

Findings From the 2010 Prevalence/Incidence Survey of Sexual Assault in the Air Force

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“Sexual assault is absolutely inconsistent with our core values and it has no place in our Air Force; in a deployed context, at home or anywhere in between.”

Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

“America’s Airmen deserve nothing less than our full devotion to eradicating the threatening behavior to their well being...This crime threatens our people and for that reason alone it is intolerable and incompatible with who and what we are. Our Airmen serve in a dangerous world where others would seek to do them harm as enemies. We will not rest until we eradicate all behavior that would similarly do them harm from within our ranks.”

Gen. Norton A. Schwartz
Air Force Chief of Staff

I. Introduction

This report presents the results of the 2010 survey to measure the prevalence and incidence of sexual assault in the Air Force, which Gallup conducted on behalf of the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPR) under survey control number (SCN) DAFA110-002. Gallup developed this survey specifically for the Air Force under advisement from a team of subject matter experts in the field of sexual assault research. The Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower and Personnel (AF/A1), approved conducting this survey.

Gallup conducted the confidential Web-based survey from July–August 2010 and received completed surveys from 18,834 eligible respondents for a response rate of 18.8%.

This report includes background on why this research was conducted, a discussion of the constructs used for defining and measuring sexual assault, a description of the survey methodology, detailed results of the findings, and recommendations for SAPR.

II. Background

The SAPR Program reinforces the Air Force’s commitment to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual assault through awareness and prevention training, education, victim advocacy, response, reporting, and accountability. The Air Force promotes sensitive care and confidential reporting for victims of sexual assault and accountability for those who commit these crimes.

Sexual assault continues to receive extensive congressional and senior leader interest since the SAPR program began in 2005. In the last two years, the Air Force has been through multiple comprehensive Government Accounting Office (GAO) audits, two independent congressionally mandated Department of Defense Inspector General (IG) reviews for program

issues in the deployed environment, and an 18-month review by the Defense Task Force for Sexual Assaults in the Military Services (DTFSAMS) pursuant to Public Law 108-375, §576, which released the final report in December 2009 to congressional members.

According to its 2009 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, the Air Force SAPR Office had five main objectives in 2009:

1. To institutionalize prevention strategies in the military community with the aim of stopping a sexual assault before it occurs through prevention efforts that influence the knowledge, skills, and behaviors of Service members.
2. To reduce the stigma tied to reporting a sexual assault, with the goal of encouraging victims to come forward and thereby increasing the climate of victim confidence associated with reporting.
3. To improve sexual assault response through programs, policies, and activities that advance victim care and enhance the military criminal justice process.
4. To improve accountability of the system, by focusing on strategic planning, improving data collection and reporting, and enhancing oversight procedures.
5. To inform and educate stakeholders on the progress of SAPR in the Military Services.

Historically, there have been no detailed statistics available for Air Force-specific rates of sexual assault. The Air Force has delivered repeated reports to Congress over the preceding four years that only capture the

number of reports made, rather than a true statistical rate of occurrence.

The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) conducts periodic measurements using a Gender Relations Survey; however, the last results available were conducted in 2006, released in 2008, but with limited measures included for sexual assault. The existing, available information does not provide sufficiently comprehensive data to define service-level statistical occurrence of sexual assault. DMDC's survey process does incorporate measures of victimization within the preceding 12 months. DMDC also conducted an expanded measure set for sexual assault victimization in July-August 2010 but the results have yet to be published.

Thus, the Air Force, as well as the Department of Defense (DOD) and the other military services, have had to rely on statistical measures that provide limited insight on under-reporting and prevailing overall perspectives on a generalized number of occurrences. However, these existing statistics have not taken into consideration the unique nature of the military environment and culture of Airmen. To improve efforts to achieve the goals of eliminating sexual assault from the Air Force and reducing under-reporting (national statistics identify current civilian reporting at 16%-18%; the rate of reporting is suggested to be only about 9%-10% for the military services based on the 2006-2008 two-item measure conducted by DMDC), the Air Force needed a greater understanding and baseline from which to measure progress and successes in achieving the primary goal of eliminating sexual assault from within the Air Force.

To support its efforts, the Air Force contracted with Gallup to conduct a survey of active duty Air Force personnel to estimate the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault among its ranks.

III. Literature Review

Research on sexual assault has increased dramatically over the past 20 years, and with the growing body of literature comes many perspectives on how best to measure this sensitive subject. No gold standard has emerged, so it was important to understand various definitions, instruments, and methodologies being used to agree on the ideal approach for measuring this subject within the Air Force. This document attempts to review key challenges in generating an accurate measurement of the prevalence and incidence of sexual assault, and how certain studies have addressed these challenges. The key challenges include:

- A. Defining sexual assault
- B. Asking about sexual assault
- C. Determining appropriate recall periods for sexual assault
- D. The impact of the method of data collection on estimates

To address these challenges, this literature review focuses on six important studies that have been conducted over the past 20 years that attempt to measure the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault. The surveys include two general population surveys that measure crime or traumatic events in general — the Bureau of Justice Statistics' National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) (Bachman & Saltzman, 1995) and the Traumatic Events Survey developed at the University of Southern California (Elliott et al., 2004). It includes two surveys developed to focus specifically on violence against women, which can also be adapted to measure violence against men — the National Women's Study (Kilpatrick et al., 1997) and the National Violence Against Women Study, funded by the National Institute of Justice (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000). It also includes two surveys developed for specific targeted populations

to measure sexual trauma, including sexual harassment. These include the Sexual Experiences Survey, developed originally for college women (Koss, 1987), and the Sexual Experiences Questionnaire, which has been modified for use by the U.S. military in the Workplace Gender Relations survey funded by the DoD (Lipari & Lancaster, 2003).

Defining Sexual Assault

Varying definitions of violence against women can be found in the literature as well as in the surveys themselves. Kilpatrick (2004) categorizes these definitions into two key groups — criminal justice approaches and public health approaches. The criminal justice approach is primarily driven by the federal criminal code. The FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) database compiles reports for law enforcement based on this federal criminal code and defines forcible rape as “the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will,” (Rantala, 2002). The National Incident-Based Reporting System introduced in the 1980s, expands the UCR to include “the carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly, and/or against that person's will; or not forcibly or against that person's will where that person is incapable of giving consent because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (or because of his/her youth),” and addresses sexual violence against both men and women (Rantala, 2000). Kilpatrick (2007) noted the UCR's definition of forcible rape is from the 1960s.

From the public health perspective, Kilpatrick (2004) focuses on the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition of violence that emphasizes the intentional use of not just physical force, but also power (threats, intimidation, neglect, etc.), and does not require that the intentional act actually results in injury or harm in order to be considered violence. Specifically, WHO defines sexual violence as “any sexual act, attempt to obtain a

sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work," (Jewkes, Sen, & Garcia-Moreno, 2002).

A third lens through which to examine the definition of sexual offenses against military members is that taken from Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) (2007), that defines "rape, sexual assault, and other sexual misconduct" using 36 offenses, including "using force, causing grievous bodily harm, using threats or placing in fear, rendering unconscious, and administration of drug, intoxicant, or other similar substance," and, from Article 125 (UCMJ), that defines sodomy as "unnatural carnal copulation" and includes fellatio, cunnilingus, bestiality, and anal sodomy.

For the purposes of the military services' Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Programs, DOD issued Directive 6495.01 (IC1, 2008) and it defines sexual assault as:

For the purpose of this Directive and SAPR awareness training and education, the term "sexual assault" is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, forcible sodomy (oral or anal sex), and other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful (to include unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts. "Consent" means words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the accused's use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear

does not constitute consent. A current or previous dating relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the sexual conduct at issue shall not constitute consent.

Asking About Sexual Assault

A number of studies have demonstrated the impact of question wording on rape estimates (Fisher, 2009; Kilpatrick, 2004). Accurate estimates are difficult to obtain because many rape victims are reluctant to tell other people about their experiences (Kilpatrick, 2004). Official statistics from the UCR are known to underestimate rape because they are based on reports to law enforcement and exclude unreported cases (Fisher, 2009). The following section summarizes the question wording approach followed by six key studies that attempt to measure the prevalence and incidence of sexual assault, be it among women, women and men, college students, or military personnel or veterans.

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS): The NCVS is a continuous, nationwide, household-based crime victimization survey that includes both reported and unreported cases of sexual assault. The NCVS interviewer's manual defines rape as forced sexual intercourse and includes both psychological coercion as well as physical force. Forced sexual intercourse means "vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s)." This category also includes incidents where the penetration is from a foreign object such as a bottle. Respondents are asked a series of questions about attacks, rapes, attempted rapes, sexual attacks, and forced or coerced unwanted sex. Sexual assault is defined as: a wide range of victimizations, separate from rape or attempted rape. These crimes include attacks or attempted attacks generally involving (unwanted) sexual contact between victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing or fondling. Sexual assault also includes verbal threats (Bachman & Saltzman, 1995).

National Women's Study (NWS): The NWS is comprised of behaviorally specific items that do not specifically mention rape or sexual assault. These behaviors include: "Being forced to have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you; being made to have oral sex by use of force or threat of harm; being made to have anal sex by use of force or threat of harm; or having someone put their fingers or objects in your vagina or anus against your will by using force or threats," (Kilpatrick et al., 1997, Bostock & Daley, 2007).

Sexual Experiences Survey (SES): The SES was designed by Koss to focus on the vocabulary used and to use behaviorally specific language (Fisher, 2009). The SES asks behaviorally specific items measuring additional levels of sexual victimization beyond attempted and forcible rape (Koss et al., 1987; Testa et al., 2004, Koss et al., 2007) and was updated in 2007. The following questions are part of the updated SES (short form):

1. Someone fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of my body (lips, breast/chest, crotch, or butt) or removed some of my clothes without my consent (*but did not attempt sexual penetration*).
2. Someone had oral sex with me or made me have oral sex with them without my consent.
3. A man put his penis into my vagina, or someone inserted fingers or objects without my consent.
4. A man put his penis into my butt, or someone inserted fingers or objects without my consent.
5. Even though it did not happen, someone TRIED to have oral sex with me, or make me have oral sex with them without my consent.
6. Even though it did not happen, a man TRIED to put his penis into my vagina, or someone tried to stick in fingers or objects without my consent.

7. Even though it did not happen, a man TRIED to put his penis into my butt, or someone tried to stick in objects or fingers without my consent.
8. I am: Female _ Male _ My age is years and months.
9. Did any of the experiences described in this survey happen to you one or more times?
10. Have you ever been raped?

National Violence Against Women Survey (NVAW): The NVAW asks behaviorally specific items referred to as "unwanted sexual experiences," including attempted as well as completed rape. "Being made to have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you; being made to have oral sex by using force or threat of harm; being made to have anal sex by using force or threat of harm; having someone put their fingers or objects in your vagina or anus against your will by using force or threats; or attempting to make you have vaginal, anal, or oral sex against your will, but intercourse or penetration did not occur," (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000).

Traumatic Events Survey (TES): This survey includes questions about childhood and adult trauma. The survey asks one adult sexual assault-related question: "Since age 18, did you ever have sexual contact with someone (e.g., touching genitals, buttocks, breasts, or having intercourse) because you were threatened or physically forced?" The survey classified participants who answered affirmatively to this question as being a victim of Adult Sexual Assault (ASA) (Elliott et al., 2004).

Sexual Experiences Questionnaire-DOD (SEQ-DOD): The SEQ-DOD was adapted for the DoD from the original SEQ and administered to male and female reservists. The questions related to rape and sexual assault ask whether the respondent has been in situations involving military personnel and/or DOD employees or contractors "where one or more of these individuals (of

either gender) attempted to have sex with you without your consent or against your will, but was unsuccessful or had sex with you without your consent or against your will,” (Lipari & Lancaster, 2003; Harris, 2007; Street et al., 2008).

Time Frames Measured in Surveys

Different periods (e.g., over the entire lifespan vs. past year only) as well as different definitions used in surveys is a problem (Fisher, 2004). Some surveys ask about sexual assault occurrences during a person’s lifetime (NCVS, NWS, NVAWS, and SES). The SEQ-DoD asks about the past 12 months. Other surveys ask generically about a person’s time in the military without specifying a time frame (NHS, VHA screening, VA women’s health project). Coyle et al., (1996) asks female veterans specifically about incidences that occurred while on “active duty.” Some surveys give a specific age as a minimum (original SES specifies “since age 14” and TES specifies “since age 18”) to differentiate child sexual abuse from adult sexual assault. This makes comparability across surveys extremely difficult.

Comparing various instruments against one another is also challenging because of varying units of analysis. There is a difference between *rape cases* and *rape victims*. For instance, a woman who is victimized more than once generates more than one rape case (Kilpatrick, 2004). Some studies aim to measure the number of victims, whereas others aim to measure the number of incidents.

Impact of Data Collection Method on Estimates

Surveys that measure the prevalence and incidence of sexual assault have been conducted across all modes of data collection, including by telephone, face-to-face, via Web, and through paper-and-pencil self-administered surveys. Questions about sex or sexual experiences are sensitive in nature and therefore the possibility of a social desirability bias emerges. This type of bias means

respondents may be more likely to give a culturally acceptable answer to an interviewer than in a self-administered survey (Dillman et al., 2008).

Koss (2007) cautions that generalizations of findings in other areas of study related to data collection methods may not apply to sexual assault because of the societal stigma surrounding sexual assault. Koss (2007) also reported that sometimes questions ask about illegal behaviors such as illegal sex acts or underage drinking and this further raises risk level for the participant. Testa et al. (2005) found little difference in response rates between women who were administered the SES through computer-administered self-interviewing (CASI) with a face-to-face interview component versus a self-administered questionnaire (SAQ). Thus, while mode of data collection may be presumed to impact reporting rates, these studies have shown that it may not be as important a factor in gathering accurate estimates.

Determining Prevalence and Incidence

Kilpatrick (2004) defines prevalence as the proportion of the population that has been victimized at least once in a specified period. Tjaden & Thoennes (2000) define prevalence as the number of victims and do not specify a period. Koss (1993) cited Kleinbaum et al.’s 1982 definition of prevalence that refers to the number of active cases present during a defined period. Koss (1993) noted that because rape’s impact is often long lasting (or indefinite), many researchers use prevalence rates that consider active cases as anyone who has been raped during a lengthy period, sometimes the entire lifespan. Kilpatrick and Tjaden & Thoennes also disagree on a definition of incidence. Kilpatrick (2004) defines incidence as the number of cases occurring in a given period, usually expressed as victimization rates (the number of cases per 10,000 people). Tjaden & Thoennes (2000) define incidence as the number of victimizations.

Measuring Male Sexual Assault

Studies such as the NVAWS, Revised SES, and NCVS survey both men and women for incidences of sexual assault. However, there have been no major studies that focus only on male incidences of sexual assault. In Davies' (2004) review of literature of male sexual assault, she noted that research studies have found that male victims tend to report or seek medical treatment only for very severe physical injuries, perhaps because the extent of their injuries make their reported attacks more believable. Tomlinson & Harrison (1998) noted societal myths such as men cannot be forced to have sex against their will with women or that men who are raped by men are gay, increase stigma and make it difficult for men to want to admit to being sexually assaulted. Stermac et al.'s 2004 review of existing literature on male sexual assault found most literature suggest that prevalence of male sexual assault is much higher than traditionally believed. Elliot et al. (2004) found males who experienced adult sexual assault (ASA) were five times more likely to have had a history of childhood sexual trauma than men who had not experienced ASA.

Rates Found Using Behaviorally Based Surveys

The NWS showed a 12.6% (lifetime) incidence of rape among adult females (Kilpatrick, et al., 1997). The NWS was given to active duty women in the Air Force and the incidence of rape was much higher, 28% (Bostock & Daley, 2007).

The revised SES found 17.2% of female respondents had been raped (Testa et al., 2004). This percentage is complicated by 18.8% who said they had been sexually coerced. It is unknown what percentage of this 18.8% also said they were raped. A subset of the original SES was given to Navy trainees, 45% of female trainees had been victims of lifetime rape or attempted rape (Merrill et al., 1997). Female veterans who use VA

Medical Centers were interviewed using the SES; these interviews found 33% of female veterans were victims while in the military (Suris et al., 2004). The SES-DoD found 3% of women and 1% of men had experienced sexual assault by workplace personnel in the past 12 months (Lipari & Lancaster, 2003).

Rates Found Using Non-behaviorally Based Surveys

The NVAWS found 17.6% of women were victims of rape or attempted rape (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000). It is not known what percentage of these women were victims of a completed rape. The TES was administered to men and women; it found an adult lifetime incidence of 22% among women and 3.8% among men.

Several studies have attempted to measure sexual assault and rape among veterans. A survey by the VHA of its veteran outpatients found 19.5% of women were victims of unwanted sexual assault or forced sexual contact and only 1.2% of men were victims (Kimerling et al., 2007). In another study of female veterans — those who use VA ambulatory care — 23% had been forced or threatened by force to have sexual relations against their will while in the military. The term “sexual relations” was not defined in the survey (Frayne et al., 2003). In a study of Gulf War veterans, only 3% said they suffered forced sexual relations or sexual assault while in the military (Kang et al., 2005). This survey was given to both male and female veterans and no gender breakouts were provided. Coyle et al. (1996) asked female veterans if they had ever been pressured into doing something sexual and gave examples such as “touching of private parts.” This question was used to measure sexual abuse. They also included, “have you ever been forced into unwanted sexual intercourse” and an affirmative to this question equaled rape. Almost 29% of respondents reported being raped while on active duty. Almost 31% reported sexual abuse while on active duty.

It is unknown what percentage of women experienced both rape and sexual abuse.

Conclusion

Measuring the prevalence and incidence of sexual assault is a difficult task for which there is no clear-cut science for ensuring validity and reliability of results. It is an extremely sensitive topic, which, if not asked through a series of carefully designed items, can greatly affect estimates. The past few decades of research on this measurement have shown important advances that have improved the likelihood of getting true, positive reports. These include the development of behaviorally specific items, which ask detailed questions about particular acts, rather than asking short, direct questions about “rape” or “sexual assault” that are value-laden and do not cover the full spectrum of unwanted sexual experiences. Furthermore, the development of gender neutral and gender-specific language has improved reporting by acknowledging the realities that not all sexual assaults

are perpetrated by men on women. Finally, there is still much research to be done to understand the impact of context effects on reporting, the potential for recall error in using behaviorally specific items to measure lifetime sexual assault experiences, and whether it is best to use a two-stage design to gather prevalence and incidence estimates.

The AF SAPR study of sexual assault in the Air Force has certain fixed components to it, including the relevant time frame (since joining the Air Force), the population to be studied (men and women, active duty), and the mode of data collection (Web). The critical decisions that have been guided by the research literature led to writing questions to operationalize UCMJ Articles 120 and 125 into behaviorally specific questions that are appropriate for men and women; designing language and procedures to ensure anonymity and/or confidentiality of responses; and determining the ideal set of descriptive questions and demographics to help categorize and classify the responses.

IV. Methodology

A. Introduction

This section provides details of the methodology used for the 2010 Air Force Personal Safety Survey conducted by Gallup for the Air Force. The scope of this survey was limited to active duty Air Force personnel¹ and the primary goal of this survey was to estimate the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault among its ranks. In the past, the Air Force had to rely on studies and surveys obtained from civilian populations, as well as limited data available from DMDC measurements, for making policies relating to sexual assault. However, these studies

typically do not take into consideration the unique culture, climate, and operating environments within the Air Force. This survey was designed specifically for the Air Force with the goal of gathering the most accurate data for decision making. The objective was to establish the baseline for a true statistical occurrence of sexual assault within the Air Force.

The data collection period for this survey was from July 26 to August 31, 2010. All survey data were collected by web. A simple stratified sample design based on 20 strata was used with a total sample size of 100,000 across all strata. A total of 18,834 surveys were completed with an overall response rate of 18.8%. In order to minimize bias, the survey data were weighted to generate weighted survey based estimates.

¹ General officers were excluded in this survey process due to known limitations in direct communication via email (screened and managed by executive staffs) and response opportunity; the relatively small number of General officers on active duty permissible by U.S. Code in the Air Force is statistically insignificant to the larger number of randomly selected targeted population respondents.

This survey to measure the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault in the Air Force was designed with a number of guiding principles in mind:

1. To gather a precise, reliable, and valid measure of the true rate occurrence of sexual assault among active duty Air Force personnel.
2. To align the definition of sexual assault precisely with UCMJ codes 120 and 125 regarding completed, as well as attempted, sex acts, sexual contact, and sodomy, using behaviorally specific language that is clear and understandable to respondents.
3. To be able to measure not only recent incidents of sexual assault, but also lifetime estimates, both since joining the Air Force as well as prior to joining.
4. To gather the experiences of both men and women using gender-appropriate terminology.
5. To be able to detect differences in rates of sexual assault by gender, age, and grade at a 95% level of confidence.
6. To be able to estimate details on how sexual assault is occurring, whether it is by force, under the influence of drugs and other intoxicants, by ignoring efforts to communicate a lack of consent, or by other means.
7. To gather rich details on the circumstances surrounding the most recent sexual assault in terms of perpetrator characteristics, when and where the assault occurred, and the aftermath of the assault.
8. To determine the rate of formal reporting (both restricted and unrestricted reporting) and ultimately, levels of underreporting of sexual assault.
9. To understand barriers to reporting and how those may differ by the type of assault experienced by the victim.
10. To collect programmatic recommendations in terms of what the Air Force could do to better respond to sexual assault.
11. To protect the confidentiality of survey respondents such that neither their location, nor their individual identity could be determined or inferred by their survey response.

The development of the survey instrument was guided by a team of subject matter experts who advised Gallup to ensure that the language, procedures, and analysis used for this survey effort was in line with the academic and professional expectations for asking about such a sensitive topic, as well as by representatives from the Air Force Judge Advocate military justice offices (AF/JAJM).

The following sections provide further details related to methodology including sample design, questionnaire development, data collection, data cleaning and coding, sample weighting, and lessons learned.

B. Sample Design

The target population for this survey consisted of all active duty personnel in the Air Force. For the purpose of sampling, a simple stratified sample design was used by stratifying the entire target population into 20 strata (or subgroups) based on age, gender, and grade. Table 1 provides strata description along with the counts (population size) and sample size for each stratum. Stratum 5, for example, stands for Female active duty personnel in the age group 25 to 34 and in E5 to E9 grade. Gallup obtained the population counts for each stratum from the Air Force.

The total sample size for this survey, as shown in Table 1, was 100,000. The sample allocation of across the 20

strata was performed by taking into account multiple objectives. First, a decision was made to oversample women and younger (16 to 24 years of age) personnel. The percentage of women in the active duty population was 19.4% (63,797 out of 328,852) whereas the percentage of women in the sample of 100,000 was 25,000 (or 25%). The corresponding percentages for younger (16 to 24 years of age) personnel in the population and the sample were 33.2% and 43.5%, respectively.

Another important criterion for sample allocation was the requirement of minimizing the margin of error (inverse measure of precision) for estimates of unknown population proportion at the individual stratum level. For example, it may be of interest to estimate the proportion (P) of Air Force personnel who have been sexually assaulted. For each stratum, the goal was to

allocate a large enough sample size to keep the margin of error below 5% at the 95% level of confidence. For the purpose of calculating the expected margin of error at the time of sample allocation, a response rate of 25% was assumed to estimate the number of completed surveys per stratum.

For every stratum, the expected margin of error was calculated based on the population size, the expected number of completed surveys (estimated as sample size* 0.25) and using a finite population correction factor. [Also, it was calculated under the most conservative assumption that the unknown population proportion (P) to be estimated was equal to 50%]. The last column presents the expected margin of error at the stratum level at the time of sample allocation. Appendix C presents the actual margins of error for all survey estimates.

Table 1: Population and Sample Size by Sampling Strata

Strata	Strata Description	Count (Population Size)	Sample Size	Expected Margin of Error Based on 25% Response Rate
1	Female, 16-19, E1-E4	3,651	2,400	.04
2	Female, 20-24, E1-E4	16,513	6,000	.02
3	Female, 25-34, E1-E4	4,353	2,000	.04
4	Female, 20-24, E5-E9	1,325	1,300	.05
5	Female, 25-34, E5-E9	17,854	4,000	.03
6	Female, 35+, E1-E9	8,169	2,500	.04
7	Female, 20-24, O1-O4	1,331	1,300	.05
8	Female, 25-34, O1-O4	5,477	2,000	.04
9	Female, 35+, O1-O4	3,412	2,000	.04
10	Female, 35+, O5-O6	1,712	1,500	.04
11	Male, 16-19, E1-E4	12,092	5,000	.03
12	Male, 20-24, E1-E4	63,761	20,000	.01
13	Male, 25-34, E1-E4	18,829	5,700	.02
14	Male, 20-24, E5-E9	5,772	4,000	.03
15	Male, 25-34, E5-E9	65,729	12,500	.02
16	Male, 35+, E1-E9	45,834	8,500	.02
17	Male, 20-24, O1-O4	4,739	3,500	.03
18	Male, 25-34, O1-O4	22,672	5,800	.02
19	Male, 35+, O1-O4	13,604	5,000	.03
20	Male, 35+, O5-O6	12,023	5,000	.03
Total		328,852	100,000	<.01

It may be noted that the final sample allocation across the 20 strata was not strictly proportional to the population counts. This allocation had to be disproportional to meet multiple objectives including oversampling of some subgroups (women and younger population) and also to keep the margin of error below 5% for each stratum. In general, however, higher sample sizes were allocated to the larger strata. In general, the expected margin of error associated with larger strata was as expected lower than those for the smaller strata. The observed overall response rate (18.8%) was somewhat lower than the anticipated response rate of 25% and that had an impact on the number of completed surveys by strata. For strata where the observed response rate was lower than the anticipated rate (25%), the margin of error was higher than what is shown in Table 1 above. However, at the overall level and also for most of the strata, the margin of error was still expected to be below 5%. At the overall level (i.e., for the entire Air Force), the sample size was 18,834 ensuring a sampling error (0.7%) of less than 1% for estimation of any unknown population proportion. Even after accounting for any possible design effect (it was calculated to be approximately 1.27), the effective sample size at the overall level was large enough to keep the sampling error (0.8%) below 1% at 95% level of confidence. It should also be noted that the calculation of expected margin of error in Table 1 was done under the most conservative assumption (unknown population proportion $P=50\%$). Most of the proportions (proportion that are sexually assaulted, for example) to be estimated based on this survey are actually expected to be much lower (less than 10% to 15% in most cases) than 50% and that will imply a significantly lower margin of error for the corresponding estimates.

Following the sample allocation presented in Table 1 by strata, simple random samples of specified size were selected within each stratum. The actual sample selection for this survey was carried out by Air Force staff. The sample file containing strata information (based on age, gender, and grade) and email address of the Air

Force personnel was delivered to Gallup. Maintaining confidentiality of the identifying information was given top priority by Gallup. At no point during the entire survey process was the identifying information contained in the sample file for any respondent ever linked to the data obtained for that individual in the survey. Data sets containing survey data for analysis did not contain any of the identifying information.

C. Defining Sexual Assault

Sexual assault has been defined for this study to mirror Articles 120 and 125 of the UCMJ (2007). Article 120 refers to rape, aggravated sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, and abusive sexual contact, and Article 125 refers to sodomy, including both oral and anal sex.

The UCMJ definition of rape changed on October 1, 2007. Article 120 was formerly known as “Rape and carnal knowledge,” but is now entitled “Rape, sexual assault, and other sexual misconduct.” Prior to this change, rape was defined as penile penetration of the vulva, no matter how slight, by force and without consent.

After the 2007 changes, two definitions of the act were developed. The standard definition of penile penetration of the vulva was enhanced to include digital, hand, or object penetration of the genital opening, with intent to humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse sexual desire. The definition further specified that the acts could have occurred by using force, causing grievous bodily harm (serious injuries such as broken bones, internal injuries), threatening or placing that other person in fear that they will be subjected to harm or kidnapping, rendering someone unconscious, administering by force or without permission some drug or intoxicant. “Force” has a specific definition, which includes using some action to compel submission or overcome resistance, suggestion of a weapon, or physical violence/strength/power/restraint so person could not avoid or escape. (Title 10 U. S. Code Section 920, Article 120.)

The 2007 changes also include situations in which the accused, himself or herself, did not engage in the sexual act or sexual contact, but instead caused another to do so.

The revised Article 120 of the UCMJ defines “consent” as “words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual act at issue by a competent person.” The term is further explained as:

- An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent.
- Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the accused’s use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent.
- A current or previous dating relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the sexual conduct at issue shall not constitute consent.

- A person cannot consent to sexual activity if he or she is “substantially incapable of appraising the nature of the sexual conduct at issue” due to mental impairment or unconsciousness resulting from consumption of alcohol, drugs, a similar substance, or otherwise,” as well as when the person is unable to understand the nature of the sexual conduct at issue due to a mental disease or defect.

Similarly, a lack of consent includes situations where a person is “substantially incapable of physically declining participation” or “physically communicating unwillingness” to engage in the sexual conduct at issue.

Table 2 shows the MCM (Manual for Courts Martial) definition of each offense, compared to how it was worded in the survey.

Table 2: Sexual Assault Definition Mapping

	MCM/UCMJ Definition	Survey Definition
Sex Act	<i>(C)ontact between the penis and the vulva, and for purposes of this subparagraph contact involving the penis occurs upon penetration, however slight; or the penetration, however slight, of the genital opening of another by a hand or finger or by any object, with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, or degrade any person or to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.</i>	Penetration of the vagina by the penis, fingers, or any object without consent
Sexual Contact	<i>(T)he intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of another person, or intentionally causing another person to touch, either directly or through the clothing, the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person, with an intent to abuse, humiliate, or degrade any person or to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Being intentionally touched either directly or through clothing, on the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks, OR ▪ Being made to touch, whether yourself or someone else, either directly or through clothing, the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks, OR ▪ Anal penetration by objects other than the penis ▪ Does not include attempted or completed penetration of the vagina

Table 2: Sexual Assault Definition Mapping (continued)

	MCM/UCMJ Definition	Survey Definition
Sodomy	<p><i>Sodomy is “unnatural carnal copulation” and includes fellatio, cunnilingus, bestiality, and anal sodomy.</i></p>	<p><u>Oral sex:</u> (Men) Someone took your penis into his or her mouth or had you take his penis into your mouth regardless of whether ejaculation occurred or, if the other person was female, had you place your mouth on her genitals</p> <p>(Women) Someone performed oral sex on you (i.e., placed their mouth on your genitals) or had you perform oral sex on them (i.e., had you take his penis into your mouth regardless of whether ejaculation occurred or, if the other person was female, had you place your mouth on her genitals)</p> <p><u>Anal sex:</u> (Men) Someone penetrated your anus with his penis or had you penetrate his or her anus with your penis</p> <p>(Women) A male penetrated your anus with his penis</p>
Consent	<p><i>“Consent” is defined as words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the accused’s use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent. A current or previous dating relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the sexual conduct at issue shall not constitute consent.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You consent when you say or do something that shows you voluntarily agree to the sexual conduct and you are substantially capable of doing so ▪ Examples of situations that show you did not or could not consent include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — You said or did something that shows you did not agree, OR — You were under the age of 16, OR — You couldn't understand what you were doing because of drinking alcohol or taking drugs, OR — You couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate, OR — You were asleep or unconscious at the time, OR — You were made to submit by the use of force or threats

Table 2: Sexual Assault Definition Mapping (continued)

	MCM/UCMJ Definition	Survey Definition
How event occurred	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>By force.</i> ▪ <i>By inflicting bodily harm.</i> ▪ <i>By causing grievous bodily harm (GBH).</i> ▪ <i>By threats or placing in fear.</i> ▪ <i>By rendering the victim unconscious.</i> ▪ <i>Using a dangerous weapon or object.</i> ▪ <i>By administering a drug, intoxicant, or similar substance.</i> ▪ <i>While the victim was incapacitated or incapable to appraise the nature of the act, decline participation, or communicate unwillingness to participate.</i> ▪ <i>Lack of permission.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness ▪ By committing the act while you were asleep or unconscious ▪ By committing the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate ▪ By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing ▪ By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing ▪ By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured ▪ By other threats ▪ By causing serious injury ▪ By force

D. Subject Matter Experts

Gallup, in conjunction with the Air Force, selected a group of subject matter experts (SMEs) to provide guidance and substantive expertise in the development, execution, and analysis of the research. The SMEs were selected based on a review of the survey literature and were chosen for their expertise in the measurement of sexual assault as well as to be reflective of:

- Expertise in risk and protective factors associated with sexual assault
- Expertise in survey methodology and sexual assault research
- Broad geographic representation
- Program experience with sexual assault issues
- Public and private sector perspectives
- Experience with military services
- Diverse ethnic and gender make-up

The final set of SMEs included nationally recognized leaders in the field of sexual assault who have conducted numerous studies, including the influential “Rape in America” study, and other peer-reviewed studies and research:

- **Dr. Dean Kilpatrick**, Professor and Director, National Crime Victims Center at the Medical

University of South Carolina who studies the scope of violent crime and its psychological impact on victims and is the co-author of the influential “Rape in America” study.

- **Dr. David Lisak** is an associate professor of psychology at the University of Massachusetts where he conducts and supervises research on the causes and consequences of interpersonal violence. His research has been published in leading journals in psychology, trauma and violence, and he was the founding editor of the journal, *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*.
- **Dr. Mary Koss**, Professor in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman Arizona College of Public Health specializing in sexual violence who has testified before the U.S. Senate and participated in congressional briefings on this topic.

The SMEs convened at a meeting at Gallup in Washington, DC on July 29, 2009 with Gallup and representatives of the Air Force SAPR Program. The goals of the meeting were to provide context to the SMEs on the need for this research and the military laws that address sexual assault, to review the existing literature on sexual assault, and to begin to formulate constructs that might be appropriate for measurement. The SMEs informed the Gallup and Air Force team about the importance of using behaviorally specific screening questions to ensure that the survey was written in specific, approachable, and understandable terms (for example, not referring to anal sex as sodomy, but as “Someone penetrated your anus with his penis or had you penetrate his or her anus with your penis”). There was also extensive discussion with the SMEs regarding what to title the survey so as to not reveal too much about the intent of the survey in the title (potentially biasing those who chose to respond). Ultimately, the title of “Air Force Personal Safety Survey” was agreed

upon. Finally, the SMEs underscored the importance of crafting questions that were appropriate for both men and women, particularly in terms of the definitions used in the survey to describe various forms of sexual assault.

The SMEs’ role continued throughout the span of the contract was to provide guidance on drafts of the questionnaire as it was in development, to update Gallup with new literature being published on sexual assault, and to support Gallup in the analysis and interpretation of findings.

The SMEs convened a second time at Gallup in Washington, DC on October 21, 2010 to review the initial findings from the study, providing guidance on interpretation of survey findings and recommendations for future direction for SAPR, which are incorporated in the recommendations section of this report.

E. Questionnaire Development

The general flow of the survey was to first determine whether an event met the criteria of UCMJ Articles 120 and 125, as a determination that sexual assault was committed, using lay-person descriptions of the definitions; and, if so, whether it occurred while a member of the Air Force. If no event had occurred, then the participant was moved to the end of the survey and was not asked respond to the detailed questions. However, the number of those who answered affirmative to an event that met the measurement criteria but were assaulted pre-service time, were maintained as a separate count for further analysis. No detailed information about the assault was asked of those whose only sexual assault occurred prior to active service or prior to entering the Air Force Academy (those who were cadets at the time of the survey were not included in the randomly selected target population).

The survey introduction contained a survey control number, assurance of confidentiality, contact information

for questions or concerns, burden estimates, and a link to the privacy act.

“The Material/Information contained herein falls within the purview of the Privacy Act of 1974 and will be safeguarded in accordance with the applicable system of records notice and AFI 33-332. This survey is anonymous. No attempt to identify you or your organization will be made unless information indicates a credible or potential threat. By participating in this survey, you acknowledge that the information you provide, including the open text comments, may be viewed and released in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Do not include personal identifying information.”

On each screen of the survey, respondents were provided with a link to a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) directory in case they had been sexually assaulted and needed help.

First, respondents were asked to provide their gender, which was a “forced” response (meaning if they refused to supply their gender, the survey terminated). The purpose of this question was to ensure that respondents would receive gender-appropriate terminology when describing sexual assault and to be able to effectively weight the data to project to population estimates. A careful choice was made to ask other demographics at the end of the survey so as to minimize respondent concerns up front about individual identities being at risk.

What followed was a behaviorally specific explanation of what would be asked in terms of unwanted sexual experiences. The statement was developed in close collaboration with SMEs to ensure it provided an appropriate opening to the survey and did not bias respondents in one way or another. Respondents were

also informed about the “roll over” definitions that would appear on forthcoming screens, which would supply them with definitions of terms.

At this point, the survey asked respondents if they had “ever” experienced specific types of unwanted sexual experiences by asking specifically about:

- Sexual contact without your consent or making you have sexual contact with yourself or another person without your consent
- Attempted sexual contact without your consent or attempting to make you have sexual contact with yourself or another person without your consent, without success
- Making you engage in oral sex or anal sex without your consent (using gender-specific definitions of oral and anal sex)
- Attempting to make you engage in oral sex or anal sex without your consent, without success
- Making you engage in a sex act without your consent
- Attempting to make you engage in a sex act without your consent

After each pair of acts (completed and attempted), if respondents answered affirmatively, they were asked a series of follow up sub-qualifier questions to understand how the act(s) occurred. Respondents could mark off multiple circumstances, ranging from the act occurring by ignoring their efforts to communicate that they did not want it to happen, to the act occurring under the influence of drugs or other intoxicants that may have been administered, forced, or consumed voluntarily, to acts committed under force or threats of force.

If respondents did not indicate any forms of unwanted sexual experiences in this series of questions, the web programming skipped them to the end of the survey, where they were asked to provide recommendations for how the Air Force could better respond to sexual assault, and were asked some basic demographic questions to help classify their responses.

For those respondents who responded affirmatively to a specific type of unwanted sexual experience (what) and to one or more of the sub-qualifier (how) questions, the next series of questions asked respondents to review the specific circumstances for which they had responded affirmatively (for example, an attempted sexual act that occurred by attempting the act while you were asleep or unconscious), and to indicate whether that event had occurred prior to or after they entered the Air Force Academy or joined the active duty Air Force. From this series of follow-up questions, the prevalence of sexual assault in the Air Force since joining could be determined, as well as the prevalence of sexual assault prior to joining the Air Force.

At this point in the survey, if respondents indicated that all events occurred prior to joining the Air Force, the web programming skipped them to the end of the survey. For those who indicated that something had happened to them since entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force, they were asked to then provide details about their most recent experience involving sexual assault.

Respondents were asked when the most recent incident occurred, and for those who indicated that it happened within the past 30 days, 1 month to less than 6 months ago, or 6 months to less than 1 year ago were categorized as past-year victims and fell under the analysis of “incidence” of sexual assault.

Respondents were also asked the following information about the most recent incident:

- Age, status, and grade at time of incident (the structure of these questions was aligned with current DoD sexual assault reporting requirements and are presented in groupings instead of the individual level, i.e., grade was categorized into E1-E4, E5-E9, O1-O3, O4-O10)
- Whether incident occurred on/off military installation and whether they were at home station, deployed or on TDY at the time
- Characteristics of the perpetrator, including military status, relationship to victim, gender, and length of knowing the perpetrator
- Actions taken following the incident, including talking to someone about it, and seeking help
- Formal reporting of the incident, including type of report filed, who report was filed to, how soon after the incident the report was filed, and reason for reporting
- Barriers to reporting among those who chose not to report

Finally, all respondents, regardless of their experiences with sexual assault, were asked to provide recommendations for how the Air Force could better respond to unwanted sexual experiences, as well as three demographic items asking their current age, grade, and year of entering the Air Force (again, the structure of these questions was aligned with current DoD sexual assault reporting requirements and are presented in groupings instead of the individual level of age or grade).

F. Pilot Test

Prior to the survey's release to the general survey respondent population, in April 2010, Gallup conducted a pilot test to ensure that the design of the survey and the technology behind the Web-based application would be able to produce the data required by the Air Force. The pilot test included two steps. First, Gallup loaded the web survey on a test site once it was fully programmed and generated a number of access codes for the Gallup team and the AF/A1SF representative to test the questionnaire to make sure all skip patterns were working correctly. Next, the AF/A1SF representative selected a small number of Air Force members (both military and civilians who had military experience) to pilot test the survey, providing each respondent with four access codes and asked them to respond to the survey in several different hypothetical scenarios such that they would be able to review all questions on the survey. As part of the pilot testing, Gallup also included some cognitive questions to ask the pilot respondents how they interpreted certain items, to determine if any response choices were missing, and whether any terms were confusing or vague. Specifically, they were asked to provide feedback on:

- The survey invitation
- The survey introduction and instructions
- Assurances of confidentiality
- Definition of unwanted sexual experiences
- Ease of use of scroll-over definitions
- Any questions that were vague, confusing or may not be understood by Airmen
- Feedback on navigation and functionality of survey
- Additional suggestions for improving the instrument

As a result of this pilot phase, several changes were made to the survey, including the addition of a "prefer not to answer" response for many of the items. Whereas some of the questions required a response in order to continue (gender, plus the core items measuring sexual assault), the additional items measuring the details of the most recent experience had no way of capturing legitimate non-response, that is, those respondents who preferred not to answer the item and simply would leave it blank. Thus the addition of a "prefer not to answer" category provided respondents the opportunity to expressly indicate their desire to skip the question and analytically allowed Gallup to more accurately measure item non-response.

In addition, the pilot revealed the need to ensure that the OPSEC warning notice appeared throughout the survey. "Do not provide OPSEC information; critical information or indicators. Comply with all OPSEC measures outlined in AFI 10-701."

G. Data Collection

Survey Approval

Post-initial draft question set creation, the Air Force SAPR Program Manager applied for a survey control number (SCN) from the Air Force Manpower Agency (AFMA), the activity for monitoring all Air Force surveys. AFMA awarded the survey SCN#DAFA110-002 and issued a memorandum dated 27 January, 2010, and with an expiration date of 23 March, 2010. As a stipulation to obtaining the SCN, the project was limited to collecting survey responses from active duty members only.

Due to the nature of the information to be collected from respondents, the Gallup and Air Force team sought review by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) to ensure protection of human factors involved in administering surveys. The Air Force used their internal Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) to review the data collection request. The IRB determined that the

research did not require IRB review, since the purpose of the survey was intended to improve programming and senior leadership's understanding of the problem (a "process improvement effort"). As a result of the stipulations by the AFRL ruling, the context of the project changed from "study" to "survey." Finally, the IRB recommended that the final report be limited to an internal report of "peer-reviewed quality" but would not be allowed to be published externally in peer-reviewed publications.

An additional internal approval process required to conduct the survey was to obtain authorization from Air Force IT Networks Operations (SAF/XC) to host the survey from a non ".mil" website. Due to delays in acquiring this authorization, the AFMA memorandum for SCN#DAFA110-002 expired and an extension was granted to 15 July, 2010. Approval from SAF/XC was obtained on 7 April, 2010.

The final authorization to host the survey required a final internal staff package to obtain approval from the AF/A1, in coordination with Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Manpower and Reserve Affairs (SAF/MR), Air Force General Counsel (SAF/GC), and Air Force Judge Advocate (AF/JA). Since the coordination process exceeded the AFMA SCN#DAFA110-002 memorandum date, the SCN expiration date was extended to September 15, 2010. Final approval to conduct the survey was obtained on 7 July, 2010.

Just prior to launching the survey, the Air Force SAPR Program Manager coordinated with the Network Operations Security Center (NOSC) to ensure the invitation messages would flow from Gallup computer servers, using dedicated internet protocol (IP) addresses, and not be diverted or trapped in internal Air Force system security software. To minimize dataflow and avoid system backlogs, rates of flow for the messages were staged, as described elsewhere in this report.

Survey Pre-Marketing

Simultaneously with obtaining final approval to launch the survey, the Air Force SAPR Program Manager provided standardized language and discussion points about the survey with installation SARC's during an annual training workshop in July, 2010. The purpose of the format for the discussion points and overview was to provide sufficient information for SARC's to advise local installation populations that it was a valid survey, without emphasizing it was a specific survey about sexual assault.

The week prior to distributing the initial invitation messages, the Air Force SAPR Program Manager provided pre-marketing in the weekly update report released to major commands by the Director, Air Force Services (A1S):

"The AF Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program launched a Personal Safety survey on 26 Jul; the survey control number is DAFA110-002. Gallup is conducting the anonymous survey for the AF and will be sending it out via e-mail to randomly-selected active duty members. The government e-mail addresses will only be used for survey management control by Gallup. Data will not be collected at the individual level. Average completion time will be approximately 6 to 15 minutes. The survey will remain open for 30 days for the members invited to participate and each will receive a reminder email until completed or the survey period is closed. For additional information, including contact information, please click here. The survey control number may be validated here."

Protection of Confidentiality

In order to ensure complete protection of the identity of sampled members of the population, the survey was set up to run completely through Gallup's systems and to strip out all potentially identifiable information upon

creation of the data file. At no point during this research did the Air Force have any contact or interaction with the randomly selected respondents, nor with any of the data analysis. Each participant received an email invitation (see Appendix A) with a link to the website for the survey (see Appendix B), as well as a unique identifier/login. The unique identifier was used for survey control/management but this identifier was severed from the data set before it was provided to the analysis team at Gallup to eliminate any possibility of identifying any specific participant.

Data Collection

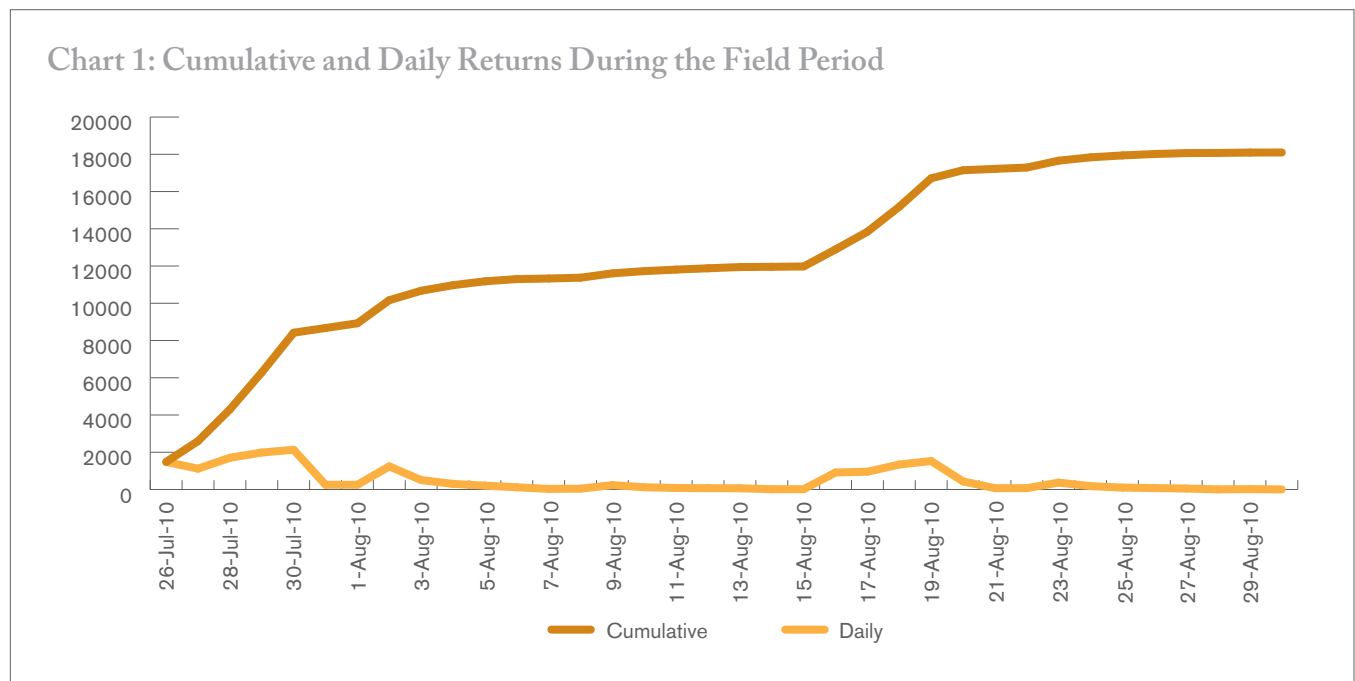
In order to control the flow of email traffic through the Air Force IP addresses, Gallup split the sample into five equal groups and staggered the emails over a five-day period, from July 26-30, 2010. The same procedure was used for the reminder emails, sent from August 16-20, 2010.

In lieu of common access card (CAC) authentication, access to participate in the Gallup web survey was controlled with two specific elements. First, the secure web survey was located at a unique URL that

was provided to the participant in the invitation communication. This URL is a Gallup-hosted service and Internet connectivity is enforced HTTPS. Second, the participant received a unique Gallup-generated access code that had to be used for authentication to gain access to the web survey. Access code composition for web survey access was determined by the client in consultation with Gallup. It was randomly generated and had numerous combinations of alpha/numeric characters. The access code was temporary and expired upon survey submission.

Chart 1 illustrates the cumulative and daily returns during the field period, which spanned from July 26-August 30, 2010. As seen below, there were two significant spikes in survey responses, corresponding with the initial invitation emailed throughout the week of July 26, and with the email reminder sent during the week of August 16.

Prior to sending the reminder email, a total of 11,976 responses had been received, and as a result of the reminder email, the total number of responses increased to 18,834.



Response Rates

The field period for this survey was from July 26 to August 31, 2010. During this period, a total of 18,834 surveys were completed via the web resulting in an overall response rate of 18.8% (18,834/100,000). Gallup sent out email invitations for respondents to complete the survey via the web. The invitations were sent in staggered batches to handle issues relating to firewall. There were roughly about 4,000-5,000 bounce backs due to erroneous or incorrect email addresses or some other problems. There were some reports suggesting that some email invitations got blocked. Those situations were corrected whenever possible but it is possible that some email invitations never reached

the intended recipients. Using the most conservative approach, all 100,000 sampled cases were included in the denominator for the purpose of calculating the overall response rate. As expected, the response rate did vary by strata. Table 3 presents the number of cases sampled, the number of surveys completed, and the resulting response rate for each of the 20 strata. The response rate (20.9%) among women was slightly higher than that (18.1%) for men. In general, the response rate was also lower for younger persons. For example, it was 14.7% for the age group 16-24 while it was 25.9% for the age group 35+. It also varied by grade with a lower response rate (13.8%) associated with lower grades (E1-E4) and a relatively higher response rate (23.8%) for higher grades (O1-O6).

Table 3: Response Rates by Sampling Strata

Strata	Strata Description	Sample Size	Number of Completed Surveys	Response Rate (%)
1	Female, 16-19, E1-E4	2,400	356	14.8
2	Female, 20-24, E1-E4	6,000	1,116	18.6
3	Female, 25-34, E1-E4	2,000	411	20.6
4	Female, 20-24, E5-E9	1,300	230	17.7
5	Female, 25-34, E5-E9	4,000	805	20.1
6	Female, 35+, E1-E9	2,500	596	23.8
7	Female, 20-24, O1-O4	1,300	337	25.9
8	Female, 25-34, O1-O4	2,000	466	23.3
9	Female, 35+, O1-O4	2,000	483	24.2
10	Female, 35+, O5-O6	1,500	433	28.9
11	Male, 16-19, E1-E4	5,000	425	8.5
12	Male, 20-24, E1-E4	20,000	2522	12.6
13	Male, 25-34, E1-E4	5,700	855	15.0
14	Male, 20-24, E5-E9	4,000	652	16.3
15	Male, 25-34, E5-E9	12,500	2459	19.7
16	Male, 35+, E1-E9	8,500	2195	25.8
17	Male, 20-24, O1-O4	3,500	738	21.1
18	Male, 25-34, O1-O4	5,800	1109	19.1
19	Male, 35+, O1-O4	5,000	1154	23.1
20	Male, 35+, O5-O6	5,000	1492	29.8
Total		100,000	18,834	18.8

H. Data Cleaning/Coding

The data cleaning procedures were designed to meet three goals: 1) eliminate incomplete surveys from the analyses, 2) check for consistency in responses, 3) recode non-legitimate non-responses, and 4) address open ended responses.

Upon completion of the survey field period at the end of August, the initial data file contained 19,938 records. However, some of the records included those who had begun the survey, but did not provide sufficient information to be able to include them in the analysis. Specifically, respondents who failed to indicate their gender in question 1 (Q1) were excluded from the final dataset, as they would not have been allowed to proceed in the survey if they did not at least indicate whether they were male or female. Furthermore, those who skipped all of the six items indicating whether or not they had ever experienced any form of sexual assault were also removed from the analysis. Finally, those who did answer the six items, but who did not provide any indication at Q14 as to whether the events occurred before or after joining the Air Force were also excluded from the final dataset. In sum, a total of 1,104 records were removed from the file as a result of this non-response analysis.

As a third stage, Gallup recoded all non-legitimate missing data into a provided code of “prefer not to answer.” For example, if a respondent was supposed to answer a question about the gender of the perpetrator, but decided to leave it blank, the missing data was recoded into “prefer not to answer” so as to be able to calculate more accurate tallies for that item. If, however, the respondent was not directed to answer that question because of a skip pattern, the missing data remained missing (legitimate non-response) for that item.

Finally, in order to be able to analyze the open-ended responses for recommendations for the Air Force to

better respond to sexual assault, a professional coding team analyzed the verbatim responses to determine if they fit best with one of the five existing codes in Q40, or whether there were enough thematic responses to merit the creation of a new code.

I. Sample Weighting

The sample data were weighted to generate unbiased estimates. The weighting procedure was formulated based on the sample design and was carried out in multiple stages.

As mentioned before in the section on sample design, sampling was done independently within each of the 20 sampling strata. In the first stage of weighting, the base weight was calculated as the inverse of the probability of the selection within each sampling strata. For the purpose of illustration, consider a stratum where “n” is the sample size and “N” is the corresponding population size (or count). The selection probability weight of a respondent in that stratum will be simply N/n : the ratio of the total number of persons in that stratum (population size) and the number of number of persons sampled (sample size) from that stratum.

The next step involved adjusting for non-responses occurring during the data collection phase. Let “r” denote the number of respondents out of the sample size “n” that actually respond to the survey. In that case, the non-response weight component assigned to each respondent from that particular stratum will be n/r . Simply stated, the total weight assigned to all sampled respondents is redistributed among those who actually responded to the survey. The cumulative weight assigned to each respondent at this stage will be the product of the base weight and the non-response weight and so that will equal $(N/n)*(n/r) = N/r$. Hence, the cumulative weight assigned to each responding person will be the ratio the population size (N) and the actual number of respondents (r). These weighting steps were carried

out in each of the 20 strata. Hence, each respondent, depending on the stratum from which he or she was sampled, was assigned a cumulative weight.

The final stage of weighting adjustments involved post-stratification weighting. The purpose of post-stratification weighting was to project the sample data to the current Air Force population. In September 2010, Gallup received from the Air Force the latest distribution of the active duty population stratified based on age, gender, and grade. A decision was made to project the sample data to this target population. For post-stratification weighting, a total of 22 post-stratification adjustment cells were created based on age, gender, and grade.

For the purpose of post-stratification weighting, each respondent was classified to one of the post-stratification adjustment cells based on his or her self-reported information on age, gender, and grade in the survey. For each post-stratification adjustment cell, the sum of the cumulative weights (product of the base weight and non-response weight) was computed. The post-stratification weighting factor for respondents in any adjustment cell was then calculated as the ratio of the population count for that cell and the sum of cumulative weights across all respondents in that cell. The final weight assigned to each respondent was then derived

as the product of the cumulative weight and the post-stratification weight factors. The sum of final weights assigned to all respondents in any post-stratification adjustment cell equals the count (population size) for the corresponding cell.

As mentioned above, each respondent was assigned to one of the post-stratification adjustment cells based on his or her response to questions on age, gender and grade in the survey. For some respondents, however, data on age and/or grade were missing in the survey. In those situations, the information on age and grade were obtained from the sample file, i.e., based on the sampling cell (Table 1) from which the respondent was sampled. Also, for a small number (169) of cases, their grade category was unknown and, for the purpose of weighting, grade was input based on available information on population counts in different grade categories.

The purpose of weighting the sample data was to minimize bias in the survey based estimates. All estimates presented in the report are weighted estimates and are projected to the entire active duty Air Force population. The weight assigned to any respondent can be thought of as the number of persons in the Air Force population represented by that respondent.

V. Results

This research allowed active duty enlisted and officers to not only indicate what types of unwanted sexual experiences they may have had in a recent time frame, but also across their time in the Air Force as well as prior to joining the Air Force. Respondents were asked to indicate the specific type of sexual assault that occurred, as well as the circumstances under which it occurred. The findings below shed deep insight into the frequency of sexual assault in the Air Force as well as how those incidents are occurring and why they are and are not being reported.

In much of the sexual assault literature, incidence is defined as the number of cases occurring in a given period, usually expressed as victimization rates — the number of incidents per 10,000 people (Kilpatrick 2004). However, in this research, the goal was not to measure a victimization rate as it was to measure the frequency of sexual assault occurring over a relatively short period of time, clarifying the unit of analysis as the number of victims, rather than the number of assaults. For the purposes of this analysis, incidence is defined as the total number of victims who were sexually assaulted while on active duty or as a cadet at the Air Force Academy in the past 12 months.

The literature differs on definitions of prevalence, with some defining the term as the proportion of the population that has been victimized at least once in a specified period (Kilpatrick 2004), and others as the number of victims without specifying a period (Tjaden & Thoennes 2000). For the purposes of this study, prevalence is defined as the total number of victims of sexual assault since joining the Air Force. There was also an extended measurement of “lifetime” prevalence determined in the survey, with a separate count gathered of those respondents who reported unwanted sexual experiences prior to entry into active duty or the Air Force Academy. This lifetime prevalence

estimate is represented by combining both prior- and during-active duty service time periods into a singular overall measure. The results indicate a small number of reported instances of re-victimization between prior to service and while a member of the Air Force.

A. Projected Past Year Incidence of Sexual Assault

Examining unwanted sexual experiences that have occurred in a relatively recent amount of time (within the preceding 12 months) allowed for the ability to gain a detailed understanding of the timing and circumstances surrounding the event while minimizing the potential biases of recall error or reporting inaccuracies due to the victim having exited the Air Force. For the purposes of reporting, unwanted sexual experiences that occurred within the past 12 months are being defined as the measure of “incidence.” For this survey, we define incidence as the total number of victims who report their most recent unwanted sexual experience while on active duty or as a cadet at the Air Force Academy occurred in the past year.

1. Past Year Incidence Rate

The incidence of sexual assault in the Air Force is 3.4% among women and 0.5% among men, and is higher among younger and lower grade Airmen¹

The projected past year incidence rate of sexual assault among Airmen while on active duty or as a cadet at the Air Force Academy is 3.4% for women and 0.5% for men. This equates to 2,143 women and 1,355 men who have been assaulted within the past year.

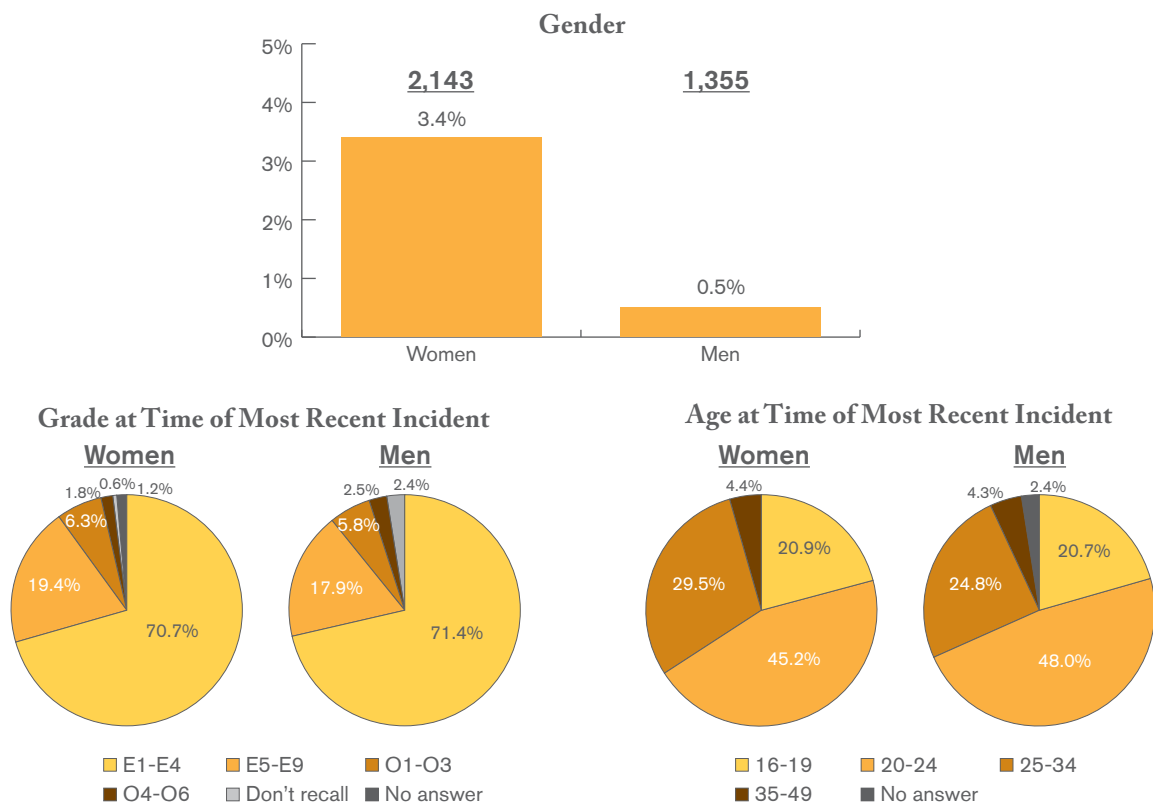
2 It is important to note that all percentages in this report are presented with one decimal place. Executive level briefings conducted in October, 2010 reported data rounded to the whole number in order to ease comprehension of the results. This fuller report uses a finer degree of granularity by reporting out the percentages to one decimal place.

As shown in chart 2, past year victims tend to be younger. Approximately two in three Airmen who have been assaulted during the past year said they were younger than 25. Almost half of Airmen who have been assaulted in the past year report their age at the time of the incident was 20-24 (45.2% of women, and 48.0% of men, respectively). Twenty percent of women and men assaulted in the past year said their age at the time was 16-19 (20.9% and 20.7%, respectively). While the majority of assaults are being committed against the youngest personnel, it is important to note that there is a significant portion of past year assaults among women (29.5%) and men (24.8%) committed against those aged 25-34.

Correlating closely with the age at the time of the incident, past year victims tend to be in grades E1-E4. Seventy-one percent of women and men who were assaulted in the past 12 months reported being in grades E1-E4 at the time (70.7% and 71.4%, respectively). Airmen at the E5-E9 grades were the next most reported grades with 19.4% of female and 17.9% of male past year victims in these grades. Officers reported experiences of sexual assault over the past year less frequently than enlisted personnel. Just 6.3% of women and 5.8% of men who reported a past year assault were O1-O3, and just 1.8% of women and 2.5% of men reported a past year assault as an O4-O6.³

3 General officers are excluded from the survey.

Chart 2. Projected Past Year Incidence* of Sexual Assault by Gender, Grade, and Age



* Incidence is the total number of victims who were sexually assaulted while on active duty or as a cadet at the Air Force Academy in the past year. General officers excluded. Counts and percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population.

Q: How long ago did this incident occur? What was your age at the time of the incident? What was your grade at the time of the incident?

2. Past Year Incidence by Type of Assault

Using behaviorally specific language designed to align with UCMJ codes 120 and 125, respondents were asked to indicate the type of assault they experienced, whether it was an attempted or completed unwanted sexual contact, attempted or completed oral or anal sex, or an attempted or completed sex act. In addition, respondents could indicate that more than one of these types of experiences had occurred.

Sexual contact is the type of assault most frequently experienced by Airmen over the past year, as shown in chart 3, with a projected total of 1,556 women and 1,032 men reporting attempted or completed acts of unwanted sexual contact. Sex acts were the next most frequent form of sexual assault occurring in the past year, with a projected total of 1,066 victims, including 798 women and 268 men. Unwanted experiences with oral or anal sex were the least common, with 625 past year victims, who were more likely to be men (377) than women (248).

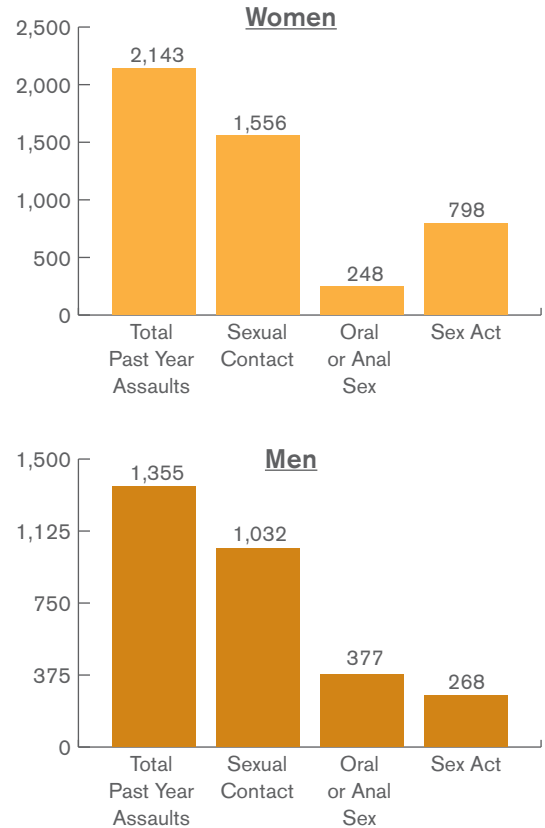
B. Prevalence of Sexual Assault Since Joining the Air Force

While incidence examines the number of victims reporting sexual assault over a relatively short amount of time, prevalence allows for the examination of rates of sexual assault in the Air Force without the restriction of a time frame. Rather than being a snap shot of the past year, prevalence indicates how much of today's active duty Air Force population has been sexually assaulted *at any point* during their tenure in the Air Force.

Among the current Air Force population, 18.9% of women and 2.1% of men reporting having had experienced some form of sexual assault while in the Air Force.

Approximately 19% of today's female Airmen and 2% of today's male Airmen reporting being the victim of sexual assault at some point while they have been in

Chart 3. Projected Past Year Incidence* of Sexual Assault by Gender and Type of Act



* Incidence is the total number of victims who were sexually assaulted while on active duty or as a cadet at the Air Force Academy in the past year. General officers excluded. Counts and percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population. More than one response allowed.

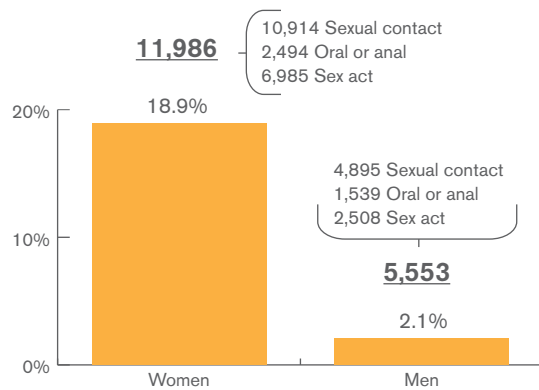
Q: Has someone ever had or attempted sexual contact with you without your consent, or made or attempted to make you have sexual contact with yourself or another person without your consent? Has someone ever made you engage or attempted to make you engage in oral sex or anal sex without your consent? Has someone ever made you or attempted to make you engage in a sex act without your consent? Please review the item(s) you marked and indicated when the incident occurred.

the Air Force, equivalent to 11,986 women and 5,553 men. Again, it is important to clarify that this is not an annual rate of sexual assault, rather it is an accumulation of all experiences that individuals may have had at any point while in the Air Force.

Similar to past year incidence, the most frequent form of sexual assault experienced by victims at any point during their Air Force tenure is unwanted sexual

contact. A projected total of 10,914 women report unwanted sexual contact at some point during their tenure, along with 4,895 men, as shown in chart 4. A projected 6,985 women and 2,508 men were victimized through unwanted sex acts (penetration of the vagina by a penis without consent) at some point since joining the Air Force. Finally, unwanted acts of oral or anal sex are the least common types of sexual assault, with 2,494 women and 1,539 men reporting unwanted oral or anal sex at some point during their tenure.

Chart 4. Prevalence* of Sexual Assault Since Joining the Air Force by Gender and Type of Act



*Prevalence is the total number of victims of sexual assault since joining the Air Force. More than one response allowed. Counts and percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population.

Q: Has someone ever had or attempted sexual contact with you without your consent, or made or attempted to make you have sexual contact with yourself or another person without your consent? Has someone ever made you engage or attempted to make you engage in oral sex or anal sex without your consent? Has someone ever made you or attempted to make you engage in a sex act without your consent? Please review the item(s) you marked and indicated when the incident occurred.

1. Circumstances Under Which Assaults Are Taking Place

This study provides detailed insight not only into what types of assaults are taking place, but also the circumstances under which those assaults are occurring. For each type of assault the respondent has experienced

at any point since joining the Air Force, they were asked to indicate the various ways in which the event(s) occurred, ranging from the perpetrator ignoring the victim's attempts to indicate they did not want the assault to occur, to the use of drugs and other intoxicants in the assault, to the use of threats and force.

Most assaults are a result of ignoring the victim's efforts to communicate, though many are also taking place while the victim is asleep or unconscious, or after the use or forced use of drugs or other intoxicants. Assaults occurring by force are less common, but not rare.

Table 4 displays the circumstances under which sexual assaults are taking place, breaking the results down by gender and types of assault reported. It is important to note that these findings reflect all sexual assaults that have happened to Air Force personnel over their entire tenure in the Air Force, and do not necessarily reflect what may be happening in the instance of any one particular incident.

The results show that most assaults against Air Force personnel are being committed by the perpetrator ignoring the victim's nonverbal or verbal signs. This is the most often cited situation, regardless of whether the assault was attempted or completed, regardless of the gender of the victim, and regardless of whether it was unwanted sexual contact, oral or anal sex, or a sex act. However, a large proportion of assaults are taking place by force, especially for women experiencing unwanted sex acts (44.3%) or oral or anal sex (48.4%). Many assaults were committed or attempted while victims were asleep or unconscious or after the victim used drugs or other intoxicants. Though, it is unclear if the unconsciousness was related to usage of drugs or other intoxicants, especially considering some of the open-ended comments received at the end of the survey indicating the victim was underage and may have feared admitting underage drinking.

Table 4. Percentage of Assaults Since Joining Air Force That Occurred Under Specific Circumstances, by Gender and Type of Act (More Than One Response Allowed)

	Women			Men		
	Sexual Contact	Oral or Anal Sex	Sex Act	Sexual Contact	Oral or Anal Sex	Sex Act
By ignoring efforts to communicate	79.5%	86.2%	80.7%	77.9%	73.0%	79.4%
Under use of drugs or other intoxicants*	35.2%	43.2%	41.0%	32.0%	50.2%	39.2%
While asleep or unconscious	34.0%	36.5%	41.2%	33.0%	46.4%	36.3%
By threats to kill, kidnap, or seriously injure	3.8%	7.1%	4.7%	2.4%	8.9%	3.5%
By other threats	12.0%	23.8%	13.1%	7.6%	9.4%	9.6%
By causing serious injury	3.2%	4.9%	4.5%	1.7%	4.0%	3.2%
By force	37.4%	48.4%	44.3%	14.6%	24.3%	18.7%

* Includes voluntary use of, administration without victim's knowledge of, and forced use of drugs or other intoxicants such that the victim was unable to understand or control what he or she was doing.

C. Most Recent Experience of Sexual Assault

For the remainder of the survey, respondents were asked to provide details about their most recent experience with sexual assault, which allows a unique depth of understanding about how reported and unreported assaults are occurring.

1. Timing of Most Recent Sexual Assault

The bulk of sexual assaults experienced by today's Air Force personnel took place more than five years ago, though 17.9% of women's incidents and 24.4% of men's incidents took place within the past 12 months.

While the incidence analysis looks only at the past year's rate of sexual assault, this portion of the report

looks at the most recent incident, regardless of when it occurred. According to Table 5, fewer than 2 in 10 women say their most recent assault occurred in the past 12 months (17.9%), along with 24.4% of men. Fully 36.4% of women say their most recent unwanted sexual experience occurred more than five years ago, along with nearly the same percentage of men (34.2%).

Table 5. Timing of Most Recent Sexual Assault

	Women	Men
Less than one year ago	17.9%	24.4%
1 year to less than 2 years ago	14.0%	14.2%
2 years to less than 5 years ago	23.1%	17.0%
5 years to less than 10 years ago	19.5%	14.0%
10 years ago or more	16.9%	20.2%
Do not recall	0.8%	3.2%

2. Location of Most Recent Sexual Assault

Sexual assaults are taking place both on base and off-base, but are primarily occurring at the home station, rather than while deployed or on Temporary Duty Assignment (TDY).

Victims report that most sexual assaults are taking place at their home station, rather than while they are deployed or on TDY, as shown in chart 5. The majority of women (74.5%) and men (72.2%) say their most recent incident of sexual assault occurred at their home station. This compares to 5.4% of women and men who say it occurred while they were deployed and 9% who say it occurred while they were on TDY. However, sexual assaults are not always taking place on the installation. For women, assaults are slightly more likely to take place on installation (51.2%) than off (40.4%). For men, the opposite is true, with 51.4% taking place off installation, and 41.1% on installation.

As shown in Table 6 below, examining where the specific type of sexual assault occurred reveals few differences, but does suggest that women are somewhat more likely to experience attempted or completed sex acts without their consent when they are off the installation (40.0%) than when they are on the installation (32.8%).

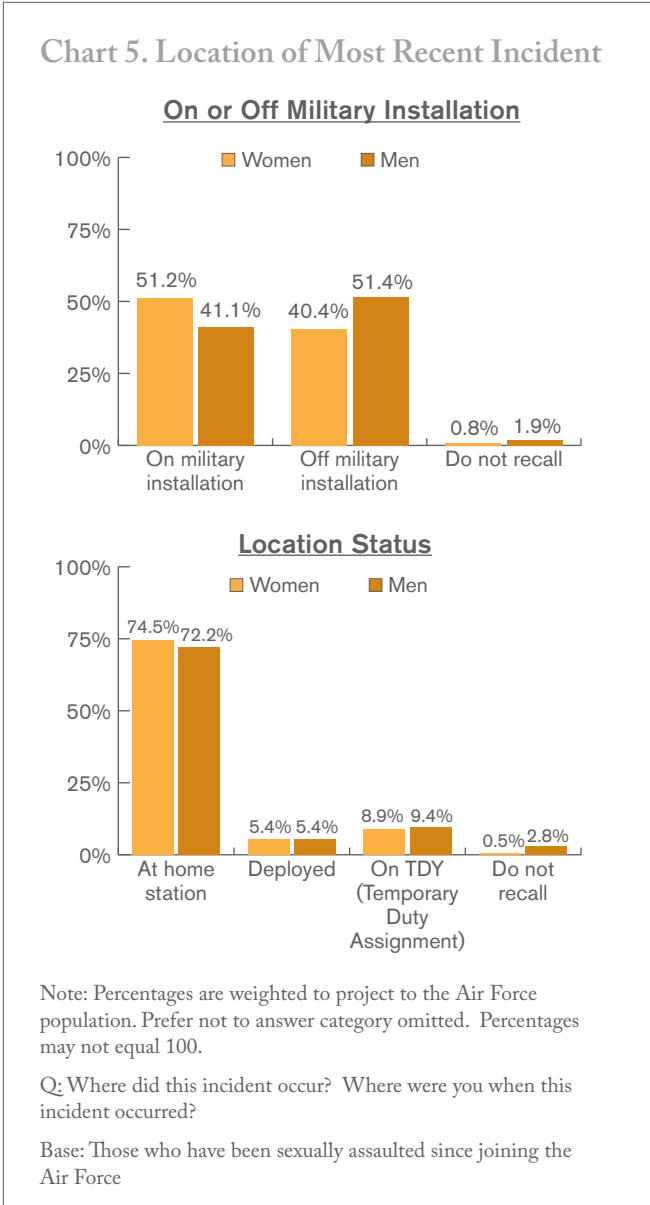


Table 6. Type of Sexual Assault by Location of Incident, by Gender*

	Women		Men	
	On Military Installation	Off Military Installation	On Military Installation	Off Military Installation
Sexual Contact	74.4%	69.6%	71.0%	71.7%
Oral or Anal Sex	10.5%	11.0%	17.1%	23.4%
Sex Act	32.8%	40.0%	21.1%	24.1%

* Column percentages add to more than 100% because multiple forms of assault could have occurred

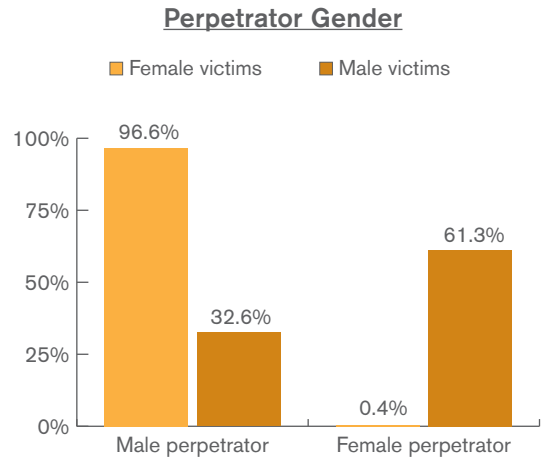
3. Gender of Perpetrator

Women are nearly all being victimized by men, whereas men are nearly twice as likely to be sexually assaulted by women than by men.

Nearly all women are reporting that the perpetrator was a man (96.6%), while the majority of men who have been sexually assaulted since joining the Air Force say their perpetrator was female (61.3%). For men, 32.6% say their perpetrator was male.

Though sample sizes are small for male victims, Table 7 indicates the types of sexual assaults being committed against men and women by the gender of the perpetrator. The results show that male perpetrators on a male victim are more likely to perform oral and anal sex without consent (28.1%) than in female on male (14.0%) or male on female (10.3%) situations. It also shows that more than one in three females report a male performing a sex act without consent on them (34.8%) and that more than one in four men report a woman performing a sex act without consent on them (28.1%).

Chart 6. Perpetrator Gender by Gender of Victim



Note: Percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population. Prefer not to answer category omitted. Percentages may not equal 100.

Q: Was the person who committed the unwanted act a male or a female?

Base: Those who have been sexually assaulted since joining the Air Force

Table 7. Type of Sexual Assault by Gender of Perpetrator and Gender of Victim

	Female Victims		Male Victims	
	Female Perpetrator	Male Perpetrator	Female Perpetrator	Male Perpetrator
Sexual Contact	*	72.0%	73.2%	65.8%
Oral or Anal Sex	*	10.3%	14.0%	28.1%
Sex Act	*	34.8%	28.1%	**

* Sample size is too small to report

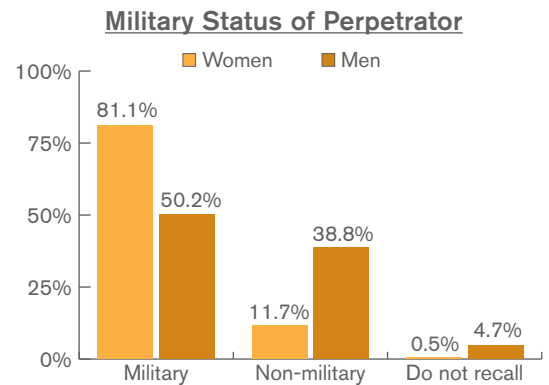
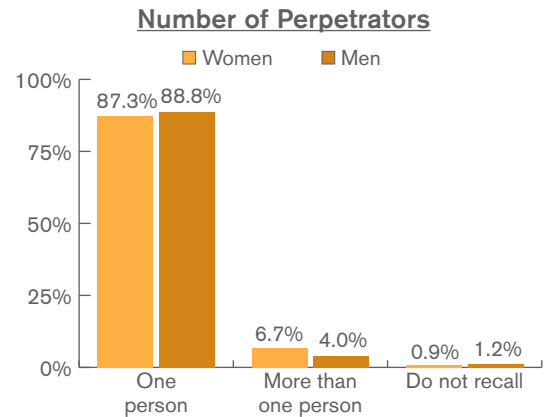
** Definition of sex act makes male on male occurrence not possible

4. Other Perpetrator Characteristics

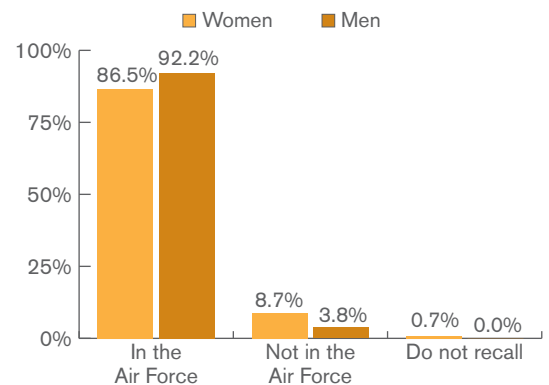
The findings suggest that sexual assaults are typically being committed by an individual, though there are a few instances of multiple perpetrators. The significant finding is that most perpetrators of sexual assault against female and male victims are in the military, and the vast majority of these military perpetrators are in the Air Force.

The majority of assaults are one perpetrator and one victim rather than a group of perpetrators assaulting a victim (87.3% of female and 88.8% of male victims were assaulted by one person on their most recent incident). For women, chart 7 indicates the majority are assaulted by military personnel (81.1%). For men, about half are assaulted by military personnel (50.2%) and about 4 in 10 are assaulted by non-military personnel (38.8%). Among those whose perpetrators were in the military, the large majority, 86.5% among women and 92.2% among men say their perpetrator was in the Air Force.

Chart 7. Perpetrator Characteristics



Air Force Status (Among Military Perpetrators)



Note: Percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population. Prefer not to answer category omitted. Percentages may not equal 100.

Q: Did one person or more than one person commit the unwanted act(s) in this incident? Was the person who committed the unwanted act(s)...

Base: Those who have been sexually assaulted since joining the Air Force

Table 8 examines the location where the assault occurred by the military status of the perpetrator, and suggests that off-installation assaults of men are primarily being committed by non-military perpetrators (61.4%). However, female victims are being attacked by military personnel regardless of whether it is on base (92.3%) or off base (73.7%).

Furthermore, as shown in Table 9, male assaults by female perpetrators are essentially split between military and non-military perpetrators (46.9% vs. 41.4%, respectively), whereas male perpetrators of male victims are more likely to be in the military (60.5%). Again, women are primarily being assaulted by men in the military.

Table 8. Military Status of Perpetrator by Whether Assault Occurred On Installation or Off Installation

	Women		Men	
	On Military Installation	Off Military Installation	On Military Installation	Off Military Installation
Perpetrator was military	92.3%	73.7%	84.2%	27.8%
Perpetrator was non-military	4.9%	22.3%	13.7%	61.4%

Table 9. Gender of Victim and Perpetrator by Military Status of Perpetrator

	Female Victims		Male Victims	
	Female Perpetrator	Male Perpetrator	Female Perpetrator	Male Perpetrator
Perpetrator was military	*	82.9%	46.9%	60.5%
Perpetrator was non-military	*	11.9%	41.4%	34.7%

* Sample size is too small to report

5. Perpetrator's Relationship to Victim and Length of Time Known

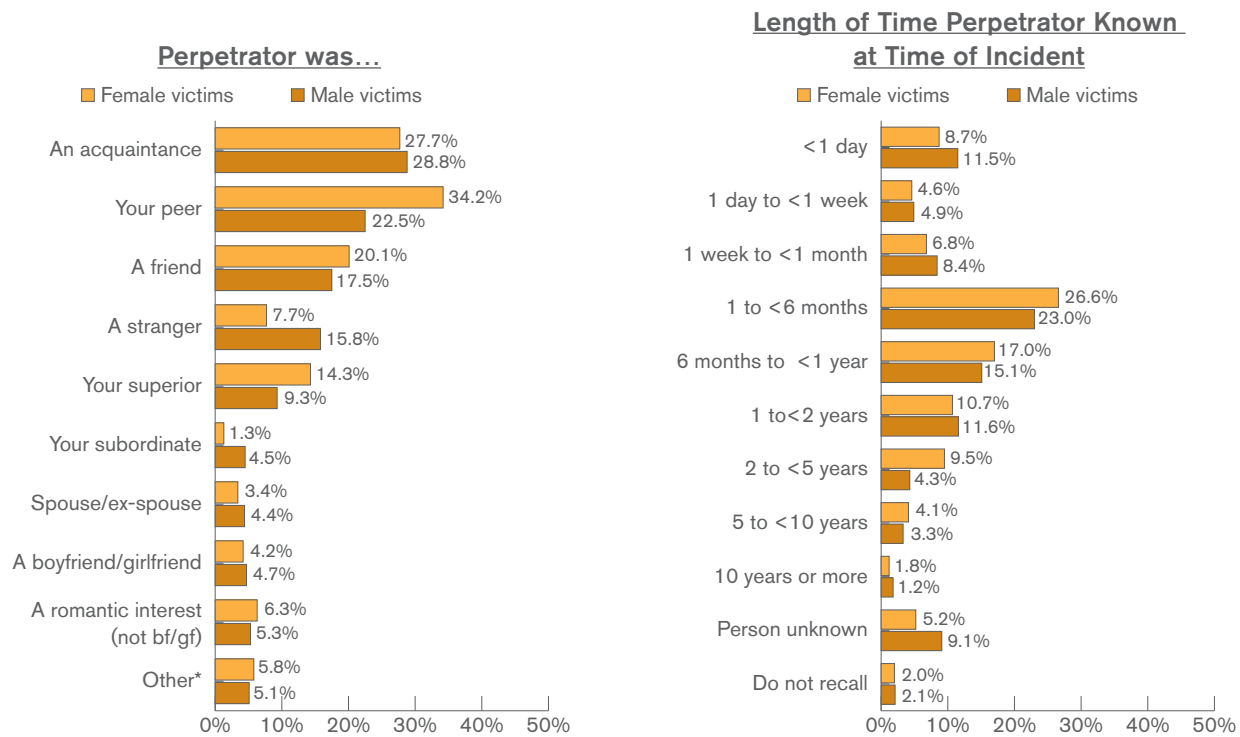
Victims tend to know their perpetrator as an acquaintance, peer, or friend, and have known them for a short time, rather than having just met them recently.

Considering a spectrum of personal relationships with strangers on one end and committed relationships on the other, chart 8 shows that the majority of assaults in the Air Force do not occur at either end. Rather, the majority of assaults are committed by perpetrators who are acquaintances, peers, or friends. Thirty-four percent of women (34.2%) and 22.5% of men say the perpetrator was their peer. In addition, 20.1% of women and 17.5% of men say the perpetrator was their friend.

of men say the perpetrator was a friend, and 27.7% of women and 28.8% of men say the perpetrator was an acquaintance. Just 7.7% of women and 15.8% of men say the perpetrator was a stranger, and 1 in 10 women (10.5%) and men (10.0%) say the perpetrator was their boyfriend or girlfriend or a romantic interest.

These reported relationships correlate highly with the length of time victims knew their perpetrators. Victims tend to have not known their perpetrators for a very long time with a plurality saying they have known the person between one and six months (26.6% of women and 23.0% of men) before the incident occurred. Consistent with few saying the perpetrator was a stranger, just 8.7% of women and 11.5% of men say they have known the person for less than a day.

Chart 8. Perpetrator's Relationship to Victim



*Categories with less than 2% included in Other category.

Note: More than one response allowed. Percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population.

Q: Which of the following describes your relationship to this person at the time? How long had you known the person at the time of the incident?

Base: Those who have been sexually assaulted since joining the Air Force

D. Disclosure of Incidents of Sexual Assault

This section of the report examines usage of, and barriers to using, the formal reporting process, as well as informal disclosure of the incident by talking to others about it or seeking help after the incident occurred.

1. Formal Reporting of Incident

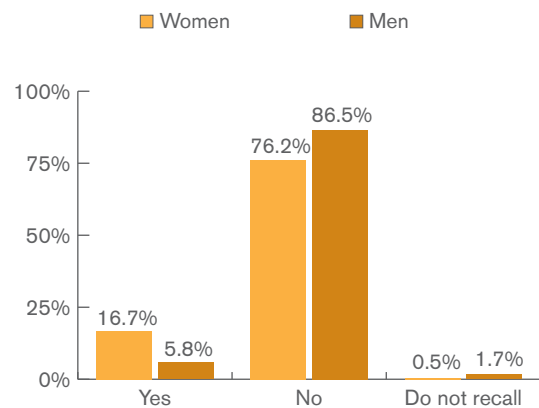
Roughly 17% of women and 6% of men formally reported their most recent unwanted sexual experience to the Air Force. Reports are being filed mainly to the SARC and are generally being filed within 72 hours of the assault.

According to chart 9, formal reporting of sexual assault is low. Less than 1 in 5 women (16.7%) and 1 in 15 men (5.8%) indicate they filed a formal report after their most recent sexual assault. Reporting rates show no differences by type of assault.

Reporting rates have only slightly increased for women over time, and appear to be slightly decreasing for men, though these changes do not reach levels of statistical significance due to small sample sizes. As shown in table 10, 19.6% of women filed formal reports for incidents that occurred within the past 12 months, compared to 15.4% who recall filing a report for an event that occurred five or more years ago. Men’s reporting rates have never exceeded 10%, though they were at 9.6% for incidents occurring one to two years ago, compared to just 3.5% reporting for past year incidents.

Chart 9. Formal Reporting of Incident

Formal Reporting of Most Recent Incident



Note: Percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population. Prefer not to answer category omitted. Percentages may not equal 100.

Q: Did you formally report the incident?

Base: Those who have been sexually assaulted since joining the Air Force /Those whose most recent sexual assault was in the past 12 months

Although victims have some difficulty in recalling what type of report they filed, table 11 shows that 53.0% of those who reported their most recent incident say they filed a unrestricted report, and 9.5% filed an restricted report⁴. Nearly one-third responded that they did not know if the report they filed was restricted or unrestricted (31.4%), and the remainder chose not to answer the question (6.1%). Because the number of men who reported their incident is low, male and female

⁴ The survey did not capture whether or not an Airman converted a restricted report to an unrestricted report and therefore we rely on the respondents’ own interpretations of the question.

Table 10. Formal Reporting Rates by When Most Recent Incident Occurred

	Women				Men			
	Past 12 months	1-2 years ago	2-5 years ago	5+ years ago	Past 12 months	1-2 years ago	2-5 years ago	5+ years ago
Formally reported incident	19.6%	18.7%	18.0%	15.4%	3.5%	9.6%	6.1%	7.3%

responses have been combined together for analyses on those who filed formal reports.

Table 11. Unrestricted and Restricted Reporting Rates

	Total
Unrestricted report	53.0%
Restricted report	9.5%
Do not recall	31.4%
Choose not to answer	6.1%

2. Details About How and When Report Was Filed

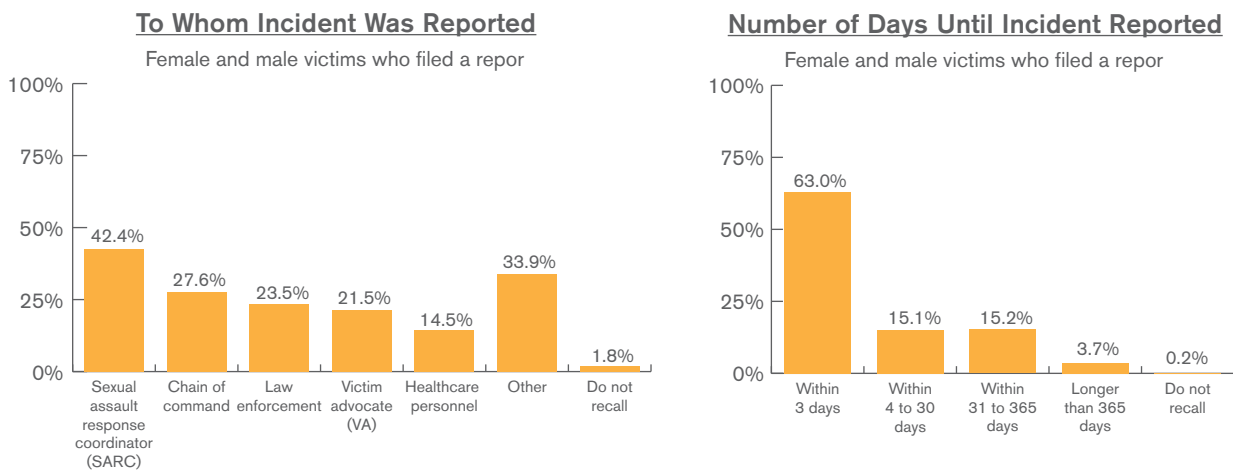
Formal reports are most often made to the SARC, though a variety of other sources are used as well. Reports tend to be filed within 72 hours of the incident occurring and are mainly filed in order to prevent others from being assaulted.

Among those who filed a formal report on their most recent sexual assault, chart 10 shows that victims

were most likely to report it to their Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) (42.4%). The number of individuals who formally reported their most recent assault is too small to break down these findings by gender, so female and male victims have been combined together. Approximately one in four victims say they reported to the chain of command (27.6%) or law enforcement (23.5%). More than one in five (21.5%) say they reported their assaults to a victim advocate (VA) and 14.5% say they reported to healthcare personnel. One-third of victims say they reported through another unspecified channel (33.9%).

If reports are being filed, they are being filed quickly. If an assault is formally reported, it is most likely to be reported within the first three days after the assault occurred or not reported at all. Fully 63.0% of victims who filed a report did so within three days after their most recent incident. This falls to 15.1% saying they filed a report within 4 to 30 days after an assault, 15.2% within 31 to 365 days, and 3.7% reported after 365 days had passed.

Chart 10. Formal Reporting of Most Recent Incident



Note: Percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population. Prefer not to answer category omitted. Percentages may not equal 100. ^ denotes n size <40, data are not shown.

Q: To whom did you report the incident? How soon after the incident did you report it? More than one response allowed.

Base: Those who have been sexually assaulted since joining the Air Force

When asked to choose between seven possible reasons why the victim decided to report the incident, chart 11 shows that the most frequent reason was to prevent their assailants from committing additional crimes against others (42.1%), though some also feared re-victimization themselves (11.3%).

3. Barriers to Reporting

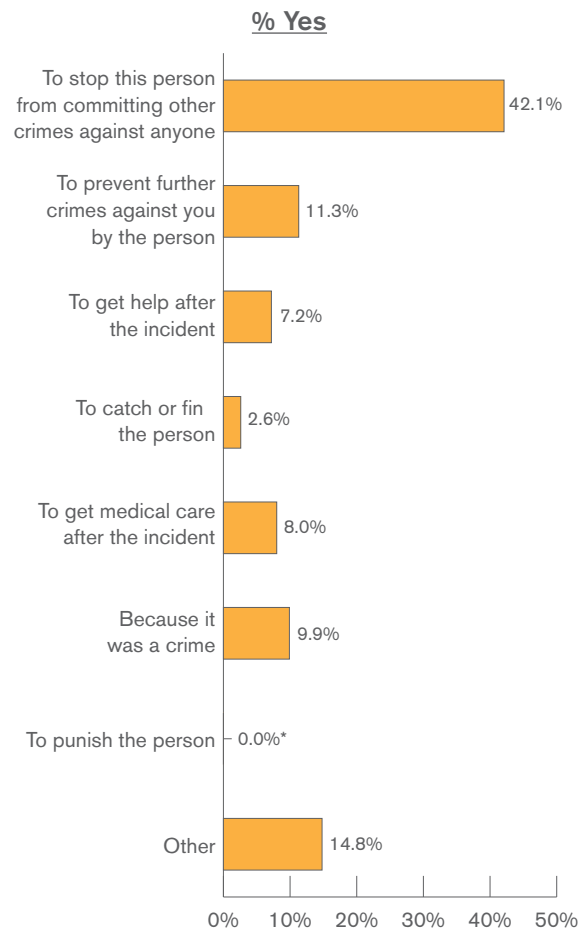
With the vast majority of victims choosing not to file a formal report after the incident occurred, it is important to understand the reasons why they are choosing not to report. Respondents were shown a list of reasons why the incident may have gone unreported and were asked to indicate if each was an important reason for them personally. In addition, at the end of the survey, respondents were provided an opportunity to write in open-ended comments about how the Air Force could better respond to sexual assault, and many of the comments point to reporting barriers.

Women have many reasons for not reporting, and men tend not to report because they think it is not serious enough. Reasons differ by type of assault that occurred.

For some victims, the barriers to reporting concern the act itself and whether they think it is worthy of reporting their experience. For others, it is about protecting their identity, not wanting their peers, supervisors, or family to know what happened, or simply not wanting to cause trouble in their unit. As one respondent wrote in the open-ended comments section of the survey:

“A friend of mine told me that she had been raped. She did not tell me who or where or why, but she did tell me that she did NOT press charges for the mere fact that she was underage and had drunk alcohol that night. She did not want to report the crime because she did not

Chart 11. Main Reasons Why Victim Filed a Report



Note: Percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population. Prefer not to answer category omitted. Percentages may not equal 100.

* No Airmen selected this response category as a main reason.

Q: Which one of the following best describes the main reason why you decided to report the incident?

Base: Those who formally reported the incident

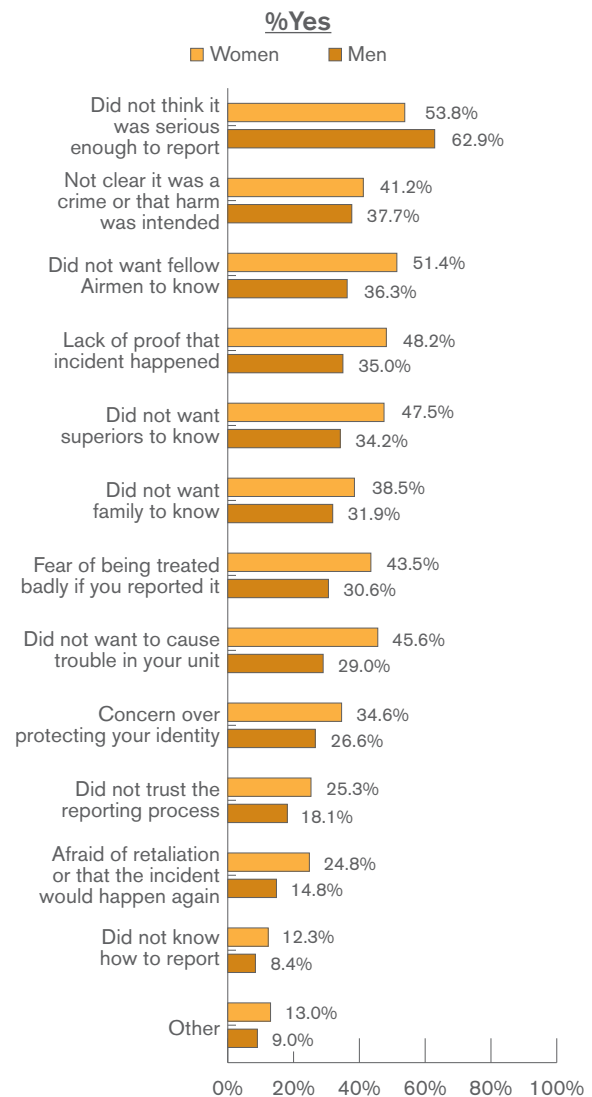
want to get in trouble for underage drinking. I think that someone’s physical safety and emotional stability is a thousand times more important than the fact that she had one alcoholic drink that night.”

Regardless of gender, chart 12 shows that the top reason for not reporting the incident is because the victim did not think it was serious enough to report (53.8% of women and 62.9% of men cite this as an important reason). Women are nearly as likely to also say it was because they did not want their fellow Airmen (51.4%) or superiors (47.5%) to know, or because they lacked proof that the incident had occurred (48.2%).

Examining the reporting barriers by type of act, the barriers are different for women experiencing unwanted sexual contact than for sex acts, though there are very few differences for men based on the type of act that occurred. As shown in Table 12, 58.1% of women are not reporting sexual contact because they do not think it's serious enough, compared with 43.2% who say this of sex acts. Alternately, 63.4% of female victims of sex acts say they do not report because they do not want their fellow airmen to know, whereas 49.9% of those experiencing sexual contact say this. Similarly, female victims of sex acts are more likely to not report because they do not want their family to find out (54.0%), compared to 37.2% of victims of unwanted sexual contact.

As an indication of the progress being made by SAPR's efforts to educate personnel about the formal reporting process, the data show a decline in the percentage saying they did not report because they "Did not know how to report." As shown in table 13, 13.7% of women who were sexually assaulted more than a year ago and chose not to report said "Did not know how to report" was an important reason why they did not report, compared with just 5.3% who were sexual assaulted within the past 12 months. Similarly for men, this reason has dropped from 9.5% to 5.2% in the past year

Chart 12. Reasons Why Incident Was Unreported



Note: Percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population. Prefer not to answer category omitted. Percentages may not equal 100.

Q: Please indicate whether or not each of the following was an IMPORTANT reason why you did not report the incident.

Base: Those who did not report the incident

Table 12. Barriers to Reporting by Gender and Type of Act

	Women			Men		
	Sexual Contact	Oral or Anal Sex	Sex Act	Sexual Contact	Oral or Anal Sex	Sex Act
Did not want superiors to know	45.6%	50.1%	58.9%	31.5%	43.0%	36.1%
Did not want fellow Airmen to know	49.9%	50.4%	63.4%	34.8%	43.0%	39.6%
Did not want to cause trouble in your unit	46.4%	32.5%	48.3%	32.1%	17.1%	27.2%
Did not want family to know	37.2%	50.1%	54.0%	29.7%	40.0%	39.8%
Lack of proof that incident happened	49.5%	47.2%	53.9%	34.5%	23.9%	41.2%
Fear of being treated badly	42.7%	39.2%	49.7%	27.4%	33.8%	30.3%
Not clear it was a crime	40.1%	38.7%	37.0%	39.1%	22.5%	45.1%
Did not know how to report	12.5%	11.6%	13.2%	8.6%	13.1%	8.4%
Afraid it would happen again	25.0%	23.0%	29.2%	14.7%	14.9%	8.4%
Did not think it was serious enough to report	58.1%	50.6%	43.2%	63.3%	57.2%	63.2%
Did not trust reporting process	23.4%	27.7%	29.0%	19.9%	20.1%	12.1%
Concern over protecting identity	31.2%	37.2%	43.7%	23.6%	35.3%	24.4%

Table 13. Percentage Indicating an Important Reason for Not Reporting Was Because They “Did Not Know How to Report” by Timing of Incident

	Women		Men	
	Past 12 months	More than 12 months ago	Past 12 months	More than 12 months ago
Did not report incident because “Did not know how to report”	5.3%	13.7%	5.2%	9.5%

4. Informal Disclosure of Most Recent Incident

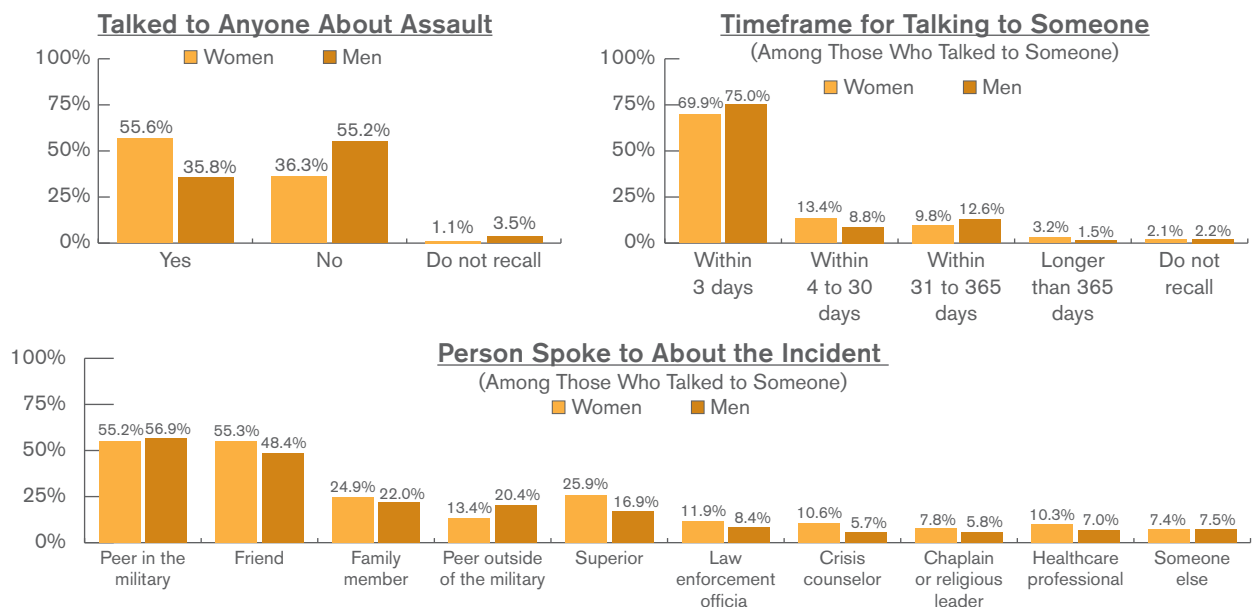
While formal reporting is low, Airmen are talking to someone about what happened to them, and are typically having those conversations within 72 hours of the incident.

While few are formally reporting their experiences, nearly 3 in 5 women (56.6%) and more than one-third of men (35.8%) say they talked to someone after their most recent sexual assault, according to chart 13. Similar to formal reporting, Airmen disclose their incident of assault to someone mostly within the first three days after the assault occurred, with 7 in 10 women (69.9%) and 3 in 4 men (75.0%) saying they talked to someone within the first three days. Just as reporting decreases after the first three days, conversations also decrease after 72 hours, with 13.4% of women and 8.8% of men

talking to someone within 4 to 40 days, 9.8% of women and 12.6% of men talking to someone within 31 to 365 days, and only 3.2% of women and 1.5% of men talking to someone more than a year after the assault.

Victims are talking about their sexual assault with peers and friends. Fifty-five percent of women say they talked to peers in the military or friends (55.2% and 55.3%, respectively), and 56.9% of men say they talked to peers in the military and 48.4% say they talked to friends. One in four women spoke about their most recent incident to family members (24.9%) or to a superior (25.9%) and approximately one in seven women spoke to a peer outside of the military (13.4%). Approximately one in four men spoke about their most recent incident to family members (22.0%) and approximately one in five men spoke to a superior (16.9%) or to a peer outside of the military (20.4%).

Chart 13. Disclosure of Most Recent Incident



Note: Percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population. Prefer not to answer category omitted. Percentages may not equal 100.

Q: After the incident occurred, did you talk to anyone about it, regardless of whether you reported it? How soon after the incident did you talk to someone about it? Which of the following describes who you talked to about the incident, not including those you may have talked to in order to make an official report?

Base: Those who have been sexually assaulted since joining the Air Force and talked to someone

Note: More than one response allowed.

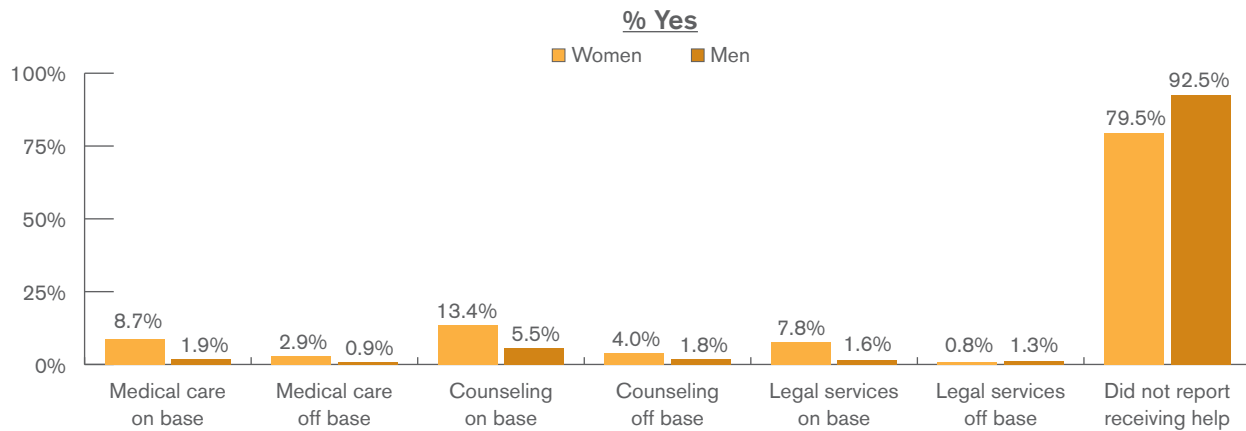
5. Victim Support and Legal Services Received After Most Recent Incident

In spite of talking to others about their experiences, victims tend to not receive formal help after being sexually assaulted.

When asked whether or not they received any type of help after the sexual assault, such as legal counseling, mental health services, or medical care, the vast majority of victims report receiving none of these types of help. However, the question did not ask whether the respondent had reported and failed to get help. Instead, it

merely represents a respondent who received no support post-incident. According to chart 14, 79.5% of women and more than 9 in 10 men (92.5%) report not receiving any of these forms of help. Among those who did receive help, counseling on base was the most common type of help reported for both women (13.4%) and men (5.5%). Just 8.7% of women said they received medical care on base and 7.8% said they received legal services on base. Because far fewer men reported receiving help, no other type of help was reported at higher than 5% other than counseling. In general, off-base services were far less common than on-base services.

Chart 14. Types of Help Received Following Most Recent Incident



Note: Percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population.

Q: Did you receive any of the following types of help after the incident?

Base: Those who have been sexually assaulted since joining the Air Force

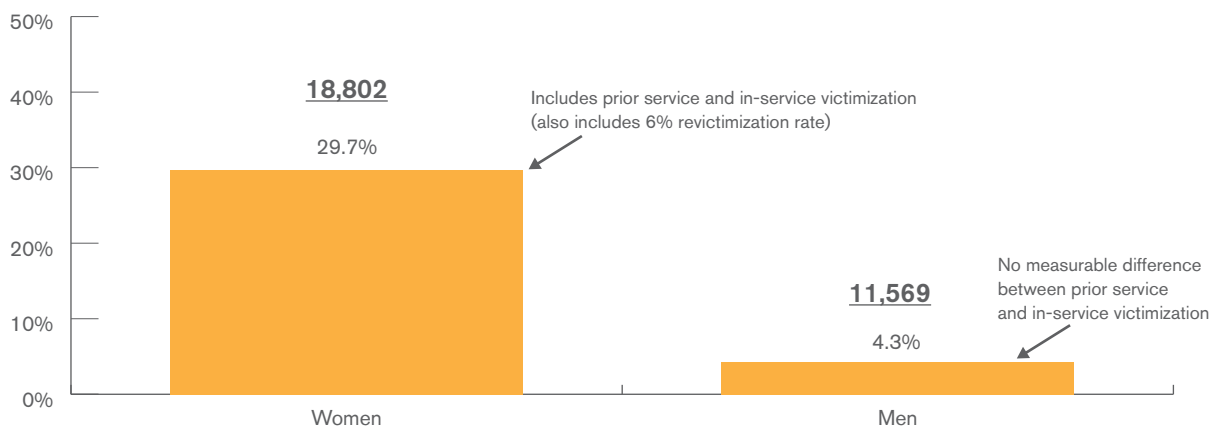
E. Lifetime Prevalence of Sexual Assault

Lifetime prevalence gives a holistic view of what has occurred to Airmen throughout their lives, both prior to, and after, joining the Air Force. It is important to consider what has happened to Airmen prior to joining the Air Force because many researchers contend that people who have been victimized are likely to be re-victimized. For the purposes of this analysis, lifetime prevalence is defined as the number of Airmen who have been victims of sexual assault at any point in their

lives, regardless of whether it was prior to or since joining the Air Force.

As seen on chart 15, women report a lifetime prevalence of sexual assault of 29.7% and men 4.3%. This includes 6% of women who report being sexually assaulted both before and since joining the Air Force, though less than 1% of men have been re-victimized. Again, sexual contact is reported as the most frequent type of sexual assault experienced by women and men throughout their lives.

Chart 15. Lifetime Prevalence* of Sexual Assault



*Lifetime prevalence is the total number of victims of sexual assault while in the Air Force or prior to joining the Air Force. Percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population.

Q: Has someone ever had or attempted sexual contact with you without your consent, or made or attempted to make you have sexual contact with yourself or another person without your consent? Has someone ever made you engage or attempted to make you engage in oral sex or anal sex without your consent? Has someone ever made you or attempted to make you engage in a sex act without your consent?

F. Respondent Recommendations

At the conclusion of the survey, all Airmen regardless of their experiences of sexual assault were asked for recommendations on how the Air Force could better respond to sexual assault. Airmen could select from up to five response options and also were provided the opportunity to write in a response. The open-ended responses were then coded into thematic categories, and those reflected in table 14 below indicate the categories cited by at least 2% of respondents.

Regardless of whether the individual has been sexually assaulted, the top recommendation is to focus on increasing consequences for offenders. As one survey respondent clarified in their open-ended response, “Air Force personnel are trained ad nauseam on sexual assault, prevention, and response. The perpetrators of sexual assault, however, will continue their behavior unless and until they fear significant consequences.” Some additional comments related to increasing consequences are noted below.

“The consequences have to be known to everyone...the offender can’t be quietly shipped off or it does no good. . .punishment is only a deterrent if the entire base populace is aware of it.”

“Additional training or prevention education almost makes the topic become a joke. This is something that most people do not take seriously until they are affected by it. Harsh consequences for offenders is the best way to act as a preventative measure.”

“All the training and all the Sexual Assault Response Coordinators and victim advocates are not going to stop people from committing an unwanted sexual experience, but the consequences could bring more justice and help the victims cope.”

“There should be no tolerance for offenders. Any person who is found guilty of committing an unwanted sexual act should not be allowed anything but a prison cell.”

Table 14. Respondent Recommendations for Responding to Sexual Assault, by Victimization

Recommendations made by survey respondents	Sexually Assaulted Since Joining the Air Force	Not Sexually Assaulted Since Joining the Air Force
More consequences for offenders	41.4%	55.2%
More prevention education	29.7%	27.2%
More victim advocates	19.1%	21.3%
More Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs)	10.8%	15.7%
More training	16.8%	14.7%
Current training program is too much/overkill	1.5%	1.9%
Change culture/behavior/environment that leads to sexual assault	3.5%	2.0%
Improve training	3.6%	1.5%
More help for victims	4.5%	1.3%

Note: Percentages are weighted to project to the Air Force population. More than one response allowed.

Q: What recommendations do you have for how the Air Force could better respond to unwanted sexual experiences?

While some express cynicism about the value gleaned from training and education, many Airmen are recommending increasing or improving efforts on sexual assault prevention services and support services for victims. As one respondent put it, “A lot of the prevention education that currently exists is not taken seriously by younger AF members, many of whom are those who commit or ignore such acts. Finding a way to make the training more meaningful would help the matter in its entirety. Even though it would be difficult, having a victim speak out about what has happened to them might help set the standard of seriousness.” Other suggestions related to training are highlighted below.

“A lot of training we see as first responders is outdated. . . such as videos. Maybe try to get more up-to-date videos so people can relate to it.”

“Additional training resources outside of the standard Powerpoint slides. Professional vignettes, case studies, videos.”

“All of the training seems to be focused on males offending females. . . training needs to be gender neutral, or need to make it known that it is alright for a male to report females who are committing these crimes.”

“An annual, mass briefing isn’t enough. The film with the date rape scenario (2007) was the most effective

method of education and reinforcement (watching a non-example) I can recall.”

“We need to provide training to those that frequent the Internet (Facebook, Twitter, and other sites) and attempt to target victims. . . more training in these areas needed for both younger generation as well as older.”

“Education and awareness are the key to preventing sexual assault. Additional SARC’s and Victim Advocates will not prevent the sexual assault, but treat the wound. It is vital that Airmen of all ranks learn what is considered appropriate behavior through education. Instruction is most effective when conducted by unit-level leadership vice SARC’s. Online training is not effective. Also, education must be more than ‘sexual harassment and assault will not be tolerated.’ There must be specific examples of behavior with group discussion on how to respond. I believe education sessions with leadership should be co-ed and should be limited to group settings where discussion will occur. Filling an auditorium with 500-2,000 Airmen and lecturing on sexual assault and prevention is not going to get maximum results. Education should be focused on specific examples regarding ethical standards, the ‘wingman’ concept, and scenario training.”

VI. Recommendations

Based on the key findings of the survey, Gallup, guided by the team of subject matter experts, offers the following set of recommendations to the Air Force regarding the SAPR program. The recommendations fall into five themes based on training and education, additional research to consider, repeated measurement and data collection, modifications to reporting and enforcement policies and procedures, and social marketing of this report.

A. Training and Education

Over the past several years, the Air Force SAPR has introduced a number of training and education programs and policies and procedures with the core goals of increasing sexual assault awareness and prevention, providing support for victims, and holding perpetrators responsible for their actions. Air Force SAPR has also recently introduced bystander intervention training modules as a primary prevention initiative. The purpose of the training is to provide a sense of community empowerment; that is, how to be part of the solution in eliminating sexual assaults by being cognizant of situations leading to sexual assault and possible intervention and prevention strategies. The key results of this survey — that 3.4% of women and .5% of men have experienced sexual assault just in the past year in the Air Force, that reporting rates continue to be low (16.7% for women and 5.8% for men), that peers and friends are most likely aware of what is happening, and that the top recommendation from respondents is greater consequences for offenders — all point to a need for assessing the efficacy of SAPR's training and educational programming to ensure they are effectively supporting the SAPR's program objectives. Specifically, Gallup and its subject matter experts recommend the following approaches:

Conduct a formal evaluation of training effectiveness. SAPR is leading the Air Force's efforts to combat sexual

assault through cultural change — eliminating attitudes and behaviors that lead to sexual assault and creating an environment that provides support and justice to victims. These efforts are driven in large part by education and training programs. Gallup understands that the Air Force is currently engaged in a contract with a vendor to conduct a training effectiveness study. We encourage the Air Force to ensure that the evaluation is doing more than simply evaluating modules immediately after they are administered. While it is important to understand trainee/student reactions to training programs and the degree of knowledge transfer since both contribute to program efficacy, training and educational program efficacy must also be assessed by the extent to which they have promoted actual shifts in attitudes in behaviors. To truly understand whether training and educational programs are leading to shifts in attitudes and behaviors, personnel attitudes, awareness and behavior should be assessed prior to the training, immediately after the training, and then in a follow-up study to understand how well the information has been absorbed.

Example topics to be explored in an evaluation could include:

- Awareness of the SAPR office and its mission
- Extent to which personnel understand what constitutes sexual assault
- Whether personnel recall participating in sexual assault training (post)
- How recently personnel received any form of training
- How personnel would rate the effectiveness of SAPR training
- How pervasive personnel think sexual assault is among enlisted personnel and officers

- Extent to which personnel understand the reporting process and under what circumstances they would or would not report a sexual assault
- Whether personnel think their command leadership understands reporting requirements

Armed with this information and more complete measurements of sexual assault incidents, the Air Force will be better equipped to address training gaps and design/redesign training programs to more effectively accomplish the stated goals.

Enhance and expand upon “peer” education. Though victims in most cases are not formally reporting incidents, they are talking to someone about their experiences, most often a peer in the military, but in many instances a friend, family member, or peer outside of the military, and usually within a few days of the incident occurring. The findings of this survey underscore the importance of “peer” education, for both military and non-military “peers.” Air Force SAPR training and education programs should highlight the important role that military peers can play, especially in terms of advice and support provided to a victim who may confide in a peer following a sexual assault. Peer training should provide guidance on how to respond when a victim discloses an incident, as well as promoting greater understanding of reporting options and the various sources of support and care that may be available to victims. Additionally, to the extent feasible, non-military peers such as friends and family of Airmen should be informed about and have access to resources that will help them respond when a victim discloses a sexual assault. DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) currently provides civilian training materials designed to strengthen partnerships between community-based sexual assault programs and local military installations. Air Force SAPR may want to consider a more formalized adoption of this

or a similar program to educate non-military members about Air Force resources for sexual assault victims.

Reduce stigma associated with sexual assault. Feelings of shame and fear, concern over impact on unit cohesion, lack of understanding regarding the reporting process, and perceived lack of seriousness of offenses are deterring victims from reporting. The Air Force must continue to improve education about the types of services and resources that are available after sexual assault and aim to reduce stigma that may be associated with seeking help, be it medical, psychological, or legal assistance. Reducing the stigma associated with sexual assault is also helped by taking the emphasis off the victim and stressing that it is not the victim, but the offender who should feel shame.

Develop specialized training and educational programs for victims of sexual assault. Given a major finding of the survey is that many Airmen have experienced more than one sexual assault, there is a strong justification for developing specific risk reduction/personal safety educational interventions for those who disclose sexual assaults. There have been several sexual assault risk reduction interventions developed and tested for use with college women that could be modified for use in the Air Force. For these types of interventions, it is important to avoid victim blame by stressing that the aim is to teach ways to increase personal safety by increasing ability to recognize dangerous situations and predatory behavior.

Share reporting process best practices across commands. Victims report lack of faith in the reporting process and lack of familiarity with the reporting process as reasons why they chose not to report their most recent sexual assault experience. The Air Force should consider developing a formal process for sharing best practices when the reporting process goes as envisioned, and lessons learned when it does not. These best practice examples can be used to improve the reporting process

and can also serve as an example to victims that the process can work as intended and produce results.

Collaborate with ADAPT and DR programs. Given the strong link between alcohol/drugs and sexual assault risk as well as between history of sexual assault and risk of developing alcohol use problems, SAPR should increase collaboration with programs such as Air Force Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) and Demand Reduction (DR) to ensure the programs are synchronized and providing consistent messaging around the risks of alcohol and drugs.

B. Additional Research

The primary research objective of the prevalence/incidence survey was to better inform senior Air Force leadership about the true statistical rate of occurrence of sexual assault in the Air Force and guide decisions for policy changes or enhancements as part of the program's continuing process improvements. Analyzing the results of the survey revealed a number of follow-on research initiatives that could provide additional detail to help the Air Force combat the issue of sexual assault among Airmen.

Review military justice system perceptions and experiences. The top recommendation made by all Airmen to increase consequences for offenders. Many survey respondents indicated that training and education can only go so far, but it is the tough consequences and harsh punishment for offenders that will be most effective at deterrence. This desire for greater consequences points to the need for increased emphasis on aggressive investigation and prosecution of these cases, as well as further research to understand the experiences of those who have reported within the military justice system.

Explore barriers to reporting through qualitative research and/or additional meta-analysis on underreporting. Despite efforts aimed at reducing underreporting, significant levels of underreporting remain. Results of

this survey have offered preliminary insights into this issue and suggest a number of barrier themes related to shame, fear, failure to appreciate the seriousness of the offense, and lack of faith in and/or understanding of the reporting process. The dramatic levels of underreporting warrant a deeper qualitative study of barriers to reporting. The Air Force must understand: Why do Airmen choose to report or not to report? Why don't Airmen trust the system? Is it that they want more accountability for offenders? How do barriers differ by type of offense?

We do recognize, however that this information may be difficult to collect through traditional qualitative methods due to the sensitive nature of the topic and victims' hesitancy to report on these issues. If these obstacles prove too challenging to overcome, as an alternative to primary qualitative research, we recommend conducting an additional meta-analysis on the issue of underreporting/barriers to reporting sexual assault. For example, the "Rape in America" study⁵ and the NIJ grant to study drug-facilitated, incapacitated and forcible rape⁶ examine this issue and include a number of findings on why victims do not report rape.

Study male sexual assault patterns. Further study is warranted on male sexual assault — especially female-on-male sexual assault. Findings suggest that men in the Air Force are nearly twice as likely to be assaulted by females as males, and that female perpetrators are just as likely to be non-military members as they are to be military members. Further research is warranted to understand the circumstances under which male sexual assault is occurring, and the training curriculum should be revisited to ensure that the material is not all geared toward men as perpetrators, nor women as victims.

Expand survey population beyond active duty. While the 2010 measurement was restricted to active duty Airmen, the Air Force should explore the processes and

⁵ Kilpatrick and Seymour, 1992

⁶ Kilpatrick, et al., 2007

approval that would be required to expand the scope of the research to the Air Force Reserve components and the Air Force Academy, which is a high-risk population due to the younger ages.

Conduct command leadership understanding assessment.

While the victim ultimately determines whether to file a restricted report, an unrestricted report, or no report at all, the Air Force should also keep in mind the climate in which reporting occurs. One of the reasons cited by victims for not reporting is a desire to keep their superiors from finding out about the assault. We recommend conducting research among command leadership to assess their level of understanding of the reporting process to ensure that they know what to do if a victim reports an incident to them and how to create trusting relationships so that victims will be less hesitant to turn to them for support.

Gather deeper understanding of circumstances surrounding sexual assault. Because the plurality of sexual assaults were committed by the perpetrator simply ignoring the victim's efforts to communicate their lack of consent, Gallup recommends conducting further research to understand more about the circumstances under which these situations are occurring. This may be through qualitative interviews with victims or expanding quantitative questions in future research efforts.

C. Repeated Measurement and Data Collection

The initial survey results will serve as the baseline measure of incidence and prevalence of sexual assault in the Air Force. Now that a valid and reliable baseline has been established, it will be critical for the Air Force to continue measurements on a repeated basis to objectively assess whether the programs in place are having the desired impact of reducing sexual assault and increasing reporting rates. Additionally, as the measurements are conducted, there will be an opportunity to refine and improve upon the quality of the analysis to facilitate

benchmarking and understanding of the levers that can be used to affect change. However, it is important to note that while improvements will no doubt be made to future iterations of this survey, those improvements must not alter the dataset to such an extent that clear and reliable comparisons to these baseline data become suspect.

Conduct ongoing measurement and tracking. Repeated measurement will allow the Air Force to monitor progress/changes over time. We recommend repeating this survey on a biannual basis.

Increase data granularity to improve quality of analysis.

In future studies, the Air Force should consider gathering specific age and rank (rather than using ranges) to improve the quality of the analyses that can be conducted (i.e. in this dataset, we cannot get a mean age because we only collected age in a categorical manner consistent with existing DOD data matrix reporting). The Air Force may also want to reassess whether command location, or even region, can be asked of respondents in order to get a sense of the rates of sexual assault by command or geography.

Refine research to facilitate cross-comparisons. For future research, the Air Force should also consider crafting incidence and prevalence and sexual assault definitions and samples that allow for comparison to comparable findings in the non-military environment. As discussed in the literature review section of this report, incidence and prevalence are terms that are defined in different ways and often confused, especially outside of academic circles. This lack of consistency and clarity regarding definitions makes it challenging to compare measurements across studies. Furthermore, the military has a much broader definition of sexual assault than that typically used in the general public. To get a better understanding of how incidence and prevalence of sexual assault compares to the general public, the definitions may need to be adapted in such a way that unwanted sexual acts among Airmen are comparable

to other populations. However, it is important to note that we are suggesting this as an enhancement, not a replacement for the definitions used in the baseline, as we recognize the importance of being able to trend changes over time using the baseline measurement system.

Replicate this study DoD wide. Although the Air Force cannot implement this research suggestion, it would be of value and interest to replicate this study DOD wide. The purpose for using DOD wide is consistency in baseline and longitudinal measurements that may permit a more synergistic understanding of sexual assault to all military members with a single measurement device.

D. Reporting and Enforcement

Increase emphasis on aggressive investigation and prosecution of cases. When asked what the Air Force could do to better respond to unwanted sexual experience, majorities of respondents recommended more consequences for offenders, approximately twice the rate of endorsement of the next most endorsed item. This result points to the need for dramatically increased emphasis on aggressive investigation and prosecution of reported cases.

Promote reporting as a means of protecting other victims. There are a variety of reasons why victims choose not to report, but perhaps it is just as important to understand and gain insight from the factors that compel a victim to report, despite all of the reporting barriers previously mentioned. When victims were asked to select the main reason why they chose to report an incident, victims overwhelmingly cited a desire to protect *others* as the reason they chose to report. Other factors related to self-protection and justice appear to be significantly less compelling reasons for victims to report. Much of the campaign materials that are currently being used by the military to promote prevention and awareness encourage non-victims to protect and support victims. Perhaps the Air Force can use this finding and encourage victims to

report as a means of protecting other potential victims — shifting the perspective from “victim” to “protector” role may empower more victims to overcome barriers and report.

E. Social Marketing of This Report

In an effort to assist the Air Force in effectively communicating the content, intent and implications of this report to key audiences, we recommend the following strategic communication and social marketing activities be executed. A thorough assessment of the communication environment should be made, from which realistic and measurable communication goals and objectives should be set. Based on these communication goals and objectives, target audiences should be identified and profiled; initial key audiences include Members of Congress, Air Force leadership, Air Force personnel and the general public. Utilizing the identified audience profiles, targeted messages should be developed for each audience; this is based on the communication premise that the same content will be better-received and acted-upon if it is communicated in a targeted manner to each audience, rather than a singular communication approach. Armed with targeted messages, effective communication channels, activities and partnerships should be identified; examples of these would be press releases, press conferences hosted by a spokesperson and partnerships the Air Force can forge in order to address the implications of the report.

It would be our recommendation that these steps be taken prior to the report’s public disclosure to maximize the opportunity for the Air Force to not only report the findings, but also provide key audiences with information as to how the Air Force is responding to the findings of the report. The purpose of the report is not only to provide Air Force leadership with a benchmark indicator, but also to take deliberate steps to assure that those in the service of their Country do so without fear

of sexual assault. Arming key audiences with specific information of how the Air Force will be utilizing this data to make progress on this critical topic is essential, and it is essential to do so as soon as possible, preferably

at the time of the report's disclosure. Finally, at relevant intervals, the communication goals and objectives that were established at the outset of this process should be measured against achieved results.

VII. Limitations and Future Direction

Finally, in conducting the first round of the survey, the team learned a number of valuable lessons that should be incorporated into future rounds of survey administration.

Conduct process/procedural pre-test. During this administration of the survey, there were a number of procedural challenges that affected response rates. Several blockages occurred through systematic security protocols, even though the IP addresses were permitted through the Air Force systems by the NOSC, since the invitation messages were not digitally signed; training within the Air Force is extremely stringent and comprehensive for using email and government data systems that force member compliance. For future administrations, we recommend conducting a pre-test of procedures prior to full survey execution to ensure that emails can get through and ensure vendor has a verified digital signature.

Increase survey marketing. Initially, a soft marketing approach was used to encourage rather than force survey participation. The soft marketing was inconsistently interpreted and applied by individual commands with some commands taking a stronger approach than others with respect to encouraging survey participation. Survey marketing should be increased to get a commitment from each command and ensure they will support the effort.

Improve response rate. The observed response rate (18.8%) for this survey was somewhat lower than the anticipated rate (25%). Given that it was a web survey, the observed response rate was reasonable and was comparable to other nationwide surveys via the

web. However, there were about 4,000-5,000 bounce backs and also there were reports suggesting that some email invitations probably may never have reached the intended recipients. Although such situations were corrected in this round whenever possible, it appears that additional steps can be taken in advance to avoid these situations in future. Minimizing bounce backs and firewall/security-related problems will increase the number of contacts with the sampled respondents and thereby maximize the expected response rate. It will also be worthwhile to examine if additional reminders and/or other forms of communications can have a favorable impact on response rates.

Conduct non-response bias study. In order to understand the nature and amount of non-response in survey based estimates, it would be a good idea to plan a follow-up non-response bias study with the non-respondents of the main survey. Usually, a smaller sample size and a shorter questionnaire (containing selected questions from the main survey) are used for such studies. There are challenges in conducting a non-response bias study. It takes additional time and the response rate in the non-response bias study itself is usually very low. Moreover, weighting of sample data of the main study can effectively minimize bias in survey estimates in most cases. However, if time and costs permit, it may be worthwhile to plan a follow-up non-response bias study to examine in more details the non-response pattern. It can also help understand why respondents did not respond to the main study in the first place and provide important clues for maximizing response rates for similar studies in future.

Enhance questionnaire content. This baseline study revealed a number of areas that could be explored in greater depth in future administrations of the survey. Potential areas of expansion include:

- Ask more details about the most recent event, including the circumstances under which the assault occurred (by force, etc.).
- Differentiate between alcohol usage and drug usage at the time of the assault.
- Ask more detail about the use of alcohol during the incident, such as whether the victim and the perpetrator were both using alcohol.
- Differentiate between sexual contact in the form of unwanted touching, and in the form of penetration of the anus with an object other than the penis.
- Ask for greater detail on past experiences with sexual assault, including the number of assaults that have taken place since joining the Air Force and when those assaults occurred, and whether the victim has ever reported an assault, regardless of whether they reported the most recent assault.
- Probe for greater detail to understand the barriers to not getting help after the assault to understand whether they did not feel help was needed or the extent to which there is stigma around seeking help, either on base or off base.
- Consider adding a module of questions to assess whether they recall ever receiving any training on sexual assault prevention and the effectiveness of the training.
- Ask for actual age and grade at the time of the incident, and if respondent does not want to, or does not recall, then ask for a categorical response.

VIII. Conclusion

A goal of Air Force leadership is to eliminate sexual assault among Airmen. In conducting this survey, the Air Force has completed a critical milestone on the path toward accomplishing its mission. Up to this point, there has been no validated measure of sexual assault prevalence or incidence among Airmen. Furthermore, there has been limited information about underreporting and barriers to reporting incidents of sexual assault. Without this information it is virtually impossible to fully understand the scope and magnitude of the issue and whether there has been progress made toward achieving the goal the Air Force SAPR has set.

However, measurement and data gathering alone is insufficient. The Air Force has been brave in holding

up a mirror to what is an extremely controversial and sensitive issue generally, and particularly within the military. Going forward, the Air Force should use this information to inform decision making related to internal processes and procedures, programmatic decisions on education and training, and any additional data gathering that should be performed to enhance the knowledge related to combating sexual assault. Importantly, the Air Force should continue to monitor its progress through this survey to demonstrate that not only does the Air Force expect its members to be accountable for their actions, but that the Air Force is also taking responsibility and holding itself accountable for meeting its mission to eradicate sexual assault in the Air Force.

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APPENDIX A. Survey Invitation and Reminder

To: <Respondent Name>
From: Gallup - Air Force Survey [Usaf Scn: Dafa110-002]
Reply To: Gallup@Gallup.Com
Subject: Air Force Personal Safety Survey

Dear (Prefix/First Name/Last Name/Suffix):

Periodically, the Air Force needs to measure Airmen's opinions, thoughts and feelings about issues of importance to us all. You have been selected at random to participate in a Web-based survey addressing that need. It is an approved Air Force survey (USAF SCN: DAFA110-002), and should take about 15 minutes for you to complete.

The survey is hosted on a "dot-com" Web site for your convenience, so you can access it from a military network or from your personal computer with a non-military connection to the Internet. The survey, under contract GS-00F-0078M, is being conducted for the Air Force by Gallup Inc., an independent research firm with many years of experience conducting surveys.

The survey does not ask you for any personally identifying information at the individual level, and your responses will not be linked to your e-mail address. While your participation in the survey is voluntary, we encourage you to complete it and help us understand Airmen's views and feelings on the issues it addresses as clearly as possible.

Please click on this link, or type the URL in the address bar of your web-browser, to go to the survey: <https://gx.gallup.com/af.gx>

Your individual ID Code for this survey is: < >

The survey takes an average of 15 minutes to complete and is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and can be accessed from any computer as long as you have your ID Code. The survey link will expire in 30 days.

If you do not complete the survey in one sitting, you can log on again and the survey will begin where you left off. You will not have to repeat any of the questions you have already answered.

If you need assistance completing this survey please contact Gallup Support by sending an e-mail to gallup@gallup.com or by calling 1-888-297-8999 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Thursday, or 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Fridays.

If you have questions or concerns about the survey, you may contact the project director, Carl Buchanan, at DSN 260-1925 or by e-mail at Carl.Buchanan@pentagon.af.mil.

Sincerely,

Emily Yen
Research Director
Gallup Inc.

To: <Respondent Name>
From: Gallup – Air Force Survey [USAF SCN: DAFA110-002]
Reply To: gallup@gallup.com
Subject: Air Force Personal Safety Survey - Reminder

Dear **(Prefix/First Name/Last Name/Suffix)**:

Recently, we sent you an invitation to participate in the Air Force Personal Safety Survey. If you have already responded, thank you. If you have not, please take a few moments in the next few days to participate in this survey.

Your individual responses will be kept strictly confidential. This means that under no circumstances will Gallup share any individually-identifiable information with the Air Force.

Please click on this link, or type the URL in your address bar, to go to the survey: <https://gx.gallup.com/af.gx>

Your ID Code for this survey is: < >

The survey takes an average of 15 minutes to complete and is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and can be accessed from any computer as long as you have your ID Code. The survey link will expire in 20 days.

If you do not complete the survey in one sitting, you can log on again and the survey will begin where you left off. You will not have to repeat any of the questions you have already answered.

If you need assistance completing this survey please contact Gallup Support by sending an e-mail to gallup@gallup.com or by calling 1-888-297-8999 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Thursday, or 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Fridays.

Individuals with questions or concerns about the survey may contact the project director, Mr. Carl Buchanan, at DSN 260-1925 (571-256-1925) or by e-mail at Carl.Buchanan@pentagon.af.mil, or contact their local installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) from the following list <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/sapr/sarccontacts.asp>.

Sincerely,

Emily Yen
Research Director
Gallup Inc.

APPENDIX B. Survey Questionnaire

GALLUP®

2010 Air Force Personal Safety Survey

Welcome to the 2010 Air Force Personal Safety Survey. The purpose of this survey is to measure the extent to which unwanted sexual experiences are occurring in the Air Force. To obtain accurate results from this research, it is important to hear from all Airmen, regardless of whether you have ever had an unwanted sexual experience. The results will be used to help improve services provided to victims.

This survey is being conducted by Gallup, an independent contractor. Survey number *USAF SCN DAFA110-002* has been assigned to this study, and the contact person is Carl Buchanan (DSN 260-1925, Carl.Buchanan@pentagon.af.mil).

All information you provide will be held in the strictest confidence and will never be shared, analyzed, or reported at the individual level. You will be asked to provide demographic information, such as your rank/grade, age, and gender. This information will be used to help classify responses by subgroups. Individually identifiable responses will never be released by Gallup to the Air Force.

The estimated time to complete this survey is 15-20 minutes, depending on your experiences. If you do not complete the survey in one sitting, you can log in again and the survey will begin where you left off. You will not have to repeat any of the questions you have already answered.

If you need assistance, please contact Gallup Client Support at galluppoll@gallup.com or call 1-888-297-8999 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Thursday, or 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Fridays.

[I want to view the Privacy Act.](#)

Please enter the survey Access Code you received in your e-mail invitation and click the "Begin Survey" button to continue.

Access Code:

BEGIN SURVEY

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If you need assistance completing this survey, please contact Gallup Client Support by sending an e-mail to galluppoll@gallup.com or by calling 1-888-297-8999. Support is available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Thursday, or 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Fridays.

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Gallup is conducting this survey on behalf of the Air Force.

Your responses to this survey are completely optional, and there are no consequences if you choose not to respond. Gallup will process all data you provide and will use such information for statistical and research purposes only. The Air Force will not be provided with any individually identifiable information according to Gallup's policies protecting individual respondent confidentiality.

Having read and understood the foregoing, I voluntarily agree to and consent for Gallup to perform the processing activities described above for the purposes of the Air Force Personal Safety Survey, and I consent to my data being processed in the United States of America.

- I consent
- I do not grant consent

NEXT

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What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

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Many people have had unwanted sexual experiences happen to them at some point during their lives. People do not always report these experiences to authorities or even discuss them with family or friends. Unwanted sexual experiences can happen at any point in a person's life, and by any type of person, such as a family member, a co-worker, a boyfriend or girlfriend, a stranger, or someone they just met. The person committing the unwanted sexual experiences can be male or female.

The next set of questions asks you about specific types of unwanted sexual experiences that may have happened to you, including acts that were completed and acts that may have been attempted but not completed. Some of the language may seem graphic to you, but using correct terms is the only way to determine whether or not people have had such experiences. All of the information you share will be kept strictly confidential.

On each screen you will see some words that appear in a different color. To see a definition of these words, simply scroll over the word and a definition will appear.

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Has someone ever had **sexual contact** with you without your **consent**, or made you have sexual contact with yourself or another person without your consent?

- Yes
- No

Has someone ever **attempted sexual contact** with you without your **consent**, or attempted to make you have sexual contact with yourself or another person without your consent, but was not successful?

- Yes
- No

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/sapr/sarccontacts.asp>

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Please indicate whether or not each of the following describes how the person **sexually contacted** you or how he or she made you have sexual contact with yourself or another person without your **consent**.

	Yes	No	Don't know
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act while you were asleep or unconscious.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By other threats.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/sarc/sarccontacts.asp>

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2010 Air Force Personal Safety Survey

Please indicate whether or not each of the following describes how the person **attempted to sexually contact** you or how he or she made you have sexual contact with yourself or another person without your **consent**.

	Yes	No	Don't know
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act while you were asleep or unconscious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By other threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

<http://www.afsc.randolph.af.mil/library/sarc/sarccontacts.asp>

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If you need assistance completing this survey, please contact Gallup Client Support by sending an e-mail to cs@pollingdata.com or by calling 1-800-287-0999. Support is available from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Thursday, or 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Fridays.

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Has someone ever made you engage in **oral sex** or **anal sex** without your **consent**?

- Yes
- No

Has someone ever **attempted** to make you engage in **oral sex** or **anal sex** without your **consent**, but was not successful?

- Yes
- No

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/sapr/sarccontacts.asp>

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2010 Air Force Personal Safety Survey

Has someone ever made you engage in **oral sex** or **anal sex** without your **consent**.

	Yes	No	Don't know
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act while you were asleep or unconscious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By other threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

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Please indicate whether or not each of the following describes how the person attempted to make you engage in **oral sex** or **anal sex** without your **consent**.

	Yes	No	Don't know
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act while you were asleep or unconscious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By other threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Has someone ever made you engage in a **sex act** without your **consent**?

- Yes
- No

Has someone ever **attempted** to make you engage in a **sex act** without your **consent**, but was not successful?

- Yes
- No

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

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Please indicate whether or not each of the following describes how the person made you engage in the **sex act** without your **consent**.

	Yes	No	Don't know
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act while you were asleep or unconscious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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By other threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Please indicate whether or not each of the following describes how the person attempted to make you engage in the sex act without your consent.

	Yes	No	Don't know
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act while you were asleep or unconscious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By other threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Thank you for providing that information. Please review the item(s) that you marked and indicate when the incident occurred.

Sexual contact without consent

	Occurred BEFORE entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force	Occurred AFTER entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act while you were asleep or unconscious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By other threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Attempted sexual contact without consent

	Occurred BEFORE entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force	Occurred AFTER entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act while you were asleep or unconscious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By other threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Oral or anal sex without consent

	Occurred BEFORE entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force	Occurred AFTER entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act while you were asleep or unconscious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By other threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Attempted oral sex or anal sex without consent

	Occurred BEFORE entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force	Occurred AFTER entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act while you were asleep or unconscious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By other threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sex act without consent

	Occurred BEFORE entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force	Occurred AFTER entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act while you were asleep or unconscious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By committing the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By other threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Attempted sex act without consent

	Occurred BEFORE entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force	Occurred AFTER entering the Air Force Academy or joining the active duty Air Force
By ignoring your efforts to communicate that you did not want this to happen, or by not giving you the chance to express your unwillingness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act while you were asleep or unconscious	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By attempting the act after you used drugs or other intoxicants to the degree that you couldn't understand what you were doing, couldn't refuse to participate, or couldn't communicate your unwillingness to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being given drugs or other intoxicants without your knowledge so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By being forced to use drugs or other intoxicants so that you couldn't understand or control what you were doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By threats that you would be killed, kidnapped, or seriously injured	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By other threats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By causing serious injury	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
By force	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

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On how many different occasions since joining the Air Force have you encountered unwanted sexual experiences?

- One time
- Two times
- Three or more times
- Do not recall

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For the next series of questions, please think about the **most recent** incident since joining the Air Force when unwanted sexual experiences occurred.

We realize some of the questions may be difficult for you to recall or uncomfortable to think about. However, we ask that you be as precise as possible so that we can get an accurate understanding of the different circumstances surrounding unwanted sexual experiences. If you prefer not to answer a particular item, please select "Prefer not to answer" and move on to the next question.

Which of the following describe the type of unwanted sexual experience that occurred on this most recent incident? *(Click all that apply)*

- Sexual contact without consent
- Attempted sexual contact without consent
- Oral sex or anal sex without consent
- Attempted oral sex or attempted anal sex without consent
- Sex act without consent
- Attempted sex act without consent
- Prefer not to answer

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How long ago did this incident occur?

- Within the past 30 days
- 1 month to less than 6 months ago
- 6 months to less than 1 year ago
- 1 year to less than 2 years ago
- 2 years to less than 5 years ago
- 5 years to less than 10 years ago
- 10 or more years ago
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

What was your age at the time of the incident?

- 16-19
- 20-24
- 25-34
- 35-49
- 50-64
- 65 or older
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

What was your status at the time of the incident?

- Active Duty
- Cadet
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

What was your grade at the time of the incident?

- E1-E4
- E5-E9
- O1-O3
- O4-O10
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

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Where did this incident occur?

- On military installation
- Off military installation
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

Where were you when this incident occurred?

- At home station
- Deployed
- On TDY (Temporary Duty Assignment)
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

Did one person or more than one person commit the unwanted act(s) in this incident?

- One person
- More than one person
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

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For the next set of questions, please think about the **main** person who committed the unwanted act(s) in this incident.

Was the person who committed the unwanted act(s):

- Military
- Non-military
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

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Was the person who committed the unwanted act(s):

- In the Air Force
- Not in the Air Force
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

Which of the following describes your relationship to this person at the time? (Click all that apply)

- Person was your superior
- Person was your peer
- Person was your subordinate
- Person was a contractor
- Person was a spouse/ex-spouse
- Person was a boyfriend/girlfriend
- Person was a romantic interest other than boyfriend/girlfriend
- Person was a parent/step-parent
- Person was some other family member
- Person was a friend
- Person was an acquaintance
- Person was a stranger
- Other
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

Do not provide OPSEC information; critical information or indicators. Comply with all OPSEC measures outlined in [AFI 10-701](#).

Was the person who committed the unwanted act a male or a female?

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to answer

How long had you known the person at the time of the incident?

- Did not know the person at all/Person was unknown
- Less than 1 day
- 1 day to less than 1 week
- 1 week to less than 1 month
- 1 month to less than 6 months
- 6 months to less than 1 year
- 1 year to less than 2 years
- 2 years to less than 5 years
- 5 years to less than 10 years
- 10 years or more
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

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After the incident occurred, did you talk to anyone about it, regardless of whether you reported it?

- Yes
- No
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

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Which of the following describes who you talked to about the incident, not including those you may have talked to in order to make an official report? *(Click all that apply)*

- A peer in the military
- A peer outside of the military
- A superior
- A family member
- A friend
- A crisis counselor
- A chaplain or religious leader
- A healthcare professional
- A law enforcement official
- Someone else
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

How soon after the incident did you talk to someone about it?

- Within 3 days of the incident
- Within 4 to 30 days of the incident
- Within 31 to 365 days of the incident
- Longer than 365 days after the incident
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

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Did you receive any of the following types of help after the incident?

	Yes	No	Do not recall	Prefer not to answer
Medical care on base	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical care off base	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Counseling on base	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Counseling off base	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legal services on base	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Legal services off base	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did you formally report the incident?

- Yes
 No
 Do not recall
 Prefer not to answer

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

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Please indicate whether or not each of the following was an IMPORTANT reason why you did not report the incident.

	Yes	No	Do not recall	Prefer not to answer
Did not want superiors to know	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did not want fellow Airmen to know	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did not want to cause trouble in your unit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did not want family to know	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of proof that incident happened	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fear of being treated badly if you reported it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Yes	No	Do not recall	Prefer not to answer
Not clear it was a crime or that harm was intended	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did not know how to report	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Afraid of retaliation or that the incident would happen again	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did not think it was serious enough to report	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Did not trust the reporting process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Concern over protecting your identity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		

Do not provide OPSEC information; critical information or indicators. Comply with all OPSEC measures outlined in [AFI 10-701](#).

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/sapr/sarccontacts.asp>

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Did you file an [unrestricted report](#) or a [restricted report](#)?

- Unrestricted report
- Restricted report
- Do not know whether it was restricted or unrestricted
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/sapr/sarccontacts.asp>

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To whom did you report the incident? *(Click all that apply)*

- Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)
- Victim Advocate (VA)
- Healthcare personnel
- Other
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

Do not provide OPSEC information; critical information or indicators. Comply with all OPSEC measures outlined in [AFI 10-701](#).

How soon after the incident did you report it?

- Within 3 days of the incident
- Within 4 to 30 days of the incident
- Within 31 to 365 days of the incident
- Longer than 365 days after the incident
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

Which **one** of the following best describes the main reason why you decided to report the incident?

- To get help after the incident
- To get medical care after the incident
- To prevent further crimes against you by the person
- To stop this person from committing other crimes against anyone
- To punish the person
- To catch or find the person
- Because it was a crime
- Other
- Do not recall
- Prefer not to answer

Do not provide OPSEC information; critical information or indicators. Comply with all OPSEC measures outlined in [AFI 10-701](#).

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/librarv/sapr/sarccontacts.asp>

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Is there anything else important to share about the incident that has not been covered in this survey?

Please do not provide names of individuals or any specific details about the event that would allow it to be identified.

Do not provide OPSEC information; critical information or indicators. Comply with all OPSEC measures outlined in [AFI 10-701](#).

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

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What recommendations do you have for how the Air Force could better respond to unwanted sexual experiences? *(Click all that apply)*

- More training
- More prevention education
- More Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs)
- More victim advocates
- More consequences for offenders

Please enter additional recommendations below.

Do not provide OPSEC information; critical information or indicators. Comply with all OPSEC measures outlined in [AFI 10-701](#).

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/sapr/sarccontacts.asp>

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What is your current age?

- 16-19
- 20-24
- 25-34
- 35-49
- 50-64
- 65 or older

What is your current grade?

- E1-E4
- E5-E9
- O1-O3
- O4-O10

In what year did you enter the Air Force?

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

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Thank you for your participation. Please submit your survey by clicking the "Submit Survey" button below. Once you click this button, you will no longer have access to your responses.

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/librarv/sapr/sarccontacts.asp>

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SUBMIT SURVEY

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2010 Air Force Personal Safety Survey

Thank you for participating in the Air Force Personal Safety Survey.

If you have been sexually assaulted and need help, please click on the link below to locate your nearest Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/sapr/sarccontacts.asp>

The SARC will be able to identify your reporting options and available local resources.

You may now close your browser or go to another Web site.

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APPENDIX C. Survey Estimates and Margins of Error

Chart 2. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Projected Past Year Incidence of Sexual Assault by Gender, Grade, and Age

Past Year Incidence	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total	3.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%
Grade				
E1-E4	70.7%	7.4%	71.4%	13.9%
E5-E9	19.4%	6.4%	17.9%	11.8%
O1-O3	6.3%	4.0%	5.8%	7.2%
O4-O6	1.8%	2.2%	2.5%	4.8%
Don't recall	0.6%	1.3%	0.0%	--
No answer	1.2%	1.8%	2.4%	4.6%
Age				
16-19	20.9%	6.6%	20.7%	12.4%
20-24	45.2%	8.1%	48.0%	15.4%
25-34	29.5%	7.4%	24.8%	13.3%
35-49	4.4%	3.3%	4.3%	6.2%
No answer	0.0%	--	2.4%	4.6%

-- Margin of error cannot be estimated.

Chart 3. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Projected Past Year Incidence of Sexual Assault by Gender and Type of Act

Past Year Incidence	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total	2,143	341	1,355	349
Sexual Contact	1,556	156	1,032	177
Oral or Anal Sex	248	112	377	187
Sex Act	798	169	268	166

Chart 4. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Prevalence of Sexual Assault Since Joining Air Force by Gender and Type of Act

Prevalence Since Joining Air Force	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total	11,986	738	5,553	709
Sexual Contact	10,914	239	4,895	231
Oral or Anal Sex	2,494	341	1,539	320
Sex Act	6,985	414	2,508	356

Table 4. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Prevalence of Sexual Assault Since Joining Air Force by Gender and Type of Act

	Women						Men					
	Sexual Contact		Oral or Anal Sex		Sex Act		Sexual Contact		Oral or Anal Sex		Sex Act	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
By ignoring efforts to communicate	79.5%	3.0%	86.2%	5.3%	80.7%	3.6%	77.9%	5.7%	73.0%	11.7%	79.4%	7.7%
Under use of drugs or other intoxicants	35.2%	3.5%	43.2%	7.6%	41.0%	4.5%	32.0%	6.4%	50.2%	13.1%	39.2%	9.3%
While asleep or unconscious	34.0%	3.5%	36.5%	7.4%	41.2%	4.5%	33.0%	6.5%	46.4%	13.1%	36.3%	9.2%
By threats to kill, kidnap, or seriously injure	3.8%	1.4%	7.1%	3.9%	4.7%	1.9%	2.4%	2.1%	8.9%	7.5%	3.5%	3.5%
By other threats	12.0%	2.4%	23.8%	6.5%	13.1%	3.1%	7.6%	3.7%	9.4%	7.7%	9.6%	5.6%
By causing serious injury	3.2%	1.3%	4.9%	3.3%	4.5%	1.9%	1.7%	1.8%	4.0%	5.1%	3.2%	3.4%
By force	37.4%	3.6%	48.4%	7.7%	44.3%	4.6%	14.6%	4.9%	24.3%	11.3%	18.7%	7.4%

Table 5. Timing of Most Recent Assault

	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Less than one year ago	17.9%	2.7%	24.4%	5.5%
1 year to less than 2 years ago	14.0%	2.4%	14.2%	4.5%
2 years to less than 5 years ago	23.1%	3.0%	17.0%	4.8%
5 years to less than 10 years ago	19.5%	2.8%	14.0%	4.5%
10 years ago or more	16.9%	2.6%	20.2%	5.2%
Do not recall	0.8%	0.6%	3.2%	2.3%

Chart 5. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Location of Most Recent Incident

On or Off Military Installation	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
On installation	51.2%	3.5%	41.1%	6.3%
Off installation	40.4%	3.4%	51.4%	6.4%
Do not recall	0.8%	0.6%	1.9%	1.8%

Location Status	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
At home station	74.5%	3.1%	72.2%	5.8%
Deployed	5.4%	1.6%	5.4%	2.9%
On TDY	8.9%	2.0%	9.4%	3.8%
Do not recall	0.5%	0.5%	2.8%	2.1%

Table 6. Type of Sexual Assault by Location of Incident, by Gender

	Women				Men			
	On Military Installation		Off Military Installation		On Military Installation		Off Military Installation	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Sexual Contact	74.4%	4.3%	69.6%	5.0%	71.0%	8.6%	71.7%	8.5%
Oral or Anal Sex	10.5%	3.0%	11.0%	3.4%	17.1%	7.1%	23.4%	8.0%
Sex Act	32.8%	4.6%	40.0%	5.4%	21.1%	7.7%	24.1%	8.1%

Chart 6. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Perpetrator Gender, by Gender of Victim

Perpetrator Gender and Gender of Victim	Female Victims		Male Victims	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Male Perpetrator	96.6%	1.3%	32.6%	6.0%
Female Perpetrator	0.4%	0.4%	61.3%	6.3%

Table 7. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Type of Sexual Assault by Gender of Perpetrator and Gender of Victim

	Female Victims				Male Victims			
	Female Perpetrator		Male Perpetrator		Female Perpetrator		Male Perpetrator	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Sexual Contact	*	--	72.0%	3.2%	73.2%	7.15%	65.8%	10.74%
Oral or Anal Sex	*	--	10.3%	2.2%	14.0%	5.60%	28.1%	10.17%
Sex Act	*	--	34.8%	3.4%	28.1%	7.25%	**	--

* Sample size is too small to report

** Definition of sex act makes male on male occurrence not possible

-- Margin of error cannot be estimated

Chart 7. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Perpetrator Characteristics

Number of Perpetrators	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
One person	87.3%	2.3%	88.8%	4.1%
More than one person	6.7%	1.8%	4.0%	2.5%
Do not recall	0.9%	0.7%	1.2%	1.5%

Military Status of Perpetrators	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Military	81.1%	2.8%	50.2%	6.5%
Non-Military	11.7%	2.3%	38.8%	6.3%
Do not recall	0.5%	0.5%	4.7%	2.7%

Air Force Status (Among Military Perpetrators)	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
In the Air Force	86.5%	2.7%	92.2%	4.6%
Not in the Air Force	8.7%	2.2%	3.8%	3.3%
Do not recall	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%	--

-- Margin of error cannot be estimated.

Table 8. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Military Status of Perpetrator by Whether Assault Occurred On Installation or Off Installation

	Women				Men			
	On Military Installation		Off Military Installation		On Military Installation		Off Military Installation	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Perpetrator was military	92.3%	2.6%	73.7%	4.8%	84.2%	6.9%	27.8%	8.5%
Perpetrator was non-military	4.9%	2.1%	22.3%	4.6%	13.7%	6.5%	61.4%	9.2%

Table 9. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Gender of Victim and Perpetrator by Military Status of Perpetrator

	Female Victims				Male Victims			
	Female Perpetrator		Male Perpetrator		Female Perpetrator		Male Perpetrator	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Perpetrator was military	*	--	82.9%	2.7%	46.9%	8.1%	60.5%	11.1%
Perpetrator was non-military	*	--	11.9%	2.3%	41.4%	8.0%	34.7%	10.8%

* Sample size is too small to report

-- Margin of error cannot be estimated.

Chart 8. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Perpetrator's Relationship to Victim

Perpetrator was...	Female Victims		Male Victims	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
An acquaintance	27.7%	3.1%	28.8%	5.8%
Your peer	34.2%	3.3%	22.5%	5.4%
A friend	20.1%	2.8%	17.5%	4.9%
A stranger	7.7%	1.9%	15.8%	4.7%
Your superior	14.3%	2.5%	9.3%	3.7%
Your subordinate	1.3%	0.8%	4.5%	2.7%
Spouse/ex spouse	3.4%	1.3%	4.4%	2.6%
A boyfriend/girlfriend	4.2%	1.4%	4.7%	2.7%
A romantic interest	6.3%	1.7%	5.3%	2.9%
Other	5.8%	0.2%	5.1%	1.5%

Chart 8. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Perpetrator's Relationship to Victim (*continued*)

Length of time perpetrator known at time of incident	Female Victims		Male Victims	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
<1 day	8.7%	2.0%	11.5%	4.1%
1 day to <1 week	4.6%	1.5%	4.9%	2.8%
1 week to <1 month	6.8%	1.8%	8.4%	3.6%
1 to <6 months	26.6%	3.1%	23.0%	5.4%
6 months to <1 year	17.0%	2.6%	15.1%	4.6%
1 to <2 years	10.7%	2.2%	11.6%	4.1%
2 to <5 years	9.5%	2.0%	4.3%	2.6%
5 to <10 years	4.1%	1.4%	3.3%	2.3%
10 years or more	1.8%	0.7%	1.2%	1.7%
Person unknown	5.2%	1.6%	9.1%	3.7%
Do not recall	2.0%	1.0%	2.1%	1.9%

Chart 9. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Formal Reporting of Incident

Formal reporting of most recent incident	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Yes	16.7%	2.6%	5.8%	3.0%
No	76.2%	3.0%	86.5%	4.4%
Do not recall	0.5%	0.5%	1.7%	1.7%

Table 10. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Formal Reporting Rates by When Most Recent Incident Occurred

When most recent incident occurred	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Past 12 months	19.6%	6.5%	3.5%	5.6%
1-2 years ago	18.7%	7.1%	9.6%	9.9%
2-5 years ago	18.0%	5.5%	6.1%	7.2%
5+ years ago	15.4%	4.3%	7.3%	5.1%

Table 11. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Unrestricted and Restricted Reporting Rates

	Total	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Unrestricted report	53.0%	8.2%
Restricted report	9.5%	4.8%
Do not recall	31.4%	7.6%
Choose not to answer	6.1%	3.9%

Chart 10. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Formal Reporting of Most Recent Incident

To whom incident was reported	Victims who filed a report	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
SARC	42.4%	8.1%
Chain of command	27.6%	7.3%
Law enforcement	23.5%	7.0%
Victim Advocate	21.5%	6.7%
Healthcare personnel	14.5%	5.8%
Other	33.9%	7.8%
Do not recall	1.8%	2.2%

Number of days until incident reported	Victims who filed a report	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
Within 3 days	63.0%	7.9%
Within 4 to 30 days	15.1%	5.9%
Within 31 to 365 days	15.2%	5.9%
Longer than 365 days	3.7%	3.1%
Do not recall	0.2%	0.7%

Chart 11. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Reasons Why Victim Filed a Report

Reason why filed a report	Victims who filed a report	
	Estimate	Margin of Error
To stop this person from committing other crimes against anyone	42.1%	8.1%
To further prevent crimes against you by the person	11.3%	5.2%
To get help after the incident	7.2%	4.2%
To catch or find the person	2.6%	2.6%
To get medical care after the incident	8.0%	4.5%
Because it was a crime	9.9%	4.9%
To punish the person	0.0%	--
Other	14.8%	5.8%

-- Margin of error cannot be estimated.

Chart 12. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Reasons Why Incident Was Unreported

Reason why incident was unreported	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Did not think it was serious enough to report	53.8%	4.0%	62.9%	6.6%
Not clear it was a crime or that harm was intended	41.2%	3.9%	37.7%	6.7%
Did not want fellow Airmen to know	51.4%	4.0%	36.3%	6.6%
Lack of proof that incident happened	48.2%	4.0%	35.0%	6.6%
Did not want superiors to know	47.5%	4.0%	34.2%	6.5%
Did not want family to know	38.5%	3.9%	31.9%	6.4%
Fear of being treated badly if you reported it	43.5%	4.0%	30.6%	6.3%
Did not want to cause trouble in your unit	45.6%	4.0%	29.0%	6.2%
Concern over protecting your identity	34.6%	3.8%	26.6%	6.6%
Did not trust the reporting process	25.3%	3.5%	18.1%	5.3%
Afraid of retaliation	24.8%	3.5%	14.8%	4.9%
Did not know how to report	12.3%	2.6%	8.4%	3.8%
Other	13.0%	2.7%	9.0%	4.0%

Table 12. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Barriers to Reporting by Gender and Type of Act

	Women						Men					
	Sexual Contact		Oral or Anal Sex		Sex Act		Sexual Contact		Oral or Anal Sex		Sex Act	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Did not want superiors to know	45.6%	4.7%	50.1%	12.7%	58.9%	6.8%	31.5%	7.5%	43.0%	17.3%	36.1%	13.4%
Did not want fellow Airmen to know	49.9%	4.7%	50.4%	12.7%	63.4%	6.7%	34.8%	7.7%	43.0%	17.3%	39.6%	13.6%
Did not want to cause trouble in your unit	46.4%	4.7%	32.5%	11.9%	48.3%	6.9%	32.1%	7.5%	17.1%	13.2%	27.2%	12.4%
Did not want family to know	37.2%	4.6%	50.1%	12.7%	54.0%	6.9%	29.7%	7.4%	40.0%	17.1%	39.8%	13.6%
Lack of proof that incident happened	49.5%	4.7%	47.2%	12.7%	53.9%	6.9%	34.5%	7.7%	23.9%	14.9%	41.2%	13.7%
Fear of being treated badly	42.7%	4.7%	39.2%	12.4%	49.7%	6.9%	27.4%	7.2%	33.8%	16.5%	30.3%	12.8%
Not clear it was a crime	40.1%	4.7%	38.7%	12.4%	37.0%	6.7%	39.1%	7.9%	22.5%	14.6%	45.1%	13.9%
Did not know how to report	12.5%	3.1%	11.6%	8.1%	13.2%	4.7%	8.6%	4.5%	13.1%	11.8%	8.4%	7.7%
Afraid it would happen again	25.0%	4.1%	23.0%	10.7%	29.2%	6.3%	14.7%	5.7%	14.9%	12.4%	8.4%	7.7%
Did not think it was serious enough to report	58.1%	4.7%	50.6%	12.7%	43.2%	6.9%	63.3%	7.8%	57.2%	17.3%	63.2%	13.4%
Did not trust reporting process	23.4%	4.0%	27.7%	11.3%	29.0%	6.3%	19.9%	6.4%	20.1%	14.0%	12.1%	9.1%
Concern over protecting identity	31.2%	4.4%	37.2%	12.3%	43.7%	6.9%	23.6%	6.8%	35.3%	16.7%	24.4%	12.0%

Table 13. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Percentage Indicating an Important Reason for Not Reporting Was Because They “Did Not Know How to Report” by Timing of Incident

Did not report incident because “Did not know how to report”	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Past 12 months	5.3%	4.3%	5.2%	7.0%
More than 12 months ago	13.7%	3.0%	9.5%	4.4%

Chart 13. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Disclosure of Most Recent Incident

Talked to anyone about assault	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Yes	56.6%	3.5%	35.8%	6.2%
No	36.3%	3.4%	55.2%	6.4%
Do not recall	1.1%	0.7%	3.5%	2.4%

Timeframe for talking to someone	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Within 3 days	69.9%	4.3%	75.0%	9.0%
Within 4 to 30 days	13.4%	3.2%	8.8%	5.8%
Within 31 to 365 days	9.8%	2.8%	12.6%	6.9%
Longer than 365 days	3.2%	1.7%	1.5%	2.5%
Do not recall	2.1%	1.3%	2.2%	3.0%

Person spoke to about the incident	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Peer in the military	55.2%	4.7%	56.9%	10.2%
Friend	55.3%	4.6%	48.4%	10.3%
Family member	24.9%	4.1%	22.0%	8.6%
Peer outside of the military	13.4%	3.2%	20.4%	8.3%
Superior	25.9%	4.1%	16.9%	7.8%
Law enforcement official	11.9%	3.0%	8.4%	5.7%
Crisis counselor	10.6%	2.9%	5.7%	4.8%
Chaplain or religious leader	7.8%	2.5%	5.8%	4.8%
Healthcare professional	10.3%	2.9%	7.0%	5.3%
Someone else	7.4%	2.5%	7.5%	5.5%

Chart 14. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Types of Help Received Following the Most Recent Incident

Types of help received	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Medical care on base	8.7%	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%
Medical care off base	2.9%	1.2%	0.9%	1.2%
Counseling on base	13.4%	2.4%	5.5%	2.9%
Counseling off base	4.0%	1.4%	1.8%	1.7%
Legal services on base	7.8%	1.9%	1.6%	1.6%
Legal services off base	0.8%	0.6%	1.3%	1.5%
Did not report receiving help	79.5%	2.8%	92.5%	3.4%

Chart 15. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Lifetime Prevalence of Sexual Assault

	Women		Men	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Lifetime prevalence %	29.7%	1.4%	4.3%	0.4%
Lifetime prevalence count	18,802	861	11,569	1,004

Table 14. Margins of Error at 95% Level of Confidence for Respondent Recommendations for Responding to Sexual Assault, by Victimization

Recommendations made by survey respondents	Sexually Assaulted Since Joining the Air Force		Not Sexually Assaulted Since Joining the Air Force	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
More consequences for offenders	41.4%	3.1%	55.2%	0.8%
More prevention education	29.7%	2.9%	27.2%	0.7%
More victim advocates	19.1%	2.5%	21.3%	0.7%
More Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs)	10.8%	2.0%	15.7%	0.6%
More training	16.8%	2.4%	14.7%	0.6%
Current training program is too much/overkill	1.5%	0.8%	1.9%	0.2%
Change culture/behavior/environment that leads to sexual assault	3.5%	1.2%	2.0%	0.2%
Improve training	3.6%	1.2%	1.5%	0.2%
More help for victims	4.5%	1.3%	1.3%	0.2%

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