



FACTS ON UNITED STATES MILITARY SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Statistics from the 2016 and 2017 DoD SAPR Annual Report and its appendices/annexes, unless otherwise noted
www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/rmws/publications.html www.sapr.mil/index.php/annual-reports
Updated June 2018

Sexual Violence Remains Pervasive

- **14,900** members (8,600 women and 6,300 men) were sexually assaulted in 2016. Rates of penetrative assault were unchanged from 2014.
- Most victims were sexually assaulted more than once, resulting in over **41,000** assaults in 2016 alone.
- Over **1 in 4 women** and **1 in 3 men** were assaulted by someone in their chain of command.

Vast Majority of Cases Go Un-Reported

- **81%** of victims did **not** report the crime in 2016.

Retaliation Is the Norm

- **58% of women** and **60% of men** who reported a sexual assault face retaliation.
- **77%** of retaliation reports alleged that retaliators were in the reporter's chain of command.
- 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 10** victims dropped out of the justice process—a rate unchanged since 2013.
- Over **1 in 4** victims who did not report feared retaliation from their command or coworkers.
- Nearly **1 in 3** victims who did not report feared the process would be unfair or nothing would be done.
- **1 in 3 women** and **over half of men** were dissatisfied with their treatment by their chain of command.

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.

Sexual Assault is More Common in a Military Context

- In 2014, rates were **50%** higher among active-duty women, and over **100%** higher among men, than in the Reserves.

Conviction and Prosecution Rates

- Prosecution and conviction rates fell dramatically from prior years.
- In FY 2017, of the 5,110 unrestricted reports of sexual assault and rape, only **406 (7.9%)** cases were tried by court-martial and only **166 (3.2%)** offenders were convicted of a nonconsensual sex offense.

High Demand for VA Care

- **1,307,781** outpatient visits took place at the VA for Military Sexual Trauma (MST)-related care in 2015.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Approximately **38% of female** and **4% of male** military personnel and veterans have experienced MST.^{iv}
- **40%** of women homeless veterans have faced MST.^v Veterans with an MST history are **over twice as likely** to experience homelessness.

Sexual Harassment is Alarming High

- **129,000** service members (1 in 4 women, 1 in 15 men) faced severe and persistent sexual harassment or gender discrimination in 2016.^{vi}
- **The majority** 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.
- **1 in 4** survivors of either sexual assault or sexual harassment/discrimination took steps to leave the military as a result.

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 2015 Summary of MST-Related Outpatient Care* (2016)

^{iv} L Wilson, "The Prevalence of Military Sexual Trauma: A Meta-Analysis," *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* (2016)

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

^{vi} E Brignone, AV Gundalappalli, RK Blais, et al., "Differential Risk for Homelessness Among US Male and Female Veterans With a Positive Screen for



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Military Sexual Trauma," *JAMA Psychiatry*, 73, no. 6 (2016),
<https://goo.gl/6ft1G>