



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

The Labor Market Trajectories of 20-24 Year Old Veterans

Dan Black and Julia Lane | [Full Report](#)

Quick Takeaways

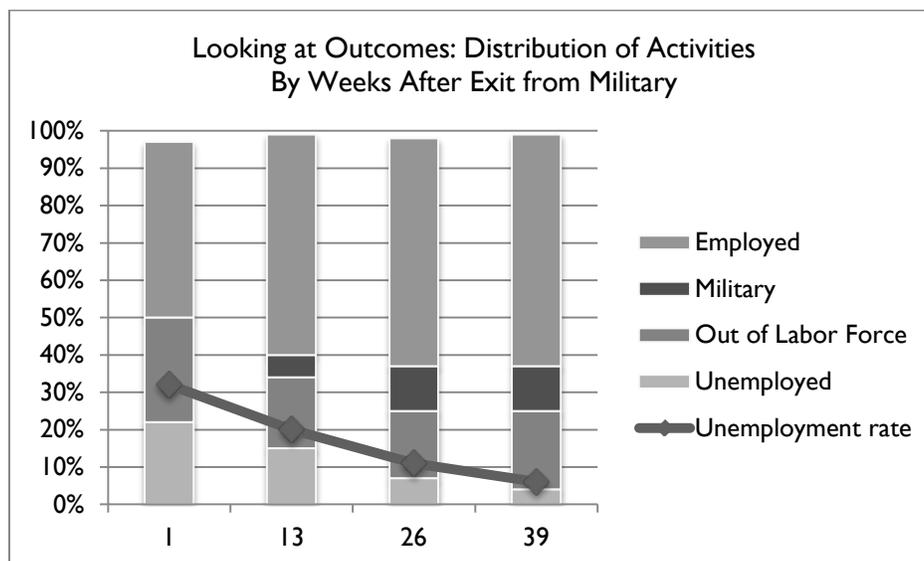
- High levels of unemployment arise from multiple causes, including lack of job opportunities and lengthened search for jobs.
- The basic employment pattern show increasing employment and decreasing unemployment for all veterans over time.
- Many veterans return to the military as their main employer.

Summary of Study

This report examines the labor market outcomes of 20-24 year old veterans at intervals of 1, 13, 26 and 39 weeks after they exit the military. The data includes information on the respondents' demographic characteristics, the family structure in which they grew up, detailed characteristics of their parents and grandparents, and their educational histories. The data set also contains histories on the respondents' enrollment in school, employment, labor market status, cohabitation and marriage, and program participation. The study focused on four key labor market outcomes: whether the respondent is employed, unemployed, out of the labor force, or in military service in the weeks after they exit the military.

Findings

It is not simply one cause that can create high levels of unemployment. Unemployment stems from multiple causes that include lack of job opportunities or lengthened search for jobs. Of the 156 respondents who were interviewed subsequent to military exit, 22% were unemployed in the first week after exit, 28% were out of the labor force, 0% were in the military and 47% were employed. This represents a 32% unemployment rate on the part of military veterans. Of the 114 respondents with information on their activities 39 weeks after exit, only 4% are unemployed, reflecting a 6% unemployment rate. As many as 12% have returned to military service, and 62% are employed.



Conclusions

The report concludes that the basic employment pattern show increasing employment and decreasing unemployment for all veterans over time. A separate analysis of outcomes for black veterans and veterans who participated in a test that scored (read about the specific test in report) both above and below the survey median, revealed very similar patterns. Of particular interest is the fact that many veterans return to the military as their main employer.

The report provides some evidence that the high reported levels of unemployment result from job search, since employment rates increase and unemployment rates decrease over time. This suggests that veterans are successfully searching for new jobs after their exit from military service.