



WOMEN IN THE MILITARY: The Military to Civilian Life Transition



Female Service Member POPULATION

Active Duty, Guard, & Reserve

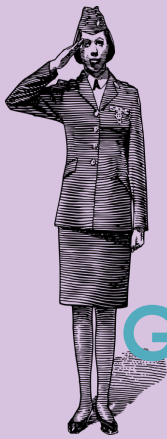
361,000+

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

TOP REASONS FOR LEAVING THE ARMED SERVICES

41%

Family reasons



36%

Lost faith or trust in military or political leadership



29%

Pursue education or training opportunities



26%

Concerns and injustice from service experiences



26%

Completion of military service obligation (less than 20 years)



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

66% of female veterans reported their transition was difficult.

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



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%**

This is slightly **HIGHER** than male veteran unemployment which was at **3%**

This is **HIGHER** than post-9/11 male veteran unemployment which was at **3.4%**

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NONVETERAN FEMALES WAS 3.5%

EARNINGS



\$56,760

AVERAGE EARNINGS FOR FEMALE VETERANS IN 2020

HIGHER compared to nonveteran female counterparts who earn about **\$44,571**

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

TOP FIVE OCCUPATIONS FOR WOMEN VETERANS

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



Female veterans took about **3 MONTHS LONGER** than males to find employment in post-service.

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR WOMEN VETERAN SUCCESS

- * [AmericaServes](#)
- * [American Warrior Partnership](#)
- * [Dept. 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](#)

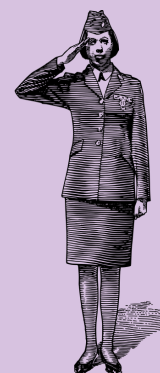


The Military Families Learning Network (MFLN) Family

Transitions concentration area provides education and resources for professionals working with military families to build resilience and navigate life cycle transitions.

In support of the brave women who serve in the armed forces, we've curated resources, blog posts, and produced webinars and podcasts to celebrate women in the military.

You will find our MFLN *Women in the Military* resource page [here!](#)



References

1. Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. (2019, January 1). 2018 Annual Report. <https://dacowits.defense.gov/Portals/48/Documents/Reports/2018/Annual%20Report/DACOWITS%20Annual%20Report%202018.pdf?ver=2019-03-11-115325-640>
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