



# **2022 U.S. Coast Guard Service Academy Gender Relations Survey**

**Overview Report**

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# 2022 U.S. Coast Guard Service Academy Gender Relations Survey

## Overview Report

**Lisa Davis**  
Office of People Analytics

**Becky Lane, PhD, W. Xav Klauberg, Emilee Wakefield, Divya Alukal, Graham Puckett, Brian Clark, Kathryn Elvey, & Kimberly Hylton**  
Fors Marsh

**Ashlea Klahr, PhD**  
Office of People Analytics

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The Office of People Analytics (OPA) is indebted to numerous people for their assistance making the *2022 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey (2022 SAGR)* possible, which was conducted on behalf of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (OUSD[P&R]). The SAGR program is conducted under the leadership of Dr. Ashlea Klahr, Director of OPA's Health and Resilience (H&R) Research Division. The project director for this effort was Ms. Lisa Davis, Deputy Director of H&R.

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OPA's Methods, Analysis, and Systems Support (MASS) team, under the guidance of Mr. David McGrath, Branch Chief, and Ms. Wendy Barboza, Statistical Team Lead, were responsible for all statistical aspects of this survey, including weighting, nonresponse bias analysis, imputation, and the implementation of statistical hypothesis testing used in the survey program. Mr. Marcus Maher and Mr. Nathan Coe under the supervision of Mr. Stephen Busselberg, all of the Fors Marsh Scientific Techniques and Analysis Team (STAT), were responsible for coordinating, implementing, and documenting the weighting process. The team also developed the statistical weights based on the respondents for this survey.

A team consisting of Ms. Lisa Davis and Dr. Ashlea Klahr of OPA, and Dr. Kate Elvey, Mr. William Xavier Klauberg, Dr. Becky Lane, Ms. Divya Alukal, Ms. Emilee Wakefield, and Mr. Graham Puckett of Fors Marsh, completed quality control for this report.



## Executive Summary

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The U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) seeks to continually expand and improve sexual assault and sexual harassment programs and resources. The *2022 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey (2022 SAGR)* is a key source of information for evaluating these programs and for assessing the gender relations environment within the Academy.

The *2022 SAGR* was administered at each of the DoD Service Academies (U.S. Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy), as well as at the USCGA and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), which are part of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Transportation, respectively. The current report presents findings from USCGA.

## Background and Methodology

The *2022 SAGR*, conducted by the Health and Resilience (H&R) Division within the Office of People Analytics (OPA), is the 10th of a series of surveys mandated by Title 10, United States Code, Sections 4361, 6980, and 9361, as amended by Section 532 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2007. While this mandate does not include USCGA, at the request of Coast Guard officials, USCGA has been included in *SAGR* efforts since 2008. The survey results include the estimated prevalence rates of unwanted sexual contact (USC), sexual harassment, and gender discrimination; students' perceptions of Academy culture with respect to sexual assault and sexual harassment; and perceptions of program effectiveness in reducing or preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment.

The *SAGR* is normally fielded every other year. However, the *SAGR* was not administered in 2020 due to restrictions on travel and the coronavirus Pandemic, in order to protect the health and well-being of Academy students and research personnel. Therefore, it has been four years since the last *SAGR* was administered in 2018.

The USCGA's weighted response weight for the *2022 SAGR* was 83% (91% for women, 77% for men). Of the 1,013 cadets at the Academy (410 women and 603 men), 839 cadets responded to the survey (373 women and 466 men).

## Survey Methodology

OPA conducts cross-Service surveys that provide the DoD with accurate assessments of attitudes and opinions of the entire DoD community, using standard scientific methods. OPA's survey methodology meets industry standards that are used by government statistical agencies (e.g., Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics [BLS]), private survey organizations, and well-known polling organizations. OPA uses survey methodology best practices promoted by the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR).<sup>1</sup> Appendix B contains frequently

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<sup>1</sup> AAPOR's "Best Practices" state that "virtually all surveys taken seriously by social scientists, policy makers, and the informed media use some form of random or probability sampling, the methods of which are well grounded in

asked questions (FAQ) on the scientific methods employed by government and private survey agencies, including OPA. The survey methodology used on the *SAGR* surveys has remained consistent across time, which allows for statistical comparisons across survey administrations.

The *SAGR* is administered in-person on-site at each of the Academies via an anonymous paper-and-pen survey. Data were collected for the 2022 *SAGR* at the USCGA from March 28 through April 1, 2022. The USCGA scheduled survey sessions for all students in groups with separate sessions for female and male students. After checking in, each student was handed a survey, an envelope, a pen, and an Academy-specific information sheet. This sheet included information about the survey and details on where students could obtain help if they became upset or distressed while taking the survey or afterward. Students were briefed on the purpose and details of the survey, the importance of participation, and that completion of the survey itself was voluntary. If students did not wish to take the survey, they could leave the session at the completion of the mandatory briefing. Students returned completed or blank surveys (depending on whether they chose to participate) in sealed envelopes to a bin as they exited the session; this process was monitored by the survey proctors as an added measure for protecting students' anonymity.

The population of interest for the 2022 *SAGR* consisted of all students at the USCGA in class years 2022 through 2025.<sup>2</sup> A census of all students was conducted to ensure maximum reliability of results in the sections where the survey questions applied to only a subset of students, such as questions asking details of an unwanted gender-related behavior. Data were weighted, using an industry standard process, to reflect USCGA's population as of March 2022. The weighting produces survey estimates of population totals, proportions, and means (as well as other statistics) that are representative of their respective populations. Unweighted survey data, in contrast, are likely to produce biased estimates of population statistics.

## Summary of Top-Line Results

### Estimated Past Year Unwanted Sexual Contact Prevalence Rates

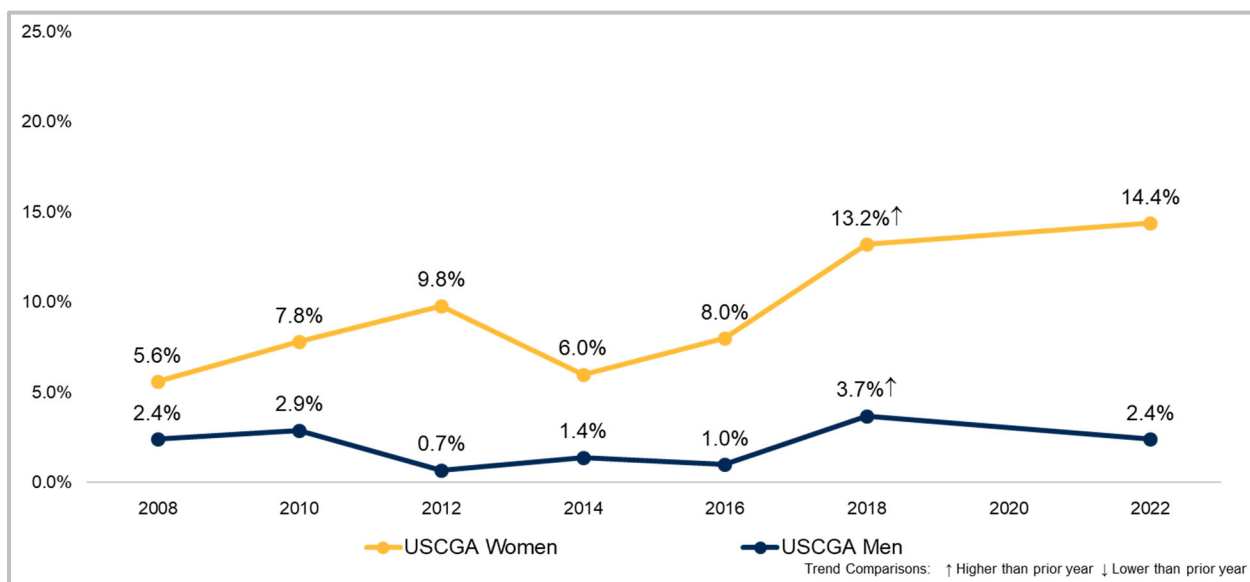
As detailed in chapter 1 of the report, unwanted sexual contact includes completed or attempted unwanted sexual intercourse, oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object, or unwanted sexual touching. Students were asked about experiences of unwanted sexual contact between June 2021 and the time they took the survey, representing the past academic program year (APY 2021-2022).

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statistical theory and the theory of probability" (<http://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/Best-Practices.aspx#best3>). OPA has conducted surveys of the military and the DoD community using these "Best Practices" for over 25 years, tailored as appropriate for the unique design needs of specific surveys, such as the census study employed in the 2022 *SAGR*.

<sup>2</sup> Two groups of students were excluded: visiting students from other Academies and foreign nationals.

**Figure 1.**  
***Estimated Past Year Unwanted Sexual Contact Rate***



- An estimated 14.4% of USCGA women (60 cadets) and 2.4% of USCGA men (15 cadets) experienced unwanted sexual contact (USC) in the past APY. These estimates are statistically unchanged from 2018 when the rate was 13.2% for women and 3.7% for men.

## Experiences of Unwanted Sexual Contact

To better understand the circumstances involved in their experiences, USCGA students who experienced USC<sup>3</sup> were asked to provide additional information regarding this experience.<sup>4</sup> In addition to discerning what happened (type of USC involved in the one situation), students were asked to provide details regarding characteristics of who the alleged offender(s) were, when and where the one situation happened, experiences following the one situation of USC, and whether they chose to report the incident. When data are not reportable for USCGA men, only results for USCGA women are discussed.

- The majority of USCGA women who experienced USC in the past year indicated the one situation involved one alleged offender who was a male USCGA student often in the same class year and whom they knew from class or another activity. USCGA women indicated USC incidents often took place on Academy grounds in a dormitory or living area or off Academy grounds (either at a social event or other off location off Academy grounds) and occurred most often after duty hours on a weekend or holiday. Over one-third of USCGA women were victimized (sexually harassed, stalked, or sexually

<sup>3</sup> Experience of USC is determined by endorsement of at least one USC behavior in the past APY as presented on the survey.

<sup>4</sup> Although some students may have experienced more than one USC event, follow-up questions on details about only one event were asked to minimize survey burden.

assaulted) by the same offender before (35%) or after (35%) the USC one situation and 58% of situations involved alcohol use by the victim and/or offender.

- The majority of USCGA men who experienced USC in the past year indicated the one situation involved one alleged offender who was a female USCGA student often in the same class year and whom they knew from class or another activity. USCGA men indicated USC incidents often took place on Academy grounds in a dormitory or living area or off Academy grounds at a social event and occurred most often after duty hours on a weekend or holiday. Under one-third of USCGA men indicated they were victimized (sexually harassed, stalked, or sexually assaulted) by the same offender before (29%) and 38% were victimized after the USC one situation and 57% of situations involved alcohol use by the victim and/or offender.
- Unwanted sexual contact remains an underreported crime, with 15% of USCGA women indicating they filed an official report<sup>5</sup> and indicated they did so to stop the alleged offender(s) from hurting others and/or because someone encouraged them to file a report. Half of USCGA women indicated they experienced retaliation as a result of reporting their USC event. Of those who did not report the USC event, the majority did not think it was serious enough to report or took care of the problem themselves by avoiding the alleged offender or who or forgetting about the situation and moving on.

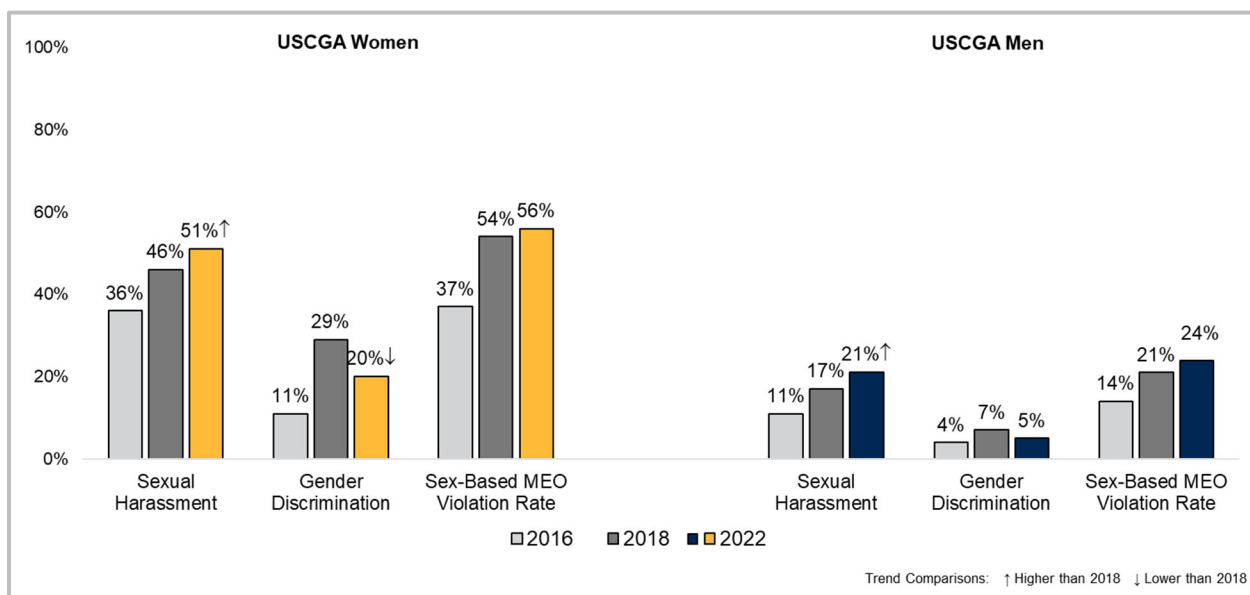
### **Estimated Past Year Sex-Based Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Violation Prevalence Rates**

Sex-based Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) violations include behaviors in line with either sexual harassment or gender discrimination. Changes were made to the survey questionnaire in 2022 that impact gender discrimination estimates presented in this report. We report the “official” gender discrimination estimates using the newly revised metric but make statistical comparisons to 2018 using the same version of the metric used in 2018, or the “adjusted” estimate. We further describe the metrics used to construct the sexual harassment and gender discrimination estimates in chapter 1.

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<sup>5</sup> Reporting of unwanted sexual contact on the survey is based on self-report data.

**Figure 2.**  
***Estimated Past Year Sex-Based MEO Violation Rates***



Margins of error range from  $\pm 1\%$  to  $\pm 2\%$

### ***Estimated Past Year Sexual Harassment Prevalence Rates***

An estimated 51% of USCGA women (207 cadets) and 21% of USCGA men (125 cadets) experienced sexual harassment in the past APY. These estimates reflect a significant increase compared to 2018 when the rate was 46% for women and 17% for men.

### ***Estimated Past Year Gender Discrimination Prevalence Rates***

An estimated 15% of USCGA women (62 cadets) and 5% of USCGA men (29 cadets) experienced gender discrimination in the past APY. The adjusted gender discrimination prevalence estimate for USCGA women is 20% and reflects a significant decrease compared to 2018 when the rate was 29%. The adjusted estimate for USCGA men is 5%, which remained stable compared to the rate of 7% in 2018.

### **Prevalence Estimates by Race/Ethnicity and Sexual Orientation**

For the first time on the 2022 SAGR, we collected demographic information that can serve to further inform the Department's prevention and response efforts. The following section describes prevalence of USC for students first by race/ethnicity and then, separately, by sexual orientation.

#### ***Prevalence Estimates by Race/Ethnicity***

An estimated 19.7% of racial/ethnic minority USCGA women and 12.6% of non-Hispanic White USCGA women experienced past year unwanted sexual contact; 52% of racial/ethnic minority USCGA women and 52% of non-Hispanic White USCGA women experienced sexual harassment; and 15% of racial/ethnic minority USCGA women and 15% of non-Hispanic White

USCGA women experienced gender discrimination. Black USCGA women (29.8%), Hispanic USCGA women (21.1%), and women who identified as other races/ethnicities (20.8%) were more likely to experience unwanted sexual contact than non-Hispanic White (12.6%) USCGA women. USCGA women who identified as other races/ethnicities (60%) were more likely to experience sexual harassment than women of other races/ethnicities, while Black (30%) USCGA women were less likely.

An estimated 2.4% of racial/ethnic minority USCGA men and 2.6% of non-Hispanic White USCGA men experienced past year unwanted sexual contact; 25% of racial/ethnic minority USCGA men and 21% of non-Hispanic White USCGA men experienced sexual harassment; and 5% of racial/ethnic minority USCGA men and 5% of non-Hispanic White USCGA men experienced gender discrimination. Black men (<1%) were less likely to experience unwanted sexual contact than men of other races/ethnicities; however, Black (37%) and Hispanic (38%) USCGA men were more likely to experience sexual harassment than men who identified as other race/ethnicities (12%).

### ***Prevalence Estimates by Sexual Orientation***

The 2022 *SAGR* asked respondents to identify their sexual orientation as heterosexual or straight, gay or lesbian, bisexual, or something else. We present prevalence estimates for lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) USCGA students (as a group) and heterosexual USCGA students.

LGB USCGA students were significantly more likely than heterosexual USCGA students to experience each type of misconduct. An estimated 32.5% of LGB USCGA women experienced past year unwanted sexual contact, 76% experienced sexual harassment; and 20% experienced gender discrimination. These estimated rates were significantly higher than the estimated rates of unwanted sexual contact (10.8%), sexual harassment (46%), and gender discrimination (14%) for heterosexual USCGA women. An estimated 6.2% of LGB USCGA men experienced past year unwanted sexual contact, 37% experienced sexual harassment; and 15% experienced gender discrimination. These estimated rates were not significantly different than the estimated rates of unwanted sexual contact (2.5%), sexual harassment (22%), and gender discrimination (5%) for heterosexual USCGA men.

### **Academy Culture and Climate for Prevention of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is committed to preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment from happening across the entire U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) enterprise. In a June 2020 report to Congress, the USCG stated that it remains fully committed to eliminating sexual assault from the Services, with prevention as a primary area of focus;<sup>6</sup> the *SAGR* survey is one way to track progress of such prevention efforts at USCGA. As such, this section summarizes preventable behaviors, such as alcohol use, willingness to stop sexual assault and sexual harassment, bystander intervention, Academy culture related to prevention, and efforts by leaders and students at all levels to stop sexual assault and sexual harassment.

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<sup>6</sup> Obtained on February 16, 2023 from [https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-1/cg111/docs/SAPR/Sexual%20Assault%20in%20the%20US%20Coast%20Guard\\_FY2019.pdf](https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-1/cg111/docs/SAPR/Sexual%20Assault%20in%20the%20US%20Coast%20Guard_FY2019.pdf).



- **Alcohol Use:** Half of USCGA men and 46% of USCGA women indicated at least minor alcohol consumption. There was an increase in no alcohol use and a decrease in drinking five or more alcoholic beverages on a typical day when drinking among USCGA men since 2018. USCGA women, on the other hand, saw an increase in the latter metric. Approximately one-third of USCGA students (35%) indicated they had engaged in binge drinking on at least one occasion in the past 30 days. Incidents of alcohol affecting one's memory at least once in the past year happened with under one-fifth of USCGA women (19%) and men (16%), a decrease for men compared to 2018 (23%).
- **Bystander Intervention:** In general, the vast majority of USCGA students are willing to stop sexual harassment to at least a small extent. Specifically, 47% of USCGA women and 52% of men indicated they are willing to point out to someone that they thought they had "crossed the line" with gender-related comments or jokes to a large extent. Nearly half of USCGA women (49%) and two-thirds of USCGA men were willing to seek help from the chain of command to stop other students who continue to engage in sexual harassment. Compared to 2018, more USCGA students witnessed at least one situation where unwanted behaviors were occurring. The most common situations witnessed by both USCGA women and men were observing someone who crossed the line with their sexist comments or jokes or encountering someone who drank too much and needed help; the incidence of these behaviors both increased compared to 2018. Despite increases in witnessing these behaviors, the overwhelming majority of USCGA students intervened, most often by talking to those involved to see if they were okay or by speaking up to address the situation.
- **Perceptions of Academy Leadership and Peers Setting Good Examples:** Approximately two-thirds of USCGA women and nearly three-quarters of USCGA men believed that both their commissioned and non-commissioned officers set good examples in their own behavior and talk, although endorsement for USCGA women was significantly lower compared to 2018. Perceptions of other cadets watching out for each other to prevent sexual assault and to what extent cadet leaders enforce rules are noticeably lower than perceptions of officers setting good examples for both USCGA women and men. Approximately one-half of USCGA women (53%) and close to two-thirds of USCGA men (62%) indicated other cadets watch out for each other to prevent sexual assault. When asked whether cadet leaders enforce rules, under two-thirds of USCGA men (64%) and nearly three-fifths of USCGA women (58%) indicated they do so to a large extent.
- **Efforts to Stop Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment:** USCGA students perceived that officers directly in charge of units, cadet leaders, Academy senior leadership, and military/uniformed faculty make the most effort to stop sexual assault and sexual harassment, although perceptions concerning officers and senior leadership decreased compared to 2018. USCGA women had lower perceptions than USCGA men for all Academy personnel and cadets making efforts to stop these behaviors, although both men and women saw some perceptions significantly decrease compared to 2018.

## Academy Culture and Climate for Reporting Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

Sexual assault and sexual harassment often go unreported. The culture and climate on reporting plays a large role into whether a victim chooses to come forward. To further examine the USCGA culture and climate related to reporting of these unwanted behaviors, the *2022 SAGR* asked USCGA students whether they would trust the Academy if they were to experience sexual assault, and about other deterrents for reporting at the Academy, such as victim blaming and the role media plays.

- **Trust in the Academy:** The *2022 SAGR* asked USCGA students who had not experienced unwanted sexual contact in the past year how they believe the Academy would respond if they were to experience USC. Compared to 2018, fewer USCGA cadets indicated they trust the Academy to protect their privacy, ensure their safety, and treat them with dignity and respect if they were to experience sexual assault, which was influenced by a decrease across all levels for USCGA men. Specifically, roughly half of USCGA men and approximately one-third to two-fifths of USCGA women indicated they would trust the Academy to a large extent.
- **Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault:** Compared to 2018, progress was made in 2022, especially among USCGA men, with regard to perceptions that high-profile cases, media scrutiny, and negative peer reactions would impact whether a victim would report a sexual assault to a large extent. USCGA women still hold these perceptions at significantly higher rates than USCGA men, most notably when asked to what extent potential negative reactions from Academy peers would impact a victim's willingness to come forward and report. Students' beliefs regarding whether rape myths and victim blaming occur at the Academy have declined since 2018 but remain prevalent. Similar to the barriers to reporting previously discussed, USCGA women are more likely than USCGA men to perceive that victim blaming occurs at the Academy and that a victim's reputation affects whether or not they will be believed.
- **Psychological Climate for Sexual Harassment:** Students were asked to rate their company at the Academy on how seriously sexual harassment is treated as an issue and how risky it is for cadets in their company to make a complaint about sexual harassment. USCGA women were more likely than USCGA men to perceive their company as tolerant of sexual harassment; one-quarter of USCGA women perceived their company as tolerant of sexual harassment, which was more than their male counterparts (11%).
- **Responsibility and Intervention:** This metric examines to what extent a student's company promotes a climate based on mutual respect and trust, refrain from sexist comments and behavior, encourage bystander intervention, and correct incidents of sexual harassment. USCGA men indicated higher levels of responsibility and intervention within their company than USCGA women. Less than three-fourths of USCGA women (71%) and nearly four-fifths of USCGA men (79%) indicated people in their company promote a climate based on mutual respect and trust while less than three-fifths of women (57%) and two-thirds of men indicated people in their company recognize and immediately correct incidents of sexual harassment.







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## Chapter 1: Introduction and Methodology

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### Introduction

The Health and Resilience (H&R) Research Division of the Office of People Analytics (OPA) has been conducting congressionally mandated gender relations surveys of cadets and midshipmen at each of the Department of Defense (DoD) Military Service Academies (MSA) since 2005, and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) since 2008. The chief purpose of these surveys has been to measure, analyze, and report estimated prevalence rates of sexual assault and rates of sex-based military equal opportunity (MEO) violations (sexual harassment and gender discrimination). The survey also serves to assess attitudes and perceptions about programs and policies designed to reduce the occurrence of these unwanted behaviors and to improve the climate of gender relations at the Academies. The *2022 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey (2022 SAGR)* was conducted to address these purposes and is the most recent of the biennial surveys to be administered.

### Federal Sexual Assault Programs and Policies

The current assessment cycle at the Academies, which consists of a biennial and alternating administration of surveys and focus groups, is codified by Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), Sections 4361, 6980, and 9361, as amended by Section 532 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2007. This requirement applies to the DoD Academies (U.S. Military Academy [USMA], U.S. Naval Academy [USNA], and U.S. Air Force Academy [USFA]). Though the aforementioned policy does not require USCGA to be assessed, the Academy has requested to participate since 2008.<sup>7</sup>

### DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Policy

#### ***Program Oversight***

The Coast Guard sexual assault prevention program handles both policy and legal processes. The first sexual assault program started in the investigative service in 2006 and acquired its first dedicated program manager in 2008. Subsequently in 2011, the Coast guard initiated a SAPR Task Force, the scope of which included training and education, policy, and investigations. In 2013, this task force created the Sexual Assault Prevention Council (SAPC), which elevated the program to the level of a cross-directorate, Flag Officer and Senior Executive Service entity. The publication of the Coast Guard's SAPR Policy Manual (COMDTINST M1754.10E) codified the Coast Guard's SAPR definitions and policies. In 2016, the SAPC was broadened further to include other Health Service missions including domestic violence and substance abuse. At that time, the SAPC was renamed the Workforce Wellness and Resiliency Council (WWRC).

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<sup>7</sup> The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 mandates reporting of sexual assaults in the Coast Guard (United States 111th Congress, 2010).

## ***Defining Sexual Assault***

The Coast Guard’s SAPR Policy Manual (COMDTINST M1754.10E) indicates that sexual assault, harassment, and misconduct are defined by the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) Articles 80, 120, 120B, 120C, and 125. These Articles prohibit a range of behaviors including rape (of an adult or child), indecent viewing, recording, or broadcasting, indecent exposure, prostitution, and sodomy.

For the purpose of assessing the prevalence of sexual assault, we used the more precise definition offered by DoD policy: DoDD 6495.01 defines sexual assault as any “intentional sexual contact characterized by use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent” (Department of Defense, 2021). Under this definition, sexual assault includes rape, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, forcible sodomy (forced oral or anal sex), or attempts to commit these acts. In Section 522 of the NDAA for FY 2006, Congress amended the UCMJ to consolidate and reorganize the array of military sex offenses. These revised provisions took effect on October 1, 2007. Article 120, UCMJ, was subsequently amended in FY 2012. Additional amendments to the UCMJ were made in FY2016.

The term “unwanted sexual contact” used throughout this report refers to a range of activities prohibited by the UCMJ, including uninvited and unwelcome completed or attempted sexual intercourse, sodomy (oral or anal sex), penetration by an object, and the unwanted touching of genitalia and other sexually related areas of the body. The 2022 *SAGR* measures unwanted sexual contact using a comprehensive, behavioral list of items. The resulting prevalence rate provides an estimated proportion of cadets and midshipmen who experienced any of these behaviors, referred to as unwanted sexual contact, in the prior year. The estimated prevalence rates should not be construed as legal crime victimization rates in the absence of an investigation being conducted to determine a verified outcome.

## **Coast Guard Civil Rights, Sexual Harassment, and Gender Discrimination Policies**

### ***Program Oversight***

The Civil Rights Directorate (CRD) is responsible for enforcing sexual harassment and gender discrimination related policies. Specifically, the CRD “facilitates the Coast Guard EEO/EO effort, enforces all civil rights laws and statutes, and provides guidance to employees and supervisors. When implemented effectively, the Coast Guard civil rights effort ensures a discrimination free work environment, and as such contributes to service readiness” (United States Coast Guard, 2010).

### ***Defining Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination***

The Coast Guard Civil Rights Manual (COMDTINST M5350.4C, 2010) defines sexual harassment as “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or physical conduct of a sexual nature” (see pg. 2-C.9 for full definition). There is no single, dedicated definition of ‘gender discrimination’ or ‘discrimination’ in the COMDTINST M5350.4C.

As with sexual assault, we have used the DoD definitions of sexual harassment and gender discrimination for our assessments. DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1020.03, “Harassment Prevention

and Response in the Armed Forces,” establishes the Department’s comprehensive prevention and response program and defines sexual harassment as “Conduct that:

- Involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and deliberate or repeated offensive comments or gestures of a sexual nature when:
  - Submission to such conduct is, either explicitly or implicitly, made a term or condition of a person’s job, pay, or career;
  - Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a person is used as a basis for career or employment decisions affecting that person; or
  - Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.
- Is so severe or pervasive that a reasonable person would perceive, and the victim does perceive, the environment as hostile or offensive.
- Any use or condonation, by any person in a supervisory or command position, of any form of sexual behavior to control, influence, or affect the career, pay, or job of a member of the Armed Forces or a civilian employee of the Department of Defense.
- Any deliberate or repeated unwelcome verbal comments or gesture of a sexual nature by any member of the Armed Forces or a civilian employee of the Department of Defense.

There is no requirement for concrete psychological harm to the complainant for behavior to constitute sexual harassment. Behavior is sufficient to constitute sexual harassment if it is so severe or pervasive that a reasonable person would perceive, and the complainant does perceive, the environment as hostile or offensive.

Sexual harassment can occur through electronic communications, including social media, other forms of communication, and in person.”

Unlawful discrimination is defined in DoDD 1020.02E and includes “disparate treatment or harassment of an individual or group based on a prohibited factor contrary to federal law or regulation.” Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) refers to “the right of all Service members to serve, advance, and be evaluated based on only individual merit, fitness, capability, and performance in an environment free from unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity), or sexual orientation.” The prevalence of gender discrimination, based on sex or gender identity, is measured on the *SAGR* surveys.

## Measurement of Constructs

Construction of estimated rates of unwanted sexual contact, sex-based MEO violations, and retaliatory behaviors are described in detail below. These rates should not be construed as legal

crime victimization rates in the absence of an investigation being conducted to determine a verified outcome.

## Unwanted Sexual Contact

Unwanted sexual contact refers to a range of activities prohibited by the UCMJ, including uninvited and unwelcome completed or attempted sexual intercourse, sodomy (oral or anal sex), penetration by an object, and the unwanted touching of genitalia and other sexually related areas of the body.<sup>8</sup> In the 2022 *SAGR*, unwanted sexual contact is measured using a comprehensive, behavioral list of items (Q49; Figure 3). The resulting prevalence rate provides an estimated proportion of individuals who experienced any of these behaviors, referred to as unwanted sexual contact, in the past academic program year (APY, i.e., since June 2021).<sup>9</sup>

**Figure 3.**  
*Questions Measuring Unwanted Sexual Contact*

Unwanted Sexual Contact	<p><b>Since June 2021, have you experienced any of the following intentional sexual contacts that <b>were against your will or which occurred when you did not or could not consent</b> in which someone... Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sexually touched you</b> (for example, intentional touching of genitalia, breasts, or buttocks) or made you sexually touch them?</li> <li>• <b>Attempted</b> to make you have sexual intercourse, but was not successful?</li> <li>• <b>Made you</b> have sexual intercourse?</li> <li>• <b>Attempted</b> to make you perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object, but was not successful?</li> <li>• <b>Made you</b> perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object?</li> </ul>

As originally developed, the goal of the unwanted sexual contact question was to act as a proxy for sexual assault while balancing the emotional burden to the respondent. The intention of the unwanted sexual contact item was not to provide a crime victimization rate but to provide the DoD with information about Service Academy cadets and midshipmen who experienced sex-

<sup>8</sup> The UCMJ defines the term sexual contact within the context of describing rape, sexual assault, and other sexual misconduct. For the purposes of this report, “unwanted” is used to clarify the term “sexual contact.”

<sup>9</sup> The RAND Corporation developed a measure of sexual assault that incorporates UCMJ-prohibited behaviors and consent factors to derive prevalence rates of crimes committed against military members (Morrall, Gore, & Schell, 2014). RAND fielded both the existing unwanted sexual contact measure and the new measure and found that weighted estimated topline rates from each measure were not statistically significantly different. In October 2015, OPA conducted pretests at the three DoD Academies using RAND’s new sexual assault measure. The pretest included questions after the main survey asking if respondents understood the survey questions, whether they would be comfortable taking the survey, whether they would be comfortable taking the survey in a group setting, whether they would answer honestly, and whether they would have any negative reactions after taking the survey. Pretest results indicated that the measure’s length and graphic language made it inappropriate for administration to students in an in-person group setting. Students who indicated on the pretest that they had experienced sexual assault indicated lower willingness than other students to answer all survey items honestly, particularly during in-person survey administration. For these reasons and to retain the ability to trend unwanted sexual contact results over time, the existing unwanted sexual contact measure was retained.

related behaviors prohibited by the UCMJ that would qualify the individual to receive SAPR support services. This behaviorally based measure captures specific behaviors experienced and does not assume the respondent has expert knowledge of the UCMJ or its definition of sexual assault. The vast majority of respondents would not know the differences among the UCMJ offenses of “sexual assault,” “aggravated sexual contact,” and “forcible sodomy” described in Articles 120 and 125 of the UCMJ. As such, using behaviorally based questions allows for more accurate estimation of prevalence rates (Fisher & Cullen, 2000). The 2022 *SAGR* specifically asks about behaviors that were against the respondent’s consent (either when they did not or could not consent) or against their will, including completed and attempted sexual intercourse, oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by an object or finger, as well as unwanted sexual touching. The latter is specific to unwanted touching of sexual regions of the body (i.e., genitalia, breasts, or buttocks) and does not include touching of nonsexual regions of the body or behaviors that are harassing in nature. The terms and definitions of unwanted sexual contact have been consistent throughout all of the *SAGR* surveys since 2006 to provide DoD with comparable data points across time. These rates should not be construed as legal crime victimization rates in the absence of an investigation being conducted to determine a verified outcome.

### **Time Reference**

When surveys ask about experiences within a set timeframe, there is risk that respondents might include experiences that fall outside of that specific timeframe, a bias known as external telescoping. For the 2022 *SAGR*, the survey contains an inherent “anchor” via the APY. Students are instructed in a verbal briefing before the survey administration only to consider experiences that have occurred within that APY, beginning in June 2021. This timeframe is reiterated on the survey instrument in the unwanted sexual contact question and sex-based MEO questions as well as the subsequent questions about the “one situation” that had the greatest effect on the respondent. Research and theory on telescoping suggests that timeframes anchored with highly salient events, called landmarks, can be effective in reducing telescoping bias (Gaskell et.al., 2000). To be maximally effective, landmarks should avoid two potential problems: (1) susceptibility of the landmark itself to telescoping forward in respondents’ memories and (2) inequivalent salience of the landmark for all respondents (Gaskell et al., 2000). The landmark used in the 2022 *SAGR* appears resistant to both potential problems. The beginning of the current APY for Academy students marks a number of important changes for students, such as change in class rank, opening of new opportunities, and expansion of privileges. This moment in time is unlikely to be mentally telescoped forward by respondents; moreover, this landmark should be equally salient for all respondents. Given the repeated timeframe instructions and the strong salient landmark given by the APY, the risk of telescoping for the reference period in the 2022 *SAGR* is likely to be very small.

### **Sex-Based Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Violations**

In 2014, RAND developed new measures of sex-based MEO violations for the *RAND Military Workplace Survey (2014 RMWS)* that were designed to align with criteria for a DoD-based MEO violation. This measure was designed to align with military law and policy that outline criteria for an MEO violation; the measure incorporates behaviors and follow-up criteria to derive rates. The categories of behaviors include sexual harassment (i.e., sexually hostile work environment and sexual *quid pro quo*) and gender discrimination. The measure was tailored for use at the

Academies, including minor changes (e.g., the items ask about “someone from your Academy” instead of “someone from work” and “most cadets/midshipmen” instead of “most men/women in the military”) and two substantive changes (1) separate items from the *2014 RMWS* on someone repeatedly telling about their sexual activities and making sexual gestures/body movements were combined into a single item and (2) an item on whether someone intentionally touched you in a sexual way when you did not want them to was removed, as this behavior falls under unwanted sexual contact. Otherwise, the measure was consistent with the measure used for active duty and Reserve members.

### ***Behavioral Definition***

Following the *2014 RMWS* guidelines, OPA used a two-step process to determine estimated sex-based MEO violation rates. First, we asked questions about whether students experienced behaviors prohibited by MEO policy by someone from their Academy and the circumstances of those experiences. Second, we categorized those reported behaviors into two types of sex-based MEO categories—sexual harassment and gender discrimination—to produce estimated rates for these two categories.

The sex-based MEO measure includes two requirements to reach the level of being in violation of DoD policy (DoDD 1350.2). First, the student must endorse an experience consistent with the sex-based MEO violations specified by DoDD 1350.2. These include indicating experiencing either sexual harassment (sexually hostile work environment or sexual *quid pro quo*) and/or gender discriminatory behaviors by someone from their Academy. Second, the student also had to have indicated “yes” to one of the follow-up items that assess persistence and/or severity of the behavior (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.**  
**Two-Part Sex-Based MEO Violation Measure**

Sexual Harassment	<b>① Experienced at Least One Behavior</b>	
	<b>Sexually Hostile Work Environment Behaviors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repeatedly told sexual “jokes” that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset</li> <li>Embarrassed, angered, or upset you by repeatedly suggesting that you do not act like a cadet/midshipman of your gender is supposed to</li> <li>Displayed, showed, or sent sexually explicit materials like pictures or videos that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset</li> <li>Repeatedly told you about their sexual activities or make sexual gestures/body movements (for example, thrusting their pelvis or grabbing their crotch) in a way that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset</li> <li>Repeatedly asked you questions about your sex life or sexual interests that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset</li> <li>Made repeated sexual comments about your appearance or body that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset</li> <li>Took or shared sexually suggestive pictures or videos of you when you did not want them to that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset*</li> <li>Made repeated attempts to establish an unwanted romantic or sexual relationship with you that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset</li> <li>Repeatedly touched you in a way that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset</li> </ul> <b>Sexual Quid Pro Quo Behaviors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made you feel as if you would get some benefit in exchange for doing something sexual</li> <li>Made you feel as if you would get punished or treated unfairly at your Academy if you did NOT do something sexual</li> </ul>	
	<b>② Met Follow-Up Criteria</b>	
Gender Discrimination	<b>Sexually Hostile Work Environment Follow-Up Criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They continued this unwanted behavior after they knew that you or someone else wanted them to stop, or</li> <li>This was severe enough that most cadets/midshipmen at your Academy would have been offended</li> </ul> <b>Sexual Quid Pro Quo Follow-Up Criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The person(s) who did this unwanted behavior were in a position of authority/leadership over you, and</li> <li>They told you that they would give you a reward or benefit, or would be punished or treated unfairly for doing something sexual, or</li> <li>They hinted that you would get a reward or benefit for doing something sexual, or would be punished or treated unfairly for NOT doing something sexual or</li> <li>Someone else told you they got benefits from this person by doing sexual things, or punished or treated unfairly by this person for NOT doing something sexual</li> </ul>	
	<b>① Experienced at Least One Behavior</b>	<b>② Met Follow-Up Criteria</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Said that someone of your gender is NOT as good as the opposite gender as a future officer, or that someone of your gender should be prevented from becoming a future officer</li> <li>Mistreated, ignored, excluded, or insulted you because of your gender</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This treatment/their beliefs about your gender harmed or limited your cadet/midshipman career</li> <li>The person(s) who did this unwanted behavior were in a position of authority/leadership, or authority/leadership over you</li> </ul>
*Only required the criteria of being severe enough that most cadets/midshipmen at the participant's Academy would have been offended		

## Negative Outcomes Associated with Reporting a Sexual Assault

USCGA strives to create an environment where military members feel comfortable and safe reporting a potential sexual assault to a military authority. One area the DoD and the Coast Guard have been monitoring is repercussions (i.e., negative behaviors as a result of reporting sexual assault). Specifically, three forms of negative behaviors have been outlined: professional reprisal, ostracism, and other negative behaviors.

### Construction of Metrics for Negative Outcomes

OPA worked closely with the Services and DoD stakeholders to design behaviorally based questions to capture perceptions of a range of outcomes resulting from reporting sexual assault. The resulting battery of questions was designed to measure negative behaviors a student may have experienced as a result of making a report of sexual assault and to account for additional motivating factors, as indicated by the student, consistent with prohibited actions of professional

reprisal and ostracism in the UCMJ and military policies and regulations. There are also questions regarding other negative behaviors.

Survey questions are only able to provide a general understanding of the self-reported outcomes that may constitute reprisal, ostracism, or other negative outcomes.<sup>10</sup> Ultimately, only the results of an investigation (which takes into account all legal aspects, such as the intent of the alleged perpetrator) can determine whether self-reported negative behaviors meet the requirements of prohibited negative behaviors. The estimates presented in this report reflect the students' perceptions about a negative experience associated with their reporting of sexual assault and not necessarily a reported or legally substantiated incident of retaliatory behavior. Construction of rates of professional reprisal, ostracism, and other negative outcomes are based on general policy prohibitions. These rates should not be construed as legal crime victimization rates in the absence of an investigation being conducted to determine a verified outcome.

***Professional Reprisal.*** Reprisal is defined as “taking or threatening to take an unfavorable personnel action, or withholding or threatening to withhold a favorable personnel action, for making, preparing to make, or being perceived as making or preparing to make a protected communication” such as report of a crime (DoDD 7060.06; Department of Defense, 2021).<sup>11</sup> Per the definition in law and policy, reprisal may only occur if the actions in question were taken by leadership with the intent of having a specific detrimental impact on the career or professional activities of the student who reported a crime. As depicted in Figure 5, the estimated professional reprisal rate in the 2022 *SAGR* is a summary measure reflecting whether students indicated they experienced a behavior consistent with professional reprisal as a result of reporting unwanted sexual contact (i.e., the action taken was not based on conduct or performance). Further, the student must believe leadership took these actions for any one of a specific set of reasons: because they were trying to get back at the student for making an official report (restricted or unrestricted), because they were trying to discourage the student from moving forward with their report, or because they were angry at the student for causing a problem for them.

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<sup>10</sup> Because the *SAGR* assessment does not assess the relationship between the alleged perpetrator and the respondent to determine whether the behavior constitutes maltreatment, no definitive conclusions can be made regarding whether these alleged other negative behaviors are retaliatory or constitute maltreatment.

<sup>11</sup> Military Whistleblower Protection Act (10 U.S.C. § 1034); Section 1709(a) of the NDAA for FY 2014 requires regulations prohibiting retaliation against an alleged victim or other member of the Armed Forces who reports a crime and requires that violations of those regulations be punishable under Article 92.



**Figure 5.**  
***Construction of Estimated Professional Reprisal Rate***

Professional Reprisal	<b>① Experienced at least one behavior from leadership in line with potential professional reprisal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denied you or removed you from a leadership position</li> <li>• Denied you a training opportunity that could have led to a leadership position</li> <li>• Rated you lower than you deserved on a performance evaluation</li> <li>• Denied you an award or other form of recognition you were previously eligible to receive</li> <li>• Assigned you new duties without doing the same to others</li> <li>• Assigned you to duties that do not match your current class year or position within the company/squadron</li> <li>• Made you perform additional duties that do not match your current class year or position within the company/squadron</li> <li>• Transferred you to a different company/squadron without your request or agreement</li> <li>• Ordered you to one or more mental health evaluations</li> <li>• Disciplined you or ordered other corrective action</li> </ul>
	<b>② Belief that the leadership actions experienced were ONLY based on their report of sexual assault (i.e., not based on their conduct or performance)</b>
	<b>③ Belief that leadership took action for one of the following reasons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To get back at you for making a report (unrestricted or restricted)</li> <li>• To discourage you from moving forward with your report</li> <li>• They were mad at you for causing a problem for them</li> </ul>

***Ostracism.*** Although the interpretation of ostracism varies slightly,<sup>12</sup> in general, ostracism may occur if retaliatory behaviors were taken either by a member's military peers (such as fellow students in the context of the Academies) or by leadership. Examples of ostracism include improper exclusion from social acceptance, activities, or interactions; denying privilege of friendship due to reporting or planning to report a crime; and/or subjecting the student to insults or bullying due to reporting or planning to report a crime. As depicted in Figure 6, this is a summary measure reflecting whether, as a result of reporting unwanted sexual contact, the student perceived at least one behavior consistent with ostracism. To be included in this estimated rate, the student also needed to indicate that he or she perceived that at least one person who took the action knew or suspected the student made an official (unrestricted or restricted) sexual assault report and that the student believed that the person(s) was (were) trying to discourage them from moving forward with their report or discourage others from reporting.

<sup>12</sup> Enacting prohibitions against ostracism within the context of retaliation requires a specific set of criteria in order to maintain judicial validation against the limitations on the freedom of disassociation. Therefore, the Military Departments crafted policies that implement the regulation of these prohibitions against ostracism outlined in section 1709(a).

**Figure 6.**  
***Construction of Estimated Ostracism Rate***

<b>Ostracism</b>	<b>① Experienced at least one behavior from cadet/midshipman peers or leadership (including those in their cadet/midshipman chain of command) in line with potential ostracism</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made insulting or disrespectful remarks or made jokes at your expense in public</li> <li>• Excluded you or threatened to exclude you from social activities or interactions</li> <li>• Ignored you or failed to speak to you despite your attempts to communicate (for example, gave you "the silent treatment")</li> </ul>
	<b>② Belief that at least one individual knew or suspected the respondent made an official sexual assault report (unrestricted or restricted)</b>
	<b>③ Belief that the action was taken to discourage you from moving forward with your report or discourage others from reporting</b>

***Other Negative Outcomes.***<sup>13</sup> This is a summary measure reflecting whether, as a result of reporting unwanted sexual contact, respondents indicated experiencing negative behaviors from cadet/midshipman peers or leadership that occurred without a valid military purpose, and may have included physical or psychological force, threats, or abusive or unjustified treatment that results in physical or mental harm. Figure 7 shows the behaviors and two follow-up criteria required to be included in the metric. To be included in this estimated rate, the student also needed to indicate that at least one person who took the action knew or suspected the student made an official (unrestricted or restricted) sexual assault report and the student believed that the person(s) was (were) trying to discourage them from moving forward with their report or to discourage others from reporting, or that the person was trying to abuse or humiliate them.

**Figure 7.**  
***Construction of Estimated Other Negative Outcomes Rate***

<b>Other Negative Outcomes</b>	<b>① Experienced at least one behavior from cadet/midshipman peers (including those in their cadet/midshipman chain of command) in line with potential other negative outcomes</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made insulting or disrespectful remarks or made jokes at your expense to you in private</li> <li>• Showed or threatened to show private images, photos, or videos of you to others</li> <li>• Bullied you or made intimidating remarks about the assault</li> <li>• Was physically violent with you or threatened to be physically violent</li> <li>• Damaged or threatened to damage your property</li> </ul>
	<b>② Belief that at least one individual knew or suspected the respondent made an official sexual assault report (unrestricted or restricted)</b>
	<b>③ Belief that the action was for one of the following reasons:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To discourage you from moving forward with your report or discourage others from reporting</li> <li>• They were trying to abuse or humiliate you</li> </ul>

<sup>13</sup> Because the *SAGR* assessment does not assess the relationship between the alleged perpetrator and the respondent to determine whether the behavior constitutes maltreatment, no definitive conclusions can be made regarding whether these alleged other negative behaviors are retaliatory or constitute maltreatment.

## Survey Methodology

OPA uses industry-standard scientific survey methodology to control for bias and allow for generalizability to populations. For more than 30 years, OPA has been DoD's lead organization for conducting impartial and unbiased scientific survey and focus group research on a number of topics of interest to the DoD. OPA uses standard scientific methods to conduct cross-component surveys that provide DoD with fast, accurate assessments of attitudes, opinions, and experiences of the entire DoD community. Although OPA has used industry-standard scientific survey methodology for many years, it is important to clearly describe how the scientific practices employed by large survey organizations control for bias and allow for generalizability to populations. Specifically, OPA's survey methodology meets industry standards that are used by government statistical agencies (e.g., the Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics [BLS]), private survey organizations, and well-known polling organizations. OPA adheres to the survey methodology best practices promoted by the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR).<sup>14</sup> In addition, the scientific methods used by OPA have been validated by independent organizations (e.g., RAND, Government Accountability Office [GAO]).<sup>15</sup>

Appendix B contains frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the methods employed by government and private survey agencies, including OPA.

## Statistical Design

The population of interest for the 2022 *SAGR* consisted of all students at USCGA.<sup>16</sup> The entire population of male and female students was selected for the survey.<sup>17</sup> This census of all students was designed for maximum reliability of results in the sections in which the survey questions applied to only a subset of students, such as those questions asking details of an unwanted sexual contact, especially among men. It should be noted that while all students were invited, the survey was voluntary and thus students were not required to participate.

The target survey frame consisted of 1,013 students drawn from the student rosters provided to OPA by USCGA. OPA received a final dataset containing 994 returned questionnaires. Surveys

<sup>14</sup> AAPOR's "Best Practices" state that, "virtually all surveys taken seriously by social scientists, policy makers, and the informed media use some form of random or probability sampling, the methods of which are well grounded in statistical theory and the theory of probability" (<http://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/Best-Practices.aspx#best3>). OPA has conducted surveys of the military and DoD community using stratified random sampling for more than 25 years.

<sup>15</sup> The GAO reviewed OPA's (then Defense Manpower Data Center's [DMDC]) survey methods in 2010 and determined OPA uses valid scientific survey methods (GAO, 2010). In 2013, the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) confirmed OPA's scientific weighting methods were appropriate. In 2014, an independent analysis of the methods used for a 2012 survey on gender relations in the Active Duty force, which aligns with methods used in the 2022 *SAGR*, determined that "[OPA] relied on standard, well accepted, and scientifically justified approaches to survey sampling and derivation of survey results as reported for the 2012 *WGRA*" (Morrall, Gore, & Schell, 2014).

<sup>16</sup> Two groups of students were excluded: visiting students from other Academies and foreign nationals.

<sup>17</sup> Starting in 2014, *SAGR* included all female and male Service Academy students to better understand the specific experiences of men who indicate unwanted sexual contact and/or MEO violations. In previous survey years, all women at all Service Academies and a statistically constructed sample of men were included in the study in order to produce reliable results.

were completed by 839 students,<sup>18</sup> yielding an overall weighted response rate for respondents at USCGA of 83% (91% for women, 77% for men).

Using an industry-standard process, data were weighted to reflect the USCGA population as of March 2022.<sup>19</sup> The estimated number of students, the number of respondents, and the portion of total respondents in each reporting group are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.**  
***2022 SAGR Counts and Weighted Response Rates***

	Population	Survey Respondents	Weighted Response Rate
USCGA Total	1,013	839	83%
Men	603	466	77%
Women	410	373	91%

Weighting produces survey estimates of population totals, proportions, and means (as well as other statistics) that are representative of their respective populations. Unweighted survey data, in contrast, are likely to produce biased estimates of population statistics. The standard process of weighting consists of the following steps:

- Adjustment for selection probability—OPA typically adjusts for selection probability within scientific sampling procedures. However, in the case of the *2022 SAGR*, all students were selected to participate in the survey. Therefore, although adjustment for selection probability is usually performed as the first step in the weighting process, in this instance, the selection probability is 100%, hence the base weights are calculated to be 1.
- Adjustments for nonresponse—Although the *2022 SAGR* was a census of all students, some students did not respond to the survey, and others responded or started the survey but did not complete it (i.e., did not provide the minimum number of responses required for the survey to be considered complete). OPA adjusts for this nonresponse by creating population estimates by first calculating the base weights as the reciprocal of the probability of selection (in the *2022 SAGR*, the base weights take on the value 1 since the survey was a census). Next, OPA adjusts the base weights for those who did not respond to the survey, then adjusts for those who started the survey but did not complete it.
- Adjustment to known population values—OPA typically adjusts the weights in the previous step to known population values to account for remaining bias. In the case of the *2022 SAGR*, the weights in the previous step were adjusted to known

<sup>18</sup> “Completed” is defined as answering at least one of the questions asked of all participants, at least one response from the MEO violations questions (Q4, Q7, Q10, Q13, Q16, Q19, Q22, Q25, Q29, Q32, Q34, Q36, or Q39), and a valid response to Q49 on unwanted sexual contact.

<sup>19</sup> For further details, see the *2022 SAGR Statistical Methodology Report*.

population values using the three known demographic variables (Academy, class year, and gender). The poststratification adjustments all have the value 1 because the three demographic variables were already accounted for in the previous step.

Although the 2022 *SAGR* was a census of students, not everyone responded to the survey; hence, the weighting procedures described above were required to produce population estimates (e.g., percentage female). Because of the weighting, conventional formulas for calculating margins of error overstate the reliability of the estimate. For this report, variance estimates were calculated using SUDAAN PROC DESCRIPT (Research Triangle Institute, Inc., 2013).<sup>20</sup> Variance estimates are used to construct margins of error (i.e., confidence interval half-widths) of percentages and means based on 95% confidence intervals.

## Survey Administration

The *SAGR* is administered in-person on-site at the USCGA using an anonymous paper-and-pen survey. Data were collected for the 2022 *SAGR* at USCGA from March 28, 2022 through April 1, 2022. The Academy scheduled survey sessions for all students in groups with separate sessions for female and male students. After checking in, each student was handed a survey, an envelope, a pen, and an Academy-specific information sheet. The information sheet included details on where students could obtain help if they became upset or distressed while taking the survey or afterward. Students were briefed on the purpose and details of the survey and the importance of participation. Completion of the survey itself was voluntary. If students did not wish to take the survey, they could leave the session at the completion of the mandatory briefing. Students returned completed or blank surveys (depending on whether they chose to participate) in sealed envelopes into a bin as they exited the session; this process was monitored by the survey proctors as an added measure for protecting students' anonymity. The survey procedures were reviewed by a DoD Human Subjects Protection Officer as part of the DoD survey approval and licensing process. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reviewed and cleared the data collection in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA).

## Statistical Comparisons

As the *SAGR* surveys are scheduled to field in the spring of even-numbered years (a recurring qualitative research effort is conducted with the MSAs in odd-numbered years), OPA prepared a 2020 *SAGR* to begin data collection in March 2020. As the DoD issued orders restricting non-essential travel in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the OPA research team was stood down as the 2020 *SAGR* was postponed, and eventually canceled. For these reasons, any methodology, data, and reporting for the 2020 *SAGR* are non-existent, and not reportable here. Historically, OPA reports make statistical comparisons to results of the last survey iteration. Comparisons to the 2018 *SAGR* are presented here and in other 2022 *SAGR* publications in lieu of the 2020 *SAGR*'s cancellation.

Results of the 2022 *SAGR* are presented at various levels within this report. Results are reported by gender (where applicable) and class year. When the 2022 *SAGR* questions are comparable to questions in the previous 2018 survey, an analysis of comparisons between survey years is

<sup>20</sup> As a result of differential weighting, only certain statistical software procedures, such as SUDAAN, correctly calculate standard errors, variances, or tests of statistical significance for stratified samples.



presented for statistically significant changes overtime. In addition, rates from 2016, 2014, 2012, 2010, and 2008 are presented for overall prevalence rates of unwanted sexual contact (statistical comparisons for these prevalence rates by class year are only reported for 2018). Comparisons to prior years for sex-based MEO violations are only comparable to 2018 and 2016 estimates due to changes in the measure in 2016. Items related to culture and climate that have been consistently measured on the *SAGR* surveys over iterations also show results as far back as the data are available.

For gender, OPA relied on data recorded during the survey administration. For class year, respondents were classified by self-report. Definitions for reporting categories follow:

- *Class Year*—Seniors (Class of 2022), Juniors (Class of 2023), Sophomores (Class of 2024), and Freshmen (Class of 2025).
- *Gender*—Men or women.

Only statistically significant comparisons are discussed in this report. Two types of comparisons are made in the 2022 *SAGR*: between survey years (comparisons to the previous survey year) and within the current survey year (2022) by class membership (i.e., senior, junior, sophomore, and freshman) and gender (where applicable). Class comparisons within the current survey year are made along a single dimension for USCGA by gender. In this type of comparison, the responses for one group are compared to the weighted average of the responses of all other groups in that dimension (i.e., the total population minus the group being assessed). For example, responses of senior women at USCGA are compared to the weighted average of the responses from junior, sophomore, and freshman USCGA women (e.g., women in all other classes at USCGA). In some cases, the same value of an estimate for two different classes is significantly higher or lower for one class but not the other. This may be due to rounding (both 12.7% and 13.4% are displayed as 13%) or differences in margins of error. When comparing results across survey years (e.g., 2022 compared to 2018), statistical tests for differences between means (i.e., average scores) are used. For all statistical tests, OPA uses two-independent-sample t-tests where differences are statistically significant at  $p < 0.01$ . Because the results of comparisons are based on weighted estimates, the reader can infer that the results generalize to the population.

## Presentation of Results

The tables and figures in the report are numbered sequentially. Unless otherwise specified, the numbers presented are percentages. Ranges of margins of error are shown when more than one estimate is displayed in a table or figure. The margin of error represents the precision of the estimate, and the confidence interval coincides with how confident one is that the interval contains the true population value being estimated. For example, if it is estimated that 55% of individuals selected an answer and the margin of error was  $\pm 3$ , we are 95% confident that the “true” value being estimated in the population is between 52% and 58%. Because the results of comparisons are based on weighted results, the reader can assume that the results generalize to the Academy’s populations within an acceptable margin of error.

The annotation “NR” indicates that a specific result is “not reportable” due to low reliability. Estimates of low reliability are not presented based on criteria defined in terms of not having a sufficient number of respondents (fewer than five), an effective number of respondents (fewer than 15), or a relative standard error (greater than 0.3). The effective number of respondents takes into account the finite population correction and variability in weights. An “NR” presentation protects the USCGA, and the reader, from presenting potentially inaccurate findings due to instability of the specific estimate. The cause of instability is due to high variability (large relative standard error) usually associated with a small number of respondents contributing to the estimate. Additionally, some estimates might be so small as to appear to approach a value of zero. In those cases, an estimate of less than one (<1%) is displayed.





## Chapter 2: Unwanted Sexual Contact

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This chapter provides findings for the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) regarding estimated prevalence and incidents of unwanted sexual contact (USC). Administration of the *2022 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey (2022 SAGR)* took place on site at USCGA from March 28–April 1, 2022. Of the 1,013 cadets at the Academy, 839 completed the survey (373 women, 466 men) for an overall participation rate of 83% (91% for women, 77% for men).

This chapter provides topline findings for women and men at USCGA, including statistically significant differences between estimates from the *2018 SAGR* compared to the *2022 SAGR*, where applicable. This report does not provide a comprehensive review of all statistically significant differences. Rather, salient statistically significant results between estimates from the 2018 SAGR compared to the 2022 SAGR and those between class years in 2022 are discussed. All data points and significance testing are available in the separately published 2022 SAGR Results & Trends Volume. Some estimates are not reportable (indicated as NR in figures and tables) due to instability of estimates, and therefore, comparisons for statistically significant differences cannot be calculated in these cases.<sup>21</sup> When data are not reportable for USCGA men, only results for USCGA women are discussed.

### Unwanted Sexual Contact

As described in chapter 1, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) uses the *SAGR* survey to assess experiences of prohibited behaviors that align with the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), herein referred to as “unwanted sexual contact” or “USC.” This measure is based on objective behaviors and does not assume the respondent has intimate knowledge of the UCMJ or the UCMJ definition of sexual assault, nor does it require the participant to label the incident as sexual assault. The USC rate reflects the estimated percentage of USCGA students who experienced behaviors prohibited by the UCMJ between June 2021 and the time of the survey in March–April 2022 (Academic Program Year [APY] 2021–2022). The terms and definitions of USC have been consistent across all *SAGR* surveys since 2006 to provide comparable data over time.

Many instances of USC involve a combination of behaviors. Rather than attempt to provide estimated rates for every possible combination of behaviors and because behaviors may co-occur, responses were coded to create three hierarchically constructed categories:

- *Completed penetration*—Includes those respondents who marked “yes” to being made to have unwanted sexual intercourse, oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object.

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<sup>21</sup> Further details are provided in Chapter 1.

- *Attempted penetration*—Includes those respondents who marked “yes” to experiencing attempted unwanted sexual intercourse, oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object but did not indicate that they experienced *completed penetration*.
- *Unwanted sexual touching*—Includes only those respondents who marked “yes” to experiencing unwanted, intentional touching of sexual body parts such as genitalia, breasts, or buttocks and did not indicate that they also experienced *attempted penetration* and/or *completed penetration*.

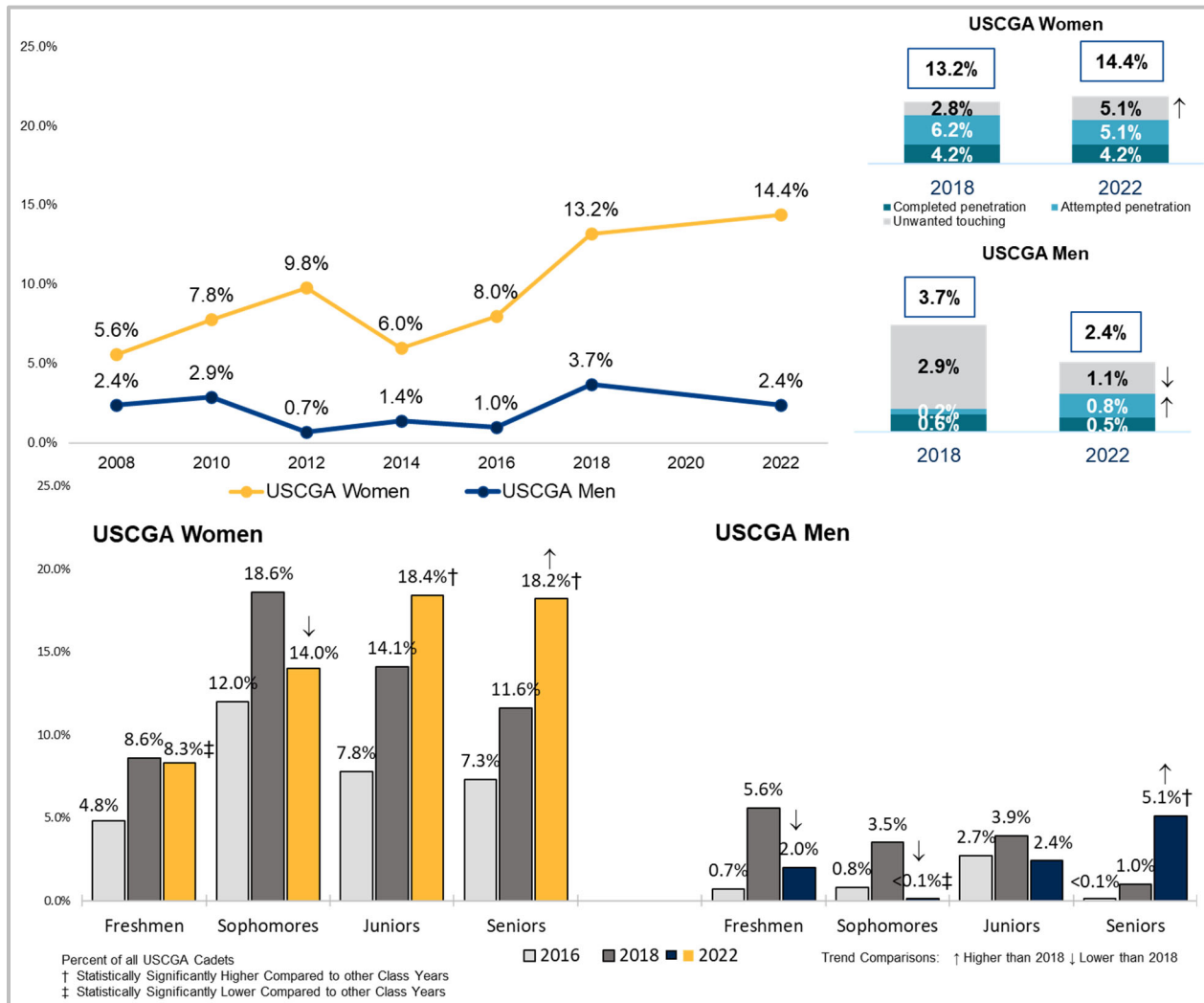
For more information regarding the measure and how the estimated prevalence rate of USC was constructed, see chapter 1.

### **Estimated Past Year Unwanted Sexual Contact Rate**

An estimated 14.4% of USCGA women experienced USC in the past APY. This rate includes an estimated 4.2% of all USCGA women experiencing *completed penetration*, 5.1% experiencing *attempted penetration*, and 5.1% experiencing *unwanted sexual touching*. Of the three types of USC, only *unwanted touching* increased since 2018, while rates of *completed* and *attempted penetration* among USCGA women remained stable (Figure 8).

An estimated 2.4% of USCGA men experienced USC in the past APY. This rate includes an estimated 0.5% of USCGA men having experienced *completed penetration*, 0.8%, an increase from 2018, having experienced *attempted penetration*, and 1.1%, a decrease from 2018, having experienced *unwanted sexual touching*. Of the three types of USC, only *attempted penetration* increased since 2018, while the rate of *completed penetration* remained stable and the rate of *unwanted touching* decreased (Figure 8).

**Figure 8.**  
**Estimated Past Year Unwanted Sexual Contact Rate for USCGA**



Margins of error range from  $\pm 0.1\%$  to  $\pm 4.5\%$

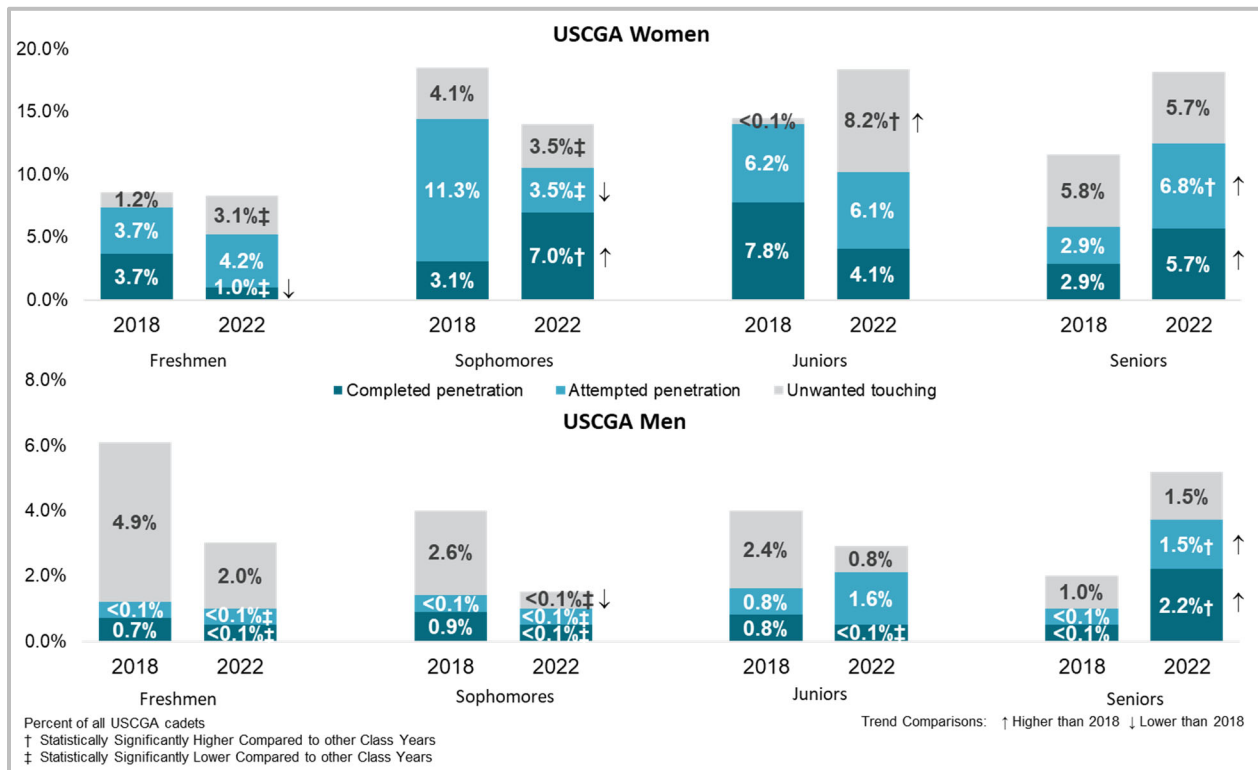
### Differences by Class Year

The overall rates of USC for both USCGA women and USCGA men remained stable from 2018 to 2022; however, there were notable differences by class year (Figure 8). The USC rate increased for senior women and senior men, and decreased for sophomore women and men as well as freshman men since 2018. Senior and junior women were more likely than women of other class years to have experienced USC in the past APY, while freshman women were less likely. Among USCGA men, senior men were more likely than men of other class years to have experienced USC, but sophomore men were less likely. This represents a reversal from 2018, when freshmen men were at greatest risk and senior men were at least risk for experiencing USC.

Differences between class years were found also for types of USC experienced by USCGA women (Figure 9). The rise in unwanted sexual touching among USCGA women as a whole was driven by increases among junior women since 2018; comparatively, sophomore women experienced unwanted sexual touching less often than other USCGA women. Although the overall rates of attempted and completed penetration remained stable since 2018, sophomore women indicated a decrease in attempted penetration, but an increase in completed penetration; senior women also indicated an increase in completed penetration, as well as an increase in attempted penetration. In fact, senior women experienced attempted penetration significantly more often than any other USCGA women, while sophomore women experienced completed penetration more often than any other USCGA women. Junior women experienced unwanted sexual touching more often than other USCGA women.

Among USCGA men, the decrease in unwanted touching was driven by decreases among sophomore men, whereas the rise in attempted penetration was driven by increases among senior men since 2018 (Figure 9). Although the overall rate of completed penetration was stable compared to 2018, there was a significant increase among senior men, who were also more likely than USCGA men in other class years to experience attempted and completed penetration. Interestingly, sophomore men were less likely to experience any form of USC compared to USCGA men in all other class years.

**Figure 9.**  
*Estimated Past Year Unwanted Sexual Contact Rate by USC Type for USCGA by Gender and Class Year*



Margins of error range from  $\pm 0.8\%$  to  $\pm 5.7\%$

## Estimated Rates of Unwanted Sexual Contact by Race/Ethnicity and Sexual Orientation

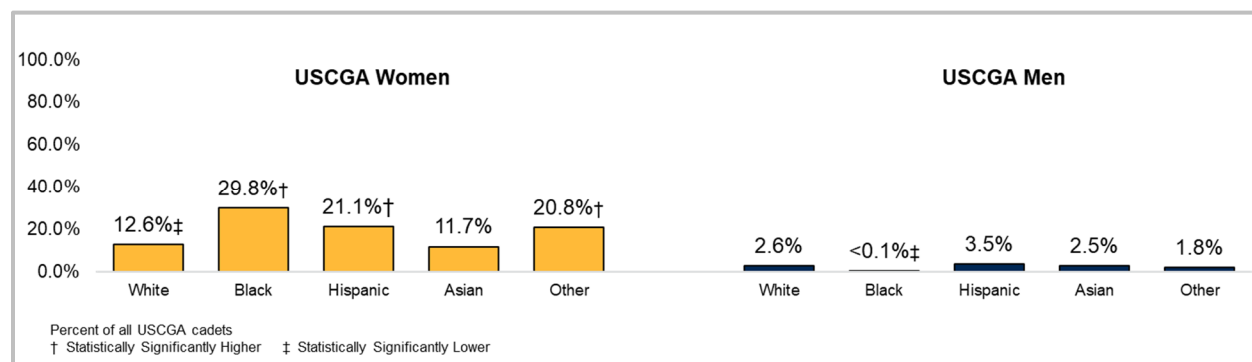
For the first time on the 2022 *SAGR*, we collected demographic information that can serve to further inform the Department's prevention and response efforts. The following section describes prevalence of USC for cadets first by race/ethnicity and then, separately, by sexual orientation. Although prior research has examined the role of race/ethnicity and sexual orientation in risk for sexual violence among other military populations (see Buchanan et al., 2008; Trump-Steele et al., 2021; Morral et al., 2021; Breslin et al., 2022 for recent examples), to our knowledge, this is the first study to examine prevalence of USC by race/ethnicity and sexual orientation using a weighted census of Academy students.

### Unwanted Sexual Contact by Race/Ethnicity

Figure 10 presents the past year unwanted sexual contact prevalence rates by race/ethnicity for USCGA women and men. Overall, minority women (19.7%) were more likely than non-Hispanic white (12.6%) women to experience unwanted sexual contact at USCGA. Specifically, black (29.8%), Hispanic (21.1%), and women who identified as some other race/ethnicity (20.8%) were significantly more likely than women of other races/ethnicities to experience unwanted sexual contact. There were no significant differences between minority men at USCGA (2.4%) and non-Hispanic white men (2.6%) in experiencing unwanted sexual contact. However, when examining by specific race/ethnicities, Black men (<1%) were less likely to experience USC than other USCGA men.

**Figure 10.**

### Estimated Rates of Unwanted Sexual Contact for USCGA by Gender and Race/Ethnicity



Margins of error range from  $\pm 1.0\%$  to  $\pm 24.8\%$

### Unwanted Sexual Contact by Sexual Orientation

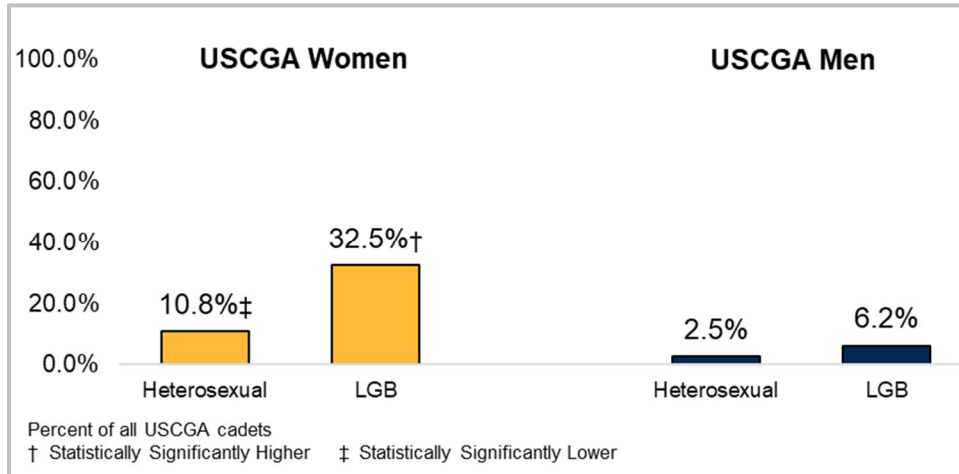
To gain a better understanding of the experiences of military members identifying as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB), the 2022 *SAGR* asked respondents to identify their sexual orientation. Cadets who marked Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual on the survey were coded as LGB.<sup>22</sup> Overall, 19% of USCGA women and 3% of USCGA men identified as LGB. Figure 11 presents the past

<sup>22</sup> Cadets who marked *Something else* or *Prefer not to answer* were set to missing.

year unwanted sexual contact prevalence rates by race/ethnicity for USCGA women and men. In general, women at USCGA who identify as LGB are at greater risk of experiencing unwanted sexual contact than heterosexual women. The estimated rate of unwanted sexual contact for USCGA LGB women (32.5%) was significantly higher than for heterosexual USCGA women (10.8%). However, there were no significant differences between the estimated rate of unwanted sexual contact for USCGA LGB men (6.2%) and heterosexual USCGA men (2.5%)

**Figure 11.**

***Estimated Rates of Unwanted Sexual Contact for USCGA by Gender and Sexual Orientation***



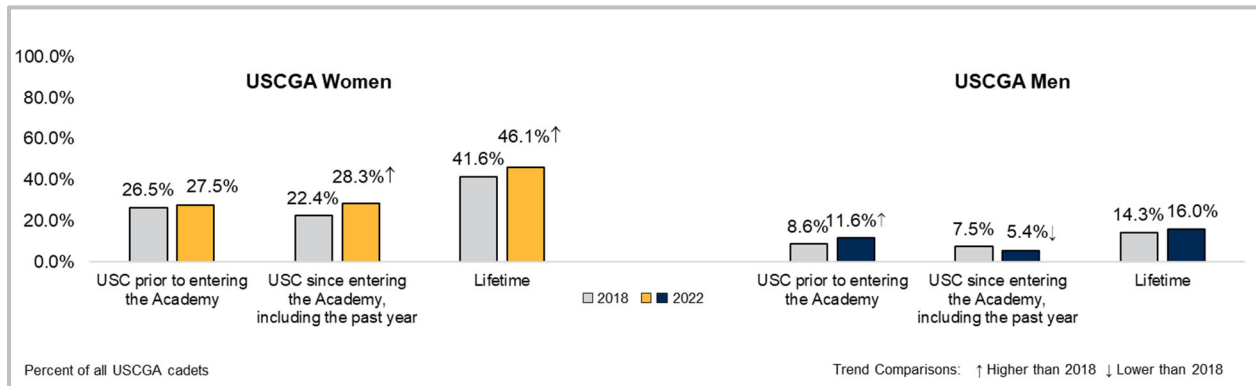
Margins of error range from  $\pm 0.8\%$  to  $\pm 4.9\%$

***Estimated Rates of Unwanted Sexual Contact Prior to Past APY and Lifetime***

The 2022 SAGR also collects data on prevalence of USC experiences among USGCA cadets prior to the June 2021-April 2022 timeframe. Using survey responses, USC prevalence is calculated along three timelines: before entering the Academy, since first entering the Academy (including in the past APY), and lifetime estimated prevalence of USC (combining experiences before entering the Academy and since entering the Academy). Construction of these values requires explicit, affirmative selection of one of the USC behaviors in the respective timeframe (see chapter 1 for a list of behaviors). As seen in Figure 12, rates for USGCA women who experienced USC since entering the Academy (including in the past year) and in their lifetime both increased since 2018, but only rates of prior to entering the Academy increased since 2018 for USGCA men.

**Figure 12.**

***Estimated Rates of Unwanted Sexual Contact Prior Entering the Academy, Since Entering the Academy, and Lifetime for USCGA by Gender***



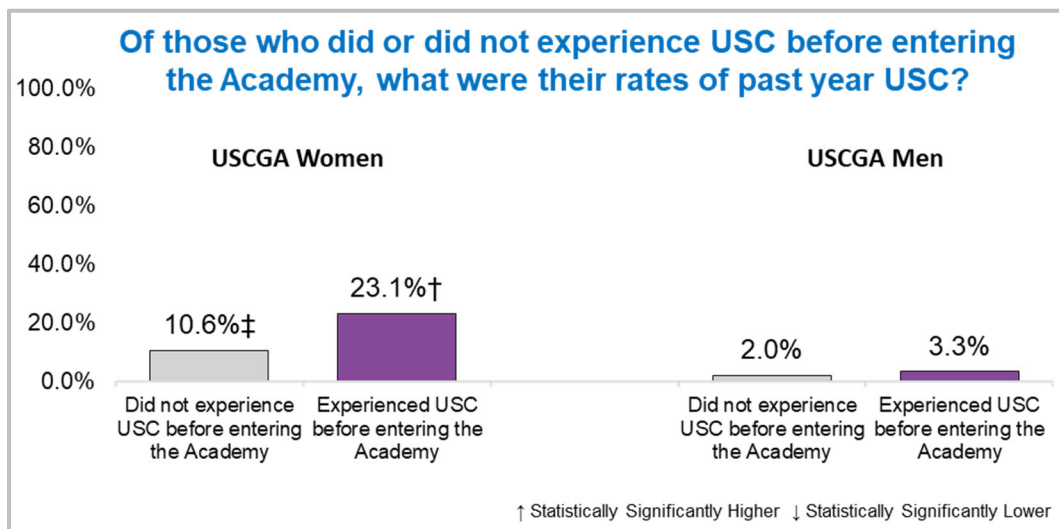
Margins of error range from  $\pm 1.1\%$  to  $\pm 2.0\%$

### ***Risk of Re-Victimization***

Research has shown re-victimization is an important element of understanding sexual violence, namely that victims of one form of violence are more likely to be victims of other forms of violence, victims are at a higher risk for perpetrating violence, and perpetrators of one form of violence are more likely to commit other forms of violence (Wilkins et al., 2014). To understand the risk of potential re-victimization at the Academy, rates of USC in the past APY were examined separately by whether cadets had experienced USC before entering the Academy. As shown in Figure 13, USCGA women who experienced USC before entering the Academy were more likely to experience USC in the past APY compared to those who did not experience USC before entering the Academy.

**Figure 13.**

***Risk of Re-victimization for USCGA***



Margins of error range from  $\pm 0.7\%$  to  $\pm 2.7\%$



## One Situation of Unwanted Sexual Contact With the Biggest Effect

Among cadets who have experienced USC in the past APY, unfortunately the majority experienced more than one unwanted sexual contact event. In 2022, among USC victims, over almost two-thirds of USCGA women and three-quarters of USCGA men experienced more than one USC incident in the past APY. To better understand the circumstances involved in their experiences, the 14.4% of USCGA women and 2.4% of USCGA men<sup>23</sup>), were asked to provide additional information regarding the experience of USC they considered to be the worst or most serious (hereafter referred to as “the one situation”).<sup>24</sup> In addition to discerning what happened (type of USC involved in the one situation), cadets were asked to provide details regarding characteristics of who the alleged perpetrator(s) were, when and where the one situation happened, experiences following the one situation of USC, and whether or not they chose to report the incident.

### **What: Behavior Experienced in the USC One Situation**

Cadets were asked to identify the behavior(s) involved in the most serious experience in the past APY. These USC types were coded hierarchically as described in the prior section, with experiences of *completed penetration* taking precedence over experiences of *attempted penetration*, which in turn take precedent over *unwanted sexual touching*.<sup>25</sup>

As shown in Figure 14, of the 14.4% of USCGA women who experienced USC in the past APY, 29% experienced *completed penetration*, 37% experienced *attempted penetration*, and 33% experienced *unwanted sexual touching* within the most serious experience within the past APY. Of the 2.4% of USCGA men who experienced USC in the past APY, 9% experienced *completed penetration*, 38% experienced *attempted penetration*, and 33% experienced *unwanted sexual touching* within the most serious experience within the past APY.

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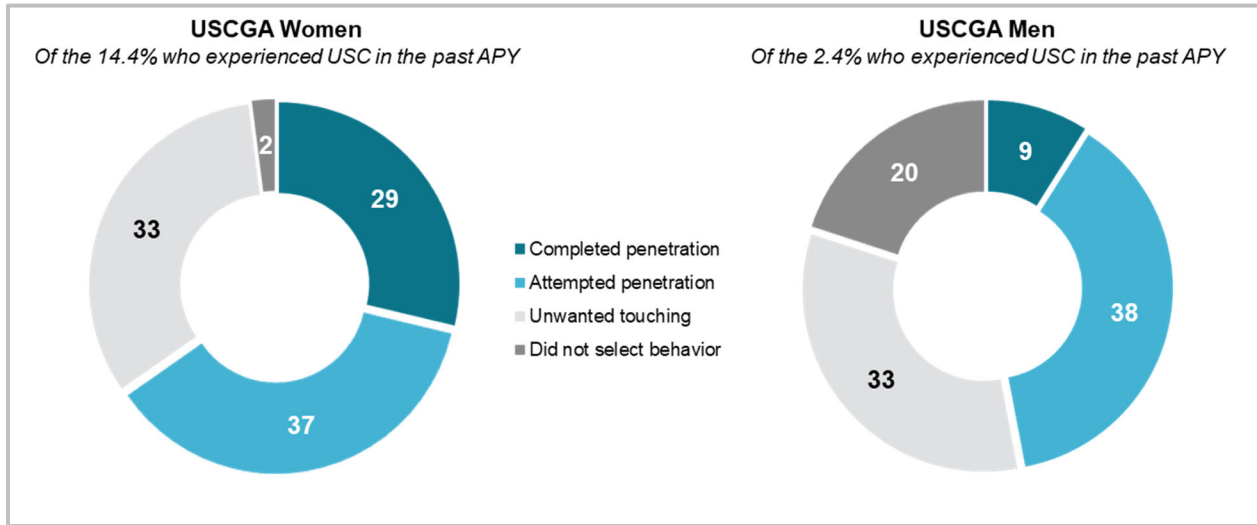
<sup>23</sup> Experience of USC is determined by endorsement of at least one USC behavior in the past APY as presented on the survey.

<sup>24</sup> Although some students may have experienced more than one USC event, follow-up questions on details about only one event were asked to minimize survey burden.

<sup>25</sup> Some cadets chose not to indicate the most serious experience within the one situation, leaving some having not selected or disclosed. Those who did not select a behavior were categorized as “Did not select behavior.”



**Figure 14.**  
***Behaviors Experienced in USC One Situation for USCGA by Gender***



Margins of error range from  $\pm 4\%$  to  $\pm 15\%$

***Who: Reported Demographics and Characteristics of the Alleged Offender(s) in the USC One Situation***

To better understand the context of these incidents, the 2022 *SAGR* survey asked cadets to provide information on the alleged offender(s) in their one worst situation of USC. Specifically, questions included the gender(s) of alleged offender(s), the number of persons involved, the nature of any pre-existing relationship with the alleged offender(s), and the alleged offender'(s) place in the Academy.

The majority of USCGA women indicated the one situation involved one alleged offender who was often male and affiliated with the Academy in some way, most commonly as a fellow Academy student from the same class year who they knew from class or another activity. An overview of the alleged offender(s) profile in the one situation is highlighted for USCGA women in Table 2.

**Table 2.*****Reported Characteristics of the Alleged Offender(s) in the USC One Situation for USCGA Women***

<b>Trend Comparisons:</b> ↑ Higher than 2018 ↓ Lower than 2018	<b>USCGA Women</b>	
<b>Gender of Offender(s)</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2022</b>
Men	97%	91%↓
Women	<1%	8%↑
A mix of men and women	3%	2%
<b>Number of Offender(s)</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2022</b>
One person	84%	88%
More than one person	16%	12%
<b>Status of Offender(s)</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2022</b>
Same class year	66%	80%↑
Member of NCAA/Division I sports team	31%	28%
Member of intramural or club sports team	11%	26%↑
Higher class year	32%	14%↓
Higher in cadet chain of command	6%	9%
DoD person not affiliated with the Academy	3%	9%↑
Academy military/uniformed faculty or staff	3%	7%↑
A person not affiliated with the DoD	3%	5%
Lower class year	6%	4%
Unknown person	5%	2%↓
Academy civilian faculty or staff	<1%	<1%
<b>Relationship to Offender(s)</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2022</b>
Someone you knew from class or other activity	77%	67%↓
Someone you had a casual relationship with	24%	21%
Someone you had just met	13%	11%
Someone you were currently dating	5%	11%↑
A stranger	5%	4%
Someone you had previously dated	8%	4%

*Margins of error range from  $\pm < 1\%$  to  $\pm 10\%$*

*Note.* Percentage of USCGA women who experienced USC in the past APY

Like women, the majority of men indicated that they knew their alleged offender from class or another activity, and that the one situation was perpetrated by one person, who was most often a person was affiliated with the Academy in some way, and often in the same class year (Table 3). Unlike women, nearly three fourths indicated that the alleged offender was a woman and nearly one-fifth indicated that the alleged offender was a man.

**Table 3.**  
***Reported Characteristics of the Alleged Offender(s) in the USC One Situation for USCGA Men***

Trend Comparisons: ↑ Higher than 2018 ↓ Lower than 2018		USCGA Men	
Gender of Offender(s)		2018	2022
Men		35%	19%
Women		58%	72%
A mix of men and women		7%	NR
Number of Offender(s)		2018	2022
One person		86%	62%↓
More than one person		14%	29%
Status of Offender(s)		2018	2022
Same class year		85%	71%
Lower class year		8%	24%
Member of NCAA/Division I sports team		57%	23%↓
Member of intramural or club sports team		7%	12%
Unknown person		NR	12%
Academy civilian faculty or staff		<1%	<1%
Higher class year		15%	NR
Higher in cadet chain of command		8%	NR
A person not affiliated with the DoD		NR	NR
DoD person not affiliated with the Academy		NR	NR
Academy military/uniformed faculty or staff		NR	NR
Relationship to Offender(s)		2018	2022
Someone you knew from class or other activity		NR	62%
Someone you had a casual relationship with		8%	28%↑
A stranger		8%	9%
Someone you had previously dated		8%	9%
Someone you had just met		7%	9%
Someone you were currently dating		NR	NR

*Margins of error range from  $\pm <1\%$  to  $\pm 15\%$*

*Note.* Percentage of USCGA men who experienced USC in the past APY

### ***Where and When: Location and Context of the USC One Situation***

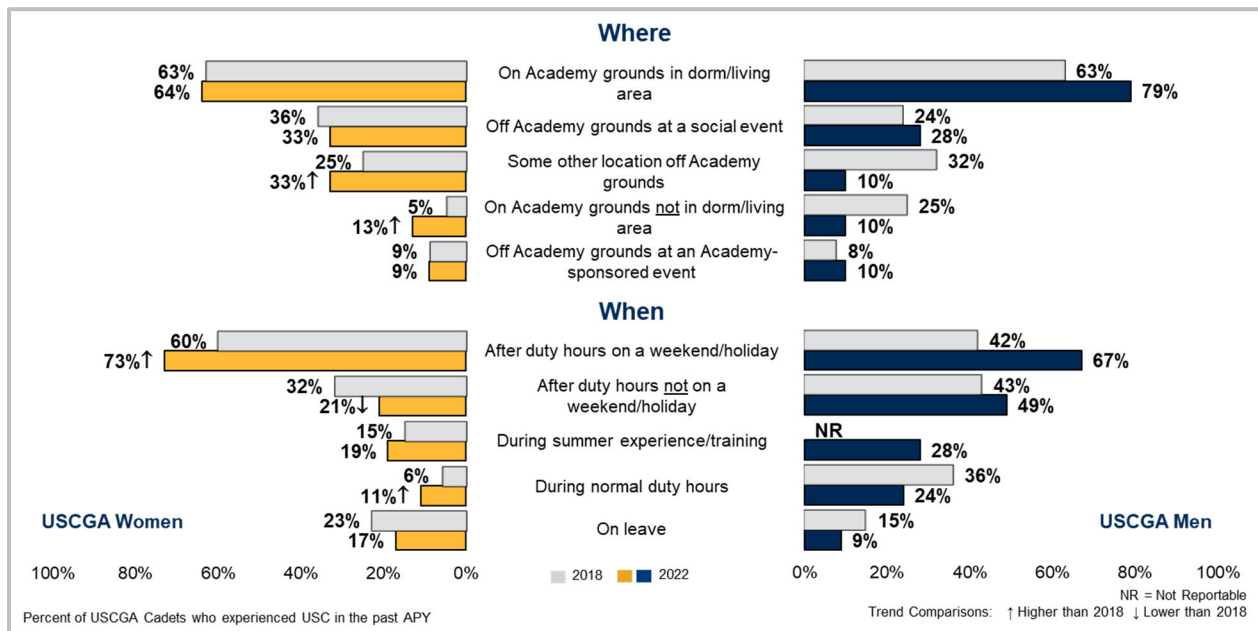
Because there is no one “characteristic” of alleged USC perpetrators, there is also not a singular context that leads to victimization. Understanding the various patterns of time and place involved in USC is key to developing and implementing tailor-made prevention and response resources at the Academy.

As shown in Figure 15, USCGA women experienced incidents most often in a dormitory or living area on Academy grounds, followed by one-third of women saying that the most serious incident occurred off Academy grounds at a social event or some other location. As for specific

timeframes, the majority of USCGA women who experienced USC specified it occurred after duty hours on a weekend or holiday, an increase from 2018, followed by after duty hours *not* on a weekend or holiday.

USCGA men experienced incidents most often on Academy grounds in a dormitory or living area followed by off Academy grounds at a social event. Over two-thirds of USCGA men who experienced USC specified it occurred after duty hours on a weekend or holiday and nearly half experienced the one situation after duty hours *not* on a weekend or holiday.

**Figure 15.**  
*Location and Context of the USC One Situation for USCGA by Gender*



Margins of error range from  $\pm 3\%$  to  $\pm 16\%$

### **Where and When: Circumstances of the USC One Situation**

Finally, cadets were asked to further contextualize the one situation by sharing their perspective on the incident; including whether they characterized the situation as involving hazing- and/or bullying-related behavior, whether the person(s) involved in the one situation had victimized them before and/or after the one situation, whether there was another cadet that was present who did or did not help them, and detailing the potential involvement of alcohol. The involvement of alcohol in the one situation is an important factor regarding experiences of USC, especially in university-aged populations. The survey reminded participants that even if they had been drinking, they are not to blame for the incident. Studying the use of alcohol in the one situation is meant to better understand unwanted situations at the Academy in the pursuit of eliminating sexual assault at the Academy. These results are visualized in Table 4 below.

Relatively few USCGA women who experienced USC considered it hazing or bullying.<sup>26</sup> Compared to 2018, more USCGA women who experienced USC were also victimized in some fashion (e.g., stalked, sexually harassed, or sexually assaulted) before the one situation and/or after the one situation, with increases specifically for being sexually harassed and/or assaulted before the one situation and being sexually harassed after the one situation. Those most at risk for being victimized before USC were junior women, whereas sophomore women were most at risk for being victimized after the USC.

Bystander intervention training is arguably one of the most important elements of USC prevention because it can provide cadets and other Academy personnel basic tools to recognize and stop potential sexual assaults. Only 13% of USCGA women who experienced USC said there was a fellow cadet present in the one situation who could have helped and did so, whereas 25% said there was a fellow cadet present who could have stepped in to help but did not,<sup>27</sup> suggesting improvements in bystanders' ability to recognize and effectively intervene could be useful for decreasing USC at the Academy.

Finally, cadets were asked to what extent alcohol was present in the USC one situation, though they were not asked the extent of the alcohol use in the situation (i.e., they were not asked their own or the alleged perpetrators level of intoxication). More than half of USC situations for USCGA involved alcohol use, either on the part of the victim, the alleged offender, or both. Specifically, 47% said that the alleged offender had been drinking, and 43% said that they themselves had been drinking. Alcohol involvement varied greatly by class year, in the expected way, such that alcohol involvement was higher among senior and junior women, and lower among freshman and sophomore women victims. When victims were drinking at the time of the event, approximately half of the time the alleged offender had bought or given them alcohol.

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<sup>26</sup> Hazing and bullying were not defined on the survey, therefore, these results should be interpreted as the respondents' own categorization of these behaviors as being hazing or bullying, but may not be actual hazing or bullying as defined by policy.

<sup>27</sup> Like all survey responses, this is based on the perception of the respondent. It is unclear whether bystanders understood what was occurring, or could have intervened, and/or why they did not intervene in some way.

**Table 4.**  
***Circumstances of the USC One Situation for USCGA by Gender***

Trend Comparisons: ↑ Higher Than 2018 ↓ Lower Than 2018		USCGA Women		USCGA Men	
		2018	2022	2018	2022
Hazing/ Bullying	Hazing	3%	6%	7%	9%
	Bullying	8%	6%	7%	9%
Sexual Harassment, Stalking, or Sexual Assault Before or After the Situation	Sexually harassed before	16%	29%↑	NR	19%
	Stalked before	8%	6%	NR	20%
	Sexually assaulted before	6%	14%↑	NR	19%
	<b>Experienced any before</b>	22%	35%↑	NR	29%
	Sexually harassed after	21%	25%	8%	19%
	Stalked after	10%	16%	8%	20%
	Sexually assaulted after	5%	15%↑	7%	19%
	<b>Experienced any after</b>	27%	35%	14%	38%↑
Someone Else Present	Stepped in to help victim		13%		9%
	Could have stepped in but didn't		25%		38%
Alcohol Use	Victim was drinking	45%	43%	21%	28%
	➡ Offender bought/gave drinks	47%	48%	NR	NR
	Offender was drinking	50%	47%	14%	38%↑
	<b>Alcohol use by victim/offender</b>	58%	58%	21%	57%↑

*Margins of error range from ±3% to ±14%*

*Note.* Percentage of USCGA cadets who experienced USC in the past APY.

As shown in Table 4, relatively few USCGA men who experienced USC considered the one situation either hazing or bullying. Over one-quarter of USCGA men who experienced USC were also victimized in some fashion (e.g., stalked, sexually harassed, or sexually assaulted) before the one situation, and nearly two-fifths were victimized after the one situation, the latter of which increased since 2018. The most frequent experience both before and after the one situation was being stalked; one-fifth experienced stalking before and after.

Bystander intervention plays an equally important role for USCGA men as it does for women and similar results were found. Only 9% of USCGA men who experienced USC said there was a fellow cadet present in the one situation who could have helped and did so, whereas 38% said there was a fellow cadet present who could have stepped in to help but did not.

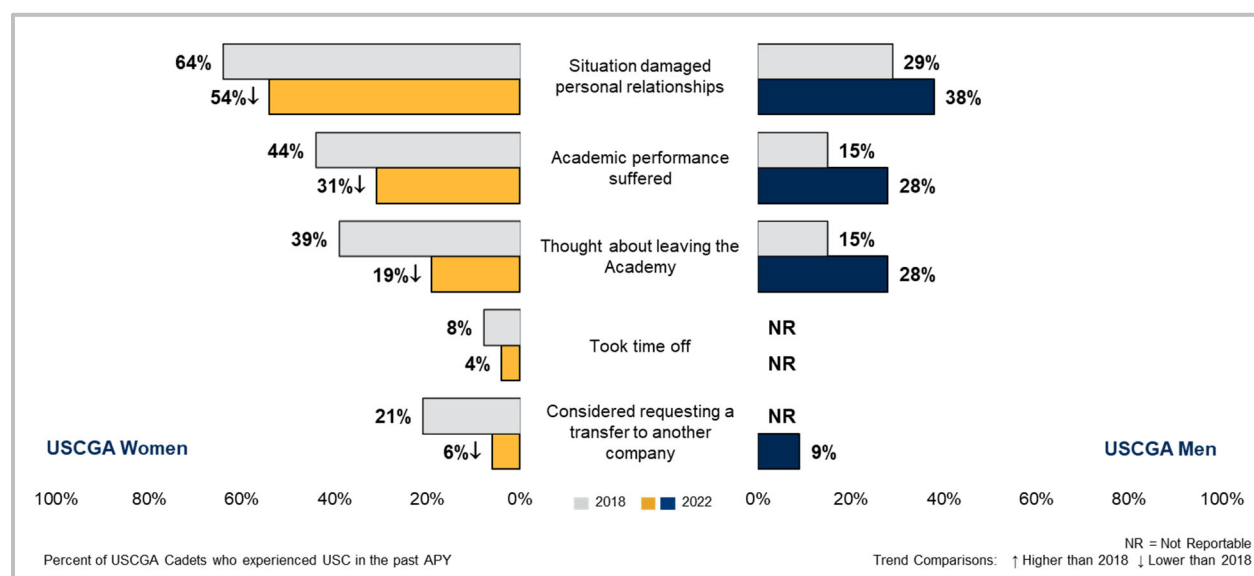
Finally, more than half of USCGA men who experienced USC indicated alcohol was involved in the situation, an increase since 2018, driven primarily by alcohol use by the alleged offender.

### ***Impact of Experiencing USC***

Experiencing USC can impact the victim's relationships, academic performance, and make them question if they want to stay in their company or at the Academy. On the survey, those who experienced USC in the past APY were asked to indicate to what extent experiencing USC impacted them.

As shown in Figure 16, the largest impact both USCGA women and men felt after experiencing USC in the past APY was damage to their personal relationships. USCGA women indicated a decline in experiencing impacts such as suffering academic performance and thoughts of leaving the Academy as a result of experiencing USC in 2022 compared to 2018.

**Figure 16.**  
*Impact of the USC One Situation for USCGA by Gender*



Margins of error range from  $\pm 2\%$  to  $\pm 15\%$

### Reporting the USC One Situation

Of the 14.4% of women who experienced USC in the past APY, an estimated 15% indicated on the survey that they had reported this incident, a decrease from 29% in 2018.<sup>28</sup> The top two reasons indicated by half of USCGA women included to stop the person(s) from hurting others and because they told encouraged them to report (though this reason was indicated by fewer USCGA women in 2022 than in 2018). Compared to 2018, more USCGA women also indicated they reported because someone else made them report it or reported it themselves; fewer USCGA women indicated that they reported because it was their civic/military duty to report it and/or to get mental health assistance (Table 5). Data for reporting USC was non-reportable for USCGA men.

<sup>28</sup> In order to obtain more information on what actions were taken as a result of reporting USC, the survey asks respondents to indicate whether or not they filed an official report. These are not to be confused with the actual reports the Academy received during the APY although the proportions are within the margins of error.



**Table 5.**  
***Reasons for Reporting the USC One Situation for USCGA Women***

<b>Trend Comparisons:</b> ↑ Higher Than 2018 ↓ Lower Than 2018	<b>2018</b>	<b>2022</b>
To stop the person(s) from hurting others	65%	50%
Someone you told encouraged you to report	83%	50%↓
Someone else made you report it or reported it themselves	17%	38%↑
Raise awareness that it occurs at the Academy	55%	37%
To stop the person(s) from hurting you again	56%	37%
It was your civic/military duty to report it	46%	25%↓
Some other reason	9%	25%↑
To discourage other potential offenders	20%	13%
To stop rumors	20%	13%
To get medical assistance	10%	13%
To get mental health assistance	37%	12%↓
To punish the person(s) who did it	27%	12%

*Margins of error range from ±6% to ±12%*

*Note.* Percentage of USCGA women who experienced USC in the past APY and made an official report. Respondents were able to select multiple reasons for reporting.

### ***Negative Outcomes of Reporting USC***

Experiencing USC is often innately physically and psychologically harmful, but those that experience it may also experience secondary effects through others' actions. Classmates, faculty, or friends may act differently towards someone who has reported experiencing USC, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Three major categories of these secondary experiences are professional reprisal, ostracism, and other negative outcomes.

Measures of ***perceived retaliation, professional reprisal, ostracism, and other negative outcomes***<sup>29</sup> are used to capture outcomes experienced as a result of reporting USC (see chapter 1 for details on rate construction). Recall data in this section are out of USCGA women who experienced USC in the past year and reported it (i.e., 15% of the 14.4% of USCGA women who experienced USC). Data for negative outcomes of reporting USC were non-reportable for USCGA men.

As shown in Figure 17, the estimated rate of perceived retaliation is a summary measure reflecting whether cadets indicated they experienced either professional reprisal, ostracism, and/or maltreatment by leadership and/or fellow cadets for reporting USC. Half of USCGA women who reported their USC incident experienced ***perceived retaliation*** (the estimated rate of perceived retaliation).

The ***estimated rate of professional reprisal*** is a summary measure reflecting whether cadets indicated they experienced unfavorable actions taken from leadership (or an individual with the

<sup>29</sup> Because the *SAGR* assessment does not assess the relationship between the alleged perpetrator and the respondent to determine whether the behavior constitutes maltreatment, no definitive conclusions can be made regarding whether these alleged other negative behaviors are retaliatory or constitute maltreatment.

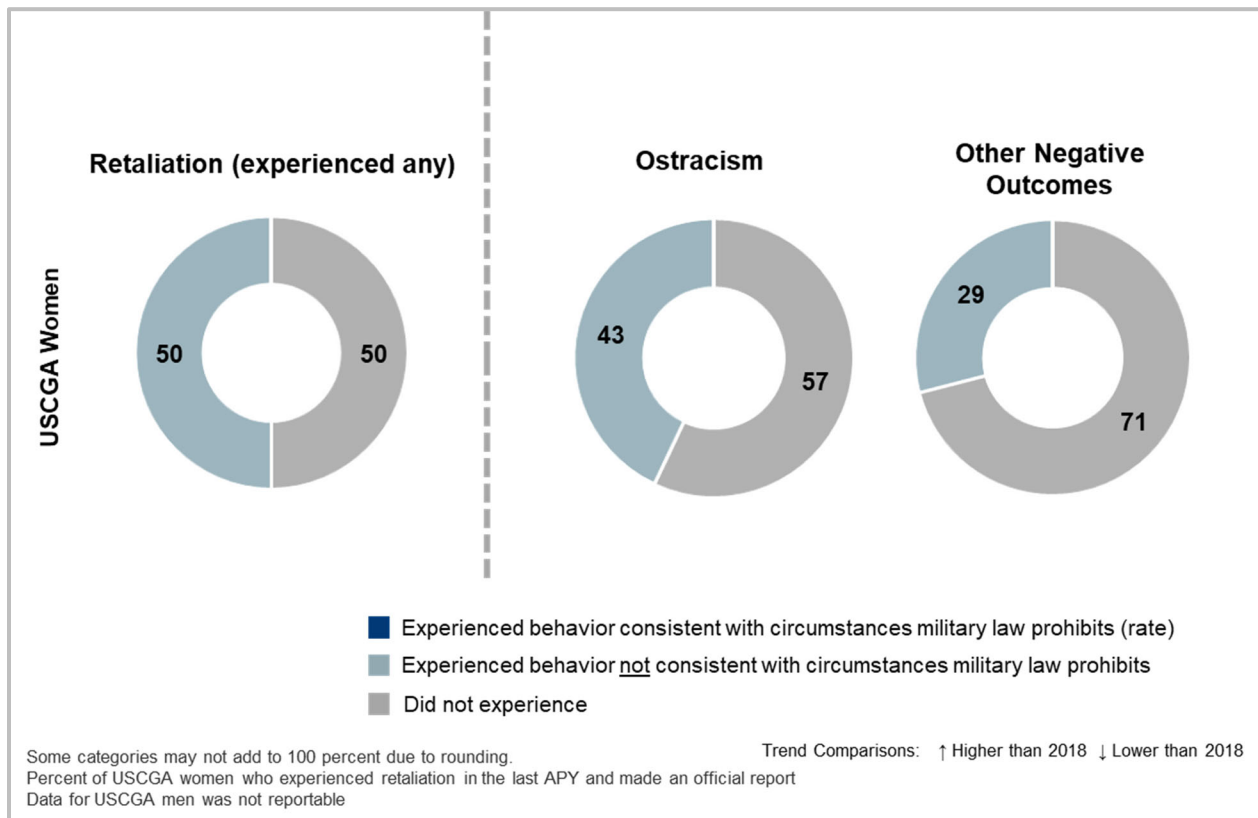
authority to affect a personnel decision) as a result of reporting USC (not based on conduct or performance). This estimate was non-reportable for USCGA women.

The ***estimated rate of ostracism*** is a summary measure reflecting whether, as a result of reporting USC, cadets experienced being excluded or ignored because they reported the USC or were going to report the USC. As shown in Figure 17, 43% of USCGA women experienced being excluded or ignored after reporting USC.

The ***estimated rate of other negative outcomes*** is a summary measure reflecting whether, as a result of reporting USC, cadets experienced negative behaviors from cadet peers or leadership that occurred without a valid military purpose and may have included physical or psychological force, threats, or abusive or unjustified treatment that resulted in physical or mental harm. As shown in Figure 17, 29% of USCGA women experienced other negative behaviors after reporting USC.

**Figure 17.**

***Estimated Rates of Negative Outcomes as a Result of Reporting USC for USCGA***



Margins of error range from  $\pm <1\%$  to  $\pm 13\%$

### ***Reasons for Not Reporting USC***

The vast majority of USCGA cadets chose not to report their experience of unwanted sexual contact, which is consistent with findings that sexual assault often goes underreported (NCVS,

2016). When asked why they chose not to report the incident, the top reason for women was that they took care of the problem themselves by forgetting about it and moving on (Table 6). Other reasons for not reporting included that they thought it was not serious enough to report, that they took care of the problem themselves by avoiding the person who assaulted them, and that they did not want more people talking or gossiping about them. For men, the top reasons for not reporting were that they chose to avoid the person who assaulted them, thought reporting would take too much time and effort, and felt uncomfortable making a report (Table 7).

**Table 6.**  
***Reasons for Not Reporting the USC One Situation for USCGA Women***

<b>Trend Comparisons:</b> ↑ Higher Than 2018 ↓ Lower Than 2018	<b>2018</b>	<b>2022</b>
Took care of the problem yourself by <u>forgetting</u> about it and moving on	54%	64%
Thought it was not serious enough to report	54%	59%
Took care of the problem yourself by <u>avoiding</u> the person who assaulted you	67%	59%
Did not want people talking or gossiping about you	48%	56%
Did not want more people to know	44%	52%
Felt uncomfortable making a report	36%	50%↑
Felt shame/embarrassment	37%	38%
Thought reporting would take too much time and effort	25%	36%↑
Took care of the problem yourself by <u>confronting</u> the person who assaulted you	11%	32%↑
Other	<1%	12%↑

*Margins of error range from ±4% to ±13%*

*Note.* Percentage of USCGA women who experienced USC in the past APY and did not make an official report.

**Table 7.**  
***Reasons for Not Reporting the USC One Situation for USCGA Men***

<b>Trend Comparisons:</b> ↑ Higher Than 2018 ↓ Lower Than 2018	<b>2018</b>	<b>2022</b>
Took care of the problem yourself by <u>avoiding</u> the person who assaulted you	47%	70%
Thought reporting would take too much time and effort	16%	62%↑
Felt uncomfortable making a report	38%	62%
Felt shame/embarrassment	16%	57%↑
Thought it was not serious enough to report	77%	52%↓
Did not want more people to know	38%	38%
Took care of the problem yourself by <u>confronting</u> the person who assaulted you	38%	29%
Did not want people talking or gossiping about you	23%	28%
Took care of the problem yourself by <u>forgetting</u> about it and moving on	47%	28%
Other	16%	NR

*Margins of error range from ±11% to ±15%*

*Note.* Percentage of USCGA men who experienced USC in the past APY and did not make an official report.

## Chapter 3:

### Sex-Based Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Violations

This chapter examines students' experiences of sex-based Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) violations. As described in chapter 1, sex-based MEO violations are defined as behaviors prohibited by MEO policy that are committed by someone from the Academy. In the survey, students were asked about behaviors they may have experienced during the APY that may have been upsetting or offensive. To be included in the estimated prevalence rate for sex-based MEO violations, two requirements must have been met:

1. The student must have indicated that they experienced a behavior consistent with sexual harassment (which includes sexually hostile work environment or sexual quid pro quo) and/or gender discrimination behavior(s) in the past APY, and,
2. The student must have indicated that they met at least one of the follow-up legal criteria for a sex-based MEO violation.<sup>30</sup>

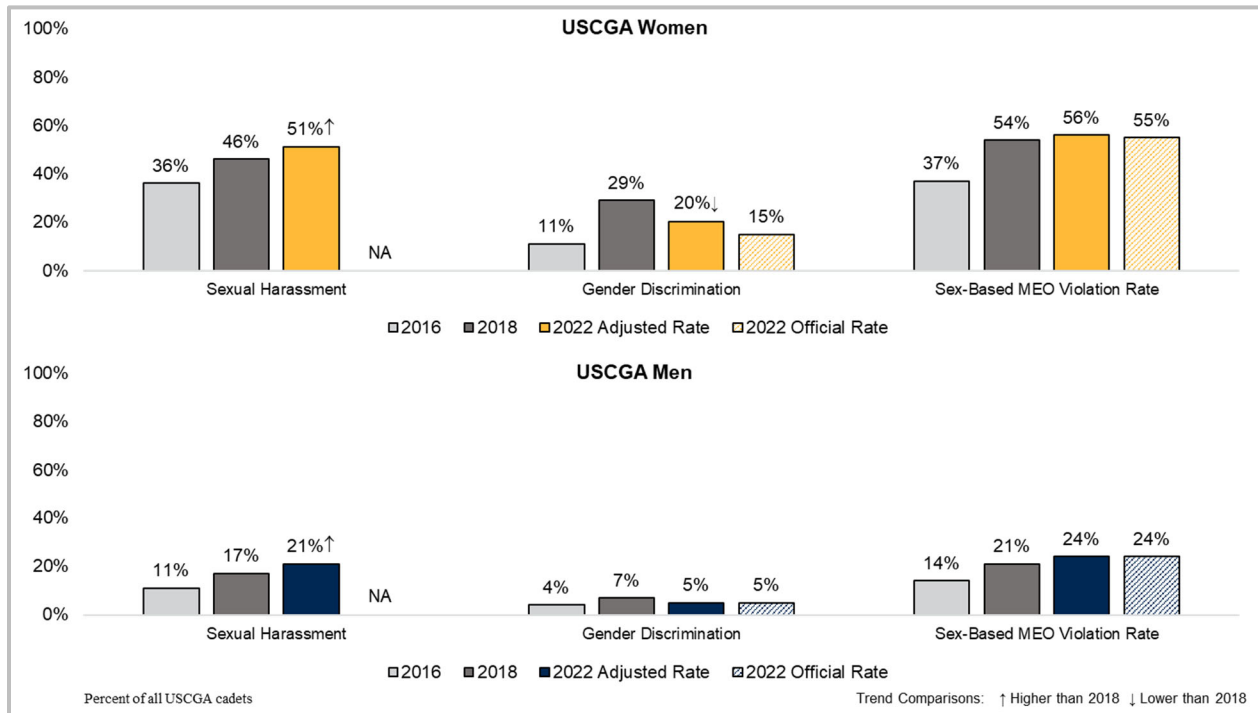
As OPA research methodologies are flexible to accommodate changes in Department policy, two versions of the gender discrimination and sex-based MEO violation prevalence rates were calculated: one version where the person who allegedly committed the violation was anyone from the victim's Academy (matching the *2018 SAGR* coding, or the "adjusted rate"), and a second version where experienced violations were limited to those taken by someone in a leadership position, the "official" rate. OPA created this "official" version of these violation rates, and maintained the basic variable to allow for year-to-year trend analyses going forward. All results in this section use the "official" criteria unless noted otherwise.

#### Estimated Past Year Sex-Based MEO Violation Prevalence Rates

This section provides the estimated rates for sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and the overall sex-based MEO violation rate (a combination of sexual harassment and/or gender discrimination). The estimated prevalence rates are presented in Figure 18 by gender and by class year, with significant differences from 2018 noted where applicable.

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<sup>30</sup> See chapter 1 for details on the metric used and construction of estimated rates.

**Figure 18.*****Estimated Sex-Based Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Violation Prevalence Rates for USCGA by Gender***

Margins of error range from  $\pm 1\%$  to  $\pm 2\%$

## Sexual Harassment

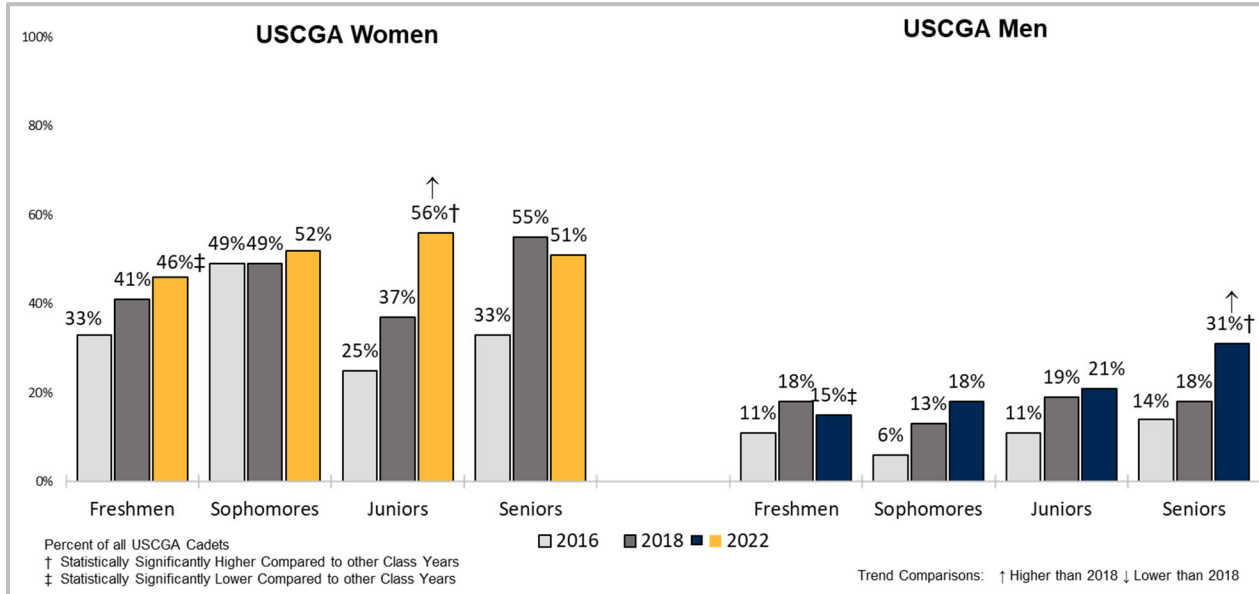
Sexual harassment includes two types of unwanted behaviors: sexually hostile work environment and sexual quid pro quo. A sexually hostile environment is defined as “unwelcome sexual experiences that are pervasive or severe so as to interfere with a person’s work performance, or that create an environment that is intimidating, hostile, or offensive.” Sexual quid pro quo behaviors are used to control, influence, or affect one’s job, career, or pay. Instances of sexual quid pro quo include situations in which job benefits or losses are conditioned on sexual cooperation. The estimated rate for sexual harassment includes those students who met criteria for sexually hostile work environment and/or sexual quid pro quo. As seen in Figure 19, estimated rates of sexual harassment have increased since 2018 for both USCGA men and women.

An estimated 51% of USCGA women met criteria for sexual harassment, which increased since 2018 (46%). This overall increase was driven by a significant increase among junior women since 2018 (56% from 37%). Juniors were most at risk for experiencing sexual harassment compared to other women, while freshmen (46%) were less likely to experience (Figure 19).

An estimated 21% of USCGA men met criteria for sexual harassment, which has increased since 2018 (17%). This overall increase was driven by a significant increase among senior men since 2018 (31% from 18%). Likewise, senior men were most at risk or experiencing sexual

harassment compared to other men, while freshmen men (15%) were less likely to experience (Figure 19).

**Figure 19.**  
*Estimated Sexual Harassment Prevalence Rates for USCGA by Gender and Class Year*

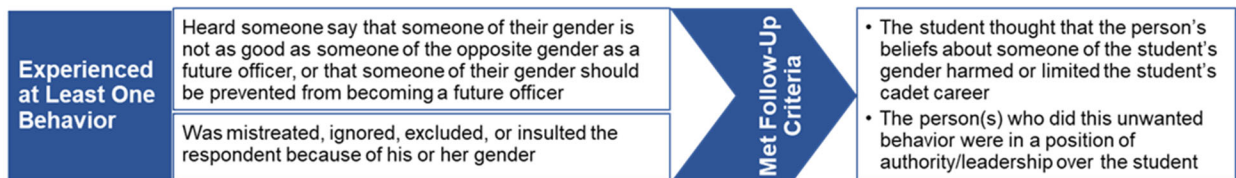


Margins of error range from  $\pm 1\%$  to  $\pm 6\%$

## Gender Discrimination

Gender discrimination is defined as behaviors or comments directed at someone because of their gender that harmed or limited their career. To be included in the estimated prevalence rate for gender discrimination, students must have indicated experiencing at least one of the behaviors below and endorsed a corresponding follow-up item as shown in Figure 20:

**Figure 20.**  
*Gender Discrimination Behaviors and Follow-up Criteria*



OPA created the “official” recode of the variable, which will be the rate going forward for future trending, but maintained the “adjusted rate” to trend it to previous years’ data.

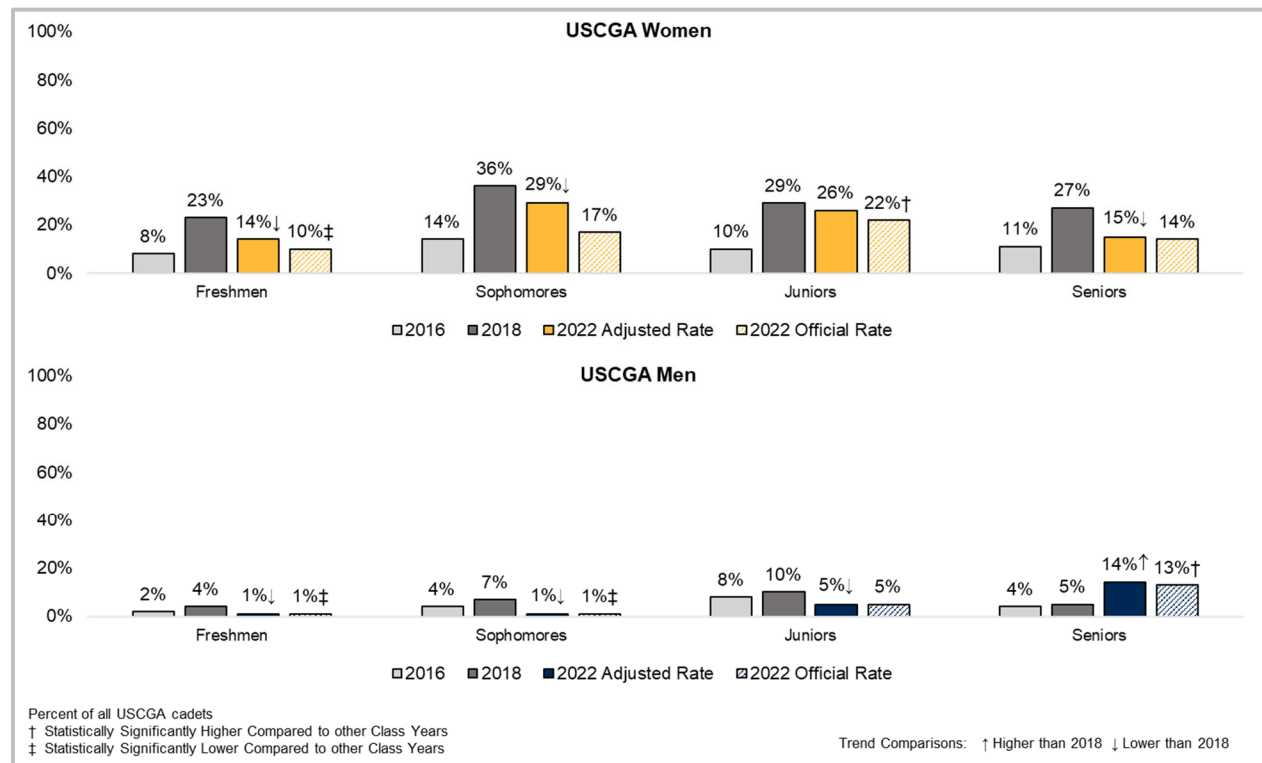
An estimated 15% of USCGA women experienced gender discrimination from **leadership** (Figure 21). Junior women (22%) experienced gender discrimination more often compared to

other women, while freshman women (10%) experienced gender discrimination less often. Using the 2018 metric to allow for commensurable analysis, 20% of USCGA women experienced gender discrimination by **any person** in 2022, which decreased since 2018 (29%). By class year, this represents a decrease for senior (15% from 27%), sophomore (29% from 36%), and freshman women (14% from 23%). Junior (26%) and sophomore (29%) women experienced gender discrimination more often compared to other women, while seniors and freshman experienced gender discrimination less often.

An estimated 5% of USCGA men experienced gender discrimination from **leadership** (Figure 21). Senior men (13%) were more likely to experience gender discrimination compared to other men, whereas sophomore and freshman men (both 1%) experienced gender discrimination less often. Using the 2018 metric to allow for commensurable analysis, 5% of USCGA men experienced gender discrimination by **any person**. Compared to 2018, rates of gender discrimination increased for senior men (14% from 5%) and decreased for all other class years. Senior men experienced gender discrimination more often compared to other men, while sophomore and freshman men (both 1%) experienced gender discrimination less often.

**Figure 21.**

*Estimated Gender Discrimination Prevalence Rates for USCGA by Gender and Class Year*



Margins of error range from  $\pm 1\%$  to  $\pm 6\%$



## Sex-Based MEO Violations

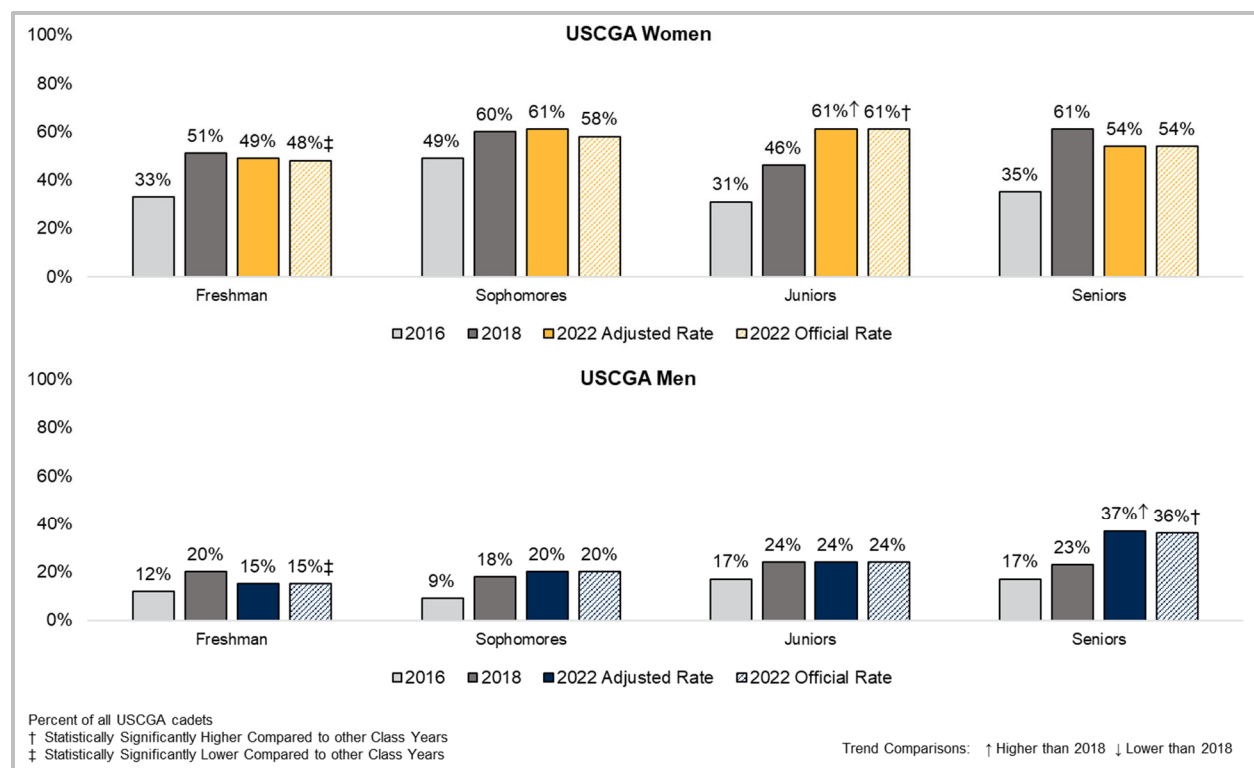
Sex-based MEO violations are defined as having experienced a sexual harassment (sexually hostile work environment and sexual quid pro quo) and/or gender discrimination.

An estimated 55% of USCGA women experienced sex-based MEO violations from **leadership** during the past APY (Figure 22). Junior women (61%) experienced these violations more often, compared to other USCGA women, whereas freshman women (48%) experienced these violations less often. Using the 2018 metric to allow for commensurable analysis, 56% of USCGA women experienced sex-based MEO violations by **any person** in the past APY. Rates of sex-based MEO violations increased for junior women since 2018 (61% from 46%). Junior and sophomore women (both 61%) experienced violations more often compared to other women, while freshman women (49%) experienced violations less often.

An estimated 24% of USCGA men experienced sex-based MEO violations from **leadership** (Figure 22). Senior men (36%) experienced these violations more often compared to men in other class years, whereas freshman men (15%) experienced violations less often. Using the 2018 metric to allow for commensurable analysis, 24% of USCGA men experienced sex-based MEO violations by **any person** in the past APY. Rates of sex-based MEO violations increased for senior men since 2018 (37% from 23%), who also experienced violations more often compared to other men, while freshman men (15%) experienced violations less often.

**Figure 22.**

*Estimated Sex-Based MEO Violation Prevalence Rates for USCGA by Gender and Class Year*



Margins of error range from  $\pm 3\%$  to  $\pm 6\%$

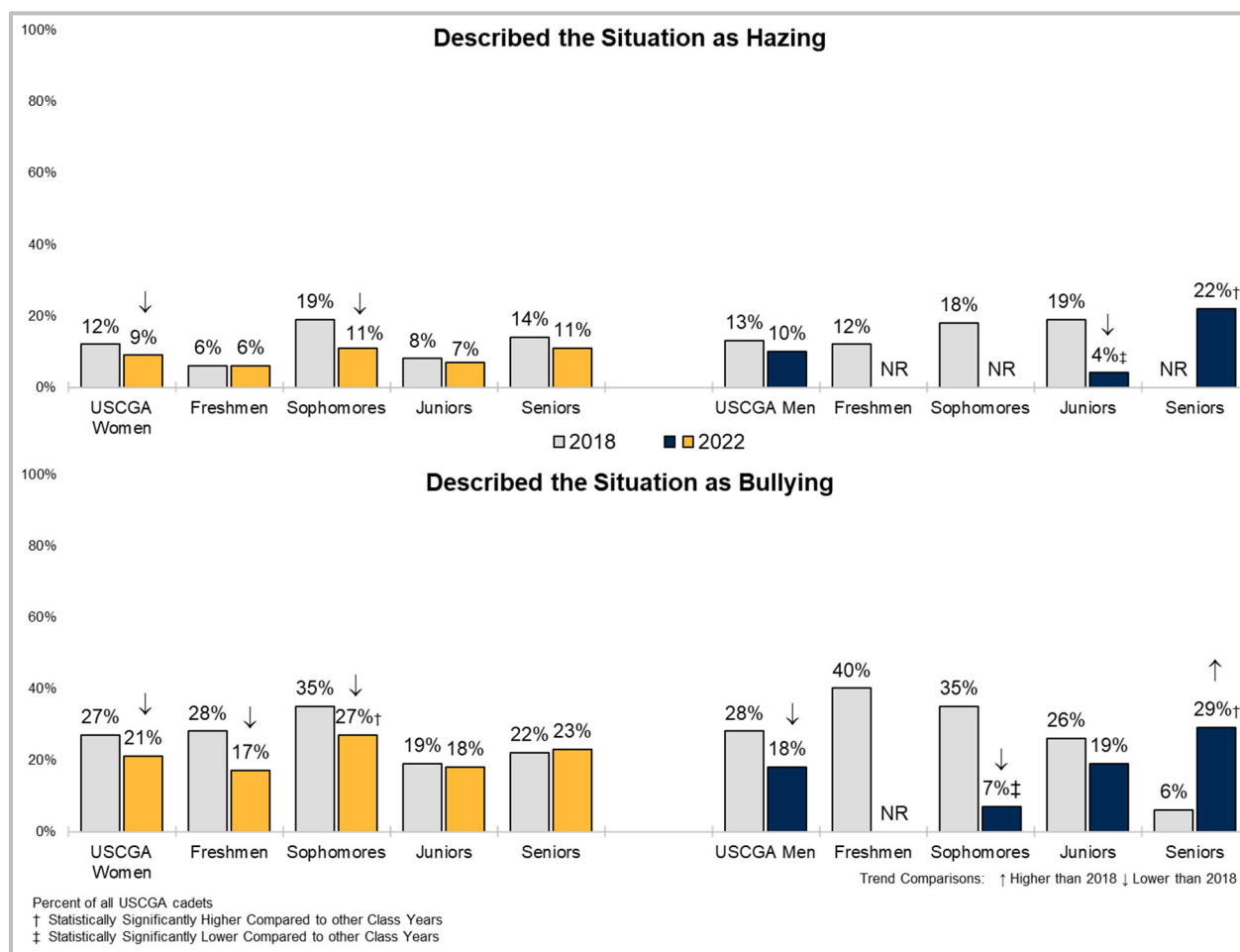
## **One Situation of Sex-Based MEO Violations With the Biggest Effect**

To better understand the circumstances involved in their experience, the 55% of USCGA women and 24% of USCGA men who experienced sex-based MEO violations by any person in the past APY (either sexual harassment and/or gender discrimination) were asked to provide additional information in regard to what they considered to be the worst or most serious experience (hereafter referred to as “the one situation”). With this one situation in mind, students were asked to provide details regarding how they characterized the behaviors, who the alleged offender(s) were, and whether they discussed or reported this violation.

### ***What: Characterization of Behaviors Experienced in the Sex-Based MEO Violation One Situation***

Just over one-fifth of USCGA women considered the sex-based MEO violation to be bullying, whereas less than one-tenth considered the behavior to be hazing (Figure 23). Since 2018, describing the behavior as bullying and/or as hazing decreased, largely influenced by a decrease in sophomore women for both behaviors as well as a decrease for bullying among freshman women. However, sophomore women characterized their experience as bullying more often compared to other women. More USCGA men indicated the behavior was bullying rather than hazing, with a little less than one-fifth of men indicating the behavior was bullying, a decrease since 2018, whereas only one-tenth indicated the behaviors were hazing. Since 2018, characterizing the behaviors as bullying decreased for sophomore men and increased for senior men, while characterizing the behaviors as hazing decreased for junior men. Senior men considered the behavior to be hazing and/or bullying more often compared to other men, while sophomore men considered the behavior to be bullying less often and junior men considered the behavior to be hazing less often. However, results were not reportable for freshman and sophomore men’s experiences of hazing and freshman men’s experience of bullying, so these results are not comprehensive.

**Figure 23.**  
**Characterization of Behaviors Experienced in the Sex-Based MEO Violation One Situation for USCGA by Gender and Class Year**



Margins of error range from  $\pm 2\%$  to  $\pm 14\%$

### **Who: Reported Demographics of the Alleged Offender(s) in the Sex-Based MEO Violation One Situation**

As seen in Table 8, USCGA women who experienced a sex-based MEO violation in the past APY most often indicated the alleged offender was more than one man who was affiliated with the Academy, specifically an Academy student in the same class year. Of note, since 2018, there was a decrease in alleged offenders who were in a position of higher power (i.e., higher class year and high in the cadet chain of command or Academy civilian faculty/staff). Junior and sophomore women had a decrease in alleged offenders who were in a higher class year, while seniors and sophomores had a decrease in those who were higher in the cadet chain of command.

**Table 8.*****Characteristics of the Alleged Offender(s) in the One Situation of Sex-Based MEO Violations for USCGA Women***

<b>Trend Comparisons:</b> ↑ Higher than 2018 ↓ Lower than 2018	<b>2018</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Gender of Alleged Offender(s)</b>		
Men	NA	81%
Women	NA	5%
A mix of men and women	NA	11%
<b>Number of Alleged Offender(s)</b>		
One person	NA	44%
More than one person	NA	49%
<b>Status of Alleged Offender(s)</b>		
Same class year	79%	85%↑
Higher class year	44%	36%↓
Member of NCAA/Division I sports team	33%	31%
Member of intramural or club sports team	20%	22%
Lower class year	12%	18%↑
Higher in cadet chain of command	24%	17%↓
Academy military/uniformed faculty or staff	11%	13%
Academy civilian faculty or staff	9%	4%↓
Person not affiliated with DoD	5%	4%
DoD person not affiliated with Academy	6%	3%↓
Unknown person	8%	2%↓

*Margins of error range from ±2% to ±3%*

*Note.* Percentage of USCGA women who experienced a sex-based MEO violation in the past APY. NA=Not applicable; was not asked in 2018.

As seen in Table 9, USCGA men who experienced sex-based MEO violations in the past APY most often indicated the alleged offender was a man who was affiliated with the Academy, specifically an Academy student in the same class year. Of note, since 2018, there was a decrease in alleged offenders who were higher in the cadet chain of command, but an increase in alleged offenders who were Academy military faculty or staff, of which seniors experienced violations more often than other men.

**Table 9.*****Characteristics of the Alleged Offender(s) in the One Situation of Sex-Based MEO Violations for USCGA Men***

<b>Trend Comparisons:</b> ↑ Higher than 2018 ↓ Lower than 2018	<b>2018</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Gender of Alleged Offender(s)</b>		
Men	NA	40%
Women	NA	34%
A mix of men and women	NA	24%
<b>Number of Alleged Offender(s)</b>		
One person	NA	47%
More than one person	NA	44%
<b>Status of Alleged Offender(s)</b>		
Same class year	80%	82%
Member of NCAA/Division I sports team	30%	28%↓
Higher class year	28%	22%
Academy military/uniformed faculty or staff	13%	21%↑
Member of intramural or club sports team	24%	17%
Lower class year	15%	12%
Higher in cadet chain of command	17%	6%↓
Academy civilian faculty or staff	14%	6%↓
Unknown person	2%	2%
Person not affiliated with DoD	<1%	2%↑
DoD person not affiliated with Academy	<1%	2%↑

*Margins of error range from ±2% to ±6%*

*Note.* Percentage of USCGA men who experienced a sex-based MEO violation in the past APY. NA=Not applicable; was not asked in 2018.

***Discussing/Filing a Complaint of the Sex-Based MEO Violation One Situation***

Cadets who experience sex-based MEO violations have resources available to them should they want to discuss their situation or file a complaint with/to any authority or organization. Out of the 55% of USCGA women and 24% of USCGA men who experienced sex-based MEO violations in the past APY, the vast majority chose to discuss the violation with someone else (Table 10). Both USCGA women and men most often reached out to those closest to them: their friends or family or someone in their company. One-third of women and over two-fifths of men discussed the situation with the alleged offender(s), consistent with their training to handle these situations at the lowest interpersonal level (Barry et al., 2017). Very few USCGA women and men discussed the situation with support personnel and/or offices such as chaplains, counselors, MEO officers, or SARCs. Just over one-tenth of women and very few men filed a complaint to any authority or organization,<sup>31</sup> both of which decreased compared to 2018.

<sup>31</sup> In order to obtain more information on what actions were taken as a result of filing a sex-based MEO violation complaint, the survey asks respondents to indicate whether or not they filed a complaint. These are not to be confused with the actual complaints the Academy received during the APY.

**Table 10.*****Discussing/Filing a Complaint of the Sex-Based MEO One Situation for USCGA by Gender***

<b>Trend Comparisons:</b> ↑ Higher than 2018 ↓ Lower than 2018	<b>USCGA Women</b>	<b>USCGA Men</b>
Discussed with anyone	86%	86%
Your friends or family outside of your company	70%	47%
Someone in your company	53%	50%
The person(s) who did this to you	33%	43%
A chaplain, counselor, or medical person	10%	8%
A MEO Officer, SARC, or SHARP Officer	5%	<1%
Filed a complaint with/to any authority or organization	11% (↓ from 14%)	1% (↓ from 7%)

*Margins of error range from ±1% to ±5%*

*Note.* Percentage of USCGA cadets who experienced a sex-based MEO violation in the past APY

Of the 11% of USCGA women who filed a sex-based MEO violation complaint, nearly three-fourths indicated the situation was being investigated, which increased compared to 2018. However, fewer women had positive outcomes regarding their situation being corrected and/or being kept informed compared to 2018. Fewer women reported negative outcomes such as being encouraged to let it go or tough it out or having their situation discounted or not taken seriously compared to 2018, though roughly one-quarter of women reported not knowing what happened as a result of filing a complaint (Table 11).

As the percentage of men who chose to file a complaint was very low (1%), there is no reportable data to gain more insight on their reasons for making a complaint.

**Table 11.**  
***Outcomes of Filing a Sex-Based MEO Violation Complaint for USCGA Women***

Trend Comparisons: ↑ Higher than 2018 ↓ Lower than 2018	USCGA Women	
	2018	2022
<b>Positive Outcomes</b>		
The situation was/is being investigated	53%	73%↑
You were kept informed of actions being taken	53%	36%↓
Disciplinary action was taken against the alleged offender(s)	40%	31%
The situation was corrected	53%	26%↓
Some other action was taken	18%	16%
<b>Negative Outcomes</b>		
You don't know what happened	18%	26%
You were encouraged to let it go or tough it out	33%	16%↓
Your situation was discounted or not taken seriously	33%	16%↓
You were ridiculed or scorned	33%	6%↓
Disciplinary action was taken against you	24%	<1%↓
Administrative action was taken against you	24%	<1%↓

Margins of error range from  $\pm <1\%$  to  $\pm 9\%$

*Note.* Percentage of USCGA women who experienced a sex-based MEO violation in the past APY and filed a complaint.

### ***Reasons for Not Discussing/Filing a Complaint of the Sex-Based MEO Violation One Situation***

Sex-based MEO violations often go unreported or are handled by the victim at the lowest interpersonal level, which is consistent with cadets' training (Barry et al., 2017). Of the 55% of USCGA women and 24% of USCGA men who experienced a sex-based MEO violation, the majority of women and men chose not to make a complaint regarding their experience. To understand more about why sex-based MEO violations are underreported, cadets were asked why they chose not to discuss or file a complaint about the situation, and the top reason was that they thought it was not important enough to make a complaint for both USCGA women and men (Table 12). In general, USCGA cadets choose not to discuss or file a complaint to not endure more possible negative outcomes should they come forward and felt uncomfortable making a complaint.



**Table 12.*****Reasons for Not Discussing or Filing a Sex-Based MEO Violation Complaint for USCGA***

Trend Comparisons: ↑ Higher than 2018 ↓ Lower than 2018	USCGA Women		USCGA Men	
	2018	2022	2018	2022
Thought it was not important enough to report	71%	75%	63%	66%
Did not want people talking or gossiping about you	57%	62%	38%	34%
Felt uncomfortable making a report	52%	61% ↑	40%	42%
Took care of the problem yourself by forgetting about it and moving on	71%	59% ↓	54%	47%
Took care of the problem yourself by avoiding the person who did it	55%	59%	49%	37% ↓
Thought reporting would take too much time and effort	48%	51%	33%	41%
Thought it would hurt your reputation and standing	52%	44% ↓	35%	33%
Did not think anything would be done	37%	42% ↑	28%	26%
Thought you would be labeled a troublemaker	39%	41%	32%	29%
Did not want to hurt the career of the person(s) who did it	36%	31% ↓	22%	28%
Took care of the problem yourself by confronting the person who did it	31%	29%	35%	40%
Thought your evaluations or chances for leadership positions would suffer	30%	19% ↓	23%	17%
Did not want to bring undue attention or discredit on the Academy	30%	16% ↓	20%	16%
Did not know how to report	10%	14% ↑	7%	7%

*Margins of error range from ±2% to ±6%*

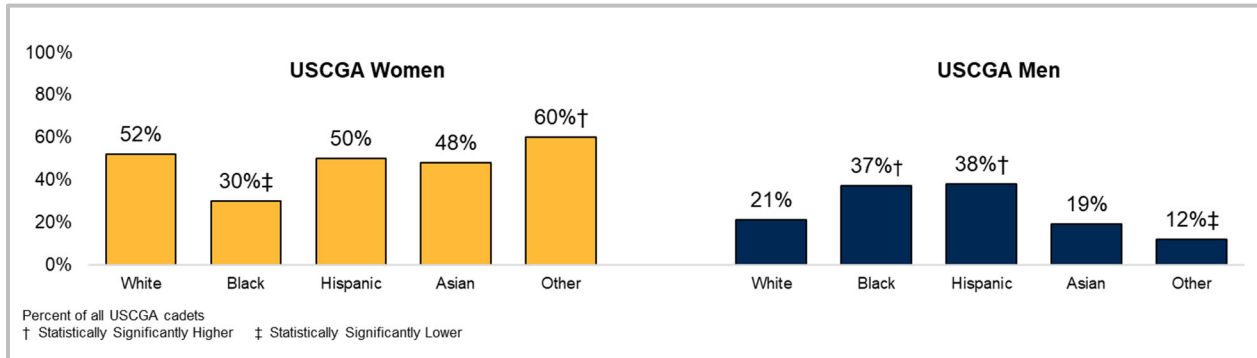
*Note.* Percentage of USCGA cadets who experienced a sex-based MEO violation in the past APY and did not file a complaint.

## **Estimated Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Sexual Orientation**

The following sections summarize the experiences of racial/ethnic and sexual minority cadets with sexual harassment and gender discrimination.

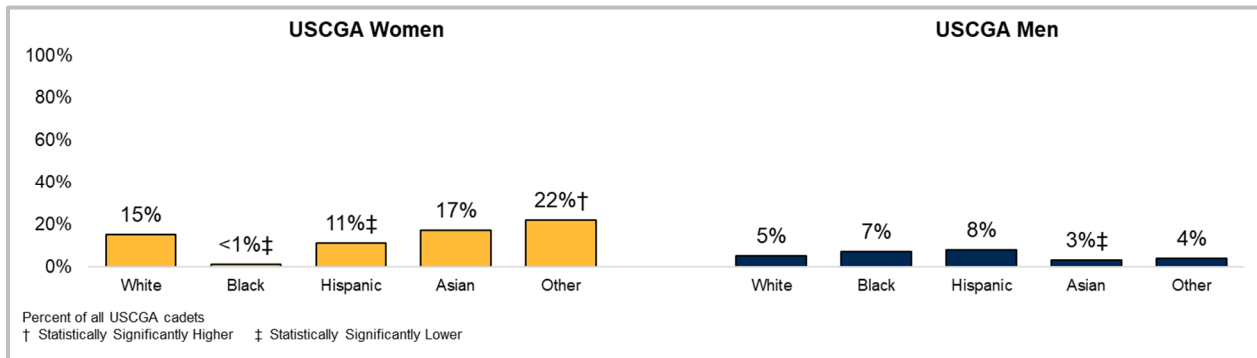
### ***Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination Prevalence Estimates by Race/Ethnicity***

Overall, there were no significant differences between minority USCGA cadets and non-Hispanic white cadets experiencing sexual harassment in the past APY. When examining by specific race/ethnicity, women at USCGA who identified as some other race/ethnicity (60%) were significantly more likely than women of other specified races/ethnicities to experience sexual harassment, while rates of sexual harassment were lower among Black women (30%; Figure 24). Although there were no significant differences overall between minority men and non-Hispanic white men in experiencing sexual harassment, when examining by specific races/ethnicities, Black (37%) and Hispanic men (38%) were significantly more likely to experience sexual harassment than men of other specified races/ethnicities, while men of other races/ethnicities (12%) were less likely.

**Figure 24.*****Estimated Rates of Sexual Harassment for USCGA by Gender and Race/Ethnicity***

Margins of error range from  $\pm 2\%$  to  $\pm 10\%$

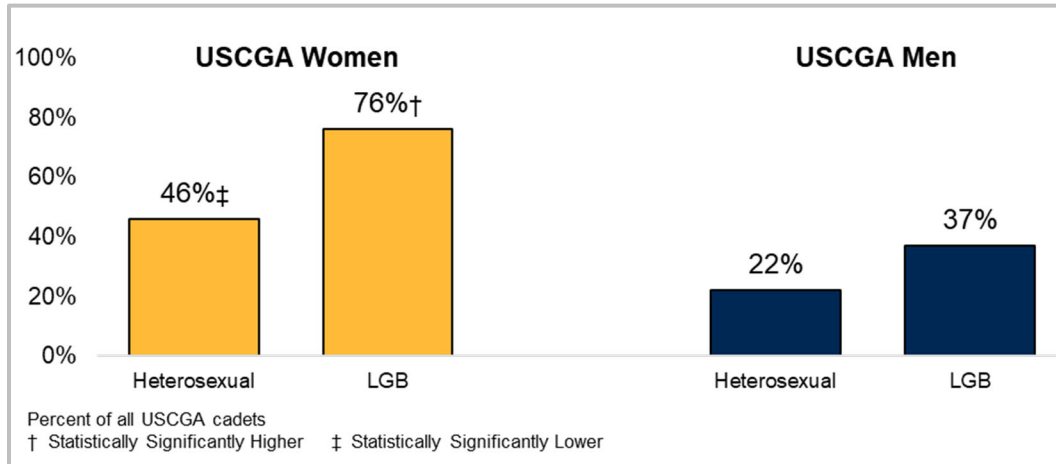
Overall, there were no significant differences among racial/ethnic groups who experienced gender discrimination in the past APY. When examining by specific races/ethnicities, different patterns emerged for USCGA women and men. Women who identified as some other race/ethnicity were significantly more likely than women of other specified races/ethnicities to experience gender discrimination, while rates of gender discrimination were lower for Hispanic and Black USCGA women (Figure 25). Asian USCGA men were significantly less likely to experience gender discrimination than other USCGA men.

**Figure 25.*****Estimated Rates of Gender Discrimination for USCGA by Gender and Race/Ethnicity***

Margins of error range from  $\pm 1\%$  to  $\pm 31\%$

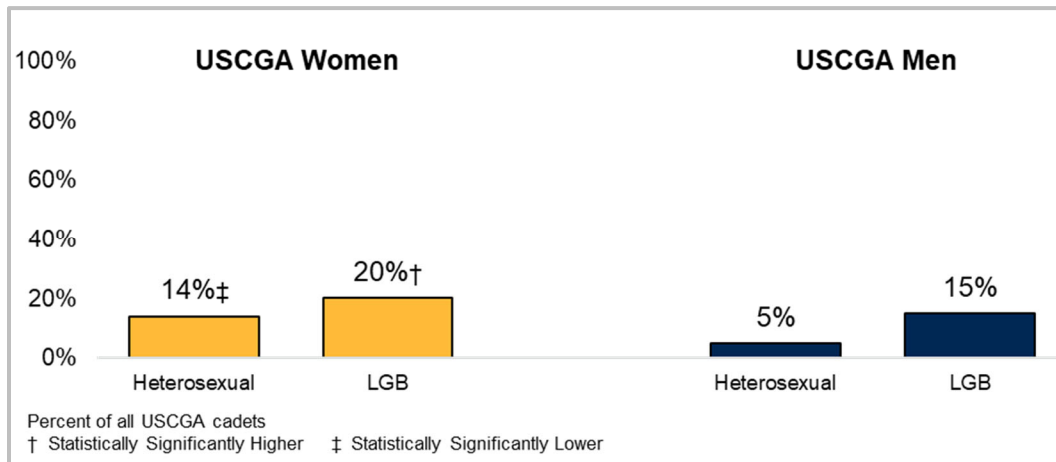
### ***Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination Prevalence Estimates by Sexual Orientation***

As seen in Figure 26, USCGA women who identify as LGB were more likely than heterosexual women to experience sexual harassment in the past APY. Specifically, 76% of USCGA women who identify as LGB experienced sexual harassment in the past APY, which was significantly higher than heterosexual women (46%).

**Figure 26.*****Estimated Rates of Sexual Harassment for USCGA by Gender and Sexual Orientation***

Margins of error range from  $\pm 2\%$  to  $\pm 14\%$

As seen in Figure 27, USCGA women who identify as LGB were also more likely than heterosexual women to experience gender discrimination in the past APY. Specifically, 20% of USCGA women who identify as LGB experienced gender discrimination in the past APY, which was significantly higher than heterosexual women (14%).

**Figure 27.*****Estimated Rates of Gender Discrimination for USCGA by Gender and Sexual Orientation***

Margins of error range from  $\pm 1\%$  to  $\pm 14\%$

## Chapter 4:

### Academy Culture and Climate Regarding Prevention of, and Response to, Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

Organizational culture is a set of shared cognitions, including values, behavioral norms and expectations, fundamental assumptions, and larger patterns of behavior (O'Reilly, Chatman, & Caldwell, 1991). Broadly, culture is the “way of doing business” that an institution follows on a regular basis, which may differ from officially stated policies and standards. Organizational culture involves the attitudes and actions of all members of the Academy’s community: leaders, faculty, staff, and fellow cadets. As such, it sets the environment or context for the implementation of policies and programs.

Research supports that an organization’s environmental characteristics are associated with the prevalence of, and response to, sexual harassment and sexual assault, including norms around dating and sexual behaviors, harassment, and leadership tolerance (Sadler et al., 2003; Fitzgerald et al., 1999; Newell et al., 1995; Williams et al., 1999). These studies do not establish causation, but do provide evidence that sexual assault, sexual harassment, and various aspects of climate and culture frequently co-occur.

This chapter addresses general culture at the Academy pertinent to the prevention of and response to sexual assault and sexual harassment, such as cadet alcohol use, bystander intervention, Academy culture related to prevention, Academy culture related to reporting sexual assault and sexual harassment, and the climate related to gender relations..

#### Academy Culture and Climate for Prevention of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

The DHS is committed to preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment from happening across the entire U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), including at the Academy. In a June 2020 report to Congress, the USCG stated that it remains fully committed to eliminating sexual assault from the Services, with prevention as a primary area of focus;<sup>32</sup> the *SAGR* survey is one way to track progress of such prevention efforts at USCGA. As such, this section summarizes preventable behaviors, such as alcohol use, willingness to stop sexual assault and sexual harassment, bystander intervention, Academy culture related to prevention, and efforts by leaders and students at all levels to stop sexual assault and sexual harassment.

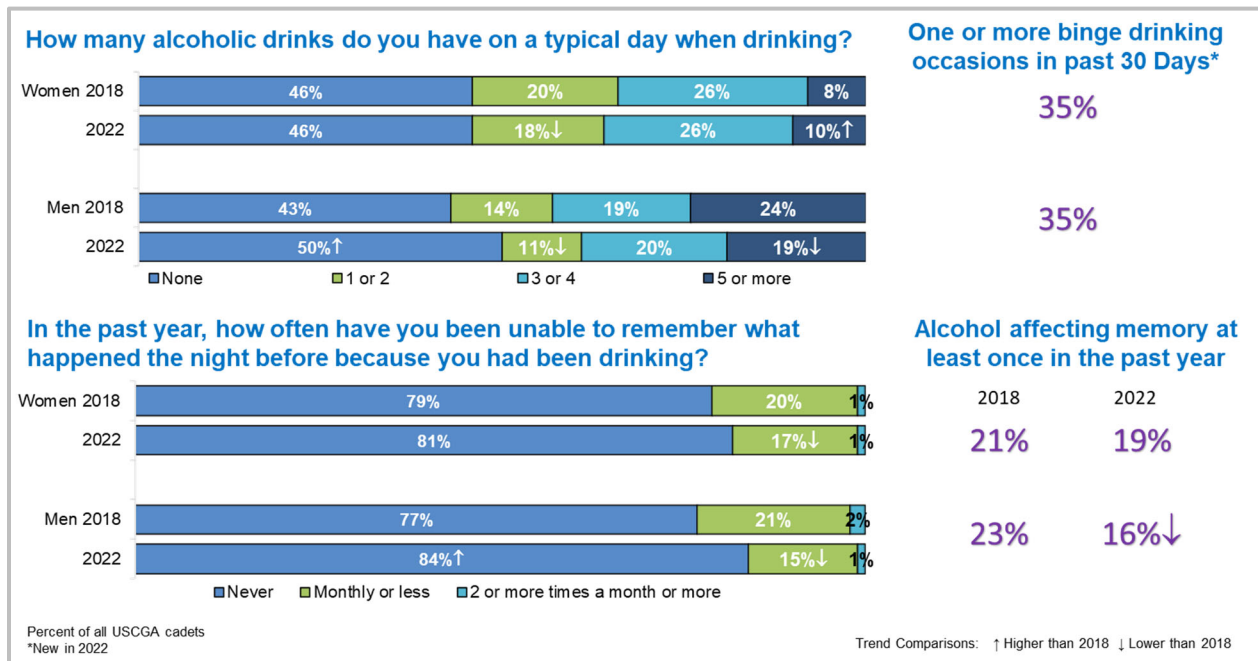
#### Cadet Alcohol Use

In addition to its relationship with sexual assault and sexual harassment as an important topic related to prevention of these unwanted behaviors, alcohol use by cadets in general is of interest because it can provide a snapshot of cadet health with regard to alcohol. Cadets were asked about their drinking frequency as well as alcohol-induced memory impairment.

<sup>32</sup> Obtained on February 16, 2023 from [https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-1/cg111/docs/SAPR/Sexual%20Assault%20in%20the%20US%20Coast%20Guard\\_FY2019.pdf](https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-1/cg111/docs/SAPR/Sexual%20Assault%20in%20the%20US%20Coast%20Guard_FY2019.pdf).

As shown in Figure 28, approximately half of both USCGA women and men indicated at least minor alcohol consumption, and there were increases in the number of women who consumed five or more drinks on a typical day when drinking since 2018. Senior women and men typically engaged in drinking more often than cadets of other class years; the majority of sophomores and freshmen did not usually drink at all. Just over one-third of both women and men indicated having one or more binge drinking occasions in the past 30 days. Incidents of alcohol affecting one's memory at least once in the past year decreased to under 20% of cadets compared to 2018, with the majority of cadets never having experienced memory loss from alcohol consumption. However, upperclassmen remain more likely than underclassmen to have experienced alcohol affecting their memory.

**Figure 28.**  
*Cadet Alcohol Use for USCGA by Gender*



Margins of error range from  $\pm <1\%$  to  $\pm 3\%$

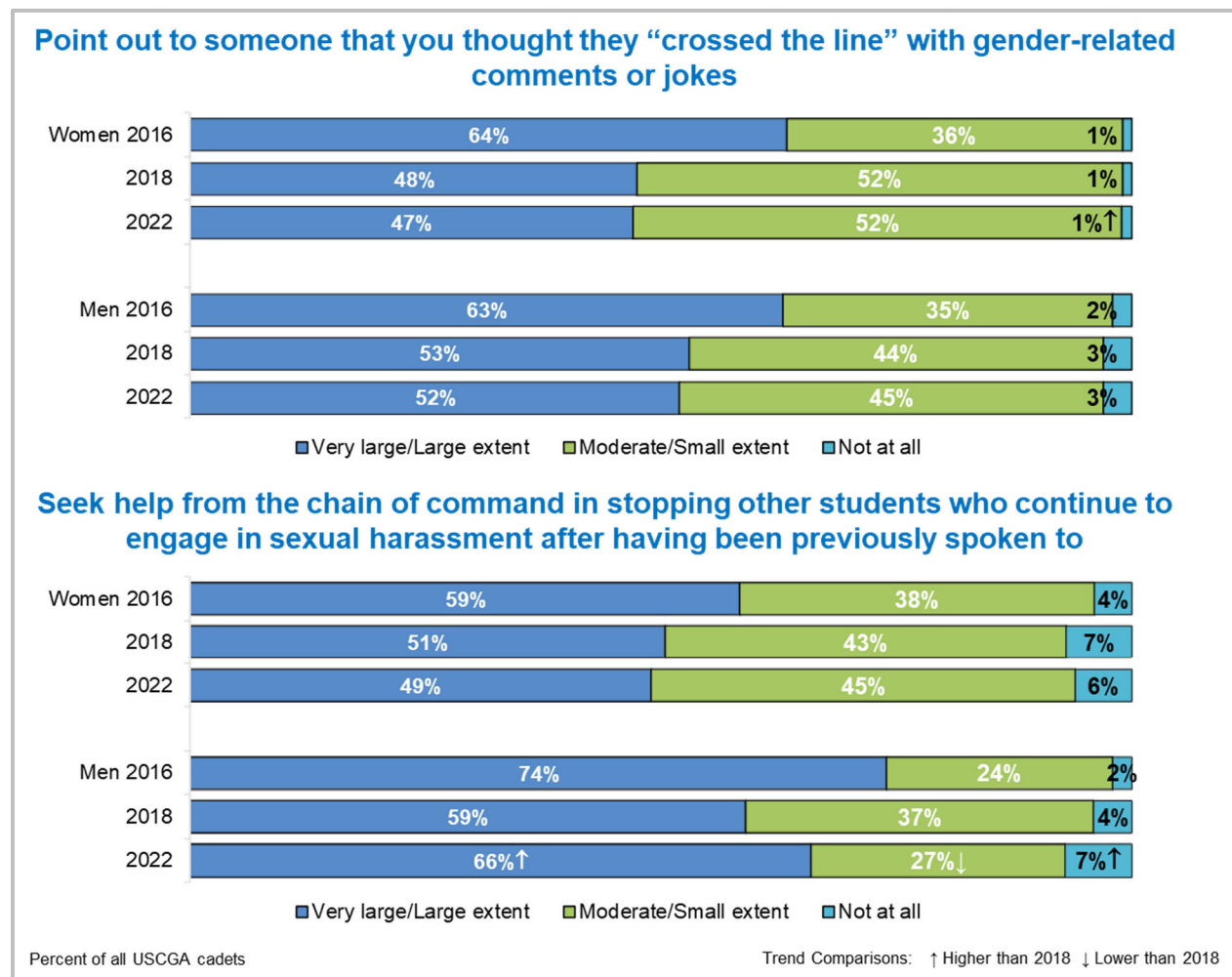
### **Cadet Bystander Intervention**

Pursuant to the Coast Guard's goal of eliminating sexual assault from its ranks, the Academy encourages students to be active observers of potentially unwanted behaviors and step in if they see them occurring. However, behaviors in line with potential sexual harassment may be difficult for students to identify, and students may not feel confident intervening to stop the behavior(s) (Barry, et al. 2017). To better understand the perspective of USCGA cadets, the 2022 SAGR asked questions about cadets' willingness to step in and stop potential sexual harassment as well as whether they had observed situations in which potential unwanted behaviors were occurring and how they responded to those situations.

### **Willingness to Stop Sexual Harassment**

Overall, the vast majority of USCGA cadets are willing to intervene against sexual assault to some extent (Figure 29). Specifically, just under half of women and just over half of men were willing to point out to someone that they thought they had “crossed the line” with gender-related jokes or comments. Nearly half of USCGA women and approximately two-thirds of USCGA men (an increase since 2018) were willing to seek help from the chain of command to stop other students who continue to engage in sexual harassment. Upperclassmen, particularly seniors, are most willing to stop sexual harassment, whereas sophomores and freshmen are less likely, though both sophomores and freshmen saw increases since 2018. This is an area for potential intervention specifically for underclassmen on what to do in these situations.

**Figure 29.**  
***Willingness to Stop Sexual Harassment for USCGA by Gender***



Margins of error range from  $\pm 1\%$  to  $\pm 6\%$

### ***Witnessed Behavior(s) and Action(s) Taken***

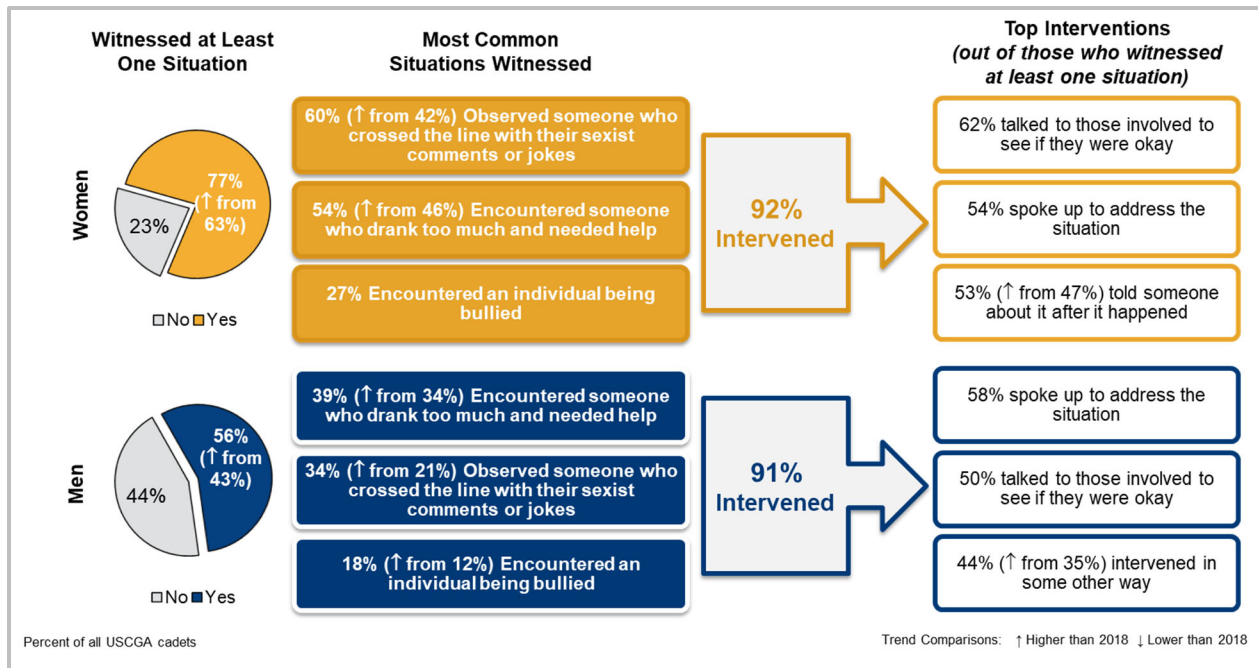
One aspect of sexual assault prevention is encouraging students to be active observers and intervene if they see a risky situation or unwanted behaviors occurring to someone else. To



measure the degree to which opportunities to intervene arise, students were asked whether they had observed situations in which potential unwanted behaviors were occurring or could occur. If they indicated that they had observed any of the situations, they were asked how they responded to those situation(s).

Compared to 2018, more USCGA cadets reported witnessing at least one situation where unwanted behaviors were occurring (Figure 30). Specifically, both men and women most often reported observing someone who “crossed the line” by making sexist comments or jokes or encountering someone who drank too much and needed help, both of which increased since 2018, or encountering someone who was being bullied, which increased for men since 2018. Senior women most commonly encountered someone who drank too much and needed help, while women of all other class years most commonly encountered someone “crossing the line” with jokes or comments. Senior men encountered all unwanted behaviors more commonly than men of other class years, while freshman men encountered all unwanted behaviors except horseplay, roughhousing, and potential hazing less commonly than men of other class years. When witnessing these behaviors, the overwhelming majority of cadets intervened, most often by talking to those involved to see if they were okay or by speaking up to address the situation. Similar to witnessing situations, seniors were typically more likely to intervene, whereas freshmen (and sophomore men) were often less likely.

**Figure 30.**  
*Witnessed Behaviors and Action(s) Taken for USCGA by Gender*



Margins of error range from ±1% to ±4%



## Perceptions of USCGA Leadership and Cadets Setting Good Examples

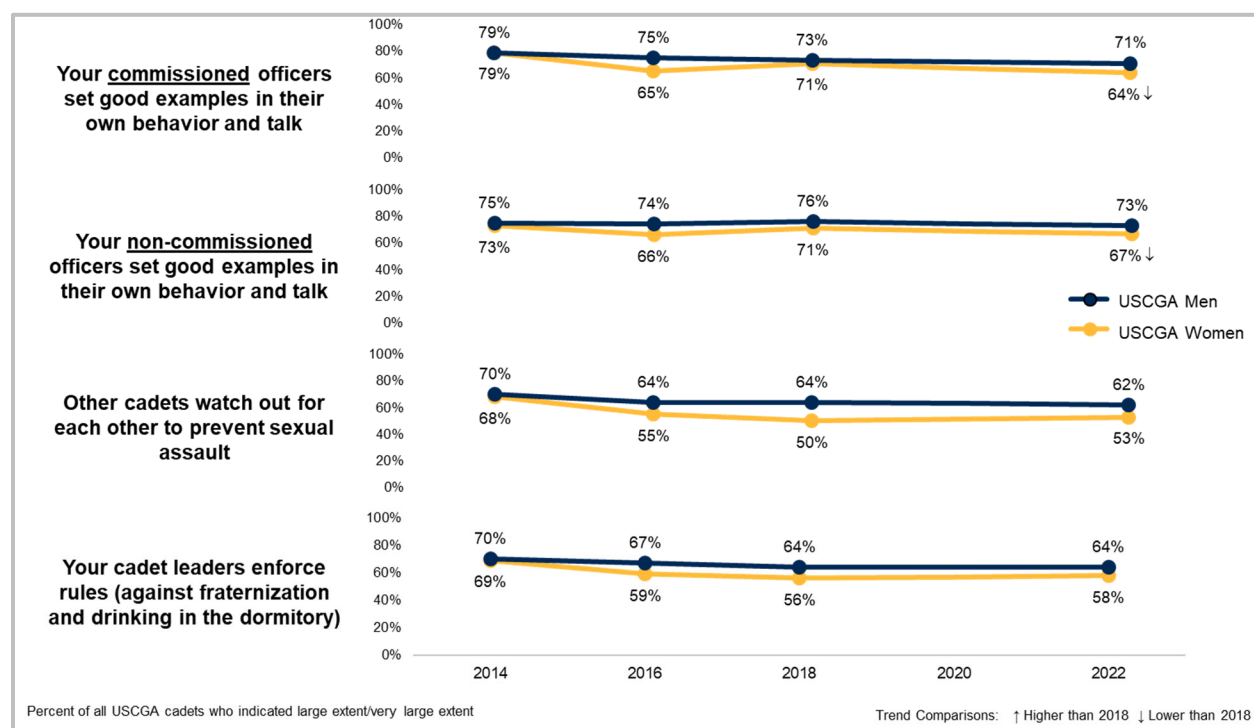
An important aspect of prevention of sexual assault and sexual harassment is whether those around you are setting good examples and are willing to watch out for such incidents. The 2022 SAGR asked USCGA cadets about the behavior of their fellow cadets and Academy officers in order to assess to what extent they are engaging in these prevention behaviors.

The majority of USCGA women and men believed that both their commissioned and non-commissioned officers set good examples in their own behavior and talk (**Figure 31**). While these perceptions remain relatively high (approximately two-thirds of USCGA women and nearly three-quarters of USCGA men), the rates of endorsement for both commissioned and non-commissioned officers decreased among women compared to 2018.

Perceptions of other cadets watching out for each other to prevent sexual assault and to what extent cadet leaders enforce rules are noticeably lower than perceptions of officers setting good examples for both USCGA women and men, but remained relatively stable since 2018. When asked whether cadet leaders enforce rules, close to three-fifths of USCGA women and nearly two-thirds of USCGA men indicated that their cadet leaders enforce rules (such as rules against drinking and fraternization in the dormitory). Notably, just over half of USCGA women and under two-thirds of men indicated other cadets watch out for each other to prevent sexual assault. Senior women were more likely to indicate that cadets watch out for each other than women in other class years and increased since 2018.

**Figure 31.**

### Perceptions of USCGA Leadership and Cadets Setting Good Examples



Margins of error range from  $\pm 1\%$  to  $\pm 6\%$

## Efforts to Stop Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

An essential component of eradicating sexual assault from the military is having leaders who can be trusted to make efforts to prevent and to appropriately respond to sexual assault and sexual harassment. Accordingly, the 2022 *SAGR* asked USCGA cadets about their perceptions of individuals' efforts at the Academy to make honest and reasonable efforts to stop sexual harassment and sexual assault.

USCGA cadets perceived that Academy senior leadership, officers, cadet leaders, and military/uniformed faculty leaders make the most effort to stop sexual assault and sexual (Table 13). USCGA women had lower perceptions than USCGA men for most Academy personnel and cadets making efforts to stop these behaviors, but many of the perceptions decreased since 2018 for both men and women. Notably, cadets' trust in cadet leaders increased since 2018.

Examining trust by class year for USCGA women, freshmen generally have more positive perceptions of Academy military and uniformed faculty and staff, where as sophomores had more positive perceptions of commissioned officers, juniors of cadet leaders, and seniors of Academy senior leadership. For USCGA men, freshmen men were generally more likely than men of other class years to have positive perceptions of most Academy personnel and cadets making efforts to stop these behaviors, whereas junior and senior men were less likely (though there were rebounds in some areas among senior men).

**Table 13.**  
**Efforts to Stop Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment**

USCGA Women			Trend Comparisons: ↑ Higher than 2018 ↓ Lower than 2018	USCGA Men		
2016	2018	2022		2016	2018	2022
80%	62%	47% ↓	Academy senior leadership	86%	76%	70% ↓
68%	62%	50% ↓	Commissioned officers directly in charge of unit	80%	76%	72% ↓
64%	62%	53% ↓	Non-commissioned officers or senior/chief petty officers directly in charge of unit	80%	81%	74% ↓
54%	53%	47% ↓	Military/uniformed academic faculty	69%	66%	67%
46%	50%	43% ↓	Civilian academic faculty	58%	58%	59%
43%	41%	48% ↑	Cadet leaders	64%	56%	69% ↑
37%	43%	44%	Club team coaches and trainers	54%	57%	55%
39%	42%	44%	Club team officer representatives/advisors	56%	59%	56%
43%	46%	37% ↓	Physical education instructors	58%	61%	57%
39%	43%	42%	Intercollegiate (NCAA/Division I) officer representatives/advisors	57%	58%	55%
41%	41%	44%	Intercollegiate (NCAA/Division I) coaches and trainers	55%	58%	56%
35%	31%	39% ↑	Cadets not in appointed leadership positions	53%	51%	53%
37%	40%	39%	Intramural officer representatives/advisors	55%	59%	54%
38%	38%	39%	Intramural coaches and trainers	54%	59%	53% ↓

Margins of error range from ±2% to ±7%

Note. Percentage of all USCGA cadets

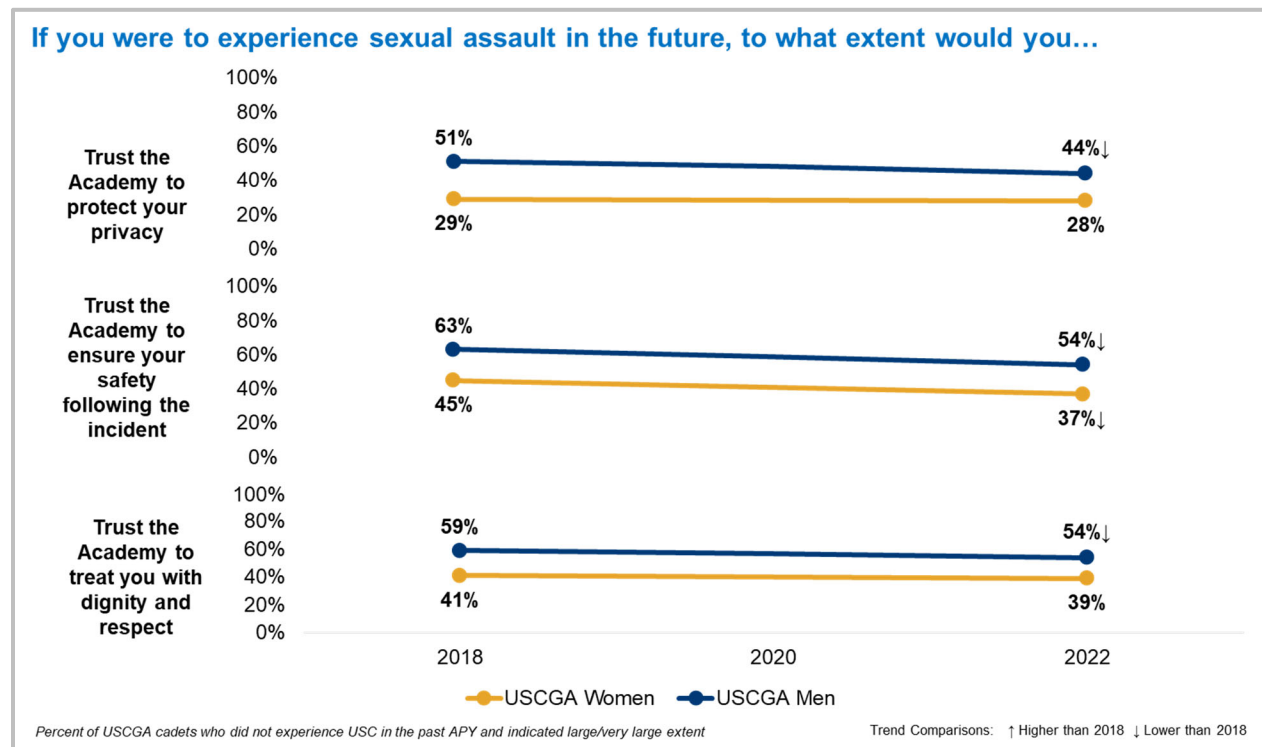
## Academy Culture and Climate for Reporting Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment

Sexual assault and sexual harassment often go unreported and the culture and climate on reporting plays a large role into whether a victim chooses to come forward. As discussed earlier, many victims indicated they choose not to report their experiences because they don't find it important enough, want to just move on, think it will take too long, and don't want others to know as to avoid any potential gossip from their peers. To further examine the Academy culture and climate related to reporting of these unwanted behaviors, the 2022 *SAGR* asked cadets whether they would trust the Academy if they were to experience sexual assault. They were also asked about other deterrents for reporting at the Academy, such as victim blaming and the role media plays.

### Trust in the Academy

The 2022 *SAGR* asked cadets who had not experienced unwanted sexual contact in the past year how they believed the Academy would respond if they were to experience USC. Compared to 2018, fewer USCGA cadets indicated they would trust the Academy to ensure their safety following an incident; fewer USCGA women also indicated they would trust the Academy to protect their privacy and treat them with dignity and respect if they were to experience sexual assault (Figure 32). For USCGA cadets, trust is generally highest when they first enter the Academy as freshmen but decreases over time as they progress through the Academy.

**Figure 32.**  
*Trust in the Academy for USCGA*



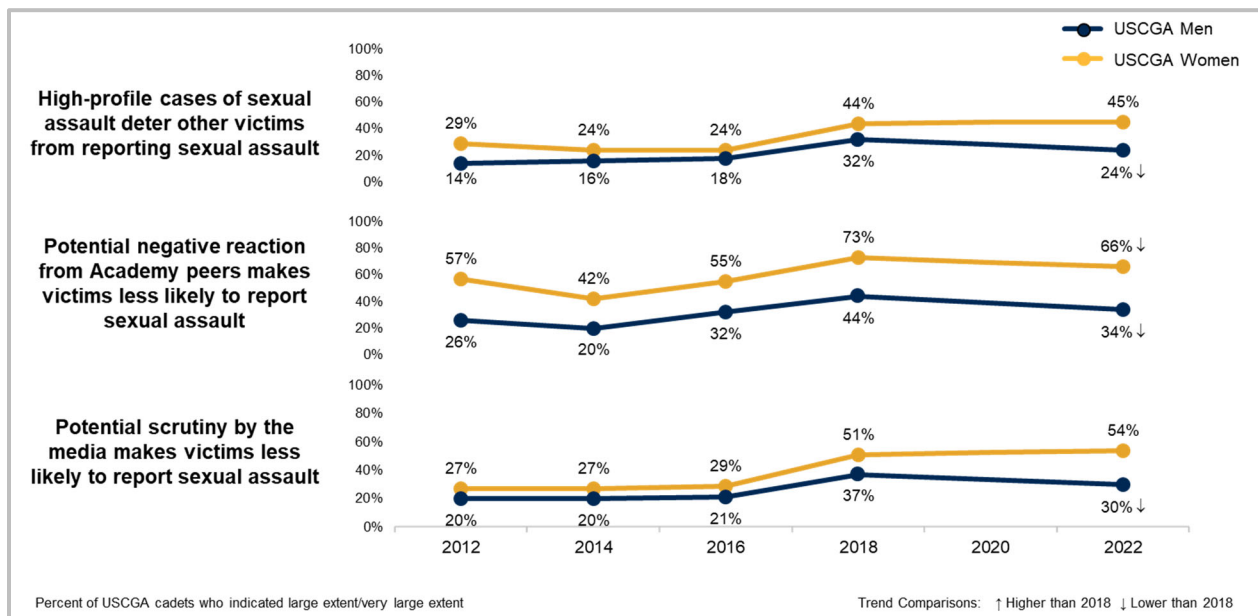
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## Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault

As discussed earlier, the vast majority of cadets who experienced USC did not report the incident. The large proportions of those who did not report suggest the presence of substantial barriers to reporting. It is imperative to understand the cultural aspects at the Academy that may be influencing potential victims from coming forward and reporting unwanted behaviors. To that end, the *SAGR* asked USCGA cadets about the extent to which high-profile cases of sexual assault, the role media plays, potential negative reactions from peers, and beliefs around “victim blaming” may impact whether victims of sexual assault come forward to report their experiences.

Compared to 2018, progress was made in 2022 with regard to perceptions that high-profile cases, media scrutiny, and negative peer reactions would impact whether a victim would report a sexual assault to a large extent (Figure 33); however, USCGA women still hold these perceptions at higher rates than USCGA men, most notably when asked to what extent potential negative reactions from Academy peers would impact a victim’s willingness to come forward and report.. Cadets endorsed negative reactions from peers as a deterrent to reporting sexual assault less often than in 2018, though this remains the biggest deterrent among the three. USCGA men also endorsed perceptions of high-profile cases and media scrutiny as deterrents to reporting sexual assault less often than in 2018.

**Figure 33.**  
*Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault for USCGA*



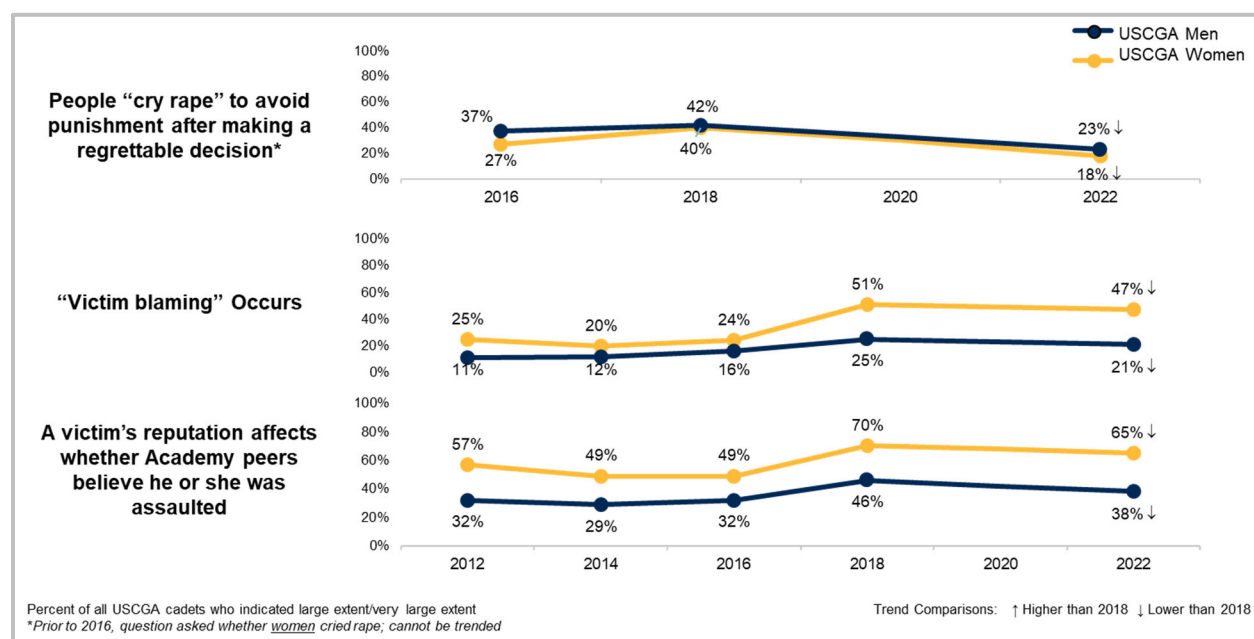
Margins of error range from  $\pm 1\%$  to  $\pm 6\%$

Rape myths are negative beliefs held by individuals surrounding many aspects of sexual assault and how victims’ experiences are perceived. Cadets were asked about three major concepts of rape myths: victim blaming, “crying rape” to avoid punishment for another incidental behavior, and the reputation of the victim impacting how they are believed. Many of these factors

potentially contribute to the reluctance to report and hinder sexual assault response efforts to get victims the restorative care needed after experiencing a sexual assault.

Overall, cadets' beliefs regarding whether rape myths and victim blaming occur at the Academy have declined since 2018 but remain prevalent (Figure 34). Similar to the barriers to reporting previously discussed, USCGA women are more likely than USCGA men to perceive that victim blaming occurs at USCGA and that a victim's reputation affects whether or not they will be believed. Of note, comparable proportions of women and men claimed that people "cry rape" after making a regrettable decision, and these numbers decreased for both women and men by roughly 20% since 2018.

**Figure 34.**  
***Rape Myths and Victim-Blaming at USCGA***



Margins of error range from  $\pm 1\%$  to  $\pm 6\%$

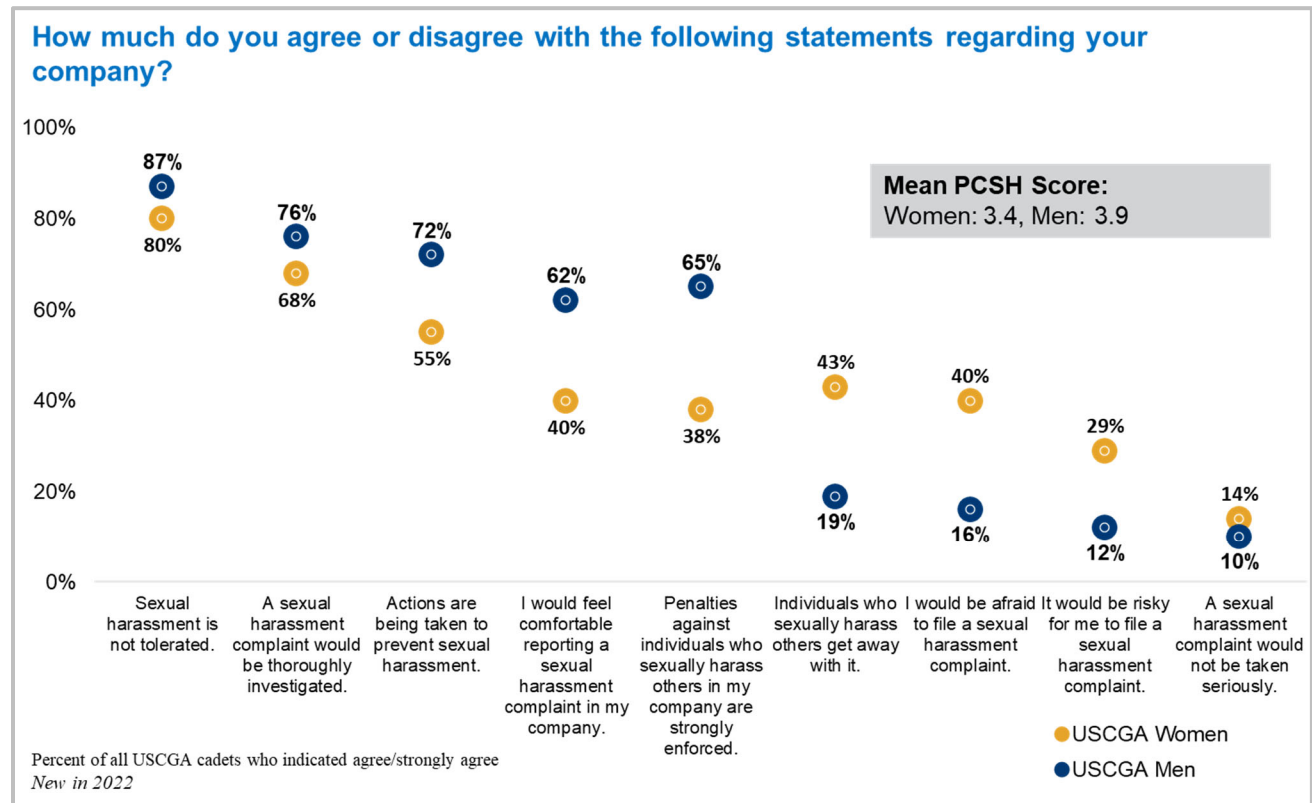
### ***Psychological Climate for Sexual Harassment***

The psychological climate for sexual harassment is a nine-item scale that assesses the level of tolerance for sexual harassment in the workplace (Estrada et al. 2011).<sup>33</sup> Cadets were asked to rate their squadron at the Academy on how seriously sexual harassment is treated as an issue and how risky it is for cadets in their company to make a complaint about sexual harassment. Responses were provided on a five-point scale ranging from *strongly disagree* (1) to *strongly agree* (5) with a higher score indicating a company climate less tolerant of sexual harassment.

<sup>33</sup> The referent point for this scale was modified to the cadet's squadron to best align with how they are organized at USCGA.

The average score for USCGA women was 3.4, which is a less positive assessment of the climate for sexual harassment than USCGA men, whose average was 3.9 (Figure 35). The majority of USCGA women (80%) and men (87%) asserted that sexual harassment is not tolerated in their company. Among USCGA women, over two-thirds (68%) of women agreeing that a sexual harassment complaint would be thoroughly investigated and over half of women (55%) agreed that actions are being taken to prevent sexual harassment. However, responses to negative statements were less optimistic; 43% of USCGA women stated that they would be afraid to file a sexual harassment complaint and agreed that individuals who sexually harass others get away with it. Overall, compared to USCGA men, USCGA women find it more risky to file a sexual harassment complaint, are more uncomfortable and afraid to file a complaint, believe those who sexually harass others get away with it, and disagree that penalties against sexual harassers are strongly enforced.

**Figure 35.**  
*Psychological Climate for Sexual Harassment for USCGA*



Margins of error range from  $\pm 0.1\%$  to  $\pm 3\%$

## Responsibility and Intervention

Another important aspect of Academy climate and culture is whether or not people in a cadet's company are engaging in positive behaviors found to be protective factors for experiences of sexual assault and sexual harassment. The responsibility and intervention metric examines to what extent a cadet's company promotes a climate based on mutual respect and trust, refrain



from sexist comments and behavior, encourage bystander intervention, and correct incidents of sexual harassment. As shown in Figure 36, USCGA men indicated higher levels of responsibility and intervention within their company than USCGA women, though both men and women indicated relatively high levels of responsibility and intervention especially for promoting a climate based on mutual respect and refraining from making sexist comments. Of these behaviors, cadets were least likely to recognize and immediately correct incidents of sexual harassment. These results provide useful insights into areas to target for prevention training as well as character development programs geared toward good order and discipline.

**Figure 36.**  
*Responsibility and Intervention for USCGA*



Margins of error range from  $\pm 2\%$  to  $\pm 3\%$





## Chapter 5:

### Discussion and Conclusions

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The *Service Academy Gender Relations Survey (SAGR)* allows the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to monitor the prevalence of unwanted sexual contact (USC), sexual harassment, and gender discrimination at the Military Service Academies, and thereby to assess progress in preventing these unwanted behaviors from occurring. The *SAGR* also provides information regarding students' experiences with reporting and complaint processes, to thereby assess progress in encouraging reporting and supporting victims. In addition to its primary assessment function, the *SAGR* provides rich and detailed information regarding students' experiences and Academy climate that can inform data-driven improvements to prevention and response programs.

The results of the 2022 *SAGR* indicate that much work remains to be done to prevent USC, sexual harassment, and gender discrimination from occurring. An estimated 14.4% of USCGA women (approximately 60 women) and an estimated 2.4% of USCGA men (15 men) experienced USC in the past Academic Program Year (APY). Unlike the three DoD Military Service Academies, rates of USC at the Coast Guard Academy were stable compared to 2018, but still leave room for continued improvement.

The 2022 *SAGR* also highlights the challenges that remain with reporting of USC, and in the complaint process for sexual harassment and gender discrimination. Consistent with prior years, the overwhelming majority of USC victims did not report their experience to a USCG authority, and this is particularly the case for male victims. Among those women who did file a sexual assault report,<sup>34</sup> approximately half experienced perceived retaliation and/or other negative outcomes as a result of reporting. For sexual harassment and gender discrimination, the majority chose not to make a complaint regarding their experience,<sup>35</sup> citing not wanting to experience possible negative outcomes should they come forward and also feeling uncomfortable making a report as the primary reasons for not coming forward.

Below we summarize very high level patterns emerging from the 2022 *SAGR* data, painting with broad brush strokes. We think it is useful to zoom out to see the big picture. However, these broad strokes necessarily paint over specific nuances in the data that are also very useful for USCG policy-makers and USCGA staff. In addition to this big picture, we point those readers to the more nuanced views provided in each of the chapters of this report, as well as the detailed findings included in the 2022 *Service Academy Gender Relations Survey (SAGR) Results and Trends Report*.

### Key Insights

1. Prevalence of unwanted sexual contact at the USCGA remained statistically unchanged since 2018. This is in contrast to the DoD Academies, where the prevalence of unwanted

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<sup>34</sup> Results are not reportable for men due to small number of respondents and instability of the estimates

<sup>35</sup> Many chose to address the situation with the alleged offender, which is in keeping with MEO policy to handle these situations at the lowest possible level.

sexual contact increased since 2018 for women and men at all of the DoD Academies to 21.4% for women and 4.4% for men. Though prevalence of USC is lower at the Coast Guard Academy than the other DoD Academies, the prevalence of USC at the USCGA is higher than prevalence among similarly aged members of the Active Component.

Specifically, for women in the Coast Guard Active Component under the age of 25, the USC rate is 8.9% (compared to 14.4% for USCGA women). For men in the Coast Guard Active Component under the age of 25, the USC rate is 1.7% (compared to 2.4% for USCGA men). This pattern of prevalence rates being higher at the Academy than in the respective Service Component is also seen in the DoD.

2. There were noteworthy class year differences at USCGA. Specifically, although prevalence overall was stable, there were increases in USC among USCGA seniors since 2018. When comparing among the class years in 2022, senior women and men, along with junior women, were more likely to experience USC than USCGA cadets in other class years. Consistent with the DoD Academies, rates of USC were lowest in the freshman year.
3. In order to understand more about patterns of risk and to inform the Department's prevention efforts, for the first time, the 2022 *SAGR* examined prevalence of unwanted behaviors by race/ethnicity. When viewed through this lens, we found that rates of USC were higher among women of racial/ethnic minorities, and lower among non-Hispanic White women; no differences were found by race/ethnicity among USCGA men.
4. In order to further understand demographic differences, for the first time, the 2022 *SAGR* also examined prevalence of unwanted behaviors by sexual orientation. Consistent with patterns in the Active and Reserve components, as well as at the DoD Academies, we found that USCGA cadets who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual experienced higher rates of USC than their heterosexual counterparts.
5. The common features of USC situations at USCGA remained consistent with prior years. Alleged offenders are most often fellow Academy students in the same class year who the victim knew from class or other activity, though increases were seen for someone the victim was dating (for women) or with whom the victim had a casual relationship (for men). For women victims, alleged offenders are typically men; for men victims, alleged offenders are typically women. USC most often occurred after duty hours (when students are less supervised), either on campus in a dormitory or living area or off campus at a social event.
6. Alcohol was involved in half or more instances of USC for both women and men USCGA cadets, but importantly, the survey does not assess level of impairment but only whether the victim and/or alleged offender had been drinking at the time of the incident. Alcohol involvement is most pronounced for USC events in the higher class years, which is perhaps unsurprising given the legal drinking age. Students at the Academies in higher class years also reported more frequent alcohol consumption than their lower class-year counterparts; the majority of freshmen and sophomores reported not drinking at all.

7. The rate of reporting among USCGA women USC victims decreased since 2018; overall, only 15% of USC female victims at USCGA made an official report of sexual assault of any kind.<sup>36</sup> The top reason for not reporting was wanting to forget about it and move on or avoid the person who assaulted them. From prior focus groups, we know that cadets do not want a sexual assault report to define their reputation and their Academy and post-Academy career (Barry et al., 2017, Barry et al., 2019). The reporting process can be thought of in terms of the costs and benefits for victims. There is a real cost of reporting for victims in terms of time and emotional energy; even when the process goes very well and they do not experience retaliation of any kind, most people do not want to be known as “the person who reported a sexual assault.” However, there is also a real cost to the institution when alleged offenders are not held appropriately accountable, particularly in the case of alleged offenders who are Academy students; these alleged offenders graduate and go on to leadership positions in the Coast Guard.
8. Sexual harassment is pervasive at USCGA, though less so than the DoD Academies. Just over half of USCGA women (51%) were sexually harassed in the past APY. Although USCGA men are at lower risk than women, sexual harassment of men is not unusual. Specifically, 21% of USCGA men were sexually harassed in the past APY. As with USC, sexual harassment rates are higher among students who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual.
9. Rates of gender discrimination decreased among USCGA women since 2018 (20%, down from 29%). However, USCGA women experience higher rates of gender discrimination than men (20% of women vs. 5% of men). Although women still experience more gender discrimination than men, this is nevertheless a positive change, and this improvement was not observed at the DoD Academies. It is important for USCGA to consider what policy, program or training may have contributed to this decline in order to continue to leverage this success. The DoD Academies may also benefit from knowledge sharing from USCGA on this front.
10. USCGA students are very unlikely to make a complaint about the sexual harassment or gender discrimination they experience. Many victims did discuss the situation with the alleged offenders (37%), which is in keeping with MEO policy to address violations at the lowest possible level. However, when victims do not come forward with complaints of sexual harassment or gender discrimination, this forestalls the ability of the institution to intervene in potentially escalating situations. Indeed, in just over one-third of USC events involving women victims, the alleged offender first harassed, stalked, or sexually assaulted the victim (this pattern is less common among men victims). Increasing the extent to which those who experience sexual harassment or gender discrimination come forward, and ensuring these complaints are effectively handled, is an area where improvements might go a long way toward improving overall climate and reducing USC.
11. The climate is also relevant for reporting. Various reporting-relevant aspects of climate worsened at USCGA in 2022, particularly among USCGA men. However, some areas

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<sup>36</sup> Ultimately, just under two-thirds of these reports were restricted while a little more than one-third were unrestricted based on survey responses.

showed signs of improvement, for example, in perceptions regarding whether Academy students elicit negative reactions from their peers if they report a sexual assault.

12. The 2022 *SAGR* results found that students experienced various restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during the past APY. For example, the majority of students indicated some restrictions from leaving the Academy and from visiting off-campus as well as on-campus establishments at some point during the school year. It is unclear to what extent these COVID-19 restrictions may have played a role in shaping climate and in contributing to risk factors for USC, sexual harassment and gender discrimination. To the extent that students had more unstructured, unsupervised time, with other cadets and midshipmen, this may have increased risk. Specifically, the *SAGR* has repeatedly found that most USC events occur during less-supervised time (outside of duty hours) and among fellow students. Future research should examine whether and how social life at USCGA, and associated risks for unwanted behaviors, changed in light of COVID-19 restrictions in order to inform future policy decisions.

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# **Appendix A.**

## **Survey Instrument**

**DATA  
DRIVEN  
SOLUTIONS  
FOR  
DECISION  
MAKERS**





OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0704-0623  
OMB EXPIRATION DATE: 12/31/2024

## 2022 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey

### AGENCY DISCLOSURE NOTICE & PRIVACY ADVISORY

**AGENCY DISCLOSURE NOTICE:** The public reporting burden for this collection of information, 0704-0623, is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at [whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil](mailto:whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

**PRIVACY ADVISORY:** This survey is anonymous, does not collect or use personally identifiable information, and responses are not retrievable by personal identifier. In order to better protect your privacy, do not include information that may identify you or others when completing write-in responses. The purpose of this survey is to solicit information to identify and assess gender issues and discrimination among cadets/midshipmen at the Service Academies and to evaluate the effectiveness of each Service Academy's sexual assault/harassment policies, training, and procedures. Your responses will be aggregated and will provide senior Department of Defense officials (for the Department of Homeland Security, or Department of Transportation officials, those survey results will be aggregated separately) a benchmark to track reported sexual assault/harassment trends over time.

These aggregated results will also be reported to Congress. Completing this survey is voluntary. There will be no attempt to trace responses back to the respondent. There is no penalty for not responding or skipping questions; however, maximum participation is encouraged so that the data will be complete and representative. Because the survey is anonymous, no individual situation can be addressed. Please avoid putting any identifying information in your responses. This is not the vehicle to report something that requires further attention or action by Academy officials.

**Statement of Risk:** The data collection procedures are not expected to involve any risk or discomfort to you. The only risk to you is accidental or unintentional disclosure of any identifying data you provide. However, OPA has a number of policies and procedures to ensure that survey data are kept anonymous and protected, to the extent provided by law. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact [SA-Survey@mail.mil](mailto:SA-Survey@mail.mil).

**Authority to Survey:** The John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, Section 532 requires annual assessments of gender-related issues at the Military Service Academies (10 USC 481). DoD Service Academies are surveyed per DoDI 6495.02, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program Procedures. Preparatory Schools are covered under 32 CFR Part 217. USCGA officials requested the Coast Guard be included, beginning in 2008, in order to evaluate and improve their programs addressing sexual assault and sexual harassment. Beginning in 2012, at the request of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), USMMA officials contracted with OPA to include USMMA in the Service Academy Gender Relations Survey and Focus Group efforts. Results for the USCGA and USMMA are reported separately from the DoD.

### COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS

- Please take your time and select answers you believe are most appropriate.
- Please PRINT where applicable. Do not make any marks outside of the response and write-in boxes.
- If you need more room for comments, use the back page or ask a survey proctor for a blank piece of paper.
- Place an "X" in the appropriate box or boxes.

RIGHT



WRONG



- To change an answer, completely black out the wrong answer and put an "X" in the correct box as shown below.

CORRECT ANSWER



INCORRECT ANSWER



### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 1. Which Service Academy/Preparatory School do you attend?

- ☒ United States Military Academy
- ☒ United States Military Academy Preparatory School
- ☒ United States Naval Academy
- ☒ United States Naval Academy Preparatory School
- ☒ United States Air Force Academy
- ☒ United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School
- ☒ United States Coast Guard Academy
- ☒ United States Merchant Marine Academy

#### 2. Are you...?

- ☒ Male
- ☒ Female

#### 3. What is your Class year (the year you will graduate from the Academy)?

- ☒ 2022
- ☒ 2023
- ☒ 2024
- ☒ 2025
- ☒ 2026 (Preparatory School only)

### GENDER-RELATED EXPERIENCES

In this section, you will be asked about several things that someone from your Academy might have done to you that were upsetting or offensive to you and that happened since June 2021.

When the questions say “someone from your Academy,” please include any person you have contact with as part of your **Academy life**. “Someone from your Academy” could be an officer or non-commissioned officer, fellow cadet or midshipman, civilian employee, or contractor. These persons can be Academy leadership, faculty, athletic department personnel, or support service staff.

These things may have occurred on- or off-duty or on- or off-campus. Please include them as long as the person who did them to you was someone from **your Academy**.

4. Since June 2021, did someone from your Academy repeatedly tell sexual “jokes” that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset?

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q7

5. Did they continue this unwanted behavior after they knew that you or someone else wanted them to stop?

☒ Yes  
☒ Not applicable, they did not know I or someone else wanted them to stop  
☒ No

6. Do you think this was ever severe enough that most cadets/midshipmen at your Academy would have been offended by these jokes if they had heard them? If you aren't sure, choose the best answer.

☒ Yes ☒ No

7. Since June 2021, did someone from your Academy embarrass, anger, or upset you by repeatedly suggesting that you do not act like a cadet/midshipman of your gender is supposed to? For example, by calling you a fag or gay, a dyke or butch.

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q10

8. Did they continue this unwanted behavior after they knew that you or someone else wanted them to stop?

☒ Yes  
☒ Not applicable, they did not know I or someone else wanted them to stop  
☒ No

9. Do you think this was ever severe enough that most cadets/midshipmen at your Academy would have been offended if someone had said these things to them? If you aren't sure, choose the best answer.

☒ Yes ☒ No

10. Since June 2021, did someone from your Academy display, show, or send sexually explicit materials like pictures or videos that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset?

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q13

11. Did they continue this unwanted behavior after they knew that you or someone else wanted them to stop?

☒ Yes  
☒ Not applicable, they did not know I or someone else wanted them to stop  
☒ No

12. Do you think this was ever severe enough that most cadets/midshipmen at your Academy would have been offended by seeing these sexually explicit materials? If you aren't sure, choose the best answer.

☒ Yes ☒ No

13. Since June 2021, did someone from your Academy repeatedly tell you about their sexual activities or make sexual gestures/body movements (for example, thrusting their pelvis or grabbing their crotch) in a way that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset?

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q16

14. Did they continue this unwanted behavior after they knew that you or someone else wanted them to stop?

☒ Yes  
☒ Not applicable, they did not know I or someone else wanted them to stop  
☒ No

15. Do you think this was ever severe enough that most cadets/midshipmen at your Academy would have been offended by hearing about these sexual activities or by having someone make sexual gestures/body movements (for example, thrusting their pelvis or grabbing their crotch)? If you aren't sure, choose the best answer.

☒ Yes ☒ No

16. Since June 2021, did someone from your Academy repeatedly ask you questions about your sex life or sexual interests that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset?

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q19

17. Did they continue this unwanted behavior after they knew that you or someone else wanted them to stop?

☒ Yes  
☒ Not applicable, they did not know I or someone else wanted them to stop  
☒ No

18. Do you think this was ever severe enough that most cadets/midshipmen at your Academy would have been offended if they had been asked these questions? If you aren't sure, choose the best answer.

☒ Yes ☒ No

19. Since June 2021, did someone from your Academy make repeated sexual comments about your appearance or body that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset?

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q22

Continue to next column

20. Did they continue this unwanted behavior after they knew that you or someone else wanted them to stop?

☒ Yes  
☒ Not applicable, they did not know I or someone else wanted them to stop  
☒ No

21. Do you think this was ever severe enough that most cadets/midshipmen at your Academy would have been offended if these remarks had been directed to them? If you aren't sure, choose the best answer.

☒ Yes ☒ No

22. Since June 2021, did someone from your Academy either take or share sexually suggestive pictures or videos of you when you did not want them to?

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q25

23. Did this make you uncomfortable, angry, or upset?

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q25

24. Do you think that this was ever severe enough that most cadets/midshipmen at your Academy would have been offended if it happened to them? If you aren't sure, choose the best answer.

☒ Yes ☒ No

25. Since June 2021, did someone from your Academy make repeated attempts to establish an unwanted romantic or sexual relationship with you? These could range from repeatedly asking you out to asking you for sex or a "hookup."

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q29

26. Did these attempts make you uncomfortable, angry, or upset?

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q29

27. Did they continue this unwanted behavior after they knew that you or someone else wanted them to stop?

☒ Yes  
☒ Not applicable, they did not know I or someone else wanted them to stop  
☒ No



28. Do you think this was ever severe enough that most cadets/midshipmen at your Academy would have been offended by these unwanted attempts (Q25)? If you aren't sure, choose the best answer.

☒ Yes ☒ No

29. Since June 2021, did someone from your Academy repeatedly touch you in a way that made you uncomfortable, angry, or upset? This could include almost any unnecessary physical contact including hugs, shoulder rubs, or touching your hair, but would not usually include handshakes or routine uniform adjustments.

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q32

30. Did they continue this unwanted behavior after they knew that you or someone else wanted them to stop?

☒ Yes  
☒ Not applicable, they did not know I or someone else wanted them to stop  
☒ No

31. Do you think this was ever severe enough that most cadets/midshipmen at your Academy would have been offended by this unnecessary touching? If you aren't sure, choose the best answer.

☒ Yes ☒ No

32. Since June 2021, has someone from your Academy (permanent party, civilian faculty/staff, and/or cadets/midshipmen in leadership positions) made you feel as if you would get some benefit in exchange for doing something sexual? For example, they might hint that they would give you a good evaluation/fitness report, a better cadet/midshipman assignment, or better academic grade in exchange for doing something sexual. Something sexual could include talking about sex, undressing, sharing sexual pictures, or having some type of sexual contact.

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q34

Continue to next column

33. What led you to believe that you would get a benefit if you agreed to do something sexual? Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
a. They told you they would give you a reward or benefit for doing something sexual .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. They hinted you would get a reward or benefit for doing something sexual. For example, they reminded you about your evaluation/fitness report about the same time they expressed sexual interest .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Someone else told you they got benefits from this person by doing sexual things.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

34. Since June 2021, has someone from your Academy (permanent party, civilian faculty/staff, and/or cadets/midshipmen in leadership positions) made you feel as if you would get punished or treated unfairly at your Academy if you did not do something sexual? For example, they hinted that they would give you a bad evaluation/fitness report, a bad grade, or treat you badly if you were not willing to do something sexual. This could include being unwilling to talk about sex, undress, share sexual pictures, or have some type of sexual contact.

☒ Yes ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q36

35. What led you to believe you would get punished or treated unfairly at your Academy if you did not do something sexual? Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
a. They told you that you would be punished or treated unfairly if you did not do something sexual. ....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. They hinted you would be punished or treated unfairly if you did not do something sexual. For example, they reminded you about your evaluation/fitness report near the same time that they expressed sexual interest. ....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Someone else told you they were punished or treated unfairly by this person for not doing something sexual .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

36. Since June 2021, did you hear someone from your Academy say that someone of your gender is not as good as the opposite gender as a future officer, or that someone of your gender should be prevented from becoming a future officer?

☐ Yes ☐ No ⇒ GO TO Q39

37. Do you think their beliefs about someone of your gender ever harmed or limited your cadet/midshipman career? For example, did they hurt your evaluation/fitness report, or affect your grades or chances for leadership positions?

☐ Yes ☐ No

38. Was anyone who did this unwanted behavior in a position of authority/leadership over you (permanent party, civilian faculty/staff, and/or cadets/midshipmen in leadership positions)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

39. Since June 2021, do you think someone from your Academy (permanent party, civilian faculty/staff, and/or cadets/midshipmen in leadership positions) mistreated, ignored, excluded, or insulted you because of your gender?

☐ Yes ☐ No ⇒ GO TO Q41

40. Do you think this treatment ever harmed or limited your cadet/midshipman career? For example, did they hurt your evaluation/fitness report, or affect your grades or chances for leadership positions?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered "Yes" to ANY Q4 - Q40, continue to Q41. Otherwise ⇒ GO TO Q49.

#### GENDER-RELATED SITUATION WITH THE GREATEST EFFECT

The following questions ask about the unwanted situation that had the greatest effect on you. Before you continue, please choose the one unwanted situation since June 2021 that you consider to be the worst or most serious.

41. Who was the person(s) in this situation who did this to you? *Mark one answer for each item.*

	Don't know		
	No		
	Yes		
a. A fellow Academy student who was in a <u>higher</u> class year .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A fellow Academy student who was in the <u>same</u> class year .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A fellow Academy student who was in a <u>lower</u> class year .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. A fellow Academy student who was higher in the cadet/midshipman chain of command .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. A member of an intramural or club sports team at your Academy .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. A member of an intercollegiate (NCAA/Division I/II) sports team at your Academy .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Academy military/uniformed faculty or staff .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Academy civilian faculty or staff .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. A DoD/DHS/DOT person not affiliated with the Academy .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. A person not affiliated with DoD/DHS/DOT .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Unknown person .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. <b>USMMA ONLY.</b> A person affiliated with the maritime industry .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

42. How many people did this to you? *Mark one.*

☐ One person  
☐ More than one person  
☐ Not sure

43. Was/Were this person(s)... *Mark one.*

☐ A man?  
☐ A woman?  
☐ A mix of men and women?  
☐ Not sure?

44. Would you describe this situation as... Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
a. <b>Hazing?</b> Hazing refers to so-called initiations or rites of passage in which individuals are subjected to physical or psychological harm to achieve status or be included in an organization.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. <b>Bullying?</b> Bullying refers to acts of aggression intended to single out individuals from their fellow cadets/ midshipmen or to exclude them from an organization .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

45. Thinking about this upsetting situation, did you discuss it with... Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
a. The person(s) who did this to you?..	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Someone in your company/ squadron? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Your friends or family outside of your company/squadron? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. A chaplain, counselor, or medical person? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. A Military Equal Opportunity (MEO) Officer, SARC, or SHARP Officer? ...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

46. Did you make a complaint about this situation with/to any authority or organization?

- ☒ Yes  
☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q48

47. What actions were taken in response to your complaint? Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
a. The situation was corrected .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Your situation was/is being investigated.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. You were kept informed of what actions were being taken.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. You were encouraged to let it go or tough it out.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Your situation was discounted or not taken seriously.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Disciplinary action was taken against you.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Disciplinary action was taken against the offender.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Administrative action (e.g., non-judicial punishment) was taken against you..	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. You were ridiculed or scorned .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j. Some other action was taken.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
k. You don't know what happened.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you made a complaint ⇒ GO TO Q49.  
 Otherwise, continue.

48. What were your reasons for not making a complaint about this situation? Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
a. You thought it was not important enough to make a complaint.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. You did not know how to make a complaint .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. You felt uncomfortable making a complaint .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. You took care of the problem yourself by avoiding the person who harassed you.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. You took care of the problem yourself by confronting the person who harassed you.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. You took care of the problem yourself by forgetting about it and moving on .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. You did not think anything would be done .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. You thought making a complaint would take too much time and effort.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. You thought you would be labeled a troublemaker .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j. You thought your evaluations or chances for leadership positions would suffer .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
k. You did not want people talking or gossiping about you .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
l. You thought it would hurt your reputation and standing.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
m. You did not want to hurt the career of the person(s) who did it.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
n. You did not want to bring undue attention or discredit on the Academy .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## UNWANTED SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

Please read the following special instructions before continuing the survey.

Questions in this next section ask about unwanted sexual experiences of an abusive, humiliating, or sexual nature. These types of unwanted experiences may vary in severity. Some of them could be viewed as an assault. Others could be viewed as hazing or some other type of unwanted experience.

They can happen to both women and men.

Please include experiences even if you or others had been drinking alcohol, using drugs, or were intoxicated.

The following questions will ask you about situations that happened SINCE June 2021. You will have an opportunity to describe experiences that happened BEFORE June 2021 later in the survey.

49. Since June 2021, have you experienced any of the following intentional sexual contacts that were against your will or which occurred when you did not or could not consent in which someone... Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
a. Sexually touched you (for example, intentional touching of genitalia, breasts, or buttocks), or made you sexually touch them? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Attempted to make you have sexual intercourse, but was not successful? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Made you have sexual intercourse? ..	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Attempted to make you perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object, but was not successful? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Made you perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you answered "No" to Q49a through Q49e → GO TO Q83.

50. Please give your best estimate of how many different times (on how many separate occasions) since June 2021, you had these unwanted experiences?

Times

51. Did the person(s) who did this to you... Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
a. Do it for a sexual reason? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Do it to abuse or humiliate you? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

52. Did the person(s) who did this to you... Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
a. Use, or threaten to use, physical force to make you comply? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Threaten you (or someone else) in some other way such as using their position of authority or getting you in trouble with the authorities? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Do it while you were passed out, asleep, unconscious, or so drunk, high or drugged that you could not show them that you were unwilling? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## UNWANTED SEXUAL CONTACT SITUATION WITH THE GREATEST EFFECT

The following questions ask about the unwanted situation that had the greatest effect on you since June 2021. Before you continue, please choose the one unwanted situation since June 2021 that you consider to be the worst or most serious.

53. Which of the following experiences happened during the situation you chose as the worst or most serious? Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
a. Sexually touched you (for example, intentional touching of genitalia, breasts, or buttocks), or made you sexually touch them? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Attempted to make you have sexual intercourse, but was not successful? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Made you have sexual intercourse? ..	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Attempted to make you perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object, but was not successful? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Made you perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please continue to focus on this worst or most serious situation in the questions that follow.

54. How many people did this to you? **Mark one.**

- ☐ One person  
☐ More than one person  
☐ Not sure

55. Was/Were this person(s)... **Mark one.**

- ☐ A man?  
☐ A woman?  
☐ A mix of men and women?  
☐ Not sure?

56. At the time of the situation, was/were the person(s) who did this to you... **Mark all that apply.**

- ☐ Someone you were currently dating?  
☐ Someone you had previously dated?  
☐ Someone you had a casual relationship with (for example, hooked up with)?  
☐ Someone you knew from class or other activity?  
☐ Someone you had just met?  
☐ A stranger?

57. At the time of the situation, was/were the person(s) who did this to you... **Mark one answer for each item.**

	Don't know	No	Yes
a. A fellow Academy student who was in a <u>higher</u> class year? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A fellow Academy student who was in the <u>same</u> class year? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A fellow Academy student who was in a <u>lower</u> class year? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. A fellow Academy student who was higher in the cadet/midshipman chain of command? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. A member of an intramural or club sports team at your Academy? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. A member of an intercollegiate (NCAA/Division I/II) sports team at your Academy? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Academy military/uniformed faculty or staff? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Academy civilian faculty or staff? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. A DoD/DHS/DOT person not affiliated with the Academy? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. A person not affiliated with DoD/DHS/DOT? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k. Unknown person? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l. <b>USMMA ONLY.</b> A person affiliated with the maritime industry? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

58. Have you ever communicated with the person(s) who did this to you via a dating application or website (such as Tinder, Hinge, OKCupid, or Grindr)? Regardless of whether or not you had communicated previously, you are not to blame for what happened.

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

59. Did the unwanted situation occur... **Mark one answer for each item.** If you have not been to these locations since June 2021 please mark "Not Applicable."

	Not Applicable	No	Yes
a. On Academy grounds in a dormitory/living area? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. On Academy grounds not in a dormitory/living area? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Off Academy grounds at a social event (for example, a party)? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Off Academy grounds at an Academy-sponsored event (for example, a sports team trip, conference, club event, or training)? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Off Academy grounds at the home of a sponsor or alumnus? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Off Academy grounds at the home of a faculty or staff member? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Some other location off Academy grounds? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

60. When did the situation occur? **Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.**

	Yes	No
a. During normal duty hours .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. After duty hours not on a weekend or holiday .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. After duty hours on a weekend or holiday .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. On leave .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. During summer experience/training/sea duty .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. On exchange to another Academy..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. <b>USMMA ONLY.</b> During maritime duty .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

61. At the time of this unwanted situation... **Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.**

	Yes	No
a. Was there a cadet/midshipman present who stepped in to help you? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Was there a cadet/midshipman present who could have stepped in to help you, but did not? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**62. Would you describe this situation as... Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.**

	Yes	No
a. <b>Hazing?</b> Hazing refers to so-called initiations or rites of passage in which individuals are subjected to physical or psychological harm to achieve status or be included in an organization.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. <b>Bullying?</b> Bullying refers to acts of aggression intended to single out individuals from their fellow cadets/ midshipmen or to exclude them from an organization .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**63. Did the person(s) who did this... Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.**

	Yes	No
a. Sexually harass you <u>before</u> this situation?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Stalk you <u>before</u> this situation? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Sexually assault you (that is, sexually touched you, attempted sex, or completed sex) <u>before</u> this situation?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Sexually harass you <u>after</u> this situation?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Stalk you <u>after</u> this situation? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Sexually assault you (that is, sexually touched you, attempted sex, or completed sex) <u>after</u> this situation? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**64. At the time of this unwanted situation had you been drinking alcohol?** Even if you had been drinking, it does not mean you are to blame for what happened.

- ☒ Yes  
☒ No  
☒ Not sure

**65. Just prior to this unwanted situation... Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.**

	Yes	No
a. Did the person(s) who did this to you buy or give you alcohol to drink? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Do you think that you might have been given a drug without your knowledge or consent? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**66. At the time of this unwanted situation, had the person(s) who did it been drinking alcohol?**

- ☒ Yes  
☒ No  
☒ Don't know

**67. After this unwanted situation... Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.**

	Yes	No
a. Did you consider requesting a transfer to another company/ squadron? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Did you think about leaving your Academy? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Did your academic performance suffer? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Did you take time off (for example, sick in quarters, leave of absence) because of the situation? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Did the situation damage your personal relationships, for example with a person you were dating or a friend? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DoD provides two ways in which to report a sexual assault:

- A Restricted report of sexual assault allows the sexual assault victim to make a confidential report, to certain individuals, and to receive medical treatment and counseling without starting an official investigation of the assault and without notifying the command the victim was sexually assaulted.
- An Unrestricted report allows the sexual assault victim to receive the same level of support services as a victim who elects the restricted reporting option, but unlike a restricted report, command is notified of the sexual assault of the victim, and an official investigation is undertaken for purposes of holding the alleged offender appropriately accountable.

**68. Did you officially report that you were a victim of a sexual assault?** This could have been either a restricted or unrestricted report.

- ☒ Yes
 ☒ No ⇒ GO TO Q71

**69. What type of report did you make? Mark one.**

- ☒ Restricted report that remained restricted  
☒ Restricted report that you converted to unrestricted  
☒ Restricted report, but an independent investigation occurred anyway (e.g., someone you talked to about it notified your chain of command and they initiated an investigation)  
☒ Unrestricted report  
☒ Unsure what type of report you made

**70. What were your reasons for reporting the situation? *Mark all that apply.***

- ☒ Someone else made you report it or reported it themselves
- ☒ To stop the person(s) from hurting you again
- ☒ To stop the person(s) from hurting others
- ☒ It was your civic/military duty to report it
- ☒ To punish the person(s) who did it
- ☒ To discourage other potential offenders
- ☒ To get medical assistance
- ☒ To get mental health assistance
- ☒ To stop rumors
- ☒ Someone you told encouraged you to report
- ☒ Raise awareness that it occurs at the Academy
- ☒ Other

**If you reported the situation ⇒ GO TO Q72. Otherwise, continue.**

**71. What were your reasons for not reporting the situation to an authority? *Mark all that apply.***

- ☒ You thought it was not serious enough to report
- ☒ You took care of the problem yourself by avoiding the person who assaulted you
- ☒ You took care of the problem yourself by confronting the person who assaulted you
- ☒ You took care of the problem yourself by forgetting about it and moving on
- ☒ You did not want more people to know
- ☒ You felt uncomfortable making a report
- ☒ You thought reporting would take too much time and effort
- ☒ You did not want people talking or gossiping about you
- ☒ You felt shame/embarrassment
- ☒ Other

**72. In retrospect, would you make the same decision about reporting if you could do it over?**

- ☒ Yes
- ☒ No

**OUTCOMES ASSOCIATED WITH EXPERIENCING SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**73. Thinking about the unwanted event, has anyone in a position of authority/leadership over you (i.e., permanent party leadership, such as TAC, Company Officer, AOC, Regimental Officer, TAC NCO, SEL, or AMT) either done or threatened to do any of the following after the unwanted event occurred? *Mark all that apply.***

- ☒ Denied you or removed you from a leadership position
- ☒ Denied you a training opportunity that could have led to a leadership position
- ☒ Rated you lower than you deserved on a performance evaluation
- ☒ Denied you an award or other form of recognition you were previously eligible to receive
- ☒ Assigned you new duties without doing the same to others
- ☒ Assigned you to duties that do not match your current class year or position within the company/squadron
- ☒ Made you perform additional duties that do not match your current class year or position within the company/squadron
- ☒ Transferred you to a different company/squadron without your request or agreement
- ☒ Ordered you to one or more mental health evaluations
- ☒ Disciplined you or ordered other corrective action
- ☒ Does not apply, you have not experienced any of the above ⇒ GO TO Q77

**74. Which type of leadership took the actions you marked as happening to you? *Mark all that apply.***

- ☒ Cadet/midshipman leadership
- ☒ Academy permanent party leadership (e.g., faculty member, coach, TAC Officer, AOC, Company Officer, Regimental Officer)

**If you did not report your sexual assault ⇒ GO TO Q77. Otherwise, continue.**

**75. Do you have reason to believe that any of the leadership actions you experienced were only based on your report of sexual assault (that is, not based on your conduct or performance)?**

- ☒ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☒ Not sure



76. Were any of the individual(s) who took the actions you marked as happening to you... **Mark one answer for each item.**

	Yes	No	Not sure
a. Trying to get back at you for making a report (unrestricted or restricted)?..	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Trying to discourage you from moving forward with your report? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Mad at you for causing a problem for them?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

77. Following the unwanted event, have any of your cadet/midshipman peers (including those in your cadet/midshipman chain of command) or your leadership done any of the following? **Mark all that apply.**

- ☒ Made insulting or disrespectful remarks or made jokes at your expense in public
- ☒ Excluded you or threatened to exclude you from social activities or interactions
- ☒ Ignored you or failed to speak to you despite your attempts to communicate (for example, gave you "the silent treatment")
- ☒ You did not experience any of the above ⇒ GO TO Q80

If you did not report your sexual assault ⇒ GO TO Q80. Otherwise, continue.

78. Did any of the individual(s) who took these actions know or suspect you made an official (unrestricted or restricted) sexual assault report?

- ☒ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☒ Not sure

79. Were any of the individual(s) who took these actions trying to discourage you from moving forward with your report or discourage others from reporting?

- ☒ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☒ Not sure

80. Following the unwanted event, have any of your cadet/midshipman peers (including those in your cadet/midshipman chain of command) done any of the following? **Mark all that apply.**

- ☒ Made insulting or disrespectful remarks or made jokes at your expense to you in private
- ☒ Showed or threatened to show private images, photos, or videos of you to others
- ☒ Bullied you or made intimidating remarks about the assault
- ☒ Was physically violent with you or threatened to be physically violent
- ☒ Damaged or threatened to damage your property
- ☒ Does not apply, you did not experience any of the above ⇒ GO TO Q83

If you did not report your sexual assault ⇒ GO TO Q83. Otherwise, continue.

81. Did any of the individual(s) who took these actions know or suspect you made an official (unrestricted or restricted) sexual assault report?

- ☒ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☒ Not sure

82. Were any of the individual(s) who took the actions you marked as happening to you... **Mark one answer for each item.**

	Yes	No	Not sure
a. Trying to discourage you from moving forward with your report or discourage others from reporting? ....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Trying to abuse or humiliate you?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## PRIOR EXPERIENCES

The questions so far have been about things that occurred in the past Academic Program Year (since June 2021). For the next question, please think about situations that happened more than one Academic Program Year ago, BEFORE June 2021. These are all experiences that you did not tell us about earlier in the survey.

These questions assess experiences of an abusive, humiliating, or sexual nature, and that occurred even though you did not want them and did not consent.

Please include an experience regardless of who did it to you or where it happened.

83. **Before June 2021, did you ever experience any of the following intentional sexual contacts that were against your will or which occurred when you did not or could not consent in which someone... Mark all that apply.**

	Yes, before entering the Academy	Yes, since entering the Academy	No, have not experienced
a. Sexually touched you (for example, intentional touching of genitalia, breasts, or buttocks), or made you sexually touch them? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Attempted to make you have sexual intercourse, but was not successful? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Made you have sexual intercourse? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Attempted to make you perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object, but was not successful? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Made you perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

The following questions will ask whether you observed a variety of situations since June 2021. These situations could have taken place at your Academy or outside of your Academy.

84. **Since June 2021, did you... Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.**

	Yes	No
a. See a situation you thought was a sexual assault or could have led to a sexual assault? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Observe someone who "crossed the line" by telling sexist comments or jokes? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Encounter a group or individual being hazed? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Encounter an individual being bullied? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. See someone making unwanted sexual advances towards another cadet/midshipman? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. See horseplay or roughhousing that "crossed the line" or appeared unwanted? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Encounter someone who drank too much and needed help (e.g., getting home)? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Encounter someone hooking up with someone who was passed out? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If you indicated "No" to all items in Q84 ⇨ GO TO Q86.

85. **How did you respond to the situation(s) you observed? Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.**

	Yes	No
a. I spoke up to address the situation. ....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. I told someone else about it while it was happening? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. I told someone else about it after it happened? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. I created a distraction? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. I talked to those who experienced the situation to see if they were okay? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. I intervened in some other way? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. I did not intervene? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

86. **[USAFA ONLY] Have you participated in any of the following programs at USAFA? Mark all that apply.**

- ☒ Healthy Relationships Training (HRT)  
☒ Cadet Healthy Personal Skills (CHIPS)  
☒ Enhanced Assess, Acknowledge, Act (EAAA)

All Cadets and Midshipmen please continue on Q87.

## ACADEMY CLIMATE AND CULTURE

87. To what extent are you willing to... Mark one answer for each item.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	Very large extent
a. Point out to someone that you think they "crossed the line" with gender-related comments or jokes? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Seek help from the chain of command in stopping other students who continue to engage in sexual harassment after having been previously spoken to? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

88. Since June 2021, to what extent have you witnessed people in your company/squadron... Mark one answer for each item.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	Very large extent
a. Promoting a climate based on mutual respect and trust?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Leading by example by refraining from sexist comments and behaviors? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Recognizing and immediately correcting incidents of sexual harassment? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Encouraging bystander intervention to assist others in situations at risk for sexual assault or other harmful behaviors?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

89. Have you heard of the CATCH a Serial Offender Program?

☒ Yes ☒ No

90. Who can help you make a report in the CATCH a Serial Offender Program? Mark "Yes" or "No" for each item.

	Yes	No
a. Faculty member .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Chaplain .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Sports team coach .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

91. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding your company/squadron? Mark one answer for each item.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
a. It would be risky for me to file a sexual harassment complaint. ...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. A sexual harassment complaint would not be taken seriously. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A sexual harassment complaint would be thoroughly investigated.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. I would feel comfortable reporting a sexual harassment complaint in my company/squadron.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Sexual harassment is not tolerated in my company/squadron.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Individuals who sexually harass others get away with it.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. I would be afraid to file a sexual harassment complaint. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Penalties against individuals who sexually harass others in my company/squadron are strongly enforced. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Actions are being taken to prevent sexual harassment.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

92. If you were to experience sexual assault in the future, to what extent would you... Mark one answer for each item.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	Very large extent
a. Trust the Academy to protect your privacy following the reported incident?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Trust the Academy to ensure your safety following the reported incident?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Trust the Academy to treat you with dignity and respect following the reported incident?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

93. Since June 2021, how often have you experienced any of the following behaviors, where cadets/midshipmen... **Mark one answer for each item.**

	Very often	Often	Sometimes	Once or twice	Never
a. Did not provide information or assistance when you needed it? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Were excessively harsh in their criticism of your performance?..	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Took credit for work or ideas that were yours? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Gossiped/talked about you?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Used insults, sarcasm, or gestures to humiliate you?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Yelled when they were angry with you?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for answering the questions so far.  
Remember that your answers are anonymous.

*In the following questions, by "drink" we mean a bottle or can of beer, a wine cooler or glass of wine, a shot of liquor, or a mixed drink or cocktail.*

94. How many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when drinking? *If you do not drink, please enter 0 drink(s).*

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Drink(s)
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------

95. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have 5 or more drinks (4 or more if you are a woman) on the same occasion? *By 'occasion,' we mean at the same time or within a couple of hours of each other.*

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Day(s)
----------------------	----------------------	--------

96. During the past year, how often have you been unable to remember what happened the night before because you had been drinking?

☒ Never  
☒ Monthly or less  
☒ 2-4 times a month  
☒ 2-3 times a week  
☒ 4 or more times a week

97. At your Academy, to what extent do you think the persons below make honest and reasonable efforts to stop sexual harassment and sexual assault? For example, do these persons lead by example, stress the importance of sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention, and encourage reporting? **Mark one answer for each item.**

	No basis to judge	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	Very large extent
a. Cadet/midshipman leaders...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cadets/midshipmen not in appointed leadership positions.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Commissioned officers directly in charge of your unit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Non-commissioned officers or senior/chief petty officers directly in charge of your unit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Academy senior leadership (for example, Superintendent, Commandant, Vice/Deputy Commandant, Dean).....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Military/uniformed academic faculty.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Civilian academic faculty .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Intercollegiate (NCAA/ Division I/III) coaches and trainers .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Intercollegiate (NCAA/ Division I/III) officer representatives/advisors .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j. Club team coaches and trainers .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
k. Club team officer representatives/advisors .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
l. Intramural coaches and trainers .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
m. Intramural officer representatives/advisors .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
n. Physical education instructors .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

98. Are you a member of an intercollegiate (NCAA/Division I/III) sports team at your Academy?

☒ Yes  
☒ No

99. At your Academy, to what extent do you think... *Mark one answer for each item.*

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	Very large extent
a. High-profile cases of sexual assault deter other victims from reporting sexual assault?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Potential scrutiny by the media makes victims less likely to come forward to report sexual assault? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Potential negative reaction from Academy peers makes victims less likely to report sexual assault? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. People "cry rape" to avoid punishment or after making a regrettable decision? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. "Victim blaming" occurs (i.e., holding a victim partly or entirely responsible for a sexual assault)? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. A victim's reputation affects whether Academy peers believe he or she was assaulted? ...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. The other cadets/midshipmen watch out for each other to prevent sexual assault? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Your cadet/midshipman leaders enforce rules (such as rules against fraternization and drinking in the dormitory)? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Your <u>commissioned officers</u> (AOCs, TACs, Company Officers) set good examples in their own behavior and talk? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j. Your <u>non-commissioned officers</u> (AMTs, TAC NCOs, SELs) set good examples in their own behavior and talk? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We ask for demographic information to provide DoD leaders information about the attitudes and concerns of all subgroups of personnel so that no groups are overlooked. Your answers to any demographic questions are strictly used for this purpose and will not be used to identify individual respondents as your responses are anonymous.

100. Do you consider yourself to be...? *Mark one.*

- ☒ Heterosexual or straight
- ☒ Gay or lesbian
- ☒ Bisexual
- ☒ Something else
- ☒ Prefer not to answer

101. What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? *Mark one.*

- ☒ Male
- ☒ Female

102. Do you currently describe yourself as male, female, or transgender? *Mark one.*

- ☒ Male
- ☒ Female
- ☒ Transgender
- ☒ None of these

103. Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

- ☒ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- ☒ Yes, Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino

104. What is your race? *Mark one or more races to indicate what you consider yourself to be.*

- ☒ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☒ Asian (for example, Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, or Vietnamese)
- ☒ Black or African American
- ☒ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (for example, Samoan, Guamanian, or Chamorro)
- ☒ White

105. Since June 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to what extent were you personally affected by...  
Mark one answer for each item.

	Not at all	Small extent	Moderate extent	Large extent	Very large extent
a. Orders to remain at home?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Restrictions from leaving your Academy? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Restrictions from visiting off-campus establishments (for example, restaurants, bars, clubs, or other places where people gather)? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Restrictions from visiting on-campus establishments (for example, dining halls, clubs, recreational facilities)? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Restrictions from attending social gatherings of a certain size (for example, 10 or more)? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Having to primarily attend classes from home? .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Requirements to social distance (for example, stay a certain distance away from others) while you were attending classes/Academy training?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. A personal decision to avoid social gatherings with friends or peers?.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

106. If you have comments or concerns that you were not able to express in answering this survey, please enter them in the space provided. Any comments you make on this questionnaire will be kept confidential, and no follow-up action will be taken in response to any specifics reported. Your feedback is useful and appreciated. *Please do not include any personally identifiable information (PII) that would identify yourself or others in your comments (for example, names, addresses, company/squadron number, etc.).*

Please print.

## **Appendix B. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**DATA  
DRIVEN  
SOLUTIONS  
FOR  
DECISION  
MAKERS**







## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Department of Defense (DoD) Office of People Analytics' (OPA) Health and Resilience (H&R) Research Division has conducted surveys on gender issues for the DoD Military Service Academies (MSAs) since 2006. Starting in 2008, leadership of the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) within the Department of Homeland Security requested that USCGA be included as well. OPA uses scientific, state-of-the-art statistical techniques to draw conclusions from the USCGA population to construct estimates for the *2022 Service Academy Gender Relations Survey (2022 SAGR)*. OPA used industry-standard weighting procedures to ensure accuracy of estimates to the USCGA population. The following details some common questions about our methodology as a whole and the 2022 SAGR specifically.

### 1. Why are results not comparable to 2020?

Although the *SAGR* is generally fielded every other year (those ending in an even number), the *2020 SAGR* was planned but not executed. For this reason, there is a four-year gap between the *2022 SAGR* and the *2018 SAGR*.

### 2. Why was the *SAGR* not fielded in 2020?

The *2020 SAGR* was intended to be administered in person at USCGA starting in March 2020. However, the Department of Defense's (DoD) suspension of non-essential travel in response to the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the OPA research team from administering the survey at the intended time, impacting both DoD MSAs as well as USCGA. Because the scope and duration of the pandemic was unknown at that time, the *2020 SAGR* was initially postponed. As 2020 drew to a close, the OPA research team considered the *2020 SAGR* canceled.

### 3. What was the population of interest for the *2022 SAGR*?

The population of interest for the *2022 SAGR* consisted of cadets at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in class years 2022 through 2025.<sup>37</sup> The entire population of students (all cadet men and women) was selected for the survey, except students who were on exchange from MSAs and foreign exchange students. Students on exchange from another school were excluded because they were accounted for in the statistical weighting of participation at their home institution and not at the exchange Academy. Foreign exchange students were excluded because they are not members of the USCGA population. This census of all students was designed for maximum reliability of results in the sections where the survey questions applied to only a subset of students, such as those questions asking details of an unwanted gender-related behavior.

The target survey frame consisted of 1,013 USCGA students drawn from the student roster provided to OPA by the Academy. OPA received a final data set containing 989 returned questionnaires, of which 839 were considered complete, yielding an overall weighted response rate for USCGA of 83% (91% for Academy women and 77% for Academy men).

<sup>37</sup> OPA also surveyed a census of students at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA). Results for those Academies are presented in separate reports.

#### 4. What was the survey question used to measure unwanted sexual contact?

The measure of unwanted sexual contact for the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2022 *SAGR* surveys includes the five specific behaviors listed below. In 2022, respondents were asked to indicate “Yes” or “No” to the following question for each behavior:

*Since June 2021, have you experienced any of the following intentional sexual contacts that were against your will or occurred when you did not or could not consent in which someone...*

- *Sexually touched you (for example, intentional touching of genitalia, breasts, or buttocks), or made you sexually touch them?*
- *Attempted to make you have sexual intercourse, but was not successful?*
- *Made you have sexual intercourse?*
- *Attempted to make you perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object, but was not successful?*
- *Made you perform or receive oral sex, anal sex, or penetration by a finger or object?*

#### 5. The term “unwanted sexual contact” does not accurately represent the categories of crime in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Why is this? Is unwanted sexual contact different than “sexual assault?”

The measure of unwanted sexual contact used by the 2022 *SAGR* is behaviorally based. That is, the measure is based on specific behaviors experienced and does not assume the respondent has expert knowledge of the UCMJ or the UCMJ definition of sexual assault. The estimates created for the unwanted sexual contact estimated prevalence rate reflect the percentage of Academy students who experienced behaviors prohibited by the UCMJ.

The term “unwanted sexual contact” and its definition were created in collaboration with DoD stakeholders to help respondents better relate their experience(s) to the types of sexual assault behaviors addressed by military law and the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program. The vast majority of respondents would not know the differences among the UCMJ offenses of “sexual assault,” “aggravated sexual contact,” and “forcible sodomy” as described in the UCMJ. As a result, the term “unwanted sexual contact” was created so that respondents could read the definition provided and readily understand the behaviors covered by the survey. There are three broad categories of unwanted sexual contact that result: penetration of any orifice, attempted penetration, and unwanted sexual touching (without penetration). Although these unwanted behaviors are analogous to UCMJ offenses, they are not meant to be exact matches. Many respondents cannot and do not consider the complex legal elements of a crime when being victimized by an alleged offender. Consequently, forcing a respondent to categorize accurately which offense they allegedly experienced would not be productive. The terms and definitions of unwanted sexual contact have been consistent throughout all of the *SAGR* surveys since 2006 to provide DoD with reliable data points across time.

In 2014, RAND Corp. conducted the *2014 RAND Military Workplace Survey (2014 RMWS)* independently from the DoD. For this effort, researchers fielded two versions of the survey: one using the unwanted sexual contact question and one using a newly constructed measure of sexual assault that incorporates UCMJ-prohibited behaviors and consent factors to derive estimated prevalence rates of crimes committed against military members. Weighted estimated topline prevalence rates from each measure were not significantly different.

In October 2015, based on concerns from Academy leadership about the new measure, OPA conducted pre-tests at the three DoD MSAs using the sexual assault measure constructed for the *2014 RMWS*. The pretest included questions after the main survey asking whether respondents understood the survey questions, whether they would be comfortable taking the survey, whether they would be comfortable taking the survey in a group setting, whether they would answer honestly, and whether they would have any negative reactions after taking the survey. Pre-test results indicated that the *2014 RMWS* sexual assault measure's added length and graphic language made it inappropriate for administration to students in a group setting. Students who indicated on the pre-test that they had experienced sexual assault indicated lower willingness than other students to answer all survey items honestly, particularly during in-person survey administration. For these reasons, and to retain the ability to trend unwanted sexual contact results over time, the existing unwanted sexual contact measure was retained.

**6. OPA uses “sampling” and “weighting” for their scientific surveys. Why are these methods used and what do they do?**

Simply stated, sampling and weighting allow for data based on a sample to be generalized accurately up to the total population. In the *2022 SAGR*, OPA was able to generalize to the full population of Academy students who met the criteria as detailed in FAQ 3. This methodology meets industry standards used by U.S. government statistical agencies, including the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Agricultural Statistical Service, National Center for Health Statistics, and National Center for Education Statistics. OPA subscribes to the survey methodology best practices promoted by the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR).

**7. Were sampling and weighting used in the *2022 SAGR*?**

The *2022 SAGR* was a census of all cadet women and men at the Academy; the survey was offered to all students in the population of interest as detailed in FAQ 3. For that reason, sampling from the population was not necessary. However, even though all were offered a survey, not all students took the survey for a number of reasons (e.g., conflicts in schedules, refusal to participate, sick in quarters). To ensure estimates were generalizable, OPA used weighting to represent accurately the total population. Data were weighted using an industry standard process to reflect the Academy's population as of March 2022. Differences in the percentages of respondents and population for the reporting categories reflect differences in response rates. Weighting produces survey estimates of population totals, proportions, and means (as well as other statistics) that are representative of their respective populations. Unweighted survey data, in contrast, are likely to produce biased estimates of population statistics.

**8. Does crime data typically fluctuate over time as we see in the *SAGR* results?**

As we continue to survey this population, we will gain a better understanding of the trends that exist within this population and what factors impact fluctuations. In general, these types of surveys often see similar fluctuations; however, over time, the visual impact of these fluctuations is less dramatic.

**9. Some of the estimates provided in the report show “NR” or “Not Reportable.” What does this mean?**

The estimates become “Not Reportable” when they do not meet the criteria for statistically reliable reporting. This can happen for a number of reasons, including high variability or too few respondents. This process ensures that the estimates we provide in our analyses and reports are accurate within the margin of error.

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15. SUBJECT TERMS Unwanted Sexual Contact, Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Bystander Intervention, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Unwanted Gender-Related Experiences, Leadership, Training, Reporting						
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