

Self-Reported Health Information from the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

As of July 1, 2019

The following summary includes self-reported information from 176,935 Veterans and active duty service members in the registry between June 2014 to July 1, 2019 (up from 164,295 as of December 31, 2018). This summary also provides a brief description of the demographic and military service characteristics of registry participants.

This is the second report that is posted on our website. Find the first report at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/exposures/va-ahobp-registry-data-report-may2019.pdf#>. We will continue to update this information every six months.

The data in this report is descriptive and does not necessarily mean that exposure caused a specific disease.

1. Burn Pit Registry Facts:

- 165,755 (93.7%) reported a burn pit exposure during deployment. The number has increased from 157,107 (93.6%) as reported from December 31, 2018.
- 100,806 (59.8%) reported duties involving burn pits. The number has increased from 100,352 (59.9%) as reported from the December 31, 2018.
- 96,397, (54.5%) are interested in seeing a health care provider. The number has increased from 90,211 (53.7%) as reported through December 31, 2018.
- 123,355 (69.7%) were close enough to feel the blast of an improvised explosive device (IED). The number has increased from 114,954 (70.4%) as reported through December 31, 2018.
- 67,908 (38.4%) reported ever smoking. The number has increased from 63,378 (38.6%) as reported through December 31, 2018.
- 18,551 (10.5%) were currently smoking at the time they completed the survey. About half were daily smokers.
- 15,240 (8.6%) are Gulf War 1 Veterans. The number has increased from 14,048 (8.5%) as reported through December 31, 2018.
- 59,879 (33.8%) saw a health care provider during their deployment for respiratory symptoms due to air quality. The number has increased from 55,801 (33.9%) as reported through December 31, 2018.
- About 114,020 (64.4%) of those in the registry are Veterans (retired or separated from service.) The number has increased from 106,000 (64.5%) as reported through December 31, 2018.
- About 61,639 (34.8%) of those in the registry are currently in the service (active duty, Reserve or National Guard). The number has increased from 59,000 (35.9%) as reported through December 31, 2018.

1. AHOBPR Participants by Per Year and Cumulative per year

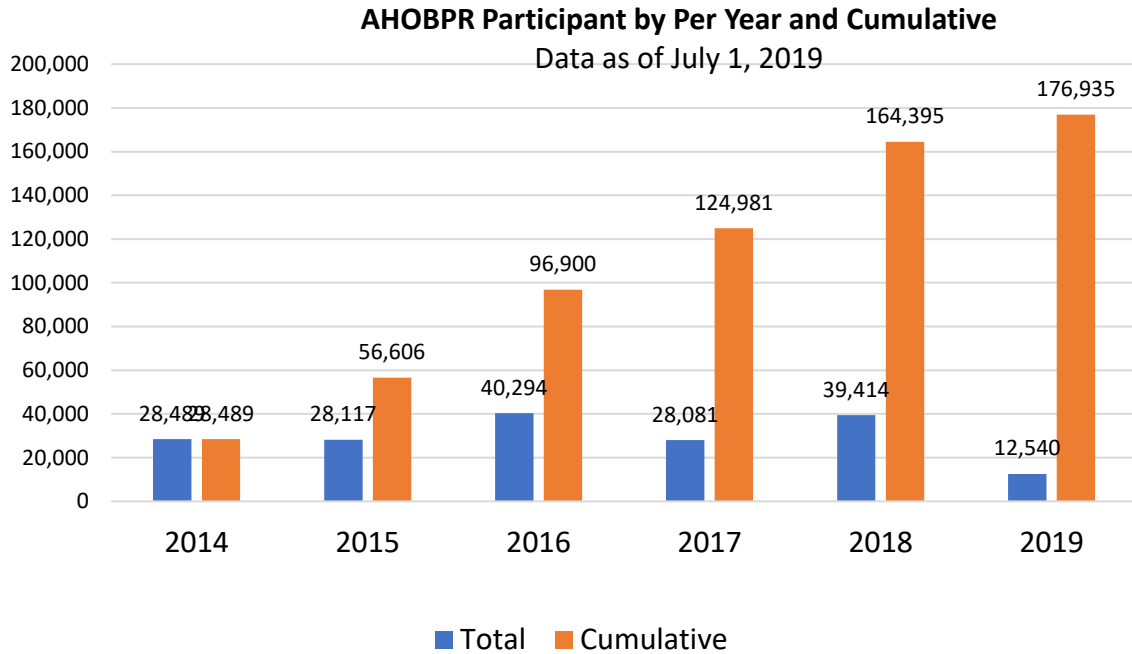


TABLE 1: Sex of Participants in the Registry

Sex	Number of Respondents (%)	
	July 1, 2019	December 31, 2018
Male	150,245 (84.9%)	139,003 (84.6%)
Female	18,084 (10.2%)	16,749 (10.2%)
Missing	8,606 (4.9%)	8,543 (5.2%)
Total	176,935	164,295

TABLE 2: Age of Participants in Registry

Age (Years)*	Number of Respondents (%)	
	July 1, 2019	December 31, 2018
<25	3,397 (1.9%)	3,153 (1.9%)
25 – 34	55,240 (31.2%)	52,050 (31.7%)
35-44	58,957 (33.3%)	53,884 (32.8%)
45-54	39,311 (22.2%)	36,037 (21.9%)
55-64	8,802 (4.9%)	7,854 (4.8%)
65+	802 (0.4%)	710 (0.4%)
Missing	10,426 (5.8%)	10,607 (6.5%)

Age (Years)*	Number of Respondents (%)	
Total	176,935	164,295
Mean	42	42
Median	41	41
Mode	36	36

Age as of July 1, 2019 and December 31, 2018. (Current age)

TABLE 3: Registry Participants' Branch of Service

Branch of Service	Number of Respondents (%)	
	July 1, 2019	December 31, 2018
Air Force	36,732 (20.8%)	33,560 (20.4%)
Army	10,7540 (60.8%)	99,693 (60.7%)
Coast Guard	396 (0.2%)	260 (0.2%)
Marines	19,687 (11.1%)	18,158 (11.1%)
Navy	12,315 (7.0%)	11,089 (6.7%)
Public Health Services	28 (0.02%)	26 (0.02%)
Missing	237 (0.1%)	1,535 (0.9%)
Total	176935	164,295

TABLE 4: Most Concerning Self-Reported Exposure

Most concerning self-reported exposures on health	Number of Respondents (%)
On-base air pollution during deployment (burning fuel, burn pits during deployment)	122,448 (69.2%)
Off-base air pollution during deployment (factories, cars, burning trash, dust) (Deployment only)	35,991 (20.3%)
Don't Know	11,000 (6.2%)
Unknown	3,583 (2.0%)
Military jobs while I'm not deployed (Non-deployment only)	2,015 (1.1%)
Smoking (by you or those near you) (Either deployment or non-deployment)	1,027 (0.6%)
I do not wish to answer	610 (0.3%)
Hobbies and non-military jobs (Non-deployment only)	261 (0.1%)
TOTAL	176,935

TABLE 5: Most Common Self-Reported Health Conditions that Cause Difficulty with either Running or Walking

Most common self-reported health conditions (top 5)	Number of Respondents (%)*
Spine arthritis	86,809 (49.1%)

Most common self-reported health conditions (top 5)	Number of Respondents (%)*
Knee arthritis	57,467 (32.5%)
Unspecified Lung**	46,278 (26.2%)
Arthritis/rheumatism (not specified)	44,897 (25.4%)
Mood disorders (Depression/anxiety/emotional problems)	38,389 (22.7%)
Total for top 5	273,120

* The percentages do not equal 100 because some participants have multiple health issues.

**The question does not specify which lung disease. See Top Self-Reported Respiratory and Cardiac Health Conditions for more descriptive information.

TABLE 6: Most Overall Common Self-Reported Medical Conditions (>10% of All Conditions)

Health Condition	Number of Respondents (%)
Insomnia	144,959 (81.9%)
Neurological Problem (Past 12-month)	128,117 (72.4%)
Allergies	70,411 (39.8%)
Hypertension (HTN)	65,815 (37.2%)
Immune	34,184 (19.3%)
Chronic multi-symptom illness	32,948 (18.6%)
Asthma	25,434 (14.4%)
Chronic bronchitis	22,654 (12.8%)
Total	524,522

The conditions reported in this table reflect all self-reported health conditions and are not necessarily related to airborne hazard and burn pit exposure

Total is total health conditions listed in the table.

Each percentage is based on 176,935 individuals. Participants have multiple health issues.

IMMUNE: During the past 12 months, have you had problems of the immune system?

NEUROLOGICAL: During the past 12 months, have you had Neurological problems? (Some examples of neurological problems may include numbness, tingling, or weakness in arms or legs or difficulties with thinking or memory)

INSOMNIA: During the past 12 months, have you regularly had insomnia or trouble sleeping?

CHRONIC MULTI-SYMPTOM Illness: During the past 12 months, have you been told by a doctor or other health professional that you had a chronic multi-symptom illness (examples include irritable bowel syndrome, chronic fatigue syndrome, and fibromyalgia)?

TABLE 7: Most Common Self-Reported Respiratory and Cardiac Conditions

Most common self-reported respiratory and cardiac conditions*	Number of Respondents (%)
Allergies	70,411 (39.8%)
Hypertension	65,815 (37.2%)
Asthma	25,434 (14.4%)
Chronic Bronchitis	22,654 (12.8%)
Other lung condition	15,642 (8.8%)
Other heart condition	12,763 (7.2%)
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)	5,240 (3.1%)
Coronary artery disease	3,121 (1.8%)
Total	221,080

*The total is greater than overall total because some participants reported multiple conditions.

TABLE 8: Most Common Self-Reported Cancers

Self-reported cancers	Number of Respondents (%)
Skin (non-melanoma)	2,075 (1.2%)
Skin (Don't know what kind)	1,086 (0.6%)
Melanoma	926 (0.5%)
Prostate	609 (0.3%)
Total	4,696 (2.7%)

TABLE 9: Hobbies Self-Reported by Registry Participants

Hobby	Number of Respondents (%)*
Woodwork	18,952 (57.3%)
Indoor swimming/indoor ice skating	12,728 (38.5%)
Metalwork	5,909 (117.9%)
Welding	5,514 (16.7%)
Epoxies	4,110 (12.4%)
Pottery	434 (1.3%)
Stained Glass	201 (0.6%)

Hobby	Number of Respondents (%)*
Total number of hobbies reported above	47,464
No hobbies listed	143,841

*Percentage based on the 33,094 respondents with hobbies. There were 30,722 individuals with hobbies in December 2019. Total number of hobbies exceed the total number of respondents because some respondents reported multiple hobbies.