



FACTS ON UNITED STATES MILITARY SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Statistics from the 2015 DoD SAPR Annual Report and the 2014 RAND Military Workplace Study, unless otherwise noted
www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/rmws/publications.html www.sapr.mil/index.php/annual-reports
Updated September 2016

Sexual Violence Remains Pervasive

- **20,300** members (10,600 men and 9,600 women) were sexually assaulted in 2014, a rate unchanged from 2010.
- Most victims were sexually assaulted more than once, resulting in over **47,000** assaults in 2014 alone.
- **1 in 7** victims were assaulted by someone in their chain of command.

Vast Majority of Cases Go Un-Reported

- **85%** of victims did **not** report the crime in 2014.
- Victim **reporting stalled** in 2015, with just 4,584 victims reporting openly, fewer than in 2014.

Retaliation Is the Norm

- **62%** of women who reported a sexual assault face retaliation. The majority of these women face reprisal from superiors and commanders.
- A **third** of victims are discharged after reporting, typically **within 7 months** of making a report.ⁱ
- Victims received **harsher discharges**, with 24% separated under less than fully honorable conditions, compared to 15% of all service members.ⁱⁱ

Low Trust and Satisfaction in System

- **1 in 4** victims who did not report feared retaliation from their chain of command or coworkers.
- **1 in 3** victims who did not report feared that the process would be unfair or nothing would be done.
- Nearly half of survivors (**45%**) were dissatisfied with their treatment by their chain of command.

Sexual Assault is More Common in a Military Context

- Rates are **50%** higher among active-duty women, and over **100%** higher among men, than in the Reserves.

Definitions: **Sexual assault** in the survey corresponds to crimes defined by Uniform Code of Justice (UCMJ) Article 120 (rape & sexual assault) and Article 80 (attempts). **Sexual harassment** is defined in federal law and military regulations, and includes a pervasive and severe sexually hostile work environment that interferes with the ability to do one's job and/or sexual quid pro quo. **Gender discrimination**, also defined in law and regulations, refers to gender-based mistreatment that results in harm to one's career.

Conviction and Prosecution Rates

- In 2015, of cases where the military could take action, only **20%** (543) were prosecuted and just **9%** (255) of offenders were convicted of a sex offense.

High Demand for VA Care

- **1,027,810** outpatient visits took place at the VA for Military Sexual Trauma (MST)-related care in 2013.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **1 in 4** women and **1 in 100** men veterans who used the VA in 2013 screened positive for MST.
- **40%** of women homeless veterans have faced MST.^{iv}

Sexual Harassment is Alarming High

- **160,500** service members (1 in 4 women, 1 in 14 men) faced severe and persistent sexual harassment or gender discrimination in 2014.
- **60%** of victims were harassed by someone in their chain of command.

Good Order and Discipline at Risk

- Service members who are sexually harassed are at **significantly greater risk** of sexual assault.
- Harassment was often **mishandled by the chain of command**: 44% of victims were encouraged to drop the issue and 41% said the person to whom they reported took no action.

“At such high rates, sexual harassment...could affect cohesion within military units, degrade mission effectiveness, and result in voluntary separations from service of qualified service members who find these behaviors to be an unacceptable condition of employment.” – *RAND Corporation*

ⁱ Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General, *Evaluation of the Separation of Service Members Who Made a Report of Sexual Assault* (2016), <http://goo.gl/qUjZmm>

ⁱⁱ DoD IG report; Veterans Legal Clinic, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, *Underserved: How the VA Wrongfully Excludes Veterans with Bad Paper* (2016), <https://goo.gl/UV8jmF>

ⁱⁱⁱ Department of Veterans Affairs, Patient Care Services, Mental Health Services, MST Support Team, *FY 2013 Summary of MST-Related Outpatient Care* (2014)

^{iv} J Pavao, JA Turchik, JK Hyun, et al., “Military Sexual Trauma Among Homeless Veterans,” *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 28 Suppl 2 (2013)