

Military Service by Transgender People

Data from the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey

The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS) is the largest survey examining the experiences of transgender people in the United States, with 27,715 respondents nationwide. The USTS was conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality in the summer of 2015, when transgender people were banned from serving in the military. In 2016, the military changed that policy to allow transgender people to serve openly. However, President Trump announced in 2017 that a ban on transgender service members would be put back

in place, a decision that is being challenged by several lawsuits.

Despite a ban on transgender military service, USTS respondents served in the military at nearly twice the rate as the people in the U.S. population overall. These respondents included many service members who were open about their transgender identity and supported by their commanding officers.



Military Service

18% of USTS respondents have served in the military

Veterans

15% were veterans, nearly **2X** the rate in the U.S. population (8%)

Experiences of Current Service Members in the USTS

Even though a ban on transgender service members was in place at the time of the survey...

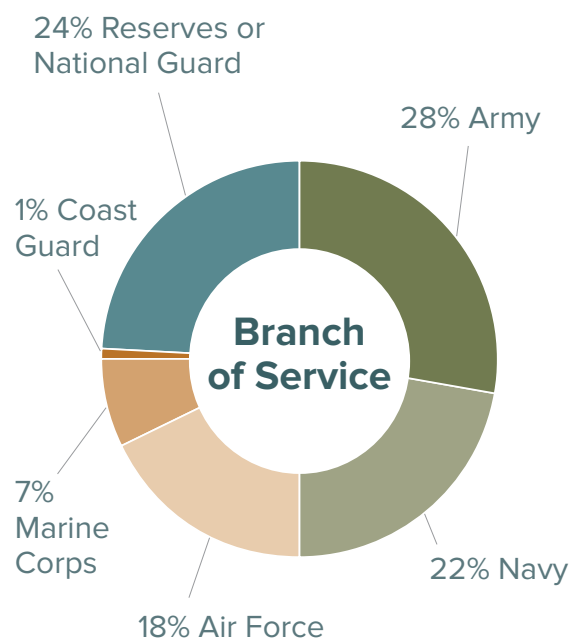


Many respondents who were out to their commanding officers said leadership took steps to support them

47% supported their name change

36% supported their transition-related medical treatment

28% of current service members were taking hormones for gender transition at the time of the survey, including 28% who received their hormones from an on-post medical doctor and/or pharmacy.



*Represents the current or most recent branch of service for all USTS respondents who have served in the military

Experiences of USTS Veterans

10% of USTS veterans were unemployed, twice the rate of unemployment in the U.S. population (5%) and among veterans in the U.S. population (4%).

34% of USTS veterans have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives, and 13% experienced homelessness in the past year because of being transgender.

17% of USTS veterans experienced serious psychological distress in the month before completing the survey, more than three times the rate in the U.S. population (5%).

33% of USTS veterans have attempted suicide in their lifetime, more than seven times the rate in the U.S. population (4.6%).

4% attempted suicide in the past year, nearly seven times the rate in the U.S. population (0.6%).

Separation from Military Service Due to Being Transgender

19% of USTS respondents who separated from military service* believed their discharge was partially or solely due to being transgender.

Respondents whose discharge was related to being transgender were **less likely to have been honorably discharged** than respondents who were discharged for other reasons.

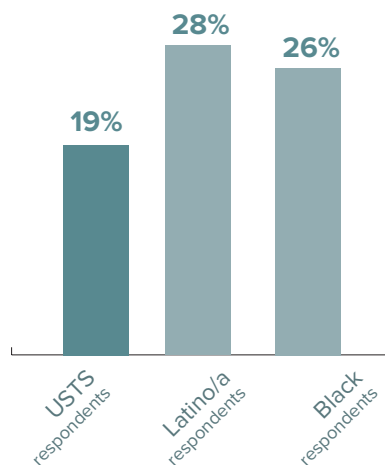
*Represents respondents who separated from military service more than ten years ago

Leaving Military to Avoid Mistreatment

19%

of USTS respondents who separated from military service* left to avoid being mistreated or harassed as a transgender person.

Latino/a (28%) and Black respondents (26%) were more likely to have left to avoid mistreatment or harassment.



*Represents respondents who separated from military service more than ten years ago

Transgender Veterans' Return to Service

60% of USTS veterans who separated from the military within the past 10 years said they might or would definitely return to service if transgender people were allowed to serve openly.



Treatment of Transgender Veterans at the VA

72% of USTS veterans* who received medical care at the VA were out to their VA providers as transgender. The vast majority (87%) reported being always or mostly treated respectfully.



*Represents respondents who separated from military service more than ten years ago