



# Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction

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DoD/VA Suicide Prevention Conference

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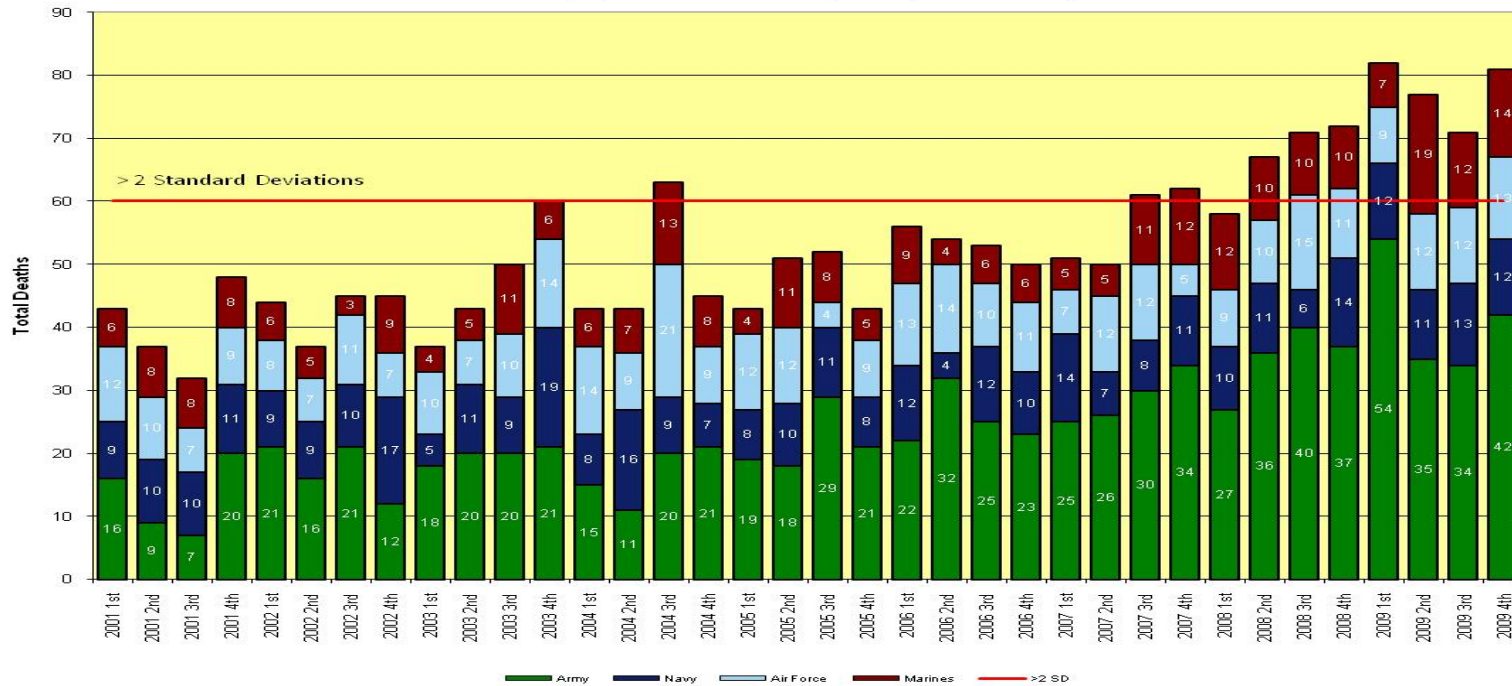


## Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Committee (SPARRC)

- SPARRC is a forum for developing /expanding partnerships
- Committee's goal is to improve policies, programs and systems across DoD
- Group provides support for medical, line, and community leaders
- SPARRC includes representatives from all Services, VA, SAMHSA, CDC, Medical Examiners, Chaplains, Telehealth/Technology and National Guard/Reserves

# DoD Suicide Deaths/Rates Branch CY 2001-2009

Confirmed and Suspected Active Duty Military Suicides by Branch, Year, and Quarter  
January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2009 (as of 1/7/2010)



	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		Year Total
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
Total/Year	160	10.3	171	10.3	190	11	194	11.3	189	11.3	213	13.1	224	13.8	268	16.3	311	18.5	1920
Regular	125	10.5	146	10.3	158	11	171	12	148	10.7	187	13.5	197	14.3	235	16.9	285	20.3	1652
Reserve	15	9.3	25	10.6	32	11.1	23	8	41	14.8	26	10.7	27	10.8	33	12.7	26	9.5	248
OEF	1	*	3	*	4	*	2	*	4	*	3	*	5	*	4	*	6	*	32
OIF	0	*	0	*	27	*	20	*	25	*	31	*	41	*	38	*	35	*	217

# 2009 SPARRRC and DoD Projects

- RAND Research Project
- SPARRRC Website (in development)
- DoD Suicide Event Report (DoDSEER)
- Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI)

# RAND Study

*Objective: Review and catalog suicide prevention activities*

- Collect information on effectiveness of suicide prevention programs in military and civilian populations
- Examine existing DoD suicide prevention programs
- Review data analyses from DoD database sources
- Develop recommendations DoD can use to enhance suicide prevention activities

# SPARRC Website

- The purpose of a SPARRC website is to:
  - Create a “clearinghouse” for suicide prevention information, contacts, innovative approaches and tools
  - Create a joint, collaborative space for active duty and veterans
  - More fully utilize the benefits of current and future web technologies
- Currently being developed
- Goal: Coordinate existing sites/resources and expanding their audiences

# Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSEER)

- Previously, the Services collected suicide data through separate processes (e.g., ASER, SESS, DONSIR)
- In order to develop a centralized, comparable collection process, all Services worked with the SPARRC to develop a standardized system
  - The Department of Defense Suicide Event Report (DoDSEER) was launched 1 JAN 08
- DoDSEER provides a comprehensive, annual DoD-wide suicide report that supports examination of risk factors within and between Services

# DoDSER Data Collection

- The Services submit DoDSERs via web form for all suicides, as they are determined by the AFMES
  - This includes Regular, Active Guard Reserve and Activated Reserve and Guard
  - NOTE: There may be Reserve and Guard members whose death by suicide is not reported
  - Active duty deaths by suicide may also not be captured, if AFMES is not involved
- DoDSERs are submitted by behavioral health providers, health care providers, or command appointed representatives
- For calendar year (CY) 2008, DoDSERs were submitted for 90 percent of suicides (235/260)



# Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI)

- DoD has developed a Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) recommending policy for suicide prevention, data collection and reporting
  - Draft version has been completed by a working group that includes representation from all services, Department of Veterans Affairs and civilian partners
  - Currently being routed for approval(s)

# Questions

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