



READINESS AND FORCE
MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MAY 29 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(HUMAN RESOURCES)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(FORCE MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION)

SUBJECT: DoD Family Advocacy Program Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) Data

Attached for your information are an information paper on the FY11 Family Advocacy Program (FAP) domestic and child abuse data (Attachment 1); briefing slides on the FY11 FAP spouse and child abuse data (Attachment 2); key findings from the FY11 FAP spouse and child abuse data (Attachment 3); and questions and answers for Public Affairs Offices (Attachment 4).

The rate of reported incidents of suspected spouse abuse increased 2.4 percent from FY10 but declined nearly 7.6 percent since FY01. The rate of incidents per 1,000 couples that met FAP criteria for entry into the FAP Central Registry fell slightly by less than 1 percent from FY10 and declined 32.7 percent since FY01.

The rate of reported incidents of suspected child abuse and neglect remained stable at 12.9 percent but decreased 8.5 percent from FY01. The rate of incidents per 1,000 children that met FAP criteria increased 1.7 percent in FY11, though that rate has declined 14.7 percent since FY01.

The OSD (FAP) is working in concert with your Service FAP leaders to identify at risk communities and intensify prevention efforts with them. With your continued support, we hope to continue to ensure the safety and well being of all of our military families.

Robert L. Gordon III
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)

Attachments:
As stated

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Child Abuse and Domestic Abuse Data Trends from FY01 to FY11

- Spouse Abuse Reported to the Family Advocacy Program (FAP):

<u>Year</u>	<i>Couples</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Met Criteria</i>	
	<u>Population</u>	<u>Reports</u>	<u>Rate/1000</u>	<u>Reports</u>	<u>Rate/1000</u>
FY 01	664,701	18,398	27.7	10,967	16.5
FY 02	682,656	17,909	26.2	10,546	15.4
FY 03	694,527	17,072	24.6	9,845	14.2
FY 04	698,160	16,392	23.5	9,434	13.5
FY 05	702,727	15,894	22.6	8,306	11.8
FY 06	707,895	15,399	21.7	7,586	10.7
FY 07	708,178	15,260	21.5	7,257	10.2
FY 08	718,526	15,939	22.2	6,767	9.4
FY 09	738,067	18,208	24.7	7,476	10.1
FY 10	751,758	18,785	25.0	8,411	11.2
FY 11	753,110	19,277	25.6	8,386	11.1

- Intimate Partner Abuse Reported to the FAP:

<u>Year</u>	<i>Unmarried</i>	<i>Met Criteria</i>	<i>Met Criteria</i>
	<u>Population</u>	<u>Reports</u>	<u>Rate/1000</u>
FY 06	617,848	340	0.5
FY 07	611,316	602	1.0
FY 08	622,858	619	0.9
FY 09	620,542	747	1.2
FY 10	618,549	721	1.2
FY 11	612,358	867	1.4

- Child Abuse Reported to the FAP:

<u>Year</u>	<i>Child</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Met Criteria</i>	
	<u>Population</u>	<u>Reports</u>	<u>Rate/1000</u>	<u>Reports</u>	<u>Rate/1000</u>
FY 01	1,127,492	15,898	14.1	7,612	6.8
FY 02	1,145,001	16,683	14.6	7,556	6.6
FY 03	1,149,764	16,354	14.2	7,463	6.5
FY 04	1,120,590	16,704	14.9	7,881	7.0
FY 05	1,104,716	13,852	12.5	6,178	5.6
FY 06	1,103,362	12,612	11.4	5,603	5.1
FY 07	1,103,270	13,788	12.5	5,434	4.9
FY 08	1,122,098	12,661	11.3	5,406	4.8
FY 09	1,147,318	12,847	11.2	5,499	4.8
FY 10	1,166,079	14,986	12.9	6,633	5.7
FY 11	1,165,812	15,081	12.9	6,819	5.8

- FY01 through FY11 data on spouse abuse includes only those incidents involving married individuals. Either the victim or the abuser may have been an active duty service member or the civilian spouse of an active duty service member. In FY06 and onward, an additional category was added to capture met criteria incidents involving a person (1) with whom the victim shares a child in common or (2) is a current or former intimate partner with whom the victim shares or has shared a common domicile. In such cases the victim or the abuser may have been an active duty service member or a civilian.
- Reports represent the number of incidents of abuse; therefore, one or more reports may be submitted on a single victim. This allows for the identification of families in which repeated acts of family violence have occurred.
- The data only reflects child abuse and domestic abuse reported to the DoD FAP. It is not an estimate of the total amount of child abuse and domestic abuse that occurred in military families.
- The data includes physical abuse (including acts resulting in no injuries), sexual abuse, emotional abuse (including emotional abuse without any acts of physical or sexual abuse), and neglect.
- In met criteria reports, the abuser may have been an active duty service member, a civilian family member, or (in child abuse incidents) a caregiver outside the family. However, in 95 percent of the met criteria child abuse incidents, the abuser was a parent or other family member.
- This data should not be compared to data from other studies unless:
 - Differences in military and civilian contexts have been addressed;
 - The studies' design and methodologies were similar (e.g., reports to authorities should not be compared to estimates from surveys of the population);
 - The data elements were similar; and
 - The demographics from the studies are standardized to the military population, which is much younger and more male than the general civilian population.
- The DoD rates of child abuse have remained relatively constant and are about half of their counterpart rates in the U.S. civilian population as compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

PREPARED BY: Ms. Mary E. Campise, Family Advocacy Program, 571-372-5346



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT (CAN) DATA FY11 Report



Reported CAN Incidents FY01-11*

Year	Child Population	Total Reports**		Met Criteria	
		Rate/1000		Reports**	Rate/1000
FY01	1,127,492	15,898	14.1	7,612	6.8
FY02	1,145,001	16,683	14.6	7,556	6.6
FY03	1,149,764	16,354	14.2	7,463	6.5
FY04	1,120,590	16,704	14.9	7,881	7.0
FY05	1,104,716	13,852	12.5	6,178	5.6
FY06	1,103,362	12,612	11.4	5,603	5.1
FY07	1,103,270	13,788	12.5	5,434	4.9
FY08	1,122,098	12,661	11.3	5,406	4.8
FY09	1,147,318	12,845	11.2	5,499	4.8
FY10	1,166,079	14,986	12.9	6,633	5.7
FY11	1,165,812	15,081	12.9	6,819	5.8

**Abuse includes acts of physical violence, and/or sexual violence, and/or emotional abuse, and/or neglect*

*** Reports represent # incidents of abuse; 1 or more reports may be submitted on a single victim.*



FY01-11 CAN Met Criteria Reports

<u>Year</u>	<u>Incidents</u>	<u>Victims</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Incidents Per 1000 Children</u>	<u>Victims Per 1000 Children</u>
FY01	7,612	6,496	1,127,492	6.8	5.8
FY02	7,556	6,596	1,145,001	6.6	5.8
FY03	7,463	6,538	1,149,764	6.5	5.7
FY04	7,881	7,152	1,120,590	7.0	6.4
FY05	6,178	5,555	1,104,716	5.6	5.0
FY06	5,603	5,009	1,103,362	5.1	4.5
FY07	5,434	4,951	1,103,270	4.9	4.5
FY08	5,406	4,857	1,122,098	4.8	4.3
FY09	5,499	4,944	1,147,318	4.8	4.3
FY10	6,633	5,560	1,166,079	5.7	4.7
FY11	6,819	5,994	1,165,812	5.8	5.1



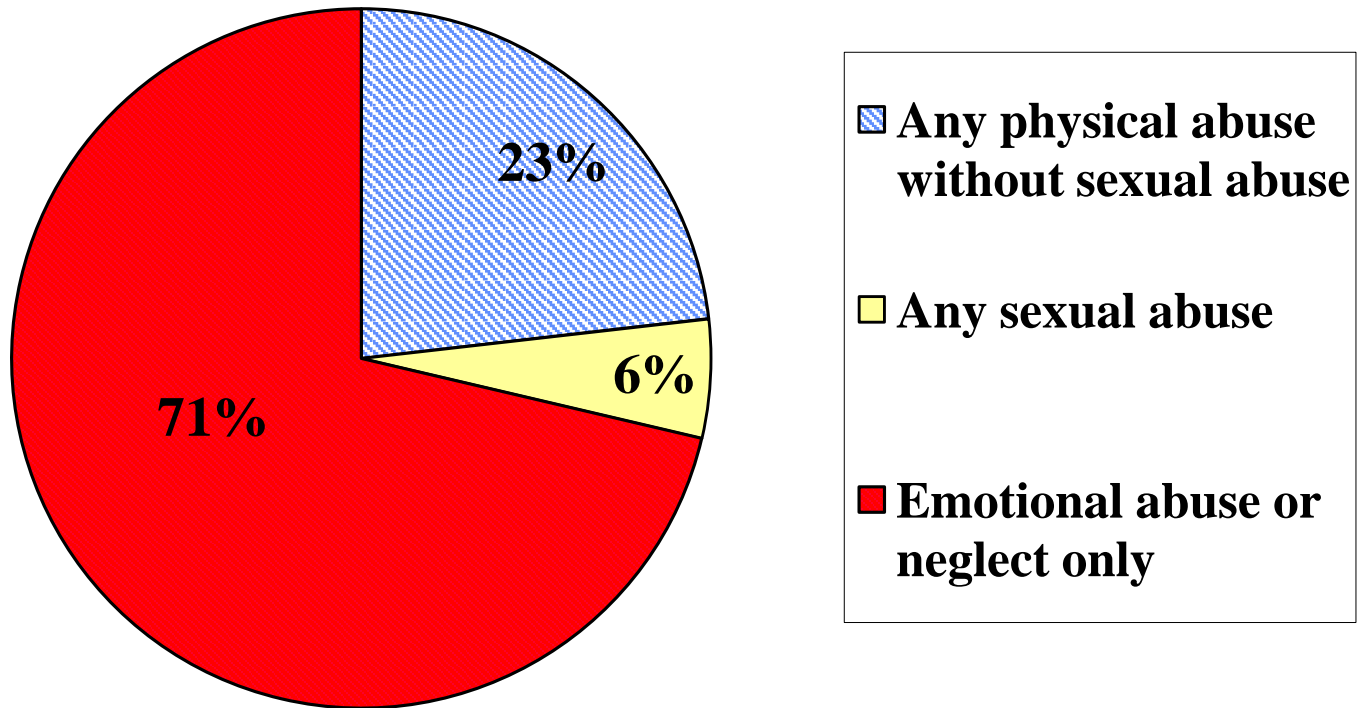
FY11 CAN Fatalities Reported to FAP

- **33 Fatalities**
 - **10 Child Victims Previously Reported to FAP**
 - **12 Alleged Abusers Previously Reported to FAP**
- **Sex & Status of Alleged Abusers**
 - **Male 55%**
 - **Active Duty 61%**
- **Age of Victims**
 - **Age Range <1-16 yrs**
 - **Mean Age 2.5 yrs**
 - **Median Age 1 yr**
 - **Under One Year 15**

(Fatality reviews to be conducted in FY13)



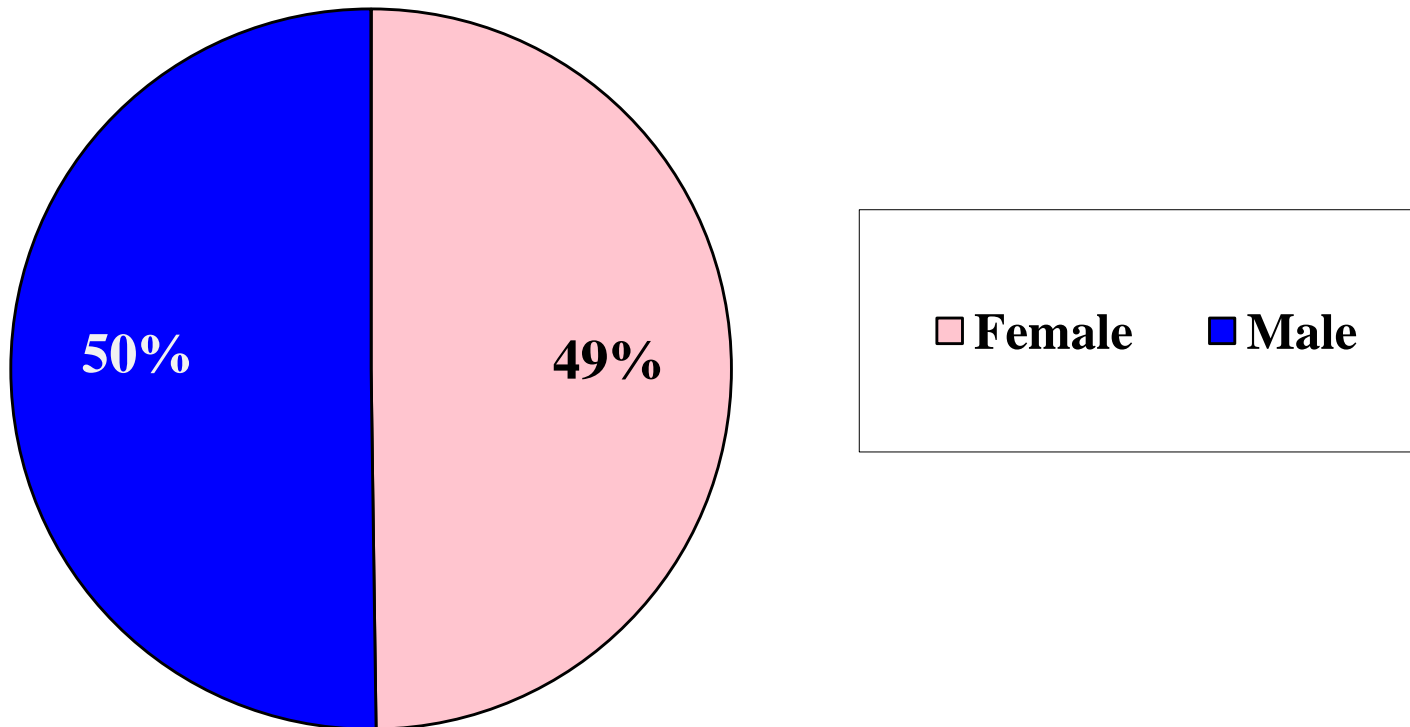
Type of CAN in Met Criteria Incidents



FY11 FAP Data



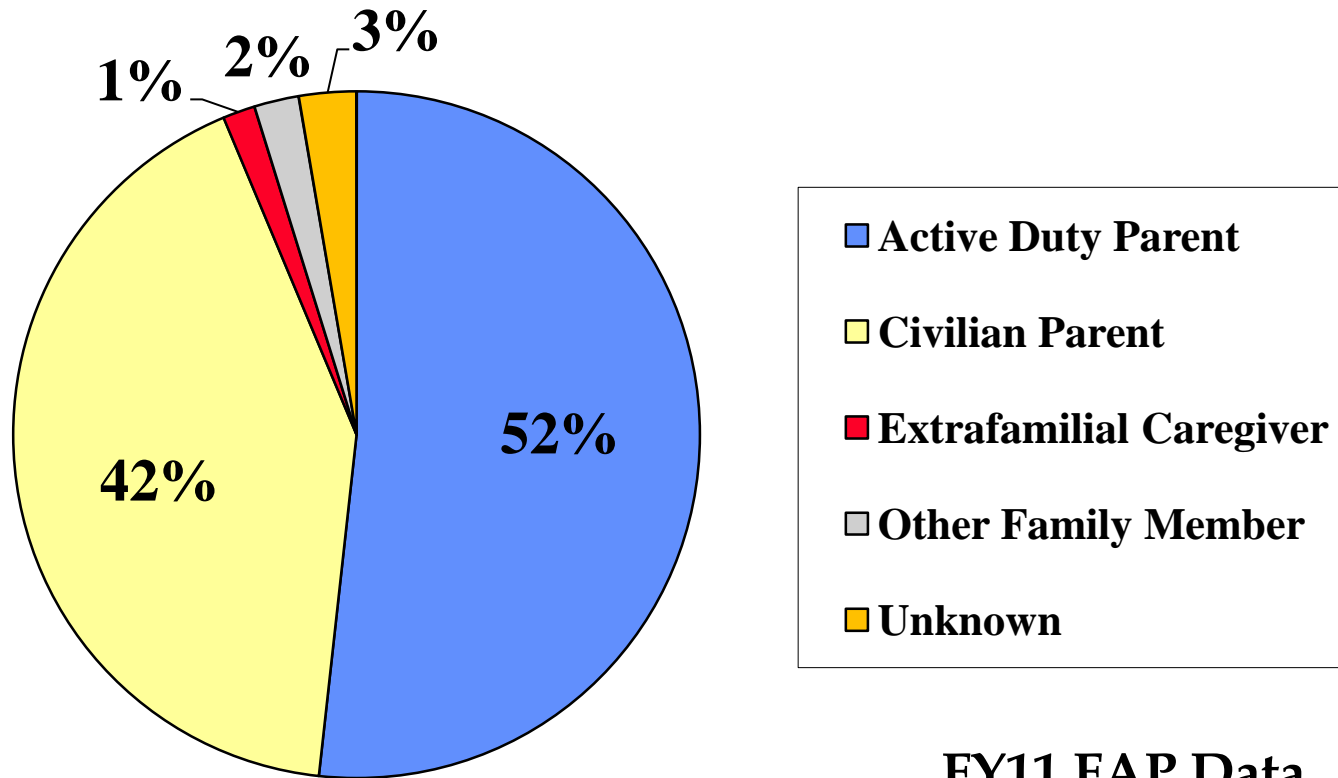
Sex of CAN Victim in Met Criteria Incidents



FY11 FAP Data



Status of Alleged Child Abuser in Met Criteria CAN Incidents



FY11 FAP Data

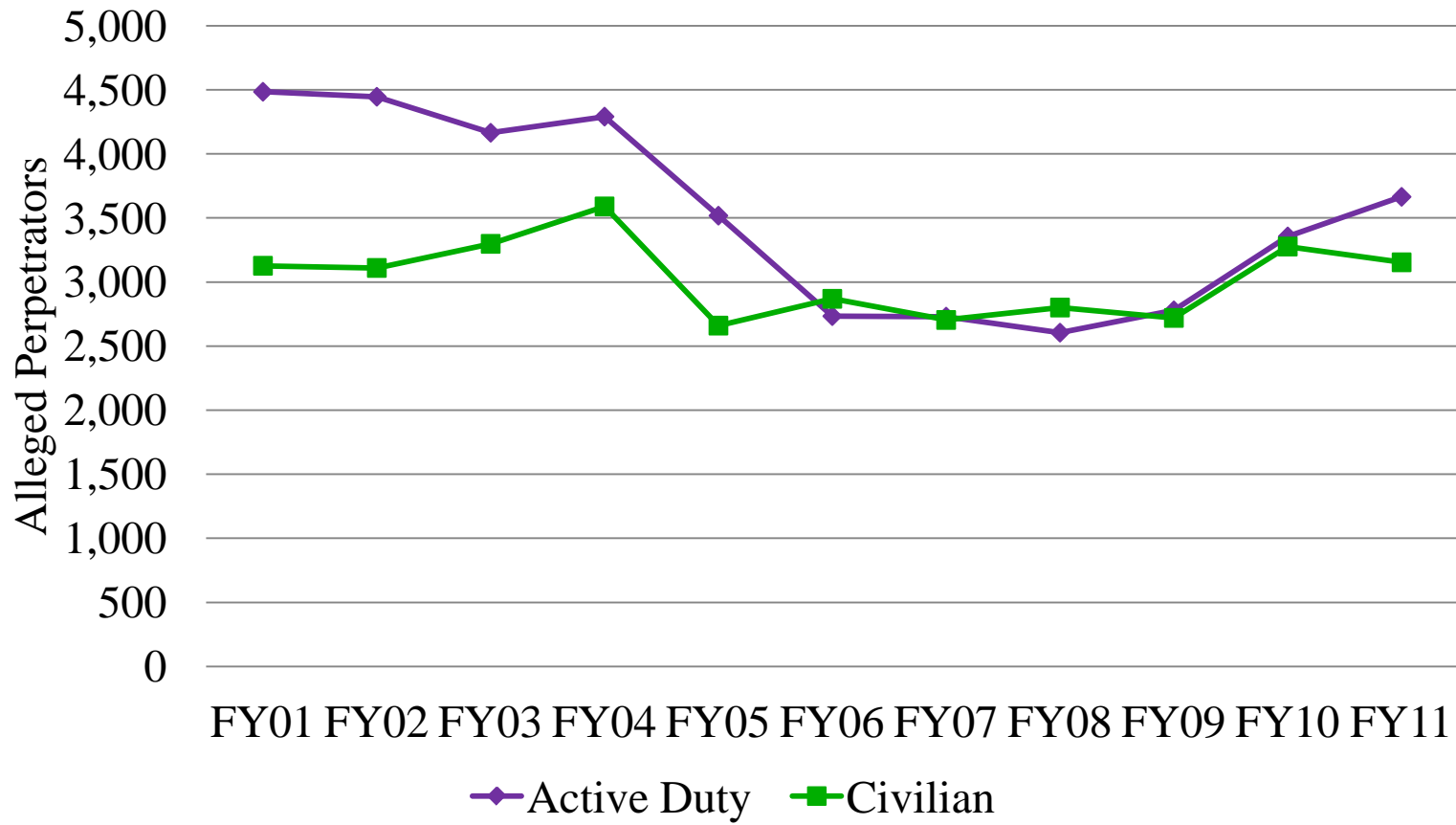


Status of Alleged Child Abuser

Status	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
Civ	3,127	3,110	3,298	3,590	2,660	2,869	2,704	2,801	2,720	3,277	3,154
E1-3	868	882	792	854	650	448	551	561	547	631	687
E4-6	3,050	3,004	2,883	2,951	2,456	1,932	1,868	1,770	1,859	2,319	2,545
E7-9	367	396	329	297	250	202	212	171	217	219	259
O1-3	95	64	63	103	69	67	51	40	41	57	57
O4-10	93	85	64	44	47	46	24	29	33	57	52
WO 1-5	10	14	25	8	23	30	12	17	28	19	24
Unk	2	1	9	34	23	9	12	17	54	54	41
Total	7,612	7,556	7,463	7,881	6,178	5,603	5,434	5,406	5,499	6,633	6,819

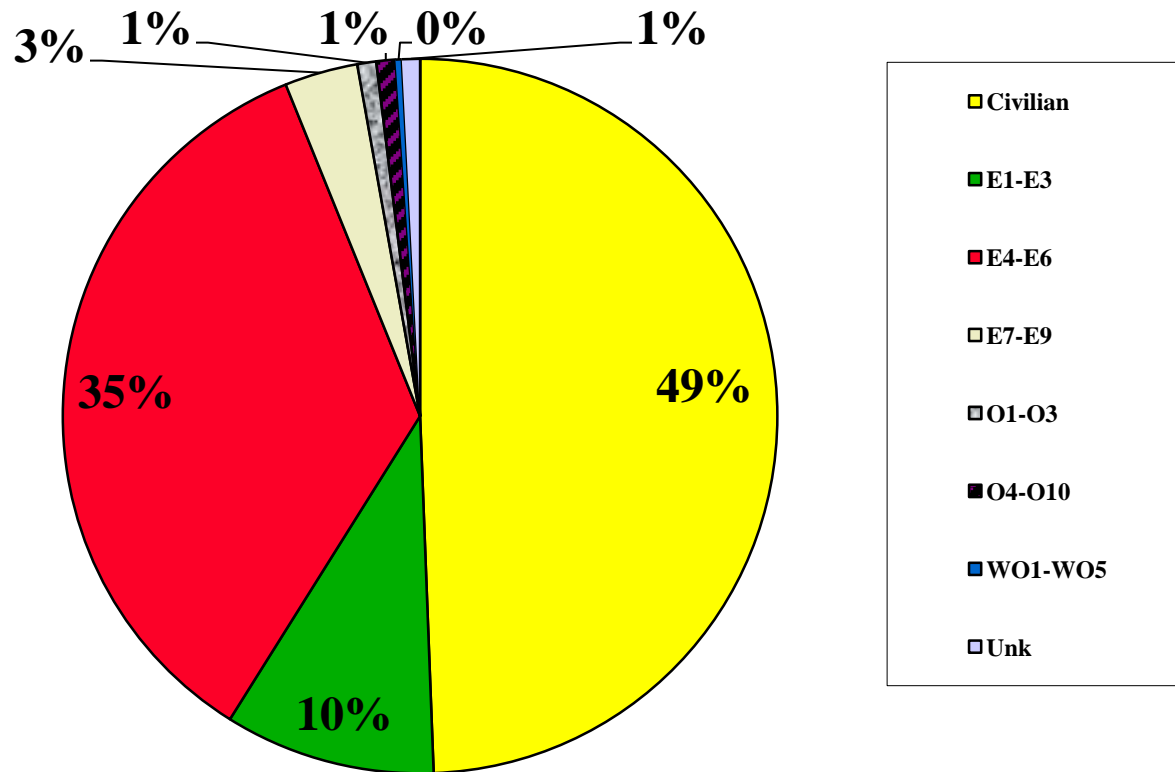


Status of Person Alleged to Have Abused/Neglected Child in Met Criteria Reports



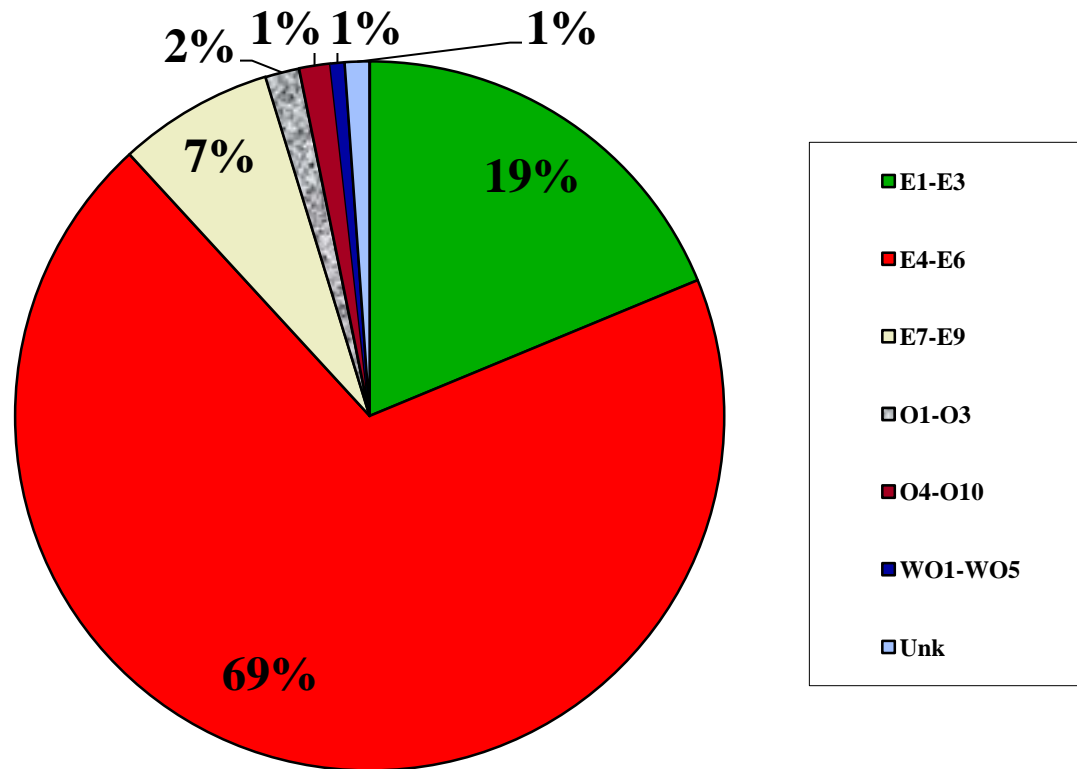


FY11 Met Criteria CAN Incidents Alleged Abuser by Status & Pay Grade





FY11 Met Criteria CAN Incidents by Alleged Active Component Abuser Pay Grade



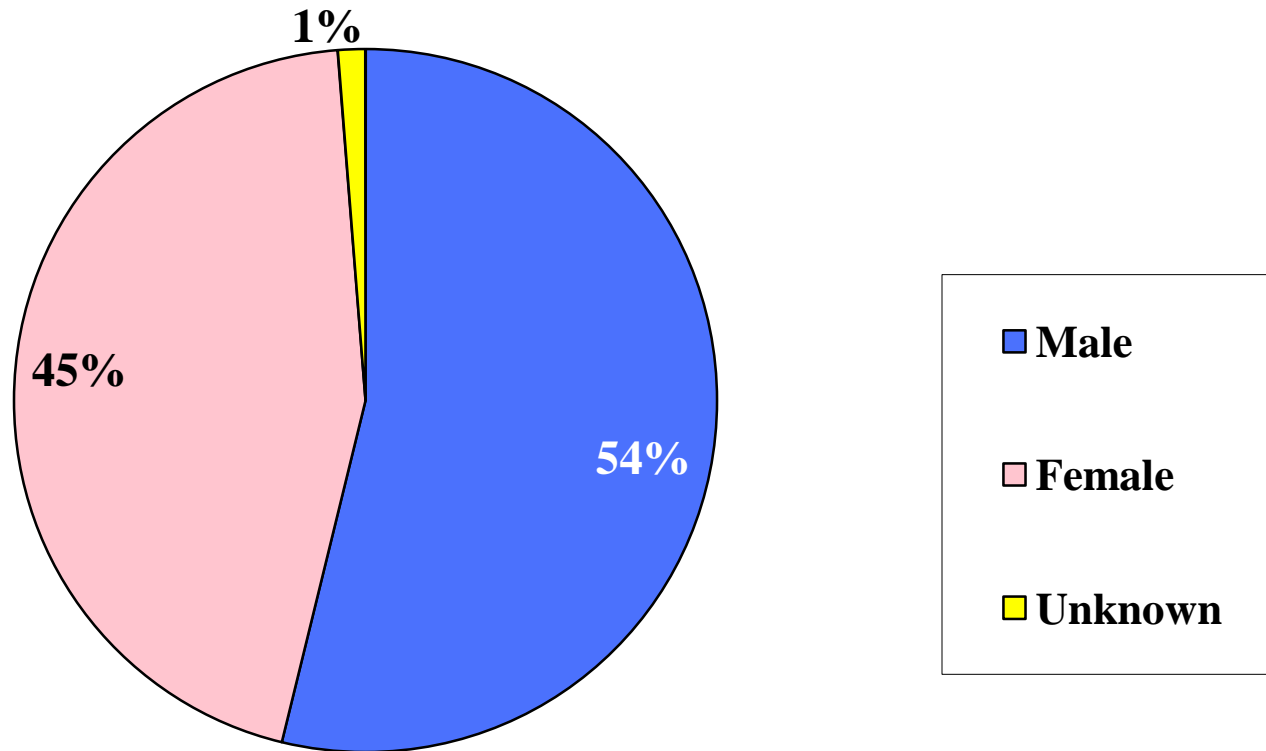


Sex of Alleged Child Abuser in Met Criteria Incidents

Year	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
FY01	4,516	2,871	225	7,612
FY02	4,373	2,951	232	7,556
FY03	4,112	3,130	221	7,463
FY04	4,220	3,423	238	7,881
FY05	3,418	2,611	149	6,178
FY06	2,910	2,573	120	5,603
FY07	2,850	2,520	64	5,434
FY08	2,753	2,585	68	5,406
FY09	2,907	2,499	93	5,499
FY10	3,458	3,038	137	6,633
FY11	3,671	3,062	86	6,819



Sex of Alleged Child Abuser in FY11 Met Criteria Incidents



FY11 FAP Data



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

DOMESTIC ABUSE (DA) DATA

FY11 Report



*FY01-11 Spouse Abuse**

Year	Couples Population	Total		Met Criteria	
		Reports**	Rate/1000	Reports**	Rate/1000
FY01	664,701	18,398	27.7	10,967	16.5
FY02	682,656	17,909	26.2	10,546	15.4
FY03	694,527	17,072	24.6	9,845	14.2
FY04	698,160	16,392	23.5	9,434	13.5
FY05	702,727	15,894	22.6	8,306	11.8
FY06	707,895	15,399	21.7	7,586	10.7
FY07	708,178	15,260	21.5	7,257	10.2
FY08	718,526	15,939	22.2	6,767	9.4
FY09	738,067	18,208	24.7	7,476	10.1
FY10	751,758	18,785	25.0	8,411	11.2
FY11	753,110	19,277	25.6	8,386	11.1

**Abuse includes acts of physical violence, and/or sexual violence, and/or emotional abuse, and/or neglect*

***Reports represent # incidents of abuse; 1 or more reports may be submitted on a single victim.*



Former Spouse/Intimate Partner

Year	Unmarried Population	Met Criteria Reports	Met Criteria Rate/1,000
FY06	617,848	304	0.5
FY07	611,316	602	1.0
FY08	622,858	619	0.9
FY09	620,542	747	1.2
FY10	618,549	721	1.2
FY11	612,358	867	1.4

In FY 06 an additional category was added to capture met criteria incidents involving a (1) former spouse, a person (2) with whom the victim shares a child in common or (3) is a current or former intimate partner with whom the victim shares or has shared a common domicile.



Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Reports FY01-11

<u>Year</u>	<u>Incidents</u>	<u>Victims</u>	<u>Couples</u>	<u>Incidents Per 1000 Couples</u>	<u>Victims Per 1000 Couples</u>
FY01	10,967	9,351	664,701	16.5	14.1
FY02	10,546	9,159	682,656	15.4	13.4
FY03	9,845	8,610	694,527	14.2	12.3
FY04	9,434	8,467	698,160	13.5	12.1
FY05	8,306	7,538	702,727	11.8	10.7
FY06	7,586	7,047	707,895	10.7	9.9
FY07	7,257	6,707	708,178	10.2	9.5
FY08	6,767	6,299	718,526	9.4	8.7
FY09	7,467	6,834	738,067	10.1	9.3
FY10	8,411	7,618	751,758	11.2	10.1
FY11	8,386	7,485	753,110	11.1	9.9



Domestic Abuse Fatalities Reported to FAP FY11

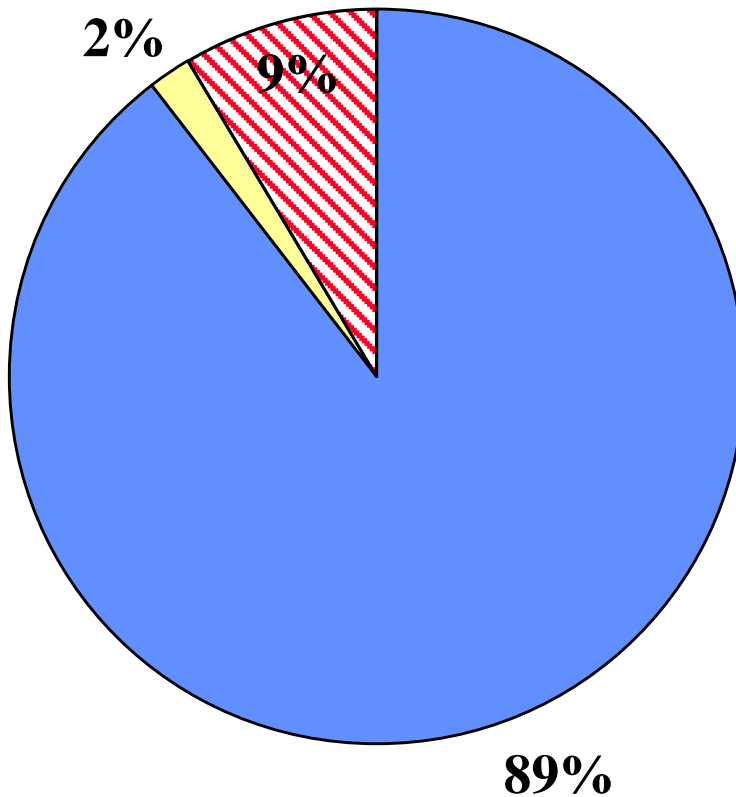
- **18 Fatalities**
 - **7 Victims Previously Reported to FAP**
 - **7 Alleged Abusers Previously Reported to FAP**

- **Sex & Status of Alleged Abusers**
 - **Male** **67%**
 - **Active Duty** **56%**

(Fatality reviews to be conducted in FY 13)



Type of Spouse Abuse in Met Criteria Incidents

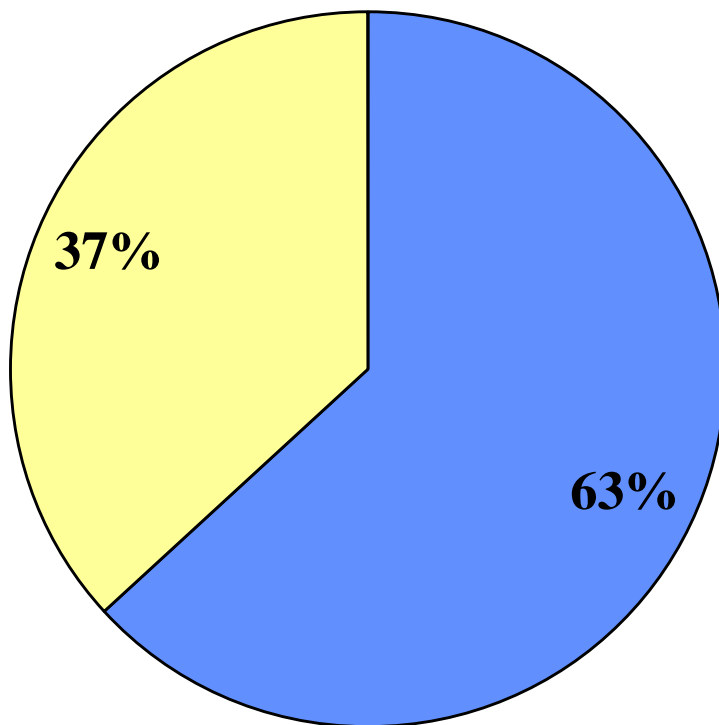


- Any physical abuse without sexual abuse
- Any sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse or neglect only

FY11 FAP Data



Status of Alleged Spouse Abuser in Met Criteria Incidents



■ Active Duty
■ Non Active Duty

FY11 FAP Data

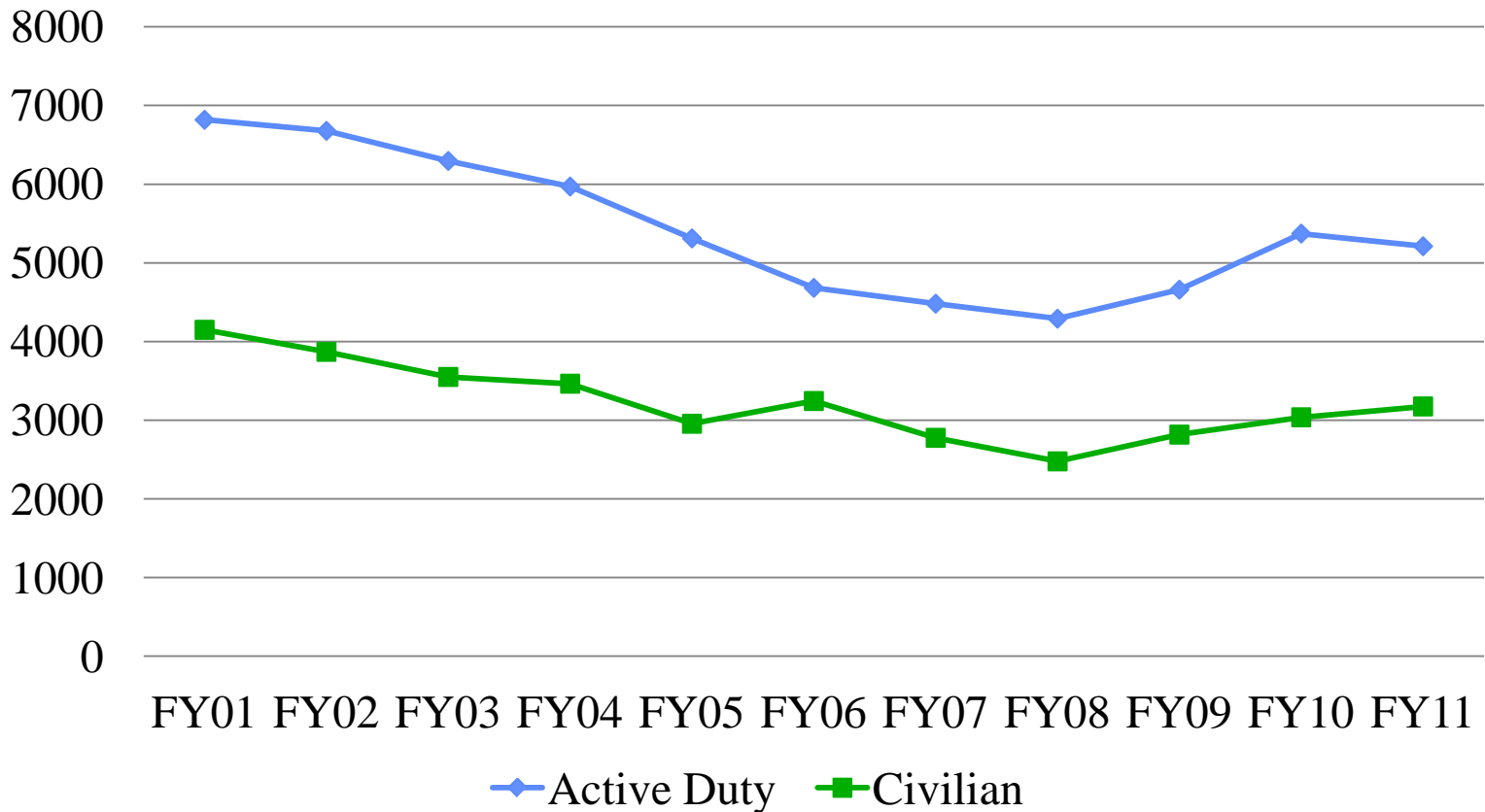


Status of Alleged Spouse Abuser in Met Criteria Incidents

Status	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
Civ	4,149	3,869	3,550	3,464	2,995	3,244	2,776	2,477	2,817	3,037	3,175
E1-3	1,987	2,106	1,948	1,768	1,516	1,253	1,318	1,335	1,415	1,645	1,439
E4-6	4,293	4,069	3,889	3,769	3,371	3,016	2,808	2,614	2,798	3,248	3,290
E7-9	355	335	301	283	252	244	203	201	239	278	243
O1-3	104	98	94	84	103	82	83	56	63	87	88
O4-10	57	52	42	38	43	48	37	30	38	58	55
WO 1-5	19	14	20	18	18	17	16	23	27	18	27
Unk	3	3	1	10	8	22	16	31	79	40	69
Total	10,967	10,546	9,845	9,434	8,306	7,926	7,257	6,767	7,476	8,411	8,386

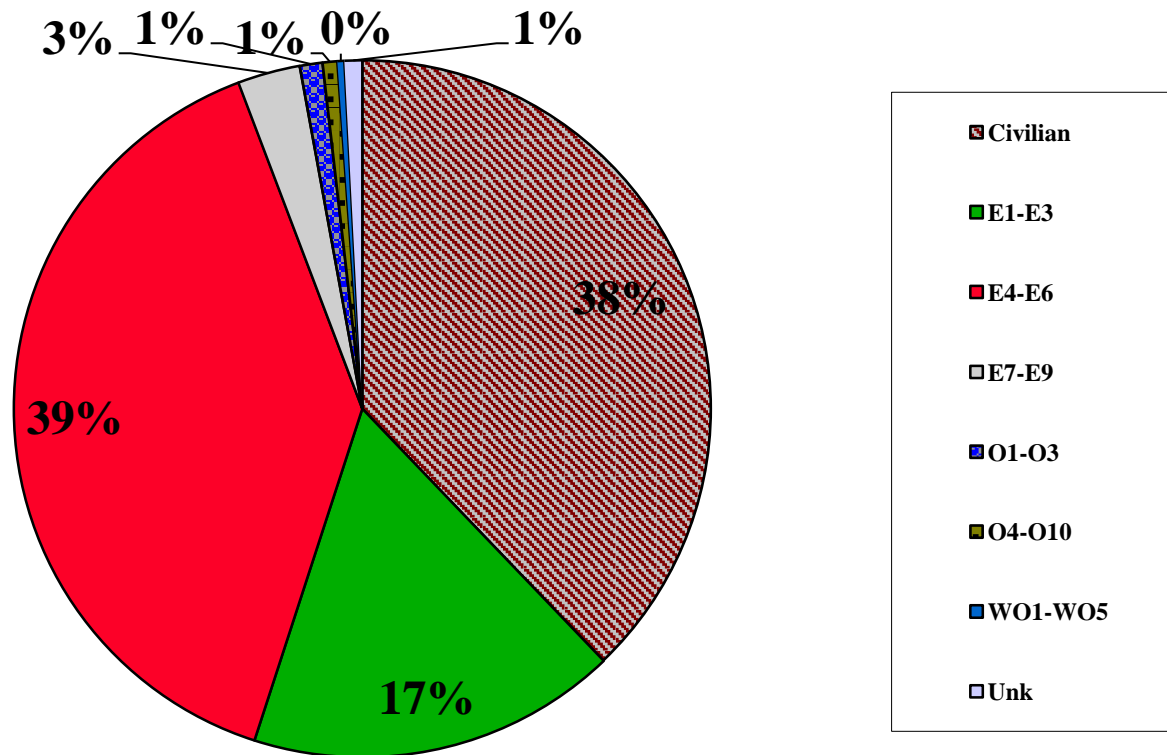


Status of Alleged Spouse Abuser in Met Criteria Incidents



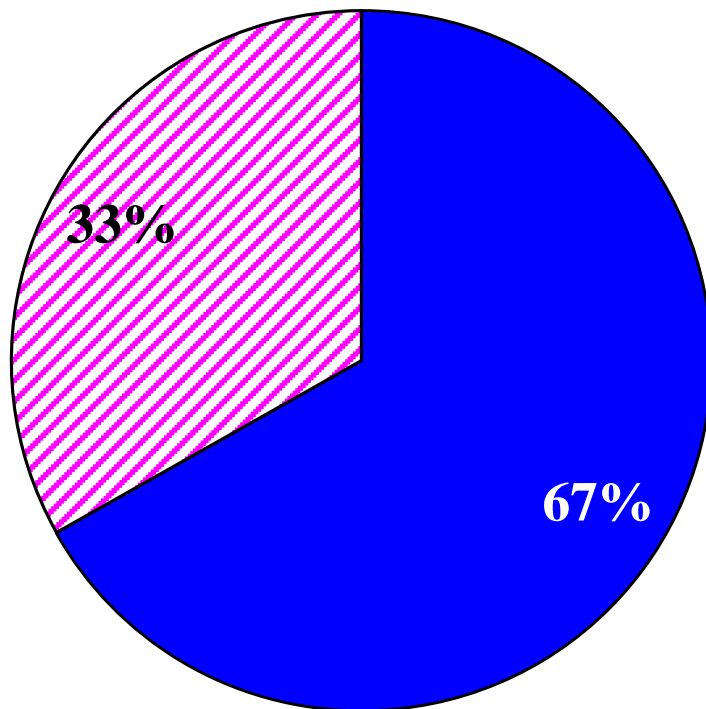


Met Criteria Spouse Abuse Incidents by Status and Pay Grade FY11





Sex of Alleged Spouse Abuser in Met Criteria Incidents

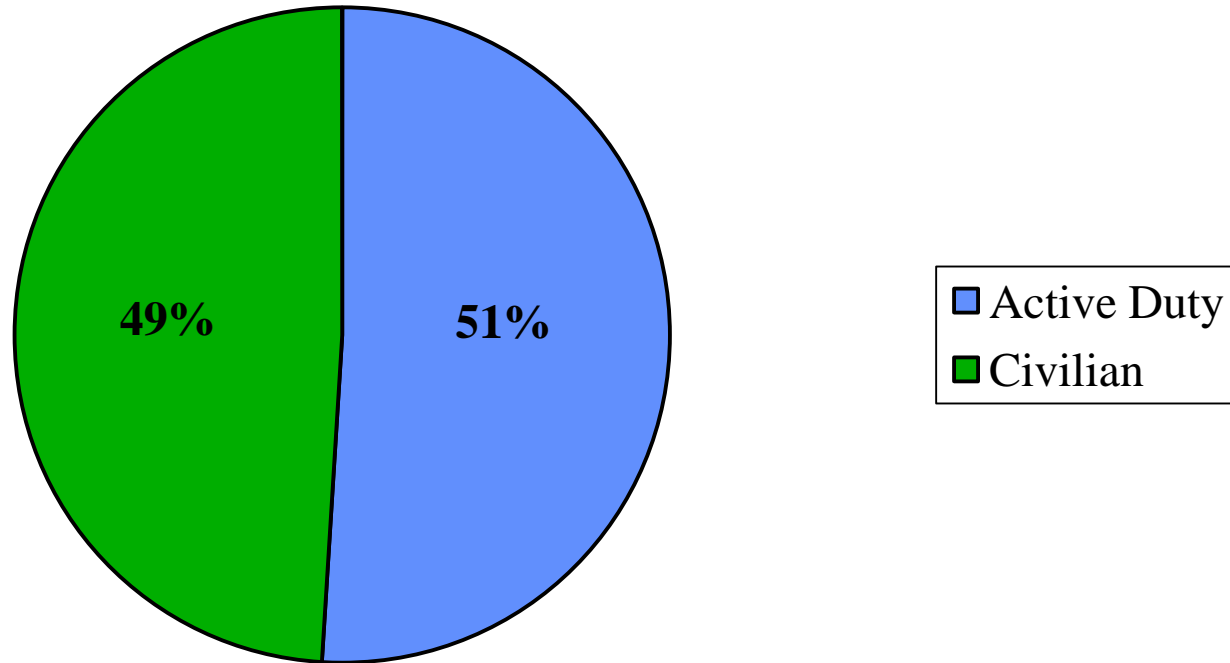


■ Male ■ Female

FY11 FAP Data



Status of Spouse Abuse Victim in Met Criteria Incidents



FY11 FAP Data

KEY FINDINGS OF FY11 FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM (FAP)
DATA ON SPOUSE AND CHILD ABUSE

1. Spouse Abuse:

- Reports of suspected spouse abuse to the FAP increased 2.6 percent from FY10 and 4.8 percent since FY01. The rate of reported spouse abuse per 1,000 couples increased 2.4 percent from FY10 but declined 7.6 percent since FY01. The increase in reports could indicate the effectiveness of military public awareness campaigns and early intervention programs, a willingness of victims to report abuse, the ongoing impact of deployment cycles on military personnel or some combination of these and other factors.
- Spouse abuse reports that met FAP criteria fell slightly by less than 1 percent from FY10 and have declined 23.5 percent since FY01. The rate of incidents that met FAP criteria per 1,000 couples also fell less than 1 percent from FY10, but have declined 32.7 percent since FY01.
- There were 18 domestic abuse fatalities reported to the FAP in FY11. Seven victims and seven alleged abusers were previously known to the FAP. In the domestic abuse fatalities, 67 percent of the alleged abusers were male and 56 percent were on active duty.
- In FY11, alleged abusers who are on active duty in incidents that met FAP criteria represented 62 percent of all alleged abusers in incidents that met FAP criteria.
- Of the active duty alleged abusers in incidents that met FAP criteria, 63 percent are in the E4-6 pay grades. The E4-5 pay grades account for over half, 54 percent, of all alleged abusers.
- In FY11, 49 percent of the victims in incidents that met FAP criteria were not on active duty. Of all adult spouse abuse victims in incidents that met FAP criteria, 46 percent were between the ages of 18 and 24, and 42 percent were between the ages of 25 and 35.

2. Child Abuse:

- Reports of suspected child abuse and/or neglect to the FAP increased less than 1 percent from FY10 and reflect a decrease of 5 percent from FY01. The rate of reported child abuse/neglect per 1,000 children remained stable at 12.9 percent, but indicates a decrease of 8.5 percent from FY01. The cause of this overall decline from FY01 could indicate the effectiveness of prevention programs, the result of family members returning to the home of record during the service member's deployment,

the ongoing impact of deployment cycles on military families, or some combination of these factors.

- The number of incidents of child abuse/neglect that met FAP criteria increased 2.6 percent from FY10, but reflect a decrease of 10 percent since FY01. The rate of incidents that met FAP criteria per 1,000 children increased by 1.7 from FY10, but is down by 15 percent from FY01.
- The slight increase in FY11 reports and incidents that met FAP criteria are evenly divided between child neglect and child physical abuse. There are several possible explanations for these increases. First, they may reflect the cumulative effects of nine years of high rates of deployment cycles on military families' capacity to sustain coping strategies. Or the increase in incidents that met FAP criteria may reflect the impact of rolling out the new FAP incident determination algorithm across more installations. Allegations of child abuse and neglect incidents that may have been diverted from FAP or unsubstantiated using previous criteria are now classified as meeting FAP criteria.
- There were 33 child abuse-related fatalities reported to FAP in FY11. Ten victims and twelve abusers were previously known to the FAP. In the child fatality reports 55 percent of the alleged abusers were male and 61 percent were active duty.
- In FY11, the percentage of active duty alleged abusers in incidents that met FAP criteria has remained relatively stable at 54 percent of all alleged abusers. The largest cluster is in the E4-6 pay grades. This cluster comprises 69.7 percent of all active duty alleged abusers. Within the E4-6 cluster, E4-5 pay grades account for the majority, 56.7 percent, of all active duty alleged abusers.
- In FY11, 53.8 percent of the alleged abusers in incidents that met FAP criteria were male. This ratio of male to female alleged abusers in incidents that met FAP criteria has remained relatively consistent since FY01.

PREPARED BY: Ms. Mary E. Campise, Family Advocacy Program, 571-372-5346

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM
FY11 DOMESTIC ABUSE DATA

Q: How does the Department of Defense define “domestic violence?”

The Department of Defense distinguishes between the terms “domestic abuse” and “domestic violence.” Domestic abuse includes domestic violence:

Domestic abuse is (1) domestic violence or (2) a pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty that is directed toward a person who is:

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

Domestic violence is any offense under the United States Code, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or State law involving the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against a person, or a violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person who is:

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

Q: How much domestic violence occurs that involves Service members?

A: DoD counts incidents of domestic violence that are reported to the Defense Incident-Based Reporting System (DIBRS), using offense codes for murder, manslaughter, maiming, various types of assault, sexual assault, and property damage or destruction and a choice of relationship codes between the alleged offender and the victim (spouse, common law spouse, former spouse, love interest). This domestic violence data must be obtained from DIBRS.

Q: How does the Department of Defense count domestic abuse incidents?

A: DoD does not know how many incidents go unreported, but counts each incident of suspected domestic abuse that is reported to the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) at each installation for clinical assessment and social services. With an incident-based system, we can calculate how many repeated incidents of domestic abuse are reported on the same victims. In many cases the incident was first reported to a civilian law enforcement agency or a civilian domestic violence program and was then reported to FAP; the incident may or may not be recorded in DIBRS. However, the FAP data excludes incidents that occur in Reserve component families (Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Air Force Reserve) because usually they are in the civilian community.

Q: What types of domestic abuse are included in this FAP domestic abuse data?

A: The data includes physical abuse, including acts of physical abuse in which no injury resulted but there was a reasonable potential for injury, and sexual abuse. It also includes emotional abuse and neglect of a spouse.

Q: Are all the alleged abuser active duty Service members in the FAP data?

A: No, only (62%) are. The alleged abuser may be an active duty Service member or the intimate partner or civilian spouse of an active duty Service member.

Q: Are all the victims civilian spouses in the FAP data?

A: No, only slightly less than half (44%) are. The victim may be an active duty Service member or the intimate partner or civilian spouse of an active duty Service member.

Q: How does the FAP data compare to data of domestic violence from studies of civilians?

A: Generally, the DoD FAP data should not be compared to data from studies of civilians because there are significant differences in the designs of the studies. Here are three examples:

- The FAP definition of domestic abuse usually differs from the definition of domestic violence used in the civilian studies.
- The DoD FAP data includes incidents of emotional abuse that occurred without any physical or sexual abuse, while most civilian studies include only physical or sexual abuse.
- The DoD demographics are usually much different from the demographics of the civilian studies. Family violence occurs more frequently in young couples, which are overrepresented in the military population.
- Comparisons should not be made unless the study designs and populations are standardized.

Q: The number of met criteria incidents of spouse abuse in the FY11 FAP data decreased only slightly by less than 1% percent from FY10. Does this mean that spouse abuse is remaining relatively constant due to ongoing military operations and deployments?

A. We do not know if this data reflects ongoing adjustment reactions following return from military operations or to other factors, such as marital stress resulting from financial problems associated with the economy, continued public awareness activities encourage reporting, effectiveness of our prevention programs, or to some combination of one or more of these. We are monitoring this data closely. We will need several more years of data to see whether the

general decline in the rate per thousand from FY01 in met criteria incidents of spouse abuse (by 32.7 percent) will continue or is holding steady.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM
FY11 CHILD ABUSE DATA

Q: How much child abuse and neglect occurs in military families?

A: The Department of Defense keeps track of how many incidents of child abuse and neglect are reported to the Family Advocacy Program. We do not know how many abuse and neglect incidents go unreported. We do not know how many incidents occur in Reserve component families (Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Air Force Reserve) because they usually are in the civilian community.

Q: How does the Family Advocacy Program keep track of reported incidents?

A: When a report of child abuse or neglect is received at an installation, the caseworker collects information about the incident and inputs it into the Service's automated case management system.

Q: How does the Department of Defense count child abuse and neglect incidents?

A: Since 1997, we have counted incidents of suspected child abuse and neglect that have been reported to the Family Advocacy Program at each installation. Prior to 1997, we counted cases of suspected abuse and neglect reported to the installations' Family Advocacy Programs. Each case could have included more than one incident of suspected abuse or neglect. With an incident-based system DoD can calculate how many children within military families experience repeated abuse and/or neglect.

Q: What types of child abuse and neglect are included in this data?

A: The data includes physical and sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and the neglect of health and educational needs.

Q: Are all the child abusers Service members?

A: No, only approximately half are Service members. The alleged abuser may be a civilian parent; an employee, contractor, or volunteer in a DoD activity such as the DoD schools, youth programs, and childcare; or other caregiver. (This combination of intrafamily and external abusers is also included in the child abuse data collected by the states and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.) However, almost all of the alleged abusers are family members of the child.

Q: How does the DoD child abuse and neglect data compare to civilian studies?

A: The DoD rates of child abuse and neglect have remained relatively constant and are approximately half of their counterpart rates in the U.S. civilian population, as compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This may be explained in part by the strong support military families receive and the success of prevention efforts sponsored by the FAP and other military family support programs. We think that one incident of child abuse or neglect is one too many; but we have less than one substantiated victim out of every 100 children.

Q. The number of met criteria incidents of child abuse and neglect reported to the FAP increased 2.7 percent from FY10. Does this change mean that child abuse and neglect are increasing due to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

A. We continue to monitor this data closely. Although there were 186 more met criteria incidents in FY11, the rate per thousand children increased only slightly from 5.7 in FY10 to 5.8 in FY11 but the rate reflects a decrease by 15 percent from FY01. The slight increase was evenly divided between child neglect and child physical abuse. There are several possible explanations for these increases. First, they may reflect the cumulative effects of nine years of high rates of deployment cycles on military families' capacity to sustain coping strategies. Or the increase in incidents that met FAP criteria may reflect the impact of rolling out the new FAP incident determination algorithm across more installations. Allegations of child abuse and neglect that may have been diverted from FAP or unsubstantiated using previous criteria are now classified as meeting FAP criteria.

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