

# 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)

[www.t2health.org](http://www.t2health.org)



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PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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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](http://www.t2health.org), and 2) the DoD's Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Committee (SPARRC) website, [www.suicideoutreach.org](http://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 Junor  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
Readiness

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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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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# CONTENTS

---

|    |                                                                                                                                                         |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I  | ACKNOWLEDGMENTS                                                                                                                                         |
| VI | LIST OF TABLES                                                                                                                                          |
| 1  | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY                                                                                                                                       |
| 1  | Background                                                                                                                                              |
| 1  | Results                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4  | Conclusion                                                                                                                                              |
| 5  | CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION                                                                                                                                 |
| 5  | Background                                                                                                                                              |
| 5  | Modifications in DoDSER 2010                                                                                                                            |
| 5  | Method                                                                                                                                                  |
| 8  | Interpretive Considerations                                                                                                                             |
| 9  | Future Directions                                                                                                                                       |
| 10 | CHAPTER 2: DOD-WIDE DODSER RESULTS                                                                                                                      |
| 10 | DoDSERs Submitted for Completed Suicides                                                                                                                |
| 10 | DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance                                                                                                |
| 11 | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                                                                                                          |
| 18 | Contextual Factors                                                                                                                                      |
| 20 | Clinical Health Factors                                                                                                                                 |
| 25 | Historical/Developmental Factors                                                                                                                        |
| 29 | Deployment Factors                                                                                                                                      |
| 31 | DoDSERs Submitted for Suicide Attempts                                                                                                                  |
| 31 | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                                                                                                          |
| 36 | Contextual Factors                                                                                                                                      |
| 38 | Clinical Health Factors                                                                                                                                 |
| 43 | Historical/Developmental Factors                                                                                                                        |
| 46 | Deployment Factors                                                                                                                                      |
| 48 | Summary                                                                                                                                                 |
| 49 | CHAPTER 3: DODSERS SUBMITTED FOR SERVICE MEMBERS DEPLOYED TO OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) & OPERATION NEW DAWN (OND) |
| 49 | DoDSERs Submitted for Completed Suicides                                                                                                                |
| 49 | DoDSER Submissions                                                                                                                                      |
| 49 | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                                                                                                          |

|     |                                                                    |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 56  | Clinical Health Factors                                            |
| 63  | Historical/Developmental Factors                                   |
| 68  | Deployment Factors                                                 |
| 71  | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                     |
| 71  | <b>OEF, OIF &amp; OND DoDSERs Submitted for Suicide Attempts</b>   |
| 76  | Clinical Health Factors                                            |
| 81  | Historical/Developmental Factors                                   |
| 85  | Deployment Factors                                                 |
| 87  | <b>Summary</b>                                                     |
| 88  | <b>CHAPTER 4: AIR FORCE DODSER</b>                                 |
| 88  | <b>Air Force Results For Completed Suicides</b>                    |
| 88  | Air Force DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance |
| 89  | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                     |
| 93  | Contextual Factors                                                 |
| 95  | Clinical Health Factors                                            |
| 100 | Historical/Developmental Factors                                   |
| 104 | Deployment Factors                                                 |
| 106 | <b>Air Force DoDSERs Submitted for Suicide Attempts</b>            |
| 106 | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                     |
| 111 | Contextual Factors                                                 |
| 113 | Clinical Health Factors                                            |
| 117 | Historical/Developmental Factors                                   |
| 121 | Deployment Factors                                                 |
| 123 | <b>Summary</b>                                                     |
| 124 | <b>CHAPTER 5: ARMY DODSER</b>                                      |
| 124 | <b>Army Results For Completed Suicides</b>                         |
| 124 | Army DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance      |
| 125 | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                     |
| 130 | Contextual Factors                                                 |
| 132 | Clinical Health Factors                                            |
| 136 | Historical/Developmental Factors                                   |
| 140 | Deployment Factors                                                 |
| 142 | <b>Army DoDSERs Submitted for Non-fatal Events</b>                 |
| 143 | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                     |
| 150 | Contextual Factors                                                 |

|     |                                                                     |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 153 | Clinical Health Factors                                             |
| 160 | Historical/Developmental Factors                                    |
| 166 | Deployment Factors                                                  |
| 168 | Summary                                                             |
| 169 | <b>CHAPTER 6: MARINE CORPS DODSER</b>                               |
| 169 | Marine Corps Results For Completed Suicides                         |
| 169 | Marine Corps DoDSER Submissions & Point of Contact (POC) Compliance |
| 169 | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                      |
| 174 | Contextual Factors                                                  |
| 176 | Clinical Health Factors                                             |
| 181 | Historical/Developmental Factors                                    |
| 185 | Deployment Factors                                                  |
| 187 | Marine Corps DoDSERs Submitted for Suicide Attempts                 |
| 187 | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                      |
| 192 | Contextual Factors                                                  |
| 193 | Clinical Health Factors                                             |
| 198 | Historical/Developmental Factors                                    |
| 202 | Deployment Factors                                                  |
| 203 | Summary                                                             |
| 204 | <b>CHAPTER 7: NAVY DODSER</b>                                       |
| 204 | Navy Results For Completed Suicides                                 |
| 204 | Navy DoDSER Submissions and Point of Contact (POC) Compliance       |
| 204 | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                      |
| 209 | Contextual Factors                                                  |
| 211 | Clinical Health Factors                                             |
| 216 | Historical/Developmental Factors                                    |
| 220 | Deployment Factors                                                  |
| 221 | Navy DoDSERs Submitted for Suicide Attempts                         |
| 221 | Dispositional/Personal Factors                                      |
| 226 | Contextual Factors                                                  |
| 227 | Clinical Health Factors                                             |
| 228 | Behavioral Health Disorders                                         |
| 232 | Historical/Developmental Factors                                    |
| 236 | Deployment Factors                                                  |
| 237 | Summary                                                             |

|     |                                    |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| 238 | APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY               |
| 240 | APPENDIX B: ACRONYMS               |
| 241 | APPENDIX C: REFERENCES             |
| 242 | APPENDIX D: FEEDBACK & SUGGESTIONS |

# LIST OF TABLES

---

## CHAPTER 2: DoD-WIDE DoDSER RESULTS

|    |                                                                                                 |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | TABLE 2.1. AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DoDSERS SUBMITTED                           |
| 10 | TABLE 2.2. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA                                |
| 12 | TABLE 2.3. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR SUICIDES                   |
| 13 | TABLE 2.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR SUICIDES BY SERVICE        |
| 15 | TABLE 2.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION                               |
| 15 | TABLE 2.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER EVENT SETTING                                           |
| 15 | TABLE 2.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER EVENT METHOD                                            |
| 16 | TABLE 2.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE                        |
| 17 | TABLE 2.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT    |
| 17 | TABLE 2.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                            |
| 18 | TABLE 2.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION                           |
| 18 | TABLE 2.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                      |
| 19 | TABLE 2.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT                                       |
| 20 | TABLE 2.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT                                       |
| 20 | TABLE 2.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUICIDES BY MONTH                                      |
| 21 | TABLE 2.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY                                      |
| 21 | TABLE 2.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES                                      |
| 22 | TABLE 2.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS                                         |
| 22 | TABLE 2.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS                                      |
| 23 | TABLE 2.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS                      |
| 24 | TABLE 2.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY                                      |
| 25 | TABLE 2.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE                            |
| 25 | TABLE 2.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE                  |
| 26 | TABLE 2.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY                                         |
| 27 | TABLE 2.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY                       |
| 28 | TABLE 2.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY                                          |
| 29 | TABLE 2.27. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES                   |
| 29 | TABLE 2.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUICIDES IN THEATER                                    |
| 30 | TABLE 2.29. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY                         |
| 30 | TABLE 2.30. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY                                         |
| 31 | TABLE 2.31. CY 2010 DOD SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS                                                 |
| 31 | TABLE 2.32. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA                             |
| 32 | TABLE 2.33. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER DEMOGRAPHICS                                         |
| 33 | TABLE 2.34. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION                            |
| 33 | TABLE 2.35. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT SETTING                                        |
| 33 | TABLE 2.36. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT METHOD                                         |
| 34 | TABLE 2.37. CY 2010 DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                            |
| 35 | TABLE 2.38. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT |
| 35 | TABLE 2.39. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                          |
| 35 | TABLE 2.40. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                    |
| 35 | TABLE 2.41. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION                         |
| 36 | TABLE 2.42. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT                                     |
| 37 | TABLE 2.43. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT                                     |
| 37 | TABLE 2.44. CY 2010 DoDSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH                                            |
| 38 | TABLE 2.45. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY                                    |
| 39 | TABLE 2.46. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES                                    |

|    |                                                                                 |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 39 | TABLE 2.47. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS                       |
| 40 | TABLE 2.48. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS                    |
| 40 | TABLE 2.49. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS    |
| 41 | TABLE 2.50. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY                    |
| 42 | TABLE 2.51. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE          |
| 43 | TABLE 2.52. CY 2010 DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT        |
| 43 | TABLE 2.53. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY                       |
| 44 | TABLE 2.54. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY     |
| 45 | TABLE 2.55. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY                        |
| 46 | TABLE 2.56. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES |
| 47 | TABLE 2.57. CY 2010 DoDSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER                          |
| 47 | TABLE 2.58. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY       |
| 47 | TABLE 2.59. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY                       |

### CHAPTER 3: DoDSERs SUBMITTED FOR SERVICE MEMBERS DEPLOYED TO OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) & OPERATION NEW DAWN (OND)

|    |                                                                                                                                 |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 50 | TABLE 3.1. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                             |
| 51 | TABLE 3.2. CY 2010 DoDSER EVENT SETTING FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                                      |
| 52 | TABLE 3.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND & OTHER SUICIDES                         |
| 54 | TABLE 3.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES |
| 54 | TABLE 3.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                          |
| 54 | TABLE 3.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                    |
| 55 | TABLE 3.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                         |
| 56 | TABLE 3.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUICIDES BY MONTH FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                    |
| 57 | TABLE 3.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                   |
| 57 | TABLE 3.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                   |
| 58 | TABLE 3.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                      |
| 59 | TABLE 3.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                   |
| 60 | TABLE 3.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                   |
| 61 | TABLE 3.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                   |
| 62 | TABLE 3.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                         |
| 63 | TABLE 3.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES               |
| 64 | TABLE 3.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                      |
| 65 | TABLE 3.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                    |
| 66 | TABLE 3.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                       |
| 68 | TABLE 3.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                |
| 69 | TABLE 3.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER SUICIDES IN THEATER FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                 |
| 69 | TABLE 3.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER DEPLOYMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                  |
| 69 | TABLE 3.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES                                      |
| 71 | TABLE 3.25. CY 2010 OEF/OIF SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS                                                                             |
| 71 | TABLE 3.26. CY 2010 DoDSER DEMOGRAPHICS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                                              |
| 72 | TABLE 3.27. CY 2010 DoDSER EVENT SETTING FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                                             |
| 73 | TABLE 3.28. CY 2010 DoDSER EVENT METHOD FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                                              |
| 73 | TABLE 3.29. CY 2010 DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                            |
| 74 | TABLE 3.30. CY 2010 DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS      |
| 74 | TABLE 3.31. CY 2010 DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                               |
| 75 | TABLE 3.32. CY 2010 DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                         |
| 75 | TABLE 3.33. CY 2010 DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                              |

|    |                                                                                                            |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 76 | TABLE 3.34. CY 2010 DoDSER SUICIDE EVENTS BY MONTH FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS              |
| 76 | TABLE 3.35. CY 2010 DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                    |
| 77 | TABLE 3.36. CY 2010 DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                    |
| 77 | TABLE 3.37. CY 2010 DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                       |
| 78 | TABLE 3.38. CY 2010 DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                    |
| 79 | TABLE 3.39. CY 2010 DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS    |
| 79 | TABLE 3.40. CY 2010 DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                    |
| 80 | TABLE 3.41. CY 2010 DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS          |
| 81 | TABLE 3.42. CY 2010 DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO EVENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS  |
| 82 | TABLE 3.43. CY 2010 DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                       |
| 83 | TABLE 3.44. CY 2010 DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS     |
| 84 | TABLE 3.45. CY 2010 DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                        |
| 84 | TABLE 3.46. CY 2010 DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS |
| 85 | TABLE 3.47. CY 2010 DoDSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS          |
| 85 | TABLE 3.48. CY 2010 DoDSER DEPLOYMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                   |
| 86 | TABLE 3.49. CY 2010 DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                       |

#### CHAPTER 4: AIR FORCE DoDSER

|     |                                                                                                        |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 88  | TABLE 4.1. AIR FORCE AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DoDSERS SUBMITTED                        |
| 88  | TABLE 4.2. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA                             |
| 89  | TABLE 4.3. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR AIR FORCE SUICIDES                |
| 90  | TABLE 4.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION                            |
| 90  | TABLE 4.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER EVENT SETTING                                        |
| 91  | TABLE 4.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER EVENT METHOD                                         |
| 91  | TABLE 4.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT                       |
| 92  | TABLE 4.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT |
| 92  | TABLE 4.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                          |
| 92  | TABLE 4.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                   |
| 93  | TABLE 4.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION                        |
| 94  | TABLE 4.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT                                    |
| 95  | TABLE 4.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT                                    |
| 95  | TABLE 4.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUICIDES BY MONTH                                   |
| 96  | TABLE 4.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY                                   |
| 96  | TABLE 4.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES                                   |
| 97  | TABLE 4.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS                                      |
| 97  | TABLE 4.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS                                   |
| 98  | TABLE 4.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS                   |
| 99  | TABLE 4.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY                                   |
| 100 | TABLE 4.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE                         |
| 100 | TABLE 4.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE               |
| 101 | TABLE 4.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY                                      |
| 102 | TABLE 4.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY                    |
| 103 | TABLE 4.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY                                       |
| 104 | TABLE 4.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES                |
| 104 | TABLE 4.27. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUICIDES IN THEATER                                 |
| 105 | TABLE 4.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY                      |
| 105 | TABLE 4.29. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 AIR FORCE DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY                                      |
| 106 | TABLE 4.30. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS                                                  |
| 106 | TABLE 4.31. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA                          |
| 107 | TABLE 4.32. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER DEMOGRAPHICS                                      |

|     |                                                                                                           |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 108 | TABLE 4.33. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION                            |
| 108 | TABLE 4.34. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT SETTING                                        |
| 108 | TABLE 4.35. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER EVENT METHOD                                         |
| 109 | TABLE 4.36. CY 2010 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                            |
| 110 | TABLE 4.37. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT |
| 110 | TABLE 4.38. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                          |
| 110 | TABLE 4.39. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                    |
| 110 | TABLE 4.40. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION                         |
| 111 | TABLE 4.41. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT                                     |
| 112 | TABLE 4.42. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT                                     |
| 112 | TABLE 4.43. CY 2010 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH                                            |
| 113 | TABLE 4.44. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY                                    |
| 114 | TABLE 4.45. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES                                    |
| 114 | TABLE 4.46. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS                                       |
| 115 | TABLE 4.47. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS                                    |
| 115 | TABLE 4.48. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS                    |
| 116 | TABLE 4.49. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY                                    |
| 117 | TABLE 4.50. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE                          |
| 118 | TABLE 4.51. CY 2010 AIR FORCE DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT                        |
| 118 | TABLE 4.52. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY                                       |
| 119 | TABLE 4.53. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY                     |
| 120 | TABLE 4.54. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY                                        |
| 121 | TABLE 4.55. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES                 |
| 121 | TABLE 4.56. CY 2010 AIR FORCE DoDSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER                                          |
| 122 | TABLE 4.57. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY                       |
| 122 | TABLE 4.58. CY 2010 AIR FORCE SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY                                       |

## CHAPTER 5: ARMY DoDSER

|     |                                                                                                   |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 124 | TABLE 5.1. ARMY AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DoDSERS SUBMITTED                        |
| 124 | TABLE 5.2. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA                             |
| 125 | TABLE 5.3. CY 2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR ARMY SUICIDES (N = 160)          |
| 126 | TABLE 5.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION                            |
| 126 | TABLE 5.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT SETTING                                        |
| 127 | TABLE 5.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT METHOD                                         |
| 127 | TABLE 5.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE                     |
| 128 | TABLE 5.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT |
| 128 | TABLE 5.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                          |
| 129 | TABLE 5.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                   |
| 129 | TABLE 5.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION                        |
| 130 | TABLE 5.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT                                    |
| 131 | TABLE 5.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT                                    |
| 131 | TABLE 5.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER SUICIDES BY MONTH                                   |
| 132 | TABLE 5.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY                                   |
| 133 | TABLE 5.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES                                   |
| 133 | TABLE 5.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS                                      |
| 133 | TABLE 5.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS                                   |
| 134 | TABLE 5.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS                   |
| 135 | TABLE 5.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY                                   |
| 136 | TABLE 5.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE                         |
| 137 | TABLE 5.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE               |

|     |                                                                                                                                 |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 137 | TABLE 5.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY                                                                    |
| 138 | TABLE 5.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY                                                  |
| 139 | TABLE 5.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY                                                                     |
| 140 | TABLE 5.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES                                              |
| 141 | TABLE 5.27. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER SUICIDES IN THEATER                                                               |
| 141 | TABLE 5.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY                                                    |
| 141 | TABLE 5.29. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY                                                                    |
| 142 | TABLE 5.30. CY 2010 ARMY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSERS                                                                                |
| 142 | TABLE 5.31. CY 2010 ARMY DoDSERS FOR SELF-HARM WITHOUT INTENT TO DIE                                                            |
| 142 | TABLE 5.32. CY 2010 ARMY SUICIDAL IDEATION DODSERS                                                                              |
| 143 | TABLE 5.33. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                             |
| 144 | TABLE 5.34. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER DEMOGRAPHICS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                         |
| 145 | TABLE 5.35. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                            |
| 146 | TABLE 5.36. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT SETTING FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                        |
| 146 | TABLE 5.37. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER EVENT METHOD FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                         |
| 147 | TABLE 5.38. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                 |
| 148 | TABLE 5.39. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS |
| 149 | TABLE 5.40. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                          |
| 149 | TABLE 5.41. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                    |
| 150 | TABLE 5.42. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                         |
| 151 | TABLE 5.43. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                     |
| 152 | TABLE 5.44. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                     |
| 153 | TABLE 5.45. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS BY MONTH                                                 |
| 154 | TABLE 5.46. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                    |
| 155 | TABLE 5.47. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER COMORBIDITY RATES FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                    |
| 155 | TABLE 5.48. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                       |
| 156 | TABLE 5.49. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ANXIETY DISORDERS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                    |
| 157 | TABLE 5.50. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                    |
| 158 | TABLE 5.51. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                    |
| 159 | TABLE 5.52. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                          |
| 161 | TABLE 5.53. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                            |
| 161 | TABLE 5.54. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FAMILY HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                       |
| 163 | TABLE 5.55. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                     |
| 164 | TABLE 5.56. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                        |
| 165 | TABLE 5.57. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                 |
| 166 | TABLE 5.58. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS IN THEATER                                               |
| 166 | TABLE 5.59. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY                                                    |
| 167 | TABLE 5.60. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS                                       |

## CHAPTER 6: MARINE CORPS DoDSER

|     |                                                                                                           |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 169 | TABLE 6.1. MARINE CORPS AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DODSERS SUBMITTED                        |
| 169 | TABLE 6.2. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA                             |
| 170 | TABLE 6.3. CY 2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR MARINE CORPS SUICIDES                    |
| 171 | TABLE 6.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION                            |
| 171 | TABLE 6.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER EVENT SETTING                                        |
| 172 | TABLE 6.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER EVENT METHOD                                         |
| 172 | TABLE 6.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE                     |
| 173 | TABLE 6.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT |
| 173 | TABLE 6.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                          |

|     |                                                                                                              |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 173 | TABLE 6.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                      |
| 174 | TABLE 6.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION                           |
| 175 | TABLE 6.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT                                       |
| 176 | TABLE 6.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT                                       |
| 176 | TABLE 6.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDES BY MONTH                                      |
| 177 | TABLE 6.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY                                      |
| 177 | TABLE 6.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES                                      |
| 178 | TABLE 6.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER MOOD DISORDERS                                         |
| 178 | TABLE 6.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS                                      |
| 179 | TABLE 6.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS                      |
| 180 | TABLE 6.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY                                      |
| 181 | TABLE 6.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE                            |
| 181 | TABLE 6.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE                  |
| 182 | TABLE 6.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER FAMILY HISTORY                                         |
| 183 | TABLE 6.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY                       |
| 184 | TABLE 6.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER ABUSE HISTORY                                          |
| 184 | TABLE 6.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES                   |
| 185 | TABLE 6.27. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDES IN THEATER                                    |
| 185 | TABLE 6.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY                         |
| 186 | TABLE 6.29. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER COMBAT HISTORY                                         |
| 187 | TABLE 6.30. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSERS                                                     |
| 187 | TABLE 6.31. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA                             |
| 188 | TABLE 6.32. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS                                         |
| 189 | TABLE 6.33. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION                            |
| 189 | TABLE 6.34. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT SETTING                                        |
| 189 | TABLE 6.35. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT METHOD                                         |
| 190 | TABLE 6.36. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS                            |
| 190 | TABLE 6.37. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT |
| 190 | TABLE 6.38. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                          |
| 191 | TABLE 6.39. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                    |
| 191 | TABLE 6.40. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION                         |
| 192 | TABLE 6.41. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT                                     |
| 193 | TABLE 6.42. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT                                     |
| 193 | TABLE 6.43. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH                                            |
| 194 | TABLE 6.44. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY                                    |
| 194 | TABLE 6.45. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES                                    |
| 195 | TABLE 6.46. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS                                       |
| 195 | TABLE 6.47. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS                                    |
| 196 | TABLE 6.48. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS                    |
| 196 | TABLE 6.49. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY                                    |
| 197 | TABLE 6.50. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE                          |
| 198 | TABLE 6.51. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT                        |
| 199 | TABLE 6.52. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAMILY HISTORY                                       |
| 200 | TABLE 6.53. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY                     |
| 200 | TABLE 6.54. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ABUSE HISTORY                                        |
| 201 | TABLE 6.55. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES                 |
| 202 | TABLE 6.56. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS IN THEATER                                          |
| 202 | TABLE 6.57. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY                       |
| 202 | TABLE 6.58. CY 2010 MARINE CORPS SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMBAT HISTORY                                       |

## CHAPTER 7: NAVY DoDSER

|     |                                                                                                      |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 204 | TABLE 7.1. NAVY AFMES CONFIRMED AND PENDING SUICIDES AND DODSERS SUBMITTED                           |
| 204 | TABLE 7.2. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA                                |
| 205 | TABLE 7.3. CY 2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR NAVY SUICIDES ( <b>N</b> = 39)      |
| 206 | TABLE 7.4. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION                               |
| 206 | TABLE 7.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER EVENT SETTING                                           |
| 207 | TABLE 7.6. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER EVENT METHOD                                            |
| 207 | TABLE 7.7. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE                        |
| 208 | TABLE 7.8. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT    |
| 208 | TABLE 7.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                             |
| 208 | TABLE 7.10. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                      |
| 209 | TABLE 7.11. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION                           |
| 210 | TABLE 7.12. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT                                       |
| 210 | TABLE 7.13. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT                                       |
| 211 | TABLE 7.14. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER SUICIDES BY MONTH                                      |
| 211 | TABLE 7.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY                                      |
| 212 | TABLE 7.16. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES                                      |
| 212 | TABLE 7.17. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER MOOD DISORDERS                                         |
| 213 | TABLE 7.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS                                      |
| 214 | TABLE 7.19. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS                      |
| 214 | TABLE 7.20. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY                                      |
| 215 | TABLE 7.21. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE                            |
| 216 | TABLE 7.22. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE                  |
| 217 | TABLE 7.23. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER FAMILY HISTORY                                         |
| 218 | TABLE 7.24. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY                       |
| 218 | TABLE 7.25. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER ABUSE HISTORY                                          |
| 219 | TABLE 7.26. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES                   |
| 220 | TABLE 7.27. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY                         |
| 220 | TABLE 7.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER COMBAT HISTORY                                         |
| 221 | TABLE 7.29. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSERS                                                     |
| 221 | TABLE 7.30. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MISSING AND UNKNOWN DATA                             |
| 222 | TABLE 7.31. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DEMOGRAPHICS                                         |
| 223 | TABLE 7.32. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION                            |
| 223 | TABLE 7.33. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT SETTING                                        |
| 223 | TABLE 7.34. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER EVENT METHOD                                         |
| 224 | TABLE 7.35. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING SUICIDE ATTEMPTS            |
| 224 | TABLE 7.36. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT |
| 224 | TABLE 7.37. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                          |
| 225 | TABLE 7.38. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT                    |
| 225 | TABLE 7.39. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION                         |
| 226 | TABLE 7.40. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER HOME ENVIRONMENT                                     |
| 227 | TABLE 7.41. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER DUTY ENVIRONMENT                                     |
| 227 | TABLE 7.42. CY 2010 NAVY DODSER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY MONTH                                            |
| 228 | TABLE 7.43. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY                                    |
| 228 | TABLE 7.44. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMORBIDITY RATES                                    |
| 229 | TABLE 7.45. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER MOOD DISORDERS                                       |
| 229 | TABLE 7.46. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS                                    |
| 230 | TABLE 7.47. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS                    |
| 230 | TABLE 7.48. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER TREATMENT HISTORY                                    |
| 231 | TABLE 7.49. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE                          |

|     |                                                                                               |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 232 | TABLE 7.50. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAILED RELATIONSHIPS PRIOR TO SUICIDE ATTEMPT |
| 233 | TABLE 7.51. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FAMILY HISTORY                                |
| 234 | TABLE 7.52. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL HISTORY              |
| 234 | TABLE 7.53. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER ABUSE HISTORY                                 |
| 235 | TABLE 7.54. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER FINANCIAL AND WORKPLACE DIFFICULTIES          |
| 236 | TABLE 7.55. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY                |
| 236 | TABLE 7.56. CY 2010 NAVY SUICIDE ATTEMPT DODSER COMBAT HISTORY                                |

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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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

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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

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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

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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

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## Background

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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

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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

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### 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

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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

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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**

|                                                  |           | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                  |           | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN | 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

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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<br>Total % | Rate/<br>100K | Count | Percent | Rate/<br>100K | Count | Percent | Rate/<br>100K |
|           |                                         | 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         | 53    | 19.78%  | 12.10         |
|           | 35-39                                   | 33      | 11.19%  | 11.85%         | 16.53         | 26    | 8.41%   | 12.62         |       |         |               |
|           | 40-44                                   | 14      | 4.75%   | 8.09%          | *             | 15    | 4.85%   | *             | 35    | 13.06%  | 15.7          |
|           | 45+                                     | 2       | 0.68%   | 5.78%          | *             | 10    | 3.24%   | *             |       |         |               |
| 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.)

|                |                            |     |        |        |       |     |        |       |     |        |      |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----|--------|--------|-------|-----|--------|-------|-----|--------|------|
| MARITAL STATUS | 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%  | *    |
|                | 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   |         | Service<br>Total % | Rate/<br>100K | Suicide |         | Service<br>Total % | Rate/<br>100K | Suicide      |         | Service<br>Total % | Rate/<br>100K | Suicide |         | Service<br>Total % | Rate/<br>100K |
|           |                                    | Count     | Percent |                    |               | Count   | Percent |                    |               | Count        | Percent |                    |               | Count   | Percent |                    |               |
| TOTAL     |                                    | 59        | 100.00% | 100.00%            | 15.51         | 160     | 100.00% | 100.00%            | 21.72         | 37           | 100.00% | 100.00%            | 17.21         | 39      | 100.00% | 100.00%            | 11.08         |
| GENDER    | Male                               | 57        | 96.61%  | 80.68%             | 18.57         | 151     | 94.38%  | 86.00%             | 23.84         | 36           | 97.30%  | 93.42%             | 17.92         | 37      | 94.87%  | 83.78%             | 19.57         |
|           | Female                             | 2         | 3.39%   | 19.32%             | *             | 9       | 5.63%   | 14.00%             | *             | 1            | 2.70%   | 6.58%              | *             | 2       | 5.13%   | 16.22%             | *             |
| RACE      | American Indian/<br>Alaskan Native | 1         | 1.69%   | 0.65%              | *             | 4       | 2.50%   | 0.79%              | *             | 0            | 0.00%   | 1.08%              | *             | 1       | 2.56%   | 4.41%              | *             |
|           | Asian/P.I.                         | 1         | 1.69%   | 3.57%              | *             | 11      | 6.88%   | 3.53%              | *             | 2            | 5.41%   | 3.14%              | *             | 2       | 5.13%   | 6.47%              | *             |
|           | African American                   | 8         | 13.56%  | 13.88%             | *             | 20      | 12.50%  | 19.33%             | 14.05         | 3            | 8.11%   | 10.24%             | *             | 5       | 12.82%  | 17.83%             | 12.86         |
|           | Caucasian                          | 46        | 77.97%  | 73.38%             | 17.20         | 125     | 78.13%  | 70.95%             | 23.92         | 32           | 86.49%  | 78.48%             | 18.96         | 30      | 76.92%  | 61.51%             | 19.80         |
|           | Other/Don't Know                   | 1         | 1.69%   | 8.52%              | *             | 0       | 0.00%   | 5.40%              | *             | 0            | 0.00%   | 7.05%              | *             | 1       | 2.56%   | 9.77%              | *             |
|           |                                    |           |         |                    |               |         |         |                    |               |              |         |                    |               |         |         |                    |               |
| 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         | 22      | 56.41%  | 36.36%             | 23.03         |
|           | 25-29                              | 16        | 27.12%  | 23.89%             | *             | 46      | 28.75%  | 23.71%             | 26.34         | 8            | 21.62%  | 21.46%             | *             | 6       | 15.38%  | 23.60%             | 19.25         |
|           | 30-34                              | 5         | 8.47%   | 16.20%             | *             | 17      | 10.63%  | 15.13%             | *             | 5            | 13.51%  | 9.78%              | *             | 3       | 7.69%   | 15.34%             | 12.09         |
|           | 35-39                              | 14        | 23.73%  | 13.18%             | *             | 11      | 6.88%   | 12.31%             | *             | 1            | 2.70%   | 6.63%              | *             | 7       | 17.95%  | 12.66%             | 16.53         |
|           | 40-44                              | 3         | 5.08%   | 9.59%              | *             | 10      | 6.25%   | 9.06%              | *             | 0            | 0.00%   | 3.34%              | *             | 1       | 2.56%   | 7.35%              | *             |
|           | 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% | 22.91 |
|                | 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% | 17.15 |
|                | 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% | 17.52 |
|                | 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%  | 29.91 |
|                | 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% | 19.77 |
|                | 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% | 18.99 |
|                | 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% | 15.64 |
|                | 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%  | 24.20 |
|                | 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 | Percent |
|                     | United States    | 232   | 82.56%  | 78.79%  | 79.01%  |
|                     | Iraq             | 12    | 4.27%   | 10.44%  | 12.76%  |
|                     | Afghanistan      | 17    | 6.05%   | 2.36%   | 2.88%   |
|                     | Kuwait           | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.34%   | 0.41%   |
|                     | Djibouti         | 1     | 0.36%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Asia             | 11    | 3.91%   | 2.36%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Europe           | 2     | 0.71%   | 2.69%   | 2.06%   |
|                     | Canada or Mexico | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.34%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Other            | 6     | 2.14%   | 2.36%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Don't Know       | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.34%   | 2.88%   |

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

| EVENT SETTING |                                  | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|               |                                  | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
|               | Residence (own) or barracks      | 157   | 55.87%  | 60.27%  | 56.79%  |
|               | Residence of friend or family    | 32    | 11.39%  | 8.08%   | 7.41%   |
|               | Work/jobsite                     | 23    | 8.19%   | 6.06%   | 9.05%   |
|               | Automobile (away from residence) | 13    | 4.63%   | 5.72%   | 6.58%   |
|               | Inpatient medical facility       | 1     | 0.36%   | 0.00%   | 0.41%   |
|               | Other                            | 55    | 19.57%  | 19.87%  | 19.75%  |
|               | Don't Know                       | 0     | 0.00%   | 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 | Percent |
|              | Firearm, non-military issue | 136   | 48.40%  | 40.74%  | 41.98%  |
|              | Firearm, military issue     | 39    | 13.88%  | 17.51%  | 20.99%  |

**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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                        |                   | Count | Percent | Percent | 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**

|                                                      |   | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                      |   | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | 0 | 185   | 65.84%  | 72.05%  | 69.14%  |
|                                                      | 1 | 82    | 29.18%  | 18.18%  | 22.63%  |
|                                                      | 2 | 12    | 4.27%   | 6.73%   | 6.17%   |
|                                                      | 3 | 1     | 0.36%   | 1.68%   | 2.06%   |
|                                                      | 4 | 0     | 0.00%   | 1.01%   | 0.00%   |
|                                                      | 5 | 1     | 0.36%   | 0.34%   | 0.00%   |

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

|                             |                        | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                             |                        | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | Verbal                 | 59    | 21.00%  | 15.49%  | 21.81%  |
|                             | Written                | 13    | 4.63%   | 2.36%   | 1.23%   |
|                             | Other or Unknown       | 14    | 4.98%   | 5.72%   | 3.70%   |
|                             | Multiple Modes         | 10    | 3.56%   | 4.04%   | 4.12%   |
|                             | No Known Communication | 185   | 65.84%  | 72.39%  | 69.14%  |

**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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                         |                                      | Count | Percent | Percent | 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**

| DUTY ENVIRONMENT |                             | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                  |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| DUTY ENVIRONMENT | Permanent Duty Station      | 162   | 57.65%  | 53.20%  | 53.91%  |
|                  | Leave                       | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.41%   |
|                  | Psychiatric Hospitalization | 19    | 6.76%   | 9.09%   | 9.88%   |
|                  | Medical Hold                | 1     | 0.36%   | 1.01%   | 1.23%   |
|                  | TDY                         | 3     | 1.07%   | 1.68%   | 0.82%   |
|                  | AWOL                        | 7     | 2.49%   | 4.38%   | 2.47%   |
|                  | Under Command Observation   | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.41%   |
|                  | Deployed                    | 30    | 10.68%  | 11.45%  | 15.23%  |
|                  | Training                    | 7     | 2.49%   | 3.03%   | 2.06%   |
|                  | Other                       | 16    | 5.69%   | 5.39%   | 5.76%   |
|                  | Multiple Duty Environments  | 18    | 6.41%   | 8.75%   | 5.35%   |
|                  | Duty Environment Unknown    | 18    | 6.41%   | 2.02%   | 2.47%   |

## 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**

| MONTH |           | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------|-----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|       |           | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| MONTH | January   | 27    | 9.61%   | 9.09%   | 9.05%   |
|       | February  | 21    | 7.47%   | 11.11%  | 6.17%   |
|       | March     | 22    | 7.83%   | 6.73%   | 7.41%   |
|       | April     | 21    | 7.47%   | 7.74%   | 8.64%   |
|       | May       | 27    | 9.61%   | 9.76%   | 8.23%   |
|       | June      | 25    | 8.90%   | 8.08%   | 7.82%   |
|       | July      | 31    | 11.03%  | 9.76%   | 9.47%   |
|       | August    | 22    | 7.83%   | 7.07%   | 8.23%   |
|       | September | 25    | 8.90%   | 5.39%   | 8.23%   |
|       | October   | 24    | 8.54%   | 10.77%  | 8.23%   |
|       | November  | 17    | 6.05%   | 7.07%   | 10.70%  |
|       | December  | 19    | 6.76%   | 7.41%   | 7.82%   |

## 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                    |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                       |              | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                           |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                              |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                              |            | Count | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                     |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 34    | 12.10%  | 13.80%  | 21.40%  |
| HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM          | 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%  |
|                                     | No                          | 163   | 58.01%  | 56.23%  | 55.97%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 69    | 24.56%  | 22.22%  | 23.87%  |
| SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES            | Yes                         | 59    | 21.00%  | 16.50%  | 11.11%  |
|                                     | Within 30 days              | 21    | 7.47%   | 8.08%   | 4.12%   |
|                                     | 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%  |
| FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS            | Yes                         | 28    | 9.96%   | 6.40%   | 6.17%   |
|                                     | 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%  |
| CHAPLAIN SERVICES                   | 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%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 130   | 46.26%  | 45.12%  | 43.62%  |
| OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH        | 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%  |
| INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH         | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                         |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                 |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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% |
|                                                    | Don't Know                  | 100 | 35.59% | 38.72% | 41.98% |
| HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER) | 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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                  |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                               |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------|-----------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|         |                 | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                       |                                      | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                |                                                   | Count | Percent | Percent | 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 DoDSER OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISORDERS (CONT.)**

|                              |            |     |        |
|------------------------------|------------|-----|--------|
|                              | Don't Know | 106 | 12.28% |
| DX W/ TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY | 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 DoDSERs ( $n = 454$ , 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 DoDSERs (22.02%) included evidence of a known physical health problem. Most DoDSERs ( $n = 545$ , 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 DoDSERs (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 DoDSERs (19.70%) included prior substance abuse treatment.

**TABLE 2.50. CY 2010 SUICIDE ATTEMPT DoDSER 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% |
|                              | Yes                         | 545 | 63.15% |
|                              | Within 30 days              | 381 | 44.15% |
|                              | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 447 | 51.80% |
|                              | No                          | 274 | 31.75% |
| INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  | Don't Know                  | 44  | 5.10%  |
|                              | Yes                         | 188 | 21.78% |
|                              | Within 30 days              | 68  | 7.88%  |
|                              | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 112 | 12.98% |
|                              | No                          | 618 | 71.61% |
|                              | 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%  |
| Antimanic               | 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%  |
|                                                    | Don't Know                  | 77    | 8.92%   |
| HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP                       | Yes                         | 127   | 14.72%  |
|                                                    | Within 30 days              | 70    | 8.11%   |
|                                                    | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 90    | 10.43%  |
|                                                    | No                          | 580   | 67.21%  |
|                                                    | Don't Know                  | 156   | 18.08%  |
| HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER) | 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.)**

|                                  |            |     |        |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----|--------|
|                                  | Don't Know | 142 | 16.45% |
| HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT | 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

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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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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 DoDSER EVENT METHOD 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 |
| EVENT METHOD | Firearm, non-military issue     | 2           | 6.67%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 134   | 53.39%  | 46.90%  | 50.00%  |
|              | Firearm, military issue         | 27          | 90.00%  | 97.44%  | 94.87%  | 12    | 4.78%   | 5.43%   | 6.86%   |
|              | Hanging                         | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 69    | 27.49%  | 26.36%  | 25.00%  |
|              | Drugs                           | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 5.13%   | 13    | 5.18%   | 3.49%   | 4.41%   |
|              | Alcohol                         | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.39%   | 0.49%   |
|              | Gas, vehicle exhaust            | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 1     | 0.40%   | 4.26%   | 2.94%   |
|              | Gas, utility (or other)         | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 5     | 1.99%   | 1.94%   | 0.49%   |
|              | Drowning                        | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 3     | 1.20%   | 0.00%   | 0.49%   |
|              | Fire, steam, etc.               | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 1     | 0.40%   | 0.00%   | 0.49%   |
|              | Sharp or blunt object           | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 2     | 0.80%   | 3.10%   | 0.98%   |
|              | Jumping from high place         | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 2     | 0.80%   | 1.94%   | 1.47%   |
|              | Lying in front of moving object | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 2     | 0.80%   | 0.78%   | 0.98%   |
|              | Crashing a motor vehicle        | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.98%   |
|              | Other                           | 1           | 3.33%   | 2.56%   | 0.00%   | 1     | 0.40%   | 3.10%   | 0.98%   |
|              | Don't Know                      | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 6     | 2.39%   | 2.33%   | 3.43%   |

## 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 DoDSER SUBSTANCE(S) USED DURING EVENT FOR OEF/OIF/OND & OTHER SUICIDES**

|              |            | OEF/OIF/OND |         |         |         | Other |         |         |         |
|--------------|------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|              |            | 2010        |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|              |            | Count       | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| ALCOHOL USED | Yes        | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 58    | 23.11%  | 25.58%  | 26.96%  |
|              | No         | 17          | 56.67%  | 66.67%  | 64.10%  | 91    | 36.25%  | 34.50%  | 34.31%  |
|              | Don't Know | 13          | 43.33%  | 33.33%  | 35.90%  | 102   | 40.64%  | 39.92%  | 38.73%  |

**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 DoDSER NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT 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 |
| 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 DoDSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT 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 |
| 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 DoDSER RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT 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 |
| 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        |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                      |            | Count       | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count | Percent | Percent | 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 DoDSER SUICIDES BY MONTH FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

| MONTH |           | OEF/OIF/OND |         |         |         | Other |         |         |         |
|-------|-----------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|       |           | 2010        |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|       |           | 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 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

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        |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                                    |                             | Count       | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%  |
|                                    | Don't Know                  | 15          | 50.00%  | 23.08%  | 46.15%  | 55    | 21.91%  | 24.81%  | 39.71%  |
| Number prior self-injuries         | 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        |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                                       |       | Count       | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count | Percent | Percent | 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 DoDSER 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 DoDSER MOOD DISORDERS 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 |
| 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        |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                              |            | Count       | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER       | Yes        | 2           | 6.67%   | 12.82%  | 12.82%  | 40    | 15.94%  | 18.60%  | 9.80%   |
|                              | No         | 18          | 60.00%  | 61.54%  | 61.54%  | 185   | 73.71%  | 67.05%  | 69.12%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 10          | 33.33%  | 25.64%  | 25.64%  | 26    | 10.36%  | 14.34%  | 21.08%  |
| PTSD                         | Yes        | 1           | 3.33%   | 2.56%   | 5.13%   | 13    | 5.18%   | 6.98%   | 1.96%   |
|                              | No         | 19          | 63.33%  | 69.23%  | 64.10%  | 210   | 83.67%  | 77.13%  | 74.02%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 10          | 33.33%  | 28.21%  | 30.77%  | 28    | 11.16%  | 15.89%  | 24.02%  |
| Panic disorder               | Yes        | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 2.56%   | 3     | 1.20%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                              | No         | 20          | 66.67%  | 71.79%  | 66.67%  | 220   | 87.65%  | 83.72%  | 75.00%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 10          | 33.33%  | 28.21%  | 30.77%  | 28    | 11.16%  | 16.28%  | 25.00%  |
| Generalized anxiety disorder | Yes        | 0           | 0.00%   | 2.56%   | 0.00%   | 1     | 0.40%   | 0.78%   | 0.49%   |
|                              | No         | 20          | 66.67%  | 71.79%  | 66.67%  | 221   | 88.05%  | 82.95%  | 75.49%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 10          | 33.33%  | 25.64%  | 33.33%  | 29    | 11.55%  | 16.28%  | 24.02%  |
| Acute stress disorder        | Yes        | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.49%   |
|                              | No         | 20          | 66.67%  | 71.79%  | 66.67%  | 223   | 88.84%  | 83.72%  | 75.98%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 10          | 33.33%  | 28.21%  | 33.33%  | 28    | 11.16%  | 16.28%  | 23.53%  |
| Other anxiety disorder       | Yes        | 0           | 0.00%   | 2.56%   | 2.56%   | 13    | 5.18%   | 5.43%   | 2.45%   |
|                              | No         | 20          | 66.67%  | 69.23%  | 66.67%  | 211   | 84.06%  | 78.68%  | 72.55%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 10          | 33.33%  | 28.21%  | 30.77%  | 27    | 10.76%  | 15.89%  | 25.00%  |
| Unspecified anxiety DX       | Yes        | 0           | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 5     | 1.99%   | 1.94%   | 1.96%   |
|                              | No         | 20          | 66.67%  | 74.36%  | 74.36%  | 220   | 87.65%  | 83.72%  | 76.96%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 10          | 33.33%  | 25.64%  | 25.64%  | 26    | 10.36%  | 14.34%  | 21.08%  |
| Multiple anxiety DX          | Yes        | 1           | 3.33%   | 5.13%   | 2.56%   | 5     | 1.99%   | 3.49%   | 2.45%   |
|                              | No         | 19          | 63.33%  | 69.23%  | 71.79%  | 220   | 87.65%  | 82.17%  | 76.47%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 10          | 33.33%  | 25.64%  | 25.64%  | 26    | 10.36%  | 14.34%  | 21.08%  |

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

|                              |            | OEF/OIF/OND   |                 |                 |                 | Other         |                 |                 |                 |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                              |            | 2010<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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%          |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 8             | 26.67%          | 17.95%          | 28.21%          | 26            | 10.36%          | 13.18%          | 20.10%          |
| HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM          | 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%          |
|                                     | 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%          |
| SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES            | 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%           |
|                                     | 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%          |
| FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS            | Yes                         | 1             | 3.33%           | 2.56%           | 0.00%           | 27            | 10.76%          | 6.98%           | 7.35%           |
|                                     | 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%          |
| CHAPLAIN SERVICES                   | 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%          |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 13            | 43.33%          | 33.33%          | 43.59%          | 117           | 46.61%          | 46.90%          | 43.63%          |
| OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH        | Yes                         | 8             | 26.67%          | 35.90%          | 41.03%          | 106           | 42.23%          | 41.86%          | 31.37%          |
|                                     | 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 DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)**

|                             |                             |    |        |        |        |     |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----|--------|--------|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH | 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% |
|                             | 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 DoDSER PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION USE FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES**

|                         |            | OEF/OIF/OND   |         |                 |                 | Other         |         |                 |                 |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                         |            | 2010<br>Count | Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count | Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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%          |
| Antimaniacs             | 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        | <b>1</b>  | <b>3.33%</b>  | 0.00%  | 0.00%  | <b>5</b>   | <b>1.99%</b>  | 2.71%  | 2.45%  |
|                 | No         | <b>15</b> | <b>50.00%</b> | 74.36% | 69.23% | <b>198</b> | <b>78.88%</b> | 75.58% | 67.65% |
|                 | Don't Know | <b>14</b> | <b>46.67%</b> | 25.64% | 30.77% | <b>48</b>  | <b>19.12%</b> | 21.71% | 29.90% |
| Antipsychotics  | Yes        | <b>0</b>  | <b>0.00%</b>  | 2.56%  | 0.00%  | <b>14</b>  | <b>5.58%</b>  | 5.43%  | 2.94%  |
|                 | No         | <b>16</b> | <b>53.33%</b> | 71.79% | 69.23% | <b>190</b> | <b>75.70%</b> | 72.87% | 67.65% |
|                 | Don't Know | <b>14</b> | <b>46.67%</b> | 25.64% | 30.77% | <b>47</b>  | <b>18.73%</b> | 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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent |
| HX FAILED INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP | Yes                         | <b>13</b>     | <b>43.33%</b>   | 46.15%          | 46.15%          | <b>127</b>    | <b>50.60%</b>   | 51.55%          | 53.43%          |
|                                 | Within 30 days              | <b>7</b>      | <b>23.33%</b>   | 25.64%          | 33.33%          | <b>77</b>     | <b>30.68%</b>   | 27.91%          | 32.84%          |
|                                 | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | <b>1</b>      | <b>3.33%</b>    | 7.69%           | 5.13%           | <b>16</b>     | <b>6.37%</b>    | 6.98%           | 11.27%          |
|                                 | No                          | <b>9</b>      | <b>30.00%</b>   | 25.64%          | 23.08%          | <b>75</b>     | <b>29.88%</b>   | 25.19%          | 24.02%          |
|                                 | Don't Know                  | <b>8</b>      | <b>26.67%</b>   | 28.21%          | 30.77%          | <b>49</b>     | <b>19.52%</b>   | 23.26%          | 22.55%          |
| HX FAILED OTHER RELATIONSHIP    | Yes                         | <b>4</b>      | <b>13.33%</b>   | 17.95%          | 10.26%          | <b>37</b>     | <b>14.74%</b>   | 12.79%          | 15.20%          |
|                                 | Within 30 days              | <b>1</b>      | <b>3.33%</b>    | 15.38%          | 7.69%           | <b>23</b>     | <b>9.16%</b>    | 6.98%           | 7.84%           |

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

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

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

|                                  |            |    |        |        |        |     |        |        |        |
|----------------------------------|------------|----|--------|--------|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE           | 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% |
|                                  | Yes        | 0  | 0.00%  | 5.13%  | 5.13%  | 8   | 3.19%  | 4.26%  | 1.96%  |
| HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE        | 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% |
|                                  | Yes        | 2  | 6.67%  | 10.26% | 5.13%  | 11  | 4.38%  | 6.59%  | 4.41%  |
| HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT      | 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% |
|                                  | Yes        | 0  | 0.00%  | 2.56%  | 0.00%  | 1   | 0.40%  | 0.00%  | 0.00%  |
| HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE    | 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% |
|                                  | Yes        | 2  | 6.67%  | 7.69%  | 0.00%  | 22  | 8.76%  | 8.91%  | 6.37%  |
| HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE      | 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% |
|                                  | Yes        | 0  | 0.00%  | 5.13%  | 2.56%  | 8   | 3.19%  | 3.10%  | 3.92%  |
| HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE   | 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% |
|                                  | Yes        | 0  | 0.00%  | 5.13%  | 2.56%  | 10  | 3.98%  | 2.71%  | 3.43%  |
| HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT | No         | 14 | 46.67% | 64.10% | 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% |
|                                  | Yes        | 1  | 3.33%  | 5.13%  | 2.56%  | 1   | 0.40%  | 1.16%  | 0.98%  |
| HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT | 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% |
|                                  | Yes        | 1  | 3.33%  | 5.13%  | 2.56%  | 1   | 0.40%  | 1.16%  | 0.98%  |

## 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        |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                               |            | Count       | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| EXCESSIVE DEBT/BANKRUPTCY     | Yes        | 4           | 13.33%  | 12.82%  | 5.13%   | 24    | 9.56%   | 10.47%  | 11.27%  |
|                               | No         | 15          | 50.00%  | 56.41%  | 53.85%  | 147   | 58.57%  | 54.26%  | 50.98%  |
|                               | Don't Know | 11          | 36.67%  | 30.77%  | 41.03%  | 80    | 31.87%  | 35.27%  | 37.75%  |
| HX JOB LOSS/INSTABILITY       | Yes        | 6           | 20.00%  | 35.90%  | 23.08%  | 46    | 18.33%  | 25.97%  | 17.16%  |
|                               | No         | 14          | 46.67%  | 43.59%  | 53.85%  | 150   | 59.76%  | 52.33%  | 62.75%  |
|                               | Don't Know | 10          | 33.33%  | 20.51%  | 23.08%  | 55    | 21.91%  | 21.71%  | 20.10%  |
| HX SUPERVISOR/COWORKER ISSUES | Yes        | 9           | 30.00%  | 35.90%  | 25.64%  | 26    | 10.36%  | 10.85%  | 7.84%   |
|                               | No         | 11          | 36.67%  | 38.46%  | 48.72%  | 164   | 65.34%  | 63.95%  | 57.35%  |
|                               | Don't Know | 10          | 33.33%  | 25.64%  | 25.64%  | 61    | 24.30%  | 25.19%  | 34.80%  |
| HX POOR WORK EVALUATION       | Yes        | 3           | 10.00%  | 28.21%  | 17.95%  | 37    | 14.74%  | 15.12%  | 9.80%   |
|                               | No         | 13          | 43.33%  | 53.85%  | 51.28%  | 163   | 64.94%  | 63.95%  | 61.27%  |
|                               | Don't Know | 14          | 46.67%  | 17.95%  | 30.77%  | 51    | 20.32%  | 20.93%  | 28.92%  |
| HX UNIT/WORKPLACE HAZING      | Yes        | 2           | 6.67%   | 5.13%   | 2.56%   | 3     | 1.20%   | 1.16%   | 0.49%   |
|                               | No         | 15          | 50.00%  | 58.97%  | 61.54%  | 193   | 76.89%  | 72.09%  | 65.69%  |
|                               | Don't Know | 13          | 43.33%  | 35.90%  | 35.90%  | 55    | 21.91%  | 26.74%  | 33.82%  |

## 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        |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|         |                 | Count       | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%   |
|         | Djibuti         | 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        |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                       |                                      | Count       | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count | Percent | Percent | 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        |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                |                                                   | Count       | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count | Percent | Percent | 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 DoDSER COMBAT HISTORY FOR OEF/OIF/OND AND OTHER SUICIDES (CONT.)**

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

|                |                                         |    |        |     |        |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------|----|--------|-----|--------|
| AGE RANGE      | White/Caucasian                         | 26 | 56.52% | 561 | 68.67% |
|                | Other                                   | 4  | 8.70%  | 49  | 6.00%  |
|                | Don't Know                              | 2  | 4.35%  | 54  | 6.61%  |
|                | Under 25                                | 24 | 52.17% | 490 | 59.98% |
| RANK           | 25-29                                   | 9  | 19.57% | 181 | 22.15% |
|                | 30-39                                   | 10 | 21.74% | 112 | 13.71% |
|                | 40 +                                    | 3  | 6.52%  | 34  | 4.16%  |
|                | E1-E4                                   | 27 | 58.70% | 589 | 72.18% |
| COMPONENT      | 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%  |
| EDUCATION      | 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%  |
| MARITAL STATUS | 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% |
|                | 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.)**

|                             |                   |    |        |     |        |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----|--------|-----|--------|
| ANY DRUGS USED              | Don't Know        | 1  | 2.17%  | 101 | 12.36% |
|                             | 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**

|                                                      |   | OEF/OIF/OND |         | Other |         |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------|---------|-------|---------|
|                                                      |   | Count       | Percent | Count | Percent |
| NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | 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**

|                             |        | OEF/OIF/OND |         | Other |         |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------------|---------|-------|---------|
|                             |        | Count       | Percent | Count | Percent |
| MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | 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**

|               |                              | OEF/OIF/OND |         | Other |         |
|---------------|------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|---------|
|               |                              | Count       | Percent | Count | Percent |
| COMMUNICATION | 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**

|                                       |              | OEF/OIF/OND |         | Other |         |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------|-------|---------|
|                                       |              | Count       | Percent | Count | Percent |
| NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES | 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**

|                     |            | OEF/OIF/OND |         | Other |         |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|---------|-------|---------|
|                     |            | Count       | Percent | Count | Percent |
| DX W/ MOOD DISORDER | 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.)**

|                           |            |    |        |     |        |
|---------------------------|------------|----|--------|-----|--------|
| Major depression          | Don't Know | 6  | 13.04% | 109 | 13.34% |
|                           | Yes        | 3  | 6.52%  | 150 | 18.36% |
|                           | No         | 37 | 80.43% | 571 | 69.89% |
| Dysthymic disorder        | Don't Know | 6  | 13.04% | 96  | 11.75% |
|                           | Yes        | 0  | 0.00%  | 16  | 1.96%  |
|                           | No         | 40 | 86.96% | 693 | 84.82% |
| Other mood disorder       | Don't Know | 6  | 13.04% | 108 | 13.22% |
|                           | Yes        | 3  | 6.52%  | 55  | 6.73%  |
|                           | No         | 37 | 80.43% | 652 | 79.80% |
| Unspecified mood disorder | Don't Know | 6  | 13.04% | 110 | 13.46% |
|                           | Yes        | 3  | 6.52%  | 37  | 4.53%  |
|                           | No         | 39 | 84.78% | 706 | 86.41% |
| Multiple mood DX          | Don't Know | 4  | 8.70%  | 74  | 9.06%  |
|                           | 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% |
|                               | Don't Know | 6  | 13.04% | 148 | 18.12% |
| HX POOR WORK EVALUATION       | Yes        | 8  | 17.39% | 123 | 15.06% |
|                               | 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**

|         |                 | OEF/OIF/OND |         | Other |         |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------|-------|---------|
|         |                 | Count       | Percent | Count | Percent |
| THEATER | 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**

|                       |                                      | OEF/OIF/OND |         | Other |         |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|---------|
|                       |                                      | Count       | Percent | Count | Percent |
| HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF | 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

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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 |
|--------------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Total DoDSERs Included in Annual Report    | 59   | 43   | 35   |
| Total AFMES Confirmed and Pending Suicides | 60   | 43   | 45   |
| AFMES Confirmed Suicides (By 31 January)   | 59   | 43   | 45   |
| DoDSER Submission Compliance               | 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**

|                                                  |           | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                  |           | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN | 0         | 20    | 33.90%  | 13.04%  | 0.00%   |
|                                                  | 1         | 10    | 16.95%  | 13.04%  | 0.00%   |
|                                                  | 2         | 7     | 11.86%  | 13.04%  | 5.71%   |
|                                                  | 3         | 3     | 5.08%   | 17.39%  | 0.00%   |
|                                                  | 4         | 2     | 3.39%   | 4.35%   | 2.86%   |
|                                                  | 5 or More | 17    | 28.81%  | 39.13%  | 91.43%  |

## 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  |         |             |            | 2009             | 2008             |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------------|------------|------------------|------------------|
|           |                                         | Count | Percent | DoD Total % | Rate/ 100K | (N = 46) Percent | (N = 45) Percent |
| 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.)**

|                |                            |    |        |        |       |        |        |
|----------------|----------------------------|----|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| MARITAL STATUS | 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%  |
|                | 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 | Percent |
|                     | United States | 52    | 88.14%  | 89.13%  | 91.43%  |
|                     | Iraq          | 0     | 0.00%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Afghanistan   | 1     | 1.69%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Kuwait        | 0     | 0.00%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Asia          | 3     | 5.08%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Europe        | 1     | 1.69%   | 2.17%   | 8.57%   |
|                     | Other         | 2     | 3.39%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |

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

| EVENT SETTING |                                  | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|               |                                  | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
|               | Residence (own) or barracks      | 40    | 67.80%  | 67.39%  | 57.14%  |
|               | Residence of friend or family    | 7     | 11.86%  | 4.35%   | 0.00%   |
|               | Work/job site                    | 3     | 5.08%   | 0.00%   | 5.71%   |
|               | Automobile (away from residence) | 4     | 6.78%   | 6.52%   | 0.00%   |
|               | Inpatient medical facility       | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|               | Other                            | 5     | 8.47%   | 21.74%  | 37.14%  |
|               | Don't Know                       | 0     | 0.00%   | 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**

|              |                             | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|              |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| EVENT METHOD | 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 | Percent |
| ALCOHOL USED       | Yes               | 10    | 16.95%  | 36.96%  | 25.71%  |
|                    | No                | 24    | 40.68%  | 17.39%  | 45.71%  |
|                    | Don't Know        | 25    | 42.37%  | 45.65%  | 28.57%  |
| ANY DRUGS USED     | Yes               | 5     | 8.47%   | 13.04%  | 8.57%   |
|                    | No                | 32    | 54.24%  | 41.30%  | 60.00%  |
|                    | Don't Know        | 22    | 37.29%  | 45.65%  | 31.43%  |
| Illegal drugs      | Overdose          | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                    | Used, no overdose | 1     | 1.69%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                    | Were not used     | 36    | 61.02%  | 54.35%  | 65.71%  |
|                    | Don't know        | 22    | 37.29%  | 45.65%  | 34.29%  |
| Prescription drugs | Overdose          | 1     | 1.69%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                    | Used, no overdose | 3     | 5.08%   | 2.17%   | 5.71%   |
|                    | Were not used     | 33    | 55.93%  | 50.00%  | 62.86%  |

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

|                             |                   |    |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----|--------|--------|--------|
| Over the counter drugs      | Don't know        | 22 | 37.29% | 45.65% | 31.43% |
|                             | 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 | Percent |
| NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | 0 | 36    | 61.02%  | 73.91%  | 71.43%  |
|                                                      | 1 | 22    | 37.29%  | 13.04%  | 25.71%  |
|                                                      | 2 | 1     | 1.69%   | 6.52%   | 0.00%   |
|                                                      | 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 | Percent |
| MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | Verbal                 | 14    | 23.73%  | 13.04%  | 22.86%  |
|                             | Written                | 1     | 1.69%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                             | Other or Unknown       | 5     | 8.47%   | 2.17%   | 5.71%   |
|                             | Multiple Modes         | 3     | 5.08%   | 8.70%   | 0.00%   |
|                             | 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 | Percent |
| COMMUNICATION | Spouse | 8     | 13.56%  | 4.35%   | 0.00%   |
|               | 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 | Percent |
| INTENDED TO DIE      | Yes        | 48    | 81.36%  | 71.74%  | 34.29%  |
|                      | No         | 2     | 3.39%   | 4.35%   | 0.00%   |
|                      | Don't Know | 9     | 15.25%  | 23.91%  | 65.71%  |
| DEATH RISK GAMBLING  | Yes        | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                      | No         | 52    | 88.14%  | 71.74%  | 0.00%   |
|                      | Don't Know | 7     | 11.86%  | 28.26%  | 100.00% |
| PLANNED/PREMEDITATED | Yes        | 28    | 47.46%  | 30.43%  | 17.14%  |
|                      | No         | 20    | 33.90%  | 21.74%  | 0.00%   |
|                      | Don't Know | 11    | 18.64%  | 47.83%  | 82.86%  |
| OBSERVABLE           | Yes        | 15    | 25.42%  | 19.57%  | 0.00%   |
|                      | No         | 38    | 64.41%  | 54.35%  | 0.00%   |
|                      | Don't Know | 6     | 10.17%  | 26.09%  | 100.00% |
| SUICIDE NOTE LEFT    | Yes        | 24    | 40.68%  | 23.91%  | 0.00%   |
|                      | No         | 24    | 40.68%  | 47.83%  | 0.00%   |
|                      | Don't Know | 11    | 18.64%  | 28.26%  | 100.00% |

## 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                         |                                      | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                  |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------|-----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|       |           | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                    |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                       |              | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                           |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                              |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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 | Percent |
| DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER    | Yes        | 2     | 3.39%   | 4.35%   | 5.71%   |
|                              | No         | 52    | 88.14%  | 71.74%  | 54.29%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 5     | 8.47%   | 23.91%  | 40.00%  |
| DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER      | Yes        | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 2.86%   |
|                              | No         | 54    | 91.53%  | 80.43%  | 57.14%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 5     | 8.47%   | 19.57%  | 40.00%  |
| HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE           | Yes        | 11    | 18.64%  | 13.04%  | 20.00%  |
|                              | No         | 41    | 69.49%  | 56.52%  | 40.00%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 7     | 11.86%  | 30.43%  | 40.00%  |
| 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                     |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 7     | 11.86%  | 23.91%  | 34.29%  |
| HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM          | 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%  |
|                                     | No                          | 37    | 62.71%  | 36.96%  | 22.86%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 13    | 22.03%  | 28.26%  | 60.00%  |
| SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES            | Yes                         | 13    | 22.03%  | 21.74%  | 5.71%   |
|                                     | Within 30 days              | 4     | 6.78%   | 10.87%  | 2.86%   |
|                                     | 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%  |
| FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS            | Yes                         | 7     | 11.86%  | 6.52%   | 8.57%   |
|                                     | 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%  |
| CHAPLAIN SERVICES                   | 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%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 27    | 45.76%  | 65.22%  | 40.00%  |
| OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH        | 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%  |
| INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH         | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                         |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                 |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%  |
|                                                    | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 7  | 11.86% | 4.35%  | 17.14% |
|                                                    | No                          | 31 | 52.54% | 47.83% | 20.00% |
| HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER) | 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 | Percent |
| HX SPOUSE SUICIDE         | Yes        | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                           | No         | 49    | 83.05%  | 76.09%  | 2.86%   |
|                           | Don't Know | 10    | 16.95%  | 23.91%  | 97.14%  |
| HX FAMILY MEMBER SUICIDE  | Yes        | 0     | 0.00%   | 6.52%   | 0.00%   |
|                           | No         | 44    | 74.58%  | 50.00%  | 0.00%   |
|                           | Don't Know | 15    | 25.42%  | 43.48%  | 100.00% |
| HX FRIEND SUICIDE         | Yes        | 2     | 3.39%   | 4.35%   | 0.00%   |
|                           | No         | 40    | 67.80%  | 41.30%  | 0.00%   |
|                           | Don't Know | 17    | 28.81%  | 54.35%  | 100.00% |
| HX DEATH OF FAMILY MEMBER | Yes        | 8     | 13.56%  | 6.52%   | 2.86%   |
|                           | No         | 35    | 59.32%  | 36.96%  | 0.00%   |
|                           | Don't Know | 16    | 27.12%  | 56.52%  | 97.14%  |
| HX DEATH OF FRIEND        | Yes        | 1     | 1.69%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                           | No         | 40    | 67.80%  | 39.13%  | 0.00%   |
|                           | Don't Know | 18    | 30.51%  | 58.70%  | 100.00% |
| HX FAMILY ILLNESS         | Yes        | 2     | 3.39%   | 4.35%   | 0.00%   |
|                           | No         | 41    | 69.49%  | 45.65%  | 0.00%   |
|                           | Don't Know | 16    | 27.12%  | 50.00%  | 100.00% |

**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**

|                                 |            | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                 |            | Count | 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 | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                               |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------|-----------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|         |                 | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                       |                                      | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                |                                                   | Count | Percent | Percent | 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          |                                         | <b>241</b> | <b>100.00%</b> |
| 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%  |
|                                    | Don't Know                  | 22    | 9.13%   |
| Number prior self-injuries         | 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%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 28    | 11.62%  |
| SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES            | Yes                         | 57    | 23.65%  |
|                                     | Within 30 days              | 28    | 11.62%  |
|                                     | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 39    | 16.18%  |
|                                     | No                          | 177   | 73.44%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 7     | 2.90%   |
| FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS            | Yes                         | 18    | 7.47%   |
|                                     | Within 30 days              | 6     | 2.49%   |
|                                     | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 9     | 3.73%   |
|                                     | No                          | 215   | 89.21%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 8     | 3.32%   |
| CHAPLAIN SERVICES                   | Yes                         | 16    | 6.64%   |
|                                     | Within 30 days              | 7     | 2.90%   |
|                                     | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 11    | 4.56%   |
|                                     | No                          | 154   | 63.90%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 71    | 29.46%  |
| OUTPATIENT 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%   |
| INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH         | 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%  |
| Antimaniacs             | 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

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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**

|                                                  |           | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                  |           | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN | 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  |         |             |            | 2009              | 2008              |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|           |                                         | Count | Percent | DoD Total % | Rate/ 100K | (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.)**

|                |                            |    |        |        |       |        |        |
|----------------|----------------------------|----|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| MARITAL STATUS | 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%  |
|                | 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 |                  | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------|------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                     |                  | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION | 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 |                                  | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|               |                                  | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| EVENT SETTING | 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**

|              |                                 | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|              |                                 | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| EVENT METHOD | Firearm, non-military issue     | 72    | 48.98%  | 40.52%  | 40.48%  |
|              | Firearm, military issue         | 28    | 19.05%  | 18.95%  | 27.78%  |
|              | Hanging                         | 31    | 21.09%  | 21.57%  | 15.08%  |
|              | Drugs                           | 6     | 4.08%   | 4.58%   | 7.94%   |
|              | Alcohol                         | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.65%   | 0.79%   |
|              | Gas, vehicle exhaust            | 0     | 0.00%   | 4.58%   | 0.79%   |
|              | Gas, utility (or other)         | 1     | 0.68%   | 1.31%   | 0.79%   |
|              | Drowning                        | 3     | 2.04%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|              | Fire, steam, etc.               | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.79%   |
|              | Sharp or blunt object           | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.65%   | 0.00%   |
|              | Jumping from high place         | 0     | 0.00%   | 1.31%   | 1.59%   |
|              | Lying in front of moving object | 1     | 0.68%   | 1.31%   | 0.00%   |
|              | Other                           | 1     | 0.68%   | 2.61%   | 0.79%   |
|              | 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 | Percent |
| ALCOHOL USED   | Yes               | 33    | 22.45%  | 21.57%  | 20.63%  |
|                | No                | 56    | 38.10%  | 39.22%  | 37.30%  |
|                | Don't Know        | 58    | 39.46%  | 39.22%  | 42.06%  |
| ANY DRUGS USED | Yes               | 13    | 8.84%   | 5.88%   | 8.73%   |
|                | No                | 66    | 44.90%  | 46.41%  | 43.65%  |
|                | Don't Know        | 68    | 46.26%  | 47.71%  | 47.62%  |
| Illegal drugs  | Overdose          | 2     | 1.36%   | 0.00%   | 0.79%   |
|                | 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.)**

|                             |                   |    |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----|--------|--------|--------|
| Prescription drugs          | Were not used     | 75 | 51.02% | 51.63% | 49.21% |
|                             | Don't know        | 68 | 46.26% | 47.71% | 50.00% |
|                             | 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% |
| Over the counter drugs      | Don't know        | 68 | 46.26% | 47.71% | 47.62% |
|                             | 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 | Percent |
| NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | 0 | 99    | 67.35%  | 70.59%  | 72.22%  |
|                                                      | 1 | 41    | 27.89%  | 19.61%  | 17.46%  |
|                                                      | 2 | 6     | 4.08%   | 6.54%   | 7.14%   |
|                                                      | 3 | 1     | 0.68%   | 1.31%   | 3.17%   |
|                                                      | 4 | 0     | 0.00%   | 1.31%   | 0.00%   |
|                                                      | 5 | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.65%   | 0.00%   |

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

|                             |                  | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                             |                  | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | Verbal           | 30    | 20.41%  | 16.34%  | 20.63%  |
|                             | Written          | 8     | 5.44%   | 3.92%   | 0.79%   |
|                             | Other or Unknown | 4     | 2.72%   | 7.19%   | 0.79%   |

**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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                  |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------|-----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|       |           | Count | Percent | Percent | 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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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%          |
|                                    | Don't Know                  | 45            | 30.61%          | 23.53%          | 32.54%          |
| Number prior self-injuries         | One prior event             | 13            | 8.84%           | 10.46%          | 0.00%           |
|                                    | More than one prior event   | 9             | 6.12%           | 9.15%           | 15.20%          |
|                                    | N/A or Unknown              | 125           | 85.03%          | 80.39%          | 84.80%          |
| Event similar to prior self-injury | 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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| NUMBER OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES | No DX        | 80            | 54.42%          | 54.25%          | 60.32%          |
|                                       | 1 DX         | 25            | 17.01%          | 22.22%          | 24.60%          |
|                                       | 2 DX         | 27            | 18.37%          | 13.73%          | 7.14%           |
|                                       | 3 DX         | 6             | 4.08%           | 5.23%           | 6.35%           |
|                                       | 4 or more DX | 9             | 6.12%           | 4.58%           | 1.59%           |

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

|                           |            | 2010<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| DX W/ MOOD DISORDER       | Yes        | 26            | 17.69%          | 27.45%          | 25.40%          |
|                           | No         | 93            | 63.27%          | 62.09%          | 54.76%          |
|                           | Don't Know | 28            | 19.05%          | 10.46%          | 19.84%          |
| Bipolar disorder          | Yes        | 1             | 0.68%           | 0.65%           | 1.59%           |
|                           | No         | 118           | 80.27%          | 86.27%          | 76.19%          |
|                           | Don't Know | 28            | 19.05%          | 13.07%          | 22.22%          |
| Major depression          | Yes        | 13            | 8.84%           | 13.73%          | 7.94%           |
|                           | No         | 105           | 71.43%          | 74.51%          | 71.43%          |
|                           | Don't Know | 29            | 19.73%          | 11.76%          | 20.63%          |
| Dysthymic disorder        | Yes        | 2             | 1.36%           | 1.31%           | 0.79%           |
|                           | No         | 116           | 78.91%          | 86.27%          | 77.78%          |
|                           | Don't Know | 29            | 19.73%          | 12.42%          | 21.43%          |
| Other mood disorder       | Yes        | 5             | 3.40%           | 3.27%           | 13.49%          |
|                           | No         | 114           | 77.55%          | 83.66%          | 64.29%          |
|                           | Don't Know | 28            | 19.05%          | 13.07%          | 22.22%          |
| Unspecified mood disorder | Yes        | 2             | 1.36%           | 3.27%           | 0.00%           |
|                           | No         | 117           | 79.59%          | 86.27%          | 80.16%          |
|                           | Don't Know | 28            | 19.05%          | 10.46%          | 19.84%          |
| Multiple mood DX          | Yes        | 3             | 2.04%           | 5.23%           | 1.59%           |
|                           | No         | 116           | 78.91%          | 84.31%          | 78.57%          |
|                           | Don't Know | 28            | 19.05%          | 10.46%          | 19.84%          |

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

|                        |            | 2010<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent |
|------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER | Yes        | 24            | 16.33%          | 18.95%          | 11.90%          |
|                        | No         | 98            | 66.67%          | 69.28%          | 67.46%          |
|                        | Don't Know | 25            | 17.01%          | 11.76%          | 20.63%          |
| PTSD                   | Yes        | 9             | 6.12%           | 9.15%           | 3.97%           |
|                        | No         | 112           | 76.19%          | 78.43%          | 73.81%          |

**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<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| DX W/PERSONALITY DISORDER    | Yes        | 5             | 3.40%           | 4.58%           | 6.35%           |
|                              | No         | 115           | 78.23%          | 83.01%          | 70.63%          |
|                              | Don't Know | 27            | 18.37%          | 12.42%          | 23.02%          |
| DX W/PSYCHOTIC DISORDER      | Yes        | 0             | 0.00%           | 1.31%           | 0.79%           |
|                              | No         | 120           | 81.63%          | 86.93%          | 78.57%          |
|                              | Don't Know | 27            | 18.37%          | 11.76%          | 20.63%          |
| HX SUBSTANCE ABUSE           | Yes        | 41            | 27.89%          | 22.88%          | 23.81%          |
|                              | No         | 72            | 48.98%          | 60.13%          | 53.97%          |
|                              | Don't Know | 34            | 23.13%          | 16.99%          | 22.22%          |
| 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                     |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 23    | 15.65%  | 9.15%   | 19.05%  |
| 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%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 49    | 33.33%  | 24.18%  | 16.67%  |
| 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%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 23    | 15.65%  | 13.07%  | 19.84%  |
| 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%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 33    | 22.45%  | 17.65%  | 19.84%  |
| CHAPLAIN SERVICES                   | Yes                         | 11    | 7.48%   | 10.46%  | 15.87%  |
|                                     | Within 30 days              | 7     | 4.76%   | 9.15%   | 10.32%  |
|                                     | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 9     | 6.12%   | 9.80%   | 11.90%  |
|                                     | No                          | 52    | 35.37%  | 41.18%  | 34.92%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 84    | 57.14%  | 48.37%  | 49.21%  |
| OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH        | Yes                         | 65    | 44.22%  | 50.33%  | 42.86%  |
|                                     | Within 30 days              | 39    | 26.53%  | 28.10%  | 21.43%  |
|                                     | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 45    | 30.61%  | 32.03%  | 29.37%  |
|                                     | No                          | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                         |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%  |
| Antimanic               | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                    |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                          |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                         |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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 | Percent |
| HX VICTIM PHYSICAL ABUSE       | Yes        | 7     | 4.76%   | 6.54%   | 5.56%   |
|                                | No         | 79    | 53.74%  | 53.59%  | 50.79%  |
|                                | Don't Know | 61    | 41.50%  | 39.87%  | 43.65%  |
| HX VICTIM SEXUAL ABUSE         | Yes        | 3     | 2.04%   | 3.92%   | 4.76%   |
|                                | No         | 83    | 56.46%  | 56.86%  | 52.38%  |
|                                | Don't Know | 61    | 41.50%  | 39.22%  | 42.86%  |
| HX VICTIM EMOTIONAL ABUSE      | Yes        | 5     | 3.40%   | 6.54%   | 6.35%   |
|                                | No         | 79    | 53.74%  | 52.29%  | 49.21%  |
|                                | Don't Know | 63    | 42.86%  | 41.18%  | 44.44%  |
| HX VICTIM SEXUAL HARASSMENT    | Yes        | 1     | 0.68%   | 0.65%   | 0.00%   |
|                                | No         | 83    | 56.46%  | 58.17%  | 54.76%  |
|                                | Don't Know | 63    | 42.86%  | 41.18%  | 45.24%  |
| HX PERPETRATOR PHYSICAL ABUSE  | Yes        | 12    | 8.16%   | 9.15%   | 6.35%   |
|                                | No         | 71    | 48.30%  | 52.94%  | 48.41%  |
|                                | Don't Know | 64    | 43.54%  | 37.91%  | 45.24%  |
| HX PERPETRATOR SEXUAL ABUSE    | Yes        | 4     | 2.72%   | 3.92%   | 5.56%   |
|                                | No         | 81    | 55.10%  | 55.56%  | 51.59%  |
|                                | Don't Know | 62    | 42.18%  | 40.52%  | 42.86%  |
| HX PERPETRATOR EMOTIONAL ABUSE | Yes        | 6     | 4.08%   | 3.92%   | 6.35%   |
|                                | No         | 78    | 53.06%  | 54.90%  | 49.21%  |

**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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                               |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------|-----------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|         |                 | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                       |                                      | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                |                                                   | Count | Percent | Percent | 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.)**

|                                                              |   |   |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|-------|
|                                                              | 3 | 6 | 0.70% |
| INDIVIDUALS WITH 2010 DoDSERs FOR BOTH SUICIDAL IDEATION AND |   | 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**

|                                                  |           | Suicide Attempt |         |         |         | Self-Harm (no intent to die) |         |         |         |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                  |           | 2010            |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010                         |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                                                  |           | Count           | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count                        | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN | 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 DoDSER DEMOGRAPHICS FOR NON-FATAL SUICIDE EVENTS

|           |                                   | Suicide Attempt |                 |                 |                 | Self-Harm (no intent to die) |                 |                 |                 | Ideation Only |                 |                 |                 |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|           |                                   | 2010<br>Count   | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count                | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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.)

|                |                             |     |        |        |        |     |        |        |        |     |        |        |        |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| MARITAL STATUS | 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% |
|                | 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

|                     |                  | 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 |
| GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION | 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**

|               |                                  | Suicide Attempt |         |         |         | Self-Harm (no intent to die) |         |         |         |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|               |                                  | 2010            |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010                         |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|               |                                  | Count           | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count                        | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| EVENT SETTING | 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**

|              |                             | Suicide Attempt |         |         |         | Self-Harm (no intent to die) |         |         |         |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|              |                             | 2010            |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010                         |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|              |                             | Count           | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count                        | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| EVENT METHOD | 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    | 2008    |         | 2010                         | 2009    | 2008    |         |
|                |            | 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**

|                                                      |   | Suicide Attempt |         |         |         | Self-Harm (no intent to die) |         |         |         |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                      |   | 2010            |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010                         |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                                                      |   | Count           | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count                        | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | 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**

|                             |                        | Suicide Attempt |         |         |         | Self-Harm (no intent to die) |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                             |                        | 2010            | 2009    | 2008    |         | 2010                         | 2009    | 2008    |         |
|                             |                        | Count           | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count                        | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | 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**

|               |                            | Suicide Attempt |         |         |         | Self-Harm (no intent to die) |         |         |         |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|               |                            | 2010            | 2009    | 2008    |         | 2010                         | 2009    | 2008    |         |
|               |                            | Count           | Percent | Percent | Percent | Count                        | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| COMMUNICATION | 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    | 2008    | 2010                         |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                       |            | 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<br>Count   | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count                | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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**

|                  |                             | Suicide Attempt |                 |                 |                 | Self-Harm (no intent to die) |                 |                 |                 | Ideation Only |                 |                 |                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                  |                             | 2010<br>Count   | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count                | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>Percent | 2010<br>Count | 2010<br>Percent | 2009<br>Percent | 2008<br>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**

|       |           | 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 |
| MONTH |           |                 |         |         |         |                              |         |         |         |               |         |         |         |
|       | 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 DoDSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY 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 |
| 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%  |
|                                    | Don't Know                  | 50              | 12.11%  | 7.71%   | 13.45%  | 34                           | 14.35%  | 10.66%  | 10.34%  | 120           | 13.07%  | 12.34%  | 15.10%  |
| Number prior self-injuries         | 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

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. Most DoDSERs 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 DoDSERs ( $n = 161$ , 38.98%) included known history of a mood disorder, primarily major depressive disorder ( $n = 77$ , 18.64%). Over one fourth of DoDSERs 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 DoDSERs (5.81%) included known personality disorders, eight (1.94%) included psychosis, 100 (24.21%) included known substance abuse history, and 13 Army suicide attempt DoDSERs (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 |
| 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 |
| 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.)**

|                  |            |            |               |        |        |            |               |        |        |            |               |        |        |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------|--------|------------|---------------|--------|--------|------------|---------------|--------|--------|
| Multiple mood DX | Don't Know | <b>44</b>  | <b>10.65%</b> | 9.88%  | 13.11% | <b>33</b>  | <b>13.92%</b> | 8.93%  | 9.38%  | <b>91</b>  | <b>9.91%</b>  | 10.85% | 14.12% |
|                  | Yes        | <b>17</b>  | <b>4.12%</b>  | 5.93%  | 4.71%  | <b>6</b>   | <b>2.53%</b>  | 4.61%  | 4.09%  | <b>44</b>  | <b>4.79%</b>  | 4.39%  | 4.24%  |
|                  | No         | <b>352</b> | <b>85.23%</b> | 84.19% | 82.18% | <b>198</b> | <b>83.54%</b> | 86.46% | 86.54% | <b>783</b> | <b>85.29%</b> | 84.76% | 81.64% |
|                  | Don't Know | <b>44</b>  | <b>10.65%</b> | 9.88%  | 13.11% | <b>33</b>  | <b>13.92%</b> | 8.93%  | 9.38%  | <b>91</b>  | <b>9.91%</b>  | 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    | 2008    | 2010                         |               | 2009    | 2008    | 2010          |               | 2009    | 2008    |
|                              |            | Count           | Percent       | Percent | Percent | Count                        | Percent       | Percent | Percent | Count         | Percent       | Percent | Percent |
| DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER       | Yes        | <b>116</b>      | <b>28.09%</b> | 23.91%  | 23.36%  | <b>73</b>                    | <b>30.80%</b> | 27.95%  | 16.11%  | <b>221</b>    | <b>24.07%</b> | 17.81%  | 19.74%  |
|                              | No         | <b>251</b>      | <b>60.77%</b> | 67.19%  | 61.51%  | <b>137</b>                   | <b>57.81%</b> | 63.11%  | 72.84%  | <b>609</b>    | <b>66.34%</b> | 72.08%  | 65.45%  |
|                              | Don't Know | <b>46</b>       | <b>11.14%</b> | 8.89%   | 15.13%  | <b>27</b>                    | <b>11.39%</b> | 8.93%   | 11.06%  | <b>88</b>     | <b>9.59%</b>  | 10.11%  | 14.81%  |
| PTSD                         | Yes        | <b>40</b>       | <b>9.69%</b>  | 9.68%   | 11.60%  | <b>30</b>                    | <b>12.66%</b> | 10.95%  | 7.45%   | <b>91</b>     | <b>9.91%</b>  | 7.46%   | 8.09%   |
|                              | No         | <b>316</b>      | <b>76.51%</b> | 79.84%  | 72.10%  | <b>179</b>                   | <b>75.53%</b> | 79.25%  | 80.05%  | <b>733</b>    | <b>79.85%</b> | 81.77%  | 76.11%  |
|                              | Don't Know | <b>57</b>       | <b>13.80%</b> | 10.47%  | 16.30%  | <b>28</b>                    | <b>11.81%</b> | 9.80%   | 12.50%  | <b>94</b>     | <b>10.24%</b> | 10.77%  | 15.79%  |
| Panic disorder               | Yes        | <b>4</b>        | <b>0.97%</b>  | 0.79%   | 0.67%   | <b>2</b>                     | <b>0.84%</b>  | 0.58%   | 0.72%   | <b>4</b>      | <b>0.44%</b>  | 0.33%   | 0.89%   |
|                              | No         | <b>348</b>      | <b>84.26%</b> | 88.74%  | 81.68%  | <b>203</b>                   | <b>85.65%</b> | 88.76%  | 86.30%  | <b>809</b>    | <b>88.13%</b> | 88.15%  | 83.22%  |
|                              | Don't Know | <b>61</b>       | <b>14.77%</b> | 10.47%  | 17.65%  | <b>32</b>                    | <b>13.50%</b> | 10.66%  | 12.98%  | <b>105</b>    | <b>11.44%</b> | 11.52%  | 15.89%  |
| Generalized anxiety disorder | Yes        | <b>10</b>       | <b>2.42%</b>  | 1.98%   | 2.69%   | <b>11</b>                    | <b>4.64%</b>  | 3.17%   | 1.68%   | <b>17</b>     | <b>1.85%</b>  | 2.32%   | 2.76%   |
|                              | No         | <b>344</b>      | <b>83.29%</b> | 87.15%  | 79.66%  | <b>194</b>                   | <b>81.86%</b> | 86.74%  | 85.82%  | <b>793</b>    | <b>86.38%</b> | 86.25%  | 81.24%  |
|                              | Don't Know | <b>59</b>       | <b>14.29%</b> | 10.87%  | 17.65%  | <b>32</b>                    | <b>13.50%</b> | 10.09%  | 12.50%  | <b>108</b>    | <b>11.76%</b> | 11.43%  | 15.99%  |
| Acute stress disorder        | Yes        | <b>1</b>        | <b>0.24%</b>  | 0.40%   | 0.00%   | <b>2</b>                     | <b>0.84%</b>  | 0.00%   | 0.24%   | <b>4</b>      | <b>0.44%</b>  | 0.00%   | 0.20%   |
|                              | No         | <b>352</b>      | <b>85.23%</b> | 89.13%  | 81.51%  | <b>203</b>                   | <b>85.65%</b> | 89.34%  | 87.02%  | <b>809</b>    | <b>88.13%</b> | 88.57%  | 83.51%  |
|                              | Don't Know | <b>60</b>       | <b>14.53%</b> | 10.47%  | 18.49%  | <b>32</b>                    | <b>13.50%</b> | 10.66%  | 12.74%  | <b>105</b>    | <b>11.44%</b> | 11.43%  | 16.29%  |
| Other anxiety disorder       | Yes        | <b>30</b>       | <b>7.26%</b>  | 5.34%   | 3.53%   | <b>8</b>                     | <b>3.38%</b>  | 5.48%   | 3.85%   | <b>47</b>     | <b>5.12%</b>  | 3.23%   | 3.46%   |
|                              | No         | <b>325</b>      | <b>78.69%</b> | 84.98%  | 78.82%  | <b>200</b>                   | <b>84.39%</b> | 83.86%  | 83.89%  | <b>763</b>    | <b>83.12%</b> | 85.34%  | 80.95%  |
|                              | Don't Know | <b>58</b>       | <b>14.04%</b> | 9.68%   | 17.65%  | <b>29</b>                    | <b>12.24%</b> | 10.66%  | 12.26%  | <b>108</b>    | <b>11.76%</b> | 11.43%  | 15.60%  |
| Unspecified anxiety DX       | Yes        | <b>10</b>       | <b>2.42%</b>  | 1.19%   | 1.01%   | <b>2</b>                     | <b>0.84%</b>  | 0.58%   | 0.48%   | <b>6</b>      | <b>0.65%</b>  | 0.91%   | 0.89%   |
|                              | No         | <b>357</b>      | <b>86.44%</b> | 89.92%  | 83.87%  | <b>208</b>                   | <b>87.76%</b> | 90.49%  | 88.46%  | <b>824</b>    | <b>89.76%</b> | 88.98%  | 84.30%  |
|                              | Don't Know | <b>46</b>       | <b>11.14%</b> | 8.89%   | 15.13%  | <b>27</b>                    | <b>11.39%</b> | 8.93%   | 11.06%  | <b>88</b>     | <b>9.59%</b>  | 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    | 2008    | 2010                         |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010          |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                              |            | 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 DoDSER TREATMENT HISTORY 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 |
| SEEN AT MILITARY<br>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%  |
|                                        | Don't Know                  | 30              | 7.26%   | 10.87%  | 10.08%  | 32                           | 13.50%  | 10.37%  | 8.89%   | 84            | 9.15%   | 10.36%  | 10.76%  |
| HX PHYSICAL HEALTH<br>PROBLEM          | 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%  |
|                                        | 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%  |
| SUBSTANCE ABUSE<br>SERVICES            | 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%   |
|                                        | 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%  |
| FAMILY ADVOCACY<br>PROGRAMS            | Yes                         | 29              | 7.02%   | 6.13%   | 4.20%   | 12                           | 5.06%   | 6.34%   | 5.53%   | 68            | 7.41%   | 5.14%   | 4.34%   |
|                                        | 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%  |
| CHAPLAIN SERVICES                      | 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.)**

|                                 |                             |     |        |        |        |     |        |        |        |     |        |        |        |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| OUTPATIENT<br>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH | 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% |
|                                 | 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% |
|                                 | 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% |
| INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL<br>HEALTH  | 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% |
|                                 | 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%  |        |        |
| IN A WARRIOR<br>TRANSITION UNIT | 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**

|                         |            | 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 |
| TAKEN PSYCHOTROPIC MEDS | 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        | <b>159</b> | <b>38.50%</b> | 35.18% | 35.63% | <b>99</b>  | <b>41.77%</b> | 40.06% | 31.97% | <b>343</b> | <b>37.36%</b> | 35.87% | 29.22% |
|                 | No         | <b>208</b> | <b>50.36%</b> | 56.13% | 52.44% | <b>109</b> | <b>45.99%</b> | 49.57% | 58.89% | <b>464</b> | <b>50.54%</b> | 51.70% | 56.27% |
|                 | Don't Know | <b>46</b>  | <b>11.14%</b> | 8.70%  | 11.93% | <b>29</b>  | <b>12.24%</b> | 10.37% | 9.13%  | <b>111</b> | <b>12.09%</b> | 12.43% | 14.51% |
| Antianxiety     | Yes        | <b>83</b>  | <b>20.10%</b> | 15.61% | 16.13% | <b>50</b>  | <b>21.10%</b> | 19.02% | 10.82% | <b>157</b> | <b>17.10%</b> | 14.66% | 12.64% |
|                 | No         | <b>272</b> | <b>65.86%</b> | 73.32% | 68.24% | <b>151</b> | <b>63.71%</b> | 68.30% | 76.68% | <b>638</b> | <b>69.50%</b> | 71.09% | 70.88% |
|                 | Don't Know | <b>58</b>  | <b>14.04%</b> | 11.07% | 15.63% | <b>36</b>  | <b>15.19%</b> | 12.68% | 12.50% | <b>123</b> | <b>13.40%</b> | 14.25% | 16.49% |
| Antimanics      | Yes        | <b>13</b>  | <b>3.15%</b>  | 1.38%  | 2.35%  | <b>5</b>   | <b>2.11%</b>  | 1.73%  | 3.61%  | <b>23</b>  | <b>2.51%</b>  | 2.40%  | 2.27%  |
|                 | No         | <b>338</b> | <b>81.84%</b> | 86.17% | 79.83% | <b>196</b> | <b>82.70%</b> | 85.30% | 84.62% | <b>772</b> | <b>84.10%</b> | 82.60% | 81.54% |
|                 | Don't Know | <b>62</b>  | <b>15.01%</b> | 12.45% | 17.82% | <b>36</b>  | <b>15.19%</b> | 12.97% | 11.78% | <b>123</b> | <b>13.40%</b> | 15.00% | 16.19% |
| Anticonvulsants | Yes        | <b>9</b>   | <b>2.18%</b>  | 1.58%  | 1.85%  | <b>4</b>   | <b>1.69%</b>  | 2.59%  | 1.68%  | <b>19</b>  | <b>2.07%</b>  | 2.15%  | 1.38%  |
|                 | No         | <b>341</b> | <b>82.57%</b> | 86.56% | 81.18% | <b>197</b> | <b>83.12%</b> | 84.73% | 85.82% | <b>773</b> | <b>84.20%</b> | 82.93% | 82.23% |
|                 | Don't Know | <b>63</b>  | <b>15.25%</b> | 11.86% | 16.97% | <b>36</b>  | <b>15.19%</b> | 12.68% | 12.50% | <b>126</b> | <b>13.73%</b> | 14.91% | 16.39% |
| Antipsychotics  | Yes        | <b>32</b>  | <b>7.75%</b>  | 9.29%  | 9.08%  | <b>20</b>  | <b>8.44%</b>  | 11.82% | 7.69%  | <b>55</b>  | <b>5.99%</b>  | 7.21%  | 7.31%  |
|                 | No         | <b>319</b> | <b>77.24%</b> | 78.66% | 74.96% | <b>181</b> | <b>76.37%</b> | 76.37% | 79.81% | <b>741</b> | <b>80.72%</b> | 78.29% | 76.11% |
|                 | Don't Know | <b>62</b>  | <b>15.01%</b> | 12.06% | 15.97% | <b>36</b>  | <b>15.19%</b> | 11.82% | 12.50% | <b>122</b> | <b>13.29%</b> | 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    | 2008    | 2010                         |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010          |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                                                    |                             | 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    | 2008    | 2010                         |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010          |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                   |            | 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 DoDSER 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 DoDSER POCs for non-fatal suicide events in 2010. One hundred seventy-six DoDSERs 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 DoDSERs 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    | 2008    | 2010                         |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010          |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                                 |            | 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 DoDSER data about both abuse victimization and abuse perpetration. DoDSERs 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 DoDSERs 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%). DoDSERs for self-harm without intent to die and suicidal ideation included similar proportions.

**TABLE 5.56. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER ABUSE HISTORY 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 |
| 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    | 2008    | 2010                         |         | 2009    | 2008    | 2010          |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|                               |            | 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 | <b>23</b>  | <b>5.57%</b>  | 5.73%  | 3.87%  | <b>8</b>   | <b>3.38%</b>  | 3.75%  | 3.37%  | <b>41</b>  | <b>4.47%</b>  | 2.90%  | 2.57%  |
| No                           | <b>306</b> | <b>74.09%</b> | 78.85% | 75.80% | <b>195</b> | <b>82.28%</b> | 88.47% | 77.64% | <b>752</b> | <b>81.92%</b> | 85.42% | 77.10% |
| Don't Know                   | <b>84</b>  | <b>20.34%</b> | 15.42% | 20.34% | <b>34</b>  | <b>14.35%</b> | 7.78%  | 18.99% | <b>125</b> | <b>13.62%</b> | 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**

|         |                 | 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 |
| THEATER | Afghanistan     | <b>14</b>       | <b>3.39%</b>  | 1.58%   | 1.68%   | <b>6</b>                     | <b>2.53%</b>  | 1.73%   | 0.72%   | <b>7</b>      | <b>0.76%</b>  | 0.75%   | 0.59%   |
|         | Iraq            | <b>25</b>       | <b>6.05%</b>  | 8.70%   | 13.95%  | <b>10</b>                    | <b>4.22%</b>  | 5.19%   | 8.41%   | <b>18</b>     | <b>1.96%</b>  | 4.14%   | 5.73%   |
|         | Kuwait          | <b>0</b>        | <b>0.00%</b>  | 0.59%   | 0.34%   | <b>0</b>                     | <b>0.00%</b>  | 0.58%   | 0.48%   | <b>3</b>      | <b>0.33%</b>  | 0.25%   | 0.20%   |
|         | Not OEF/OIF/OND | <b>374</b>      | <b>90.56%</b> | 89.13%  | 84.03%  | <b>221</b>                   | <b>93.25%</b> | 92.51%  | 90.38%  | <b>890</b>    | <b>96.95%</b> | 94.86%  | 93.48%  |

**TABLE 5.59. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 ARMY DoDSER OEF/OIF/OND DEPLOYMENT HISTORY**

|                       |             | 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 |
| HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF | Afghanistan | <b>41</b>       | <b>9.93%</b>  | 2.17%   | 0.67%   | <b>27</b>                    | <b>11.39%</b> | 3.75%   | 0.00%   | <b>138</b>    | <b>15.03%</b> | 2.98%   | 0.20%   |
|                       | Iraq        | <b>142</b>      | <b>34.38%</b> | 41.50%  | 39.16%  | <b>71</b>                    | <b>29.96%</b> | 31.12%  | 36.78%  | <b>246</b>    | <b>26.80%</b> | 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

|                |                                 | 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 |
| 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

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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 AFMES Confirmed and Pending Suicides | 37   | 52   | 42   |
| AFMES 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**

|                                                  |           | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                  |           | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN | 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 | DoD Total % | Rate/100K | (N = 52) Percent | (N = 42) 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%            |                  |
|           | 35-39                                   | 1     | 2.70%   | 6.63%       | *         | 5.77%            | 7.14%            |
|           | 40-44                                   | 0     | 0.00%   | 3.34%       | *         | 0.00%            |                  |
|           | 45+                                     | 1     | 2.70%   | 1.59%       | *         | 1.92%            | 4.76%            |
|           |                                         |       |         |             |           |                  |                  |
| 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**

|                     |               | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                     |               | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION | United States | 30    | 81.08%  | 75.00%  | 80.49%  |
|                     | Iraq          | 0     | 0.00%   | 15.38%  | 14.63%  |
|                     | Afghanistan   | 4     | 10.81%  | 5.77%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Djibouti      | 1     | 2.70%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Asia          | 2     | 5.41%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Other         | 0     | 0.00%   | 3.85%   | 0.00%   |
|                     | Don't Know    | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 4.88%   |

**TABLE 6.5. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER EVENT SETTING**

|               |                                  | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|               |                                  | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| EVENT SETTING | Residence (own) or barracks      | 19    | 51.35%  | 61.54%  | 56.10%  |
|               | Residence of friend or family    | 3     | 8.11%   | 11.54%  | 12.20%  |
|               | Work/jobsite                     | 5     | 13.51%  | 5.77%   | 12.20%  |
|               | Automobile (away from residence) | 2     | 5.41%   | 7.69%   | 9.76%   |
|               | Inpatient medical facility       | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|               | Other                            | 8     | 21.62%  | 13.46%  | 9.76%   |
|               | Don't Know                       | 0     | 0.00%   | 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**

| 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|----------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                      |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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**

|                                         |                                      | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                         |                                      | Count | 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**

|                  |                             | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                  |                             | Count | 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**

|       |           | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------|-----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|       |           | Count | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                    |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%  |
|                                    | Don't Know                  | 4     | 10.81%  | 21.15%  | 26.83%  |
| Number prior self-injuries         | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                       |              | Count | Percent | Percent | 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 | Percent |
| DX W/ MOOD DISORDER       | Yes        | 8     | 21.62%  | 21.15%  | 14.63%  |
|                           | No         | 27    | 72.97%  | 63.46%  | 78.05%  |
|                           | Don't Know | 2     | 5.41%   | 15.38%  | 7.32%   |
| Bipolar disorder          | Yes        | 1     | 2.70%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                           | No         | 34    | 91.89%  | 75.00%  | 85.37%  |
|                           | Don't Know | 2     | 5.41%   | 25.00%  | 14.63%  |
| Major depression          | Yes        | 3     | 8.11%   | 9.62%   | 4.88%   |
|                           | No         | 32    | 86.49%  | 69.23%  | 82.93%  |
|                           | Don't Know | 2     | 5.41%   | 21.15%  | 12.20%  |
| Dysthymic disorder        | Yes        | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 2.44%   |
|                           | No         | 35    | 94.59%  | 75.00%  | 82.93%  |
|                           | Don't Know | 2     | 5.41%   | 25.00%  | 14.63%  |
| Other mood disorder       | Yes        | 1     | 2.70%   | 3.85%   | 2.44%   |
|                           | No         | 33    | 89.19%  | 73.08%  | 82.93%  |
|                           | Don't Know | 3     | 8.11%   | 23.08%  | 14.63%  |
| Unspecified mood disorder | Yes        | 1     | 2.70%   | 3.85%   | 4.88%   |
|                           | No         | 34    | 91.89%  | 80.77%  | 87.80%  |
|                           | Don't Know | 2     | 5.41%   | 15.38%  | 7.32%   |
| Multiple mood DX          | Yes        | 2     | 5.41%   | 3.85%   | 0.00%   |
|                           | No         | 33    | 89.19%  | 80.77%  | 92.68%  |
|                           | Don't Know | 2     | 5.41%   | 15.38%  | 7.32%   |

**TABLE 6.18. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER ANXIETY DISORDERS**

|                              |            | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                              |            | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| DX W/ ANXIETY DISORDER       | Yes        | 4     | 10.81%  | 13.46%  | 4.88%   |
|                              | No         | 31    | 83.78%  | 67.31%  | 87.80%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 2     | 5.41%   | 19.23%  | 7.32%   |
| PTSD                         | Yes        | 2     | 5.41%   | 1.92%   | 0.00%   |
|                              | No         | 33    | 89.19%  | 76.92%  | 90.24%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 2     | 5.41%   | 21.15%  | 9.76%   |
| Panic disorder               | Yes        | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                              | No         | 35    | 94.59%  | 78.85%  | 90.24%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 2     | 5.41%   | 21.15%  | 9.76%   |
| Generalized anxiety disorder | Yes        | 0     | 0.00%   | 1.92%   | 2.44%   |
|                              | No         | 35    | 94.59%  | 76.92%  | 87.80%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 2     | 5.41%   | 21.15%  | 9.76%   |
| Acute stress disorder        | Yes        | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 2.44%   |
|                              | No         | 35    | 94.59%  | 78.85%  | 90.24%  |
|                              | Don't Know | 2     | 5.41%   | 21.15%  | 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**

|                              |            | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                              |            | Count | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                     |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 3     | 8.11%   | 11.54%  | 7.32%   |
| HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM          | 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%  |
|                                     | No                          | 25    | 67.57%  | 75.00%  | 73.17%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 3     | 8.11%   | 17.31%  | 4.88%   |
| SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES            | Yes                         | 7     | 18.92%  | 17.31%  | 4.88%   |
|                                     | Within 30 days              | 4     | 10.81%  | 11.54%  | 0.00%   |
|                                     | 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%  |
| FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS            | Yes                         | 5     | 13.51%  | 5.77%   | 7.32%   |
|                                     | 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%  |
| CHAPLAIN SERVICES                   | 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%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 9     | 24.32%  | 23.08%  | 26.83%  |
| OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH        | 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%   |
| INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH         | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                         |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%  |
| Antimaniacs             | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                 |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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% |
| HX ANY FAILED RELATIONSHIP (INTIMATE AND/OR OTHER) | Don't Know                  | 11 | 29.73% | 46.15% | 31.71% |
|                                                    | 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**

|                                      |            | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                      |            | Count | 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**

|         |                 | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------|-----------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|         |                 | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| THEATER | 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**

|                       |             | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                       |             | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF | 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       | <b>4</b>  | <b>10.81%</b> | 11.54% | 0.00%  |
| No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment | <b>16</b> | <b>43.24%</b> | 32.69% | 43.90% |

**TABLE 6.29. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 MARINE CORPS DODSER COMBAT HISTORY**

|                |                                                   | <b>2010</b>  | 2009           | 2008           |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
|                |                                                   | <b>Count</b> | <b>Percent</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
| COMBAT HISTORY | HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT                          | <b>3</b>     | <b>8.11%</b>   | 17.31%         |
|                | Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others | <b>2</b>     | <b>5.41%</b>   | 24.39%         |
|                | Injured in combat                                 | <b>2</b>     | <b>5.41%</b>   | 9.76%          |
|                | Witnessed killing in combat                       | <b>2</b>     | <b>5.41%</b>   | 29.27%         |
|                | Saw dead bodies in combat                         | <b>2</b>     | <b>5.41%</b>   | 19.51%         |
|                | Killed others in combat                           | <b>2</b>     | <b>5.41%</b>   | 17.07%         |
|                | NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY                          | <b>34</b>    | <b>91.89%</b>  | 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%  |
|                                    | Don't Know                  | 35    | 23.18%  |
| Number prior self-injuries         | 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.)**

|                              |            |     |        |
|------------------------------|------------|-----|--------|
| Unspecified anxiety disorder | Don't Know | 29  | 19.21% |
|                              | Yes        | 0   | 0.00%  |
|                              | No         | 126 | 83.44% |
| Multiple anxiety DX          | Don't Know | 25  | 16.56% |
|                              | 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.)**

|                 |            |     |        |
|-----------------|------------|-----|--------|
| Antianxiety     | No         | 80  | 52.98% |
|                 | Don't Know | 27  | 17.88% |
|                 | Yes        | 14  | 9.27%  |
| Antimanics      | No         | 106 | 70.20% |
|                 | Don't Know | 31  | 20.53% |
|                 | Yes        | 4   | 2.65%  |
| Anticonvulsants | No         | 115 | 76.16% |
|                 | Don't Know | 32  | 21.19% |
|                 | Yes        | 1   | 0.66%  |
| Antipsychotics  | No         | 118 | 78.15% |
|                 | Don't Know | 32  | 21.19% |
|                 | 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

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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**

|                                                  |           | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                  |           | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| NUMBER OF PRIMARY DATA FIELDS MISSING OR UNKNOWN | 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 | DoD Total % | Rate/100K | (N = 48) Percent | (N = 41) Percent |
| TOTAL     |                                         | 39    | 100.00% | 100.00%     | 11.08     | 100.00%          | 100.00%          |
| GENDER    | Male                                    | 37    | 94.87%  | 83.78%      | 19.57     | 95.83%           | 97.56%           |
|           | Female                                  | 2     | 5.13%   | 16.22%      | *         | 4.17%            | 2.44%            |
| RACE      | American Indian or Alaskan Native       | 1     | 2.56%   | 4.41%       | *         | 6.25%            | 2.44%            |
|           | Asian or Pacific Islander               | 2     | 5.13%   | 6.47%       | *         | 4.17%            | 7.32%            |
|           | Black/African American                  | 5     | 12.82%  | 17.83%      | 12.86     | 12.50%           | 17.07%           |
|           | White/Caucasian                         | 30    | 76.92%  | 61.51%      | 19.80     | 72.92%           | 68.29%           |
|           | Other/Don't Know                        | 1     | 2.56%   | 9.77%       | *         | 4.17%            | 2.44%            |
|           |                                         |       |         |             |           |                  |                  |
| AGE RANGE | Under 25                                | 22    | 56.41%  | 36.36%      | 23.03     | 28.26%           | 51.22%           |
|           | 25-29                                   | 6     | 15.38%  | 23.60%      | 19.25     | 17.39%           | 14.63%           |
|           | 30-34                                   | 3     | 7.69%   | 15.34%      | 12.09     | 28.26%           | 21.95%           |
|           | 35-39                                   | 7     | 17.95%  | 12.66%      | 16.53     | 15.22%           |                  |
|           | 40-44                                   | 1     | 2.56%   | 7.35%       | *         | 4.35%            | 12.20%           |
|           | 45+                                     | 0     | 0.00%   | 4.69%       | *         | 6.52%            |                  |
| RANK      | Cadet                                   | 0     | 0.00%   | 1.37%       | *         | 0.00%            | 0.00%            |
|           | E1-E4                                   | 22    | 56.41%  | 38.52%      | 22.91     | 29.17%           | 43.90%           |
|           | E5-E9                                   | 14    | 35.90%  | 43.86%      | 17.15     | 64.58%           | 48.78%           |
|           | Officer                                 | 3     | 7.69%   | 15.77%      | *         | 4.17%            | 7.32%            |
|           | Warrant Officer                         | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.47%       | *         | 2.08%            | 0.00%            |
| COMPONENT | Regular                                 | 38    | 97.44%  | 93.18%      | 17.52     | 95.83%           | 97.56%           |
|           | Reserve                                 | 1     | 2.56%   | 6.82%       | *         | 4.17%            | 2.44%            |
|           | National Guard                          | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%       | *         | 0.00%            | 0.00%            |
| EDUCATION | Some high school, did not graduate      | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.88%       | *         | 0.00%            | 4.88%            |
|           | GED                                     | 4     | 10.26%  | 3.13%       | 29.91     | 6.25%            | 2.44%            |
|           | High school graduate                    | 30    | 76.92%  | 67.93%      | 19.77     | 72.92%           | 70.73%           |
|           | Some college or technical school        | 1     | 2.56%   | 1.76%       | *         | 4.17%            | 9.76%            |
|           | Degree/certificate less than four years | 1     | 2.56%   | 5.06%       | *         | 4.17%            | 0.00%            |
|           | Four-year college degree                | 0     | 0.00%   | 8.27%       | *         | 8.33%            | 7.32%            |

**TABLE 7.3. CY 2010 AFMES AND DMDC DEMOGRAPHIC DATA AND RATES FOR NAVY SUICIDES (N = 39) (CONT.)**

|                |                            |    |        |        |       |        |        |
|----------------|----------------------------|----|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| MARITAL STATUS | 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%  |
|                | 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**

|                     |               | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                     |               | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION | 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**

|               |                                  | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|               |                                  | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| EVENT SETTING | 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 |                                 | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|              |                                 | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| EVENT METHOD | 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**

|                        |                   | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                        |                   | Count | 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**

|                                                      |   | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                      |   | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| NUMBER OF TYPES OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | 0 | 25    | 65.79%  | 73.91%  | 58.54%  |
|                                                      | 1 | 10    | 26.32%  | 21.74%  | 31.71%  |
|                                                      | 2 | 3     | 7.89%   | 4.35%   | 9.76%   |

**TABLE 7.9. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT**

|                             |                        | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                             |                        | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| MODE OF COMMUNICATED INTENT | Verbal                 | 11    | 28.95%  | 13.04%  | 26.83%  |
|                             | Written                | 2     | 5.26%   | 0.00%   | 2.44%   |
|                             | Other or Unknown       | 0     | 0.00%   | 6.52%   | 7.32%   |
|                             | Multiple Modes         | 0     | 0.00%   | 4.35%   | 4.88%   |
|                             | No Known Communication | 25    | 65.79%  | 76.09%  | 58.54%  |

**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**

|               |                              | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------|------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|               |                              | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| COMMUNICATION | Spouse                       | 5     | 13.16%  | 10.87%  | 7.32%   |
|               | Friend                       | 1     | 2.63%   | 4.35%   | 12.20%  |
|               | Behavioral Health Provider   | 1     | 2.63%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|               | Chaplain                     | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 2.44%   |
|               | Supervisor                   | 0     | 0.00%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|               | Other or Unidentified        | 3     | 7.89%   | 4.35%   | 9.76%   |
|               | Made Multiple Communications | 3     | 7.89%   | 4.35%   | 9.76%   |
|               | No Known Communication       | 25    | 65.79%  | 76.09%  | 58.54%  |

## 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|----------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                      |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                         |                                      | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%   |
|                                         | Don't Know                           | 0     | 0.00%   | 2.17%   | 9.76%   |
| MARRIED SERVICE MEMBER RESIDENCE        | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                  |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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    | 2008    |
|-----------|--|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|           |  | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| January   |  | 0     | 0.00%   | 4.35%   | 14.63%  |
| February  |  | 3     | 7.89%   | 13.04%  | 2.44%   |
| March     |  | 2     | 5.26%   | 8.70%   | 7.32%   |
| April     |  | 3     | 7.89%   | 6.52%   | 9.76%   |
| May       |  | 4     | 10.53%  | 10.87%  | 12.20%  |
| June      |  | 2     | 5.26%   | 6.52%   | 4.88%   |
| July      |  | 5     | 13.16%  | 8.70%   | 9.76%   |
| August    |  | 3     | 7.89%   | 13.04%  | 0.00%   |
| September |  | 2     | 5.26%   | 6.52%   | 4.88%   |
| October   |  | 4     | 10.53%  | 6.52%   | 4.88%   |
| November  |  | 5     | 13.16%  | 6.52%   | 19.51%  |
| December  |  | 5     | 13.16%  | 8.70%   | 9.76%   |

## 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    | 2008    |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                      |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| Yes                  |                             | 1     | 2.63%   | 10.87%  | 9.76%   |
|                      | Within 30 days              | 0     | 0.00%   | 2.17%   | 4.88%   |
|                      | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 0     | 0.00%   | 8.70%   | 7.32%   |
| No                   |                             | 28    | 73.68%  | 65.22%  | 53.66%  |

**TABLE 7.15. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER PRIOR SELF-INJURY (CONT.)**

|                                    |                           |    |        |        |        |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----|--------|--------|--------|
| Number prior self-injuries         | Don't Know                | 9  | 23.68% | 23.91% | 36.59% |
|                                    | 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**

|                                       |              | 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**

|                     |            | 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.)**

|                           |            |    |        |        |        |
|---------------------------|------------|----|--------|--------|--------|
| Other mood disorder       | Don't Know | 5  | 13.16% | 30.43% | 31.71% |
|                           | Yes        | 2  | 5.26%  | 2.17%  | 4.88%  |
|                           | No         | 31 | 81.58% | 67.39% | 60.98% |
| Unspecified mood disorder | Don't Know | 5  | 13.16% | 30.43% | 34.15% |
|                           | Yes        | 0  | 0.00%  | 2.17%  | 0.00%  |
|                           | No         | 33 | 86.84% | 71.74% | 68.29% |
| Multiple mood DX          | Don't Know | 5  | 13.16% | 26.09% | 31.71% |
|                           | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                              |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                              |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                     |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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%  |
|                                     | No                          | 16    | 42.11%  | 32.61%  | 39.02%  |
|                                     | Don't Know                  | 1     | 2.63%   | 21.74%  | 31.71%  |
| HX PHYSICAL HEALTH PROBLEM          | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                         |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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.)**

|                 |            |    |        |        |        |
|-----------------|------------|----|--------|--------|--------|
| Antimanics      | No         | 25 | 65.79% | 60.87% | 65.85% |
|                 | Don't Know | 9  | 23.68% | 36.96% | 26.83% |
|                 | Yes        | 0  | 0.00%  | 0.00%  | 0.00%  |
| Anticonvulsants | No         | 29 | 76.32% | 63.04% | 70.73% |
|                 | Don't Know | 9  | 23.68% | 36.96% | 29.27% |
|                 | Yes        | 0  | 0.00%  | 0.00%  | 0.00%  |
| Antipsychotics  | No         | 29 | 76.32% | 63.04% | 70.73% |
|                 | Don't Know | 9  | 23.68% | 36.96% | 29.27% |
|                 | Yes        | 0  | 0.00%  | 0.00%  | 0.00%  |

## 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                                    |                             | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                      |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                 |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                          |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                               |            | Count | Percent | Percent | 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    | 2008    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                       |                                      | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| HX DEPLOYMENT OEF/OIF | Afghanistan                          | 1     | 2.63%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                       | Iraq                                 | 2     | 5.26%   | 4.35%   | 4.88%   |
|                       | Kuwait                               | 0     | 0.00%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                       | Multiple OEF/OIF/OND locations       | 0     | 0.00%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                       | No history of OEF/OIF/OND deployment | 35    | 92.11%  | 89.13%  | 95.12%  |

**TABLE 7.28. CY 2010 AND 2008-2009 NAVY DODSER COMBAT HISTORY**

|                |                                                   | 2010  |         | 2009    | 2008    |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
|                |                                                   | Count | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| COMBAT HISTORY | HISTORY OF DIRECT COMBAT                          | 3     | 7.89%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                | Combat resulted in injuries/casualties for others | 2     | 5.26%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                | Injured in combat                                 | 1     | 2.63%   | 0.00%   | 0.00%   |
|                | Witnessed killing in combat                       | 1     | 2.63%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                | Saw dead bodies in combat                         | 1     | 2.63%   | 2.17%   | 0.00%   |
|                | NO DIRECT COMBAT HISTORY                          | 35    | 92.11%  | 97.83%  | 100.00% |

## 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% |
|                        | Yes        | 1  | 1.72%  |
| Unspecified anxiety DX | No         | 53 | 91.38% |
|                        | Don't Know | 4  | 6.90%  |
|                        | Yes        | 3  | 5.17%  |
| Multiple anxiety DX    | No         | 51 | 87.93% |
|                        | Don't Know | 4  | 6.90%  |
|                        | Yes        | 3  | 5.17%  |

**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% |
|                              | Don't Know                  | 5  | 8.62%  |
| SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES     | Yes                         | 7  | 12.07% |
|                              | Within 30 days              | 1  | 1.72%  |
|                              | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 3  | 5.17%  |
|                              | No                          | 47 | 81.03% |
|                              | Don't Know                  | 4  | 6.90%  |
| FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS     | Yes                         | 4  | 6.90%  |
|                              | Within 30 days              | 3  | 5.17%  |
|                              | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 4  | 6.90%  |
|                              | No                          | 46 | 79.31% |
|                              | Don't Know                  | 8  | 13.79% |
| CHAPLAIN SERVICES            | Yes                         | 9  | 15.52% |
|                              | Within 30 days              | 4  | 6.90%  |
|                              | Within 90 days (inclusive)* | 7  | 12.07% |
|                              | No                          | 36 | 62.07% |
|                              | Don't Know                  | 13 | 22.41% |
| OUTPATIENT 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%  |
| INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  | 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.)**

|                 |            |    |        |
|-----------------|------------|----|--------|
| Antianxiety     | No         | 34 | 58.62% |
|                 | Don't Know | 4  | 6.90%  |
|                 | Yes        | 9  | 15.52% |
| Antimaniacs     | No         | 44 | 75.86% |
|                 | Don't Know | 5  | 8.62%  |
|                 | Yes        | 0  | 0.00%  |
| Anticonvulsants | No         | 53 | 91.38% |
|                 | Don't Know | 5  | 8.62%  |
|                 | Yes        | 2  | 3.45%  |
| Antipsychotics  | No         | 51 | 87.93% |
|                 | Don't Know | 5  | 8.62%  |
|                 | 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

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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

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|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Article 15</b>                        | 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.                                                                            |
| <b>Death-risk gambling</b>               | Any game of chance with death or serious injury as a potential outcome                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Deployed</b>                          | 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                                                                 |
| <b>Self harm (without intent to die)</b> | 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).                                                                               |
| <b>Medical Evaluation Board</b>          | 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.      |
| <b>Planned and/or premeditated</b>       | 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.). |
| <b>Suicide</b>                           | Self-inflicted death with evidence (either explicit or implicit) of intent to die                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Suicide attempt</b>                   | A self-inflicted potentially injurious behavior with a non-fatal outcome for which there is evidence (either explicit or implicit) of intent to die.                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Suicidal ideation</b>                 | Any self-reported thoughts of engaging in suicide-related behaviors                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Traumatic Brain Injury</b>            | 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:                 |

- 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

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|               |                                             |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>AF</b>     | Air Force                                   |
| <b>AFMES</b>  | Armed Forces Medical Examiner System        |
| <b>AFIP</b>   | Armed Forces Institute of Pathology         |
| <b>AWOL</b>   | Absent without leave                        |
| <b>CAC</b>    | Common access card                          |
| <b>CDC</b>    | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  |
| <b>CY</b>     | Calendar year                               |
| <b>DMDC</b>   | Defense Manpower Data Center                |
| <b>DoD</b>    | Department of Defense                       |
| <b>DoDSER</b> | Department of Defense Suicide Event Report  |
| <b>DX</b>     | Diagnosis                                   |
| <b>GED</b>    | General equivalency diploma                 |
| <b>HX</b>     | History                                     |
| <b>MTF</b>    | Medical treatment facility                  |
| <b>OEF</b>    | Operation Enduring Freedom                  |
| <b>OIF</b>    | Operation Iraqi Freedom                     |
| <b>OND</b>    | Operation New Dawn                          |
| <b>OSI</b>    | Office of Special Investigations            |
| <b>OTC</b>    | Over the counter                            |
| <b>POC</b>    | Point of contact                            |
| <b>PTSD</b>   | Posttraumatic Stress Disorder               |
| <b>RR</b>     | Rate ratio                                  |
| <b>SPPM</b>   | Suicide Prevention Program Manager          |
| <b>T2</b>     | National Center for Telehealth & Technology |
| <b>TDY</b>    | Temporary duty                              |
| <b>UCMJ</b>   | Uniform Code of Military Justice            |

## APPENDIX C: **REFERENCES**

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- [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: \_\_\_\_\_