

MALE SURVIVORS | Basic

IMPORTANT! This video may trigger an emotional response in some viewers who may have experienced a sexual assault or know someone who has. Before playing this video, say the following:

- In this video, sexual assault survivors share their stories—circumstances, impacts, and response experiences vary.
- These individuals give us insight into several issues that survivors of sexual assault face.
- If at any point you need to step out of the room, please do so.

NOTE: Sample answers are provided below each question. Listen for these responses. These are not all encompassing; they are ideas to generate discussion. If participants offer these answers, make sure the class knows they are accurate. If attendees are not participating, you can share the sample answers.

PRE-VIDEO QUESTIONS:

1. How common do you think it is for men to become victims of sexual assault?

Listen for: (Responses will vary.)

Once participants have offered their opinions, share the following facts:

One in four women and one in six men will be sexually assaulted before the age of 18. In a 2014 study commissioned by DoD, approximately **9,600 female** service members and approximately **10,600 male** service members reported being a victim of sexual assault in the past year. Women are more likely to be victims of sexual assault, but because there are many more men in the Navy and Marine Corps than women, in absolute numbers there are more male victims.^{1,2}

2. Why do you think many male victims of sexual assault hesitate to report and/or seek help?

- Listen for:*
- Fear of judgment about their masculinity or ability to “fight off” their attacker.
 - Fear of judgment about their sexuality.
 - Widespread misperception that only women are victims of sexual assault.

POST-VIDEO QUESTIONS:

1. How can we establish a culture in which male victims feel more comfortable seeking help and/or reporting?

- Listen for:*
- Stop the perpetuation of harmful myths—like the idea that males can’t be victims of sexual assault, or that men who are sexually assaulted are weak, gay, or otherwise did something to deserve it.
 - When a male victim comes forward, support him; stop gossip and maltreatment, and don’t participate.
 - Talk about it; normalize it.

2. Per the DoD definition of sexual assault, certain forms of hazing and “locker-room behavior” qualify as sexual assault. What can we do to prevent this?

- Listen for:*
- Educate that sexual assault is any unwanted intentional sexual contact, to include things that might be overlooked as “just locker-room behavior,” such as credit card swiping, tea bagging, etc.
 - Intervene to stop all inappropriate behavior—even the “small stuff”—before it escalates.

3. The survivors in the video stressed the importance of seeking help. What confidential resources are available to help all Sailor and Marine survivors—male and female—of sexual assault?

- Listen for:*
- | | |
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| • Sexual Assault Response Coordinator [SARC] | • Victims’ Legal Counsel [VLC] |
| • Victim Advocates [VA] | • *Medical |
| • Chaplains | |
| • Counselors | |

*In some states, like CA, medical can’t offer confidentiality. **Facilitators**, point out this exception on Resource Handout.

MALE SURVIVORS | Advanced

IMPORTANT! This video may trigger an emotional response in some viewers who may have experienced a sexual assault or know someone who has. Before playing this video, share with participants the three bullets on top of the “Basic” guide (previous page).

NOTE: Sample answers are provided below each question. Listen for these responses. These are not all encompassing; they are ideas to generate discussion. If participants offer these answers, make sure the class knows they are accurate. If attendees are not participating, you can share the sample answers.

PRE-VIDEO QUESTIONS:

1. How common do you believe it is for men to become victims of sexual assault?

Listen for: (Responses will vary.)

Once participants have offered their opinions, share the following facts:

One in six men will be sexually assaulted before the age of 18. In a 2014 study commissioned by DoD, approximately **9,600 female** service members and approximately **10,600 male** service members reported being a victim of sexual assault in the past year. Women are more likely to be victims of sexual assault, but because there are many more men in the Navy and Marine Corps than women, in absolute numbers there are more male victims.^{1,2}

2. Why do you think many male victims of sexual assault hesitate to report and/or seek help?

- Listen for:*
- Fear of judgment about their masculinity or ability to “fight off” their attacker.
 - Fear of judgment about their sexuality.
 - Widespread misperception that only women are victims of sexual assault.

POST-VIDEO QUESTIONS:

1. What can we do in our workplace/unit/division/command to establish a culture in which male sexual assault victims feel more comfortable seeking help and/or reporting?

- Listen for:*
- Stop the perpetuation of harmful myths—like the idea that males can’t be victims of sexual assault.
 - Do not talk about or treat sexual assault as a “women’s issue.”
 - When a male victim comes forward, support him; ensure there’s no gossip or maltreatment.
 - Regularly educate Sailors and Marines about sexual assault—what it is, how to prevent it, and the resources available to survivors; doing so will send the message that the unit/command takes this seriously.
 - Communicate that all victims will be cared for—in words and in actions (respond appropriately when a victim reports).

2. According to the DoD definition of sexual assault, certain hazing and “locker-room behaviors” qualify as sexual assault. How can our workplace/unit/division/command encourage tradition, camaraderie, and high morale without making the environment susceptible to behaviors like hazing and horseplay?

- Listen for:*
- Are traditions value-added and about instilling quality leadership skills? If not, re-evaluate.
 - Set a high standard and expectation for professionalism.
 - Encourage Sailors and Marines to show their support and encouragement for each other in appropriate ways. Reinforce this by modeling this behavior.
 - Provide team-building activities and events that are acceptable AND enjoyable.

¹ Finkelhor, David, et al. “Sexual Abuse in a National Survey of Adult Men and Women: Prevalence, Characteristics and Risk Factors,” *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 1990.

² Dube, S.R., Anda, R.F., Whitfield, C.L., et al. “Long-term consequences of childhood sexual abuse by gender of victim.” *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 2005.