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Health care issues of the Iraq and Afghan wars: short- and long-term impacts on US Veterans health care

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TABLE 1 US Military Deaths and Casualties from Principal Wars*

Conflict	Number Serving Worldwide	Death	Wounded	Ratio Wounded:Dead
Civil War (1861-1865)	2,213,363	364,511	281,881	1:1
Spanish America War	306,760	2,446	1,662	1:2
World War I	4,734,991	116,516	204,002	2:1
World War II	16,112,566	405,399	671,846	2:1
Korea (1950-1953)	5,720,000	36,574	103,284	3:1
Vietnam (1964-1973)	8,744,000	58,209	153,303	3:1
Persian Gulf War (1990-1991)	2,225,000	382	467	1:1
OIF/OEF** (2001-present)	1,400,000	4,492	31,590**	7:1

*Data accessed April 17, 2008, Department of Defense
<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/>

**Number from Analysis of VA Health Care Utilization Among US Southwest Asian War Veterans, VHA Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards

TABLE 2 Amputation Rates for US Military Conflicts

Conflict	Number of Amputees	Number of Wounded	Amputees/Wounded
World War I (1917-1918)	2,610	204,002	1.3%
World War II (1941-1946)	14,912	671,846	2.2%
Korean War (1950-1953)	1,477	103,284	1.4%
Vietnam Conflict (1964-1973)	5,283	153,303	3.5%
OIF/OEF*	1,031	31,590	3.3%

**Data accessed April 17, 2008, Department of Defense

<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/>

Data for WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam from Benjamin Potter and Charles Scoville, "Amputation is not Isolated: An Overview of the U.S. Army Amputation Patient Care Program and Associated Amputee Injuries," *Journal of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons*, vol. 14, no. 10, 2006.

Data for OIF/OEF amputations are from CRS Report for Congress, "United States Military Casualty Statistics: Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom," RS22452, March 18, 2008.