



United States Military Casualty Statistics: Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

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Summary

This report presents difficult-to-find statistics regarding U.S. military casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF, Afghanistan), including those concerning post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), amputations, evacuations, and the demographics of casualties. Some of these statistics are publicly available at the Department of Defense's (DOD's) website, whereas others have been obtained through contact with experts at DOD.

Daily updates of total U.S. military casualties in OIF and OEF can be found at the DOD's website, at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/casualty.pdf>. In addition, CRS Report R40824, *Iraq Casualties: U.S. Military Forces and Iraqi Civilians, Police, and Security Forces* contains statistics on U.S. military and Iraqi civilian casualties, while CRS Report R41084, *Afghanistan Casualties: Military Forces and Civilians* contains statistics on U.S. military and Afghan civilian casualties.

This report will be updated as needed.

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Rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Amputation

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

The Defense Medical Epidemiology Database (DMED)¹ was used to find the following statistics on the number of hospitalizations and outpatient visits in which post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was the primary diagnosis. These statistics count the number of visits, not the number of cases. Many patients may have made more than one hospital or outpatient visit in which PTSD was the primary diagnosis and, therefore, will have been counted multiple times. Between 2000 and 2009, there were 5,307 hospitalizations and 578,120 outpatient visits in which PTSD was the primary diagnosis.

The Army reported 39,331 individual cases of PTSD from January 1, 2005, to March 8, 2010. The number of newly identified cases of PTSD has decreased by 8% from 2008 to 2009, according to Army numbers.²

According to the DOD report, “Report to Congress in Accordance with Section 1634 (b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008,” the Military Health System (MHS) recorded 39,365 patients diagnosed with PTSD in calendar years 2003 to 2007. MHS spent an estimated \$63.8 million on direct and purchased care for PTSD patients and \$13.1 million on prescription costs for all prescriptions filled after a diagnosis of PTSD.³

Traumatic Brain Injury

The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center gives the following yearly rates of traumatic brain injury (TBI) cases:

Table I. Traumatic Brain Injuries in the United States Military, 2000 to 2009

Calendar Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Incident Diagnoses	10,963	11,830	12,469	12,886	13,271	12,025	16,873	23,002	28,557	27,862

Source: The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, <http://www.dvbic.org/TBI-Numbers.aspx>, last updated on December 31, 2009.

¹ A description of DMED can be found at <http://afhsc.mil/aboutDmed>.

² Personal communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, April 6, 2010.

³ Department of Defense, “Report to Congress in Accordance with Section 1634 (b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008,” p. 6, http://www.tricare.mil/planning/congress/downloads/Expenditures_for_Activities_on_TBI_andPost-Traumatic_Stress_Disorder__NDAA_for_FY_2008.pdf.

Amputations

Amputation statistics are provided to CRS by the Army Office of the Surgeon General.

Table 2. Count of Individuals with Amputations by Service for OIF, OEF, and Unaffiliated Conflicts, 2001 to 2010

Theater	Type of Amputation	Army	Marine	Navy	Air Force	Foreign	Other	Total
OIF	Major Limb	617	158	18	8	4	8	813
	Partial (Hand/Foot, Toes/Fingers)	270	48	7	11	0	3	339
OEF	Major Limb	114	36	4	6	4	4	168
	Partial (Hand/Foot, Toes/Fingers)	21	3	0	1	0	0	25
Unaffiliated Conflicts	Major Limb	90	12	24	30	1	25	182
	Partial (Hand/Foot, Toes/Fingers)	20	1	2	1	0	1	25
Total								1552

Source: Personal correspondence with Dr. Michael J. Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, April 6, 2010.

Gender Distribution of Deaths

Tables 3 and 4 provide statistics on the gender distribution of OIF and OEF casualties (also available on DOD’s website, <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm>). All numbers are current as of April 3, 2010. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 3. OIF Gender Distribution of Deaths

Gender	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Male	4,270	97.5
Female	108	2.5
Total	4,378	100.0

Source: DOD, Operation Iraqi Freedom—Military Deaths, at <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-deaths-total.pdf>.

Table 4. OEF Gender Distribution of Deaths

Gender	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
Male	1,006	98.1
Female	20	1.9
Total	1,026	100.0

Source: DOD, Operation Enduring Freedom—Military Deaths, at <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oefdeaths.pdf>.

Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

Tables 5 and 6 provide statistics on the race and ethnicity distribution of OIF and OEF casualties (also on DOD’s website, <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm>). All numbers are current as of April 3, 2010. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 5. OIF Race/ Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
American Indian/Alaska Native	42	0.9
Asian	82	1.9
Black or African American	425	10.6
Hispanic or Latino	463	10.6
Multiple races, pending, or unknown	48	1.1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	50	1.1
White	3,268	74.6
Total	4,378	100

Source: DOD, Operation Iraqi Freedom—Military Deaths, at <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-deaths-total.pdf>.

Table 6. OEF Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Deaths

Race/Ethnicity	Military Deaths	% of Total Deaths
American Indian or Alaska Native	15	1.5
Asian	14	1.4
Black or African American	81	7.9
Hispanic or Latino	78	7.6
Multiple races, pending or unknown	11	1.1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	12	1.2
White	815	79.4
Total	1,026	100

Source: DOD, Operation Enduring Freedom—Military Deaths, at <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oefdeaths.pdf>.

Self-Inflicted Wounds

According to DOD’s casualty website, as of April 3, 2010, 207 servicemembers have died of self-inflicted wounds while serving in OIF and 35 have died of self-inflicted wounds while serving in OEF.⁴

Medical Evacuation Statistics for U.S. Military Personnel

U.S. military personnel evacuation statistics as of April 3, 2010, can be found at the DOD websites, <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-total.pdf> for OIF and <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/wotsum.pdf>.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

According to DOD, a total of 47,755 individuals were medically evacuated from OIF from March 19, 2003, to April 3, 2010. Of the total number of medical evacuations, 38,845 cases were non-hostile-related medical air transports, and the remaining 8,910 cases were for servicemembers who were wounded in action. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 7. OIF Medical Reasons for Evacuations
(as of April 3, 2010)

	Number	Percentage
Wounded in Action	8,910	18.7%
Non-Hostile Injuries ^a	10,043	21.0%
Disease	28,802	60.3%
Total	47,755	100%

Source: Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center, <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-total.pdf>.

- a. The Department of Defense defines a “non-hostile injury” as an injury that is not directly attributable to hostile action or terrorist activity, such as casualties due to the elements, self-inflicted wounds, or combat fatigue.

⁴ Department of Defense Personnel and Procurement Statistics, Statistical Information and Analysis Department, OIF at <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-total.pdf> and OEF at <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/wotsum.pdf>.

Table 8. OIF Distribution of Evacuations Among the Services
(as of April 3, 2010)

	Number	Percentage
Army	38,843	81.3%
Marines	5,284	11.1%
Air Force	2,040	4.3%
Navy	1,588	3.3%
Total	45,583	100%

Source: Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center, <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/oif-total.pdf>.

Note: Navy totals include Coast Guard.

Operation Enduring Freedom

According to DOD, a total of 11,464 individuals were medically evacuated from OEF from October 7, 2001, through April 3, 2010. Of the total number of medical evacuations, 9,426 cases were non-hostile-related medical air transports, and the remaining 2,038 cases were for servicemembers who were wounded in action. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Table 9. OEF Medical Reasons for Evacuation
(as of April 3, 2010)

	Number	Percentage
Wounded in Action	2,038	17.7%
Non-Hostile Injuries ^a	2,377	20.7%
Disease	7,049	61.5%
Total	11,464	100%

Source: Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate, <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/wotsum.pdf>.

- a. The Department of Defense defines a “non-hostile injury” as an injury that is not directly attributable to hostile action or terrorist activity, such as casualties due to the elements, self-inflicted wounds, or combat fatigue.

Table 10. OEF Distribution of Evacuations Among the Services
(as of April 3, 2010)

	Number	Percentage
Army	8,498	74.1%
Marines	1,092	9.5%
Air Force	1,359	11.9%
Navy	515	4.5%
Total	11,464	100%

Source: Department of Defense, Deployment Health Support Directorate, <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/wotsum.pdf>.

Note: Navy totals include Coast Guard.

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