



A Guide to U.S. Military Casualty Statistics: Operation New Dawn, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom

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Summary

This report presents statistics regarding U.S. military casualties in the active Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF, Afghanistan), as well as operations that have ended: Operation New Dawn (OND, Iraq) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF, Iraq). This report includes statistics on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), amputations, evacuations, and the demographics of casualties. Some of these statistics are publicly available at the Department of Defense's (DOD's) website, whereas others have been obtained through contact with experts at DOD.

This report will be updated as needed.

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Overall Casualties in OIF, OND, and OEF

On August 31, 2010, President Obama announced that the U.S. combat mission in Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom, OIF) had ended.¹ A transitional force of U.S. troops remained in Iraq under Operation New Dawn (OND), which ended on December 15, 2011.² (For more information on war dates, see CRS Report RS21405, *U.S. Periods of War and Dates of Current Conflicts*, by Barbara Salazar Torreon.) Several thousand U.S. civilian personnel, contract personnel, and a limited number of U.S. military personnel remain in Iraq carrying out U.S. government business and cooperative programs under the auspices of agreements with the Iraqi government.

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) began on October 7, 2001, and is primarily located in Afghanistan. OEF is ongoing.

Table 1 gives the overall casualties in OIF, OND, and OEF.

Table 1. Overall Casualties in OIF, OND, and OEF, 2001-2014

(as of January 10, 2014)

	U.S. Servicemember Deaths	U.S. Department of Defense Civilian Deaths	U.S. Servicemembers Wounded in Action
Operation Iraqi Freedom ^a	4,410	13	31,942
Operation New Dawn ^b	66	0	295
Operation Enduring Freedom ^c	2,299	3	19,572

Source: Table compiled by the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

- Department of Defense, "Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) U.S. Casualty Status," Fatalities as of December 6, 2013, 10 a.m. EDT, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>.
- Department of Defense, "Operation New Dawn (OND) U.S. Casualty Status," Fatalities as of December 6, 2013, 10 a.m. EDT, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>.
- Department of Defense, "Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) U.S. Casualty Status," Fatalities as of December 6, 2013, 10 a.m. EDT, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>.

Daily updates of total U.S. military casualties in OND, OIF, and OEF can be found at the Department of Defense's (DOD's) website, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>. In addition, CRS Report R41084, *Afghanistan Casualties: Military Forces and Civilians*, contains statistics on Afghan civilian casualties as well as regular updates on American and coalition fatalities in OEF.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

The U.S. Army Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), using the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS), provided the statistics below on the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) cases. According to Dr. Michael Carino of the OSG, a case of PTSD is defined as an

¹ The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, remarks by the President in Address to the Nation on the End of Combat Operations in Iraq, August 31, 2010, at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/08/31/remarks-president-address-nation-end-combat-operations-iraq>.

² Remarks by the President and First Lady on the End of the War in Iraq, December 14, 2011, at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/12/14/remarks-president-and-first-lady-end-war-iraq>.

individual having at least two outpatient visits or one or more hospitalizations at which PTSD was diagnosed. The threshold of two or more outpatient visits is used in the DMSS to increase the likelihood that the individual has, or had, PTSD. A single visit on record commonly reflects someone who was evaluated for possible PTSD, but did not actually meet the criteria for diagnosis.

All those who have been diagnosed as having PTSD during deployment were diagnosed at least 30 days after the individual deployed. However, it is not possible to be certain that the PTSD resulted from an event associated with the deployment. The PTSD could have resulted from an event that occurred prior to a deployment.³

Table 2 and Figure 1 present yearly PTSD diagnoses for all services.

Table 2. Annual New Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Diagnoses in All Services, 2000-2014

(as of January 10, 2014)

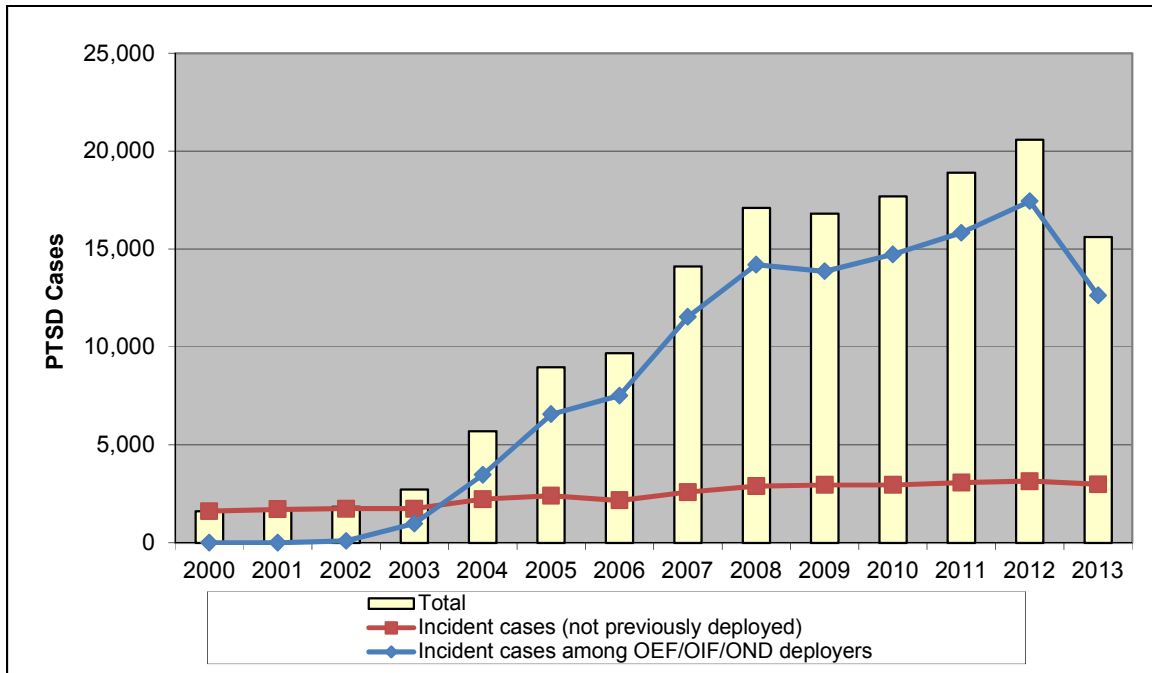
Year	Incident Cases (Not Previously Deployed)	Incident Cases Among OEF/OIF/OND Deployed
2000	1,611	—
2001	1,700	—
2002	1,741	92
2003	1,740	977
2004	2,228	3,468
2005	2,396	6,560
2006	2,162	7,512
2007	2,583	11,531
2008	2,895	14,199
2009	2,951	13,863
2010	2,951	14,725
2011	3,072	15,831
2012	3,139	17,438
2013	2,988	12,632
2014 (as of January 10)	0	1
TOTAL	34,157	118,829

Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, January 10, 2014. Data source is the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS).

³ CRS communication with Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense liaison, September 21, 2010.

Figure I. Annual Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Diagnoses in All Services, 2000-2013

(as of January 10, 2014)



Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, January 10, 2014. Data source is the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS).

Traumatic Brain Injury

Many of the statistics on traumatic brain injury are available to the public at the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (<http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>). Unlike the PTSD numbers, which are broken out by those deployed and those not previously deployed, the TBI numbers represent medical diagnoses of TBI that occurred anywhere U.S. forces are located, including the continental United States.⁴

Table 3 and **Figure 2** show the relative rates of mild, moderate, severe, penetrating, and not classifiable TBIs whereas **Figure 3** shows the number of TBI diagnoses over time.

⁴ Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at <http://www.dvbic.org/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>. The DOD categorizes TBI cases as mild, moderate, severe, or penetrating. Mild TBI is characterized by a confused or disoriented state lasting less than 24 hours; loss of consciousness for up to 30 minutes; memory loss lasting less than 24 hours; and structural brain imaging that yields normal results. Moderate TBI is characterized by a confused or disoriented state that lasts more than 24 hours; loss of consciousness for more than 30 minutes, but less than 24 hours; memory loss lasting greater than 24 hours but less than seven days; and structural brain imaging yielding normal or abnormal results. Severe TBI is characterized by a confused or disoriented state that lasts more than 24 hours; loss of consciousness for more than 24 hours; memory loss for more than seven days; and structural brain imaging yielding normal or abnormal results. A penetrating TBI, or open head injury, is a head injury in which the dura mater, the outer layer of the system of membranes that envelops the central nervous system, is penetrated. Penetrating injuries can be caused by high-velocity projectiles or objects of lower velocity, such as knives, or bone fragments from a skull fracture that are driven into the brain.

Table 3. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) 2000-2013 Q3 by Classification and Service, Deployed and Not Previously Deployed Combined

(as of January 10, 2014)

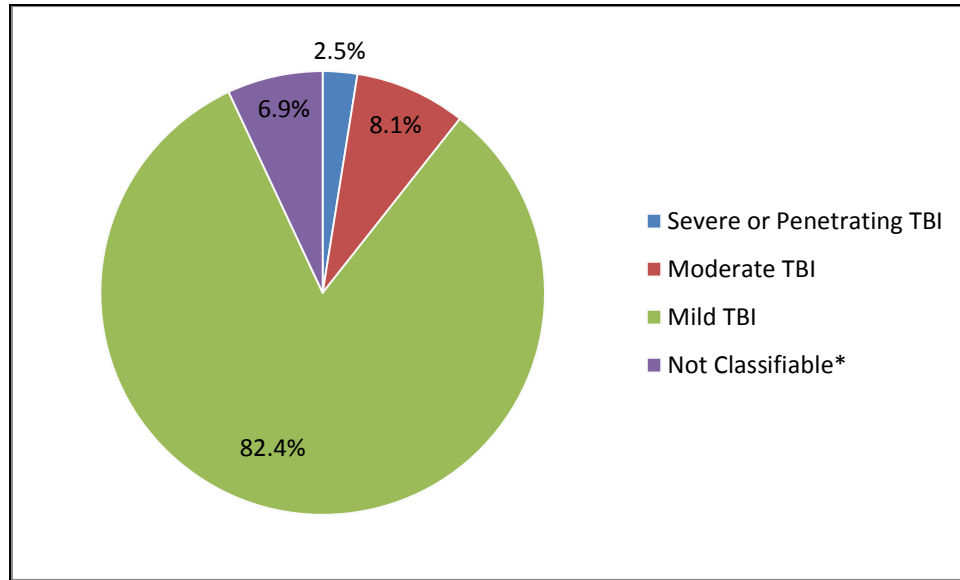
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Totals
Army	Severe or Penetrating	199	198	174	206	256	275	349	428	548	648	379	357	248	116	4,381
	Moderate	591	612	560	560	740	780	878	1,353	1,242	1,167	1,102	1,069	916	754	12,324
	Mild	3,167	3,678	4,074	4,454	5,521	6,238	7,866	12,402	15,245	15,152	15,793	17,346	16,102	10,235	137,273
	Not Classifiable	675	507	436	287	225	271	170	336	2,583	1,872	1,306	2,175	1,938	1,550	14,331
	Total	4,632	4,995	5,244	5,507	6,742	7,564	9,263	14,519	19,618	18,839	18,580	20,947	19,204	12,655	168,309
Navy	Severe or Penetrating	88	113	90	91	98	81	54	57	46	46	43	44	38	20	909
	Moderate	346	367	312	340	292	336	229	261	223	194	169	174	200	144	3,587
	Mild	1,475	1,617	2,023	2,093	2,351	2,377	2,320	2,442	2,482	2,677	2,554	2,662	2,937	2,076	32,086
	Not Classifiable	555	364	258	211	71	62	62	64	69	91	87	143	130	97	2,264
	Total	2,464	2,461	2,683	2,735	2,812	2,856	2,665	2,824	2,820	3,008	2,853	3,023	3,305	2,337	38,846
Air Force	Severe or Penetrating	75	78	67	81	67	63	55	57	49	52	48	61	43	30	826
	Moderate	331	317	278	252	248	232	220	225	208	232	220	193	202	155	3,313
	Mild	1,430	1,698	1,947	2,216	2,366	2,282	2,255	2,410	2,298	2,887	3,058	3,141	3,267	2,250	33,505
	Not Classifiable	241	155	132	76	128	78	41	46	70	64	71	129	143	110	1,484
	Total	2,077	2,248	2,424	2,625	2,809	2,655	2,571	2,738	2,625	3,235	3,397	3,524	3,655	2,545	39,128
Marines	Severe or Penetrating	90	86	60	75	97	92	89	86	74	90	74	97	68	30	1,108
	Moderate	343	374	291	275	294	269	295	391	254	282	324	322	210	171	4,095
	Mild	1,107	1,313	1,604	1,518	1,692	2,009	2,123	2,634	3,008	3,292	3,797	4,396	3,705	2,298	34,496
	Not Classifiable	245	142	101	80	73	86	31	25	63	131	163	316	259	214	1,929
	Total	1,785	1,915	2,056	1,948	2,156	2,456	2,538	3,136	3,399	3,795	4,358	5,131	4,242	2,713	41,628
Grand Total	10,958	11,619	12,407	12,815	14,519	15,531	17,037	23,217	28,462	28,877	29,188	32,625	30,406	20,250	287,911	

Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, January 10, 2012. Data source is Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS), Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, <http://www.dvbc.org/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>.

Note: "Not Classifiable" indicates additional incident information is required prior to TBI categorization.

Figure 2. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) 2000-2013 Q3 by Classification, Deployed and Not Previously Deployed Combined

(as of January 10, 2014)

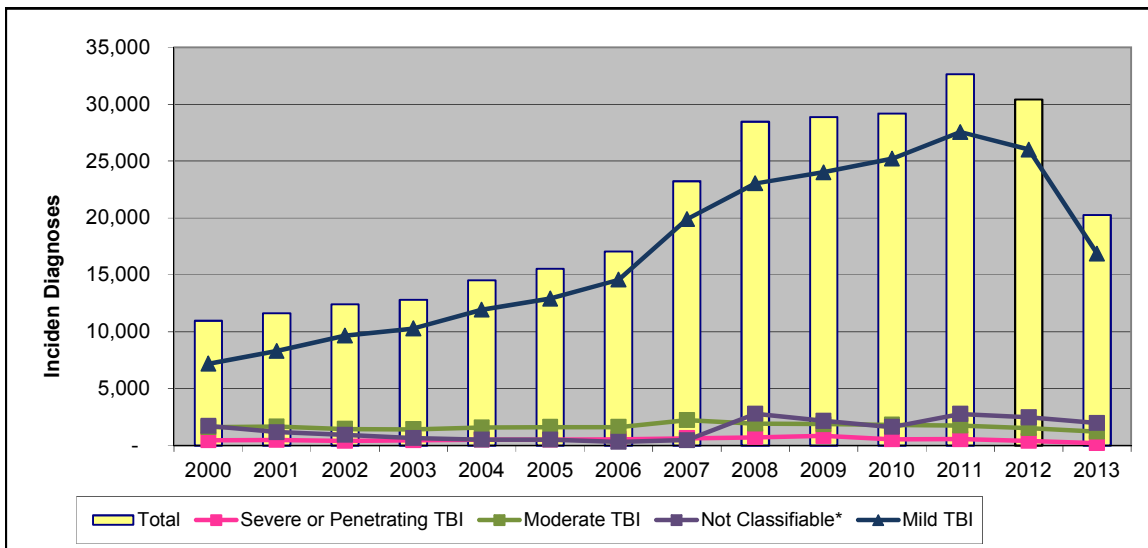


Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, January 10, 2014. Data source is Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS), Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, <http://www.dvbic.org/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>.

Note: “Not Classifiable” indicates additional incident information is required prior to TBI categorization.

Figure 3. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Over Time, 2000-2013 Q3, Deployed and Not Previously Deployed Combined

(as of January 10, 2014)



Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, January 10, 2014. Data source is Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS), Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, <http://www.dvbic.org/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>.

Note: “Not Classifiable” indicates additional incident information is required prior to TBI categorization.

Major Limb Amputations⁵

Table 4 shows the number of individuals with battle-injury major limb amputations for OIF/OND and OEF. A major limb amputation includes the loss of one or more limbs, the loss of one or more partial limbs, or the loss of one or more full or partial hand or foot. The total number of amputations in OIF/OND and OEF as of December 31, 2013, is 1,558.

Table 4. Individuals with Battle-Injury Major Limb Amputations for OEF and OIF/OND, 2001-2013
(as of December 31, 2013)

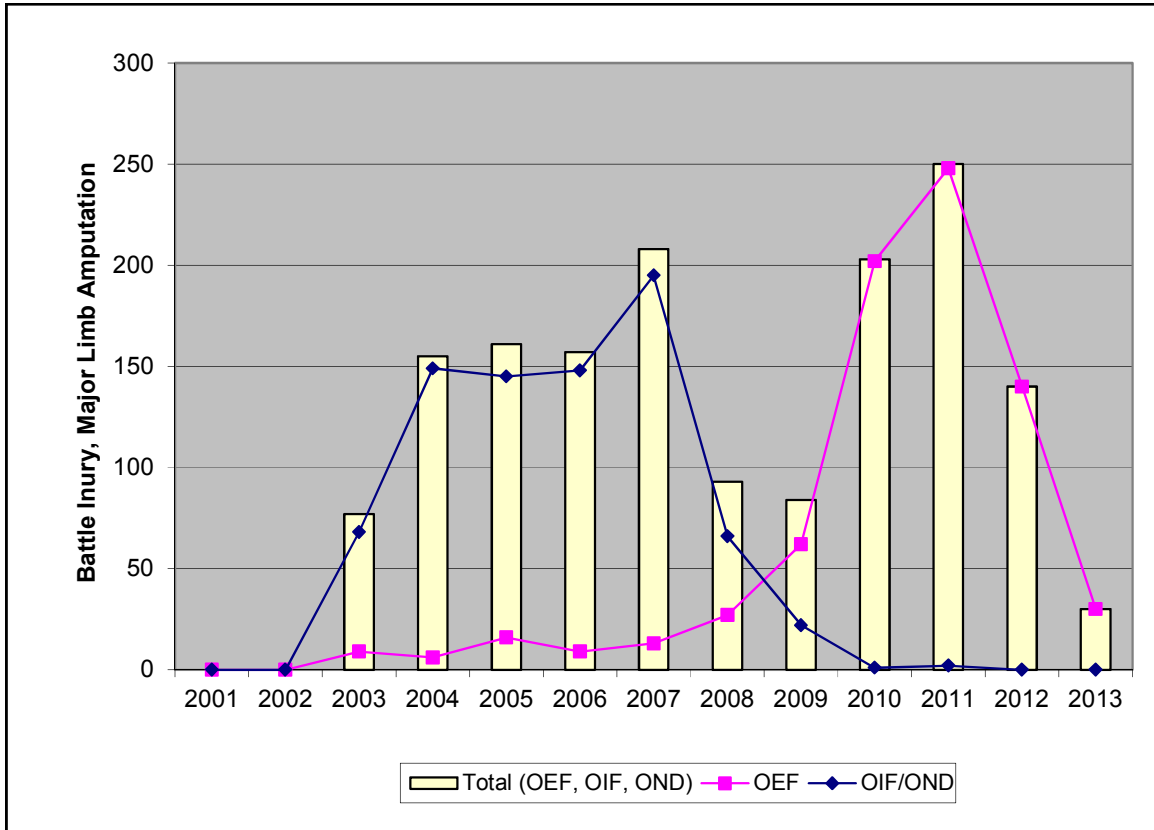
Injury Date	OEF	OIF/OND	Total (OEF, OIF, OND)
2001	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0
2003	9	68	77
2004	6	149	155
2005	16	145	161
2006	9	148	157
2007	13	195	208
2008	27	66	93
2009	62	22	84
2010	202	1	203
2011	248	2	250
2012	140	0	140
2013	30	0	30

Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, January 10, 2014

⁵ The previous update of this report included major and minor limb amputations. However, statistics on minor limb amputations were not available for this update.

From 2003 until the first quarter of 2009, the majority of the major limb amputations due to battle injuries occurred in OIF. In the second quarter of 2009, however, the trend changed, and since that time the majority of the major limb amputations due to battle injuries have occurred in OEF. **Figure 4** charts the number of major-limb amputations due to a battle injury in OIF/OND and OEF from 2001 through December 31, 2013 for all services.

Figure 4. Major-Limb Amputations Due to Battle Injuries in OIF/OND and OEF, 2001-2013
(as of December 21, 2013)



Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael J. Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, January 10, 2014. Data from DOD-VA Extremity Trauma & Amputation Center of Excellence (EACE).

Self-Inflicted Wounds

According to DOD’s casualty website, as of January 6, 2014, 235 servicemembers died of self-inflicted wounds while serving in OIF/OND and 107 died of self-inflicted wounds while serving in OEF.⁶

⁶ Department of Defense Personnel and Procurement Statistics, Statistical Information and Analysis Department, OIF at https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report_oif_type.xhtml, OND at https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report_ond_type.xhtml, and OEF at https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report_oef_type.xhtml.

Gender Distribution of Deaths

Table 5 and **Table 6** provide statistics on the gender distribution of OIF/OND and OEF casualties (also available on DOD’s website, <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>). All numbers for OIF/OND and OEF are current as of January 6, 2014. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 5. OIF/OND Gender Distribution of Deaths, 2002-2014
(as of January 6, 2014)

Gender	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Male	4,366	97.5
Female	110	2.5
Total	4,476	100.0

Source: Data from Defense Manpower Data Center, at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>.

Table 6. OEF Gender Distribution of Deaths, 2001-2014
(as of January 6, 2014)

Gender	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Male	2,250	97.9
Female	49	2.1
Total	2,299	100.0

Source: Data from Defense Manpower Data Center, at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>.

Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

Table 7 and **Table 8** provide statistics on the race and ethnicity distribution of OIF/OND and OEF casualties (also on DOD’s website, <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>). All numbers for OIF/OND and OEF are current as of January 6, 2014. Percentages do not total 100 because servicemembers may be listed twice, once under a race (such as “White”) and once under an ethnicity (such as “Hispanic or Spanish”).

Table 7. OIF/OND Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths, 2002-2014
(as of January 6, 2014)

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
American Indian/Alaska Native	43	1.0
Asian	78	1.7
Black or African American	444	9.9
Hispanic or Spanish	230	5.1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	18	0.4
White	3,697	82.6
Multiple Races	63	1.4

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Unknown	133	3.0
Total	4,476	

Source: Data from Defense Manpower Data Center, at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>.

Table 8. OEF Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths, 2000-2014
(as of January 6, 2014)

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
American Indian/Alaska Native	29	1.3
Asian	63	2.7
Black or African American	188	8.2
Hispanic or Spanish	92	4.0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	7	0.3
White	1,953	84.9
Multiple Races	29	1.3
Unknown	30	1.3
Total	2,299	

Source: Data from Defense Manpower Data Center, at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>.

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