

# Overview of Sexual Assault Victimization Data

Presentation to the Response Systems to  
Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel

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# National Data Sources for Studying Sexual Assault

- ▶ Two National Sources of Civilian Crime Data
  - Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR)
    - Based on crimes reported to police
  - National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
    - Based on survey responses from victims

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  - National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
    - Based on survey responses from victims
  
- ▶ Comparable Military Sources
  - DoD Sexual Assault Data
    - Based on restricted and unrestricted reports to DoD
  - Workplace and Gender Relations Survey & CDC National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) Military Sample
    - Based on survey responses from victims

# Comparison of NCVS & WGRA – Survey Design

	NCVS	WGRA
Scope	“sexual violence”: completed, attempted, threatened rape and sexual assault	“unwanted sexual contact”: nonconsensual sexual touching, completed or attempted sexual intercourse, completed or attempted oral/anal sex or penetration with finger or object
Mode	In-person and telephone	Web-based
Sample size	Over 145,000 individuals age 12 or older (87.5% response rate)	108,000 Active Duty personnel (24% response rate)
Reference period	6 months	12 months
Context	Crime survey	Workplace survey
Identification/ classification	Screeners responses vetted by incident report, details collected for each reported victimization	One step where incidents screened and classified, details collected about one event with “greatest effect”

# Brief NCVS Description

NCVS = Nationally representative omnibus crime survey covering non-fatal violent crimes (completed/attempted/threatened rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault and simple assault) and property crimes (completed/attempted burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft).

Based on a sample of households (approximately 82,000)

Asks each household member over the age of 12 about his/her own victimization experiences over the past 6 months

Uses a two-step interview process: screening questions and follow up incident questions for each victimization reported.

Provides national level and change estimates and is the primary source of details about victims, unreported crimes and incident characteristics.

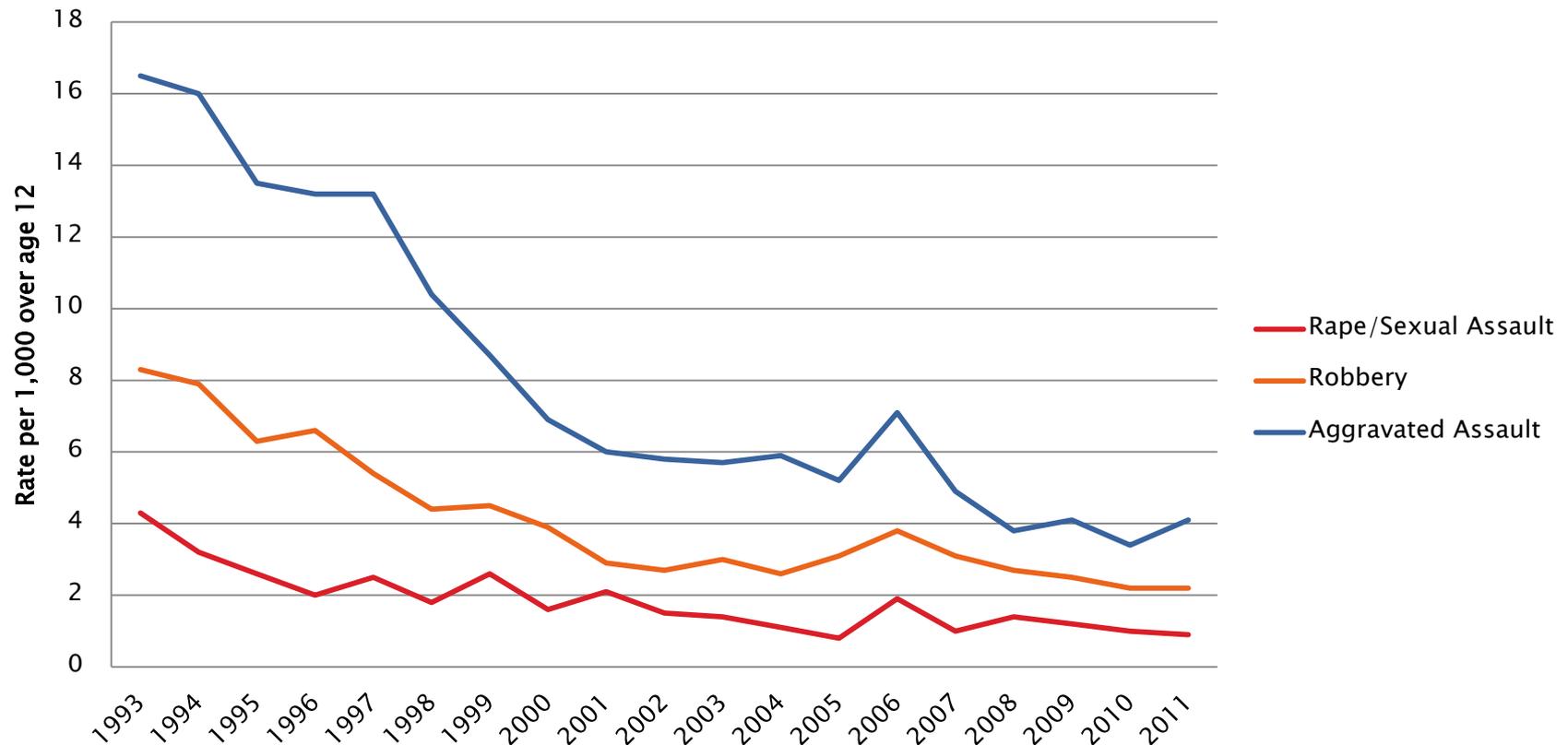


# Initial Comments about Data Presentation

- ▶ NCVS data include all ages (12 and older).
- ▶ NCVS utilizes a large sample, but rape and sexual assault are fairly rare events.
  - Victim demographics/incident characteristics only reported for female victims and require combining multiple years of data.
- ▶ NCVS findings are largely from the BJS Report: Female Victims of Sexual Violence, 1994–2010.
- ▶ All WGRA data are from the Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military: Fiscal Year 2012.

# NCVS Serious Violent Crime Rates

## Serious Violent Crime Rate Trends, 1993–2011



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Graph generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).

# Civilian and Military Victimization Trends

## ▶ Civilian–NCVS

- Total rate of sexual violence (rape & sexual assault) for females dropped 64% between 1995 and 2005
  - 5.0 to 1.8 per 1,000 females over age 12
- Rate remained unchanged between 2005–2010
- In 2010, about 270,000 rapes/sexual assaults occurred as compared to 556,000 in 1995

## ▶ Military–WGRA

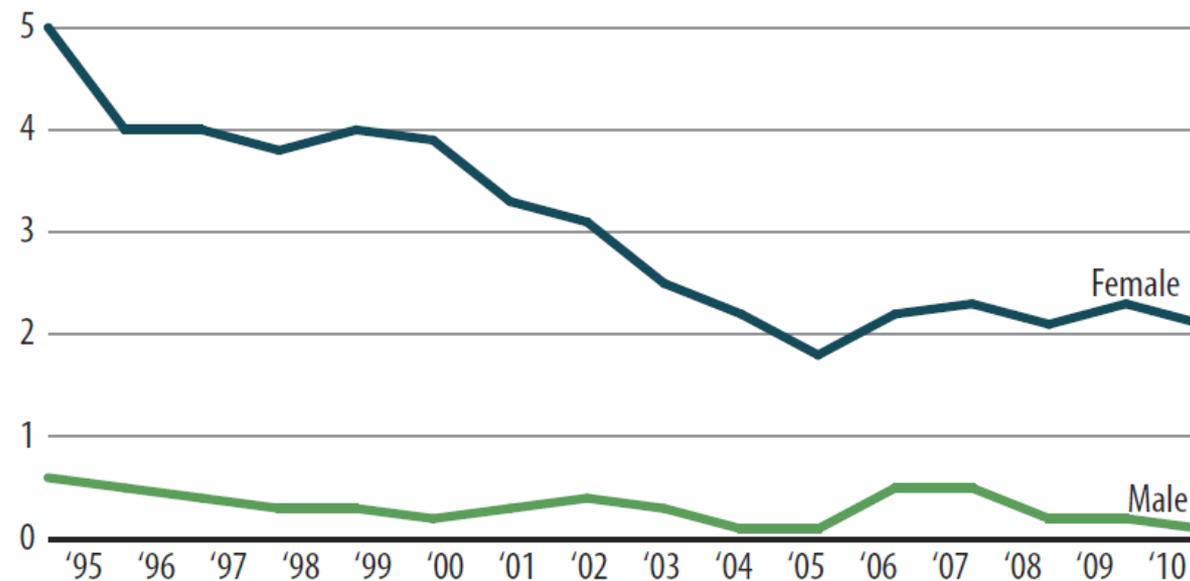
- 6.1% of Active Duty females experienced unwanted sexual contact in 2012
  - 4.4% in 2010 and 6.8% in 2006
- In 2012, about 26,000 Active Duty service members (male and female) experienced unwanted sexual contact
  - 19,300 in 2010 and 34,200 in 2006.

# NCVS: Male vs Female Victims of Sexual Violence

**FIGURE 2**

**Rape and sexual assault victimizations, by sex of victim, 1995–2010**

Rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older



Note: Estimates based on 2-year rolling averages centered on the most recent year.  
See appendix table 4 for standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 1994–2010.

# NCVS: Victim and Offender Demographic Characteristics

- ▶ In 2005–10, females with highest rates of sexual violence include:
  - Those aged 34 or younger (4 per 1,000)
  - Those in households with incomes less than \$25,000 (3.5 per 1,000)
  - Those living in rural areas (3 per 1,000) victims of sexual violence
  - Few differences based on race/ethnicity
    - Hispanic females had lower rates than non-Hispanic black females (1.4 vs. 2.8 per 1,000)
- ▶ In 2005–10, offenders involved in sexual violence victimizations were
  - Age 30 or older (48%)
  - White (57%)

# Offender-Related Details

- ▶ Number of Offenders
    - 90% = one offender
  - ▶ Victim-offender relationship
    - 78% nonstranger (i.e., partner, relatives, friends)
    - 34% intimate partner
  - ▶ Use of alcohol/drugs
    - Only offender use
    - 39% believed offender drinking or on drugs
- ▶ Number of Offenders
    - 26% = multi-offender
  - ▶ Victim-offender relationship
    - 57% military co-worker
    - 7% intimate partner
  - ▶ Use of alcohol/drugs
    - Victim or offender use
    - 47% alcohol and 2% drugs

NCVS/Civilian (2005–2010)

WGRA/Military (2012)

# Location and Activity When Incident Occurred

## ▶ Location

- Home most common location
- 55% at/near victim's home (12% other home)

## ▶ Activities

- 48% reported sleeping or other activities at/around home
- 29% activity outside of home (shopping, errands, commuting, leisure)
- 12% working

## ▶ Location

- 67% occurred at a military installation

## ▶ Activity

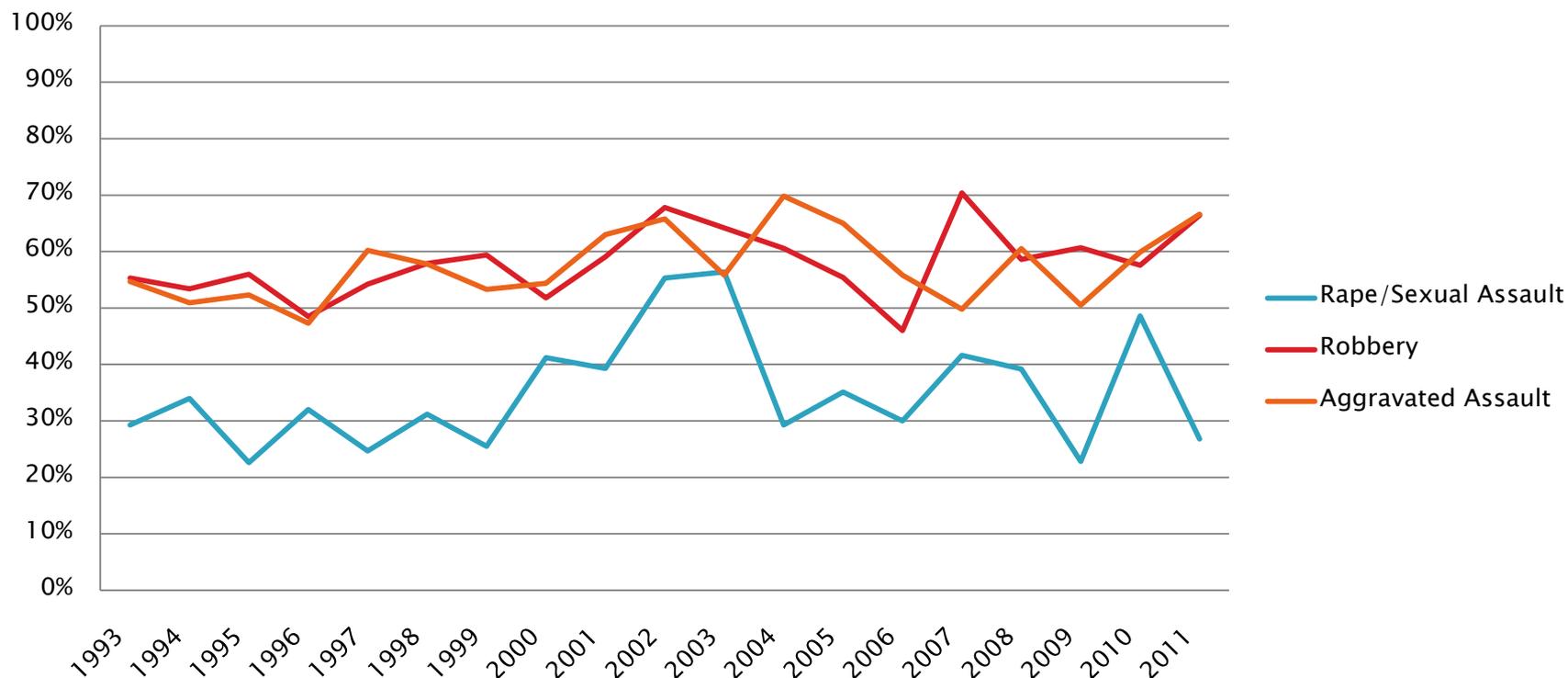
- 41% during work day or duty hours

NCVS/Civilian (2005–2010)

WGRA/Military (2012)

# NCVS: Reported to Police

## Percentage of Serious Violent Crimes Reported to Police, NCVS 1993–2011



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics. Graph generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool at [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).

# Patterns of Reporting

64% of sexual violence victimizations involving female victims (age 12 and older) were not reported to police

66% of female victims of any unwanted sexual contact indicated they did not report to any authority

- ▶ 17% reported to military authority only
- ▶ 16% reported to military and civilian authorities

NCVS/Civilian (2005–2010)

WGRA/Military (2012)

# Reasons Reported to Police or Military Authorities

Most important reason reported to police

- ▶ 28% – protect victim from future victimizations
- ▶ 25% – stop or prevent escalation of incident as occurring
- ▶ 21% – duty to tell police/because it was a crime

All reasons for reporting to military authority

- ▶ 72% – right thing to do
- ▶ 67% – seek closure on incident
- ▶ 67% – stop offender from hurting others
- ▶ 63% – stop offender from hurting them again

NCVS/Civilian (2005–2010)

WGRA/Military (2012)

# Reasons not Reported to Police or Military Authorities

Most important reason not reported to police

- ▶ 20% – feared reprisal
- ▶ 13% – personal matter
- ▶ 13% – police could not do anything to help

All reasons for not reporting to authorities

- ▶ 70% – did not want anyone to know
- ▶ 66% – felt uncomfortable making a report
- ▶ 51% – did not feel it would be kept confidential
- ▶ 50% – did not think anything could be done

NCVS/Civilian (2005–2010)

WGRA/Military (2012)

# Concluding Remarks

- ▶ Brief summary of data and comparisons
  - ▶ Requested comments about the WGRA Survey
    - Recommended additional analyses and ways to “exploit” data collected by current survey
    - Suggestions for future data collections
  - ▶ Opportunities for questions from panel
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