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FACT SHEET

At \$3 Million Per Year, Financial Cost of Trans-Inclusive Military Health Care Has Been Minimal, As Predicted by RAND Corporation and New England Journal of Medicine

The Pentagon [has reported](#) that it spent \$15 million over five years on health care for 1,892 transgender troops, which amounts to **\$3 million per year**.¹ The spending is in line with the low end of expert projections made when the Obama administration first announced it would allow open transgender service in 2016. Below are key facts about the financial costs of transgender-inclusive military service.

- According to the [recent Pentagon figures](#), DOD spent \$11,582,263 on psychotherapy for service members with gender dysphoria since 2016. During that period, 637 service members received hormone therapy at a cost of \$340,000, and 243 gender confirmation surgeries were performed, at a cost of \$3.1 million. **That makes the total \$15 million across five years.**
- When inclusive service was first introduced in 2016 under the Obama administration, [RAND Corporation experts estimated](#) that the annual cost of providing equal health care for transgender troops would range from \$2.4 to \$8.4 million. A [New England Journal of Medicine analysis by Dr. Aaron Belkin](#) projected \$5.6 million annually.
- The \$3 million annual cost of providing equal health care for transgender troops amounts to **less than one-tenth of one percent of DoD's annual health care budget** for the Active Component, a figure that former Navy Secretary Ray Mabus [called](#) “budget dust.”
- In 2017, President Trump announced he would reinstate a transgender ban, tweeting that the military “cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs ... that transgender in the military would entail.” Rep. Vicky Hartzler of Missouri said that inclusive policy [would cost \\$135 million per year](#), an **estimate that turned out to be 45 times too high**.
- The military spent **\$41.6 million on the erectile dysfunction drug Viagra** in a single year, [according to DOD figures](#) for 2014, nearly 14 times higher than the cost of transition-related care.
- More than three-quarters of the cost of transition-related care, around \$11.6 million, was spent on psychotherapy visits, which are mandated by policy whether or not individuals actually have a medical need for treatment. As a [report by retired military Surgeons General explains](#), transgender service members are required to see therapists for administrative, not medical reasons, so these psychotherapy costs are artificially inflated.

¹ Reporting is taken from Patricia Kime, “Here's How Much the Pentagon Has Spent So Far to Treat Transgender Troops,” [www.military.com](#), June 18, 2021. The report cites “the past five years,” although the start and end dates of the data parameters are unclear because some references are to the end of 2019, while others are through May 14, 2021. Per Kime’s reporting, this fact sheet uses five years as the time span.