



FACTS ON UNITED STATES MILITARY SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Statistics from the 2014 DoD SAPR Annual Report and the RAND Military Workplace Study
www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/rmws/publications.html
www.sapr.mil/index.php/annual-reports

Sexual assault and retaliation persisted in 2014 for service members, with no overall improvements over 2010 levels.

Sexual Violence Remains Pervasive

- **20,300** members (10,600 men and 9,600 women) were sexually assaulted in 2014. Junior enlisted members had the highest past-year rates (1.4% of men, 7.3% of women).
- **76%** of women and **57%** of men were assaulted at least twice in 2014, resulting in over **47,000** assaults.
- **90%** of assaults were in a military setting, mostly by a higher-ranking service member who knew the victim.
- **1 in 7** victims were assaulted by someone in their chain of command.

Retaliation is the Norm

- **62%** of women who reported a sexual assault faced retaliation. The majority of these women faced reprisal from superiors and commanders.

Vast Majority of Cases Go Un-Reported

- **86%** of victims did **not** report the crime in 2014.

Low Trust and Satisfaction in System

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

Conviction and Prosecution Rates

- In 2014, of cases where the military could take action, only 19% (588) were prosecuted and just 7% (234) 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 2013.¹
- **1 in 4** women and 1 in 100 men veterans who used the VA in 2013 screened positive for MST.

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. For most, the harassment persisted for at least several months.
- **60%** of victims were harassed by someone in their chain of command.
- Harassment victims were **50%** less likely to want to stay active duty if given the choice.

Good Order and Discipline at Risk

“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*

- A service member who was harassed was **49** times (men) and **14** times (women) more likely to be sexually assaulted than someone not harassed.
- 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.

Definitions: Sexual Assault in the survey corresponds to crimes defined by the Uniform Code of Military Justice Article 120: rape, attempted rape, and non-penetrative assault involving private areas. Sexual Harassment in the survey is defined in federal law and military regulations, and includes a persistent and severe sexually hostile work environment that interferes with the ability to do one's job and gender discrimination which results in harm to one's career.

¹ VHA MST Screening Data, FY 2013 Summary of MST-Related Outpatient Care, Department of Veterans Affairs.