



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



FACT SHEET: FISCAL YEAR 2023 (FY23) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) ANNUAL REPORT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

MAY 16, 2024

Background:

- The FY23 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military contains biennial survey results, reporting data, and case dispositions. The report also provides updates on the Department's efforts to prevent and respond to sexual assault throughout FY23.

Top Line Results:

- The estimated prevalence of sexual assault and sexual harassment in the active force has declined compared to levels last measured in 2021, marking the first time in nearly 10 years that the Department of Defense has seen a decrease in the estimated prevalence of sexual assault.
- The Department is cautiously optimistic that these results reflect the impact of the unprecedented actions directed by Secretary Austin to counter these crimes, and we must continue to implement these reforms to ensure the changes are enduring.
- In FY23, 6.8 percent of active duty women and 1.3 percent of active duty men indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact (USC) in the year prior to being surveyed.
 - Both are decreases from FY21 (8.4 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively); however, only the decrease for women was statistically significant.
- Rates of sexual harassment significantly decreased for women and men.
 - In FY23, an estimated 24.7 percent of active duty women (down from 28.6 percent in FY21) and an estimated 5.8 percent of active duty men (down from 6.5 percent in FY21) indicated experiencing an incident of sexual harassment.
- This year's Annual Report also provides FY23 reporting data.
 - In FY23, the DoD received 8,515 reports of sexual assault, a decrease from the 8,924 reports received in FY22. Of the 8,515 reports, 5,536 were Unrestricted Reports and 2,979 were Restricted Reports.
 - Though the total number of sexual assault reports decreased in FY23, a greater share of Service members elected to report their incident to a DoD authority. Survey and reporting data indicate about 25 percent of active duty Service members who indicated experiencing USC reported their incident to a DoD authority, an increase from 20 percent in FY21.
 - DoD wants to see an increase in the reporting rate because this means a greater number of victims received the support and advocacy they need.

Way Forward:

- During FY24, the Department will:
 - Sustain implementation of Secretary approved Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military recommendations;
 - Complete Command Climate Assessments and Comprehensive Integrated Primary Prevention plans to promote healthy, ready workplaces;
 - Continue actions to hire skilled professionals to build out the Integrated Primary Prevention Workforce;
 - Sustain efforts to professionalize and strengthen the Sexual Assault Response Workforce; and
 - Implement policy updates in initial and annual Sexual Assault Prevention and Response training.

The complete report is available online at <https://www.sapr.mil/reports>