

Military Enlistment for Recent Idaho Graduates¹

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The State Board of Education currently calculates the share of Idaho students who attend a postsecondary institution soon after high school graduation (known as the college attendance rates). Board staff is often asked to provide some estimate of the share of Idaho students who enlist in the military in order to give further context to the college attendance rates. With individual level data, Board Staff could calculate military enlistment rates by school and school district. However, obtaining individual level data on military enlistments has proven to be unsuccessful. What is available is limited data on aggregate enlistments from Idaho. This paper uses that data to estimate the share of recent high school graduates from Idaho who enlist in the active component of the military.

Annually, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness is provided a report titled "Population Representation in the Military Services". The goal of this report is "to provide the most comprehensive, reliable, and consistent data tabulations on military personnel for policymakers, the media, and the general public".² As part of this report, data on non-prior service accessions by state is provided. Specifically, the number of Idahoans who are non-prior service active component (NPS AC) enlisted accessions is calculated each year. Unfortunately, this data is not broken down by age. Therefore, this data cannot be used directly to estimate the number of Idaho youth who enlist in the military right out of high school.

The Population Representation report does provide data on the age distribution of NPS AC enlisted accessions for the nation as a whole. If one assumes that the age distribution of Idaho NPS AC enlisted accessions follows the same distribution as these accessions nationally, then one can estimate the number of Idaho youth who enlist in the military at the ages of 17 through 19 (see Table 1).

Table 2 shows immediate college attendance rates and an estimate of the share of high school graduates who enlist in the military by gender. For males, the estimated military enlistment rate ranges from 4 to 6 percent. For females, the estimated military enlistment rate is approximate 1 percent. Overall, about 3 percent of recent Idaho graduates enlist in the military.

At this point, it should be noted that it is likely that data on NPS AC enlisted accessions by age and by state exists. It is simply not included in the Population Representation report. Having the data by age and by state would allow Idaho to more accurately predict how many recent high school graduate enlist in the military.

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² Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel and Readiness. *Population Representation in the Military Services: Fiscal Year 2015 Summary Report*. Published in 2016. Accessed February 14, 2018.
<http://www.cna.org/research/pop-rep>.

Table 1: Estimate of NPS AC enlisted accessions from Idaho who are age 17 through 19, by gender and fiscal year

	NPS AC enlisted accessions from Idaho, all ages ³		Share of NPS AC enlisted accessions who are age 17 to 19, nationally ⁴		Estimate of NPS AC enlisted accessions from Idaho who are age 17 through 19		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total
FY2011	899	133	50%	50%	451	66	517
FY2012	831	145	52%	52%	431	75	506
FY2013	838	156	53%	53%	448	83	531
FY2014	669	128	54%	54%	363	69	432
FY2015	704	169	57%	56%	402	95	497

Table 2: Immediate college attendance rates and estimated military enlistment rates, by gender

	Males		Females	
	Immediate college attendance rates	Estimated military enlistment rates	Immediate college attendance rates	Estimated military enlistment rates
2010-2011	42%	5%	53%	1%
2011-2012	44%	5%	57%	1%
2012-2013	40%	6%	59%	1%
2013-2014	40%	4%	55%	1%
2014-2015	39%	5%	54%	1%

Table 3: Immediate college attendance rates and estimated military enlistment rates, overall

	Immediate college attendance rates	Estimated military enlistment rates
2010-2011	48%	3%
2011-2012	51%	3%
2012-2013	50%	3%
2013-2014	48%	2%
2014-2015	46%	3%

³ Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel and Readiness. *Population Representation in the Military Services. Appendix B: Active Component Accessions and Force. Table B-47. Non-Prior Service (NPS) Active Component Enlisted Accessions: by Gender, Census Region, Division, and State with Civilian Comparison Group.* Fiscal Year 2011 through Fiscal Year 2015. Accessed February 14, 2018. <http://www.cna.org/research/pop-rep>.

⁴ Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel and Readiness. *Population Representation in the Military Services. Appendix B: Active Component Accessions and Force. Table B-1. Non-Prior Service (NPS) Active Component Enlisted Accessions: by Service, Gender, and Age with Civilian Comparison Group.* Fiscal Year 2011 through Fiscal Year 2015. Accessed February 14, 2018. <http://www.cna.org/research/pop-rep>.