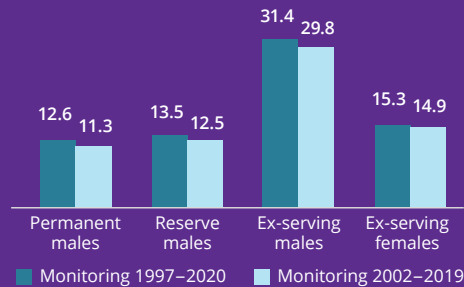




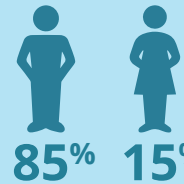
Serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members who have served since 1985: suicide monitoring 1997 to 2020



An expanded suicide monitoring period was studied, which enables more detailed analysis on sub-groups. **Overall rates and patterns of suicide were similar to previous studies.**



Almost **379,000** Australians had served at least one day in the ADF since 1 January 1985. Of these, approximately **362,000** were living as of 31 December 2020.

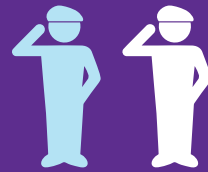


ADF members were 5.7 times more likely to be **male** than **female**.

Suicide rates among ADF members



1,600 certified suicide deaths between 1 January 1997 and 31 December 2020 among those with at least one day of ADF service from 1985.



Permanent and **Reserve** males are about **half** as likely to die by suicide as Australian males.



Ex-serving females had a lower suicide rate than ex-serving males. However, it is twice as high as that for Australian females.



Ex-serving males aged 50 years and over had a lower suicide rate than those under 50 years.



Ex-serving males who **separated voluntarily** had a **lower** rate of suicide than those who separated for involuntary medical reasons by around one third.

The three most common **risk factors** among ADF males who died by suicide were:

- 48.5%** Mood (affective) disorders
- 41.3%** Problems in spousal relationship circumstances
- 29.3%** Suicide ideation



Ex-serving males who served for **20 years** or more had a rate of suicide about **one-third** the rate of those who served for less than a year.



Suicide rates for males who separated as **commissioned officers** or as **senior ranks other than commissioned officers** were **lower** than those who separated as junior other ranks.

Source: AIHW analysis of linked Defence historical personnel data-PMKeyS-NDI data 1985-2020; Defence population snapshots, 1997-2020.

For more detail, see the full report, [Serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members who have served since 1985: suicide monitoring 1997 to 2020](#), which is available from the AIHW website.