

Department of Defense

Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2019



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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

BBC - Baby Boot Camp
CCR - Coordinated Community Response
DMDC - Defense Manpower Data Center
DoD - Department of Defense
DoDI - Department of Defense Instruction
DoDM - Department of Defense Manual
FAP - Family Advocacy Program
FIT - Feedback Informed Therapy
FY - Fiscal Year
HQMC – Headquarters Marine Corps
IDC - Incident Determination Committee
MBRT - Mind Body Resilience Training
NDAA - National Defense Authorization Act
NPSP - New Parent Support Program
OLEW - One Love Escalation Workshop
ORS - Outcome Rating Scale
OSD - Office of the Secretary of Defense
PCF - Prevention Collaboration Forum
SRS - Session Rating Scale
USAMPS - U.S. Army Military Police School

Executive Summary

For 39 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 domestic abuse incident data from the FAP Central Registry for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, as required by section 574 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2017 (Public Law 114-328). In addition to meeting the Congressional requirement, this report provides critical information on the circumstances of these incidents to further inform ongoing prevention and response efforts. Using aggregated FAP Central Registry data submitted from each Military Service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force), this report offers a Department of Defense (DoD)-wide description of the child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse incidents that were reported to FAP in FY 2019.

Background and 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.¹

Key Findings

Overall

- The data for FY 2019 contained in this report only reflect child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse reported to the OSD FAP in FY 2019. These data do not represent a prevalence estimate of all child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse that occurred in military families in the past fiscal year.
- Findings from this report indicate that although the FY 2019 rates of reported and child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria² did not vary significantly when compared to prior years, there was a statistically significant decrease in the unique victim rate when compared to the 10-year average.³
- For child sexual abuse, in FY 2019 there was a statistically significant decrease in both

¹ 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.

² Hereafter referred to in the context of both child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse as "met criteria incidents." For a case to "meet criteria," the case is presented to the IDC, followed by the members voting to determine whether the incident meets the criteria for an act or failure to act, and a resulting impact, according to standards specified in DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, "Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Clinical Case Staff Meeting (CCSM) and Incident Determination Committee (IDC)," August 11, 2016. Further discussed on p. 11 of this report.

³ 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.

the number of met criteria incidents and the rate of met criteria incidents per 1,000 military children.

- The FY 2019 rates of spouse abuse reports, met criteria incidents, and victims per 1,000 military married couples all experienced statistically significant decreases when compared to their respective 10-year averages, even though the rate of spouse abuse victims per 1,000 was unchanged from the FY 2018 rate (8.8 in both years).
- In FY 2019, there was a statistically significant increase in the number of met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse and the number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse when compared to their respective 10-year averages.
- After a slight decline in FY 2018, the proportion of adult sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse (3.91 percent) increased in FY 2019 when compared to the 10-year average.

Child Abuse & Neglect

- In FY 2019, there were 12,392 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect to FAP. The FY 2019 rate of reported child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children was 13.5, which is a 2.9 percent decrease when compared to the FY 2018 report rate (13.9).
- There were 5,600 incidents of child abuse and neglect that met criteria in FY 2019. The FY 2019 rate of incidents that met criteria per 1,000 children was 6.1, which is a 6.2 percent decrease when compared to the FY 2018 rate (6.5).
- Findings from this report indicate that although FY 2019 rates of child abuse and neglect reports and met criteria incidents did not vary significantly from their respective 10-year averages, there was a statistically significant decrease in the rate of unique child abuse and neglect victims.
- The DoD rates of child abuse and neglect victims are much lower than their counterpart rates in the U.S. civilian population as compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.⁴ The DoD unique child victim rate for FY 2019 is 4.5 victims per 1,000 military children (a 2.2 percent decrease from the FY 2018 rate of 4.6), and the civilian rate for FY 2018 is 9.2 per 1,000 children.
- 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 16.8 percent in FY 2018,⁵ and the rate has decreased steadily since FY 2003.⁶ The military met criteria rate for reported incidents was 45.2 percent in FY 2019. Although both of these rates have fluctuated individually, the military met criteria rate has consistently been well above the civilian rate of substantiation in the past decade. Thus, the comparatively lower military rates of child maltreatment are not attributable to DoD confirming (meeting criteria on) fewer reports, because DoD confirms child maltreatment reports at more than double the rate of the civilian sector.
- In FY 2019, 47 percent of victims in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents were female and 53 percent were male; however, the sex of victims varied by maltreatment type. More than one-half (56.1 percent) of victims in met criteria child abuse and

⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2020). *Child Maltreatment 2018*. Available from: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ *Child Maltreatment 2003 through 2018 reports, inclusive.*

neglect incidents were age 5 or younger.

- Pay grades E4-E6 had the highest percentage of the active duty⁷ parent abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents (64 percent); however, these pay grades had the second highest rate of active duty parent abusers at 4.7 per 1,000 active duty parents when compared to the military population. Pay grades E1-E3 had the highest rate at 13.0 per 1,000 active duty parents in the military population with these pay grades.
- In FY 2019, 53 percent of the met criteria child abuse and neglect abusers were male and 47 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 since FY 2005.
- In reports that met the DoD criteria for abuse, the abuser may have been a Service member,⁸ a civilian family member, or (in child abuse or neglect incidents) a caregiver outside the family. In 93 percent of the met criteria child abuse or neglect incidents, the abuser was a parent.
- There were 16 child abuse-related fatalities, involving 22 abusers, presented to the Incident Determination Committee (IDC) and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2019. Overall, the child fatality victims were young in age, with 93.8 percent of victims under age 5 and 75 percent of victims 1 year old or younger. Among the abusers in these child fatality incidents, 11 were male and 11 were female. Ten met criteria abusers were active duty, and 12 had a non-military status.

Child Sexual Abuse

- For the second time in this report, we examined child sexual abuse as a subset of child abuse. These incidents are also reported in an appendix to the *2019 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.⁹ In FY 2019, there were 203 unique victims of child sexual abuse. These victims experienced a total of 212 met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse, indicating that 1 or more victims experienced more than 1 incident of sexual abuse.
- Child sexual abuse incidents accounted for 3.79 percent of all met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents. The rate of child sexual abuse incidents per 1,000 military children (0.231), represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average, which is consistent with trends observed in the civilian sector.
- In FY 2019, 87.2 percent of victims in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents were female, and 12.8 percent of victims were male. More than half of victims were ages 11-17 (53.2 percent), slightly less than a quarter were ages 6-10 (24.1 percent), and the remaining victims were ages 2-5 (17.2 percent) or 1 year old or younger (3.5 percent). There were four victims (2.0 percent) involving children 18 years or older, where the abuse occurred while they were still dependent children.

⁷ For the purposes of this report, active duty refers to Regular Component members, exclusively.

⁸ Service members include active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

⁹ The *2019 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military* will be released on April 30, 2020.

Spouse Abuse

- The spouse abuse data in this report represent only those incidents involving currently married individuals. Either the victim or the abuser may have been an active duty Service member or the civilian spouse of an active duty Service member.
- In FY 2019, there were 13,571 reports of spouse abuse to FAP. The FY 2019 rate of spouse abuse reports per 1,000 married military couples was 21.7, which is a 10.7 percent decrease when compared to the FY 2018 report rate (24.3). This decrease was statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.
- There were 6,800 incidents of spouse abuse that met criteria in FY 2019. The FY 2019 rate of met criteria spouse abuse incidents per 1,000 military couples was 10.9, which is a 2.7 percent decrease when compared to the FY 2018 rate (11.2). This decrease was statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.
- Although the FY 2019 rate of spouse abuse victims (8.8 per 1,000 married couples) was the same as the FY 2018 rate, the FY 2019 spouse abuse victim rate represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average.
- In FY 2019, 66 percent of victims in met criteria spouse abuse incidents were female and 34 percent of victims were male. Fifty-four percent of victims in met criteria spouse abuse incidents were Service members and 46 percent were civilian spouses.
- In FY 2019, 59 percent of all abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents were Service members.
- Pay grades E4-E6 had the highest percent of active duty abusers in met criteria incidents (59 percent); however, these pay grades had the second highest spouse abuse rate per 1,000 married active duty members at 5.9. The pay grades E1-E3 had the highest rate per 1,000 married active duty members at 16.9.
- Nine spouse abuse fatalities were presented to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2019.

Unmarried Intimate Partner Abuse

- In FY 2006, an additional category, “intimate partner” was added to capture incidents involving: 1) a former spouse; 2) a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; or 3) a current or former intimate partner with whom the victim shares or has shared a common domicile. In such cases, the victim or the abuser may have been a Service member or a civilian.
- In FY 2019, there were 1,902 reports of intimate partner abuse, of which 1,121 incidents met criteria. Those met criteria incidents involved 886 unique victims. There was a statistically significant increase in both 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 established, as data on unmarried individuals involved in intimate partner relationships as defined by DoD are not available.
- Three intimate partner abuse fatalities were presented to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2019.

Adult Sexual Abuse

- In FY 2019, there were 284 unique victims of adult sexual abuse, including both spouses and unmarried intimate partners. These incidents are also reported in the *2019 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*, and are referred to as Domestic Abuse-Related Sexual Assault. In the domestic violence field, sexual abuse remains contextually distinct from sexual assault in that it occurs within a marriage or intimate partner relationship as part of a larger pattern of behavior resulting in emotional or psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty.
- In FY 2019, there were a total of 310 met criteria incidents of adult sexual abuse, indicating that 1 or more victims experienced more than 1 incident of sexual abuse.
- Adult sexual abuse incidents accounted for 3.91 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 2019, 94.4 percent of unique victims in met criteria sexual abuse incidents were female. Among these unique victims, 53.5 percent were family members, 34.9 percent were Service members, and the remaining 11.6 percent were non-beneficiaries, DoD civilians, contractors, or retired Service members.

DoD & Service Program Initiatives

The DoD FAP has several efforts underway to enhance the capability of Service-level and installation FAPs to execute prevention activities, develop policies, and sustain programs for both child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse. These efforts include an environmental scan and needs assessment to determine the prevention landscape across each of the Services, and to identify gaps and strengths. OSD FAP is a member of the OSD Prevention Collaboration Forum, a Secretary of Defense initiative designed to improve and align primary prevention for a continuum of violent, harmful, and abusive acts across the Total Force.¹⁰ In addition these DoD initiatives, the Services are engaged in a variety of efforts to enhance and measure the effectiveness of FAP.

Program & Policy Implications

The Department is committed to keeping our families safe and healthy and 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.

Findings from this report indicate that although the rates of reported child abuse and neglect and met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents are unchanged, the unique child victim rate and the rate of child sexual abuse per 1,000 military children decreased. In contrast, findings for

¹⁰ Primary prevention addresses violence and abuse before it ever occurs, through efforts to increase an individual's protective factors (e.g. strong community supports, economic security) and reduce risk factors (e.g. isolation from community, substance dependence). <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/levels-prevention>

domestic abuse are mixed. While the rates for spouse abuse reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 married military couples all decreased, the number of met criteria incidents and the number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse increased. Despite a modest decrease in the proportion of adult sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse in FY 2018, the proportion of met criteria sexual abuse incidents increased in FY 2019, which is representative of an overall trend noted over a 10-year period.

The Department remains committed to continual monitoring and assessment of both increases and decreases in incident numbers and rates, where available, to inform current and future 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 39 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 2019 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). 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 each Military Service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force), this report offers a DoD-wide picture of the child maltreatment and domestic abuse incidents reported to FAP in FY 2019 (October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019).

Subsequent report sections include a brief description of the FAP, Congressional reporting requirements for child maltreatment and domestic abuse incidents, and a review of the findings from an analysis of the FY 2019 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. It should be noted that the use of the word “significant” throughout this report is not a reference or comment on the level of importance, but rather to analytical and statistical thresholds.

2. BACKGROUND

FAP is a congressionally mandated DoD program designed to be the policy proponent for and a key element of the DoD’s coordinated community response (CCR) system for preventing and responding to reports of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse in military families. The Service FAPs, at every military installation where families are located, work closely with the other entities within the CCR,¹¹ as well as with civilian social services agencies and civilian law enforcement, to provide comprehensive prevention and response to family maltreatment.

FAP’s 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 over 1,950 positions in the Military Departments to deliver FAP services, to include credentialed/licensed clinical providers, Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates, New Parent Support Home Visitors, and prevention staff. Family Advocacy 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 policy¹² also requires the Service FAPs to report incidents of child abuse

¹¹ 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.

¹² DoDM 6400.01, Volume 2, “Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Child Abuse and Domestic Abuse Incident Reporting System,” August 11, 2016.

and neglect and domestic abuse to OSD through the DoD FAP Central Registry. In recent years, DoD has enhanced its emphasis on preventing child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse through DoD-wide initiatives and programs within each Military Service.

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 DoD.¹³ The IDC uses a standardized research-based decision tree algorithm to determine which reports for suspected child abuse or domestic abuse meet the DoD definitions of abuse, thereby requiring entry into the Service FAP headquarters 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. Additional members, as appropriate, may participate and vote in accordance with policy. The case is presented to the IDC, followed by the members voting to determine whether the incident meets the criteria for an act or failure to act, and a resulting impact, according to standards specified in policy.¹⁴ The IDC is not a disciplinary proceeding in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice; it is a clinical process to determine whether an incident meets the threshold for more rigorous treatment, intervention, support, safety planning, and victim protection. 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 also required by policy,¹⁵ directing the Secretaries of the Military Departments to conduct a multidisciplinary, impartial review of each fatality known or suspected to have resulted from child abuse 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 is able to take into account 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 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.

¹³ Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6400.03, "Family Advocacy Command Assistance Team (FACAT)," April 25, 2014, as amended; and DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, "Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Clinical Case Staff Meeting (CCSM) and Incident Determination Committee (IDC)," August 11, 2016.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ DoDI 6400.06, "Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel," August 21, 2007, 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. It is based on DoDM 6400.01, Volume 2, “Family Advocacy Program: Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse Incident Reporting System,” directing 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, which includes the required data elements extracted and submitted quarterly to DMDC. Per DoD policy, DMDC operates the DoD FAP Central Registry and provides OSD FAP with aggregate data, which are the basis of this report.¹⁶

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 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/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.¹⁷

¹⁶ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 2, August 11, 2016.

¹⁷ DoDI 1402.05, “Background Checks on Individuals in DoD Child Care Services Programs,” September 11, 2015, as amended.

Methods of Data Collection & Analysis

As noted, this report relies on Central Registry data extracted by each Military Service and submitted to DMDC for FY 2019 (October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019). 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 DoD.

DMDC has collected these aggregate FY FAP data for the last 20 years; however, the timeframe of data submission and analysis was adjusted substantially in 2017 to coordinate with the release of the DoD *Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*. Services submitted FY 2019 data by December 20, 2019, 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.

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 to Congress on child maltreatment.¹⁸

Incidents of domestic abuse are reported 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 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 2019 values are within the range of plausible values for the 10-year period considered (FY 2010-FY 2019). Any value outside of this CI is indicative of a statistically significant increase or decrease.

¹⁸ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2020). *Child Maltreatment 2018*. Available from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>

Key Findings

The data contained in this report only reflect child maltreatment and domestic abuse reported to the OSD FAP in FY 2019. 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 FY 2019 rates of child abuse and neglect reports and met criteria incidents do not reflect statistically significant differences when compared to the respective 10-year averages during the period FY 2010-FY 2019. Specifically, the FY 2019 rates of reported child abuse and neglect (13.5/1,000 children) and child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria (6.1/1,000 children) did not vary significantly from the 10-year average rates. However, the unique child victimization rate (4.5/1,000 children) represents a decrease when compared to the 10-year average rate.

When examining child sexual abuse, as a subset of child abuse, there has been a downward trend in both the number of met criteria incidents and the rate of met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse during the period FY 2010-FY 2019. The FY 2019 number of met criteria child sexual abuse incidents (212) and the rate of such incidents (0.231/1,000 children) represent a decrease when compared to their respective 10-year averages. The civilian community has also seen a decrease overall in the percentage of children experiencing child sexual abuse in the past 10 years.

The FY 2019 rates of reported spouse abuse (21.7/1,000 married couples), met criteria spouse abuse incidents (10.9/1,000 married couples), and unique spouse abuse victims (8.8/1,000 married couples) decreased when compared to their respective 10-year averages during the period FY 2010-FY 2019.

It is not possible to calculate rates per 1,000 for intimate partner abuse incidents and/or victims, as data on unmarried individuals involved in intimate partner relationships defined by DoD are unavailable. In FY 2019, the number of met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents (1,121) and number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse (886) represent a statistically significant increase when compared to their respective 10-year averages.

Finally, in FY 2019 the proportion of domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse (3.91 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 was noted from FY 2010-FY 2017, before a slight decline in FY 2018.

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 new research initiatives on domestic abuse. These efforts are delineated further in the Program and Policy Implications section of this report.

3. CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

This section discusses reports to FAP of child abuse and neglect in FY 2019, incidents of child abuse and neglect 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.”¹⁹
- **Child neglect:** “The negligent treatment of a child through acts or omissions by an individual responsible for the child’s welfare under circumstances indicating the child’s welfare is harmed or threatened.” Neglect includes abandonment, medical neglect, and/or non-organic failure to thrive.²⁰

Child abuse and neglect, per DoD policy, represent 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.²¹

It is possible for one report of child abuse and neglect to involve more than one type of maltreatment (e.g., physical abuse and neglect). Each maltreatment is considered separately to determine whether it meets criteria for child abuse or neglect. Consequently, more than one incident may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim. Beginning in FY 2015, OSD FAP began to treat each type of maltreatment reported as representing a distinct incident of child abuse and neglect to capture a more comprehensive picture of well-being for children in military families. This approach is consistent with how other Federal agencies report incidents of child abuse and neglect, and therefore enables us to make more direct comparisons to civilian populations.

There are three rates calculated for child abuse and neglect in this report: the rate of reported incidents, the rate of met criteria incidents, and the rate of child victimization. The first two rates may be impacted by external factors. For example, the rate 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 impact the rate of met criteria incidents. The child victimization rate measures the unique number of children experiencing child abuse and neglect per 1,000 military children and offers an alternative method to examine the rates of child abuse and neglect across years—one that is less impacted by external factors.

¹⁹ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, Glossary, August 11, 2016; and DoDI 6400.01, “Family Advocacy Program (FAP),” Glossary, May 1, 2019.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

3-1 CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT INCIDENTS

As shown below in Table 1, there were 12,392 reports to FAP of suspected child abuse and neglect in FY 2019. The FY 2019 rate of reported child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children was 13.5, which is lower than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2018 (13.9) (see Figure 1). This numerical difference of 0.4 represents a 2.9 percent decrease in the rate of reported incidents.²²

**Table 1: Reports and Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect
(FY 2010-FY 2019)**

Fiscal Year	Reported Incidents	Met Criteria Incidents	Child Population	Reports/1000	Met Criteria Incidents/1000
2010	14,986	6,633	1,166,079	12.9	5.7
2011	15,081	6,819	1,165,812	12.9	5.8
2012	15,656	7,003	1,140,024	13.7	6.1
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

Note. This table shows the number of child abuse and neglect incidents reported to FAP and the number of child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria for maltreatment. Incidents of maltreatment are reported separately by type of maltreatment (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect); one or more incidents may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim.

²² The FY 2019 rate of reported child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children (13.5) did not vary significantly from the average rate of reported child abuse and neglect during the FY 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [13.34, 14.70]).

There were 5,600 incidents of child abuse and neglect that met criteria in FY 2019. The rate of met criteria incidents per 1,000 children in FY 2019 was 6.1, which is lower than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2018 (6.5). This numerical difference of 0.4 represents a 6.2 percent decrease in the rate of incidents that met criteria.²³

Child Abuse and Neglect Reports vs. Met Criteria Incident Rates per 1,000 Children (FY 2010-FY 2019)

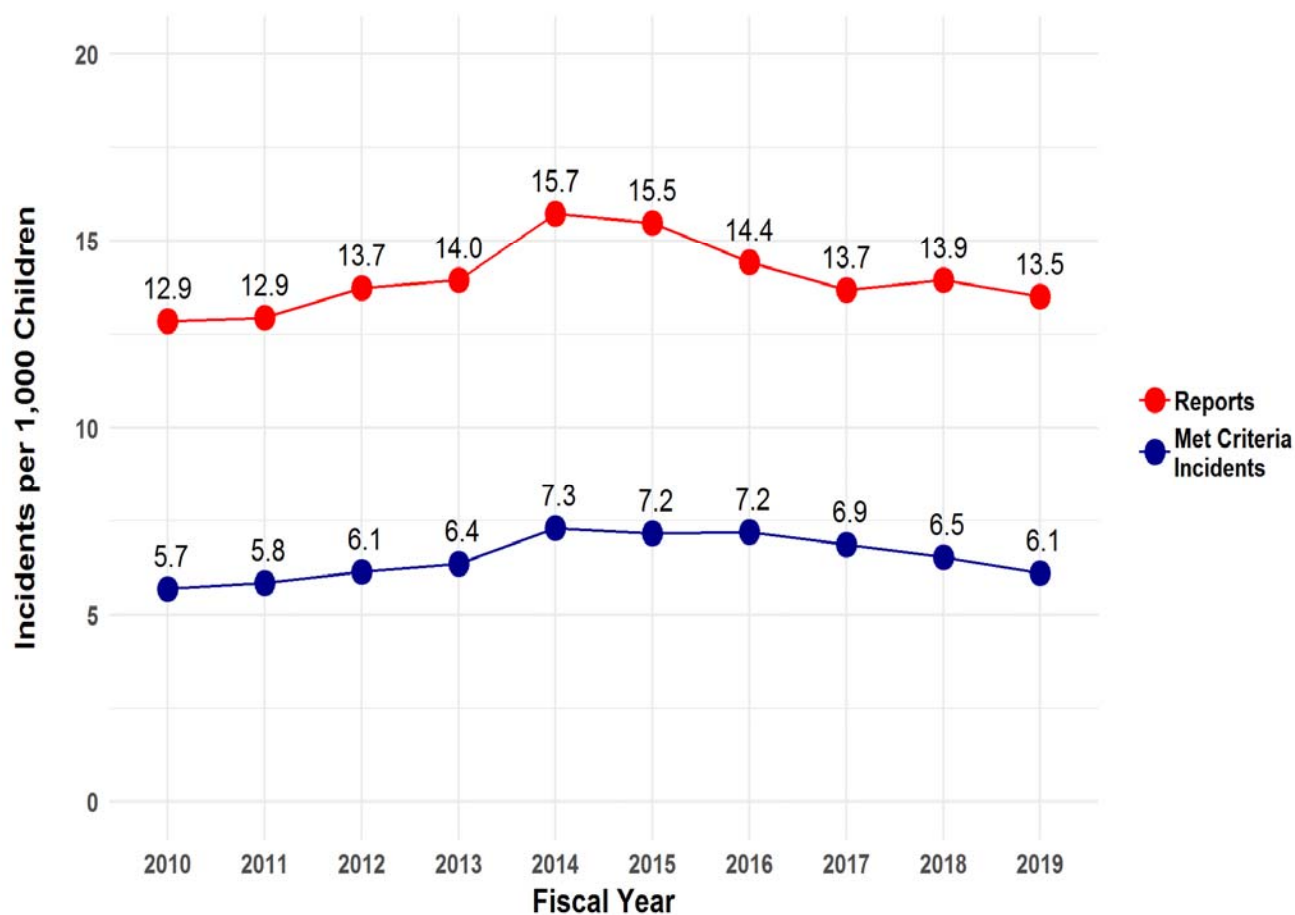


Figure 1. Rates of child abuse and neglect incidents reported to FAP and the rates of child abuse and neglect incidents that met DoD criteria per fiscal year.

²³ Despite the downward trend in the rate of child abuse incidents that met criteria per 1,000 children, the FY 2019 rate of met criteria child abuse incidents per 1,000 children (6.1) did not vary significantly from the average rate during the FY 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [6.10, 6.94]).

As shown in Figure 2, neglect accounted for the largest proportion of met criteria incidents in FY 2019 (59.53 percent). In FY 2019, physical abuse (20.66 percent) accounted for the next largest proportion of met criteria incidents, followed by emotional abuse (16.02 percent) and sexual abuse (3.79 percent). 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 2019)

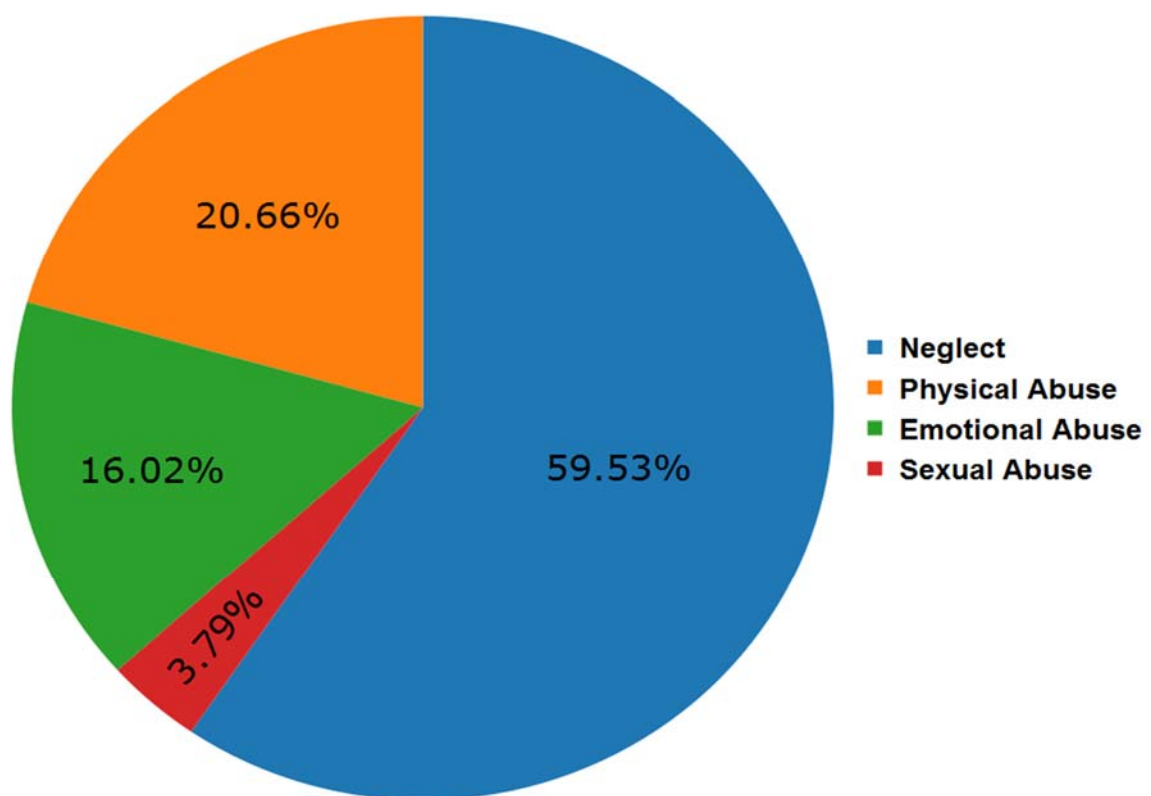


Figure 2. Percentage of the types of maltreatment in child abuse and neglect incidents that met DoD criteria in FY 2019.

The number of met criteria incidents of each type of child maltreatment is displayed in Figure 3. Throughout the 10-year period from FY 2010-FY 2019, neglect has been the predominant type of child maltreatment. As discussed in previous reports, the upward trend in met criteria incidents from FY 2009 to FY 2014 was driven primarily by the steady increase in incidents during those years that involved child neglect, whereas the numbers for other types of child maltreatment remained reasonably steady. The number of these met criteria incidents overall, and involving child neglect, has decreased since FY 2014.

Child Abuse and Neglect Met Criteria Incidents by Maltreatment Type (FY 2010-FY 2019)

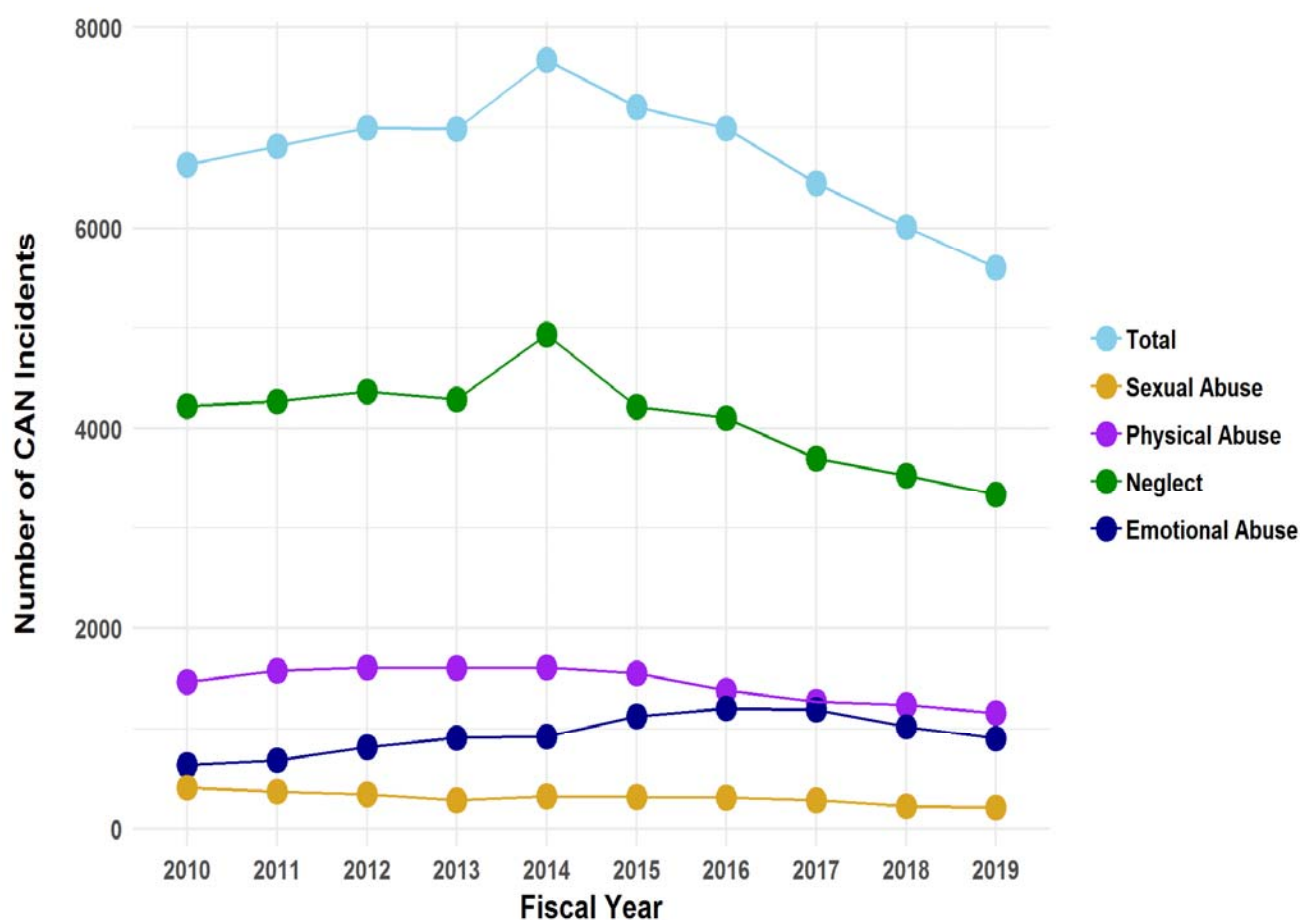


Figure 3. Number of incidents by type of child maltreatment per year.

3-2 VICTIM PROFILE

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

As shown in Table 2, there were 4,150 unique victims of child abuse and neglect in FY 2019. The FY 2019 child abuse and neglect victim rate per 1,000 children was 4.5, which is lower than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2018 (4.6) (see Figure 4). This numerical difference of 0.1 represents a 2 percent decrease in the rate of child victims. Since FY 2014, the child victimization rate has steadily declined. The FY 2019 child victimization rate represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average.²⁴

Table 2: Unique Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect (FY 2010-FY 2019)

Fiscal Year	Met Criteria Incidents	Unique Victims	Child Population	Met Criteria Incidents/1000	Rate of Victims/1000
2010	6,633	5,548	1,166,079	5.7	4.8
2011	6,819	5,916	1,165,812	5.8	5.1
2012	7,003	6,054	1,140,024	6.1	5.3
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

Note. This table shows the number of child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria for maltreatment and the number of unique child victims who experienced those incidents. Incidents of maltreatment are reported separately by type of maltreatment (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect); one or more incidents may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim.

²⁴ The FY 2019 unique child abuse and neglect victim rate per 1,000 children (4.5) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average child victim rate during the FY 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [4.80, 5.22]).

Unique Child Victim Rate per 1,000 in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2010-FY 2019)

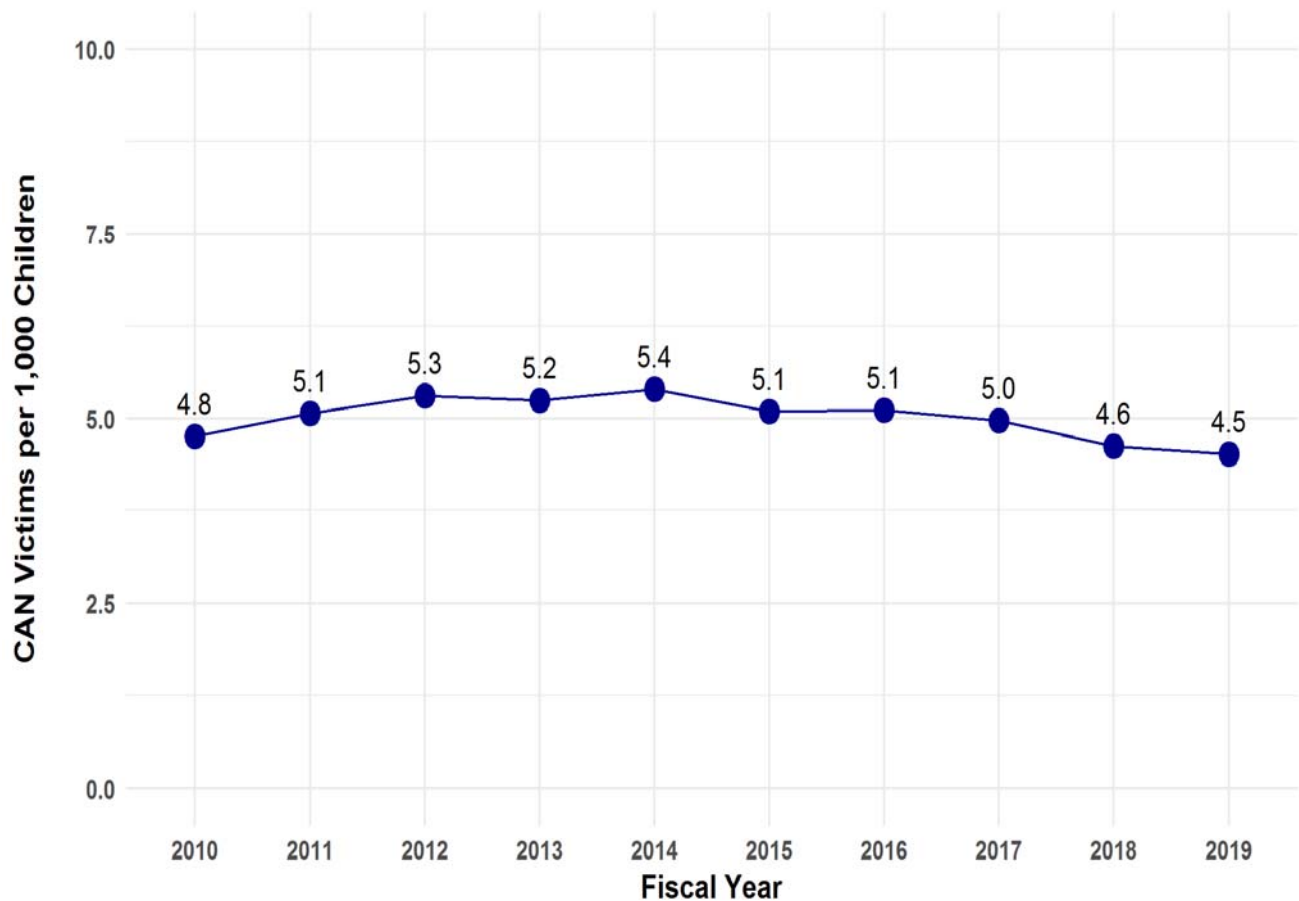


Figure 4. Rates of unique child victims per 1,000 children.

Comparison to Civilian Data

Civilian data compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicates that the U.S. civilian substantiation (very similar to met criteria) rate for reported cases of child abuse and neglect was 16.8 percent in FY 2018,²⁵ and the rates have decreased steadily since FY 2003.²⁶ The military met criteria rate for reported incidents was 45.2 percent in FY 2019, which is consistent with FY 2018 (46.8 percent). While both of these rates have fluctuated over time, the military met criteria rate has consistently exceeded the civilian rate of substantiation in the past decade. Considering that DoD confirms child abuse and neglect at more than twice the civilian rate and still has a lower rate of victims per 1,000 children, the overall rate of child abuse

²⁵ Civilian child protective service agencies use the term “substantiate” to designate when an investigation indicated that child abuse or neglect occurred. In 2010, FAP adopted the IDC and standardized research-based decision tree algorithm to determine whether an incident “meets criteria” for abuse or neglect as defined by the DoD. For the purposes of this report, the terms “substantiated” and “met criteria” represent similar determinations.

²⁶ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau. *Child Maltreatment 2003 through 2018* reports, inclusive. Available from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>

and neglect per child in the military is substantially lower than in the civilian sector.

Collectively, the DoD rates of child abuse and neglect victims are less than half of their counterpart rates in the U.S. civilian population as compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.²⁷ The DoD unique victim rate for FY 2019 is 4.5 per 1,000 children, and the civilian rate for FY 2018 is 9.2 per 1,000 children. Civilian data for FY 2019 are not yet available, as the report will be released in early 2021.

Demographic Characteristics of Child Victims

Overall, 47 percent of victims in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents were female and 53 percent were male. Figure 5 displays the sex of child abuse and neglect victims in met criteria incidents for each maltreatment type. Among children who experienced sexual abuse, the majority were females (87 percent female vs. 13 percent male). More males experienced physical abuse than females (61 percent male vs. 39 percent female). Slightly more males experienced neglect (53 percent male vs. 47 percent female) and emotional abuse (52 percent male vs. 48 percent female).

Sex of Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2019)

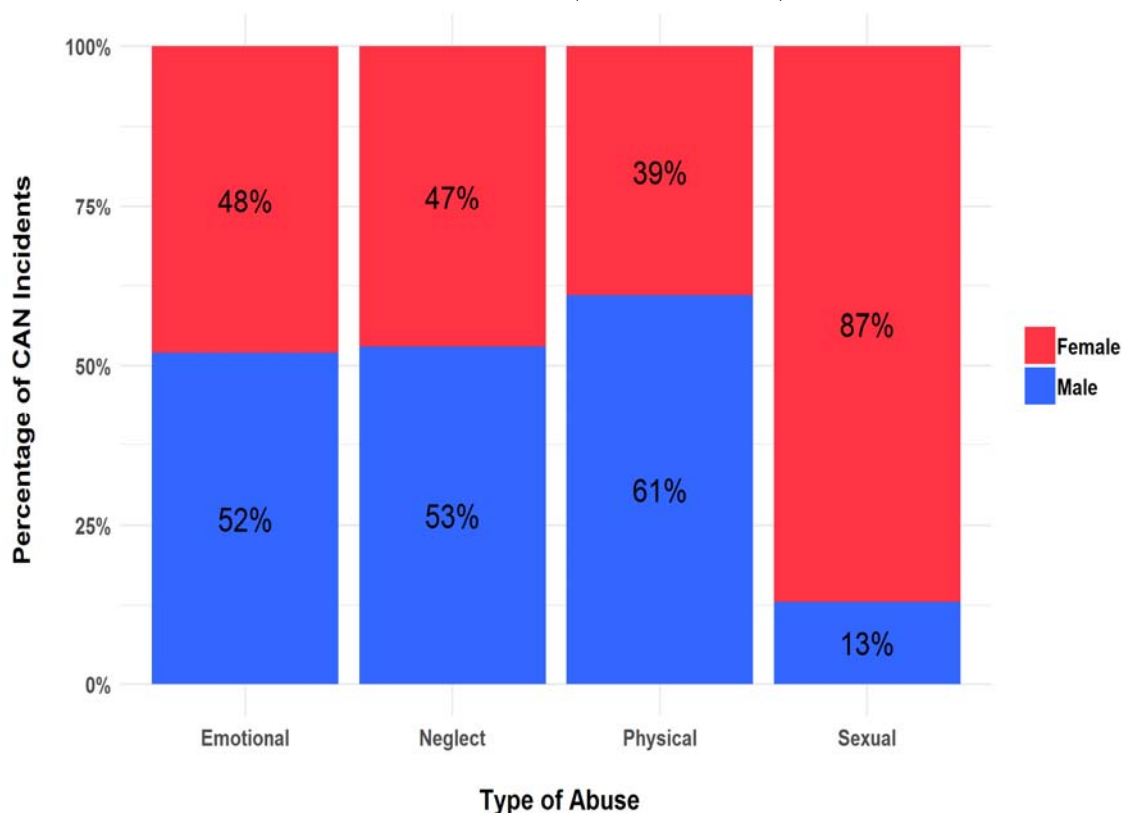


Figure 5. Sex of child victims by maltreatment type in FY 2019 met criteria incidents.

²⁷ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2020). *Child Maltreatment 2018*. Available from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>

Figures 6 and 7 highlight the age distribution of child victims in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents. In FY 2019 there were 3,144 met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents with child victims age 5 or younger, representing more than one-half (56.1 percent) of all victims of child maltreatment in FY 2019. Within this group of victims age 5 or younger, there were 1,305 met criteria incidents involving children 1 year of age or younger and 1,839 involving children ages 2-5 years old. Incidents involving children ages 6-10 represented just under one-quarter (1,429) of all met criteria incidents of abuse or neglect, and just under one-fifth (1,022 incidents) involved children ages 11-17. Additionally, during FY 2019 there were 5 incidents involving children 18 years or older where the abuse occurred while they were still a dependent child.

Ages of Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2019)

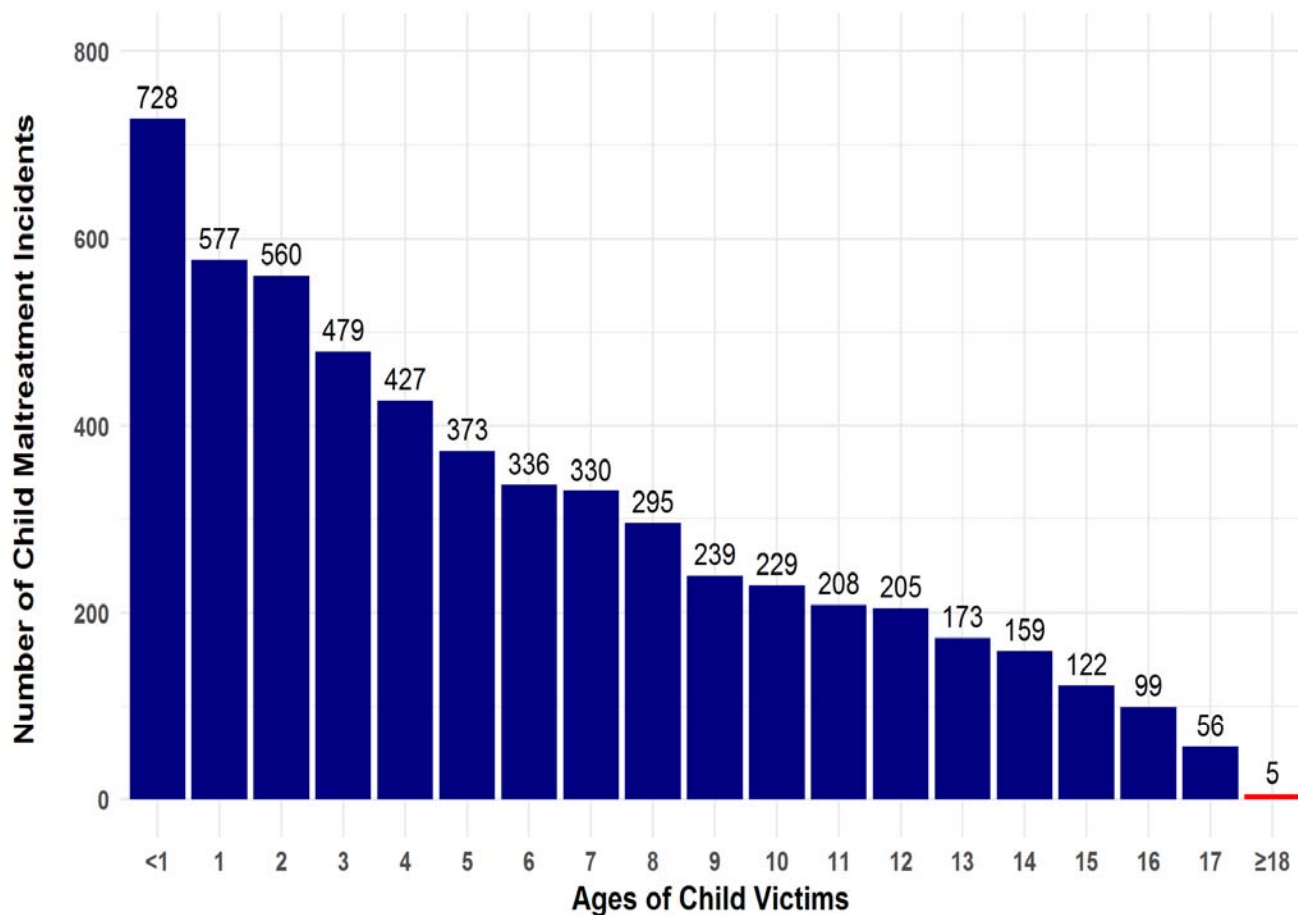


Figure 6. Ages of child victims in met criteria incidents in FY 2019.

When comparing the age distribution of victims in child abuse and neglect met criteria incidents in FY 2019 to the age distribution of children in military families, the differences in relative proportions is pronounced. As displayed in Figure 7, a much greater proportion of children in met criteria incidents of child maltreatment are 1 year of age or younger compared to the proportion of such children in the total military child population (23.3 percent vs. 15.4 percent). The same pattern holds for children ages 2-5 (32.9 percent of met criteria incidents vs. 29.4 percent of total child population). Meanwhile, there are fewer child victims in met criteria incidents who are ages 6-10 (25.5 percent) and ages 11-17 (18.3 percent) compared to the proportion of such children in the total military child population (29.3 percent and 25.9 percent, respectively). We did not include the incidents involving victims ages 18 or older in this comparison, as not all military children in this age group are in a dependent status.

Ages of Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents, Compared to Demographics (FY 2019)

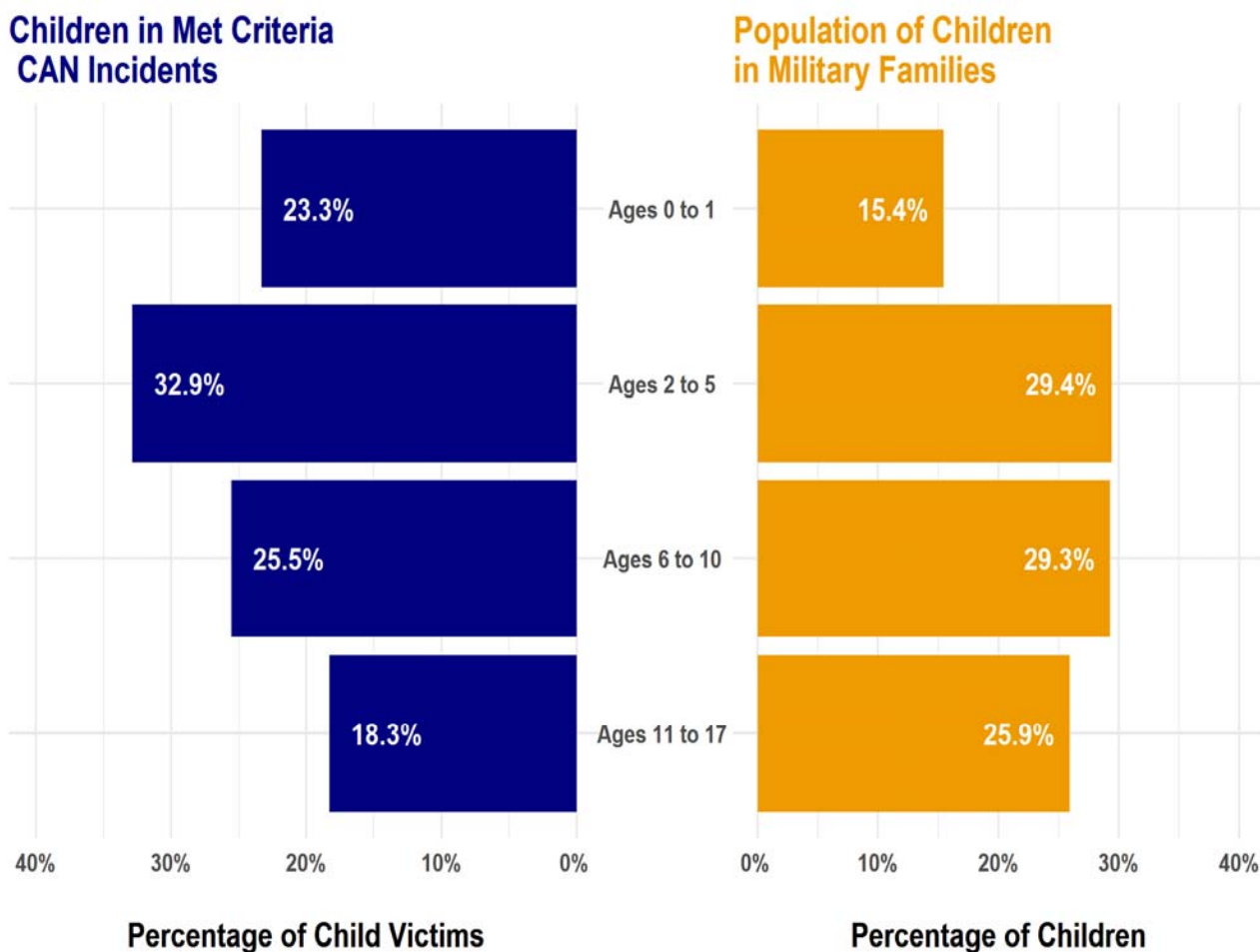


Figure 7. Ages of child victims in FY 2019 met criteria incidents and ages of children in the military population.

3-3 ABUSER PROFILE

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

Of the abusers who were involved in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect in FY 2019, 47.2 percent were parents who were Service members and 45.8 percent were civilian parents. Fewer were extra-familial caregivers (4.4 percent) or other family members (1.7 percent), and slightly less than 1 percent of abusers had an unknown status (see Figure 8).

Caregiver Status of Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2019)

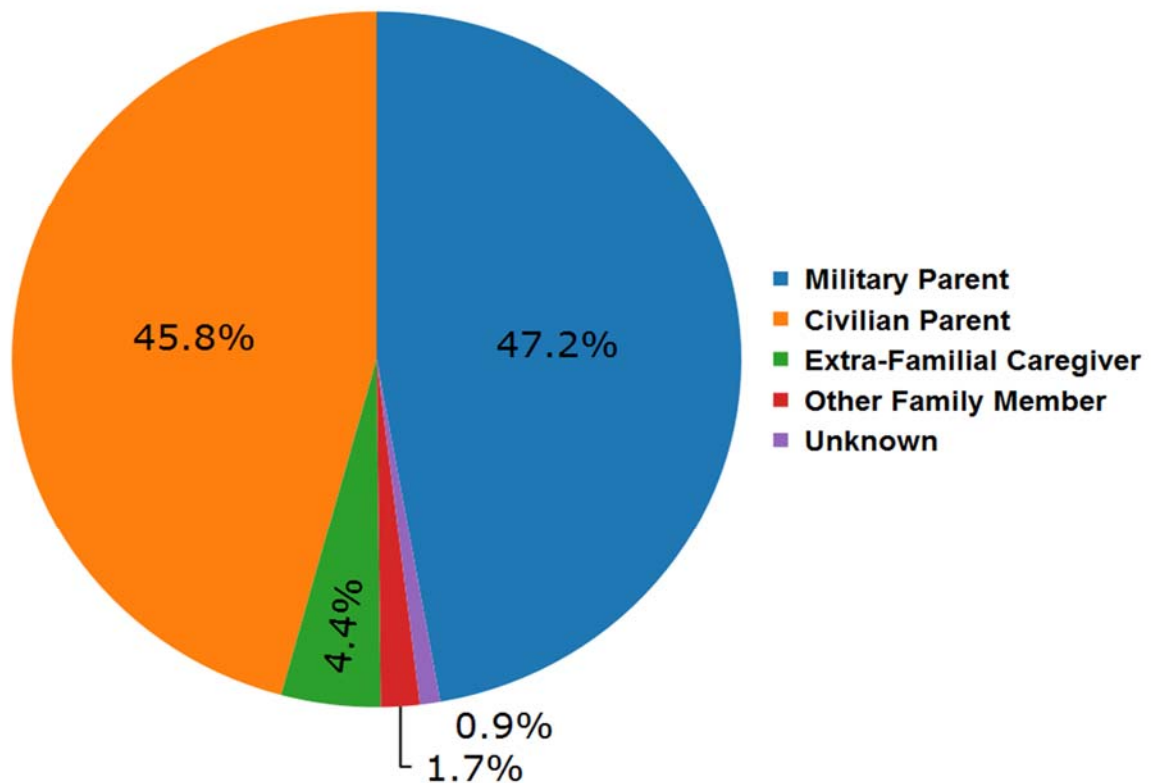


Figure 8. Caregiver status of abusers of met criteria child maltreatment incidents in FY 2019.

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.

As shown in Figure 9, the military status distribution of abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents has been relatively consistent since FY 2010. In FY 2019, 50.4 percent of abusers were Service members and 49.6 percent were civilians.

Military Status of Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2010-FY 2019)

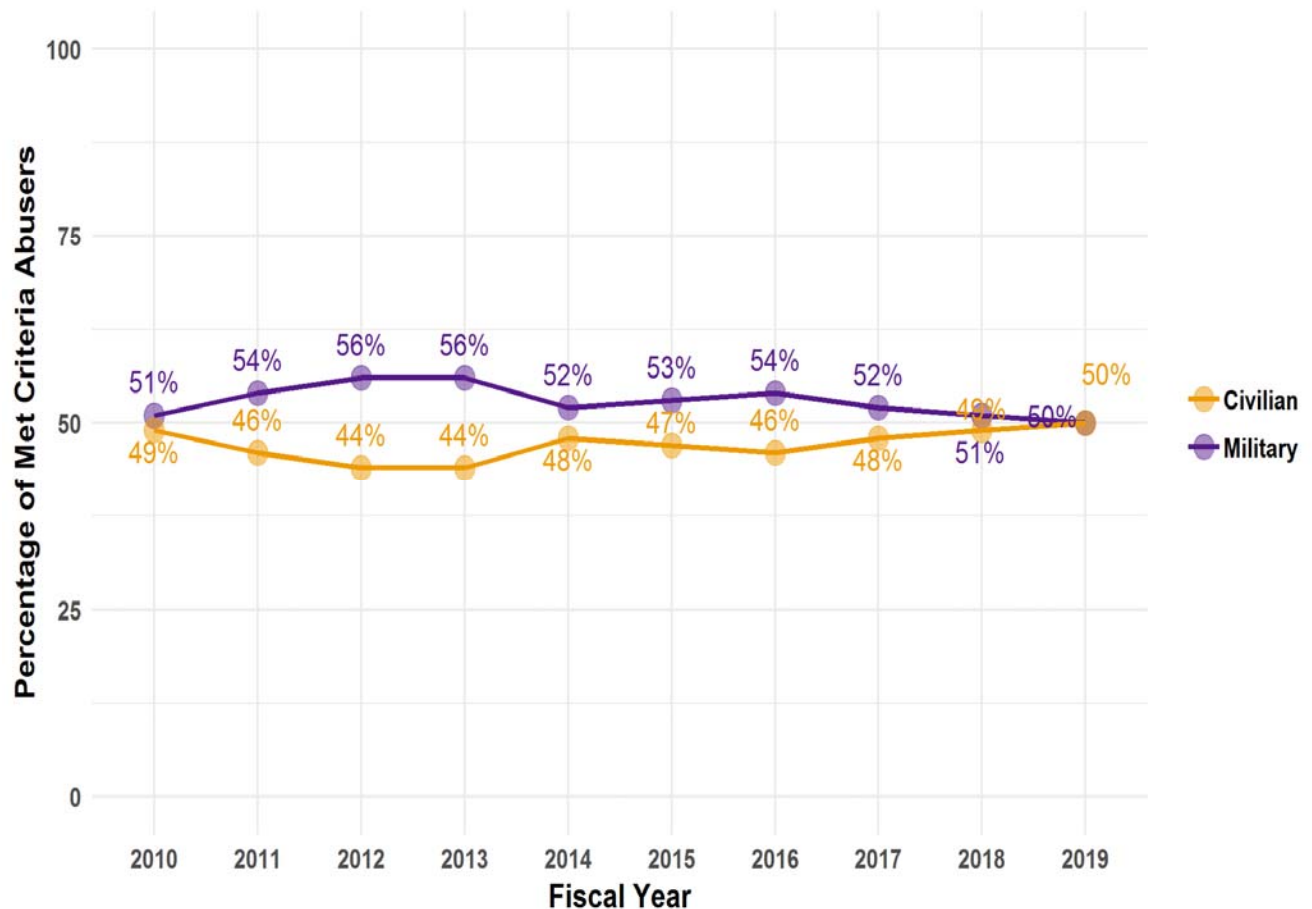


Figure 9. Military status of abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents.

Figure 10 displays pay grade breakdown for Service member parent abusers who were involved in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents. The majority of Service member parent abusers were junior enlisted members; 64 percent were E4-E6 and 16 percent were E1-E3. Fewer parent abusers were senior enlisted (E7-E9; 13 percent), officers (3 percent were O1-O3; 3 percent were O4-O10), or warrant officers (1 percent were WO1-WO5).

Pay Grade of Service member Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2019)

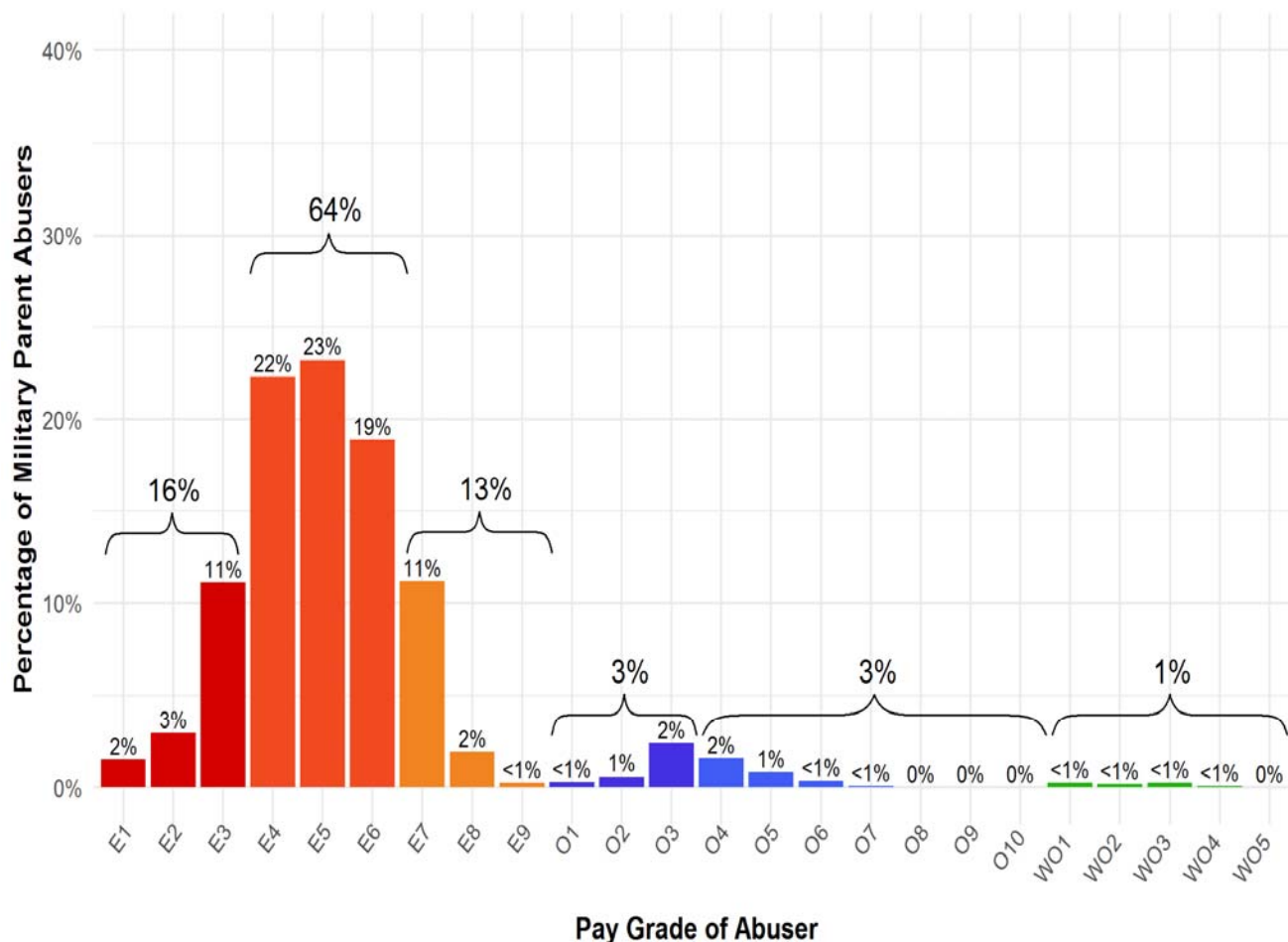


Figure 10. Percentage of Service member parent abusers in each pay grade in FY 2019.

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 duty²⁸ parent abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents to the pay grades of the total population of active duty parents in FY 2019, the differences in relative proportions are pronounced. As displayed in Figure 11, a much greater proportion of active duty parents in met criteria incidents of child maltreatment are in the E4-E6 pay grade (64 percent vs. 50 percent) and the E1-E3 pay grade (16 percent vs. 4 percent) than in the active duty parent population.

Meanwhile, there are proportionally fewer active duty parents involved in met criteria incidents compared to the active duty parent population in the E7-E9 (13 percent vs. 22 percent), O1-O3 (3 percent vs. 8 percent), O4-O10 (3 percent vs. 13 percent), and WO1-WO5 (1 percent vs. 3 percent) pay grades.

Pay Grade of Active Duty Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents, Compared to Demographics (FY 2019)

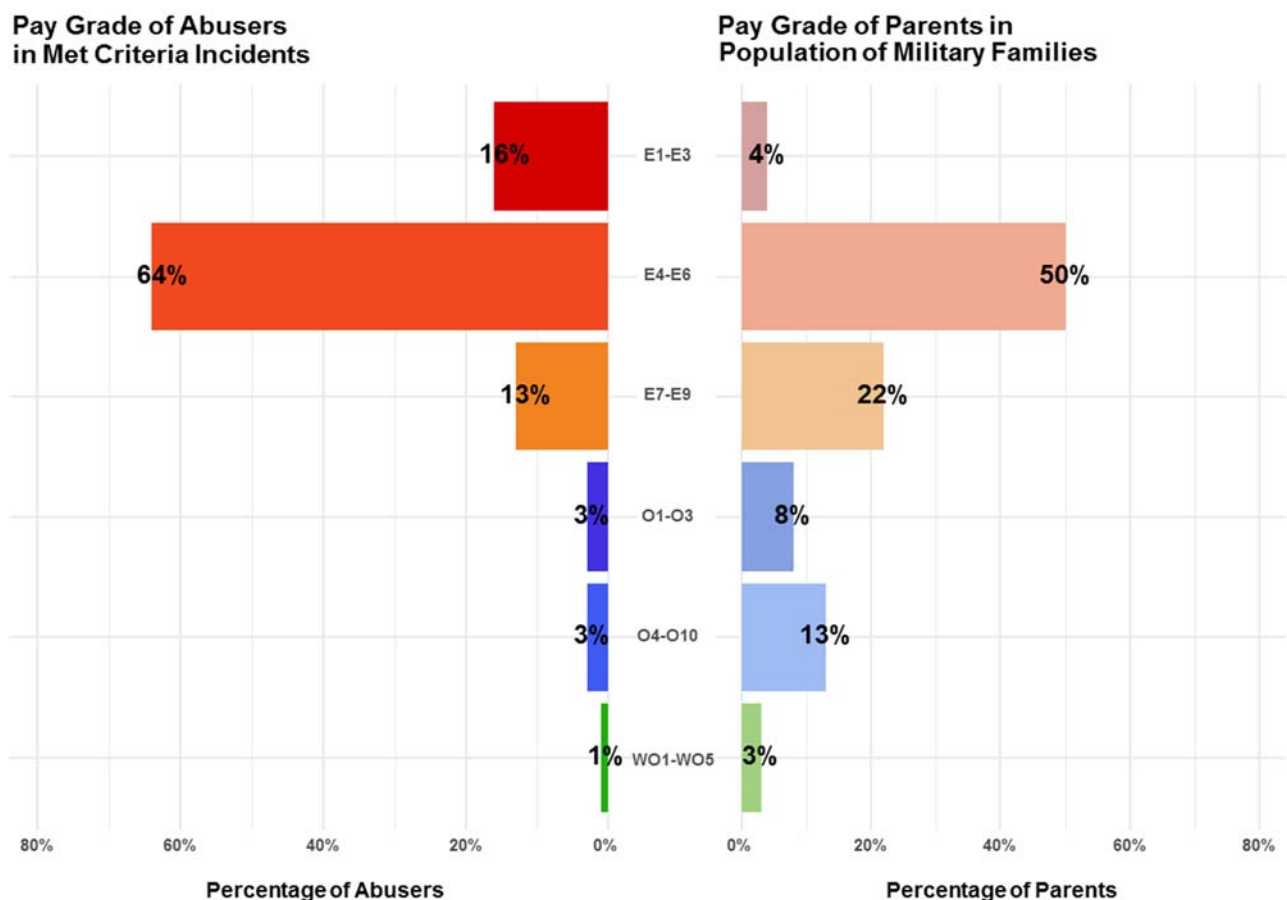


Figure 11. Comparison of the proportion of active duty parent abusers in met criteria child maltreatment incidents with a particular pay grade (on the left) to the proportion of active duty parents in the military population with a particular pay grade (on the right).

²⁸ For the purposes of this report, active duty refers to Regular Component members, exclusively.

While the breakdown of active duty parents by pay grade in Figure 11 indicates the greatest proportion of abusers were in the E4-E6 pay grade, the rate of active duty parent abusers per 1,000 involved in child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria is highest for parents who are in the E1-E3 (13.0) pay grades (see Figure 12). This means that active duty parents in pay grade E1-E3 were more likely to be involved in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect than active duty parents in any other pay grade, relative to their proportion in the active duty parent population.

Rate of Active Duty Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents per 1,000 by Pay Grade (FY 2019)

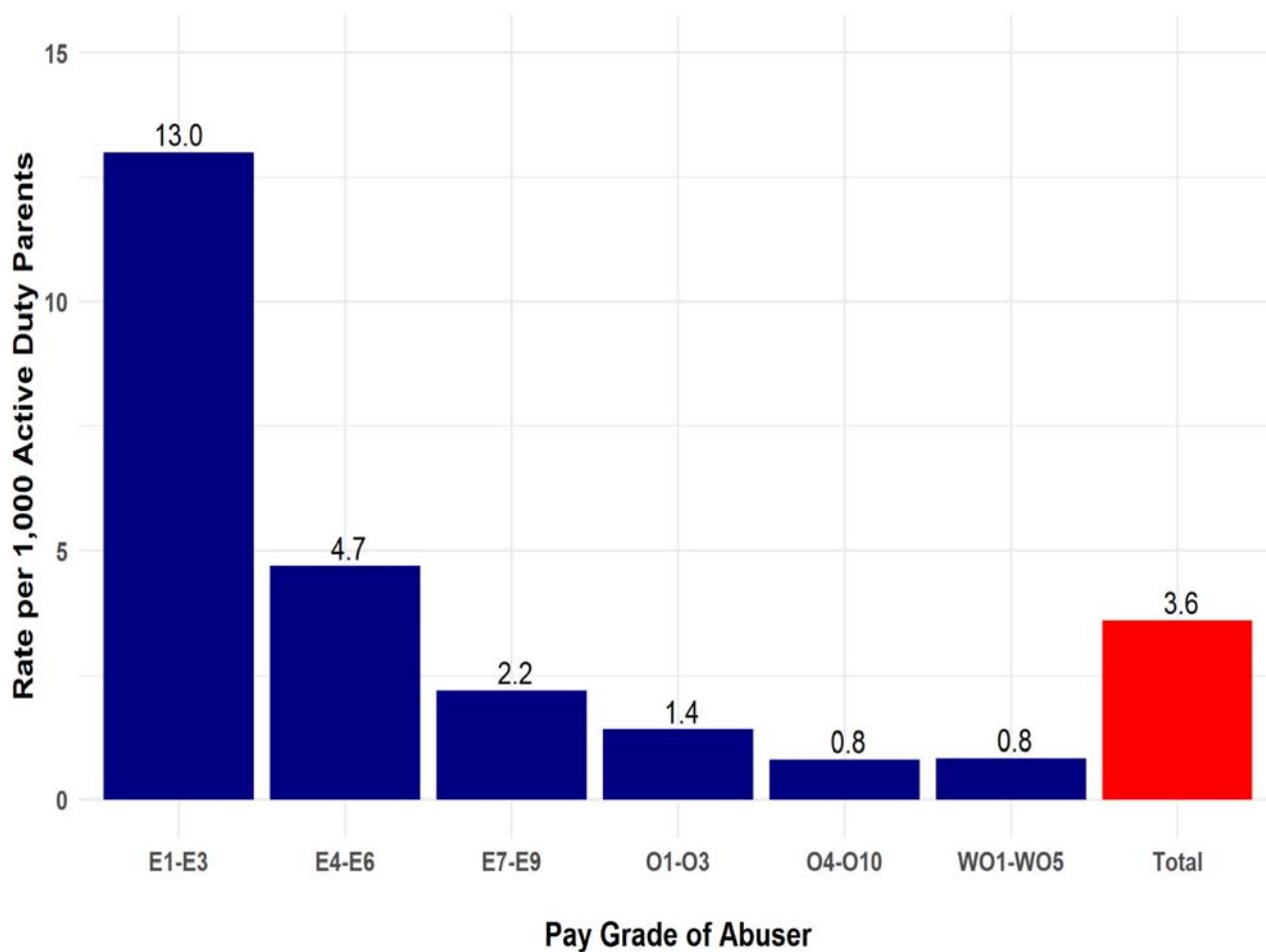


Figure 12. Rate of active duty parent met criteria abusers per 1,000 parents in the population by parent pay grade in FY 2019.

Overall, 53 percent of abusers in child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria were male and 47 percent were female.

Figure 13 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 (98 percent male vs. 2 percent female). Males were also more likely to be abusers in physical abuse incidents (58 percent male vs. 42 percent females) and emotional abuse incidents (62 percent male vs. 38 percent female). In contrast, among incidents of neglect, the most common type of child maltreatment in military families, 56 percent of abusers were female and 44 percent were male.

Sex of Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Maltreatment Type (FY 2019)

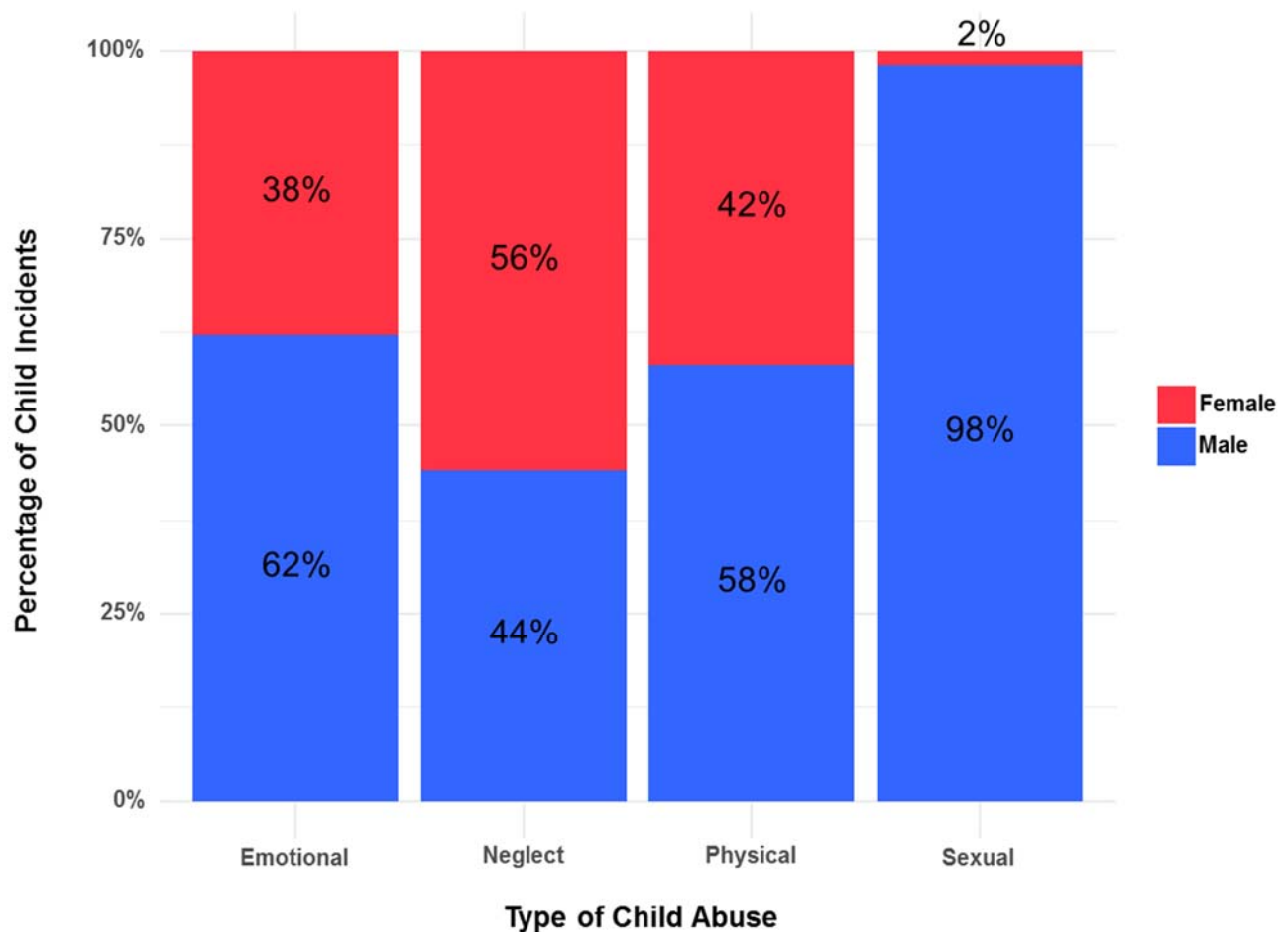


Figure 13. Sex of abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents by maltreatment type in FY 2019.

Note. There was one abuser whose sex was not identified.

3-4. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

For the second year in this report, we specifically examine child sexual abuse as a subset of child abuse.²⁹ These incidents are also reported in an appendix to the *2019 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.³⁰ 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.”³¹

In FY 2019, there were 212 met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse (see Table 3), and 203 unique victims of child sexual abuse who received FAP services. Given there were more incidents than victims, one or more victims experienced more than one incident of child sexual abuse in the same fiscal year. The rate of child sexual abuse incidents per 1,000 military children has decreased gradually since FY 2016, and overall since 2009.³²

Table 3: Incidents of Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse (FY 2010-FY 2019)

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
2010	6,633	410	1,166,079	0.352	6.18
2011	6,819	374	1,165,812	0.321	5.48
2012	7,003	346	1,140,024	0.304	4.94
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

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

²⁹ DoDI 6400.01, “Family Advocacy Program (FAP),” 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.

³⁰ The *2019 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military* will be released on April 30, 2020.

³¹ DoDI 6400.03, “Family Advocacy Command Assistance Team (FACAT),” Glossary, April 25, 2014, as amended.

³² The FY 2019 number of met criteria incidents (212) of child sexual abuse incidents and the rate of child sexual abuse incidents per 1,000 military children (0.231) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the respective averages during the FY 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [266.50, 353.50] and [0.270, 0.324], respectively).

As shown in Figure 14, of the 203 unique victims of child sexual abuse who received FAP services in FY 2019, 87.2 percent were female and 12.8 percent were male. Of the 168 abusers, 98.2 percent were male and 1.2 percent were female, and 1 was unknown (0.6 percent).

Sex of Unique Victims and Abusers in Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

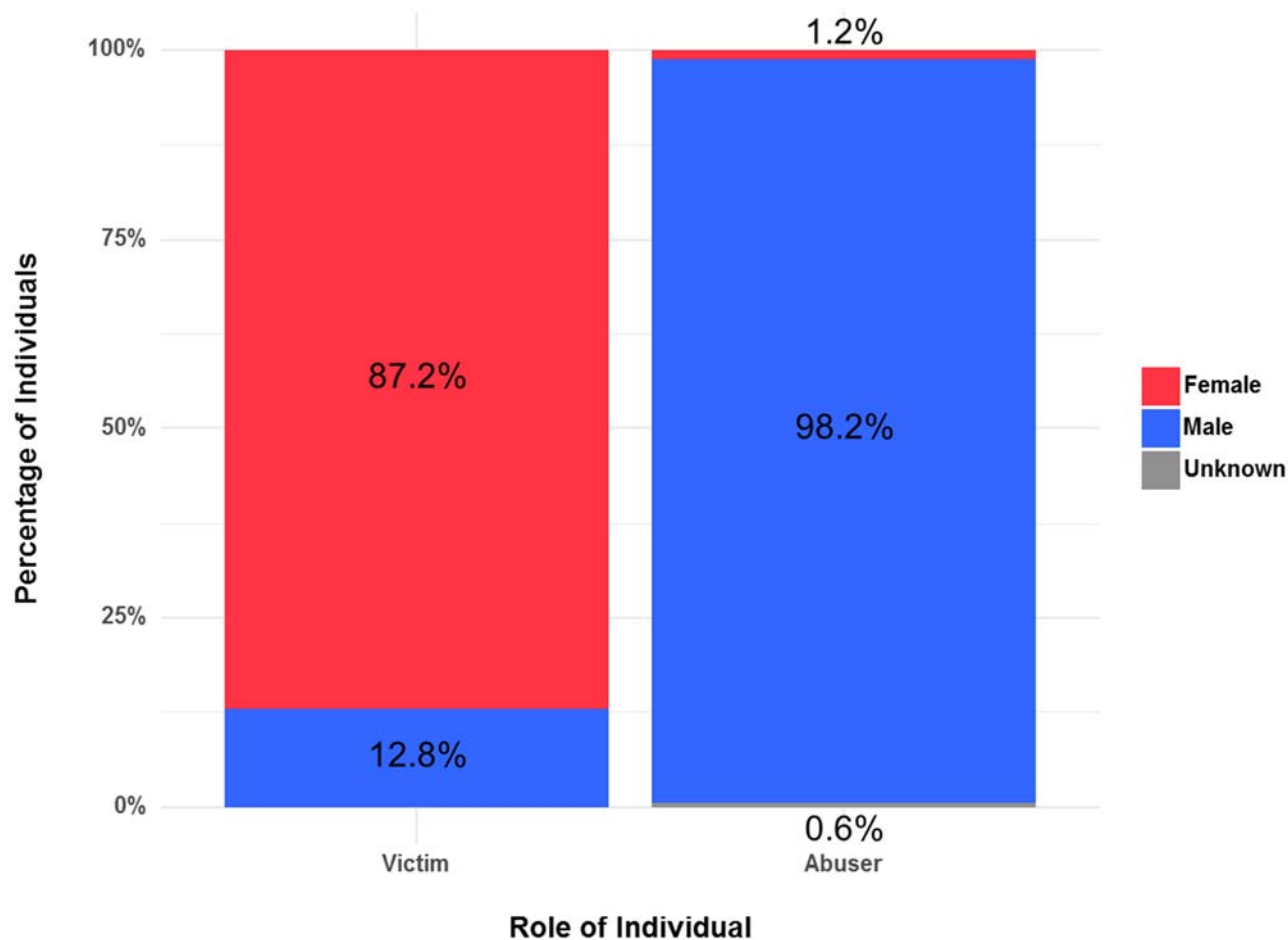


Figure 14. Sex of victims and abusers in met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse in FY 2019.

Figure 15 highlights the age ranges of victims in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents. Seven (3.5 percent) victims were ages 0-1, 35 (17.2 percent) were ages 2-5, 49 (24.1 percent) were ages 6-10, and 120 (53.2 percent) were ages 11-17. There were four victims (2.0 percent) involving children 18 years or older where the abuse occurred while they were still dependent children.

Ages of Unique Victims of Child Sexual Abuse (FY 2019)

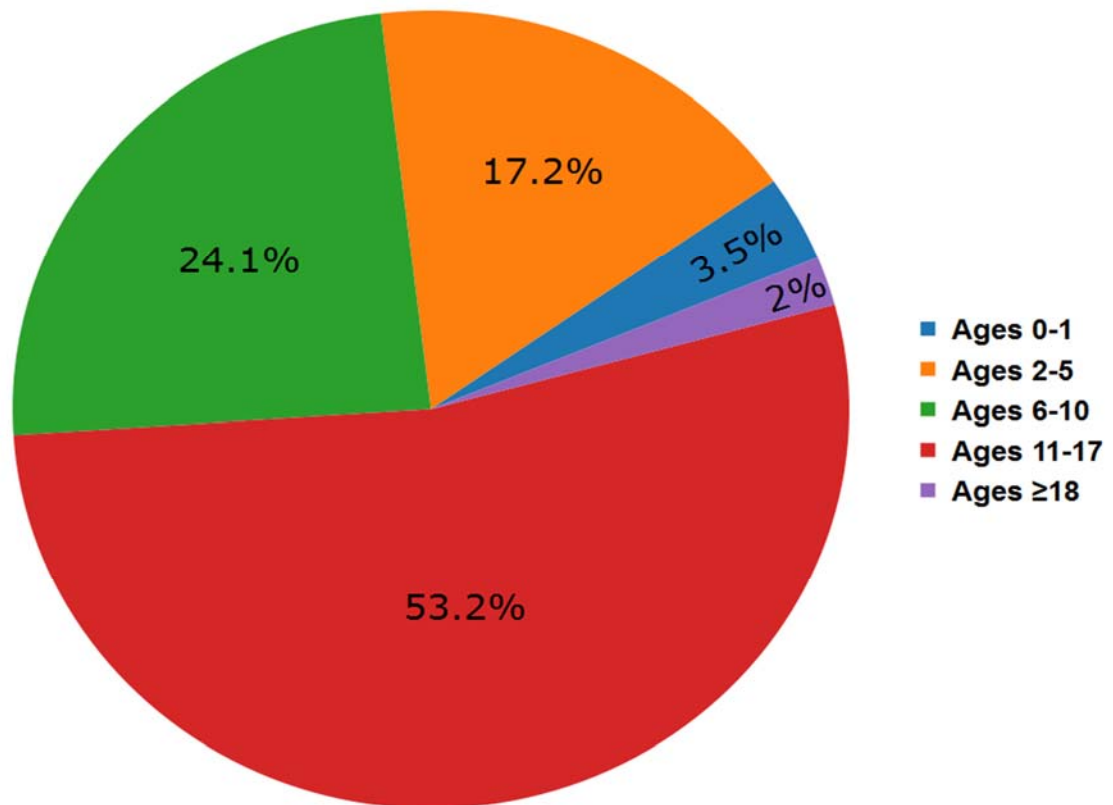


Figure 15. Ages of unique victims in met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse in FY 2019.

As shown in Figure 16, of the abusers in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents, 55.9 percent were Service member parents, 16.7 percent were civilian parents, 14.3 percent were other family members, and 13.1 percent were extra-familial caregivers.

All 104 abusers who were Service members were active duty. Of the 104 Service members, 96 (92.3 percent) were enlisted members, 7 (6.7 percent) were officers, and 1 (1.0 percent) was a warrant officer.

Caregiver Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

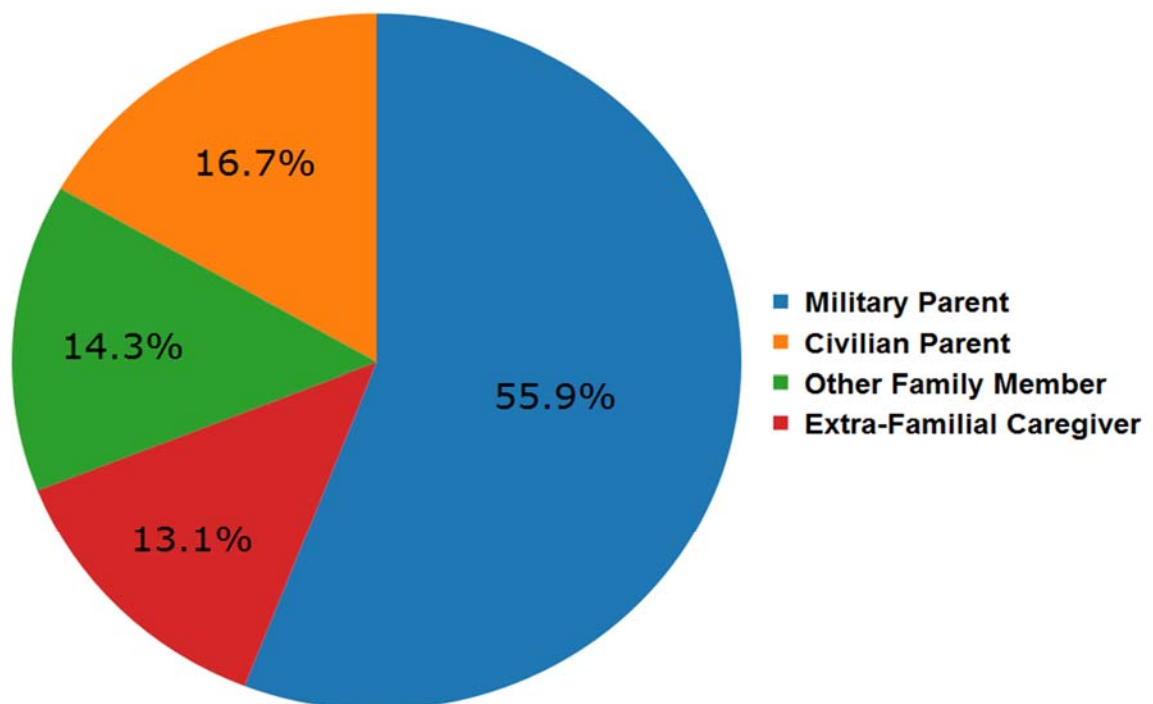


Figure 16. Caregiver status of unique abusers in met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse in FY 2019.

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.

3-5. CHILD ABUSE FATALITIES

As discussed previously, FY 2019 fatality reviews will take place in the Military Services in FY 2021. Data on child fatalities included in this report represent only those fatalities taken to the IDC after the death of the victim and met criteria for child abuse and neglect in FY 2019.

There were 16 child abuse-related fatalities involving 22 abusers taken to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2019 (see Table 4). Three child victims and three met criteria abusers were previously known to the Central Registry.³³ In the child fatality incidents, 11 of the met criteria abusers were male and 11 were female. Ten of the met criteria abusers were Service members, and 12 abusers were civilians. Twelve (75.0 percent) child victims were 1 year of age or younger, 3 (18.8 percent) child victims were 2-5 years old, and 1 (6.2 percent) child victim was 6-16 years old.

Table 4: Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities Reported to FAP in FY 2019

Total Fatalities: 16
- 22 Met criteria abusers involved (including 6 fatalities with 2 abusers)
- 3 Child victims previously known to the Central Registry
- 3 Met criteria abusers previously known to the Central Registry
Sex of Met Criteria Abusers
- 11 Male
- 11 Female
Military Status of Met Criteria Abusers
- 10 Service member
- 12 Civilian
Ages of Victims
- 12 One year of age or younger
- 3 Between ages 2-5 years old
- 1 Between ages 6-16 years old

Note: Represents only those fatalities taken to the IDC in FY 2019. Service fatality reviews will take place in FY 2021. Service member includes active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

³³ “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 reports to FAP of domestic abuse (spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse) in FY 2019, incidents of spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse that met criteria, and the characteristics of those adult victims and abusers for cases that met criteria.

DoD policy defines domestic abuse as “domestic violence, or a pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty that is directed to a person who is:

- A current or former spouse;
- A person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or
- A current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.”³⁴

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

Spouse abuse – Either the victim or abuser may have been a Service member or the civilian spouse of 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. In such cases, the victim or the abuser may have been a Service member or civilian.

Domestic abuse, per DoD policy, represents four distinct types of abuse for either spouse or intimate partner abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Spousal neglect is a type of domestic abuse in which an adult fails to provide necessary care or assistance for his or her spouse who is incapable of self-care physically, emotionally, or culturally. Each of these types of abuse is outlined in implementing guidance for use during the standardized incident determination process.³⁵

Incidents of domestic abuse are reported separately by type of abuse; one or more incidents may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim. Prior to FY 2015, incidents may have included multiple types of abuse under one incident; as explained previously, reporting was standardized for consistency.

³⁴ DoDI 6400.06, August 21, 2007.

³⁵ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, Glossary, August 11, 2016.

4-1. DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS

In FY 2019, there were a total of 7,921 met criteria incidents of domestic abuse reported to FAP. As shown in Figure 17, physical abuse represented three-quarters (73.74 percent) of these incidents, emotional abuse represented a little less than one quarter (22.30 percent), and fewer incidents involved sexual abuse (3.91 percent) and neglect (0.05 percent).

Domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse comprised 3.91 percent of all met criteria domestic abuse incidents, representing an increase of 0.30 percentage points from the percentage in FY 2018 (3.61). Prior to FY 2018, the proportion of domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse had incrementally increased, followed by a decrease in FY 2018. In FY 2019, 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.³⁶

Types of Domestic Abuse in Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2019)

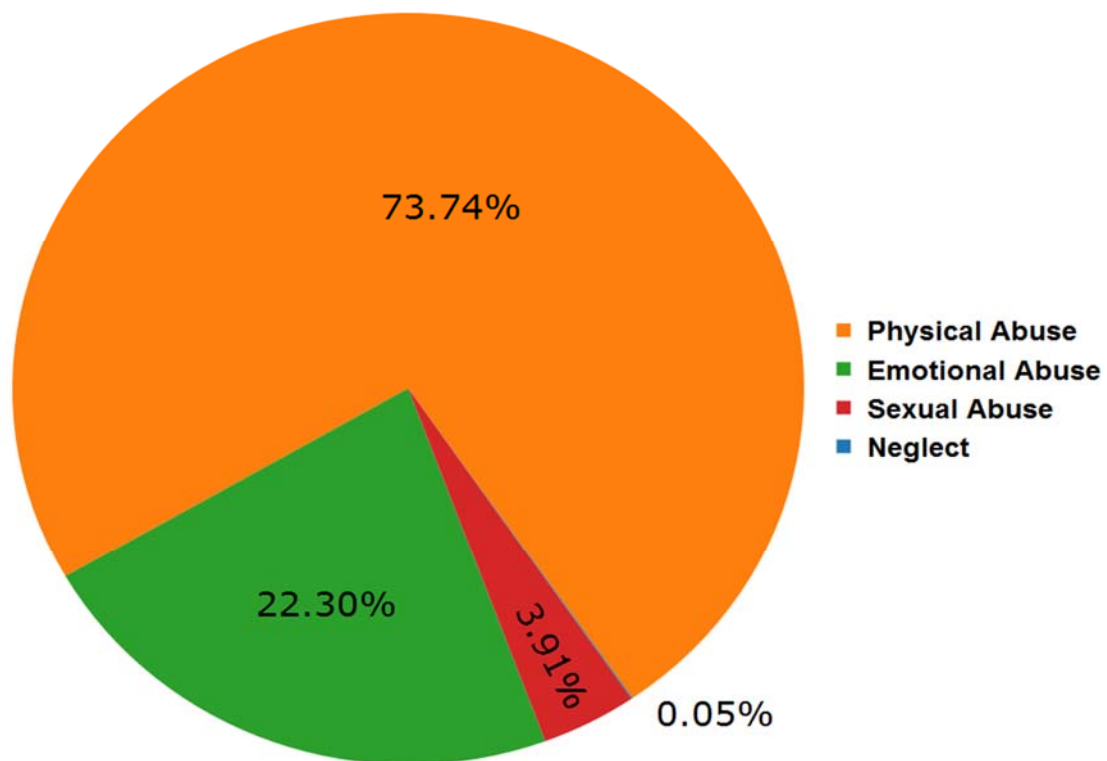


Figure 17. Percentage of the types of abuse in domestic abuse incidents that met DoD criteria in FY 2019.

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

³⁶ The FY 2019 proportion (3.91 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 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [0.241, 0.344]).

4-2. SPOUSE ABUSE

As outlined in the previous section, spouse abuse includes acts of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect. 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 2015, incidents may have included multiple types of abuse under one incident; reporting was standardized for consistency. The data on spouse abuse included in this section are limited to only those incidents involving married individuals.

There are three rates calculated for spouse abuse in this report: the rate of reported incidents, the rate of met criteria incidents, and the rate of spouse victimization. The first two rates can be impacted by external factors. For example, the rate 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 rate 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 2019 rate of reported spouse abuse per 1,000 married couples was 21.7, which is lower than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2018 (24.3). This numerical difference of 2.6 represents a 10.7 percent decrease in the rate of reported incidents and is statistically significant.³⁷ The rate of incidents of spouse abuse that met criteria per 1,000 married couples was 10.9, which is lower than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2018 (11.2). This difference of 0.3 represents a 2.7 percent decrease in the rate of incidents that met criteria, and is statistically significant.³⁸

Table 5: Reports and Incidents of Spouse Abuse (FY 2010-FY 2019)

Fiscal Year	Reported Incidents	Met Criteria Incidents	Married Couples Population	Reports/1000	Met Criteria Incidents/1000
2010	18,785	8,411	751,758	25.0	11.2
2011	19,277	8,386	753,110	25.6	11.1
2012	18,671	8,345	734,308	25.4	11.4
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

Note. Incidents of spouse abuse are reported separately by type of abuse; one or more incidents may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim.

³⁷ The FY 2019 rate of spouse abuse reports per 1,000 married couples (21.7) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average rate of spouse abuse reports during the FY 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [23.31, 24.96]).

³⁸ The FY 2019 rate of spouse abuse met criteria incidents per 1,000 married couples (10.9) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average rate per 1,000 married couples during the FY 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [11.00, 11.51]).

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 2010-FY 2019 are displayed in Figure 18. Both of these rates have seen fluctuations during the past 10 years. The FY 2019 rates represent a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average of rates from FY 2010-FY 2019.

Spouse Abuse Reports vs. Met Criteria Incident Rates per 1,000 Married Couples (FY 2010-FY 2019)

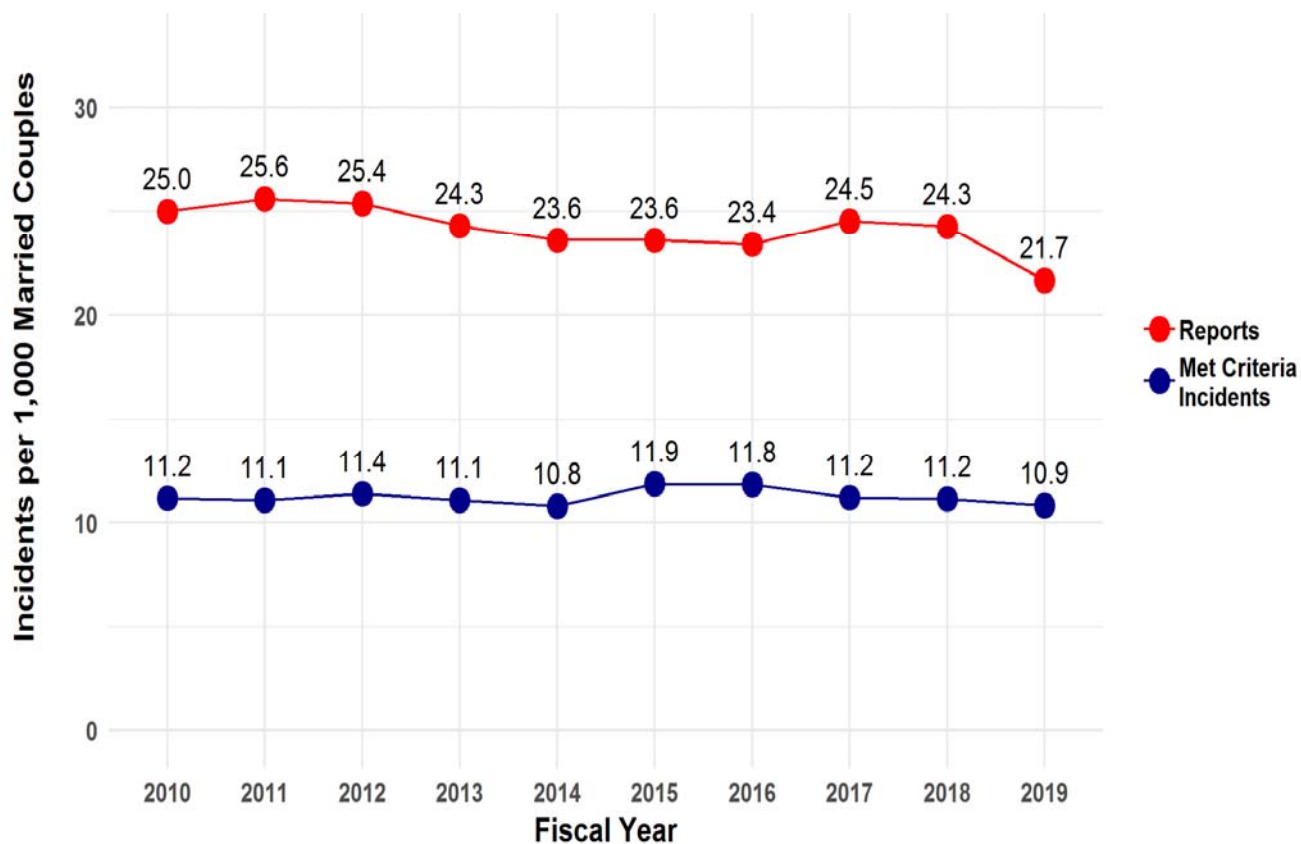


Figure 18. Rates of spouse abuse incidents reported to FAP and the rates of spouse abuse incidents that met DoD criteria per fiscal year.

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

As shown in Table 6, there were 5,505 unique victims of spouse abuse in FY 2019. The FY 2019 unique spouse abuse victim rate per 1,000 married couples was 8.8, equal to the rate per 1,000 in FY 2018 (8.8). Although the FY 2019 spouse abuse victim rate is the same as the FY 2018 rate, the FY 2019 rate represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average 10-year rate.³⁹

Table 6: Unique Victims of Spouse Abuse (FY 2010-FY 2019)

Fiscal Year	Met Criteria Incidents	Unique Victims	Married Couples Population	Met Criteria Incidents/1000	Rate of Victims/1000
2010	8,411	7,698	751,758	11.2	10.2
2011	8,386	7,510	753,110	11.1	10.0
2012	8,345	7,462	734,308	11.4	10.2
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

Note. This table shows the number of spouse abuse incidents that met criteria and the number of unique victims who experienced those incidents. Incidents of abuse are reported separately by type of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect); one or more incidents may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim.

³⁹ The FY 2019 spouse abuse victim rate per 1,000 married couples (8.8) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average rate spouse abuse victim per 1,000 married couples during the FY 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [9.13, 9.87]).

The rates of unique spouse abuse victims per 1,000 married couples from FY 2010-FY 2019 are displayed in Figure 19.⁴⁰

Rate of Unique Spouse Abuse Victims per 1,000 Married Couples (FY 2010-FY 2019)

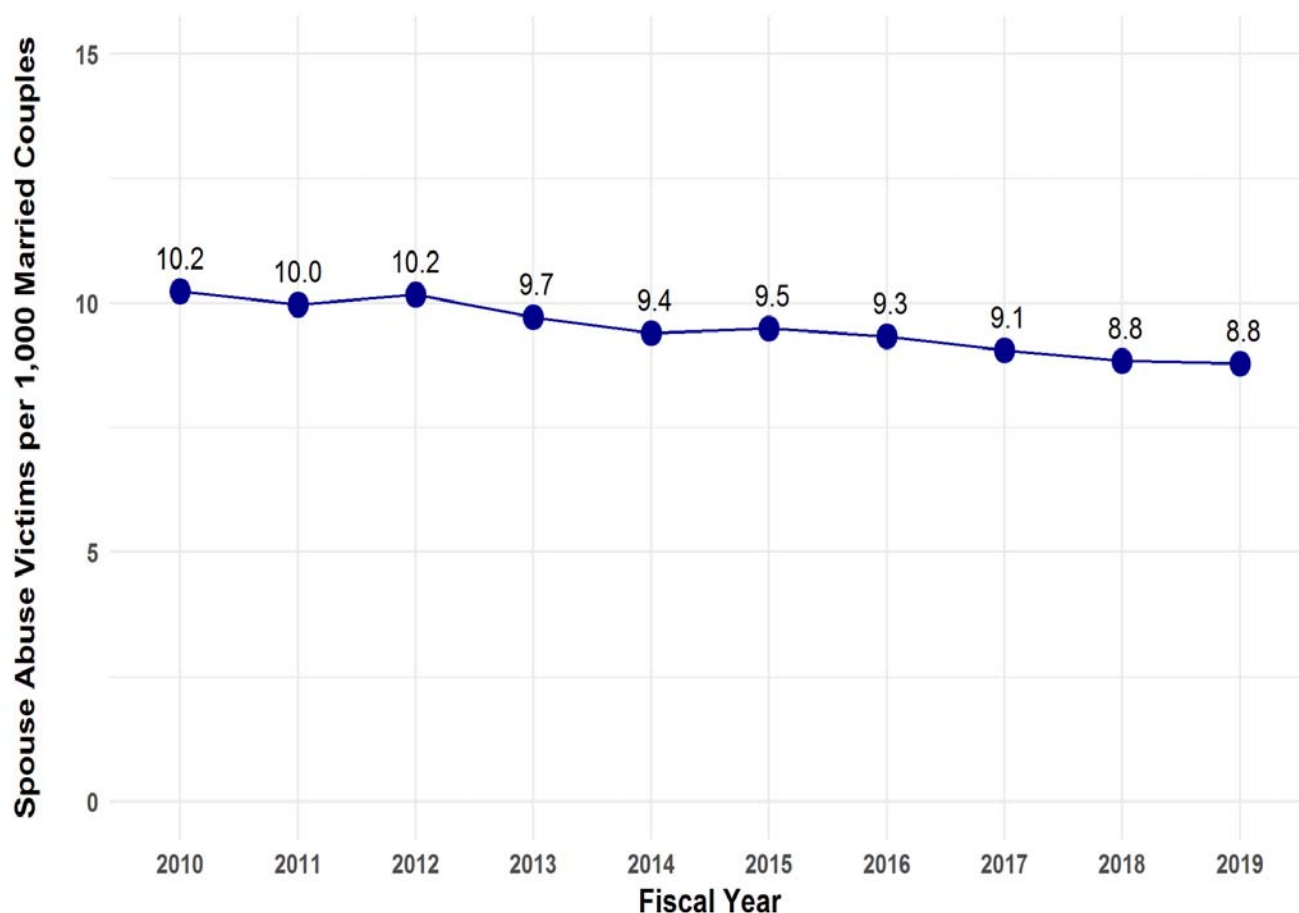


Figure 19. Yearly rates of unique spouse abuse victims per 1,000 married couples in the military population.

Comparison to Civilian Data

Unlike child abuse and neglect, there is no federal mechanism to track rates of civilian spouse abuse for comparison to the military population. This is, in part, because each state has different laws and definitions of domestic abuse, making any aggregation of these incidents very difficult.

⁴⁰ There has been a downward trend in the spouse abuse victim rates over time. The FY 2019 spouse abuse victim rate (8.8) per 1,000 married couples represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average rate of victimization during the FY 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [9.13, 9.87]).

Spouse Abuse Victim Profile

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

The military status of victims involved in spouse abuse incidents that met criteria in FY 2019 are displayed in Figure 20. Of the total victims, 54 percent were Service members and 46 percent were civilians.

Military Status of Victims in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

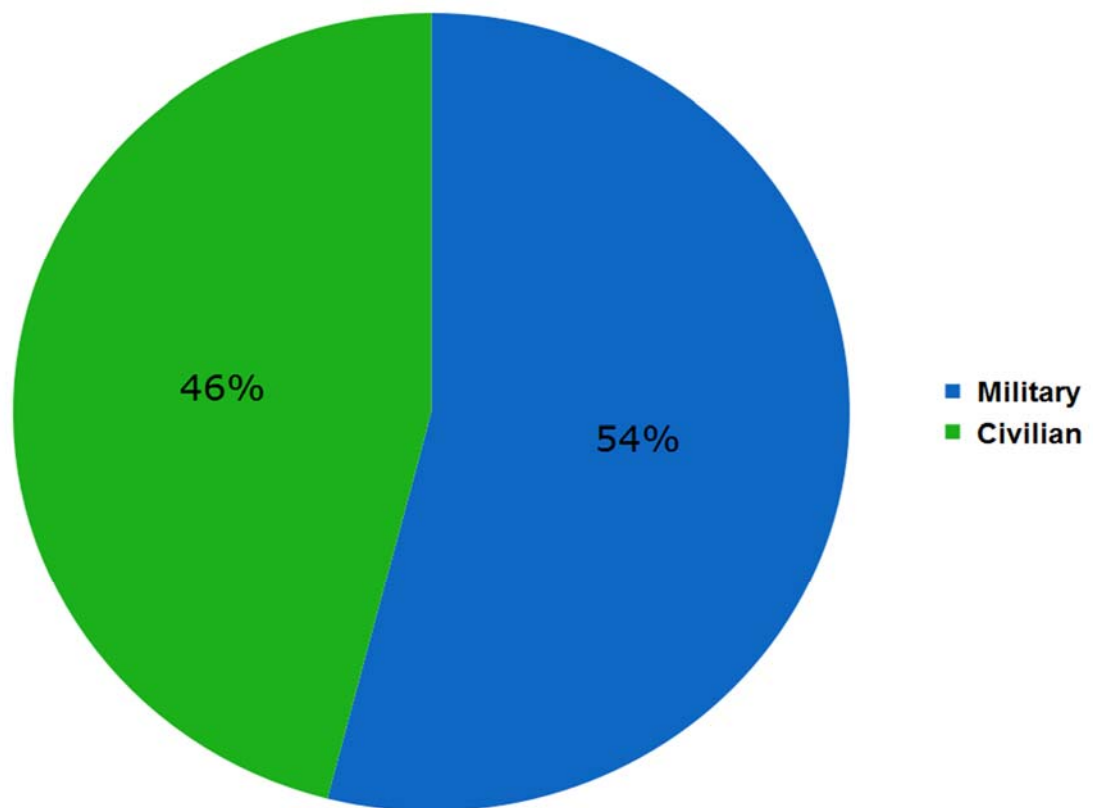


Figure 20. Military status of spouse abuse victims in FY 2019.

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

Overall, 66 percent of victims of spouse abuse in met criteria incidents were female and 34 percent of the victims were male.

Figure 21 displays the sex of spouse abuse victims for each abuse type. Females experienced all types of abuse more than males. Ninety-five percent of spouse abuse victims who experienced sexual abuse were female versus 5 percent male. For both emotional abuse and neglect, 75 percent of victims were female versus 25 percent male. Among incidents of physical abuse, the common type of domestic abuse in military families, 62 percent of victims were female versus 38 percent male. It is important to note that neglect accounts for less than 0.1 percent of all met criteria domestic abuse incidents.

Sex of Victims in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

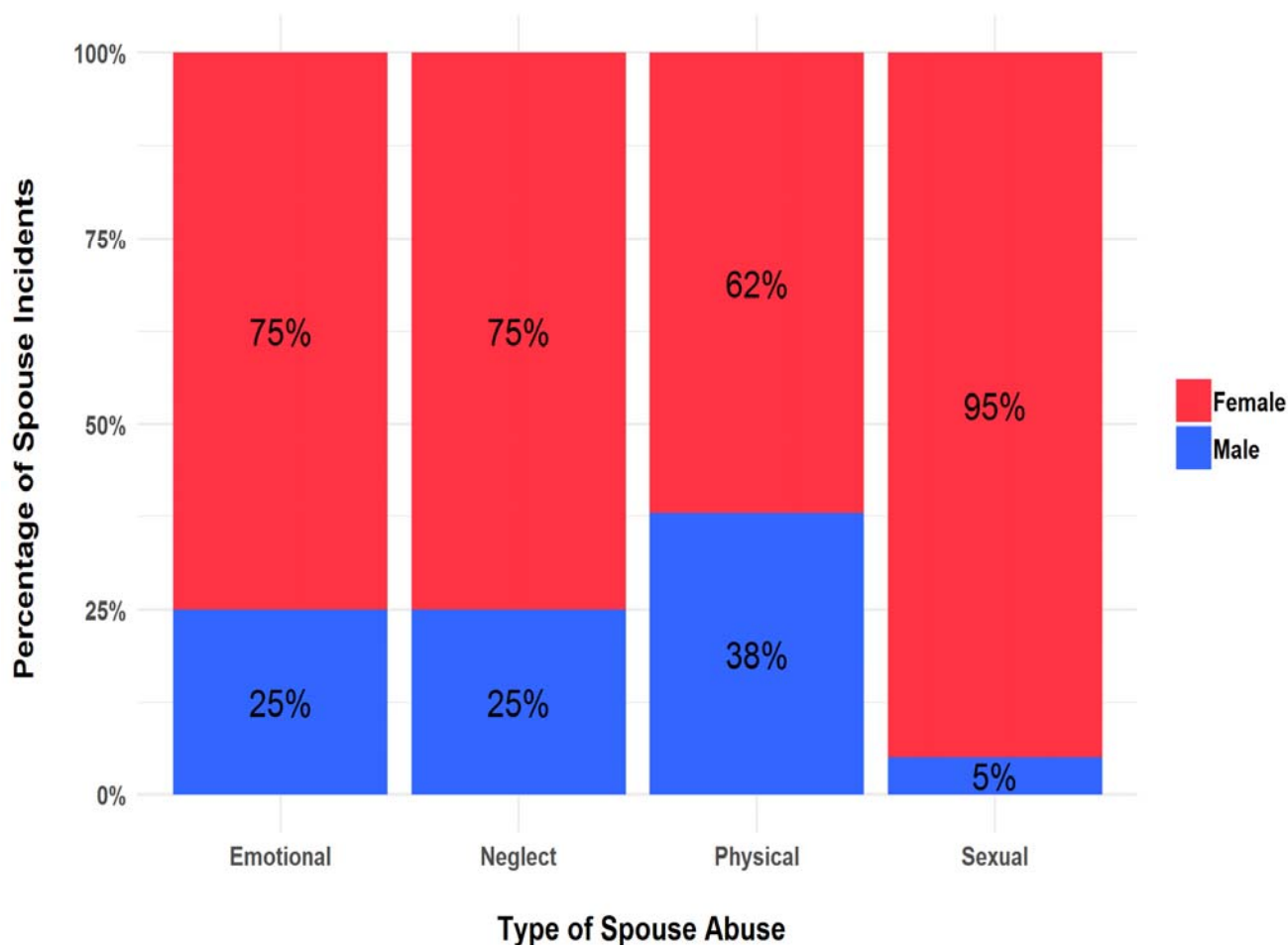


Figure 21. Sex of victims in met criteria spouse abuse incidents, by type of abuse in FY 2019.

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 and pay grade.

The military status of abusers involved in spouse abuse incidents that met criteria in FY 2019 are displayed in Figure 22. Fifty-nine percent of abusers were military members and 41 percent were civilian.

Military Status of Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

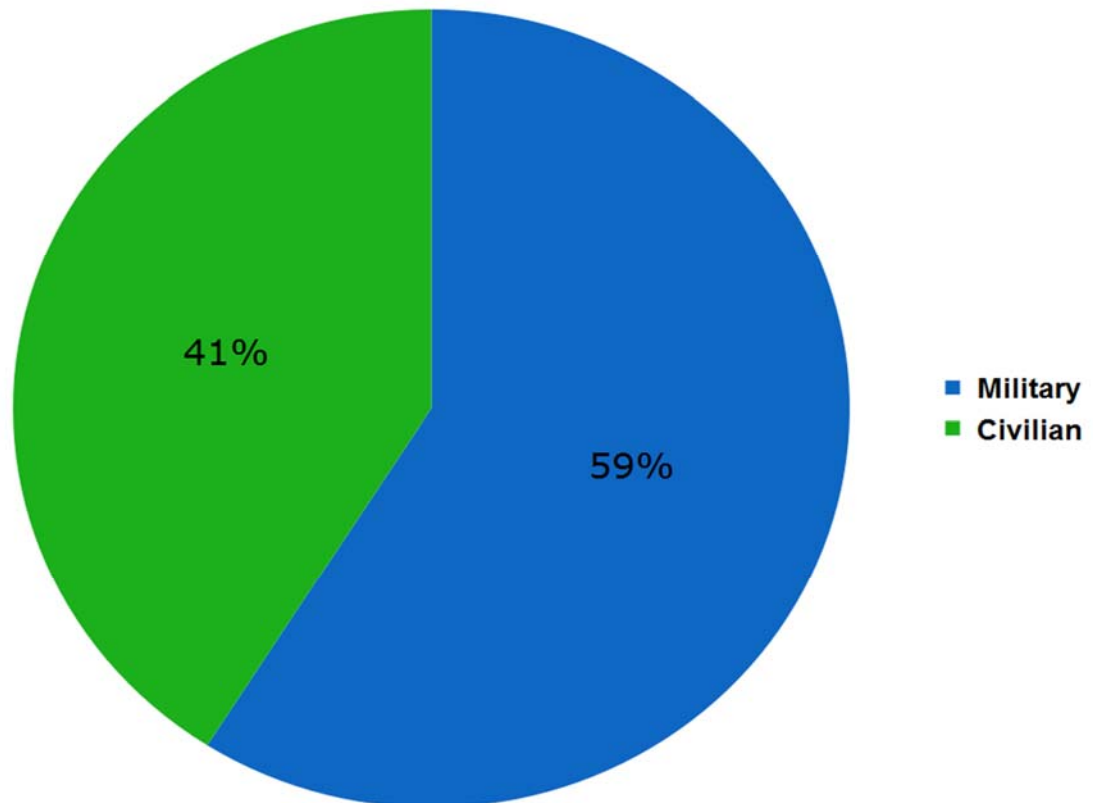


Figure 22. Military status of abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents in FY 2019.

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

As shown in Figure 23, the military status distribution of abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents has been relatively consistent since FY 2010.

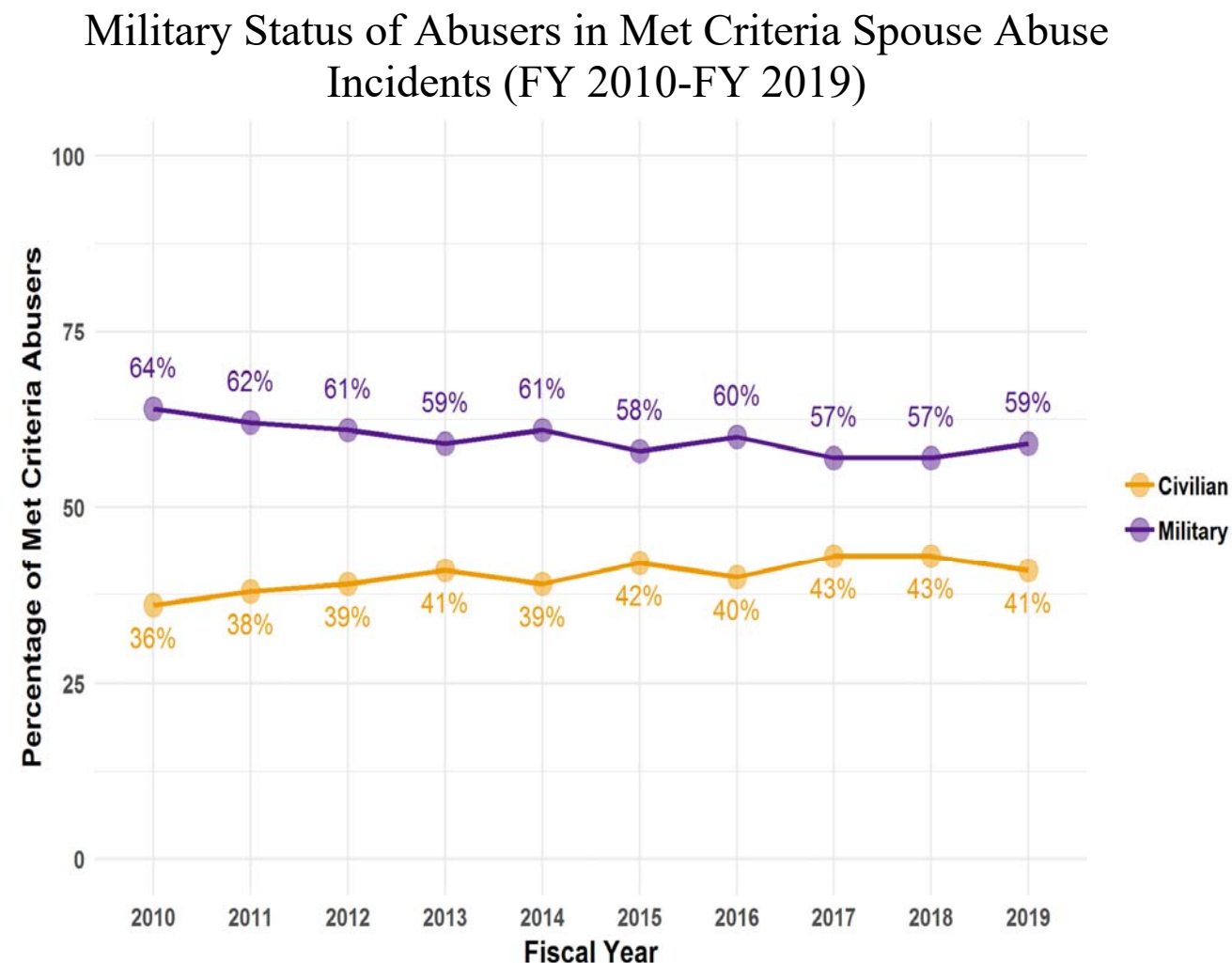


Figure 23. Military status of abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents over time.

Figure 24 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 59 percent were E4-E6 and 28 percent were E1-E3. Eight percent of abusers were E7-E9, four percent were officers (two percent were O1-O3, two percent were O4-O10), and one percent were warrant officers (WO1-WO5).

Military Spouse Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents by Pay Grade (FY 2019)

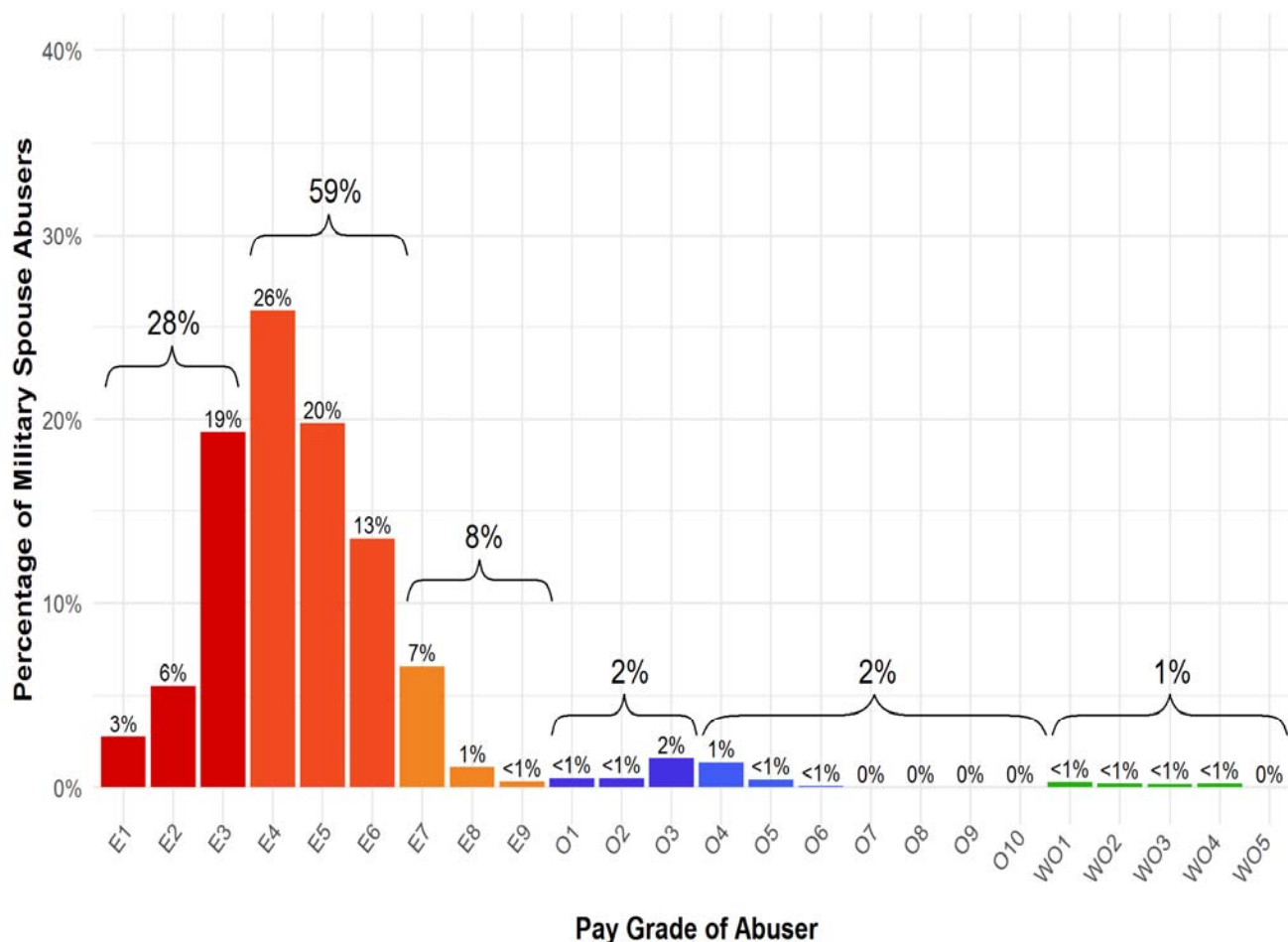


Figure 24. Percentage of military spouse abusers in met criteria incidents in each pay grade in FY 2019.

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

When compared to the total population of active duty spouses in FY 2019, the differences among proportions of active duty spouse abusers in met criteria incidents by pay grade are pronounced. As displayed in Figure 25, 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 E4-E6 pay grade (59 percent vs. 52 percent) and the E1-E3 pay grade (28 percent vs. 8 percent).

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 E7-E9 (8 percent vs. 17 percent), O1-O3 (2 percent vs. 10 percent), O4-O10 (2 percent vs. 11 percent), and WO1-WO5 (1 percent vs. 2 percent) pay grades.

Pay Grade of Active Duty Spouse Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents, Compared to Demographics (FY 2019)

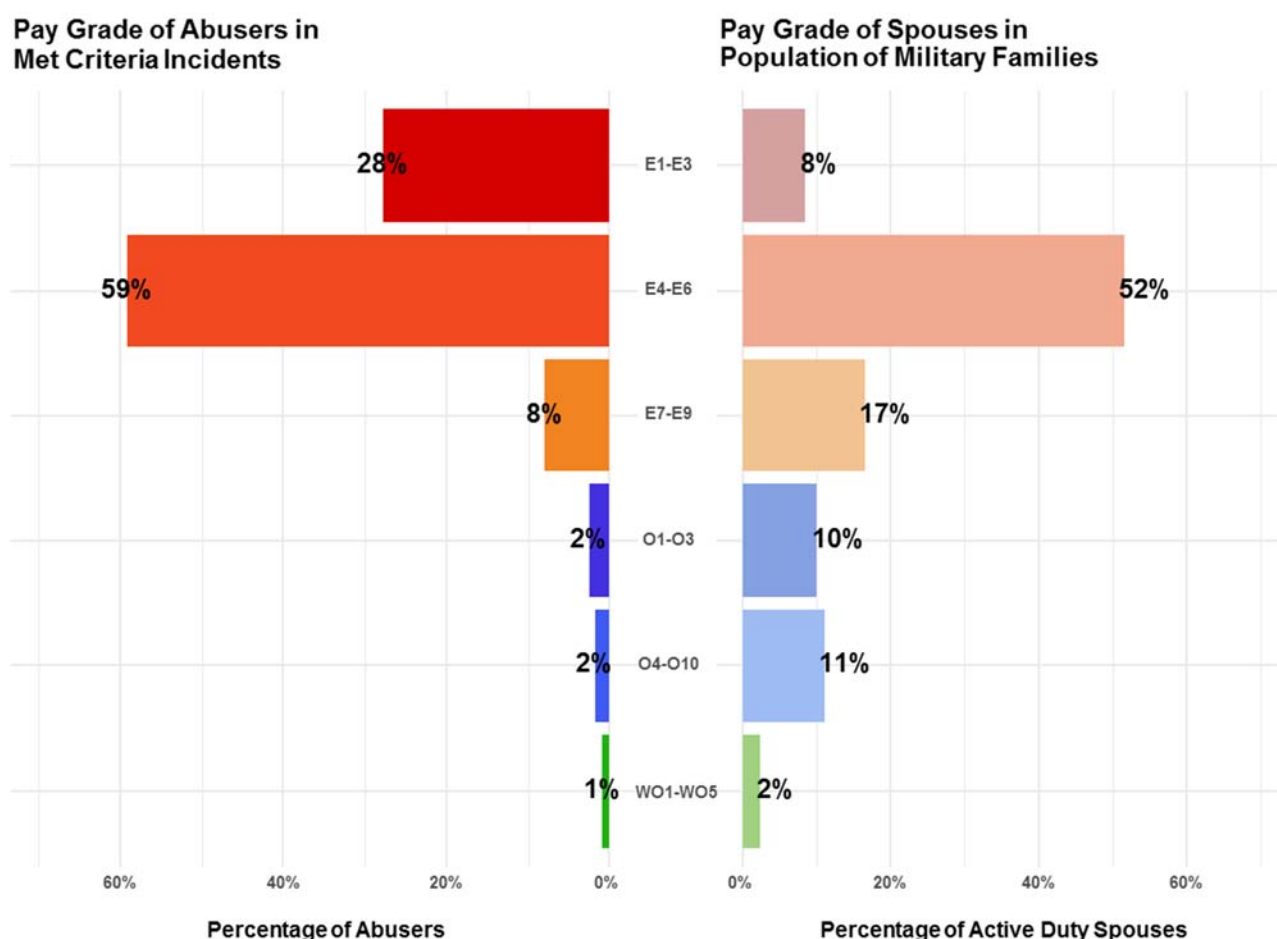


Figure 25. Comparison of the proportion of active duty abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents with a particular pay grade (on the left) to the proportion of active duty spouses in the military population with a particular pay grade (on the right).

While the breakdown of active duty spouse abusers by pay grade in Figure 25 indicates that the greatest proportion of active duty abusers were in the E4-E6 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 E1-E3 (16.9) pay grades (see Figure 26).

Rate of Active Duty Spouse Abusers per 1,000 Married Couples by Pay Grade (FY 2019)

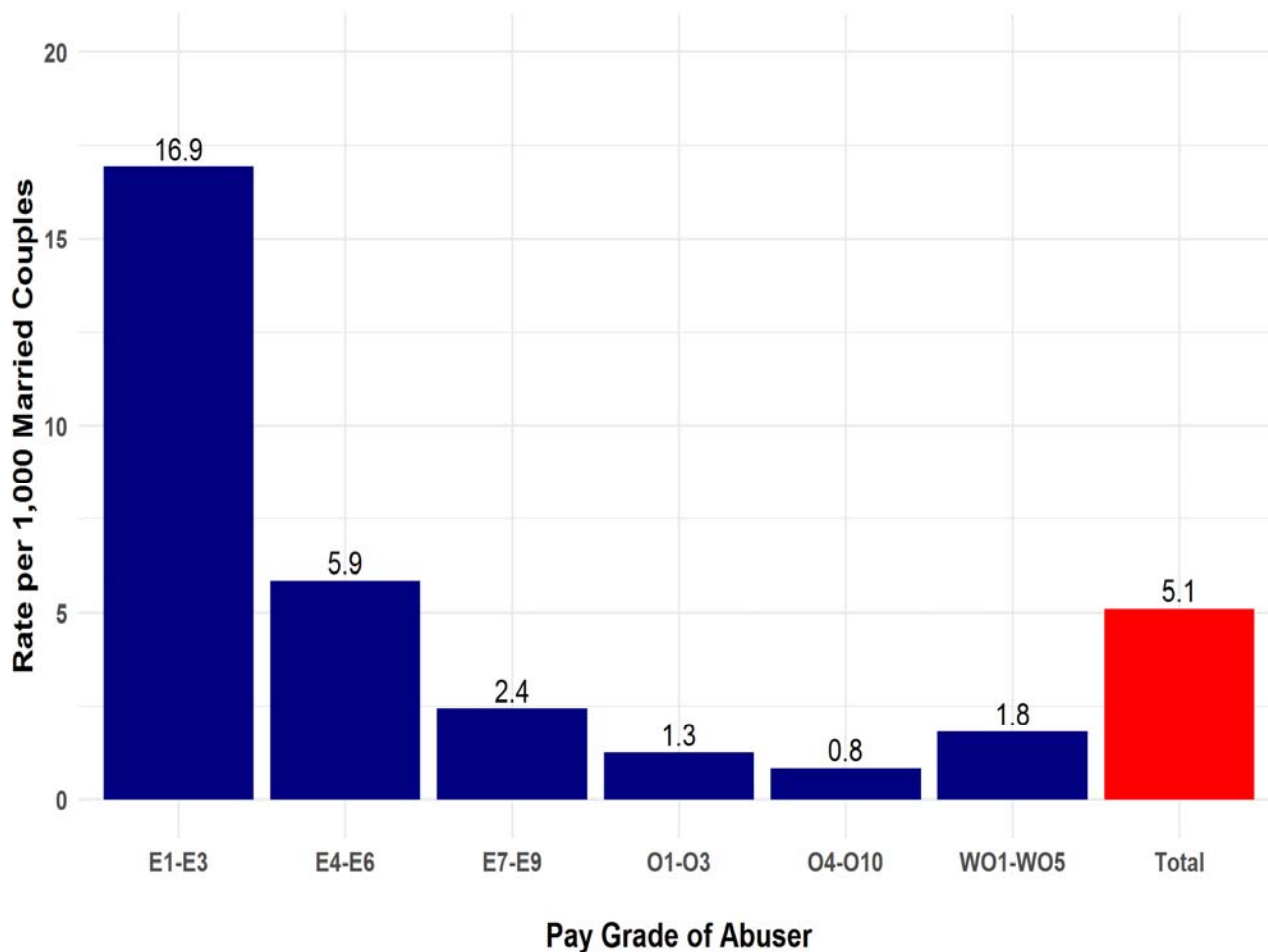


Figure 26. Rate of active duty abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents per 1,000 married couples in the population by pay grade in FY 2019.

Overall, 65 percent of abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents were male and 35 percent of abusers were female.

Figure 27 shows the proportions of male and female abusers for each individual type of met criteria spouse abuse, and indicates that more males were abusers for all types of spouse abuse. The vast majority of spouse abusers for incidents of sexual abuse were male (94 percent male vs. 6 percent female). Nearly three-quarters of abusers for emotional abuse incidents were male (74 percent male vs. 26 percent female), and three-quarters of abusers in neglect incidents were male (75 percent male vs. 25 percent female). Sixty-one percent of abusers in physical abuse incidents were male versus 39 percent female.

Sex of Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

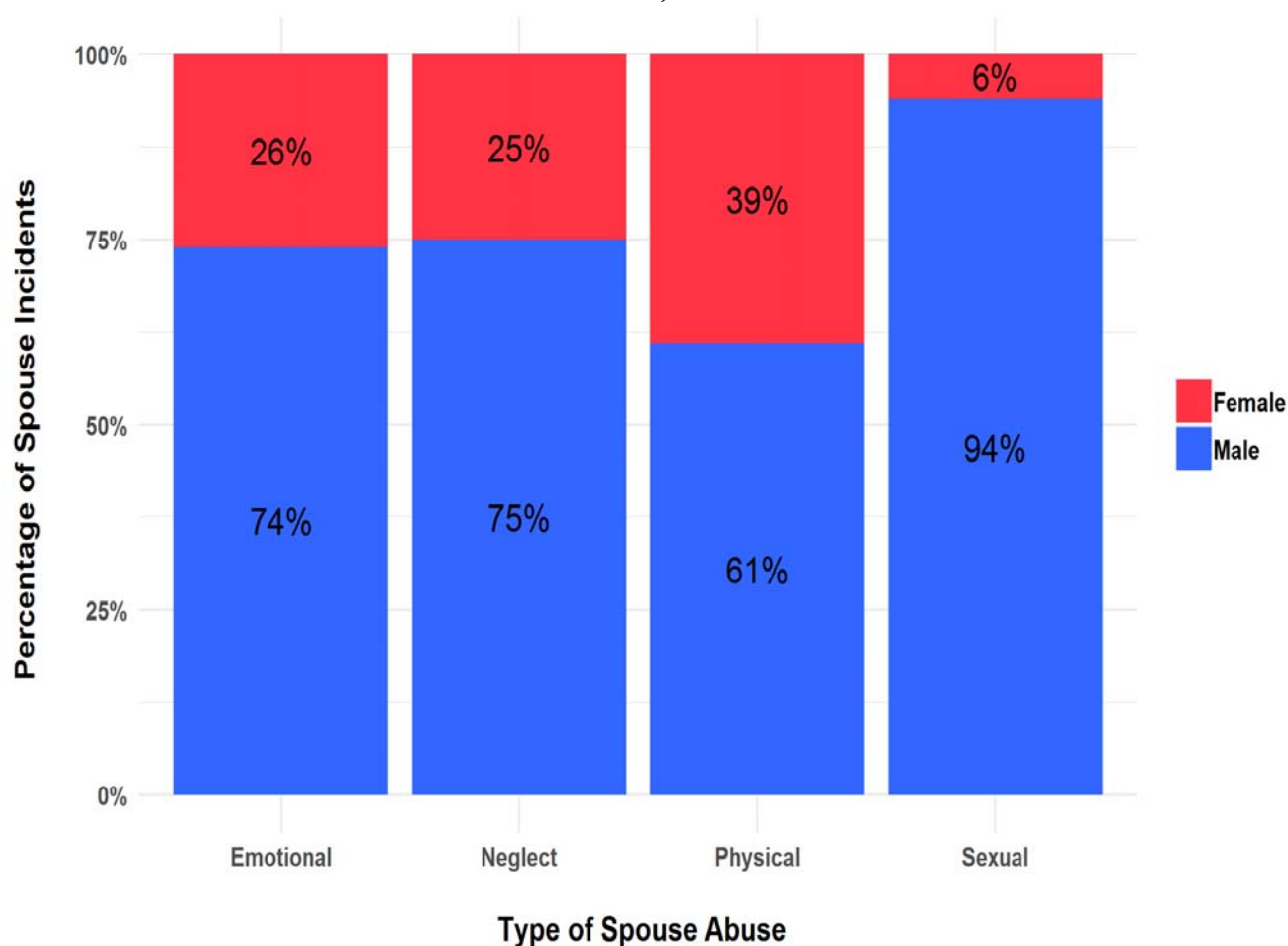


Figure 27. Sex of abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents in FY 2019.

Looking specifically at Service member abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents, 89 percent were male and 11 percent were female.

Figure 28 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, emotional abuse, and neglect were male (99 percent male vs. 1 percent female for sexual abuse, 93 percent vs. 7 percent for emotional abuse, and 100 percent for neglect). Eighty-seven percent of Service member abusers in physical abuse incidents were male versus 13 percent female.

Sex of Service member Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

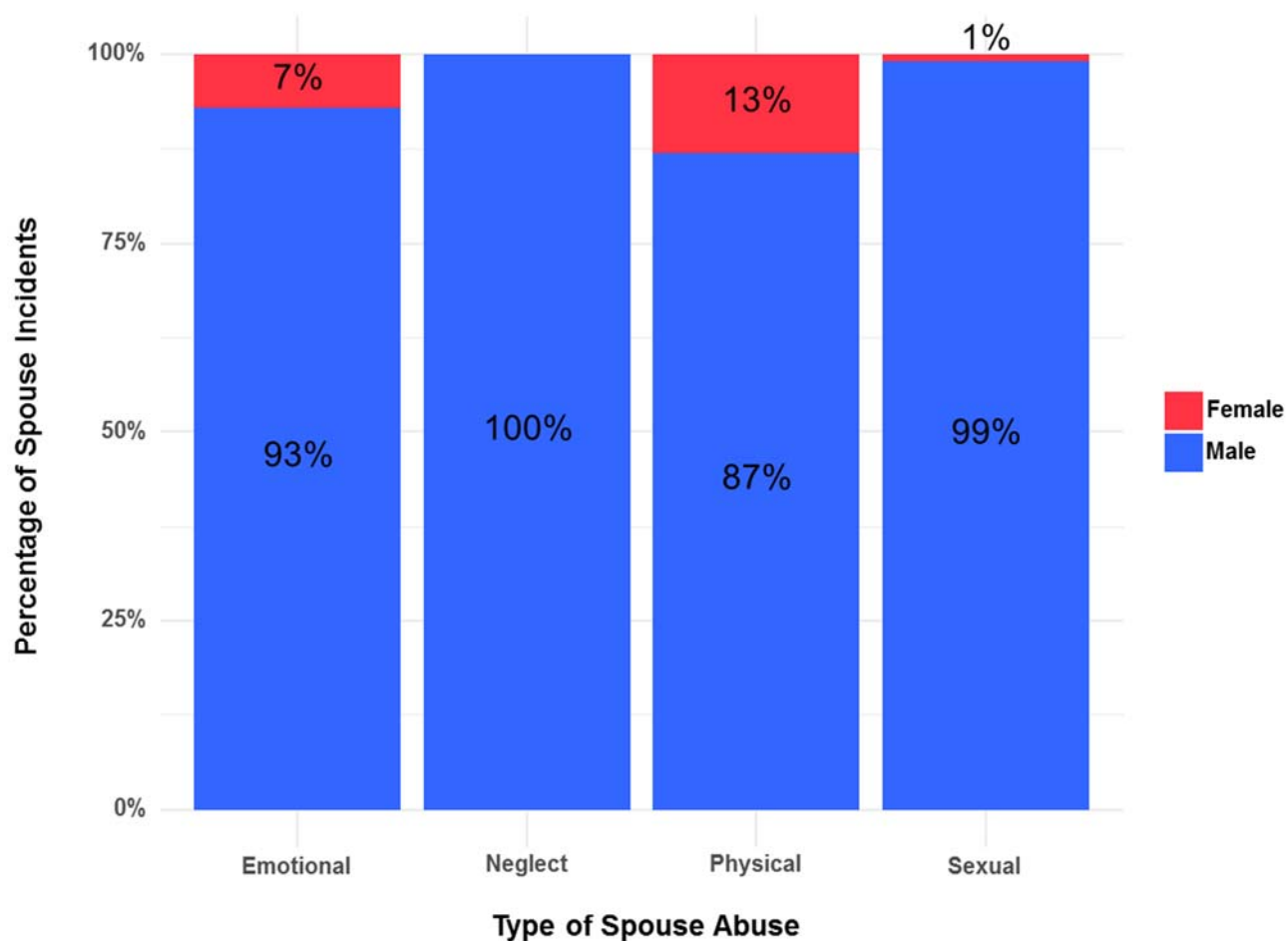


Figure 28. Sex of Service member abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents in FY 2019.

Figure 29 shows the breakdown of spouse abusers by sex and military status. Among male abusers in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse, 2,843 were Service members, 608 were family members, and 19 fell into the “other” category.⁴¹ Among female abusers in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse, 393 were Service members, 1,646 were family members, and 5 fell into the “other” category.

Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents by Sex and Military Status (FY 2019)

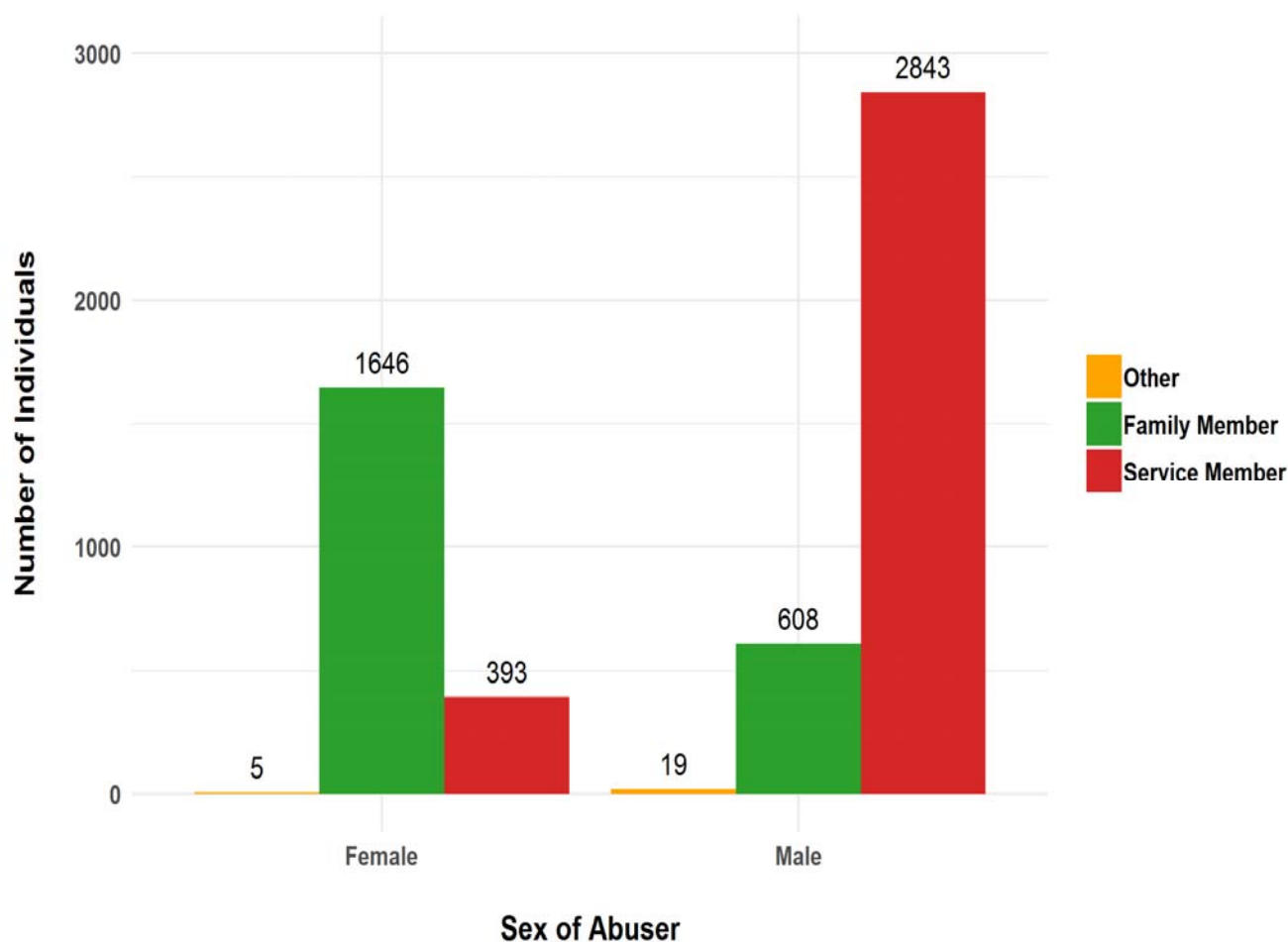


Figure 29. Number of unique abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents by sex and military status in FY 2019.

Note. “Other” category includes DoD civilians, non-DoD government civilians, retired Service members, government contractors, non-beneficiaries, and those who had an unknown status.

⁴¹ 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. Improvements in data entry (properly categorizing an abuser as a “family member” primarily rather than a “DoD civilian” or “retired”) has resulted in a decrease in the “other” category when compared to prior reports.

4-3. INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE

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

In FY 2019, there were 1,121 met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse involving 886 adult victims (see Table 7).⁴² The number of met criteria incidents and the number of unique victims represent a statistically significant increase when compared to the 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 DoD are not available.

Table 7: Incidents of Intimate Partner Abuse (FY 2010-FY 2019)

Fiscal Year	Reported Incidents	Met Criteria Incidents	Unique Victims
2010	1,539	721	588
2011	1,662	867	648
2012	1,718	909	656
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

⁴² The number of met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2019 (1,121) is a statistically significant increase when compared to the average number of intimate partner abuse incidents during the FY 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [873.91, 1028.29]). The number of unique intimate partner abuse victims in FY 2019 (886) is a statistically significant increase when compared to the average number of unique intimate partner abuse victims during the FY 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [663.53, 804.27]).

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 2019 is displayed in Figure 30. Of the victims of intimate partner abuse, 66 percent were Service members and 34 percent were civilian.

Military Status of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

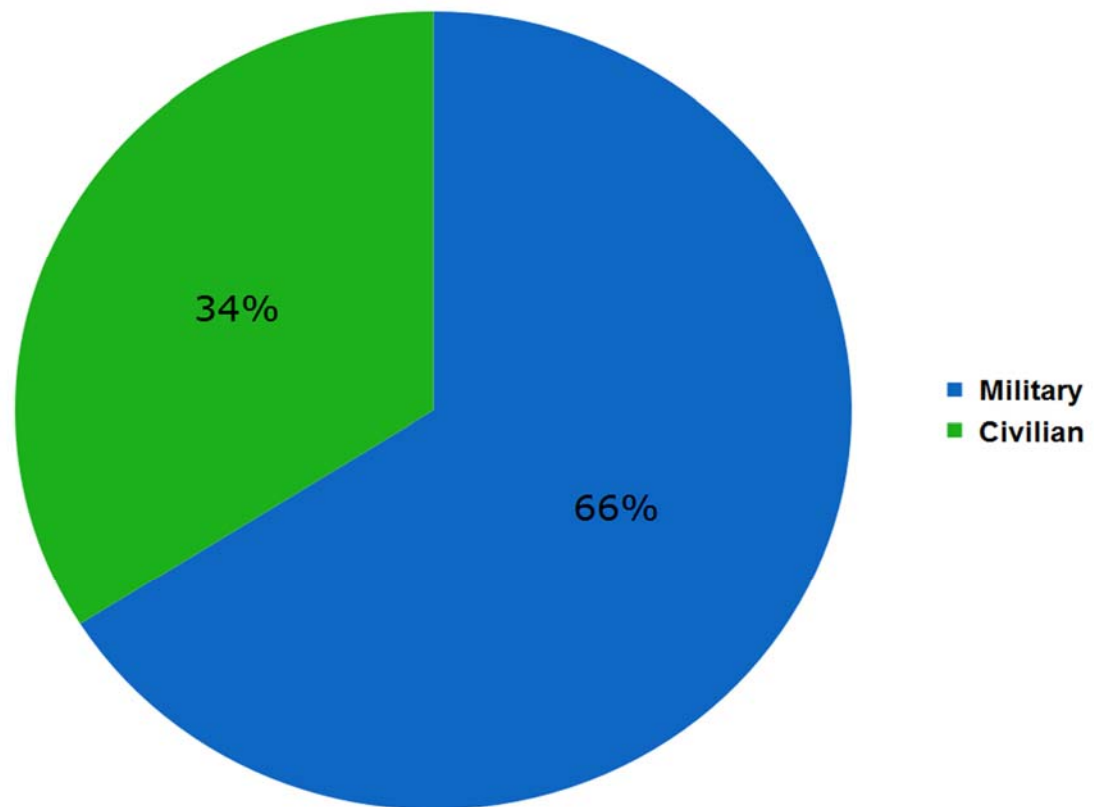


Figure 30. Military status of unique victims in met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse in FY 2019.

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 2019 is displayed in Figure 31. Of the victims of intimate partner abuse, 73 percent were female and 27 percent of victims were male.

Sex of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

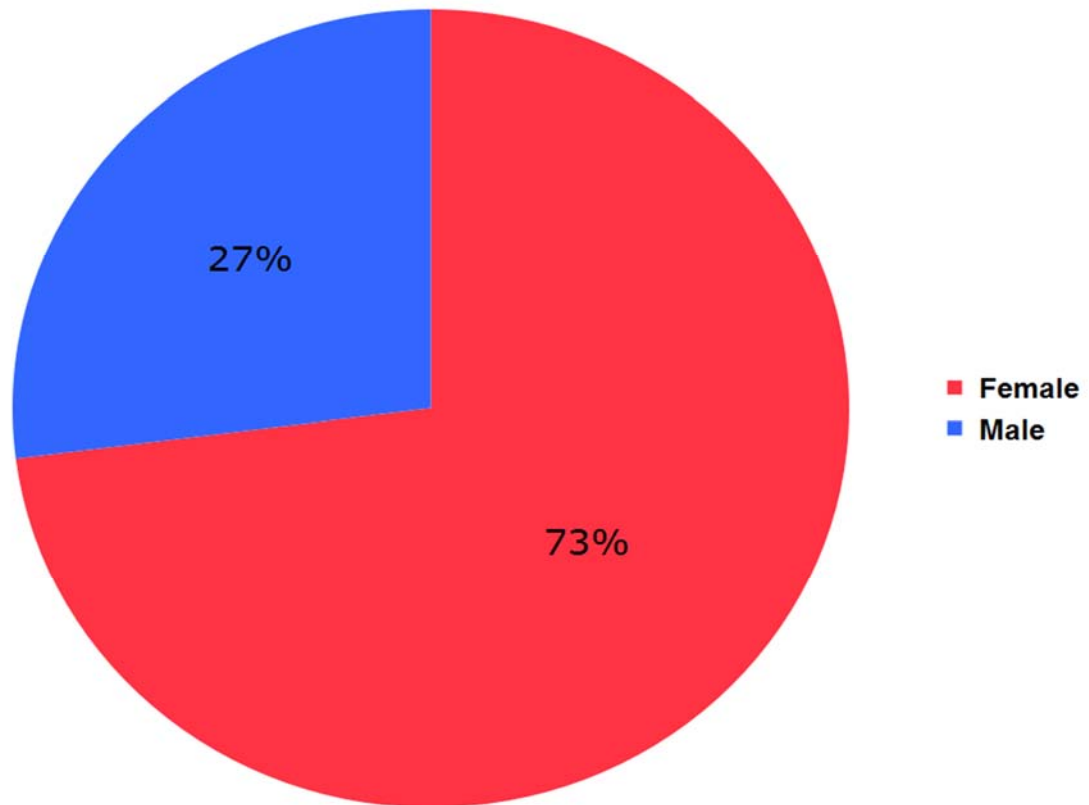


Figure 31. Sex of victims in met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse in FY 2019.

Comparison to Civilian Data

Similar to spouse abuse, there is no federal mechanism to track rates of civilian intimate partner abuse for comparison to the military population. This is, in part, because each state has different laws and definitions of intimate partner abuse, making any aggregation of these incidents very difficult.

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 2019 is displayed in Figure 32. Sixty-six percent of abusers were Service members and 34 percent were civilians.

Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

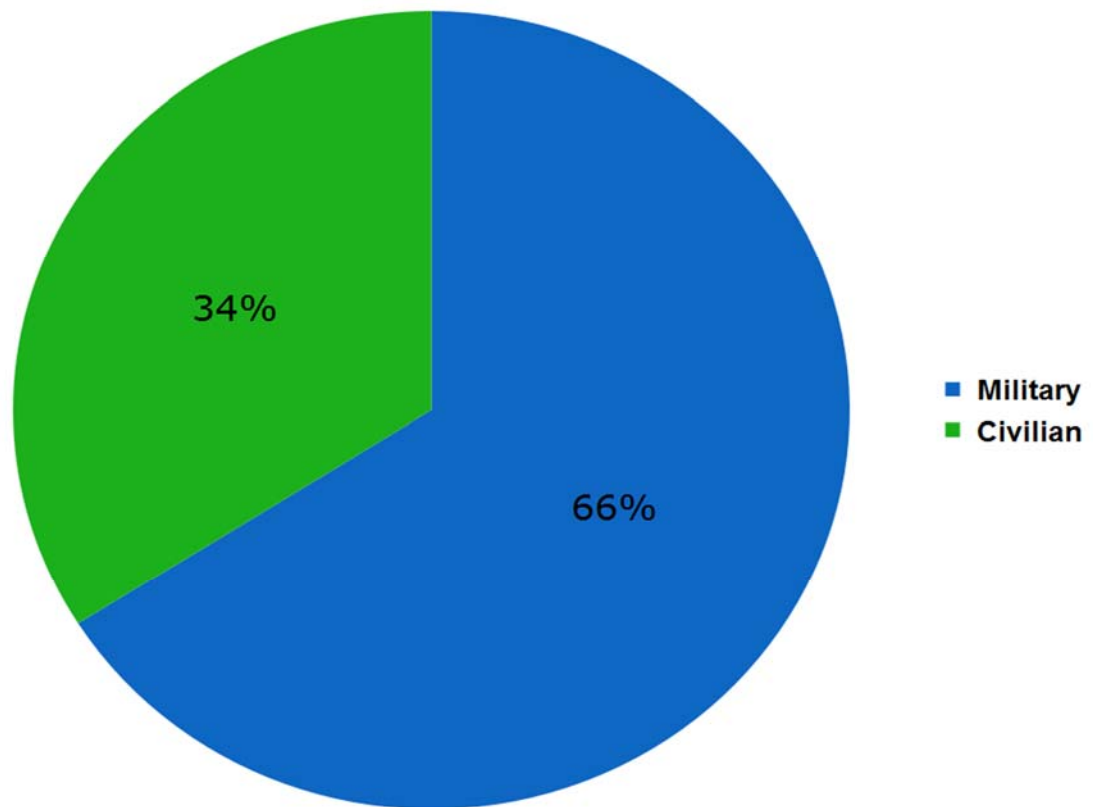


Figure 32. Military status of unique abusers in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2019.

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

Figure 33 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 59 percent were E4-E6 and 29 percent were E1-E3. Seven percent of abusers were E7-E9, five percent were officers (four percent were O1-O3, one percent were O4-O10), and less than one percent were warrant officers (WO1-WO5).

Pay Grade of Military Intimate Partner Abusers in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

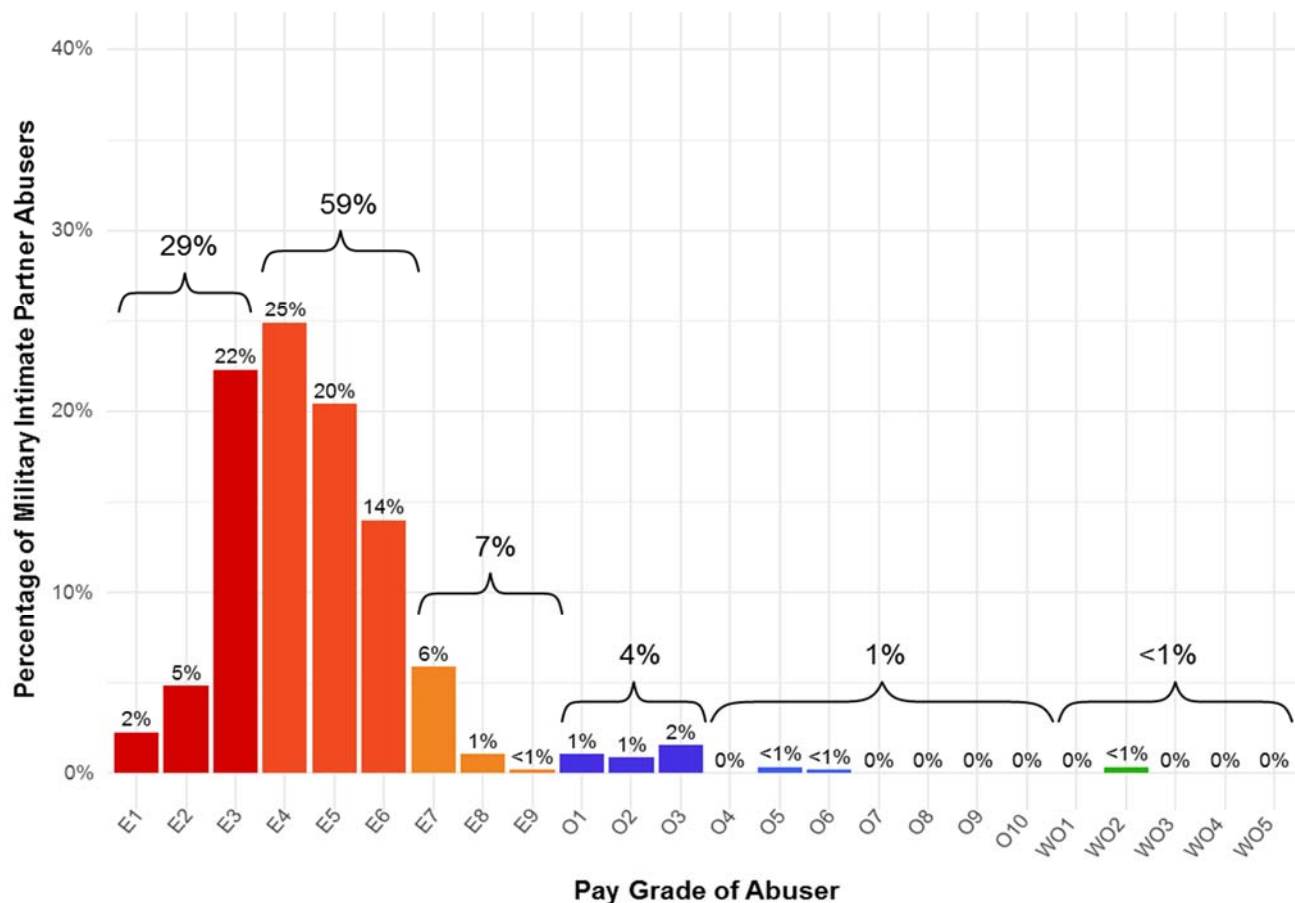


Figure 33. Percentage of Service members who were abusers in met criteria intimate partner incidents in each pay grade in FY 2019.

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 2019 is displayed in Figure 34. 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 2019)

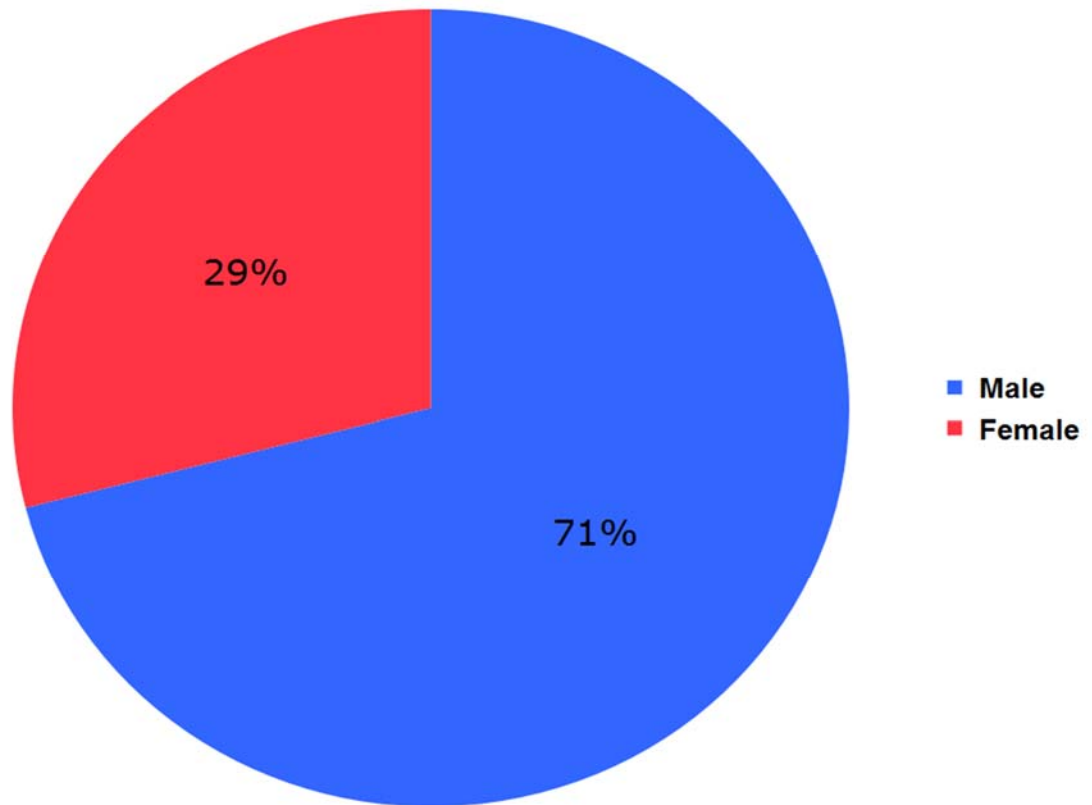


Figure 34. Sex of abusers in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2019.

4-4. 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.”⁴³

In the *2019 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*, sexual abuse is referred to as “domestic abuse-related sexual assault.”

Sexual abuse in the domestic violence field is contextually distinct from sexual assault in that it occurs within a marriage or intimate partner relationship as part of a larger pattern of behavior resulting in emotional or psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty. Sexual abuse 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 2019, there were a total of 310 met criteria incidents of adult sexual abuse (see Table 8), and 284 unique victims of sexual abuse who received FAP services.⁴⁴ This is an increase of 20 met criteria incidents in comparison to FY 2018 (290). This increase 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 2010-FY 2019)

Fiscal Year	Total Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents	Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents	Percentage of Overall Met Criteria Domestic Abuse
2010	9,132	181	1.98
2011	9,253	208	2.25
2012	9,254	202	2.18
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

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

⁴³ DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, Glossary, August 11, 2016.

⁴⁴ The number of adult sexual abuse incidents increased from FY12-FY17, then decreased in FY18. The number of sexual abuse incidents in FY 2019 (310) is a statistically significantly increase when compared to the average number of adult sexual abuse incidents during the FY 2010-FY 2019 period (95 percent CI [215.61, 284.59]).

As shown in Figure 35, of the 284 unique victims of adult sexual abuse who received FAP services in FY 2019, 94.4 percent were female and 5.6 percent were male. Of the 280 unique abusers, 94.3 percent were male and 5.7 percent were female.

Sex of Unique Victims and Abusers in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

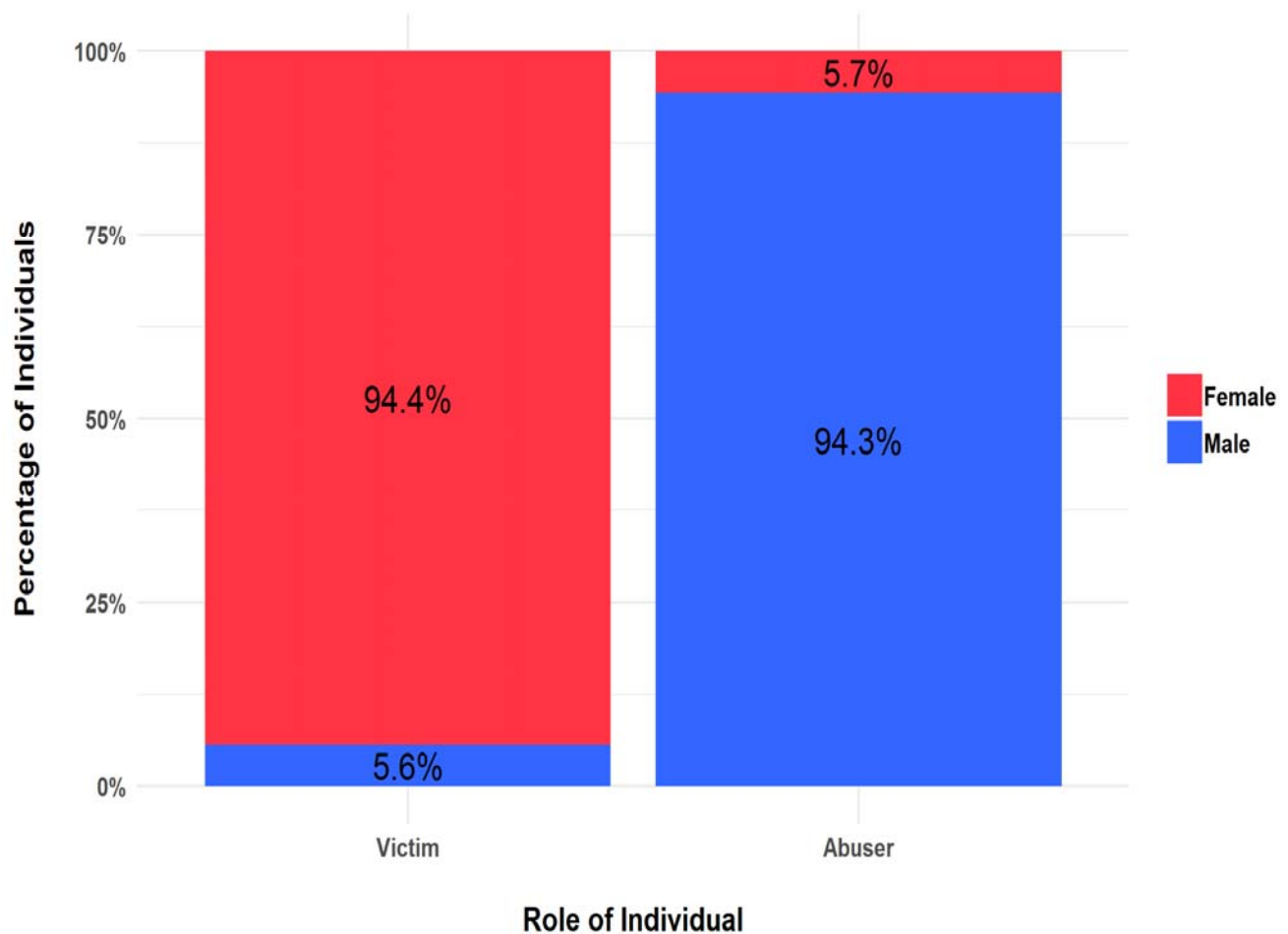


Figure 35. Sex of unique victims and abusers in met criteria incidents of adult sexual abuse in FY 2019.

As shown in Figure 36, of the 284 unique victims of adult sexual abuse who received FAP services in FY 2019, 53.5 percent were family members and 34.9 percent were Service members. Another 11.6 percent fell into the “other” category,⁴⁵ including 10.2 percent who were non-beneficiaries and 1.4 percent who were DoD civilians, retired Service members, or government contractors.

Of the 280 unique abusers in met criteria sexual abuse incidents, 83.9 percent were Service members, 13.2 percent were family members, and 2.9 percent fell into the “other” category.

Among the 83.9 percent of abusers who were Service members, 97.4 percent were active duty and 2.6 percent were Reserve or in the National Guard. The vast majority of Service member abusers in adult sexual abuse incidents were enlisted members (93.2 percent); fewer were officers (6.0 percent) or warrant officers (less than 1 percent).

Status of Unique Victims and Abusers in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2019)

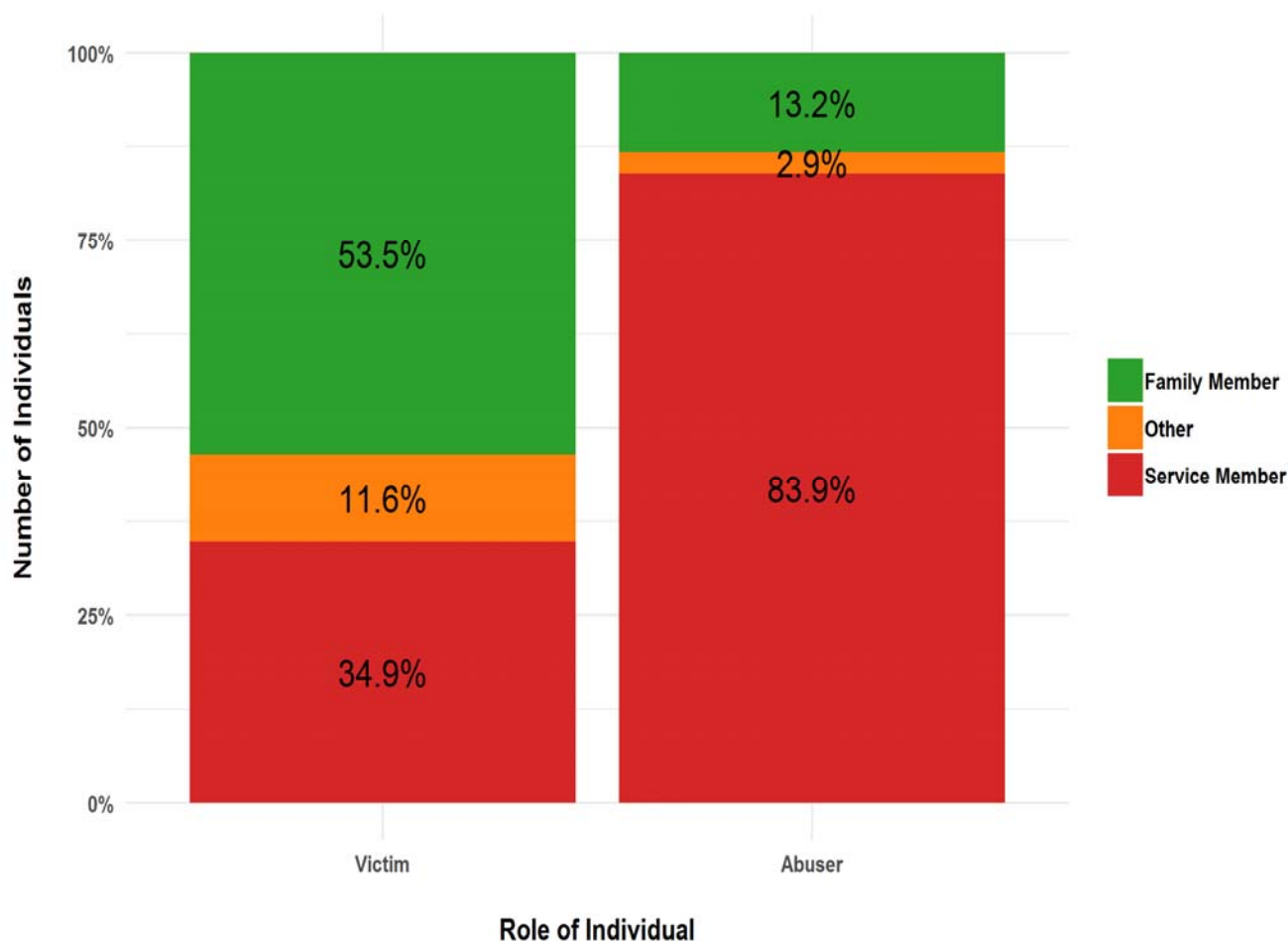


Figure 36. Status of unique victims and abusers in met criteria incidents of adult sexual abuse in FY 2019.

⁴⁵ 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.

4-5. DOMESTIC ABUSE FATALITIES

As discussed previously, FY 2019 fatality reviews will occur in the Military Services in FY 2021. Data on fatalities included in this report represent only those fatalities taken to the IDC after the death of the victim and met criteria for domestic abuse in FY 2019.

There were 12 domestic abuse fatalities taken to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2019 (9 spouse abuse fatalities and 3 intimate partner abuse fatalities—see Table 9). Four victims and two met criteria abusers were previously known to the Central Registry.⁴⁶ In the domestic abuse fatality incidents, 10 of the met criteria abusers were male, and 2 of the met criteria abusers were female. Nine of the met criteria abusers were active duty members and three were civilians.

Table 9: Domestic Abuse Fatalities Reported to FAP in FY 2019

Total Fatalities: 12 (9 spouse, 3 intimate partner)
- 4 Victims previously known to the Central Registry
- 2 Met criteria abusers previously known to the Central Registry
Sex of Met Criteria Abusers
- 10 Male
- 2 Female
Military Status of Met Criteria Abusers
- 9 Active duty
- 3 Civilian

Note: Represents only those fatalities taken to the IDC in FY 2019. Service fatality reviews will take place in FY 2021.

⁴⁶ “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 Department of Defense-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 deployed at the Service level to measure and enhance the effectiveness of respective Service FAPs. Although all 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 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 2019 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 Services upon receipt, there is some minor variation in interpretation of current implementing guidance and how definitions are operationalized across the Service FAPs.

Success of NPSP

NPSP is a secondary prevention program for child abuse and neglect,⁴⁷ 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 other Services) who display indicators of being at risk for engaging in harmful, or even abusive parenting practices that may result in child abuse or neglect. 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.⁴⁸

To measure the success of NPSP, the Military Services collect annual data on the number of families who received NPSP services two times per month for at least six months in FY 2018 and who did not have any incidents of child abuse and neglect reported to FAP that met criteria in FY 2019. 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 as well as the aggregated DoD results for FY 2019. In FY 2019, a total of 1,408 families across all Military Services met the metric criteria and received NPSP services within the required timeframe. Of those families, 1,392 did not have a report that met criteria for child maltreatment, resulting in a success rate of 98.86 percent. This rate exceeds the established target rate of 85 percent.

Table 10: Success of the NPSP (FY 2019)

METRIC	TOTAL DOD
Number of families without open family maltreatment cases that began receiving intensive home visitation NPSP services (at least two home visits per month) during the previous fiscal year (FY 2018) and continued receiving intensive home visitation NPSP services for at least 6 months.	1,408
Such families that had no reports within 12 months after NPSP services ended that met FAP criteria for child maltreatment.	1,392
Percentage successful NPSP	98.86 percent
Target: 85 percent	

⁴⁷ Secondary prevention addresses risk behaviors for violence and abuse through short-term, immediate interventions to modify those behaviors to reduce harm.” <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/levels-prevention>

⁴⁸ DoDI 6400.05, “New Parent Support Program (NPSP),” Enclosure 3, June 13, 2012.

Success of Domestic Abuser Treatment

Each 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.⁴⁹ By collecting data on the recidivism of spouse 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 abusers involved in an incident that met FAP criteria for domestic abuse, started and completed clinical treatment services during FY 2018, and were not involved in any met criteria incident reported to FAP in FY 2019. To achieve success, the total DoD rate of spouses 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 2019 DoD results. In FY 2019, a total of 1,804 abusive spouses 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, 1,713 did not have a report that met criteria for domestic abuse within the following fiscal year, resulting in a success rate of 94.96 percent. This rate exceeds the established target rate of 75 percent.

Table 11: Success of Domestic Abuser Treatment (FY 2019)

METRIC	TOTAL DOD
Total abusive spouses in any incident that met FAP criteria for domestic abuse who began receiving FAP clinical treatment services during FY 2018 and completed FAP clinical treatment services by September 30, 2018.	1,804
Such spouses that were not reported as abusive in any incident that met FAP criteria for domestic abuse within FY 2019.	1,713
Percentage successful abuser treatment	94.96 percent
Target: 75 percent	

5-2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAP INITIATIVES

The DoD FAP has several efforts underway to enhance the capability of Service-level and installation FAPs to execute prevention activities, develop policies, and sustain programs for both child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse. With the sunset of the 2014-2018 FAP Strategic Plan for Prevention, FAP is working towards the development of guidance to aid the Services in their prevention efforts, with the goal of setting standards for evidence-informed

⁴⁹ 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.

programming and measurable outcomes. As a first step, OSD FAP is undergoing an environmental scan and needs assessment to determine the prevention landscape across each of the Services, and identify gaps and strengths. Findings from this assessment will inform next steps and diagnose how DoD policy or formal guidance would best equip the Services to sustainably and effectively balance prevention and response at installation programs.

To improve and align primary prevention for a continuum of violent, harmful, and abusive acts across the Total Force,⁵⁰ OSD FAP is a member of the OSD Prevention Collaboration Forum (PCF). The PCF is a Secretary of Defense initiative chaired by the Executive Director of the Office of Force Resiliency, and includes as members the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, Defense Suicide Prevention Office, and others. The PCF is actively working to determine how policy can better integrate common approaches to address shared risk and protective factors for domestic and intimate partner abuse, sexual assault and harassment, child abuse and neglect, suicide, and substance use and to develop associated measures to monitor impact.

5-3. 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 Service level that measure and enhance FAP effectiveness. Each section highlights one to two Service-level efforts used to enhance or measure the effectiveness of different aspects of FAP.

Army

Army leadership focused on quality improvement of standardized assessments, support, and treatment services in response to child abuse/neglect and domestic abuse cases. Enterprise-wide experiential training efforts, reaching over 200 clinicians, focused on applying uniform program standards and critical procedures on real-life, real-time cases to improve consistent application of the decision tree algorithm. Additionally, one-on-one coaching ensured better compliance to all program standards and provided mentorship to direct service providers from key subject-matter experts. The Army developed fidelity checklists for the Incident Assessment Review, the Clinical Case Staff Meeting, and the IDC meeting. The experiential training, coaching and mentoring efforts, and fidelity checks used across all installations will have long-lasting effects on the program overall, and serve to ensure validity in service delivery.

The U.S. Army Military Police School (USAMPS) Behavioral Sciences Education and Training Division, which provides Family Advocacy-related training to law enforcement and others, updated their courses on special victims capabilities. Their training and education modules also deliver experiential learning encompassing the behavioral sciences' most current research, and apply industry best-practices and integrated solutions to maintain Army-wide, top-notch law enforcement capabilities. New Army practices include a Strangulation Assessment to aid first

⁵⁰ Primary prevention addresses violence and abuse before it ever occurs, through efforts to increase an individual's protective factors (e.g. strong community supports, economic security) and reduce risk factors (e.g. isolation from community, substance dependence). <https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/levels-prevention>

responders and social service providers, and a Domestic Violence Lethality Protocol for First Responders. USAMPS developed and facilitated multidisciplinary trainings, including Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and established Mobile Training Teams to provide Department of Defense Multi-Disciplinary Team trainings. These efforts advance evidence-based practices in assessment, treatment, and CCR protocols that are shared with and have positive impact across all-Services.

Navy

Mind Body Resilience Training (MBRT)

The Navy establishes and reinforces its priorities to align resources, integrate programs, and collaborate across the full spectrum of behaviors that are counterproductive to the mission. As an organization, the Navy's Fleet and Family Support Program supports Sailors and their families who experience life challenges, some of which precede common problematic behaviors and affect mission readiness. Navy programs address a continuum of unhealthy behaviors to include domestic violence, sexual violence, child maltreatment, and suicidal behavior.

The Navy researched and reviewed several evidence-based Life Skills curricula to cultivate a culture of excellence, professionalize Fleet and Family Support Center Life Skills Educators, and enhance stakeholder instruction. The Navy partnered with the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery to incorporate the MBRT curriculum within the Life Skills Education Program. MBRT focuses on building toughness and maintaining resilience through evidence-supported practices using a 60-90 minute structured curriculum of seven modules: Stress Resilience, Mindfulness, Meditation, Valued Living, Flexible Thinking, Problem Solving, and Communication. Sailors learn to reframe their mindset and view stress as an opportunity for growth. MBRT is a flexible, structured curriculum, designed to suit the command and afford flexibility to accommodate fluctuating operational tempos of expeditionary units as well as the specific mission and objectives of various training commands. The program is currently in a pilot phase and will include ongoing program evaluation to determine its suitability for an enterprise-wide launch throughout the Navy.

Screening Tools

The Navy developed a list of approved tools for use within Counseling, Advocacy, and Prevention programs, non-medical counseling, and Family Advocacy treatment-programs. Clinicians are using the screening tools as an additional resource to initially identify a potential diagnosis, and then confirm the diagnosis through appropriate clinical assessment. The screening tools do not replace clinical judgement. To effectively show the impact of therapeutic efforts, the screening tools may also be used to track changes in reported symptoms.

The utilization and integration of evidenced-based practices in mental health treatment may provide indicators of the effectiveness of treatment programs. One way in which Navy FAP can build evidenced-based practices that meet clinical practice guidelines is to include the use of evidenced-based assessment tools into the standards of practice and within the Navy's case management system. By embedding the assessment tools within the case management system,

clinicians have access to an evidence-based algorithm that supports increased tracking and measurable outcome data.

One Love Escalation Workshop (OLEW)

First introduced in the FY 2018 report, Navy has partnered with the One Love Foundation to provide the OLEW training to 5,606 young Sailors between the ages of 18-24 years old. The workshop focuses on making audiences aware of unhealthy relationship behaviors, providing the tools to identify and intervene in intimate partner violence situations, and increasing awareness of available resources.

The OLEW primary prevention training program promotes a social change model that encourages a culture where relationships are built on respect and equality. The Escalation workshop consists of a 40-minute film about a fictional dating abuse-related homicide of a college student followed by a 45 minute discussion with a trained peer facilitator. Navy has conducted 38 peer facilitator trainings and 2 Master Trainer training sessions, yielding 421 escalation peer facilitators and 68 Master Trainers.

The Navy partnered with Boston University in FY 2018 to evaluate the impact of the One Love prevention program on a sample of Sailors ages 18-24 years old. The results of this small-scale, longitudinal study suggest that exposure to the One Love Foundation Escalation workshop was beneficial for Navy Sailors relative to a number of outcomes of interest, including attitudes related to acting as a bystander, as well as prevention-oriented behavior and bystander behavior related to bullying, harassment victimization, and self-harm by peers.

Marine Corps

In FY 2019, Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) developed logic models for the four components of the Family Advocacy Program: Prevention and Education, Clinical, Victim Advocacy, and NPSP. These logic models include identified measures of performance and effectiveness.

This year, the NPSP initiated data collection on a standardized Baby Boot Camp (BBC) course to determine program effectiveness. The one-day course focuses on providing education to expectant parents on caring for a newborn. Objectives of the course include increasing confidence in parenting skills, increasing understanding of postpartum depression signs and symptoms, and increasing awareness of available resources. The evaluation of BBC is a pilot to determine the feasibility of collecting pre- and post-data via an online platform and to test the survey tool. After initial trials, HQMC updated the survey tool and four installation NPSPs began collecting data in January 2020. Preliminary examination of the data collected in initial trials looks promising with some evidence to suggest that BBC participants have increased parenting confidence and knowledge of parenting resources.

Air Force

Since October of 2011, Air Force FAP providers have utilized Feedback Informed Therapy (FIT) in all clinical sessions for maltreatment and secondary prevention clients. FIT involves the use of two brief 4-question tools. The first is the Outcome Rating Scale (ORS) that the client completes at the start of each session that rates the client's feelings of wellbeing on a scale of 0-10 in four areas: 1) individual wellbeing; 2) at work/school/friends; 3) in personal relationships; and 4) overall, for the past 7 days. The therapist discusses with the client those areas of his or her life where the client indicated signs of distress. At the close of the session, the client completes the Session Rating Scale (SRS) containing four brief questions about how he or she experienced the session on a scale of 0-10: Did the client feel heard and respected? Did the session address what the client wanted to discuss? Is the therapist's approach a good fit for the client? Overall was the session today beneficial for the client?

The intent of the SRS is to give the therapist feedback on how he or she might modify the approach in the next session to better meet the client's needs; thus, immediately upon completion of the SRS, the therapist reviews it and discusses it with the client.

FIT is research-based (evidence-informed), and use of these tools (ORS/SRS) in each session has shown to enhance the therapeutic alliance and decrease the drop-out rate. Decreased drop-out rates are associated with better outcomes. The client's ORS scores are placed on a graph so the client can visually track progress or lack thereof over time. The therapist tracks the SRS scores to ensure the client's needs are being met in therapy and watches for indicators that there is a problem with the therapist-client relationship, which may indicate a need to refer the client to another provider.

Use of FIT with all Air Force FAP clients receiving clinical care is mandatory. Using myoutcomes.com, Air Force FAP tracks the mean scores of clients at the beginning of treatment and at their last treatment session as an outcome measure.

6. PROGRAM & POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Overview of Key Findings

Findings from this report indicate that although the rates of reported child abuse and neglect and met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents are unchanged, the child victimization rate and the rate of child sexual abuse per 1,000 military children decreased. In contrast, findings for domestic abuse are mixed. While the rates for spouse abuse reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 married military couples all decreased, the number of met criteria incidents and the number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse increased. Despite a modest decrease in the proportion of adult sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse in FY 2018, the proportion of met criteria sexual abuse incidents increased in FY 2019, which is representative of an overall trend noted over a 10-year period.

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.

Focus on the Downward Trend in Child Abuse and Neglect

There has been a downward trend in the child victimization rate since FY 2014, and that decline reached statistical significance for the first time in FY 2019. OSD FAP is 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. Phase I of the study was recently completed and informs a more comprehensive Phase II analysis that will employ a longitudinal, retrospective cohort design to model the military family lifecourse and its relationship to child maltreatment events. Survival analyses will be conducted to investigate the contribution of family demographics, family events, military events, and family health to the timing of child maltreatment incidents.⁵¹

OSD FAP examined child sexual abuse as a subset of child abuse and neglect for the first time last year. A downward trend in the rate of child sexual abuse was evident then, although the decrease reached statistical significance for the first time this year. In response to those emerging FY 2018 results, OSD FAP commissioned a rapid research review to examine trends in child sexual abuse within the civilian sector. Findings from that review demonstrate that the downward trend in child sexual abuse observed within military families is consistent with trends observed in the larger civilian sector.⁵²

OSD FAP will continue to conduct internal analyses and engage in research collaborations to further understand contributing factors to the decline in child maltreatment. Collectively these

⁵¹ Survival analyses examine the duration of time until a first incident occurs (in this case child abuse and neglect), and the factors associated with the occurrence of that first incident.

⁵² Military REACH Research and Outreach (2019). *Trends in the Rates of Child Sexual Abuse over the Past Twenty Years in the United States*.

efforts will assist in developing a model of risk and protection that will inform policy and practice approaches to preventing child abuse and neglect, beyond the best practices the Department has already established.

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

Results from this report show an inverse relationship between spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse indicators—spouse abuse indicators decreased in FY 2019, while intimate partner abuse indicators increased. Last year OSD FAP identified an emerging upward trend in both the numbers of reported and met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse. Those trends reached statistical significance this year.

There are a number of potential contributors to these trends, including a societal change in the structure of families, with U.S. marriages on the decline and intimate partner relationships on the rise. Simultaneously, there is a broader societal discourse about sexual harassment and sexual abuse that might encourage victims to disclose such incidents more readily. In FY 2014, there was a relative jump in the number of met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents. This timing corresponded to a change in the manner in which clinicians discussed sexual abuse with potential victims—possibly leading to greater disclosure.⁵³ As such, data from FY 2014 forward may represent a new, more accurate baseline of sexual abuse incidents in military families.

OSD FAP is interested in conducting a deeper analysis on both intimate partner abuse and adult sexual abuse incidents reported to FAP, along with exploring possible drivers of these increased numbers. In addition to those previously discussed, drivers could include enhancements to Service-level programs or increased access to and utilization of FAP services by intimate partners. Through a systematic exploration, OSD FAP will be able to better understand the needs of military families seeking FAP services and target programs and services to support individuals who engage with FAP. The Department remains concerned about any potential uptick in family violence and will continue to monitor these numbers carefully.

Conclusion

DoD is committed to keeping our families safe and healthy, 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.

⁵³ See Appendix B of the *Department of Defense Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2017* for a robust examination of trends in sexual abuse, including a discussion on programmatic changes.