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# **2012 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey**

A large, faint watermark of the Department of Defense seal is visible in the lower half of the page. The seal is circular and contains the text "DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE" around the perimeter. In the center, there is an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield. The watermark is semi-transparent and serves as a background element for the lower portion of the cover.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



## 2012 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey

### Introduction

The Department of Defense (DoD) continues to emphasize sexual assault and sexual harassment response and prevention at the Service Academies. Each of the Academies have implemented and expanded programs to educate students on these issues and to provide reporting and victim care procedures. Continuing evaluation of these programs is critical to reducing instances of sexual assault and sexual harassment as the Academies strive to provide a safe educational and leadership development environment for their students. This survey note discusses findings from the *2012 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey (2012 SAGR)*, a source of information for evaluating these programs and for assessing the gender-relations environment at the Academies.

The *2012 SAGR* is the fifth in a series of surveys mandated by U.S. Code Title 10, as amended by Section 532 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (10USC§4361). This survey assesses the incidence of sexual assault and sexual harassment and gender-related issues at the U.S. Military Academy (USMA), the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA), and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA).<sup>1</sup>

This survey note and accompanying briefings (Appendices A-D<sup>2</sup>) provide information on the annual prevalence rates of sexual assault, sexual harassment and sexist behavior, and stalking-related behaviors; a discussion of students' perceptions of Academy culture with respect to sexual assault and sexual harassment; the availability and effectiveness of sexual assault and sexual harassment training; and perceptions of program effectiveness in reducing or preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment.

The *2012 SAGR* was fielded in March and April 2012. Completed surveys were received from 5,425 eligible respondents (1,513 from USMA, 1,574 from USNA, 1,537 from USAFA, and 801 from USCGA). The overall weighted response rate was 73% (79% for USMA, 70% for USNA, 68% for USAFA, and 80% for USCGA).<sup>3</sup>

This survey note provides results for USMA, USNA, USAFA, and USCGA by gender and class year. When *2012 SAGR* questions are comparable to questions in the previous 2006, 2008, and 2010 surveys, an analysis of trends is also presented. When a result is annotated as higher or lower than another result, the reader should understand that to be a statistically significant difference at the .05 level of significance. A finding annotated as no change did not achieve a .05 level of difference.

<sup>1</sup> This survey was also administered to students at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA). The results for USMMA are reported separately.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix A for USMA results, Appendix B for USNA results, Appendix C for USAFA results, and Appendix D for USCGA results.

<sup>3</sup> Further details on survey methodology can be found in the *2012 SAGR Statistical Methodology Report* (DMDC 2012).

### Overview

The ability to calculate annual prevalence rates is a distinguishing feature of this survey. This report includes rates of unwanted sexual contact, unwanted gender-related behaviors, and stalking-related behaviors experienced during the Academic Program Year 2011-2012 (defined in the survey questions as June 2011 through the date of survey administration in March or April 2012).

**Unwanted Sexual Contact.** The *2012 SAGR* survey includes a measure of unwanted sexual contact (i.e., sexual assault). Although this term does not appear in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), it is used as an umbrella term intended to include certain acts prohibited by the UCMJ. For the purposes of the *2012 SAGR* survey, the term “unwanted sexual contact” means intentional sexual contact that was against a person’s will or which occurred when the person did not or could not consent, and includes completed or attempted sexual intercourse, sodomy (oral or anal sex), penetration by an object, and the unwanted touching of genitalia and other sexually-related areas of the body. Students were asked questions related to personal experiences of unwanted sexual contact between June 2011 and the time they took the survey. Students who indicated they experienced unwanted sexual contact were then asked to provide details on their experience. The measure of unwanted sexual contact was developed for the 2006 survey. Trend comparisons on unwanted sexual contact are presented from surveys administered in 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012. Also included for the first time in *2012 SAGR* is a measure of unwanted sexual contact prior to entering the Academy.

**Unwanted Gender-Related Behaviors.** The *2012 SAGR* includes measures of unwanted gender-related behaviors (i.e., sexual harassment and sexist behavior) derived from the Sexual Experiences Questionnaires (Fitzgerald et al., 1988; Fitzgerald, Gelfand, & Drasgow, 1995). To determine the extent of unwanted gender-related behaviors, students were provided a list of 12 sexual harassment behaviors and four sexist behaviors, and were asked to indicate how often they had experienced the behaviors since June 2011. The 12 sexual harassment behaviors comprise three components of sexual harassment—crude/offensive behavior (e.g., repeatedly told sexual stories or jokes that are offensive); unwanted sexual attention (e.g., unwanted attempts to establish a romantic sexual relationship despite efforts to discourage it); and sexual coercion (e.g., treated badly for refusing to have sex). In order to determine how to “count” the frequency of sexual harassment behaviors, a counting algorithm was used. To be included in the calculation of the sexual harassment rate, students must have experienced at least one behavior defined as sexual harassment and indicated they considered some or all of the behaviors to be sexual harassment. The measures of unwanted gender-related behaviors are consistent with the methodology used in 2006, 2008, and 2010 surveys. Trend comparisons on unwanted gender-related behaviors are presented from surveys administered in 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012.

**Stalking-Related Behaviors.** The *2012 SAGR* included a measure of stalking that is designed to conform to the UCMJ definition of stalking as “a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear death or bodily harm, including sexual assault.” Trend comparisons on stalking-related behaviors are presented from surveys administered in 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2012.

**U.S. Military Academy**

**Unwanted Sexual Contact.**

Overall, 10.7% of women and 1.7% of men indicated they experienced unwanted sexual contact in 2012. The percentage of women was higher in 2012 than in 2010

Unwanted Sexual Contact			
2006	2008	2010	2012
Women: 10.5%	Women: 8.6%	Women: 9.1%	Women: 10.7%
Men: 1.0%	Men: 0.6%	Men: 1.2%	Men: 1.7%

and no change for men. Of the 10.7% of women who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact, 44% (19 percentage points higher than 2010) indicated they experienced unwanted sexual touching only. Twenty-four percent (15 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated the incident included attempted sex, with or without sexual touching; and 30% (unchanged from 2010) indicated they experienced completed sex, with or without sexual touching and/or attempted sex.<sup>4</sup>

**Unwanted Sexual Contact Details.** Of the 10.7% of women who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact, nearly all (95% – 3 percentage points lower than 2010) identified the offender as male, and most (82% – 10 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated the offender was a fellow cadet. Forty-six percent indicated alcohol and/or drugs were involved and 11% indicated threats and physical force were used (both unchanged from 2010). Nineteen percent (unchanged from 2010) indicated they reported the incident to a military authority or organization. The main reasons those women chose to report the incident were: it was the right thing to do (82%), to stop the offender from hurting others (73%), to stop the offender from hurting them again (65%), and to seek help dealing with an emotional incident (65%). The main reasons women chose not to report the incident were: they thought it was not important enough to report (75% – 19 percentage points higher than 2010), they did not want people gossiping about them (74% – unchanged from 2010), and they did not want anyone to know (70% – 8 percentage points higher than 2010).

**Prior Unwanted Sexual Contact.** Students were asked to indicate if they experienced any of the unwanted sexual contact behaviors prior to entering the Academy. The prior experience rate was 16.4% for women and 3.7% for men.

**Unwanted Gender-Related Behaviors.** Forty-nine percent of women and 8% of men indicated experiencing sexual harassment in 2012 (both unchanged from 2010). Eighty-two percent of women (2 percentage points lower than 2010) and 43% of men (unchanged from 2010) indicated experiencing crude/offensive behavior. Fifty-two percent of women (5 percentage points lower than 2010) and 12% of men (unchanged from 2010) indicated experiencing unwanted sexual attention. Seventeen percent of women (3 percentage points lower than 2010) and 4% of men (unchanged from 2010) indicated experiencing sexual coercion. Ninety-one percent of women (3 percentage points lower than 2010) and 33% of men (unchanged from 2010) indicated experiencing sexist behavior.

**Unwanted Gender-Related Behavior Details.** Ninety-three percent of women and 51% of men indicated experiencing one or more of the unwanted gender-related behaviors (i.e., crude/offensive behavior, unwanted sexual attention, sexual coercion, sexist behavior) in 2012. Of those, the majority of women (85% – 4 percentage points higher than 2010) and men (67% – unchanged from 2010)

<sup>4</sup>Details of unwanted sexual contact for men are not reportable due to the small number of men who experienced unwanted sexual contact.

identified the offender as a fellow cadet. Nine percent of women and 2% of men discussed the situation with a military authority or organization (both unchanged from 2010).

**Stalking.** Few women (4.4% – 1.2 percentage points lower than 2010) and men (0.2% – unchanged from 2010) indicated that they experienced stalking-related behaviors that caused them fear of physical harm or sexual assault (the requirement to meet the legal definition of stalking).

**U.S. Naval Academy**

**Unwanted Sexual Contact.** Overall, 15.1% of women and 2.6% of men indicated they experienced unwanted sexual contact in 2012. There were no changes in the percentages of women or

Unwanted Sexual Contact			
2006	2008	2010	2012
Women: 8.2%	Women: 8.3%	Women: 16.5%	Women: 15.1%
Men: 1.4%	Men: 2.4%	Men: 3.4%	Men: 2.6%

men in 2012 from 2010. Of the 15.1% of women who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact, 29% (10 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated they experienced unwanted sexual touching only. Twenty-two percent (unchanged from 2010) indicated the incident included attempted sex, with or without sexual touching; and 43% (13 percentage points higher than 2010) indicated they experienced completed sex, with or without sexual touching and/or attempted sex.<sup>5</sup>

**Unwanted Sexual Contact Details.** Of the 15.1% of women who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact, 100% identified the offender as male (unchanged from 2010), and most (76% – unchanged from 2010) indicated the offender was a fellow midshipman. Sixty-five percent indicated alcohol and/or drugs were involved and 9% indicated threats and physical force were used (both unchanged from 2010). Eleven percent (unchanged from 2010) indicated they reported the incident to a military authority or organization. The main reasons those women chose to report the incident were: to seek closure on the incident (83%), to seek help dealing with an emotional incident (74%), and it was the right thing to do (72%). The main reasons women chose not to report the incident were: they took care of it themselves (77% – 10 percentage points higher than 2010), they did not want people gossiping about them (71% – unchanged from 2010), and they did not want anyone to know (68% – 7 percentage points higher than 2010).

**Prior Unwanted Sexual Contact.** Students were asked to indicate if they experienced any of the unwanted sexual contact behaviors prior to entering the Academy. The prior experience rate was 22.3% for women and 3.8% for men.

**Unwanted Gender-Related Behaviors.** Sixty-one percent of women (unchanged from 2010) and 10% of men (7 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated experiencing sexual harassment in 2012. Ninety percent of women and 51% of men indicated experiencing crude/offensive behavior (both unchanged from 2010). Sixty-three percent of women and 19% of men indicated experiencing unwanted sexual attention (both unchanged from 2010). Twenty-one percent of women and 5% of men indicated experiencing sexual coercion (both unchanged from 2010). Ninety-four percent of

<sup>5</sup>Details of unwanted sexual contact for men are not reportable due to the small number of men who experienced unwanted sexual contact.

women (2 percentage points lower than 2010) and 46% of men (unchanged from 2010) indicated experiencing sexist behavior.

**Unwanted Gender-Related Behavior Details.** Ninety-six percent of women and 61% of men indicated experiencing one or more of the unwanted gender-related behaviors (i.e., crude/offensive behavior, unwanted sexual attention, sexual coercion, sexist behavior) in 2012. Of those, the majority of women (81% – unchanged from 2010) and men (70% – 6 percentage points higher than 2010) identified the offender as a fellow midshipman. Six percent of women (3 percentage points lower than 2010) and 3% of men (unchanged from 2010) discussed the situation with a military authority or organization.

**Stalking.** Few women (5.8% – unchanged from 2010) and men (1.0% – unchanged from 2010) indicated that they experienced stalking-related behaviors that caused them fear of physical harm or sexual assault (the requirement to meet the legal definition of stalking).

**U.S. Air Force Academy**

**Unwanted Sexual Contact.**

Overall, 11.2% of women and 1.7% of men indicated they experienced unwanted sexual contact in 2012. There were no changes in the percentages of women or men in 2012

Unwanted Sexual Contact			
2006	2008	2010	2012
Women: 9.5% Men: 1.2%	Women: 9.7% Men: 1.4%	Women: 11.9% Men: 1.1%	Women: 11.2% Men: 1.7%

from 2010. Of the 11.2% of women who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact, 19% (unchanged from 2010) indicated they experienced unwanted sexual touching only. Twenty-two percent (11 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated the incident included attempted sex, with or without sexual touching; and 54% (15 percentage points higher than 2010) indicated they experienced completed sex, with or without sexual touching and/or attempted sex.<sup>6</sup>

**Unwanted Sexual Contact Details.** Of the 11.2% of women who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact, nearly all (97% – 3 percentage points lower than 2010) identified the offender as male, and most (85% – unchanged from 2010) indicated the offender was a fellow cadet. Sixty percent (12 percentage points higher than 2010) indicated alcohol and/or drugs were involved and 10% (unchanged from 2010) indicated threats and physical force were used. Fifteen percent (unchanged from 2010) indicated they reported the incident to a military authority or organization. The main reasons those women chose to report the incident were: to seek help dealing with an emotional incident (82%), to stop the offender from hurting others (74%), to seek justice (64%), and it was the right thing to do (64%). The main reasons women chose not to report the incident were: they took care of it themselves (66% – unchanged from 2010), they did not want anyone to know (63% – unchanged from 2010), and they did not want people gossiping about them (62% – unchanged from 2010).

<sup>6</sup>Details of unwanted sexual contact for men are not reportable due to the small number of men who experienced unwanted sexual contact.

**Prior Unwanted Sexual Contact.** Students were asked to indicate if they experienced any of the unwanted sexual contact behaviors prior to entering the Academy. The prior experience rate was 22.9% for women and 4.6% for men.

**Unwanted Gender-Related Behaviors.** Forty-four percent of women (9 percentage points lower than 2010) and 11% of men (unchanged from 2010) indicated experiencing sexual harassment in 2012. Seventy-seven percent of women (7 percentage points lower than 2010) and 43% of men (4 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated experiencing crude/offensive behavior. Fifty-two percent of women (5 percentage points lower than 2010) and 11% of men (unchanged from 2010) indicated experiencing unwanted sexual attention. Seventeen percent of women (3 percentage points lower than 2010) and 3% of men (unchanged from 2010) indicated experiencing sexual coercion. Eighty-five percent of women (4 percentage points lower than 2010) and 37% of men (unchanged from 2010) indicated experiencing sexist behavior.

**Unwanted Gender-Related Behavior Details.** Eighty-nine percent of women and 51% of men indicated experiencing one or more of the unwanted gender-related behaviors (i.e., crude/offensive behavior, unwanted sexual attention, sexual coercion, sexist behavior) in 2012. Of those, the majority of women (80%) and men (72%) identified the offender as a fellow cadet (both unchanged from 2010). Six percent of women and 0% of men discussed the situation with a military authority or organization (both unchanged from 2010).

**Stalking.** Few women (4.9% – unchanged from 2010) and men (0.3% – unchanged from 2010) indicated that they experienced stalking-related behaviors that caused them fear of physical harm or sexual assault (the requirement to meet the legal definition of stalking).

### U.S. Coast Guard Academy

**Unwanted Sexual Contact.** Overall, 9.8% of women and 0.7% of men indicated they experienced unwanted sexual contact in 2012. The percentage of women was higher in 2012 than in 2010 and the percentage of men was lower. Of the 9.8% of women who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact, 23% (12 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated they experienced unwanted sexual touching only. Thirty-nine percent (22 percentage points higher than 2010) indicated the incident included attempted sex, with or without sexual touching; and 39% (unchanged from 2010) indicated they experienced completed sex, with or without sexual touching and/or attempted sex.<sup>7</sup>

Unwanted Sexual Contact		
2008	2010	2012
Women: 5.6%	Women: 7.8%	Women: 9.8%
Men: 2.4%	Men: 2.9%	Men: 0.7%

**Unwanted Sexual Contact Details.** Of the 9.8% of women who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact, 100% identified the offender as male (7 percentage points higher than 2010), and most (76% – unchanged from 2010) indicated the offender was a fellow cadet. Fifty-nine percent (unchanged from 2010) indicated alcohol and/or drugs were involved and 8% (8 percentage points higher than 2010) indicated threats and physical force were used. Seven percent (12 percentage points

<sup>7</sup>Details of unwanted sexual contact for men are not reportable due to the small number of men who experienced unwanted sexual contact.

lower than 2010) indicated they reported the incident to a military authority or organization. The main reasons women chose not to report the incident were: they took care of it themselves (86% – 15 percentage points higher than 2010), they did not think it was important enough to report (73% – unchanged from 2010), and they did not want people gossiping (69% – unchanged from 2010).

**Prior Unwanted Sexual Contact.** Students were asked to indicate if they experienced any of the unwanted sexual contact behaviors prior to entering the Academy. The prior experience rate was 15.8% for women and 3.0% for men.

**Unwanted Gender-Related Behaviors.** Forty percent of women (unchanged from 2010) and 10% of men (7 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated experiencing sexual harassment in 2012. Seventy-six percent of women (unchanged from 2010) and 46% of men (13 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated experiencing crude/offensive behavior. Forty-two percent of women (6 percentage points higher than 2010) and 13% of men (7 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated experiencing unwanted sexual attention. Eleven percent of women (unchanged from 2010) and 4% of men (2 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated experiencing sexual coercion. Seventy-seven percent of women (3 percentage points lower than 2010) and 40% of men (9 percentage points lower than 2010) indicated experiencing sexist behavior.

**Unwanted Gender-Related Behavior Details.** Eighty-four percent of women and 55% of men indicated experiencing one or more of the unwanted gender-related behaviors (i.e., crude/offensive behavior, unwanted sexual attention, sexual coercion, sexist behavior) in 2012. Of those, the majority of women (80% – unchanged from 2010) and men (59% – 8 percentage points lower than 2010) identified the offender as a fellow cadet. Seven percent of women (3 percentage points higher than 2010) and 2% of men (unchanged from 2010) discussed the situation with a military authority or organization.

**Stalking.** Few women (3.3% – unchanged from 2010) and men (0.4% – unchanged from 2010) indicated that they experienced stalking-related behaviors that caused them fear of physical harm or sexual assault (the requirement to meet the legal definition of stalking).

### Survey Methodology

**Statistical Design.** The total sample consisted of 7,259 students drawn from the student rosters provided to DMDC by USMA, USNA, USAFA, and USCGA. After excluding students who could not participate for various reasons (e.g., medical excuses, emergency leave, left the Academy, were foreign nationals, or were exchange students from another Academy), the final eligible sample was 7,258 students. Surveys were completed by 5,425 students<sup>8</sup> yielding an overall weighted response rate for eligible respondents of 73%. The entire population of female students was selected for the survey.<sup>9</sup> For male students at USMA, USNA, and USAFA, a single-stage, nonproportional stratified random sampling<sup>10</sup> procedure was employed to ensure adequate sample sizes for the reporting categories. At

<sup>8</sup>“Completed” is defined as answering 50% or more of the questions asked of all participants, at least one sub-item in Q12a-s (unwanted gender-related behaviors), and a valid response to Q19 (unwanted sexual contact).

<sup>9</sup>Because of the relatively small number of female students at the Academies, all eligible female students are included in the sample to produce reliable results.

<sup>10</sup>In stratified random sampling, all members of a population are categorized into homogeneous groups. For example, members might be grouped by gender, class, and Academy (all male, senior USMA students in one group; all male, junior



USCGA, all male students were selected for the survey.<sup>11</sup> Data were weighted to reflect each Academy's population as of March 2012.

**Survey Administration.** Data were collected in March and April 2012. A team from DMDC administered the anonymous paper-and-pen survey in group sessions. Separate sessions were held for female and male students. After checking in, each student was handed a survey,<sup>12</sup> an envelope, a pen, and an Academy-specific information sheet. The information sheet included details on where students could obtain help if they became upset or distressed while taking the survey or afterwards. Students were briefed on the purpose of the survey and the importance of participation, but completion of the survey itself was voluntary. Students could leave the session at the completion of the mandatory briefing if they did not wish to take the survey. Students returned completed or blank surveys (depending on whether they chose to participate) in sealed envelopes to survey staff as they exited the session.

**Presentation of Results.** Each finding in *2012 SAGR* is presented in graphical or tabular form along with its margin of error. The margin of error represents the degree of certainty that the percentage or mean would fall within the interval in repeated samples of the population. For example, if 55% of individuals selected an answer and the margin of error was  $\pm 3$ , in repeated surveyed samples from the population the percentage of individuals selecting the same answer would be between 52% (55 minus 3) and 58% (55 plus 3) in 95% of the samples. Because the results of comparisons are based on a weighted, representative sample, the reader can infer that the results generalize to the population at each Academy, within the margin of error. The annotation "NR" used throughout the Appendices indicates that a specific result is not reportable due to low reliability.

**Statistical Comparisons.** Only statistically significant group comparisons are discussed in this survey note. Comparisons are generally made along a single dimension (e.g., class year) at a time. In this type of comparison, the responses for one group are compared to the weighted average of the responses of all other groups in that dimension. Thus within the current survey year, the percentage of each subgroup is compared to its respective "all other" group (i.e., the total population minus the group being assessed). For example, responses of senior women at USAFA are compared to the weighted average of the responses from junior, sophomore, and freshman USAFA women (e.g., women in all other classes at USAFA). When comparing results across survey years (e.g., 2012 compared to 2010), statistical tests for differences between means are used. All comparisons are made at the .05 level of significance.

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USMA students in another; etc.). Students were chosen at random within each group. Weights were used so that counts represent the total population by aggregating the sample to the population.

<sup>11</sup>Because of the relatively small number of male students at USCGA, all eligible male students are included in the sample to produce reliable results.

<sup>12</sup>Survey booklets contained no printed identifying or tracking information.

## References

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