

Debunking Claims of Progress on Military Sexual Assault

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Fact Sheet

The data is clear: despite efforts to argue the contrary, research shows that the military has failed to address the sexual assault crisis.

Assault Rate Unimproved From 2010

The sexual assault rate remains the same as 2010

20,300 service members were sexually assaulted in 2014. 76% of male and 56% of female victims were assaulted at least twice, resulting in over **47,000 assaults** against service members.¹ **1 in 7** victims were assaulted by someone **in their chain of command**.

Retaliation Remains the Norm

The retaliation rate remains the same as 2012

62% of victims who reported sexual assault still faced retaliation.

Harassment Cases Often Mishandled

Victims don't trust the system

86% of victims did not report the crime in 2014. **1 in 3** victims still believed that reporting would hurt their career; the process would be unfair; or that nothing would be done. **1 in 4** feared retaliation from their chain of command or coworkers.

Unit Cohesion is at Risk

Sexual harassment rate is alarmingly high

134,500 service members experienced severe and persistent sexual harassment or career-harming gender discrimination.² **60%** of these victims were **harassed by someone in their chain of command**.

Low Trust and Satisfaction

RAND concludes: *"At such high rates, sexual harassment... could affect cohesion within military units [and] degrade mission effectiveness."*

Reliance on unscientific survey

The DoD says victims are satisfied based on their Survivor Experience Survey, which even the Pentagon admits is **not representative** of all active-duty survivors. **To the contrary:** According to RAND, **nearly half** of survivors (45%) were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their treatment by their supervisor or chain of command.

Sexual harassment often mishandled by chain of command

44% of sexual harassment victims were encouraged to drop the issue. **41%** said the person to whom they reported took no action.

Read the full report:
http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR870z2.html

¹ The majority of victims are assaulted more than once over the course of a year. In 2014, there were 3.57 sexual assaults per 100 active-duty service members, out of a total 1,317,561 members. This translates to 47,000 sexual assaults against active-duty service members in 2014.

² In 2014, 10.21% of the active-duty population experienced sexual harassment or gender discrimination.