



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION  
AND RESPONSE OFFICE**



**SAPRO REPORT METRICS OVERVIEW**

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) conducts and reviews research to evaluate the effort and impact of sexual assault prevention and response programs across the Department of Defense (DoD). The following tables include detailed information on DoD’s most significant sexual assault metrics to increase overall understanding.

**Gap between Reporting and Prevalence**

<i>DoD’s goal is to decrease the prevalence of sexual assault through prevention, while increasing the number of Service members who file a report.</i>	
Definition	The gap between reporting and prevalence provides an idea of how many victims are making an official report for an experience of sexual assault. As a percentage, this metric allows for a comparison across groups of different sizes and different time periods.
Current Data	___ out of ___ Service members, or ___% reported a sexual assault incident. This is <i>up/down</i> from the ___% of Service members who reported last year.
Data Source	WGRA/WGRR is the survey to tool used to assess the prevalence of sexual assault; DSAID is the database used to record reports of sexual assault.
Limitations	Results can be easily miscommunicated. Increased reporting does not equate to increased prevalence.

**Prevalence**

<i>Sexual assault is an underreported crime. Therefore, increased reporting does not equate to increased prevalence of sexual assault.</i>	
Definition	Prevalence is the estimated occurrence of sexual assault in the military.
Current Data	DoD estimates ___% of women and ___% of men experienced sexual assault in the past-year.
Data Source	Workplace and Gender Relations Survey is a congressionally mandated survey, conducted biennially, to assess the estimated rate of sexual assault in the active duty military (WGRA) and Reserve component (WGRR) members.
Limitations	DoD conducts the WGRA every 2 years as a best practice to avoid survey fatigue.

**Reporting / Total Reports**

<i>Increased reporting signals growing confidence in the sexual assault response system. It enables a greater number of Service members to obtain support and care and allows DoD to hold offenders appropriately accountable.</i>	
Definition	Total Reports indicates the number of both Unrestricted and Restricted reports filed by Service members within a single fiscal year, regardless of where and when the crime actually occurred.
Current Data	DoD received ___ total sexual assault reports in FYXX.
Data Source	The Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID) is the primary case-level data base for sexual assaults involving Service members.
Limitations	An increase in reports of sexual assault could be mischaracterized as an increase in crimes.

### Accountability

<i>DoD strives for a fair and equitable system of accountability. When court-martial charges are not appropriate, commanders have a range of other disciplinary actions at their disposal.</i>	
Definition	Accountability reflects the outcomes of alleged perpetrators, to include command actions <sup>1</sup> and command action precluded, or declined. <sup>2</sup>
Current Data	Commanders took disciplinary action against ___% of military subjects.
Data Source	Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID) is the primary case-level data base for sexual assaults involving Service members.
Limitations	The investigative and judicial process can take over a year to complete. Therefore, subject outcomes can be linked to current or prior Fiscal Years (FY).

### Command Climate

<i>Sexual assault and other readiness impacting problems may occur less frequently when leaders establish safe and respectful unit climates.</i>	
Definition	Command climate indicates Service member perceptions on how well their command promotes a climate of mutual trust and respect.
Current Data	The majority of Service members rated their Command climate favorably with regards to sexual assault (X out of 4 points).
Data Source	Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute's (DEOMI) Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS) is a voluntary survey that assesses Service member satisfaction with their leadership using a four-point scale. Higher scores indicate more favorable perceptions.
Limitations	DEOCS is based on a convenience sample, and results may not represent the entire force. Thus, DoD is limited in the inferences it can make from aggregating unit-level data up to the Service or DoD-level.

### Retaliation

<i>Retaliation can prevent victims of sexual assault from filing a report; it can impede victims' recovery and harm their careers.</i>	
Definition	Retaliation is an umbrella term for adverse personnel actions taken or favorable personnel actions withheld as the result of reporting or planning to report a criminal offense. <sup>3</sup>
Current Data	___% of victims endorsed at least one negative experience associated with their report of sexual assault, of which ___% were consistent with circumstances military law prohibits concerning reprisal, ostracism, and maltreatment
Data Source	The Military Investigation and Justice Experience Survey (MIJES) is used to assess survivors' experiences with investigative and military justice processes.
Limitations	The MIJES cannot determine if a case of retaliation is legally actionable based on victims' perceptions alone. It is based on a small convenience sample, so results are not representative of all sexual assault victims.

<sup>1</sup> e.g., court-martial, non-judicial punishment, administrative discharge, other adverse administrative actions

<sup>2</sup> e.g., victim declined to participate, insufficient evidence

<sup>3</sup> The term "retaliation" as used in the Military Justice Action of 2016, is not limited to the contexts of sex-related offenses of sexual harassment, though the focus here is those two contexts.

### **Data-Focused Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### **Q. Why is military sexual assault data collected?**

- A. Congress requires data about the number of sexual assault reports and the outcome of the allegations made against each subject. DoD also collects these data to inform SAPR policy, program development, and oversight.

#### **Q. What factors should be considered when analyzing and understanding DoD sexual assault data?**

- A. There are several factors to consider:
- Sexual assault is an underreported crime. The number of reports of sexual assault do not reflect the prevalence of the crime. Military members may report a sexual assault whenever (and wherever) they desire.
  - An increase in reports of sexual assault does not necessarily mean there has been an increase in crime. Greater reporting of sexual assault is a stated goal of the Department. In fact, the Department encourages sexual assault survivors to report the crime as a way to access support and restorative care.
  - The Department uses the term “sexual assault” to refer to a range of crimes, including rape, sexual assault, nonconsensual sodomy, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, and attempts to commit these offenses, as defined by the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

#### **Q. What sexual assault data does DoD capture?**

- A. Pursuant to reporting requirements levied by Congress, DoD sexual assault data capture the Unrestricted and Restricted Reports of sexual assault made to the Department during a Fiscal Year (FY) that involves a military subject and/or a military victim. The Department’s sexual assault reporting statistics include data about sexual contact crimes by adults against adults, as defined in Articles 120 and 125 of the UCMJ and Article 80, and attempts to commit these offenses. These data do not include sexual assaults between spouses or intimate partners that fall under the purview of DoD Family Advocacy Program (FAP), nor do these data include sexual harassment which falls under the purview of EO. While most victims and subjects in the following data are aged 18 or older, DoD statistics also capture some victims and subjects aged 16 and 17. Service members who are approved for early enlistment prior to age 18 are included in this category. Since the age of consent under the UCMJ is 16 years, military and civilian victims aged 16 and older are included if they do not fall under FAP’s purview.

#### **Q. What do “Subject Dispositions” refer to?**

- A. Once the investigation of an Unrestricted Report is complete, Congress requires the Services to provide the outcome of the allegations against each subject named in an investigation. These are called “subject dispositions.” Commanders at all levels do not make disposition decisions in isolation. Military attorneys assist commanders in identifying the charges that can be made, the appropriate means of addressing such charges, and the punishments that can be administered if supported by the evidence.

#### **Q. How are “Subject Outcomes” totaled?**

- A. Many investigations extend across FYs. As a result, those investigations that were opened toward the end of the FY typically carry over into the next FY. Subject dispositions can also extend across FYs. As a result, a substantial portion of dispositions are “pending” or not yet reported at the end of the year. DoD tracks these pending dispositions and requires the Military Services to report on them in subsequent years’ reports. Under the Department’s SAPR policy, there is no time limit as to when someone can report a sexual assault to a

## Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) or a Military Criminal Investigation Organization (MCIO). Consequently, in any given year, the Department may not only receive reports about incidents that occurred during the current year, but also incidents that occurred in previous years.