**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

- **Veterans**
  - 215,000+ Active Duty Service Members
  - 160,000+ Selected Reserves Members

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

- **POST-9/11 VETERANS**
  - 726,000+ (which make up about 39% 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

**Time to Employment***

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

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

### Transition Challenges***

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

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

ENTREPRENEURSHIP for Women Veterans

IN 2014-2018
- 6% OF FEMALE VETERANS WERE SELF-EMPLOYED compared to 8% of female nonveterans

THIS
- Women veterans are .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

ENTREPRENEURSHIP for Women Veterans


Higher Education for Women Veterans

COPYRIGHT
© 2020, IVMF at Syracuse University. This content may be distributed freely for educational and research uses as long as this copyright notice is attached. No commercial use of this material may be made without express written permission.

SUGGESTED CITATION