



## Appendix G: Domestic Abuse-Related Sexual Assault



# Appendix G: Domestic Abuse-Related Sexual Assault

The Family Advocacy Program (FAP) is the congressionally mandated Department of Defense (DoD) program responsible for providing clinical assessment, support, and treatment services in response to reported incidents of domestic abuse in military families. Sexual assault occurring within the context of a marriage or intimate partner relationship (sexual abuse) is a subset of domestic abuse.

## Oversight Responsibilities

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, DoD FAP has broad responsibility for promoting public awareness and prevention of domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect, providing victims of domestic abuse with the option for making a Restricted Report, and coordinating comprehensive advocacy, clinical intervention, safety and risk assessment, and other support to victims.

## Definition of Domestic Abuse

DoD Instruction 6400.06, “DoD Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel,” defines “domestic abuse” as domestic violence, or a pattern of behavior resulting in emotional or psychological abuse, economic control, or interference with personal liberty that is directed toward a person who is one or more of the following:

- Current or former spouse.
- Person with whom the alleged abuser shares a child in common.
- Current or former intimate partner with whom the alleged abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.
- Person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the accused and determined to be an intimate partner (as defined in DoD Instruction 6400.06).

Sexual assault occurring within the context of domestic abuse is referred to FAP for comprehensive safety planning, victim advocacy and support, and treatment when appropriate.

## Data

Comprehensive data and analysis of all domestic abuse is included in the *Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2023*, scheduled for release May 2024, and in accordance with section 574 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 (Public Law 114-328), as amended by section 549 of the NDAA for FY 2022 (Public Law 117-81).

## Data Collection

FAP incident data are tracked by the Military Departments and reported to the Department through the FAP Central Registry maintained by the Defense Manpower Data Center. The FAP Central Registry contains information pertaining to incidents that met criteria for abuse. “Met

criteria” means that the incident met the DoD definition of abuse.<sup>1</sup> Incidents are assessed with a standardized algorithm that indicates the need for more rigorous treatment, intervention, support, safety planning, and protection.

### Victim Characteristics

FAP Central Registry data indicate that in FY 2023, there were 494 unique victims of adult sexual abuse who received FAP services. Figure 1 shows the number of unique victims of adult sexual abuse who received FAP services since FY 2016.<sup>2</sup> Following a relatively consistent number of unique victims from FY 2016 to FY 2019, the number of victims of adult sexual abuse increased from FY 2019 to FY 2023, with notable year-over-year increases from FY 2020 to FY 2023.<sup>3</sup>

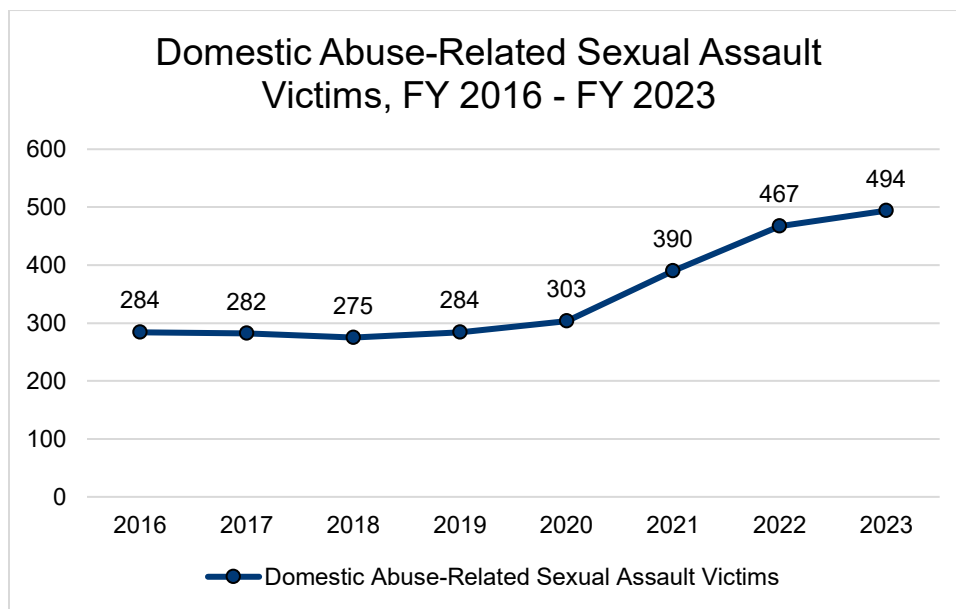


Figure 1. Domestic Abuse-Related Sexual Assault Victims, FY 2016 – FY 2023

Of the 494 victims, 478 (96.8 percent) were female and 16 (3.2 percent) were male. Of the 494 victims, 233 (47.2 percent) were family members, 185 (37.4 percent) were Military Service members, 58 (11.7 percent) were non-beneficiaries, 18 (3.6 percent)<sup>4</sup> were civilian non-DoD beneficiaries (retired Service members or government contractors).

<sup>1</sup> DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 3, “Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Clinical Case Staff Meeting (CCSM) and Incident Determination Committee (IDC),” August 11, 2016, as amended.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with section 538 of the NDAA for FY 2018 (Public Law 115-91), domestic abuse-related sexual assault data are included in the DoD Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military as an appendix to the report.

<sup>3</sup> In FY 2022, the Department reissued policy expanding the definition of domestic abuse to include those in dating relationships. This means that newly eligible victims of domestic abuse-related sexual assault were able to access the support, advocacy, and care that FAP provides.

<sup>4</sup> Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages is 99.9.

## **Alleged Offender Characteristics**

There were 487 alleged offenders of adult sexual abuse: 462 (94.9 percent) were male and 25 (5.1 percent) were female. Of the 487 alleged offenders, 400 (82.1 percent) were military Service members, 58 (11.9 percent) were family members, 24 (4.9 percent) were non-beneficiaries, and 5 (1.0 percent)<sup>5</sup> were civilian non-DoD beneficiaries (retired Service members or government contractors).

Of the 400 alleged offenders who were military Service members, 389 (97.3 percent) were active duty, Regular Component members, and 11 (2.8 percent)<sup>6</sup> were members of the Reserves or National Guard. Of the 400 Military Service members, 364 (91.0 percent) were enlisted members, 33 (8.3 percent) were officers, and 3 (0.8 percent)<sup>7</sup> were warrant officers.

## **Accountability**

The mission and scope of FAP is to provide comprehensive clinical assessment and support services to individuals and families impacted by domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect. FAP's primary focus is to assess the risk to, and safety of, victims and families; provide support and clinical services for the victim; and provide treatment and rehabilitation of the alleged offender, when appropriate. In accordance with the responsibilities set forth in DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 1, "Family Advocacy Program (FAP): FAP Standards," FAP reports all Unrestricted Reports of domestic abuse to law enforcement within 24 hours. As part of the Coordinated Community Response model employed by DoD, first responder law enforcement (military or civilian) and military criminal investigative personnel have responsibility for investigating reports of alleged domestic abuse. Investigation, command action, and legal adjudication, as appropriate, are addressed by other organizations outside of FAP.

FAP social workers, prevention specialists, victim advocates, and nurses provide critical clinical and support services to families impacted by these often complex incidents and seek to promote the well-being of victims and to support their self-determination.

---

<sup>5</sup> Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages is 99.9.

<sup>6</sup> Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages is 100.1.

<sup>7</sup> Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages is 100.1.