

Facts and Stats: Sexual Violence and the Military

Overview

1. In 2012, there were 26,000 estimated victims of sexual violence in the military – 14,000 male victims and 12,000 female victims.¹
2. In FY18, 24.2 percent of female service members experienced sexual harassment; 6.3% of male service members experienced sexual harassment.²
3. Twenty percent of male service members experienced crude and/or offensive behavior; 41% of female service members experienced crude and/or offensive behavior.³
4. Five percent of male service members experienced unwanted sexual attention; 23% of female service members experienced unwanted sexual attention.⁴
5. Forty-seven percent of female service members experienced sexist behaviors; 15% of male service members experienced sexist behaviors.⁵
6. The percentage of active duty women who experienced unwanted sexual contact in the past year increased from an estimated 19.3% in 2016 to an estimated 28.3% in 2018.⁶
7. For active duty men, the estimated prevalence rate of unwanted sexual contact increased from 2.5% in 2016 to 3% in 2018.⁷
8. An estimated 18,900 service members experienced unwanted sexual contact in 2014.⁸
9. The *2014 RAND Military Workplace Study* found that of the 4.3% of women who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact in the past year and who reported the matter to a military authority or organization, 62% received some form of professional or social retaliation, administrative action, and/or punishment associated with their report.⁹

¹ National Sexual Violence Resource Center. 2012. *Sexual Violence in the Military: A Guide for Civilian Advocates*.

² Department of Defense. 2018. *Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Department of Defense. 2018. *Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.

⁷ Department of Defense. 2018. *Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

10. The 2014 Survivor Experience Survey observed a similar pattern concerning retaliation, with 59% of respondents perceiving social retaliation and 40% of respondents perceiving professional retaliation.¹⁰
11. A Pentagon survey found that 26,000 respondents cited instances of unwanted sexual contact and only 3,374 cases were reported.¹¹
12. The three Academies – Military, Air Force, and the Naval Academy – received a total of 28 sexual harassment complaints during academic program year 2014-2015, up from 20 complaints in the last academic year. The 28 complaints of sexual harassment included 11 formal complaints and 17 informal complaints.¹² The United States Military Academy received 7 formal complaints, the United States Naval Academy received 13 informal complaints, and the United States Air Force Academy received 4 formal and 4 informal complaints.¹³
13. The 2014 SAGR Survey, conducted by the DMDC, found that approximately half (48%) of DoD Academy women indicated perceiving sexual harassment, which is a statistically significant decrease from 2012.¹⁴

Reporting

14. The prosecution rates of the 1,714 cases that qualified for possible disciplinary action stood at 594 cases that went to military courts and 1,120 cases that did not go to military courts.¹⁵
15. Looking at the reporting statistics based on gender, 67% of females did not report their sexual violence case to authorities, while 81% of males did not report their cases.¹⁶
16. From FY12 to FY13, there was an unprecedented 53% increase in victim reports of sexual assault.¹⁷
17. In FY14, the high level of reporting seen in FY13 was sustained with 6,131 reports of sexual assault – showing an 11% increase over FY13's reported numbers.¹⁸

¹⁰ Ibid.

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¹² Department of Defense. 2015. *Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies, Academic Program Year 2014-2015*.

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¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Department of Defense. 2014. *Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.

¹⁸ Ibid.

18. In FY14, victims made 4,660 unrestricted reports (a report provided to command and/or law enforcement for investigation) and 1,840 initial restricted reports (allows victims to confidentially access medical care and advocacy services without an investigation) of sexual assault.¹⁹
19. According to the *2014 RAND Military Workplace Study*, approximately 72% of service member victims who indicated that they reported their sexual assault said they would make the same decision if they had to do it over again.²⁰
20. According to the *Survivor Experience Survey*, 73% of service member victims who participated in the survey indicated that, based on their overall experience of reporting, they would recommend others to report.²¹
21. Out of the 6,131 sexual assault reports in FY14, there were 4,768 service member victims who made a report for an incident that occurred during military service – a 16% increase from FY13.²²
22. One in four of the estimated 18,900 service member victims who experienced unwanted sexual contact made a report – restricted or unrestricted – for an incident that occurred during military service.²³
23. One in four of the estimated 18,900 service member victims who experienced unwanted sexual contact made a report – restricted or unrestricted – for an incident that occurred during military service.²⁴
24. While the estimated prevalence of the crime is down from FY12 to FY14, the overall reporting of sexual assault in the same period increased substantially; reporting increased by 53% from FY12 to FY13 and increased another 11% from FY13 to FY14.²⁵

¹⁹ Victims may convert their Restricted Report to an Unrestricted Report at any time and participate in the military justice system.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.