



FACTS ON UNITED STATES MILITARY SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Stats from the 2016 – 2022 DoD SAPRO Reports, unless otherwise noted – sapr.mil/reports

SEXUAL VIOLENCE REMAINS PERVERSIVE

- In FY21, nearly 36,000 service members experienced sexual violence (19,200 women and 16,600 men). The rate of wrongful sexual contact jumped by ~35% from FY18 to FY21.
- In FY22, nearly 9,000 reports of sexual assault involving service members were received, a 1% increase from reports made in FY21.

VAST MAJORITY OF CASES GO UNREPORTED

- In FY22, only about 1 in 4 service members reported their sexual assault to a Dept. authority.

RETALIATION IS THE NORM

- 31% of men and 28% of women reported experiencing retaliation after a sexual assault.¹
- Action was taken to hold retaliators accountable in only 7% of the cases reported.
- 56% of retaliation reports alleged that retaliators were in their chain of command.
- A third of women who reported a sexual assault were discharged within a year of reporting, typically within 7 months.²
- 24% of these women received a less than fully honorable conditions discharge.³

LITTLE TRUST AND SATISFACTION IN SYSTEM

- 66% of women believe the military will not protect their privacy, 60% believe the military will not ensure their safety, and 61% believe the military will not treat them with dignity and respect if sexually assaulted.
- 47% of women cited worrying about potential negative consequences from co-workers as a reason for not reporting.
- 48% of survivors reported dissatisfaction with the support received from military-assigned Special Victims Counsel/Victims Legal Counsel.
- 35% of the cases reported were restricted.

¹ RL Beckman, C Farris, LH Jaycox, TL Schell, "Perceived Retaliation Against Military Sexual Assault Victims," *RAND National Defense Research Institute* (2021), https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2380.html.

² Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General, *Evaluation of the Separation of Service Members Who Made a Report of Sexual Assault* (2016), <https://media.defense.gov/2016/May/09/2001714241/-1/-11/DODIG-2016-088.pdf>.

³ 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://www.vetsprobono.org/library/item.655363-Underserved_How_the_VA_Wrongfully_Excludes_Veterans_with_Bad_Paper.

LOW CONVICTION AND PROSECUTION RATES

- Despite a continual increase in unrestricted sexual assault reports since 2015, convictions have plummeted in the same timeframe.
- In FY22, of 5,941 unrestricted reports of sexual assault, only 301 (5.0%) cases were tried by court martial, and just 123 (2.1%) offenders were convicted of a nonconsensual sex offense.

HIGH DEMAND FOR VA CARE

- Approximately 38% of female and 4% of male military personnel and veterans have experienced MST.⁴
- 40% of women homeless veterans have faced MST.⁵ Veterans with an MST history are over twice as likely to experience homelessness.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS ALARMINGLY HIGH

- In FY22, there were 3,201 complaints of sexual harassment received.
- About 40% of women who experienced sexual harassment were also sexually assaulted.
- DoD has concluded that "sexual harassment is a leading factor affecting the unit climate on sexual assault."
- 24% of women and 19% of men identified at least one alleged offender in their chain of command.

GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE AT RISK

- If a unit has a climate of sexual harassment, then a woman has a 1 in 4 chance of experiencing unwanted sexual contact.
- More than 1 in 4 survivors of either sexual assault or sexual harassment/discrimination took steps to leave the military as a result.

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, refers to gender-based mistreatment that results in harm to one's career.

⁴ L Wilson, "The Prevalence of Military Sexual Trauma: A Meta-Analysis," *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* (2016).

⁵ J Pavao, JA Turchik, JK Hyun, et al., "Military Sexual Trauma Among Homeless Veterans," *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 28 Suppl 2 (2013).