



**Congressional
Research Service**

Informing the legislative debate since 1914

A Guide to U.S. Military Casualty Statistics: Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation New Dawn, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom

-name redacted-

Information Research Specialist

August 7, 2015

Congressional Research Service

7-....

www.crs.gov

RS22452

Summary

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

For more information on pre-2000 casualties, see CRS Report RL32492, *American War and Military Operations Casualties: Lists and Statistics*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted).

This report will be updated as needed.

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Overall Casualties in OIR, OIF, OND, OEF, and OFS | 1 |
| Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder | 2 |
| Traumatic Brain Injury | 3 |
| Major Limb Amputations..... | 6 |
| Other Available Data: Demographic Data on Casualties | 7 |

Figures

| | |
|--|---|
| Figure 1. Annual Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Diagnoses in All Services, 2000-June 5, 2015 | 3 |
| Figure 2. Traumatic Brain Injury Incident Cases, Deployed and Non-Deployed Combined, 2000-2015 Q1 | 5 |
| Figure 3. Individuals with Major Limb Amputations Due to Battle Injuries in OIF, OND, OIR, OEF, and OFS, October 7, 2001-June 1, 2015..... | 7 |

Tables

| | |
|---|---|
| Table 1. Overall Casualties in OIF, OND, and OEF, October 7, 2001- July 28, 2015..... | 1 |
| Table 2. Annual New Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Diagnoses in All Services, 2000-June 5, 2015 | 2 |
| Table 3. Traumatic Brain Injury Incidents by Classification, Deployed and Non-Deployed Combined, 2000-2015 Q1 | 4 |
| Table 4. Individuals with Battle-Injury Major Limb Amputations for OEF, OFS, OIF, OND, and OIR, October 7, 2001-June 1, 2015..... | 6 |

Overall Casualties in OIR, OIF, OND, OEF, and OFS

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) began on October 7, 2001, and was primarily conducted in Afghanistan. On December 28, 2014, President Obama announced that OEF had ended.¹ A “follow-on mission,” Operation Freedom’s Sentinel (OFS), was started on January 1, 2015, to “continue training, advising, and assisting Afghan security forces.”²

Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) began on March 19, 2003, and was primarily conducted in Iraq. On August 31, 2010, President Obama announced that OIF had ended.³ A transitional force of U.S. troops remained in Iraq under Operation New Dawn (OND), which ended on December 15, 2011.⁴ Several thousand U.S. civilian personnel, contract personnel, and a limited number of U.S. military personnel remain in Iraq carrying out U.S. government business and cooperative programs under the auspices of agreements with the Iraqi government. On October 15, 2014, U.S. Central Command designated new military operations in Iraq and Syria against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant as Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR).⁵ (For more information on war and conflict dates, see CRS Report RS21405, *U.S. Periods of War and Dates of Recent Conflicts*, by (name redacted).)

Daily updates of total U.S. military and civilian casualties in OIF, OEF, OND, OIR, and OFS can be found at the Department of Defense’s (DOD’s) website, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>. **Table 1** gives the overall casualties in OIF, OND, and OEF.

Table 1. Overall Casualties in OIF, OND, and OEF, October 7, 2001- July 28, 2015

| | Deaths (Hostile and Non-Hostile) | Wounded in Action |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Operation Iraqi Freedom | 4,424 | 31,951 |
| Operation Enduring Freedom | 2,355 | 20,071 |
| Operation New Dawn | 66 | 295 |
| Operation Inherent Resolve | 7 | 1 |
| Operation Freedom’s Sentinel | 3 | 33 |

Source: Table compiled by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) using fatality tables from the Department of Defense (DOD), as of July 28, 2015, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf>.

¹ The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, “Statement by the President on the End of the Combat Mission in Afghanistan,” December 28, 2014, at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/28/statement-president-end-combat-mission-afghanistan>.

² Department of Defense, “Statement by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel on Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom’s Sentinel,” December 28, 2014, at <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=17091>.

³ The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, “Remarks by the President in Address to the Nation on the End of Combat Operations in Iraq,” August 31, 2010, at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/08/31/remarks-president-address-nation-end-combat-operations-iraq>.

⁴ Remarks by the President and First Lady on the End of the War in Iraq, December 14, 2011, at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/12/14/remarks-president-and-first-lady-end-war-iraq>.

⁵ U.S. Department of Defense, “Centcom Designates Ops Against ISIL as ‘Inherent Resolve’,” October 15, 2014, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=123422&source=GovDelivery>.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

The U.S. Army Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), using the Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS), provided data on the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) cases. According to Dr. Michael Carino of the OSG, a case of PTSD is defined as an individual with two or more outpatient visits or one or more hospitalizations during which PTSD was diagnosed. The threshold of two or more outpatient visits is used in the DMSS to increase the likelihood that the individual has, or had, clinically diagnosable PTSD. A single visit on record commonly reflects a servicemember who was evaluated for possible PTSD, but did not actually meet the criteria for clinical diagnosis.

In this data set, an incident of PTSD among deployed servicemembers is defined as occurring when a deployed servicemember was diagnosed with PTSD at least 30 days after being deployed.⁶

Table 2. Annual New Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Diagnoses in All Services, 2000- June 5, 2015

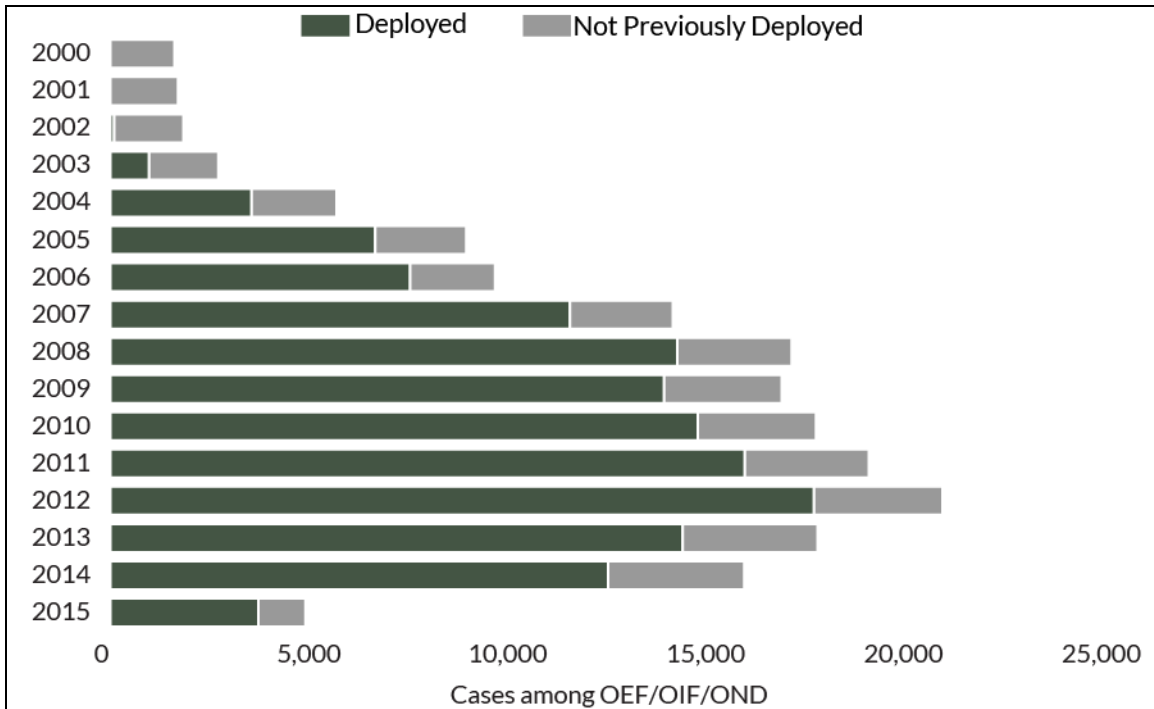
| Year | Incident Cases (Not Previously Deployed) | Incident Cases Among OEF/OFS/OIF/OND/OIR Deployed |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 2000 | 1,612 | — |
| 2001 | 1,705 | — |
| 2002 | 1,749 | 90 |
| 2003 | 1,746 | 978 |
| 2004 | 2,145 | 3,566 |
| 2005 | 2,298 | 6,688 |
| 2006 | 2,145 | 7,570 |
| 2007 | 2,596 | 11,609 |
| 2008 | 2,883 | 14,322 |
| 2009 | 2,975 | 13,984 |
| 2010 | 2,984 | 14,839 |
| 2011 | 3,135 | 16,024 |
| 2012 | 3,244 | 17,773 |
| 2013 | 3,414 | 14,452 |
| 2014 | 3,442 | 12,570 |
| 2015 (partial year) | 1,191 | 3,732 |
| Total | 39,264 | 138,197 |

Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, June 25, 2015. Data from Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS).

Notes: “Deployed” incident cases indicate a deployment to OEF/OFS/OIF/OND/OIR for longer than 30 days at the time of PTSD diagnosis. Also, the 2015 data are for a partial year. These data are identical to the data in **Figure I**.

⁶ CRS communication with Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense liaison, September 21, 2010.

Figure 1. Annual Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Diagnoses in All Services, 2000-June 5, 2015



Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, June 25, 2015. Data from Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS).

Notes: Deployed servicemembers have been deployed to OEF/OFS/OIF/OND/OIR for longer than 30 days at the time of PTSD diagnosis. The 2015 data are for a partial year and are not to be compared to the other bars that describe a full year. These data are identical to the data in **Table 2**.

Traumatic Brain Injury

Many statistics on traumatic brain injury (TBI) are available to the public, at the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, at <http://dvbic.dcoe.mil/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>. Unlike PTSD numbers, which are segmented by those deployed and those not previously deployed, TBI numbers represent medical diagnoses of TBI that occurred anywhere U.S. forces are located, including the continental United States.⁷

⁷ Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, at <http://www.dvbic.org/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>. The DOD categorizes TBI cases as mild, moderate, severe, or penetrating. Mild TBI is characterized by a confused or disoriented state lasting less than 24 hours; loss of consciousness for up to 30 minutes; memory loss lasting less than 24 hours; and structural brain imaging that yields normal results. Moderate TBI is characterized by a confused or disoriented state that lasts more than 24 hours; loss of consciousness for more than 30 minutes, but less than 24 hours; memory loss lasting greater than 24 hours but less than seven days; and structural brain imaging yielding normal or abnormal results. Severe TBI is characterized by a confused or disoriented state that lasts more than 24 hours; loss of consciousness for more than 24 hours; memory loss for more than seven days; and structural brain imaging yielding normal or abnormal results. A penetrating TBI, or open head injury, is a head injury in which the dura mater, the outer layer of the system of membranes that envelops the central nervous system, is penetrated. Penetrating injuries can be caused by high-velocity projectiles or objects of lower velocity, such as knives, or bone fragments from a skull fracture that are driven into the brain. “Not Classifiable” indicates additional incident information is required prior to TBI categorization.

Table 3. Traumatic Brain Injury Incidents by Classification, Deployed and Non-Deployed Combined, 2000-2015 Q1
(as of June 5, 2015)

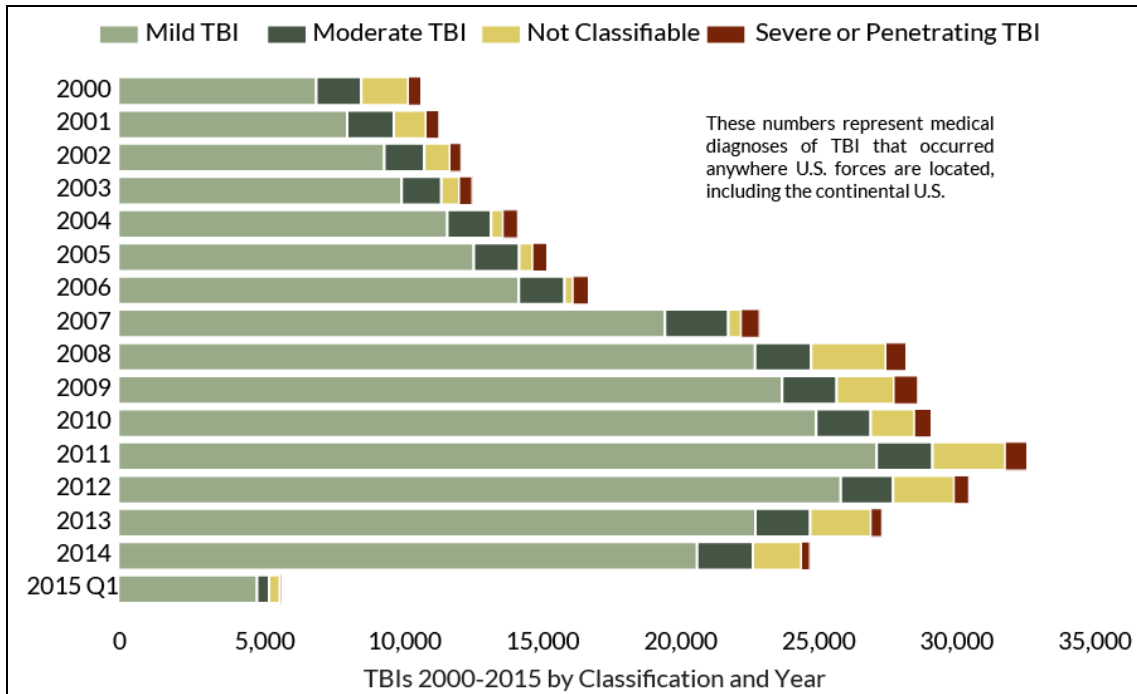
| Year | Penetrating or Severe | Moderate | Mild | Not Classifiable | Total |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 2000 | 455 | 1,625 | 7,177 | 1,701 | 10,958 |
| 2001 | 478 | 1,686 | 8,298 | 1,157 | 11,619 |
| 2002 | 396 | 1,455 | 9,636 | 920 | 12,407 |
| 2003 | 458 | 1,441 | 10,265 | 651 | 12,815 |
| 2004 | 522 | 1,591 | 11,916 | 439 | 14,468 |
| 2005 | 515 | 1,645 | 12,881 | 489 | 15,530 |
| 2006 | 563 | 1,667 | 14,506 | 300 | 17,036 |
| 2007 | 649 | 2,300 | 19,805 | 464 | 23,218 |
| 2008 | 735 | 2,028 | 23,067 | 2,708 | 28,538 |
| 2009 | 863 | 1,971 | 24,044 | 2,080 | 28,958 |
| 2010 | 603 | 1,965 | 25,280 | 1,594 | 29,442 |
| 2011 | 787 | 2,018 | 27,464 | 2,638 | 32,907 |
| 2012 | 526 | 1,887 | 26,172 | 2,216 | 30,801 |
| 2013 | 382 | 1,995 | 23,073 | 2,196 | 27,646 |
| 2014 | 303 | 2,010 | 20,972 | 1,759 | 25,044 |
| 2015 Q1 | 52 | 444 | 5,024 | 392 | 5,912 |
| Total | 8,287 | 27,728 | 269,580 | 21,704 | 327,299 |

Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, June 25, 2015. Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS), Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, <http://www.dvbic.org/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>.

Notes: The 2015 data are for a partial year. These data are identical to the data in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2. Traumatic Brain Injury Incident Cases, Deployed and Non-Deployed Combined, 2000-2015 Q1

(as of June 5, 2015)



Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, June 25, 2015. Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS), Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, <http://www.dvbic.org/dod-worldwide-numbers-tbi>.

Notes: The 2015 data are for a partial year and are not to be compared to the other bars that describe a full year. These data are identical to the data in **Table 3**.

Major Limb Amputations⁸

Table 4 shows the number of individuals with battle-injury major limb amputations for OEF, OFS, OIF, OND, and OIR. A major limb amputation includes the loss of one or more limbs, the loss of one or more partial limbs, or the loss of one or more full or partial hand or foot. The total number of individuals with major limb amputations as of June 1, 2015, is 1,645.

Table 4. Individuals with Battle-Injury Major Limb Amputations for OEF, OFS, OIF, OND, and OIR, October 7, 2001-June 1, 2015

| Year | OEF & OFS | OIF, OND, OIR | Total |
|---------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2001 | 1 | — | 1 |
| 2002 | 1 | — | 1 |
| 2003 | 9 | 71 | 80 |
| 2004 | 6 | 152 | 158 |
| 2005 | 17 | 147 | 164 |
| 2006 | 9 | 147 | 156 |
| 2007 | 16 | 197 | 213 |
| 2008 | 30 | 67 | 97 |
| 2009 | 67 | 24 | 91 |
| 2010 | 207 | 2 | 209 |
| 2011 | 257 | 3 | 260 |
| 2012 | 154 | 1 | 155 |
| 2013 | 39 | — | 39 |
| 2014 | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| 2015 (partial year) | 5 | — | 5 |
| Total | 833 | 812 | 1,645 |

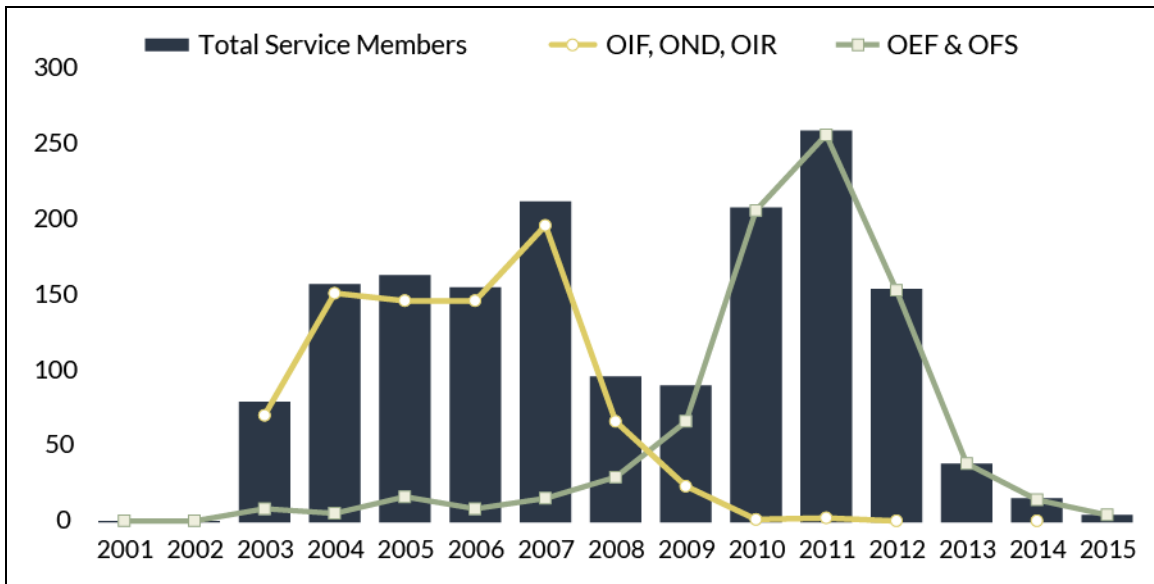
Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, June 25, 2015.

Notes: The 2015 data are for a partial year. These data are identical to the data in **Figure 3**.

Figure 3 charts the number of major limb amputations due to a battle injury in OIF, OND, OIR, OEF, and OFS from 2001 through June 1, 2015, for all services.

⁸ A previous update of this report included major and minor limb amputations. However, statistics on minor limb amputations were not available for this update.

Figure 3. Individuals with Major Limb Amputations Due to Battle Injuries in OIF, OND, OIR, OEF, and OFS, October 7, 2001-June 1, 2015



Source: CRS communication with Dr. Michael J. Carino, Army Office of the Surgeon General, June 25, 2015. Data from DOD-VA Extremity Trauma & Amputation Center of Excellence (EACE).

Notes: The 2015 data are for a partial year and are not to be compared to the other bars that describe a full year. These data are identical to the data in **Table 4**.

Other Available Data: Demographic Data on Casualties

DOD provides data on the demographics of servicemembers who have died or been wounded in action in OIF, OND, and OEF through the Defense Casualty Analysis System at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcass/pages/casualties.xhtml>. To find this information, select a conflict and select between “deaths” or “wounded in action,” and then select from the demographic categories, including gender, age, race, and ethnicity. Similar data have not yet been publically released for OEF and OIR.

Author Contact Information

(name redacted)
 Information Research Specialist
 /redacted/@crs.loc.gov, 7-....

EveryCRSReport.com

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is a federal legislative branch agency, housed inside the Library of Congress, charged with providing the United States Congress non-partisan advice on issues that may come before Congress.

EveryCRSReport.com republishes CRS reports that are available to all Congressional staff. The reports are not classified, and Members of Congress routinely make individual reports available to the public.

Prior to our republication, we redacted names, phone numbers and email addresses of analysts who produced the reports. We also added this page to the report. We have not intentionally made any other changes to any report published on EveryCRSReport.com.

CRS reports, as a work of the United States government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.

Information in a CRS report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to members of Congress in connection with CRS' institutional role.

EveryCRSReport.com is not a government website and is not affiliated with CRS. We do not claim copyright on any CRS report we have republished.