

# **Department of Defense**

## **Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2016**



**May 2017**

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$112,000 for the 2016 Fiscal Year. This includes \$75,000 in expenses and \$37,000 in DoD labor.

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

CAN	Child Abuse and Neglect
CCR	Coordinated Community Response
CI	Confidence Interval
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDI	Department of Defense Instruction
DoDM	Department of Defense Manual
DMDC	Defense Manpower Data Center
FAP	Family Advocacy Program
FY	Fiscal Year
IDC	Incident Determination Committee
NDAA	National Defense Authorization Act
NPSP	New Parent Support Program
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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For 36 years, the Department of Defense (DoD) Family Advocacy Program (FAP) has worked to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse in military families. This report provides the child abuse and domestic abuse incident data from the DoD FAP Central Registry for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, as required by section 574 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2017. In addition to meeting the congressional requirement, this report also provides critical aggregate information on the demographics of these incidents that will further inform ongoing prevention and response service efforts. Using aggregated FAP Central Registry data submitted from each Military Service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force), this report offers a Department-wide picture of the child abuse and neglect (hereafter referred to together as child maltreatment) and domestic abuse incidents that were reported to FAP in FY 2016.

### **Background and Methods**

The FAP Central Registry is designed to capture reliable and consistent information on child maltreatment and domestic abuse incidents reported to FAP from each of the Military Services. Each Military Service maintains comprehensive clinical case management systems, which include the required data elements that they extract and submit quarterly to the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). Per DoD policy, DMDC operates the DoD FAP Central Registry and provides the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) FAP with aggregated data which is the basis of this report.<sup>1</sup>

### **Key Findings**

#### **Overall**

- The data contained in this report only reflect child maltreatment and domestic abuse reported to the OSD FAP in FY 2016. This data does not represent an estimate of the total amount of domestic abuse or child abuse and neglect that occurred in military families in the past fiscal year.
- Findings from this report indicate that FY 2016 rates of child abuse and neglect do not reflect statistically significant increases when compared to prior years. Specifically, the FY 2016 rates of reported child abuse and neglect, child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria, and unduplicated child abuse and neglect victims, did not vary significantly from the 10-year average rates.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The implementing policy issuance for this registry is DoDM 6400.01, Volume 2 (FAP: Child Abuse and Domestic Abuse Incident Reporting System), 11 August 2016.

<sup>2</sup> All analyses in this report tested for significance at the  $p < .05$  level, resulting in a Confidence Interval (CI) of 95%. Any value outside of this CI is indicative of a statistically significant increase or decrease not likely to have occurred by chance.

- Spouse abuse has seen a similar pattern over the past few years. The FY 2016 rates of reported spouse abuse, spouse abuse incidents that met criteria, and unduplicated spouse abuse victims, do not reflect any statistically significant increases.
- In FY 2016, the number of incidents and victims of intimate partner abuse, the number of domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse, and victims of sexual abuse were all higher than in past years, showing a pattern of incremental growth since FY 2009. While rigorous statistical analysis conducted on these key findings indicated that the FY 2016 numbers did not reflect statistically significant increases, this modest growth in the areas of intimate partner abuse and domestic abuse involving sexual abuse is of concern for the Department and warrants further observation, exploration, and rigorous analysis.
- In reports that met the DoD criteria for abuse, the offender may have been an active duty Service member, a civilian family member, or (in child abuse or neglect incidents) a caregiver outside the family. In 95 percent of the met criteria child abuse/neglect incidents, the offender was a parent or other family member.

### **Child Abuse & Neglect**

- In FY 2016, there were 13,916 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect to FAP. The FY 2016 rate of reported child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children was 14.4, which is a 7 percent decrease in reports from FY 2015 rates.
- There were 6,998 incidents of child abuse and neglect that met criteria in FY 2016. The rate of incidents that met criteria per 1,000 children remained consistent with FY 2015 rates (both 7.2).
- The DoD rates of child abuse and neglect victims are about half of their counterpart rates in the U.S. civilian population as compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.<sup>3</sup> The DoD unduplicated child victim rate for FY 2016 is 5.1 victims per 1,000 military children, and the civilian rate for FY 2015 is 9.2 per 1,000 children. Civilian data for FY 2016 are not yet available, as the report will not be released until 2018.
- Civilian data compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicate that the U.S. civilian substantiation (met criteria) rate for reported cases of child abuse and neglect was 18 percent in FY 2015<sup>4</sup> and the rates have decreased steadily since FY 2003.<sup>5</sup> The military met criteria rate for reported incidents was 50.3 percent in FY 2016 which is slightly higher than FY 2015 (46.3 percent). While both of these rates have fluctuated individually, the military met criteria rate has consistently been well above the civilian rate of substantiation in the past decade. Thus, the military rates of child maltreatment are not attributable to DoD confirming (meeting criteria on) reports at a

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<sup>3</sup> U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2017). *Child maltreatment 2015*. Available from: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2015>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> *Child Maltreatment* 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 reports.

lower rate because DoD confirms child maltreatment reports at more than double the rate of the civilian sector.

- There were 18 child abuse-related fatalities involving 23 offenders that were taken to the Incident Determination Committee and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2016. Four child victims and one met criteria offender were previously known to FAP. In the child fatality incidents, 11 of the met criteria offenders were male, 11 were female, and data on one offender's sex was missing. Twelve met criteria offenders were active duty, 10 were civilian, and the status of 1 offender was missing. All of the child victims were under 5-years old and one-half (50 percent) of the child victims were 1-year old or younger.
- Of the active duty parent met criteria child abuse and neglect offenders, 68 percent were in the pay grades E4-E6. These pay grades had the second highest rate per 1,000 at 5.2. The pay grades E1-E3 had the highest rate per 1,000 at 14.5.
- In FY 2016, 55 percent of the met criteria child abuse and neglect offenders were male, 45 percent were female. This ratio of male to female met criteria offenders has been consistent since FY 2005. Ninety-one percent of the met criteria offenders were parents.

### **Spouse Abuse**

- FYs 2007-2016 data on spouse abuse includes only those incidents involving currently married individuals. Either the victim or the offender may have been an active duty Service member or the civilian spouse of an active duty Service member. In FY 2006, an additional category, "intimate partner" was added to capture incidents involving: 1) a former spouse; 2) a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; or 3) a current or former intimate partner with whom the victim shares or has shared a common domicile. In such cases, the victim or the offender may have been an active duty Service member or a civilian. Complete data were available beginning in FY 2007.
- In FY 2016, the rate of reported spouse abuse per 1,000 couples was 23.4, which is a decrease of 1 percent when compared to FY 2015.
- In FY 2016, the unduplicated rate of victims of spouse abuse was 9.3 per 1,000 couples, an increase of 2 percent from FY 2015.
- Eight spouse abuse fatalities and one intimate partner abuse fatality were reported to FAP in FY 2016, of which three victims and three met criteria offenders were previously known to FAP. In the domestic abuse fatality reports, eight of the met criteria offenders were male, and one met criteria offender was female. Seven met criteria offenders were active duty and two met criteria offenders were civilian.
- In FY 2016, met criteria offenders who were on active duty (including Guard and Reserve in active status) represented 60 percent of all met criteria offenders.
- In FY 2016, of the active duty met criteria offenders where the grade was known, 65 percent were in pay grades E4-E6. These pay grades had the second highest spouse

abuse rate per 1,000 active duty members at 6.6. The pay grades E1-E3 had the highest rate per 1,000 active duty members at 15.3.

- In FY 2016, 65 percent of victims in spouse abuse incidents that met criteria were female. Of all spouse abuse victims in incidents that met criteria, 53 percent were military Service members and 47 percent were civilian spouses.

### **Unmarried Intimate Partner Abuse**

- In FY 2016, there were 1,022 met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse involving 847 victims. A rate per thousand of intimate partner abuse incidents and/or victims cannot be established, as data on unmarried individuals involved in intimate partner relationships as defined by DoD are not available.

### **Sexual Abuse**

- In FY 2016, there were 284 unduplicated victims of adult sexual abuse, including both spouses and unmarried intimate partners. These incidents are referred to as Domestic Abuse Related Sexual Assault in the 2016 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military. In the domestic violence field, sexual abuse remains contextually distinct from sexual assault in that it occurs within a marriage or intimate partner relationship as part of a larger pattern of behavior resulting in emotional or psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty. In FY 2016 there were a total of 299 met criteria incidents of sexual abuse, indicating that one or more victims experienced more than one incident of sexual abuse.
- Domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse comprise approximately 3 percent (3.44 percent) of all met criteria domestic abuse incidents.
- In FY 2016, 96 percent of victims of met criteria sexual abuse incidents were female. Of all sexual abuse victims in met criteria incidents, 60 percent were family members and 37 percent were military Service members.

## **Program & Policy Implications**

The Department is committed to keeping our children safe and healthy and to doing all that it can to prevent child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse/intimate partner violence in our military communities. Findings from the FY 2016 FAP Central Registry data indicate that rates of child abuse and neglect and spouse abuse have not substantially increased in recent years, which may be a sign of the comprehensive prevention strategy and additional research efforts to reduce the incidents of family maltreatment and support military families. However, continual monitoring and assessment in areas relating to key findings – particularly to monitor incidents of child abuse and neglect, focus on incidents of sexual abuse and intimate partner violence, and expand the available tools to measure FAP effectiveness – are necessary to inform current and future program efforts.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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For 36 years, the DoD FAP has worked to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse in military families. Family maltreatment is incompatible with military values and ultimately impacts mission readiness. The Department is dedicated to addressing issues of family violence to ensure the health and safety of military families.

This report provides the child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse incident data from the DoD FAP Central Registry for FY 2016, as required by section 574 of the NDAA for FY 2017. In addition to meeting the congressional requirement, this report also provides critical aggregate information on the demographics of these incidents, which will further inform ongoing prevention and response service efforts. Using aggregated FAP Central Registry data submitted from each Military Service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force), this report offers a Department-wide picture of the child maltreatment and domestic abuse incidents that were reported to FAP in FY 2016.

Although FY 2017 is the first year that FAP is required to provide an annual report to Congress on the incidence of child abuse and domestic abuse in military families, OSD FAP has aggregated this data for analysis annually for the past 25 years and has briefed senior DoD leadership, Congressional staff, and the Military Departments on relevant findings each year.

Subsequent report sections will include a brief description of the FAP, congressional reporting requirements for child maltreatment and domestic abuse incidents, and a review of the findings from an analysis of the FY 2016 FAP central registry data. The report concludes with an analysis of the effectiveness of the Family Advocacy Program, as well as an overview of potential implications for current and future policy and program initiatives.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

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FAP is a congressionally mandated DoD program designed to be the policy proponent for and a key element of the DoD's coordinated community response (CCR) system for preventing and responding to reports of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse in military families. The Service FAPs at every military installation where families are located work closely with the other entities within the CCR (law enforcement, legal, military criminal investigative organizations, chaplains, Command, child and youth programs, and medical) as well as with civilian social services agencies and civilian law enforcement to provide comprehensive prevention and response to family maltreatment.

The mission of FAP is to provide comprehensive prevention, advocacy, early identification, clinical treatment of child and domestic abuse victims and offenders, and intensive home visitation for expecting and new parents. To execute this mission, DoD funds approximately

2,000 positions in the Military Departments to deliver FAP services, including credentialed or licensed clinical providers, Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates, New Parent Support Program Home Visitors, and prevention staff. Family Advocacy staff are mandated reporters to the state Child Protective Services for all allegations of child abuse and neglect, and they are considered “covered professionals” under 42 USC §13031, Child Abuse Reporting. DoD policy<sup>6</sup> also requires the Services’ FAPs to report incidents of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse to OSD through the DoD FAP Central Registry. In recent years, DoD has enhanced the emphasis on preventing the occurrence of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse through Department-wide initiatives and programs within in each Military Service.

Once reports of child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse are received by FAP, they are taken to the Incident Determination Committee to determine whether the incident meets criteria for abuse, as defined by DoD.<sup>7</sup> The Incident Determination Committee (IDC) uses a standardized research-based decision tree algorithm to decide which reports for suspected child abuse or domestic abuse meet the DoD definition of abuse, as well as entry into the Service FAP headquarters central registry of child abuse and domestic abuse incidents. The IDC is comprised of the deputy to the installation or garrison commander who serves as the chair, the senior enlisted noncommissioned officer advisor to the chair, a representative from the Staff Judge Advocate’s office, a representative from military law enforcement, and the FAP Manager or FAP supervisor of clinical services. The case is presented to the IDC, followed by the members voting to determine whether the incident meets the criteria for an act or failure to act, and a resulting impact, according to standards specified in Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 6400.01 Volume 3. The IDC is not a disciplinary proceeding in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice; it is a clinical process to determine whether an incident meets the threshold for more rigorous treatment, intervention, support, safety planning, and victim protection.

The DoD review of child abuse and domestic abuse related fatalities is also required by policy<sup>8</sup> that directs the Secretaries of the Military Departments (Army, Navy to include Marine Corps, and Air Force) to conduct a multidisciplinary, impartial review of each fatality known or suspected to have resulted from domestic violence or child abuse. Each Military Department has its own team and conducts its own internal review on an annual basis. In order to avoid interference with ongoing investigations and prosecutions, fatalities are reviewed by the military departments retrospectively, generally two years after their occurrence or in the first year that the disposition becomes closed. This delay ensures that the review is able to account for all available information. OSD FAP holds an annual Fatality Review Summit to discuss the findings of the reviews held in the previous year at the Military Department level; thus, the DoD

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<sup>6</sup> DoDM 6400.01, Volume 2, 11 August 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6400.03 (Family Advocacy Command Assistance Team (FACAT)), 25 April 2014 and DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, (FAP: Clinical Case Staff Meeting and Incident Determination Committee), 11 August 2016.

<sup>8</sup> DoDI 6400.06 (Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel), Incorporating Change 2, effective 9 July 2015.

Fatality Review Summit examines deaths three years after occurrence. The purpose of the DoD Fatality Review Summit is to conduct deliberative examinations of the systemic interventions provided to the deceased, to formulate lessons learned from agency or system failures and identify trends and patterns to assist in prevention efforts across the Department, as well as developing policy for earlier and more effective intervention.

## Central Registry

The FAP Central Registry is designed to capture reliable and consistent information on child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse incidents reported to FAP from each of the Military Services. It is based on DoDM 6400.01, Volume 2, “Family Advocacy Program: Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse Incident Reporting System.” that directs Service FAPs to track incidents of domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect that meet criteria for abuse. Each Military Service maintains comprehensive clinical case management systems, which include the required data elements that are extracted and submitted quarterly to the DMDC in the Central Registry of reports. Per DoD policy, DMDC operates the DoD FAP Central Registry and provides DoD FAP with aggregate data, which is the basis of this report.<sup>9</sup>

The DoD Central Registry contains information on: (1) reports of abuse that did not meet criteria for child or domestic maltreatment, in which identifiable individual information is not tracked; and (2) information on reports of abuse that meet objective, standardized criteria and are linked to identifiable Service members, their family members and the alleged offenders. Specifically, the Services are required to submit information on 46 data elements on met criteria incidents, delineated in DoD Policy, which include:

- Service, location, relevant dates, case status, and source of referral;
- Demographic data on the military sponsor, victim, and alleged offenders including name, social security number, branch of Service, military status, sex, ethnicity, age, and interrelationship indicators;
- Type of abuse or maltreatment, level of severity, and resulting fatalities.

The DoD FAP Central Registry **does not** include measures of accountability (command action), law enforcement data, or legal disposition. These processes are distinctly different processes from FAP intervention and services.

The data from the DoD Central Registry is broadly used to assist in overall management of the DoD FAP, to inform prevention and intervention initiatives, to determine budget and program funding, and to conduct research, as well as to prepare for reports to Congress, respond to public/other governmental inquiries, and formulate ad hoc reports relating to the volume and

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<sup>9</sup> DoDM 6400.01, Volume 2, 11 August 2016.

nature of family violence cases handled by the Military Services through outreach, prevention, and intervention efforts. DoD and Military Service FAP Central Registry data is used to conduct background checks on individuals seeking employment in DoD-sanctioned child and youth serving organizations that involve contact with minor children.

## **Methods of Data Collection & Analysis**

As noted, this report relies on Central Registry data that was extracted by each Military Service and submitted to DMDC for FY 2016 (October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016). DMDC then aggregates this data, provides initial quality assurance checks, and provides OSD FAP with information on the incidence of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse across the Department.

DMDC has been providing this aggregate FY FAP data for the last 25 years; however, the timeframe of data submission and analysis was adjusted substantially in FY 2017 to coordinate with the April 30, 2017, release of the DoD FY 2016 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military. Services submitted FY 2016 data no later than December 20, 2016, for inclusion in this report. All statistical analyses included in this report were performed only after this data had undergone a series of rigorous quality control checks to ensure uniformity and validity of aggregate data.

Previous fiscal year data on both domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect contained met criteria incidents that included multiple types of maltreatment in one entry (e.g., physical, sexual, emotional, neglect). Beginning in FY 2015, the process was standardized such that each met criteria incident represents only one type of maltreatment. Thus, more than one incident may be submitted on an individual victim. This treatment of incident data provides a more comprehensive picture of incidents of abuse experienced by military families, and aligns with the approach used by the Department of Health and Human Services for reporting civilian data in their annual report to Congress, *2015 Child Maltreatment*.<sup>10</sup>

Incidents of domestic abuse are reported separately as spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse (see definitions in Section 4). Rates of intimate partner abuse across the military are not reportable as data to establish a denominator (number of Service members in an intimate partner relationship as defined by DoD) are unavailable. Any notable increases or upward movement in key rates and findings command the attention of OSD FAP to ensure that any perceived increase in family violence is analyzed for significance and potential causes. This approach ensures that OSD FAP is able to reconcile any potential contributing factors from both a mathematical and programmatic lens.

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<sup>10</sup> U.S Department of Health and Human Services. (2017). *Child maltreatment 2015*.

Statistical analyses were conducted to determine whether rates of child abuse and neglect, spouse abuse, and intimate partner abuse differed significantly from rates in prior fiscal years. All analyses in this report tested for significance at the  $p < .05$  level, resulting in a Confidence Interval (CI) of 95 percent. Any value outside of this CI is indicative of a statistically significant increase or decrease not likely to have occurred by chance.

## **Key Findings**

The data contained in this report only reflects child maltreatment and domestic abuse reported to the OSD FAP in FY 2016. This data does not represent an estimate of the total amount of domestic abuse or child abuse and neglect that occurred in military families in the past fiscal year.

Findings from this report indicate that FY 2016 rates of child abuse and neglect do not reflect statistically significant increases when compared to prior years. Specifically, the FY 2016 rates of reported child abuse and neglect (14.4/1,000 children), child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria (7.2/1,000 children), and unduplicated child abuse and neglect victims (5.1/1,000 children) did not vary significantly from the 10-year average rates.

Spouse abuse has seen a similar pattern over the past few years. The FY 2016 rates of reported spouse abuse (23.4/1,000 married couples), spouse abuse incidents that met criteria (11.8/1,000 married couples), and unduplicated spouse abuse victims (9.3/1,000 married couples) do not reflect any statistically significant increases.

It is not possible to calculate rates per thousand for intimate partner abuse incidents and/or victims, as data on unmarried individuals involved in intimate partner relationships defined by DoD is not available. In FY 2016, the number of incidents of intimate partner abuse (1,022) and number of unduplicated victims of intimate partner abuse (847) are higher than in past years. However, statistical analysis conducted on these key findings indicated that the FY 2016 numbers did not reflect statistically significant increases and the fluctuation in FY 2016 did not exceed that which would be expected by chance.

Finally, the number of domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse in FY 2016 (299 incidents) and the percentage of domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse (3.44 percent) are also higher than in previous years. Analysis conducted on the number of incidents and percentage of domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse in FY 2016 do not represent statistically significant increases. However, the incremental growth in the number of incidents and victims for intimate partner abuse and sexual abuse is of concern for the Department and warrants further exploration and analysis to better understand these cumulative increases.

### **3. CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT**

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This section discusses reports to FAP of child abuse and neglect in FY 2016, incidents of child abuse and neglect that met criteria for child abuse and neglect, and the characteristics of the children and associated alleged offenders for cases that met criteria.

DoD policy defines child abuse and neglect for military families in the following manner:

- **Child abuse:** “The physical or sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect of a child by a parent, guardian, foster parent, or by a caregiver, whether the caregiver is interfamilial or extrafamilial, under circumstances indicating the child’s welfare is harmed or threatened. Such acts by a sibling, other family member, or other person shall be deemed to be child abuse only when the individual is providing care under express or implied agreement with the parent, guardian, or foster parent.”<sup>11</sup>
- **Child neglect** is defined as “the negligent treatment of a child through acts or omissions by an individual responsible for the child’s welfare under circumstances indicating the child’s welfare is harmed or threatened.” Neglect includes abandonment, medical neglect, and/or non-organic failure to thrive.<sup>12</sup>

Child abuse and neglect, per DoD policy, represents four distinct types of maltreatment: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Each of these types of maltreatment is outlined in implementing guidance for use during the standardized incident determination process.<sup>13</sup>

It is possible for one report of child abuse and neglect to involve more than one type of maltreatment (i.e., physical abuse and neglect). More than one incident may be submitted on an individual victim, and each incident is considered separately to determine whether it meets criteria for child maltreatment. Beginning in FY 2015, OSD FAP began to treat each reported type of maltreatment as representing one distinct incident to capture a more comprehensive picture of well-being for children in military families. This approach is consistent with how other federal agencies report incidents of child abuse and neglect and therefore enables us to make more direct comparisons to civilian populations. Therefore, OSD FAP calculates two distinct rates for child abuse and neglect: the child victimization rate (which counts the number of children who have experienced child abuse and neglect in the fiscal year) and the rate of incidents of child maltreatment that met criteria. The rate of met criteria incidents reflects each type of maltreatment and each offender reported to FAP as a distinct incident, and is not indicative of the unique number of children who experience maltreatment.

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<sup>11</sup> DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, 11 August 2016 and DoDI 6400.03, 25 April 2014.

<sup>12</sup> DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, 11 August 2016.

<sup>13</sup> DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, 11 August 2016.

Although the child victimization rate for child abuse and neglect has experienced slight fluctuations over the past 10 years (FYs 2007-2016), there was a meaningful year-to-year upward trend in the rate of incidents of child maltreatment which met criteria from FY 2009 through FY 2014 (see Table 2 and Figure 4). This overall upward trend in child abuse and neglect incidents was primarily due to a steady increase in the number of incidents involving child neglect during that timeframe. In FY 2015, more than one-half (58 percent) of incidents of child abuse and neglect that met criteria involved child neglect. The two most prevalent forms of child neglect in military families are: (1) a lack of supervision that is appropriate to the age and functioning of the child; and (2) exposure to physical hazards, such as bathtubs, electrical outlets, and unsafe cribs. The increase in incidents of child neglect spurred heightened DoD attention and monitoring beginning in FY 2015 and resulted in a new campaign to address child neglect.

### 3-1 INCIDENTS

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As shown in Table 1, there were 13,916 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect to FAP in FY 2016. The FY 2016 rate of reported incidents of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children was 14.4 (see Figure 1), which is a 7 percent decrease in reported incidents from the rate per 1,000 in FY 2015 (15.5).<sup>14</sup>

**Table 1. Reports and Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect (FYs 2007-2016)**

Year	Child Population	Reported Incidents*	Rate/1000	Met Criteria Incidents*	Rate/1000
FY07	1,103,270	13,788	12.5	5,434	4.9
FY08	1,122,098	12,661	11.3	5,406	4.8
FY09	1,147,318	12,845	11.2	5,499	4.8
FY10	1,166,079	14,986	12.9	6,633	5.7
FY11	1,165,812	15,081	12.9	6,819	5.8
FY12	1,140,024	15,656	13.7	7,003	6.1
FY13	1,099,702	15,346	14.0	6,989	6.4
FY14	1,050,889	16,526	15.7	7,676	7.3
FY15	1,005,626	15,579	15.5	7,208	7.2
<b>FY16</b>	<b>969,058</b>	<b>13,916</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>6,998</b>	<b>7.2</b>

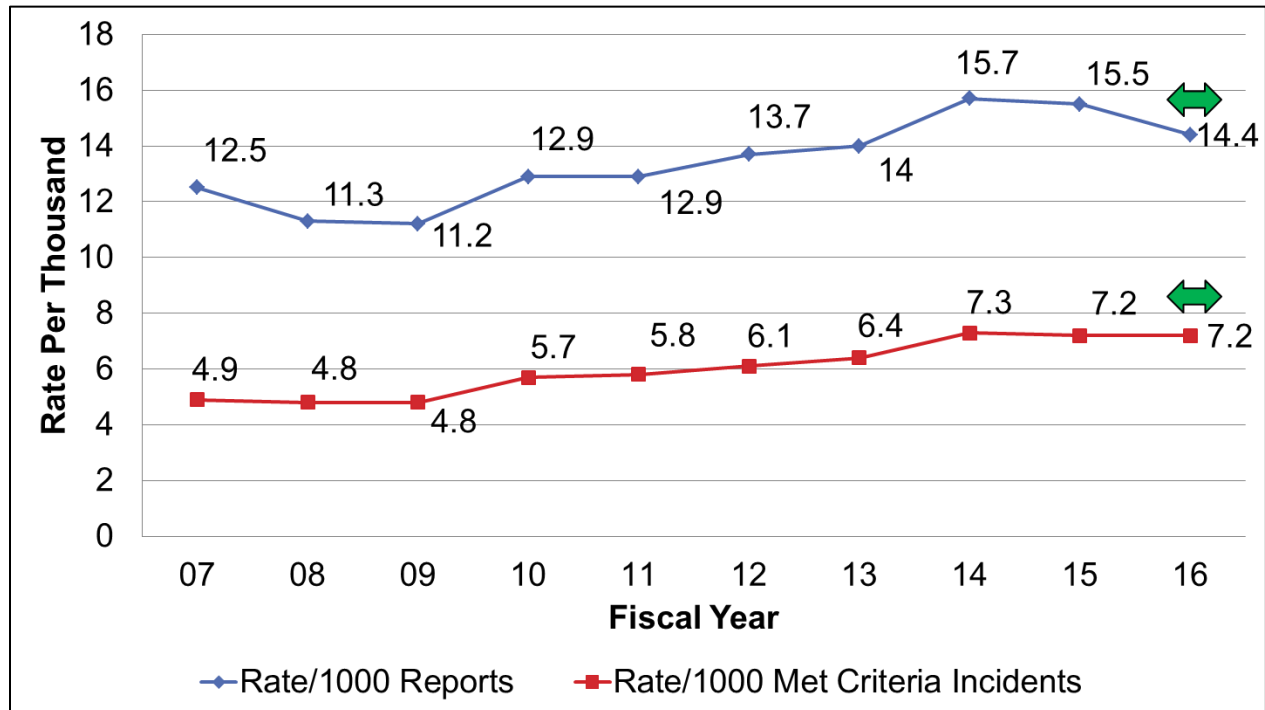
**Note:** Prior to FY 2015, incidents may have included multiple types of maltreatment (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect) under one incident report.

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<sup>14</sup> Although Figure 1 shows year to year variations between FY07 and FY16 in the number of child abuse and neglect incidents reported per 1,000 children, the FY16 rate of reported child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children (14.4) did not vary significantly from the 10-year average rate of reported child abuse and neglect incidents (95% CI [9.85, 16.97]).

There were 6,998 incidents of child abuse and neglect that met criteria in FY 2016. The rate of incidents that met criteria per 1,000 children in FY 2016, however, remained consistent with FY 2015 rates (both 7.2 per 1,000 children).<sup>15</sup>

**Figure 1. Child Abuse and Neglect Report vs. Met Criteria Incident Rates Per 1,000 Children**

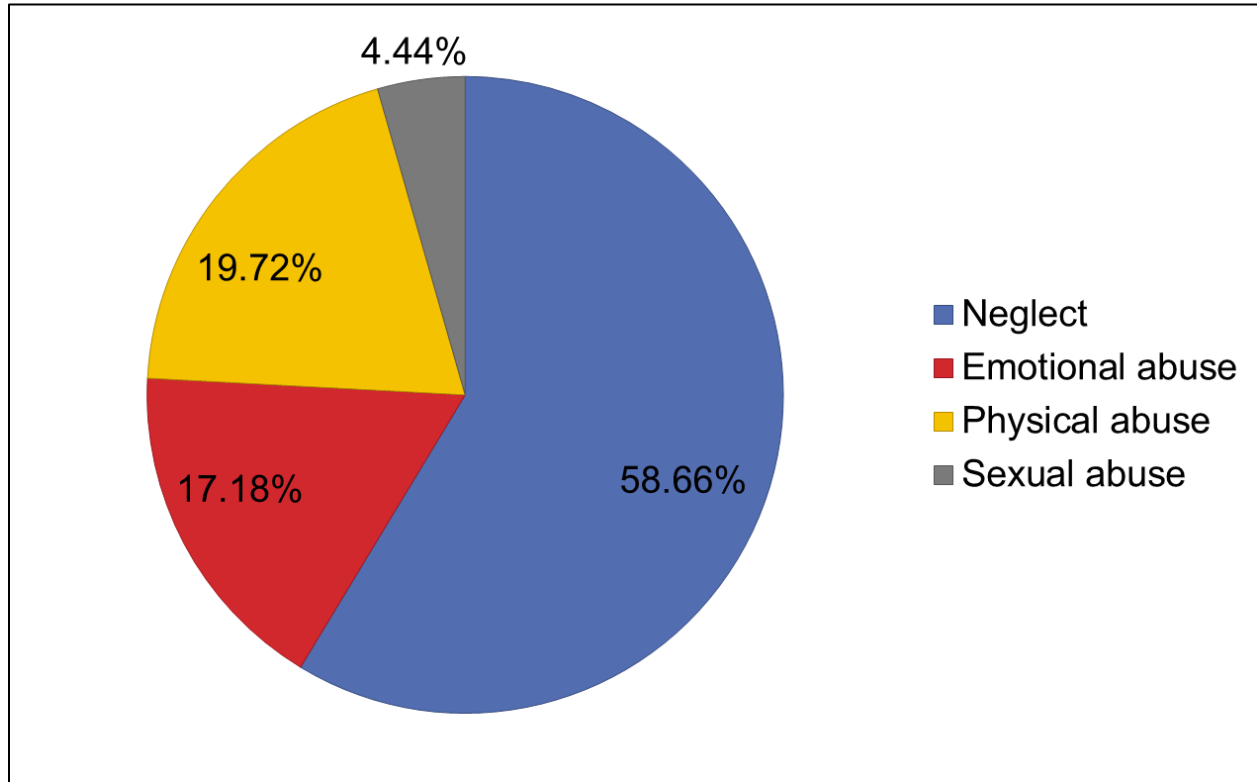


**Note:** Statistical differences are determined at  $p < .05$  levels.

<sup>15</sup> Despite year-to-year variation in the rate of child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria per 1,000 children (see Figure 1), the FY16 rate (7.2) did not vary significantly from the 10-year average rate of incidents that met criteria (95% CI [3.73, 8.31]).

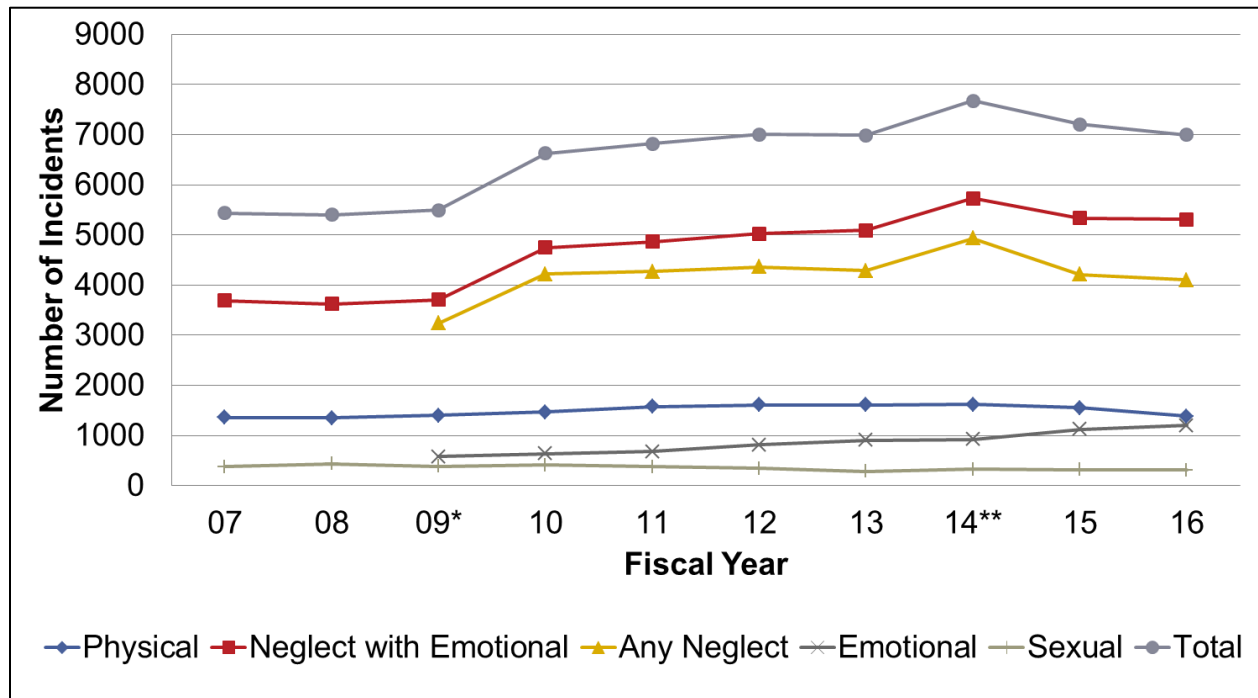
As shown in Figure 2, neglect represented the largest percentage of met criteria incidents in FY 2016 (58.66 percent). In FY 2016, physical abuse (19.72 percent) represented the next largest percentage of met criteria incidents, followed by emotional abuse (17.18 percent) and sexual abuse (4.44 percent).

***Figure 2. Type of Child Abuse and Neglect in FY 2016 Met Criteria Incidents***



The trajectory of each type of child maltreatment is displayed in Figure 3. As discussed previously, the upward trend in met criteria incidents from FY 2009 to FY 2014 was driven primarily by the steady increase in incidents during those years that involved child neglect, whereas the numbers for other types of child maltreatment stayed fairly steady. The number of these met criteria incidents involving child neglect has decreased in both FY 2015 and FY 2016.

**Figure 3. Child Abuse and Neglect Met Criteria Incidents by Maltreatment Type Over Time**



**Note:** FY09 was the first year any neglect could be calculated separately from emotional abuse.

### 3-2 VICTIM PROFILE

This section describes children who were the subjects of reports of child abuse and neglect to FAP, as well as the characteristics of children involved in incidents that met criteria for child abuse and neglect, and a comparison to the most recent civilian child abuse and neglect data.

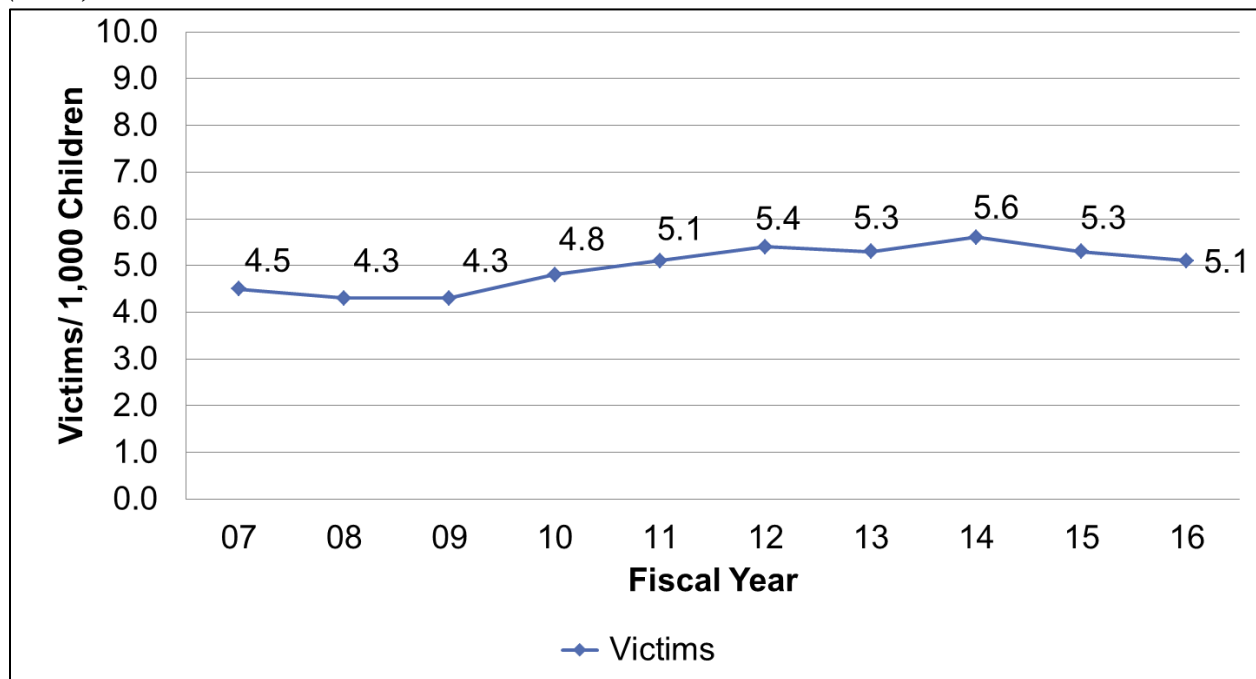
As shown in Table 2, there were 4,960 unduplicated victims of child abuse and neglect in FY 2016. The FY 2016 child abuse and neglect victim rate per 1,000 children is 5.1 (see Figure 4), which is a 4 percent decrease from FY 2015.<sup>16</sup>

**Table 2. Unduplicated Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect (FYs 2007-2016)**

Year	Met Criteria Incidents	Unduplicated Victims	Child Population	Met Criteria Incidents/1000 Children	Victims/1000 Children
FY07	5,434	4,951	1,103,270	4.9	4.5
FY08	5,406	4,857	1,122,098	4.8	4.3
FY09	5,499	4,944	1,147,318	4.8	4.3
FY10	6,633	5,560	1,166,079	5.7	4.8
FY11	6,819	5,994	1,165,812	5.8	5.1
FY12	7,003	6,123	1,140,024	6.1	5.4
FY13	6,989	5,871	1,099,702	6.4	5.3
FY14	7,676	5,838	1,050,889	7.3	5.6
FY15	7,208	5,378	1,005,626	7.2	5.3
FY16	6,998	4,960	969,058	7.2	5.1

<sup>16</sup> Although the current child abuse and neglect victim rate per 1,000 children is numerically higher than in FY07 (see Figure 4), the FY16 annual rate did not reflect a statistically significant increase when compared to the 10-year average child victim rate (95% CI [3.89, 6.04]).

**Figure 4. Unduplicated Child Victim Rate Per 1,000 in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Incidents**



#### *Comparison to Civilian Data*

Civilian data compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicate that the U.S. civilian substantiation<sup>17</sup> rates for reported cases of child abuse and neglect were 18 percent in FY 2015, and the rates have decreased steadily since FY 2003.<sup>18</sup> The military met criteria rate for reported incidents was 50.3 percent in FY 2016 which is slightly higher than FY 2015 (46.3 percent). While both of these rates have fluctuated individually, the military met criteria rate has consistently been well above the civilian rate of substantiation in the past decade. Thus, the military rates of child maltreatment are not attributable to DoD confirming (meeting criteria on) reports at a lower rate because DoD confirms child maltreatment reports at more than double the rate of the civilian sector.

The DoD rates of child abuse and neglect victims are almost half of their counterpart rates in the U.S. civilian population as compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.<sup>19</sup> The DoD victim rate for FY 2016 is 5.1 per 1,000 military children, and the civilian rate for FY

<sup>17</sup> Civilian child protective service agencies use the term “substantiate” to designate when an investigation indicated that child abuse or neglect occurred. In 2010, FAP adopted the IDC and standardized research-based decision tree algorithm to determine whether an incident “meets criteria” for abuse or neglect as defined by the DoD. For the purposes of this report, the terms “substantiated” and “met criteria” represent equivalent determinations.

<sup>18</sup> *Child Maltreatment* 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 reports.

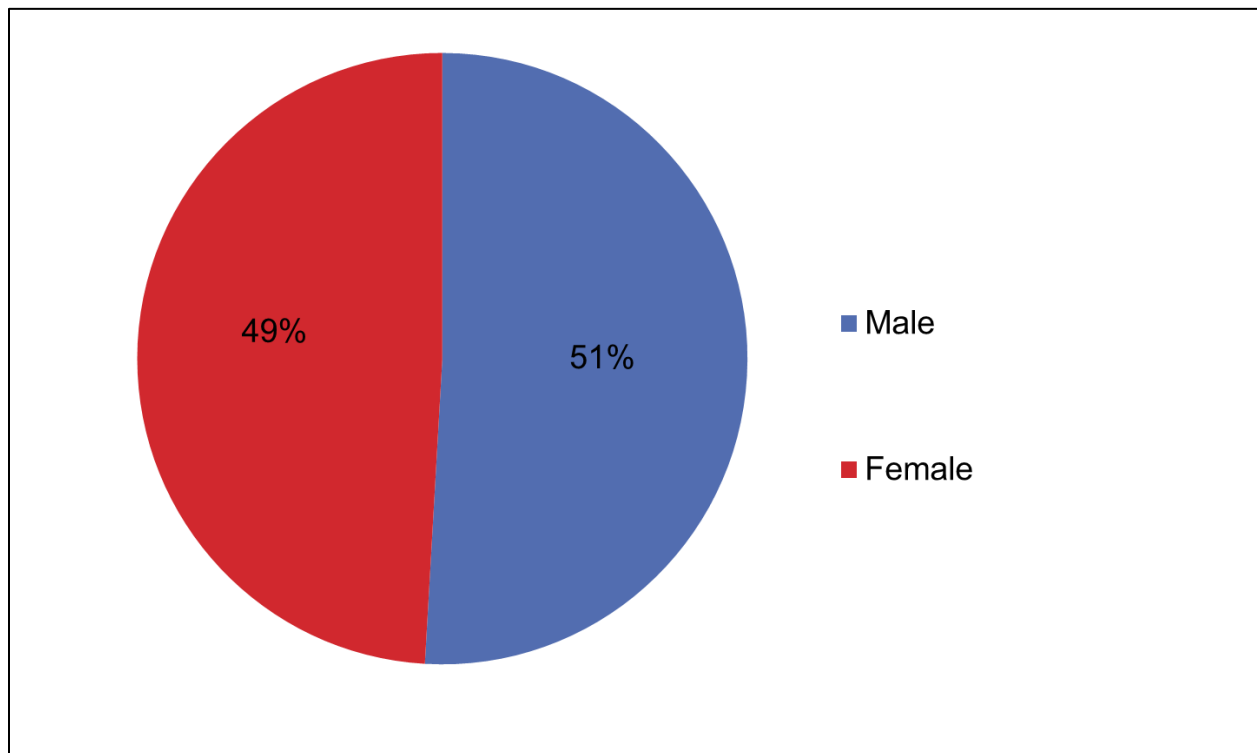
<sup>19</sup> U.S Department of Health and Human Services. (2017). *Child maltreatment 2015*.

2015 is 9.2 per 1,000 children. Civilian data for FY 2016 are not yet available, as the report will be released in early 2018.

*Demographic Characteristics of Child Victims*

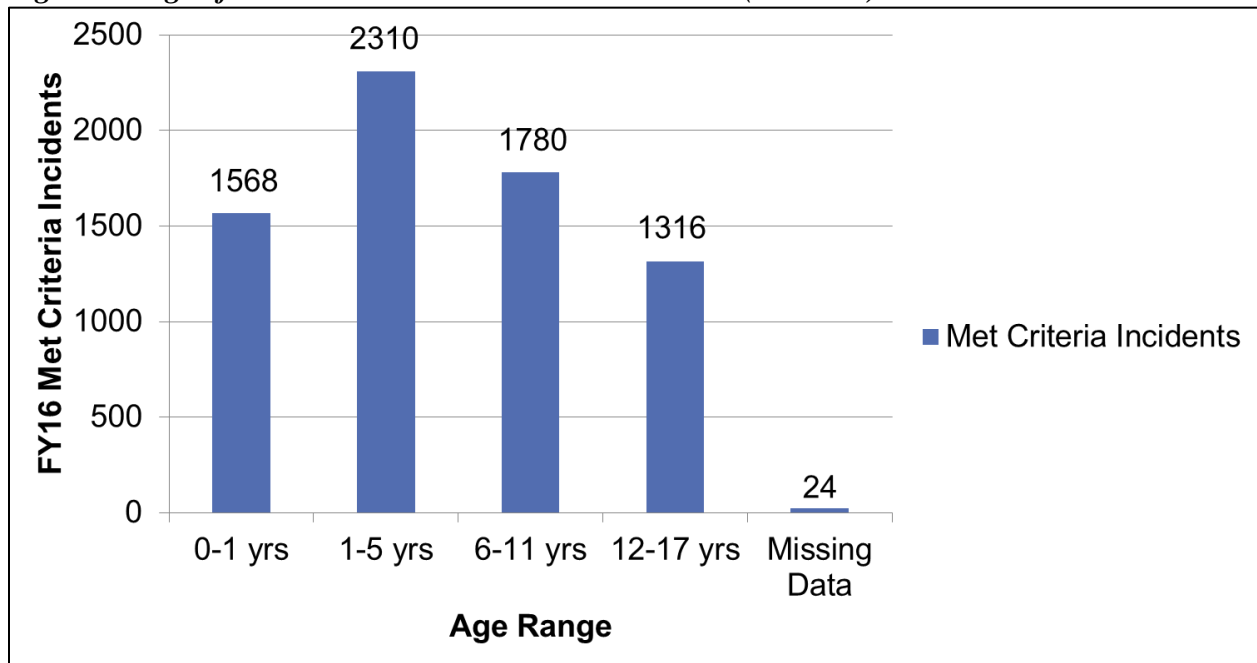
As shown in Figure 5, the sex of child abuse and neglect victims in met criteria incidents in FY 2016 is nearly evenly divided, with 49 percent of incidents involving females and 51 percent involving males.

**Figure 5. Sex of Child Abuse and Neglect Victims in Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2016)**



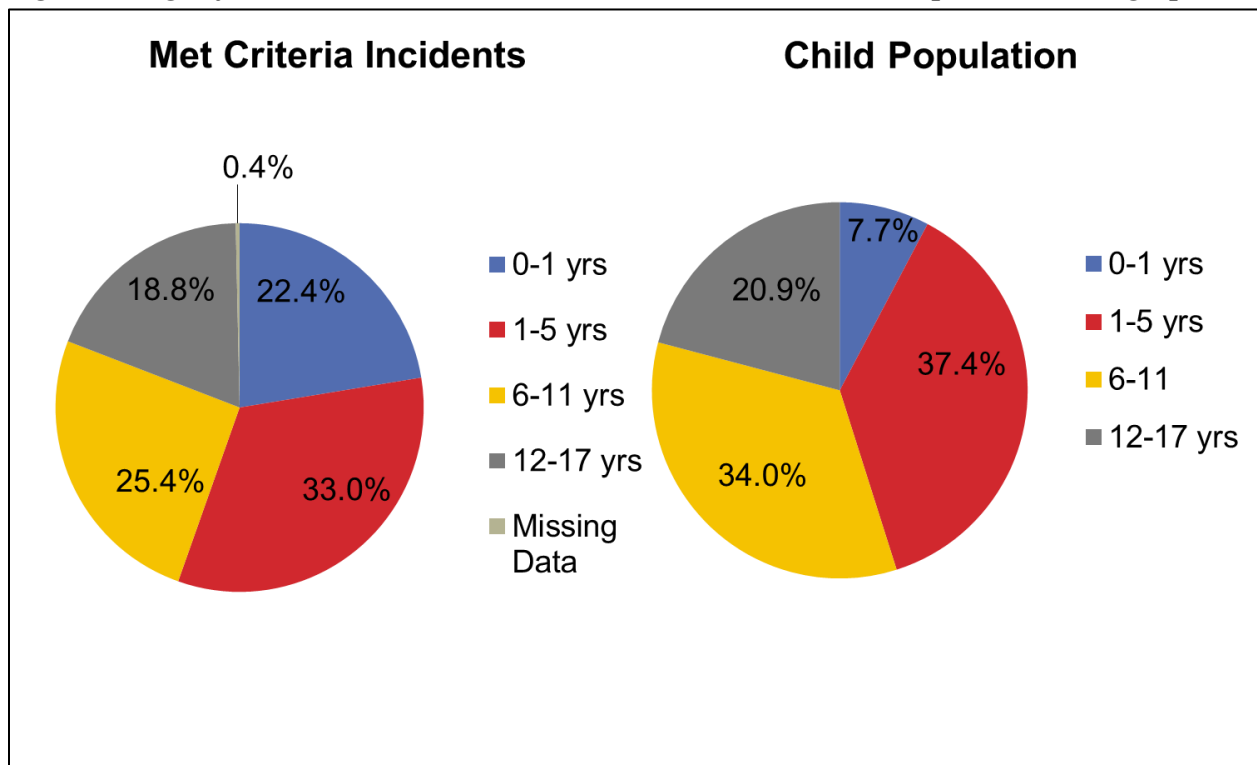
Figures 6 and 7 highlight the age distribution of child victims in met criteria CAN incidents. In FY 2016 there were 3,878 child victims in met criteria CAN incidents who were age 5 or younger, representing a little more than one-half (55.4 percent) of all victims of child maltreatment in FY 2016. Of these children, there were 1,568 under one year of age (22.4 percent) and 2,310 (33 percent) who were age 1-5 years old. Children age 6-11 represented one-quarter (25.4 percent; 1,780 children) of victims in met criteria incidents of abuse or neglect, and just under one-fifth (18.8 percent; 1,316 children) were between the ages of 12 and 17.

**Figure 6. Age of Victim in Met Criteria CAN Incidents (FY 2016)**



When compared to the total population of children in military families in FY 2016, the disparity between proportions of young children (age birth to five) in met criteria incidents is pronounced. As displayed in Figure 7, a much greater proportion of children in met criteria incidents of child maltreatment are under the age of one when compared to the total child population (22.4 percent vs. 7.7 percent). Meanwhile, there are fewer child victims in met criteria incidents age 1-5 (33 percent of met criteria incidents vs. 37.4 percent of total child population), 6-11 (25.4 percent) and 12-17 (18.8 percent) when compared to the total child population (34 percent and 20.9 percent, respectively).

**Figure 7. Age of Victim in FY 2016 Met Criteria CAN Incidents, Compared to Demographics**



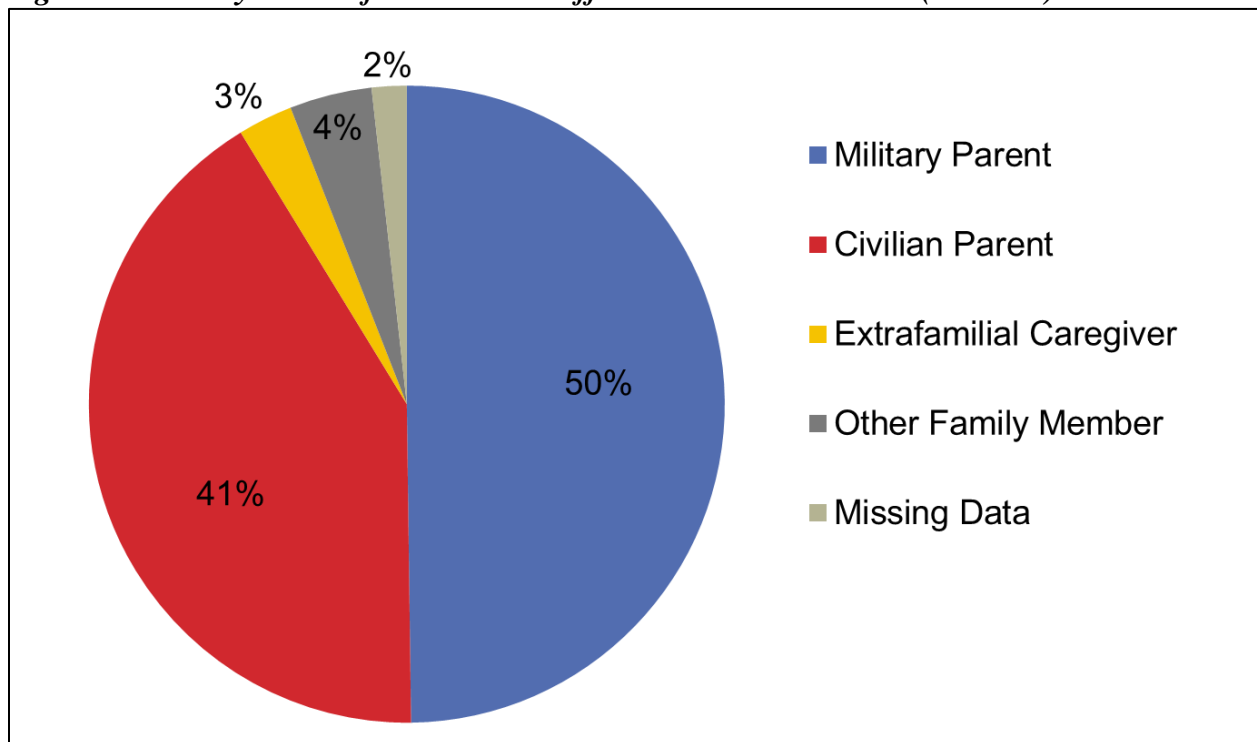
### 3-3. OFFENDER PROFILE

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This section describes met criteria offenders of child abuse and neglect reported to FAP, as well as characteristics, including military status and pay grade.

Of the met criteria offenders who were involved in incidents of child abuse and neglect in FY 2016, one-half (50 percent) were parents who were in the military (see Figure 8). The next largest group of offenders was civilian parents (41 percent), whereas other family members (4 percent) and extrafamilial caregivers (3 percent) were also represented. Approximately two percent of offenders had an unknown status due to missing data.

**Figure 8. Military Status of Met Criteria Offender in CAN Incidents (FY 2016)**



**Note:** Military includes active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status

As shown in Figure 9, the status distribution of met criteria offenders has been relatively consistent since FY 2007. In FY 2016, a little more than one-half (54 percent) of offenders were active duty members and 46 percent were civilians.

**Figure 9. Military Status of Met Criteria Offender in CAN Incidents (FYs 2007-2016)**

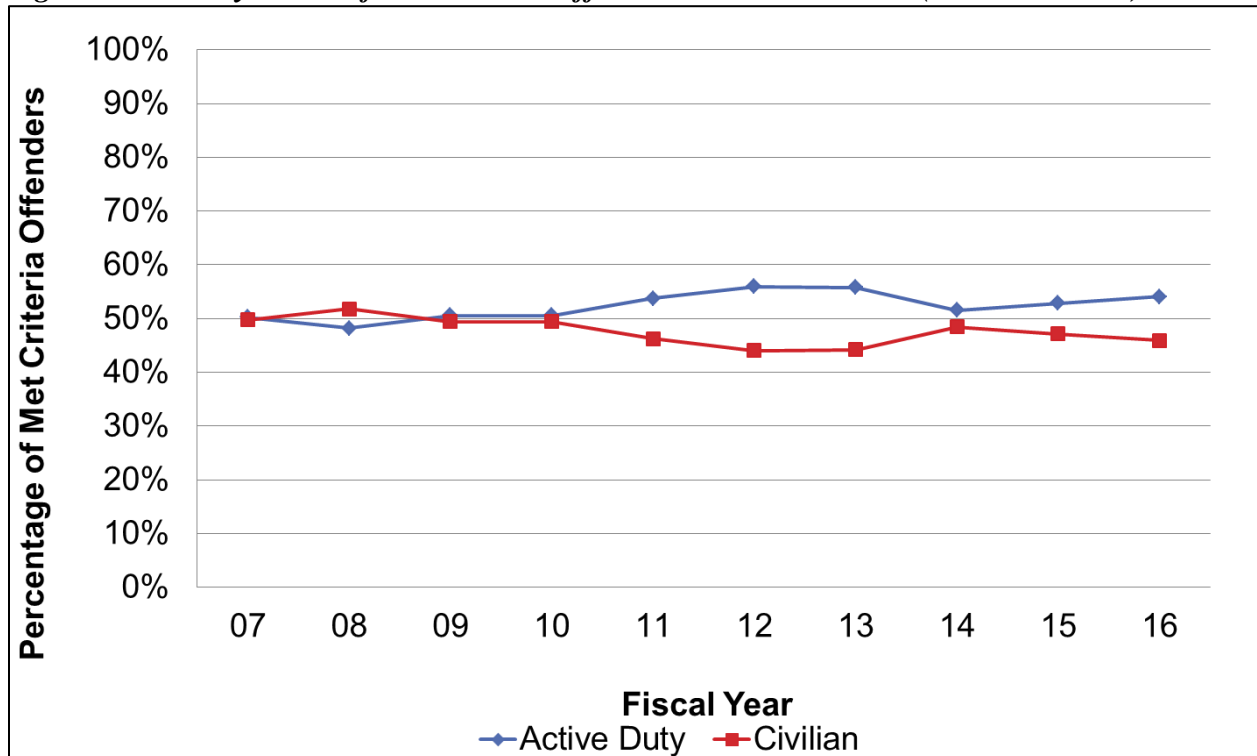
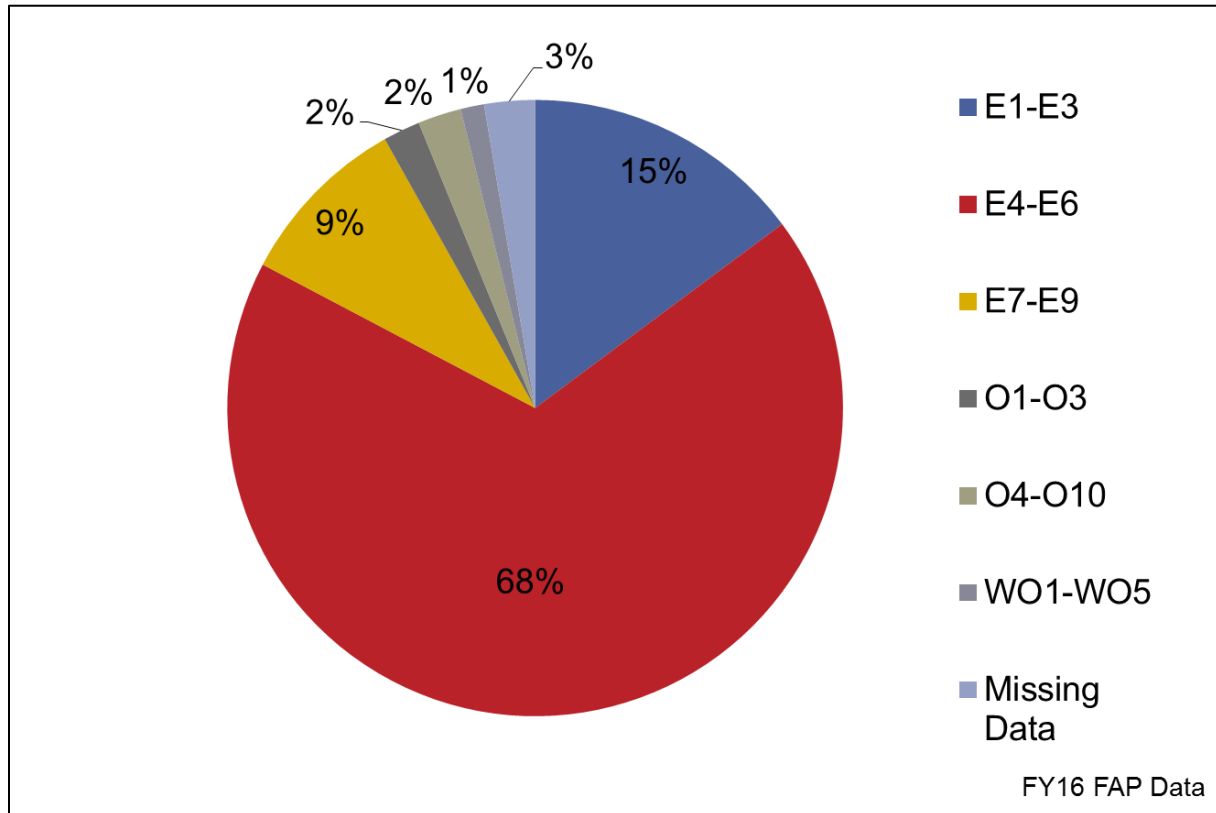


Figure 10 displays the pay grade breakdown for military parent offenders who met criteria for child abuse and neglect. The majority of parent offenders were junior enlisted members; of which most (68 percent) were E4-E6 and 15 percent were E1-E3. Fewer parent offenders were senior enlisted (E7-E9; 9 percent) and officers (2 percent were O1-O3; 2 percent were O4-O10; and 2 percent were WO1-WO5). Three percent of military parent offenders were missing a pay grade designation.

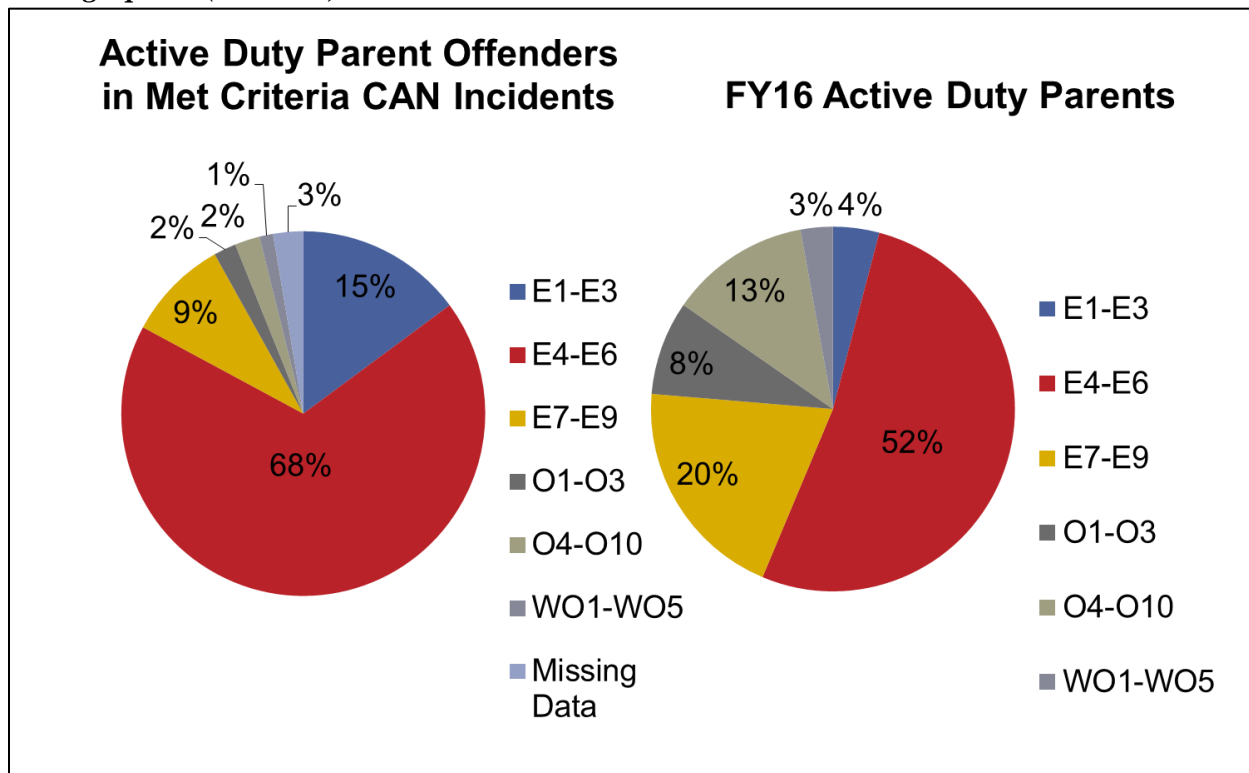
**Figure 10. Military Parent Met Criteria Offenders by Pay Grade (FY 2016)**



**Note:** Military includes active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

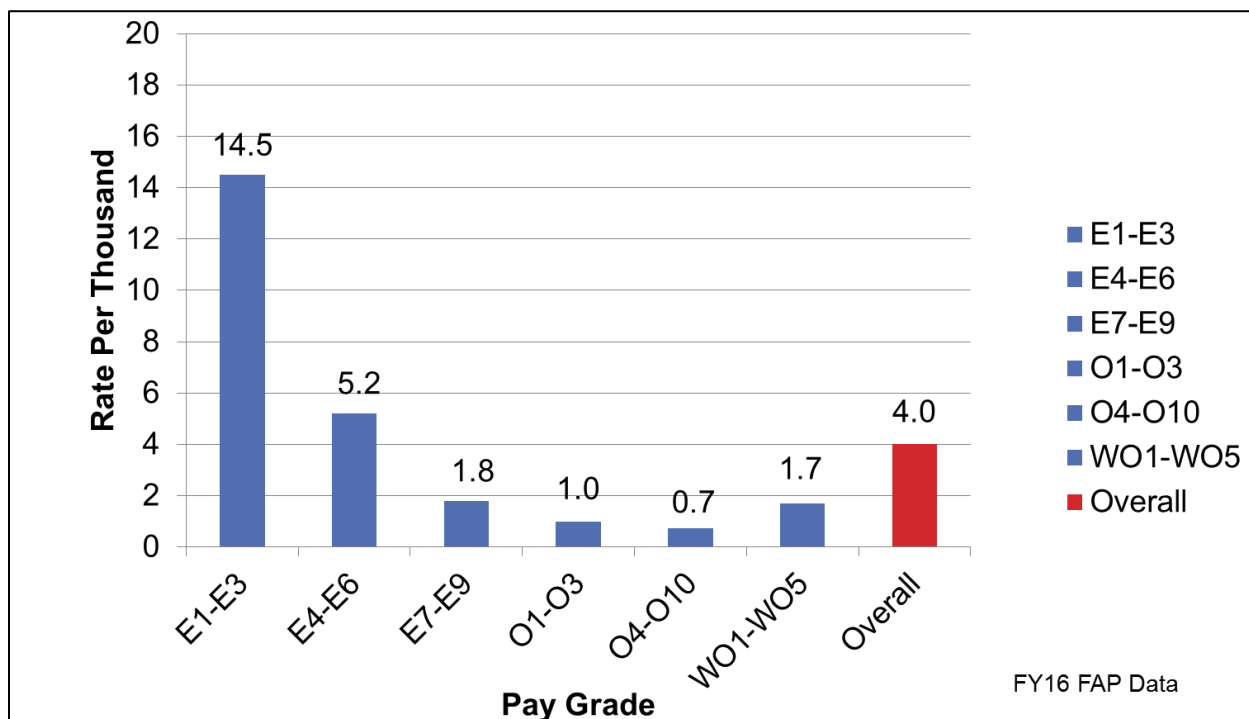
When compared to the total population of active duty parents in FY 2016, the differences between proportions of military parent offenders in met criteria incidents are pronounced. As displayed in Figure 11, a much greater proportion of active duty parents in met criteria incidents of child maltreatment are in the E4-E6 pay grade (68 percent vs. 52 percent) and the E1-E3 pay grade (15 percent vs 4 percent). Meanwhile, there are fewer active duty parents involved in met criteria incidents in the E7-E9 pay grade (9 percent of met criteria incidents vs. 20 percent of total active duty parent population), O1-O3 (2 percent vs 8 percent), and O4-O10 (2 percent vs 13 percent) when compared to the total child population. Three percent of active duty parent offenders were missing a pay grade designation.

**Figure 11. Active Duty Parent Met Criteria Offenders by Pay Grade, Compared to Demographics (FY 2016)**



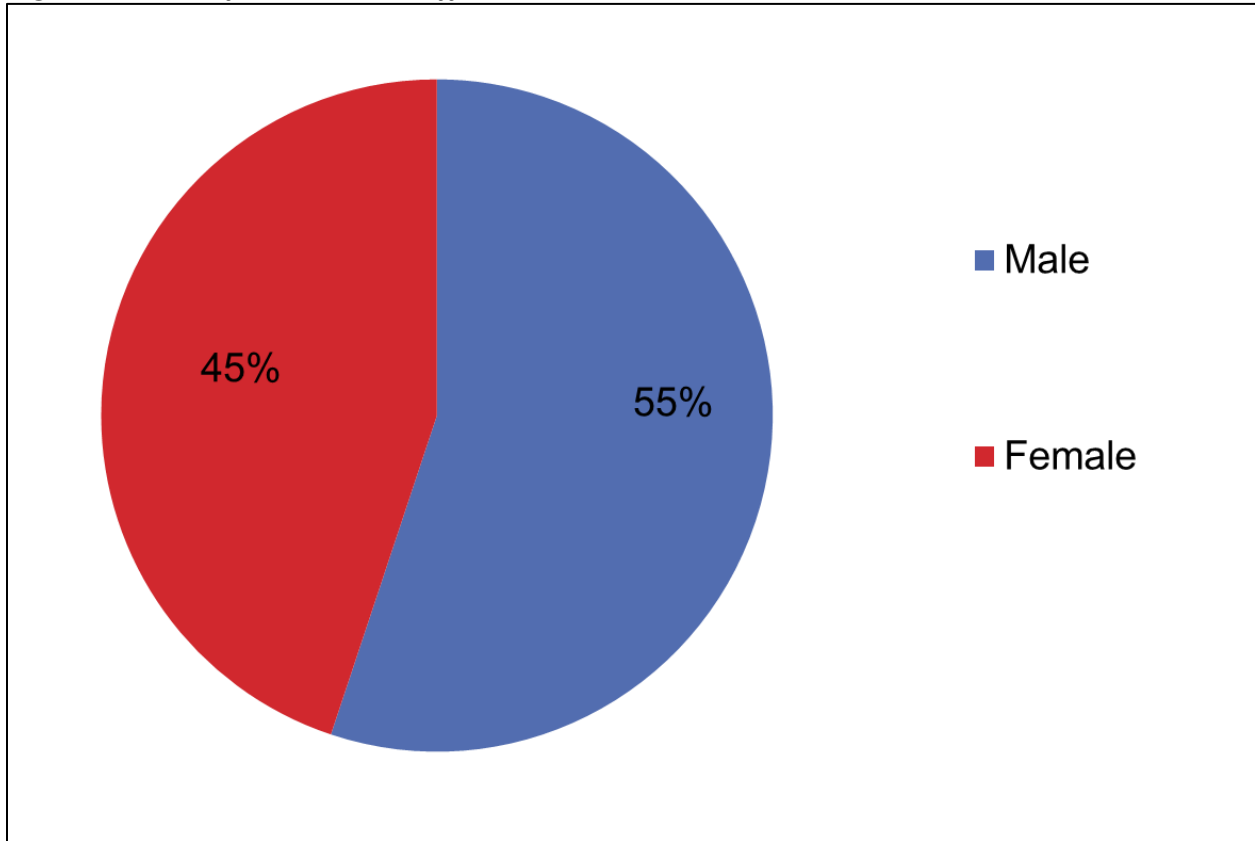
While the breakdown of active duty parents by pay grade in Figure 11 indicated that the greatest proportion of military parent offenders were in the E4-E6 pay grade, the rate per 1,000 of active duty parent offenders involved in incidents of child abuse and neglect that met criteria is highest for parents who are in the E1-E3 (14.5) pay grade (see Figure 12). Parents in the E1-E3 pay grade are more likely young and inexperienced, which makes them more vulnerable to commit abuse.

**Figure 12. Rate of Active Duty Parent Met Criteria Offenders Per 1,000 by Pay Grade**



As shown in Figure 13, the sex of offenders in child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria is a little more than one-half male (55 percent), and just under one-half female (45 percent).

**Figure 13. Sex of Met Criteria Offender in CAN Incidents (FY 2016)**



**Note:** There were two offenders whose sex was not identified.

### **3-4. CHILD ABUSE FATALITIES**

As discussed previously, Military Service fatality reviews to examine fatalities from FY 2016 will take place in FY 2018. Data on fatalities included in this report represents only those fatalities that were taken to the IDC after the death of the victim in FY 2016 and met criteria as child abuse and neglect related.

There were 18 child abuse-related fatalities involving 23 offenders that were taken to the incident determination committee and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2016 (see Table 3). Four child victims and one met criteria offender were previously known to FAP.<sup>20</sup> In the child fatality incidents, 11 of the met criteria offenders were male, 11 were female, and data on 1 offender's sex was missing. Twelve met criteria offenders were active duty, 10 were civilian, and the status of 1 offender was missing. All of the child victims were under 5-years old, and one-half (50 percent) of the child victims were 1-year old or younger.

***Table 3. Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities Reported to FAP in FY 2016***

<b>Total Fatalities: 18</b>
- 23 met criteria offenders involved (includes fatalities with 2 offenders)
- 4 Child victims previously reported to FAP
- 1 Met criteria offender previously reported to FAP
<b>Sex of met criteria offenders</b>
- 11 Male
- 11 Female
- 1 Missing data (sex)
<b>Status of met criteria offenders</b>
- 12 Active Duty
- 10 Civilian
- 1 Missing data (status)
<b>Age of Victims</b>
- 18 victims (all) were Birth – 5-years old
- 9 Fatalities were 1-year old or younger

**Note:** Represents only those fatalities taken to the IDC after the death of the victim in FY 2016. Service fatality reviews will take place in FY18.

<sup>20</sup> Cases where a child or family was previously known to FAP include instances where services were received (e.g. New Parent Support Program), prior incidents that may or may not have met criteria, prior cases that may be closed resolved, incidents involving other offenders, and current open cases.

#### **4. DOMESTIC ABUSE**

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This section discusses reports to FAP of domestic abuse (spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse) in FY 2016, incidents of spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse that met criteria, and the characteristics of those adult victims and met criteria offenders.

Department of Defense Instruction 6400.06 (Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel) defines “domestic abuse” as domestic violence, or a pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty that is directed to a person who is:

- A current or former spouse;
- A person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or
- A current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.

For purposes of this report, we provide distinct analysis of incidents of spouse abuse, incidents of intimate partner abuse, as well as an analysis of the umbrella category of domestic abuse, which contains the sum of all such incidents.

**Spouse abuse** – Either the victim or offender may have been an active duty Service member or the civilian spouse of an active duty Service member

**Intimate partner abuse** - In FY 2006, an additional category “intimate partner” was added to capture incidents involving: (1) a former spouse; (2) a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; or (3) a current or former intimate partner with whom the victim shares or has shared a common domicile. In such cases, the victim or the offender may have been an active duty Service member or civilian.

Domestic abuse, per DoD policy, represents four distinct types of maltreatment for either spousal or intimate partner abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Spousal neglect is a type of domestic abuse in which an adult fails to provide necessary care or assistance for his or her spouse who is incapable of self-care physically, emotionally, or culturally. Each of these types of maltreatment is outlined in implementing guidance for use during the standardized incident determination process.<sup>21</sup>

Incidents of domestic abuse are reported separately by type of maltreatment; one or more incident may be submitted on an individual victim. Prior to FY 2015, incidents may have included multiple types of abuse under one incident; as explained previously this represents a change in reporting for consistency.

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<sup>21</sup> DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, 11 August 2016.

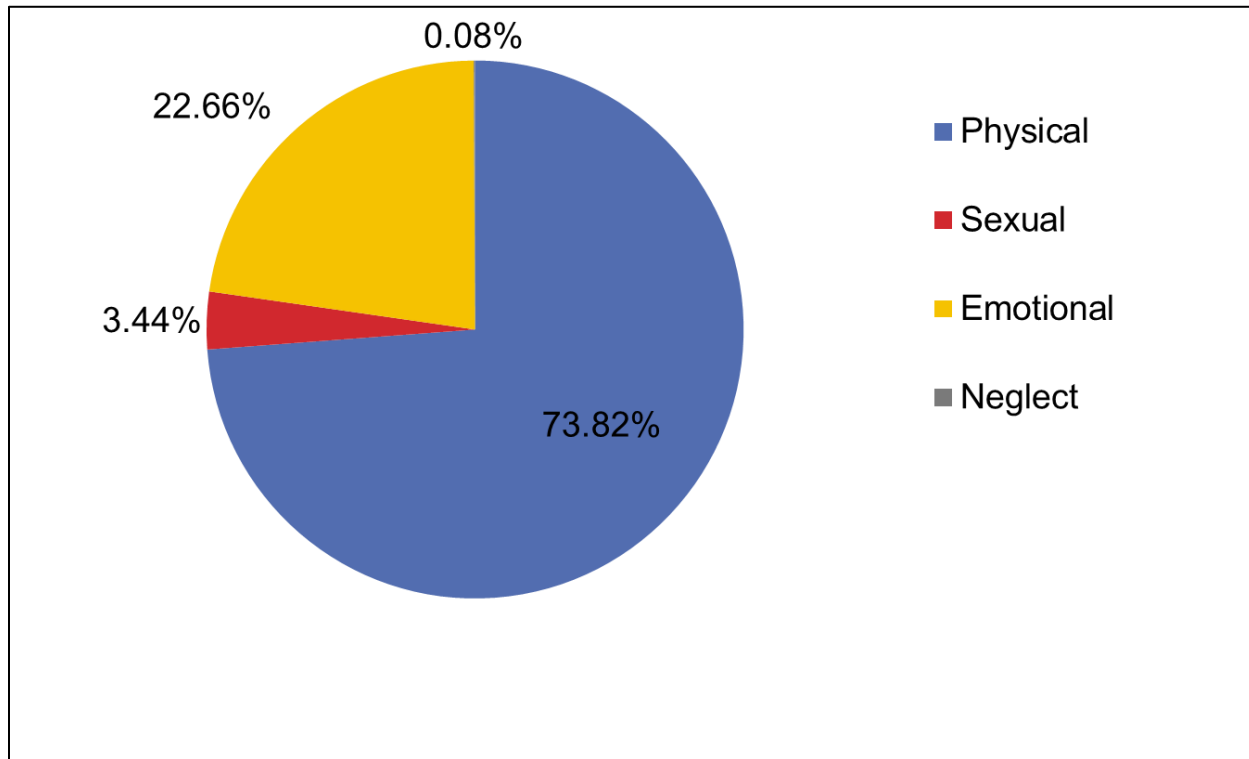
This section discusses reports to FAP of domestic abuse (spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse) in FY 2016, incidents of spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse that met criteria, and the characteristics of those adult victims and met criteria offenders.

#### 4-1. DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS

In FY 2016 there were a total of 8,673 met criteria incidents of domestic abuse (spouse and intimate partner) reported to FAP. As shown in Figure 14, physical abuse represented nearly three-fourths of these incidents (73.83 percent), emotional abuse represented a little less than one-quarter (22.66 percent), and fewer incidents involved sexual abuse (3.44 percent) and neglect (.08 percent).

Domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse comprise around 3 percent (3.44 percent) of all met criteria domestic abuse incidents. The percentage of domestic abuse that is sexual abuse has incrementally increased since FY 2009, when the distinct numbers of sexual abuse were first available.<sup>22</sup>

**Figure 14. Type of Domestic Abuse in Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2016)**



**Note: Domestic abuse includes spouse abuse and intimate partner incidents.**

<sup>22</sup> Any year-to-year variations in the proportion of sexual abuse within the category of domestic abuse could be explained by chance variation within this time period. (95% CI[1.33, 3.64]).

## 4-2. SPOUSE ABUSE

As outlined in the previous section, spouse abuse includes acts of physical violence, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect. Incidents of abuse are reported separately by type of abuse; one or more incident may be submitted on an individual victim. As noted previously, prior to FY 2015 incidents may have included multiple types of abuse under one incident; this represents a change in reporting for consistency. The FY 2007 through FY 2016 data on spouse abuse included in this section is limited to only those incidents involving married individuals.

As shown in Table 4, the FY 2016 rate of reported spouse abuse per 1,000 couples was 23.4, which is a decrease of 1 percent when compared to FY 2015.<sup>23</sup>

The rate of incidents of spouse abuse that met criteria per 1,000 married couples (11.8) decreased .8 percent from the FY 2015 rate.<sup>24</sup>

**Table 4. Reports and Incidents of Spouse Abuse (FYs 2007-2016)**

Year	Married Couples Population	Reported Incidents	Rate/1000	Met Criteria Incidents	Rate/1000
FY07	708,178	15,260	21.5	7,257	10.2
FY08	718,526	15,939	22.2	6,767	9.4
FY09	738,067	18,208	24.7	7,476	10.1
FY10	751,758	18,785	25.0	8,411	11.2
FY11	753,110	19,277	25.6	8,386	11.1
FY12	734,308	18,671	25.4	8,345	11.4
FY13	713,135	17,295	24.3	7,935	11.1
FY14	690,460	16,287	23.6	7,464	10.8
FY15	665,429	15,725	23.6	7,892	11.9
<b>FY16</b>	<b>646,782</b>	<b>15,144</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>7,651</b>	<b>11.8</b>

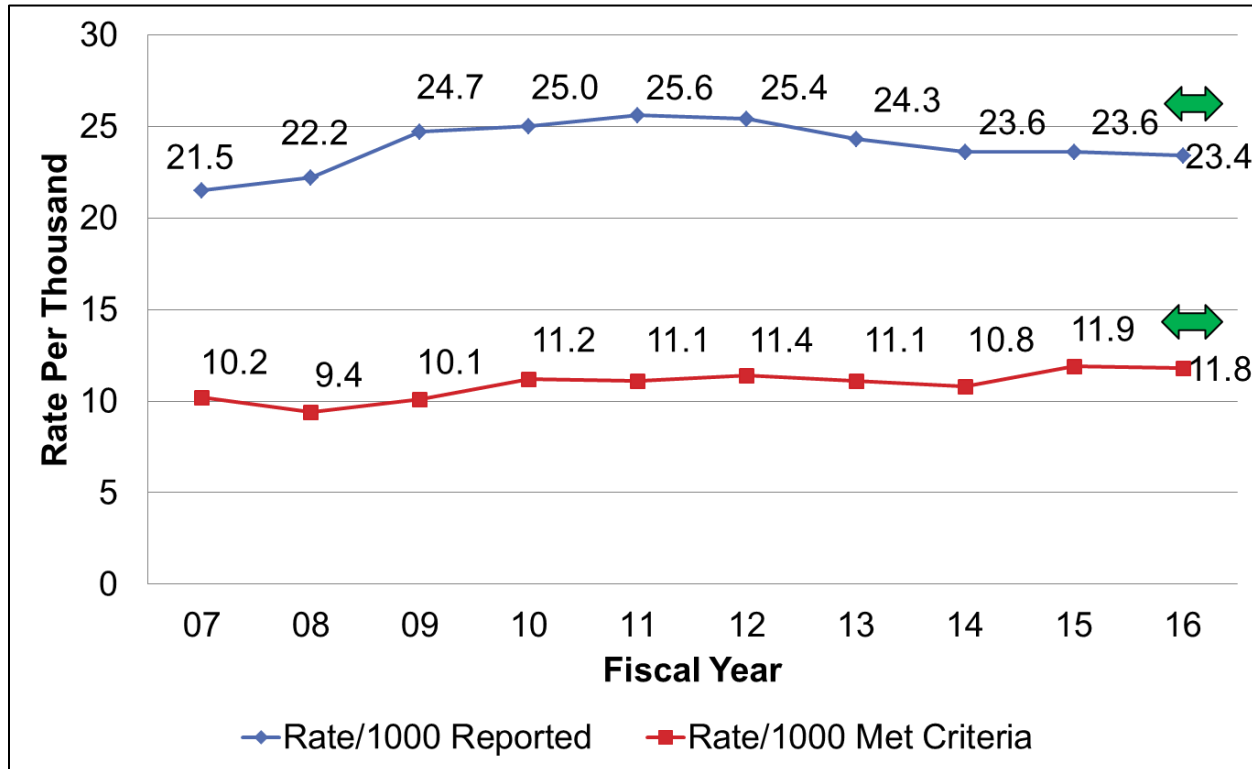
**Note:** Prior to FY 2015, incidents may have included multiple types of maltreatment (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect) under one incident report.

<sup>23</sup> This rate of spouse abuse reports (see Table 4) has not varied significantly year-to-year since FY07. Slight changes in the rate of reported spouse abuse represent chance variation (95% CI [20.85, 27.01]).

<sup>24</sup> The rate of spouse abuse incidents (see Table 4) has not varied significantly year to year since FY07. Any variation in the rate of met criteria incidents of spouse abuse per 1,000 married couples is not beyond what would be expected by chance (95% CI [9.09, 12.7]).

The rates of spouse abuse incidents reported to FAP and the rate of the spouse abuse incidents that met criteria per 1,000 married couples from FY 2007 – FY 2016 are displayed in Figure 15. Both of these rates have only seen slight fluctuation over the past 10 years, and there is not a statistically significant difference between the FY 2016 rates when compared to the 10-year average of rates.

**Figure 15. Spouse Abuse Report vs. Met Criteria Incident Rates Per 1,000 Married Couples**



Note: Statistical differences are determined at  $p < .05$  levels.

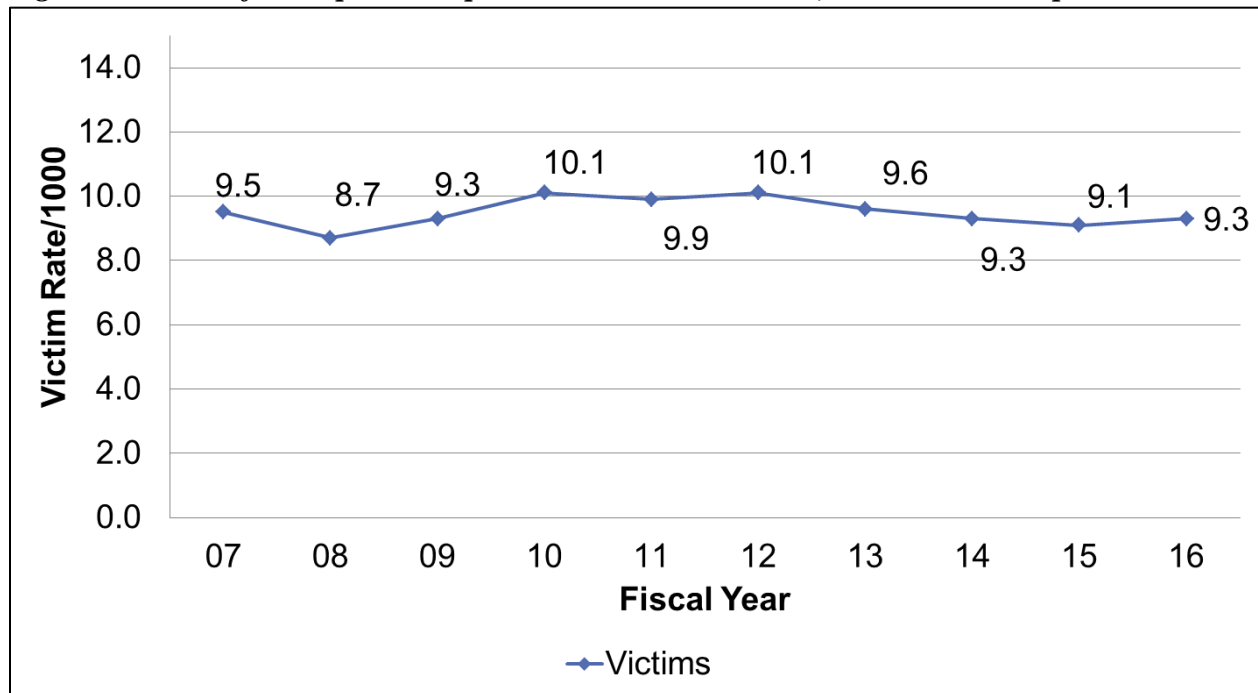
As shown in Table 5, there were 6,033 unduplicated victims of spouse abuse in FY 2016. The FY 2016 unique spouse abuse victim rate per 1,000 married couples is 9.3, which is a 2 percent increase from FY 2015.

**Table 5. Unduplicated Victims of Spouse Abuse (FYs 2007-2016)**

Year	Met Criteria Incidents	Unduplicated Victims	Population of Married Couples	Met Criteria Incidents/1000 Couples	Victims/1000 Couples
FY07	7,257	6,707	708,178	10.2	9.5
FY08	6,767	6,299	718,526	9.4	8.7
FY09	7,467	6,834	738,067	10.1	9.3
FY10	8,411	7,618	751,758	11.2	10.1
FY11	8,386	7,485	753,110	11.1	9.9
FY12	8,345	7,422	734,308	11.4	10.1
FY13	7,935	6,854	713,135	11.1	9.6
FY14	7,464	6,483	690,460	10.8	9.3
FY15	7,892	6,060	665,429	11.9	9.1
<b>FY16</b>	<b>7,651</b>	<b>6,033</b>	<b>646,782</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>9.3</b>

The rate of unduplicated spouse abuse victims per 1,000 married couples from FY 2007 – FY 2016 is displayed in Figure 16.<sup>25</sup>

**Figure 16. Rate of Unduplicated Spouse Abuse Victims Per 1,000 Married Couples**



#### *Comparison to Civilian Data*

Unlike child abuse and neglect, there is no federal mechanism to track rates of civilian spouse abuse for comparison to the military population. This, in part, is due to the fact that each state has different laws and definitions of domestic abuse, which makes any aggregation of these incidents impossible.

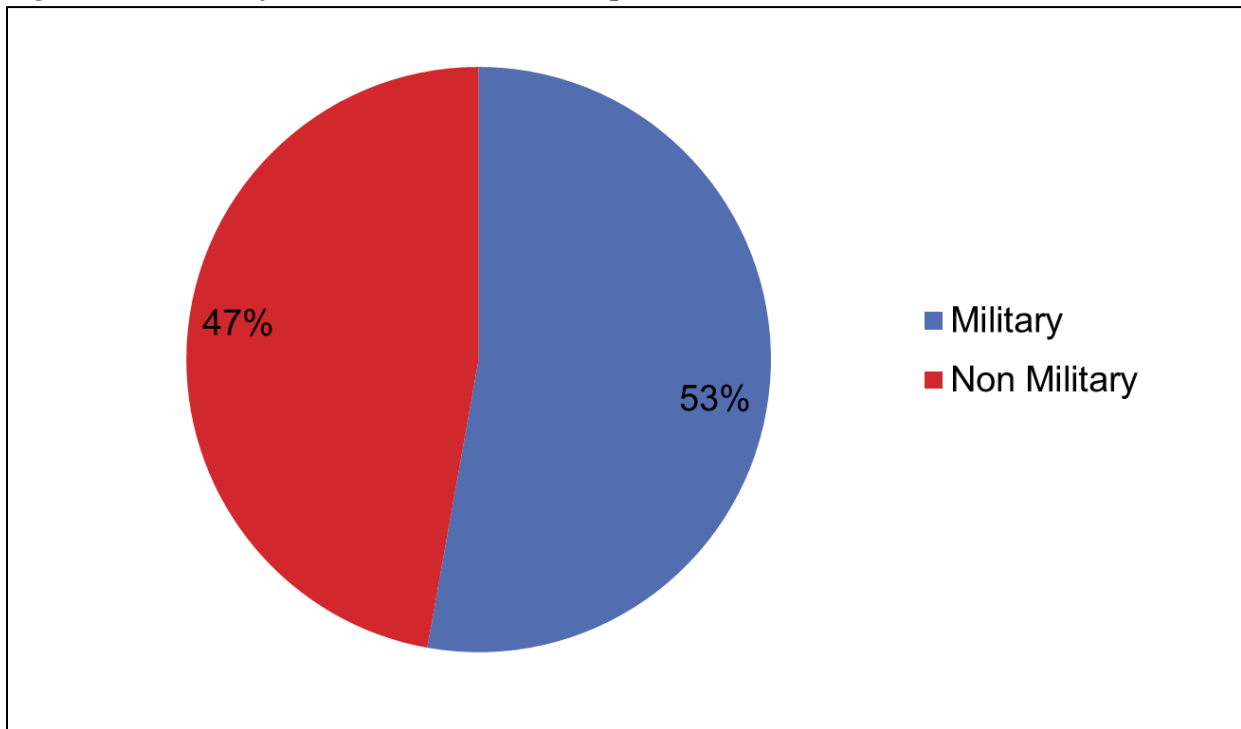
<sup>25</sup> Although there is slight variation displayed in the spouse abuse victim rates in the last decade (see Table 5), the FY16 spouse abuse victim rate did not vary significantly from the 10-year average rate of victimization (95% CI [8.46, 10.51]).

## Spouse Abuse Victim Profile

This section describes adults who were victims in incidents that met criteria for spouse abuse.

The status of victims involved in spouse abuse incidents which met criteria in FY 2016 were divided nearly evenly between military and non-military status, as seen in Figure 17. A little more than one-half (53 percent) of victims were military members and a little less than one-half (47 percent) were non-military.

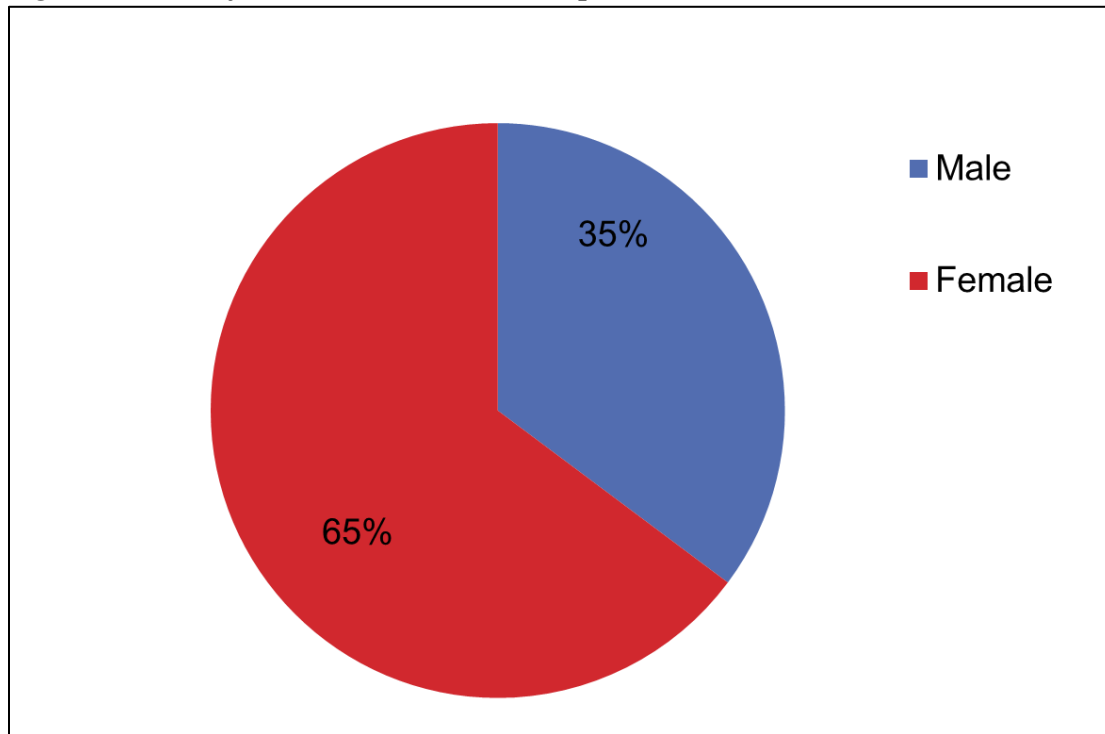
**Figure 17. Status of Victims in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2016)**



**Note:** Military includes active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

As shown in Figure 18, the majority (65 percent) of victims of spouse abuse in met criteria incidents were female. A little more than one-third (35 percent) of the victims were male.

***Figure 18. Sex of Victims in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2016)***

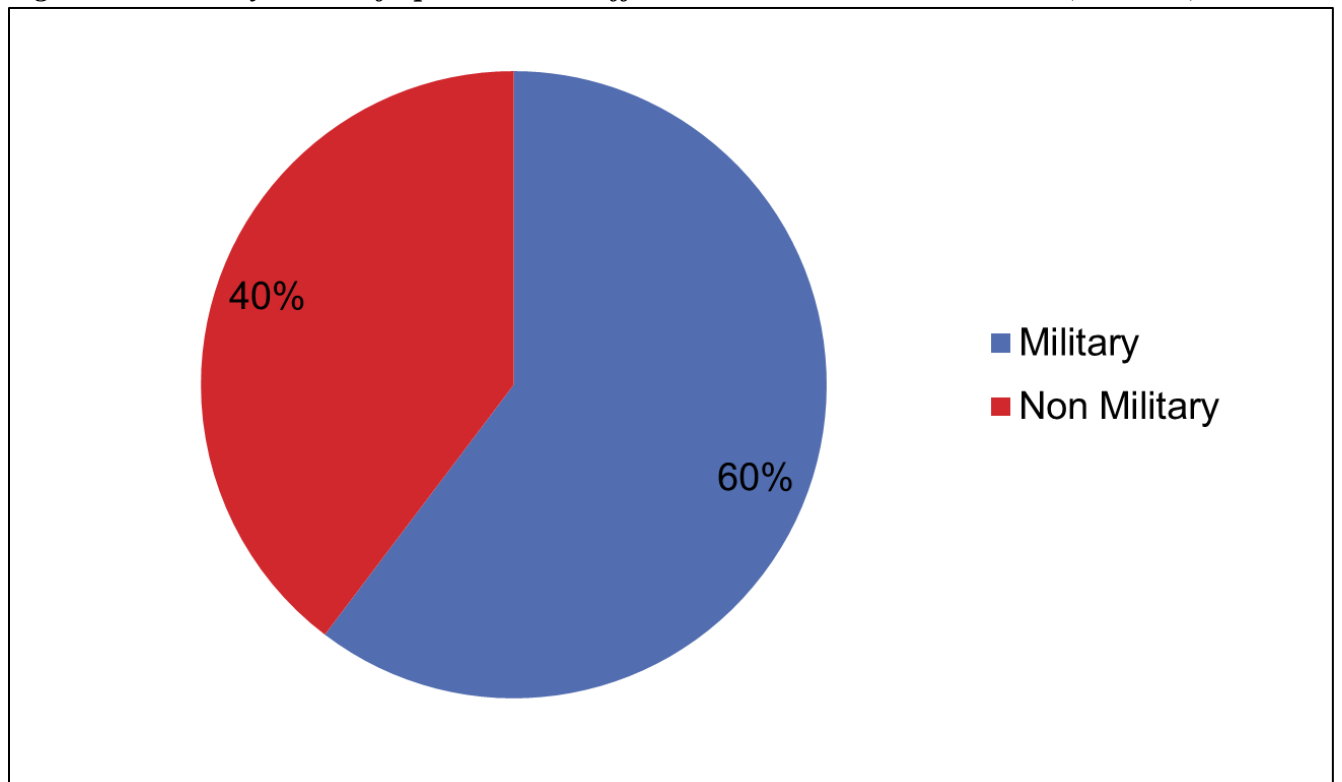


## Spouse Abuse Offender Profile

This section describes met criteria offenders of spouse abuse reported to FAP, as well as characteristics, including military status and pay grade.

The status of offenders involved in spouse abuse incidents which met criteria in FY 2016 are displayed in Figure 19. More than one-half (60 percent) of offenders were military members and 40 percent were non-military.

**Figure 19. Military Status of Spouse Abuse Offenders in Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2016)**



As shown in Figure 20, the status distribution of offenders in met criteria spouse abuse incidents has been relatively consistent since FY 2007. In FY 2016, 60 percent of offenders were active duty members and 40 percent were civilians.

**Figure 20. Military Status of Spouse Abuse Offenders in Met Criteria Incidents Over Time**

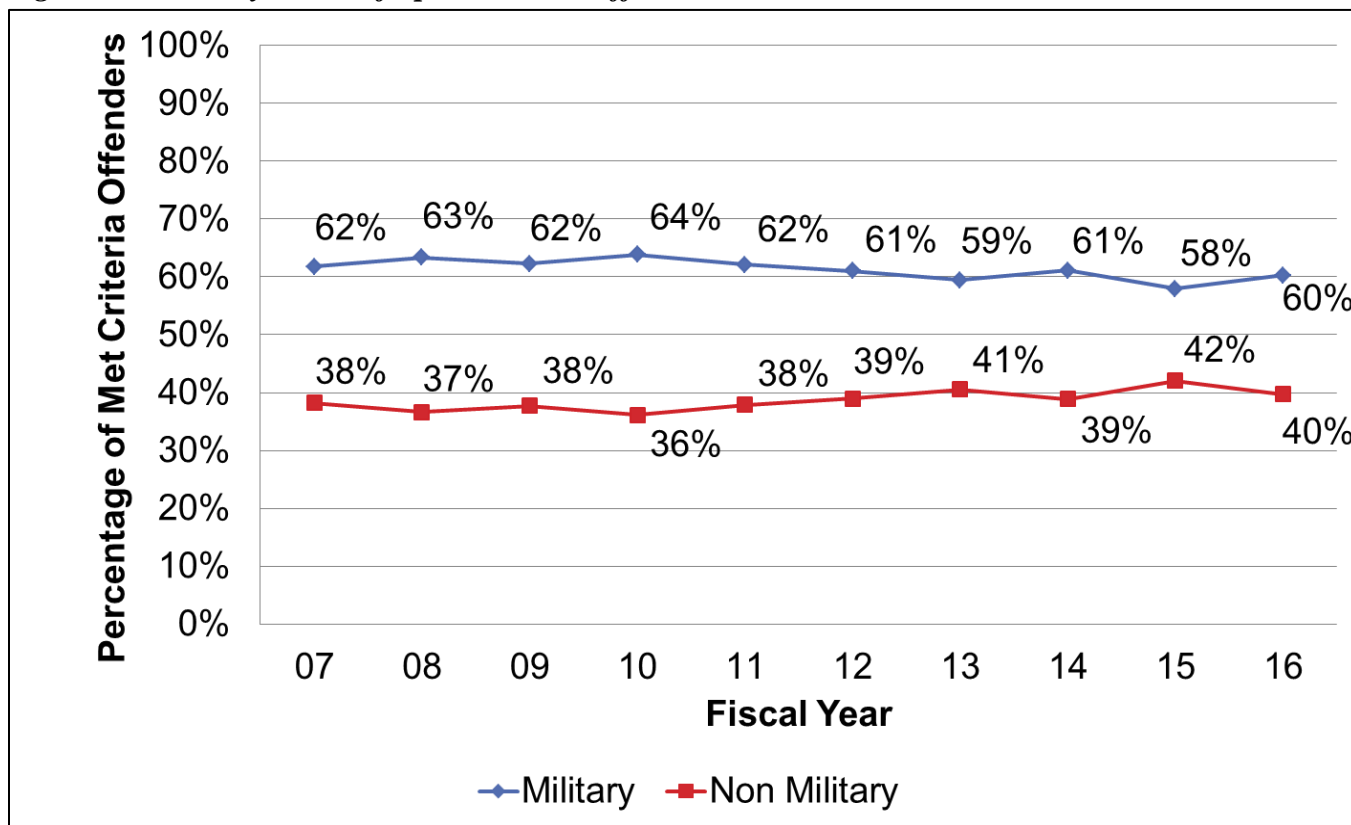
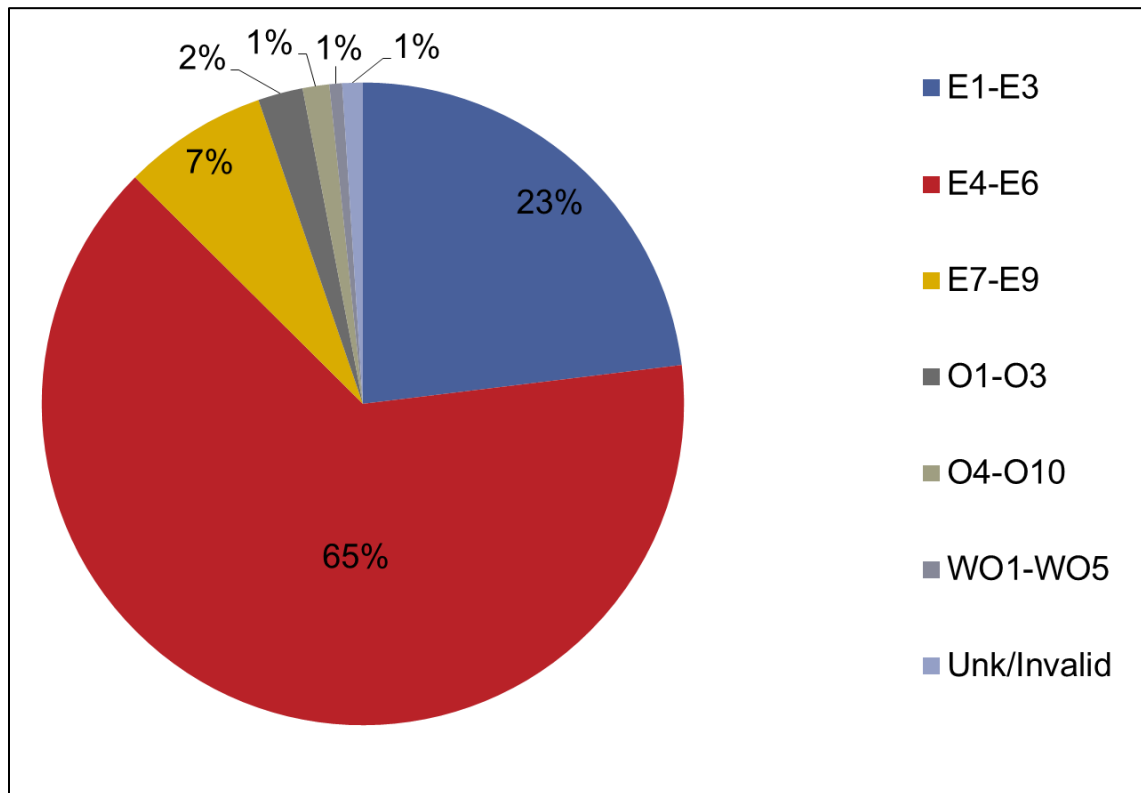


Figure 21 displays a by pay grade breakdown for military offenders who were involved in a spouse abuse incident that met criteria. The majority of offenders were junior enlisted members; more than half (65 percent) were E4-E6 and a little less than one-quarter (23 percent) were E1-E3. Fewer offenders were senior enlisted (E7-E9; 7 percent) and officers (2 percent were O1-O3; 1 percent were O4-O10; and 1 percent were WO1-WO5). One percent of military spouse abuse offenders had an unknown pay grade designation.

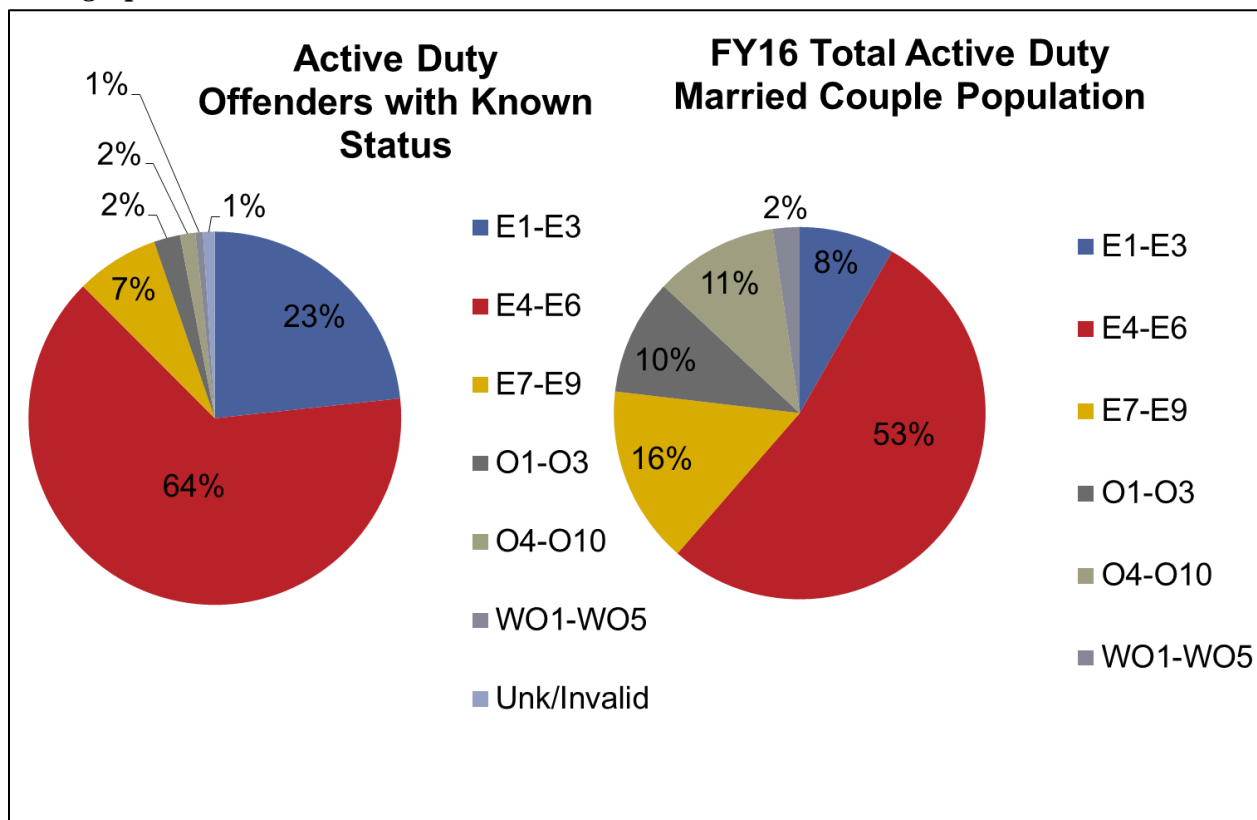
**Figure 21. Military Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Offenders, by Pay Grade (FY 2016)**



**Note:** Military includes active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members whose status is known

When compared to the total population of active duty married couples in FY 2016, the differences between proportions of active duty spouse abuse offenders in met criteria incidents are pronounced. As displayed in Figure 22, a much greater proportion of active duty offenders with a known status in met criteria incidents of child maltreatment are in the E4-E6 pay grade (64 percent vs. 53 percent) and the E1-E3 pay grade (23 percent vs 8 percent). Meanwhile, there are fewer active duty offenders involved in met criteria incidents in the E7-E9 pay grade (7 percent of met criteria incidents vs. 16 percent of total active duty parent population), O1-O3 (2 percent vs 10 percent), and O4-O10 (2 percent vs 11 percent) when compared to the total population of active duty married couples. One percent of active duty spouse abuse offenders had an unknown pay grade designation.

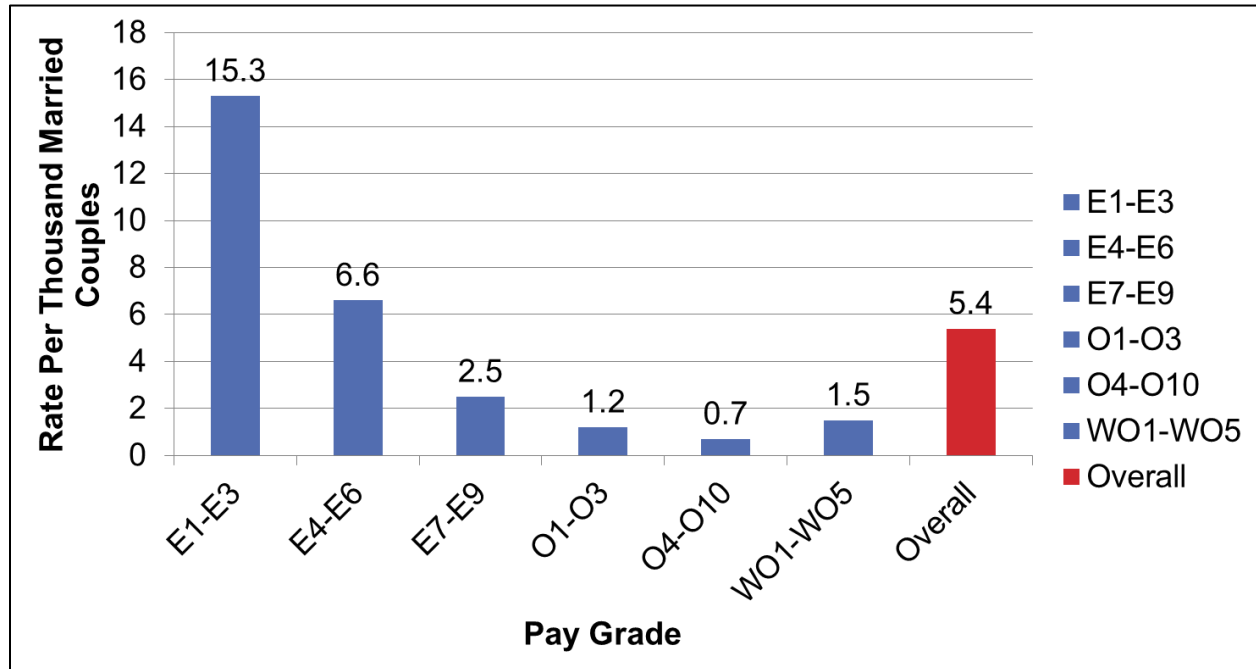
**Figure 22. FY 2016 Active Duty Spouse Abuse Offenders by Pay Grade, Compared to Demographics**



**Note:** Represents only active duty offenders for comparison to active duty population.

While the breakdown of active duty spouse abuse offenders by pay grade in Figure 22 indicated that the greatest proportion of active duty offenders were in the E4-E6 pay grade, the rate per 1,000 of active duty offenders involved in incidents of spouse abuse that met criteria is highest for offenders who are in E1-E3 (15.3) pay grade (see Figure 23).

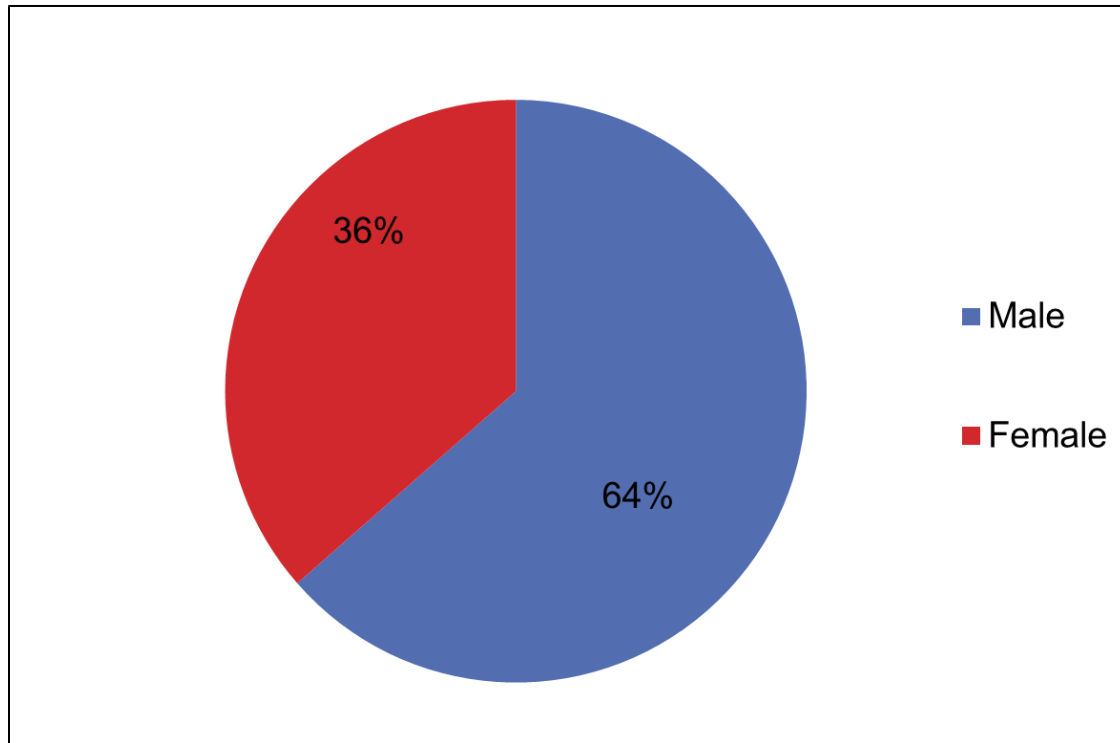
**Figure 23. Rate of Active Duty Spouse Abuse Offenders Per 1,000 Married Couples by Pay Grade**



**Note:** Active duty only calculated using demographics of active duty population.

As shown in Figure 24, the majority (64 percent) of offenders in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse were male. A little more than one-third (36 percent) of the offenders were female.

***Figure 24. Sex of Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Offenders***



A comparison of the sex of active duty offenders involved in met criteria spouse abuse incidents to the total population of active duty members indicates that the proportion of male offenders of spouse abuse (88 percent) is slightly larger when compared to the number of men in the active duty population (84 percent) (see Figure 25). The inverse is true for females; the proportion of female offenders of spouse abuse (12 percent) is lower when compared to the number of females in the active duty population (16 percent).

**Figure 25. Sex of Active Duty Spouse Abuse Offenders, Compared to Demographics (FY 2016)**

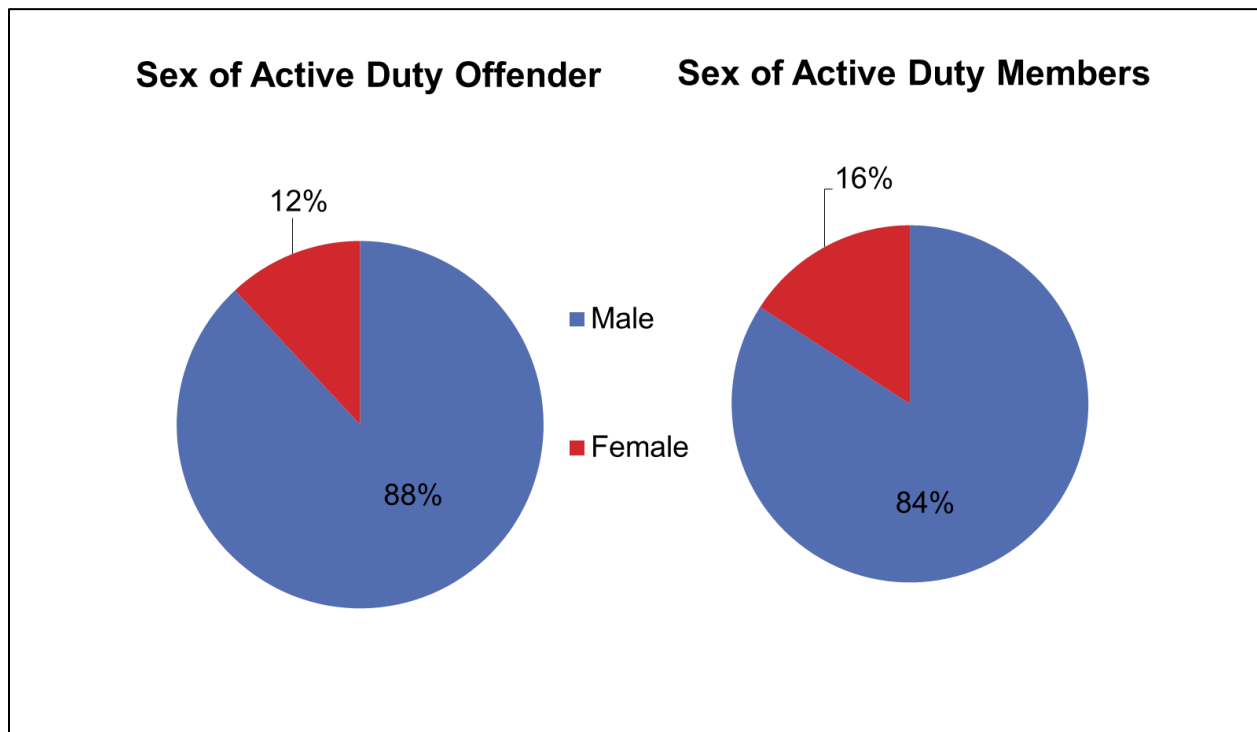
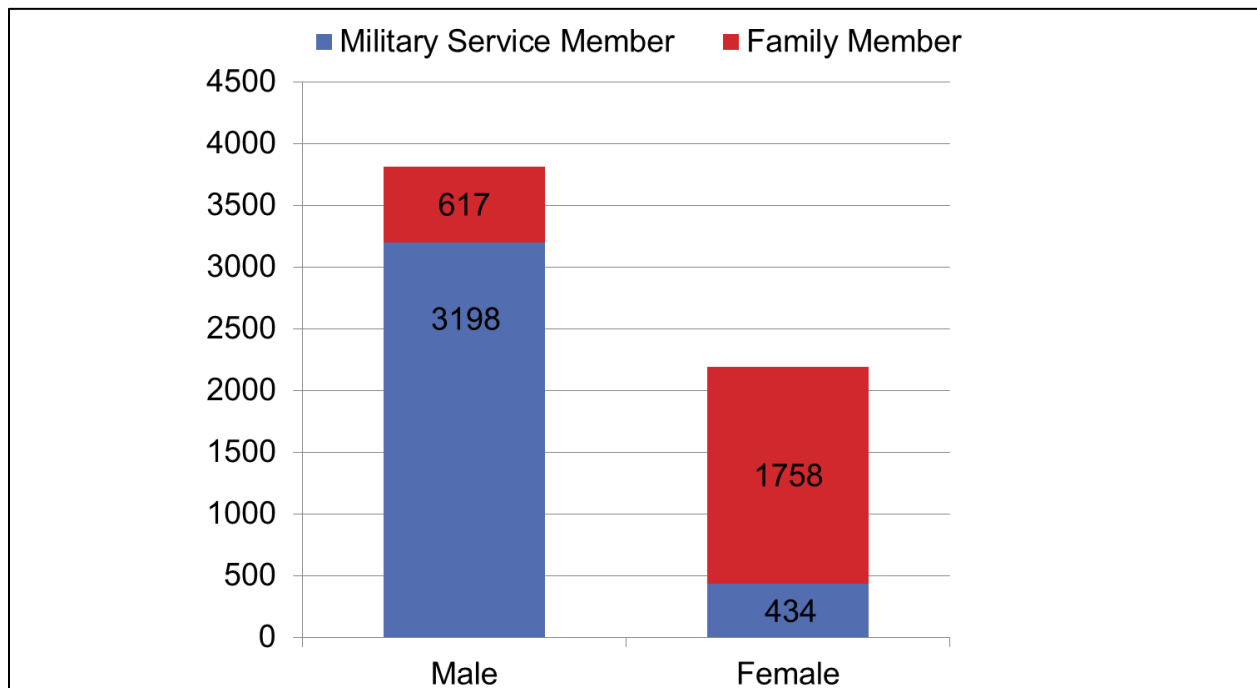


Figure 26 shows the breakdown of active duty spouse abuse offenders by sex and status. Of the 3,826 male offenders involved in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse the majority (3,198) were military Service members, and fewer were family members (617) or fell into the “other” category (11).<sup>26</sup> Of the 2,195 female offenders involved in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse the majority (1,758) were family members and fewer were military Service members (434) or fell into the “other” category (3).

**Figure 26. Active Duty Spouse Abuse Offenders, by Sex and Military Status (FY 2016)**



**Note:** Figure excludes an “Other” category which includes DoD civilian, retired, government civilian, non-beneficiary, and unknown. There were 11 male offenders and 3 female offenders included in the “Other” category.

<sup>26</sup> The “other” category includes met criteria offenders who were DoD civilians, retired military Service members, government civilians, non-beneficiaries, and had an unknown status.

### **4-3. INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE**

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As with child abuse and neglect and spouse abuse, incidents of intimate partner abuse are reported separately by type of abuse; one or more incident may be submitted on an individual victim. Prior to FY 2015, incidents may have included multiple types of abuse under one incident; this represents a change in reporting for consistency. The data on intimate partner abuse included in this section includes those incidents involving former spouses, individuals with whom the victim shares a child in common, and current or former partners with whom the victim shares or has shared a common domicile. As outlined previously, the types of maltreatment for intimate partner abuse are consistent with those for spouse abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, neglect).

In FY 2016, there were 1,022 met criteria incidents of unmarried intimate partner abuse, involving 847 adult victims (see Table 6). A rate per thousand of intimate partner abuse cannot be established, as data on unmarried individuals involved in intimate partner relationships as defined by DoD are not available. The number of met criteria unmarried intimate partner abuse incidents has varied since FY 2009, which was the first year that full data on intimate partner abuse were available.<sup>27</sup>

**Table 6. Incidents of Intimate Partner Abuse (FYs 2007-2016)**

Year	Reported Incidents	Met Criteria Incidents	Unduplicated Victims
FY07		602	
FY08		619	
FY09	1,415	747	562
FY10	1,539	721	588
FY11	1,662	867	648
FY12	1,718	909	656
FY13	1,866	996	689
FY14	1,870	969	669
FY15	1,798	966	778
<b>FY16</b>	<b>1,771</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>847</b>

**Note:** Reported incidents of intimate partner abuse were separated as a distinct category of reports beginning in FY 2009.

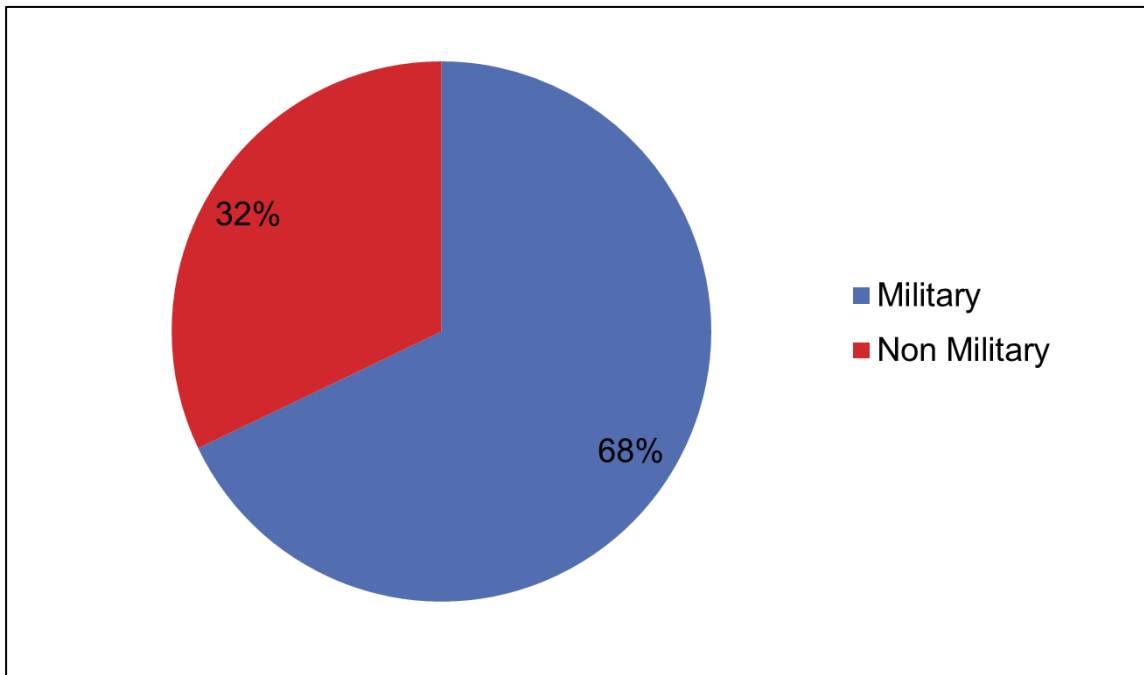
<sup>27</sup> The number of FY16 incidents of intimate partner abuse (see Table 6) do not reflect a statistically significant increase in relation to the average and represent chance variation (95% CI [658.71, 1140.55]). The unduplicated number of met criteria intimate partner abuse victims for FY16 (see Table 6) also has not differed significantly from the average number of incidents of intimate partner abuse since FY09 (95% CI [480.01, 879.25]).

## Intimate Partner Abuse Victim Profile

This section describes adults who were the victims in incidents that met criteria for intimate partner abuse.

The status of victims involved in intimate partner abuse incidents which met criteria in FY 2016 are displayed in Figure 27. More than one-half (68 percent) of victims were military Service members and 32 percent were non-military.

**Figure 27. Military Status of Victims in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY**

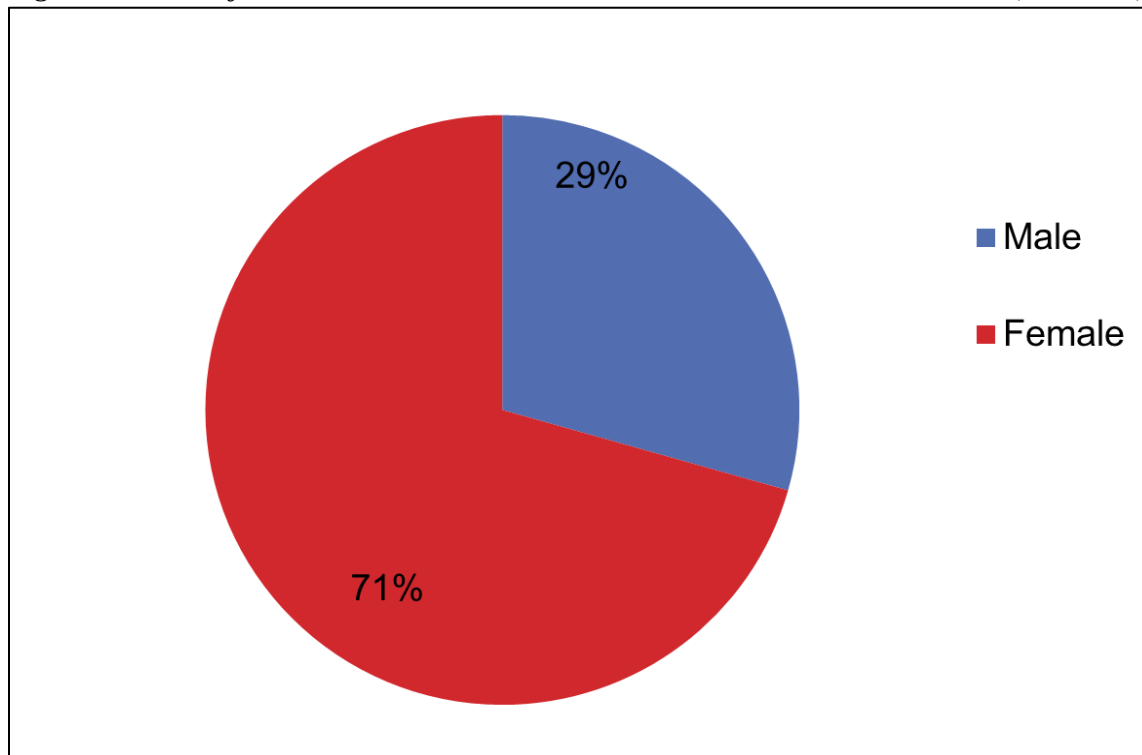


2016)

**Note:** Military includes active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

As shown in Figure 28, the majority (71 percent) of victims involved in intimate partner abuse incidents which met criteria in FY 2016 were female. Less than one-third (29 percent) of the victims were male.

**Figure 28. Sex of Victims in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2016)**



#### *Comparison to Civilian Data*

Similar to spouse abuse, there is no federal mechanism to track rates of civilian intimate partner abuse for comparison to the military population. This is, in part, due to the fact that each state has different laws and definitions of domestic abuse which makes any aggregation of these incidents impossible.

#### **4-4. SEXUAL ABUSE**

Sexual abuse of a spouse or intimate partner includes acts of domestic abuse or domestic violence to coerce the spouse or intimate partner to engage in any sexual activity. It includes “rape/intercourse,” “sodomy,” and coercing the spouse to participate in sexual activity with another person, as in pornography or prostitution.<sup>28</sup> In the Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, sexual abuse is referred to as “domestic abuse related sexual assault.” In the domestic violence field, sexual abuse is contextually distinct from sexual assault in that it occurs within a marriage or intimate partner relationship as part of a larger pattern of behavior resulting in emotional or psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty. Sexual abuse as a type of maltreatment in a domestic abuse relationship is indicative of higher risk for more serious injury or fatality, and is referred to FAP for comprehensive safety planning, victim advocacy and support, and treatment when appropriate.

In FY 2016 there were a total of 299 met criteria incidents of sexual abuse, and 284 unique victims of sexual abuse who received FAP services (see Table 7). This indicates that one or more victims experienced more than one incident of sexual abuse.<sup>29</sup>

**Table 7. Incidents of Met Criteria Sexual Abuse**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents**</b>	<b>Met Criteria Sexual Abuse Incidents</b>	<b>Percentage of Overall Met Criteria Domestic Abuse</b>
FY09	8,223	155	1.89
FY10	9,132	181	1.98
FY11	9,253	208	2.25
FY12	9,254	202	2.18
FY13	8,931	208	2.33
FY14	8,433	241	2.86
FY15	8,858	262	2.96
<b>FY16</b>	<b>8,673</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>3.44</b>

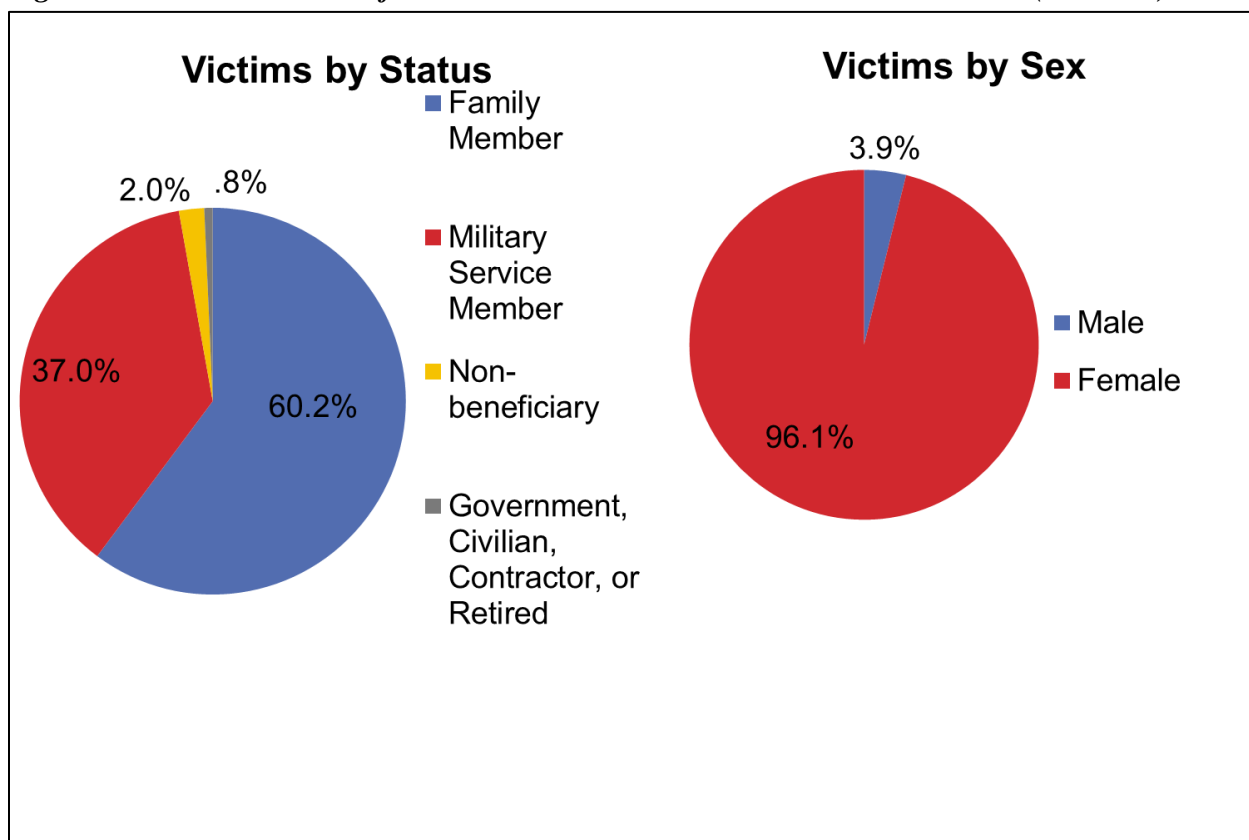
**Note:** Total met criteria domestic abuse incidents include spouse abuse met criteria and intimate partner abuse met criteria numbers combined.

<sup>28</sup> DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, 11 August 2016.

<sup>29</sup> Although there were more incidents in FY16 than FY15 (see Table 7), the number of sexual abuse incidents has not reached the threshold of a statistically significant increase and represents chance variation (95% CI [121.72, 317.28]).

As shown in Figure 29, there were 284 unique victims of sexual abuse who received Family Advocacy Program services in FY 2016. Victims were 96.1 percent female, and 3.9 percent male, as shown in Figure 15. Of the 284 victims, 60.2 percent were family members, 37 percent were military service members, 2 percent were non-beneficiaries, and .8 percent were government civilians, contractors, or retired Service members.

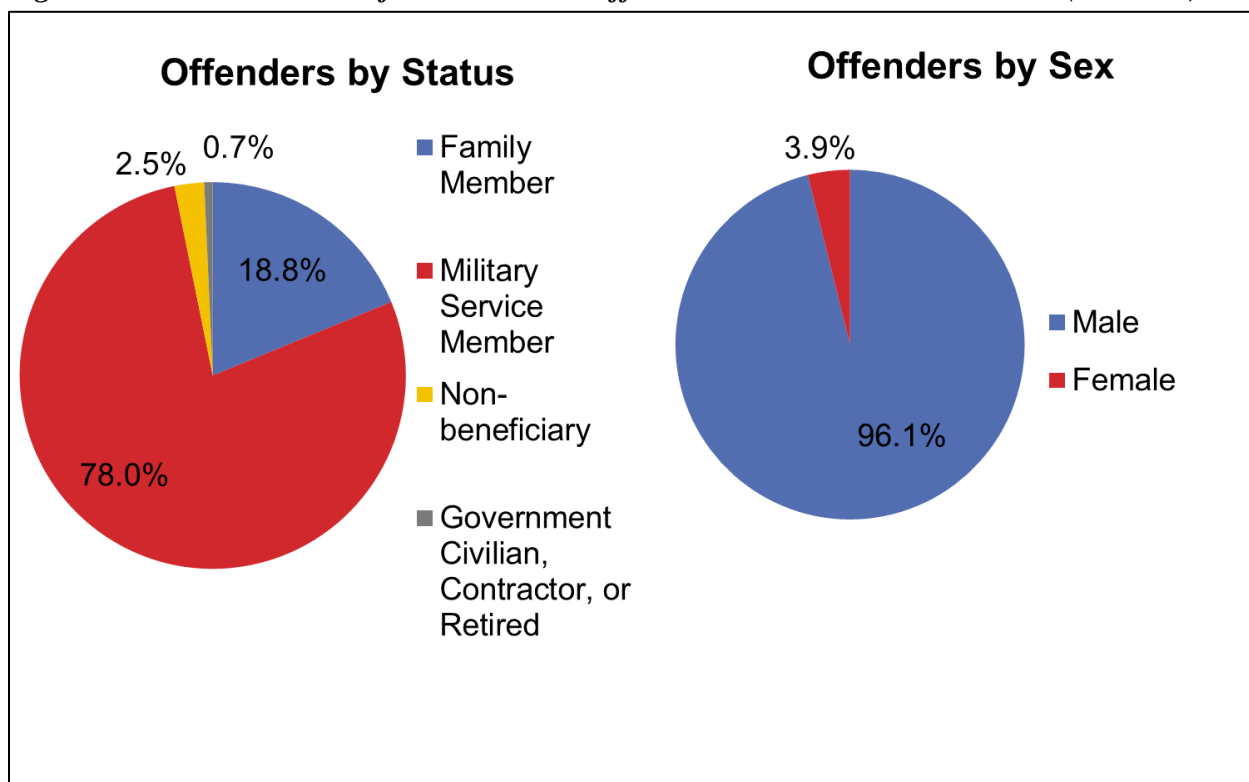
**Figure 29. Characteristics of Sexual Abuse Victims in Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2016)**



Of the 282 offenders, the vast majority (96.1 percent) were male and fewer (3.9 percent) were female (see Figure 30). The majority of met criteria offenders were Military Service members (78 percent), just under one-fifth (18.8 percent) were family members, and fewer were non-beneficiaries (2.5 percent) and non-DoD civilian beneficiaries (government civilians, contractors, or retired service members).

In FY 2016, there were 220 offenders who were military Service members. Of those members, the vast majority (98.2 percent) were active duty, and fewer were Reserve (0.9 percent) or members with an unknown status (0.9 percent). Of the military Service members, the majority (93.2 percent) were enlisted members, fewer were officers (5.5 percent) or warrant officers (0.4 percent). The status of two military Service members was unknown.

**Figure 30. Characteristics of Sexual Abuse Offenders in Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2016)**



#### **4-5. DOMESTIC ABUSE FATALITIES**

As discussed previously, Military Service fatality reviews to examine fatalities from FY 2016 will take place in FY 2018. Data on fatalities included in this report represents only those fatalities that were taken to the IDC after the death of the victim in FY 2016 and met criteria as domestic abuse related.

Eight spouse abuse fatalities and one intimate partner abuse fatality were reported to FAP in FY 2016, of which 3 victims and 3 met criteria offenders were previously known to FAP<sup>30</sup> (see Table 8). In the domestic abuse fatality reports, eight of the met criteria offenders were male, and one met criteria offender was female. Seven met criteria offenders were active duty and two met criteria offenders were civilian.

***Table 8. Domestic Abuse Fatalities Reported to FAP in FY 2016***

<b>Total Fatalities: 9 (8 spouse; 1 former spouse)</b>
- 3 Victims previously reported to FAP
- 3 Met criteria offender previously reported to FAP
<b>Sex of met criteria offenders</b>
- 8 Male
- 1 Female
<b>Status of met criteria offenders</b>
- 7 Active Duty
- 2 Civilian

**Note: Represents only those fatalities taken to the IDC after the death of the victim in FY 2016. Service fatality reviews will take place in FY 2018.**

<sup>30</sup> Cases where an adult or family was previously known to FAP include instances where services were received (e.g. New Parent Support Program), prior incidents that may or may not have met criteria, prior cases that may be closed resolved, incidents involving other offenders, and current open cases.

## **5. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

In addition to providing an update on specified Central Registry data elements, section 574 of the NDAA for FY 2017 requires the Department to provide an annual assessment of the effectiveness of the OSD FAP. Currently, the primary mechanism through which OSD FAP measures the performance and effectiveness of family readiness programs is through annual metrics on the success rates of the New Parent Support Program (NPSP) and domestic abuse offender clinical treatment. This data is collected by the Military Departments, as required by section 581 of the NDAA for FY 2008.

Each of the Military Services collects information for these metrics and submits the data annually to OSD FAP for analysis and reporting. Although OSD FAP aggregates data from each of the Services upon receipt, there is some minor variation in interpretation of current implementing guidance and how definitions are operationalized across the Service FAP programs. The extent to which these differences exist will be assessed in 2017 as part of an effort to ensure standardization of this annual metric data. Moving forward, OSD FAP will work with Service FAP programs to clarify implementing guidance and review existing metrics to ensure they are capturing the most critical and relevant data points to assess FAP effectiveness.

Below are the FY 2016 results for the metrics regarding the success of the NPSP and the success of the domestic abuser treatment programs. Both of these programs are implemented by the Military Services and administered by FAP at the installation level.

### **Success of New Parent Support Program**

NPSP offers intensive home visiting services on a voluntary basis to expectant parents and parents with young children aged 0-3 (up to age 5 in the Marine Corps) who display some indicators of being at risk for child abuse or domestic abuse, have been assessed and determined as at risk for child abuse and neglect, or have been reported to FAP for an incident of child abuse or neglect for a child age 0-5 years in their care.<sup>31</sup>

To measure the success of NPSP, the Military Services collect annual data on the number of families who receive NPSP services (two times per month for at least 6 months) in the prior fiscal year and who do not have any incidents of child abuse and neglect reported to FAP that met criteria in the current fiscal year. To achieve success, the total department ratio of families served to families with no child maltreatment reports that meet FAP criteria must be 85 percent or higher.

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<sup>31</sup> DoDI 6400.01 (Family Advocacy Program), 13 February 2015.

The following table displays the metric for NPSP as well as the aggregated DoD results for FY 2016.

**Table 9. Success of the New Parent Support Program (FY 2016)**

<b>METRIC</b>	<b>TOTAL DOD</b>
Number of families without open family maltreatment cases that began receiving intensive home visitation NPSP services (at least two home visits per month) during the previous fiscal year (FY 2015) and continued receiving intensive home visitation NPSP services for at least 6 months.	<b>1,753</b>
Such families that had no reports within 12 months after NPSP services ended that met FAP criteria for child maltreatment.	<b>1,693</b>
<b>Percentage successful NPSP</b>	<b>96.58 percent</b>
<b>Target: 85 percent</b>	

As displayed in Table 9, in FY 2016 a total of 1,753 families across all Military Services met the criteria of the metric and received NPSP services within the provided timeframe. Of those families, 1,693 did not have a report that met criteria for child maltreatment, which results in a success rate of 96.58 percent. This rate exceeds the established target rate of 85 percent.

## **Success of Domestic Abuse Offender Treatment Programs**

Each Service's FAP program delivers clinical interventions to individuals involved in met criteria domestic abuse incidents which are based on a clinical assessment and targeted to directly address the specific concerns of each alleged offender. By collecting data on the recidivism of alleged spouse offenders who have received FAP clinical treatment services, OSD FAP can assess the impact that these treatment services are having on alleged offenders in preventing subsequent incidents of domestic abuse in the short term (12 months).

To measure the success of domestic abuse offender treatment programs, the Military Services annually collect data on the number of alleged abusive spouses who have been involved in an incident that met FAP criteria for domestic abuse, started and completed clinical treatment services during FY 2015, and were not involved in any incident that was reported to FAP and met criteria in FY 2016. To achieve success, the Total Department rate of spouses with no subsequent incidents that meet FAP criteria must be 75 percent or higher.

The following table displays the metric for domestic abuse offender treatment as well as the aggregated DoD results for FY 2016.

**Table 10. Success of Domestic Abuse Offender Treatment Programs (FY 2016)**

<b>METRIC</b>	<b>TOTAL DOD</b>
Total allegedly abusive spouses in any incident that met FAP criteria for domestic abuse who began receiving FAP clinical treatment services during FY 2015 and completed FAP clinical treatment services by September 30, 2015.	<b>1,410</b>
Such spouses that were not reported as allegedly abusive in any incident that met FAP criteria for domestic abuse within FY 2016.	<b>1,352</b>
<b>Percentage successful Offender Treatment</b>	<b>95.89%</b>
<b>Target: 75%</b>	

As displayed in Table 10, in FY 2016 a total of 1,410 allegedly abusive spouses across all Military Services met the criteria of the metric and started (and completed) FAP clinical treatment services within the provided timeframe. Of those spouses, 1,352 did not have a report that met criteria for domestic abuse, which results in a success rate of 95.89 percent. This rate exceeds the established target rate of 75 percent.

## **6. PROGRAM & POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Department is committed to keeping our children safe and healthy and to doing all that it can to prevent child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse/intimate partner violence in our military communities.

### ***Overview of Key Findings***

Findings from this report indicate that FY 2016 rates of child abuse and neglect and spouse abuse do not reflect statistically significant increases when compared to the 10-year average. Although there was a meaningful year-to-year increase in the rate of incidents of child abuse and neglect that met criteria from FY 2009 (4.9 per 1,000 children) to FY 2014 (7.3 per 1,000 children), this rate has started to decrease slightly in the past two years (7.2 per 1,000 children in FY 2015 and FY 2016). The rate of unduplicated child victims has also begun to decrease in the past two years (5.6 per 1,000 children in FY 2014; 5.1 per 1,000 children in FY 2016).

Spouse abuse has seen a similar steady state pattern over the past few years. In FY 2016 the rate of spouse abuse incidents that met criteria had decreased slightly from FY 2015 (rate of 11.9 per 1,000 married couples) to FY 2016 (11.8 per 1,000 married couples.) The pattern of slight fluctuation in the rate of unduplicated spouse abuse victims over the past decade has been maintained (with a high of 10.1 per 1,000 married couples in FY 2012 and 9.3 per 1,000 married couples in FY 2016.)

Decreases in rates of met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents and spouse abuse incidents in the past two years may be a sign of the comprehensive prevention strategy and additional research efforts to reduce the incidents of family maltreatment and support military families. However, the continued increases in the number of incidents of intimate partner abuse (1,022 met criteria incidents in FY 2016) and domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse (299 incidents in FY 2016) since FY 2009 demonstrate that continual monitoring, assessment, and analysis in targeted areas is necessary in 2017 to inform current and future program efforts.

### ***Monitor Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect***

Although the year-to-year variance in rates of reported incidents and met criteria incident rates are not statistically significant for child abuse and neglect or spouse abuse in FY 2016, the upward movement in the number of met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect requires the continued attention of OSD FAP. FAP will continue to target child abuse and neglect prevention services at parents in the E1-E6 grades and parents with children under age 5, as those demographics show a pronounced risk for abuse. In FY 2015, the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy launched the first-ever DoD digital strategy – “Safe and Sound” – to reach, inform, and engage military families where they live and thrive online, with available resources to protect and strengthen families. This program resulted in standardized messaging across DoD to support parents and direct them to resources. In addition, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences will begin a research study in 2017 directed by OSD FAP to explore military-specific risk factors for child maltreatment.

### ***Focus on Sexual Abuse***

The increase in the numbers of sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse is another area that OSD FAP will continue to monitor carefully. Although the number of incidents involving sexual abuse reported to FAP in FY 2016 do not reflect a statistically significant increase, the gradual growth of this number since FY 2009 means that the number of incidents is approaching the threshold of a significant difference. Additionally the percentage of domestic abuse that is sexual abuse has experienced incremental increases each year since FY 2009 when distinct numbers of sexual abuse were first available (from 1.89 percent in FY 2009 to 3.44 percent in FY 2016). OSD FAP takes these reports very seriously; each installation FAP has

highly-trained clinicians and Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates to provide targeted support and services when incidents of sexual abuse and domestic abuse are reported. OSD FAP will work with the Military Services to conduct robust analysis in 2017 to better understand this cumulative increase in the number of incidents involving sexual abuse. This research may help assess whether targeted programs need to be developed for this vulnerable subpopulation of domestic abuse victims.

### ***Focus on Intimate Partner Abuse***

OSD FAP is also planning to conduct a program of research in 2017 to critically examine the incremental increases in both the incidents of intimate partner abuse (from 747 in FY 2009 to 1,022 in FY 2016) and victims of intimate partner abuse (from 562 in FY 2009 to 847 in FY 2016) each year since this data collection began in FY 2009. Unlike spouse abuse, it is not possible to establish a rate per thousand of intimate partner abuse, as data on unmarried individuals involved in intimate partner relationships as defined by DoD are not available. Without a rate, it is impossible to know whether the uptick in the number of met criteria incidents and unique victims of intimate partner abuse is due to a true increase in maltreatment, or whether other factors (changes in policy and/or definitions, changing demographics of the military Services, etc.) may be shaping this trend. These patterns of gradual growth in the number of intimate partner incidents and victims are concerning to OSD FAP and warrant further exploration to understand potential changes in the demographics or reporting behaviors of this smaller subpopulation of individuals in intimate partner relationships.

### ***Revision and Expansion of Tools to Measure FAP Effectiveness***

Both OSD FAP and the military Service FAP programs have enhanced standardization and incorporated research-informed tools to contribute to progress since the congressional requirement for annual metrics was introduced in FY 2008. To ensure that we are measuring the most critical and relevant data points to assess diverse FAP programs implemented across the Military Services, OSD FAP will review the current metrics and work with Service FAP programs to revise these metrics and clarify implementing guidance. This effort will ensure data standardization across the Military Services as well as verify that common terms, definitions, and timeframes are used in this assessment of the effectiveness of FAP. Beginning next year (FY 2017), the FAP Annual Data Report will also include information on the various tools that each Service uses to assess the effectiveness of their own FAP programs. The combination of revising DoD metrics and highlighting Service assessment activities will provide a comprehensive measure of the effectiveness of the FAP program.