



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



**FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT ON
SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY**
MAY 2017

Background

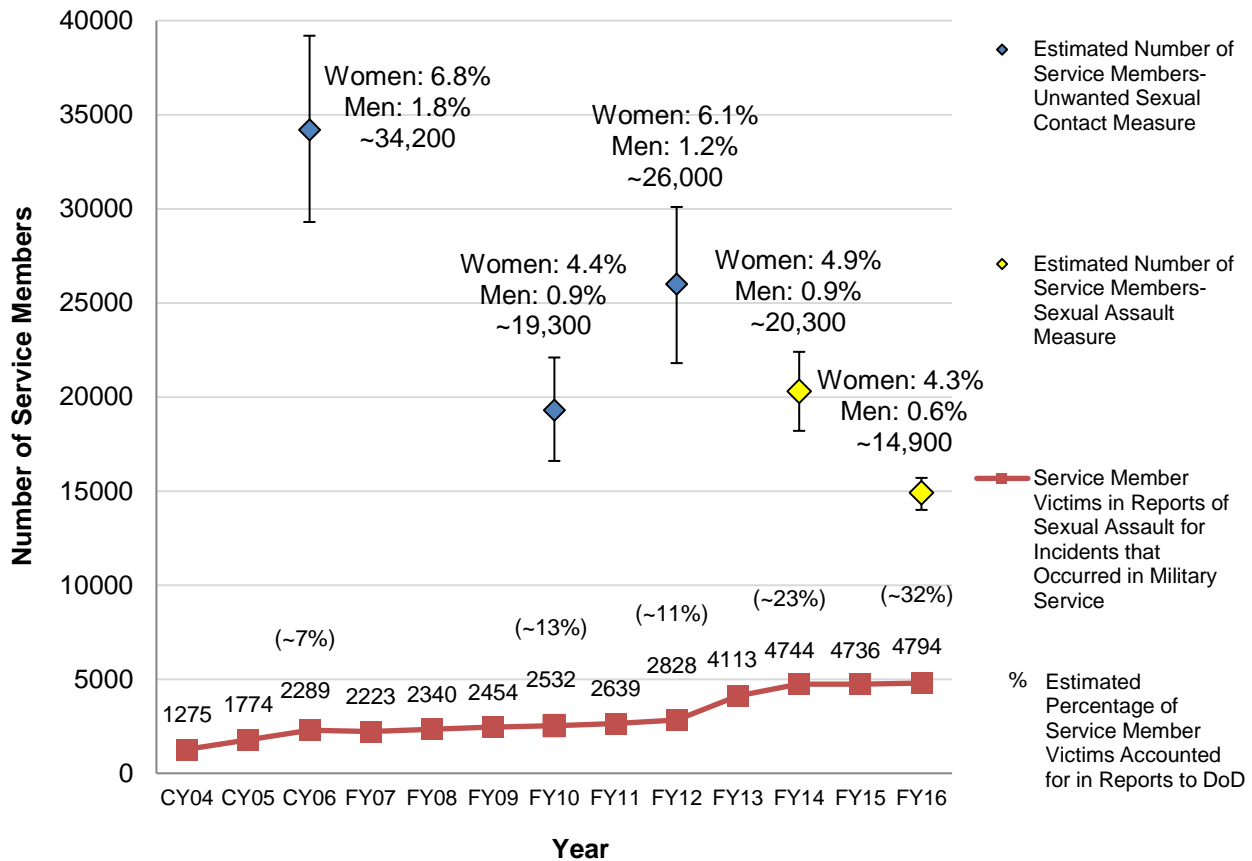
This overview provides key highlights and statistics from the:

- Department of Defense (DoD) *Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*
- *2016 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Active Duty Members (WGRA)*

Top Line Results

- Sexual Assault Reporting Increased
 - The Department received 6,172 reports of sexual assault involving Service members as either victims or subjects in FY16 – a 1.5% increase from reports made in FY15
 - Of that total 5,350 were Service member victims and remaining 822 victims who reported were U.S. civilians or foreign nationals
 - 556 (approximately 9%) of all the reports were for incidents that occurred prior to military service
 - Female Service members reported sexual assault at a rate two and a half times greater than male Service member victims
 - However, more men reported the crime than ever before – about 17% chose to report the crime in 2016, up from 10% in 2014
- Prevalence of Sexual Assault Decreased
 - Results of the 2016 WGRA found an estimated 4.3% of military women and an estimated 0.6% of military men (a decrease from 4.9% and 0.9% respectively in 2014) indicated experiencing some form of sexual assault
 - The Department estimates that about 14,900 Service members experienced some kind of sexual assault in 2016. This figure is down from an estimated 20,300 active duty members experiencing a sexual assault in 2014.
- Prevalence versus Reporting: Calendar Year (CY) 2004 to FY16
 - DoD received a report from 32% (nearly 1 in 3) of Service member victims in FY16; continuing the positive trend since CY 2006 when only 7% (roughly 1 in 14) reported
 - Since sexual assault is an underreported crime, the Department's goal for the foreseeable future is to continue to build on our prevention and response efforts to increase sexual assault reporting and decrease prevalence (as occurred between FY12 and FY16). DoD believes this trend shows that Service members who have experienced sexual assault are becoming more comfortable with the support they are receiving from their commanders, the military legal system, and sexual assault prevention and response support personnel.

The graph below shows prevalence versus reporting since 2004



Prevalence versus Reporting (CY04-FY16)

• Sexual Harassment Reporting Data

- The Department is firmly committed to eliminating sexual harassment from the Armed Forces. The following sexual harassment statistics are provided by ODMEQ for FY16:
 - 601 total complaints were filed in FY16
 - 530 of the 601 complaints (88%) were completed with 71 (12%) pending resolution at the end of FY16
- Of the 530 complaints closed in FY16:
 - 326 (62%) complaints were substantiated
 - 204 (38%) were unsubstantiated
- With sexual harassment often being a precursor to sexual assault, DoD will continue to focus on reducing all forms of sexual harassment through its Military Equal Opportunity programs

Way Forward

The Department continues to assess its programs and policies to ensure that it is effectively addressing the needs of Service members and will continue to focus its FY17 efforts on reducing, with a goal of eliminating, sexual assault in the military. DoD's program efforts in FY17 include:

- **Advancing Prevention:** The Department will use information from this year's report and other sources to prevent sexual assault and other readiness impacting behaviors. Much of DoD SAPRO's work over the past ten years has focused on improving response to victims. Response to sexual assault and sexual harassment is not synonymous with the prevention of these problems. Prevention requires a fundamentally different skill set than response. DoD SPARO is currently working to reinvigorate and expand the Department's prevention capability.
- **Assuring a Quality Response:** DoD SAPRO and the Military Services, developed a self-guided education program entitled, "Building Hope and Resiliency: Addressing the Effects of Sexual Assault," to support military members who have been victims of pre-service sexual assaults. The program is projected to be available to Service members in FY17 via the Safe Helpline.
- **Improving Response to Male Service Members:** The Department has already started to work to implement the DoD Men's SAPR Plan. The Department will also host a series of male survivor peer-to-peer group-chat sessions to provide a safe, anonymous space for military men who experienced sexual assault to ask questions, air concerns, and receive peer-to-peer support through the DoD Safe Helpline's Safe Help Room.
- **Combatting Retaliation:** The Department further defined actions to implement changes in the five issue areas of the DoD Retaliation Prevention and Response Strategy (RPRS) through working groups co-led by DoD and Military Service representatives. These working groups led to the publication of the DoD Retaliation Prevention and Response Implementation Plan in January 2017. The next step in combatting retaliation is to operationalize and implement the DoD RPRS by updating policy, revising training, and improving procedures to connect victims with resources.