Summer 2021 Propensity Update

CLEARED
For Open Publication
May 18, 2022

Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

SLIDES ONLY
NO SCRIPT PROVIDED
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 stable between Spring 2021 and Summer 2021 but reached its lowest point since 2007.
General Military Propensity
By Age

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 (Summer 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

Note: 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

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

Source: DoD Youth Poll

[Graph showing active duty propensity by service from Apr-01 to Summer-21 with various years and service percentages indicated.]
Youth Poll: Economic Conditions
Youths’ confidence in their ability to get a full-time job within their communities reached a historic high in Summer 2021.

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?”

Very Difficult/Impossible

Somewhat/Not At All Difficult

= Significant change from previous poll
White, Hispanic, and Asian youths’ perceptions of difficulty finding a full-time job in their community decreased from Spring 2021 to Summer 2021.

How difficult is it for someone your age to get a full-time job in your community?
% Very Difficult/Impossible

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: 3,939 youths ages 16 through 24
  - 3,108 (79%) youths ages 16 through 21—the metrics presented herein focus on this age group.
  - 831 (21%) 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 (Summer 2021)
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

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?”
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?”
Reasons to Join

RTJ: *if you were to consider joining the U.S. Military, what would be the main reason(s)?*
*Response options: Yes, multiple response*

Top 10 Reasons

- **Pay/money**: 49%
- **To pay for future education**: 44%
- **Travel**: 40%
- **Health and medical benefits**: 34%
- **Gain experience/work skills**: 33%
- **To help others**: 32%
- **Experience adventure**: 28%
- **Pension and retirement benefits**: 27%
- **To better my life**: 24%
- **Make a positive global impact**: 22%

Note: Youth ages 16–21.
Source: DoD Youth Poll (Summer 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

Top 10 Reasons

- Possibility of physical injury/death: 62%
- Possibility of PTSD or other emotional/psychological issues: 60%
- Leaving family and friends: 49%
- Other career interests: 43%
- Dislike of military lifestyle: 34%
- Don’t believe I would qualify: 30%
- Possibility of interference with college education: 30%
- Required to live in places I don’t want to live in: 28%
- Too long of a commitment: 28%
- Possibility of sexual harassment/assault: 28%

Note: Youth ages 16–21.
Source: DoD Youth Poll (Summer 2021)