WOMEN IN THE MILITARY
Transition, Employment, and Higher Education After Service

This infographic provides key highlights on women in the military. The information in this document comes from our various data collection efforts centered on transition, employment, entrepreneurship, and higher education.

Women Service Member Population
Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve

376,000+
Active Duty and Selected Reserve members to date

315,000+
Active Duty Service Members

160,000+
Selected Reserves Members

Veterans
In the U.S. today, there are over 1.8 MILLION FEMALE VETERANS

POST-9/11 VETERANS
726,000+ (which make up about 35% of the female veteran population)

Transition for Women Veterans

Transition Difficulty

66%
FEMALE VETERAN RESPONDENTS REPORTED THEIR TRANSITION WAS DIFFICULT OR VERY DIFFICULT compared to 51% of male veteran respondents

MORE FEMALE Veteran Respondents than male veteran respondents INDICATED THEY WERE UNPREPARED ACROSS MANY ASPECTS OF TRANSITION

Time to Employment*
OF FEMALE VETERAN RESPONDENTS WHO HAD RECENTLY SEPARATED

33%
REPORTED IT TOOK LESS THAN 3 MONTHS TO FIND EMPLOYMENT compared to 41% of male veterans

26%
REPORTED IT TOOK BETWEEN 3 MONTHS AND 1 YEAR TO FIND EMPLOYMENT compared to 40% of male veterans

40%
REPORTED IT TOOK OVER 1 YEAR OR THAT THEY WERE STILL LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT compared to 19% of male veterans

Community Connectedness

54% of female veteran respondents did not feel prepared to navigate resources in their local community, compared with 35% of male veteran respondents.

45% of female veterans did not know of community resources to use during hard financial times compared with 37% of male veterans.

Transition Challenges*

KEY TRANSITION CHALLENGES REPORTED BY FEMALE VETERAN RESPONDENTS WHO HAD RECENTLY SEPARATED:

- Loss of connection with military community (59%)
- Loss of sense of purpose/camaraderie (56%)
- Loss of income (50%)
- Financial struggles (46%)
- Finding employment (43%)

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY: TRANSITION, EMPLOYMENT, AND HIGHER EDUCATION AFTER SERVICE
MARCH 2020
**UNEMPLOYMENT**

**IN 2019**
- **FEMALE VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT WAS 3.7%** this is higher than total veteran unemployment which was at 3.1%
- **FEMALE POST-9/11 VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT WAS 4.7%** this is higher than post-9/11 veteran unemployment which was at 3.5%

**EARNINGS**

**$56,760**
- AVERAGE FEMALE VETERAN EARNINGS
  - **HIGHER compared to female nonveterans who earn about $44,571**
  - **LOWER compared to male veterans who earn about $76,703**

**$55,290**
- AVERAGE FEMALE POST 9/11 VETERAN EARNINGS
  - **LOWER compared to post 9/11 male veterans who earn about $71,034**

**TOP FIVE OCCUPATIONS FOR WOMEN VETERANS**
1. Office and Administrative Support Occupations
3. Service Occupations
4. Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations
5. Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts, and Media Occupations

**TOP FIVE INDUSTRIES FOR WOMEN VETERANS**
1. Health Care and Social Assistance
2. Public Administration
3. Educational Services
4. Retail Trade
5. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

**Higher Education for Women Veterans**

**2019 EDUCATION ATTAINMENT**

- **84%** of post 9/11 women veterans have some college degree or higher
- **15%** of post 9/11 women veterans have no more than a high school education

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP for Women Veterans**

**IN 2014-2018**
- **OF FEMALE VETERANS WERE SELF-EMPLOYED** compared to 8% of female nonveterans
- **WHICH IS 0.75X LESS LIKELY TO BE SELF-EMPLOYED** compared to women nonveterans
- **However, the trend is INCREASING during the same time period (1.32% points/year).**

**REFERENCES**

Service Member Population


Transition for Women Veterans

* Time to Employment and Transition Challenges were analyzed from unpublished data collected for the 2019-2017 Blue Star Families’ annual Military Family Lifestyle Surveys. Please note these findings are limited due to small sample size (n<200) for female veteran respondents who separated in the past three years. This effort is from Blue Star Families in collaboration with the IVMF. For more information please see 2019-2017 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Reports. Blue Star Families. https://bluestarfam.org/survey

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