

Prevalence of Sexual Assault

In 2005, 67% of sexual assault victims age 12 or older knew the offender.

-Bureau of Justice Statistics, Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2005 Statistical Tables (2006)

On average, an estimated 746 Americans age 12 or older were sexually assaulted each day in 2006.

-Calculation based on data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Criminal Victimization, 2006 (2007)

In fiscal year 2007, there were 2,688 reports of sexual assault involving Military Service Members as subject or victim.

-Department of Defense, FY07 Report on Sexual Assault in the Military (2008)

In fiscal year 2007, 705 victims chose to receive care confidentially under the Restricted Reporting option.

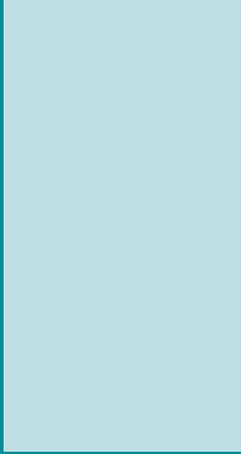
-Department of Defense, FY07 Report on Sexual Assault in the Military (2008)

An estimated one in six women (17%) and one in 33 men (3%) have experienced an attempted or completed rape at some time during their lifetime.

-Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, Full Report on the Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women (2000)



United States Department of Defense



Prevent Sexual Assault:
Ask! Act! Intervene!



S A P R O

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Office

www.sapr.mil

All photos courtesy of the DoD

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

The Department of Defense remains committed to eliminating sexual assault from the ranks of the military. Sexual assault is a crime that inflicts incalculable harm on victims. It tears at the very fabric of military communities and destroys trust among individuals and faith in our institutions. The Department has made significant progress in combating sexual assault by establishing and implementing comprehensive sexual assault prevention and response programs across the Military Services.

Prevention through Education and Training

To combat sexual assault, the Department requires all Service Members, both in the Active and Reserve Components, to receive annual awareness training. In addition, sexual assault awareness instruction is a mandatory component of all initial entry training, professional military education programs, and pre-command courses.

Prevention is a key element of the Department's training and outreach efforts. The Department sends the message that every Service Member has a role in preventing sexual assault and promotes bystander intervention as an effective prevention strategy.

Dedicated Support

Each Military Service maintains a comprehensive worldwide 24/7 response capability. Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) serve as the center of gravity to coordinate sexual assault victim care and track service referrals from the initial report of a sexual assault through the final disposition and/or until the victim no longer desires services. Victim Advocates (VAs) provide victims with essential non-clinical support and information on available options and resources. The VA maintains

communication and contact with the victim as needed for continued victim support.

In addition, military installations may have agreements in place with civilian providers for services off their installation.

Reporting Options

The Department is committed to ensuring sexual assault victims are protected, treated with dignity and respect, and supported with advocacy and care. DoD policy also strongly supports effective command, law enforcement, and criminal justice activities that maximize accountability of sexual assault perpetrators. To achieve these dual objectives, DoD policy encourages Unrestricted Reporting of sexual assaults to activate both victims' services and accountability actions. However, the Department provides confidential Restricted Reporting in recognition that a mandate of Unrestricted Reporting may present a barrier for victims to access care and support services when they wish to avoid command or law enforcement involvement. Under DoD policy, military victims of sexual assault have a choice of these two reporting options.

Restricted Reporting allows victims to receive advocacy support, medical treatment, counseling, and a forensic exam without triggering a criminal investigation or being personally identified in subsequent command notification. Restricted Reporting affords victims access to resources and care while providing them with additional time to weigh their options and seek guidance about whether or not to participate in a criminal investigation at a later time.

Unrestricted Reporting enables victims to receive medical treatment, advocacy support, and counseling in addition to the notification of command authorities and initiation of a criminal investigation.

Victims must acknowledge their choice of an Unrestricted or Restricted Report in writing on a Victim Reporting Preference Statement. The Preference Statement also lists the exceptions that apply to Restricted Reporting and how that reporting option may limit the ability to hold offenders accountable. During this process, the SARC or VA advises the victim of the available reporting options, explains the benefits and limitations of each choice, and documents the victim's selected reporting option.

Summary

These initiatives represent only the beginning of the Department's long-term effort to eliminate sexual assault from its ranks. This crime has no place in the Armed Forces and it is incompatible with military values. The Military Services will continue their efforts to vigorously institutionalize their sexual assault prevention and response programs and refine DoD policies when needed. The Department's ultimate goal is to establish model programs that will serve as benchmarks for other organizations to follow.

For more information about DoD's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program and links to specific Military Service resources, visit www.sapr.mil.

Contact your SARC for information about your local sexual assault prevention and response program.



www.sapr.mil