



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION
AND RESPONSE OFFICE

Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

Response Systems Panel
June 27, 2013

Purpose

- Provide overview of DoD sexual assault reporting
- Describe DoD survey methodology and top line results
- Explain DoD SAPR Strategy and Lines of Effort
- Identify past reviews of the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

DoD and SAPRO Mission

DoD Mission

- The Department of Defense prevents and responds to the crime of sexual assault in order to enable military readiness and reduce - with goal to eliminate - sexual assault from the military

SAPRO Mission

- Serve as the DoD's single point of authority, system accountability, and oversight for the sexual assault prevention and response program, except for:
 - Criminal investigative matters that are the responsibility of DoD IG
 - Legal processes that are the responsibility of the Judge Advocates General of the Military Departments

Overview of DoD Sexual Assault Reporting

What is Sexual Assault?

- In the DoD, sexual assault is an overarching term that encompasses a range of contact sexual assault offenses between adults, prohibited by the Uniform Code of Military Justice
- Offenses are charged based on the act perpetrated, the level of force used, and the ability of the victim to consent
- Includes the UCMJ offenses of:
 - Rape (Art 120)
 - Sexual Assault (Art 120)
 - Forcible Sodomy (Art 125)
 - Attempts to Commit (Art 80)
 - Aggravated Sexual Contact (Art 120)
 - Abusive Sexual Contact (Art 120)

“Sexual assault” is not the same as “Military Sexual Trauma” (MST), a term used by Department of Veteran’s Affairs for documenting medical conditions and Service-connected disabilities, which includes experiencing **sexual harassment and/or sexual assault** at any point during one’s military career.

Two Reporting Options

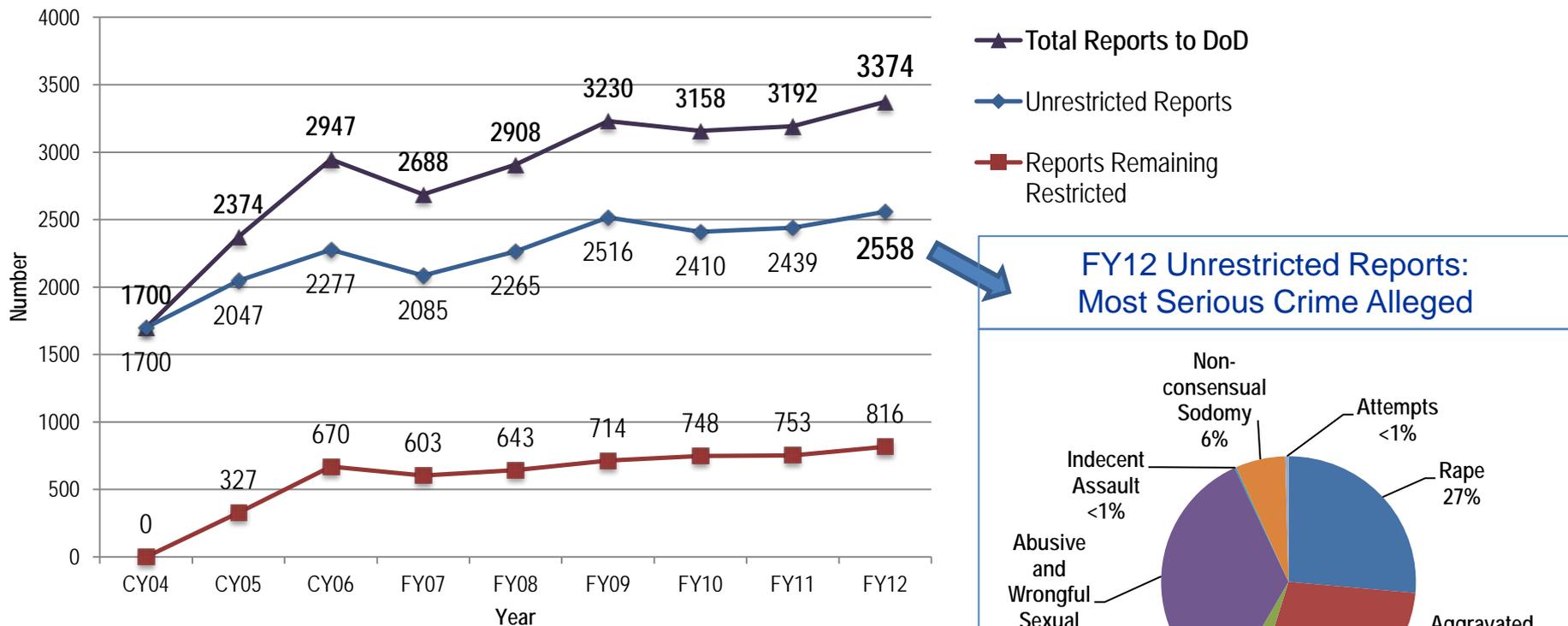
Unrestricted Report

- Victim receives medical care, counseling, and advocacy services
- Commander is notified
- Report made to law enforcement to initiate the criminal investigation

Restricted Report

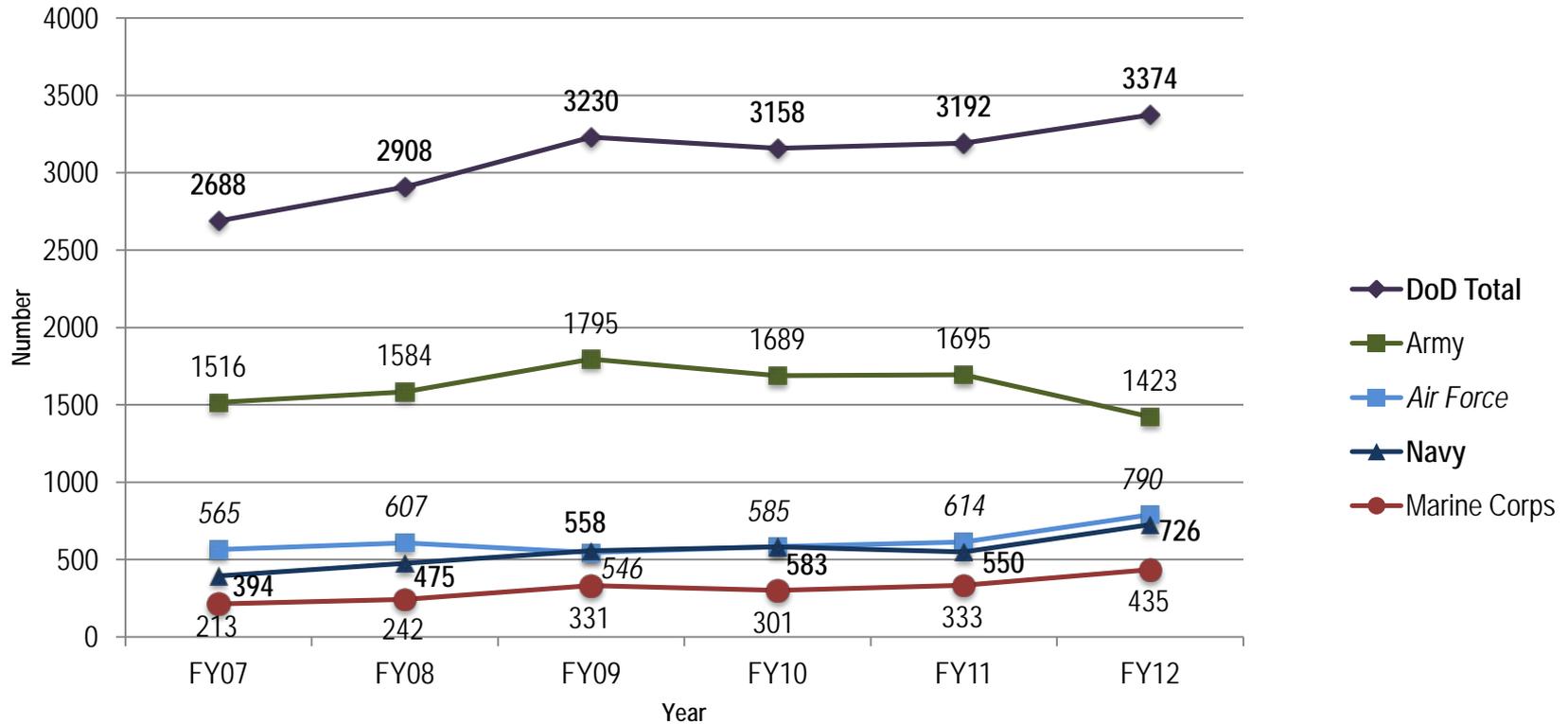
- Victim confidentially discloses to specific individuals
 - Sexual Assault Response Coordinator/Victim Advocate
 - Healthcare Personnel
- Command informed of assault (for safety reasons) but victim's name or other identifying information not provided
- Victim receives treatment and services, but no investigation initiated
- First offered in June 2005
 - Each year, about 15% of restricted reports switch to unrestricted

Reports of Sexual Assault: CY04-FY12



- Reports of sexual assault include military members as either victims or alleged perpetrators.
- In FY12, overall reporting increased 6% from FY11
 - Unrestricted Reporting increased by 5%
 - Reports remaining Restricted increased by 8%
- 121 Reports in FY12 were for an incident occurring prior to service
- Restricted Report Conversions increased from 14.1% in FY11 to 16.8% in FY12

Sexual Assault Reports by Service, FY07-12



Three of four Services showed an approximate 30% increase in reporting in FY12.

Demographics in Majority of Unrestricted Reports

- Victim
 - Female
 - 18–24 years old
 - Junior enlisted (E1 – E4)
 - Occurring off duty at home station
- Subject
 - Male
 - 18 to 34 years old
 - Enlisted
 - Trend toward slightly higher rank than victim
 - Not a stranger to victim
 - Alcohol commonly the only weapon

DoD Survey Methodology and Top Line Results

Why Survey?

- National civilian statistics indicate that sexual assault is “under reported”
 - Determined through surveys of civilian population
 - Most persons indicating they experienced sexual assault also indicate they did not report it to law enforcement
 - Crime reports to police only account for 15 to 20% of what would be expected based on national surveys
- Population surveys help estimate the extent of a problem
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Justice conduct periodic, national surveys on sexual assault for this purpose
- SAPRO uses the *Workplace and Gender Relations Survey* to estimate the prevalence of sexual assault and sexual harassment in the military
 - “Unwanted sexual contact” is the survey term for the crimes that constitute sexual assault under military law
 - Survey research shows that terms like “rape” and “sexual assault” have different meanings to people
 - Unwanted sexual contact describes specific behaviors, instead of offenses, to improve consistency in item response

Unwanted Sexual Contact (USC)

- **Definition and measure of USC in the WGRA:**

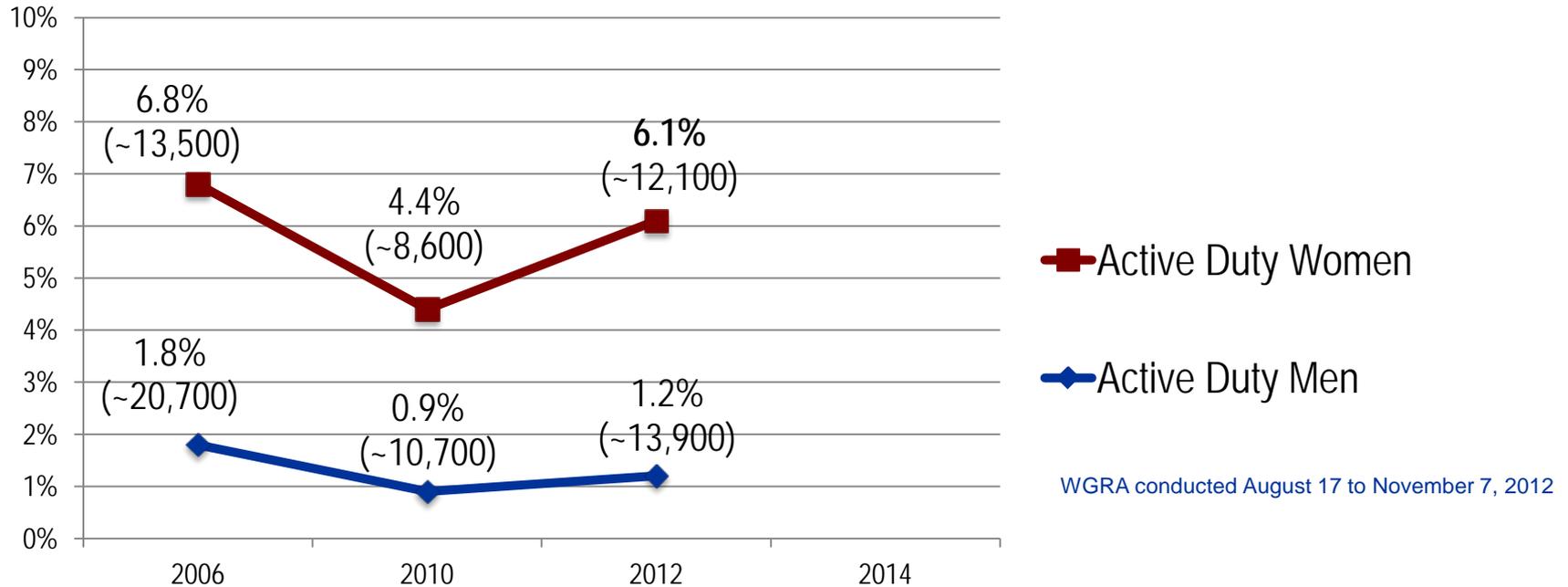
- USC is measured by asking members to refer to experiences in the past 12 months in which they experienced any of the following intentional sexual contacts that were against their will or which occurred when they did not or could not consent:
 - Sexually touched them (e.g., intentional touching of genitalia, breasts, or buttocks) or made them sexually touch someone;
 - Attempted to make them have sexual intercourse, but was not successful;
 - Made them have sexual intercourse;
 - Attempted to make them perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object, but was not successful; or
 - Made them perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object.
- A member is counted in the USC prevalence rate if he or she replied “yes” to any of the behaviors listed.

- **USC one situation:**

- On the survey, members who had indicated they experienced USC were asked to consider the “one situation” occurring the past 12 months that had the greatest effect on them. With that one situation in mind, members then reported on the circumstances surrounding that experience (e.g., who were the offenders, where did the behaviors occur, were drugs/alcohol involved, was the experience reported, were there any repercussions because of reporting the incident).

Past-Year Prevalence of Unwanted Sexual Contact

Percent of Active Duty Members, by Gender

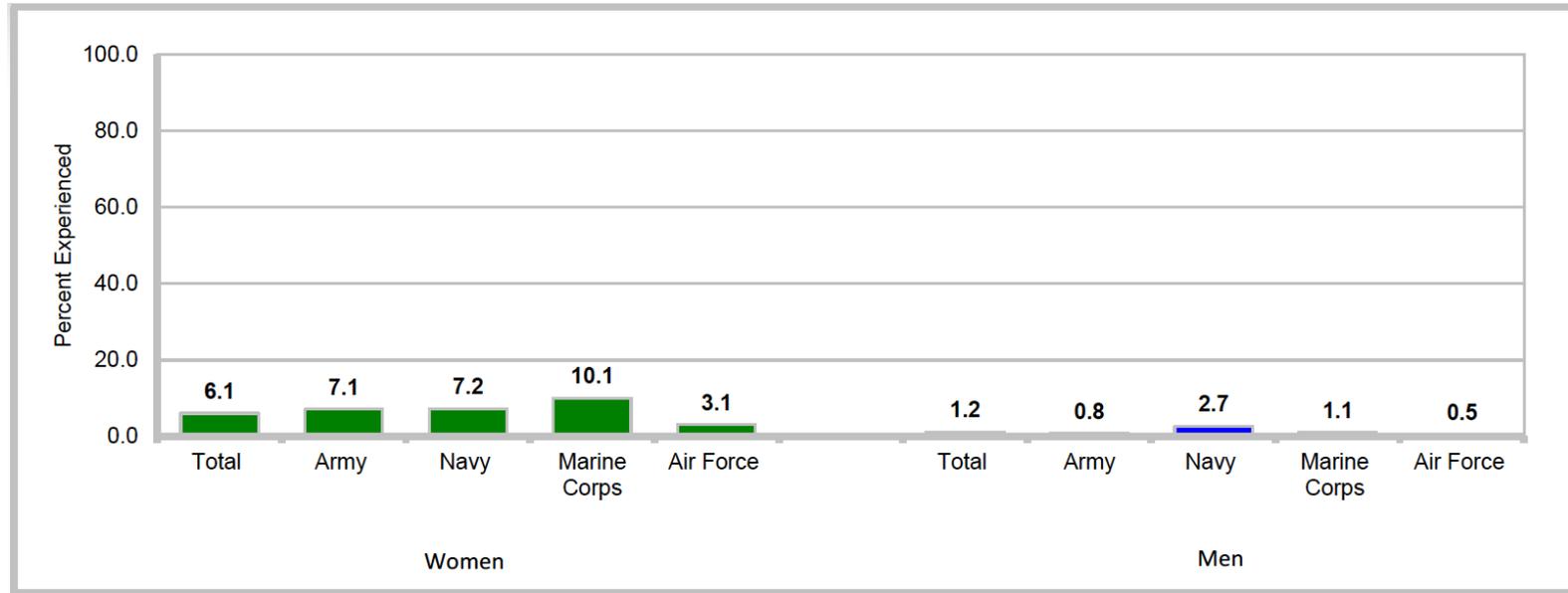


Key findings:

- In 2012, 6.1% of women and 1.2% of men indicated experiencing USC
- For women, the 2012 percentage is statistically significantly higher than 2010; there are no statistically significant differences for men between 2012 and 2010
- Of the women and men who experienced USC in the past 12 months, 45% of these women and 19% of these men also experienced USC prior to entering the military
- Only 18% of active women and 22% of active men indicated the offender was either unidentified or a person in the local community; the majority of offenders were primarily military members or DoD civilians/contractors

Past-Year Prevalence of Unwanted Sexual Contact

Percent of Active Duty Women and Men, by Service

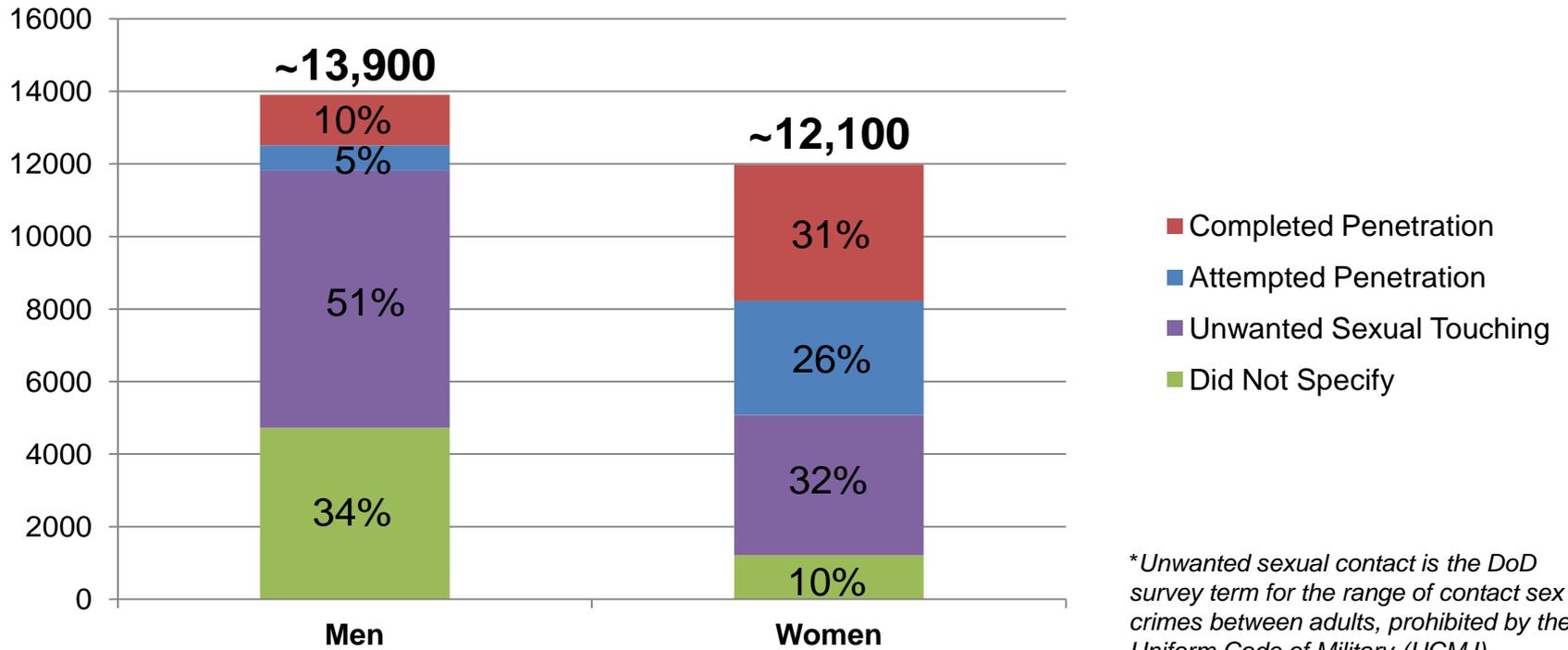


Key findings:

- Marine Corps women were more likely than women in the other Services to indicate experiencing USC
- Air Force women were less likely than women in the other Services to indicate experiencing USC
- For Navy and Marine Corps women, the 2012 percentages are statistically significantly higher than 2010 (7.2% vs. 4.4% and 10.1% vs. 6.6%, respectively); there are no statistically significant differences for men between 2012 and 2010

Unwanted Sexual Contacts* Experienced

Estimates from 2012 WGRA



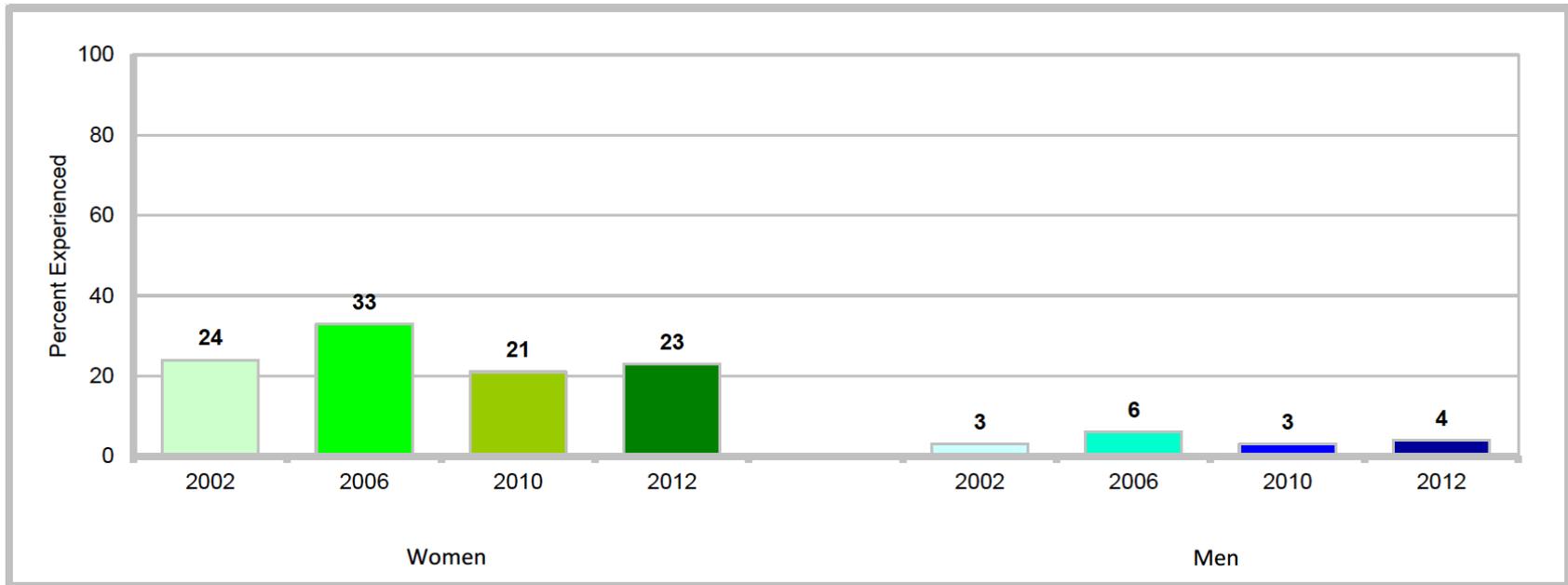
*Unwanted sexual contact is the DoD survey term for the range of contact sex crimes between adults, prohibited by the Uniform Code of Military (UCMJ).

Key Findings:

- Of active duty members who indicated USC via the WGRA, about 31% of women and 10% of men experienced a completed oral, anal, or vaginal penetration
- The proportions of behavior shown are statistically unchanged from 2010

Sexual Harassment Incident Rate

Percent of Active Duty Members, by Gender



Key Findings:

- Survey results found that 23% of women and 4% of men indicated experiencing sexual harassment in the past year; these rates are statistically unchanged from 2010
- Members who experience USC also experience sexual harassment at a higher rate than members who do not experience USC
 - Of the 6.1% of women experiencing USC in the past year, 77% also experienced sexual harassment
 - Of the 1.2% of men experiencing USC in the past year, 52% also experienced sexual harassment

Perceptions of Retaliation

- Perceptions about retaliation differ, depending on your experience
- Active Duty members in general believe they would be free to report a sexual assault without experiencing retaliation:
 - 70% of women and 83% of men indicated they would feel free to report sexual assault without fear of reprisals
- Those members who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact have a different perception:
 - Of women who experienced unwanted sexual contact and reported it to a military authority, 62% indicated they perceived some form of retaliation as a result of reporting the situation
 - Respondents could pick from one or more of the following:
 - Social retaliation
 - Professional retaliation
 - Administrative action
 - Punishment
 - Data are not reportable for men

DoD-wide Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Strategy

- **Sustain multi-pronged approach – no single “silver bullet” solution**
 - Requires sustained progress, persistence, innovation, and multi-disciplinary approach in prevention, investigation, accountability, victim assistance & assessment
- **Expand prevention efforts to reinforce cultural imperatives of mutual respect and trust, team commitment, and professional values**
- **Recognize that sexual harassment is strongly correlated with sexual assault**
- **Ensure victim focus to help overcome vast underreporting**
 - Every victim needs to be treated with respect, dignity, and sensitivity
 - Reporting is an essential bridge to victim care and accountability
- **Sustain commitment to holding offenders appropriately accountable – we are improving investigative and accountability efforts through Special Victims Capability, UCMJ Panels, and comprehensive oversight actions**
- **Continue to educate frontline commanders and leaders at all levels and hold them accountable in establishing a culture of dignity and respect**

Mission: The Department of Defense prevents and responds to the crime of sexual assault in order to enable military readiness and reduce—with a goal to eliminate—sexual assault from the military.

Lines of Effort

Objectives

Communication – Communicate DoD’s efforts to support victim recovery, enable military readiness, and reduce—with a goal to eliminate—sexual assault from the military.

Prevention - Deliver consistent and effective prevention methods and programs.

Investigation - Achieve high competence in the investigation of sexual assault.

Accountability - Achieve high competence in holding offenders appropriately accountable.

Advocacy – Deliver consistent and effective victim support, response, and reporting options.

Assessment – Effectively standardize, measure, analyze, and assess program progress.

Cultural imperatives of mutual respect and trust, professional values, and team commitment are reinforced to create an environment where sexual assault is not tolerated.

Investigative resources yield timely and accurate results.

Perpetrators are held appropriately accountable.

DoD provides high quality services and support to instill confidence, inspire victims to report, and restore resilience.

DoD incorporates responsive, meaningful, and accurate systems of measurement and evaluation into every aspect of SAPR.

Advocacy - Victim Assistance

Major Initiatives Completed

- Launched DoD Safe Helpline to give victims 24/7 global access to crisis support staff.
- Implemented expedited transfer policy for victims making that request
- Enacted Military Rule of Evidence 514 improving protection of communications between victims and advocates
- Conduct recurring Survivor Summits to ensure policy making is informed by the voices of victims
- Expanded the DoD Safe Helpline to include a moderated Safe HelpRoom to advance victim support services

Ongoing and Future Actions

- Implementing DoD SARC/VA certification program with National Organization for Victim Assistance
- Expanding Service manning of full-time equivalent SARC and VA positions to all brigade or equivalent units, as directed in NDAA FY12
- Standardizing core competencies and learning objectives for DoD-wide training of SARCs and VAs
- Developing means for retaining documentation associated with Restricted Reporting for 50 years, while maintaining victim confidentiality

Past Reviews of DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

Reviews of Sexual Assault in the Military, 2003-2008

- September 2003: **Fowler Commission**
 - Reviewed sexual harassment and violence at US Air Force Academy
 - <http://www.defense.gov/news/Sep2003/d20030922usafareport.pdf>
- April 2004: **Care for Victims Task Force**
 - Recommendations for fundamentally changing how DoD prevents and responds to sexual assault
 - <http://www.defense.gov/news/may2004/d20040513safreport.pdf>
- 2004: **Joint Task Force – Sexual Assault Prevention and Response**
 - Implemented DoD policies based on recommendations of Care for Victims Task Force
 - DoD Instruction 6495.01, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program
 - DoD Instruction 6495.02, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Procedures
 - <http://www.sapr.mil/index.php/law-and-dod-policies/directives-and-instructions>
- June 2005: **Defense Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies**
 - Reviewed sexual harassment and violence at US Military Academy and US Naval Academy
 - http://www.defense.gov/home/pdf/High_GPO_RRC_tx.pdf

Reviews of Sexual Assault in the Military, 2008-2010

- 2008: **Government Accountability Office**
 - Engagement 08-296: *The DOD and Coast Guard Academies Have Taken Steps to Address Incidents of Sexual Harassment and Assault, but Greater Federal Oversight Is Needed*
 - <http://www.gao.gov/assets/280/271245.pdf>
 - Engagement 08-924: *DOD's and the Coast Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Programs Face Implementation and Oversight Challenges*
 - <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08924.pdf>
 - Engagement 08-1013T: *Preliminary Observations on DoD's and the Coast Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Programs*
 - <http://www.gao.gov/assets/130/120945.pdf>
- 2009: **Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services**
 - Reviewed implementation of DoD SAPR policy across the Services
 - http://www.sapr.mil/public/docs/research/DTFSSAMS-Rept_Dec09.pdf
- 2010: **Government Accountability Office**
 - Engagement 10-405T: *DOD's and the Coast Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Programs Need to Be Further Strengthened*
 - <http://www.gao.gov/assets/130/124050.pdf>

Reviews of Sexual Assault in the Military, 2010-2013

- 2010: **Government Accountability Office**
 - Engagement 11-579: *Oversight and Better Collaboration Needed for Sexual Assault Investigations and Adjudications*
 - <http://www.gao.gov/assets/320/319962.pdf>
- 2011: **Government Accountability Office**
 - Engagement 12-571R: *Prior GAO Work on DOD's Actions to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault in the Military*
 - <http://www.gao.gov/assets/590/589780.pdf>
- 2013: **US Commission On Civil Rights**
 - Briefing: Sexual Assault in the Military
 - http://www.usccr.gov/calendar/trnscrpt/Transcript_01-11-13.pdf
- 2013: **Government Accountability Office**
 - Engagement 13-182: *DOD Has Taken Steps to Meet the Health Needs of Deployed Servicewomen, but Actions Are Needed to Enhance Care for Sexual Assault Victims*
 - <http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/651624.pdf>

Questions?

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