frequently prescribed psychotropics.

TABLE 7.49. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE

		Count	Percent
TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS	Yes	23	39.66%
	No	32	55.17%
	Don't Know	3	5.17%
Antidepressants	Yes	20	34.48%

TABLE 7.49. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE (CONT.)

	No	34	58.62%
	Don't Know	4	6.90%
Antianxiety	Yes	9	15.52%
	No	44	75.86%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
Antimanics	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	53	91.38%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
Anticonvulsants	Yes	2	3.45%
	No	51	87.93%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
Antipsychotics	Yes	4	6.90%
	No	49	84.48%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%

Historical/Developmental Factors

DoDSER data are collected on historical and developmental factors that precede a suicide event. These data include information about family histories, interpersonal relationships, legal, financial and administrative difficulties, and reports of prior abuse.

Family and Relationship History

Over half of DoDSERs for Sailors who attempted suicide ($n = 34$, 58.62%) included a known failure in a spousal or intimate relationship, with 19 (32.76%) experiencing the failure within the month prior to suicide (Table 7.50). Six Navy DoDSERs (10.34%) included a failure in another important relationship, with three (5.17%) occurring within the month prior to the suicide attempt.

TABLE 7.50. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT

		Count	Percent
HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP	Yes	34	58.62%
	Within 30 days	19	32.76%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	23	39.66%
	No	21	36.21%
	Don't Know	3	5.17%
HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP	Yes	6	10.34%
	Within 30 days	3	5.17%
	Within 90 days (inclusive)*	3	5.17%
	No	42	72.41%
	Don't Know	10	17.24%
HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/ OR OTHER)	Yes	36	62.07%
	Within 30 days	20	34.48%

TABLE 7.50. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT (CONT.)

Within 90 days (inclusive)*	24	41.38%
No	20	34.48%
Don't Know	2	3.45%

Table 7.51 summarizes other family and relationship factors. Two DoDSERs for Sailors (3.45%) included the loss of a spouse to suicide, three (5.17%) included the loss of a family member to suicide and four (6.90%) included the loss of friend to suicide. Several had experienced the death of a family member ($n = 11$, 18.97%) or friend ($n = 6$, 10.34%) by other means. Over one third of DoDSERs indicated that Sailors had a family member with behavioral health problems ($n = 22$, 37.93%) and six Navy DoDSERs (10.34%) included history of clinically significant family illness.

TABLE 7.51. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAMILY HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX SPOUSE SUICIDE	Yes	2	3.45%
	No	55	94.83%
	Don't Know	1	1.72%
HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE	Yes	3	5.17%
	No	48	82.76%
	Don't Know	7	12.07%
HX FRIEND SUICIDE	Yes	4	6.90%
	No	47	81.03%
	Don't Know	7	12.07%
HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER	Yes	11	18.97%
	No	42	72.41%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
HX DEATH OF FRIEND	Yes	6	10.34%
	No	43	74.14%
	Don't Know	9	15.52%
HX FAMILY ILLNESS	Yes	6	10.34%
	No	47	81.03%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
HX FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS	Yes	22	37.93%
	No	27	46.55%
	Don't Know	9	15.52%

Administrative and Legal History

Over one third of DoDSERs for Sailors who attempted suicide included at least one administrative or legal issue ($n = 20$, 34.48%), and seven (12.07%) included more than one (Table 7.52). The most frequent administrative or legal problem was non-judicial punishment ($n = 12$, 20.69%).

TABLE 7.52. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX COURTS MARTIAL	Yes	2	3.45%
	No	51	87.93%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT	Yes	12	20.69%
	No	37	63.79%
	Don't Know	9	15.52%
HX ADMIN SEPARATION	Yes	4	6.90%
	No	47	81.03%
	Don't Know	7	12.07%
HX AWOL	Yes	4	6.90%
	No	49	84.48%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
HX MEDICAL BOARD	Yes	3	5.17%
	No	52	89.66%
	Don't Know	3	5.17%
HX CIVIL LEGAL PROBLEMS	Yes	4	6.90%
	No	46	79.31%
	Don't Know	8	13.79%
HX NON-SELECTION FOR PROMOTION	Yes	1	1.72%
	No	45	77.59%
	Don't Know	12	20.69%
HAD ANY ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUE	Yes	20	34.48%
	No	32	55.17%
	Don't Know	6	10.34%
HAD MULTIPLE ADMIN/LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	7	12.07%
	No	30	51.72%
	Don't Know	21	36.21%

Abuse History

The DoDSER includes information about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration (Table 7.53). DoDSERs for Sailors who attempted suicide in 2010 included a history of reported physical abuse ($n = 6$, 10.34%), sexual abuse ($n = 3$, 5.17%), and emotional abuse ($n = 8$, 13.79%). Three (5.17%) included a history of allegedly physically abusing others and two DoDSERs (3.45%) included a history of allegedly perpetrating emotional abuse.

TABLE 7.53. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ABUSE HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	6	10.34%
	No	43	74.14%
	Don't Know	9	15.52%

TABLE 7.53. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ABUSE HISTORY (CONT.)

HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	3	5.17%
	No	45	77.59%
	Don't Know	10	17.24%
HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	8	13.79%
	No	38	65.52%
	Don't Know	12	20.69%
HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	44	75.86%
	Don't Know	14	24.14%
HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	Yes	3	5.17%
	No	45	77.59%
	Don't Know	10	17.24%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	46	79.31%
	Don't Know	12	20.69%
HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE	Yes	2	3.45%
	No	44	75.86%
	Don't Know	12	20.69%
HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Yes	0	0.00%
	No	48	82.76%
	Don't Know	10	17.24%

Financial and Workplace Difficulties

DoDSER collects data on economic hardship and problems in the workplace (Table 7.54). Sixteen DoDSERs for Sailors who attempted suicide in 2010 (27.59%) included experience of job loss or instability. Eight (13.79%) included problems with either supervisors or coworkers, and six (10.34%) included prior poor work evaluations.

TABLE 7.54. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES

		Count	Percent
EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY	Yes	4	6.90%
	No	46	79.31%
	Don't Know	8	13.79%
HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY	Yes	16	27.59%
	No	37	63.79%
	Don't Know	5	8.62%
HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES	Yes	8	13.79%
	No	40	68.97%
	Don't Know	10	17.24%
HX POOR WORK EVALUATION	Yes	6	10.34%
	No	45	77.59%
	Don't Know	7	12.07%

TABLE 7.54. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES (CONT.)

HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING	Yes	2	3.45%
	No	46	79.31%
	Don't Know	10	17.24%

Deployment Factors

DoDSER captures detailed information about Sailors' three most recent deployments. Data include deployment location information as well as history of direct combat operations.

Deployment and Combat History

Fifteen DoDSERs (25.86%) included information about prior OEF, OIF or OND deployments (Table 7.55). Five DoDSERs (8.62%) included experiences of direct combat, as summarized in Table 7.56.

TABLE 7.55. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF	Afghanistan	1	1.72%
	Iraq	13	22.41%
	Kuwait	1	1.72%
	No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment	43	74.14%

TABLE 7.56. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMBAT HISTORY

		Count	Percent
COMBAT HISTORY	HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT	5	8.62%
	Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others	4	6.90%
	Injured in combat	3	5.17%
	Witnessed killing in combat	4	6.90%
	Saw dead bodies in combat	4	6.90%
	Killed others in combat	2	3.45%
	NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY	53	91.38%

Summary

This chapter provides data on Navy suicides and suicide attempts that occurred in 2010. Data are presented for 38 Sailors who died by suicide and for 57 Sailors who attempted suicide in 58 separate incidents.

Decedents and those who attempted suicide were primarily male, Caucasian, under age 25, enlisted, Regular component Sailors, and without a college degree.

Most suicide events took place in the United States in the Sailors' own residences. The most frequent methods for Sailors who died by suicide were non-military issue firearm use and hanging. Suicide attempt methods were most often drug overdose and harming oneself with a sharp or blunt object. Drug and alcohol use was much more frequent among non-fatal Navy suicide events. The majority of Sailors who died by suicide or had attempted suicide were not known to have communicated with others about their likelihood of harming themselves.

Compared to decedents, Sailors with non-fatal suicide events had more reported behavioral health disorders and more behavioral health treatment use prior to the event. Additionally, those who attempted suicide had higher prevalence of prior abuse victimization. Failed intimate relationships were frequent among Sailors with suicide events. The most frequent administrative or legal issue was non-judicial punishment.

No Sailors were deployed at the time of their suicide events.

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

Article 15	A provision under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) which gives commanding officers ability to impose nonjudicial punishment upon soldiers who commit minor offenses within their units.
Death-risk gambling	Any game of chance with death or serious injury as a potential outcome
Deployed	Deployment ashore (boots on the ground) with duties involving outside the continental United States operations without a fixed US Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Examples include OIF and OEF deployments
Self harm (without intent to die)	A self-inflicted, potentially injurious behavior for which there is evidence (either implicit or explicit) that the person did not intend to kill himself/herself (i.e., had no intent to die).
Medical Evaluation Board	Informal proceeding evaluating the medical history of a Service Member to determine how the injury/disease will respond to treatment protocols. This is used to determine if the medical condition and/or physical defect will render the Service Member unfit for duty.
Planned and/or premeditated	Evidence the event was planned and/or premeditated includes verbal discussion of plan, written notes, email/chat-room discussion, or other evidence of plan such as preparatory behaviors (e.g., giving possessions away, purchase of materials to facilitate suicide, etc.).
Suicide	Self-inflicted death with evidence (either explicit or implicit) of intent to die
Suicide attempt	A self-inflicted potentially injurious behavior with a non-fatal outcome for which there is evidence (either explicit or implicit) of intent to die.
Suicidal ideation	Any self-reported thoughts of engaging in suicide-related behaviors
Traumatic Brain Injury	<p>a) A traumatically induced structural injury and/or physiological disruption of brain function as a result of an external force that is indicated by new onset or worsening of at least one of the following clinical signs, immediately following the event:</p>

- Traumatic Brain Injury (cont.)**
- b) Any period of loss of or a decreased level of consciousness
 - c) Any loss of memory for events immediately before or after the injury
 - d) Any alteration in mental state at the time of the injury (confusion, disorientation, slowed thinking, etc.) Neurological deficits (weakness, loss of balance, change in vision, praxis, paresis/plegia, sensory loss, aphasia, etc.) that may or may not be transient Intracranial lesion

APPENDIX B: ACRONYMS

AF	Air Force
AFMES	Armed Forces Medical Examiner System
AFIP	Armed Forces Institute of Pathology
AWOL	Absent without leave
CAC	Common access card
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CY	Calendar year
DMDC	Defense Manpower Data Center
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDSER	Department of Defense Suicide Event Report
DX	Diagnosis
GED	General equivalency diploma
HX	History
MTF	Medical treatment facility
OEF	Operation Enduring Freedom
OIF	Operation Iraqi Freedom
OND	Operation New Dawn
OSI	Office of Special Investigations
OTC	Over the counter
POC	Point of contact
PTSD	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
RR	Rate ratio
SPPM	Suicide Prevention Program Manager
T2	National Center for Telehealth & Technology
TDY	Temporary duty
UCMJ	Uniform Code of Military Justice

APPENDIX C: REFERENCES

- [1] Silverman M. M., Berman A.L., Sanddal N.D., O'Carroll P.W., & Joiner T.E. (2007). Rebuilding the tower of Babel: a revised nomenclature for the study of suicide and suicidal behaviors. Part 2: Suicide-related ideations, communications, and behaviors. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 37(3):264-77.
- [2] Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Standardized DoD Suicide Data and Reporting," June 18, 2006.
- [3] DoD Instruction 1300.18 "Department of Defense Personnel Casualty Matters, Policies, and Procedures." January 8, 2009.
- [4] Department of Defense Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces. (2010). "The Challenge and the Promise: Strengthening the Force, Preventing Suicide and Saving Lives."

APPENDIX D: FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS

In a continuing effort to provide an annual DoDSER that is useful to the DoD community it serves, we solicit your feedback on the information we've provided and your suggestions for ways we could make the DoDSER annual report more useful.

Please return your completed survey by mail, fax, or email to:

National Center for Telehealth & Technology (T2)
OMAMC, BLDG 9933C West Hayes, Tacoma WA 98431

Fax: 253.968.4192

suicide.reporting@us.army.mil

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I found the information in the 2010 DoDSER Annual Report helpful.					
What other statistics or comparisons would you like to have in future annual DoDSER reports?					
How did/will you use this report?					
Do you have any other feedback or suggestions?					

Optional

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____