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

Report on Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse in the Military for Fiscal Year 2024

October 2025

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Table of Contents

List of Figures 3
List of Tables 6
List of Acronyms 7
Executive Summary 8
1. INTRODUCTION 19
2. BACKGROUND 20
3. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT 25
    3-1. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT INCIDENTS 27
    3-2. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT VICTIM PROFILE 33
    3-3. COMPARISON TO U.S. CIVILIAN DATA 38
    3-4. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ABUSER PROFILE 40
    3-5. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE 47
    3-6. CHILD ABUSE FATALITIES 51
4. DOMESTIC ABUSE 53
    4-1. DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS 54
    4-2. DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIM PROFILE 57
    4-3. DOMESTIC ABUSE ABUSER PROFILE 60
    4-4. SPOUSE ABUSE INCIDENTS 62
    4-5. SPOUSE ABUSE VICTIM PROFILE 69
    4-6. SPOUSE ABUSER PROFILE 71
    4-7. INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE INCIDENTS 77
    4-8. INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE VICTIM PROFILE 82
    4-9. INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSER PROFILE 84
    4-10. ADULT SEXUAL ABUSE 87
    4-11. DOMESTIC ABUSE FATALITIES 92
5. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM 93
    5-1. FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM METRICS 93
    5-2. DOD-WIDE INITIATIVES 96
    5-3. MILITARY SERVICE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 102
6. PROGRAM AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS 108

List of Figures

Figure 1. Child Abuse and Neglect Reports by Type (FY 2024) 28
Figure 2. Child Abuse and Neglect Reports vs. Met Criteria Incidents Rates per 1,000 Children (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 29
Figure 3. Met Criteria Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect by Type (FY 2024) 30
Figure 4. Met Criteria Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect by Type (FY 2015 - FY 2024)..... 31
Figure 5. Proportion of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents that Met Criteria by Type (FY 2024) 32
Figure 6. Unique Child Victim Rate per 1,000 Children in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 34
Figure 7. Sex of Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Abuse Type (FY 2024) 35
Figure 8. Ages of Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2024) 36
Figure 9. Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Age Group, Compared to Demographics (FY 2024)..... 37
Figure 10. Military Met Criteria Rate vs. U.S. Civilian Substantiation Rate for Child Abuse (FY 2015-FY 2024) 38
Figure 11. Military Child Victimization Rate vs. U.S. Civilian Child Victimization Rate per 1,000 Children (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 39
Figure 12. Caregiver Status of Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2024) 40
Figure 13. Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2015-FY 2024) 41
Figure 14. Paygrade Distribution of Service Member Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2024) 42
Figure 15. Proportion of Active Duty Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents by Paygrade, Compared to Demographics (FY 2024) 43
Figure 16. Rate of Active Duty Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents per 1,000 by Paygrade (FY 2024) 44
Figure 17. Sex of Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Abuse Type (FY 2024) 45
Figure 18. Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024) 46
Figure 19. Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024) 48
Figure 20. Caregiver Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 49
Figure 21. Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024) 50
Figure 22. Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities Reported to FAP in FY 2024 51
Figure 23. Number of Domestic Abuse Reports vs. Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 54
Figure 24. Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Type (FY 2024) 55
Figure 25. Proportion of Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Victim and Abuser Sex (FY 2024) 56

Figure 26. Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Military Status and Sex (FY 2024) 57
Figure 27. Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024) 58
Figure 28. Paygrade Distribution of Service Member Victims in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 59
Figure 29. Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Military Status and Sex (FY 2024) 60
Figure 30. Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024) 61
Figure 31. Spouse Abuse Reports by Type (FY 2024) 64
Figure 32. Spouse Abuse Reports vs. Met Criteria Incident Rates per 1,000 Married Couples (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 65
Figure 33. Proportion of Reported Spouse Abuse Incidents that Met Criteria by Type (FY 2024) 66
Figure 34. Rate of Unique Spouse Abuse Victims per 1,000 Married Couples (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 68
Figure 35. Military Status of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 69
Figure 36. Sex of Victims in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 70
Figure 37. Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 71
Figure 38. Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2015-FY 2024) 72
Figure 39. Paygrade Distribution of Military Spouse Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 73
Figure 40. Sex of Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 74
Figure 41. Sex of Service Member Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 75
Figure 42. Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents by Sex and Military Status (FY 2024) 76
Figure 43. Intimate Partner Abuse Reports by Type (FY 2024) 79
Figure 44. Number of Intimate Partner Abuse Reports vs. Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 80
Figure 45. Proportion of Reported Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents that Met Criteria by Abuse Type (FY 2024) 81
Figure 46. Military Status of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 82
Figure 47. Sex of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 83
Figure 48. Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 84
Figure 49. Paygrade Distribution of Service Member Intimate Partner Abusers in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 85
Figure 50. Sex of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)86
Figure 51. Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024) 88
Figure 52. Status of Unique Victims and Abusers in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents

(FY 2024) 89
Figure 53. Sex and Status of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2024) 90
Figure 54. Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024) 91
Figure 55. Domestic Abuse Fatalities Reported to FAP in FY 2024 92

List of Tables

Table 1: Reports and Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect (FY 2015-FY 2024) 27
Table 2: Unique Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect (FY 2015-FY 2024) 33
Table 3: Incidents of Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 47
Table 4: Reports and Incidents of Spouse Abuse (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 63
Table 5: Unique Victims of Spouse Abuse (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 67
Table 6: Reports and Incidents of Intimate Partner Abuse (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 78
Table 7: Incidents of Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse (FY 2015 - FY 2024) 87
Table 8: Success of the NPSP (FY 2024) 94
Table 9: Success of Domestic Abuser Treatment (FY 2024) 95

List of Acronyms

CAC – Child Advocacy Centers
CAM – Century Anger Management
CATCH – Catch a Serial Offender
CCR – Coordinated Community Response
CCSM – Clinical Case Staff Meeting
CRB – Central Registry Board
CI – Confidence Interval
CNIC – Commander, Navy Installations Command
DAF – Department of the Air Force
DAVA – Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate
DMDC – Defense Manpower Data Center
DoD – Department of Defense
DoDI – Department of Defense Instruction
DoDM – Department of Defense Manual
FAP – Family Advocacy Program
FAST – Family Advocacy Staff Training
FTE – Full Time Equivalent
FY – Fiscal Year
GAO – Government Accountability Office
HV – Home Visitor
IDC – Incident Determination Committee
FAP ISS – Family Advocacy Program Incident Severity Scale
IPPI-RAT-M – Intimate Partner Physical Injury Risk Assessment Tool - Monitoring
JKO – Joint Knowledge Online
KSU – Kansas State University
MCA – Military Community Advocacy
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
NCA – National Children's Alliance
NDAA – National Defense Authorization Act
NOVA – National Organization of Victim Advocates
NPSP – New Parent Support Program
OMB – Office of Management and Budget
OSD – Office of the Secretary of Defense
PSU – Penn State University
QA – Quality Assurance
SAPR – Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
USMC – United States Marine Corps
VA – Victim Advocate

Executive Summary

For more than 42 years, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Family Advocacy Program (FAP) has worked to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect, as well as domestic abuse in military families. This report provides incident data for child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse from the FAP Central Registry for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, as required by section 574 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2017 (Public Law 114–328), "Requirement for Annual Family Advocacy Program Report Regarding Child Abuse and Domestic Violence," as amended by section 549 of the NDAA for FY 2022 (Public Law 117–81), "Activities to Improve Family Violence Prevention and Response." Incident data on specific types of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse is also elaborated on, including child sexual abuse as a subtype of child abuse and neglect, and spouse abuse, intimate partner abuse, and adult sexual abuse as subtypes of domestic abuse. In addition to meeting the Congressional requirement, this report provides critical information to inform ongoing prevention and response efforts. Using aggregated FAP Central Registry data submitted from each Military Service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force),[1] this report offers a Department of Defense (DoD)-wide assessment of the child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse incidents reported to FAP that either met or did not meet criteria for the DoD definition of abuse in FY 2024.

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.[2] The data contained within this report represent incidents of child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse reported to FAP that either met or did not meet criteria in FY 2024. This data does not constitute estimates of the total occurrences of child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse within military families during the past fiscal year.

Married Military Couple Population Estimation Due to Missing Data

This report uses the married military couple population to calculate the rates of spouse abuse presented in Section 4. Married military couples are comprised of joint (or dual) military marriages and civilian marriages. The Military Services provide their respective marriage counts to DMDC monthly. For the majority of FY 2024, one of the Military Services inaccurately reported zero joint military marriages to DMDC.[3] To account for the missing reports of joint military marriages, OSD FAP used statistical analyses to estimate the number of joint military marriages DoD-wide for calculating rates of spouse abuse in this report. All rates of spouse abuse contained within this report are based on the estimated FY 2024 married population count.[4]

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[1] In FY 2024, Space Force data were reported within Air Force data.

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

[3] Army did not report joint military marriages in FY 2023 or FY 2024.

[4] The estimated married military couple population used in this report is 585,470.

Key Findings

Overall

- There were minimal variations in the rates of child abuse and neglect reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims[5] per 1,000 military children in FY 2024 in comparison to FY 2023. Following several years of year-over-year increases, the rate of child abuse and neglect reports decreased slightly in FY 2024 (13.5/1,000 military children) from FY 2023 (14.3/1,000 military children). Similarly, the rate of met criteria incidents decreased (6.5) marginally compared to FY 2023 (7.0). The rate of unique victims per 1,000 military children also slightly decreased in FY 2024 (4.8) compared to FY 2023 (5.1). Despite these modest declines, the rates of child abuse and neglect reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 military children did not vary significantly when compared to their respective 10-year averages.[6]
- In FY 2024, there was a statistically significant decrease in the number of reports of domestic abuse when compared to the 10-year average. The number of met criteria incidents of domestic abuse did not vary when compared to the 10-year average.
- There were statistically significant decreases in the rates of spouse abuse reports, met criteria incidents, and victims per 1,000 military married couples[7] in FY 2024 when compared to their respective 10-year averages.
- There were statistically significant increases in the number of reports, number of met criteria incidents, and number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse in FY 2024 when compared to their respective 10-year averages.
- The proportion of adult sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse in FY 2024 (6.2 percent) decreased from FY 2023 (6.6 percent) but represented a statistically significant increase when compared to the 10-year average.

Child Abuse and Neglect

- In FY 2024, there were 11,040 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect to FAP. The FY 2024 rate of reported child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children was 13.5, which is a 5.5 percent decrease when compared to the FY 2023 report rate (14.3). Despite the decrease, the rate did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average.
- Neglect accounted for the largest proportion of reports of child abuse in FY 2024 (51.0 percent), followed by physical abuse (29.3 percent), emotional abuse (16.2 percent), and sexual

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

[6] 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.

[7] Due to missing joint Service marriage data at DMDC for one Military Service, we estimated the FY 2024 population of married couples using DoD-wide marriage data from FY 2019-FY 2023. All rates of spouse abuse contained within this report are based on the estimated FY 2024 married population count.

abuse (3.5 percent).

- Overall, 48 percent (5,336 incidents total) of reported incidents of child abuse and neglect were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse in FY 2024. The FY 2024 rate of incidents that met criteria per 1,000 children was 6.5, which is slightly lower than the rate in FY 2023 (7.0). The rate of met criteria incidents in FY 2024 did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average, though the met criteria rate varied by abuse type, ranging from 38 percent of reports of physical abuse that met criteria to 60 percent of reports of sexual abuse that met criteria.
- In FY 2024, neglect accounted for the largest proportion of met criteria incidents (57.4 percent). Physical abuse (22.8 percent) accounted for the next largest proportion of met criteria incidents, followed by emotional abuse (15.5 percent) and sexual abuse (4.3 percent).
- The FY 2024 child abuse and neglect victim rate of 4.8 per 1,000 children, which is a 5.9 percent decrease from the FY 2023 rate (5.1). The child victimization rate did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average.
- In FY 2024, 52 percent of victims in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect were male, and 48 percent were female. However, the sex of victims varied by abuse type, with males more represented in physical abuse and neglect while females were more represented in emotional and sexual abuse. Additionally, more than half (56.8 percent) of victims in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents were age 5 or younger.
- Civilian data compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services indicate that the U.S. civilian substantiation (similar to met criteria) rate for reported cases of child abuse and neglect was 15.8 percent in FY 2023.[8] The military met criteria rate for reported incidents was 48.3 percent in FY 2024. Although both rates have fluctuated individually, the military met criteria rate has been well above the civilian substantiation rate consistently over the past decade.[9]
- The DoD unique child victim rate for FY 2024 was 4.8 victims per 1,000 military children (lower than the FY 2023 rate of 5.1), and the civilian child victim rate for FY 2023 was 7.4 per 1,000 children (lower than FY 2022 rate of 7.6).[10] Although both the military and civilian child victimization rates have fluctuated over time, the military child victimization rate has consistently been lower than the civilian rate over the past decade.[11]
- In reports that met the DoD criteria for child abuse, the abuser may have been a Service member,[12] a civilian family member, or (in child abuse or neglect incidents) a caregiver outside the family. In more than 90 percent of the met criteria child abuse or neglect incidents, the abuser was a Service member parent or civilian parent.

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[8] U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2024). *Child Maltreatment 2023*. Available from: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment.

[9] *Child Maltreatment 2014* through *2022* reports, inclusive.

[10] *Child Maltreatment 2023*.

[11] *Child Maltreatment 2014* through *2022*, inclusive.

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

- Most Service member parent abusers were junior enlisted personnel; 67 percent were E-4 through E-6, and 13 percent were E-1 through E-3.
- In FY 2024, 56 percent of the met criteria child abuse and neglect abusers were male while 44 percent were female. There is tremendous variation in the sex of abusers by abuse type, with males more represented in physical and emotional abuse, and vastly more represented in sexual abuse, while females were more represented in neglect. However, the overall ratio of male to female met criteria abusers has been relatively consistent over time.
- The majority of abusers in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect in FY 2024 were ages 25 – 44, with 46.5 percent of abusers ages 25 – 34 and 25.5 percent of abusers ages 35 – 44.
- There were 19 child abuse-related fatalities, involving 23 abusers, presented to the Incident Determination Committee (IDC) and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2024. These are not necessarily fatalities that occurred in FY 2024, as it can often take years to investigate and adjudicate cases involving fatalities. The child fatality victims were young in age, with 57.9 percent one year of age or younger and 31.6 percent of between the ages of two and five years old. Among the abusers, the sex of one was unknown, 14 were male, and eight were female. Twelve met criteria abusers were Service members and 11 were civilians associated with the child abuse-related fatalities.

Child Sexual Abuse

- For the seventh time in this annual report series, FAP examined child sexual abuse as a subset of child abuse. Data on these incidents of child sexual abuse are included in the *FY 2024 DoD Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military* as Appendix H. In FY 2024, there were 217 unique victims of child sexual abuse. These victims experienced a total of 230 met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse, indicating that one or more victims experienced more than one incident of sexual abuse.
- Child sexual abuse incidents accounted for 4.3 percent of all met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents. Although the FY 2024 rate of child sexual abuse incidents per 1,000 military children (0.280) decreased by 2.8 percent from the FY 2023 rate (0.288), the rate did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year period.
- In FY 2024, 90.3 percent of victims in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents were female, and 9.7 percent were male. More than half (58.5 percent) of victims were between the ages 11 – 17.
- Approximately 64.5 percent of abusers in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents were Service members, and 95 percent were male in FY 2024. Service member parents and civilian parents represented approximately 69 percent of abusers in these incidents.

Domestic Abuse

- Domestic abuse encompasses both spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse. In addition to data on domestic abuse, this section provides high-level incident data on both spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse, as well as data on sexual, physical, and emotional abuse, and neglect.
- In FY 2024, there were 14,799 reports of domestic abuse, of which 8,076 incidents met criteria.

Those met criteria domestic abuse incidents involved 6,321 unique victims. The number of reports represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average. However, the number of met criteria incidents did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average.

- In FY 2024, physical abuse accounted for 68.2 percent of domestic abuse met criteria incidents and emotional abuse accounted for a little more than one quarter (25.6 percent), though fewer incidents involved sexual abuse (6.2 percent) and neglect (0.1 percent).
- In 67 percent of met criteria domestic abuse incidents, the victim was female and the abuser was male. In 28 percent of incidents, the victim was male and the abuser was female. Three percent of incidents involved a female victim and abuser, and 2 percent of incidents involved a male victim and abuser.
- When examining unique victims by sex, 67 percent were female and 33 percent were male. When examining unique victims by military status, 55 percent were Service members and 45 percent were civilians. Most domestic abuse victims were age 34 or younger (58.6 percent).
- Most Service member victims in met criteria incidents of domestic abuse were junior enlisted members. Paygrades E-4 through E-6 had the highest percentage of Service member victims (65 percent), followed by paygrades E-1 through E-3 (22 percent).

Spouse Abuse

- The spouse abuse data in this report represent only those incidents involving individuals married at the time of abuse, where either the victim or the abuser was a Service member.
- Due to missing joint Service marriage data at DMDC for one Military Service, we estimated the FY 2024 population of married couples using DoD-wide marriage data from FY 2019 to FY 2023. All rates of spouse abuse in this report are based on the estimated FY 2024 married population count.
- In FY 2024, there were 11,331 reports of spouse abuse to FAP. The FY 2024 rate of spouse abuse reports per 1,000 married military couples was 19.4, a 2.0 percent decrease when compared to the FY 2023 report rate (19.8). The FY 2024 rate represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average.
- Physical abuse accounted for the largest proportion of reports of spouse abuse in FY 2024 (66.9 percent), followed by emotional abuse (27.6 percent) and sexual abuse (5.2 percent). Neglect accounted for less than one percent of reports (0.3 percent).
- Overall, 54 percent (6,078 incidents total) of reported incidents of spouse abuse were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse in FY 2024. The FY 2024 rate of met criteria spouse abuse incidents per 1,000 military couples was 10.4, which is a slight decrease when compared to the FY 2023 rate (10.5). The FY 2024 rate represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average.
- There was a slight variation in the met criteria rate for emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse reports, ranging from 52 percent of reported emotional abuse that met criteria to 55 percent of reported physical abuse that met criteria. Only 15 percent of reports of neglect met criteria. However, it is important to note that neglect accounted for less than one percent

of all reports of spouse abuse.

- The FY 2024 spouse abuse victim rate per 1,000 military couples was 8.2, which is a slight decrease from the FY 2023 rate (8.3). The FY 2024 victim rate represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average 10-year rate.
- In FY 2024, there was about an even split between Service member and civilian spouse victims, as 51.5 percent of victims in met criteria spouse abuse incidents were Service members, while 48.5 percent were civilian spouses. Of victims in met criteria spouse abuse incidents, 69 percent were female, while 31 percent of victims were male.
- Females comprised a larger proportion of victims than males for all types of abuse: 94 percent of spouse abuse victims who experienced sexual abuse; 74 percent of victims of emotional abuse; and 65 percent of victims of physical abuse. Although 100 percent of victims of neglect were female, it is important to note that neglect accounted for less than 0.1 percent of all met criteria spouse abuse incidents.
- In FY 2024, 60.9 percent of all abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents were Service members, and 69.0 percent were male.
- Paygrades E-4 through E-6 had the highest percentage of Service member abusers in met criteria incidents (62 percent), followed by paygrades E-1 through E-3 (23 percent).
- There were four spouse abuse fatalities presented to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2024.

Intimate Partner Abuse

- In FY 2006, an additional category, "intimate partner" was added to capture incidents involving: 1) a former spouse; 2) a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; or 3) a current or former intimate partner with whom the victim shares or has shared a common domicile. This definition was expanded in FY 2022 to include those in dating relationships.[13] In intimate partner abuse, either the victim or the abuser was a Service member.
- In FY 2024, there were 3,468 reports of intimate partner abuse. Physical abuse accounted for the largest proportion of reports of intimate partner abuse in FY 2024 (67.1 percent), followed by emotional abuse (23.5 percent), and sexual abuse (9.4 percent). Consistent with policy,[14] there were no reports of intimate partner neglect in FY 2024.
- Overall, 58 percent of reported incidents of intimate partner abuse were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse. There were 1,998 incidents of intimate partner abuse that met

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

[14] DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

criteria in FY 2024, involving 1,564 unique victims. The met criteria rate varied slightly among the three reported abuse types.

- There were statistically significant increases in the number of reports of intimate partner abuse, the number of met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents, and the number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse, when compared to their respective 10-year averages. A rate per 1,000 of intimate partner abuse incidents and/or victims cannot be established, as data on unmarried individuals involved in intimate partner relationships as defined by the DoD are not available.
- From FY 2023 to FY 2024, both the number of reports of intimate partner abuse and the number of met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse experienced year-over-year increases (4.0 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively).
- In FY 2024, 67.8 percent of victims in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents were Service members, and 71.2 percent were female.
- In FY 2024, 71.3 percent of all abusers in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents were Service members, and 68.4 percent were male.
- There were three intimate partner abuse fatalities presented to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2024.

Adult Sexual Abuse[15]

- In FY 2024, there were 464 unique victims of adult sexual abuse, including both spouses and unmarried intimate partners. Data on these incidents of adult sexual abuse are included in the *FY 2024 DoD Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military* as Appendix G, and are referred to as Domestic Abuse-Related Sexual Assault.
- In FY 2024, there were a total of 497 met criteria incidents of adult sexual abuse, indicating that one or more victims experienced more than one incident of sexual abuse.
- Adult sexual abuse incidents accounted for 6.2 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 2024, 93.5 percent of unique victims in met criteria sexual abuse incidents were female, while 6.5 percent were male. Among these unique victims, 46.8 percent were family members, 36.6 percent were Service members, and the remaining 16.6 percent were non-beneficiaries, DoD civilians, non-DoD civilians, retired Service members, or Government contractors.
- Examining the intersection of sex and status of unique victims of adult sexual abuse, 46.3 percent of victims were female family members, and 30.6 percent were female Service members.
- In FY 2024, approximately 84.6 percent of unique abusers in met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents were Service members, and 93.8 percent were male.

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

DoD and Military Department Effectiveness

Each Military Department's FAP program delivers clinical interventions to individuals involved in met criteria domestic abuse incidents based on a clinical assessment, targeted directly to address the specific concerns of each abuser. By collecting data on the recidivism of spouses and intimate partner abusers who received FAP clinical treatment services, OSD FAP can evaluate the effectiveness of these services in preventing future incidents of domestic abuse within a short-term period (12 months). To measure success, the total DoD rate of spouses and intimate partners with no subsequent abuse incidents following FAP intervention must be 75 percent or higher. In FY 2024, 95.6 percent of 2,225 abusive spouses and intimate partners did not have a report of a met criteria domestic abuse incident following participation in FAP services. This rate exceeds the established target rate of 75 percent.

DoD and Military Department Program Initiatives

The DoD is dedicated to preventing and addressing child abuse, neglect, and domestic abuse in military families. Through a comprehensive approach involving policies, programs, and partnerships, FAP aims to strengthen protective factors and reduce risks among individuals and families across the Military Services. Presented below are various initiatives undertaken by the DoD and Military Departments over recent years to advance prevention and response efforts concerning child abuse, neglect, and domestic abuse.

The Department established the New Parent Support Program (NPSP), a selected primary prevention program for child abuse and neglect, which offers intensive home visiting services on a voluntary basis to expectant parents and parents with young children (ages 0 - 5 years in Marine Corps; ages 0 - 3 in the other Military Services) who display indicators of being at risk for engaging in harmful, or potentially abusive or neglectful parenting practices. A total of 1,216 families across the Military Services met the metric criteria and received NPSP services within the required timeframe. Of those families, 1,201 did not have a subsequent met criteria incident for child abuse within 12 months after the conclusion of NPSP services, resulting in a success rate of 98.8 percent. This rate exceeds the established target rate of 85 percent, demonstrating the significant effectiveness of the NPSP in preventing future incidents of abuse in the 12 months following participation.

The Department established the Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee (SPRIRC) in March 2022. In September 2023, DoD announced new actions to prevent suicide in the military. One of the actions or recommendations was to "Transition Military Community Advocacy to the Office of Force Resiliency" to better integrate DoD-wide prevention efforts. In 2024, the Directorate for Military Community Advocacy realigned FAP-related functions under the Office of Force Resiliency (OFR) to advance coordinated prevention and response efforts across the Department. This effort also supports a broader goal of eliminating silos in programs that share risk and protective factors that can be targeted in integrated primary prevention efforts.

The DoD utilizes a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) model to address reports of domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect. In 2023, the Department formally established a dedicated Coordinated Community Response office to enhance interagency coordination, improve victim safety, and hold abusers accountable. The OSD CCR, in coordination with the Military Departments, is piloting a new CCR model at four Service installations. The pilot sites will

identify how incidents of domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect are currently navigated through the system, the transfer of information, and how risk and safety are identified, communicated, and coordinated across entities of the CCR.

In 2024, the Department partnered with the National Children's Alliance (NCA) to support Service-level MOUs between Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Military Service FAPs for coordinated response to child abuse and neglect and problematic sexual behavior among children and youth. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report 20-110, Child Welfare: Increased Guidance and Collaboration Needed to Improve DoD's Tracking and Response to Child Abuse, recommended that all Military Services seek to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NCA. This MOU aims to provide access to CAC services at all military installations, thereby increasing awareness of these services across the Military Departments. The formalization of these MOUs expands access to CAC services for military families nationwide, across hundreds of CACs and more than 200 military installations, with coverage and processes finalized through Service- and locality-specific agreements.

Section 576 of the NDAA for FY 2004 (Public Law 108-136) mandates that the Department review all fatalities known or suspected to be related to domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect. Specifically, this provision directs the Military Departments to conduct multidisciplinary, impartial reviews of each fatality known or suspected to have resulted from domestic violence or child abuse. The OSD CCR team, in coordination with FAP and the Military Services, is modernizing the way in which the Department reviews fatalities that are known to be related or suspected to be related to domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect.

The Department made significant updates to training related to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse to ensure that leaders and personnel are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to address abuse within relationship and families. Military OneSource's MilLife Learning platform updated and published the "Intimate Partner Physical Injury Risk Assessment Tool" (IPPI-RAT) training on December 29, 2023. The IPPI-RAT is an evidence-based tool used to predict the risk of domestic/intimate partner violence (IPV) with physical injury among individuals who have experienced an allegation of IPV. The utilization of the tool is required by DoDI 6400.06 to evaluate the risk of physical injury to all victims referred to the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) for any domestic abuse incident.

Military OneSource's MilLife Learning and OSD FAP also completed the annual review of the training, "How to Help Your Customer: Preventing and Responding to Child and Domestic Abuse" and launched the revised version on May 23, 2024. The training targets service providers, both paid and volunteer, operating on and off installations, who support Service members and their families. It offers overview of FAP, its services, the role of the Coordinated Community Response (CCR), and equips service providers with skills to promote safety and awareness regarding child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse. The training title was changed from "FAP for Service Providers" to "How to Help Your Customer: Preventing and Responding to Child and Domestic Abuse." This intentional change more accurately describes the course content, which includes how the customer service provider can recognize signs of child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse and select appropriate communication methods to safely provide FAP-related resources.

In FY 2024, the Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates (DAVA) Locator was updated to improve access for individuals experiencing abuse in their intimate relationships by allowing users to search

for DAVAs at specific military installations on Military OneSource. This enhancement assists those facing abuse and serves community professionals who seek support from military providers for clients connected to the military.

OSD FAP and Penn State University (PSU) Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness created a standardized tool for installation FAP staff across the DoD to use to ensure all elements required per DoD Manual 6400.01 Volume 3 are included in the Clinical Case Staff Meeting (CCSM) presentations involving reports of domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect. A CCSM is an installation FAP meeting of clinical service providers to assist the coordinated delivery of supportive services, counseling, and clinical treatment.

MCA was invited to participate in the Defense Suicide Prevention Office's (DSPO) initiative to engage with key stakeholders and develop a comprehensive repository of Department suicide prevention initiatives. This effort aims to ensure alignment with the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention Calls to Action and to meet recommendations from the SPRIRC Report of 2022. In February 2024, MCA participated in interviews to verify the information and data collected by DSPO on the suicide prevention efforts that FAP engages in and add insights not captured during the initial collection phase.

The GAO final report 23-105381, *Unwanted Sexual Behavior: Improved Guidance, Access to Care, and Training Needed to Better Address Victims' Behavioral Health Needs,* was released on August 2, 2023. The report examines the mental health of Service members in relation to experiences with unwanted sexual behavior—including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic sexual abuse—during military service. GAO-23-105381 included 13 recommendations, notably how best to facilitate Service members' access to care related to such experiences at any VA facility. Although the incorporation of the VA MST link was not included as a GAO recommendation and is not a requirement, MCA proactively saw it as an opportunity to increase awareness for service members who have been impacted by unwanted sexual behavior and who may be struggling with resulting trauma. In July 2024, Military OneSource added the VA MST link to approximately 60 webpages, products, and toolkits housed on their website to increase visibility and accessibility of this important resource for Service members who may have been affected by sexual harassment, sexual assault, or domestic sexual abuse during their military service.

Program and Policy Implications

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

There were slight decreases in the rates of child abuse and neglect and child sexual abuse reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 military children in FY 2024 in comparison to FY 2023. Despite the downward trend, the rates of child abuse and neglect and sexual abuse reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 military children did not vary significantly when compared to their respective 10-year averages.

Domestic abuse findings in this report continue to be mixed—with differing patterns in domestic

abuse overall and spouse abuse in comparison to intimate partner abuse. Following year-over-year increases in the number of domestic abuse reports and the number of met criteria domestic abuse incidents in FY 2021 and FY 2022, both measures saw a decline in FY 2023 and again in FY 2024. The FY 2024 number of domestic abuse reports varied significantly when compared with the 10-year average, however the number of met criteria domestic abuse incidents did not.

The rates for spouse abuse reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 married military couples experienced year-over-year decreases in FY 2024. These decreases were statistically significant when compared to their respective 10-year averages. Conversely, the number of reports and number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse increased, while the met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse slightly decreased. Despite this decrease, the number of met criteria incident of intimate partner violence in FY 2024 represented a statistically significant increase when compared to the 10-year average. These statistically significant increases are likely due, in part, to the FY 2022 expansion of the definition of intimate partner and the resulting expansion of service delivery. However, there has been an upward trend in intimate partner abuse since FY 2017. The proportion of met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents decreased in FY 2024, breaking a five-year trend of year-over-year increases.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

For more than 43 years, OSD FAP has worked to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse in military families. Abuse is incompatible with military values and ultimately impacts mission readiness. The Department is dedicated to addressing all forms of family violence to ensure the health and safety of military families.

This report summarizes the FY 2024 child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse incident data from the DoD FAP Central Registry, as required by section 574 of the NDAA for FY 2017 (Public Law 114–328), as amended by section 549 of the NDAA for FY 2022 (Public Law 117–81), including the requirement to provide an annual report on Family Advocacy Program (FAP) staffing levels. In addition to meeting the Congressional requirement, this report also provides critical aggregate information on the demographics and characteristics of these incidents to further inform ongoing prevention and intervention efforts. Using aggregated FAP Central Registry data submitted from the Military Services (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force),[16] this report offers a DoD-wide picture of the child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse incidents reported to FAP for which a determination[17] was made in FY 2024 (October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024).

Subsequent report sections include a brief description of FAP, Congressional reporting requirements for child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse incidents, and a review of the findings from an analysis of the FY 2024 FAP Central Registry and FAP staffing tool data. The report concludes with an analysis of the effectiveness of FAP in reducing spouse and intimate partner abuse recidivism, an overview of DoD and Military Department Program Initiatives, and a discussion of potential implications for current and future policy and program initiatives. Note that the use of the word "significant" throughout this report is not a reference or comment on the level of importance, but rather analytical and statistical thresholds for comparing values to their respective 10-year averages.

[16] In FY 2024, Space Force data were reported within Air Force data.

[17] Using specific criteria contained in DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended, the Incident Determination Committee (IDC) is responsible for determining whether a reported case of child abuse and neglect and/or domestic abuse meet DoD definitions of abuse and should, therefore, be entry into the FAP Central Registry.

2. BACKGROUND

FAP is a Congressionally mandated DoD program designed to be the policy proponent for a key element of the DoD's CCR[18] for preventing and responding to reports of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse in military families. The Military Service FAPs, present at every military installation where families reside, work closely with the other entities within the CCR, as well as with civilian social services agencies and civilian law enforcement, to provide comprehensive prevention and response to family abuse enforcement.

The FAP mission is to provide comprehensive prevention, advocacy, early identification, treatment of abusers, treatment for domestic abuse victims, and intensive home visitation for expecting and new parents. To execute this mission, the DoD funds more than 2,000 positions to deliver FAP services, including credentialed/licensed clinical providers, DAVAs, New Parent Support Home Visitors, and prevention staff. FAP staff are mandated reporters to state child welfare service agencies for all allegations of child abuse and neglect, and they are considered "covered professionals" under 34 U.S.C. § 20341. DoD policy[19] also requires the Military Service FAPs to report incidents of child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse to OSD through the DoD FAP Central Registry.

Once a report of child abuse or neglect, or domestic abuse is received by FAP, it is taken to the IDC to determine whether the incident meets criteria for abuse, as defined by the DoD.[20] The IDC uses a standardized research-based decision tree algorithm to determine which reports for suspected child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse meet the DoD definitions of abuse, thereby requiring entry into the Military Service FAP Central Registry of child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse incidents. The IDC is comprised of the deputy to the installation or garrison commander who serves as the chair, the senior enlisted noncommissioned officer advisor to the chair, a representative from the Service member's chain of command, a representative from the Staff Judge Advocate's office, a representative from military law enforcement, and the FAP manager or FAP supervisor of clinical services. In accordance with section 549B of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry NDAA for FY 2021 (Public Law 116–283), voting membership of the IDC has been expanded to include medical personnel. Additional members, as appropriate, may participate and vote per policy. A case is presented to the IDC, followed by the members voting to determine whether the incident meets the criteria for an act or failure to act, and a resulting impact or reasonable potential for impact.[21] The IDC is not a disciplinary proceeding in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice; rather it is a process to determine whether an incident meets the DoD definition of abuse. In this report, data on incidents of child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse that met criteria are referred to as "met criteria incidents."

The DoD review of child abuse and domestic abuse-related fatalities is required by policy,[22] directing the Secretaries of the Military Departments to conduct a multidisciplinary, impartial review of each fatality known or suspected to have resulted from child or domestic abuse. Each

[18] 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.

[19] DoDM 6400.01, Volume 2, August 11, 2016.

[20] DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

[21] DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

[22] DoDI 6400.06, December 15, 2021, as amended.

Military Department has its own team and conducts its own internal review annually. To avoid interference with ongoing investigations and prosecutions, fatalities are reviewed by the Military Departments retrospectively, generally two years after their occurrence or in the first year that the disposition becomes closed. This delay ensures that the review can consider all available information. DoD convenes an annual Fatality Review Summit to discuss the findings of the reviews held in the previous year at the Military Department level; essentially, the DoD Fatality Review Summit examines deaths 3 years after the occurrence. The purpose of the DoD Fatality Review Summit is to conduct deliberative examinations of any interventions provided to the deceased or their family, to formulate lessons learned from agency or system failures, to identify trends and patterns to assist in prevention efforts across the Department, and to develop policy for earlier and more effective intervention.

Central Registry

The FAP Central Registry is designed to capture reliable and consistent information on child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse incidents reported to FAP from each of the Military Services. Supporting policy is contained in Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 6400.01, Volume 2, "Family Advocacy Program: Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse Incident Reporting System," August 11, 2016, which directs Military Service FAPs to track incidents of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse that meet criteria for abuse. Each Military Service maintains a comprehensive clinical case management system,[23] which includes the required data elements extracted and submitted quarterly to DMDC. Per DoD policy,[24] DMDC operates the DoD FAP Central Registry and provides OSD FAP with aggregate data, which are the basis of this report.

The DoD FAP Central Registry contains information on: (1) reports of abuse that did not meet criteria for child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse, in which identifiable individual information is not tracked; and (2) information on reports of abuse that meet objective, standardized criteria and are linked to identifiable Service members, their family members, and the abuser. Specifically, the Military Services are generally required to enter every new reported incident of abuse into the DoD FAP Central Registry, including the submission of information on 46 data elements for met criteria incidents, delineated in DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 2, 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[25];
- Type of abuse, 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. Data on restricted reports is collected, PII identifiers removed, and unique information on each report is stored in a separate data base to support understanding of aggregate data for each Military Service. This exclusion pertains only to restricted reports of domestic abuse; there is no restricted reporting option for child abuse, and child abuse allegations reported to FAP are handled as unrestricted and may be presented to the IDC as appropriate.

Data from the DoD Central Registry is broadly used to assist in overall management by the OSD FAP program to inform prevention and intervention initiatives across the DoD as well as determine budget and program funding. Central Registry data also supports the identification of research needs, preparation of reports to Congress, response to public or other Governmental inquiries, and formulation of ad hoc reports relating to the volume and nature of family violence cases handled by the Military Services. 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

[23] In FY 2024, Space Force data were reported within Air Force data.

[24] DoDM 6400.01, Volume 2, August 11, 2016.

[25] All personally identifiable information (PII) entered in the Central Registry is excluded from the analyses in this report.

organizations that involve contact with minor children as well in accordance with DoD policy.[26]

Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

As noted, this report relies on Central Registry data extracted by each Military Service and submitted to DMDC for compilation for FY 2024 (October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024).[27] DMDC performs initial quality assurance checks, aggregates these data, and provides OSD FAP with information on the incidence of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse across the DoD for inclusion in this report.

DMDC has collected these aggregate FY FAP data for the last 25 years; however, the timeframe of data submission and analysis was adjusted substantially in 2017 to coordinate with the release of the "Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military." The Military Services submitted FY 2024 data by December 20, 2024, for inclusion in this report. All statistical analyses included in this report were performed after these data underwent a series of rigorous quality control checks to ensure uniformity and validity of aggregate data.

Prior to FY 2021, FAP was unable to report information on allegations of abuse by abuse type comprehensively. For calculation purposes, historically, a "report" of abuse could consist of multiple types of alleged abuse. For example, if one victim experienced both emotional abuse and physical abuse by the same abuser, during the same timeframe, it was recorded as a single report of abuse. This method prevented disaggregation of reports by abuse type and led to undercounting the total number of abuse reports.[28]

Leveraging new data collection methods established in FY 2021, each report is now associated with a single type of alleged abuse. The updated calculation method for reports of abuse is incorporated in the data from FY 2021 through FY 2024 presented in this report. This approach allows FAP to more accurately assess the number of reports of abuse and determine the proportion of reports that meet the DoD definition of abuse — overall and categorized into four types: emotional abuse, neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. This improvement in methodology and reporting enhances the Department's efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse within the military community.

Like historic data on reports of abuse, previous fiscal year data on both child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse contained met criteria incidents that included multiple types of abuse 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 abuse. 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

[26] DoDI 1402.05, "Background Checks on Individuals in DoD Child Care Services Programs," July, 14, 2016, as amended.

[27] In FY 2024, Space Force data were reported within Air Force data.

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

Services for reporting civilian data in their annual report on child maltreatment.[29]

Incidents of domestic abuse are reported both in the aggregate and separately as spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse (see definitions in Section 4). Calculated rates of intimate partner abuse across the military are not reportable, as data to establish a denominator (number of Service members in an intimate partner relationship as defined by the DoD) are unavailable. Any notable increases or upward movement in key rates and findings command the attention of OSD FAP to ensure perceived increases in family violence are analyzed for significance.

Statistical significance testing in this report was conducted 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 2024 values are within the range of plausible values for the 10-year period, FY 2015 - FY 2024. Any value outside of this CI is indicative of a statistically significant increase or decrease from the 10-year average.

Married Military Couple Population Estimation Due to Missing Data

This report uses the married military couple population to calculate the rates of spouse abuse presented in Section 4. Married military couples are comprised of joint (or dual) military marriages and civilian marriages. The Military Services provide their respective marriage counts to DMDC monthly. In turn, DMDC makes these data available to authorized users on various self-service reports accessible on DMDC's reporting system website.

For the majority of FY 2023 and 2024, reporting from one of the Military Services to the DMDC reflected zero joint military marriages, which was later determined to be inaccurate.[30] To calculate spouse abuse rates within this report, OSD FAP estimated the number of joint military marriages DoD-wide by predicting the total number of joint military marriages using the known number of total civilian marriages DoD-wide, given the strong correlation between these two values over the last five years (FY 2019 - FY 2023).[31] To further validate this estimation method, we tested two additional methods to estimate the number of joint military marriages. The estimated number of marriages using these three methods varied less than 0.2 percent. The value used for this report, as described above, was the median value and demonstrated the strongest correlation among the three methods.

[29] U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2024). *Child Maltreatment 2022*. Available from: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment.

[30] Army did not report joint military marriages in FY 2023 or FY 2024.

[31] The r^2 value of joint service marriages as a percentage of civilian marriages from FY 2019 through FY 2023 was 0.986, representing a very strong correlation.

3. Child Abuse and Neglect

This section summarizes reports to FAP of child abuse and neglect in FY 2024, incidents that met criteria for child abuse and neglect, and the characteristics of children and associated abusers for cases that met criteria.

DoD policy defines child abuse and neglect as:

- **Child abuse:** "The physical or sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect of a child by a parent, guardian, foster parent, or by a caregiver, whether the caregiver is intra-familial or extra-familial, under circumstances indicating the child's welfare is harmed or threatened. Such acts by a sibling, other family member, or other person shall be deemed to be child abuse only when the individual is providing care under express or implied agreement with the parent, guardian, or foster parent."[32]
- **Child neglect:** "The negligent treatment of a child through egregious acts or omissions below the lower bounds of normal caregiving, which shows a striking disregard for the child's well-being, under circumstances indicating that the child's welfare has been harmed or threatened by the deprivation of age-appropriate care."[33] Neglect includes abandonment, medical neglect, and/or non-organic failure to thrive.

Child abuse and neglect, per DoD policy, include four distinct types of abuse: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. Each type of abuse is defined in implementing guidance for use during the standardized incident determination process.[34] One or more incidents may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim.

Beginning in FY 2015, OSD FAP began to treat each occurrence that met the DoD definition of abuse as a distinct incident of child abuse and neglect to capture a more comprehensive picture of well-being for children in military families. Reporting incidents of abuse by type is consistent with how other Federal agencies report incidents of child abuse and neglect. Starting in FY 2021 and in alignment with a recommendation from the GAO,[35] OSD FAP standardized the calculation method for reports of abuse such that a single report of abuse can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. Each report of abuse and met criteria incident of abuse contained within this report for periods prior to FY 2024 could include multiple types of abuse.

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

[32] DoDI 6400.01, "Family Advocacy Program (FAP)," May 1, 2019.

[33] DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

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

[35] U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2021). *Domestic Abuse: Actions Needed to Enhance DoD's Prevention, Response, and Oversite to Congress* (GAO-21-289). Available from: https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-289.

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

3-1. Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents

As shown below in Table 1, there were 11,040 reports to FAP of suspected child abuse and neglect in FY 2024. The FY 2024 rate of reported child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children was 13.5, which is lower than the rate in FY 2023 (14.3). This numerical difference of 0.8 represents a 5.5 percent decrease in the rate of reported incidents. Although there was a decrease in the rate of reported incidents in FY 2024, it is not statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.[36]

Table 1: Reports and Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect (FY 2015-FY 2024)

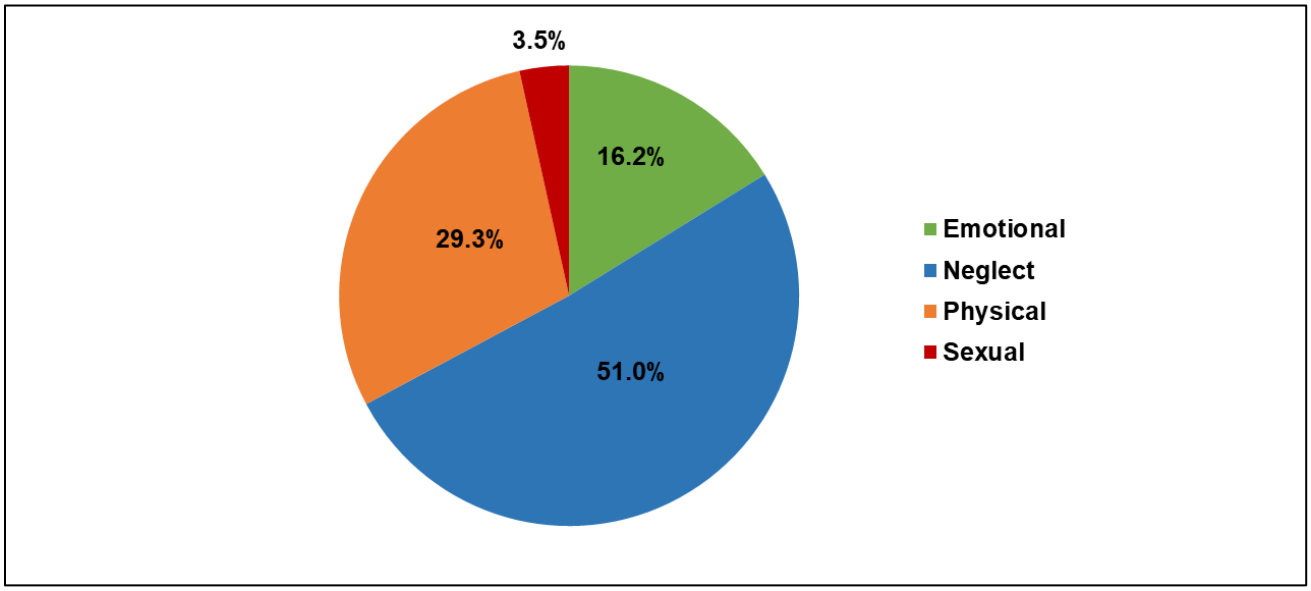
Fiscal Year	Reported Incidents	Met Criteria Incidents	Child Population	Reports/1000	Met Criteria Incidents/1000
2015	15,579	7,208	1,005,626	15.5	7.2
2016	13,916	6,998	969,058	14.4	7.2
2017	12,849	6,450	939,186	13.7	6.9
2018	12,850	6,010	921,193	13.9	6.5
2019	12,392	5,600	917,891	13.5	6.1
2020	10,857	5,369	905,577	12.0	5.9
2021*	12,019	5,732	892,457	13.5	6.4
2022*	12,107	5,994	861,638	14.1	7.0
2023*	11,854	5,812	829,626	14.3	7.0
2024*	11,040	5,336	819,974	13.5	6.5

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

[36] The FY 2024 rate of child abuse and neglect reports per 1,000 children (13.5) did not vary significantly when compared to the average rate of child abuse and neglect reports during the FY 2015-FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [13.19, 14.46]).

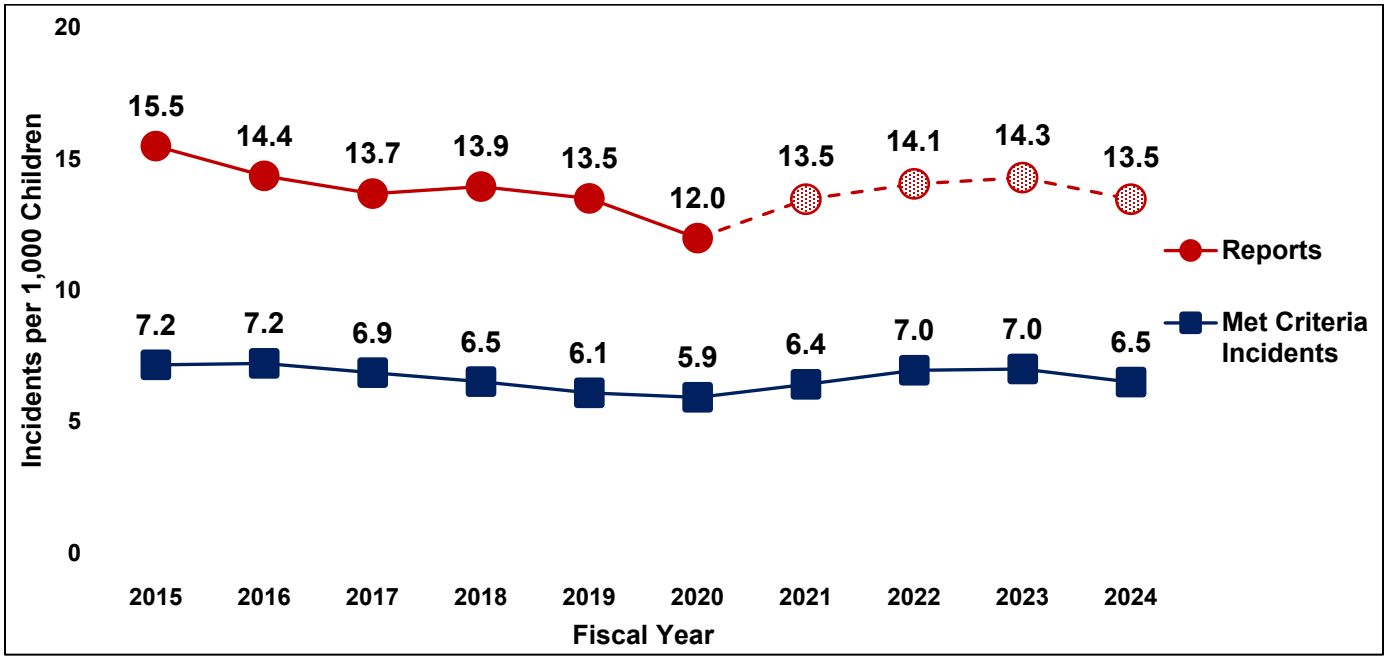
Figure 1 shows the distribution of reports of child abuse and neglect by type. Neglect accounted for the largest proportion of reports of child abuse in FY 2024 (51.0 percent), followed by physical abuse (29.3 percent), emotional abuse (16.2 percent), and sexual abuse (3.5 percent).

Figure 1. Child Abuse and Neglect Reports by Type (FY 2024)



There were 5,336 incidents of child abuse and neglect that met criteria in FY 2024. As shown in Figure 2, the rate of met criteria incidents per 1,000 children in FY 2024 was 6.5, which is slightly lower than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2023. There is no statistically significant change in the rate of met criteria incidents in FY 2024 when compared to the 10-year average.[37]

Figure 2. Child Abuse and Neglect Reports vs. Met Criteria Incidents Rates per 1,000 Children (FY 2015 - FY 2024)

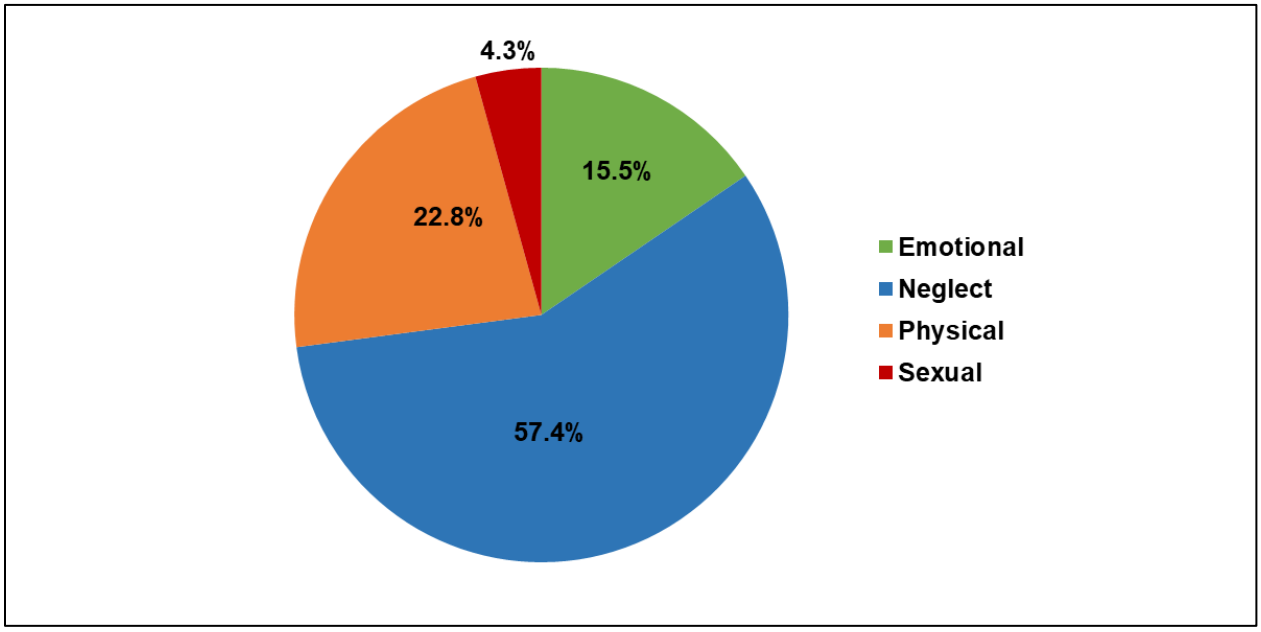


Note. The dashed lines and dotted markers for the rate of reported incidents in FY 2021 through FY 2024 highlight the new calculation method implemented for reports of abuse.

[37] The FY 2024 rate of met criteria child abuse incidents per 1,000 children (6.5) did not vary significantly when compared to the average rate of met criteria child abuse incidents from FY 2015-FY 2024 (95 percent CI [6.35, 6.99]).

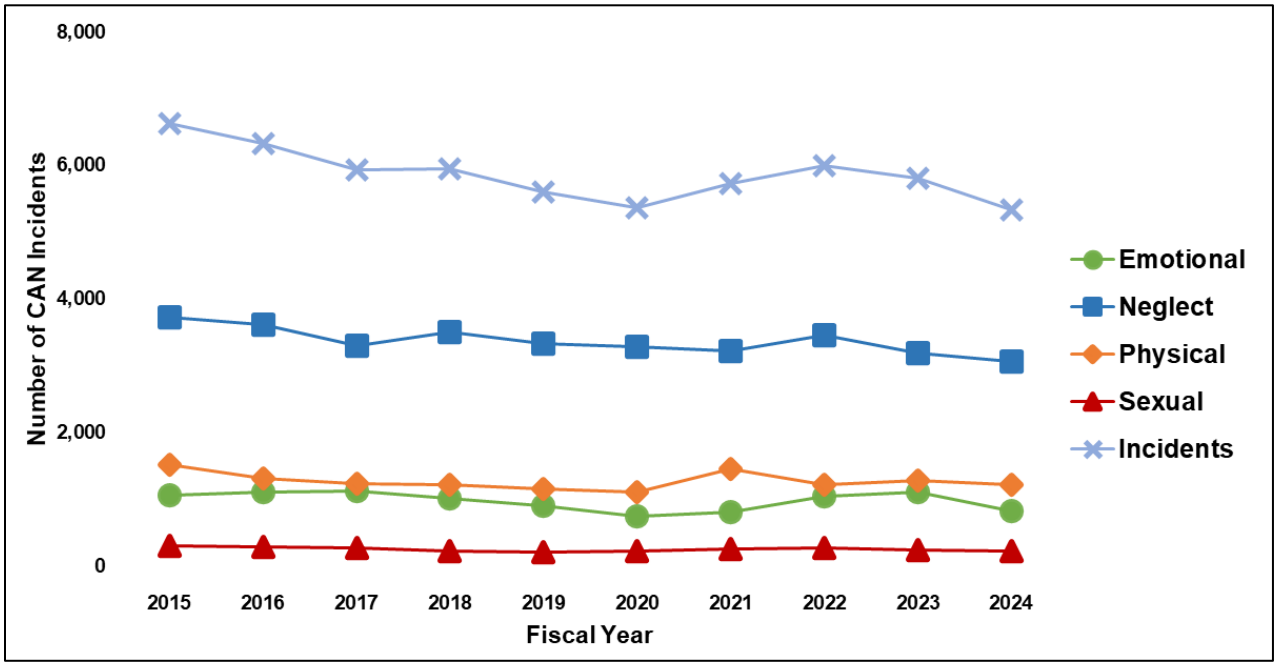
Figure 3 shows the distribution of met criteria incidents of abuse by type. In FY 2024, neglect accounted for the largest proportion of met criteria incidents (57.4 percent). Physical abuse (22.8 percent) accounted for the next largest proportion of met criteria incidents, followed by emotional abuse (15.5 percent) and sexual abuse (4.3 percent). Overall, the distribution of met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents by abuse type mirrors the distribution of reports of child abuse and neglect incidents by abuse, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Met Criteria Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect by Type (FY 2024)



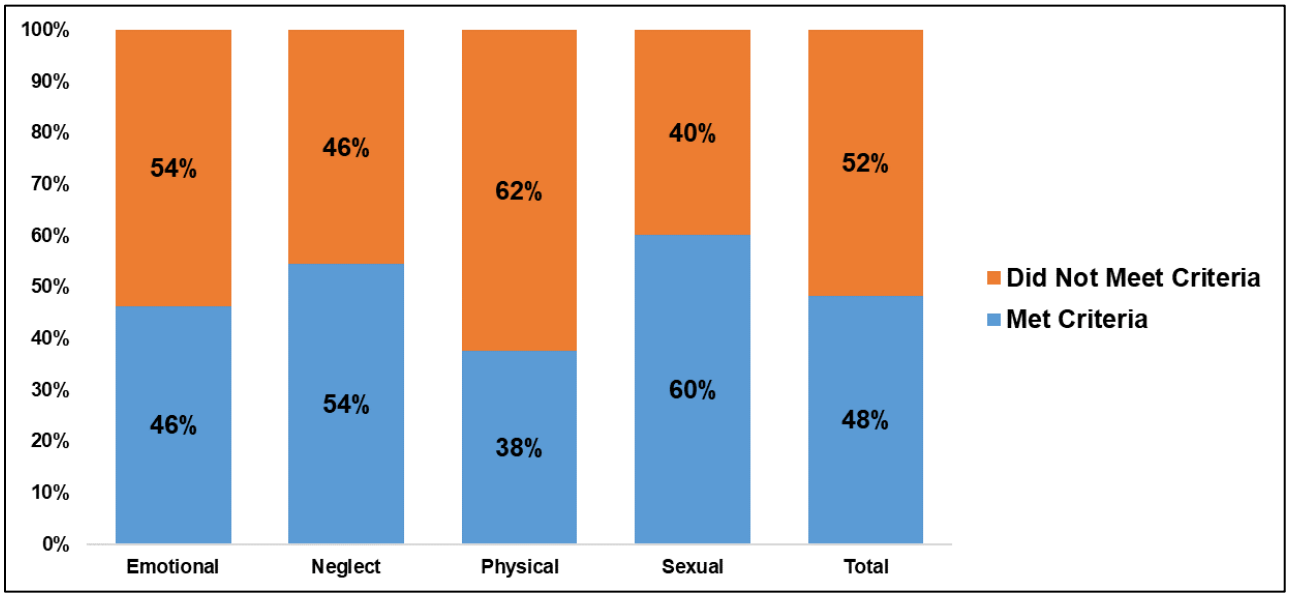
The number of met criteria incidents of each type of child abuse is displayed in Figure 4. Throughout the 10-year period from FY 2015 - FY 2024, neglect has been the predominant type of abuse. In FY 2024, there was a decrease in the number of met criteria incidents of all types of abuse.

Figure 4. Met Criteria Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect by Type (FY 2015 - FY 2024)



Overall, 48 percent of reported incidents of child abuse and neglect were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse. As shown in Figure 5, this met criteria rate varied by abuse type, ranging from 38 percent of reports of physical abuse that met criteria to 60 percent of reports of sexual abuse that met criteria.

Figure 5. Proportion of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents that Met Criteria by Type (FY 2024)



3-2. Child Abuse and Neglect Victim Profile

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

As shown in Table 2, there were 3,961 unique victims of child abuse and neglect in FY 2024. The FY 2024 child abuse and neglect victim rate per 1,000 children was 4.8, which is lower than the rate of 5.1 per 1,000 in FY 2023 (see Figure 6). This numerical difference of 0.3 represents a 5.9 percent decrease in the rate of child victims. Although there was a decrease in the child victimization rate in FY 2024, it is not statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.[38]

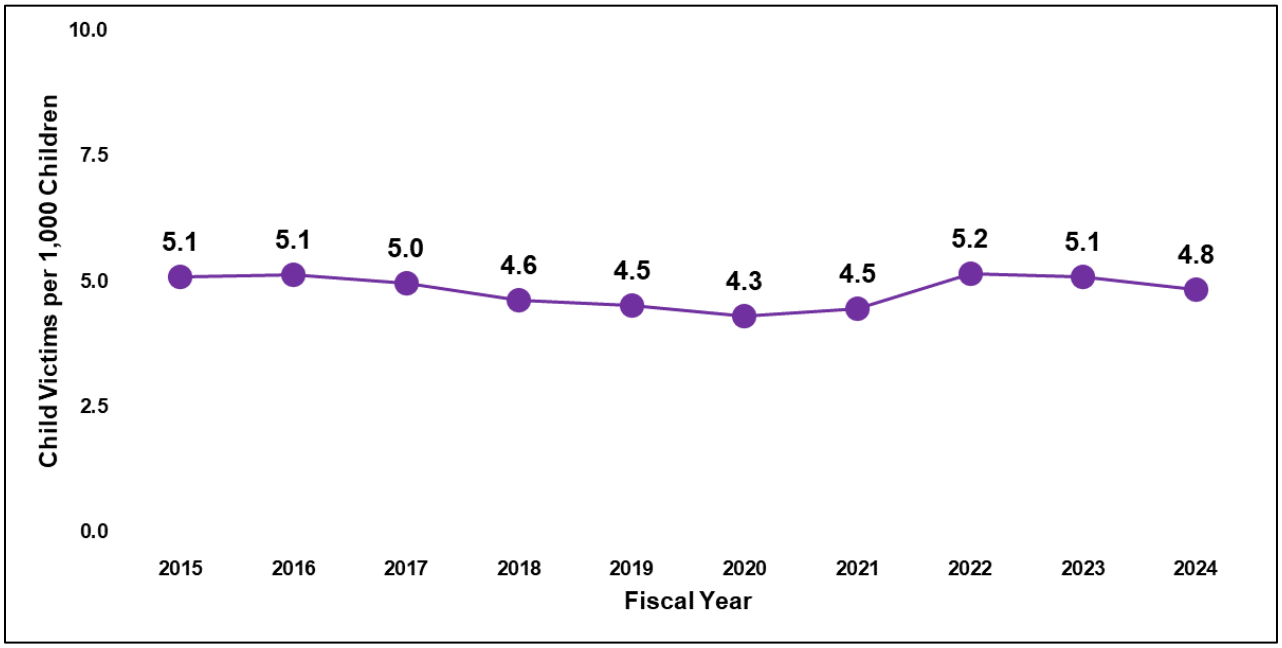
Table 2: Unique Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect (FY 2015-FY 2024)

Fiscal Year	Met Criteria Incidents	Unique Victims	Child Population	Met Criteria Incidents/1000	Rate of Victims/1000
2015	7,208	5,123	1,005,626	7.2	5.1
2016	6,998	4,960	969,058	7.2	5.1
2017	6,450	4,667	939,186	6.9	5.0
2018	6,010	4,266	921,193	6.5	4.6
2019	5,600	4,150	917,891	6.1	4.5
2020	5,369	3,894	905,577	5.9	4.3
2021	5,732	3,974	892,457	6.4	4.5
2022	5,994	4,438	861,638	7.0	5.2
2023	5,812	4,223	829,626	7.0	5.1
2024	5,336	3,961	819,974	6.5	4.8

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

[38] The FY 2024 unique child victim rate per 1,000 children (4.8) did not vary significantly when compared to the average child victim rate during the FY 2015-FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [4.55, 5.077]).

Figure 6. Unique Child Victim Rate per 1,000 Children in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2015 - FY 2024)



Overall, 48 percent of victims in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect were female and 52 percent were male. Figure 7 depicts the sex of victims in met criteria incidents for each type of abuse. In FY 2024, males were more likely to experience met criteria incidents of neglect (54 percent male vs. 46 percent female) and physical abuse (59 percent male vs. 41 percent female) than females. Females had a higher likelihood of experiencing met criteria incidents of emotional abuse (53 percent female vs. 47 percent male). In contrast, females were much more likely to experience met criteria incidents of sexual abuse (90 percent female vs. 10 percent male) than males.

Figure 7. Sex of Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Abuse Type (FY 2024)

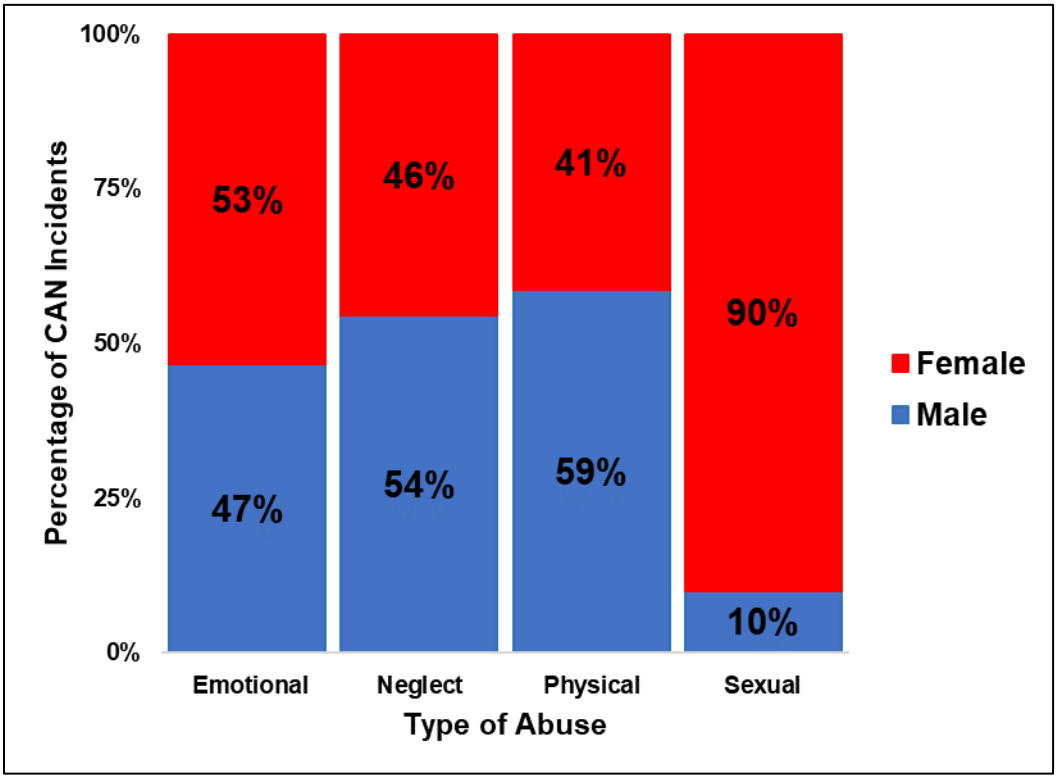
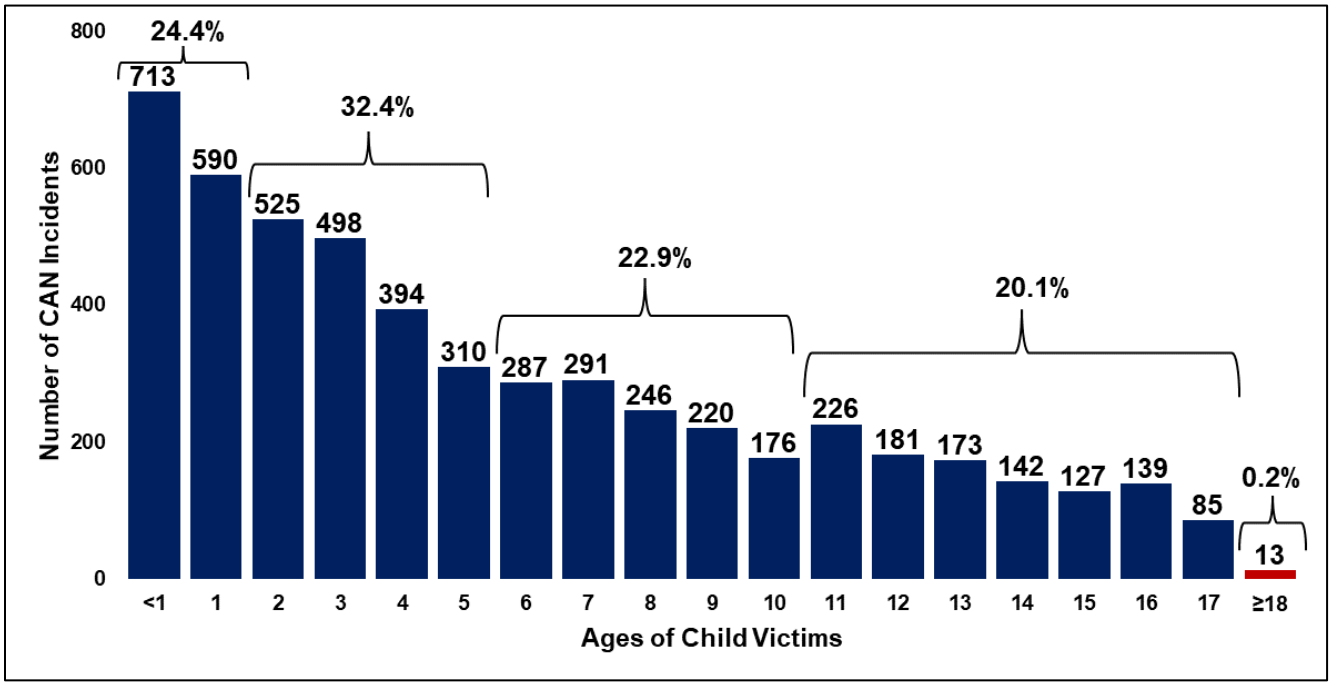


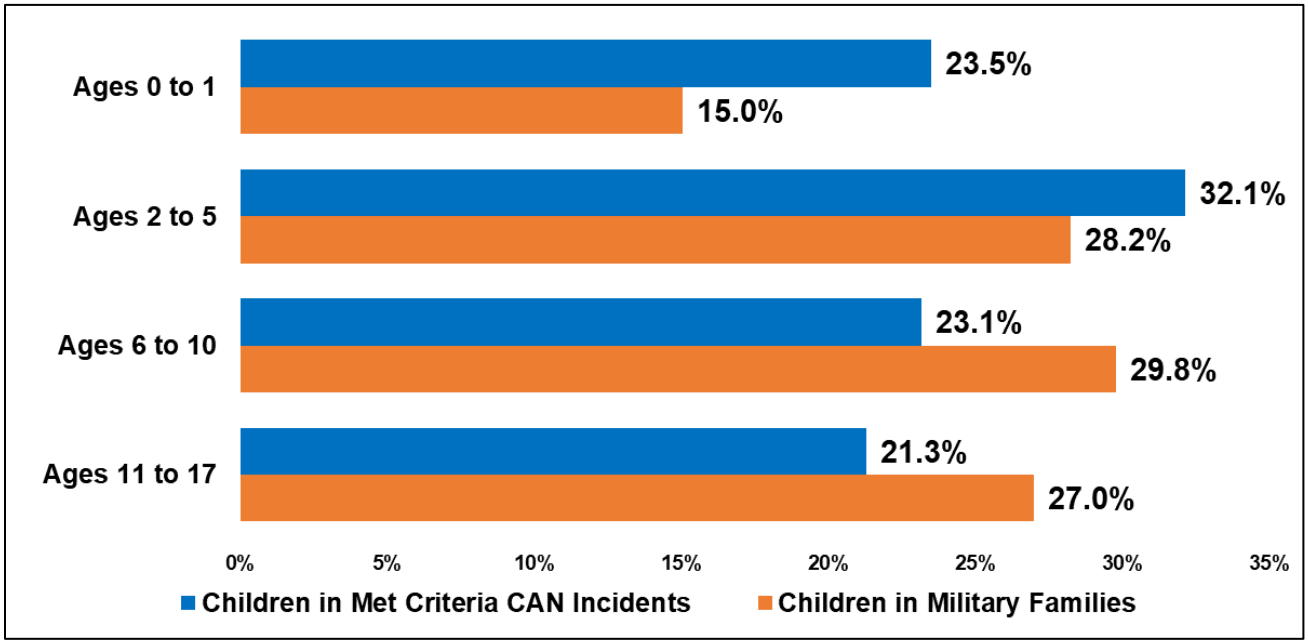
Figure 8 and Figure 9 show the age distribution of child victims in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents. In FY 2024, there were 3,030 incidents of met criteria child abuse and neglect with child victims age 5 or younger, representing more than half (56.8 percent) of all child abuse incidents in FY 2024. Within this group of victims age 5 or younger, there were 1,303 met criteria incidents involving children 1 year of age or younger and 1,727 involving children ages 2 – 5 years old. There were 1,220 met criteria incidents involving children ages 6 – 10, which represented nearly one-quarter (22.9 percent) of all met criteria incidents of abuse or neglect. Among children ages 11 – 17, there were 1,073 incidents or slightly more than one-fifth (20.1 percent) of all met criteria incidents of abuse or neglect in FY 2024. Additionally, during FY 2024 there were 13 incidents involving children 18 years or older where the abuse occurred while the victims were a dependent child.

Figure 8. Ages of Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2024)



There are notable differences when comparing the age distribution of unique victims in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect in FY 2024 to the age distribution of children in military families. Figure 9 shows that there is a greater proportion of children in met criteria incidents of child abuse who are 1 year of age or younger than children of the same age group in the military child population (23.5 percent vs. 15.0 percent). The same pattern is evident for children between the ages of 2 – 5 (32.1 percent of children in met criteria incidents vs. 28.2 percent of the military child population). In contrast, there is a smaller proportion of child victims in met criteria incidents than children in the military child population amongst children ages 6 – 10 (23.1 percent vs. 29.8 percent) and ages 11 – 17 (21.3 percent vs. 27.0 percent). We did not include incidents involving victims ages 18 or older in this comparison, as not all military children in this age group are in a dependent status.

Figure 9. Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Age Group, Compared to Demographics (FY 2024)

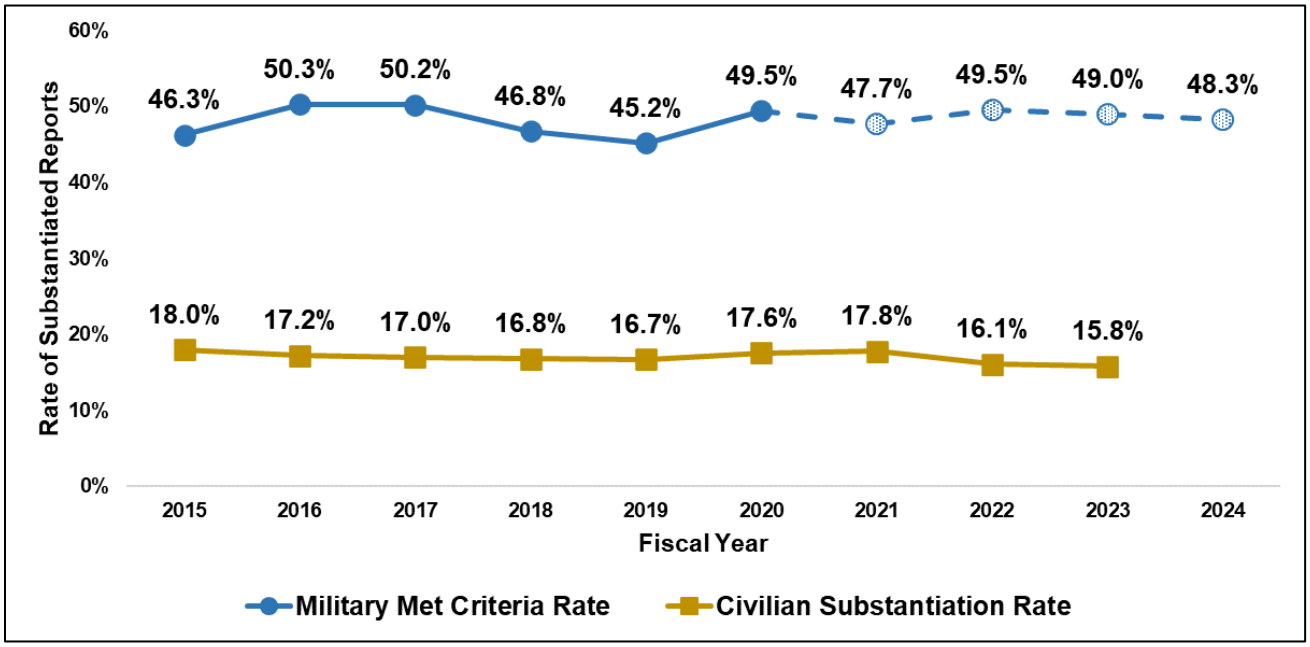


3-3. Comparison to U.S. Civilian Data

This section compares military child abuse and neglect data to the most recent U.S. civilian child abuse and neglect data available (2023).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services publishes an annual report[39] that presents data on child abuse and neglect known to child protective service agencies in the United States. As shown in Figure 10, both the military met criteria rate and the civilian substantiation (very similar to met criteria) rate have fluctuated over time; however, the military rate has consistently exceeded the civilian rate over the past decade.[40] The military met criteria rate in FY 2024 was 48.3 percent, which is lower than the FY 2023 military rate (49.0 percent). The civilian substantiation rate for FY 2023 was 15.8 percent, which is lower than the FY 2022 civilian rate (16.1 percent). However, as shown in the next figure, this indicates military reports are more likely to meet criteria though this does not mean that there are higher victimization rates in the military. In fact, the victimization rate in the military has been consistently lower than the civilian victimization rate for many years.

Figure 10. Military Met Criteria Rate vs. U.S. Civilian Substantiation Rate for Child Abuse (FY 2015-FY 2024)



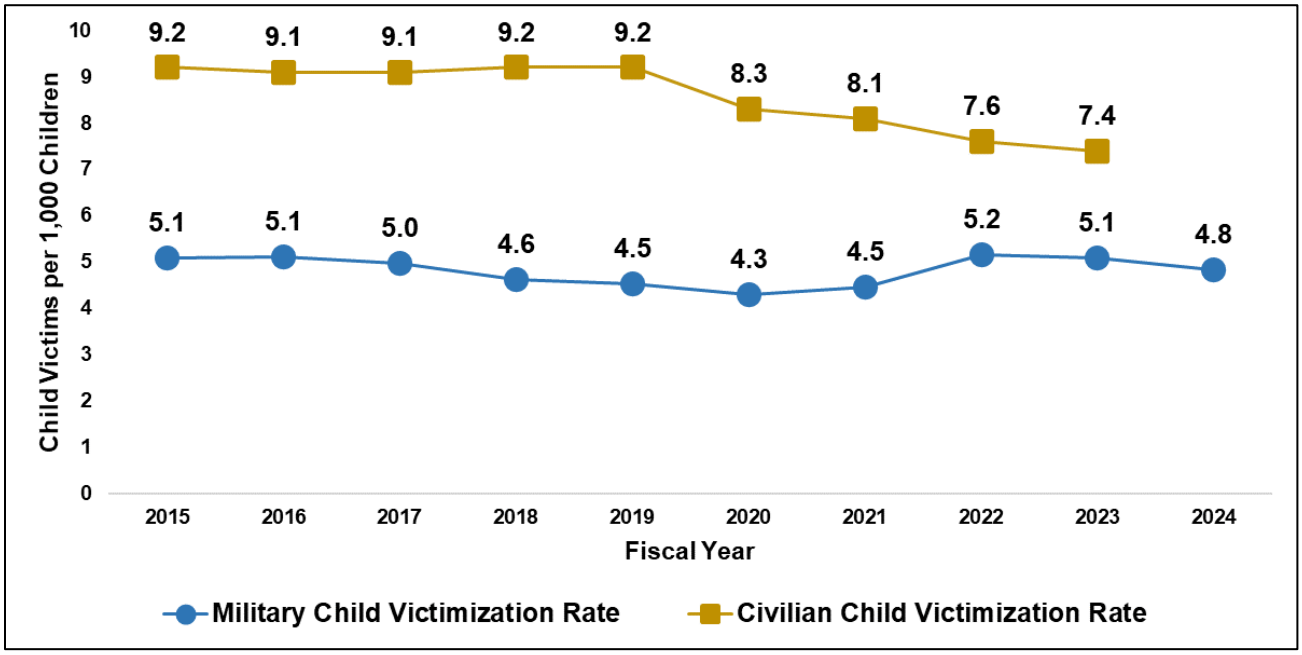
Note. The dashed lines and dotted markers for the military met criteria rate in FY 2021 through FY 2024 highlight the new calculation method implemented for reports of abuse. The most recent U.S. civilian data are from FY 2023, which represents a one-year lag compared to DoD data.

[39] *Child Maltreatment 2015* through *2023*, inclusive | U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children and Families.
[40] *Child Maltreatment 2015* through *2023*, inclusive.

Figure 11 presents the military child abuse and neglect victim rate per 1,000 military children (i.e., the military child victimization rate) compared to the U.S. civilian victimization rate per 1,000 children. Although both rates have fluctuated over time, the military rate has consistently remained lower than the civilian rate over the past decade.[41] In FY 2024, the military child victimization rate was 4.8 per 1,000 children, a decrease from 5.1 in FY 2023 military rate. The civilian child victimization rate for FY 2023 was 7.4 per 1,000 children, down from 7.7 in FY 2022.

As shown in Figure 10, the military confirms child abuse and neglect at more than twice the civilian substantiation rate; however, the rate of victims per 1,000 children remains lower in the military. Overall, the rate of child abuse and neglect in the military is substantially lower than in the civilian sector.

Figure 11. Military Child Victimization Rate vs. U.S. Civilian Child Victimization Rate per 1,000 Children (FY 2015-FY 2024)



Note. The most recent U.S. civilian data are from FY 2023, which represents a one-year lag compared to DoD data.

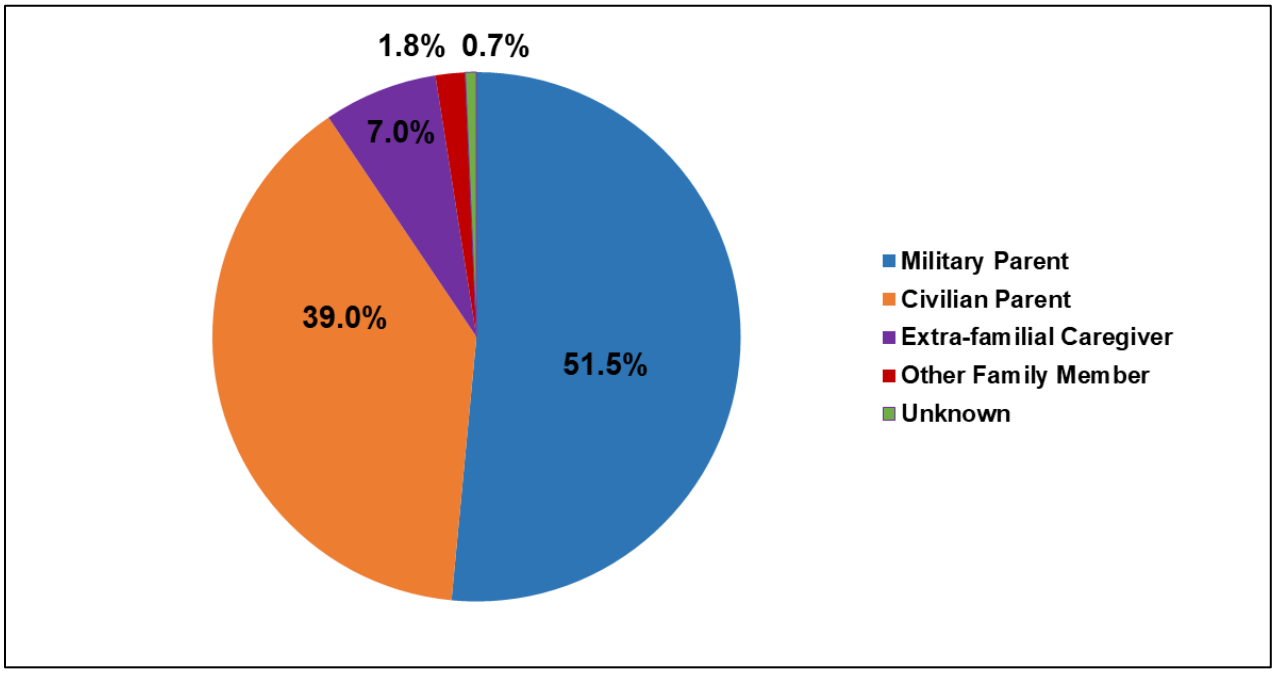
[41] *Child Maltreatment 2015* through *2023*, inclusive.

3-4. Child Abuse and Neglect Abuser Profile

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

As shown in Figure 12, parents represented the largest proportion of abusers involved in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect in FY 2024, where 51.5 percent of abusers were Service member parents and 39.0 percent were civilian parents. Fewer abusers involved in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect were extra-familial caregivers (7.0 percent), other family members (1.8 percent), or had an unknown status (0.7 percent).

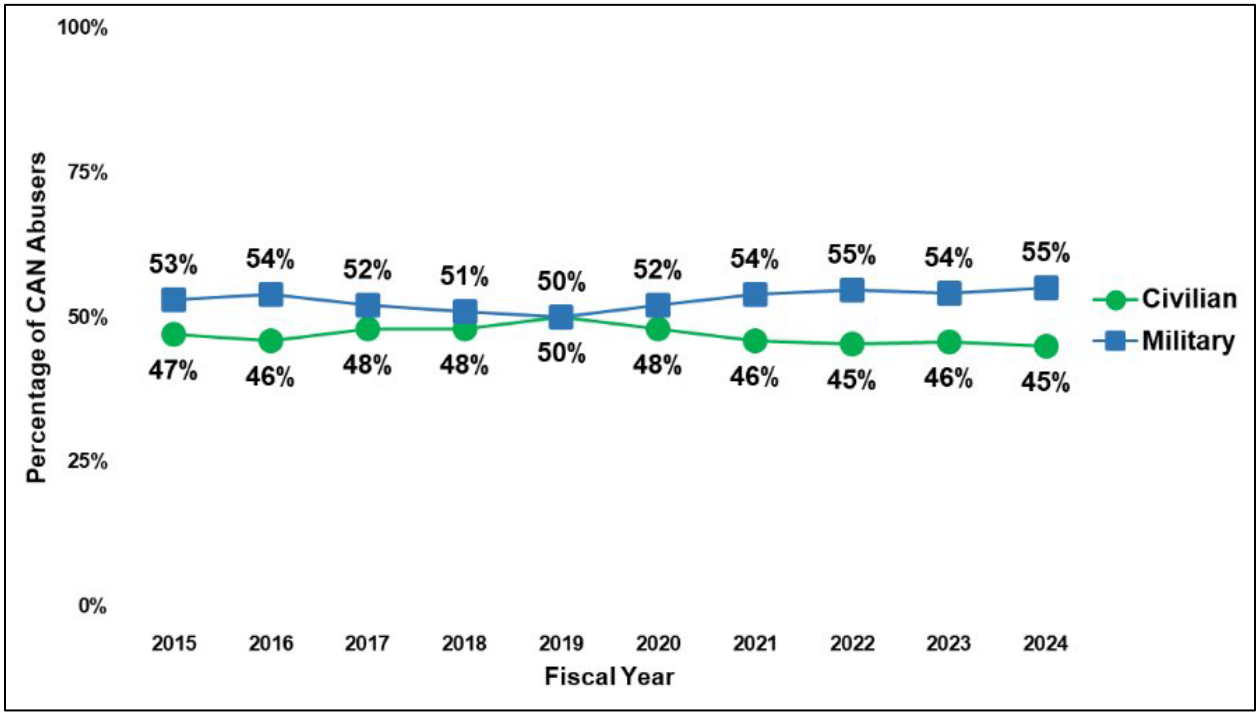
Figure 12. Caregiver Status of Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2024)



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 13, the military status distribution of abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents has remained relatively consistent since FY 2015. In FY 2024, 55 percent of abusers were Service members and 45 percent were civilians.

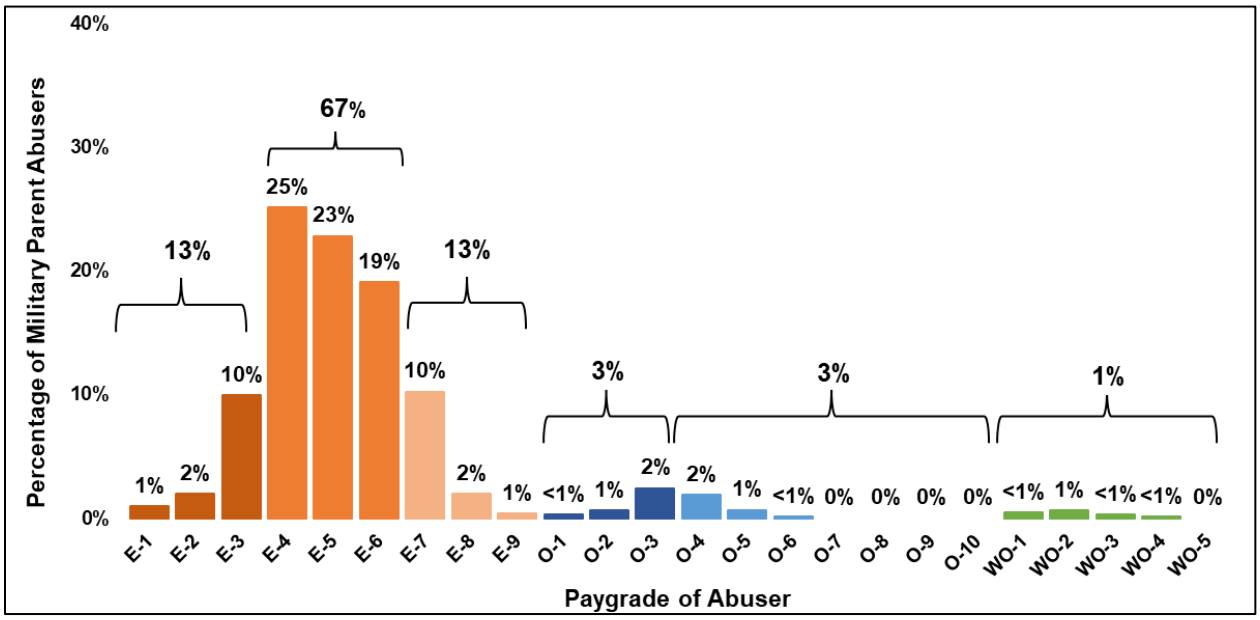
Figure 13. Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents (FY 2015-FY 2024)



Note. Abusers with an unknown status were excluded from this figure. Civilians in the figure include civilian parents, extrafamilial caregivers and other family members.

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

Figure 14. Paygrade Distribution of Service Member Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2024)

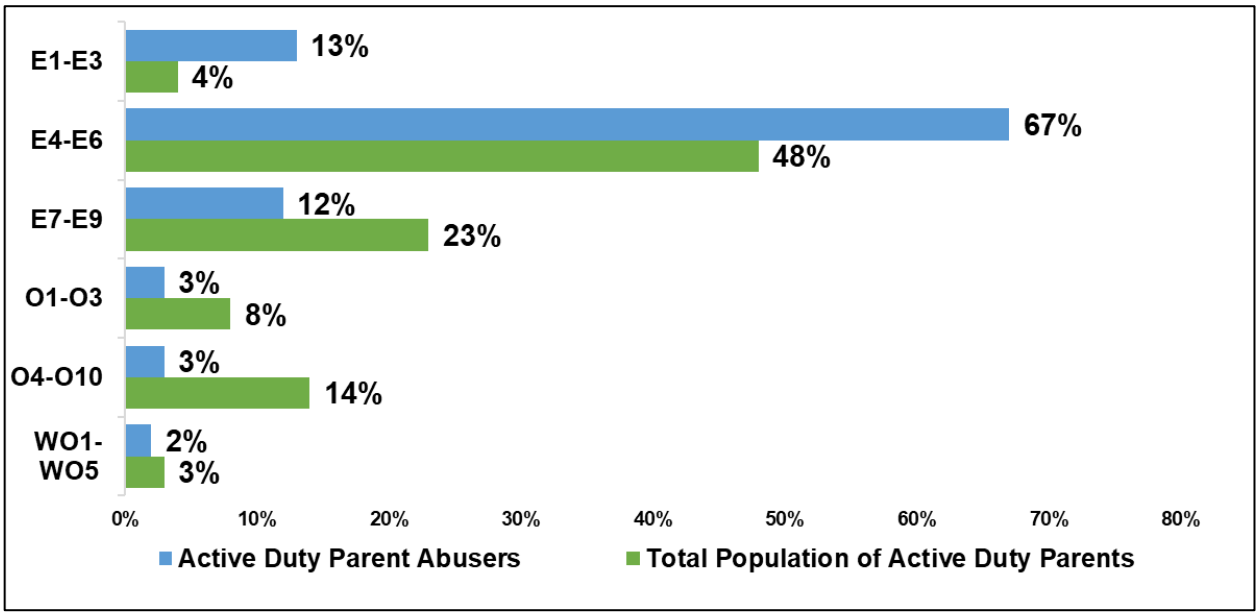


Note. Service member parents, referred to as military parent abusers in the figure, include active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

When comparing the paygrades of active duty[42] parent abusers in met criteria child abuse and neglect incidents to the paygrades of the total population of active-duty parents in FY 2024, the differences in relative proportions are pronounced, although they are relatively consistent with FY 2023 data. As displayed in Figure 15, a much greater proportion of active duty parents in met criteria incidents of child abuse are in the E-l through E-3 paygrade (13 percent vs. 4 percent) and the E-4 through E-6 paygrade (67 percent vs. 48 percent) than in the active duty parent population.[43]

Meanwhile, there are proportionally fewer active duty parents involved in met criteria incidents compared to the active duty parent population in the E-7 through E-9 (12 percent vs. 23 percent), O-1 through O-3 (3 percent vs. 8 percent), O-4 through O-10 (3 percent vs. 14 percent), and WO-1 through WO-5 (2 percent vs. 3 percent) paygrades.

Figure 15. Proportion of Active Duty Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents by Paygrade, Compared to Demographics (FY 2024)

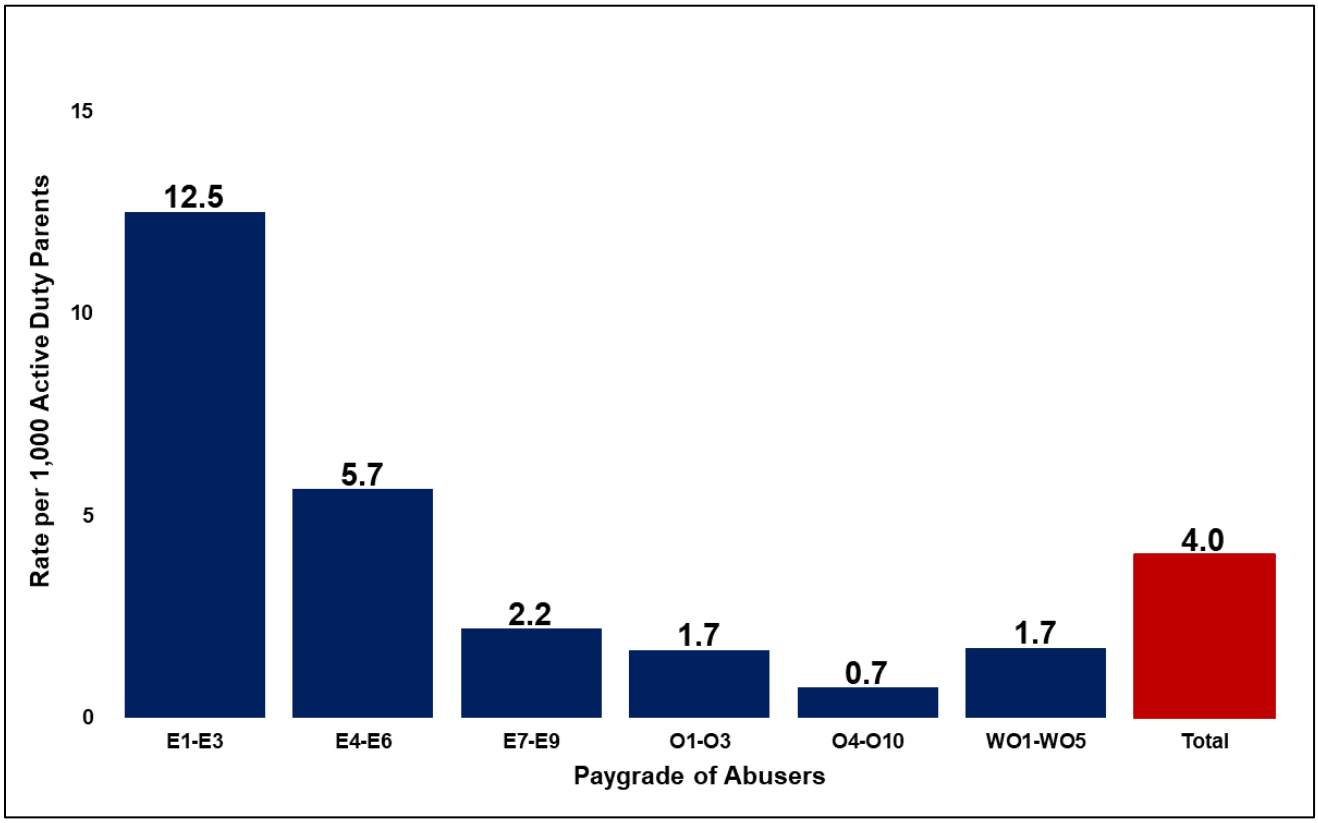


[42] For the purposes of this report, active duty refers to Regular Component members, exclusively.

[43] While Figure 14 displays paygrade of Service member parent abusers in met criteria incidents, this figure focuses on paygrade of active duty parent abusers in met criteria incidents, exclusively.

While the breakdown of active duty parents by paygrade in Figure 15 shows that the greatest proportion of abusers were in the E-4 through E-6 paygrades, the rate of active duty parent abusers per 1,000 involved in met criteria incidents of child abuse is highest for parents who are in the E-1 through E-3 (12.5) paygrades (see Figure 16). This means that active duty parents in the E-1 through E-3 paygrades were more likely to be involved in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect than active duty parents in any other paygrade band, relative to their proportion in the active duty parent population. Overall, this finding is consistent with previous years.

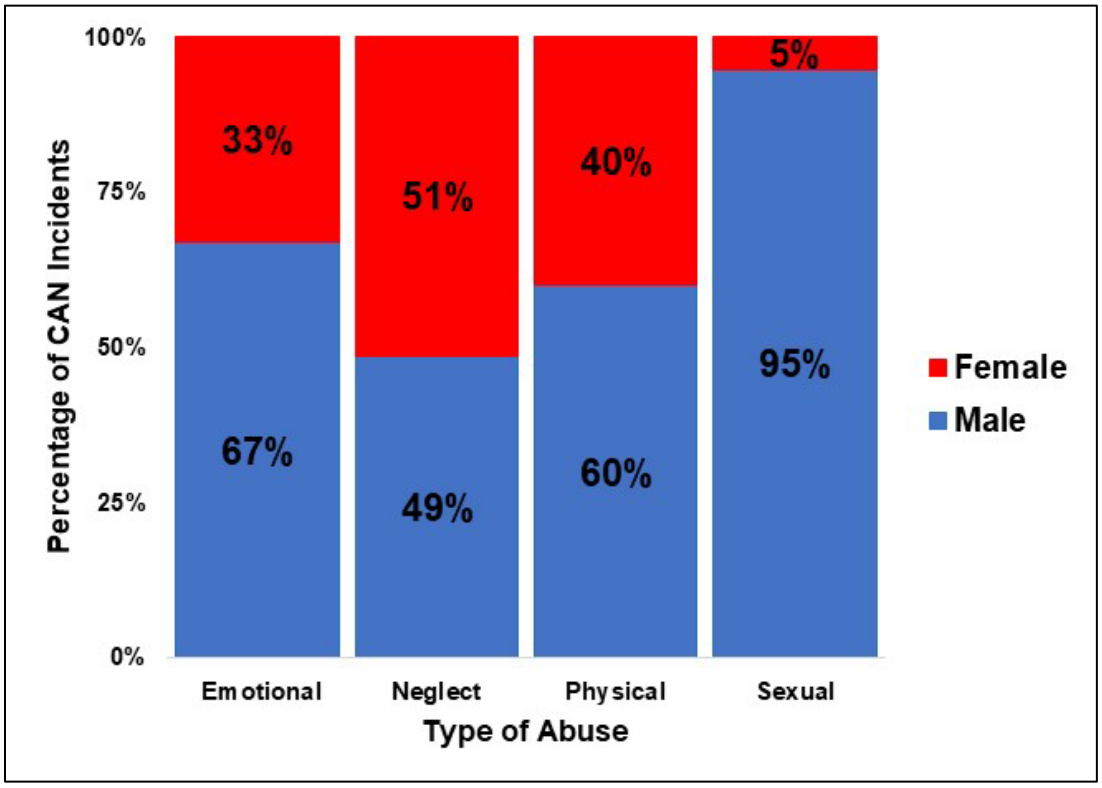
Figure 16. Rate of Active Duty Parent Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents per 1,000 by Paygrade (FY 2024)



Overall, 56 percent of abusers in child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria were male, and 44 percent were female in FY 2024.

Figure 17 shows the proportions of male and female abusers in met criteria incidents for each type of child abuse and demonstrates how the sex of abusers varies in these incidents. The vast majority of abusers for incidents of child sexual abuse were male (95 percent male vs. 5 percent female). Males were also more likely to be abusers in emotional abuse incidents (67 percent male vs. 33 percent female) and physical abuse incidents (60 percent male vs. 40 percent female). In contrast, among incidents of neglect, the most common type of child abuse in military families, 51 percent of abusers were female and 49 percent were male.

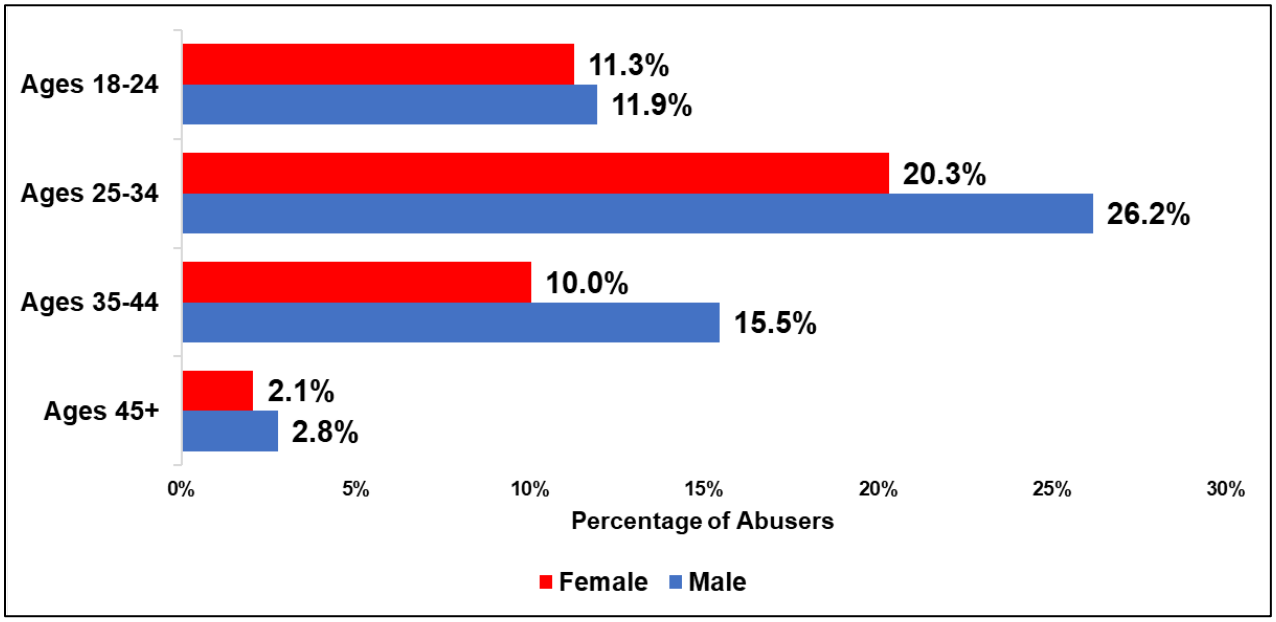
Figure 17. Sex of Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Abuse Type (FY 2024)



Note. The sex of the abuser was unknown in 25 met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect. Those incidents were excluded from this figure.

Figure 18 shows the proportion of unique abusers in met criteria incidents of child abuse by age group and sex. Among unique abusers where both the age and sex were known (ages for 7 male abusers and 7 female abusers were unknown), the majority of abusers (46.5 percent) in met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect were ages 25 – 34 (26.2 percent male and 20.3 percent female). Just over a quarter of abusers (25.5 percent) were ages 35 – 44 (15.5 percent male and 10.0 percent female), over a fifth of abusers (23.2 percent) were ages 18 – 24 (11.9 percent male and 11.3 percent female), and a smaller proportion of abusers (4.9 percent) were 45 years of age or older (2.8 percent male and 2.1 percent female). There were no abusers younger than age 18 in FY 2024.

Figure 18. Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Abuse and Neglect Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024)



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

3-5. Child Sexual Abuse

For the sixth time in this annual report series, child sexual abuse is examined as a distinct subset of overall child abuse.[44] Data on these incidents are also included in the "FY *2024 DoD Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military"* as Appendix H.

Child sexual abuse is defined as: "The employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or inter-familial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children."[45]

In FY 2024, there were 230 met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse (see Table 3), and 217 unique victims who received FAP services. The higher number of incidents compared to victims indicates that one or more children experienced multiple incidents during the fiscal year. The decreased rate of child sexual abuse incidents per 1,000 military children in FY 2024 is not statistically significant when compared to the 10-year period.[46] It should be noted that reports of child sexual abuse are relatively low compared to the other types of child abuse presented earlier.

Table 3: Incidents of Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse (FY 2015 - FY 2024)

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
2015	7,208	317	1,005,626	0.315	4.4
2016	6,998	311	969,058	0.321	4.4
2017	6,450	286	939,186	0.305	4.4
2018	6,010	227	921,193	0.246	3.8
2019	5,600	212	917,891	0.231	3.8
2020	5,369	222	905,577	0.245	4.1
2021	5,732	260	892,457	0.291	4.5
2022	5,994	274	861,638	0.318	4.6
2023	5,812	239	829,626	0.288	4.1
2024	5,336	230	819,974	0.280	4.3

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

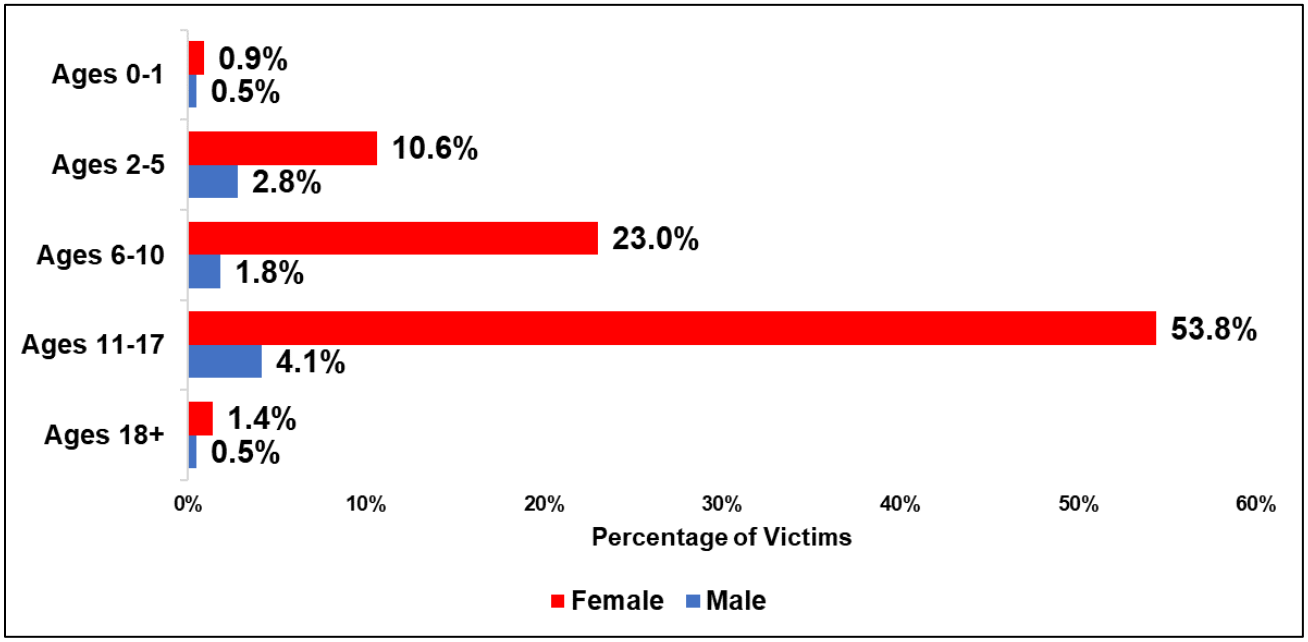
[44] DoDI 6400.01, May 1, 2019 defines "child abuse" as, "the physical or sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect of a child by a parent, guardian, foster parent, or by a caregiver, whether the caregiver is intra-familial or extra-familial, under circumstances indicating the child's welfare is harmed or threatened. Such acts by a sibling, other family member, or other person shall be deemed to be child abuse only when the individual is providing care under express or implied agreement with the parent, guardian, or foster parent."

[45] DoDI 6400.03, "Family Advocacy Command Assistance Team (FACAT)," April 25, 2014, as amended.

[46] The FY 2024 number of met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse (230) varied significantly when compared to the 10-year average (95 percent CI [230.77, 284.83]. Alternatively, the rate of child sexual abuse incidents per 1,000 military children (0.280) did not vary significantly when compared to the 10-year average (95 percent CI [0.261, 0.308]).

Of the 217 unique victims of child sexual abuse who received FAP services in FY 2024, 196 (90.3 percent) were female and 21 (0.7 percent) were male. Figure 19 shows the proportion of unique child sexual abuse victims by age and sex. Of the unique victims in met criteria incidents of sexual abuse, 57.9 percent (53.8 percent female and 4.1 percent male) were ages 11 – 17, 24.8 percent (23.0 percent female and 1.8 percent male) were ages 6 – 10, and 13.4 percent (10.6 percent female and 2.8 percent male) were ages 2 – 5. Of the unique victims, 1.4 percent (0.9 percent female and 0.5 percent male) were age 1 or younger, and 1.9 percent were child dependents 18 years old or older.

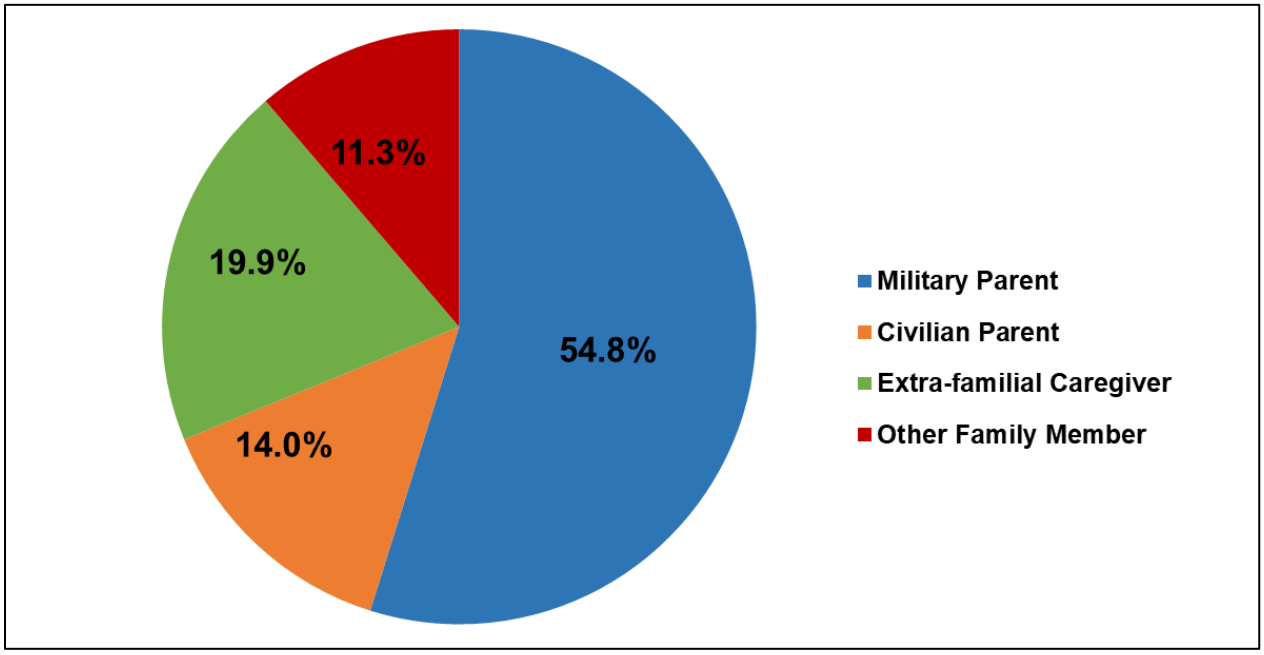
Figure 19. Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024)



There were 186 known unique abusers in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents.[47] Among those known abusers, 102 (54.8 percent) were Service member parents, 35 (19.9 percent) were extra-familial caregivers, 26 (14.0 percent) were civilian parents and 21 (11.3 percent) were other family members (see Figure 20).

Of the known abusers, 127 were Service members, including 126 (99.2 percent) active duty members and 1 (0.8 percent) member of the National Guard. Of the 127 Service members, 115 (90.6 percent) were enlisted members, 10 (7.9 percent) were officers, and 2 (1.6 percent) were warrant officers.[48]

Figure 20. Caregiver Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)



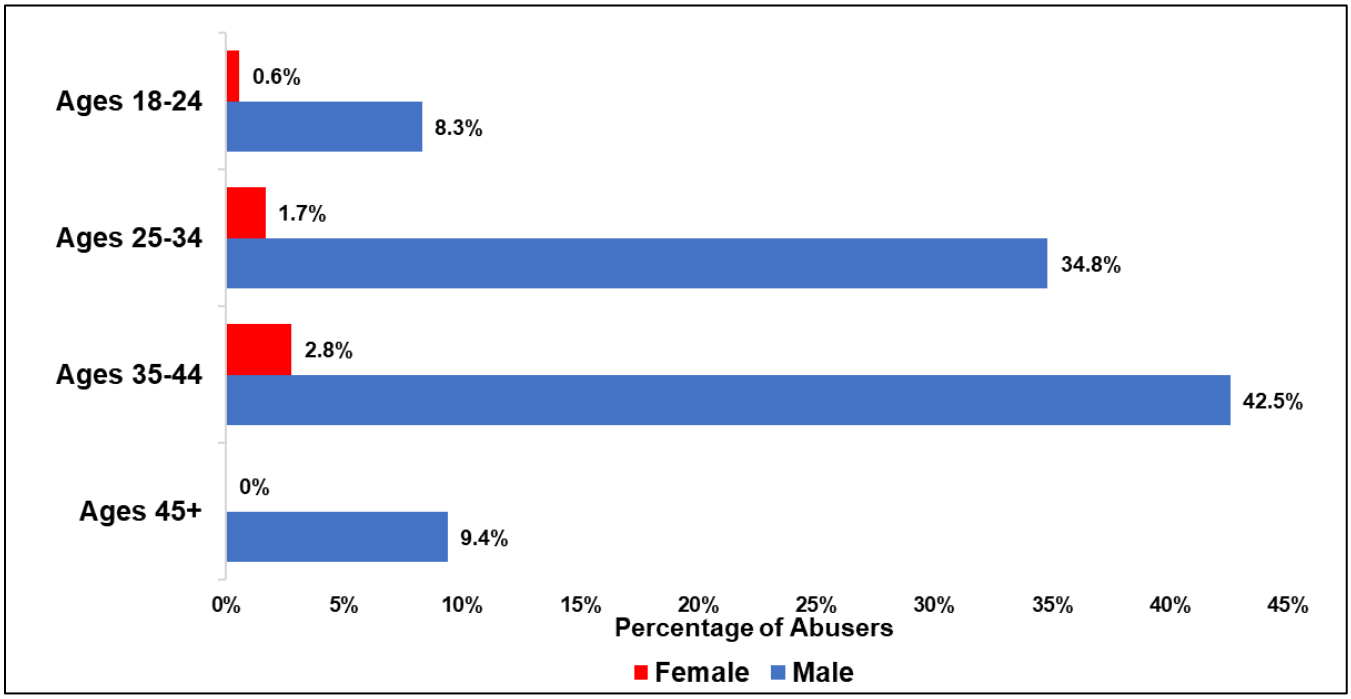
Note. Service member parents, referred to as military parents in the figure, include active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status. Abusers with an unknown status are excluded from the figure.

[47] In FY 2024, there were two met criteria incident of child sexual abuse where the abuser was unknown.

[48] The Service members breakdown by percentage adds up to 100.1 percent rather than 100 percent due to rounding.

Of the 181 known unique abusers in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents, 174 (96.1 percent) were male and 10 (5.5 percent) were female. Figure 21 shows the proportion of unique abusers in met criteria child sexual abuse incidents by age group and sex. Among unique abusers where both the age and sex were known (ages for 2 male abusers and 1 female abuser were unknown), 45.3 percent were ages 35 – 44 and overwhelmingly male (42.5 percent male and 2.8 percent female), 36.5 percent were ages of 25 – 34 (34.8 percent male and 1.7 percent female), 9.4 percent were ages 45 or older (9.4 percent male and 0 percent female), and 8.9 percent were ages 18 – 24 (8.3 percent male and 0.6 percent female).

Figure 21. Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Child Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024)



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

3-6. Child Abuse Fatalities

This section covers child abuse-related fatalities that were presented to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2024. Data on child fatalities included in this report represent only those fatalities reviewed by the IDC posthumously and determined to meet criteria for child abuse or neglect in FY 2024. Not every fatality presented here occurred in FY 2024, as investigations and adjudications of fatality cases often take several years. The Military Departments conduct their own fatality review board two years after an incident is reported, independent of IDC proceedings.[49] Accordingly, fatalities presented to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2024 will undergo Military Departments fatality review in FY 2026.

In FY 2024, there were 19 child abuse-related fatalities involving 23 abusers that were reviewed by the IDC and entered into the Central Registry (see Figure 22). Of the 19 fatalities, two child victims and seven met criteria abusers were previously known to the Central Registry.[50] Among the child fatality victims, 3 (15.8 percent) were female and 16 (84.2 percent) were male. Age distribution showed that eleven (57.9 percent) were 1 year of age or younger, four (31.6 percent) child victims were between 2 and 5 years old, and two (10.5 percent) were between 6 and 18 years of age. Among the met criteria abusers, the sex of 1 was unknown (4.3 percent), 8 (34.8 percent) were female and 14 (60.9 percent) were male. Of the 23 met criteria abusers, 12 (52.2 percent) were Service members and six (47.8 percent) were civilians.

Figure 22. Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities Reported to FAP in FY 2024

- **19** Total fatalities
- **23** Met criteria abusers involved (including 5 fatalities with 2 or more abusers)
- **2** Child victims previously known to the Central Registry
- **7** Met criteria abusers previously known to the Central Registry
- **Victim profile**
  - **3** victims were female, and **16** victims were male
  - **11** victims were one year of age of younger, and **6** were between the ages of 2-5 years old
- **Abuser profile**
  - **8** abusers were female, and **14** abusers were male. The sex of one met criteria abuser involved in a fatality was unknown in FY 2024
  - **12** abusers were active duty and **11** were civilian

Note. Represents only those fatalities taken to the IDC in FY 2024. Military Service fatality

[49] Not all deaths by suicide are reported to FAP initially and that the nexus to domestic abuse or child abuse may be discovered at a later date

[50] "Known to the Central Registry" means that the victim or abuser was involved in a previous met criteria incident of abuse.

reviews of these incidents will take place in FY 2026. Service member includes active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

4. DOMESTIC ABUSE

This section summarizes FY 2024 domestic abuse reports to FAP, the incidents of domestic abuse that met criteria, and the characteristics of the adult victims and abusers involved.

DoD policy defines "domestic abuse" as, "domestic violence, or a pattern of behavior resulting in emotional or psychological abuse, economic control, or interference with personal liberty that is directed toward a person who is one or more of the following:

- Current or former spouse.
- Person with whom the alleged abuser shares a child in common.
- Current or former intimate partner with whom the alleged abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.
- Person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the accused and determined to be an intimate partner (as defined in [DoD Instruction 6400.06])."[51]

Domestic abuse, per DoD policy, encompasses four distinct types of abuse for either spouse or intimate partner abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Spouse neglect is a type of domestic abuse in which an adult fails to provide necessary care or assistance for his or her spouse who is incapable of self-care physically, emotionally, or culturally. Each of these types of abuse is defined in implementing guidance for use during the standardized incident determination process.[52] One or more incidents may be submitted to the Central Registry involving an individual victim.

For purposes of this report, FAP analyzes spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse separately, in addition to the aggregate domestic abuse category, which contains the sum of all incidents. Reports and incidents of domestic abuse are further categorized by type of abuse. Prior to FY 2015, a single met criteria incident could include multiple abuse types; similarly, prior to FY 2021, a single report of abuse could include multiple abuse types. Calculation and reporting methods have since been standardized for consistency.

There is no federal mechanism to track rates of civilian spouse abuse for comparison to the military population. This is due, in part, to significant variation in state laws and definitions of domestic abuse, which makes a valid comparative analysis to civilian data unfeasible.

Spouse abuse – Either the victim or abuser was a Service member.

Intimate partner abuse – In FY 2006, an additional category, "intimate partner", was added to capture incidents involving: (1) a former spouse; (2) a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; or (3) a current or former intimate partner with whom the victim shares or has shared a common domicile. This definition was expanded in FY 2022 to include those in dating relationships. Either the victim or the abuser was a Service member.

[51] DoDI 6400.06, December 15, 2021, as amended.

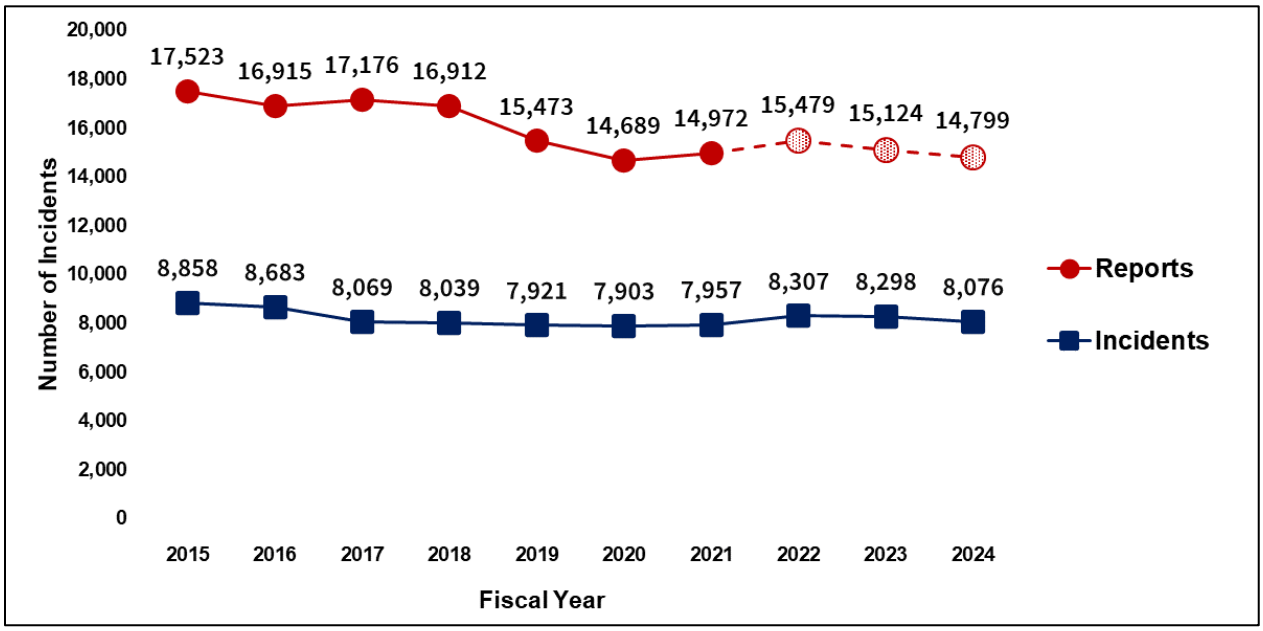
[52] DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016.

4-1. Domestic Abuse Incidents

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

Overall, the number of reports and met criteria incidents of domestic abuse has steadily decreased over the past decade, despite year-over-year increases from FY 2020 to FY 2021 and then again from FY 2021 to FY 2022 (see Figure 23). The number of reports of domestic abuse (14,799) in FY 2024 represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average.[53] However, the slight decrease in number of met criteria domestic abuse incidents (8,076) in FY 2024 is not statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.[54]

Figure 23. Number of Domestic Abuse Reports vs. Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2015 - FY 2024)



Note. Domestic abuse includes spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse. The dashed lines and dotted markers for the military met criteria rate in FY 2021 through FY 2024 highlight the new calculation method implemented for reports of abuse. A single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. Similarly, starting in FY 2015, incidents of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type.

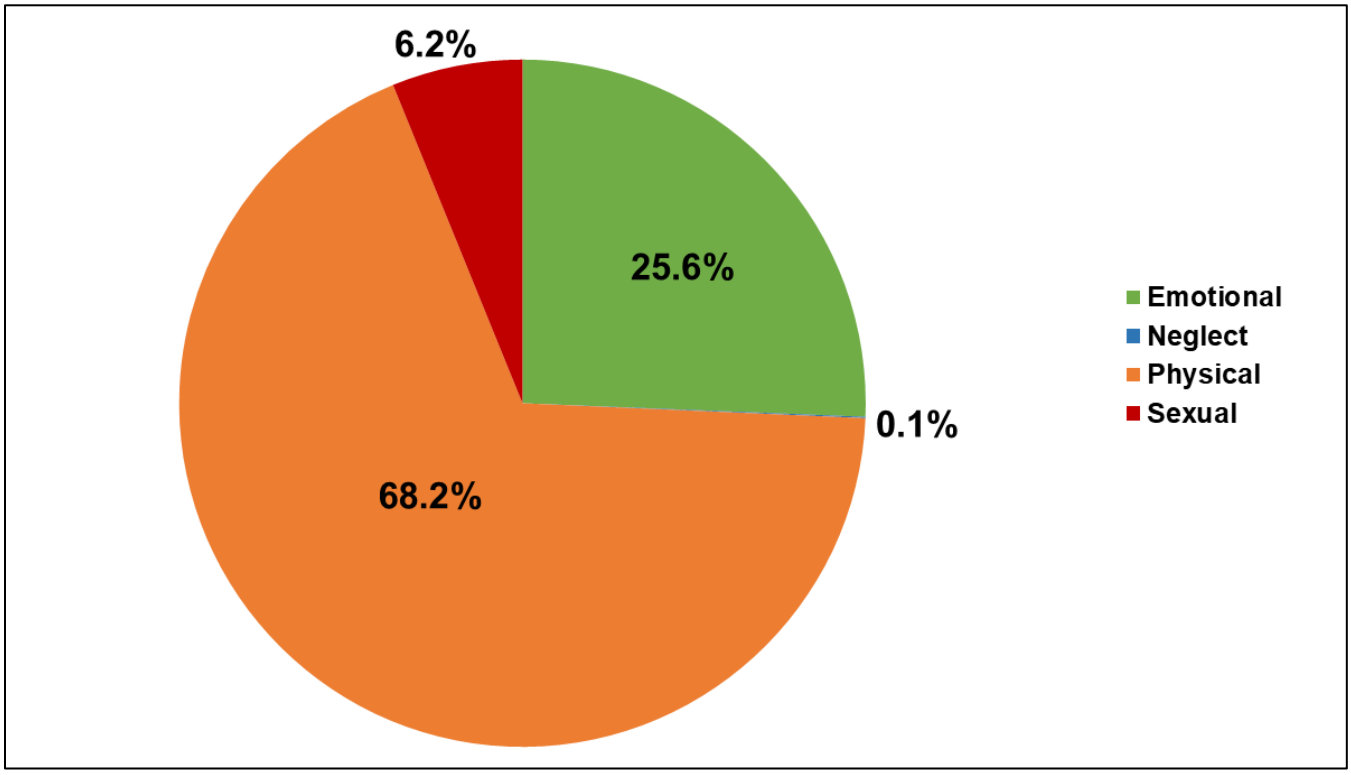
[53] The FY 2024 number of domestic abuse reports (14,799) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average number of domestic abuse reports during the FY 2015-FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [15,121,92, 16,690.48]).

[54] The FY 2024 number of met criteria incidents of domestic abuse (8,076) did not vary significantly when compared to the average number of domestic abuse incidents during the FY 2015-FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [7,976.30, 8,445.90]).

As shown in Figure 24, physical abuse accounted for the largest proportion of met criteria domestic abuse incidents in FY 2024 (68.2 percent). Emotional abuse (25.6 percent) accounted for the next largest proportion of met criteria incidents. Sexual abuse (6.2 percent) accounted for a much smaller proportion of incident, and neglect (0.1 percent) accounted for the smallest proportion of met criteria incidents.[55]

Since FY 2015, the proportion of domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse has increased incrementally, although there was a slight decrease in FY 2018. In FY 2024, 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.[56]

Figure 24. Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Type (FY 2024)



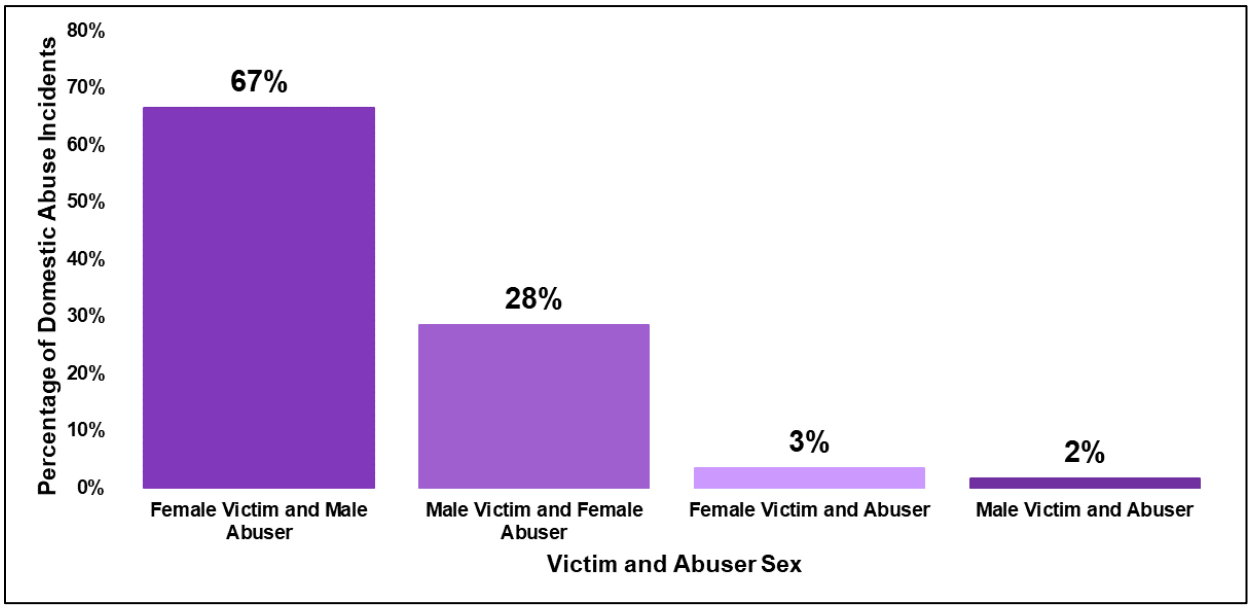
Note. Domestic abuse includes spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse incidents.

[55] Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages is 100.1.

[56] The FY 2024 proportion (6.2 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 2015-FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [0.03641, 0.054979]).

Figure 25 shows victim and abuser sex in met criteria domestic abuse incidents. In 67 percent of all met criteria domestic abuse incidents, the victim was female and the abuser was male. In 28 percent of incidents, the victim was male and the abuser was female. In three percent of incidents, the victim and abuser were female. And in two percent of met criteria domestic abuse incidents the victim and abuser were male.

Figure 25. Proportion of Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Victim and Abuser Sex (FY 2024)



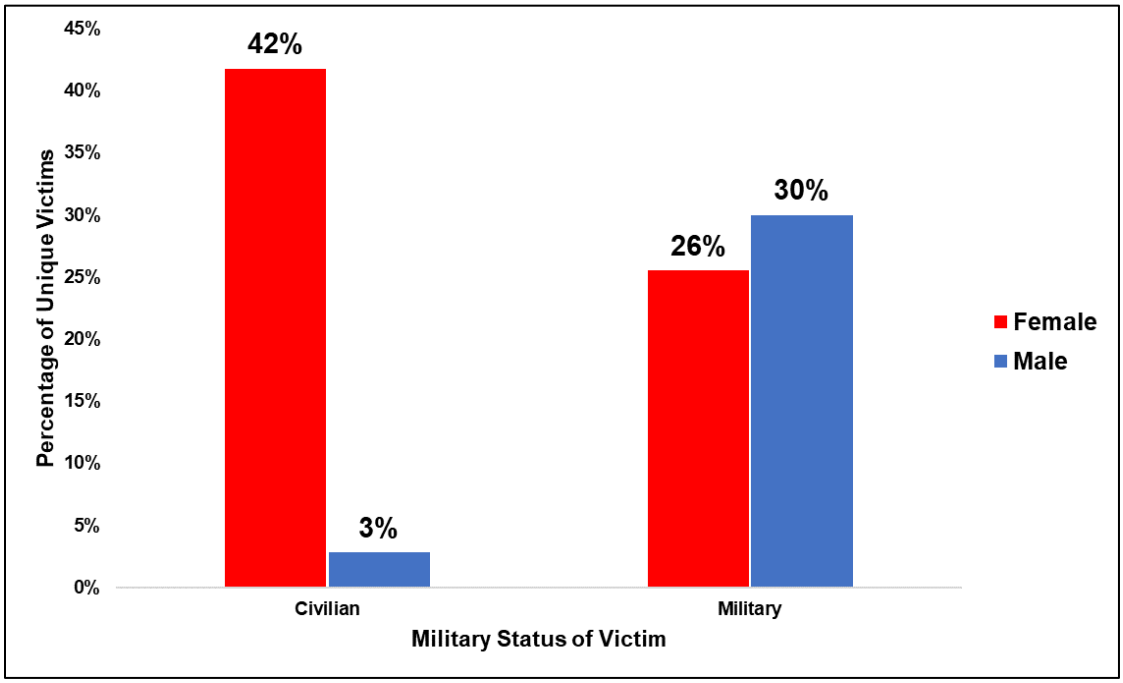
4-2. Domestic Abuse Victim Profile

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

In FY 2024, there were 6,321 unique victims of domestic abuse. Figure 26 shows unique victims of domestic abuse by military status and sex. Overall, a majority of unique victims in met criteria domestic abuse incidents were Service members (55 percent Service members vs. 45 percent civilians), and a majority were female (68 percent female vs. 33 percent male).[57]

When examining the military status and sex of unique victims in combination, 42 percent were female civilians, 30 percent were male Service members, 26 percent were female Service members, and 3 percent were male civilians. Males comprise a much larger portion of the Total Force than females—contributing to the larger proportion of male Service member domestic abuse victims compared to female Service member victims.[58] When examining the domestic abuse victimization rate for active duty members by sex, female active duty members were more than four times more likely to experience domestic abuse than male active duty members (7.3 per 1,000 for female active duty members vs. 1.8 per 1,000 male active duty members).

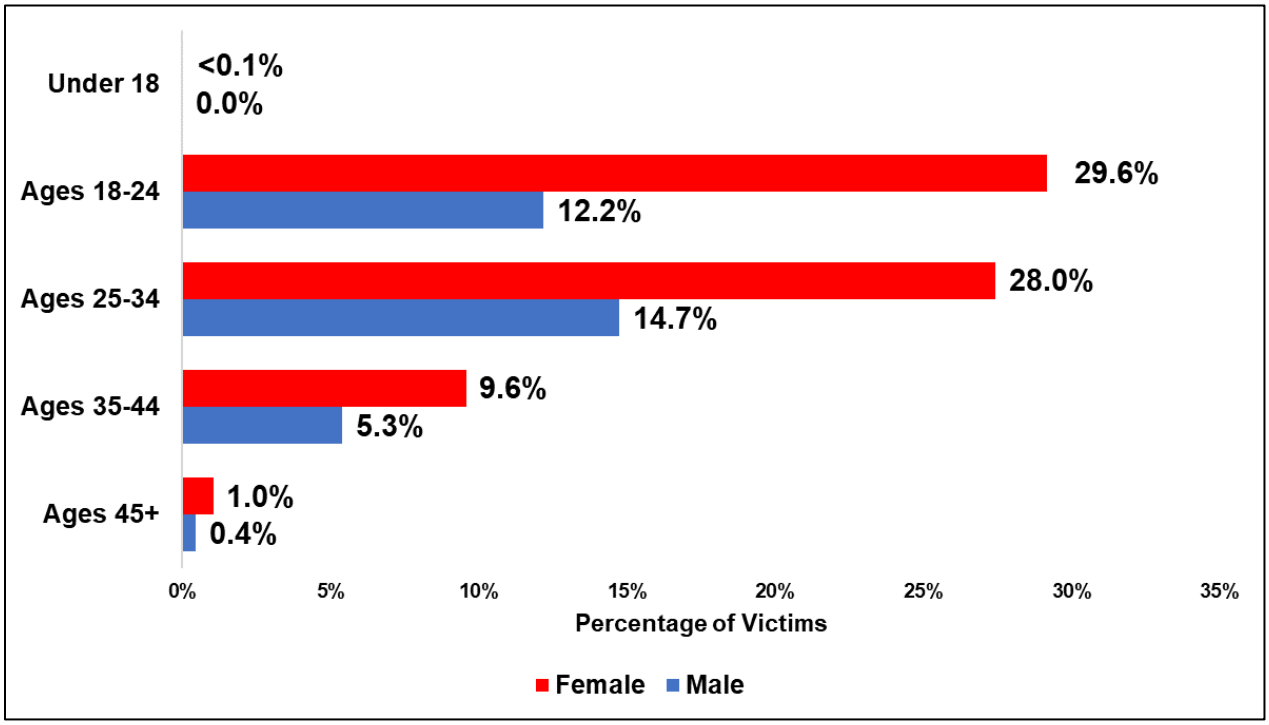
Figure 26. Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Military Status and Sex (FY 2024)



[57] The sex breakdown by percentage adds up to 101 percent rather than 100 percent due to rounding.
[58] In FY 2024, males comprised 82.2 percent of the Total Force. Data retrieved from the September 2024 DMDC Self-Service Report, "Active Duty by Demographics."

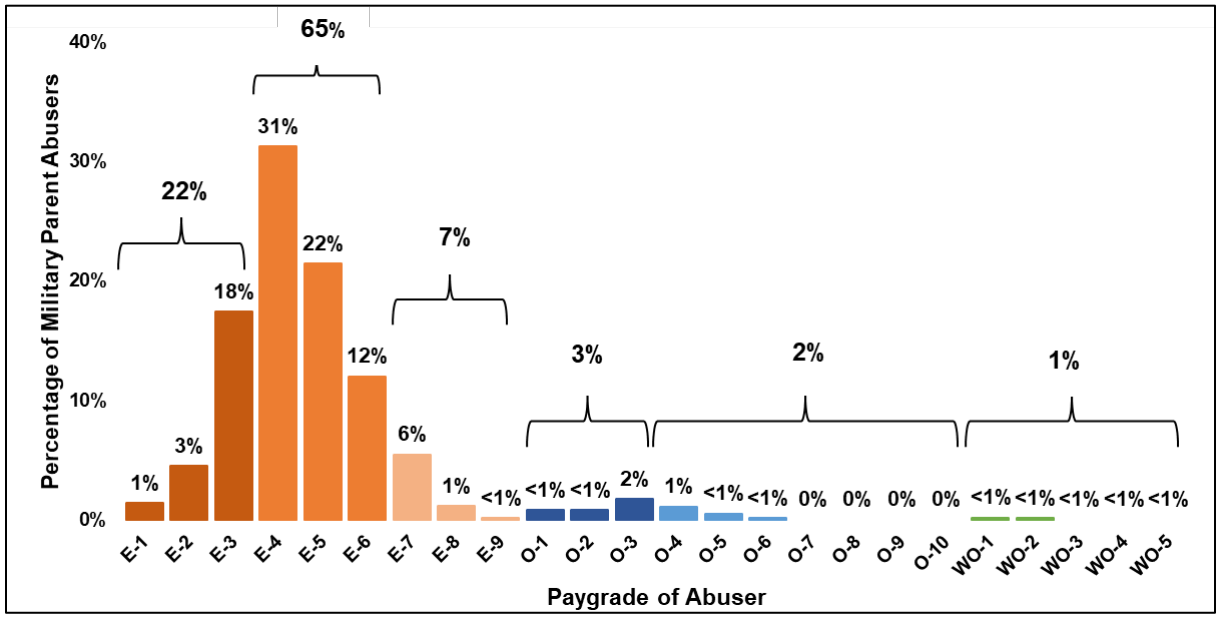
Figure 27 shows the proportion of unique victims of domestic abuse by age group and sex. More than four-fifths of victims were 34 years or younger. Of unique domestic abuse victims, 42.7 percent were ages 25 – 34 (28.0 percent female and 14.7 percent male), 41.8 percent were ages 18 – 24 (29.6 percent female and 12.2 percent male), and 14.9 percent were ages 35 – 44 (9.6 percent female and 5.3 percent male). Less than 2 percent of unique victims were ages 45 years or older (1.0 percent female and 0.4 percent male). Less than 1 percent of victims were 17 years or younger; these victims experienced domestic abuse as a spouse or intimate partner even though they were under the age of 18.

Figure 27. Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024)



As previously noted in Figure 26, more than half (55 percent) of unique domestic abuse victims in FY 2024 were Service members. Figure 28 displays the paygrade distribution of Service member victims of domestic abuse. The majority of victims in met criteria domestic abuse incidents were junior enlisted members; approximately 65 percent were in the E-4 through E-6 paygrades, and 23 percent were E-1 through E-3. Approximately 7 percent of victims were E-7 through E-9, 5 percent were officers (3 percent were O-1 through O-3, 2 percent were O-4 through O-10), and less than 1 percent were warrant officers (WO-1 through WO-5).

Figure 28. Paygrade Distribution of Service Member Victims in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)



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

4-3. Domestic Abuse Abuser Profile

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

Figure 29 shows unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents by military status and sex. Overall, a majority of unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents were Service members (63 percent Service members vs. 37 percent civilians), and a majority were male (65 percent male vs. 35 percent female).

When examining the military status and sex of unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents in combination, 54 percent were male Service members, 26 percent were female civilians, 11 percent were male civilians, and 9 percent were female Service members.

Figure 29. Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Military Status and Sex (FY 2024)

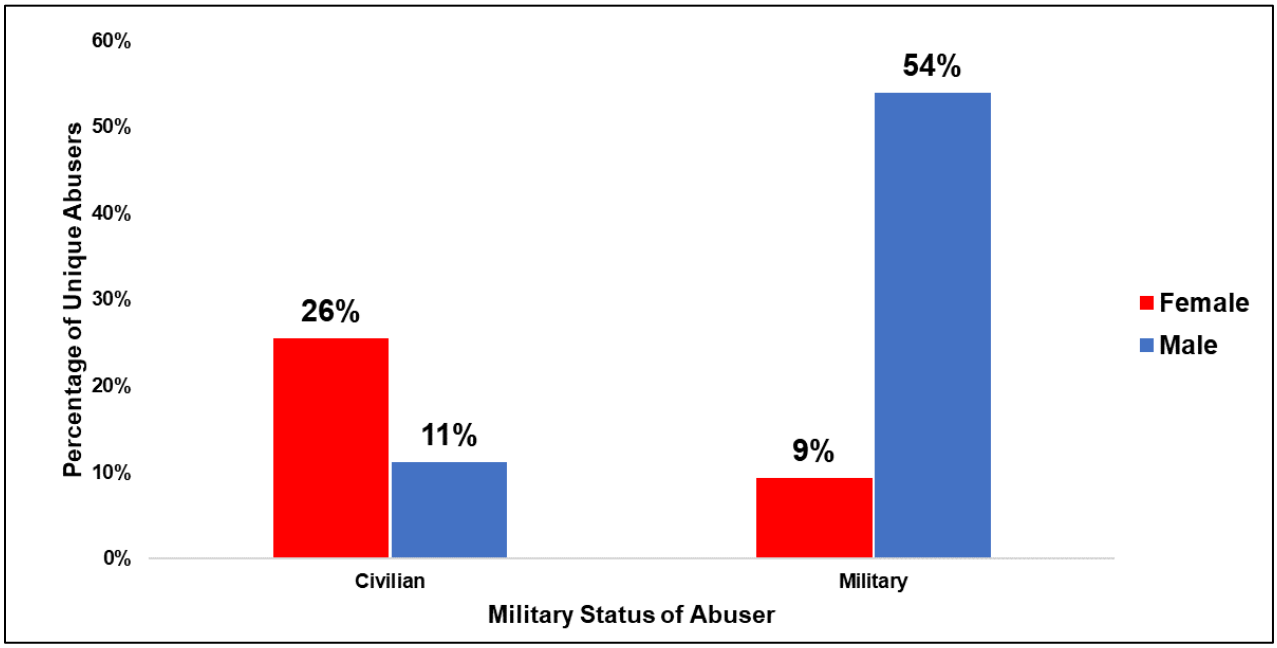
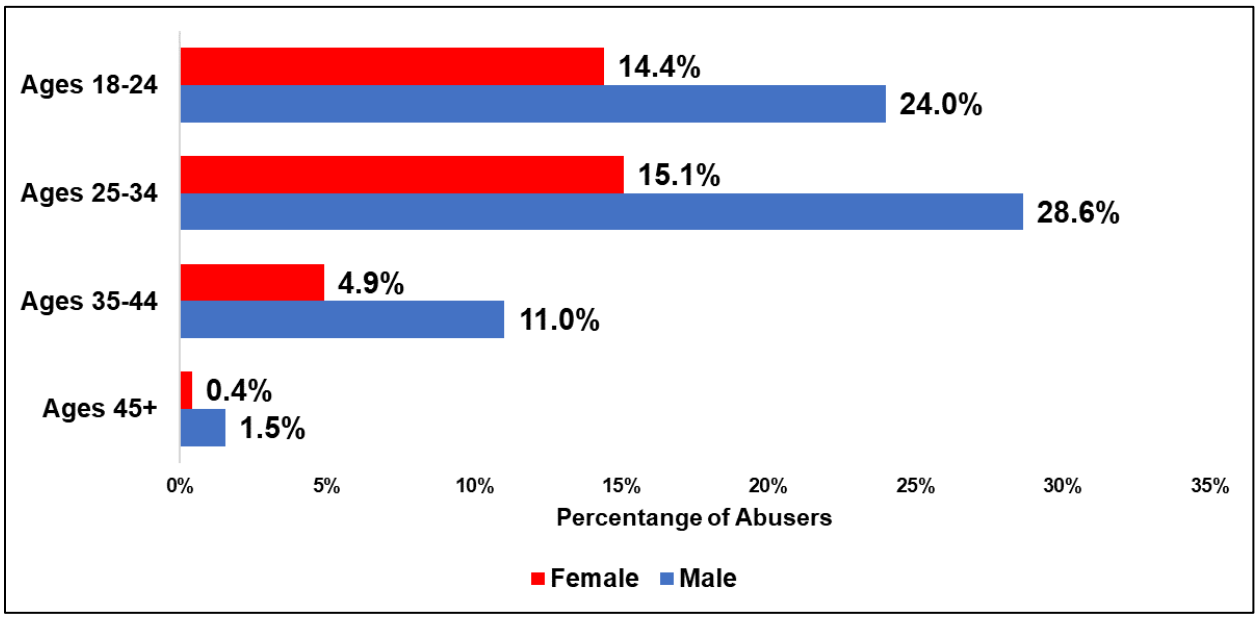


Figure 30 shows the proportion of unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents by age group and sex. More than four-fifths of abusers were 34 years or younger, which is similar to the age distribution for unique victims in met criteria domestic abuse incidents.

Of unique abusers in met criteria domestic abuse incidents, 38.4 percent were ages 18 – 24 (24.0 percent male and 14.4 percent female), 43.7 percent were ages 25 – 34 (28.6 percent male and 15.1 percent female), and 15.9 percent were ages 35 – 44 (11.0 percent male and 4.9 percent female). 1.9 percent of unique abusers were ages 45 years or older (1.5 percent male and 0.4 percent female).

Figure 30. Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024)



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

4-4. Spouse Abuse Incidents

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

There are three elements calculated for spouse abuse in this report, including the number of reported incidents, the number of met criteria incidents, and the rate of spouse victimization. The first two elements may vary as they can be impacted by external factors. For example, the number of reports can fluctuate based on the impact of awareness campaigns, training, and efforts to reduce stigma in the community associated with contacting FAP. Process improvements such as the implementation of the IDC and counting each type of abuse as a distinct incident can impact the number of met criteria incidents. The calculated rate of spouse victimization, however, can be more accurately compared year-over-year, as it controls for the number of reports made. It 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 4, the FY 2024 rate of reported spouse abuse per 1,000 married couples[59] was 19.4, which is slightly lower than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2023 (19.8). This numerical difference of 0.4 represents a 2.0 percent decrease in the rate of reported incidents in FY 2024, which represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the 10-year average.[60]

Table 4: Reports and Incidents of Spouse Abuse (FY 2015 - FY 2024)

Fiscal Year	Reported Incidents	Met Criteria Incidents	Married Couples Population	Reports/1000	Met Criteria Incidents/1000
2015	15,725	7,892	665,429	23.6	11.9
2016	15,144	7,661	646,782	23.4	11.8
2017	15,657	7,153	638,132	24.5	11.2
2018	15,242	7,015	628,167	24.3	11.2
2019	13,571	6,800	626,705	21.7	10.9
2020	12,663	6,596	620,387	20.4	10.6
2021*	12,630	6,629	620,442	20.4	10.7
2022*	12,636	6,637	600,515	21.0	11.1
2023*	11,789	6,283	596,095**	19.8	10.5
2024*	11,331	6,078	585,470**	19.4	10.4

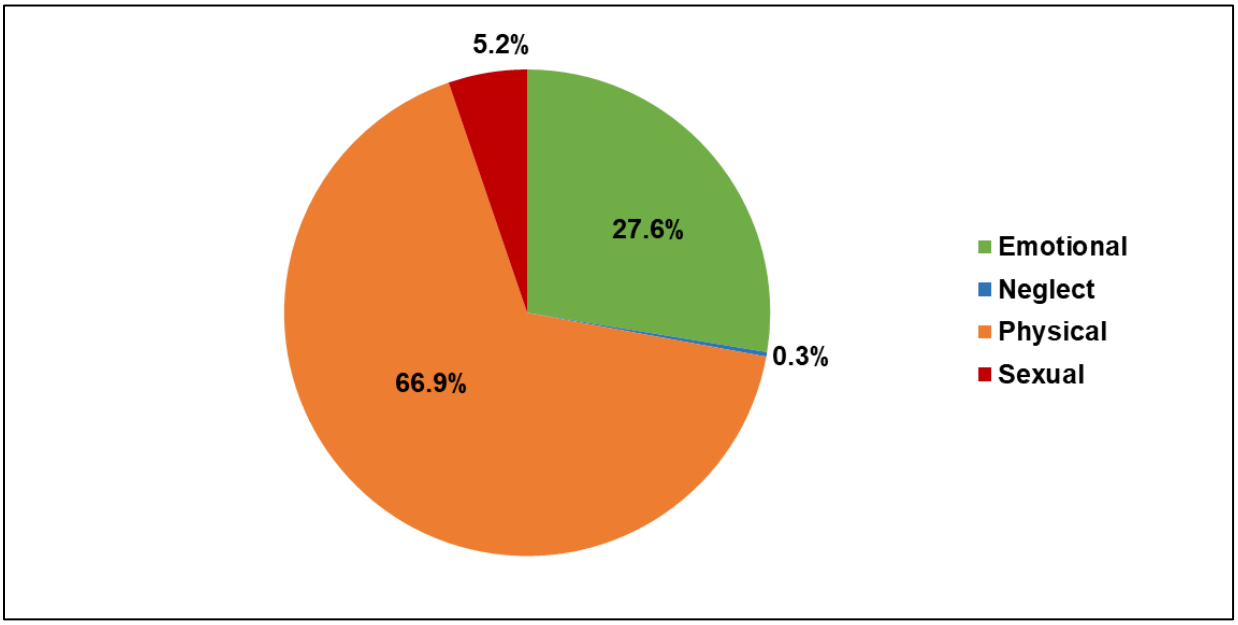
Note. Starting in FY 2021, reports of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type. A single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. Similarly, starting in FY 2015, incidents of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type. The FY 2023 and 2024 married couples population is estimated due to missing data for one Service in DMDC data.

[59] The FY 2024 married couples population is estimated due to missing data from one Service in DMDC data.

[60] The FY 2024 rate of spouse abuse reports per 1,000 married couples (19.4) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average rate of spouse abuse reports during the FY 2015-FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [20.45, 23.24]).

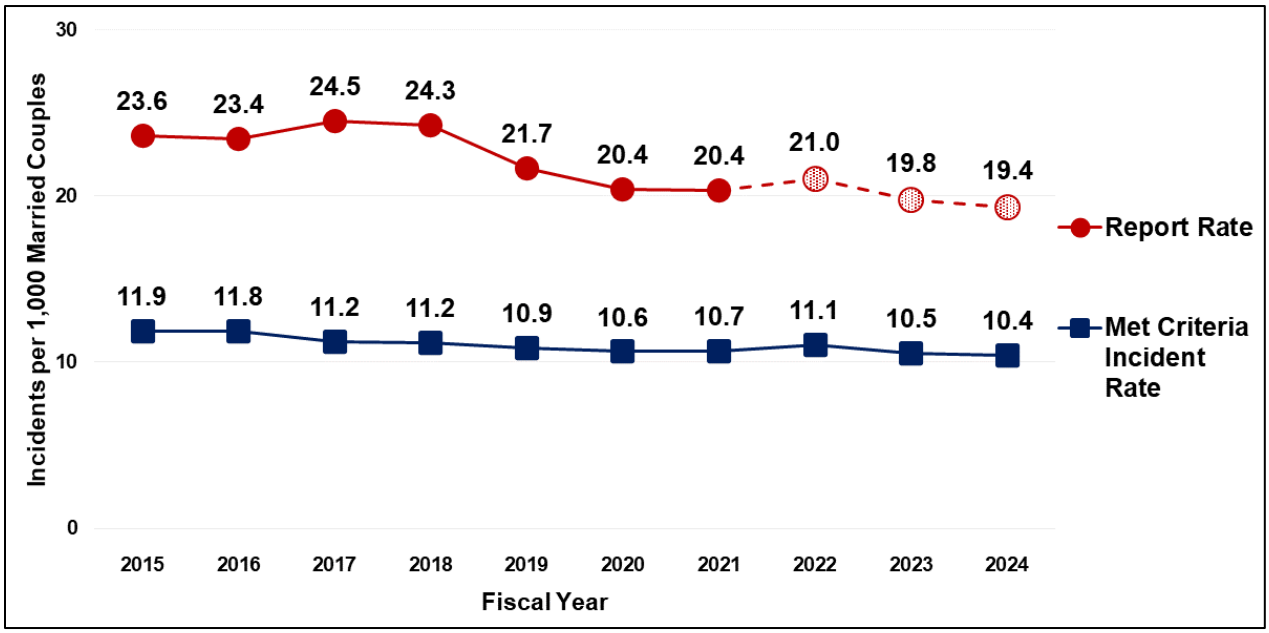
Figure 31 shows the distribution of reports of spouse abuse by abuse type. Physical abuse accounted for the largest proportion of reports of spouse abuse in FY 2024 (66.9 percent), followed by emotional abuse (27.6 percent), sexual abuse (5.2 percent), and neglect (0.3 percent).

Figure 31. Spouse Abuse Reports by Type (FY 2024)



There were 6,078 incidents of spouse abuse that met criteria in FY 2024. The rate of met criteria spouse abuse incidents per 1,000 married couples[61] was 10.4, which is slightly lower than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2023 (10.5). This numerical difference of 0.1 represents a 0.3 percent decrease in the rate of incidents that met criteria. The FY 2024 decrease in the rate of met criteria incidents is statistically significant when compared to the 10-year average.[62] 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 2015-FY 2024 are displayed in Figure 32.

Figure 32. Spouse Abuse Reports vs. Met Criteria Incident Rates per 1,000 Married Couples (FY 2015 - FY 2024)



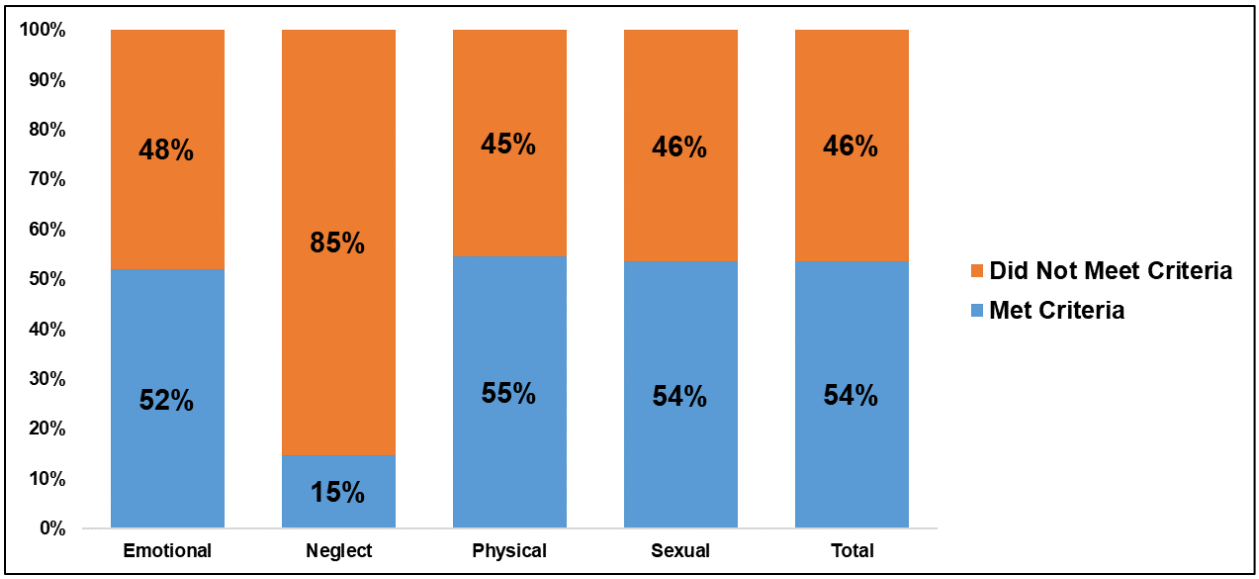
Note. The dashed lines and dotted markers for the rate of reported incidents in FY 2021 through FY 2024 highlight the new calculation method implemented for reports of abuse.

[61] The FY 2024 married couples population is estimated due to missing data at DMDC.

[62] The FY 2024 rate of met criteria spouse abuse incidents per 1,000 married couples (10.4) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average rate per 1,000 married couples during the FY 2015-FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [10.65, 11.39]).

Overall, 54 percent of reported incidents of spouse abuse were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse. As shown in Figure 33, there was a slight variation in the met criteria rate for emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse, ranging from 52 percent of reports of emotional abuse that met criteria to 55 percent of reports of physical abuse that met criteria. Only 15 percent of reports of neglect met the DoD definition of abuse. However, it is important to note that neglect accounted for less than one percent of all reports of spouse abuse—making neglect subject to extreme variation in percentages.

Figure 33. Proportion of Reported Spouse Abuse Incidents that Met Criteria by Type (FY 2024)



As shown in Table 5 there were 4,774 unique victims of spouse abuse in FY 2024. The FY 2024 unique spouse abuse victim rate per 1,000 married couples[63] was 8.2, which is slightly lower than the rate per 1,000 in FY 2023 (8.3) (see Figure 34). This numerical difference of 0.1 represents a 1.2 percent decrease in the unique spouse abuse victim rate, which is a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average 10-year rate.[64]

Table 5: Unique Victims of Spouse Abuse (FY 2015 - FY 2024)

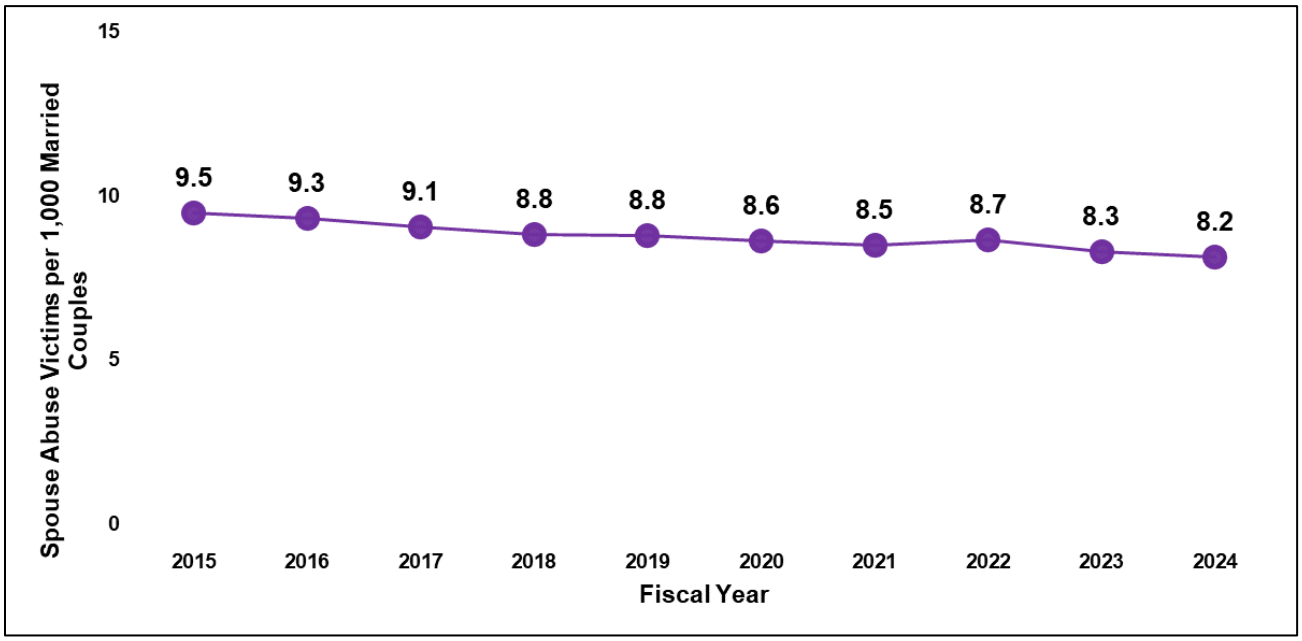
Fiscal Year	Met Criteria Incidents	Unique Victims	Married Couples Population	Met Criteria Incidents/1000	Rate of Victims/1000
2015	7,892	6,314	665,429	11.9	9.5
2016	7,661	6,033	646,782	11.8	9.3
2017	7,153	5,781	638,132	11.2	9.1
2018	7,015	5,550	628,167	11.2	8.8
2019	6,800	5,505	626,705	10.9	8.8
2020	6,596	5,363	620,387	10.6	8.6
2021*	6,629	5,276	620,442	10.7	8.5
2022*	6,637	5,212	600,515	11.1	8.7
2023*	6,283	4,952	596,095**	10.5	8.3
2024	6,078	4,774	585,470**	10.4	8.2

Note. Starting in FY 2021, reports of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type. A single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. Similarly, starting in FY 2015, incidents of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type. The FY 2023 and FY 2024 married couples population is estimated due to missing data for one Service in DMDC data.

[63] The FY 2024 married couples population is estimated due to missing data for one Service in DMDC data.

[64] The FY 2024 spouse abuse victim rate per 1,000 married couples (8.2) represents a statistically significant decrease when compared to the average spouse abuse victim rate per 1,000 married couples during the FY 2015-FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [8.48, 9.08]).

Figure 34. Rate of Unique Spouse Abuse Victims per 1,000 Married Couples (FY 2015 - FY 2024)



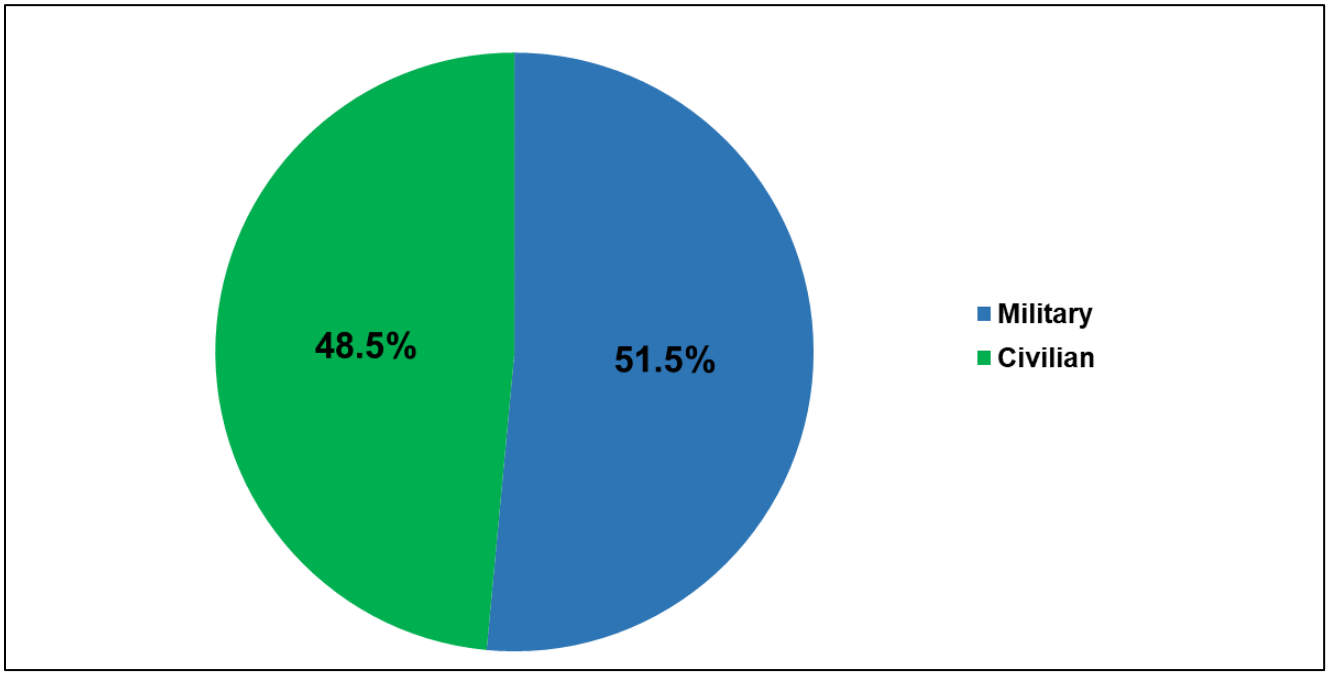
Note. The FY 2024 married couples population is estimated due to missing data for one Service in DMDC data.

4-5. Spouse Abuse Victim Profile

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

The military status of victims involved in spouse abuse incidents that met criteria in FY 2024 is displayed in Figure 35. Of the total victims, 51.5 percent were Service members and 48.5 percent were civilians.

Figure 35. Military Status of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)

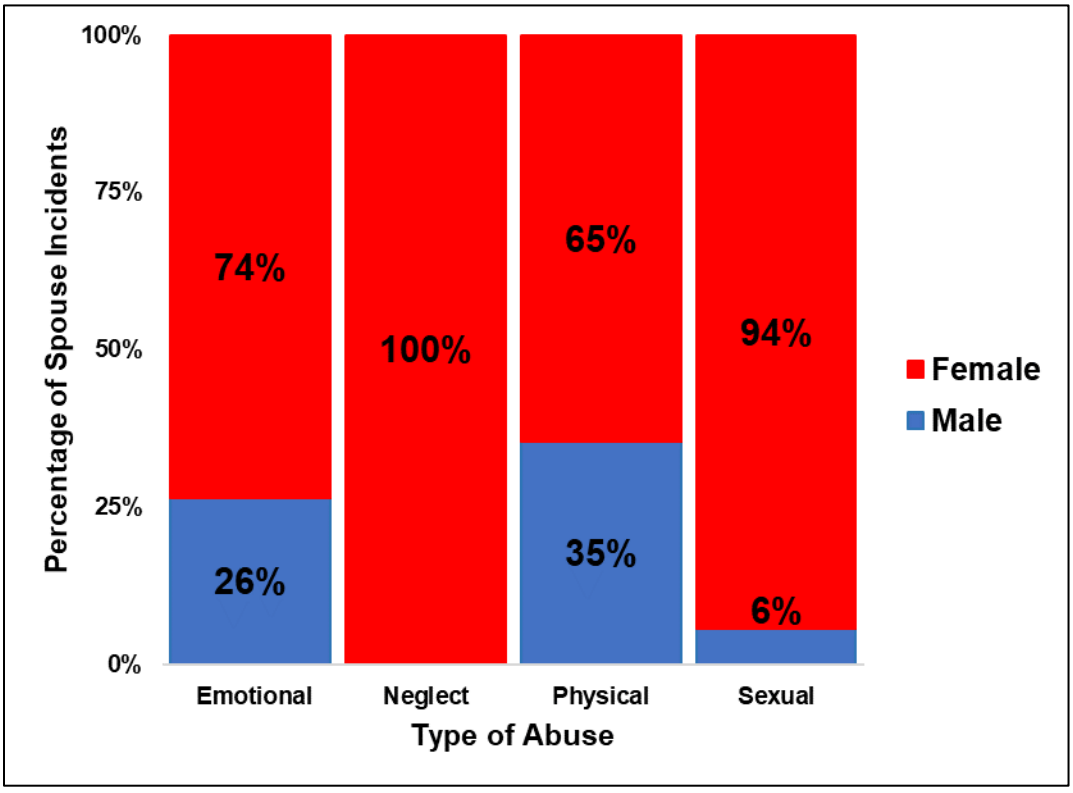


Note. Military includes active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

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

Figure 36 displays the sex of spouse abuse victims for each abuse type. Females comprised a larger proportion of victims than males for all types of abuse. Ninety-four percent of spouse abuse victims who experienced sexual abuse were female versus 6 percent male. Seventy-four percent of victims of emotional abuse were female versus 26 percent male. Among incidents of physical abuse, the most common type of domestic abuse in military families, 65 percent of victims were female versus 35 percent male. While 100 percent of victims of neglect were female, it is important to note that neglect accounted for less than 0.1 percent of all met criteria domestic abuse incidents—making neglect subject to extreme variations in percentages.

Figure 36. Sex of Victims in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)

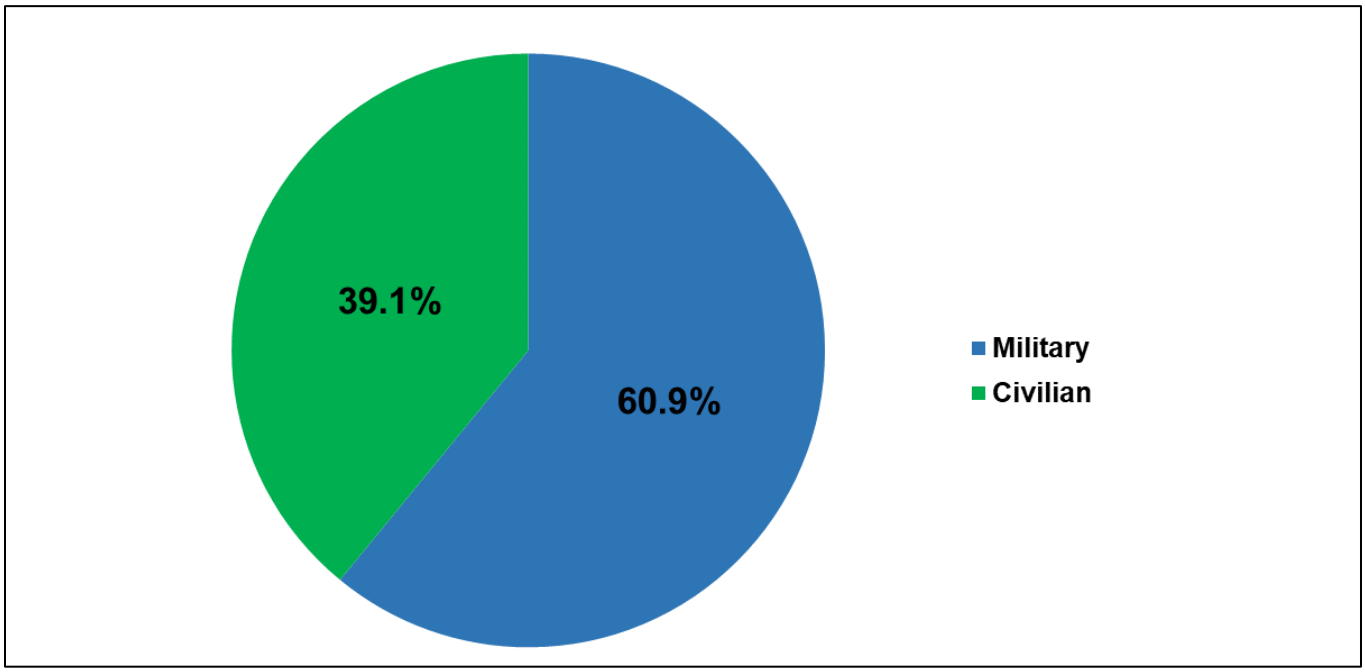


4-6. Spouse Abuser Profile

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

The military status of abusers involved in spouse abuse incidents that met criteria in FY 2024 is displayed in Figure 37. Of the abusers, 60.9 percent were Service members and 39.1 percent were civilians.

Figure 37. Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)



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

As shown in Figure 38, the military status distribution of abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents has been relatively consistent since FY 2015.

Figure 38. Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2015-FY 2024)

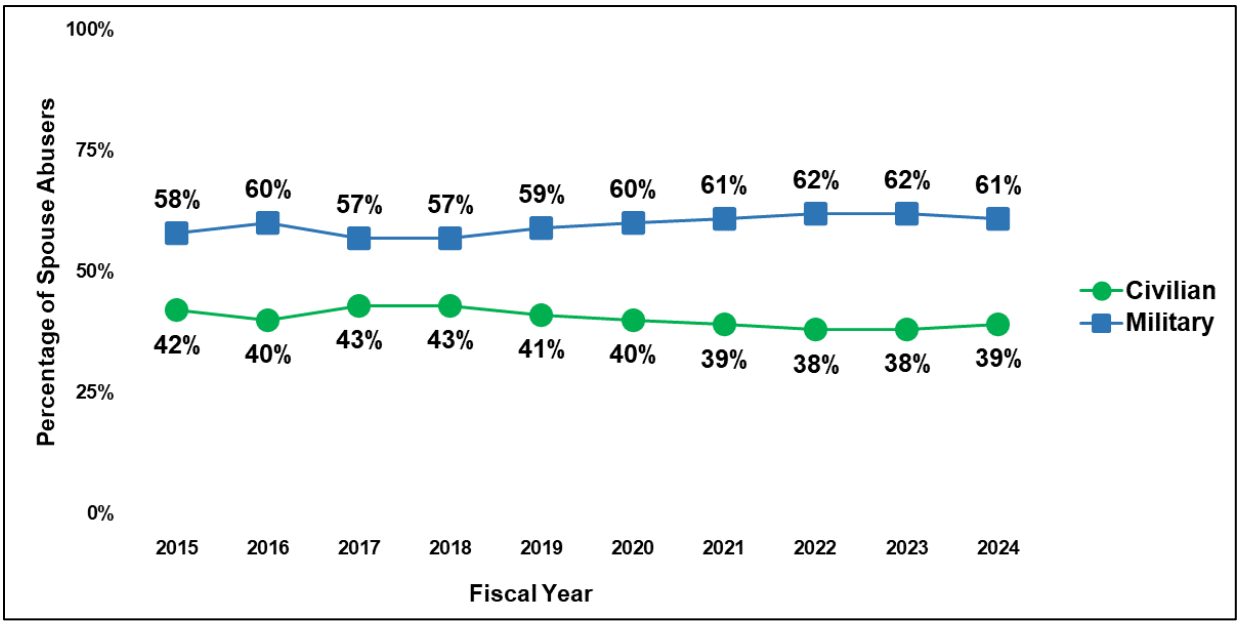
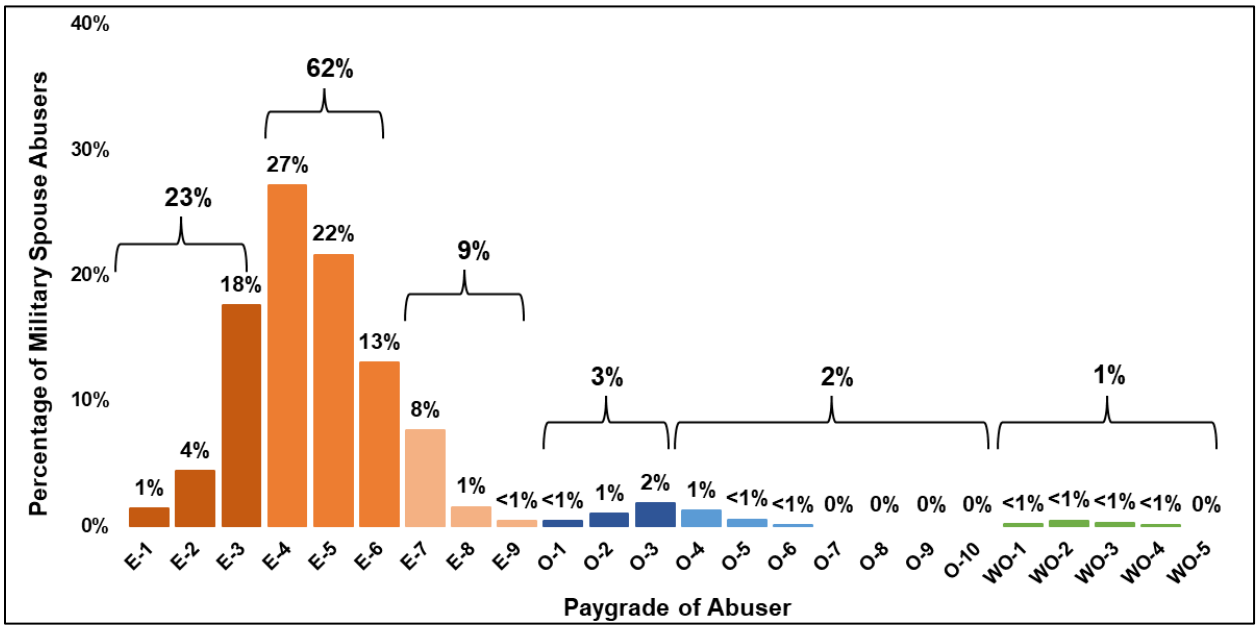


Figure 39 displays a breakdown by paygrade for military spouse abusers who were involved in a met criteria incident. The majority of abusers were junior enlisted members; approximately 62 percent were E-4 through E-6 and 23 percent were E-1 through E-3. Nine percent of abusers were E-7 through E-9, 5 percent were officers (3 percent were O-1 through O-3, 2 percent were O-4 through O-10), and 1 percent were warrant officers (WO-1 through WO-5).

Figure 39. Paygrade Distribution of Military Spouse Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)



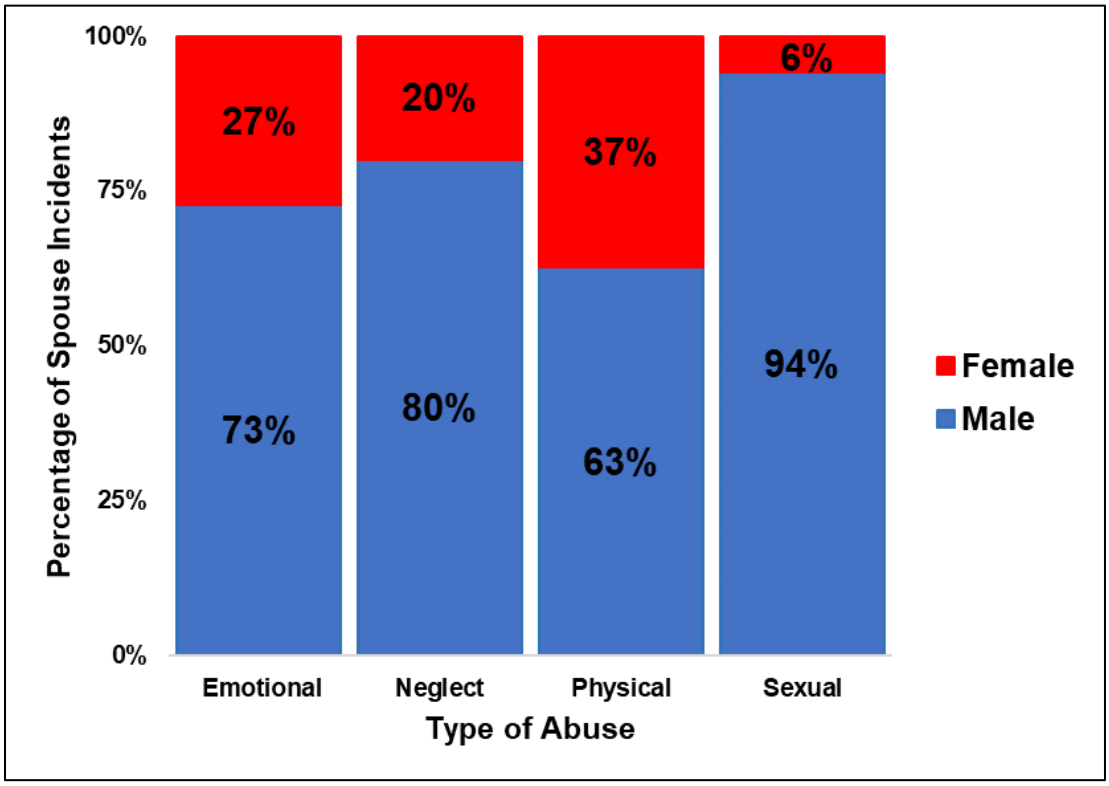
Note. Military includes active duty members as well as Reserve and National Guard members who are in an active status.

As previously noted in this report, the FY 2024 married couples population was estimated due to missing data for one Service in DMDC data. Figures based on specific paygrade of active duty spouses in the military population were removed to avoid more granular estimation of the unknown data. The "Proportion of Active Duty Spouse Abusers in Met Criteria Incidents by Paygrade, Compared to Demographics" and "Rate of Active Duty Spouse Abusers per 1,000 Married Couples by Paygrade" figures that appeared in the FY 2022 report therefore were excluded from the current report.

Overall, 67 percent of abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents were male and 33 percent were female.

Figure 40 shows the proportions of male and female abusers for each individual type of met criteria spouse abuse. The majority of spouse abusers in met criteria incidents of sexual abuse were male (94 percent male vs. 6 percent female). Males were also more likely to be abusers in incidences of neglect (80 percent male vs. 20 percent female), emotional abuse incidents (73 percent male vs. 27 percent female) and in physical abuse incidents (63 percent male vs. 37 percent female). It is important to note that neglect accounted for less than 0.1 percent of all met criteria domestic abuse incidents.

Figure 40. Sex of Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)



Looking specifically at Service member abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents, 90 percent were male and 10 percent were female. Figure 41 shows the proportions of Service member male and female abusers in met criteria spouse abuse incidents for each individual type of abuse. The majority of Service member spouse abusers for incidents of sexual abuse and emotional abuse were male (99 percent male vs. 1 percent female for sexual abuse and 93 percent vs. 7 percent for emotional abuse). Eighty-seven percent of Service member abusers in physical abuse incidents were male versus 13 percent female. All Service member spouse abusers for met criteria incidents of neglect were male, although neglect accounted for less than 0.1 percent of all met criteria spouse abuse incidents involving Service member abusers.

Figure 41. Sex of Service Member Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)

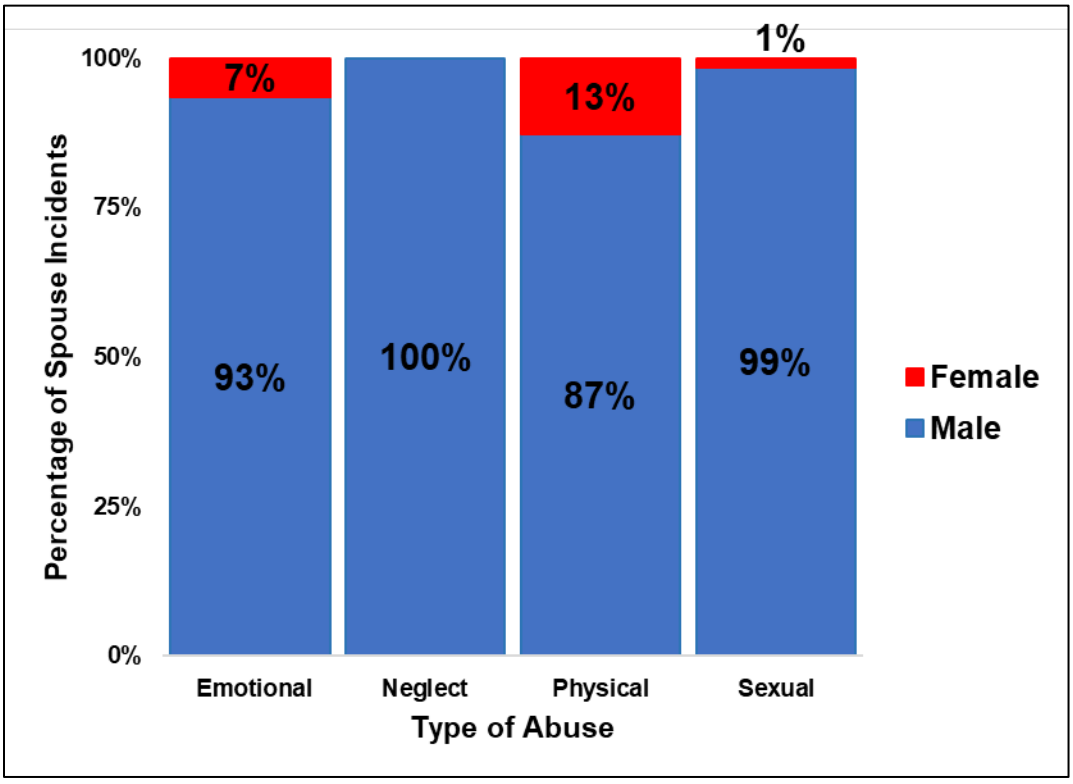
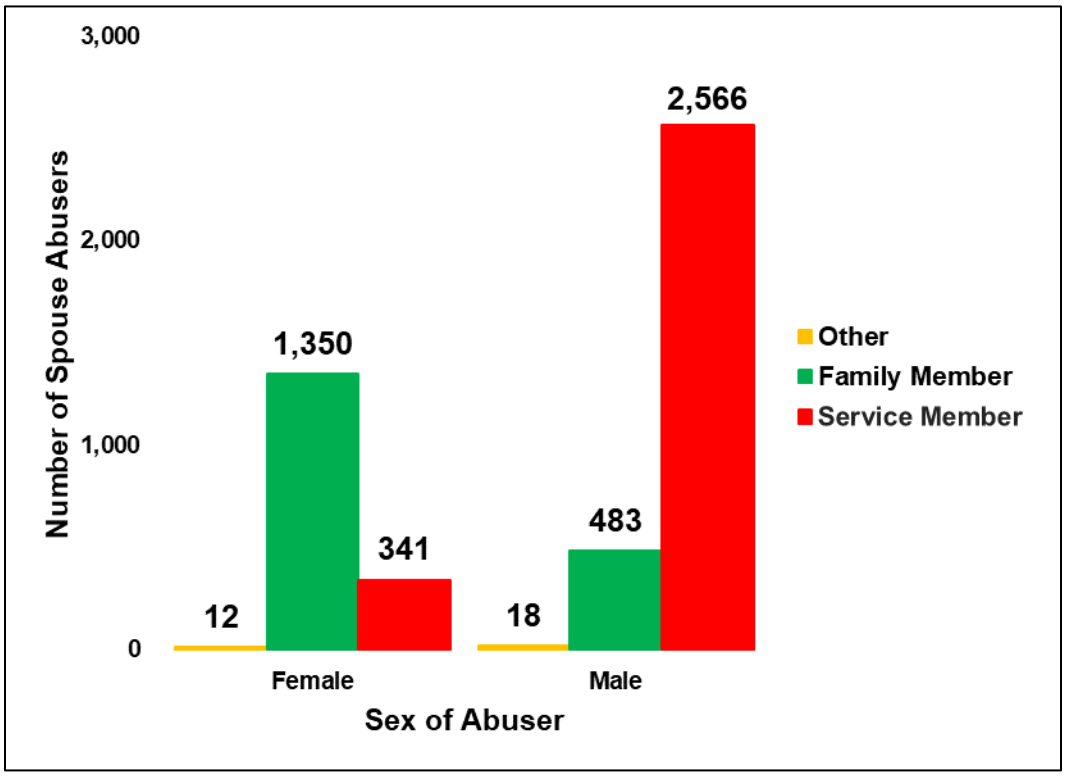


Figure 42 shows the breakdown of spouse abusers by sex and military status. Among male abusers in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse, 2,566 were Service members, 483 were family members, and 18 fell into the "other" category.[65] Among female abusers in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse, 341 were Service members, 1,350 were family members, and 12 were categorized as "other".

Figure 42. Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents by Sex and Military Status (FY 2024)



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

[65] The "other" category includes abusers in met criteria incidents who were DoD civilians, non-DoD government civilians, retired Service members, government contractors, and non-beneficiaries.

4-7. Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents

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

The data on intimate partner abuse included in this section are those incidents involving former spouses, individuals with whom the victim shares a child in common, current or former partners with whom the victim shares or has shared a common domicile, and individuals with whom the victim has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature.[66] The types of abuse for intimate partner abuse are physical, sexual, emotional, which is similar to those for spouse abuse except intimate partner abuse excludes neglect.[67]

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

[67] DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

In FY 2024, there were 3,468 reports of intimate partner abuse made to FAP, of which 1,998 met the DoD definition of abuse (57.6 percent).[68] The met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse involved 1,564 unique victims (see Table 6).[69] The number of reports, the number of met criteria incidents, and the number of unique victims represent statistically significant increases when compared to their respective 10-year averages. A rate per 1,000 of intimate partner abuse cannot be established, as data on unmarried individuals involved in intimate partner relationships as defined by the DoD are not available.

Table 6: Reports and Incidents of Intimate Partner Abuse (FY 2015 - FY 2024)

Fiscal Year	Reported Incidents	Met Criteria Incidents	Unique Victims
2015	1,798	966	778
2016	1,771	1,022	847
2017	1,519	916	756
2018	1,670	1,024	822
2019	1,902	1,121	886
2020	2,026	1,307	996
2021*	2,342	1,328	1,048
2022*	2,843	1,670	1,270
2023*	3,335	2,015	1,524
2024*	3,468	1,998	1,564

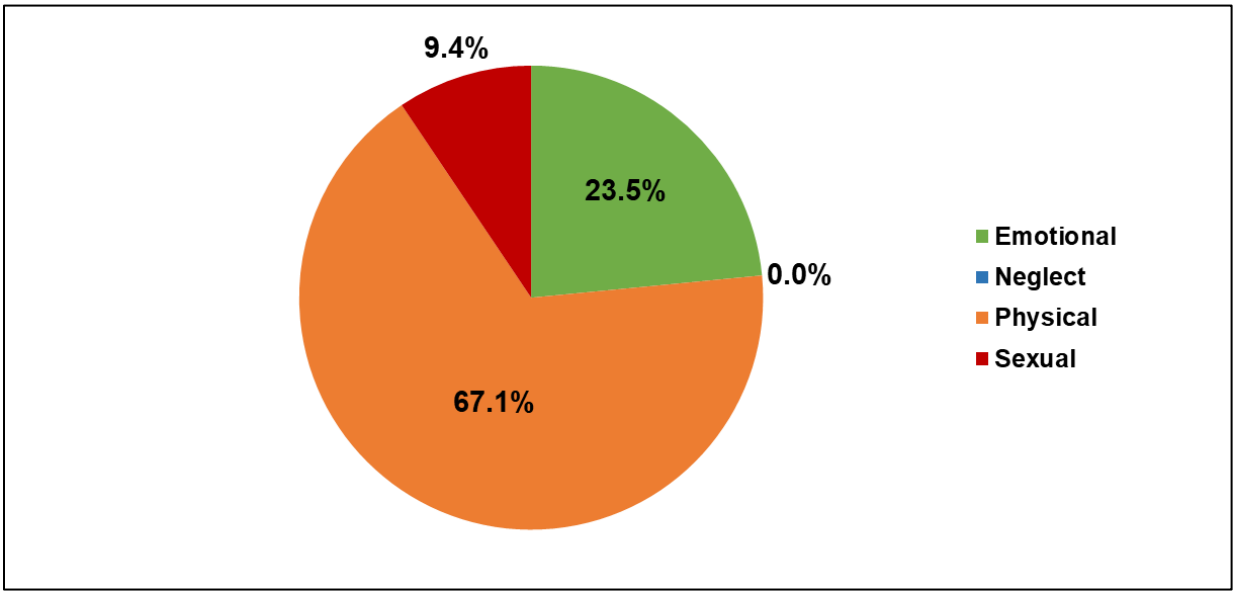
Note. Starting in FY 2021, reports of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type. A single report can only be associated with one type of alleged abuse. Similarly, starting in FY 2015, incidents of abuse are calculated separately by abuse type.

[68] The number of reports of intimate partner abuse in FY 2024 (3,468) represents a statistically significant increase when compared to the average number of reports of intimate partner abuse during the FY 2015-FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [1761.92, 2772.88]). The number of met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2024 (1,998) represents a statistically significant increase when compared to the average number of intimate partner abuse incidents during the FY 2015 - FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [1038.19, 1635.21]).

[69] The number of unique intimate partner abuse victims in FY 2024 (1,564) represents a statistically significant increase when compared to the average number of unique intimate partner abuse victims during the FY 2015-FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [833.08, 1265.12]).

Figure 43 shows the distribution of reports of intimate partner abuse by abuse type. Similar to reports of spouse abuse, physical abuse accounted for the largest proportion of reports of intimate partner abuse in FY 2024 (67.1 percent), followed by emotional abuse (23.5 percent), and sexual abuse (9.4 percent). Consistent with policy,[70] there were no reports of intimate partner neglect in FY 2024.

Figure 43. Intimate Partner Abuse Reports by Type (FY 2024)

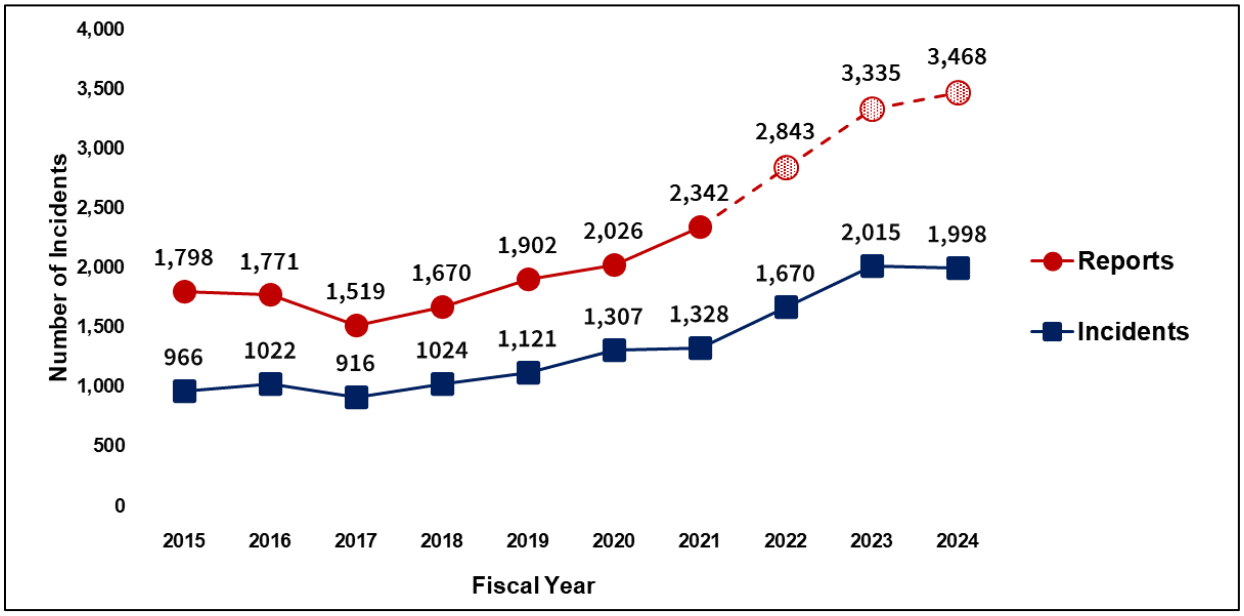


[70] DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

Figure 44 shows a steady increase in both the number of reports and the number of met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse since FY 2017. However, from FY 2023 to FY 2024 there was a slight decrease in the number of met criteria incidents, from 2,015 to 1,998. Although it is not possible to calculate rates per 1,000 for intimate partner abuse, as previously noted, it is possible to examine percent changes in both the number of reports and met criteria incidents of intimate partner abuse, over time. From FY 2023 to FY 2024, the number of reports of intimate partner abuse increased by 3.8 percent and the number of met criteria incidents decreased by 0.8 percent. Though the rate of reports increased from FY 2023 to FY 2024, the period between FY 2023 and FY 2024 marks the first time since FY 2017 that met criteria incidents of intimate partner violence have not increased.

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

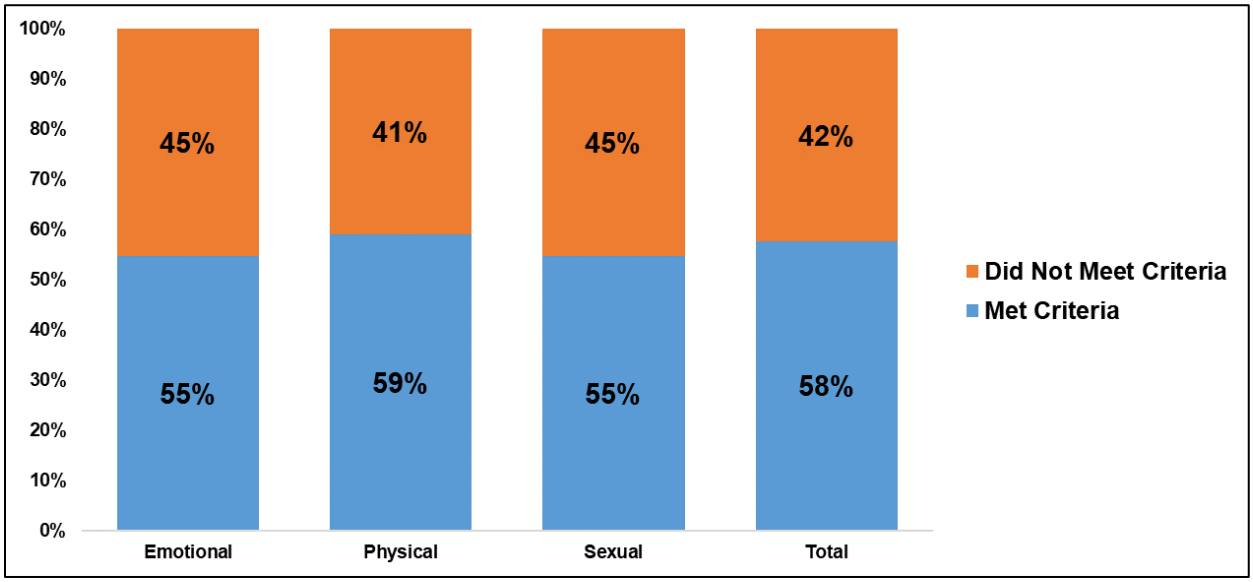
Figure 44. Number of Intimate Partner Abuse Reports vs. Met Criteria Incidents (FY 2015 - FY 2024)



Note. The dashed lines and dotted markers for the number of reported incidents in FY 2021 through FY 2024 highlight the new calculation method implemented for reports of abuse.

Overall, 58 percent of reported incidents of intimate partner abuse were determined to meet the DoD definition of abuse. As shown in Figure 45, there was only a slight variation in the met criteria rate for emotional abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse, ranging from 55 percent of reports of emotional and sexual abuse that met criteria to 59 percent of reports of physical abuse that met criteria. In accordance with policy,[71] there were no reports of intimate partner neglect in FY 2024.

Figure 45. Proportion of Reported Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents that Met Criteria by Abuse Type (FY 2024)



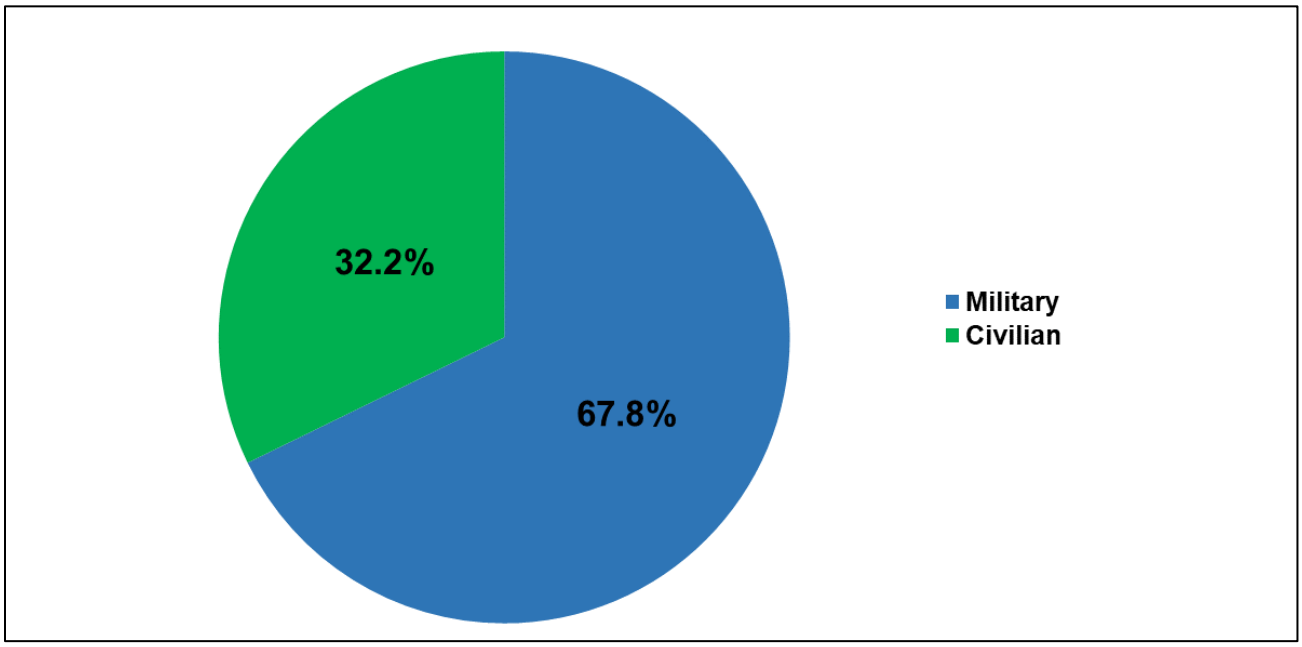
[71] DoDM 6400.01, Volume 3, August 11, 2016, as amended.

4-8. Intimate Partner Abuse Victim Profile

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

The military status of unique victims in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2024 is displayed in Figure 46. Of the victims of intimate partner abuse, 67.8 percent were Service members and 32.2 percent were civilians.

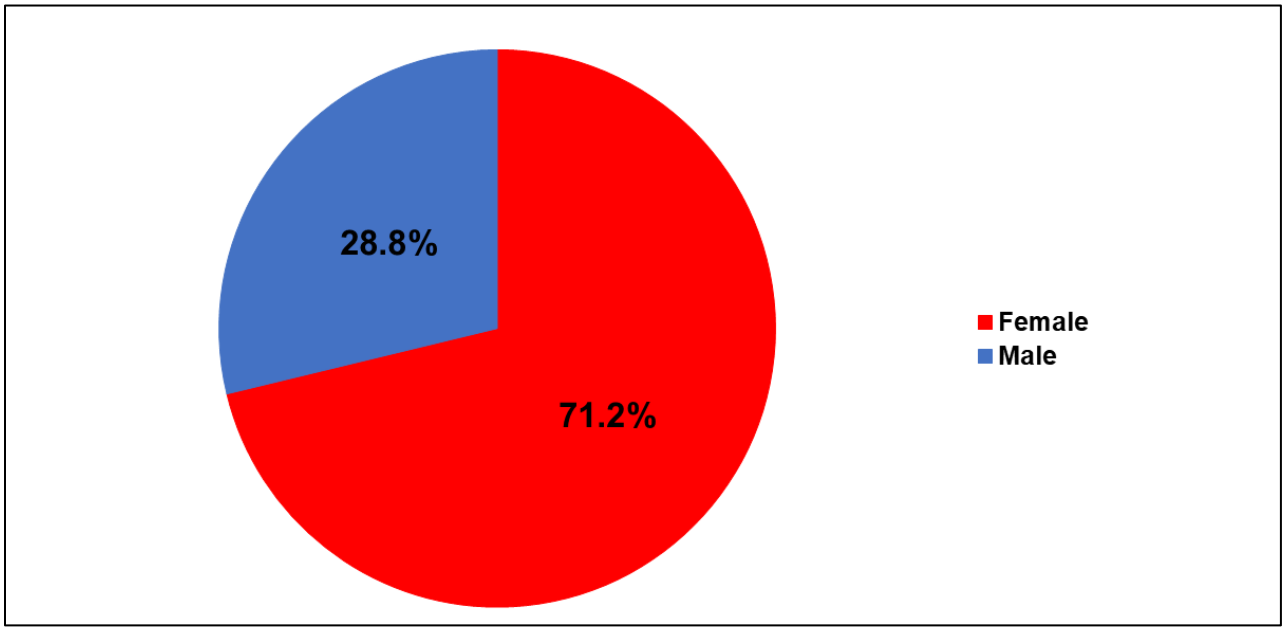
Figure 46. Military Status of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)



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 2024 is displayed in Figure 47. Among unique victims in these incidents, 71.2 percent were female and 28.8 percent were male.

Figure 47. Sex of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)

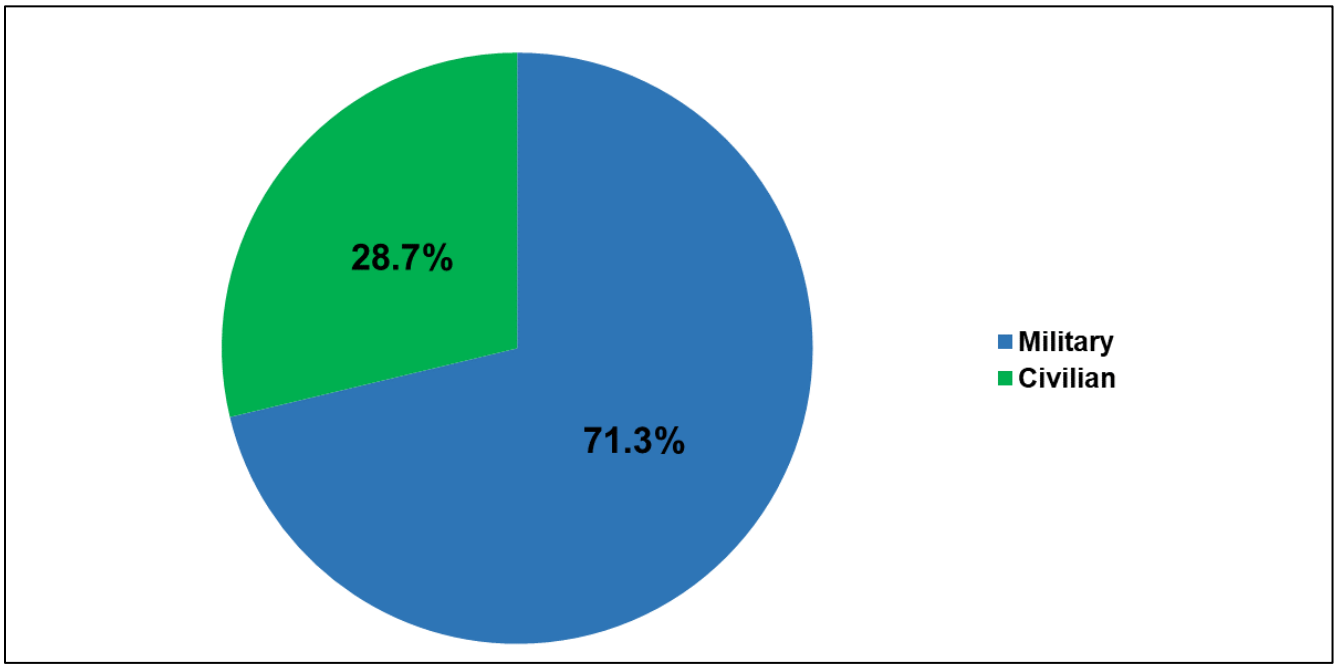


4-9. Intimate Partner Abuser Profile

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

The military status of abusers involved in met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents in FY 2024 is displayed in Figure 48. Of the abusers, 71.3 percent were Service members and 28.7 percent were civilians.

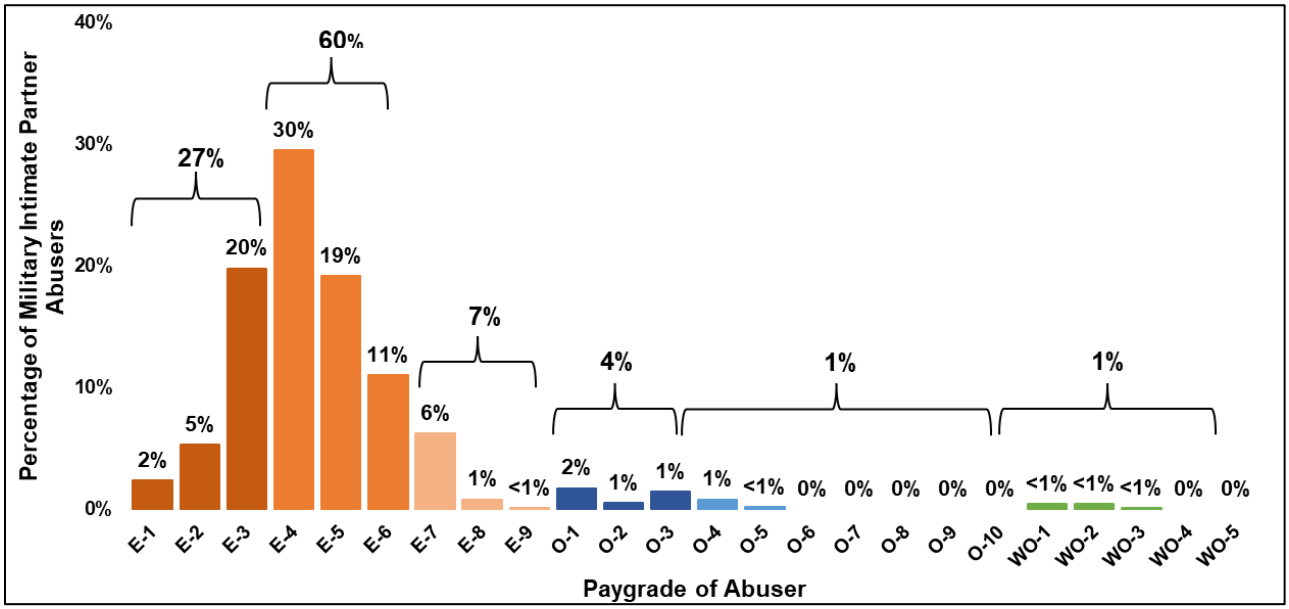
Figure 48. Military Status of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)



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

Figure 49 displays a breakdown by paygrade for Service member intimate partners who were abusers in met criteria intimate partner incidents. The majority of abusers were junior enlisted members; approximately 60 percent were E-4 through E-6 and 27 percent were E-1 through E-3. Seven percent of abusers were E-7 through E-9, 5 percent were officers (4 percent were O-1 through O-3, 1 percent were O-4 through O-10), and 1 percent were warrant officers (WO-1 through WO-5).

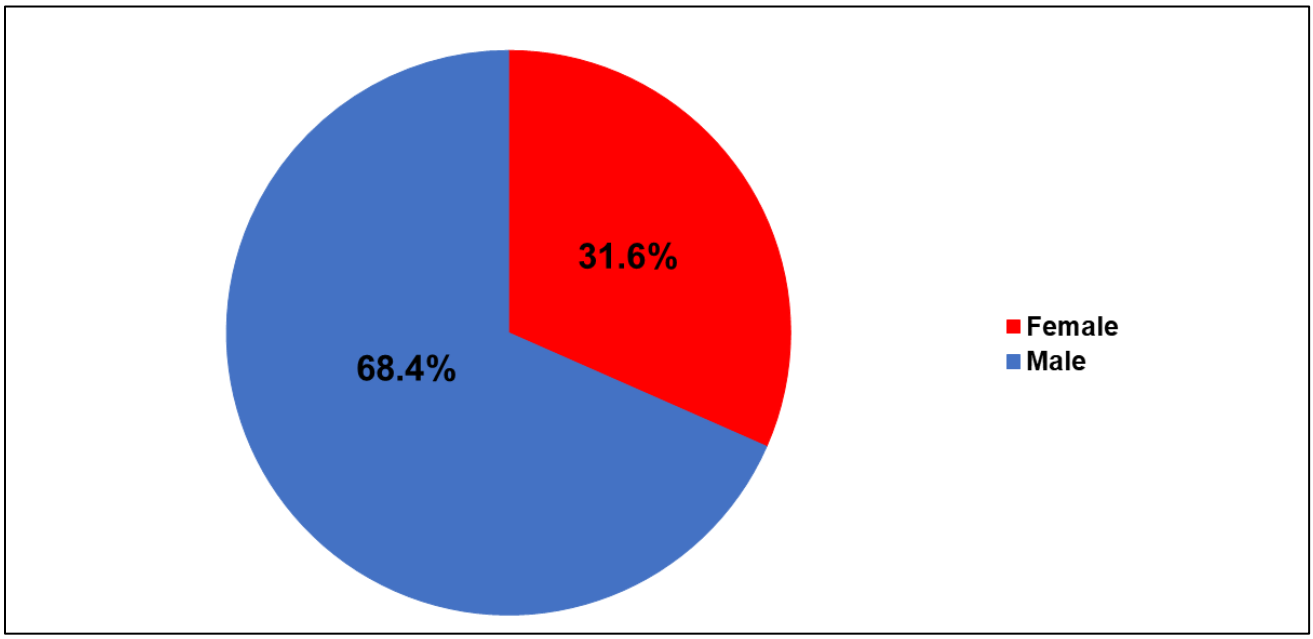
Figure 49. Paygrade Distribution of Service Member Intimate Partner Abusers in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)



Note. Service member 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 2024 is displayed in Figure 50. Among unique abusers in these incidents, 68.4 percent were male, and 31.6 percent were female.

Figure 50. Sex of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Intimate Partner Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)



4-10. Adult Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse of a spouse or intimate partner is defined as "a sexual act or sexual contact with the spouse or intimate partner without the consent of the spouse or intimate partner or against the expressed wishes of the spouse or intimate partner. [This] includes abusive sexual contact with a spouse or intimate partner, aggravated sexual assault of a spouse or intimate partner, aggravated sexual 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.[72] This includes abusive sexual contact with a spouse or intimate partner, aggravated sexual assault of a spouse or intimate partner, aggravated sexual 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."[73] Sexual abuse in the domestic violence field is contextually distinct from sexual assault in that it occurs within a marriage or intimate partner relationship usually as part of a larger pattern of behavior resulting in emotional or psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty. Sexual abuse 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 2024, there were 497 met criteria incidents of adult sexual abuse (see Table 7). Overall, 6.2 percent of all met criteria domestic abuse incidents were sexual abuse incidents, a statistically significant increase when compared with the 10-year average.[74] Given there were more incidents than victims, one or more victims experienced more than one incident of sexual abuse.

Table 7: Incidents of Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse (FY 2015 - FY 2024)

Fiscal Year	Total Met Criteria Domestic Abuse Incidents	Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents	Percentage of Overall Met Criteria Domestic Abuse
2015	8,858	262	3.0
2016	8,683	299	3.4
2017	8,069	300	3.7
2018	8,039	290	3.6
2019	7,921	310	3.9
2020	7,903	327	4.1
2021	7,957	409	5.1
2022	8,307	504	6.1
2023	8,298	544	6.6
2024	8,076	497	6.2

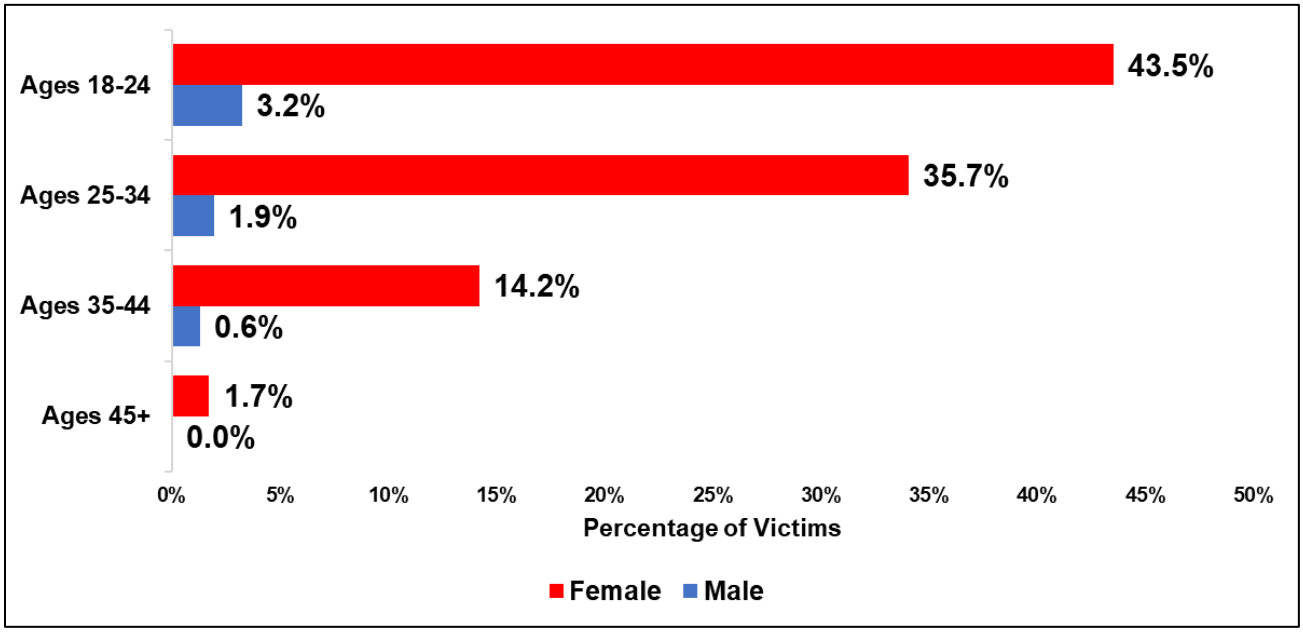
Note. Met criteria domestic and adult sexual abuse incidents include spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse combined.

[72] DoDM 6400.0l, Volume 3, Glossary, August 11, 2016, as amended.
[73] DoDM 6400.0l, Volume 3, Glossary, August 11, 2016, as amended.
[74] The proportion of met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents as a percentage of overall met criteria domestic abuse incidents in FY 2024 (6.2 percent) represents a statistically significantly increase when compared to the average percent of overall met criteria domestic abuse during the FY 2015 - FY 2024 period (95 percent CI [3.64, 5.50]).

Of the 464 unique victims of adult sexual abuse who reported to FAP in FY 2024, 434 (93.5 percent) were female and 30 (6.5 percent) were male. Examining the characteristics of unique victims by age, a majority were between the ages of 18 and 34 (84.3 percent). Figure 51 shows the proportion of unique adult sexual abuse victims by age group and sex.

Of the unique victims in met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents, 46.7 percent (43.5 percent female and 3.2 percent male) were ages 18 – 24, 37.6 percent (35.7 percent female and 1.9 percent male) were ages 25 – 34, 14.8 percent (14.2 percent female and 0.6 percent male) were ages 35 – 44, and 1.7 percent were 45 years or older (all female).

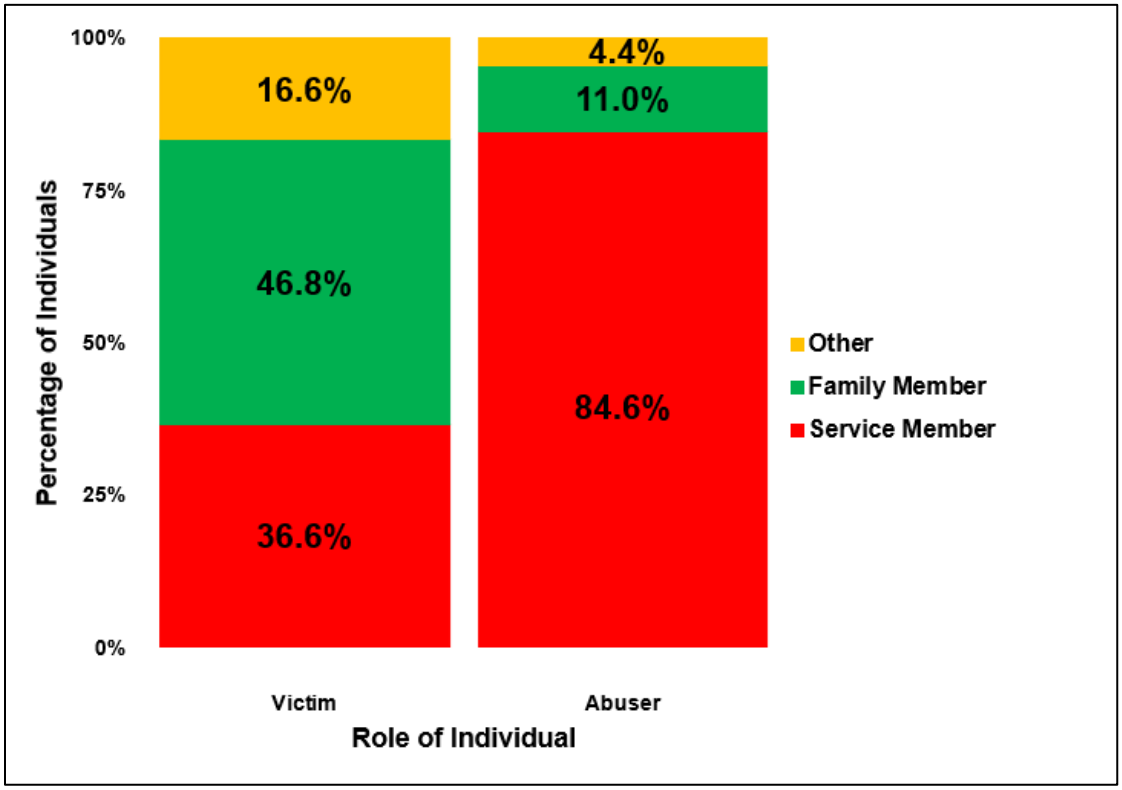
Figure 51. Proportion of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024)



As shown in Figure 52, of the 464 unique victims of adult sexual abuse who reported to FAP services in FY 2024, 217 (46.8 percent) were family members, 170 (36.6 percent) were Service members, and 77 (16.6 percent) fell into the "other"[75] category, including 61 (13.1 percent) who were non-beneficiaries and 16 (3.4 percent) who were DoD civilians, non-DoD civilians, retired Service members, or Government contractors.

Of the 455 unique abusers in met criteria sexual abuse incidents, 385 (84.6 percent) were Service members, 50 (11.0 percent) were family members, and 20 (4.4 percent) fell into the "other" category.

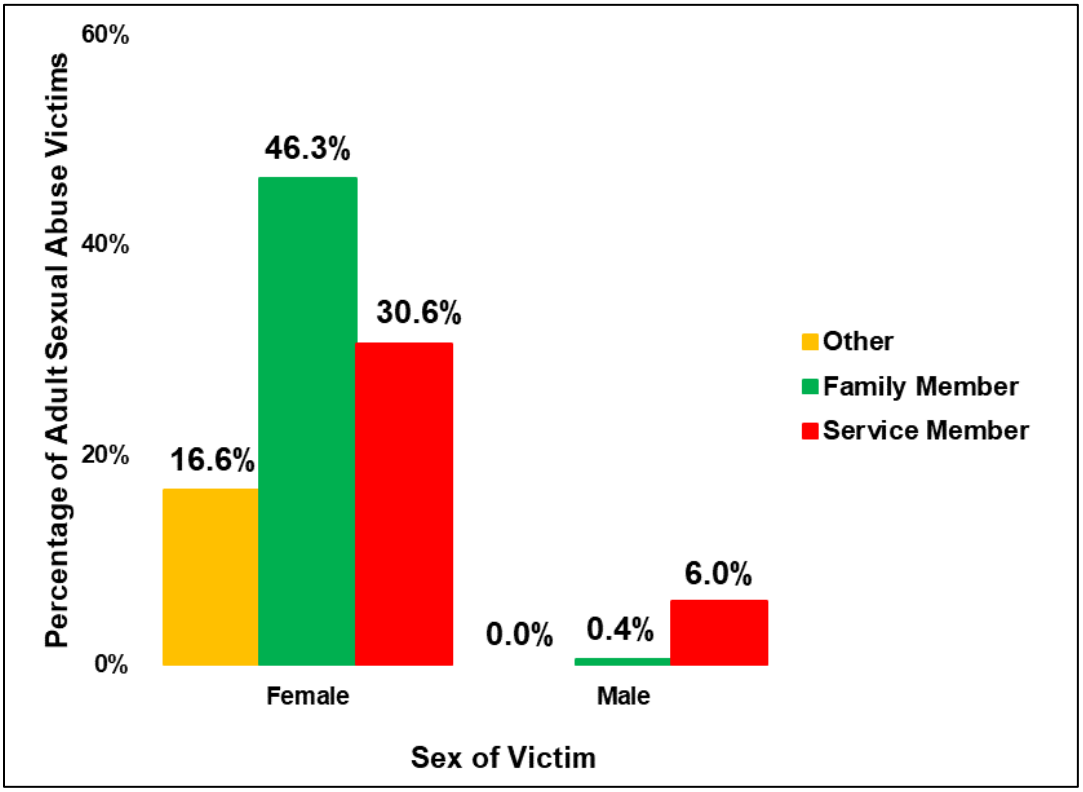
Figure 52. Status of Unique Victims and Abusers in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)



[75] The "other" category includes abusers in met criteria incidents who were DoD civilians, non-DoD government civilians, retired Service members, government contractors, and non-beneficiaries.

Figure 53 and Figure 54 show that when examining the sex and status of unique victims of adult sexual abuse in FY 2024 separately, the majority were female (93.5 percent) and almost half were family members (46.7 percent). Figure 53 shows unique victims of adult sexual abuse by sex and military status. Among adult sexual abuse victims who received FAP services, 46.3 percent were female family members, 30.6 percent were female Service members, and 16.6 percent were females that fell into the "other" category.[76] Males represented 6.4 percent of unique victims of adult sexual abuse, including 6.0 percent who were Service members and 0.4 percent who were family members; no male victims fell into the "other" category.

Figure 53. Sex and Status of Unique Victims in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents (FY 2024)

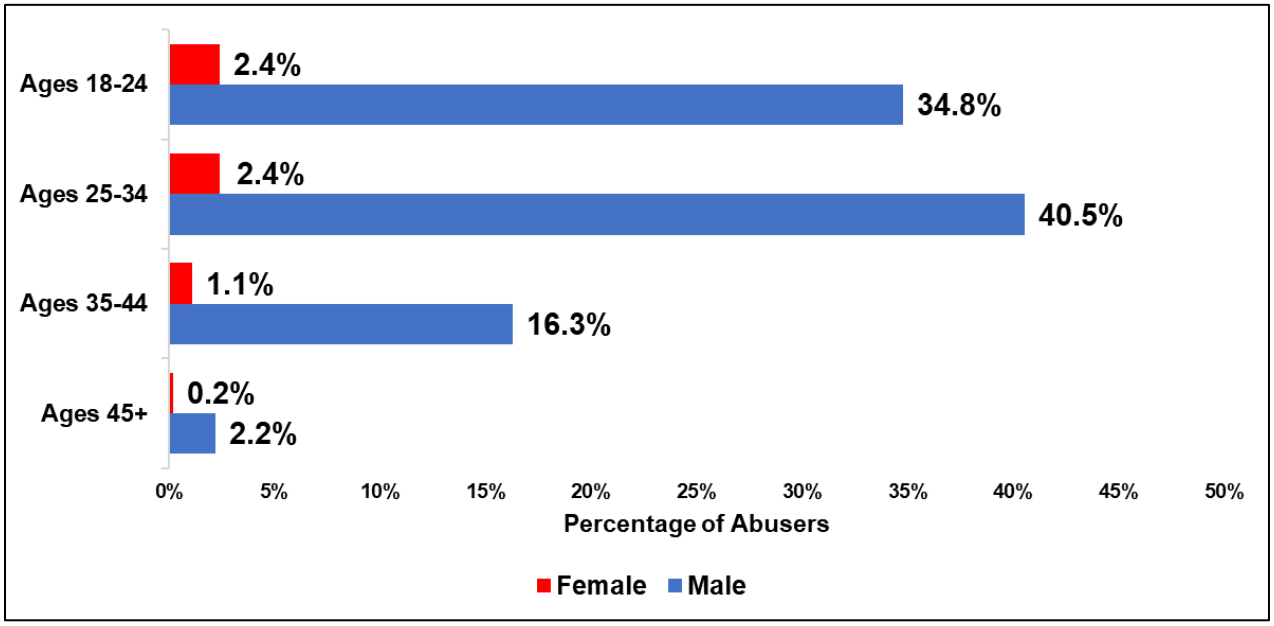


[76] The "other" category includes abusers in met criteria incidents who were DoD civilians, non-DoD government civilians, retired Service members, government contractors, non-beneficiaries, and those who had an unknown status.

Of the 454 unique abusers in met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents, 93.8 percent were male and 6.1 percent were female.[77] Examining the characteristics of unique abusers by age, 80.1 percent were 34 years or younger. Figure 54 shows the proportion of unique abusers in met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents by age group and sex.

Of the unique abusers in met criteria adult sexual abuse incidents, 42.9 percent (40.5 percent male and 2.4 percent female) were ages 25 – 34, 37.2 percent (34.8 percent male and 2.4 percent female) were ages 18 – 24, 17.4 percent (16.3 percent male and 1.1 percent female) were ages 35 – 44, 2.4 percent (2.2 percent male and 0.2 percent female) were ages 45 years of age or older.

Figure 54. Proportion of Unique Abusers in Met Criteria Adult Sexual Abuse Incidents by Age Group and Sex (FY 2024)



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

[77] Due to rounding, the sum of the percentages is 99.99

4-11. Domestic Abuse Fatalities

This section covers domestic abuse-related fatalities that were presented to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2024. Data on child fatalities included in this report represent only those fatalities taken to the IDC after the death of the victim and that were determined to meet criteria for domestic abuse in FY 2024. Not every fatality presented here will have occurred in FY 2024, as it can often take years to investigate and adjudicate cases involving fatalities. The Military Departments review incidents at their fatality review board 2 years after an incident has been reported, independent of IDC.[78] Fatalities presented to IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2024 will be reviewed by Military Departments in FY 2026.

There were 7 domestic abuse fatalities taken to the IDC and entered into the Central Registry in FY 2024 (4 spouse abuse fatalities and 3 intimate partner abuse fatalities—see Figure 55). Three victims and 1 met criteria abuser was previously known to the Central Registry.[79] In the domestic abuse fatality incidents, 6 victims were female and 1 victim was male. Four victims were Service members and 3 victims were civilians. Among the met criteria abusers, 6 were male and 1 was female. Three of the met criteria abusers were active duty members and 4 were civilians.

Figure 55. Domestic Abuse Fatalities Reported to FAP in FY 2024

- **7** Total fatalities
- **3** Victims previously known to the Central Registry
- **1** Met criteria abuser previously known to the Central Registry
- **Victim profile**
  - **6** victims were female, and **1** victim was male
  - **4** victims were service members, and **3** were civilians
- **Abuser profile**
  - **1** abuser was female, and **6** abusers were male
  - **3** abusers were active duty and **4** were civilian

Note. Represents only those fatalities taken to the IDC in FY 2024. Military Service fatality reviews for domestic abuse incidents reported to FAP in FY 2024 will take place in FY 2026.

[78] Not all deaths by suicide are reported to FAP initially and that the nexus to domestic abuse or child abuse may be discovered at a later date

[79] "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 that DoD is using to assess and promote effectiveness in the Department's prevention and response to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse:

1. **FAP Metrics:** 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.
2. **DoD-Wide Initiatives:** The second approach entails DoD-wide efforts intended to support and enhance the overall effectiveness of FAP, as well as associated plans for assessment and measurement, and will include data and results when available.
3. **Military Service Initiatives:** The third approach consists of efforts and initiatives employed at the Service level to measure and enhance the effectiveness of respective Military Service FAPs.

5-1. Family Advocacy Program Metrics

The Military Services implement the NPSP and domestic abuser treatment program, and the Military Service FAP administers them at the installation level. The Military Services collect program metric data, as required by Section 581 of the NDAA for FY 2008 (Public Law 110–181) and submits them annually to OSD FAP for analysis and reporting. Although OSD FAP aggregates data from each of the Military Services upon receipt, there is some minor variation in interpretation of current implementing guidance and how definitions are operationalized across the Military Service FAPs. What follows are the FY 2024 metric results showing the effectiveness of the NPSP and the domestic abuser treatment program.

Effectiveness of NPSP

NPSP is a selected primary prevention program for child abuse and neglect,[80] which offers intensive home visiting services on a voluntary basis to expectant parents and parents with young children (ages 0 - 5 years in Marine Corps; ages 0 - 3 in the other Military Services) who display indicators of being at risk for engaging in harmful, or potentially abusive or neglectful parenting practices. Those reported to FAP for an incident of child abuse or neglect for a child aged 0 - 5 years in their care may also receive NPSP services in limited circumstances, provided the use of NPSP is clinically recommended for the family.[81]

To measure the success of NPSP, the Military Services collect annual data on the number of families who began receiving NPSP services at least two times per month during FY 2024, continued receiving services for at least 6 months, and who did not have any incidents of child abuse and neglect reported to FAP that met criteria within 12 months after NPSP services ended that fell in the FY 2024 reporting cycle. To achieve success, the total DoD ratio of families served to families with no child abuse reports that meet FAP criteria must be 85 percent or higher.

Table 8 displays the metric for NPSP and the aggregated FY 2024 DoD results. A total of 1,216 families across the Military Services met the metric criteria and received NPSP services within the required timeframe. Of those families, 1,201 did not have a subsequent met criteria incident for child abuse within 12 months after NPSP services ended, resulting in a success rate of 98.8 percent. This rate exceeds the established target rate of 85 percent, revealing great success of the NPSP in preventing future incidents of abuse in the 12 months following participation.

Table 8: Success of the NPSP (FY 2024)

METRIC	TOTAL DoD
Number of families without open FAP child abuse and/or neglect cases that began receiving intensive home visitation NPSP services (at least two home visits per month) during the previous fiscal year (FY 2023) and continued receiving intensive home visitation NPSP services for at least 6 months	**1,216**
Such families that had no reported incidents of child abuse and/or neglect that occurred after NPSP services were completed and that met FAP criteria within 12 months after NPSP services ended	**1,201**
Percentage successful NPSP	**98.8 percent**
Target	**85 percent**

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

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

Effectiveness of Domestic Abuser Treatment

Each Military Service's FAP program delivers clinical interventions to individuals involved in met criteria domestic abuse incidents based on a clinical assessment, targeted directly to address the specific concerns of each abuser.[82] By collecting data on the recidivism of spouse and intimate partner abusers who received FAP clinical treatment services, OSD FAP can assess the impact that treatment services have on abusers in preventing incidents of domestic abuse in the short term (12 months).

To measure the success of domestic abuser treatment, the Military Services collect annual data on the number of spouse and intimate partner abusers involved in one or more incidents that met FAP criteria for domestic abuse, who started and completed clinical treatment services during FY 2023, and who were not involved in any met criteria incident reported to FAP during the 12 months after completing treatment. To achieve success, the total DoD rate of spouses and intimate partners with no subsequent incidents that meet FAP criteria must be 75 percent or higher.

Table 9 displays the metric for domestic abuser treatment, as well as the aggregated FY 2024 DoD results. A total of 2,225 abusive spouses and intimate partners across all Military Services met the criteria of the metric and started (and completed) FAP clinical treatment services within the required timeframe. Of those spouses and intimate partners, 2,129 did not have a report that met criteria for domestic abuse within the following 12 months after FAP clinical treatment was completed, resulting in a success rate of 95.7 percent. This rate exceeds the established target rate of 75 percent, which reveals great success in our domestic abuser treatment program in preventing recidivism in the 12 months following treatment.

Table 9: Success of Domestic Abuser Treatment (FY 2024)

METRIC	TOTAL DoD
Total abusive spouses and intimate partners in any incident that met FAP criteria for domestic abuse who began receiving FAP clinical treatment services during FY 2023 and completed FAP clinical treatment services by September 30, 2023	**2,225**
Such spouses/partners who were not reported as allegedly abusive in any incident that met criteria for domestic abuse within 12 months after FAP clinical treatment was completed	**2,129**
Percentage successful abuser treatment	**95.7 percent**
Target	**75 percent**

[82] 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, however.

5-2. DoD-Wide Initiatives

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

Transition of MCA Directorate to the Office of Force Resiliency

The Department established the SPRIRC[83] in March 2022. In September 2023, DoD announced new actions[84] to prevent suicide in the military, including one action to "Transition Military Community Advocacy to the Office of Force Resiliency" to better integrate DoD-wide prevention efforts. MCA is comprised of four teams that oversee and manage the Department's Congressionally mandated programs responsible for the prevention of and response to child abuse and neglect, domestic abuse, intimate partner abuse, child and youth initiated problematic sexual behaviors, and harmful behaviors in children and youth.

On August 12, 2024, MCA fully integrated its programs by transitioning from MC&FP to align functionally under OFR. This transition ensures that all programs covering harmful behaviors fall under one umbrella to improve efficiency and communication while strengthening collaboration across prevention programs. Integrating programs the programs at the Department level impacts all three levels of prevention, enables more effective development of integrated prevention models, and combines efforts at all echelons to maximize the impact of the prevention workforce. This effort also supports a broader goal of eliminating silos in programs that share risk factors.

Family Advocacy Program and National Children's Alliance Coordination Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The "GAO Report 20-110, Child Welfare: Increased Guidance and Collaboration Needed to Improve DoD's Tracking and Response to Child Abuse"[85] recommended that all Military Services seek to develop an MOU with NCA that makes CAC services available to all military installations and thereby increase awareness of those services across the departments.

In June 2024, the Department partnered with the NCA to launch MOUs between the CACs and military FAP to respond to child abuse and neglect and problematic sexual behavior between children and youth. These MOUs mark a huge step forward in the collective mission to support and protect military children and youth. This effort reinforces the Department's mission and commitment to ensure that no child, regardless of their circumstances or affiliation, is left without the support and care they need and has access to a robust system of care in both the military and civilian communities.

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[83]https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2974702/dod-announces-the-establishment-of-the-suicide-prevention-and-response-independ/

[84]https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3541077/dod-announces-new-actions-to-prevent-suicide-in-the-military/

[85] https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-20-110

The formalization of these MOUs affirms that the specialized services offered by CACs are accessible to military families across the nation, at over 800 CACs, and to over 200 military installations nationwide. By working with the NCA, the Department can ensure that the responses to child abuse and neglect are seamless, efficient, and effective, and improve the ability to provide timely interventions and comprehensive care that will prevent further harm to children.

Coordinated Community Response (CCR) Model Pilot

The DoD utilizes a CCR model to address reports of domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect. Recognizing the need for a more unified response, in 2023, the Department formally established a dedicated Coordinated Community Response team, within the MCA. This effort reinforces cross-agency collaboration, improves safety for victims, and drives stronger accountability mechanisms that hold abusers accountable. The OSD CCR, in coordination with the Military Departments, is piloting a new CCR model at four Service installations. The pilot sites will identify how incidents of domestic abuse and child abuse, and neglect are currently navigated through the system, the transfer of information, and how risk and safety are identified, communicated, and coordinated across entities of the CCR.

Risk and Lethality Assessment Training and Implementation

The Department has identified and implemented the research-based risk and lethality assessment tools for use by military service first responders in incidents of domestic abuse, including the Danger Assessment (DA) tool, training, and utilization for Domestic Abuse Victim Advocates (DAVAs) and the Geiger Institute Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement (DA-LE). The Danger Assessment (DA) is an instrument designed to assess the likelihood of lethality or near lethality in an intimate partner relationship. The DA is a well establish evidence-based assessment tool utilized nationally by civilian CCRs for over twenty-five years. The DA-LE is an eleven-question, evidence-based risk assessment instrument is designed to be easily administered by responding law enforcement officers and helps identify victims at the highest risk of intimate partner homicide and near-lethal assault. Adoption within DoD law-enforcement elements is expanding but not yet universal; implementation is coordinated at the Service and component levels.

Domestic Abuse and Child Abuse and Neglect Fatality Review Improvement Process

Section 576 of the NDAA for FY 2004 (Public Law 108-136) mandates that the Department review all fatalities known or suspected to be related to domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect. Specifically, this provision directs the Military Departments to conduct multidisciplinary, impartial reviews of each fatality known or suspected to have resulted from domestic violence or child abuse. Additionally, DoD Instruction 6400.06, "DoD Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel," (1) directs the Military Departments to establish and train a multidisciplinary fatality review team; and (2) requires that, on an annual basis, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for MC&FP will conduct a DoD fatality review summit to respond to the findings from the annual reports and recommendations from the military fatality review teams. The OSD CCR team, in coordination with FAP and the Military Services, has modernized the way in which the Department reviews fatalities that are known to be related or suspected to be related to domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect. These improvements will standardize the Services' review and collection of fatality data, which

includes gathering and applying best practices from the civilian sector to the military where possible and modernizing the data collection tool to increase accurate and consistent reporting across Services.

Updates to Training

Launch of "Intimate Partner Physical Injury Risk Assessment Tool" Training

The Department made significant updates to child abuse and neglect- and domestic abuse-related training that will help ensure leaders and personnel are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to address abuse within relationship and families. Military OneSource's MilLife Learning platform published the "Intimate Partner Physical Injury Risk Assessment Tool" (IPPI-RAT) training on December 29, 2023. The IPPI-RAT is an evidence-based tool used to predict the risk of domestic/intimate partner violence (IPV) with physical injury among individuals who have experienced an allegation of IPV.[86] The utilization of the tool is required by DoDI 6400.06 to evaluate the risk of physical injury to all victims who have been referred to the FAP for any domestic abuse incident. Completion of the IPPI-RAT training is required for any FAP provider prior to their administration of the IPPI-RAT to either victims or alleged abusers.

Launch of "How to Help Your Customer: Preventing and Responding to Child Abuse and Domestic Abuse" Training

Military OneSource's MilLife Learning and OSD FAP completed the annual review of the training, *"How to Help Your Customer: Preventing and Responding to Child and Domestic Abuse"* and launched it on May 23, 2024. The training name was changed from *"FAP for Service Providers"* to *"How to Help Your Customer: Preventing and Responding to Child and Domestic Abuse"*. The name change for this training was intentional to describe the content more accurately. The training includes content on recognizing signs of child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse and communication methods to safely offer FAP-related resources. The target audience for the training is service providers, both paid and volunteer, who work on and off installations supporting Service members, intimate partners, and their families. This training provides service providers with a brief overview of FAP, the services FAP provides, the role of the CCR, and skills to promote safety and awareness about child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse.

Inclusion of Department of Veterans Affairs Link to Military Sexual Trauma Support for Service Members in Military OneSource Products

The "GAO final report 23-105381, Unwanted Sexual Behavior: Improved Guidance, Access to Care, and Training Needed to Better Address Victims' Behavioral Health Needs,"[87] contained 13 recommendations including how best to enable Service members' access to care related to experiences with unwanted sexual behavior (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and domestic sexual abuse) during military service at any VA facility. While incorporation of the VA military sexual trauma link was not a specific GAO recommendation or requirement, MCA proactively saw the Military OneSource platform as an opportunity to increase awareness of this resource for Service members who have been impacted by unwanted sexual behavior and who may be

[86] https://millifelearning.militaryonesource.mil/course/riskassessmenttraining
[87] https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-105381

struggling with the trauma of those experiences. The VA military sexual trauma link is/will be added to approximately 60 webpages, products, and toolkits. Information about the upcoming inclusion of the VA military sexual trauma link on Military OneSource pages, products, and toolkits was shared at the monthly Joint Executive Committee Sexual Trauma Group in March 2024 and with the National Director of Military Sexual Trauma within the Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Office.

Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate Locator Enhancement

In FY 2024, the DAVA Locator on Military OneSource was updated to improve access for individuals experiencing abuse in their intimate relationships by allowing users to search for DAVAs at specific military installations. This enhancement assists those facing abuse and serves community professionals who seek support from military providers for clients connected to the military. By broadening access to military-related resources, this update fosters better support and coordination within communities for Service members, their dependents, and intimate partners.

Family Advocacy Program Staffing Tool Project

As the demand for FAP services rise, the Department requires a comprehensive program review to systematically forecast the personnel needed to support DoD efforts. This initiative is mandated by Section 549 of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and guided by DoDM 6400.01, Volume 1. This report fulfills the obligation to deliver results of the FAP staffing tool project within 180 days of its launch. Future reports will summarize findings from the tool every year to meet this statutory reporting requirement. To support this mandate, OSD partnered with the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at PSU Clearinghouse to develop a new staffing tool.

Phase 1 of the project was a large information gathering process. Information came from pertinent literature, DoD FAP issuances, Service-specific policies, information from Service Headquarters, and pilot-site feedback sessions with 154 FAP personnel across various FAP roles. Phase 2 of the project included: (a) revising the literature for staffing methodology outside of the healthcare field and determining a theory, (b) using pilot sites for the creation of initial staffing tools, (c) examining Headquarter and OSD feedback regarding the staffing tool approach, and (d) using additional pilot sites ("refinement sites") to refine aspects of the staffing tool which were determined to be weak in the initial tools (e.g., NPSP travel time).

Finalized staffing tools for clinicians, educators, home visitors (HVs), and victim advocates (VAs) were shared with their respective headquarters (HQ). [88] FAP clinicians provide clinical treatment, safety planning, case management and other supportive services as appropriate to eligible victims. Educators are responsible for developing and delivering trainings on FAP resources, advising victims, supporting resource identification, and service coordination. HVs build relationships with families facing challenges related to child abuse and neglect, or domestic abuse to assess their needs and provide resources and education. VAs provide counseling and resources to those who have experienced abuse or neglect, including helping them navigate the justice system, connecting

[88] Note that the staffing tool does not include those personnel in these four roles who have supervisor or administrative functions to support FAP programs as it focuses primarily on the provision of care and services to the installation.

them with resources, and intervening in crises.

Each staffing tool is rooted in Queueing Theory which looks at the staffing problem as the need to establish the required number of servers as (a) a function of time and (b) as a goal for meeting performance metrics. These staffing models assist with estimating capacity requirements even when the timing and level of demand for services are random (like in FAP). The data used in the staffing tools comes from pilot and refinement site data (averaged time spent to complete a task) or HQ's data (e.g., number of referrals into FAP for a site). There are three major sections of the staffing tool which are: (1) Effective Service Hours, (2) Service Load hours, and (3) Staffing Estimates.

- **Effective service hours:** how much time a staff member can dedicate to client services after considering time spent carrying out other job responsibilities and time off.
- **Service load hours:** the total time *required* to deliver services to clients (the total time to complete tasks per client, multiplied by, number of clients)
- **Staffing Estimates:** the estimate for staffing needs by installation using total service load hours and total effective service hours, or the time spent completing duties by the total hours available to complete duties.

All cells containing data within the staffing tools are derived from one of two sources: (1) data collected directly from service HQ or (2) averaged data obtained from pilot and refinement sites. Various installations, deemed pilot and refinement sites, were selected by each service HQ and used to acquire data related to time taken on job duties, as this data was (and is) not collected by service HQ. All rows within the staffing tools comprise the estimated time required to complete all job responsibilities within the respective staffing type. Each staffing tool was created to enable ongoing fiscal year updates based on data provided by service HQ that relate to caseload levels and other role-specific metrics.

The staffing estimates are first generated and validated by the PSU Clearinghouse team after a series of meetings and data requests with the Service HQ Data Usage Teams. Service HQ Data Usage Teams are comprised of specific people designated by each Service to provide and enter FAP staffing tool data due to their access to the data and understanding of it. To complete data validation for a staffing tool's given fiscal year data, the Clearinghouse team spot checks the data for each installation to see if it makes sense for the variable in question and connects with the data usage team to clarify any questions. After data validation is complete, the data usage team and Service HQ are provided with the staffing tool results for a fiscal year and are given the opportunity to reply with any questions or concerns.

The primary suggested usage for the staffing tools involves guiding the designation of funded full time equivalent (FTE) employment levels are needed based on population need and workload estimates within each installation. The staffing estimates generated by each staffing tool should be viewed as a starting point to facilitate informed discussion with installation leadership and OSD. They should not be considered a guarantee of estimated funded FTEs. In addition, because the staffing tools incorporate new fiscal year data from Service HQ each year, trends in staffing estimates can be visualized, across many years, for a better understanding of how a given installation is operating. Although the staffing tools currently are more reactive to what is happening within FAP, the tools can be predictive, such that they can integrate and are adaptable

to policy and job responsibility changes.

The staffing tool has several limitations. First, the creation of the staffing tools involved collaboration from multiple parties. The data that are updated each fiscal year is reported from installation FAP leadership to Service headquarters through Service-specific databases and processes. Because the collection of metrics is not uniform across the Services, some data vary slightly between staffing tools to account for these differences. Second, because the staffing tool uses previous fiscal year data, the tool is reactive to the capacity of the site at a given time. Thirdly, the tool does not account for the impact that vacancies may have on program capacity. Finally, the tool looks at a single fiscal year at a time. The tools are designed to look across multiple years to observe trends at the installation level prior to making staffing adjustments based on staffing estimates.

In FY 2024, an estimated 1,554 total full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) were funded for all Military Departments' FAP staff, while the PSU FAP staffing tool estimated the Military Departments needed a total of 1,614 funded FTEs to fulfil their FAP responsibilities.[89] However, comparing the FTEs by specific employee types and Service, there are considerable discrepancies between the funded FTEs and FTE estimated needs. For example, the staffing tool estimated that Marine Corps needed 234 FTEs but found that 167 FTEs were funded. The next section (Section 5-3) of this report provides summaries for each Service's FY 2024 staffing estimates. For specific information on each Service's staffing estimates by installation in FY 2024, see Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix C, and Appendix D of this report.

Clinical Case Manager Standardization Tool

OSD FAP and Penn State University (PSU) Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness created a standardized tool for installation FAP staff across the DoD to ensure all elements required per DoD Manual 6400.01 Volume 3, "Family Advocacy Program: Clinical Case Staff Meeting (CCSM)and Incident Determination Committee (IDC)" are included in the CCSM presentations involving reports of domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect. A CCSM is an installation FAP meeting of clinical service providers to assist the coordinated delivery of supportive services, counseling, and clinical treatment. Quarterly training of the tool started in July 2024 and takes place live in a virtual platform for greatest reach.

Defense Suicide Prevention Office Suicide Prevention Repository

MCA was invited to participate in a DSPO initiative to engage with key stakeholders to develop a comprehensive repository of Department suicide prevention initiatives to ensure alignment to the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention Calls to Action and meet recommendations from the SPRIRC Report of 2022. MCA participated in interviews in February 2024 to verify information and data gathered by DSPO on the suicide prevention efforts the FAP engages in and to supplement it with additional insights not captured in the initial phase of collection. This collaborative effort between MCA and DSPO supported DSPO in their National Strategy for Suicide Prevention response to capture existing comprehensive community-based suicide prevention efforts (Goal 2)

[89] Funded FTEs refer to open positions that funded to be filled by eligible candidates. Funded FTEs can come from contract, appropriated funds, or non-appropriated fund positions. Funded FTEs do not necessary indicate filled positions, as these positions may be vacant for various reasons.

to promote protective factors among populations disproportionally affected by suicide (Goal 3). This initiative also demonstrates how suicide prevention efforts may become increasingly effective under one integrated operational office within the DoD, as identified in recommendation 5.1 of the SPRIRC, as MCA transitioned to OFR in FY24.

5-3. Military Department Initiatives

Although all Military Services comply with core FAP program requirements and DoD policy, they also have considerable flexibility to tailor their approach for prevention programs, safety assessment, and clinical treatment to best meet the needs of military families in their Military Service. Therefore, there is a great amount of innovation in piloting programs, creating effective training to increase the skills of credentialed personnel, and receiving feedback from participating families to ensure that the services provided by FAP are effective and appropriate. Provided below is a snapshot of the initiatives employed at the Service level that measure and enhance FAP effectiveness. Each section highlights Military Service strategies used to improve or assess the effectiveness of prevention and response of child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse.

Army

Quality Assurance (QA) of the Family Advocacy Program IDC – CCSM

In FY 2024, the Army sustained a systematic and comprehensive QA system to monitor and improve the inter-rater reliability of FAP incident determinations in addition to ensuring comprehensive multifaceted reviews of client needs during CCSM. This process is a continuation of FY 2023 efforts to provide QA of the IDC/CCSM. There was 90 percent or higher concurrence with Decision Tree Algorithm (DTA) master reviewer determinations for all abuse types, with the exception of child neglect, which was 84 percent concurrence.

In an effort to maintain high levels of proficiency in making incident determinations, New York University (NYU) created the "FAP Manager Trainer for IDC Chair" training (i.e. Garrison Commander, Deputy Garrison Commander) as an annual refresher training. In addition, NYU developed training specific to staff experience with the IDC/CCSM. These include "New FAP Personnel Trainings," "online New Site Coordinator Trainings," and "Getting It Right: Advanced IDC-CCSM Trainings."

Family Advocacy System of Record (FASOR) Domestic Abuse (DA) and Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Incident Tracking Improvement Efforts

In FY 2024, Army FAP began reconciliation of DA/CAN data in FASOR against data in the Army Law Enforcement Reporting and Tracking System (ALERTS) database. FAP subsequently published guidance, mandating ongoing reconciliation of all incidents in FASOR against those in ALERTS. This was a coordinated effort with the Office of the Provost Marshall General (OPMG) and Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division (DACID). This effort assures all reported cases of DA/CAN are shared between law enforcement and FAP.

This process has expanded both DACID and OPMG's understanding of FAP processes, including the reasonable suspicion standard and the information required by FAP to make these important determinations. Moreover, this process has enabled FAP and DACID to strengthen their capability

to ensure all victims receive timely services, including safety planning, assessments, and referrals.

Army Fatality Review Modernization for Improved Prevention and Service Delivery

In FY 2024, the Army began modernizing its DA/CAN-related fatality review processes to enhance prevention efforts, identify risk factors, and improve service delivery. The multi-year initiative focuses on improving four key areas: data collection, training for fatality review members, Fatality Review Board (FRB) processes, and developing and implementing recommendations to reduce DA/CAN fatalities in the Army. Specifically, Army FAP is changing how it collects data to provide a clearer understanding of risk factors, prevention outcomes, and gaps in service delivery. Army FAP is also standardizing FRB processes incorporating research-based fatality review models to promote collaboration and consistent reviews. Additionally, Army FAP is improving training programs to ensure consistency in processes and equip fatality review members with the skills needed to assess incidents and identify systemic issues. Finally, Army FAP is implementing actionable recommendations to reduce risks and improve outcomes.

As part of fatality review modernization efforts, the Army is evaluating current practices and integrating new strategies for enhancement. These evaluations provide critical insights into areas that are working well, areas for improvement, and ensure modernization efforts achieve their intended goals. By emphasizing stronger policies and a data-driven approach to decision making, the Army is building a more effective system for prevention and service delivery. The modernization initiative will ensure a coordinated community response approach to service delivery across the Army.

Army FAP FY 2024 Staffing Estimates with PSU Staffing Funded FTEs and Need Estimates

In FY 2024, an estimated 532 total FTEs were funded for Army FAP staff, including non-supervisory clinicians, educators, victim advocates, NPSP HVs, while the PSU FAP staffing tool estimated the Army needed 561 funded FTE to fulfil its FAP responsibilities. The non-supervisory clinicians were slightly understaffed with 288 total funded FTEs and a total staffing estimate of 294 FTEs is needed to perform their FAP functions. The educator role was slightly overstaffed with 125 funded FTEs compared to an estimated staffing need of 124 FTEs. The victim advocate role had 64 funded FTEs compared to a staffing estimated need of 65 FTEs. Finally, the NPSP HV position had 55 funded FTEs, but yielded a staffing estimated need of 78 FTEs. For complete information on Army's staffing estimates and needs by installation, see Appendix A.

Department of the Navy (DON)

Navy Leaders FAP Training Delivery Implementation Plan

In FY 2024, the Navy launched a training delivery implementation plan for command leadership and Chaplains in accordance with policy mandates contained in section 549 of the FY 2022 NDAA, DoDI 6400.06, and DoDM 6400.01 Vol 1. The training is designed to ensure key military personnel have enterprise-wide access to essential FAP training while streamlining training demands. To make the content more accessible, it is now available through the Navy eLearning and Joint Knowledge Online Learning Management Systems, as well as face-to-face sessions led by Navy leadership and Installation FAP subject matter experts. This enables completion of the

training efficiently before assuming new roles within their commands. Additionally, the completion of the training will be included in the official military training record to ensure that training completion data is systematically tracked. A public awareness campaign is also planned for FY 2025 to increase awareness and participation in the training.

Establishment of Family Advocacy Program Overview of Case Management, Utilization and Services (FOCUS) Training

FOCUS training is specifically designed to optimize region-specific processes and practices, while refining and enhancing FAP service delivery. The training exclusively addresses regional programmatic areas identified during QA reviews, certification processes, and on-site observations. During FY 2024, the training was delivered to 40 FAP Case Managers and 26 Clinical Counseling Supervisors in the Navy Region Europe, Africa, and Mid-Atlantic. Post-training surveys revealed that over 90 percent of participants found the content highly relevant to their roles and professional development, providing best practice strategies to improve performance and effectiveness. Additional FOCUS training sessions are scheduled for FY 2025, reinforcing the Navy's commitment to providing consistent, high-quality care for all Navy personnel and their families.

Pilot of Commercial Wellness Application to Address Mental Health and Wellbeing

In FY 2024, the Navy established the process to conduct a proof-of-concept pilot of commercial wellness applications as part of its Quality-of-Service Initiatives to help sailors and their dependents enhance their well-being, resilience, and stress management. This pilot will assess the unique benefits of using mental health platforms that emphasize early intervention and crisis prevention such as *Talkspace*, *Headspace*, *NeuroFlow*, and *Noom*. These commercial applications provide access to high quality licensed mental health clinicians and certified health and wellness coaches in an on demand, self-guided format via smart phone. They also aim to support diverse demographics, deliver services to large populations, and eliminate common barriers sailors face when seeking mental health care particularly in underserved and understaffed fleet concentration areas. As part of a personalized matching process, participants' needs and preferences are obtained through a series of questions. Participants are instructed to complete pre and periodic assessments to ensure a tailored approach is devised and progress towards their wellness goals is achieved.

Navy FAP FY 2024 Staffing Estimates with PSU Staffing Funded FTEs and Need Estimates

In FY 2024, an estimated 475 total FTEs were funded for Navy FAP staff, including clinicians, educators, VAs, and NPSP HVs, while the PSU FAP staffing tool estimated Navy needed 331 funded FTEs to fulfil its FAP responsibilities. The clinicians were overstaffed with 345 total funded FTEs though a total staffing estimate of 191 FTEs is needed to perform their FAP functions. The educator role was understaffed with 12 funded FTEs compared to an estimated staffing need of 25 FTEs. The VA role had 64 funded FTEs compared to a staffing estimated need of 85 FTEs. Finally, the NPSP HV position had 64 funded FTEs, but yielded a staffing estimated need of 30 FTEs. For complete information on Navy's staffing estimates and needs by installation, see Appendix B.

Marine Corps Evaluation of Military-specific Take Root Home Visitation Curriculum

In FY 2024, the Marine Corps concluded the "Take Root Home Visitation" pilot with PSU. Participating installations included Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton, MCB Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Stations (MCAS) Beaufort, MCAS Miramar, and MCB Hawaii. PSU is currently reviewing the data and plans to release an independent report on the findings. NPSP HVs currently use the *Parents as Teachers* curriculum. Depending on the findings, the *Take Root* curriculum may be added as an alternative parenting education option.

Marine Corps FAP Curriculum Review Process and Training Evaluation

The Marine Corps has a process in place to review all curricula used in FAP. Each curriculum suggested for use with Marines is carefully reviewed by FAP subject matter experts and experts in research and evaluation to ensure goodness of fit, availability and quality of any evidence of effectiveness, and more. All curricula used in FAP, including Century Anger Management, Within Our Reach, STOP Group, and others, are designed for both classes and group settings.

Additionally, annual Family Advocacy Staff Training (FAST) is evaluated to ensure the courses are meeting the needs of FAP staff from across the Marine Corps. There are two distinct FAST courses offered, including one for FAP leaders and another for FAP line staff. Surveys are used to evaluate topics presented and to gather feedback. Surveys assist in ensuring the program and its offerings are meeting the need to ensure FAP staff are best prepared to support Marines and families.

Marine Corps FAP FY 2024 Staffing Estimates with PSU Staffing Funded FTEs and Need Estimates

In FY 2024, an estimated total 167 FTEs were funded for Marine Corps FAP staff, including non-supervisory clinicians, educators, VAs, and NPSP HVs, while the PSU FAP staffing tool estimated the Marine Corps needed 234 funded FTEs to fulfil its FAP responsibilities. All positions were understaffed in Marine Corps, except for NPSP HV positions according to the staffing Tool estimate. The clinicians were understaffed with 68 total funded FTEs compared to a staffing estimate of 113 FTEs. The educator role was also understaffed with 25 funded FTEs compared to an estimated staffing need of 49 FTEs. The VA role had 31 funded FTEs compared to an estimated staffing need of 45 FTEs. Finally, the NPSP HV position had 43 funded FTEs, but yielded a staffing estimated need of 27 FTEs. For complete information on Marine Corps' staffing estimates and needs by installation, see Appendix C.

Department of the Air Force (DAF)

The DAF FAP's focus for FY 2024 included enhancing program effectiveness through increasing victim support, system modernization, and policy and process revisions/improvement. Most recently, the DAF FAP conducted a five-year analysis (FY 2020 - FY 2024) on the recidivism rate of met criteria cases involving adult partner abusers that successfully completed FAP treatment. The data revealed that the DAF FAP has only a 3.3 percent recidivism rate of domestic violence (DV) and CAN by offenders who complete treatment. Furthermore, a comparison of FY 2023 and FY 2024 reflected a 1.5 percent decrease in the recidivism rate between years suggesting an

improvement in treatment. The DAF FAP is also reviewing the correlation of individual risk factors of abuse with recidivism rates to tailor treatment efforts accordingly.

The DAF FAP specifically assessed alcohol involvement by adult partner abusers over the previous five-year timeframe. The data revealed that an average of 1.8 percent of met criteria cases involving adult partner abusers included alcohol involvement. Specifically, FY 2020 reflected the highest percentage of alcohol involvement with a rate of 2.3 percent for those 24 to 42 years of age. Subsequently, the DAF FAP will target interventions and further identify impacting risk factors on domestic abuse incident reoccurrences to better guide prevention efforts and treatment.

Victim Support

DAF aimed to improve support for DA and intimate partner violence (IPV) victims by advocating for up to 30 days of convalescent leave following a domestic dispute to facilitate healing and recovery as well as up to 30 days of lodging if their Service member is separated from the service on charges related to domestic abuse. Additionally, DAF codified the requirement for DA and IPV victims to receive notification of abuser legal changes or adjudication regarding their DA case to ensure appropriate victim planning and safety. Lastly, to ensure 100 percent installation DAVA in-person and virtual support, the DAF added 19 DAVA authorizations, including five OCONUS and 14 CONUS DAVA contract positions in FY 2024. Consequently, hotline or on-call support has been increased for victims. The DAF FAP formalized a partnership with NCA to improve child abuse services for victims allowing for collaborative efforts between DAF FAP and NCA to foster coordinated community response for DAF families and children resulting in improvement and expansion of childcare services by increasing available services from 961 national CACs.

DAF System Modernization

The DAF successfully implemented a 100 percent Digital Records Initiative within the FAPNet system. This new feature provides all DAF FAP offices the capability to upload records and digitally sign documents. The Central Registry team provided multiple remote live trainings for the records upload and digital signature feature to CONUS and OCONUS installations.

Secondly, DAF added a new electronic Cross-Base Peer Review feature within the FAPNet system that will allow providers a more efficient way to conduct electronic cross-base peer reviews with the ability to view Central Registry Board (CRB) agendas and reports/outputs connected to the incidents.

Policy Revision and Process Improvement

The DAF FAP has updated DAFI 40-301 prescribed documents (Air Force (AF) forms 2522, 4402, 4403, 4404, and 4405) to meet DAF FAP mission and needs, support standardization of intake paperwork, reflect Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) markings and dissemination controls and include the request for DoD Identification. To meet the needs of a diverse client population, DAF FAP translated nine FAP forms and questionnaires across the five most common foreign languages associated with FAP: Spanish, German, Italian, Korean, and Japanese. DAF FAP has also successfully updated the FASOR configurations to include CUI markings and dissemination controls across the site, on data reports, and on all printable documents, as applicable. Lastly, The DAF FAP modified policy instructing unit commanders to directly

encourage their members' and families' immediate engagement in FAP clinical services following a DA incident rather than waiting for the CRB determination. To ensure compliance with measures established for the CRB, a CRB checklist was created to serve as an audit tool for quality assurance highlighting specific policies and procedures to improve compliance with DAFI 40-301 and DoD standards.

DAF process improvement efforts included transitioning from the traditional DAF FAP Fatality Review that consisted of the review of a sample of six to ten fatality records each fiscal year. Process improvement actions directed the FY 2024 Fatality Review to include 100 percent of DV and CAN related fatalities. A streamline of protocols was developed to review records and complete system documentation prior to the scheduled official in-person review consequently reducing in-person record review time. This effort allowed the review board to significantly increase the number of records reviewed in comparison to previous years. From a prevention standpoint, this new protocol will allow for a thorough analysis of data trends to be strategically implemented in trainings for DAF families.

Air Force FAP FY 2024 Staffing Estimates with PSU Staffing Funded FTEs and Need Estimates

In FY 2024, an estimated total 380 FTEs were funded for DAF FAP staff, including clinicians (treatment managers and intervention specialists), VAs, and NPSP HVs, while the PSU FAP Staffing Tool estimated the DAF needed 488 funded FTEs to fulfil its FAP responsibilities. The total treatment manager force was understaffed with 113 total funded FTEs though a total staffing estimate of 169 FTEs is needed to perform their FAP functions. The intervention specialist role was also understaffed with 97 funded FTEs compared to an estimated staffing need of 172 FTEs. The VA role had 69 funded FTEs compared to a staffing estimated need of 72 FTEs. Finally, the HV position had 101 funded FTEs, but yielded a staffing estimated need of 75 FTEs. For complete information on DAF's staffing estimates and needs by installation, see Appendix D.

6. PROGRAM AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Summary of Key Findings

The data contained in this report only reflect child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse reported to FAP in FY 2024. 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 as not all incidents are reported to FAP and no DoD-wide victimization survey is available to estimate the prevalence rates of these types of abuse in military families.

Continuing a downward trend over the past several years, the rate of child abuse and neglect reports decreased in FY 2024 (13.5/1,000 military children) from FY 2023 (14.3/1,000 military children). The rate of met criteria incidents decreased in FY 2024 (6.5) compared to FY 2023 (7.0). The rate of unique victims per 1,000 military children decreased slightly in FY 2024 (4.8) compared to FY 2023 (5.2). Despite these variations, the rates of child abuse and neglect reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 military children did not vary significantly when compared to their respective 10-year averages.

Although both the number of met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse (230) and the rate of met criteria incidents of child sexual abuse (0.280/1,000 military children) decreased in FY 2024, these measures did not vary statistically when compared to their respective 10-year average during the period FY 2015-2024.

In FY 2024, there were statistically significant decreases in the rates of reported spouse abuse incidents (19.4/1,000 married couples), the rate of met criteria spouse abuse incidents (10.4/1,000 married couples), and the rate of unique spouse abuse victims (8.2/1,000 married couples), when compared to their respective 10-year averages during the period FY 2015-FY 2024.

Despite these decreases, domestic abuse findings in this report continue to be mixed—with differing patterns in domestic abuse overall and spouse abuse in comparison to intimate partner abuse. Following year-over-year increases in the number of domestic abuse reports and the number of met criteria domestic abuse incidents in FY 2021 and FY 2022, both measures saw a decline in FY 2023 and again in FY 2024. The FY 2024 number of domestic abuse reports varied significantly when compared to their respective 10-year averages, however, the number of met criteria domestic abuse incidents did not. The rates for spouse abuse reports, met criteria incidents, and unique victims per 1,000 married military couples experienced year-over-year decreases in FY 2024. These decreases were statistically significant when compared to their respective 10-year averages.

Conversely, the number of reports and number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse increased. There was a slight year-over-year decrease in the number of met criteria incidents of intimate partner violence. Despite this decrease, in FY 2024 there were statistically significant increases in the number of reports of intimate partner abuse (3,468), the number of met criteria intimate partner abuse incidents (1,998), and number of unique victims of intimate partner abuse (1,564) when compared to their respective 10-year averages. These statistically significant increases are likely due, in part, to the FY 2022 expansion of the definition of intimate partner and the resulting expansion of service delivery. However, there has been an upward trend in intimate partner abuse since FY 2017.

Finally, the proportion of domestic abuse incidents involving sexual abuse decreased in FY 2024 (6.2 percent) from FY 2023 (6.6 percent), but still represented a statistically significant increase when compared to the 10-year average. This increase continues an overall upward trend in adult sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse that has occurred over the last decade.

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

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

Results from this report show that the inverse relationship between spouse abuse and intimate partner abuse indicators evident since FY 2019 persisted in FY 2024. While spouse abuse indicators experienced statistically significant decreases in FY 2024, intimate partner indicators experienced statistically significant increases for the fifth consecutive year. At the same time, the proportion of adult sexual abuse incidents as a subset of domestic abuse incidents decreased in FY 2024, breaking a five-year trend of year-over-year increases. However, the FY 2024 rate and proportion of adult sexual abuse incidents represent a statistically significant increase when compared to the 10-year average.

Holistically, these indicators present an opportunity for the Department to reassess and strengthen its approach to preventing and responding to domestic abuse. To that end, MCA, the overarching agency for OSD FAP and OSD CCR, was realigned under the OFR effective August 12, 2024. This organizational shift was directed by the Secretary of Defense in support of a recommendation from the "Preventing Suicide in the U.S., Military: Recommendations from the Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee"[90] report published in May 2023. This move will ensure that programs covering harmful behaviors fall under one umbrella—improving efficiency and communication and strengthening the coordinated community response across all prevention programs.

The Department continues to make significant progress implementing GAO-21-289 report recommendations. In collaboration with the Military Departments. Military OneSource's MilLife Learning platform published the IPPI-RAT, an evidence-based tool used to predict the risk of domestic/intimate partner violence (IPV) with physical injury among individuals who have experienced an allegation of IPV. Completion of the IPPI-RAT training is required for any FAP provider prior to their administration of the IPPI-RAT to either victims or alleged abusers. MilLife Learning and OSD FAP also completed the annual review of the training, "How to Help Your Customer: Preventing and Responding to Child and Domestic Abuse," which includes content on recognizing signs of child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse and communication methods to safely offer FAP-related resources. These enhancements in training support both prevention and response.

[90]https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3309738/suicide-prevention-and-response-independent-review-committee-sprirc-releases-re/

The stand-up of the CCR team within MCA formally recognizes the centrality of the CCR model in the Department's response to reports of domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect through a sustained coordinating function.

Conclusion

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

Appendix A. United States Army FAP FY 2024 Staffing Authorizations and Need Estimates by Installation

Installation	Clinician		Educator		Victim Advocate		NPSP Home Visitor		**All Staff Types**	
	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate
Training ID										
Fort Benning	8	4	5	7	3	1	3	0	19	12
Carlisle Barracks	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
Fort Eisenhower	5	4	2	1	0	1	2	2	9	8
Fort Eustis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fort Gregg-Adams	4	7	2	1	0	1	0	1	6	10
Fort Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fort Huachuca	3	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	6	6
Fort Jackson	4	5	2	1	2	1	2	2	10	9
Fort Knox	4	5	1	2	1	1	1	1	7	9
Fort Leavenworth	3	2	2	3	1	3	0	1	6	9
Fort Leonard Wood	6	5	4	2	3	1	2	0	15	8
Fort Novosel	3	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	7	7
Fort Sill	7	5	3	1	0	2	0	2	10	10
Natick SSC	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
USAG Presidio of Monterey (California Medical Detachment)	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	5
West Point	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	4	2
Readiness ID										
Dugway Proving Ground	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fort Bliss	13	19	5	4	3	2	0	3	21	28
Fort Bragg	28	27	7	8	10	14	13	16	58	65
Fort Buchanan	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	2

Fort Campbell	17	26	6	2	5	3	2	1	30	32
Fort Carson	21	19	3	5	2	6	3	5	29	35
Fort Cavazos	21	20	3	8	1	2	1	7	26	37
Fort Drum	8	10	3	4	0	1	2	2	13	17
Fort Hunter Liggett	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1
Fort Irwin	3	4	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	7
Fort Johnson	4	4	2	2	2	1	2	1	8	7
Joint Base Lewis-McChord	22	25	9	3	0	2	0	2	31	32
USAG Miami	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fort McCoy	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fort Riley	11	11	5	3	1	1	0	2	19	17
Fort Stewart	15	17	4	1	4	1	5	3	28	22
White Sand Missile Range	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Yuma Proving Ground	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sustainment ID										
Aberdeen Proving Ground	2	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	3	5
Anniston Army Depot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit Arsenal	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fort Belvoir	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	1	5	6
Fort Detrick	1	1	1	12	0	0	0	1	2	14
Fort Meade	7	4	1	2	2	1	2	1	12	8
Fort Walker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	3
Picatinny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redstone Arsenal	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	3
Rock Island Arsenal	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2

Europe ID										
USAG Ansbach	2	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	4
USAG Baumholder[1]	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
USAG Bavaria (All)[2]	0	0	4	2	2	0	0	3	6	5
USAG Bavaria (Grafenwoehr)	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
USAG Bavaria (Garmisch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USAG Bavaria (Hohenfels)	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
USAG Benelux (SHAPE)	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	4	4
USAG Brussels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
USAG Italy	3	2	1	5	1	1	1	1	6	9
Landstuhl RMC	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
USAG Rhineland-Pfalz	0	0	4	2	4	1	2	2	10	5
USAG Stuttgart	3	2	3	1	0	1	0	3	6	7
USAG Vilseck	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
USAG Wiesbaden	2	1	1	3	1	1	0	1	4	6
Pacific ID										
USAG Alaska	4	5	0	0	3	2	3	2	10	9
USAG Daegu	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
USAG Hawaii	11	15	6	4	4	5	2	6	23	30
USAG Japan	2	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	6	3
USAG Korea (Camp Humphreys)	9	4	4	2	0	1	1	1	14	8
USAG Okinawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Tripler AMC	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
USAG Yongsan-Casey	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	3	1
Total	288	294	125	124	64	65	55	78	532	561

Notes.
[1]In Clinician tool, Baumholder is listed separately from Rhineland-Pfalz. In all other tools, Baumholder is included with Rhineland-Pfalz.
[2]In Clinician tool, Bavaria sites are separated. In all other tools, Bavaria locations are listed collectively.
[3]These staffing estimates are based on caseload data from FY2024.

Appendix B. United States Navy FAP FY 2024 Staffing Authorizations and Need Estimates by Installation

Installation	Clinician		Educator		Victim Advocate		NPSP Home Visitor		**All Staff Types**	
	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate
CONUS										
NSA Annapolis	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	3
NSA Bethesda	5	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	7	3
NAWS China Lake	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	3
NAVBASE Coronado	12	6	0	0	2	5	0	0	14	11
NAS Corpus Christi	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	5	5
NWS Earle	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NAF El Centro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAVSTA Everett	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	5
NAS Fallon	3	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	4
Fort Meade	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	4	4
NAS/JRB Fort Worth	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	2
NAVSTA Great Lakes	10	11	0	0	2	2	2	1	14	14
NS Guantanamo Bay	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
NCBC Gulfport	9	5	0	1	1	2	1	1	11	9
NSA Hampton Roads	5	3	0	0	1	3	2	1	8	7
NAS Jacksonville	11	7	1	1	2	2	2	1	16	11
NAS Key West	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
SUBASE Kings Bay	6	6	0	0	1	1	1	1	8	8
NAS Kingsville	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NAVBASE Kitsap	13	11	1	1	2.5	7	5	1	21.5	20
NAS Lemoore	9	3	0	0	2	3	3	1	14	7
JEB Little Creek-Fort Story	11	4	0	1	1	1	3	2	15	8
NAVSTA Mayport	10	6	1	3	2	3	2	1	15	13

NAS Meridian	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
NSA Mid-South	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	3
NSA Monterey	2	1	0	0	0.5	1	1	0	3.5	2
SUBASE New London	6	4	0	0	1	1	1	1	8	6
NAS/JRB New Orleans	3	3	0	0	1	1	1	1	5	5
NAVSTA Newport	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
NAVSTA Norfolk	24	14	0	1	5	6	2	1	31	22
NAS Oceana	12	7	0	1	1	2	1	1	14	11
NSA Panama City	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NAS Patuxent River	3	3	0	0	1	2	1	1	5	6
NAS Pensacola	12	7	1	4	1	3	2	1	16	15
NAVBASE Point Loma	9	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	10	4
NSY Portsmouth	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
NAVBASE San Diego	34	16	0	0	4	7	9	6	47	29
NSF Saratoga Springs	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
NSA South Potomac	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	3
NAVBASE Ventura	15	5	1	0	2	4	2	1	20	10
NSA Washington DC	4	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	7	5
NAS Whidbey Island	11	4	1	2	2	6	2	1	16	13
NAS Whiting Field	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
WPNSTA Yorktown	4	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	6	5
OCONUS										
NSA Andersen	3	1	1	0	0.5	0	1	1	5.5	2
NAF Atsugi	3	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	5	3
NSA Bahrain	5	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	8	2
CFA Chinhae	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	1
NSF Deveselu	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NSF Diego Garcia	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NAVBASE Guam	4	2	0	0	0.5	1	0	0	4.5	3

Camp Lemonnier Djibouti	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NSA Naples	5	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	8	3
JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam	15	9	1	4	3	3	5	2	24	18
NSF Redzikowo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAVSTA Rota	5	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	8	3
CFA Sasebo	4	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	6	3
NAS Sigonella	2	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	5	2
Singapore Area Coordinator	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NSA Souda Bay	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
CFA Yokosuka	15	8	0	0	2	1	3	1	20	10
Total	344.5	191	12	25	64	85	64	30	474.5	331

Note. [1]These staffing estimates are based on caseload data from FY2024.

Appendix C. United States Marine Corps FAP FY 2024 Staffing Authorization and Need Estimates by Installation

Installation	Clinician		Educator		Victim Advocate		NPSP Home Visitor		**All Staff Types**	
	Authorizations	Staffing Estimate	Authorizations	Staffing Estimate	Authorizations	Staffing Estimate	Authorizations	Staffing Estimate	Authorizations	Staffing Estimate
CONUS										
29 Palms	4	11	1	7	2	3	1	1	8	22
Albany	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	3
Barstow / Pendleton	8	31	4	9	4	5	5	6	21	51
Beaufort / Parris Island	2	2	1	1	5	2	3	1	11	6
Cherry Point	6	7	2	4	3	5	4	3	15	19
Henderson Hall	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	6	3
Lejeune	13	22	5	8	2	9	11	7	31	46
Miramar	3	6	3	4	2	3	3	2	11	15
New River[1]	5	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	6	6
Quantico	4	5	0	3	2	1	1	1	7	10
San Diego	3	2	1	2	2	2	1	0	7	6
Yuma	3	5	1	1	0	0	1	1	5	7
OCONUS										
Butler	7	7	3	4	3	3	5	3	18	17
Iwakuni	3	2	1	3	2	2	1	1	7	8
Kaneohe Bay	4	7	1	1	1	6	5	1	11	15
Total	68	113	25	49	31	45	43	27	167	234

Notes. [1]New River educator and NPSP staff are combined with Lejeune.
[2]These staffing estimates are based on caseload data from FY2024.

Appendix D. United States Air Force FAP FY 2024 Staffing Authorization and Need Estimates by Installation[91]

Installation	Clinician				Victim Advocate		NPSP Home Visitor		**All Staff Types**	
	Treatment Manager		Intervention Specialist							
	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate	Funded FTEs	Staffing Estimate
CONUS										
Air Force Academy	1	1	1	5	1	1	0	1	3	8
Altus	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	3
Andrews	1	1	2	5	1	1	1	0	5	7
Barksdale	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	6	8
Beale	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	5	6
Bolling	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	5
Buckley	2	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	5	8
Cannon	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	0	5	6
Charleston	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	7	6
Columbus	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Davis-Monthan	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	0	6	7
Dover	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	5	6
Dyess	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	5	6
Edwards	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	3	4
Eglin	2	4	3	3	2	4	3	3	10	14
Ellsworth	1	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	3	5
F. E. Warren	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	6
Fairchild	2	10	1	4	0	0	2	1	5	15
Fort Sam Houston	4	4	2	3	1	2	3	3	10	12
Goodfellow	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	2

[91] Includes Space Force FY 2024 Staffing Authorization and Need Estimates

Grand Forks	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	3
Hill	2	5	2	2	2	3	2	2	8	12
Holloman	1	4	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	8
Hurlburt Field	2	2	1	3	1	2	2	2	6	9
Keesler	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	5	7
Kirtland	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	4	8
Lackland	3	6	2	5	4	4	3	3	12	18
Joint Base Langley-Eustis	5	5	3	3	3	4	4	2	15	14
Laughlin	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	1
Little Rock	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	5	7
Los Angeles	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Luke	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	7	6
MacDill	2	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	5	7
Malmstrom	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	5
Maxwell	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	1	3	5
McConnell	1	3	1	7	0	0	1	1	3	11
McGuire	2	2	3	4	1	1	2	3	8	10
Minot	2	10	1	3	1	2	1	1	5	16
Moody	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	5
Mountain Home	1	1	2	2	1	0	2	1	6	4
Nellis	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	9	11
Offutt	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	7	6
Patrick	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	2
Peterson	2	9	3	4	1	1	1	0	7	14
Randolph	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	5
Robins	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	6	8
Scott	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	6	6
Seymour Johnson	2	2	0	4	1	1	1	1	4	8
Shaw	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	5	6
Sheppard	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	3

Tinker	3	3	2	2	1	1	3	1	9	7
Travis	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	1	9	10
Tyndall	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	5
Vance	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Vandenberg	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	4
Whiteman	2	2	1	4	1	1	2	1	6	8
Wright-Patterson	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	6	6
OCONUS										
Alconbury	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Aviano	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	6	6
Eielson	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	5	4
Richardson/Elmendorf	6	6	6	5	3	2	5	2	20	15
Geilenkirchen	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Incirlik	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Kadena	4	4	4	2	1	1	2	1	11	8
Kunsan	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lakenheath/Mildenhall	3	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	12	11
Misawa	2	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	6	3
Osan	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	2	4
Ramstein	3	4	4	2	1	0	3	2	11	8
Spangdahlem	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	4	4
Yokota	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	5	5
Total	113	169	97	172	69	72	101	75	380	488

Note. These staffing estimates are based on caseload data from FY2024.