



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



Facts About Sexual Assault Perpetrated Against Men

Sexual assault can affect everyone, including men in the military. According to the Workplace and Gender Relations Survey (WGR), an estimated 14,000 active duty men experienced unwanted sexual contact (USC), or sexual assault, in 2023. These experiences included contact, penetrative, and attempts to commit such crimes. Some men may choose not to report a sexual assault for fear that they will face disbelief or blame. The following facts and statistics about sexual assault perpetrated against military men help describe the impact and toll this crime takes. Additional information is available in the [2016 DoD Plan to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault of Military Men](#) and the [2023 WGR Overview Report](#).



What male warriors say about sexual assault:

"This can't happen to me. This doesn't happen to men."

"I felt like less of a man after experiencing sexual assault. Now it sometimes feels like I'm not even a man at all."

"I tried to move on and forget it. It's probably too late to talk about it now."

Men are more likely than women to experience sexual assault in the form of hazing or bullying, and less likely than women to report sexual assault.

According to the 2023 WGR, an estimated 1.3 percent of active duty men experienced USC, compared to 6.8 percent of women, in 2023. Of men that experienced USC, 86 percent did not report their experience to military authorities. However, you do not need to make a report to receive help or learn about your options. Confidential counseling for Service members is available through your local Veterans Center. Learn more at www.vetcenter.va.gov.

Men and women alike can experience difficulties after a sexual assault.

After sexual assault, both men and women may experience a variety of emotions and unhelpful symptoms. Some men can also face challenges reconciling the incident with their identity or sexual orientation. An offender's choice to cross a line should not take away your dignity and self-respect. Recovery is possible and support is available.

Men of all sexual orientations are sexually assaulted.

However, men who indicate being gay or bisexual experience higher rates of sexual assault than straight men. Nevertheless, respectful, culturally-competent, and recovery-oriented assistance is available for all Service members.

Men can have unexpected reactions during traumatic events.

Anyone who experiences a traumatic event can encounter unexpected and surprising physiological and psychological reactions. Men can experience erections or even ejaculate in response to unwanted physical stimuli, including sexual assault. None of these physical reactions are proof of consent, nor do they call into question sexual orientation.

Military men experience sexual assault perpetrated by men and women.

According to the 2023 WGR, 46 percent of USC incidents against men involved male offenders, 25 percent involved female offenders, and 22 percent involved male and female offenders acting together. Most men also indicated that the offender was in the military and a member of their unit. Confidential assistance can help find the safest path forward.

If you have experienced a sexual assault, you are not alone.

Confidential help is available 24/7 from the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or visit SafeHelpline.org.

Your local SARC or SAPR VA can also help.

Source: [2023 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Military Members Overview Report](#)

For more information, please visit sapr.mil.