WOMEN IN THE MILITARY:
The Military to Civilian Life Transition

**Female Service Member POPULATION**
Active Duty, Guard, & Reserve

361,000+
Active Duty and Selected Reserve Members to date
*17% of the total military force

2 MILLION+
FEMALE VETERANS
*10% of the veteran population

FASTEST GROWING POPULATION
*17% of the Post-9/11 veterans population

66% of female veterans reported their transition was difficult.

MORE FEMALE VETERANS indicated they were unprepared across many aspects of transition.

**TOP REASONS FOR LEAVING THE ARMED SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family reasons</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost faith or trust in military or political leadership</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pursue education or training opportunities</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerns and injustice from service experiences</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of military service obligation (less than 20 years)</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GREATER CONCERNS MILITARY WOMEN FACE IN SERVICE & POST-SERVICE**

- Discrimination
- Harassment
- Military sexual trauma
- Cultural issues
- Reporting barriers
- Stigma
- Lack of social support
- Alienation
- Reduced unit cohesion

**TOP 5 CHALLENGES FOR MILITARY WOMEN TRANSITIONING TO CIVILIAN LIFE**

- Navigating VA programs, services, & benefits
- Finding a job
- Financial struggles
- Depression
- Getting socialized to civilian culture
EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN VETERANS

UNEMPLOYMENT
In 2019, the unemployment rate for female veterans was at 3.7%.
In 2019, the unemployment rate for female post-9/11 veterans was at 4.7%.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NONVETERAN FEMALES WAS 3.5%

EARNINGS
$56,760
AVERAGE EARNINGS FOR FEMALE VETERANS IN 2020

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

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR WOMEN VETERAN SUCCESS
- AmericaServes
- American Warrior Partnership
- Depart. of Defense Transition Assistance Program (DoD’s TAP)
- Military OneSource
- Service Women’s Action Network (SWAN)
- The Mission Continues
- VA Center for Minority Veterans (CMV)
- VA Center for Women Veterans (CWV)
- VA Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Coordinators
- VA Women’s Health Transition Training
- VA Women Veterans Health Care

REFERENCES

This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Office of Military Family Readiness Policy, U.S. Department of Defense under Award Number 2019-48770-30366.