

Report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives



Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2022

April 2023

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List of Acronyms

CAM – Century Anger Management
CCR – Coordinated Community Response
CCSM – Clinical Case Staff Meeting
CI – Confidence Interval
DAF – Department of the Air Force
DAVA – Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate
DMDC – Defense Manpower Data Center
DoD – Department of Defense
DoDI – Department of Defense Instruction
DoDM – Department of Defense Manual
FAP – Family Advocacy Program
FY – Fiscal Year
GAO – Government Accountability Office
HRV-CCR – High Risk for Violence-Coordinated Community Response
IAR – Incident Assessment Review
IDC – Incident Determination Committee
MTT – Mobile Transition Team
NDAA – National Defense Authorization Act
NPSP – New Parent Support Program
NPSP-E – New Parent Support Program Enhanced
NYU – New York University
ORS – Outcome Rating Scale
OSD – Office of the Secretary of Defense
SAPR – Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
SRS – Session Rating Scale
WGR – Workplace and Gender Relations Survey

Executive Summary

For more than 41 years, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) 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 neglect and domestic abuse incident data from the FAP Central Registry for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, as required by section 574 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2017 (Public Law 114–328), “Requirement for Annual Family Advocacy Program Report Regarding Child Abuse and Domestic Violence,” as amended by section 549 of the NDAA for FY 2022 (Public Law 117–81), “Activities to Improve Family Violence Prevention and Response.” In addition to meeting the congressional requirement, this report provides critical information to inform ongoing prevention and response efforts. Using aggregated FAP Central Registry data submitted from each Military Service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force),¹ this report offers a Department of Defense (DoD)-wide description of the child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse incidents reported to FAP that either met or did not meet criteria for the DoD definition of abuse in FY 2022.

Background & Methods

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. Each Military Service maintains comprehensive clinical case management systems, which include required data elements extracted and submitted quarterly to the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). Per DoD policy, DMDC operates the DoD FAP Central Registry and provides the OSD FAP with aggregated data on which this report is based.² Data contained in this report reflect child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse incidents reported to FAP that either met criteria or did not meet criteria in FY 2022. The data do not represent estimates of all child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse that occurred in military families in the past fiscal year.

Changes that Impact Reporting in FY 2022

In FY 2022, the Department implemented two critical changes in policy and data calculation that impact the number of incidents of abuse reported to FAP and the computation of those incidents. First, the Department reissued Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6400.06, “DoD Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel,” on December 15, 2021, expanding the definition of “intimate partner” to include those in dating relationships.³ This policy change closes a gap in service provision and brings the Department into alignment with the civilian domestic violence field. The expanded definition of intimate partner was used for a majority of the period covered by this report, which means that these victims of abuse, now eligible to receive FAP services, were able to access the support, advocacy, and care that FAP provides.

¹ In FY 2022, Space Force data were reported within Air Force data.

² The implementing policy issuance for this registry is Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 6400.01, Volume 2, “Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Child Abuse and Domestic Abuse Incident Reporting System,” August 11, 2016.

³ DoDI 6400.06, “DoD Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel,” December 15, 2021, as amended.

Second, in May 2021, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued “Domestic Abuse: Actions Needed to Enhance DOD’s Prevention, Response, and Oversight to Congress,” outlining actions necessary to improve the Department’s prevention, response, and oversight of domestic abuse.⁴ Recommendation #3 of the GAO report encouraged the Department to expand the scope of its future reporting to Congress by including an analysis of the types of allegations of abuse. The Department conducted a preliminary analysis of reports of abuse by abuse type in an appendix to the FY 2021 report.⁵ This FY 2022 report, incorporates the GAO recommendation into the main body of the report, and uses a new calculation method for reports of abuse such that a single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse.

Key Findings

Overall

- Following a downward trend over the past several years, there was an uptick in the rates of child abuse and neglect reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims⁶ per 1,000 military children in FY 2022. Despite these upticks, the rates of child abuse and neglect reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 military children did not vary when compared to their respective 10-year averages.⁷
- The rate of met criteria child sexual abuse incidents per 1,000 military children has experienced year-over-year increases since FY 2019. The FY 2022 rate of met criteria child sexual abuse incidents per 1,000 military children represents a statistically significant increase when compared to the 10-year average.
- In FY 2022, there was a statistically significant decrease in the number of reports of domestic abuse when compared to the 10-year average. The number of met criteria incidents of domestic abuse did not vary when compared to the 10-year average.
- Despite year-over-year increases, the rates of spouse abuse reports and victims per 1,000 military married couples experienced statistically significant decreases when compared to their respective 10-year averages. In FY 2022, the rate of spouse abuse incidents that met criteria per 1,000 military couples did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average.
- There were statistically significant increases in the number of reports, number of met criteria incidents, and number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse in FY 2022 when compared to their respective 10-year averages.
- The proportion of adult sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse (6.07 percent) increased in FY 2022 when compared to the 10-year average.

⁴ U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2021). *Domestic Abuse: Actions Needed to Enhance DOD's Prevention, Response, and Oversight to Congress* (GAO-21-289). Available from: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-289>.

⁵ See Appendix B to the *Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2021* for an analysis of “allegations” of abuse by abuse type. In this FY 2022 report, “allegations” are referred to as “reports.”

⁶ Throughout this report, the term “unique” is used in front of different categories of victims and abusers. The term is used to mean that a victim (or abuser) is counted only once within a category, regardless of the number of incidents of abuse in which that victim (or abuser) may have been involved.

⁷ 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.

Child Abuse and Neglect

- In FY 2022, there were 12,107 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect to FAP. The FY 2022 rate of reported child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children was 14.1, which is a 4.4 percent increase when compared to the FY 2021 report rate (13.5). Despite the increase, the rate did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average.
- Neglect accounted for the largest proportion of reports of child maltreatment (52.95 percent), followed by physical abuse (25.91 percent), emotional abuse (17.24 percent), and sexual abuse (3.90 percent).
- There were 5,994 incidents of child abuse and neglect that met criteria in FY 2022. The FY 2022 rate of incidents that met criteria per 1,000 children was 7.0, which is a 9.4 percent increase when compared to the FY 2021 rate (6.4). Despite this increase, the rate did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average.
- Neglect accounted for the largest proportion of child abuse and neglect met criteria incidents in FY 2022 (57.77 percent), physical abuse (20.35 percent) accounted for the next largest proportion, followed by emotional abuse (17.01 percent) and sexual abuse (4.57 percent).
- Overall, 50 percent of reported incidents of child abuse and neglect were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse. This met criteria rate varied by abuse type, ranging from 39 percent of reports of physical abuse that met criteria to 58 percent of reports of sexual abuse that met criteria.
- The FY 2022 unique child victim rate per 1,000 military children was 5.2, which is a 15.6 percent increase when compared to the FY 2021 rate (4.5). Despite this increase, the rate did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average.
- In FY 2022, 50 percent of victims in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents were female and 50 percent were male. However, the sex of victims varied by maltreatment type. More than one-half (55.2 percent) of victims in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents were age 5 or younger.
- 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 17.8 percent in FY 2021.⁸ The military met criteria rate for reported incidents was 49.5 percent in FY 2022. Although both rates have fluctuated individually, the military met criteria rate has been well above the civilian substantiation rate consistently over the past decade.⁹
- The DoD unique child victim rate for FY 2022 was 5.2 victims per 1,000 military children (a 15.6 percent increase from the FY 2021 rate of 4.5), and the civilian child victim rate for FY 2021 was 8.1 per 1,000 children.¹⁰ Considering that the military confirms child maltreatment at a higher rate than the civilian sector, yet the military child victimization is substantially lower than civilian rate, the overall rate of child maltreatment in the military is lower than in the civilian sector.

⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2023). *Child Maltreatment 2021*. Available from: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>.

⁹ *Child Maltreatment 2013 through 2021 reports, inclusive.*

¹⁰ *Child Maltreatment 2021.*

- In reports that met the DoD criteria for abuse, the abuser may have been a Service member,¹¹ a civilian family member, or (in child abuse or neglect incidents) a caregiver outside the family. In more than 92 percent of the met criteria child abuse or neglect incidents, the abuser was a Service member parent or civilian parent.
- There was a statistically significant difference in the distribution of caregiver statuses in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents in FY 2022 when compared to the distribution in FY 2021. The most notable difference was the decrease in the proportion of extra-familial caregivers involved in child abuse and neglect incidents (4.4 percent in FY 2022 vs. 10.2 percent in FY 2021).
- Pay grades E-4 through E-6 had the highest percentage of active duty¹² parent abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents (67 percent); however, these pay grades had the second highest rate of active duty parent abusers at 5.7 per 1,000 active duty parents when compared to the military population. Pay grades E-1 through E-3 had the highest rate at 15.5 per 1,000 active duty parents in the military population.
- In FY 2022, 55 percent of the met criteria child abuse and neglect abusers were male, and 45 percent were female. There is tremendous variation in the sex of abusers by maltreatment type. However, the overall ratio of male to female met criteria abusers has been relatively consistent over time.
- The majority of abusers in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect in FY 2022 were age 34 or younger, with 46.8 percent of abusers ages 25-34 and 23.6 percent of abusers ages 18-24.
- There were 12 child abuse-related fatalities, involving 15 abusers, presented to the Incident Determination Committee (IDC) and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2022. Child fatality victims were young in age, with 83.3 percent of victims 1-year-old or younger and 16.7 percent of victims ages 2-5. Among the abusers in these child fatality incidents, eight were male and seven were female. Eight met criteria abusers were Service members and seven were civilians.

Child Sexual Abuse

- For the fifth time in this annual report series, FAP examined child sexual abuse as a subset of child abuse. Data on these incidents of child sexual abuse are included in the *FY 2022 DoD Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military* as Appendix H. In FY 2022, there were 269 unique victims of child sexual abuse. These victims experienced a total of 274 met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse, indicating that one or more victims experienced more than one incident of sexual abuse.
- Child sexual abuse incidents accounted for 4.57 percent of all met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents. The rate of child sexual abuse incidents per 1,000 military children (0.318) experienced a statistically significant increase when compared to the 10-year average.
- In FY 2022, 90.3 percent of victims in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents were female, and 9.7 percent of victims were male. More than half (56.1 percent) of victims were ages 11-17.

¹¹ Service members include active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

¹² For the purposes of this report, active duty refers to Regular Component members, exclusively.

- Approximately 54 percent of abusers in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents were Service members, and 97 percent were male in FY 2022. Service member parents and civilian parents represented approximately 68 percent of abusers in these incidents.

Domestic Abuse

- In FY 2022, there were 15,479 reports of domestic abuse, of which 8,307 incidents met criteria. Those met criteria domestic abuse incidents involved 6,469 unique victims. The number of reports represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average. The number of met criteria incidents did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average.
- In FY 2022, physical abuse accounted for 68.20 percent of domestic abuse met criteria incidents, emotional abuse accounted for a little more than one quarter (25.74 percent), and fewer incidents involved sexual abuse (6.07 percent). There were no domestic abuse met criteria incidents of neglect in FY 2022.
- In 69 percent of met criteria domestic abuse incidents the victim was female and the abuser was male. In 27 percent of incidents, the victim was male and the abuser was female. Three percent of incidents involved a female victim and abuser, and one percent of incidents involved a male victim and abuser.
- When examining unique victims by sex, 69 percent were female and 31 percent were male. When examining unique victims by military status, 54 percent were Service members and 46 percent were civilians. The majority of domestic abuse victims were age 34 or younger (84 percent).
- The majority of Service member victims in met criteria incidents of domestic abuse were junior enlisted members. Pay grades E-4 through E-6 had the highest percentage of Service member victims (63 percent), followed by pay grades E-1 through E-3 (25 percent).

Spouse Abuse

- The spouse abuse data in this report represent only those incidents involving individuals married at the time of abuse. Either the victim or the abuser was a Service member.
- In FY 2022, there were 12,636 reports of spouse abuse to FAP. The FY 2022 rate of spouse abuse reports per 1,000 married military couples was 21.0, a 3.4 percent increase when compared to the FY 2021 report rate (20.4). Despite this increase, the report rate experienced a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average.
- Physical abuse accounted for the largest proportion of reports of spouse abuse in FY 2022 (66.76 percent), followed by emotional abuse (27.84 percent), and sexual abuse (5.20 percent). Neglect accounted for less than one percent of reports (0.20 percent).
- There were 6,637 incidents of spouse abuse that met criteria in FY 2022. The FY 2022 rate of met criteria spouse abuse incidents per 1,000 military couples was 11.1, which is a 3.7 percent increase when compared to the FY 2021 rate (10.7). Despite this increase, the rate did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average.
- Overall, 53 percent of reported incidents of spouse abuse were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse in FY 2022. This met criteria rate varied only slightly among the three most reported abuse types. There were zero spouse abuse reports of neglect that met criteria. However, it is important to note that neglect accounted for less than one percent of all reports of spouse abuse.

- The FY 2022 spouse abuse victim rate per 1,000 military couples was 8.7, which is a 2.4 percent increase when compared to the FY 2021 rate (8.5). Despite this increase, the rate represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average.
- In FY 2022, 52 percent of victims in met criteria spouse abuse incidents were Service members and 48 percent were civilian spouses. Seventy percent of victims in met criteria spouse abuse incidents were female, and 30 percent of victims were male.
- In FY 2022, 62 percent of all abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents were Service members, and 69 percent were male.
- Pay grades E-4 through E-6 had the highest percentage of active duty abusers in met criteria incidents (64 percent); however, these pay grades had the second highest spouse abuse rate per 1,000 married active duty members at 6.6. Pay grades E-1 through E-3 had the highest rate per 1,000 married active duty members at 15.4.
- Nine spouse abuse fatalities were presented to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2022.

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.
- The definition of intimate partner was expanded in FY 2022 to include those in dating relationships.¹³ This expanded definition was in place for a majority of the period covered by this report. In intimate partner abuse, either the victim or the abuser was a Service member.
- In FY 2022, there were 2,843 reports of intimate partner abuse. Physical abuse accounted for the largest proportion of reports of intimate partner abuse in FY 2022 (67.25 percent), followed by emotional abuse (23.14 percent), and sexual abuse (9.60 percent). In accordance with policy,¹⁴ there were no reports of neglect in FY 2022.
- There were 1,670 incidents of intimate partner abuse that met criteria in FY 2022, involving 1,270 unique victims. Overall, 59 percent of reported incidents of intimate partner abuse were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse. This met criteria rate varied slightly among the three reported abuse types.
- There were statistically significant increases in the number of reports of intimate partner abuse, the number of met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents, and the number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse, when compared to their respective 10-year averages. A rate per 1,000 of intimate partner abuse incidents and/or victims cannot be

¹³ DoDI 6400.06, December 15, 2021, as amended defines “intimate partner” as, “Within the context of eligibility for FAP services, a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the alleged abuser, as determined by the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the person and the alleged abuser. An intimate partner is informed by, but not limited to, the totality of factors such as: previous or ongoing consensual intimate or sexual behaviors; history of ongoing dating or expressed interest in continued dating or the potential for an ongoing relationship (e.g. history of repeated break-ups and reconciliations); self-identification by the victim or alleged abuser as intimate partners or identification by others as a couple; emotional connectedness (e.g., relationship is a priority, partners may have discussed a future together); or familiarity and knowledge of each other’s lives.”

¹⁴ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, “Family Advocacy Program: Clinical Case Staff Meeting and Incident Determination Committee,” August 11, 2016, as amended.

established, as data on unmarried individuals involved in intimate partner relationships as defined by the DoD are not available.

- From FY 2021 to FY 2022, both the number of reports of intimate partner abuse and the number of met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse experienced the largest year-over-year increases during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (21.4 percent and 25.8 percent, respectively).
- In FY 2022, 66 percent of victims in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents were Service members and 74 percent were female.
- In FY 2022, 71 percent of all abusers in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents were Service members, and 71 percent were male.
- There were five intimate partner abuse fatalities presented to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2022.

Adult Sexual Abuse¹⁵

- In FY 2022, there were 467 unique victims of adult sexual abuse, including both spouses and unmarried intimate partners. Data on these incidents of adult sexual abuse are included in the *FY 2022 DoD Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military* as Appendix G, and are referred to as Domestic Abuse-Related Sexual Assault.
- In FY 2022, there were a total of 504 met criteria incidents of adult sexual abuse, indicating that one or more victims experienced more than one incident of sexual abuse. The number of adult sexual abuse incidents in FY 2022 represents a statistically significant increase when compared to the 10-year average.
- Adult sexual abuse incidents accounted for 6.07 percent of all met criteria domestic abuse incidents. The proportion of adult sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse represents a statistically significant increase when compared to the 10-year average.
- In FY 2022, 95.5 percent of unique victims in met criteria sexual abuse incidents were female and 4.5 percent were male. Among these unique victims, 49.0 percent were family members, 40.0 percent were Service members, and the remaining 10.9 percent¹⁶ were non-beneficiaries, DoD civilians, non-DoD civilians, retired Service members, or Government contractors.
- Examining the intersection of sex and status of unique victims of adult sexual abuse, 48.6 percent of victims were female family members and 36.2 percent were female Service members.
- In FY 2022, approximately 84 percent of unique abusers in met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents were Service members, and 96 percent were male.

¹⁵ In the domestic violence field, sexual abuse remains contextually distinct from sexual assault, as it occurs within a marriage or intimate partner relationship typically as part of a larger pattern of behavior resulting in emotional or psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty.

¹⁶ Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages is 99.9.

DoD and Military Service Program Initiatives

OSD FAP has several efforts underway to enhance the capability of Military Service-level and installation FAPs to execute prevention activities, develop policies, and sustain programs for both child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse. As previously noted, the Department reissued policy in FY 2022, closing a gap in service provision by expanding the definition of “intimate partner.”¹⁷ The policy also advances approaches to maximize victim care, support, and choice. An update to DD Form 2967 clarifies options available to victims in reporting domestic abuse, seeking care, and accessing services and protections. OSD FAP and DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPR) produced a video to highlight shared goals and to promote the resources, education, and services their staffs provide.

In support of GAO-21-289 recommendations and legislative requirements,¹⁸ OSD FAP and the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, Military Communications and Outreach collaborated on several initiatives to expand FAP awareness and outreach. OSD FAP developed a communication plan to support increasing awareness of domestic abuse reporting options and resources, as well as metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the communication strategies. The Military Leader Domestic Abuse Prevention and Response Toolkit, launched on Military OneSource, offers easy access to domestic abuse prevention and response information and victim support resources. The FAP for Leaders course was designed and launched better enabling commanders and senior enlisted advisors to complete training on child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse.

The revamped Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate (DAVA) locator allows someone to search for the nearest FAP DAVA or other victim advocacy services by zip code or state. For the first time, DoD published the most popular products from its National Child Abuse Prevention Month “All In to End Child Abuse,” campaign in Spanish. Evaluation of the effectiveness of these efforts using page views, downloads, and clicks indicates that they were impactful.

Program and Policy Implications

DoD is committed to keeping families safe and healthy, and is taking every measure to prevent child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse in our military communities. One incident of child abuse or neglect, or domestic abuse is too many, and programs like FAP implement evidence-based prevention and treatment programs with the goal of ensuring the safety and well-being of all Service members and military families.

Despite upticks in the rates of reported child abuse and neglect, met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 military children in FY 2022, the rates did not vary significantly when compared to their respective 10-year averages. Following a 3-year decline in the rate of child sexual abuse per 1,000 military children, this rate increased in FY 2022 for the third consecutive year and reached statistical significance.

¹⁷ DoDI 6400.06, December 15, 2021, as amended.

¹⁸ GAO-21-289 Recommendation 20 and 21 address the need for a planned communications strategy and accompanying metrics to measure effectiveness. Section 549 of the NDAA for FY 2022 (Public Law 117–81) codifies the GAO recommendations into law.

For the fourth consecutive year, domestic abuse findings are mixed. Following a downward trend over several years within the last decade, the number of domestic abuse reports and the number of met criteria domestic abuse incidents experienced year-over-year increases for the second time. Despite these increases, the FY 2022 number of domestic abuse reports decreased and the number of met criteria domestic abuse incidents did not vary significantly when compared to their respective 10-year averages.

Although the rates for spouse abuse reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 married military couples experienced year-over-year increases in FY 2022, the rates either decreased or did not vary significantly when compared to their respective 10-year averages. Conversely, the number of reports, number of met criteria incidents, and number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse increased. These increases were anticipated with the expansion of the definition of intimate partner and the resulting expansion of service delivery. The proportion of met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents increased in FY 2022, for the fourth consecutive year, representative of an overall trend noted over the past decade.

The Department remains committed to continual monitoring and assessment of changes in incident numbers and rates, where available, to inform current and future policy and program efforts. The Department continues to address the results of its analyses through deliberate action and implementation of evidence-informed programs and prevention strategies, as well as additional research efforts.

1. INTRODUCTION

For more than 41 years, OSD 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 family violence to ensure the health and safety of military families.

This report provides the FY 2022 child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse incident data from the DoD FAP Central Registry, as required by section 574 of the NDAA for FY 2017 (Public Law 114–328), as amended by section 549 of the NDAA for FY 2022 (Public Law 117–81). In addition to meeting the congressional requirement, this report also provides critical aggregate information on the demographics of these incidents to further inform ongoing prevention and intervention efforts. Using aggregated FAP Central Registry data submitted from the Military Services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force),¹⁹ this report offers a DoD-wide picture of the child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse incidents reported to FAP for which a determination was made in FY 2022 (October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022).

Subsequent report sections include a brief description of FAP, congressional reporting requirements for child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse incidents, and a review of the findings from an analysis of the FY 2022 FAP Central Registry data. The report concludes with an analysis of the effectiveness of FAP, as well as an overview of potential implications for current and future policy and program initiatives. Note that the use of the word “significant” throughout this report is not a reference or comment on the level of importance, but rather analytical and statistical thresholds.

2. BACKGROUND

FAP is a congressionally mandated DoD program designed to be the policy proponent for a key element of the DoD’s Coordinated Community Response (CCR) for preventing and responding to reports of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse in military families. The Military Service FAPs, at every military installation where families are located, work closely with the other entities within the CCR,²⁰ as well as with civilian social services agencies and civilian law enforcement, to provide comprehensive prevention and response to family maltreatment.

The FAP mission is to provide comprehensive prevention, advocacy, early identification, treatment of abusers, voluntary treatment for domestic abuse victims, and intensive home visitation for expecting and new parents. To execute this mission, the DoD funds more than 2,000 positions to deliver FAP services, include credentialed/licensed clinical providers, DAVAs, New Parent Support Home Visitors, and prevention staff. FAP staff are mandated reporters to state child welfare service agencies for all allegations of child abuse and neglect, and they are considered “covered professionals” under 34 U.S.C. § 20341. DoD policy²¹ also

¹⁹ In FY 2022, Space Force data were reported within Air Force data.

²⁰ The CCR is comprised of FAP, law enforcement, legal, military criminal investigative organizations, chaplains, command, child and youth programs, Department of Defense Education Activity schools, and medical.

²¹ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 2, August 11, 2016.

requires the Military Service FAPs to report incidents of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse to OSD through the DoD FAP Central Registry.

Once a report of child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse is received by FAP, it is taken to the IDC to determine whether the incident meets criteria for abuse, as defined by the DoD.²² The IDC uses a standardized research-based decision tree algorithm to determine which reports for suspected child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse meet the DoD definitions of abuse, thereby requiring entry into the Military Service FAP central registry of child abuse and neglect 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 Service member's chain of command, 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. In accordance with section 549B of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry NDAA for FY 2021 (Public Law 116–283), voting membership of the IDC has been expanded to include medical personnel. Additional members, as appropriate, may participate and vote in accordance with policy. A 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.²³ The IDC is not a disciplinary proceeding in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice; it is a process to determine whether an incident meets the threshold for more rigorous treatment, intervention, support, safety planning, and victim protection. In this report, data on incidents of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse that met criteria are referred to as “met criteria incidents.”

The DoD review of child abuse and domestic abuse-related fatalities is required by policy,²⁴ directing the Secretaries of the Military Departments to conduct a multidisciplinary, impartial review of each fatality known or suspected to have resulted from child or domestic abuse. Each Military Department has its own team and conducts its own internal review annually. In order to avoid interference with ongoing investigations and prosecutions, fatalities are reviewed by the Military Departments retrospectively, generally 2 years after their occurrence or in the first year that the disposition becomes closed. This delay ensures that the review can consider all available information. OSD FAP convenes an annual Fatality Review Summit to discuss the findings of the reviews held in the previous year at the Military Department level; essentially, the DoD Fatality Review Summit examines deaths 3 years after the occurrence. The purpose of the DoD Fatality Review Summit is to conduct deliberative examinations of any interventions provided to the deceased or their family, to formulate lessons learned from agency or system failures, to identify trends and patterns to assist in prevention efforts across the Department, and to develop policy for earlier and more effective intervention.

²² DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

²³ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

²⁴ DoDI 6400.06, December 15, 2021, as amended.

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. Supporting policy is contained in Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 6400.01, Volume 2, “Family Advocacy Program: Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse Incident Reporting System,” August 11, 2016, which directs Military Service FAPs to track incidents of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse that meet criteria for abuse. Each Military Service maintains a comprehensive clinical case management system,²⁵ which includes the required data elements extracted and submitted quarterly to DMDC. Per DoD policy,²⁶ DMDC operates the DoD FAP Central Registry and provides OSD FAP with aggregate data, which are the basis of this report.

The DoD FAP Central Registry contains information on: (1) reports of abuse that did not meet criteria for child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse, 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 abuser. Specifically, the Military Services are required to submit information on 46 data elements on met criteria incidents, delineated in DoD Policy, which include:

- Sponsor Service, location, relevant dates, and case status;
- Demographic data on the military sponsor, victim, and abuser(s) including name, social security number, branch of Service, military status, sex, age, and relationship indicators;
- Type of abuse or maltreatment, level of severity, and, if applicable, resulting fatalities.

The DoD FAP Central Registry **does not** include measures of accountability (command action), law enforcement data, or legal disposition. These processes are completely distinct from FAP intervention and services pursuant to multiple DoD policies separating functions across components. The Central Registry also **does not** include allegations of domestic abuse that were made via restricted report. Restricted reports do not move forward to the IDC. Instead, reports are handled on a case-by-case basis to provide risk and safety planning to the victim without the independent assessment of the decision tree algorithm, which determines whether an allegation meets DoD criteria for abuse or neglect.

Data from the DoD Central Registry are broadly used to assist in overall management of the OSD FAP to inform prevention and intervention initiatives and to determine budget and program funding. The Central Registry also supports the identification of research needs, preparation of reports to Congress, response to public or other Governmental inquiries, and formulation of ad hoc reports relating to the volume and nature of family violence cases handled by the Military Services through outreach, prevention, and intervention efforts. DoD and Military Service FAP Central Registry data are used to conduct background checks on individuals seeking employment in DoD-sanctioned child and youth serving organizations that involve contact with minor children, in accordance with DoD policy.²⁷

²⁵ In FY 2022, Space Force data were reported within Air Force data.

²⁶ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 2, August 11, 2016.

²⁷ DoDI 1402.05, “Background Checks on Individuals in DoD Child Care Services Programs,” September 11, 2015, as amended.

Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

As noted, this report relies on Central Registry data extracted by each Military Service and submitted to DMDC for FY 2022 (October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022).²⁸ DMDC performs initial quality assurance checks, aggregates these data, and provides OSD FAP with information on the incidence of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse across the DoD.

DMDC has collected these aggregate FY FAP data for the last 23 years; however, the timeframe of data submission and analysis was adjusted substantially in 2017 to coordinate with the release of the *Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*. The Military Services submitted FY 2022 data by December 20, 2022, for inclusion in this report. All statistical analyses included in this report were performed after these data underwent a series of rigorous quality control checks to ensure uniformity and validity of aggregate data.

Prior to FY 2021, FAP was unable to comprehensively report information on allegations of abuse by abuse type. For calculation purposes, historically, a “report” of abuse could consist of multiple types of alleged abuse. For example, a report of abuse that involved one victim who experienced both emotional abuse and physical abuse by the same abuser, during the same timeframe, could be recorded as a single report of abuse. This historical calculation method did not allow for disaggregation of reports of abuse by abuse type and undercounted the number of reports of abuse.²⁹

Leveraging new data collection methods established in FY 2021, now a single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. The new calculation method for reports of abuse is reflected in the FY 2021 and FY 2022 data contained in this report. The new calculation method allows FAP to assess the number of reports of abuse more accurately, and the proportion of those reports that meet the DoD definition of abuse — overall and by abuse type. This improvement in methodology and reporting enhances the Department’s efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse within the military community.

Like historic data on reports of abuse, previous fiscal year data on both child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse 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 for each met criteria incident to represent only one type of maltreatment. Thus, more than one incident may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim. This treatment of incident data provides a more comprehensive picture of abuse incidents 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 on child maltreatment.³⁰

²⁸ In FY 2022, Space Force data were reported within Air Force data.

²⁹ U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2021). *Domestic Abuse: Actions Needed to Enhance DOD's Prevention, Response, and Oversight to Congress* (GAO-21-289). Available from: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-289>. See pp. 21-27 for an in-depth description and analysis.

³⁰ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau. (2023). *Child Maltreatment 2021*. Available from: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>.

Incidents of domestic abuse are reported both in the aggregate, and separately as spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse (see definitions in section 4). Calculated 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 the DoD) are unavailable. Any notable increases or upward movement in key rates and findings command the attention of OSD FAP to ensure perceived increases in family violence are analyzed for significance and potential causes. This approach ensures that OSD FAP can reconcile any potential contributing factors from both a mathematical and programmatic lens.

Analyses in this report were tested using a Type I error rate of 5 percent (i.e., $\alpha = .05$), resulting in a Confidence Interval (CI) of 95 percent. This CI approach tells us whether the FY 2022 values are within the range of plausible values for the 10-year period, FY 2013-FY 2022. Any value outside of this CI is indicative of a statistically significant increase or decrease.

Changes that Impact Reporting in FY 2022

In FY 2022, the Department implemented two critical changes in policy and data calculation that impact the number of incidents of abuse reported to FAP and the computation of those incidents. First, the Department reissued policy expanding the definition of “intimate partner” to include those in dating relationships.³¹ This policy change closes a gap in service provision and brings the Department into alignment with the civilian domestic violence field. The expanded definition of “intimate partner” was used for a majority of the period covered by this report, which means that these victims of abuse, now eligible to receive FAP services, were able to access the support, advocacy, and care that FAP provides.

Second, as noted in the Methods of Collection & Data Analysis section and in alignment with Recommendation #3 from GAO-21-289,³² this report incorporates a new calculation method for reports of abuse such that a single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. The new calculation method for reports of abuse yields an increase in the number of reports made to FAP in comparison to the historic calculation method.³³ In this current FY 2022 report, the number of reports of abuse from FY 2021 differs from the number presented in the main body of the *Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2021* to reflect the new calculation method and to match the number of reports presented in Appendix B of the FY 2021 report.

³¹ DoDI 6400.06, December 15, 2021, as amended.

³² *Domestic Abuse: Actions Needed to Enhance DOD's Prevention, Response, and Oversight to Congress* (GAO-21-289).

³³ See Appendix B to the *Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2021* for an analysis of “allegations” of abuse by abuse type. In this FY 2022 report, “allegations” are referred to as “reports.”

Key Findings

The data contained in this report only reflect child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse reported to FAP that either met or did not meet criteria in FY 2022. These data do not represent an estimate of the total amount of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse that occurred in military families in the past fiscal year.

Findings from this report indicate that despite upticks in the FY 2022 rates of child abuse and neglect reports (14.1/1,000 children), met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents (7.0/1,000 children), and unique³⁴ child victims (5.2/1,000 children), the rates did not vary significantly when compared to their respective 10-year averages during the period FY 2013-FY 2022.

There were upticks in both the number of met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse (274) and the rate of met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse (0.318/1,000 children) in FY 2022. Following a three-year decline, these metrics increased in FY 2022 for the third consecutive year. Although the number of met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average, the rate increased when compared to the 10-year average during the period FY 2013-FY 2022.

The FY 2022 rates of reported spouse abuse incidents (21.0/1,000 married couples) and unique spouse abuse victims (8.7/1,000 married couples) decreased when compared to their respective 10-year averages during the period FY 2013-FY 2022. The rate of met criteria spouse abuse incidents (11.1/1,000 married couples) did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average during the period FY 2013-FY 2022.

It is not possible to calculate rates per 1,000 for intimate partner abuse incidents or victims, as data on unmarried individuals involved in intimate partner relationships defined by the DoD are unavailable. In FY 2022, the number of reports of intimate partner abuse (2,843), the number of met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents (1,670), and number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse (1,270) increased when compared to their respective 10-year averages.

Finally, in FY 2022 the proportion of domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse (6.07 percent) increased when compared to the 10-year average. This increase is part of an overall upward trend in adult sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse that has occurred over the last decade.

The DoD is committed to understanding more about fluctuations in rates of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse through additional, targeted data analysis; ongoing research efforts on military-specific risk factors for child maltreatment; and ongoing research initiatives on domestic abuse. These efforts are delineated further in the Program and Policy Implications section of this report.

³⁴Throughout this report, the term “unique” is used in front of different categories of victims and abusers. The term is used to mean that a victim (or abuser) is counted only once within a category, regardless of the number of incidents of abuse in which that victim (or abuser) may have been involved.

3. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

This section discusses reports to FAP of child abuse and neglect in FY 2022, incidents that met criteria for child abuse and neglect, and the characteristics of children and associated abusers for cases that met criteria.

DoD policy defines child abuse and neglect as:

- **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 intra-familial or extra-familial, 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.”³⁵
- **Child neglect:** “The negligent treatment of a child through egregious acts or omissions below the lower bounds of normal caregiving, which shows a striking disregard for the child’s well-being, under circumstances indicating that the child’s welfare has been harmed or threatened by the deprivation of age-appropriate care.”³⁶ Neglect includes abandonment, medical neglect, and/or non-organic failure to thrive.

Child abuse and neglect, per DoD policy, include four distinct maltreatment types: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. Each of these maltreatment types is outlined in implementing guidance for use during the standardized incident determination process.³⁷ One or more incidents may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim.

Beginning in FY 2015, OSD FAP began to treat each type of maltreatment that met the DoD definition of abuse as representing a distinct incident of child abuse and neglect to capture a more comprehensive picture of well-being for children in military families. Reporting incidents of abuse by maltreatment type is consistent with how other Federal agencies report incidents of child abuse and neglect. Starting in FY 2021 and in alignment with a recommendation from the GAO, OSD FAP standardized the calculation method for reports of abuse such that a single report of abuse can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. Reports of abuse and met criteria incidents of abuse contained within this report for periods prior to the fiscal years noted could include multiple maltreatment types.

There are three elements calculated for child abuse and neglect in this report: the number of reported incidents, the number of met criteria incidents, and the rate of child victimization. The first two elements may be impacted by external factors. For example, the number of reports can fluctuate based on impact of awareness campaigns, training, and efforts to reduce stigma in the community associated with contacting FAP. Process improvements attributed to the implementation of the IDC – counting each type of maltreatment as a distinct incident (described above) and identifying all individuals involved in a reported incident as a separate abuser – may

³⁵ DoDI 6400.01, “Family Advocacy Program (FAP),” May 1, 2019.

³⁶ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

³⁷ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended; and DoDI 6400.01, May 1, 2019.

impact the number of met criteria incidents. The child victimization rate measures the number of unique children experiencing child abuse and neglect per 1,000 military children. This measure offers an alternative method to examine the rates of child abuse and neglect across years that is less impacted by external factors. In addition, the child victimization rate allows the Department to compare child abuse and neglect in the military against the civilian population.

3-1. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT INCIDENTS

As shown below in Table 1, there were 12,107 reports to FAP of suspected child abuse and neglect in FY 2022. The FY 2022 rate of reported child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children was 14.1, which is higher than the rate in FY 2021 (13.5). This numerical difference of 0.6 represents a 4.4 percent increase in the rate of reported incidents. Although there is an increase in the rate of reported incidents in FY 2022, it is not statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.³⁸

**Table 1: Reports and Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect
(FY 2013-FY 2022)**

Fiscal Year	Reported Incidents	Met Criteria Incidents	Child Population	Reports/1000	Met Criteria Incidents/1000
2013	15,346	6,989	1,099,702	14.0	6.4
2014	16,526	7,676	1,050,889	15.7	7.3
2015	15,579	7,208	1,005,626	15.5	7.2
2016	13,916	6,998	969,058	14.4	7.2
2017	12,849	6,450	939,186	13.7	6.9
2018	12,850	6,010	921,193	13.9	6.5
2019	12,392	5,600	917,891	13.5	6.1
2020	10,857	5,369	905,577	12.0	5.9
2021*	12,019	5,732	892,457	13.5	6.4
2022*	12,107	5,994	861,638	14.1	7.0

Note. Starting in FY 2021, reports of suspected child abuse and neglect are calculated separately by type of maltreatment (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect). A single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. Similarly, starting in FY 2015, met criteria incidents of maltreatment are calculated separately by type of maltreatment.

³⁸ The FY 2022 rate of child abuse and neglect reports per 1,000 children (14.1) did not vary significantly when compared to the average rate of child abuse and neglect reports during the FY 2013-FY2022 period (95 percent CI [13.26, 14.77]).

Leveraging the new calculation method for reports of abuse, Figure 1 shows the distribution of reports of child abuse and neglect by abuse type. Neglect accounted for the largest proportion of reports of child maltreatment in FY 2022 (52.95 percent), followed by physical abuse (25.91 percent), emotional abuse (17.24 percent), and sexual abuse (3.90 percent).

Child Abuse and Neglect Reports by Abuse Type (FY 2022)

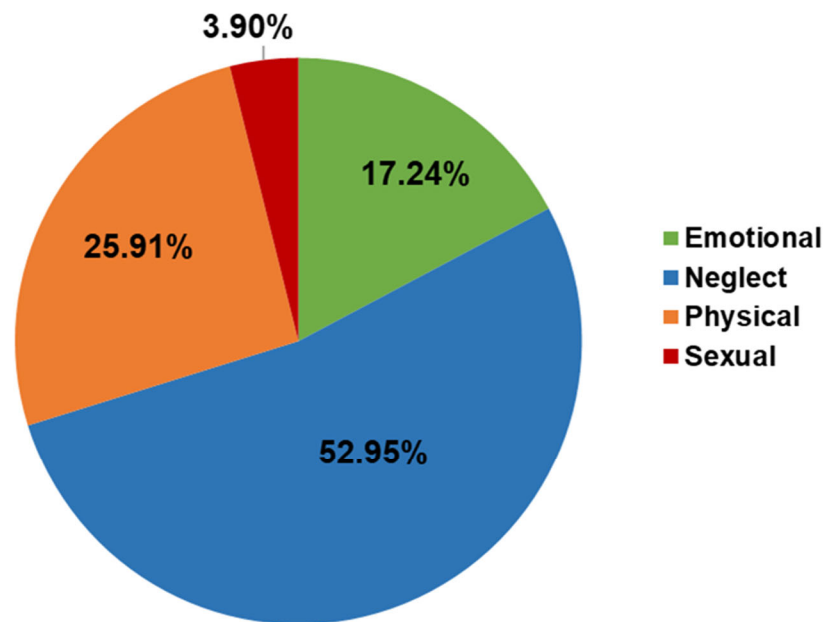


Figure 1. Reports of child abuse and neglect made to FAP by abuse type in FY 2022.

There were 5,994 incidents of child abuse and neglect that met criteria in FY 2022. As shown in Figure 2, the rate of met criteria incidents per 1,000 children in FY 2022 was 7.0, which is higher than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2021 (6.4). This numerical difference of 0.6 incidents per 1,000 children represents an 9.4 percent increase in the rate of incidents that met criteria. Although there is an increase in the rate of met criteria incidents in FY 2022, it is not statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.³⁹

Child Abuse and Neglect Reports vs. Met Criteria Incidents Rates per 1,000 Children (FY 2013-FY 2022)

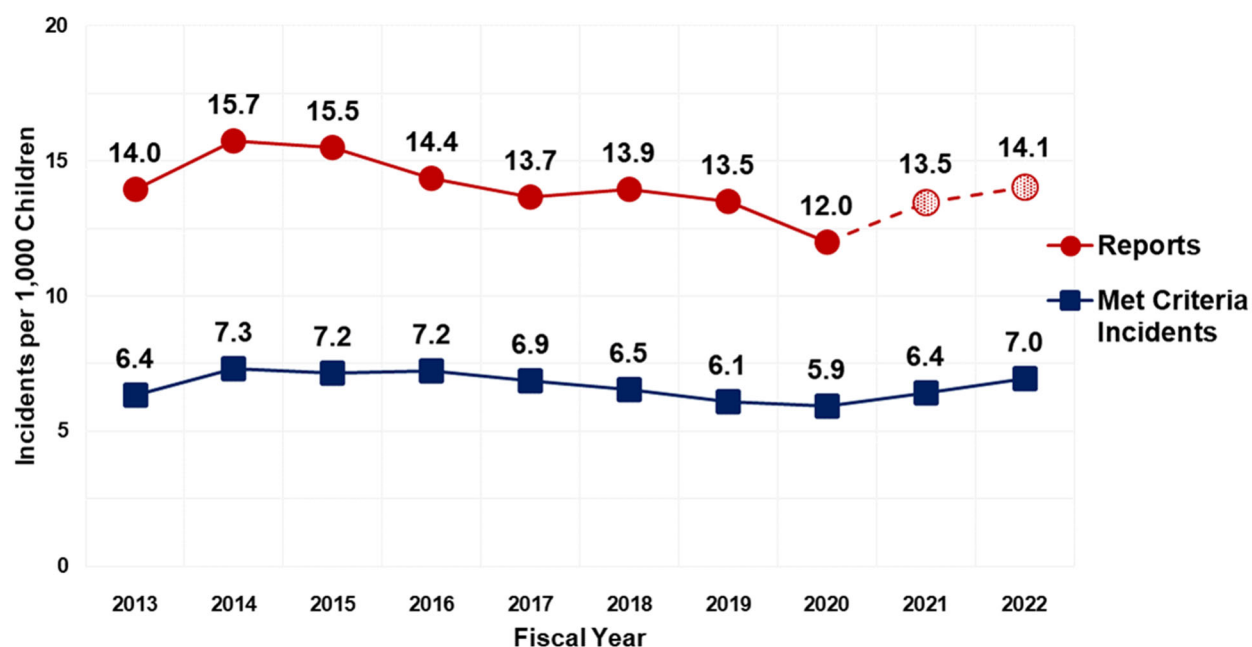


Figure 2. Rates of child abuse and neglect incidents reported to FAP per 1,000 children and child abuse and neglect incidents that met DoD criteria per 1,000 children over time.

Note. The dashed lines and dotted markers for the rate of reported incidents in FY 2021 and FY 2022 highlight the new calculation method implemented for reports of abuse.

³⁹ The FY 2022 rate of met criteria child abuse incidents per 1,000 children (7.0) did not vary significantly when compared to the average rate from FY 2013-FY 2022 (95 percent CI [6.34, 7.03]).

Figure 3 shows the distribution of met criteria incidents of abuse by maltreatment type. In FY 2022, neglect accounted for the largest proportion of met criteria incidents (57.77 percent). Physical abuse (20.35 percent) accounted for the next largest proportion of met criteria incidents, followed by emotional abuse (17.30 percent) and sexual abuse (4.57 percent). Overall, the distribution of met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents by abuse type mirrors the distribution of reports of child abuse and neglect incidents by abuse. Within military families, the two most prevalent forms of child neglect are a lack of supervision appropriate to the age and functioning of the child and exposure to physical hazards, such as bathtubs, electrical outlets, and unsafe cribs.

Types of Maltreatment in Child Abuse and Neglect Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2022)

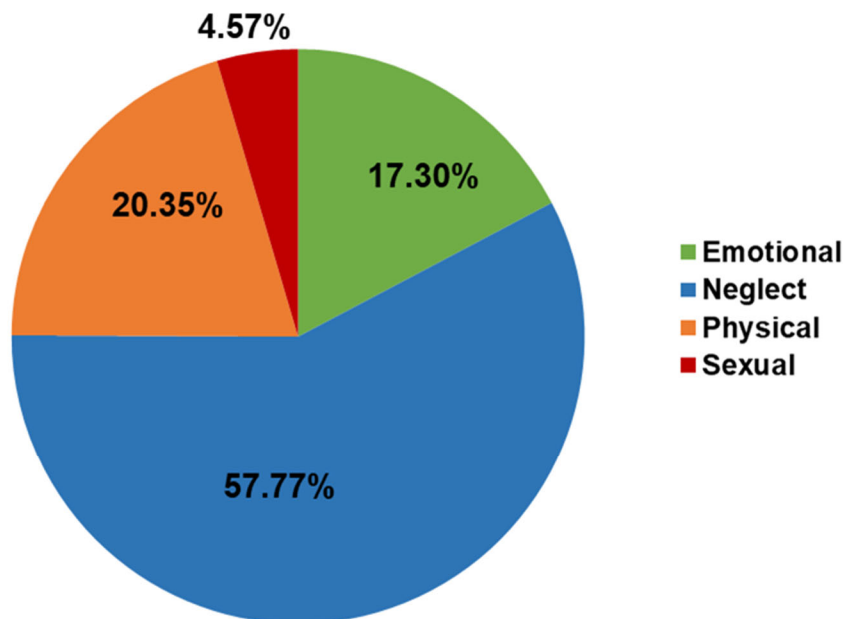


Figure 3. Percentage of the types of maltreatment in child abuse and neglect incidents that met DoD criteria in FY 2022.

Note. Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages is 99.9.

The number of met criteria incidents of each type of child maltreatment is displayed in Figure 4. Throughout the 10-year period from FY 2013-FY 2022, neglect has been the predominant type of child maltreatment. In FY 2022, there was an uptick in the number of met criteria incidents of emotional abuse and a slight decline in the number of met criteria incidents of physical abuse.

Child Abuse and Neglect Met Criteria Incidents by Maltreatment Type (FY 2013-FY 2022)

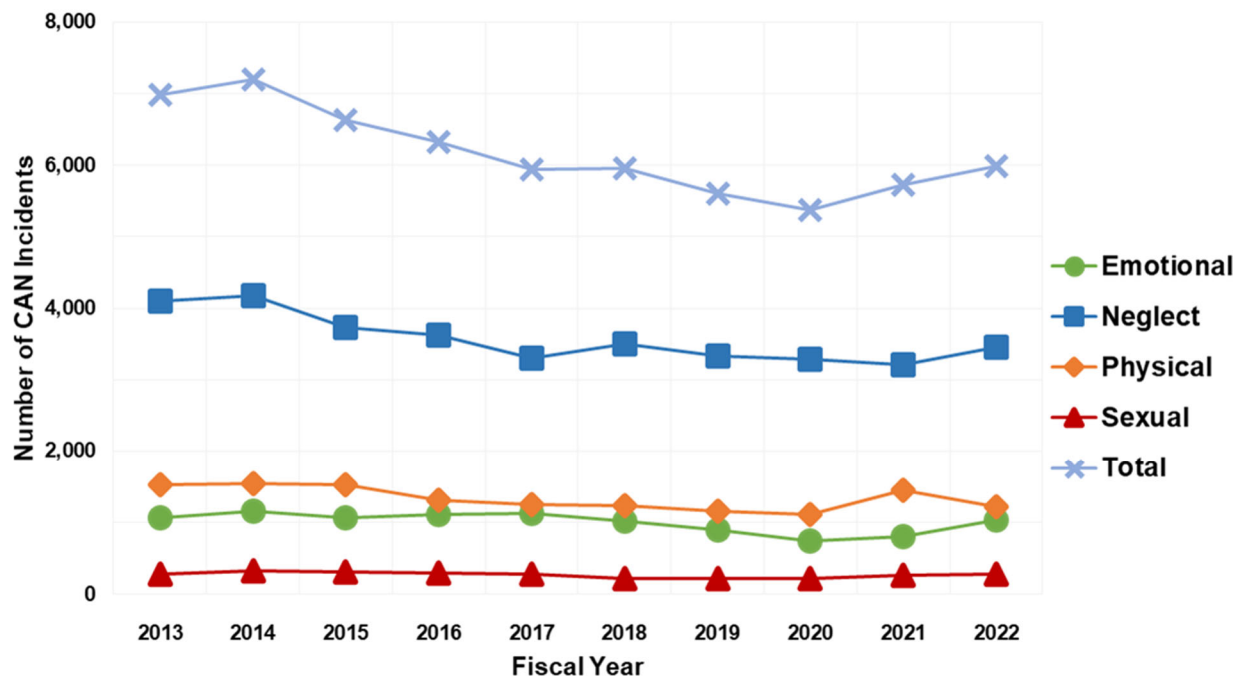


Figure 4. Number of incidents by type of child maltreatment over time.

Overall, 50 percent of reported incidents of child abuse and neglect were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse. As shown in Figure 5, this met criteria rate varied by abuse type, ranging from 39 percent of reports of physical abuse that met criteria to 58 percent of reports of sexual abuse that met criteria.

Proportion of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents that Met Criteria by Abuse Type (FY 2022)

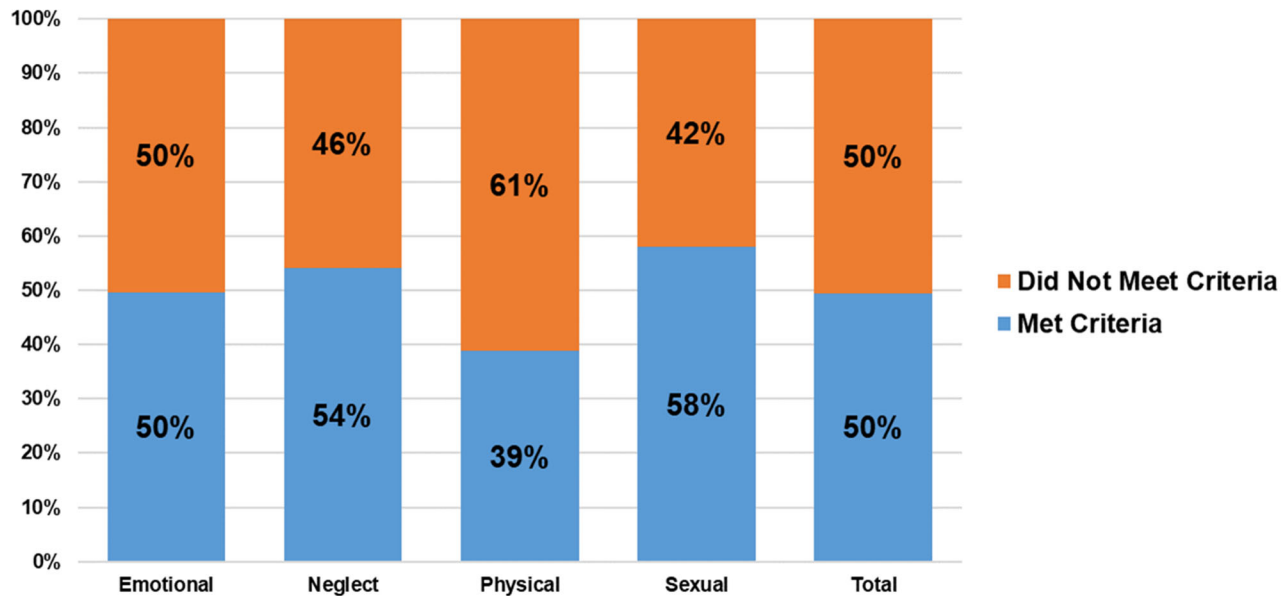


Figure 5. Child abuse and neglect met criteria rate by abuse type in FY 2022.

3-2. VICTIM PROFILE

This section describes the characteristics of children who experienced met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect and compares military child abuse and neglect data to the most recent civilian child abuse and neglect data.

As shown in Table 2, there were 4,438 unique victims of child abuse and neglect in FY 2022. The FY 2022 child abuse and neglect victim rate per 1,000 children was 5.2, which is higher than the rate of 4.5 per 1,000 in FY 2021 (see Figure 6). This numerical difference of 0.7 represents a 15.6 percent increase in the rate of child victims. Although there is an increase in the child victimization rate in FY 2022, it is not statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.⁴⁰

Table 2: Unique Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect (FY 2013-FY 2022)

Fiscal Year	Met Criteria Incidents	Unique Victims	Child Population	Met Criteria Incidents/1000	Rate of Victims/1000
2013	6,989	5,773	1,099,702	6.4	5.2
2014	7,676	5,670	1,050,889	7.3	5.4
2015	7,208	5,123	1,005,626	7.2	5.1
2016	6,998	4,960	969,058	7.2	5.1
2017	6,450	4,667	939,186	6.9	5.0
2018	6,010	4,266	921,193	6.5	4.6
2019	5,600	4,150	917,891	6.1	4.5
2020	5,369	3,894	905,577	5.9	4.3
2021	5,732	3,974	892,457	6.4	4.5
2022	5,994	4,438	861,638	7.0	5.2

Note. Incidents of maltreatment are calculated separately by type of maltreatment (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect); one or more incidents may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim.

⁴⁰ The FY 2022 unique child victim rate per 1,000 children was 5.15, shown in the table above as 5.2. This rate did not vary significantly when compared to the average child victim rate during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (95 percent CI [4.62, 5.16]).

Unique Child Victim Rate per 1,000 in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2013-FY 2022)

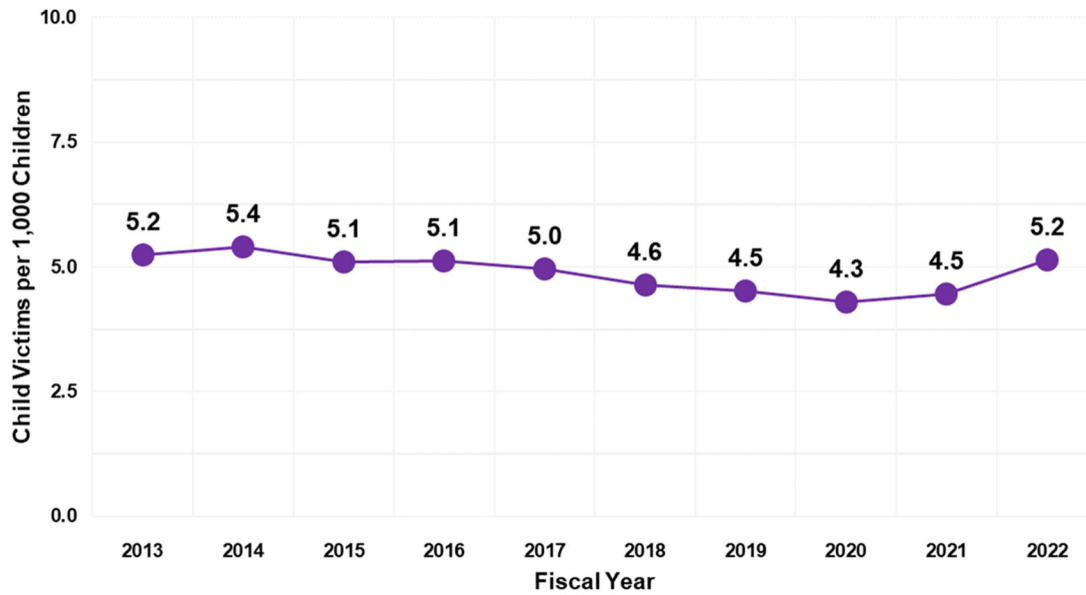


Figure 6. Rate of unique child abuse and neglect victims per 1,000 children over time.

Overall, 50 percent of victims in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect were female and 50 percent were male. Figure 7 depicts the sex of child abuse and neglect victims in met criteria incidents for each maltreatment type. In FY 2022, males were more likely to experience met criteria incidents of neglect (53 percent male vs. 47 percent female) and physical abuse (55 percent male vs. 45 percent female) than females. In contrast, females were more likely to experience emotional abuse (52 percent female vs. 48 percent male) and sexual abuse (91 percent female vs. 9 percent male) than males.

Sex of Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Maltreatment Type (FY 2022)

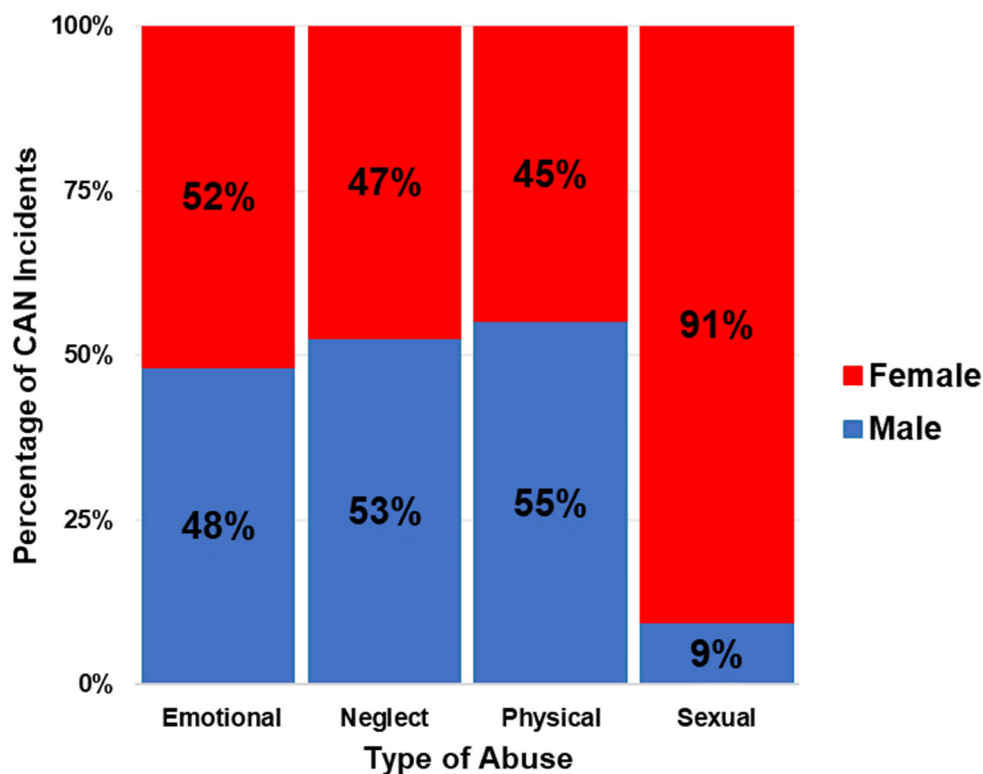


Figure 7. Sex of child victims by maltreatment type in FY 2022 met criteria incidents.

Figures 8 and 9 show the age distribution of child victims in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents. In FY 2022, there were 3,310 met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents with child victims age 5 or younger, representing more than half (55.2 percent) of all victims of child maltreatment in FY 2022. Within this group of victims age 5 or younger, there were 1,415 met criteria incidents involving children 1 year of age or younger and 1,895 involving children ages 2-5 years old. There were 1,476 met criteria incidents involving children ages 6-10, which represented nearly one-quarter (24.6 percent) of all met criteria incidents of abuse or neglect. Among children ages 11-17, there were 1,198 incidents or one-fifth (20.0 percent) of all met criteria incidents of abuse or neglect in FY 2022. Additionally, during FY 2022 there were 10 incidents involving children 18 years or older where the abuse occurred while the victims were a dependent child.

Ages of Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2022)

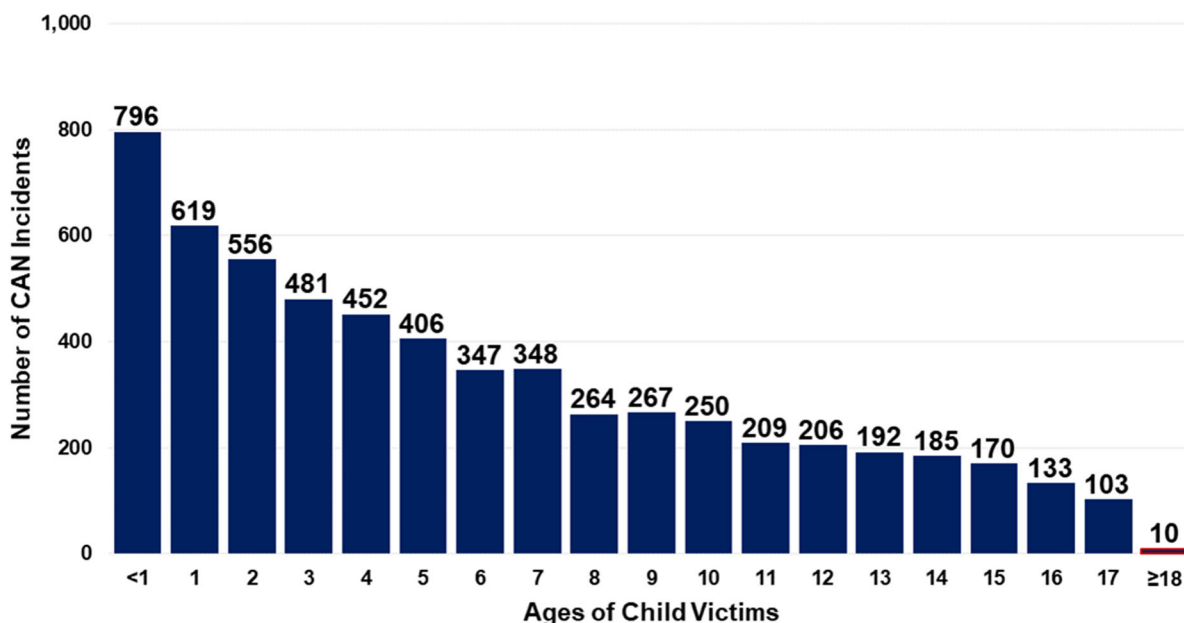


Figure 8. Number of victims by age in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents in FY 2022.

There are notable differences when comparing the age distribution of unique victims in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect in FY 2022 to the age distribution of children in military families. Figure 9 shows that there is a greater proportion of children in met criteria incidents of child maltreatment who are 1 year of age or younger than children of the same age group in the military child population (22.9 percent vs. 14.9 percent). The same pattern holds true for children between the ages of 2 and 5 (31.7 percent of met criteria incidents vs. 28.3 percent of total child population). In contrast, there is a smaller proportion of child victims in met criteria incidents than children in the military child population amongst children ages 6-10 (25.3 percent vs. 30.0 percent) and ages 11-17 (20.1 percent vs. 26.8 percent). We did not include incidents involving victims ages 18 or older in this comparison, as not all military children in this age group are in a dependent status.

Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Age Group, Compared to Demographics (FY 2022)

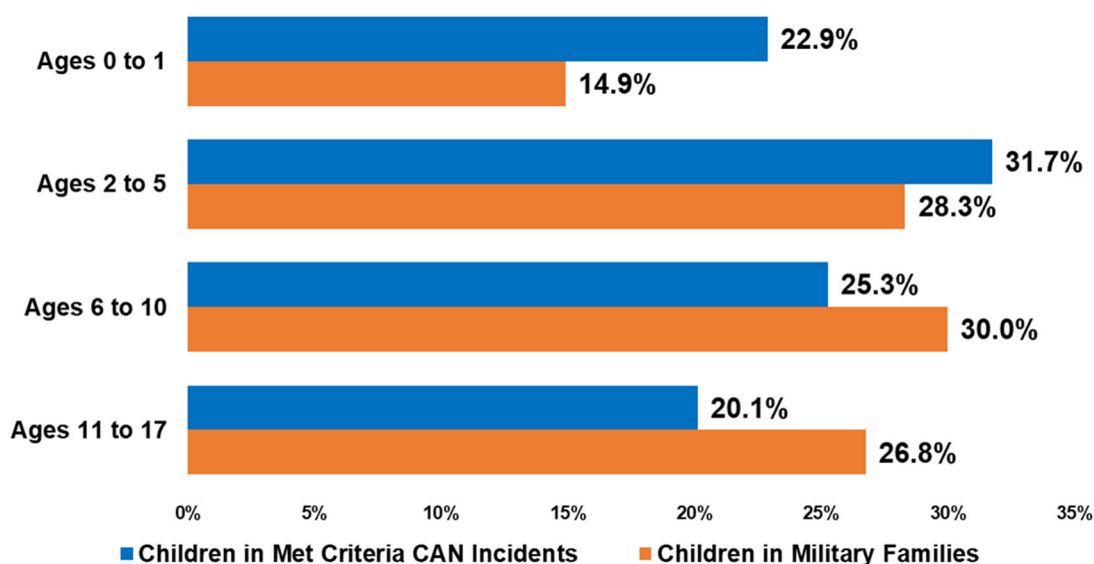


Figure 9. Comparison of the proportion of unique child victims in FY 2022 met criteria incidents by age to the proportion of the military child population by age.

3-3. COMPARISON TO U.S. CIVILIAN DATA

This section compares military child abuse and neglect data to the most recent U.S. civilian child abuse and neglect data.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services publishes an annual report that presents data on child abuse and neglect known to child protective service agencies in the United States. As shown in Figure 10, both the military met criteria rate and the civilian substantiation (very similar to met criteria) rate have fluctuated over time; however, the military rate has consistently exceeded the civilian rate over the past decade.⁴¹ The military met criteria rate in FY 2022 was 49.5 percent, which is higher than the FY 2021 military rate (47.7 percent). The civilian substantiation rate for FY 2021 was 17.8 percent, which is higher than the FY 2020 civilian rate (17.6 percent).

Military Met Criteria Rate vs. U.S. Civilian Substantiation Rate for Child Maltreatment (FY 2013-FY2022)

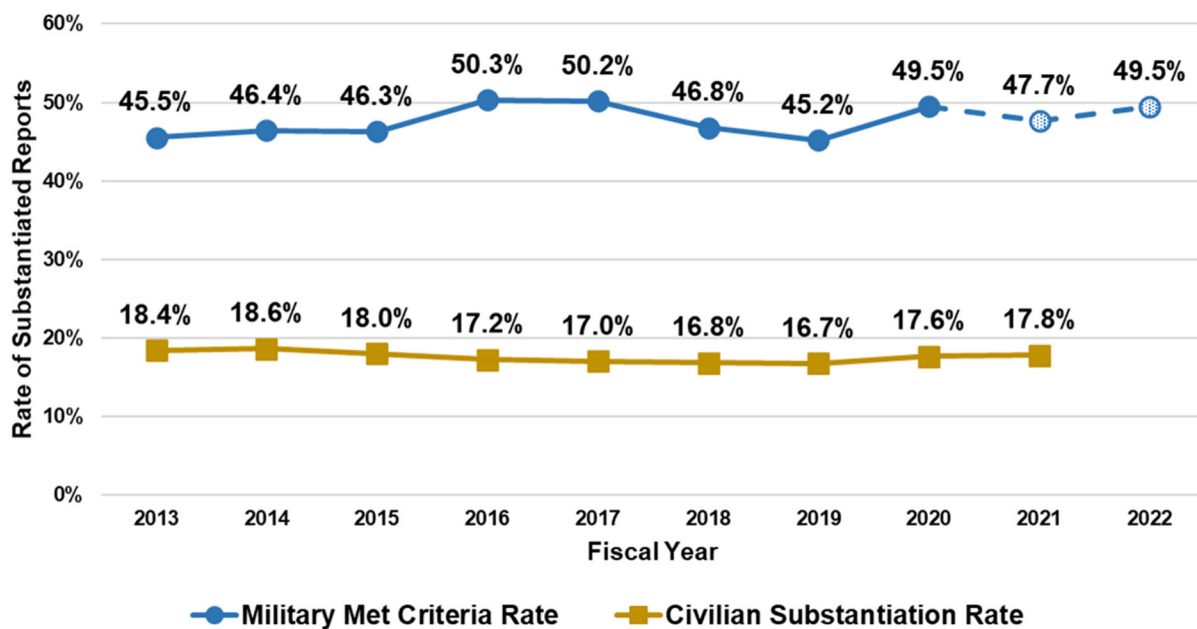


Figure 10. Military met criteria and U.S. civilian substantiation rates for child abuse and neglect over time.

Note. The dashed lines and dotted markers for the military met criteria rate in FY 2021 and FY 2022 highlight the new calculation method implemented for reports of abuse. The most recent U.S. civilian data are from FY 2021, which represents a one-year lag compared to DoD data.

⁴¹ *Child Maltreatment 2013 through 2021*, inclusive.

Figure 11 shows the military child abuse and neglect victim rate per 1,000 military children (i.e., the military child victimization rate) compared to the U.S. civilian victimization rate per 1,000 children. Although both the military and civilian child victimization rates have fluctuated over time, the military child victimization rate has consistently been lower than the civilian rate over the past decade⁴² (see Figure 11). The military child victimization rate for FY 2022 was 5.2 per 1,000 children, which is higher than the FY 2021 military rate (4.5). The civilian child victimization rate for FY 2021 was 8.1 per 1,000 children, which is lower than the FY 2020 civilian rate (8.4).

Considering that the military confirms child abuse and neglect at more than twice the civilian rate (see Figure 10) yet the military has a lower rate of victims per 1,000 children, the overall rate of child abuse and neglect in the military is substantially lower than in the civilian sector.

Military Child Victimization Rate vs. U.S. Civilian Child Victimization Rate per 1,000 Children (FY 2013-FY 2022)

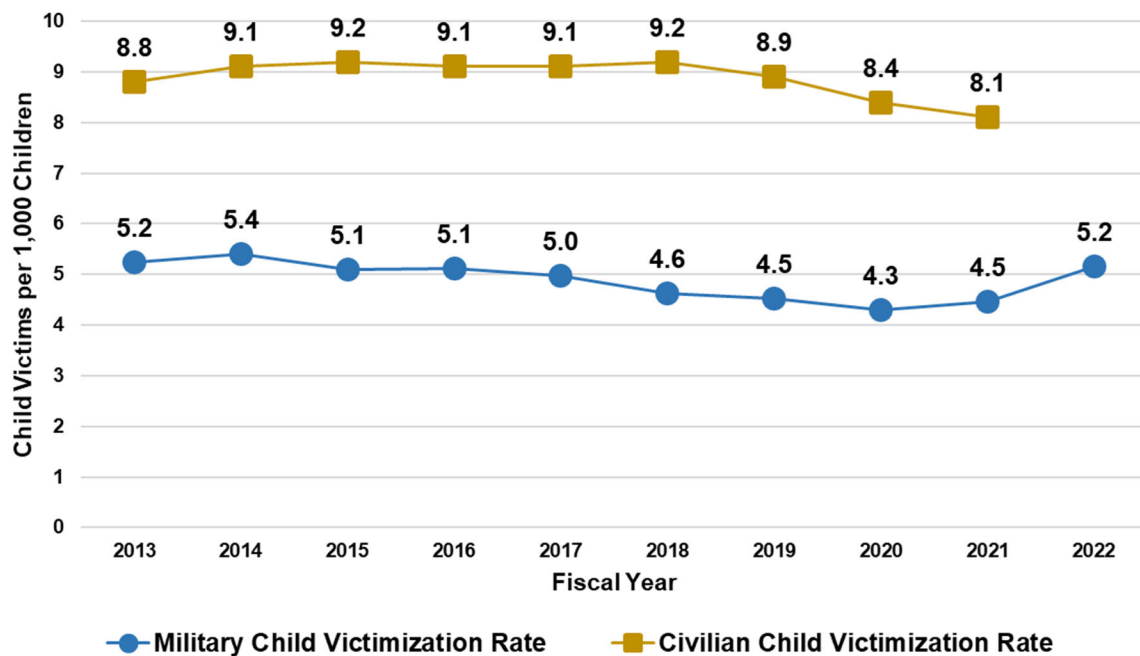


Figure 11. Military child abuse and neglect victim rate and U.S. civilian child victimization rate over time.

Note. The most recent U.S. civilian data are from FY 2021, which represents a one-year lag compared to DoD data.

⁴² *Child Maltreatment 2013 through 2021*, inclusive.

3-4. ABUSER PROFILE

This section describes characteristics of adults involved in incidents that met criteria for child abuse and neglect, including military status and paygrade.

As shown in Figure 12, parents represented the largest proportion of abusers involved in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect in FY 2022, where 50.7 percent of abusers were Service member parents and 41.7 percent were civilian parents. Fewer abusers involved in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect were extra-familial caregivers (4.4 percent), other family members (2.6 percent), or had an unknown status (0.6 percent). There was a statistically significant difference in the distribution of caregiver statuses in FY 2022 when compared to FY 2021,⁴³ with a notable decrease in the proportion of extra-familial caregivers involved in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents (4.4 percent in FY 2022 vs. 10.2 percent in FY 2021).

Caregiver Status of Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2022)

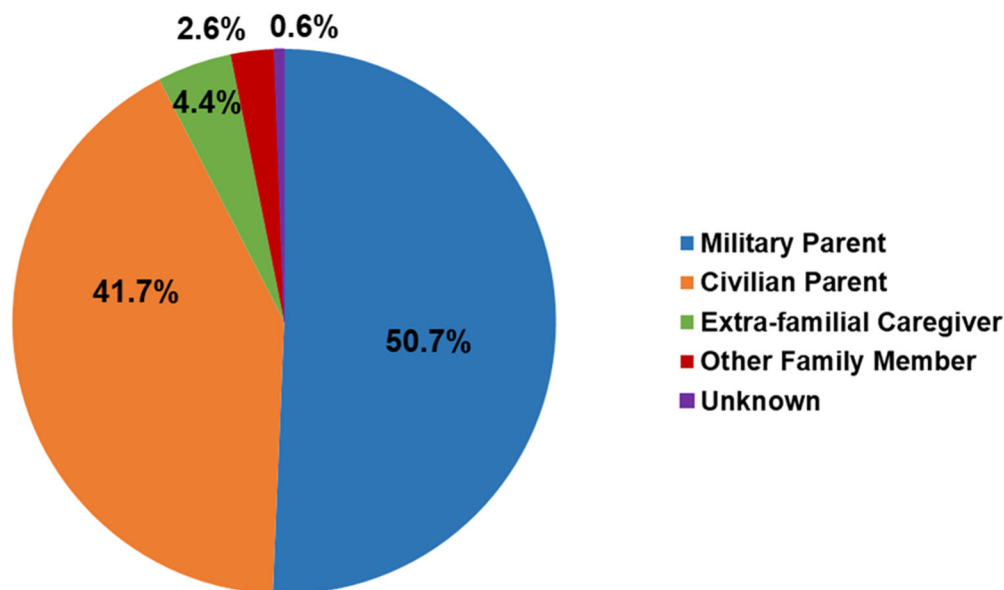


Figure 12. Caregiver status of abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents in FY 2022.

Note. Service member parents, referred to as military parents in the figure, include active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

⁴³ The distribution of caregiver statuses involved in child abuse and neglect incidents in FY 2022 differed significantly from the distribution of caregiver statuses in FY 2021 ($\chi^2(4, N = 5,994) = 224.20, p < .001$). See Appendix C to the *Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2021* for an analysis of potential factors that contributed to this difference.

As shown in Figure 13, the military status distribution of abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents has remained relatively consistent since FY 2013. In FY 2022, 55 percent of abusers were Service members and 45 percent were civilians.

Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2013-FY 2022)

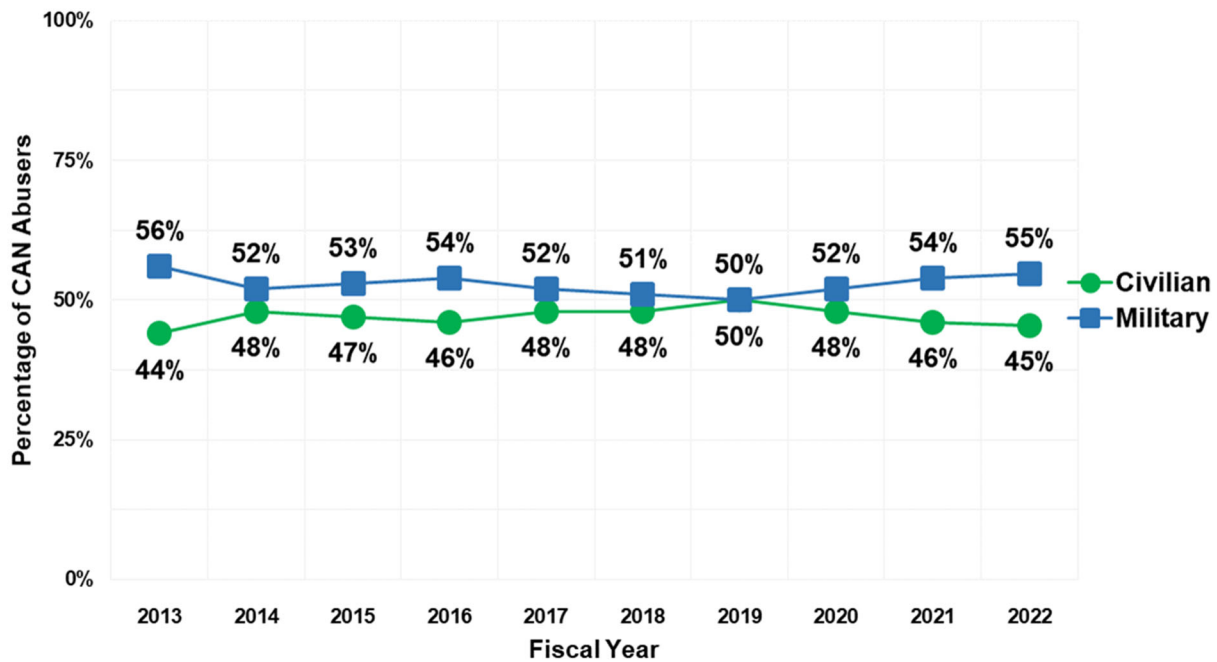


Figure 13. Military status of unique abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents over time.

Note. Abusers with an unknown status were excluded from this graph.

Figure 14 displays the pay grade distribution for Service member parent abusers who were involved in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents. Most Service member parent abusers were junior enlisted members; 67 percent were E-4 through E-6, and 14 percent were E-1 through E-3. Fewer parent abusers were senior enlisted (13 percent were E-7 through E-9), officers (3 percent were O-1 through O-3; 2 percent were O-4 through O-10), or warrant officers (1 percent were WO-1 through WO-5).

Pay Grade Distribution of Service Member Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2022)

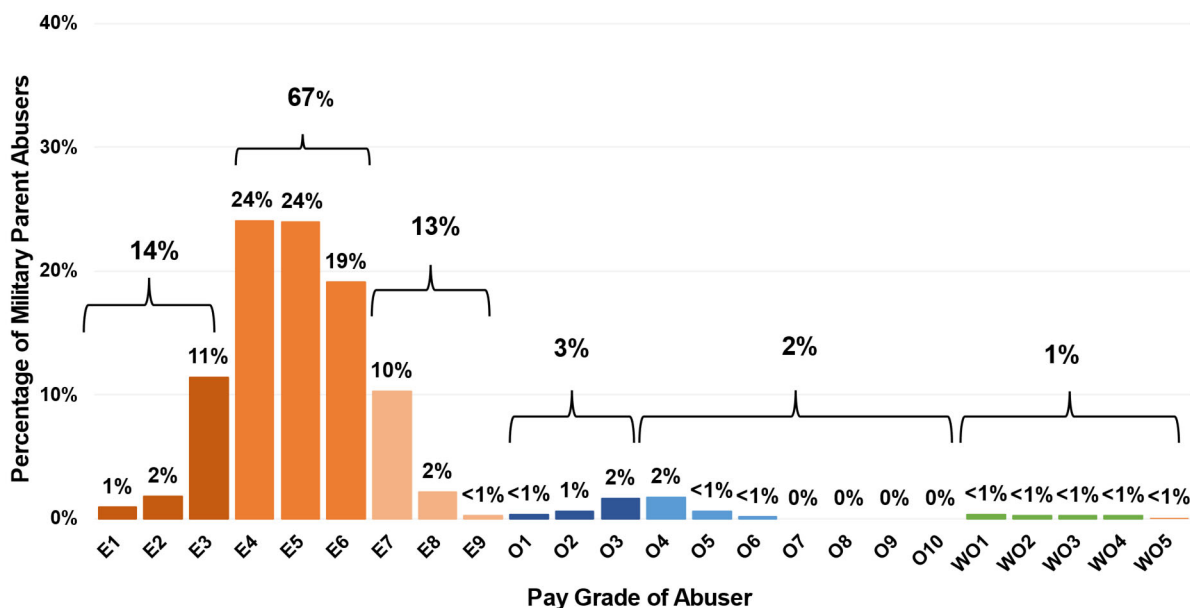


Figure 14. Percentage of Service member parent abusers in each pay grade in FY 2022.

Note. Service member parents, referred to as military parent abusers in the figure, include active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

When comparing the pay grades of active duty⁴⁴ parent abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents to the pay grades of the total population of active duty parents in FY 2022, the differences in relative proportions are pronounced, although they are relatively consistent with FY 2021 data. As displayed in Figure 15, a much greater proportion of active duty parents in met criteria incidents of child maltreatment are in the E-1 through E-3 pay grade (14 percent vs. 4 percent) and the E-4 through E-6 pay grade (67 percent vs. 49 percent) than in the active duty parent population.⁴⁵

Meanwhile, there are proportionally fewer active duty parents involved in met criteria incidents compared to the active duty parent population in the E-7 through E-9 (13 percent vs. 22 percent), O-1 through O-3 (3 percent vs. 8 percent), O-4 through O-10 (2 percent vs. 14 percent), and WO-1 through WO-5 (1 percent vs. 3 percent) pay grades.

Proportion of Active Duty Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents by Pay Grade, Compared to Demographics (FY 2022)

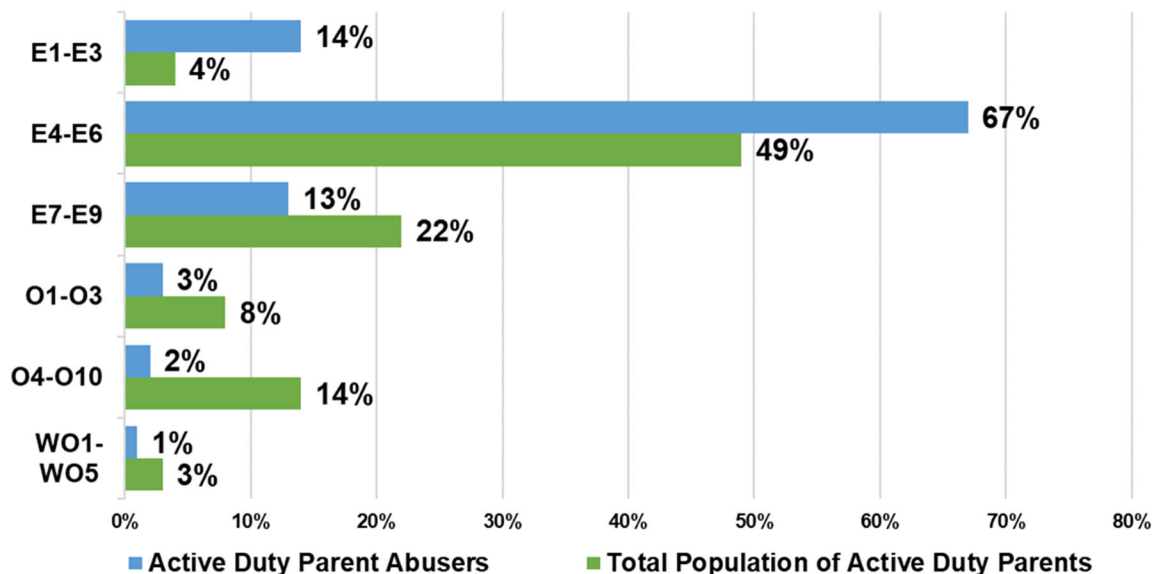


Figure 15. Comparison of the proportion of active duty parent abusers in met criteria child maltreatment incidents with a particular pay grade to the proportion of active duty parents in the military population with a particular pay grade.

⁴⁴ For the purposes of this report, active duty refers to Regular Component members, exclusively.

⁴⁵ While Figure 14 displays pay grade of Service member parent abusers in met criteria incidents, this figure focuses on pay grade of active duty parent abusers in met criteria incidents, exclusively.

While the breakdown of active duty parents by pay grade in Figure 15 shows that the greatest proportion of abusers were in the E-4 through E-6 pay grade, the rate of active duty parent abusers per 1,000 involved in met criteria incidents of child maltreatment is highest for parents who are in the E-1 through E-3 (15.5) pay grades (see Figure 16). This means that active duty parents in the E-1 through E-3 pay grades were more likely to be involved in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect than active duty parents in any other pay grade band, relative to their proportion in the active duty parent population. This finding is consistent with previous years.

Rate of Active Duty Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents per 1,000 by Pay Grade (FY 2022)

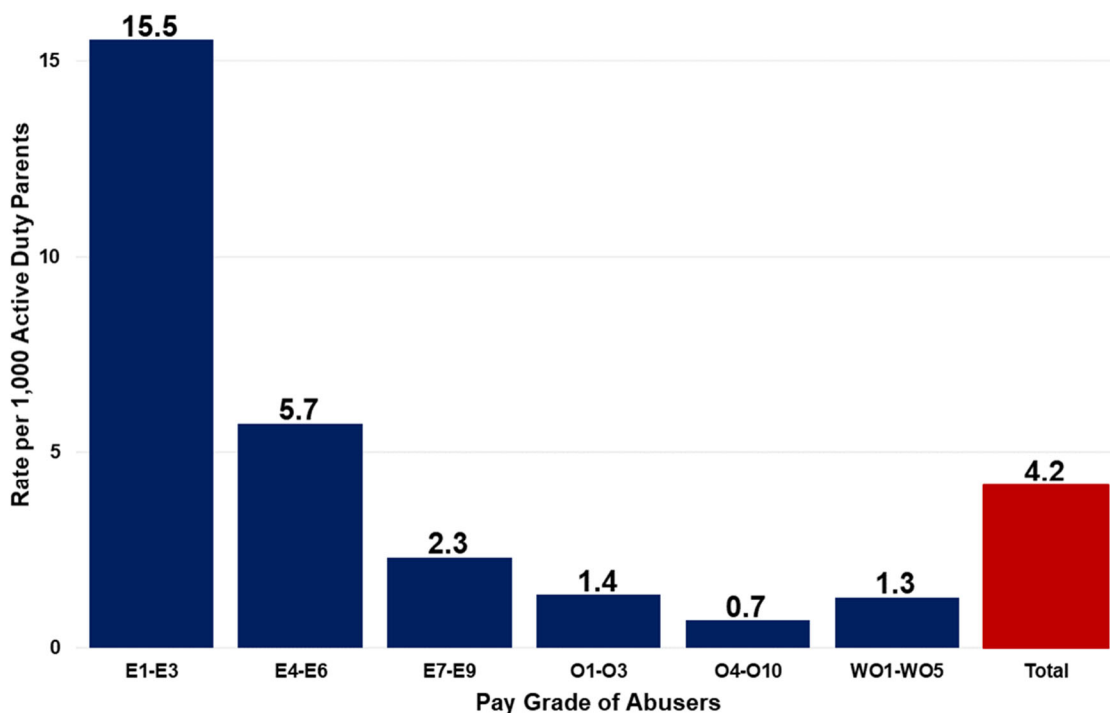


Figure 16. Rate of active duty parent met criteria abusers per 1,000 parents in the population by parent pay grade in FY 2022.

Overall, 55 percent of abusers in child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria were male and 45 percent were female.

Figure 17 shows the proportions of male and female abusers in met criteria incidents for each type of child maltreatment and demonstrates how the sex of abusers varies in these incidents. The vast majority of abusers for incidents of child sexual abuse were male (97 percent male vs. 3 percent female). Males were also more likely to be abusers in emotional abuse incidents (65 percent male vs. 35 percent female) and physical abuse incidents (64 percent male vs. 36 percent female). In contrast, among incidents of neglect, the most common type of child maltreatment in military families, 54 percent of abusers were female and 46 percent were male.

Sex of Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Maltreatment Type (FY 2022)

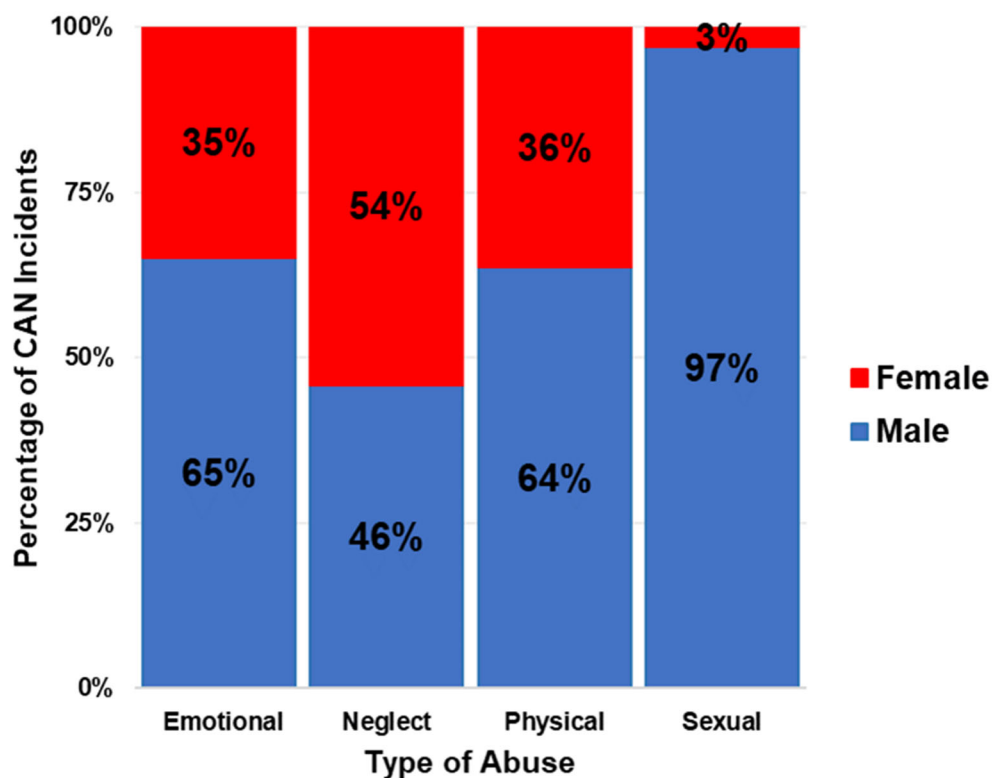


Figure 17. Sex of abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents by maltreatment type in FY 2022.

Note. The sex of the abuser was unknown in 29 met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect. Those incidents were excluded from this graph.

Figure 18 shows the proportion of unique abusers in met criteria incidents of child maltreatment by age group and sex. The majority of abusers (46.8 percent) in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect were ages 25-34 (25.8 percent male and 21.0 percent female). About a quarter of abusers (25.1 percent) were ages 35-44 (15.1 percent male and 10.0 percent female), nearly a quarter of abusers (23.6 percent) were ages 18-24 (12.6 percent male and 11.0 percent female), and a smaller proportion of abusers (4.5 percent) were 45 years of age or older (2.5 percent male and 2.0 percent female). Less than 1 percent of abusers were younger than age 18.

Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2022)

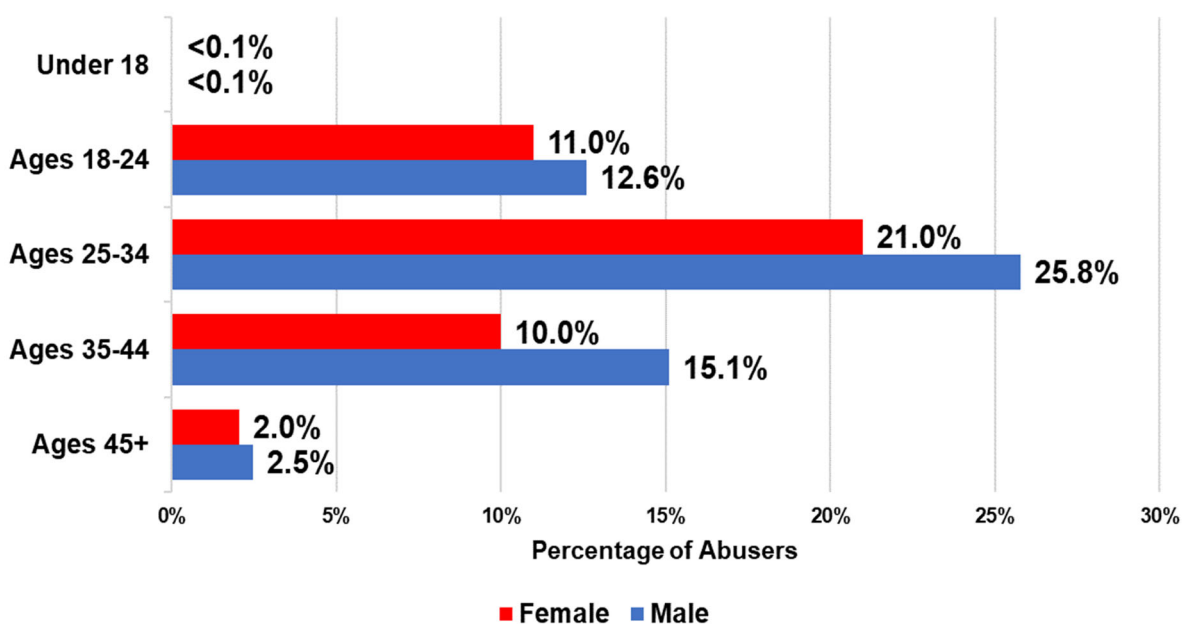


Figure 18. Age group and sex of unique abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents in FY 2022.

Note. Abusers with unknown status or demographics were excluded from this graph.

3-5. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

For the fifth time in this annual report series, we specifically examine child sexual abuse as a subset of child abuse.⁴⁶ Data on these incidents are also included in the *FY 2022 DoD Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military* as Appendix H. Child sexual abuse is defined as:

“The employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or inter-familial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.”⁴⁷

In FY 2022, there were 274 met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse (see Table 3), and 269 unique victims of child sexual abuse who received FAP services. Given that there were more incidents than victims, one or more victims experienced more than one incident of child sexual abuse during the fiscal year. The FY 2022 rate of child sexual abuse incidents per 1,000 military children represents a statistically significant increase when compared to the 10-year period.⁴⁸

Table 3: Incidents of Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse (FY 2013-FY 2022)

Fiscal Year	Met Criteria Incidents	Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents	Child Population	Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents/1000	Percentage of Overall Met Criteria Child Abuse
2013	6,989	289	1,099,702	0.263	4.14
2014	7,676	328	1,050,889	0.312	4.27
2015	7,208	317	1,005,626	0.315	4.40
2016	6,998	311	969,058	0.321	4.44
2017	6,450	286	939,186	0.305	4.43
2018	6,010	227	921,193	0.246	3.78
2019	5,600	212	917,891	0.231	3.79
2020	5,369	222	905,577	0.245	4.13
2021	5,732	260	892,457	0.291	4.54
2022	5,994	274	861,638	0.318	4.57

Note. Total met criteria child abuse incidents numbers include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect met criteria numbers combined.

⁴⁶ DoDI 6400.01, May 1, 2019 defines “child abuse” as, “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 intra-familial or extra-familial, 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.”

⁴⁷ DoDI 6400.03, “Family Advocacy Command Assistance Team (FACAT),” April 25, 2014, as amended.

⁴⁸ Although the FY 2022 number of met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse (274) did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average (95 percent CI [242.97, 302.23]), the rate of child sexual abuse incidents per 1,000 military children (0.318) represents a statistically significant increase when compared to the 10-year average (95 percent CI [0.260, 0.310]).

Of the 269 unique victims of child sexual abuse who received FAP services in FY 2022, 243 (90.3 percent) were female and 26 (9.7 percent) were male. Figure 19 shows the proportion of unique child sexual abuse victims by age and sex. Of the unique victims in met criteria incidents of sexual abuse, 56.1 percent (53.1 percent female and 3.0 percent male) were ages 11-17, 25.7 percent (22.7 percent female and 3.0 percent male) were ages 6-10, and 16.0 percent (12.6 percent female and 3.4 percent male) were ages 2-5. Of the unique victims, 1.1 percent (0.7 percent female and 0.4 percent male) were age 1 or younger, and 1.1 percent were child dependents 18 years old or older.

Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2022)

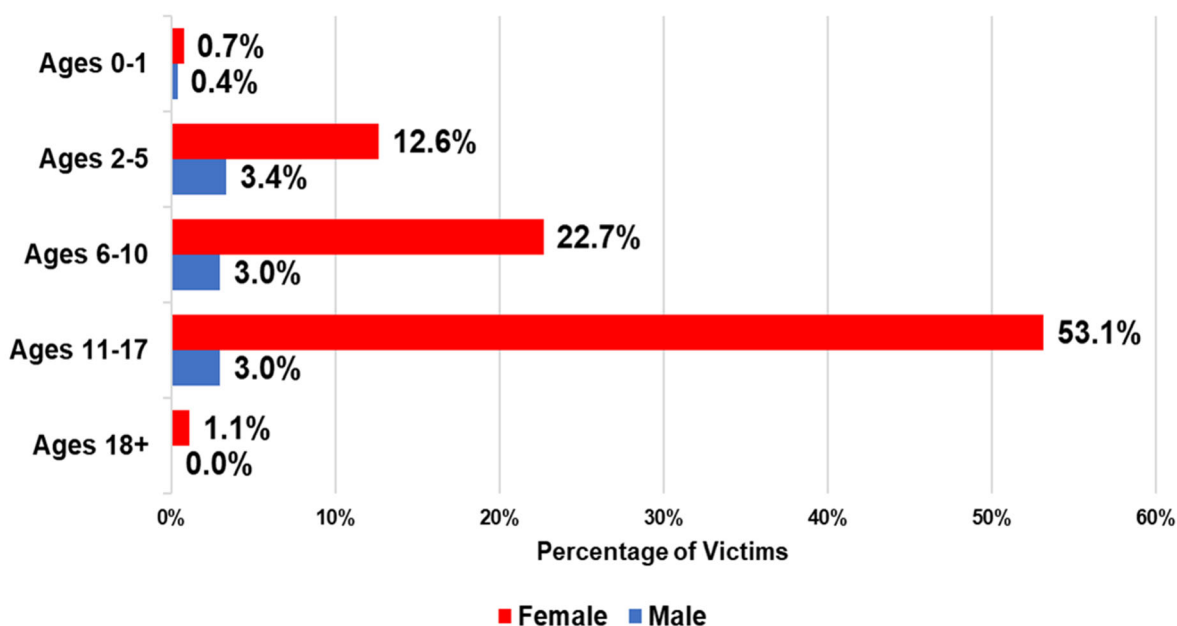


Figure 19. Age group and sex of unique victims in met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse in FY 2022.

There were 226 known unique abusers in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents.⁴⁹ Among those known abusers, 123 (54.4 percent) were Service member parents, 30 (13.3 percent) were civilian parents, 42 (18.6 percent) were other family members, and 31 (13.7 percent) were extra-familial caregivers (see Figure 20).

Of the known abusers, 150 were Service members, including 148 (98.7 percent) active duty members and 2 (1.3 percent) members of the Reserves. Of the 150 Service members, 137 (91.3 percent) were enlisted members, 8 (5.3 percent) were officers, and 5 (3.3 percent) were warrant officers.⁵⁰

Caregiver Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

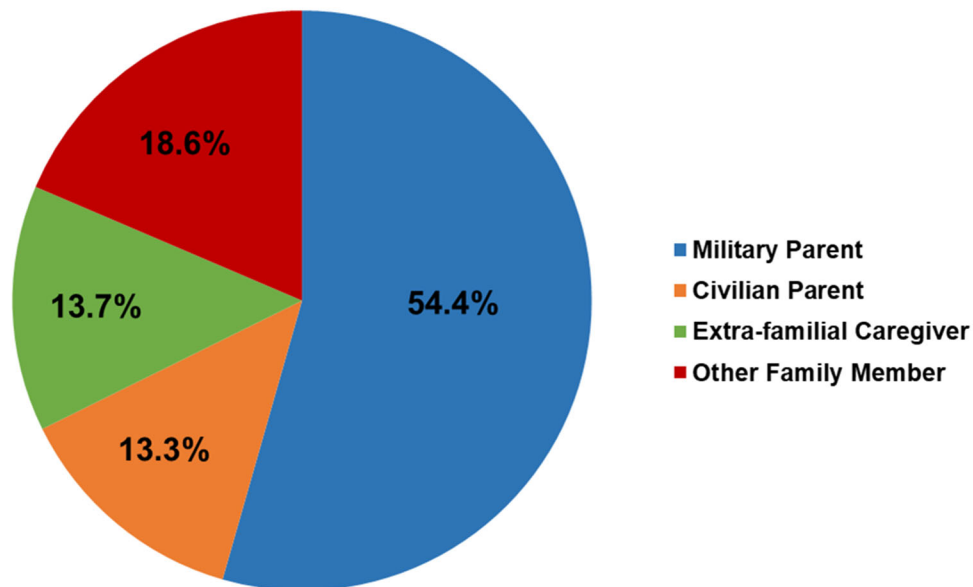


Figure 20. Caregiver status of unique abusers in met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse in FY 2022.

Note. Service member parents, referred to as military parents in the figure, include active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status. Abusers with an unknown status are excluded from the graph.

⁴⁹ In FY 2022, there were 4 met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse where the abuser was unknown.

⁵⁰ Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages is 99.9.

Of the 226 known unique abusers in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents, 219 (96.9 percent) were male and 7 (3.1 percent) were female. Figure 21 shows the proportion of unique abusers in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents by age group and sex. Among unique abusers where both the age and sex were known, 46.0 percent were ages 35-44 and overwhelmingly male (44.7 percent male and 1.3 percent female), 32.4 percent were ages of 25-34 (31.1 percent male and 1.3 percent female). Of the known abusers, 12.4 percent were ages 18-24 (11.9 percent male and 0.5 percent female), 8.7 percent were males, 45 years of age or older, and 0.5 percent were males, younger than age 18.

Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2022)

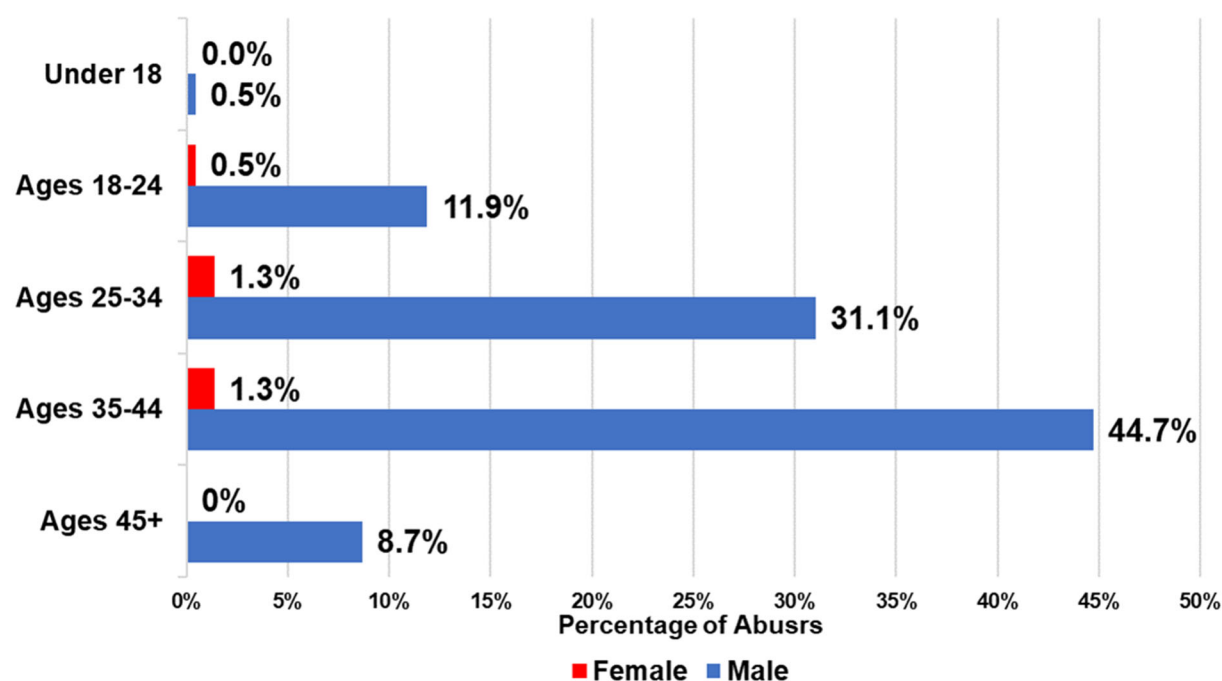


Figure 21. Age group and sex of unique abusers in met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse in FY 2022.

Note. Abusers with unknown status or demographics were excluded from this graph.

3-6. CHILD ABUSE FATALITIES

As discussed previously, reviews of fatalities reported to the Central Registry in FY 2022 will occur in the Military Departments in FY 2024. Data on child fatalities included in this report represent only those fatalities taken to the IDC after the death of the victim and that met criteria for child abuse and neglect in FY 2022.

There were 12 child abuse-related fatalities involving 15 abusers taken to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2022 (see Table 4). Of the 12 child abuse-related fatalities, 3 child victims and 2 met criteria abusers were previously known to the Central Registry.⁵¹ Among the child fatality victims, three (25.0 percent) was female and nine (75.0 percent) were male. Ten (83.3 percent) child victims were 1 year of age or younger, and two (16.7 percent) child victims were 2-5 years old. Among the met criteria abusers in these child fatality incidents, seven (46.7 percent) were female and eight (53.3 percent) were male. Of the 15 met criteria abusers, eight (53.3 percent) were Service members and seven (46.7 percent) were civilians.

Table 4: Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities Reported to FAP in FY 2022

Total Fatalities: 12	
- 15 Met criteria abusers involved (including 3 fatalities with 2 or more abusers)	
- 3 Child victims previously known to the Central Registry	
- 2 Met criteria abusers previously known to the Central Registry	
Victims	
Sex of Victims	Ages of Victims
- 3 Female	- 10 One year of age or younger
- 9 Male	- 2 Between ages 2-5 years old
Met Criteria Abusers	
Sex of Abusers	Military Status of Abusers
- 7 Female	- 8 Active duty
- 8 Male	- 7 Civilian

Note. Represents only those fatalities taken to the IDC in FY 2022. Military Service fatality reviews of these incidents will take place in FY 2024. Service member includes active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

⁵¹ “Known to the Central Registry” means that the victim or abuser was involved in a previous met criteria incident of abuse.

4. DOMESTIC ABUSE

This section discusses domestic abuse and provides information on reports to FAP in FY 2022, incidents of domestic abuse that met criteria, and the characteristics of the adult victims and abusers involved in those incidents.

DoD policy 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]).”⁵²

For purposes of this report, FAP distinctly analyzes incidents of spouse abuse and incidents of intimate partner abuse in addition to the umbrella category of domestic abuse, which contains the sum of all incidents. There is no Federal mechanism to track rates of civilian spouse abuse for comparison to the military population. This is, in part, because each state has different laws and definitions of domestic abuse—making a comparative analysis to civilian data impossible.

Spouse abuse – Either the victim or abuser was a 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. This definition was expanded in FY 2022 to include those in dating relationships. Either the victim or the abuser was a Service member.

Domestic abuse, per DoD policy, encompasses four distinct types of abuse for either spouse or intimate partner abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Spouse 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 abuse is outlined in implementing guidance for use during the standardized incident determination process.⁵³ One or more incidents may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim.

Reports and incidents of domestic abuse are reported separately by type of abuse. Prior to FY 2015, a single met criteria incident may have included multiple abuse types. Similarly, prior to FY 2021, a single report of abuse may have included multiple abuse types. Calculation and reporting have since been standardized for consistency.

⁵² DoDI 6400.06, December 15, 2021, as amended.

⁵³ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016.

4-1. DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS

For the second year, this report includes an expanded analysis of the overarching category of domestic abuse, which provides a better understanding about the demographic characteristics of domestic abuse victims and abusers.

Overall, the number of reports and met criteria incidents of domestic abuse has steadily decreased over the past decade, despite year-over-year increases from FY 2020 to FY 2021 and then again from FY 2021 to FY 2022 (see Figure 22). The number of reports of domestic abuse (15,479) in FY 2022 represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average.⁵⁴ Although there is an increase in the number of met criteria domestic abuse incidents in FY 2022 (8,307), it is not statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.⁵⁵

Number of Domestic Abuse Reports vs. Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2013-FY 2022)

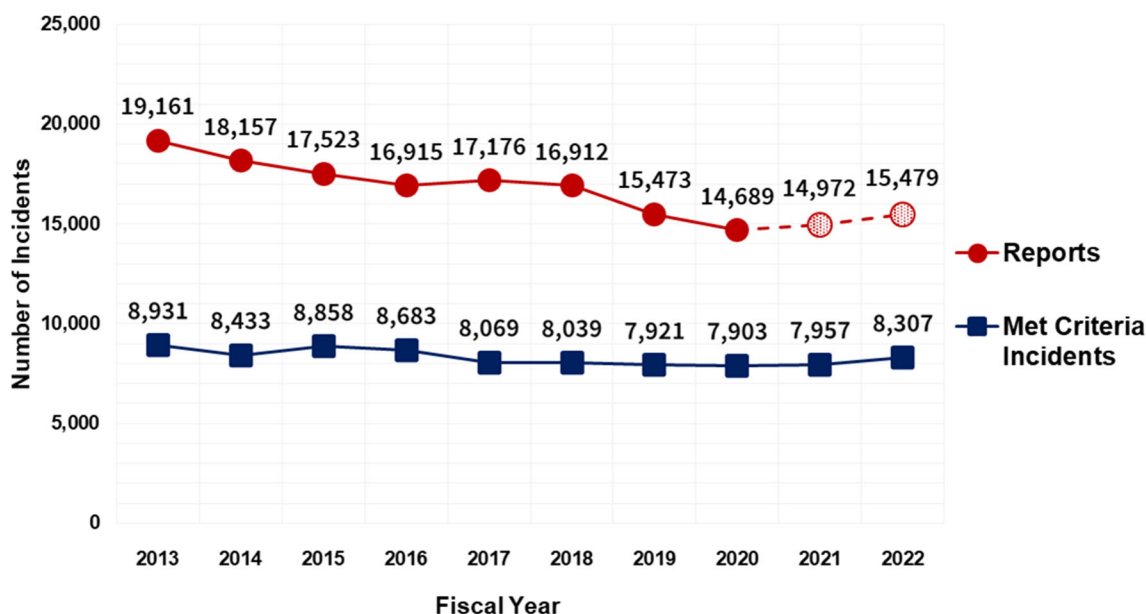


Figure 22. Number of domestic abuse incidents reported to FAP and the number of domestic abuse incidents that met DoD criteria over time.

Note. Domestic abuse includes spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse. Starting in FY 2021, reports of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type. A single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. Similarly, starting in FY 2015, incidents of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type.

⁵⁴ The FY 2022 number of domestic abuse reports (15,479) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average number of domestic abuse reports during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (95 percent CI [15,601.63, 17,689.77]).

⁵⁵ The FY 2022 number of met criteria incidents of domestic abuse (8,307) did not vary significantly when compared to the average number of domestic abuse incidents during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (95 percent CI [8,026.62, 8,593.58]).

As shown in Figure 23, physical abuse accounted for the largest proportion of met criteria domestic abuse incidents in FY 2022 (68.20 percent). Emotional abuse (25.74 percent) accounted for the next largest proportion of met criteria incidents. Sexual abuse (6.07 percent) accounted for a much smaller proportion of incident.⁵⁶ There were no met criteria domestic abuse incidents of neglect in FY 2022.

The proportion of domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse (6.07 percent) was nearly one percentage point higher than the proportion in FY 2021 (5.14). Since FY 2013, the proportion of domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse has increased incrementally, although there was a slight decrease in FY 2018. In FY 2022, the increase in the proportion of adult sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse is statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.⁵⁷

Types of Abuse in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

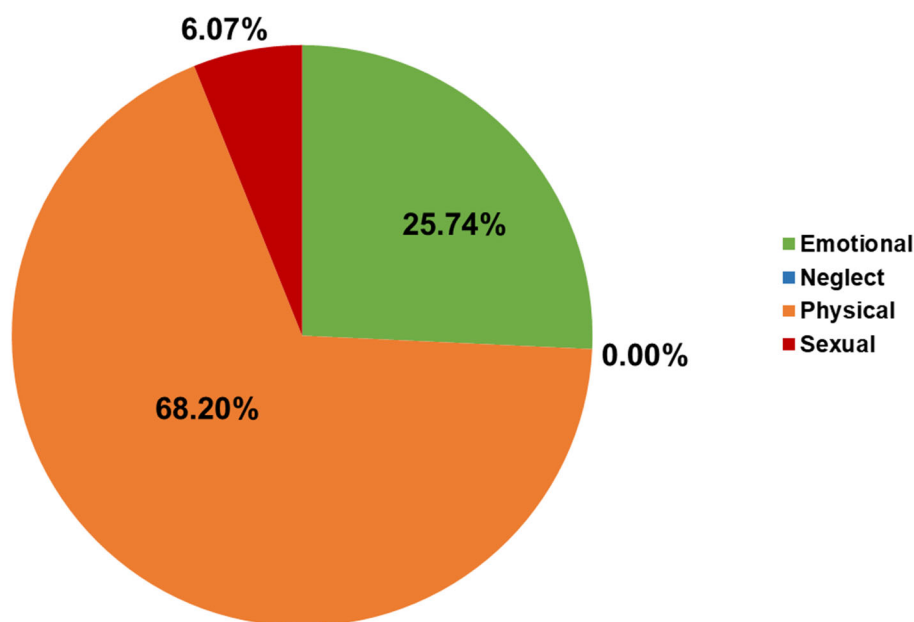


Figure 23. Percentage of the types of abuse in domestic abuse incidents that met DoD criteria in FY 2022.

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

⁵⁶ Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages is 100.01.

⁵⁷ The FY 2022 proportion (6.07 percent) of adult sexual abuse incidents among all domestic abuse incidents represents a statistically significant increase when compared to the average proportion of sexual abuse incidents among domestic abuse incidents during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (95 percent CI [0.0303, 0.0460]).

Figure 24 shows victim and abuser sex in met criteria domestic abuse incidents. In 69 percent of all met criteria domestic abuse incidents, the victim was female and the abuser was male. In 27 percent of incidents, the victim was male and the abuser was female. In 3 percent of incidents, the victim and abuser were female. And in 1 percent of met criteria domestic abuse incidents the victim and abuser were male (see Figure 24).

Proportion of Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Victim and Abuser Sex (FY 2022)

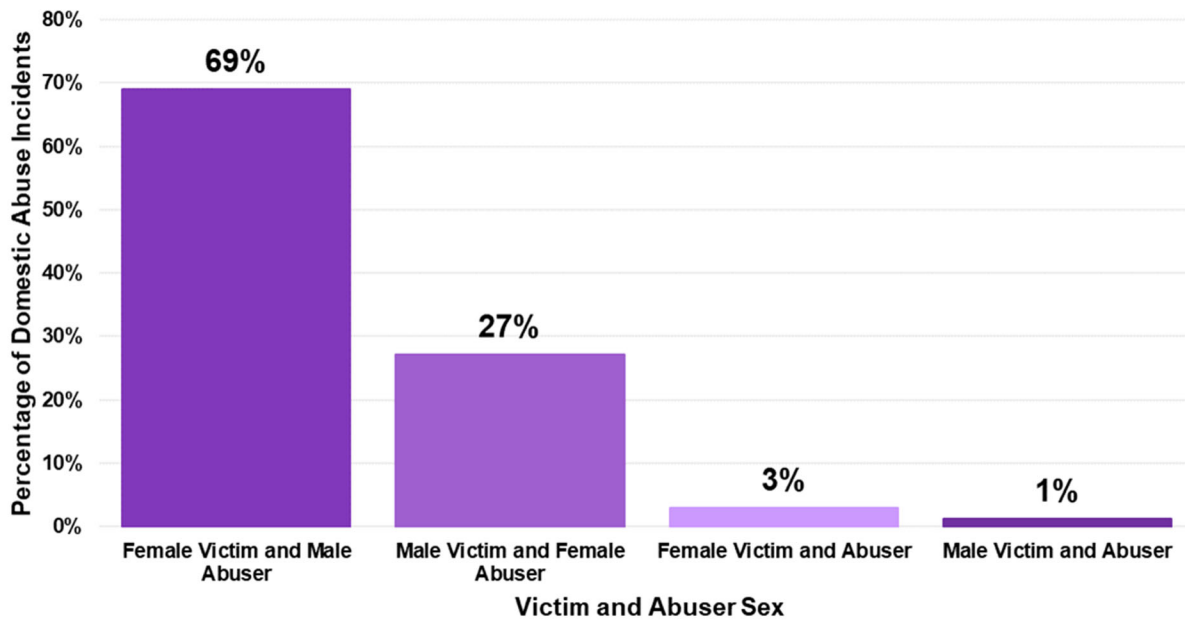


Figure 24. Proportion of met criteria domestic abuse incidents by victim and abuser sex in FY 2022.

4-2. DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIM PROFILE

This section describes characteristics of adults who were victims in met criteria domestic abuse incidents, including military status, sex, age, and pay grade.

In FY 2022, there were 6,469 unique victims of domestic abuse. Figure 25 shows unique victims of domestic abuse by military status and sex. Overall, a majority of unique victims in met criteria domestic abuse incidents were Service members (54 percent Service members vs. 46 percent civilians), and a majority were female (69 percent female vs. 31 percent male).

When examining the military status and sex of unique victims in combination, 43 percent were female civilians, 28 percent were male Service members, 26 percent were female Service members, and 3 percent were male civilians. Males comprise a much larger portion of the total force than females—contributing to the larger proportion of male Service member domestic abuse victims compared to female Service member victims.⁵⁸ When examining the domestic abuse victimization rate for active duty members by sex, female active duty members were nearly four times more likely to experience domestic abuse than male active duty members (7.3 per 1,000 for female active duty members vs. 1.7 per 1,000 male active duty members).

Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Military Status and Sex (FY 2022)

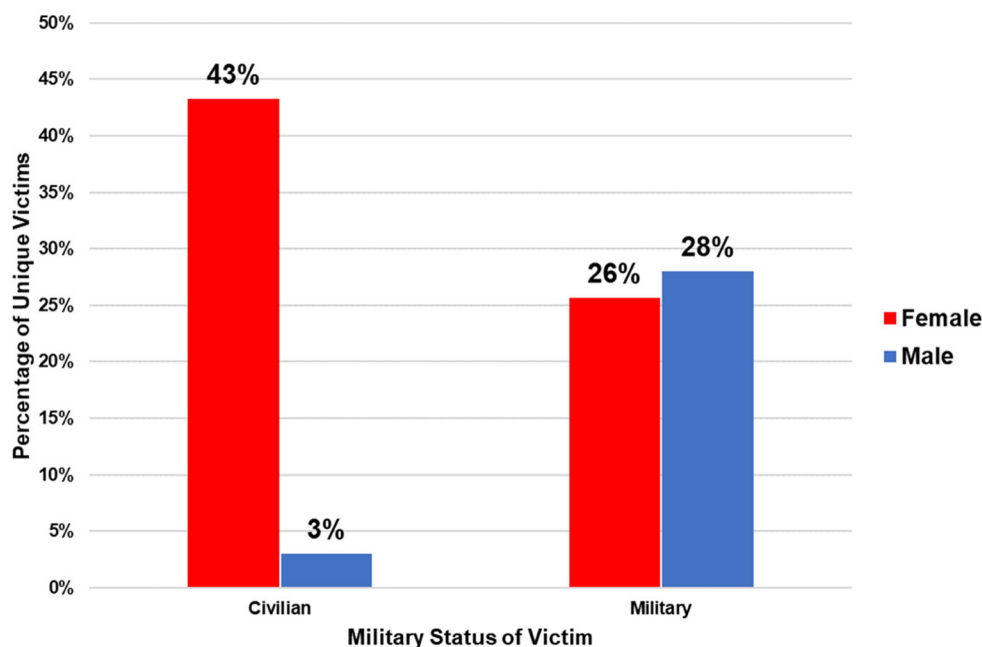


Figure 25. Military status and sex of unique victims in met criteria domestic abuse incidents in FY 2022.

⁵⁸ In FY 2022, males comprised 82.5 percent of the total force. Data retrieved from the September 2022 DMDC Self-Service Report, *Active Duty by Demographics*.

Figure 26 shows the proportion of unique victims of domestic abuse by age group and sex. More than four-fifths of victims were 34 years or younger. Of unique domestic abuse victims, 42.4 percent were ages 18-24 (30.5 percent female and 11.9 percent male), 41.9 percent were ages 25-34 (28.1 percent female and 13.8 percent male), and 13.9 percent were ages 35-44 (9.2 percent female and 4.7 percent male). Less than 2 percent of unique victims were ages 45 years or older (1.1 percent female and 0.7 percent male). Less than 1 percent of victims were 17 years or younger; these victims experienced domestic abuse as a spouse or intimate partner even though they were under the age of 18.

Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2022)

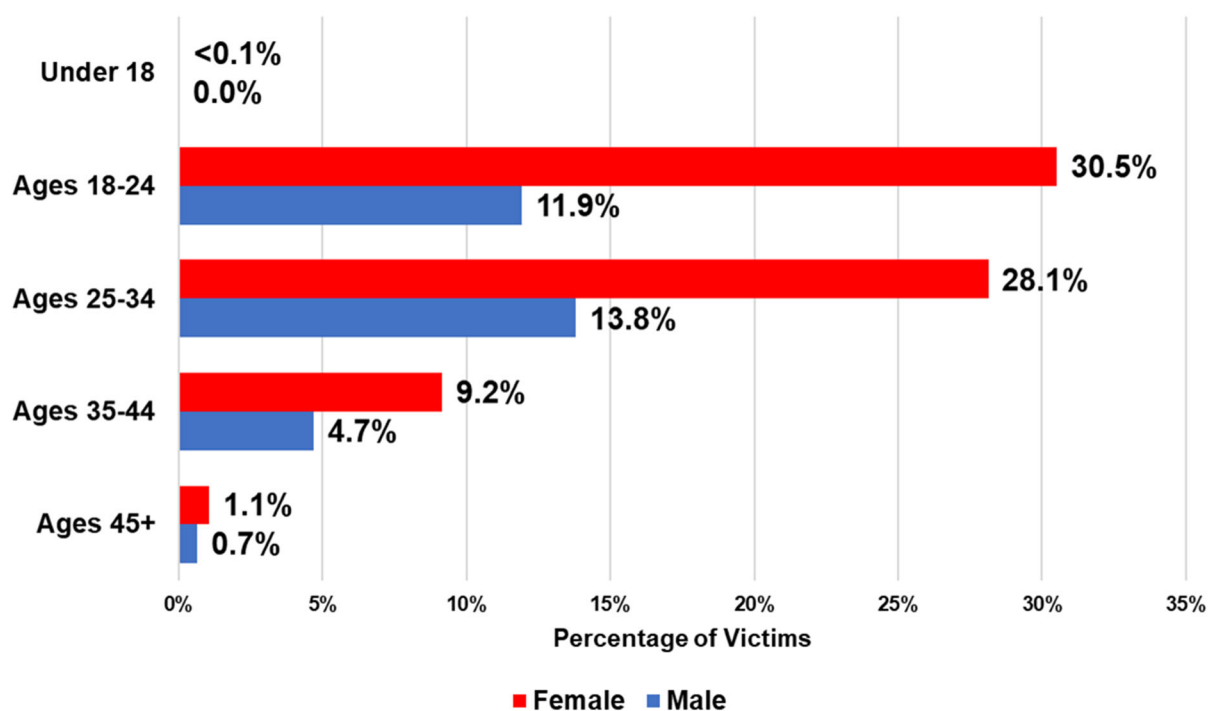


Figure 26. Age group and sex of unique victims in met criteria domestic abuse incidents in FY 2022.

As previously noted in Figure 25, more than half (54 percent) of unique domestic abuse victims in FY 2022 were Service members. Figure 27 displays the pay distribution of Service member victims of domestic abuse. The majority of victims in met criteria domestic abuse incidents were junior enlisted members; approximately 63 percent were in the E-4 through E-6 pay grades, and 25 percent were E-1 through E-3. Approximately 7 percent of victims were E-7 through E-9, 5 percent were officers (3 percent were O-1 through O-3, 2 percent were O-4 through O-10), and less than 1 percent were warrant officers (WO-1 through WO-5).

Pay Grade Distribution of Service Member Victims in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

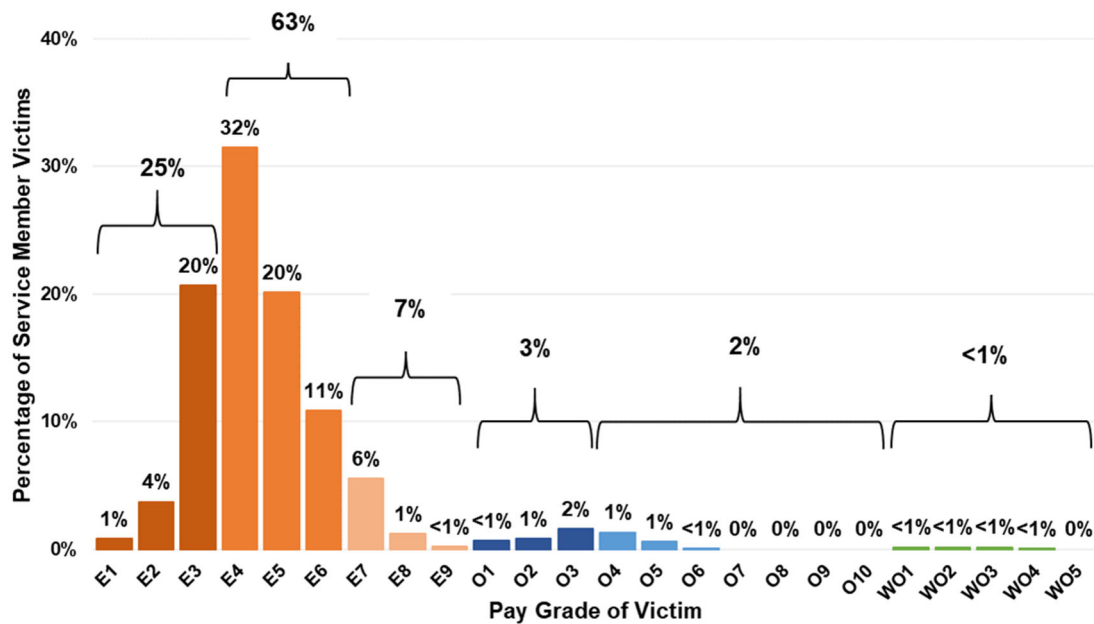


Figure 27. Percentage of Service member victims in met criteria domestic abuse incidents in each pay grade in FY 2022.

Note. Service member includes active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

4-3. DOMESTIC ABUSE ABUSER PROFILE

This section describes characteristics of adults who were the abusers involved in met criteria incidents of domestic abuse, including military status, sex, and age.

Figure 28 shows unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents by military status and sex. Overall, a majority of unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents were Service members (64 percent Service members vs. 36 percent civilians), and a majority were male (67 percent male vs. 33 percent female).

When examining the military status and sex of unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents in combination, 55 percent were male Service members, 24 percent were female civilians, 12 percent were male civilians, and 9 percent were female Service members.

Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Military Status and Sex (FY 2022)

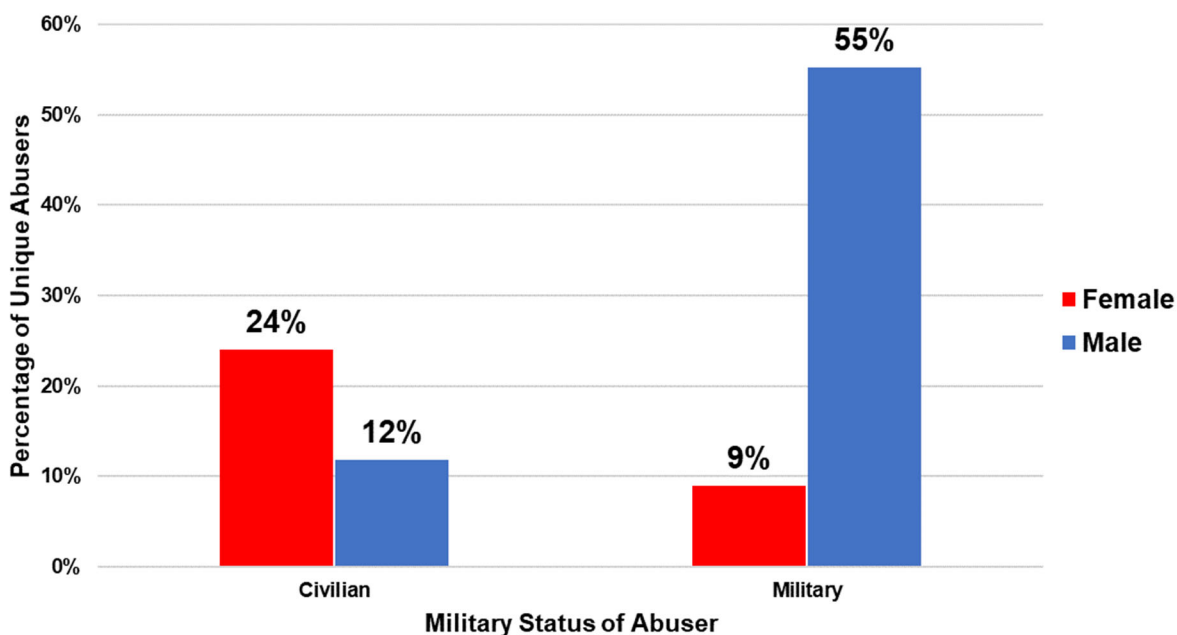


Figure 28. Military status and sex of unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents in FY 2022.

Figure 29 shows the proportion of unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents by age group and sex. More than four-fifths of abusers were 34 years or younger, which is similar to the age distribution for unique victims in met criteria domestic abuse incidents.

Of unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents, 38.9 percent were ages 18-24 (24.6 percent male and 14.3 percent female), 43.0 percent were ages 25-34 (30.0 male and 13.0 percent female), and 15.9 percent were ages 35-44 (10.9 percent male and 5.0 percent female). Slightly more than two percent of unique abusers were ages 45 years or older (1.6 percent male and 0.6 percent female).

Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2022)

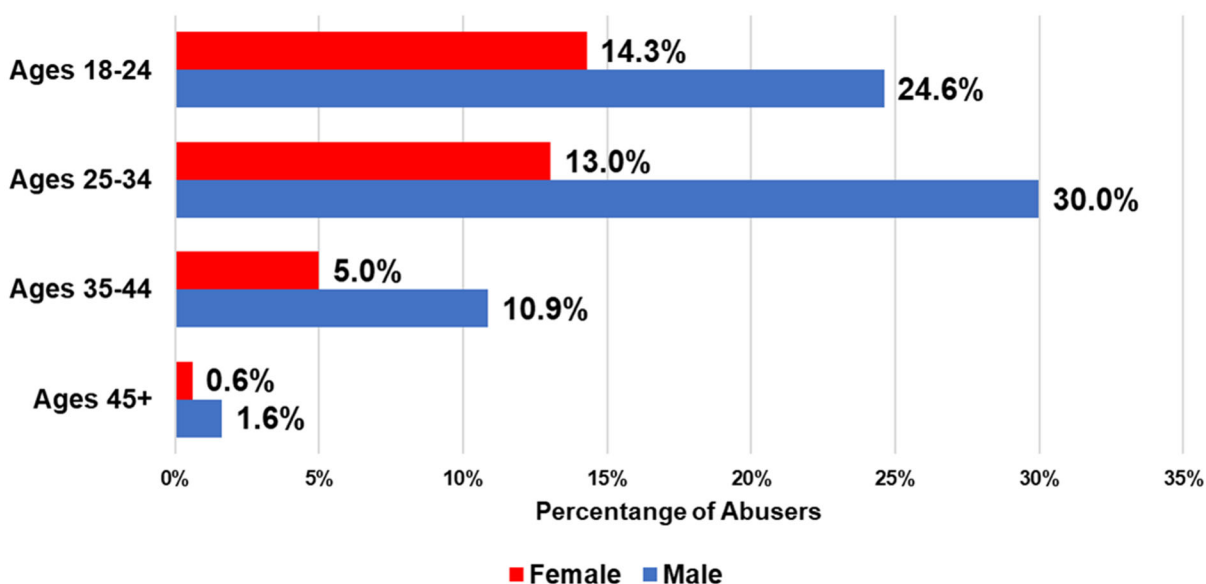


Figure 29. Age group and sex of unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents in FY 2022.

Note. Abusers with unknown date of birth were excluded from this graph.

4-4. SPOUSE ABUSE

As outlined in the previous section, spouse abuse includes acts of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect. Reports and met criteria incidents of abuse are reported separately by type of abuse. One or more incidents may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim. As noted previously, prior to FY 2021, a single report of abuse may have included multiple abuse types. Similarly, prior to FY 2015, a single met criteria incident of abuse may have included multiple abuse types. Reporting has since been standardized for consistency. The data on spouse abuse included in this section are limited to only those incidents involving married individuals.

There are three elements calculated for spouse abuse in this report: the number of reported incidents, the number of met criteria incidents, and the rate of spouse victimization. The first two elements can be impacted by external factors. For example, the number of reports can fluctuate based on the impact of awareness campaigns, training, and efforts to reduce stigma in the community associated with contacting FAP. Process improvements such as the implementation of the IDC and counting each type of maltreatment as a distinct incident can impact the number of met criteria incidents. The spouse abuse victimization rate measures the number of married individuals who experience spouse abuse per 1,000 married military couples and offers an alternative way to examine the rates of spouse abuse.

As shown in Table 5, the FY 2022 rate of reported spouse abuse per 1,000 married couples was 21.0, which is higher than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2021 (20.4). This numerical difference of 0.6 represents a 3.4 percent increase in the rate of reported incidents; however, the FY rate of reported incidents in FY 2022 represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average.⁵⁹

Table 5: Reports and Incidents of Spouse Abuse (FY 2013-FY 2022)

Fiscal Year	Reported Incidents	Met Criteria Incidents	Married Couples Population	Reports /1000	Met Criteria Incidents/1000
2013	17,295	7,935	713,135	24.3	11.1
2014	16,287	7,464	690,460	23.6	10.8
2015	15,725	7,892	665,429	23.6	11.9
2016	15,144	7,661	646,782	23.4	11.8
2017	15,657	7,153	638,132	24.5	11.2
2018	15,242	7,015	628,167	24.3	11.2
2019	13,571	6,800	626,705	21.7	10.9
2020	12,663	6,596	620,387	20.4	10.6
2021*	12,630	6,629	620,442	20.4	10.7
2022*	12,636	6,637	600,515	21.0	11.1

Note. Starting in FY 2021, reports of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type. A single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. Similarly, starting in FY 2015, incidents of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type.

⁵⁹ The FY 2022 rate of spouse abuse reports per 1,000 married couples (21.0) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average rate of spouse abuse reports during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (95 percent CI [21.52, 23.91]).

Figure 30 shows the distribution of reports of spouse abuse by abuse type. Physical abuse accounted for the largest proportion of reports of spouse abuse in FY 2022 (66.76 percent), followed by emotional abuse (27.84 percent), sexual abuse (5.20 percent), and neglect (0.20 percent).

Spouse Abuse Reports by Abuse Type (FY 2022)

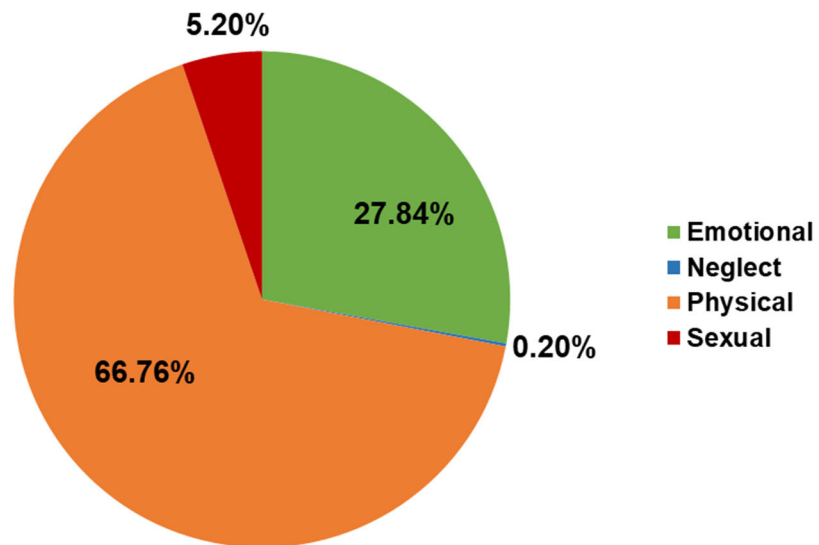


Figure 30. Reports of spouse abuse made to FAP by abuse type in FY 2022.

There were 6,637 incidents of spouse abuse that met criteria in FY 2022. The rate of met criteria spouse abuse incidents per 1,000 married couples was 11.1, which is higher than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2021 (10.7). This numerical difference of 0.4 represents a 3.7 percent increase in the rate of incidents that met criteria. Despite the year-over-year increases in the rate of incidents that met criteria from FY 2020 to FY 2022, the FY 2022 increase is not statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.⁶⁰ The rate of spouse abuse reported to FAP and the rate of spouse abuse incidents that met criteria per 1,000 married couples from FY 2013-FY 2022 are displayed in Figure 31.

Spouse Abuse Reports vs. Met Criteria Incident Rates per 1,000 Married Couples (FY 2013-FY 2022)

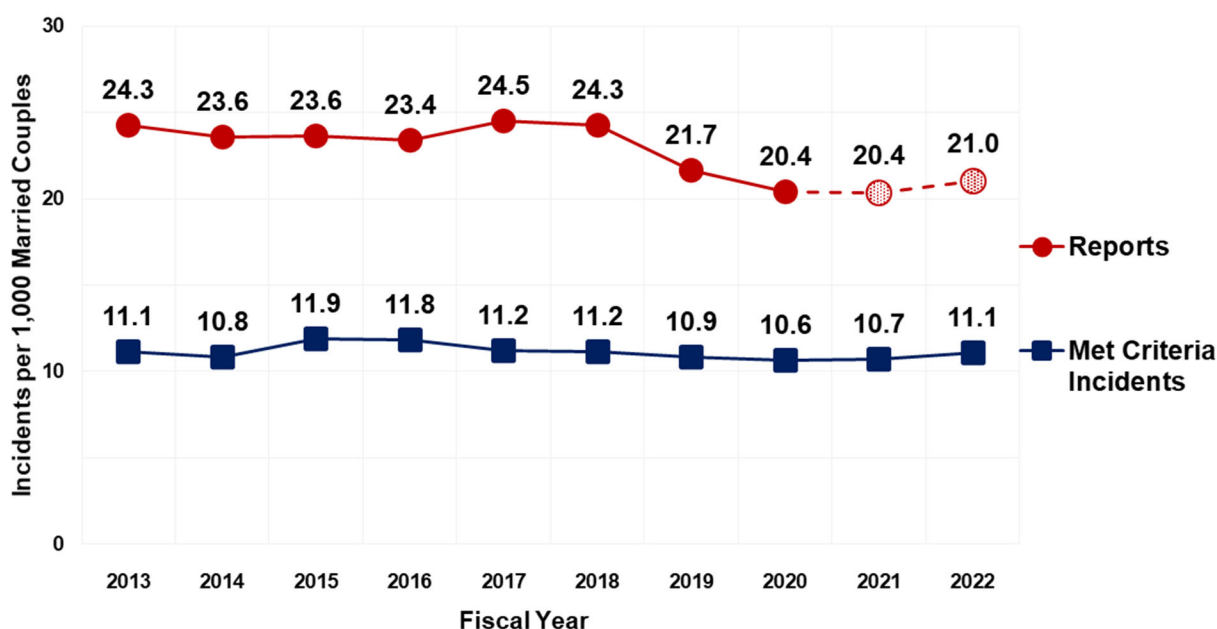


Figure 31. Rates of spouse abuse incidents reported to FAP and the rates of spouse abuse incidents that met DoD criteria over time.

Note. The dashed lines and dotted markers for the rate of reported incidents in FY 2021 and FY 2022 highlight the new calculation method implemented for reports of abuse.

⁶⁰ The FY 2022 rate of met criteria spouse abuse incidents per 1,000 married couples (11.1) did not vary when compared to the average rate per 1,000 married couples during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (95 percent CI [10.81, 11.43]).

Overall, 53 percent of reported incidents of spouse abuse were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse. As shown in Figure 32, there was only a slight variation in the met criteria rate for emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse, ranging from 51 percent of reports of emotional abuse that met criteria to 54 percent of reports of physical abuse that met criteria. There were no reports of neglect that met the DoD definition of abuse. It is important to note that neglect accounted for less than one percent of all reports of spouse abuse.

Proportion of Reported Spouse Abuse Incidents that Met Criteria by Abuse Type (FY 2022)

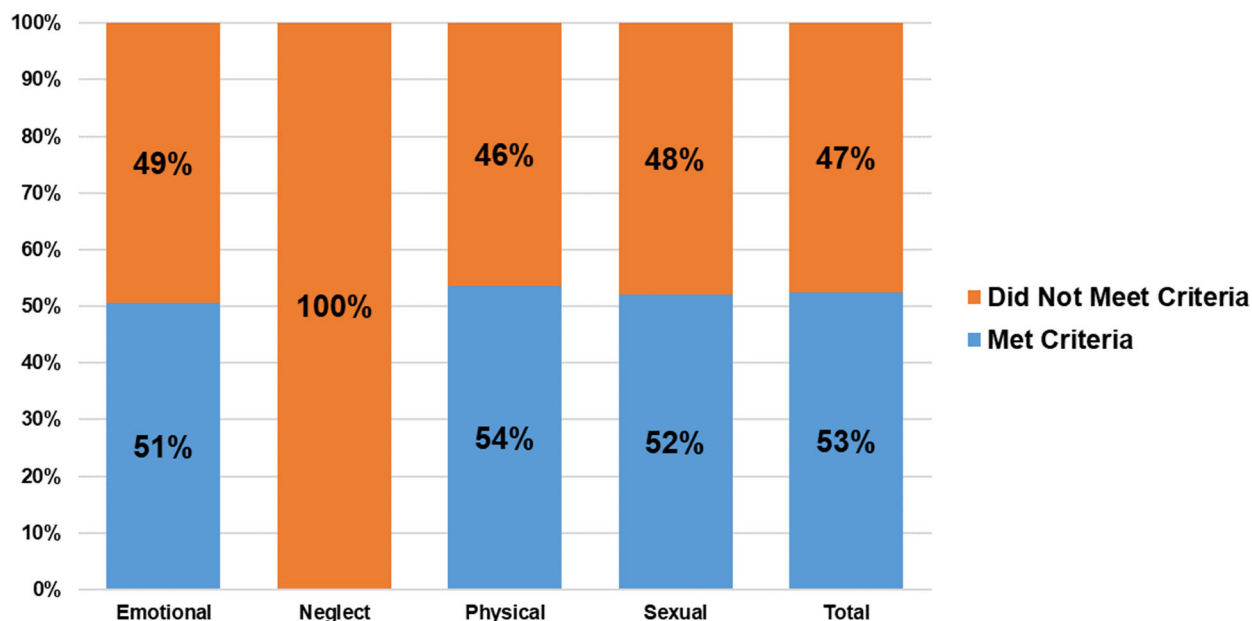


Figure 32. Spouse abuse met criteria rate by abuse type in FY 2022.

As shown in Table 6 there were 5,212 unique victims of spouse abuse in FY 2022. The FY 2022 unique spouse abuse victim rate per 1,000 married couples was 8.7, which is higher than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2021 (8.5) (see Figure 33). This numerical difference of 0.2 represents a 2.4 percent increase in the unique spouse abuse victim rate. Despite this increase, the FY 2022 rate represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average 10-year rate.⁶¹

Table 6: Unique Victims of Spouse Abuse (FY 2013-FY 2022)

Fiscal Year	Met Criteria Incidents	Unique Victims	Married Couples Population	Met Criteria Incidents/1000	Rate of Victims/1000
2013	7,935	6,928	713,135	11.1	9.7
2014	7,464	6,491	690,460	10.8	9.4
2015	7,892	6,314	665,429	11.9	9.5
2016	7,661	6,033	646,782	11.8	9.3
2017	7,153	5,781	638,132	11.2	9.1
2018	7,015	5,550	628,167	11.2	8.8
2019	6,800	5,505	626,705	10.9	8.8
2020	6,596	5,363	620,387	10.6	8.6
2021	6,629	5,276	620,442	10.7	8.5
2022	6,637	5,212	600,515	11.1	8.7

Note. Starting in FY 2021, reports of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type. A single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. Similarly, starting in FY 2015, incidents of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type.

⁶¹ The FY 2022 spouse abuse victim rate per 1,000 married couples (8.7) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average spouse abuse victim rate per 1,000 married couples during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (95 percent CI [8.75, 9.34]).

Rate of Unique Spouse Abuse Victims per 1,000 Married Couples (FY 2013-FY 2022)

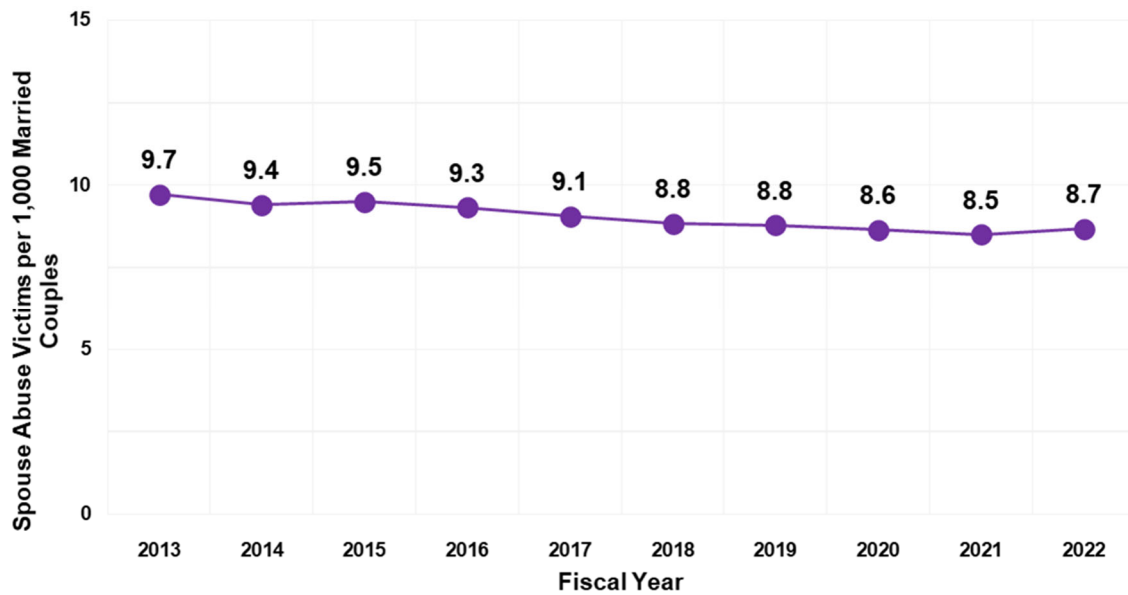


Figure 33. Rate of unique spouse abuse victims per 1,000 married couples in the military population over time.

4-5. SPOUSE ABUSE VICTIM PROFILE

This section describes adults who were victims in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse, including military status and sex.

The military status of victims involved in spouse abuse incidents that met criteria in FY 2022 is displayed in Figure 34. Of the total victims, 52 percent were Service members and 48 percent were civilians.

Military Status of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

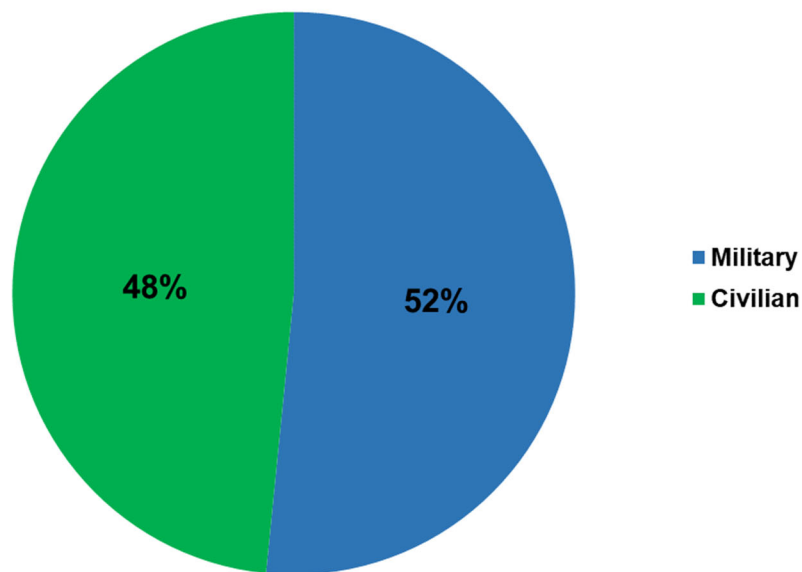


Figure 34. Military status of unique victims in met criteria spouse abuse incidents in FY 2022.

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

Overall, 70 percent of victims of spouse abuse in met criteria incidents were female and 30 percent of the victims were male.

Figure 35 displays the sex of spouse abuse victims for each abuse type. Females comprised a larger proportion of victims than males for all types of abuse. Ninety-six percent of spouse abuse victims who experienced sexual abuse were female versus 4 percent male. For emotional abuse, 77 percent of victims were female versus 23 percent male. Among incidents of physical abuse, the most common type of domestic abuse in military families, 66 percent of victims were female versus 34 percent male. In FY 2022, there were no met criteria spouse abuse incidents of neglect.

Sex of Victims in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

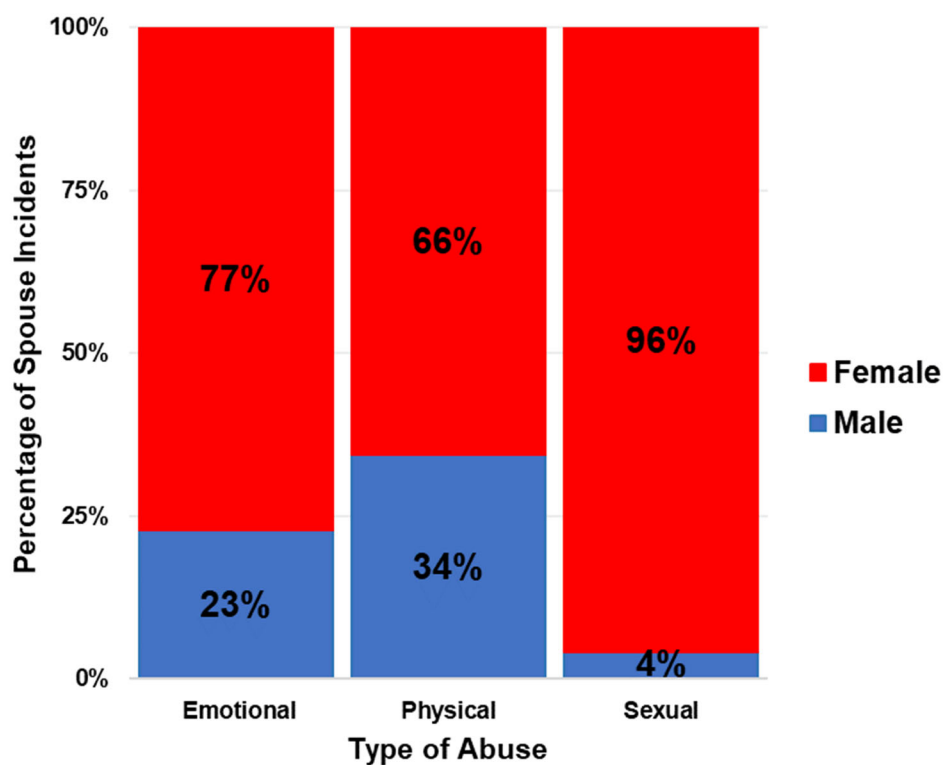


Figure 35. Sex of victims in met criteria spouse abuse incidents, by type of abuse in FY 2022.

4-6. SPOUSE ABUSER PROFILE

This section describes characteristics of adults who were the abusers involved in incidents that met criteria for spouse abuse, including military status, pay grade, and sex.

The military status of abusers involved in spouse abuse incidents that met criteria in FY 2022 are displayed in Figure 36. Sixty-two percent of abusers were military members and 38 percent were civilians.

Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

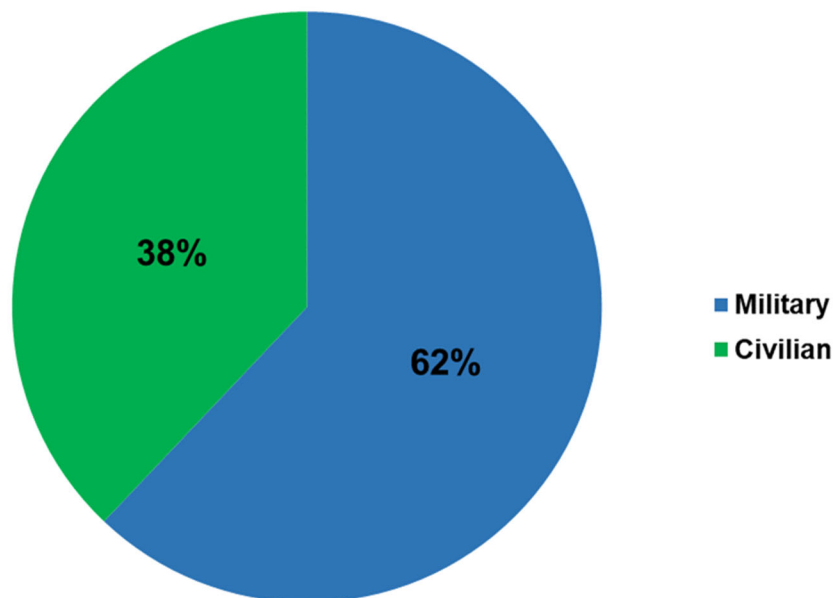


Figure 36. Military status of unique abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents in FY 2022.

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

As shown in Figure 37, the military status distribution of abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents has been relatively consistent since FY 2013.

Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2013-FY 2022)

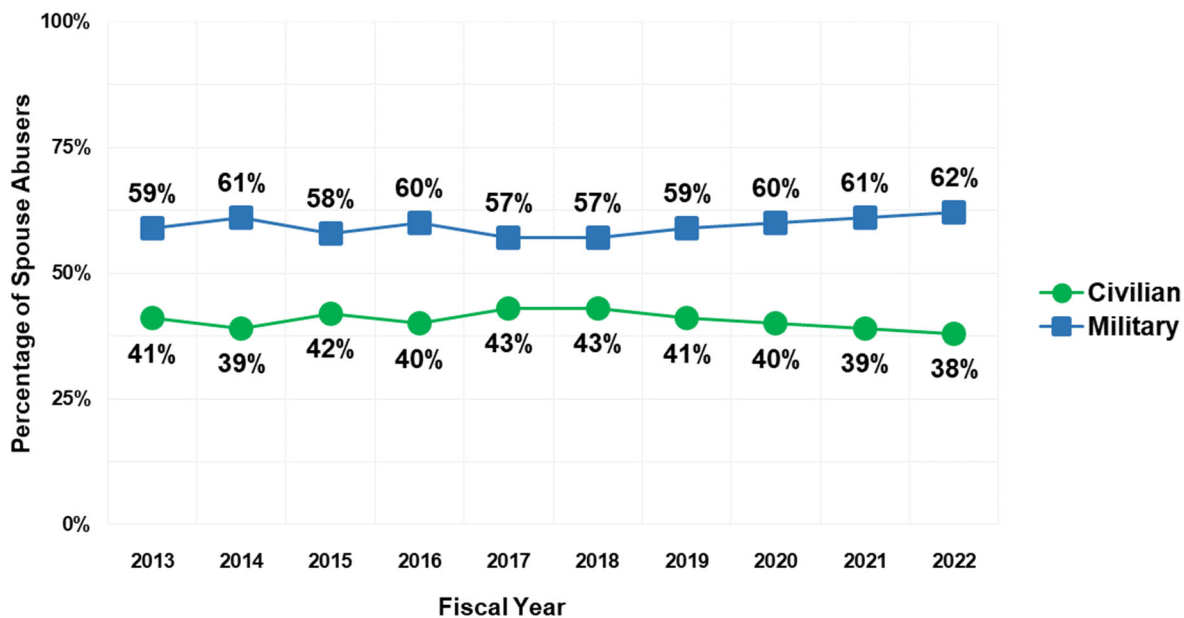


Figure 37. Military status of unique abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents over time.

Figure 38 displays a breakdown by pay grade for military spouse abusers who were involved in a met criteria incident. The majority of abusers in met criteria incidents were junior enlisted members; approximately 64 percent were E-4 through E-6, and 23 percent were E-1 through E-3. Eight percent of abusers were E-7 through E-9, 4 percent were officers (2 percent were O-1 through O-3, 2 percent were O-4 through O-10), and 1 percent were warrant officers (WO-1 through WO-5).

Pay Grade Distribution of Military Spouse Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

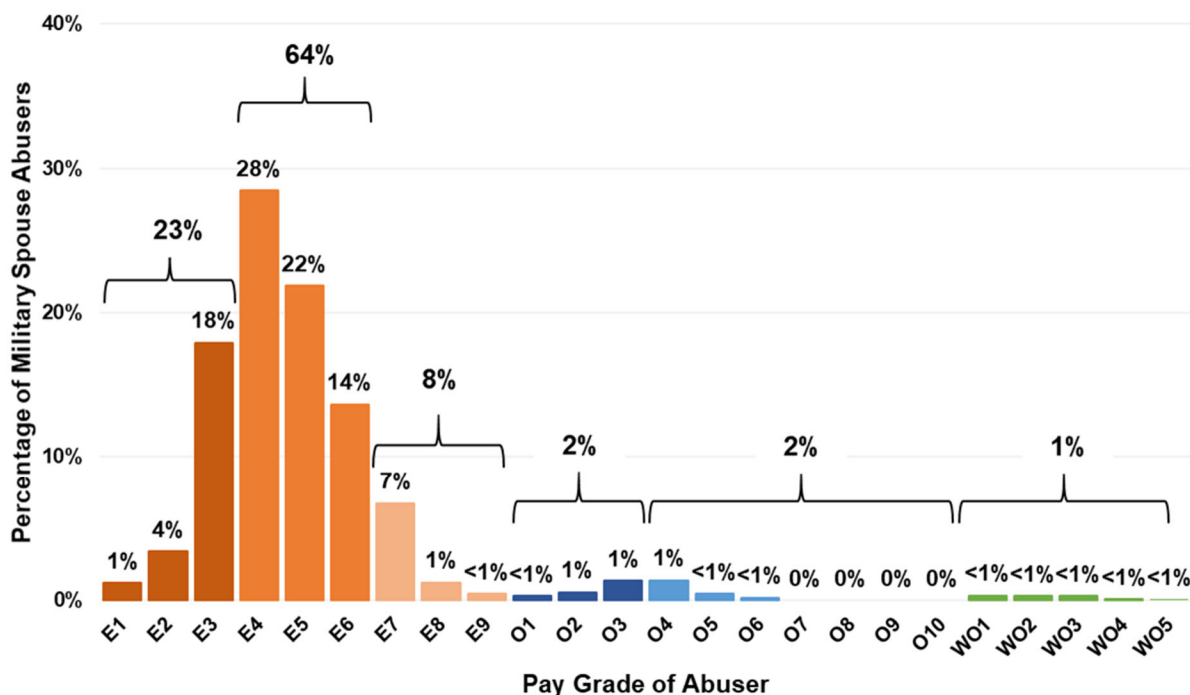


Figure 38. Percentage of military spouse abusers in met criteria incidents in each pay grade in FY 2022.

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

When comparing the pay grades of active duty spouse abusers in met criteria incidents to the pay grades of the total population of active duty spouses in FY 2022, the differences in relative proportions are pronounced, although they are relatively consistent with FY 2021 data. As displayed in Figure 39, the proportion of active duty abusers in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse is greater than the respective proportion of the total active duty population of spouses in the E-4 through E-6 pay grade (64 percent vs. 51 percent) and the E-1 through E-3 pay grade (23 percent vs. 8 percent).⁶²

Conversely, the proportion of active duty abusers in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse is less than the respective proportion of the total active duty population of spouses in the E-7 through E-9 (8 percent vs. 17 percent), O-1 through O-3 (2 percent vs. 10 percent), O-4 through O-10 (2 percent vs. 11 percent), and WO-1 through WO-5 (1 percent vs. 3 percent) pay grades.

Proportion of Active Duty Spouse Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents by Pay Grade, Compared to Demographics (FY 2022)

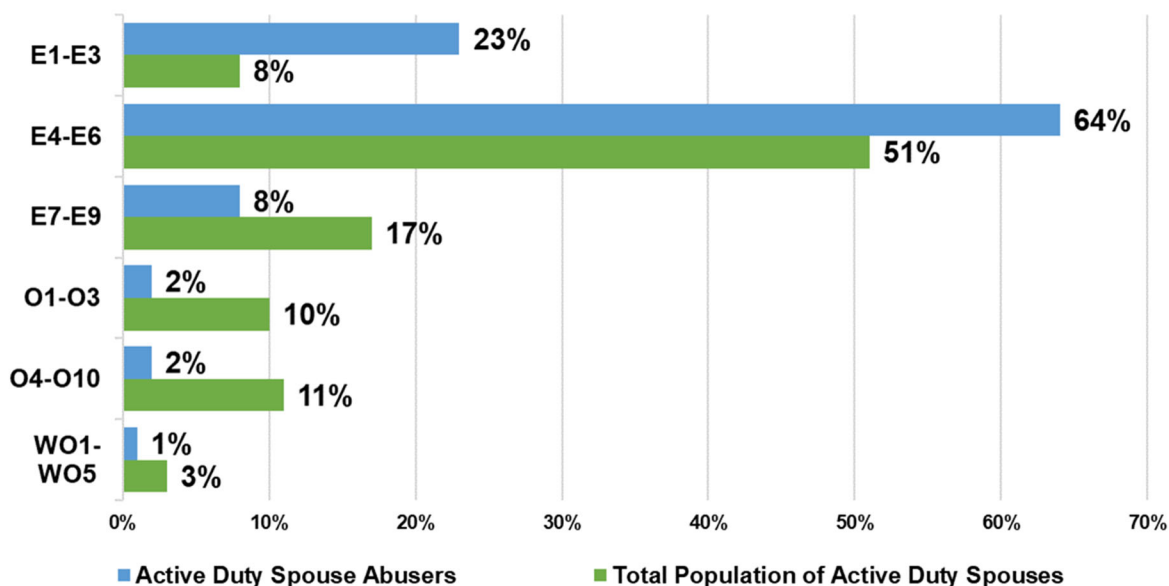


Figure 39. Comparison of the proportion of active duty spouse abusers in met criteria incidents with a particular pay grade to the proportion of active duty spouses in the military population with a particular pay grade.

⁶² While Figure 38 displays pay grade of military spouse abusers in met criteria incidents, this figure focuses on pay grade of active duty spouse abusers in met criteria incidents, exclusively.

While the breakdown of active duty spouse abusers by pay grade in Figure 39 indicates that the greatest proportion of active duty abusers were in the E-4 through E-6 pay grades, the highest rate per 1,000 of active duty married couples involved in incidents of spouse abuse is for abusers who are in the E-1 through E-3 (15.4) pay grades (see Figure 40).

Rate of Active Duty Spouse Abusers per 1,000 Married Couples by Pay Grade (FY 2022)

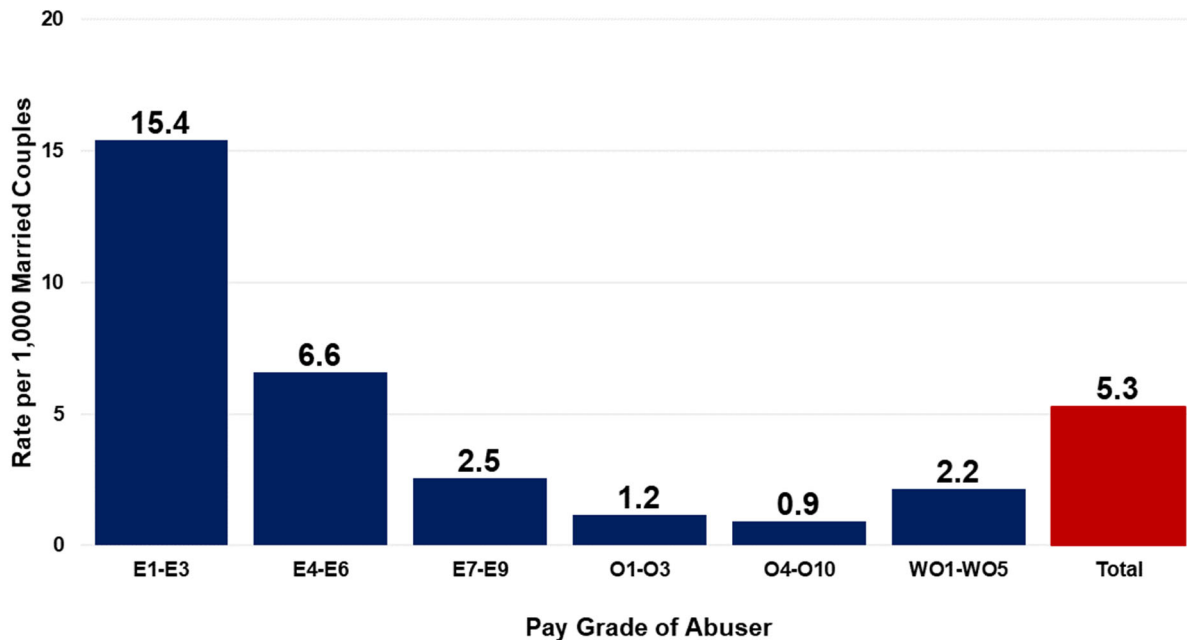


Figure 40. Rate of active duty abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents per 1,000 married couples in the population by pay grade in FY 2022.

Overall, 69 percent of abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents were male and 31 percent were female.

Figure 41 shows the proportions of male and female abusers for each individual type of met criteria spouse abuse. The vast majority of spouse abusers in met criteria incidents of sexual abuse were male (96 percent male vs. 4 percent female). Males were also more likely to be abusers in emotional abuse incidents (76 percent male vs. 24 percent female) and in physical abuse incidents (64 percent male vs. 36 percent female). There were no met criteria spouse abuse incidents of neglect in FY 2022.

Sex of Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

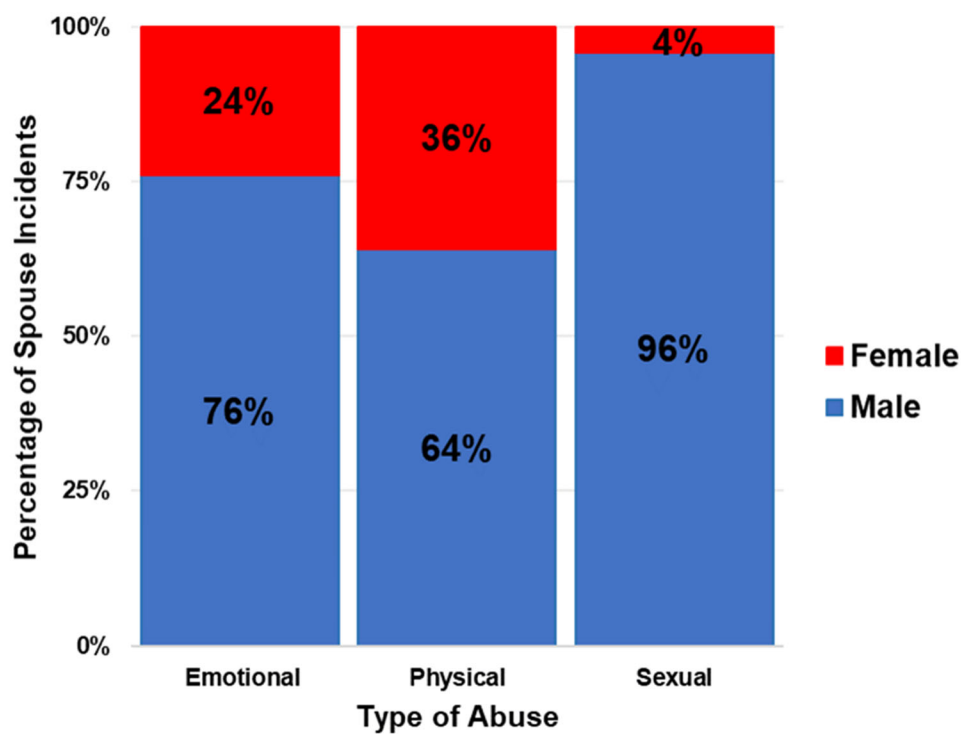


Figure 41. Sex of abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents in FY 2022.

Looking specifically at Service member abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents, 91 percent were male and 9 percent were female.

Figure 42 shows the proportions of Service member male and female abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents for each individual type of abuse. The vast majority of Service member spouse abusers for incidents of sexual abuse and emotional abuse were male (98 percent male vs. 2 percent female for sexual abuse and 93 percent vs. 7 percent for emotional abuse). Eighty-seven percent of Service member abusers in physical abuse incidents were male versus 13 percent female. Recall that there were no met criteria spouse abuse incidents of neglect in FY 2022.

Sex of Service Member Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

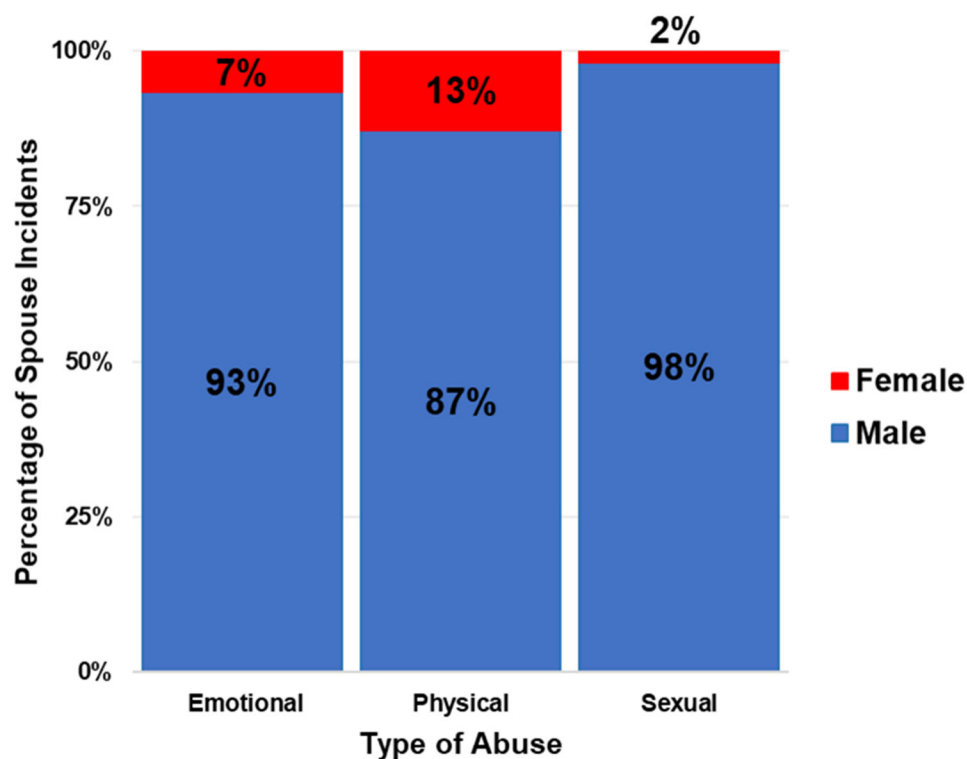


Figure 42. Sex of Service member abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents in FY 2022.

Figure 43 shows the breakdown of spouse abusers by sex and military status. Among male abusers in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse, 2,863 were Service members, 574 were family members, and 19 fell into the “other” category.⁶³ Among female abusers in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse, 372 were Service members, 1,371 were family members, and 12 were categorized as “other”.

Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents by Sex and Military Status (FY 2022)

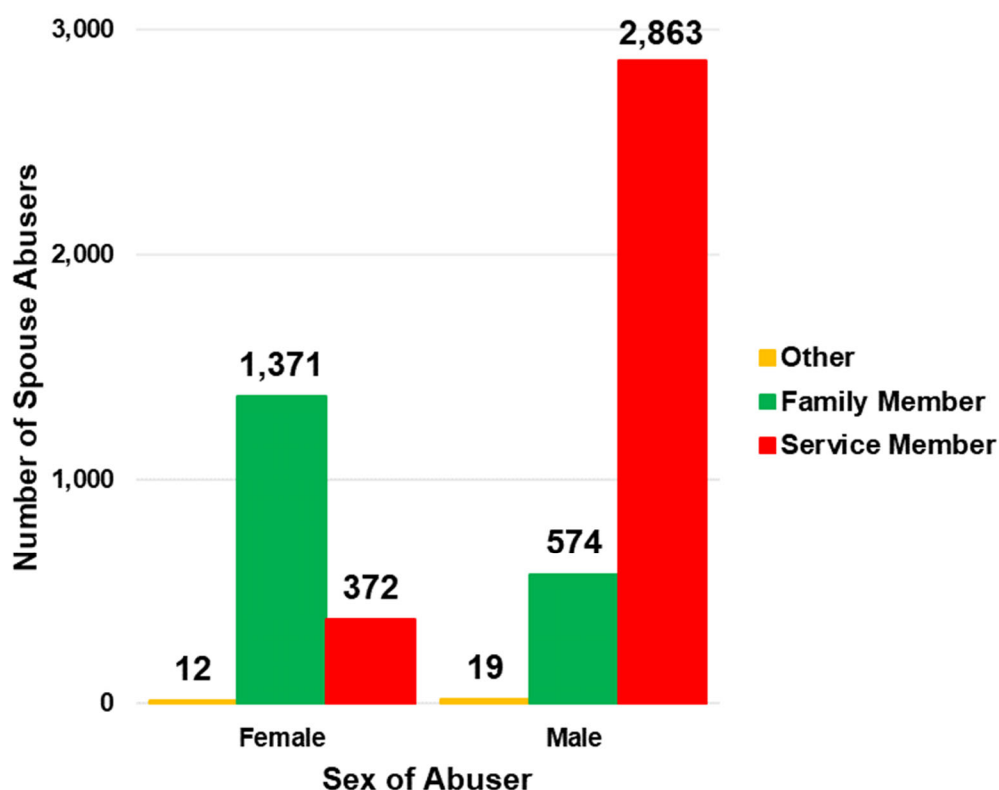


Figure 43. Number of unique abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents by sex and military status in FY 2022.

Note. “Other” category includes DoD civilians, non-DoD Government civilians, retired Service members, Government contractors, and non-beneficiaries.

⁶³ The “other” category includes abusers in met criteria incidents who were DoD civilians, non-DoD government civilians, retired Service members, government contractors, and non-beneficiaries.

4-7. INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE INCIDENTS

As with child abuse and neglect and spouse abuse, reports and met criteria incidents of unmarried intimate partner abuse are reported separately by type of abuse. Prior to FY 2015, a single met criteria incident may have included multiple abuse types. Similarly, prior to FY 2021, a single report of abuse may have included multiple abuse types. Calculation and reporting have since been standardized for consistency.

The data on intimate partner abuse included in this section are those incidents involving former spouses, individuals with whom the victim shares a child in common, current or former partners with whom the victim shares or has shared a common domicile, and individuals with whom the victim has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature.⁶⁴ The types of abuse for intimate partner abuse are physical, sexual, emotional, which is similar to those for spouse abuse except that intimate partner abuse excludes neglect.⁶⁵

⁶⁴ DoDI 6400.06, December 15, 2021, as amended defines “intimate partner” as, “Within the context of eligibility for FAP services, a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the alleged abuser, as determined by the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the person and the alleged abuser. An intimate partner is informed by, but not limited to, the totality of factors such as: previous or ongoing consensual intimate or sexual behaviors; history of ongoing dating or expressed interest in continued dating or the potential for an ongoing relationship (e.g. history of repeated break-ups and reconciliations); self-identification by the victim or alleged abuser as intimate partners or identification by others as a couple; emotional connectedness (e.g., relationship is a priority, partners may have discussed a future together); or familiarity and knowledge of each other’s lives.”

⁶⁵ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

In FY 2022, there were 2,843 reports of intimate partner abuse made to FAP, of which 1,670 met the DoD definition of abuse.⁶⁶ The met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse involved 1,270 unique victims (see Table 7).⁶⁷ The number of reports, the number of met criteria incidents, and the number of unique victims represent statistically significant increases when compared to their respective 10-year averages. A rate per 1,000 of intimate partner abuse cannot be established, as data on unmarried individuals involved in intimate partner relationships as defined by the DoD, are not available.

Table 7: Reports and Incidents of Intimate Partner Abuse (FY 2013-FY 2022)

Fiscal Year	Reported Incidents	Met Criteria Incidents	Unique Victims
2013	1,866	996	689
2014	1,870	969	669
2015	1,798	966	778
2016	1,771	1,022	847
2017	1,519	916	756
2018	1,670	1,024	822
2019	1,902	1,121	886
2020	2,026	1,307	996
2021*	2,342	1,328	1,048
2022*	2,843	1,670	1,270

Note. Starting in FY 2021, reports of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type. A single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. Similarly, starting in FY 2015, incidents of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type.

⁶⁶ The number of reports of intimate partner abuse in FY 2022 (2,843) is a statistically significant increase when compared to the average number of reports of intimate partner abuse during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (95 percent CI [1689.79, 2231.61]). The number of met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2022 (1,670) is a statistically significant increase when compared to the average number of intimate partner abuse incidents during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (95 percent CI [963.01, 1300.79]).

⁶⁷ The number of unique intimate partner abuse victims in FY 2022 (1,270) is a statistically significant increase when compared to the average number of unique intimate partner abuse victims during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (95 percent CI [744.43, 1007.77]).

Figure 44 shows the distribution of reports of intimate partner abuse by abuse type. Similar to reports of spouse abuse, physical abuse accounted for the largest proportion of reports of intimate partner abuse in FY 2022 (67.25 percent), followed by emotional abuse (23.14 percent), and sexual abuse (9.60 percent).⁶⁸ Consistent with policy,⁶⁹ there were no reports of intimate partner neglect in FY 2022.

Intimate Partner Abuse Reports by Abuse Type (FY 2022)

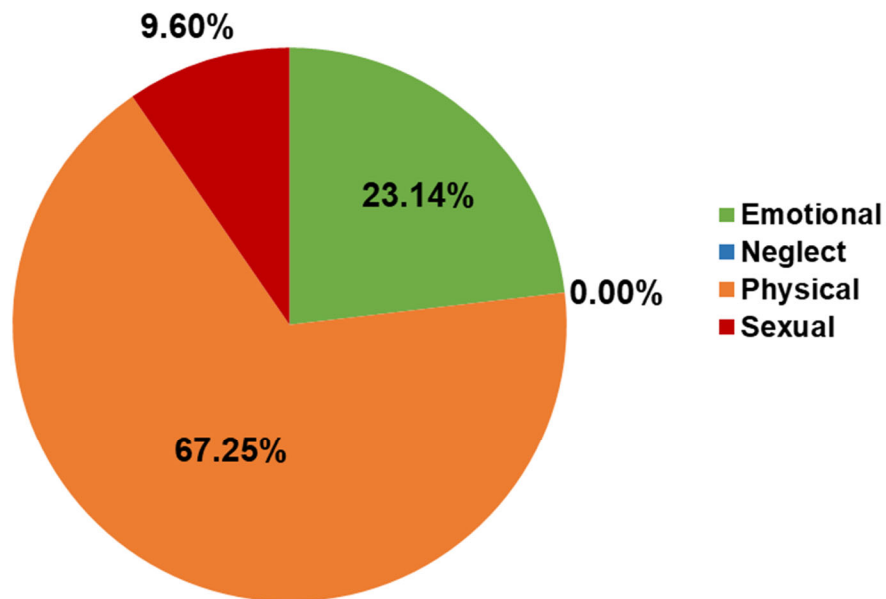


Figure 44. Reports of intimate partner abuse made to FAP by abuse type in FY 2022.

⁶⁸ Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages is 99.99.

⁶⁹ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

Figure 45 shows a steady increase in both the number of reports and the number of met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse since FY 2017. Although it is not possible to calculate rates per 1,000 for intimate partner abuse, as previously noted, it is possible to examine percent changes in both the number of reports and met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse, over time. From FY 2021 to FY 2022, the number of reports of intimate partner abuse increased by 21.4 percent, which represents the largest year-over-year increase during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period. From FY 2021 to FY 2022, the number of met criteria incidents increased by 25.8 percent, which similarly represents the largest year-over-year increase during the 10-year period.

It is important to note that these pronounced increases in the number of reports and the number of met criteria incidents correspond in timing to two major changes implemented: a new calculation method for reports of abuse, and an expansion in the DoD definition of an intimate partner. The definition expansion meant that more individuals were eligible for FAP services in FY 2022 than in previous years.

Number of Intimate Partner Abuse Reports vs. Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2013-FY 2022)

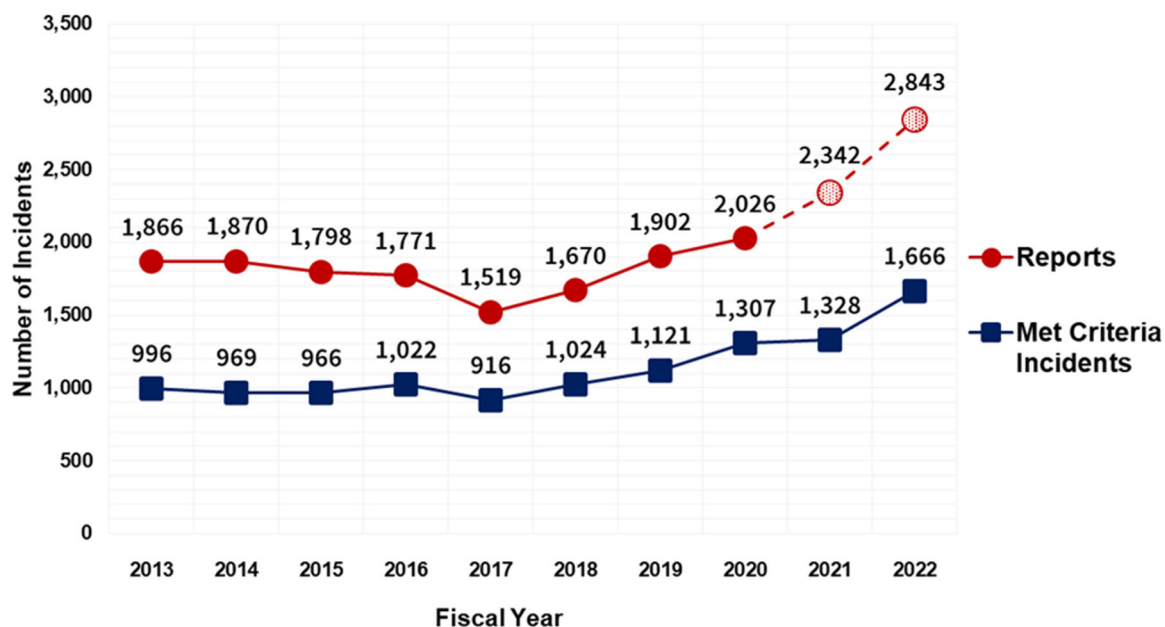


Figure 45. Number of intimate partner abuse incidents reported to FAP and the number of intimate partner abuse incidents that met DoD criteria over time.

Note. The dashed lines and dotted markers for the number of reported incidents in FY 2021 and FY 2022 highlight the new calculation method implemented for reports of abuse.

Overall, 59 percent of reported incidents of intimate partner abuse were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse. As shown in Figure 46, there was only a slight variation in the met criteria rate for emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse, ranging from 55 percent of reports of emotional abuse that met criteria to 60 percent of reports of physical abuse that met criteria. In accordance with policy,⁷⁰ there were no reports of intimate partner neglect in FY 2022.

Proportion of Reported Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents that Met Criteria by Abuse Type (FY 2022)

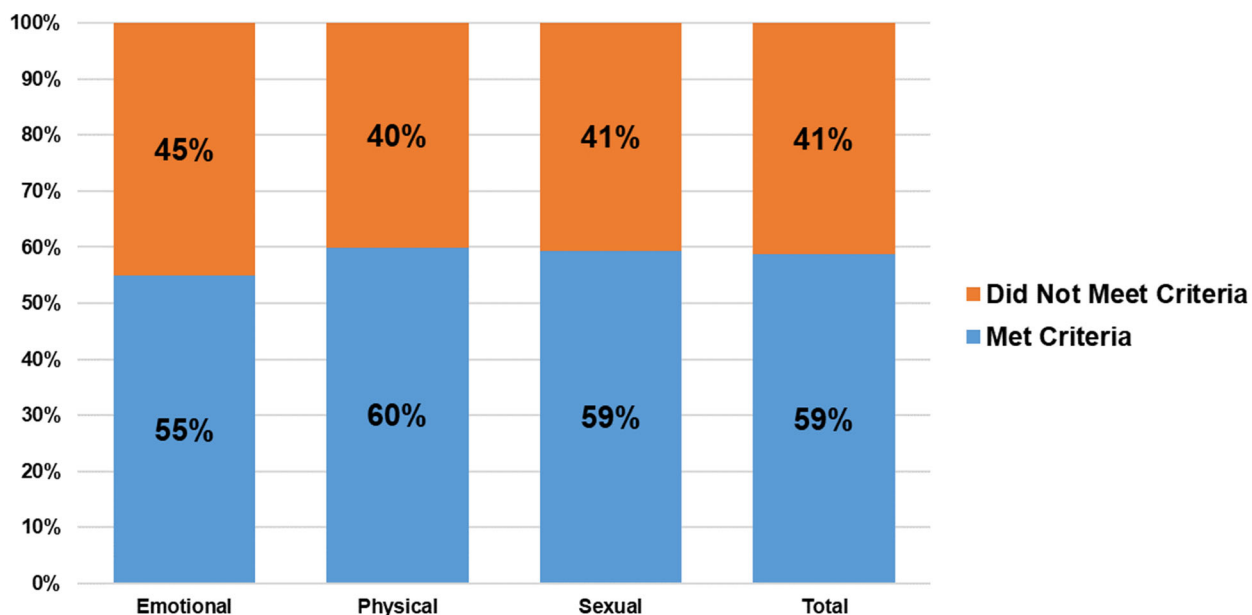


Figure 46. Intimate partner abuse met criteria rate by abuse type in FY 2022.

⁷⁰ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

4-8. INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE VICTIM PROFILE

This section describes characteristics of victims in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents.

The military status of unique victims in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2022 is displayed in Figure 47. Of the victims of intimate partner abuse, 66 percent were Service members and 34 percent were civilians.

Military Status of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

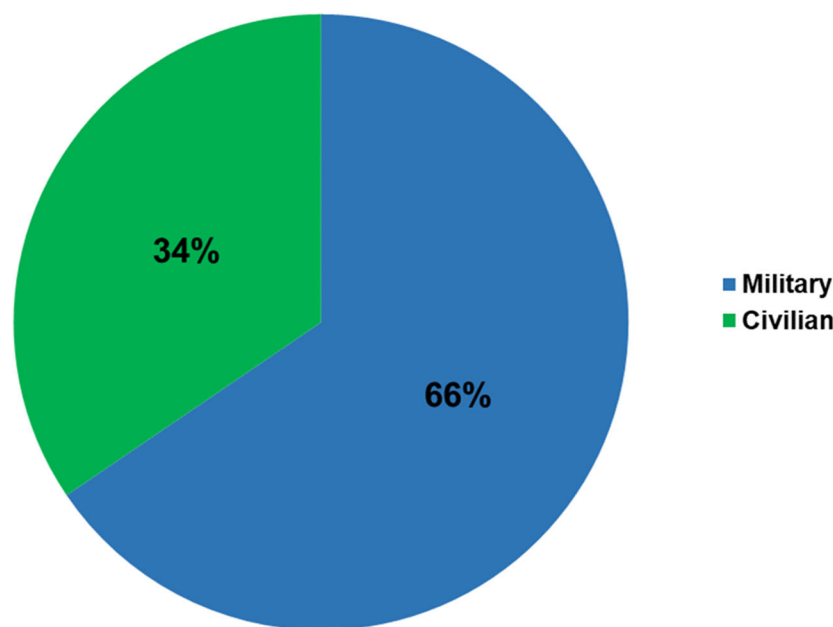


Figure 47. Military status of unique victims in met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse in FY 2022.

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

The sex of unique victims involved in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2022 is displayed in Figure 48. Among unique victims in these incidents, 74 percent were female and 26 percent were male.

Sex of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

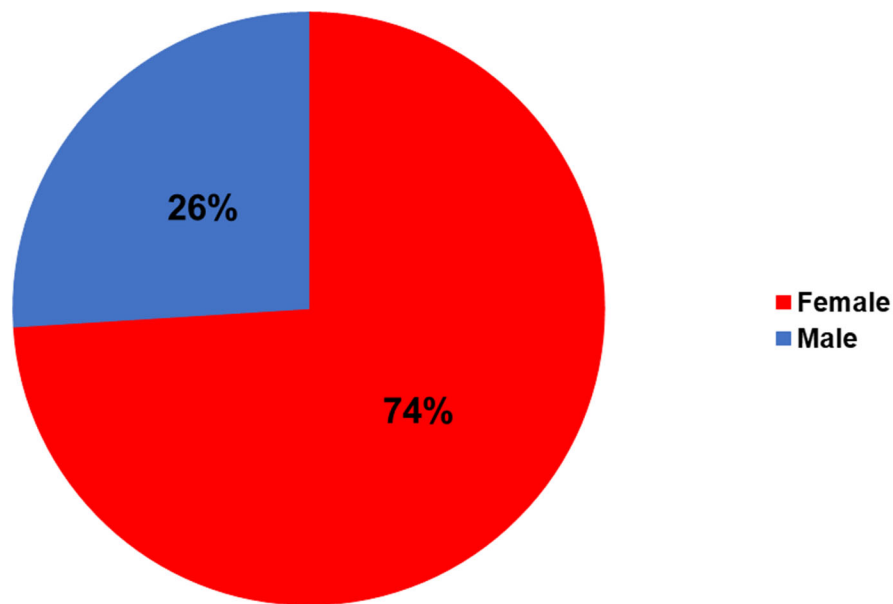


Figure 48. Sex of unique victims in met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse in FY 2022.

4-9. INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSER PROFILE

This section describes characteristics of abusers in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents.

The military status of abusers involved in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2022 is displayed in Figure 49. Seventy-one percent of abusers were Service members and 29 percent were civilians.

Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

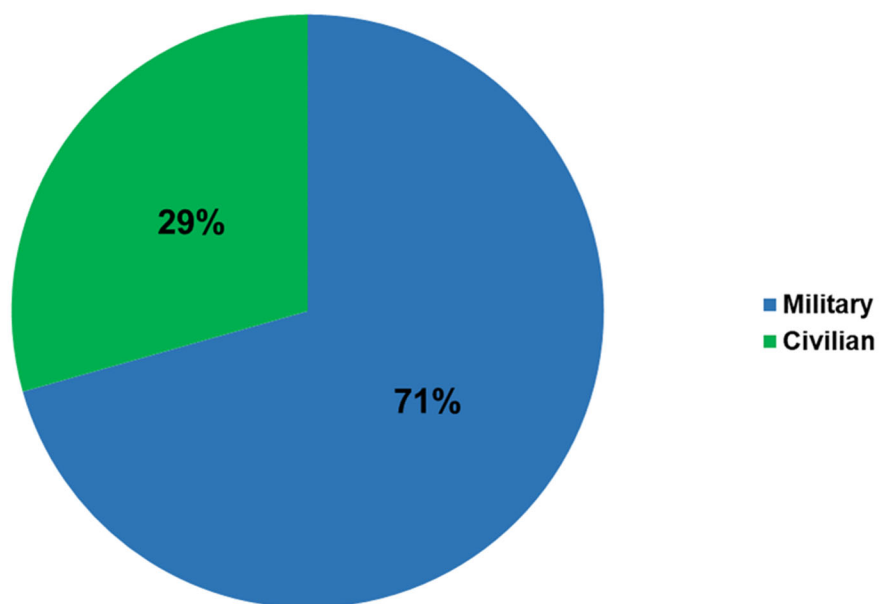


Figure 49. Military status of unique abusers in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2022.

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

Figure 50 displays a breakdown by pay grade for military intimate partners who were abusers in met criteria intimate partner incidents. The majority of abusers were junior enlisted members; approximately 62 percent were E-4 through E-6 and 30 percent were E1-E3. Five percent of abusers were E-7 through E-9, 3 percent were officers (2 percent were O-1 through O-3, 1 percent were O-4 through O-10), and less than 1 percent were warrant officers (WO-1 through WO-5).

Pay Grade Distribution of Military Intimate Partner Abusers in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

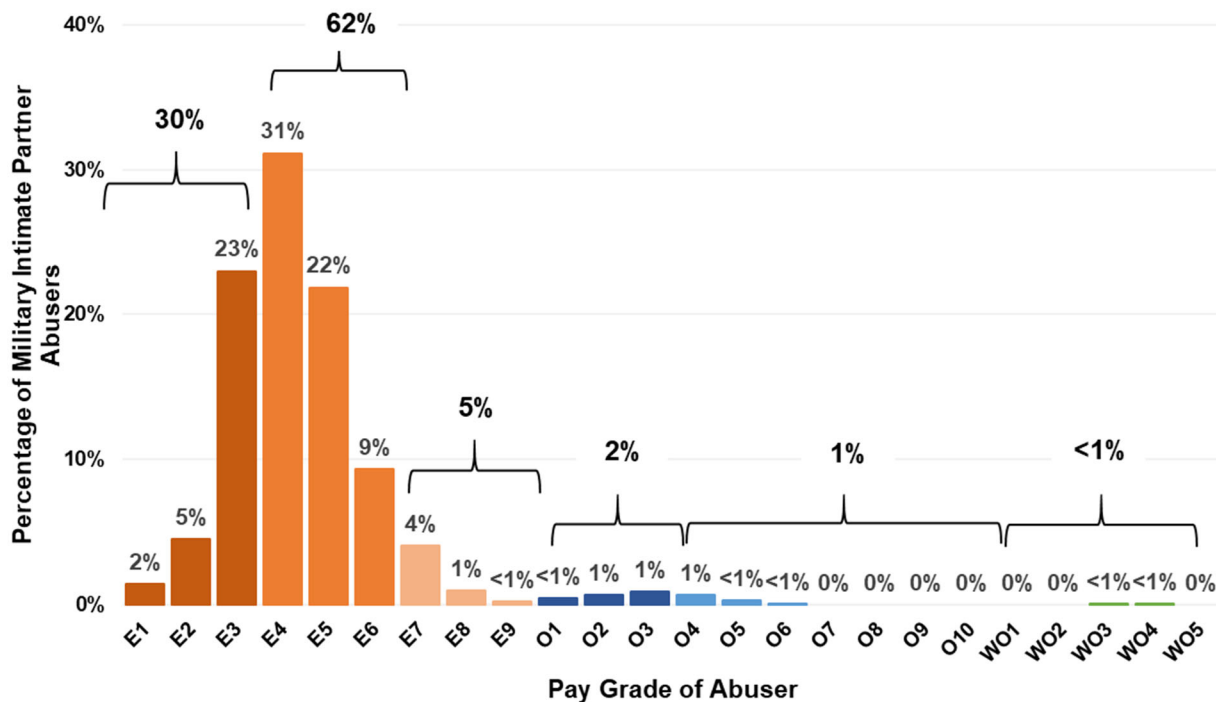


Figure 50. Percentage of Service members who were abusers in met criteria intimate partner incidents in each pay grade in FY 2022.

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

The sex of abusers in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2022 is displayed in Figure 51. Among unique abusers in these incidents, 71 percent were male and 29 percent were female.

Sex of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

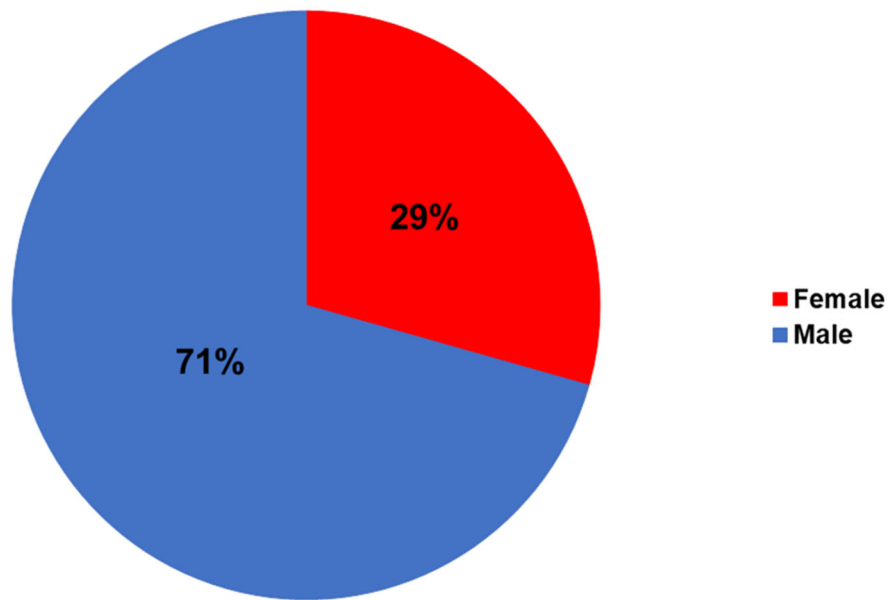


Figure 51. Sex of unique abusers in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2022.

4-10. ADULT SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse of a spouse or intimate partner is defined as:

“A sexual act or sexual contact with the spouse or intimate partner without the consent of the spouse or intimate partner or against the expressed wishes of the spouse or intimate partner. Includes abusive sexual contact with a spouse or intimate partner, aggravated sexual assault of a spouse or intimate partner, aggravated contact of a spouse or intimate partner, rape of a spouse or intimate partner, sodomy of a spouse or intimate partner, and wrongful sexual contact of an intimate partner.”⁷¹

Sexual abuse in the domestic violence field is contextually distinct from sexual assault in that it occurs within a marriage or intimate partner relationship usually as part of a larger pattern of behavior resulting in emotional or psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty. Sexual abuse occurring within the context of a domestic 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 and requested by the victim).

In FY 2022, there were 504 met criteria incidents of adult sexual abuse (see Table 8) and 467 unique victims of sexual abuse who received FAP services.⁷² This increase of 95 met criteria incidents in comparison to FY 2021 (409) is statistically significant. Given there were more incidents than victims, one or more victims experienced more than one incident of sexual abuse.

Table 8: Incidents of Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse (FY 2013-FY 2022)

Fiscal Year	Total Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents	Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents	Percentage of Overall Met Criteria Domestic Abuse
2013	8,931	208	2.33
2014	8,433	241	2.86
2015	8,858	262	2.96
2016	8,683	299	3.44
2017	8,069	300	3.72
2018	8,039	290	3.61
2019	7,921	310	3.91
2020	7,903	327	4.14
2021	7,957	409	5.14
2022	8,307	504	6.07

Note. Met criteria domestic abuse incidents include spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse combined.

⁷¹ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, Glossary, August 11, 2016, as amended.

⁷² The number of adult sexual abuse incidents in FY 2022 (504) represents a statistically significant increase when compared to the average number of adult sexual abuse incidents during the FY 2013-FY 2022 period (95 percent CI [253.94, 376.06]).

Of the 467 unique victims of adult sexual abuse who received FAP services in FY 2022, 446 (95.5 percent) were female and 21 (4.5 percent) were male. Examining the characteristics of unique victims by age, a majority were between the ages of 18 and 34 (87.4 percent). Figure 52 shows the proportion of unique adult sexual abuse victims by age group and sex.

Of the unique victims in met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents, 47.8 percent (45.6 percent female and 2.2 percent male) were ages 18-24, 39.6 percent (37.9 percent female and 1.7 percent male) were ages 25-34, 11.1 percent (10.7 percent female and 0.4 percent male) were ages 35-44, and 1.3 percent were 45 years or older (1.1 percent female and 0.2 percent male). Less than 1 percent of unique victims of adult sexual abuse were 17 years or younger; these victims experienced sexual abuse as a spouse or intimate partner even though they were under the age of 18.

Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2022)

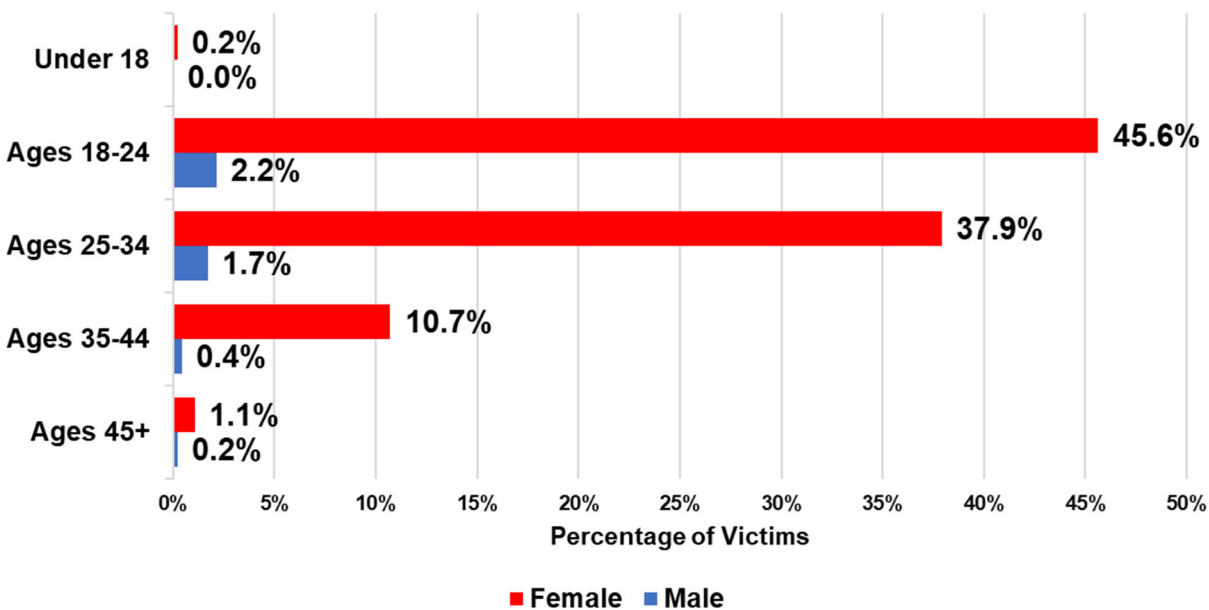


Figure 52. Age group and sex of unique victims in met criteria incidents of adult sexual abuse in FY 2022.

As shown in Figure 53, of the 467 unique victims of adult sexual abuse who received FAP services in FY 2022, 229 (49.0 percent) were family members, 187 (40.0 percent) were Service members, and 51 (10.9 percent) fell into the “other”⁷³ category, including 45 (8.6 percent) who were non-beneficiaries and 6 (1.3 percent) who were DoD civilians, non-DoD civilians, retired Service members, or Government contractors.⁷⁴

Of the 456 unique abusers in met criteria sexual abuse incidents, 383 (84.0 percent) were Service members, 54 (11.8 percent) were family members, and 19 (4.2 percent) fell into the “other” category.

Among the 383 abusers who were Service members, 373 (97.4 percent) were active duty and 10 (2.6 percent) were members of the Reserves or National Guard. The vast majority of Service member abusers in adult sexual abuse incidents were enlisted members (363 or 94.8 percent); fewer were officers (17 or 4.4 percent) or warrant officers (3 or 0.8 percent).

Status of Unique Victims and Abusers in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

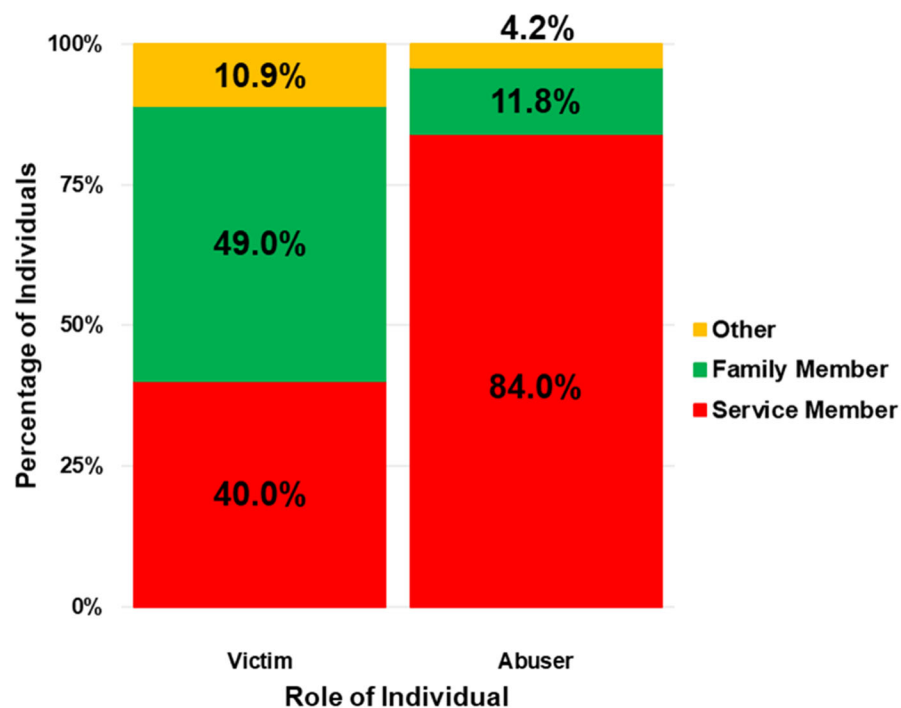


Figure 53. Status of unique victims and abusers in met criteria incidents of adult sexual abuse in FY 2022.

⁷³ The “other” category includes abusers in met criteria incidents who were DoD civilians, non-DoD government civilians, retired Service members, government contractors, and non-beneficiaries.

⁷⁴ Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages in the bar graph that represents the status of victims is 99.9.

Figures 52 and 53 show that when examining the sex and status of unique victims of adult sexual abuse in FY 2022 separately, the majority were female (95.5 percent) and the majority were family members (49.0 percent). Figure 54 shows unique victims of adult sexual abuse by sex *and* military status. Among adult sexual abuse victims who received FAP services, 48.6 percent were female family members, 36.2 percent were female Service members, and 10.7 percent were females that fell into the “other” category.⁷⁵ Males represented 4.5 percent of unique victims of adult sexual abuse, including 3.9 percent who were Service members, 0.4 percent who were family members, and 0.2 percent who fell into the “other” category.

Sex and Status of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2022)

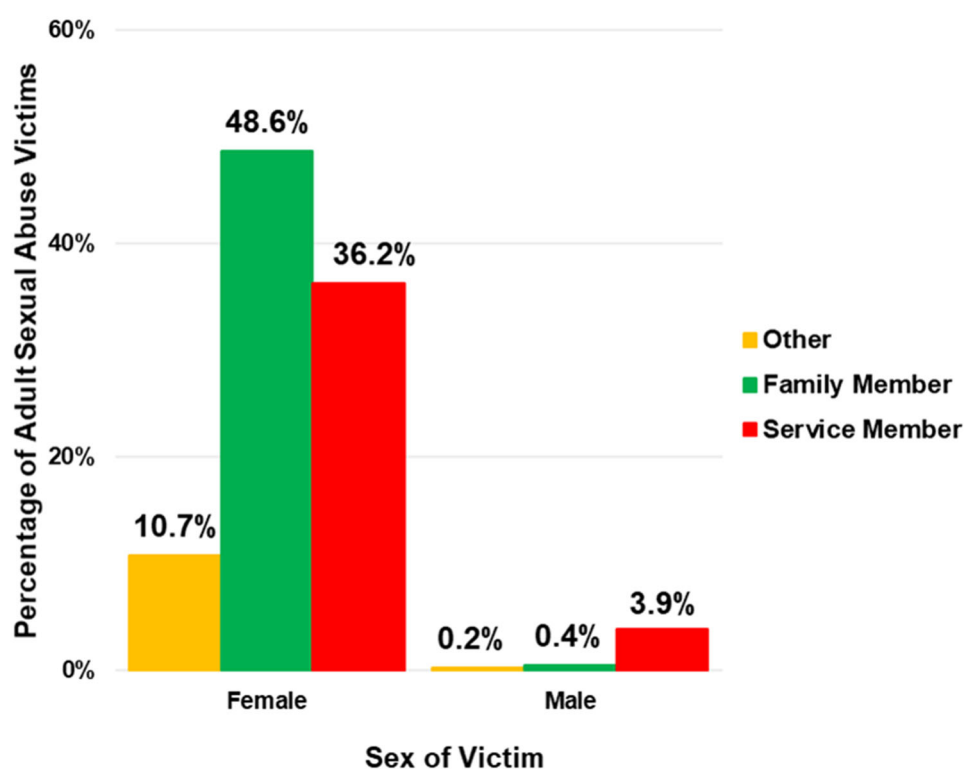


Figure 54. Sex and status of unique victims in met criteria incidents of adult sexual abuse in FY 2022.

⁷⁵ The “other” category includes abusers in met criteria incidents who were DoD civilians, non-DoD government civilians, retired Service members, government contractors, non-beneficiaries, and those who had an unknown status.

Of the 456 unique abusers in met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents, 96.3 percent were male and 3.7 percent were female. Examining the characteristics of unique abusers by age, 81.7 percent were 34 years or younger. Figure 55 shows the proportion of unique abusers in met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents by age group and sex.

Of the unique abusers in met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents with known date of birth, 41.8 percent (40.3 percent male and 1.5 percent female) were ages 25-34, 39.9 percent (38.8 percent male and 1.1 percent female) were ages 18-24, and 16.3 percent (15.2 percent male and 1.1 percent female) were ages 35-44. Two percent of abusers were males, 45 years of age or older.

Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2022)

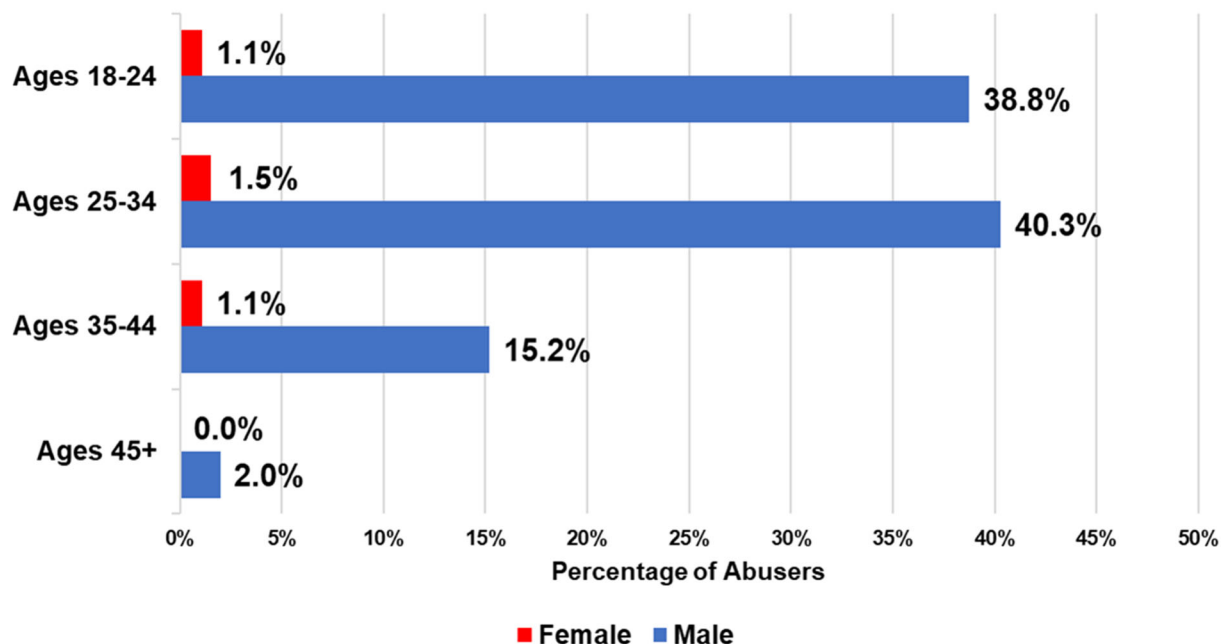


Figure 55. Age group and sex of unique abusers in met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents in FY 2022.

Note. Abusers with unknown date of birth were excluded from this graph.

4-11. DOMESTIC ABUSE FATALITIES

As discussed previously, reviews of fatalities reported to the Central Registry in FY 2022 will occur in the Military Departments in FY 2024. Data on domestic abuse fatalities included in this report represent only those fatalities taken to the IDC after the death of the victim and that met criteria for domestic abuse in FY 2022.

There were 14 domestic abuse fatalities taken to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2022 (9 spouse abuse fatalities and 5 intimate partner abuse fatalities—see Table 9). Four victims and five met criteria abusers were previously known to the Central Registry.⁷⁶ In the domestic abuse fatality incidents, 13 victims were female and 1 victim was male. Five victims were active duty members and nine victims were civilians. Among the met criteria abusers, 12 were male and 2 were female. Twelve of the met criteria abusers were active duty members and 2 were civilians.

Table 9: Domestic Abuse Fatalities Reported to FAP in FY 2022

Total Fatalities: 14 (9 spouse, 5 intimate partner)	
- 4 Victims previously known to the Central Registry	
- 5 Met criteria abusers previously known to the Central Registry	
Victims	
Sex of Victims	Military Status of Victims
- 13 Female	- 5 Active duty
- 1 Male	- 9 Civilian
Met Criteria Abusers	
Sex of Abusers	Military Status of Abusers
- 12 Male	- 12 Active duty
- 2 Female	- 2 Civilian

Note. Represents only those fatalities taken to the IDC in FY 2022. Military Service fatality reviews will take place in FY 2024.

⁷⁶ “Known to Central Registry” means that the victim or abuser was involved in a previous met criteria incident of abuse.

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 (Public Law 114–328), mandates that the Department provide an annual assessment of the effectiveness of the DoD FAP. This report highlights three different approaches currently utilized to assess and promote effectiveness in the DoD FAP.

The first approach is via quantitative annual metrics, the primary mechanism through which OSD FAP measures the performance and effectiveness of family readiness programs, specifically on the success rates of the New Parent Support Program (NPSP) and domestic abuser treatment.

The second approach highlights DoD-wide efforts intended to support and enhance the overall effectiveness of FAP, as well as associated plans for assessment and measurement, and will include data and results when available.

The third approach is to capture a snapshot of the efforts and initiatives employed at the Military Service level to measure and enhance the effectiveness of respective Military Service FAPs. Although all Military Services comply with core FAP program requirements and DoD policy, they also have considerable flexibility to tailor their approach for prevention programs, safety assessment, and clinical treatment to best meet the needs of military families in their Military Service. Therefore, there is a great amount of innovation in piloting programs, creating effective training to increase the skills of credentialed personnel, and receiving feedback from participating families to ensure that the services provided by FAP are effective and appropriate.

5-1. FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM METRICS

Below are the FY 2022 metric results on the successes of the NPSP and domestic abuser treatment. Both programs are implemented by the Military Services and administered by FAP at the installation level.

These data are collected by the Military Services, as required by section 581 of the NDAA for FY 2008 (Public Law 110–181). 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 Military Services upon receipt, there is some minor variation in interpretation of current implementing guidance and how definitions are operationalized across the Military Service FAPs.

Success of NPSP

NPSP is a selected primary prevention program for child abuse and neglect,⁷⁷ which offers intensive home visiting services on a voluntary basis to expectant parents and parents with young children (ages 0-5 years in Marine Corps; ages 0-3 in the other Military Services) who display indicators of being at risk for engaging in harmful, or potentially abusive or neglectful parenting practices. Those reported to FAP for an incident of child abuse or neglect for a child aged 0-5 years in their care may also receive NPSP services in limited circumstances, provided the use of NPSP is clinically recommended for the family.⁷⁸

To measure the success of NPSP, the Military Services collect annual data on the number of families who began receiving NPSP services at least two times per month during FY 2021 and continued receiving services for at least 6 months, and who did not have any incidents of child abuse and neglect reported to FAP that met criteria within 12 months after NPSP services ended. To achieve success, the total DoD ratio of families served to families with no child maltreatment reports that meet FAP criteria must be 85 percent or higher.

Table 10 displays the metric for NPSP and the aggregated FY 2022 DoD results. A total of 1,356 families across the Military Services met the metric criteria and received NPSP services within the required timeframe. Of those families, 1,345 did not have a subsequent met criteria incident for child maltreatment within 12 months after NPSP services ended, resulting in a success rate of 99.19 percent. This rate exceeds the established target rate of 85 percent.

Table 10: Success of the NPSP (FY 2022)

METRIC	TOTAL DoD
Number of families without open FAP child abuse and/or neglect cases that began receiving intensive home visitation NPSP services (at least two home visits per month) during the previous fiscal year (FY 2021) and continued receiving intensive home visitation NPSP services for at least 6 months.	1,356
Such families that had no reported incidents of child abuse and/or neglect that occurred after NPSP services were completed and that met FAP criteria within 12 months after NPSP services ended.	1,345
Percentage successful NPSP	99.19 percent
Target: 85 percent	

⁷⁷ Selected primary prevention takes place BEFORE violence initially occurs. It involves programs and strategies designed to reduce the factors that put people at risk for experiencing violence. Selected primary prevention efforts focus on those individuals or groups that show one more risk factors for violence. Under Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Execution of the Department of Defense Prevention Plan of Action 2.0 (2022-2024)," May 27, 2022.

⁷⁸ Enclosure 3 of DoDI 6400.05, "New Parent Support Program (NPSP)," June 13, 2012, as amended.

Success of Domestic Abuser Treatment

Each Military Service's FAP program delivers clinical interventions to individuals involved in met criteria domestic abuse incidents based on a clinical assessment, and targeted directly to address the specific concerns of each abuser.⁷⁹ By collecting data on the recidivism of spouse and intimate partner abusers who received FAP clinical treatment services, OSD FAP can assess the impact that treatment services have on abusers in preventing incidents of domestic abuse in the short term (12 months).

To measure the success of domestic abuser treatment, the Military Services collect annual data on the number of spouse and intimate partner abusers involved in an incident that met FAP criteria for domestic abuse, started and completed clinical treatment services during FY 2021, and were not involved in any met criteria incident reported to FAP during the 12 months after completing treatment. To achieve success, the total DoD rate of spouses and intimate partners with no subsequent incidents that meet FAP criteria must be 75 percent or higher.

Table 11 displays the metric for domestic abuser treatment, as well as the aggregated FY 2022 DoD results. A total of 2,321 abusive spouses and intimate partners across all Military Services met the criteria of the metric and started (and completed) FAP clinical treatment services within the required timeframe. Of those spouses and intimate partners, 2,162 did not have a report that met criteria for domestic abuse within the following 12 months after FAP clinical treatment was completed, resulting in a success rate of 93.15 percent. This rate exceeds the established target rate of 75 percent.

Table 11: Success of Domestic Abuser Treatment (FY 2022)

METRIC	TOTAL DOD
Total abusive spouses and intimate partners in any incident that met FAP criteria for domestic abuse who began receiving FAP clinical treatment services during FY 2021 and completed FAP clinical treatment services by September 30, 2021.	2,321
Such spouses/partners who were not reported as allegedly abusive in any incident that met criteria for domestic abuse within 12 months after FAP clinical treatment was completed.	2,162
Percentage successful abuser treatment	93.15 percent
Target: 75 percent	

⁷⁹ Domestic abuse treatment is also offered and provided to individuals involved in incidents that do not meet criteria for abuse. As currently defined, this metric is limited to met criteria incidents.

5-2. DOD FAP INITIATIVES

In addition to preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse in military families, FAP works to strengthen protective factors and reduce risk for violence and abuse through policy, programs, and partnerships. Each of the Military Services implements its own prevention practices and activities at the installation level, while OSD FAP oversees the development of new policies and strategic partnerships to support successful prevention efforts across the total force.

DoD Policy and Form-Related Updates

The Department reissued DoDI 6400.06, “DoD Coordinated Community Response (CCR) to Domestic Abuse involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel” in FY 2022, closing a gap in service provision by expanding the definition of “intimate partner” to include those in dating relationships. This expanded intimate partner definition brings the Department into alignment with best practices in the civilian domestic abuse prevention and response field. In addition, the DoDI advances approaches to maximize victim care, support, and choice, and implements several public laws and statutory requirements.

FAP/SAPR Video

In response to the expansion of FAP services to include intimate partners in dating relationships, OSD FAP and DoD SAPR partnered to produce a video to showcase shared goals between the two distinct but necessary programs: to support victims with the resources, education, and services the programs provide. The video was distributed to FAP and SAPR professionals at the headquarters and installation levels.

DD Form 2967 Update

In support of section 538 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry NDAA for FY 2021 (Public Law 116–283), the Department revised DD Form 2967, “Domestic Abuse Victim Reporting Option Statement,” to clarify options available to victims in reporting domestic abuse, seeking care, and accessing services and protections; and to provide victims the opportunity to confirm that they have been informed of various services and options. The updated form clarifies that a victim may confide in certain DoD providers outside of FAP and still preserve the option of a restricted report. Two new sections were added to ensure that the victim is informed of resources and services available to them to include Special or Victims Legal Counsel, active duty expedited transfers, options for reporting retaliations, and active duty eligibility for Veterans Affairs services. Lastly, the final section adds that a victim reporting sexual abuse is informed of the availability of a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination and other relevant resources.

Release of On-demand FAP for Leaders Course

FAP for Leaders launched on the Military OneSource MilLife Learning platform and was designed to meet section 549 of the NDAA for FY 2022 (Public Law 117–81) and DoD policy⁸⁰ requirements enabling commanders and senior enlisted advisors to complete training on child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse. The course highlights the important role command leaders play as part of the CCR in the prevention of and response to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse within the military. The course provides an overview of leadership responsibilities and includes learning opportunities through interactive case studies.

Communications Plan and Awareness Efforts

The Department has also engaged in several initiatives to expand FAP awareness and outreach.

Domestic Abuse Communications Plan

The Department developed a communication plan to support increasing awareness of domestic abuse reporting options and resources, as well as metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the communication strategies.⁸¹ Tactics from the DoD communications plan included development of social media content: targeting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) community; reaching persons experiencing domestic abuse earlier in the relationship spectrum through a relaunch and design of “Know the Signs” campaign; and educating on technology abuse.

Military Leader Domestic Abuse Prevention and Response Toolkit

The July 2022 launch of Military Leader Domestic Abuse Prevention and Response Toolkit offers military leaders easy access to domestic abuse prevention and response information and victim support resources. The toolkit, available on Military OneSource, includes downloadable customizable contact cards, briefing slides, email templates, and connection to the Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate Locator.

DAVA Locator Relaunch

In an effort to further increase awareness of resources, the Department revamped the DAVA Locator on Military OneSource. The revamped locator easily allows someone to search for the nearest FAP DAVA or other victim advocacy services by zip code or state. It also provides information for local or state victim advocacy resources. The new locator was launched in two phases in August and September 2022 and was promoted on MilitaryOneSource.mil and through other DoD communication channels. This increased visibility resulted in a 74 percent year-over-year increase in page views and a 313 percent year-over-year increase in searches for a DAVA.

⁸⁰ DoDI 6400.06, December 15, 2021, as amended.

⁸¹ GAO-21-289 report Recommendation 20 and 21 address the need for a planned communications strategy and accompanying metrics to measure effectiveness.

All In to End Child Abuse Campaign and MilParent Power Toolkits

During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Department leveraged the “All In to End Child Abuse” campaign to highlight the intersection of mental health and family safety, both in prevention child abuse and neglect and recognizing the well-being of a child in need. The Military OneSource campaign landing page featuring education and support resources garnered 1,889 page views and 205 actions in April 2022. DoD published the most popular products in Spanish for the first time to expand marketing and education of the campaign. Content on the Child Abuse Prevention Month toolkit page garnered 223 page views and 184 product downloads.

As part of Child Abuse Prevention Month, DoD developed the MilParent Power toolkit, which provided up-to-date resources and information on positive parenting. This additional campaign focused on offering providers and leaders with a suite of positive parenting tools that are not connected to the idea of abuse and neglect, and instead focused on primary prevention through education of best practices for all audiences. During April 2022, this specific toolkit page received 2,236 page views, with an average of 4 minutes and 7 seconds time on the page.

Continued Host of Safe Exit Button

The Department continued to host the Safe Exit button on MilitaryOneSource.mil as a feature that allows a user to instantly exit an article or other domestic abuse-related content such as reporting education or utilization of the DAVA locator. The instant exit replaces the domestic abuse-related content with a general website, which helps protect victims’ safety online if their abuser is nearby. During FY 2022, the Safe Exit button received 1,281 clicks on “What’s This?,” 8,638 clicks to collapse, and 4,251 clicks to exit the site.

5-3. MILITARY SERVICE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to FAP metrics at the OSD level and Department-wide efforts, provided below is a snapshot of the initiatives employed at the Military Service level that measure and enhance FAP effectiveness. Each section highlights Military Service-level strategies used to improve or assess the effectiveness of different aspects of FAP.

Army

Implementation of IDC–Clinical Case Staff Meeting (CCSM) Model

In FY 2022, the Army implemented the DoD IDC-CCSM model for determining and managing incidents of domestic and child abuse enterprise-wide using a phased approach. To ensure implementation with fidelity to DoD requirements, the Army FAP worked with New York University (NYU).⁸² A prior pilot study demonstrated that the IDC-CCSM has several benefits when compared with the prior Case Review Committee model. To support transition to the IDC-CCSM model, each garrison was assigned a Mobile Transition Team (MTT) comprised of two or more Army and NYU subject matter experts.

After a garrison completed its first three IDCs and the accompanying Incident Assessment Reviews (IARs) and CCSMs, the site's MTT members completed a brief survey on the site's ongoing support needs. A key finding from the survey was a high degree of IDC adherence to decision tree algorithm with 86 percent agreement between master reviewers and IDCs. The findings highlight the need for ongoing training for IDC members, the development of trainings for incoming IDC members, and ongoing fidelity checks. The study identified the IAR and Incident Assessment Template processes as being most in need of ongoing support. MTT members prioritized 19 sites for additional training in FY 2023.

Evaluation of Installation Outreach and Partnership to Reach Isolated Spouse Victims

Recognizing the challenge of reaching domestic violence victims with over 70 percent of Army families residing off an installation, the Army engaged the RAND Arroyo Center in a research project focused on improving outreach and partnerships to reach isolated spouses who may be victims of abuse. The research identified challenges for FAP in effectively conducting outreach efforts, including inadequate resources and staffing, the lack of formal strategic outreach plans, and limited off-post outreach due to not knowing where spouses reside. Systemic barriers identified that limit FAP outreach were the inability to purchase educational objects, limitations on social media use, lack of support to develop customized graphics, and insufficient guidance and training for staff regarding outreach efforts.

⁸² Any reference throughout this report to non-federal entities does not constitute an endorsement of those entities.

The study also noted that insufficient training and inadequate staffing impairs FAP's ability to work effectively, particularly with non-traditional organizations such as universities, libraries, recreation facilities, and faith-based organizations. RAND recommended the Army evaluate FAP resourcing, provide policy guidance and training, and create information-sharing forums to facilitate a strategic approach to outreach. Some of the recommendations were already incorporated in the Army's Domestic Abuse Communication Plan released in June 2022.

Department of the Navy

Navy High Risk for Violence-Coordinated Community Response (HRV-CCR) Form

The Navy implemented the HRV-CCR in August 2018 to monitor risk in domestic and child abuse cases when there is a threat of immediate and serious harm. HRV-CCR meetings are scheduled as needed to ensure risks are reduced and client care has been appropriately coordinated. In March 2022, Command, Navy Installation Command conducted an enterprise-wide, multi-disciplinary, installation-level FAP Needs Assessment to evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness, and usefulness of the CCR process. One recommendation that emerged was the development of an HRV-CCR form to include information regarding attending members, safety actions taken, and case discussion in the Fleet and Family Support Management Information System. The form is a standardized way to document the HRV-CCR process in a concise and consistent way. It is also used to conduct quality assurance review and oversight on the HRV-CCR and to assist installation-level FAP offices in assessing the risks at the time to develop safety actions. Data collection using the HRV-CCR form is on-going, and the Navy anticipates having measurable outcomes related to the form in FY 2023.

Marine Corps Century Anger Management (CAM)

CAM is an evidence-based anger management curriculum that teaches participants assertive communication, effective coping, and healthy stress and anger management strategies. CAM is an 8-week course. Each session lasts approximately 60 minutes and is available to all medical treatment facility-eligible individuals. A pilot evaluation of CAM with Marines and their families began in 2019 and was conducted at six Marine Corps installations. More than 250 participants completed the pre- and post-survey for the pilot evaluation and were included in the analyses. Participants reported increased perceived ability to manage anger after completing the course.⁸³ Additionally, participants reported that they were better aware of their stress and anger and indicated lower levels of perceived stress.⁸⁴ Ninety-seven percent reported intentions to better manage their stress and anger after completing CAM.

⁸³ CAM survey respondents reported increased perceived ability to manage anger after completing the course ($t = -5.52, df = 271, p < 0.001$).

⁸⁴ CAM survey respondents reported better aware of their stress and anger ($t = -7.58, df = 271, p < 0.001$) and lower levels of perceived stress ($t = 7, df = 267, p < 0.001$) after completing the course.

Marine Corps Warrior Maintenance

Stress Management for Marines and Families teaches healthy techniques to manage and respond to stressors, which has been found to protect against child and domestic abuse. Warrior Maintenance is an evidence-based 8-week stress management course developed by ProChange Behavior Systems. Each session lasts between 60 and 90 minutes. Participants learn effective techniques to handle stressors, manage healthy communication skills, and develop strategies to overcome challenges to stress management. Due to delays in full implementation caused by the pandemic, data collection for analysis is still underway.

Department of the Air Force (DAF)

Enhanced New Parent Support Program

Working with researchers at Northern Illinois University, the DAF conducted a pilot efficacy study to evaluate the NPSP home visitation-based prevention and clinical outcomes and effectiveness by comparing the NPSP Treatment as Usual interventions and NPSP Enhanced (NPSP-E) interventions. After implementing two intervention group trainings (six sessions), bi-weekly to monthly team meetings, and quarterly meetings with intervention group participants, the pilot study assessed NPSP clients and programmatic outcomes following enhanced NPSP interventions. Seven intervention and six comparison sites were trained and participated in completing two client surveys — the Child Abuse Potential Inventory and Couple's Satisfactory Inventory. Preliminary results showed positive NPSP-E outcomes in the target areas of self-efficacy, resiliency, social support, depression reduction, and increased knowledge of safe sleep practices in the intervention group parents.

Development of Sleep-Related Infant Death Reduction Protocol

Sleep-related infant death is a concern nationwide and in the military, and has been identified as a prevention focus on both DAF and DoD Fatality Reviews. DAF FAP NPSP initiated the development of the Sleep-Related Infant Death Reduction Protocol. The protocol, developed by a working group of Family Advocacy Nurses, provides standardized training to FAP staff on best practices related to reducing sleep-related infant deaths. The intent of the protocol is to improve staff knowledge, strengthen documentation, provide current and applicable resources, educate families on safe sleep environments for newborns and infants, and prevent Sleep-Related Infant Deaths in families served by DAF FAP. The Sleep-Related Infant Death Reduction Protocol and supplementing documentation tools have been launched and implemented across DAF FAP NPSP sites.

Feedback-Informed Therapy

Since 2011, DAF FAP providers have employed Feedback-Informed Therapy in all clinical sessions for secondary prevention and maltreatment, through the provision of two brief 4-question tools: the Outcome Rating Scale (ORS) and the Session Rating Scale (SRS). The ORS is administered to the client at the commencement of each session and rates the client's psychological well-being on a scale of 0-10 in four areas (i.e., Individual, Interpersonal, Social,

and Overall). The FAP provider then utilizes the information to help drive clinical discussions with the client. At the end of the session, the client is administered the SRS to rate how the client experienced the session in four areas (i.e., Relationship, Goals and Topics, Approach or Method, and Overall) on a scale of 0-10. The FAP provider then reviews and discusses the results of the SRS scores during the session to better meet the client's needs, thus potentially improving the therapeutic alliance and reducing the drop-out rate. ORS and SRS scores are visually tracked using graphs via myoutcome.com. This tracking capability allows clients and FAP providers to have a visual depiction of the client's progress or lack thereof, from which the provider may make necessary adjustment to meet the client's needs or refer to another FAP provider (if available).

6. PROGRAM AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Overview of Key Findings

Despite upticks in the rates of reported child abuse and neglect, met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 military children in FY 2022, the rates did not vary significantly when compared to their respective 10-year averages. Following a 3-year decline in the rate of child sexual abuse per 1,000 military children, this rate increased in FY 2022 for the third consecutive year, reaching statistical significance.

For the fourth consecutive year, domestic abuse findings are mixed. Following a downward trend over several years within the last decade, the number of domestic abuse reports and the number of met criteria domestic abuse incidents experienced year-over-year increases for the second time. Despite these increases, the FY 2022 number of domestic abuse reports decreased and the number of met criteria domestic abuse incidents did not vary significantly when compared to their respective 10-year averages.

Although the rates for spouse abuse reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 married military couples experienced year-over-year increases in FY 2022, the rates either decreased or did not vary significantly when compared to their respective 10-year averages. Conversely, the number of reports, number of met criteria incidents, and number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse increased. These increases were anticipated with the expansion of the definition of intimate partner and the resulting expansion of service delivery. The proportion of met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents increased in FY 2022, for the fourth consecutive year, representative of an overall trend noted over the past decade.

Continual monitoring and assessment of key findings are necessary to inform current and future program efforts. The DoD recognizes that there is more work to be done and remains committed to enhancing efforts to prevent incidents of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse by providing effective supportive services, treatment (as appropriate), and resources for military families.

Continued Focus on the Downward Trend in Child Abuse and Neglect

There has been a downward trend in the child victimization rate since FY 2014. That decline reached statistical significance for the first time in FY 2019. Despite upticks in the child victimization rate for two consecutive years, the FY 2022 rate did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average. OSD FAP engaged in a multi-year collaboration with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences to identify military-specific risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect that was completed in FY 2022. Research results are informing child maltreatment prevention efforts and initiatives, including awareness campaigns prevention-related policy.⁸⁵ OSD FAP will continue to monitor increasing child sexual abuse rates through internal analyses and will assess DoD results relative to trends the civilian community.

Continued Focus on the Upward Trend in Intimate Partner Abuse and Adult Sexual Abuse

Results from this report show that the inverse relationship between spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse indicators evident since FY 2019 persisted in FY 2022. While spouse abuse indicators either did not vary significantly or decreased, increases in the number of reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims of intimate partner abuse were statistically significant for the third consecutive year. At the same time, the proportion of adult sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse increased in FY 2022 for the fourth consecutive year.

With the reissuance of DoDI 6400.06 and the expanded intimate partner definition,⁸⁶ OSD FAP remains committed to monitoring fluctuations in domestic abuse indicators and to improving its prevention and response efforts. The GAO-21-289 report included 32 recommendations to strengthen the Department's data collection and awareness efforts, enhance incident screening monitoring, and provide guidance on key personnel training. The DoD and Military Departments concurred with all 32 recommendations. Several recommendations have already been completed; others are underway.

Simultaneously, the Department is engaged in several domestic abuse-related research efforts. In accordance with section 549C of the NDAA for FY 2021, DoD contracted with RAND National Defense Research Institute⁸⁷ to research the risk of domestic abuse at different points of the military career life-cycle; best practices for reaching those at highest risk for domestic abuse; strategies to prevent domestic abuse by training and educating the breadth of the CCR; the military justice system response; and the impacts of domestic abuse on military housing, children's education, and the physical and mental health of military members and families. The Phase 1 final report is complete. Phase 2 efforts are in-progress.

⁸⁵ DoDI 6400.05, June 13, 2012, as amended.

⁸⁶ DoDI 6400.06, December 15, 2021, as amended.

⁸⁷ Any reference throughout this report to non-federal entities does not constitute an endorsement of those entities.

A new feature of the 2021 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey (WGR) included the ability to estimate the prevalence of intimate partner involved unwanted sexual contact incidents among the active duty component.⁸⁸ Although the survey respondent population was active duty Service members exclusively, and did not capture the civilian victim population, the initial WGR results provided critical baseline information on intimate partner-related sexual abuse in the military. As an extension of that initial effort, the Department recently published an in-depth report summarizing the prevalence and characteristics of intimate partner-related sexual assault in the military. Collectively these research efforts improve OSD FAP's ability to develop targeted programs and services to support individuals who engage with FAP. The Department remains concerned about any potential uptick in domestic abuse and will continue to monitor these numbers carefully.

Conclusion

The DoD is committed to keeping our families safe and resilient, and to taking every measure to prevent child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse in our military communities. One incident of child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse is too many, and programs like FAP implement evidence-based prevention and treatment programs with the goal of ensuring the safety and well-being of all military families. OSD FAP reinforces the enduring commitment of Department leadership to provide effective, efficient programs to promote the safety, readiness, and well-being of all Service members and their families through a CCR to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse.

⁸⁸ The Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military recommended that the Department establish a mechanism to track the prevalence of domestic abuse/intimate partner related sexual assault. Available from: <https://media.defense.gov/2021/Jul/02/2002755437/-1/-1/0/IRC-FULL-REPORT-FINAL-1923-7-1-21.PDF/IRC-FULL-REPORT-FINAL-1923-7-1-21.PDF>.