

SUICIDE

Includes Suicide Only; Does Not Include Suicidal Ideation or Suicide Attempt

Background

The AFSHD is *not* the official source of Department of Defense (DoD) suicide numbers.

The DoD Suicide Event Report (DoDSER) is the official source for DoD suicide events. The DoDSER is a surveillance program that standardizes suicide event reporting across the Services.

This case definition was developed by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division (AFHSD) for the purpose of epidemiological surveillance of suicide in military-associated populations.

Clinical Description

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

Case Definition and Incidence Rules

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

- An individual whose manner of death is categorized as ‘Suicide’ in the Casualty Table provided to the AFHSD by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner (AFME).

The casualty table categorizes DoD active duty casualties by manner of death. Categories include the following: accident, combat, homicide, natural, suicide, terrorist activity, pending and undetermined.

Incidence rules:

- None

Exclusions:

- None

Codes

The following ICD9 and ICD10 codes are included in the case definition:

Condition	ICD-9/ ICD-10-CM codes	CPT Codes
Suicide	NA	NA

¹ Office of the Surgeon General / U.S. Army Medical Command (OTSG/MEDCOM), Policy Memo 09-03.



Development and Revisions

In March of 2012, the AFHSC Surveillance Methods and Standards (SMS) workgroup determined, by consensus opinion, to adopt AFME's suicide surveillance and reporting.

Reports

The AFHSD reports on suicide in the following reports:

- Periodic MSMR articles.²

Review

May 2022	Case definition reviewed by the AFHSD Surveillance Methods and Standards (SMS) working group.
May 2019	Case definition reviewed and updated by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch (AFHSB) SMS working group.
Mar 2010	Case definition adopted by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) SMS working group.

Comments

None

² Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center. Suicides and suicide attempts among active component members of the U.S. Armed Forces, 2010–2012: Methods of self-harm vary by major geographic region of assignment. *MSMR* October 2014; 21(10): 2-5.

