Spring 2021 Propensity Update

SLIDES ONLY
NO SCRIPT PROVIDED

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Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

Public Release
Youth Poll: Propensity
FPP9: In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in the Military?

Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not

- Military propensity remained low and stable between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 at an aggregate level and across gender subgroups.

Note: Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Source: DoD Youth Poll
FPP9: In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in the Military?  
Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not

Note: Estimates are charted to precise values. 
Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.  
Source: DoD Youth Poll (Spring 2021)
**General Military Propensity**

**By Race/Ethnicity**

**FPP9: In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in the Military?**

Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not

Note: Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Source: DoD Youth Poll

Notes:
- Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.
- Youth ages 16–21.
- Estimates are charted to precise values.
- Significant change from previous poll.
- Estimates for Black and Asian youth should be interpreted with caution because of relatively large margins of error.
**Active Duty Propensity by Service**

**FPP10A_Q–FPP10F_Q**: In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in any of the following Military Services?  
Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not  

% Definitely/Probably

![Chart showing Active Duty Propensity by Service](chart.png)

Note: Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.  
Source: DoD Youth Poll
Youth Poll: Economic Conditions
Youth have continued to remain confident in their ability to get a full-time job within their communities over the past year.

Note: Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Source: DoD Youth Poll

EMP5: “How difficult is it for someone your age to get a full-time job in your community?”
Youths’ perceptions of difficulty finding a full-time job remained relatively stable across racial/ethnic subgroups from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021.

Note: Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent. Source: DoD Youth Poll

Note: Estimates for Black and Asian youth should be interpreted with caution because of relatively large margins of error.

EMP5: “How difficult is it for someone your age to get a full-time job in your community?”
Backup
Youth Poll Methodology and Sample

  - A series of five mailings were sent to eight different cohorts semimonthly that invited recipients to participate.

- Final Youth Poll Sample: 4,423 youths ages 16 through 24
  - 3,529 (80%) youths ages 16 through 21—the metrics presented herein focus on this age group.
  - 894 (20%) youths ages 22 through 24

- Weighted to reflect the general population on several dimensions:
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Race/Ethnicity
  - Educational attainment
  - Region

- Stratified Random Sample

- **Note:** Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

- **Note:** Certain slides provide estimates by race/ethnicity.
  - The December 2010 effort was the first Youth Poll with a sufficiently large enough sample size to report estimates for Asian youth. Asian youth estimates are included only at the overall level and not by gender because of sample size restrictions. The effective sample size for Asian youth is small, and results should be interpreted cautiously.

Source: DoD Youth Poll (Spring 2021)
Questions: YATS (Q503)–Jun-10 (FPP9): “Now, I’d like to ask you how likely it is that you will be serving in the Military in the next few years?”
Dec-10–Onwards (FPP9): “In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in the Military?”

Historical General Military Propensity
By Gender

FPP9: In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in the Military?
Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not

Note: Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.
Source: DoD Youth Attitude Tracking Survey (YATS) and Youth Poll
General Military Propensity

**FPP9: In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in the Military?**

Response options: Definitely, Probably, Probably Not, Definitely Not

Note: Youth ages 16–21. Estimates are charted to precise values. Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Source: DoD Youth Poll

Questions:
- Apr-01–Jun-10 (FPP9): “Now, I’d like to ask you how likely it is that you will be serving in the Military in the next few years?”
- Dec-10–Onwards (FPP9): “In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in the Military?”

Note: = Significant change from previous poll
### Top 10 Reasons to Join the U.S. Military

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pay/money</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To pay for future education</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain experience/work skills</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To help others</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and medical benefits</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience adventure</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension and retirement benefits</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To better my life</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a positive difference in my community</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Youth ages 16–21.

Source: DoD Youth Poll (Spring 2021)
## Reasons Not to Join

**RNTJ: What would be the main reason(s) why you would NOT consider joining the U.S. Military?**

*Response options: Yes, multiple response*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of physical injury/death</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of PTSD or other emotional/psychological issues</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving family and friends</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other career interests</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislike of military lifestyle</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too long of a commitment</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required to live in places I don't want to live in</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of interference with college education</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of sexual harassment/assault</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't want to be deployed overseas</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Youth ages 16–21.*

*Source: DoD Youth Poll (Spring 2021)*