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 in the military populations

## Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve

376 + 000 women active duty and select reserve members

*Total Military Force*

* Over 215,000 women active duty service members
* Over 160,000 women select reserve members

## Veterans

In the U.S. today, over 1.8 million women veterans

**Post 9/11 Veterans**

* Over 726,000 – post 9/11 women veteran (which make up about 39% of the female veteran population)

# Transition FOR Women VETERANS

## Transition Difficulty

* 66% of female veteran respondents reported their transition was difficult or very difficult, compared to 51% of male veteran respondents.
* More female than male veteran respondents indicated they were unprepared across many aspects of transition (overall transition, employment, higher education, navigation of resources in their local community, and navigation of health care and benefits system)

## Transition Challenges\*

* The key transition challenges reported by female veteran respondents who had recently separated were:
  + Loss of connection with military community (59%)
  + Loss of sense of purpose/camaraderie (56%)
  + Loss of income (50%)
  + Financial struggles (46%)
  + Finding employment (43%)

## Time to Employment\*

* Of female veteran who had recently separated,
  + 33% reported it took less than three months to find employment after their transition, compared with 41% of male veterans who had recently separated.
  + 26% reported it took between 3 months and 1 year compared with 40% of their male counterparts
  + 40% reported it took over one year or that they were still looking for employment, compared with 19% of their male counterparts.

## Community Connectedness

* 54% of female veteran respondents did not feel prepared to navigate resources in their community, compared with 35% of male veteran respondents.
* Female veterans had significantly greater feelings of social isolation compared with male veterans, regardless of their transition experience
  + With time, social isolation decreases slightly for male veteran respondents, but remains the same for female veteran respondents.
* 45% of female veterans did not know of community resources to use during hard financial times compared with 37% of male veterans

# Employment FOR Women VETERANS

## Unemployment

* IN 2019 women VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT WAS AT 3.7% {THIS IS HIGHER THAN TOAL VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH WAS AT 3.1%}
* IN 2019 Post 9/11 women VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT WAS AT 4.7% {THIS IS HIGHER THAN TOTAL POST 9/11 VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH WAS AT 3.5%}

## Earnings

**$56,760 AVERAGE EARNINGS WOMEN VETERANS**

{HIGHER compared to women nonveteran counterparts who earn about $44,571

LOWER compared to male veteran counterparts who earn about $76,703}

**$55,290 AVERAGE EARNINGS Post 9/11 women VETERANS**

{LOWER compared to post 9/11 male veteran counterparts who earn about $71,034}

## TOP FIVE OCCUPATIONS FOR WOMEN VETERANS

1. Office and Administrative Support
2. Management, Business, and Financial
3. Service
4. Healthcare Practitioners and Technical
5. Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts, and Media

## 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

# Entrepreneurship FOR Women VETERANS

* In the 2014-2018, 6% of women veterans are self-employed compared to 8% of their nonveteran counterparts
* **THus** women veterans are .7519 times less likely to be self-employed compared to women nonveterans
* **However** the trend is increasing during the same time period (↑.316 % points per year)

# Education FOR WOMEN VETERANS

## EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

In 2019, post 9/11 women veterans have achieved:

* Less than a high school diploma = 0% (0.41%)
* High school graduates, no college = 15%
* Some college, no degree = 25%
* Associate Degree = 17%
* Bachelor's degree = 26%
* Graduate degree (Masters, Professional, Doctoral) = 15%

CAN WE DO THIS SIDE BY SIDE COMPARISON

In 2019, women nonveterans have achieved:

* Less than a high school diploma = 10%
* High school graduates, no college = 27%
* Some college, no degree = 18%
* Associate Degree = 11%
* Bachelor's degree = 22%
* Graduate degree (Masters, Professional, Doctoral) = 12%

In 2019, post 9/11 male veterans have achieved:

* Less than a high school diploma = 1%
* High school graduates, no college = 26%
* Some college, no degree = 25%
* Associate Degree = 14%
* Bachelor's degree = 21%
* Graduate degree (Masters, Professional, Doctoral) = 13%

CAN WE DO THIS SIDE BY SIDE COMPARISON

In 2019, male nonveterans have achieved:

* Less than a high school diploma = 12%
* High school graduates, no college = 30%
* Some college, no degree = 17%
* Associate Degree = 9%
* Bachelor's degree = 21%
* Graduate degree (Masters, Professional, Doctoral) = 11%

84% of post 9/11 women veterans have some college degree or higher

{HIGHER compared to women nonveteran counterparts 63%

{HIGHER compared to male post 9/11 veteran counterparts 73%

42% of post 9/11 women veterans have a bachelors degree or higher

{HIGHER compared to women nonveteran counterparts 34%

{HIGHER compared to male post 9/11 veteran counterparts 34%

# References

*Service Member Population*

2018 Demographics DoD Profile of the Military Community (2018). Retrieved from: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/data-research-and-statistics/military-community-demographics/2018-demographics-profile>

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019). Current Population Survey. Washington, D.C.

*Transition for Women Veterans*

Blue Star Families (2020). *2019 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Report.*

Blue Star Families. <https://bluestarfam.org/survey/>

Transition and time to employment 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 Report. *Blue Star Families.* <https://bluestarfam.org/survey/>

*Employment/Entrepreneurship for Women Veterans*

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019). Current Population Survey. Washington, D.C.

Earnings, industry, occupation, and self-employment is data analyzed using Steven Ruggles, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, and Matthew Sobek. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 7.0 [U.S. Census Bureau 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V7.0>.

*Higher Education for Women Veterans*

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019). Current Population Survey. Washington, D.C.