Fall 2020 Propensity Update
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

- Aggregate military propensity remained stable between Summer 2020 and Fall 2020.
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 (Fall 2020)
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 Not

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—FPP10E_Q:** *In the next few years, how likely is it that you will be serving in each of the following Military Services?*

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
Youth Poll: Economic Conditions
Despite swings in the unemployment rate brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, youth have remained confident in their ability to get a full-time job within their communities over the past year.

How difficult is it for someone your age to get a full-time job in your community?

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

Question: 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 Summer 2020 to Fall 2020.

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.

Question: 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: 4,116 youth aged 16 through 24
  - 3,284 (80%) youths ages 16 through 21—the metrics presented herein focus on this age group.
  - 832 (20%) youths ages 22 through 24

- Weighted to reflect 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 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.
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

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?”

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

Source: DoD YATS and Youth Poll
**FPP9: How likely is it that you will be serving in the Military in the next few years?**

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

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**General Military Propensity**

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: 57%
- To pay for future education: 52%
- Travel: 49%
- To help others: 44%
- Health and medical benefits: 43%
- Gain experience/work skills: 40%
- Pension and retirement benefits: 35%
- Make a positive difference in my community: 33%
- Experience adventure: 33%
- To better my life: 31%

Note: Youth ages 16–21.
Source: DoD Youth Poll (Fall 2020)
### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of physical injury/death</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of PTSD or other emotional/psychological issues</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving family and friend(s)</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other career interests</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislike of military lifestyle</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of interference with college education</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required to live in places I don’t want to</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of sexual harassment/assault</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t believe I would qualify</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too long of a commitment</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Youth ages 16–21.*

*Source: DoD Youth Poll (Fall 2020)*