



# Profile of Veterans: 2016

Data from the American Community Survey

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics  
February 2018

# Data Source and Methods

- Data for this analysis come from the 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).
  - The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides annual data on the social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population.
  - The ACS uses a series of monthly samples to produce annually updated data for the same small areas (census tracts and block groups) formerly surveyed via the decennial census long-form sample.
- The universe for this analysis is the civilian population 17 years and older living in the United States and Puerto Rico.
  - This universe includes a weighted estimate of 18.6 million Veterans, of which 1.6 million were women.
  - The universe includes a weighted estimate of 257 million civilian population, of which 238 million were non-Veterans.
  - The analysis is presented in four parts: (1) Veteran status (slides 4 to 23); (2) Veterans by sex (slides 24 to 31) ; (3) Minorities by Veteran status (slides 32-41); and (4) Summary of results (slides 42-44).
- Race categories are shown for the non-Hispanic population (e.g., White non-Hispanic, Black non-Hispanic, Asian non-Hispanic). Hispanics can be of any race.
  - “NHOPI” includes Native Hawaiians and or other Pacific Islanders.
  - “Some Other Race” includes individuals who did not report as belonging to any other race categories.
  - “Two or More Races” includes individuals who chose two or more race categories.
  - The term “AIAN” is used for those individuals who identified themselves as American Indian American Natives.
- All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level.
  - A “statistically significant difference” simply means there is statistical evidence that there is a difference; it does not mean the difference is necessarily large, important or significant in the usual sense of the word.’
  - A “no statistically significant difference” means that there is statistical evidence that there is no difference in the comparative percentages/rates.
- For more information about the ACS, see: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.
- Other data sources used are VetPop2016, the official Veteran population projection from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2016 (USVets2016).
  - These sources will be identified throughout this document, as appropriate.

# Issues to consider when comparing Veterans and non-Veterans

Veterans are predominantly men (around 91 percent) whereas over half of all non-Veterans are women. This difference is particularly important to remember when doing any economic comparisons. In general, men earn more, are more likely to be employed, less likely to be single parents, and less likely to live in poverty than women. Any economic differences between the total Veteran population and the total non-Veteran population will be exaggerated by the differences in the sex ratios of the two groups.

Veterans are significantly older than non-Veterans. Veteran median age is around 64 compared with 44 for non-Veterans. Any characteristics correlated with age (e.g., employment, disability, income) will be significantly affected by the differences in the age distributions of the two groups.

There are issues of selection bias in any comparison of Veterans and non-Veterans. Individuals in the All-Volunteer Force are not randomly selected into the Armed Forces. They choose to enlist and are then chosen by the military based on specific criteria, both mental and physical, that may set them apart from the population who chose not to enlist. Any effects ascribed to military service may be attributable to pre-service characteristics and not necessarily Veteran status.

# Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparisons

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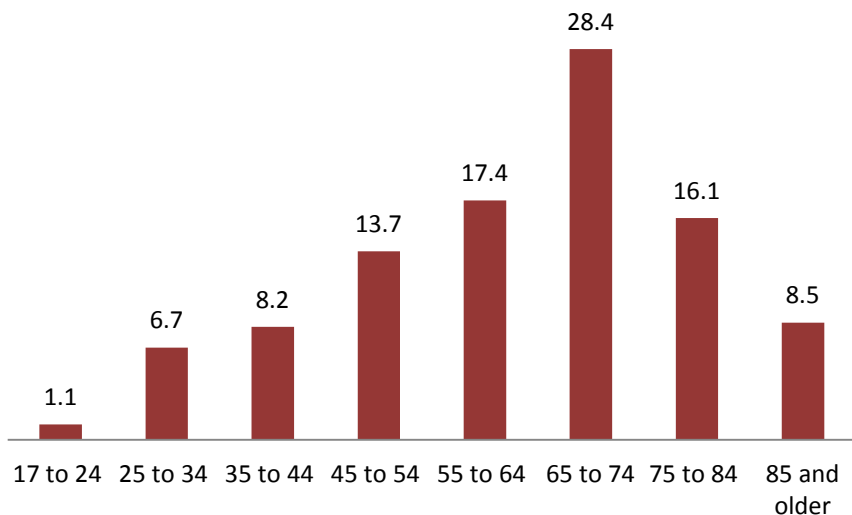
Veterans = 18,599,716

Non-Veterans = 237,888,148

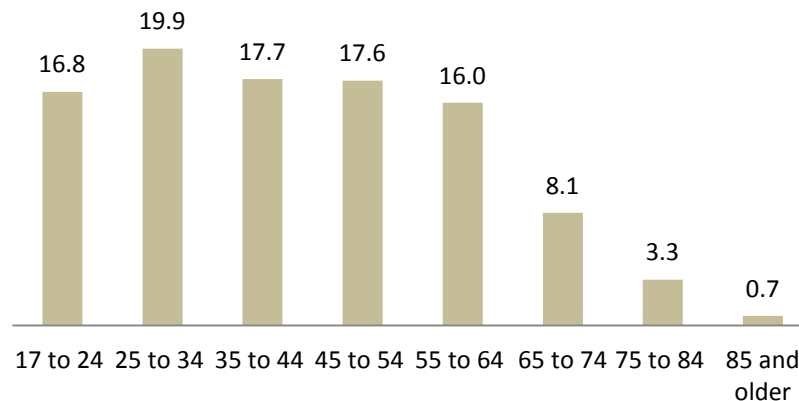
Male Veterans on average are older than non-Veteran men. In 2016, the median age of male Veterans was 65 and the median age of non-Veteran men was 41.

### Age Distribution of Men (in percent)

#### Veterans



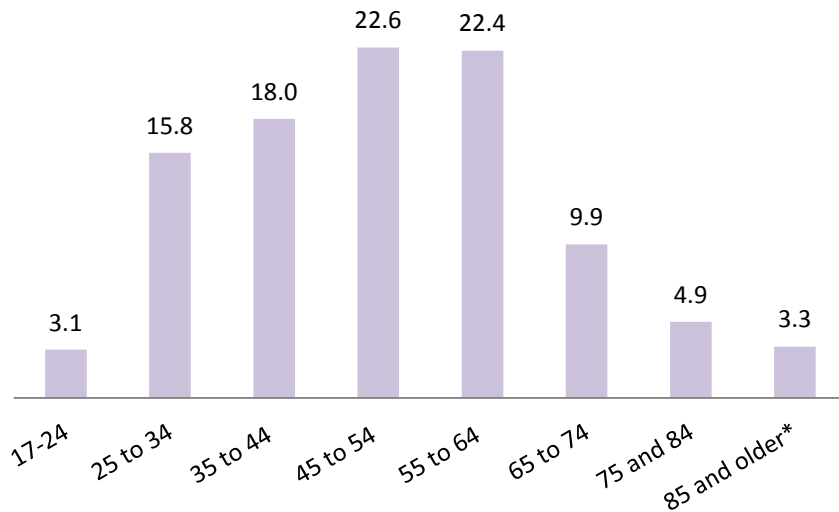
#### Non-Veterans



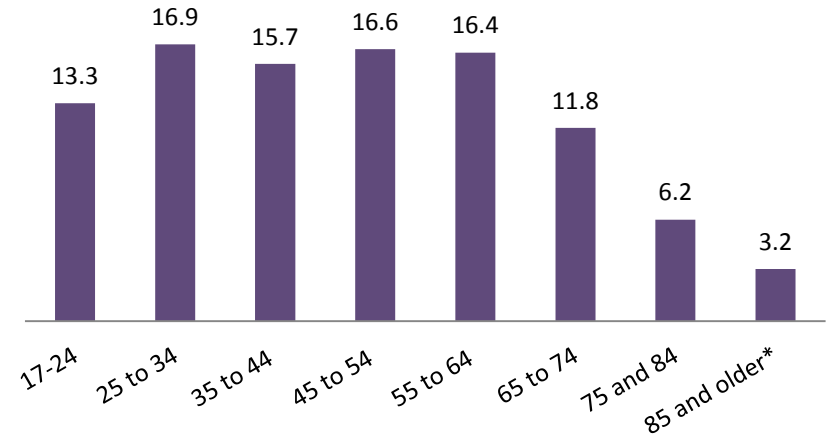
As with male Veterans, a lower percentage of female Veterans were in the youngest age group—17 to 24 years old than their non-Veteran counterparts. These are the ages when most men and women would still be serving in the military and would not yet have become Veterans. The median age of female Veterans was 50 and non-Veteran women was 47 in 2016.

### Age Distribution of Women (in percent)

#### Female Veterans



#### Female Non-Veterans



\*Difference between female Veterans and Non-Veteran women is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

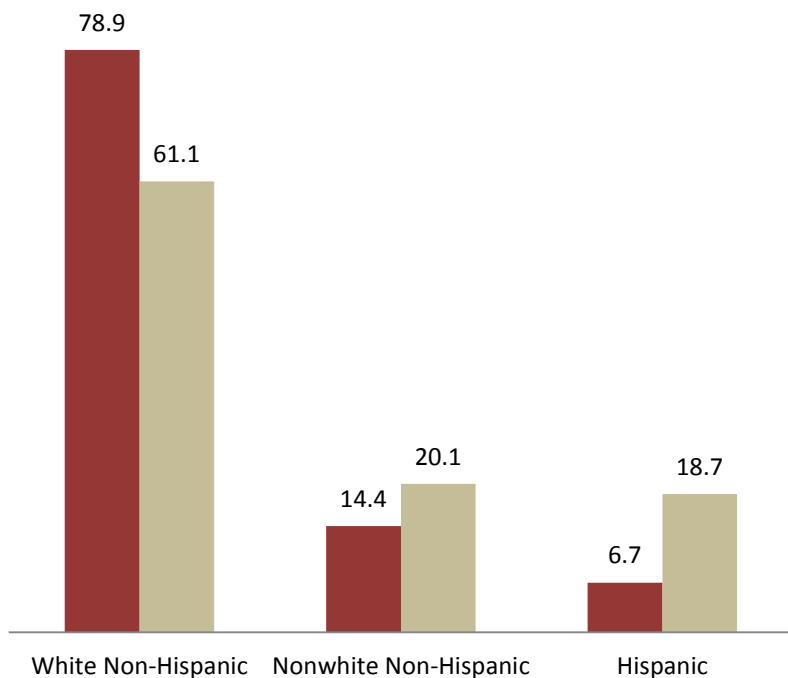
Male Veterans are more likely to be White not Hispanic than non-Veterans and women Veterans. Female Veterans are more likely to be Nonwhite not Hispanic than non-Veteran women. Both male and female Veterans are less likely to be Hispanic than their non-Veteran counterparts.

### Race Distribution

(in percent)

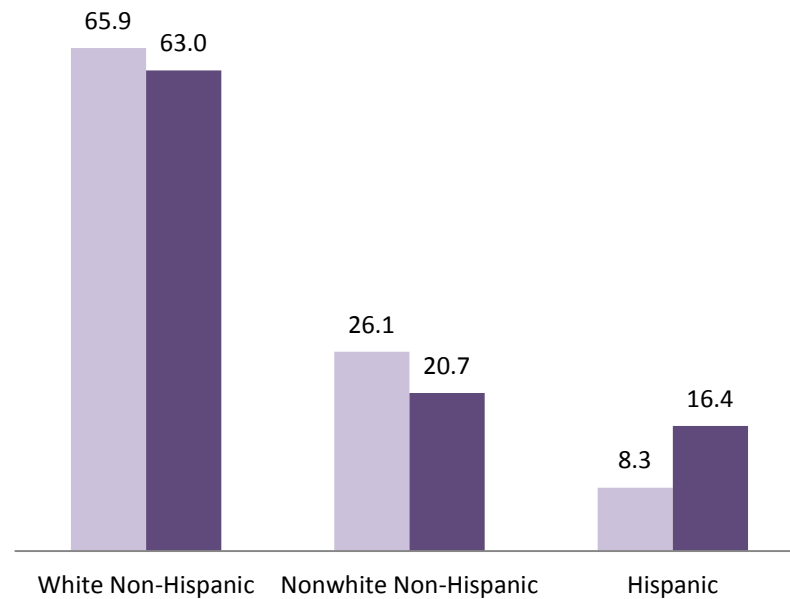
#### Men

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



#### Women

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



**Notes:** (1) “Nonwhite” includes Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, some other race, and two or more races; (2) Refer to slide 29 for a detailed distribution of race and ethnicity.

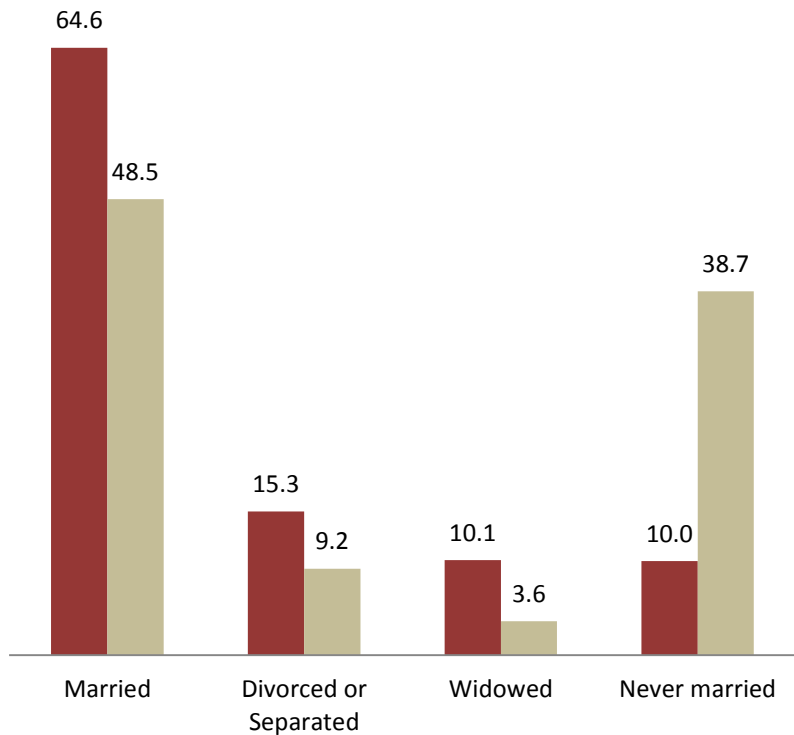
Veterans are more likely to be married or divorced and less likely to have never married compared with non-Veterans.

### Marital Status Distribution

(in percent)

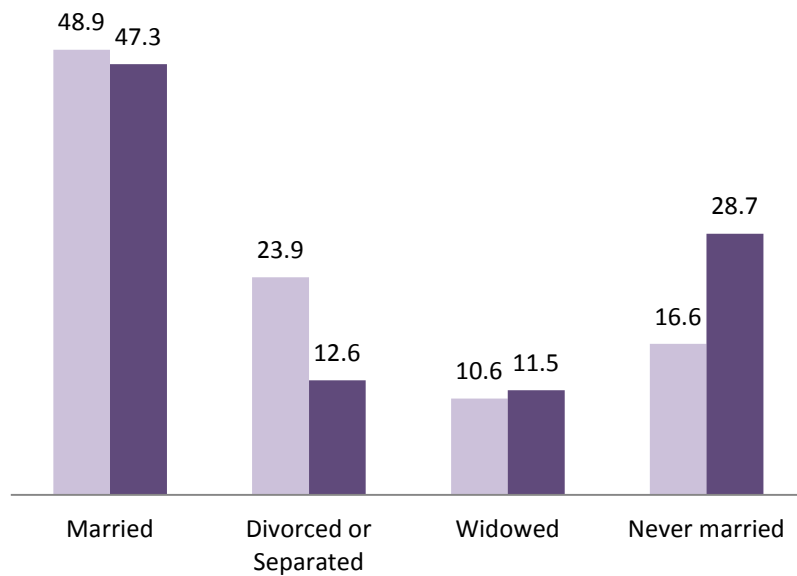
#### Men

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



#### Women

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran





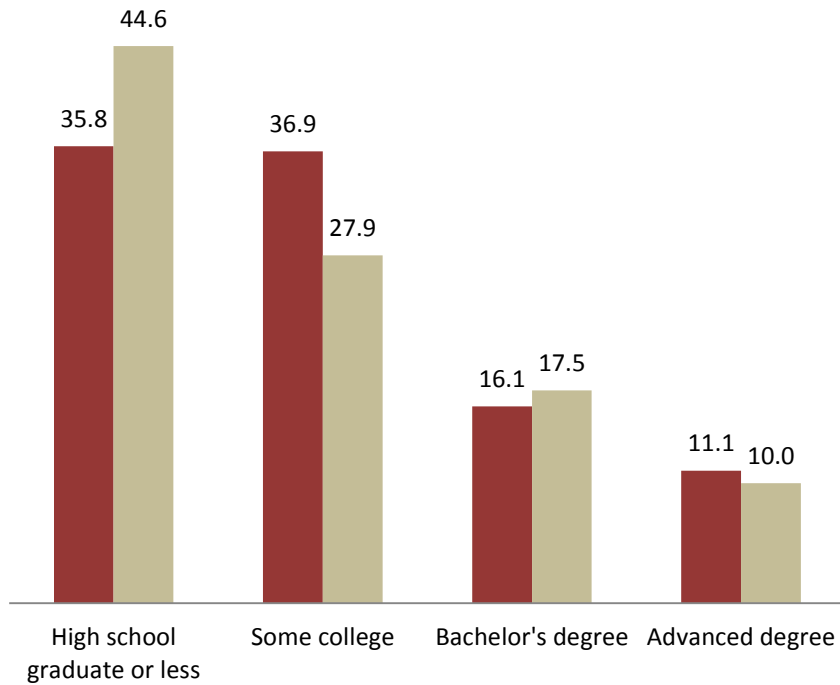
Female Veterans are more likely to have some college, bachelor's degree and an advanced degree than male Veterans and female non-Veterans.

### Education Levels Distribution

(in percent)

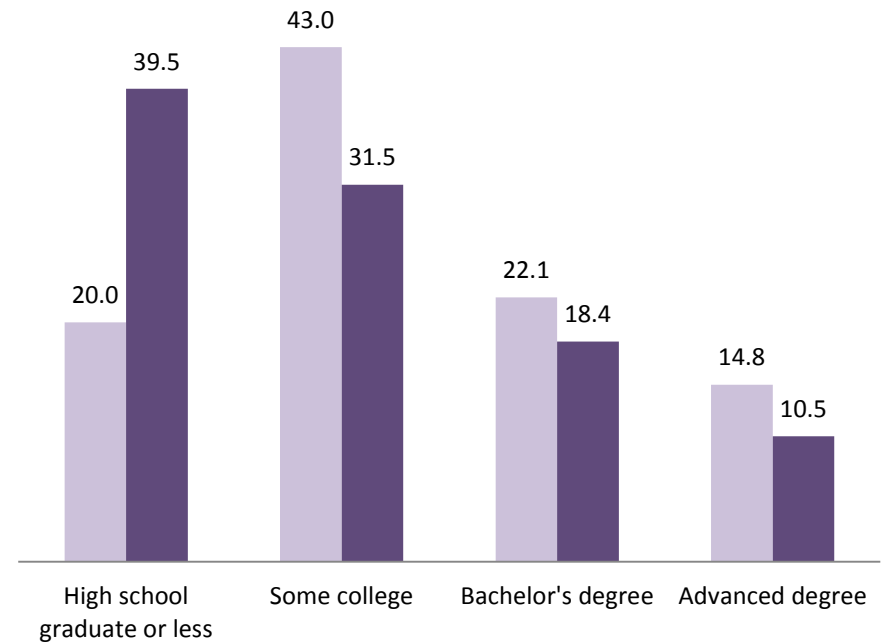
#### Men

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



#### Women

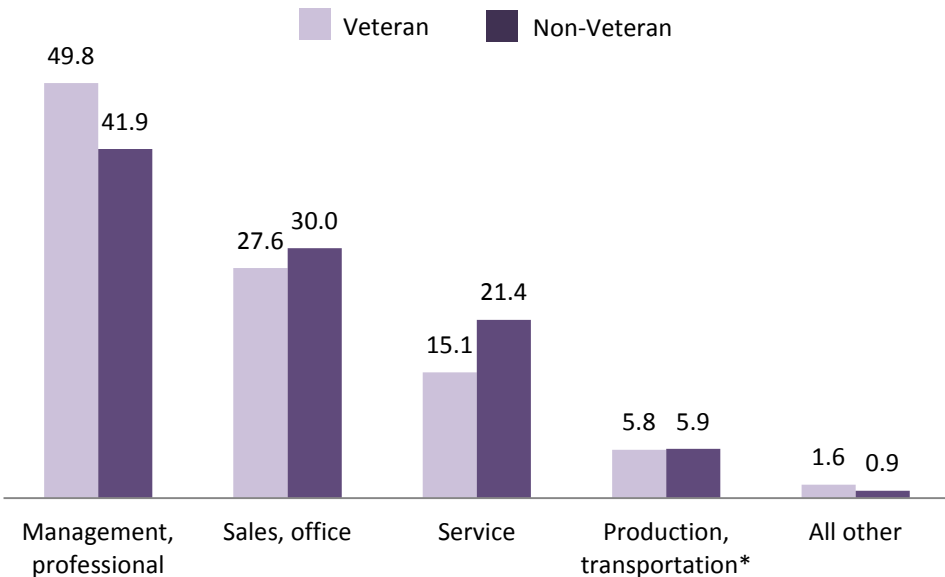
■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



The percentage of female Veterans working in management and professional occupations was about 8 percentage points higher than that of non-Veteran women in 2016. These include occupations such as engineers, educators, doctors, and various types of managers. About 34 percent of female Veterans worked for local, state, or Federal government, compared to 16 percent of non-Veteran women.

## Occupation of Employed Women

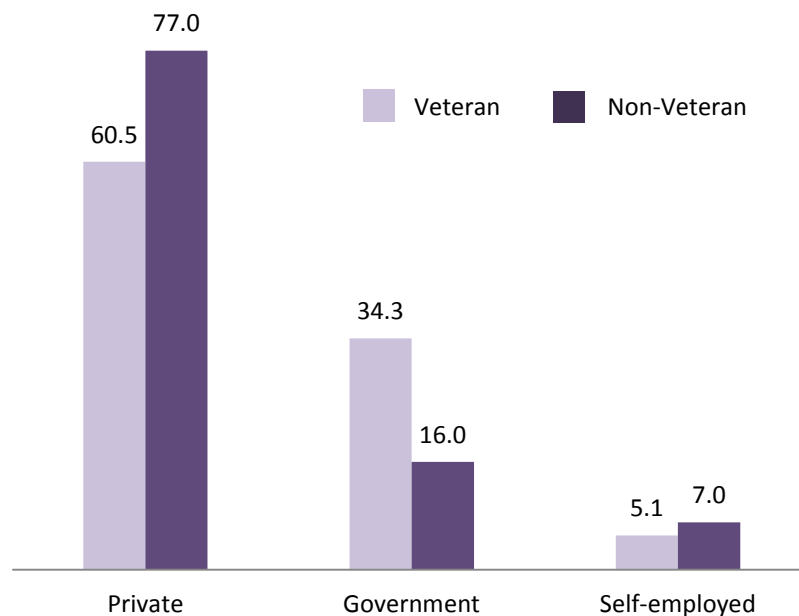
(in percent)



\*Difference between women Veterans and Non-Veteran women is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

## Class of Worker of Employed Women

(in percent)



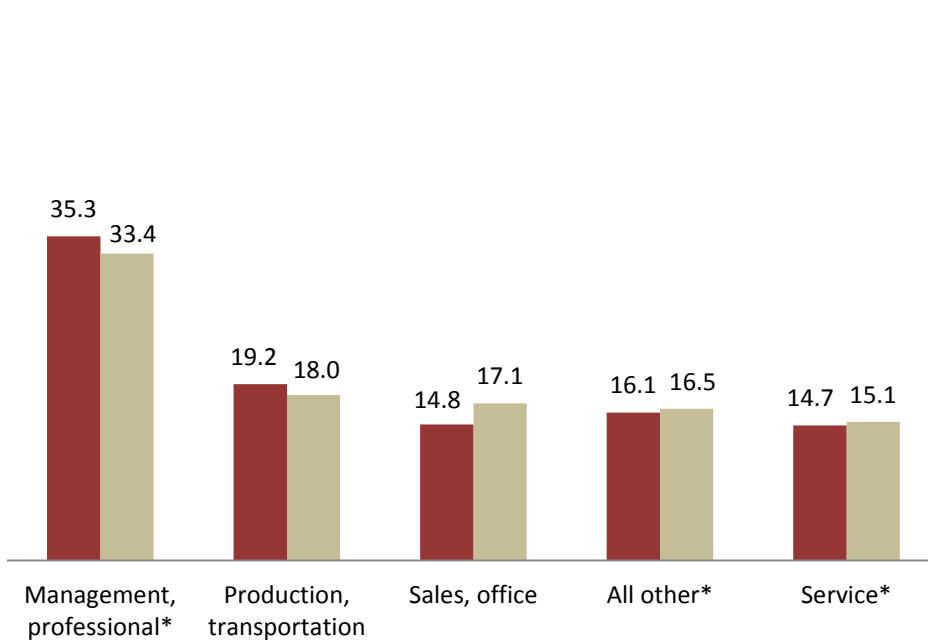
Note: "All Other" includes Farming, fishing, and forestry; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair.

A higher percentage of male Veterans were in production, transportation, sales and office occupations compared with non-Veteran men in 2016. The percentage of male Veterans working for local, state, or Federal government was about twice that of non-Veteran men.

### Occupation of Employed Men

(in percent)

■ Veteran     ■ Non-Veteran

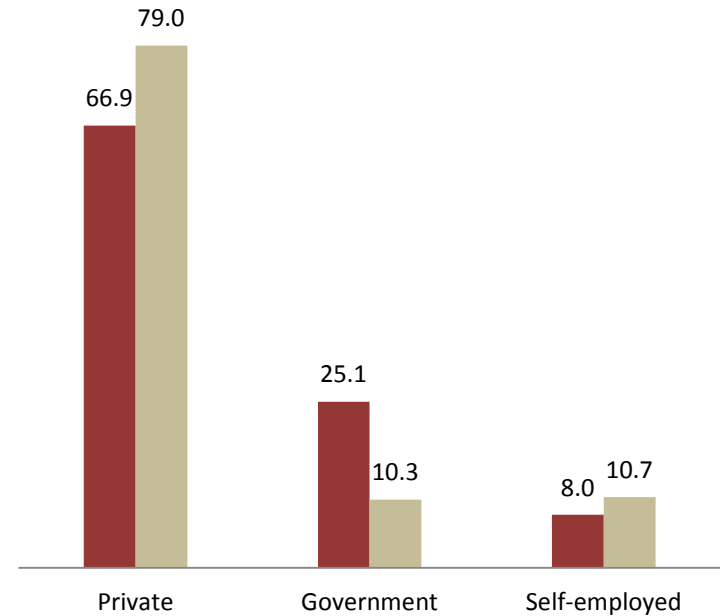


\*Difference between men Veterans and Non-Veteran men is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

### Class of Worker of Employed Men

(in percent)

■ Veteran     ■ Non-Veteran

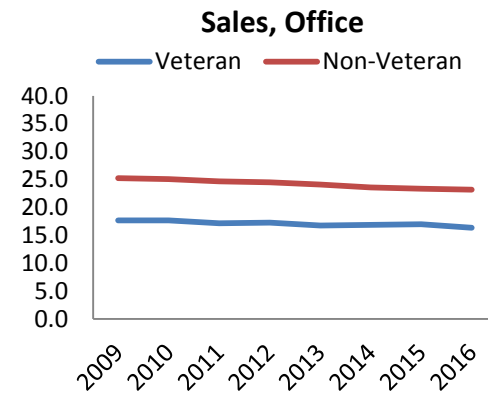
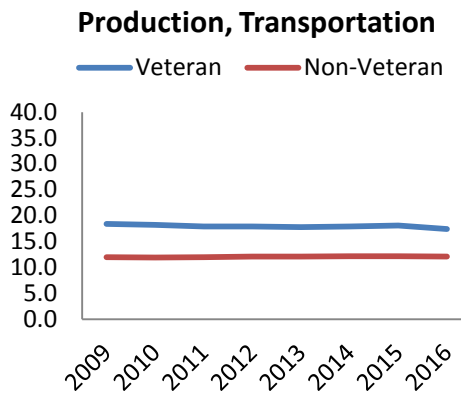
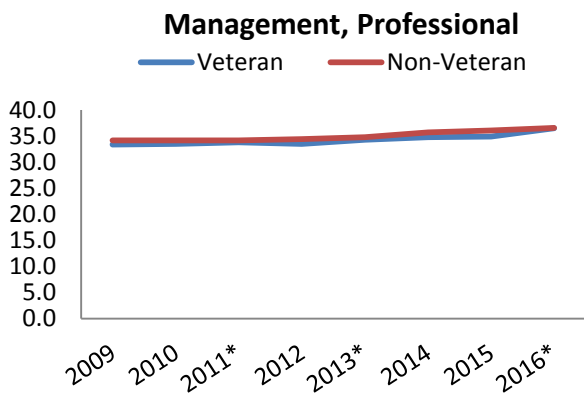


Note: "All Other" includes Farming, fishing, and forestry; construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair.

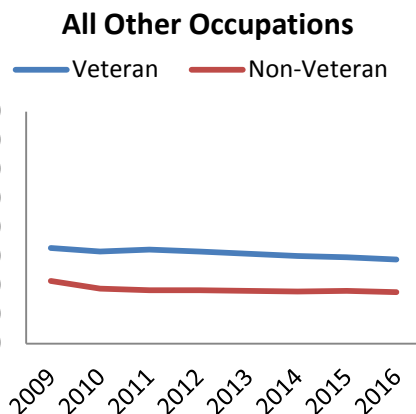
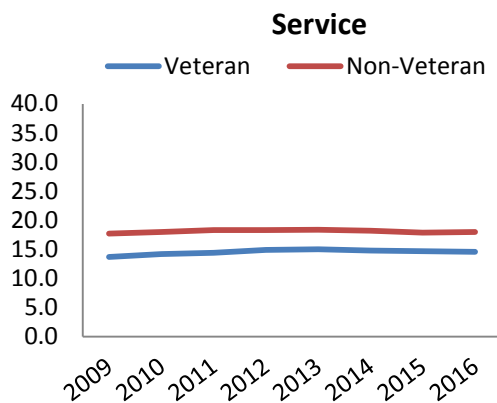
A higher percentage of employed Veterans were in production, transportation and other occupations than employed non-Veterans over time. Management and professional occupations remained steady regardless of the employed Veteran status.

## Occupations of Employed Veterans and Non-Veterans

(in percent)



\*Difference between Veterans and Non-Veteran is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.



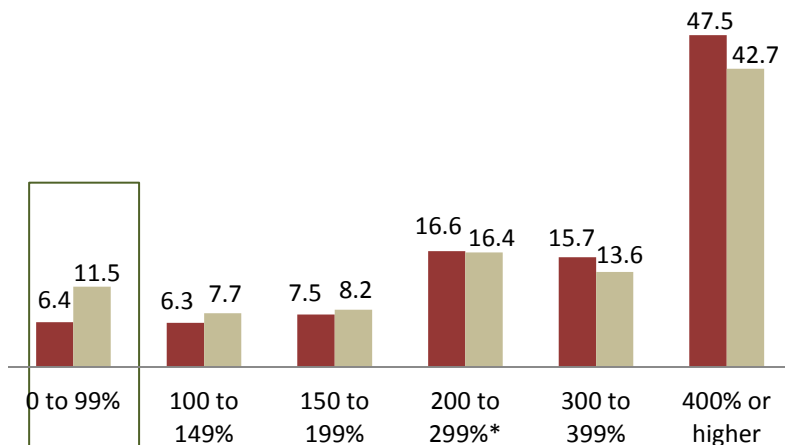
Notes: (1) "All other" includes military; farming, fishing and forestry; construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair.  
 (2) The rates of occupations are not statistically significant at the 90 percent level from year to year.

Veterans are more likely to live above 400 percent of poverty level compared to non-Veterans. Fewer Veterans lived at or below poverty level than non-Veterans.

### Poverty Level Distributions (in percent)

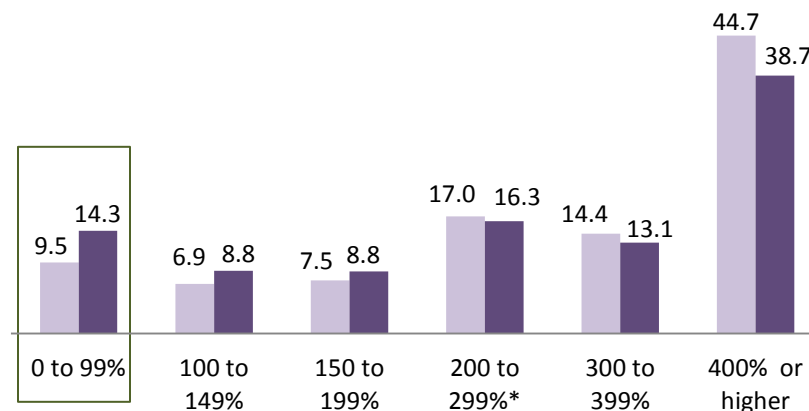
#### Men

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



#### Women

■ Veterans ■ Non-Veterans



\*Difference between female Veterans and Non-Veteran women is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

### In-Poverty by Veteran Status (in percent)

#### Men

| Age                | Veterans | Non-Veterans |
|--------------------|----------|--------------|
| 25 to 34 Years Old | 7.9      | 10.8         |
| 35 to 44 Years Old | 6.7      | 10.1         |

#### Women

| Age                | Veterans | Non-Veterans |
|--------------------|----------|--------------|
| 25 to 34 Years Old | 13.1     | 16.9         |
| 35 to 44 Years Old | 8.5      | 14.2         |

*Note: Families in the "0 to 99 percent" are in poverty. Categories above 100 percent are used by public and private programs to determine eligibility. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index. The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps). For more information, visit: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html>.*

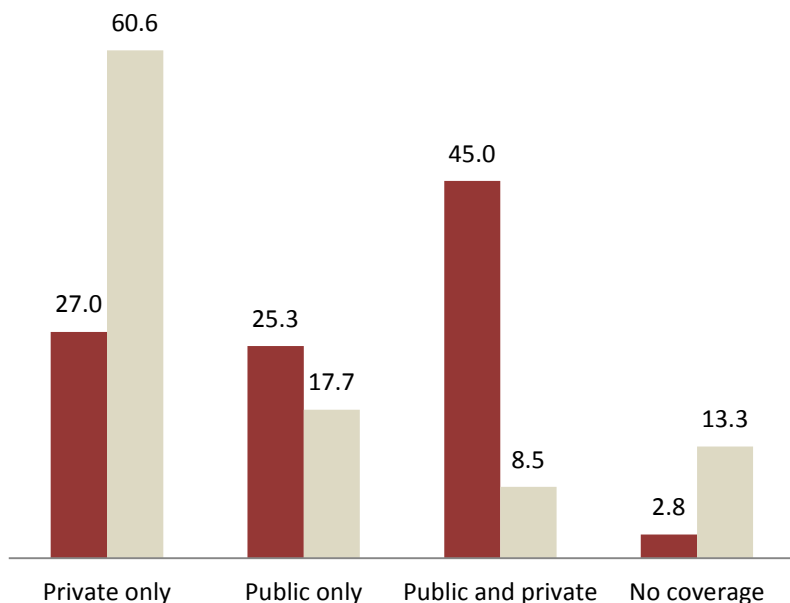
Both male and female Veterans were more likely to have a combination of public and private health insurance coverage compared with their non-Veteran counterparts. The high percentage of male Veterans in this category was likely due to Medicare, use of VA health care and second career after retirement than non-Veterans. Male and female Veterans had lower uninsured rates than non-Veterans in 2016.

## Health Insurance Coverage Distribution

(in percent)

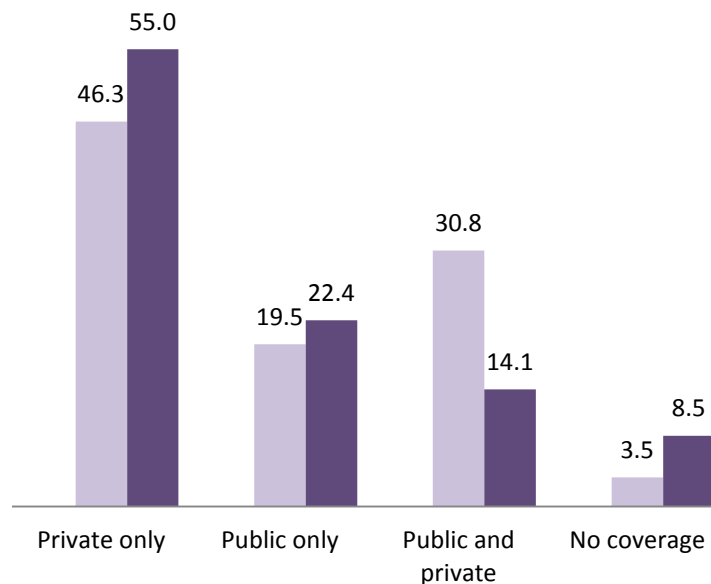
Men

■ Veteran
 ■ Non-Veteran



Women

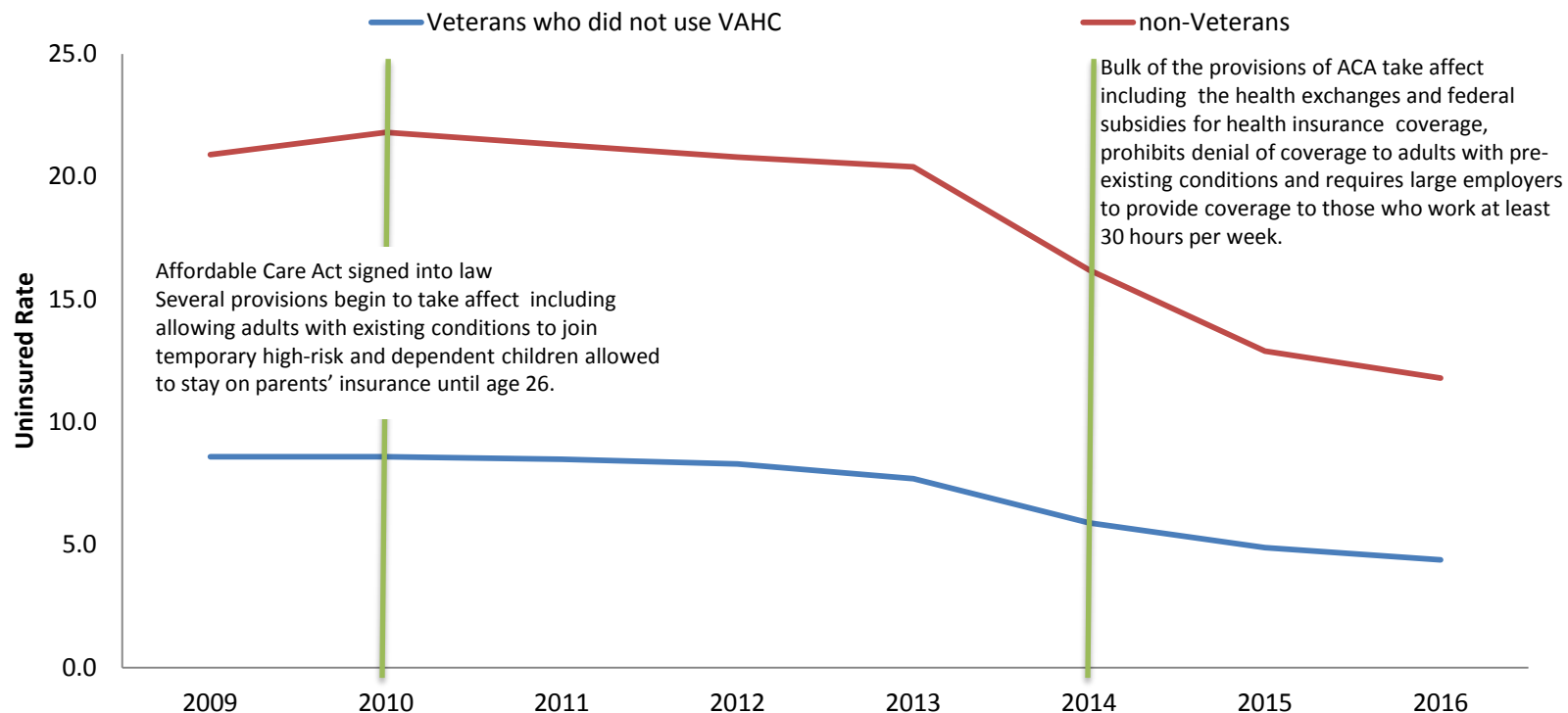
■ Veteran
 ■ Non-Veteran



The percentage of uninsured non-Veterans more than double that of uninsured Veterans who do not use VA health care (VAHC) in all years 2009 to 2016. The uninsured rate decreased by 48 percent for Veterans who did not use VAHC from 2009 to 2016.

## Uninsured Rates for Veterans Who Did Not Use VAHC and non-Veterans, 2009-2016

(in percent)



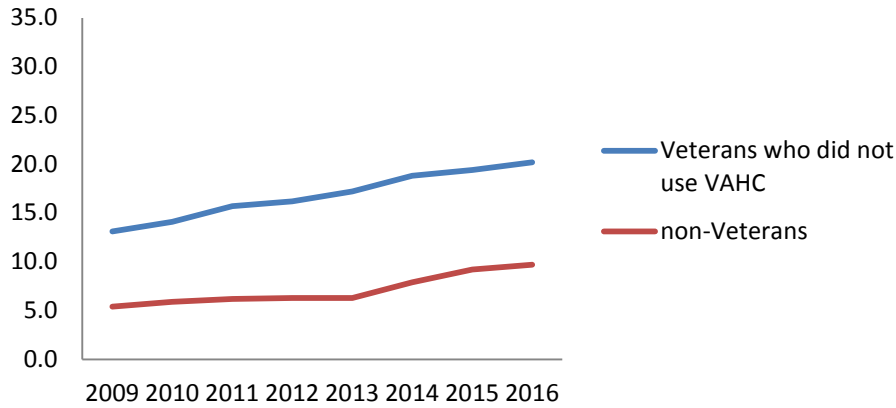
\*The year to year change for Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level for 2009 to 2010, 2010 to 2011 and 2011 to 2012.

A higher percentage of Veterans who do not use VA health care (VAHC) had public only and public and private health care coverage than non-Veterans over time. The percentage of Veterans who do not use VAHC use of public only coverage increased 54 percent from 2009 to 2016.

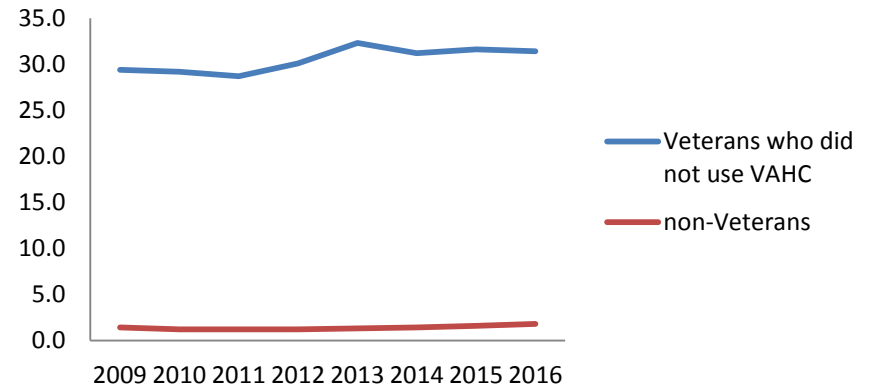
## Insurance Type for Veterans Who Did Not Use Veteran Affairs Health Care and non-Veterans, 2009-2016

(in percent)

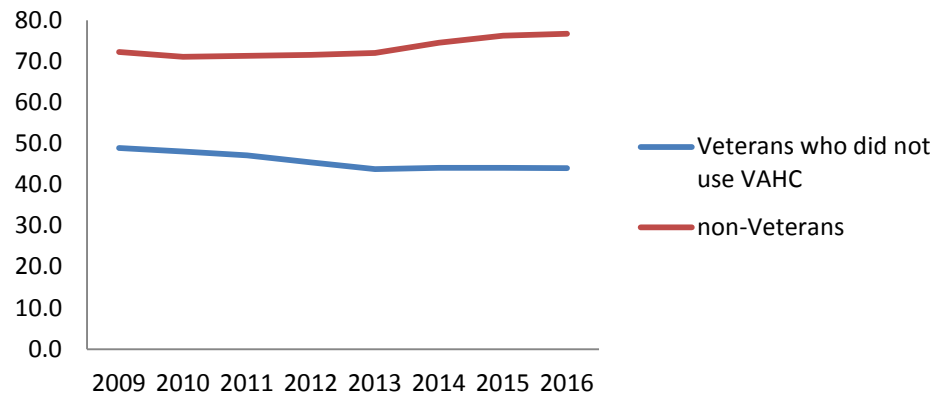
### Public Coverage Only



### Public and Private Coverage



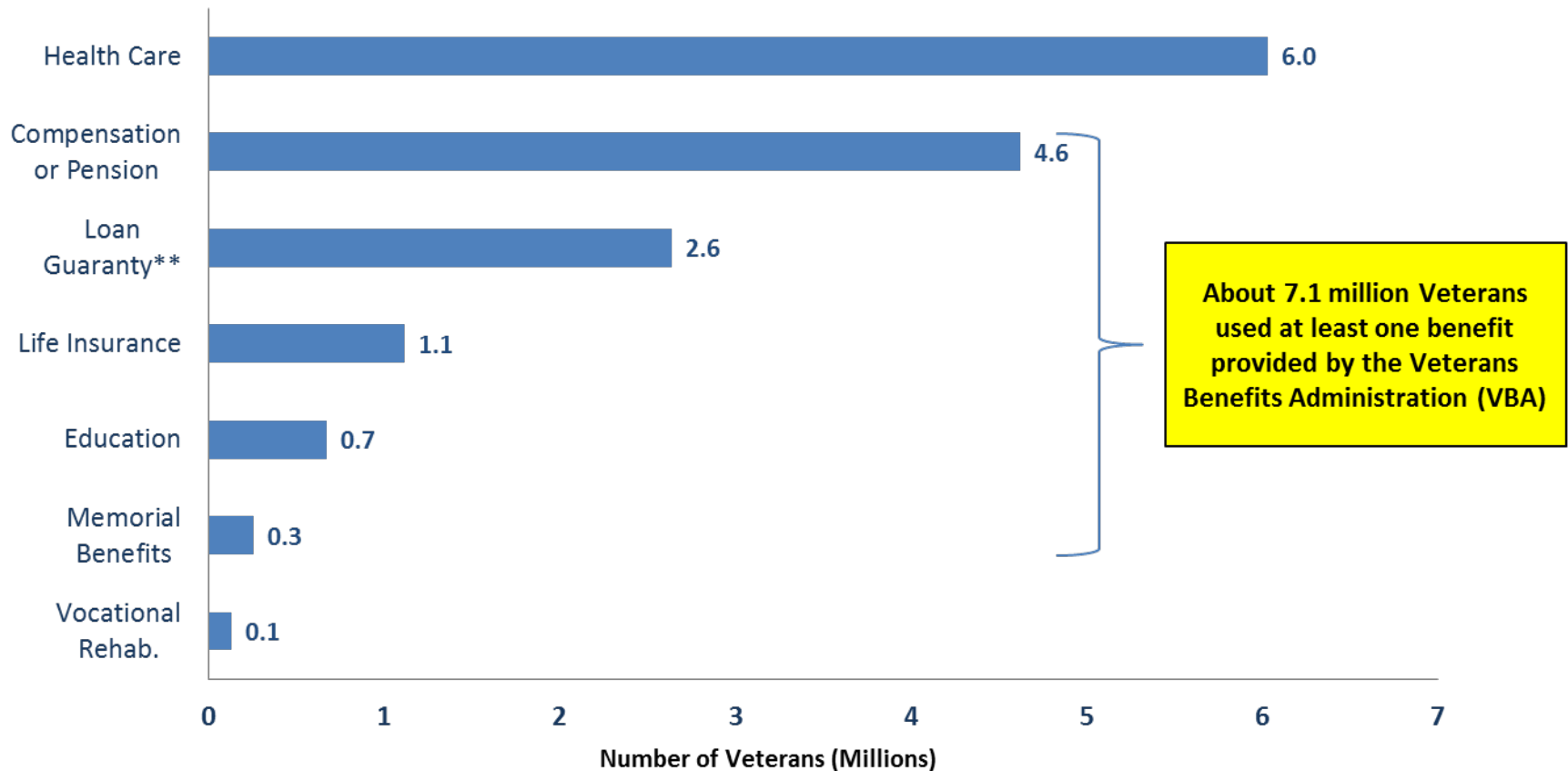
### Private Coverage Only





Approximately 9.7 million Veterans used at least one VA benefit or service in FY 2016. Forty four percent of all VA users received benefits or services from multiple programs.\*

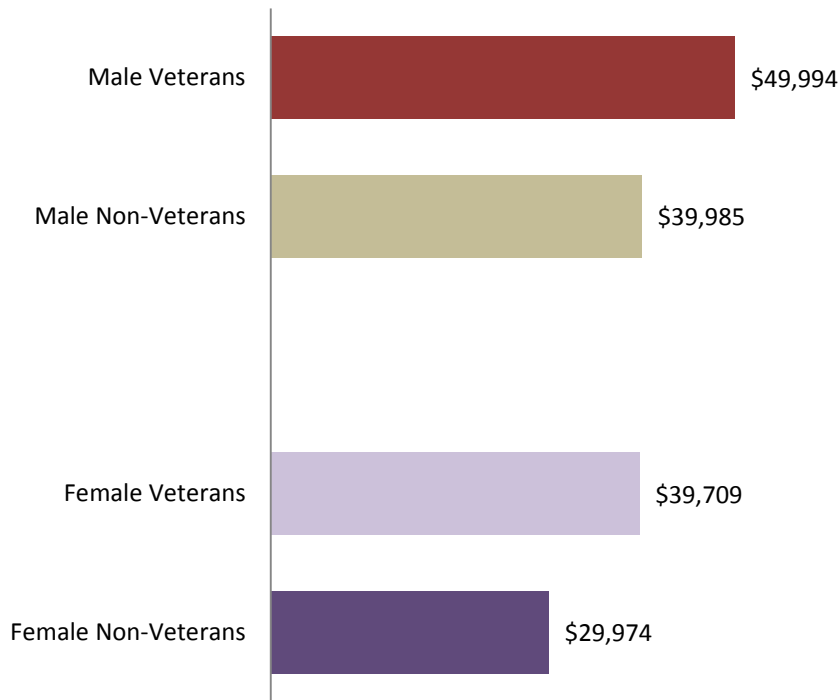
### VA Benefits Utilization by Program - Veterans only: FY 2016



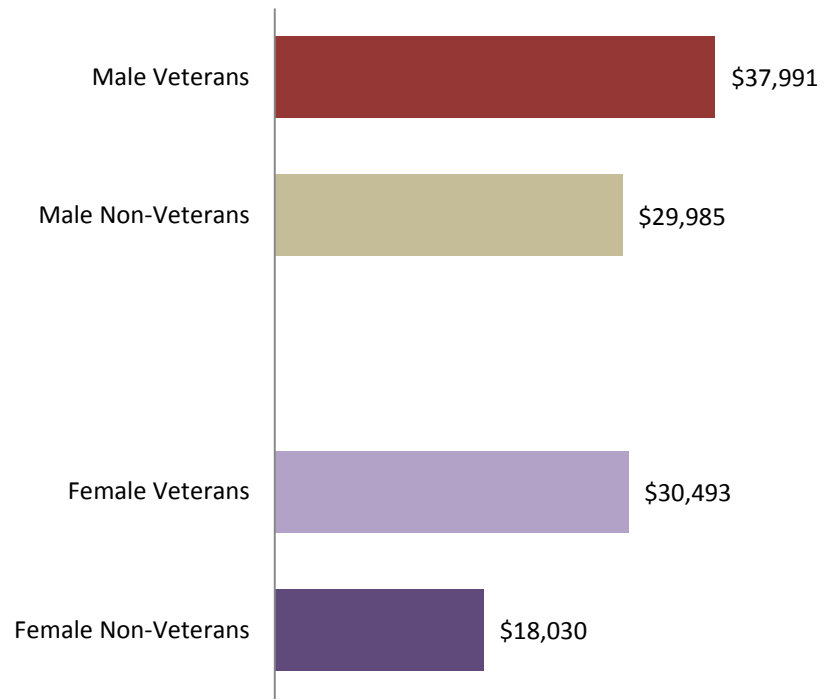
\* The numbers from the chart do not sum to the total number of VA users. Veterans who used multiple programs are counted in each individual program, but only once in the overall total. \*\* Contains Veterans who received Special Housing Allowance or Special Adaptive Housing benefits.

In 2016, both male and female Veterans who worked year-round and full time had higher median earnings than their non-Veteran counterparts. Veterans of both sexes also had higher personal incomes than non-Veterans.

### Median Earnings of Year-Round Full-Time Workers by Sex and Veteran Status



### Median Personal Income by Sex and Veteran Status

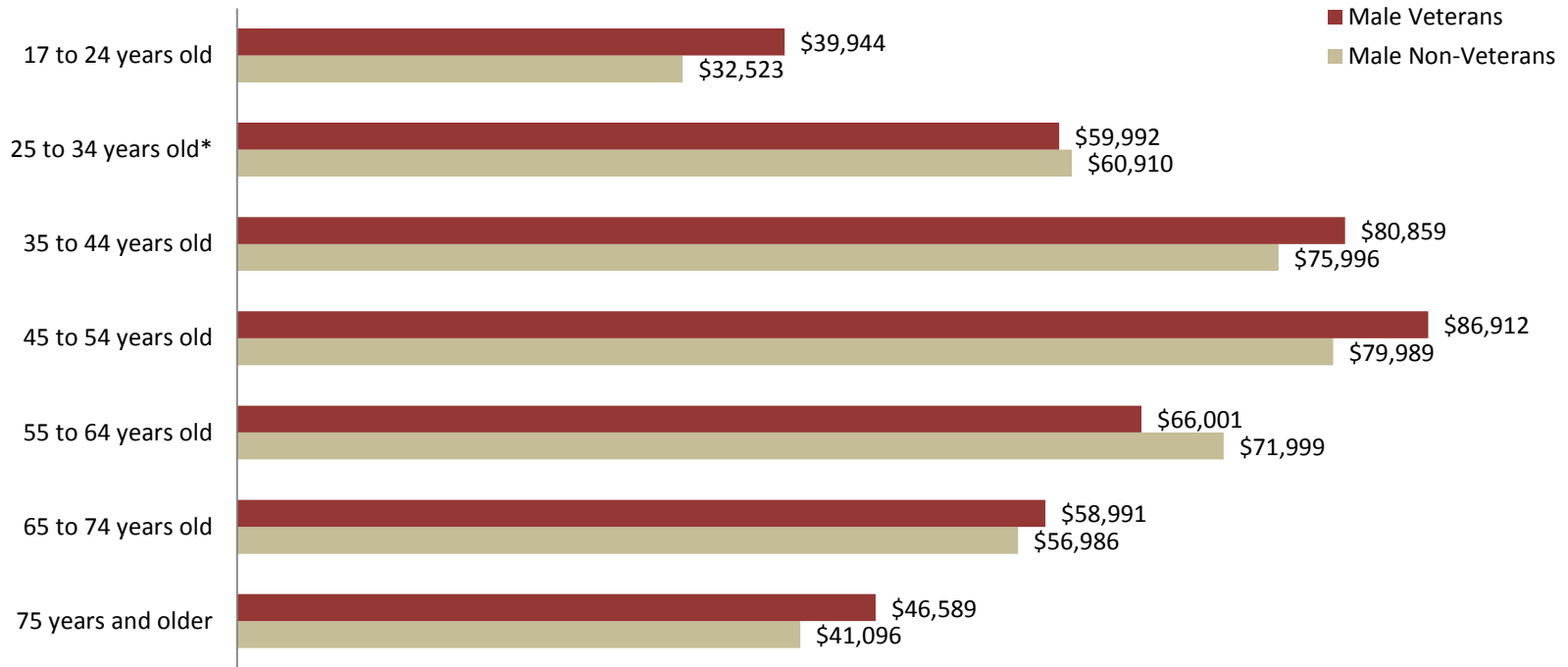


“Earnings” refer to salary, wages, and self employment income. “Year-round full-time(YRFT) refers to employment of 50 or more weeks per year and 35 or more hours per week. Median earnings are calculated for the YRFT employed population with earnings greater than zero.

“Income” refers to the total of earnings and other sources of income such as pension, Supplement Security Income, public assistance, etc. Median Income is calculated for the total population with personal income greater than zero.

In most age groups, male Veterans have higher median household income than non-Veteran men.

### Median Household Income of Men by Veteran Status: 2016



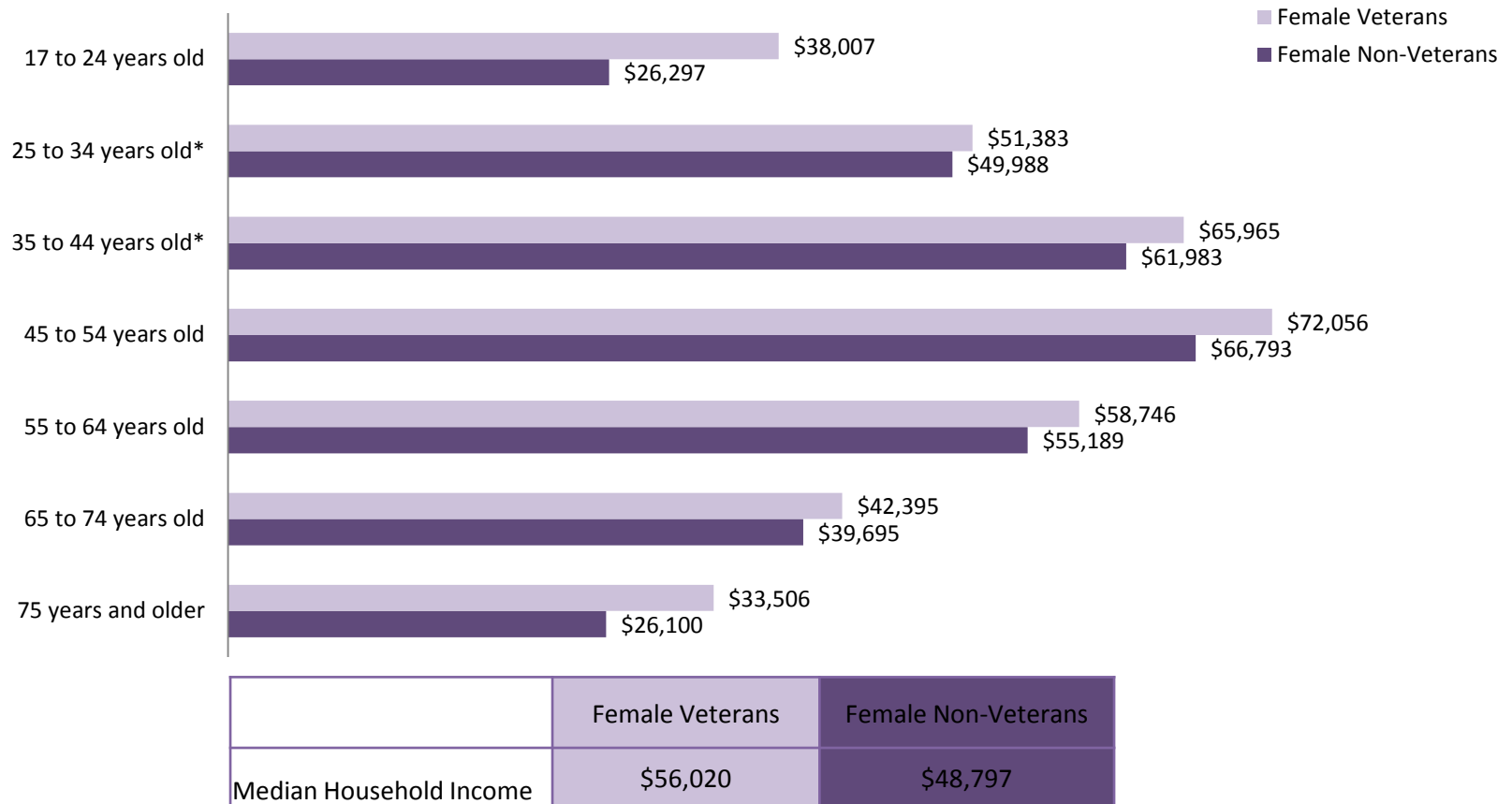
|                         | Male Veterans | Male Non-Veterans |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Median Household Income | \$59,998      | \$65,993          |

\*Difference between men Veterans and men non-Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

**Note: Income of Households:** This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income. The **median** divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median and one-half above the median.

# Female Veterans have higher median household income than non-Veteran women.

## Median Household Income of Women by Veteran Status: 2016



\*Difference between women Veterans and women non-Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

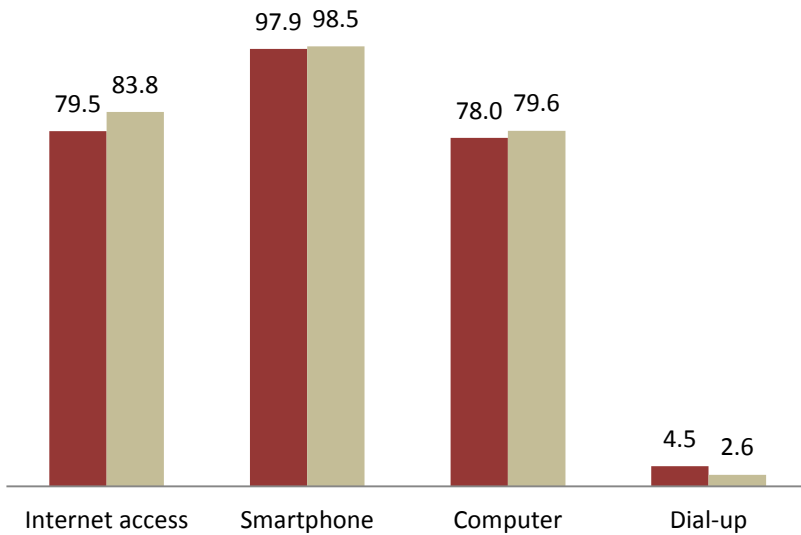
**Note: Income of Households:** This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income. The **median** divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median and one-half above the median.

Female Veterans live in households that are most likely to have internet access, use/own a computer than male Veterans and non-Veterans.

**Internet Access and Computer Use in the Household**  
(in percent)

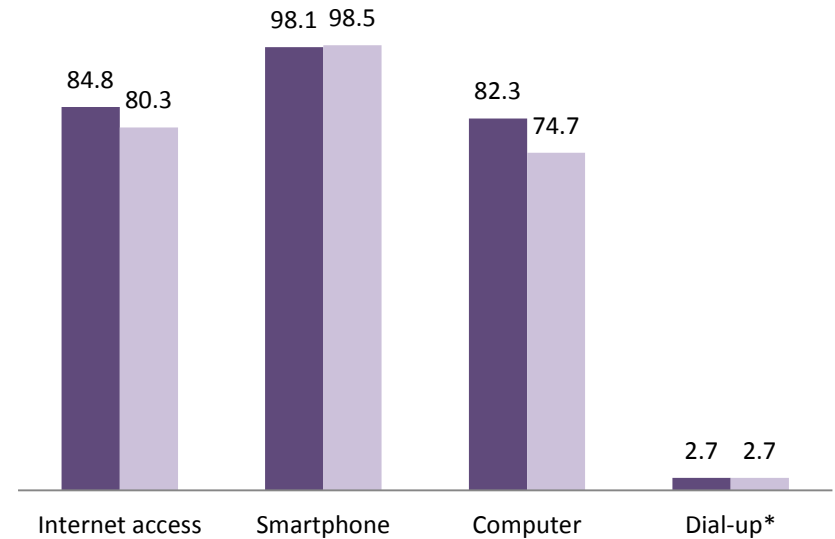
**Men**

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



**Women**

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



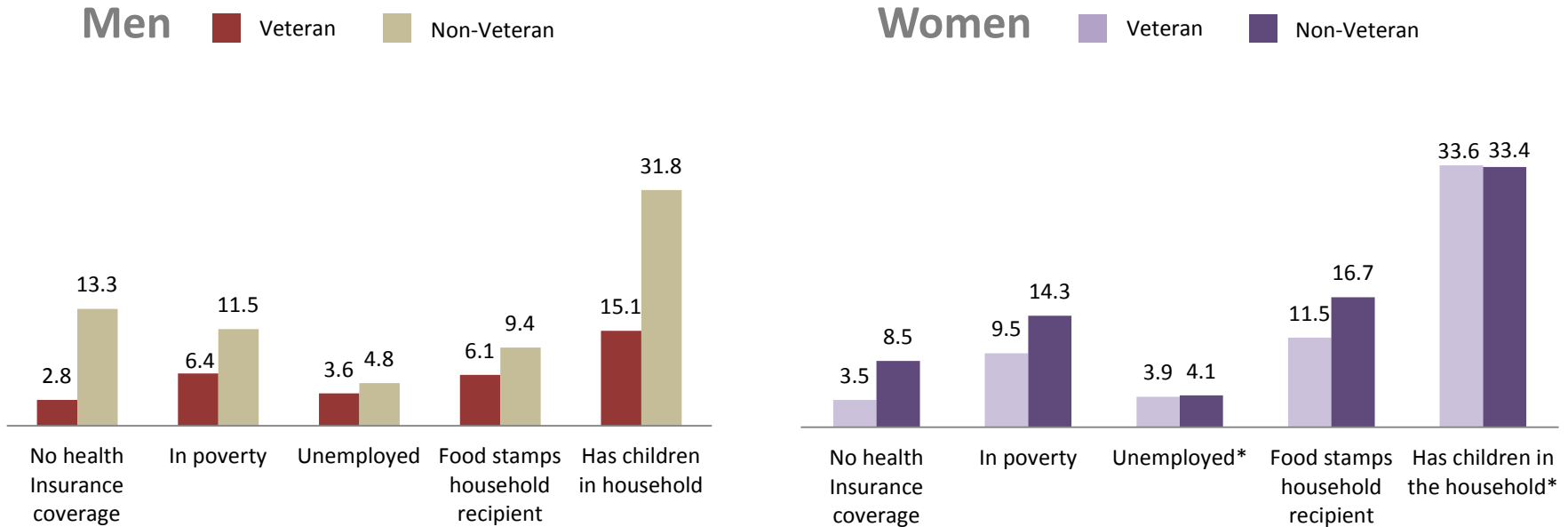
|                 | Veteran (%) | Non-Veteran (%) |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Internet access | 79.9        | 81.8            |
| Smartphone      | 97.9        | 98.5            |
| Computer        | 78.3        | 76.9            |
| Dial-up         | 4.4         | 2.7             |

\*Difference between women Veterans and Non-Veteran women is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Note: "Computer" refers to a laptop or desktop.

Veterans are more likely to have health insurance and less likely to be in poverty than non-Veterans. Veterans live in households that are less likely to receive food stamps than their non-Veteran counterparts. Male Veterans are more likely to live in a household with no children than the non-Veteran men.

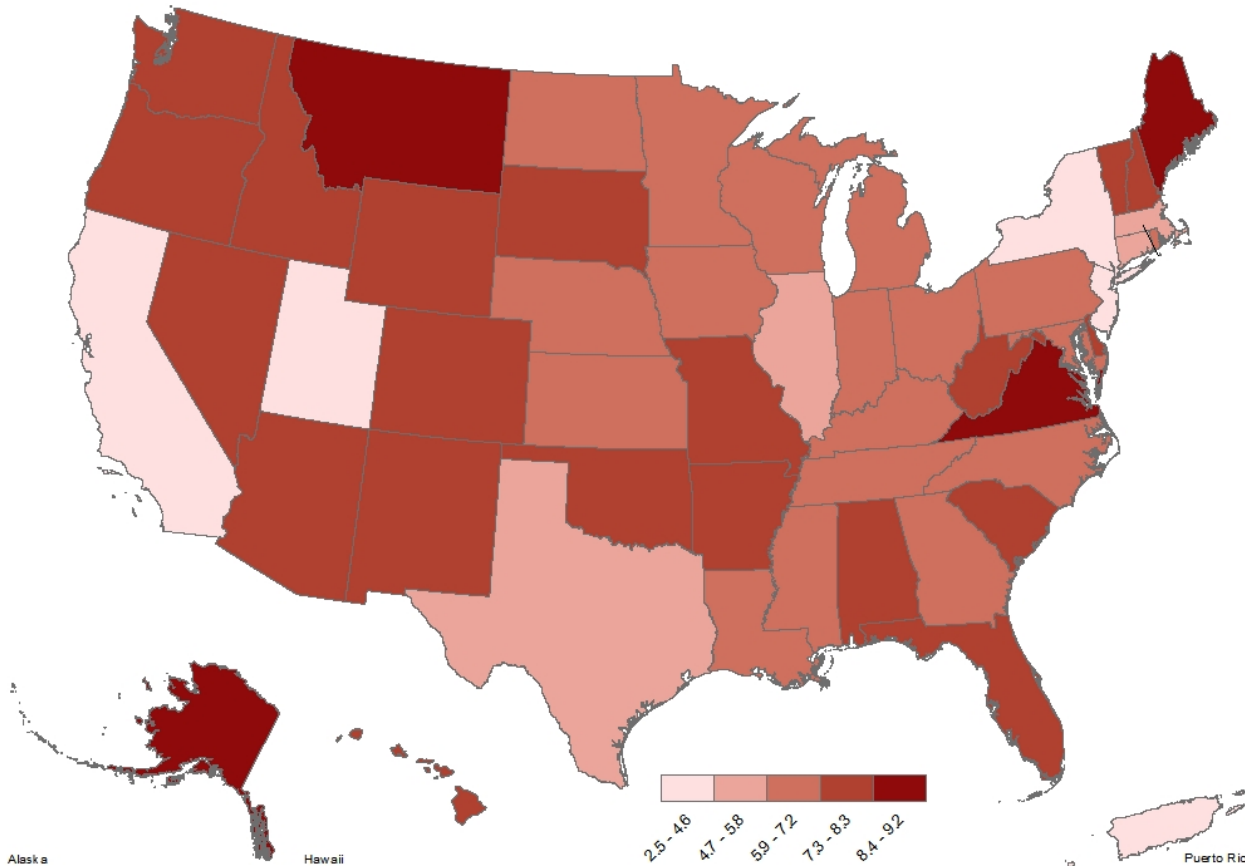
### Selected Characteristics between Veterans and Non-Veterans (in percent)



\*Difference between female Veterans and Non-Veteran women is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Alaska, Maine and Montana are the top three states with highest percent of Veterans per capita in 2016.

Percent of Veterans Per Capita: 2016



States with the Highest Percent of Veterans per capita: 2016

| State         | Percent |
|---------------|---------|
| Alaska        | 9.2     |
| Maine         | 9.0     |
| Montana       | 9.0     |
| Washington    | 8.7     |
| New Hampshire | 8.3     |

States with the Highest Number of Veterans: 2016

| State        | Veterans  |
|--------------|-----------|
| California   | 1,789,862 |
| Texas        | 1,603,328 |
| Florida      | 1,594,218 |
| Pennsylvania | 872,301   |
| New York     | 838,129   |

# Veteran Comparisons

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Male Veterans = 16,998,424

Female Veterans = 1,601,292



# Issues to Consider When Analyzing Female Veterans

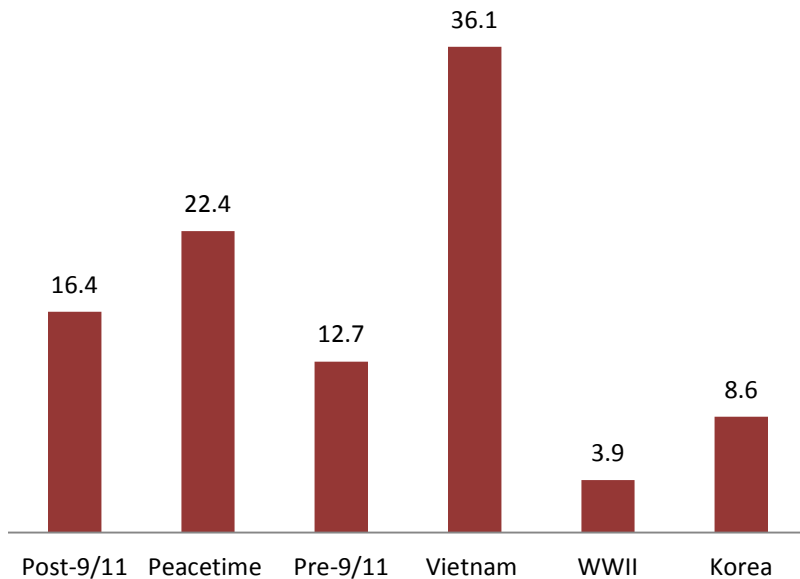
According to ACS data, female Veterans are significantly different than male Veterans. Following legislative changes, female Veterans started entering the military branches in greater numbers during more recent periods of service. A higher percent of female Veterans are minorities. Fewer Veterans are women. As of 09/30/2017, VetPop2016 estimates 1.8 million of the 20.8 million living Veterans are women, or about 8.7 percent of living Veterans are women.

Female Veterans are younger than male Veterans. The median age for female Veterans is 50, and the median age for male Veterans is 65. Any characteristics correlated with age (e.g., employment and income) will be affected by the differences in the age distributions of the two groups.

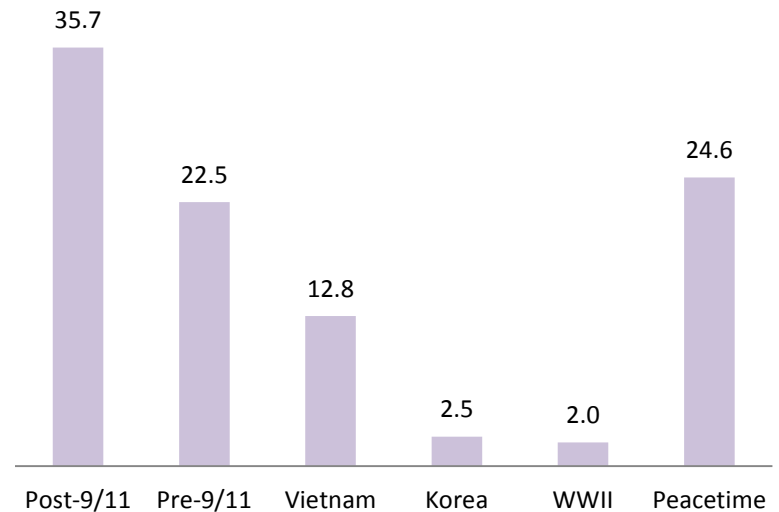
The largest cohort of male Veterans served during the Vietnam Era while the largest cohort of female Veterans served during Post-9/11.

**Period of Military Service of Veterans**  
(in percent)

**Male Veterans**



**Female Veterans**

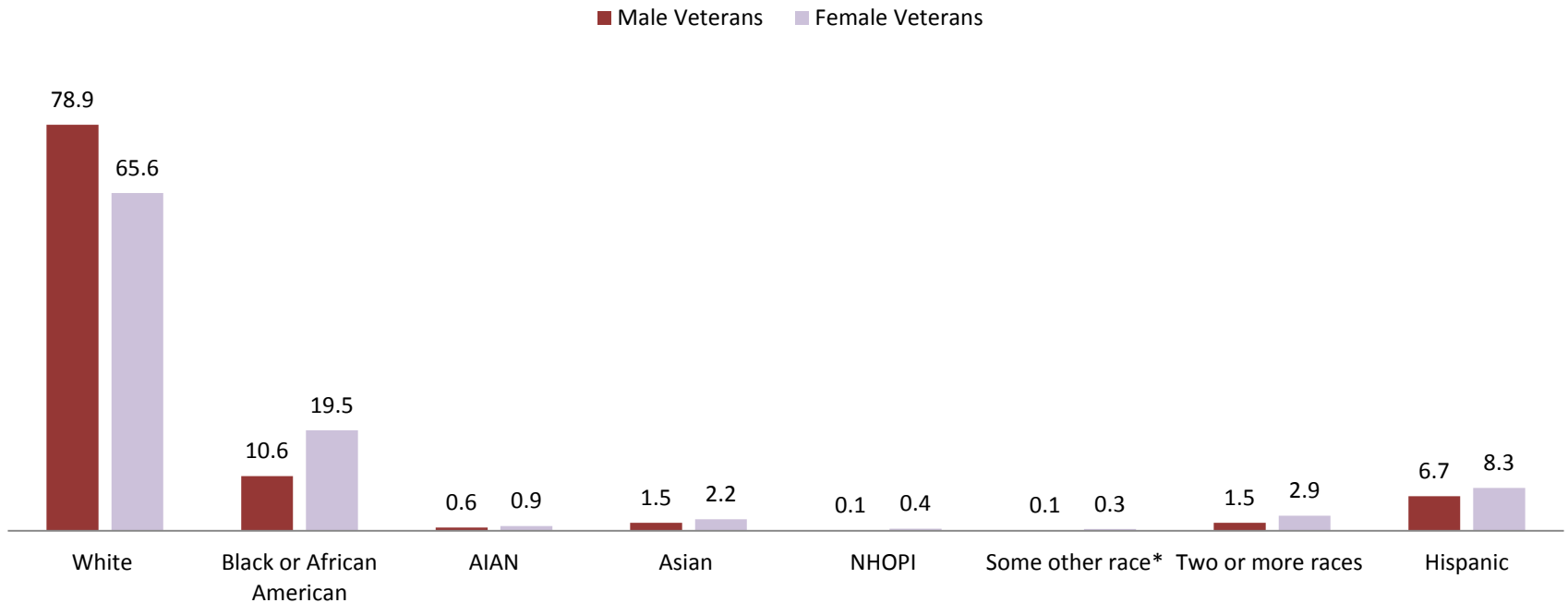


**Period of Service Dates**

- Post-9/11: Sept. 2001 to present
- Pre-9/11: Aug. 1990 to Aug. 2001
- Vietnam Era: Aug. 1964 to April 1975
- Korean War: July 1950 to Jan. 1955
- World War II: Dec. 1941 to Dec. 1946
- Peacetimes: Jan. 1947 to June 1950; Feb. 1955 to July 1964 and May 1975 to July 1990

A higher percent of female Veterans are racially and ethnically diverse than male Veterans.

## Race and Ethnicity of Veterans by Gender: 2016 (in percent)

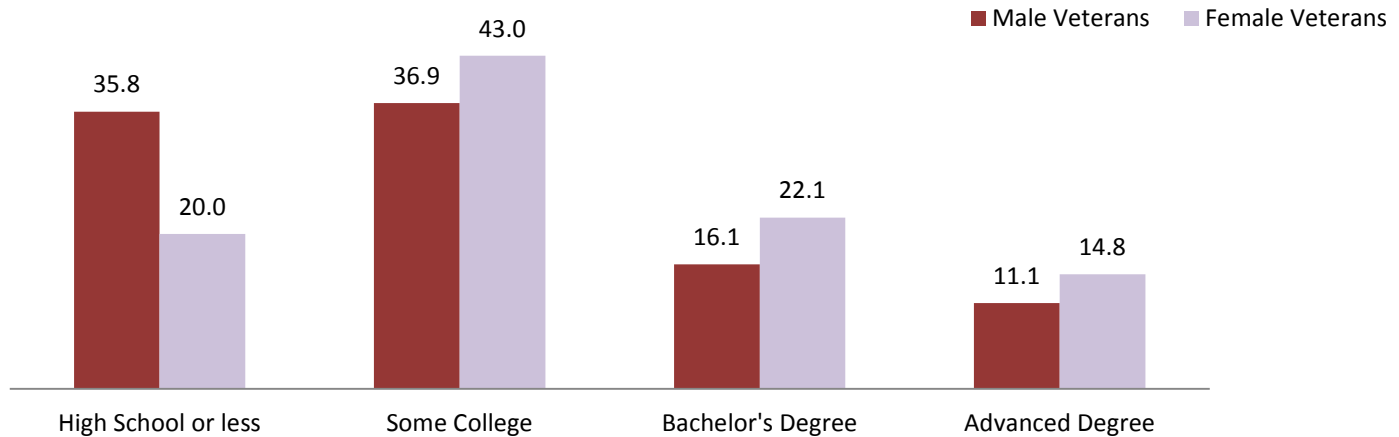


*Note: Races categories are shown for the non-Hispanic population. Hispanics can be of any race.*

\*Difference between male Veterans and female Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

A higher percent of female Veterans have higher education attainment and are enrolled in higher education compared to male Veterans.

### Education Level of Veterans by Gender: 2016 (in percent)



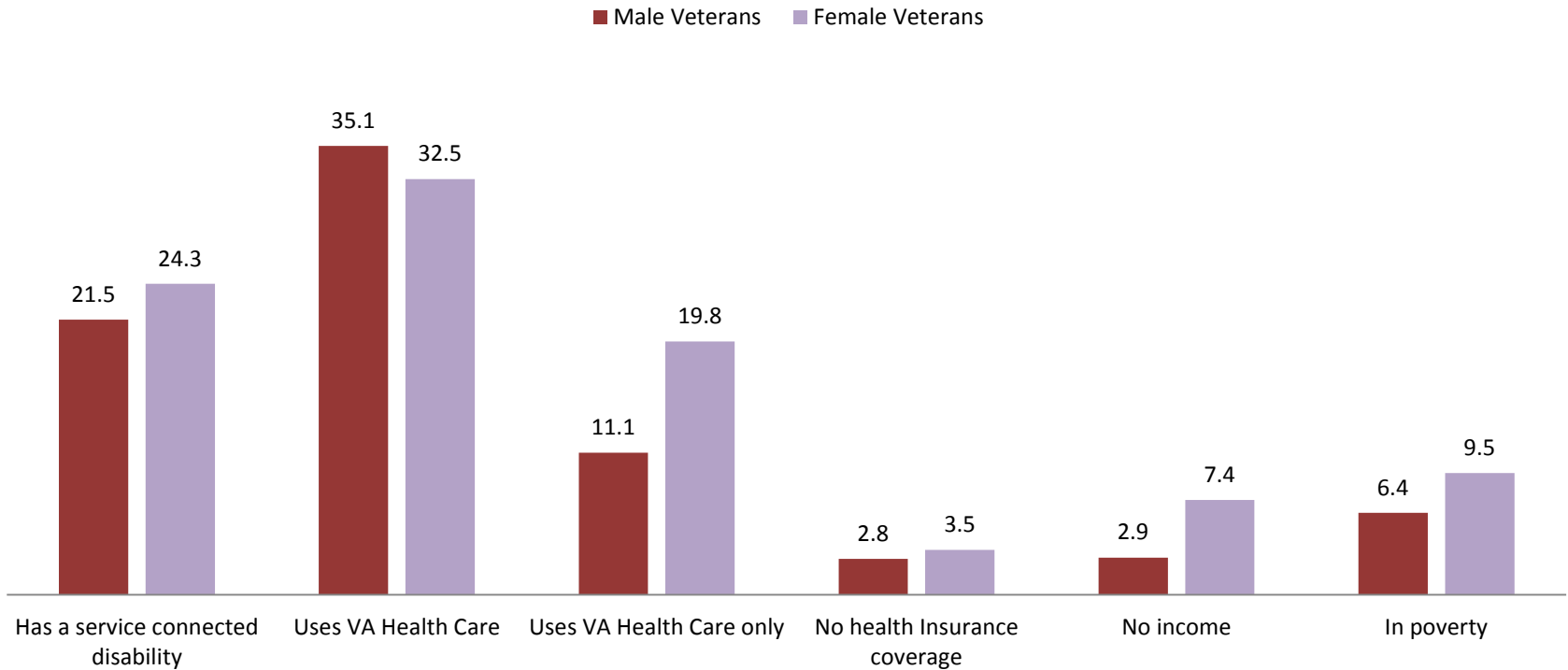
### Veterans Enrolled in Higher Education by Gender: 2016 (in percent)

|                     | Male Veterans | Female Veterans |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| All Ages            | 3.9           | 11.7            |
| 17 to 24 Years Old* | 32.0          | 37.0            |
| 25 to 34 Years Old  | 23.1          | 31.2            |
| 35 to 44 Years Old  | 10.4          | 15.6            |

\*Difference between male Veterans and female Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

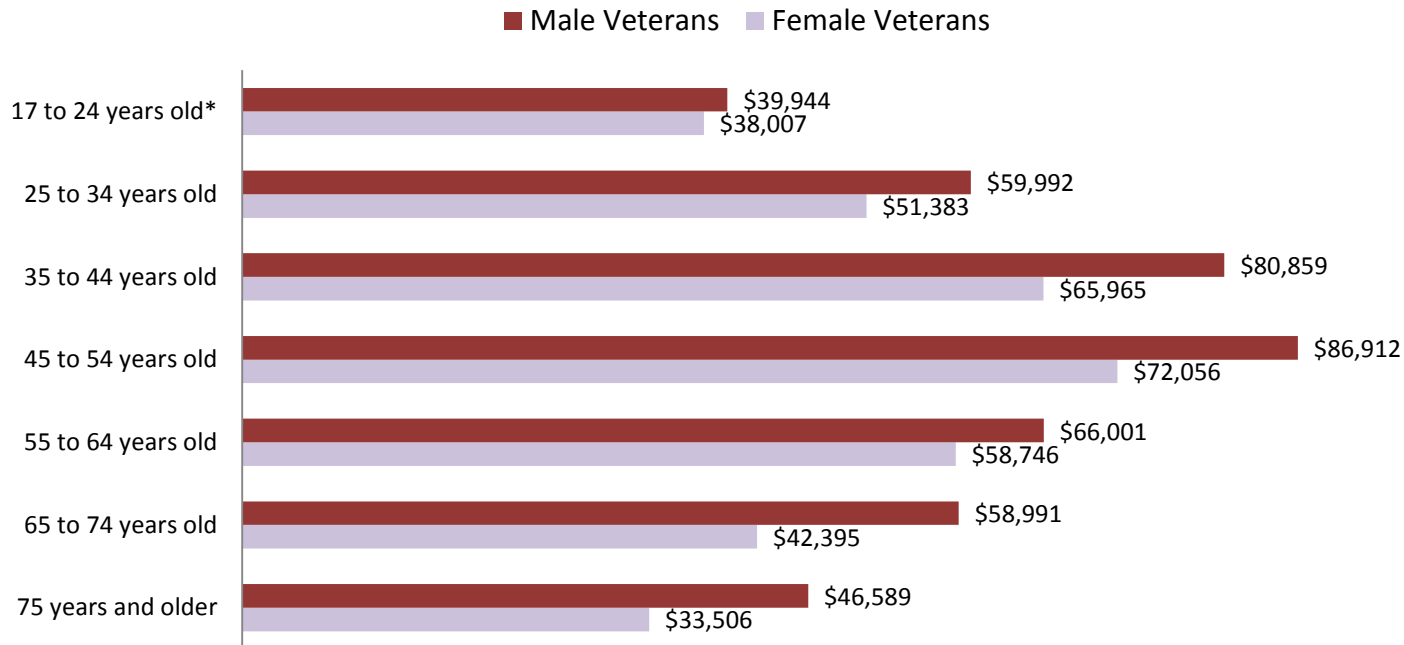
A higher percent of female Veterans have a service connected disability, have no personal income, and are in poverty than male Veterans. A lower percent of female Veterans use VA health care, but a higher percent only use VA health care than male Veterans.

## Selected Variables of Veterans by Gender: 2016



# Female Veterans have a lower median household income than male Veterans.

## Median Household Income of Veterans by Gender: 2016



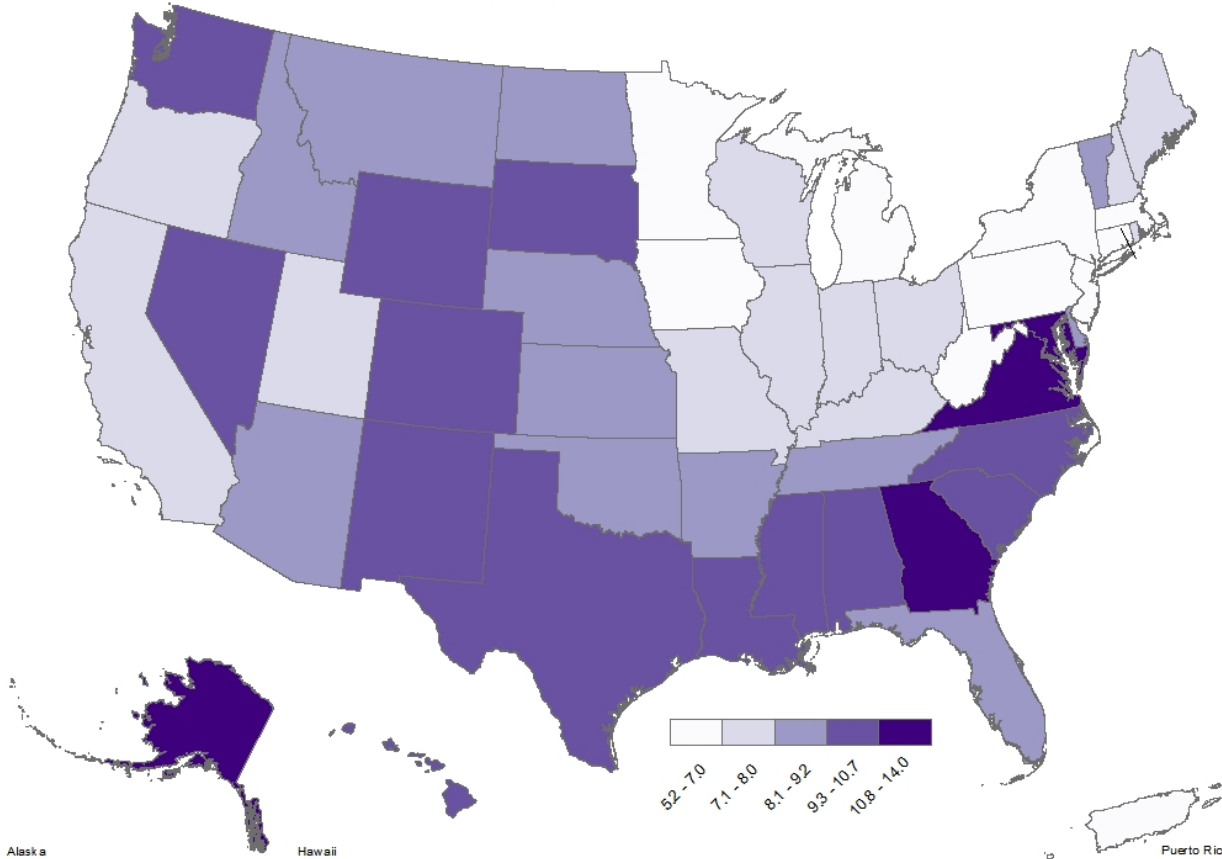
| Veterans                          | Men      | Women    |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Median Household Income           | \$59,998 | \$56,020 |
| Households Using SNAP/Food Stamps | 6.1%     | 11.5%    |

\*Difference between male Veterans and female Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

**Note: Income of Households:** This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income. The **median** divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median and one-half above the median.

District of Columbia, Virginia, and Alaska are the top three states with highest percent of Veterans who are women.

Percent of Veterans who are Women: 2016



States with the Highest Percent of Veterans who are women: 2016

| State                | Percent |
|----------------------|---------|
| District of Columbia | 14.0%   |
| Virginia             | 13.6%   |
| Alaska               | 13.3%   |
| Maryland             | 12.6%   |
| Georgia              | 12.1%   |

States with the Highest Number of Women Veterans: 2016

| State      | Women   |
|------------|---------|
| Texas      | 168,967 |
| California | 142,904 |
| Florida    | 142,193 |
| Virginia   | 99,399  |
| Georgia    | 84,894  |

# Minority Veterans Comparisons

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Veterans = 4,145,942

Non-Veterans = 90,074,318



# Issues to consider when analyzing minority groups

The sample size of minority Veteran groups were small and could result in larger standard errors, making determination of statistically significant difference between groups difficult. Minority subpopulations should not be analyzed as one monolithic group (i.e., all minorities compared to Whites) to overcome small sample sizes.

The study of Hispanics is a great example of the issues involved when minorities are lumped together for analysis. Hispanics are a diverse population. Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Central Americans, and South Americans differ significantly in many respects. The differences between these subpopulations can be lost when all are lumped together as one group, “Hispanics.” Academic research typically analyze Hispanic subgroups separately when the data allows; however, in this study subgroup data was not available.

The Veteran population is getting more diverse with the Post-9/11 and Pre-9/11 cohorts having the highest number of minorities.

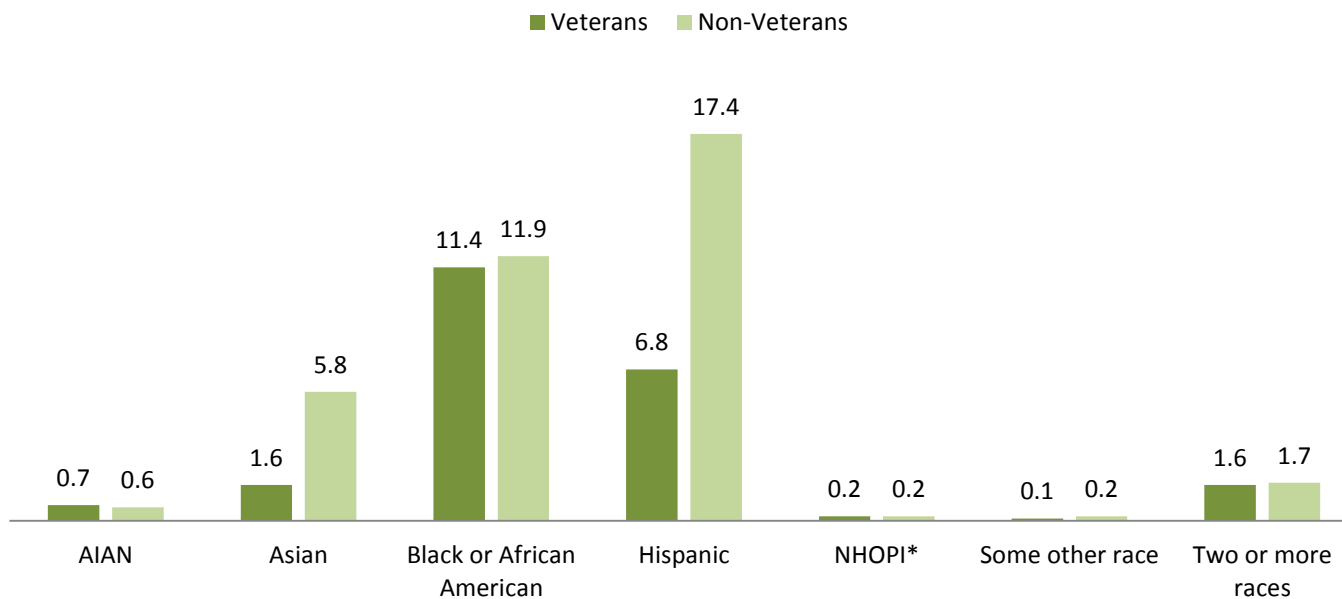
**Veterans by Period of Service by Race and Hispanic Origin**  
(in percent)

|  | White | Black or African American | AIAN | Asian | NHOPI | Some Other Race | Two or More Races | Hispanic |
|--|-------|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------------------|----------|
| <b>Post-9/11</b><br>(Sept. 2001 to present)  | 66.4  | 15.0                      | 0.7  | 2.8   | 0.3   | 0.2             | 3.0               | 11.7     |
| <b>Pre-9/11</b><br>(Aug. 1990 to Aug. 2001)  | 70.3  | 15.7                      | 0.7  | 1.9   | 0.1   | 0.2             | 2.2               | 8.8      |
| <b>Vietnam Era Only</b><br>(Aug. 1964 to April 1975)   | 84.7  | 7.6                       | 0.6  | 1.1   | 0.1   | 0.0             | 1.0               | 4.8      |
| <b>Korean Conflict Only</b><br>(July 1950 to Jan. 1955)  | 88.7  | 6.1                       | 0.4  | 0.4   | --    | 0.1             | 0.6               | 3.7      |
| <b>World War II Only</b><br>(Dec. 1941 to Dec. 1946)   | 94.5  | 1.4                       | --   | 0.2   | 0.3   | --              | 0.6               | 3.0      |
| <b>Peacetime Only</b><br>(Jan. 1947 to June 1950; Feb. 1955 to July 1964; May 1975 to July 1990) | 76.7  | 13.5                      | 0.7  | 1.3   | 0.2   | 0.1             | 1.5               | 6.1      |

Notes: (1) ‘—’ denotes “No participation”; (2) Periods of military service shown here are coded with Veterans who have multiple periods of service being placed into their most recent period of service.

Minority Veterans made up about 22 percent of the total Veteran population while non-Veteran minorities made 38 percent of the total civilian population in 2016. The two largest minority Veteran groups were Black or African American (11 percent) and Hispanic (7 percent).

### Minorities by Veteran Status

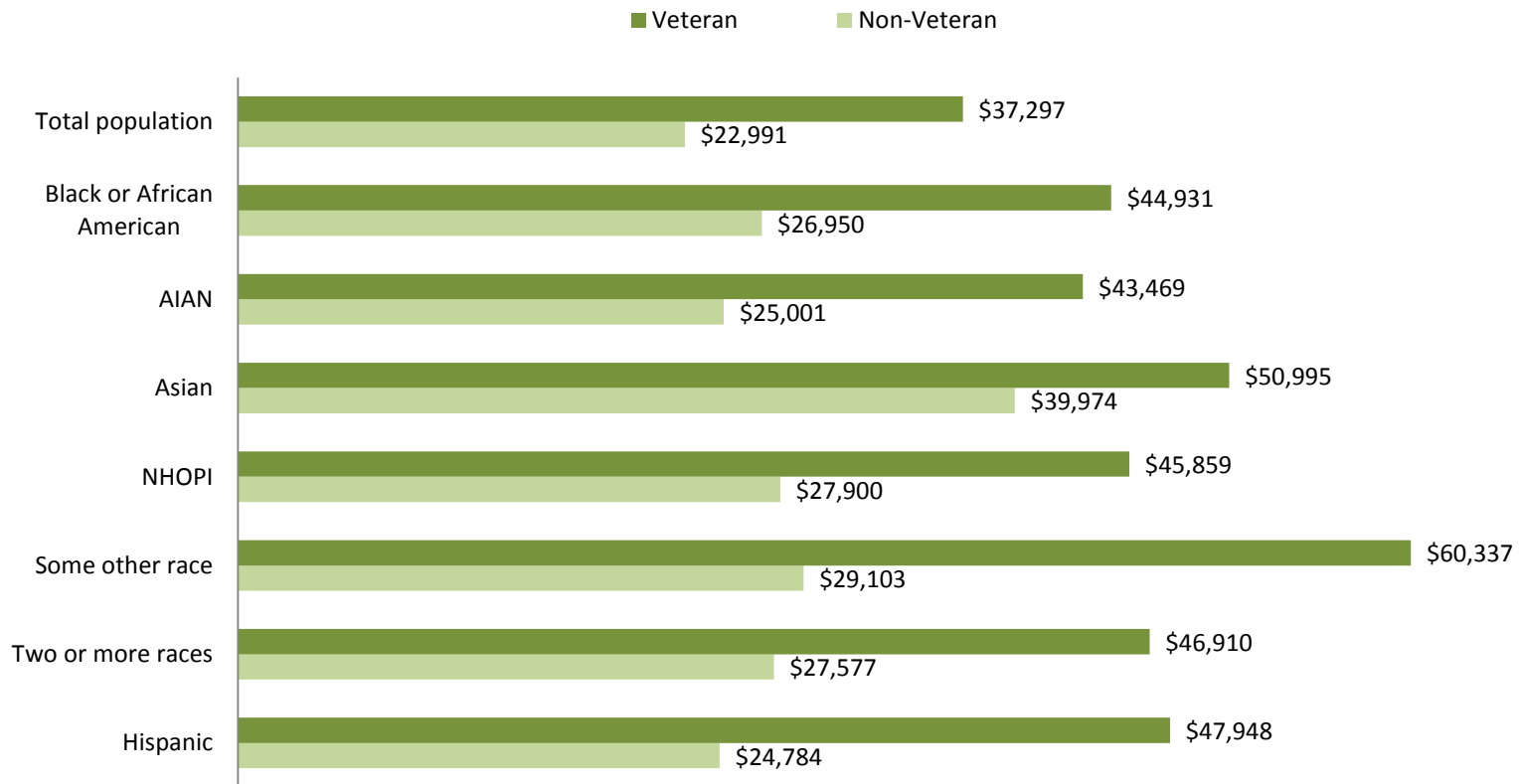


\*Difference between minority Veterans and non-Veteran minorities is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

*Note: Races categories are shown for the non-Hispanic population. Hispanics can be of any race.*

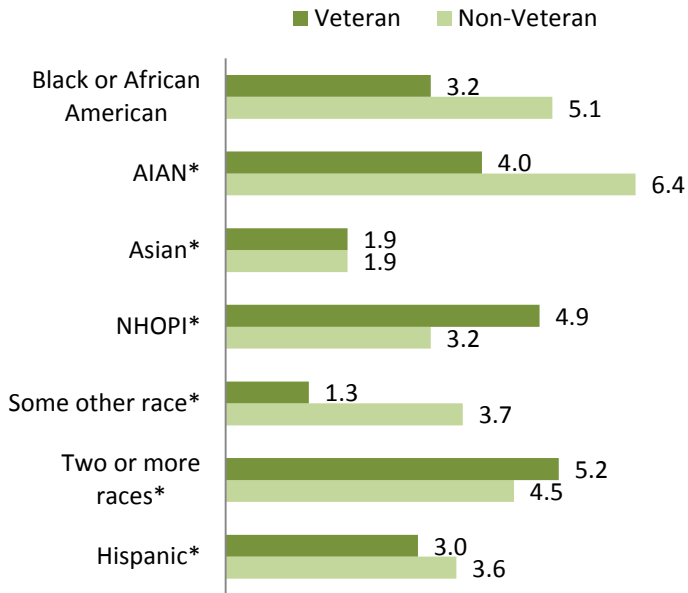
Minority Veterans had much higher median personal incomes than non-Veterans.

### Median Personal Income by Race and Hispanic Origin

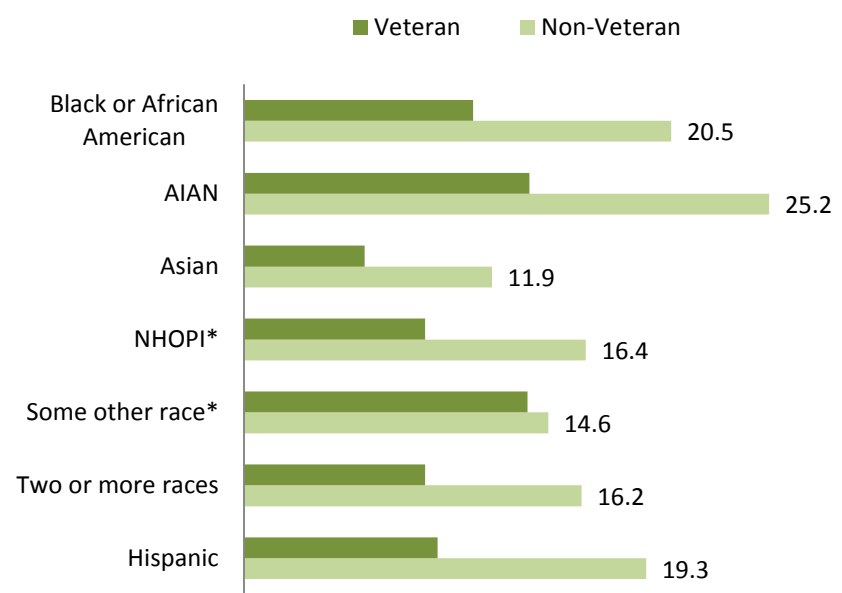


Black or African American Veterans are more likely to have lower unemployment rates their non-Veteran counterparts. Minority Veterans are less likely to be in-poverty than non-Veteran minorities.

**Unemployment by Race and Hispanic Origin**  
(in percent)



**In-Poverty by Race and Hispanic Origin**  
(in percent)

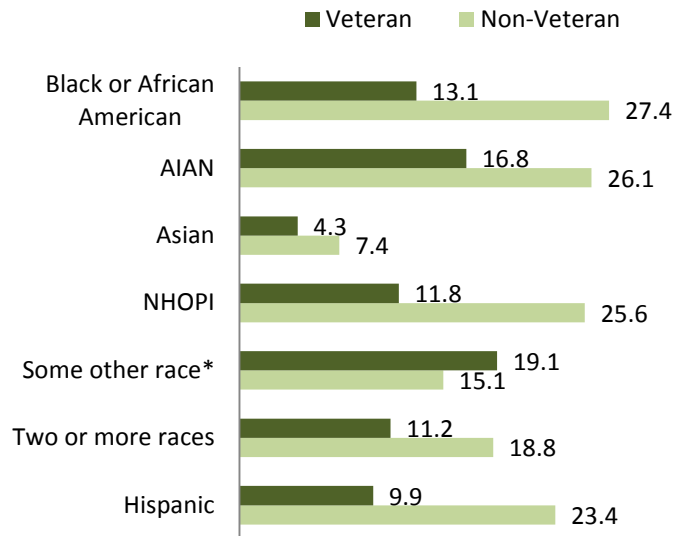


**Notes:** (1) Unemployment rate used the population less or equal to 65 years of age; (2) In-poverty rate excludes persons living in group quarters.

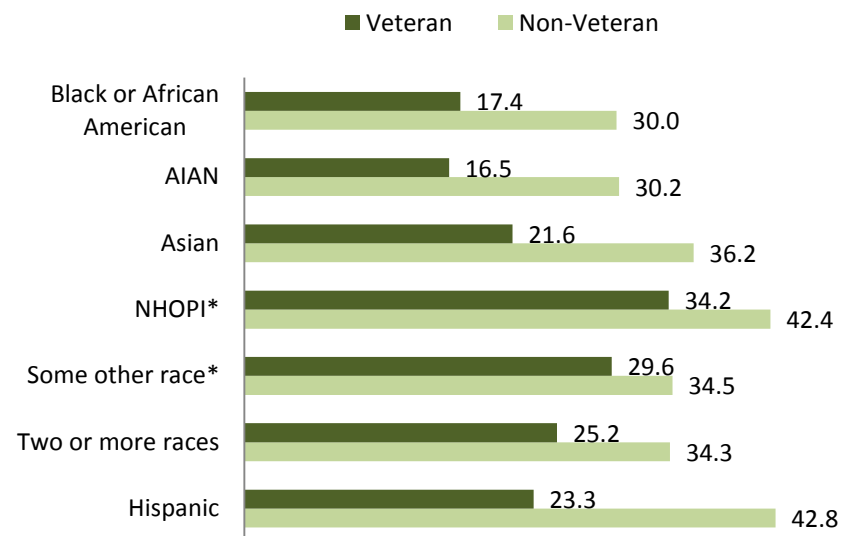
\*Difference between minority Veterans and non-Veteran minorities is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

A lower percentage of minority Veterans live in households that are less likely to receive food stamps than minority non-Veterans. Minority Veterans are less likely to live in households with children than minority non-Veterans.

**Food Stamp Household Recipient by Race and Hispanic Origin**  
(in percent)



**Households with Children by Race and Hispanic Origin**  
(in percent)

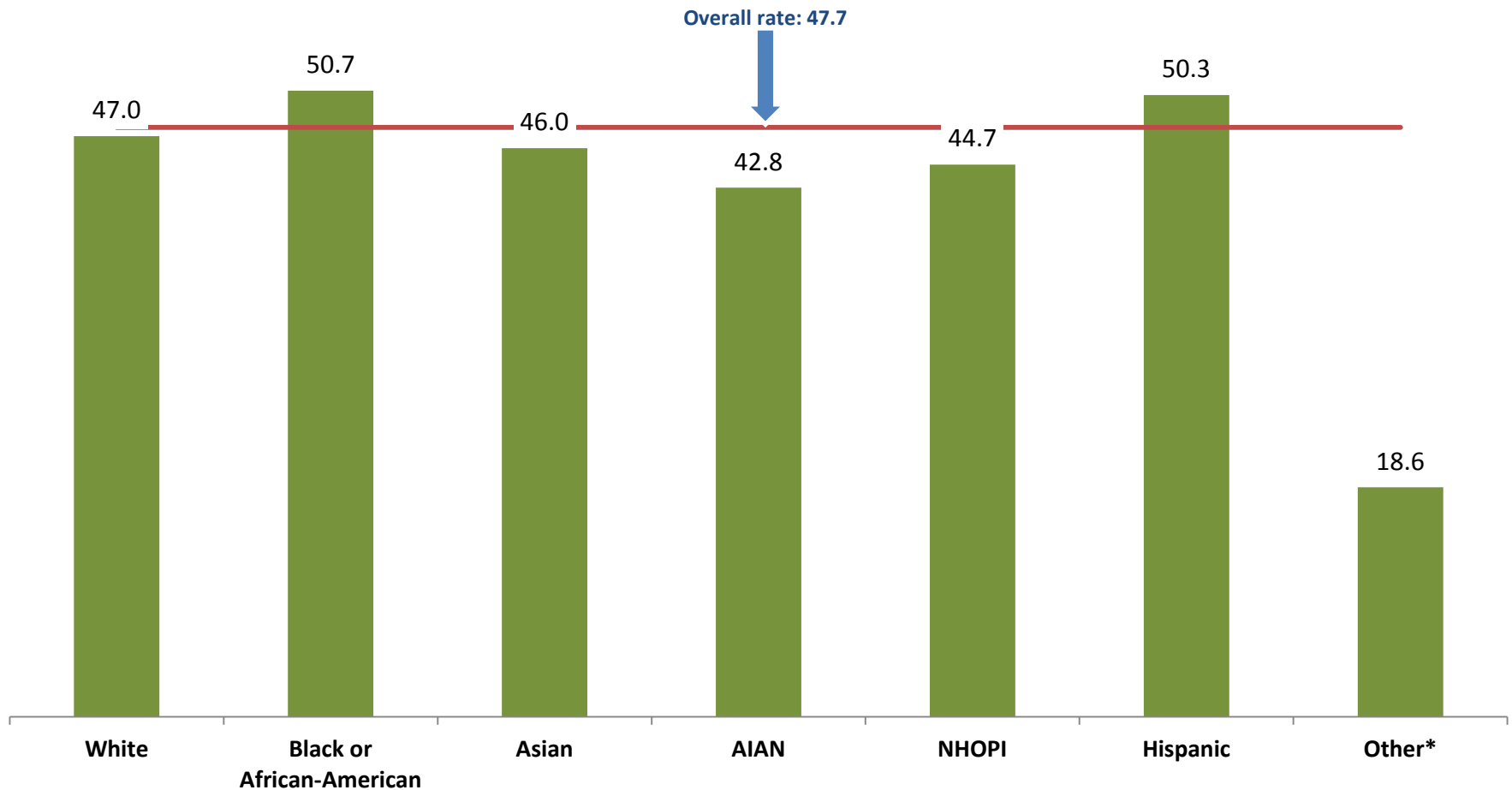


**Note:** Food stamp program is also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Veterans/non-Veterans living in households where someone is receiving food stamps.

\*Difference between minority Veterans and non-Veteran minorities is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Hispanic and Black or African American Veterans are more likely to utilize VA benefits than any other racial group while American Indian or Alaskan Native and Other race Veterans are the least likely to utilize VA benefits.

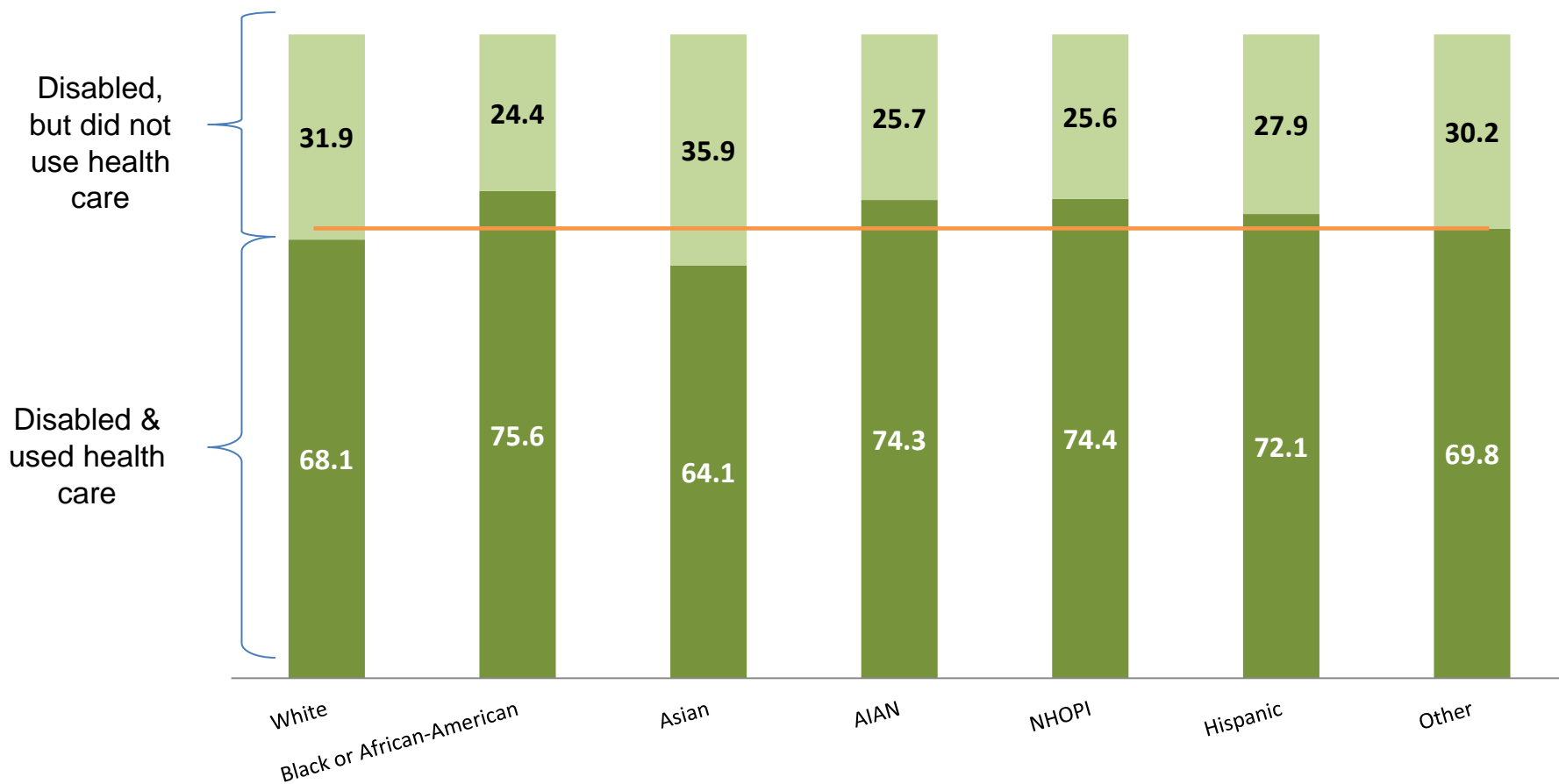
VA Utilization Rate by Race/Ethnicity: FY 2016  
(in percent)



*\*Includes Veterans of two or more races.*

The likelihood of a disabled Veteran to seek treatment from a VA Health Care facility varies with race and ethnicity; however, rates for Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native and Black or African American Veterans are much higher than the overall rate of utilization.

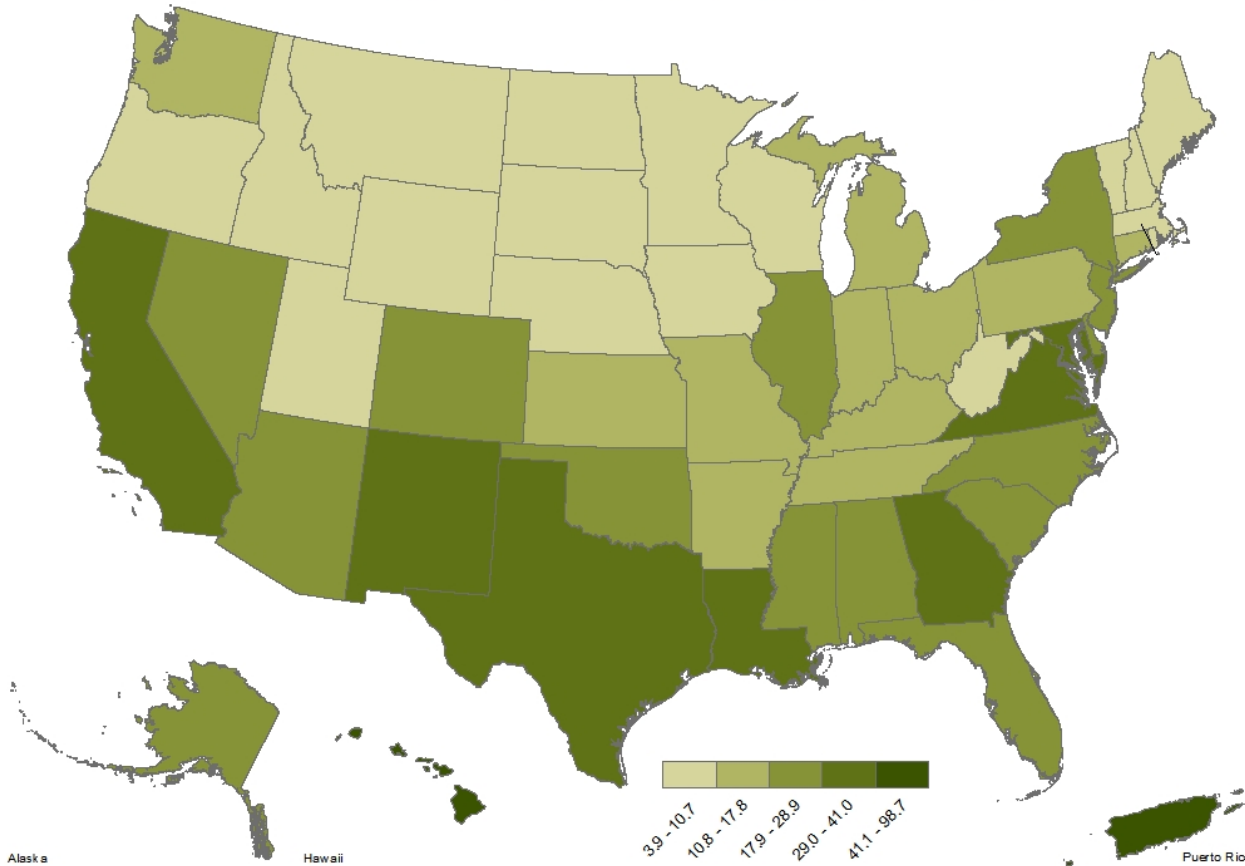
**Service-connected Disabled Veterans Receiving Compensation and VA Health Care use by Race/Ethnicity: FY 2016**  
(in percent)





Puerto Rico, District of Columbia and Hawaii are the top three states with highest percent of Veterans who are minorities.

**Percent of Veterans who are Minorities: 2016**



**States with the Highest Percent of Veterans who are minorities: 2016**

| State                | Percent |
|----------------------|---------|
| Puerto Rico          | 98.7    |
| District of Columbia | 63.7    |
| Hawaii               | 63.7    |
| New Mexico           | 41.0    |
| Maryland             | 38.3    |

**States with the Highest Number of minority Veterans: 2016**

| State      | Minority Veterans |
|------------|-------------------|
| California | 628,963           |
| Texas      | 564,675           |
| Florida    | 347,821           |
| Georgia    | 265,255           |
| Virginia   | 219,961           |

# Summary of Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparisons

According to data from the 2016 American Community Survey, male Veterans were older, more likely to be White non-Hispanic, more likely to be married, less likely to be uninsured, less likely to live below poverty, and had higher personal incomes than male non-Veterans. Employed male Veterans were more likely to work in production or transportation, and more likely to work for local, state, or Federal governments than their non-Veteran counterparts. Male Veterans who worked year-round and full-time earned about \$10,000 more than similar non-Veterans. Some differences between men Veterans and non-Veterans may be attributable to age. The median age of male Veterans in 2016 was 65 years while the median age of male non-Veterans was 41 years.

A lower percentage of female Veterans were in the youngest age group—17 to 24 years old than female non-Veterans. These are the ages when most men and women would still be serving in the military and would not yet have become Veterans. The median age of female Veterans was 50 and female non-Veterans was 47 in 2016. Female Veterans were more likely to be Nonwhite non-Hispanic, more likely to be divorced or separated, less likely to be uninsured, less likely to live below poverty, and had higher personal incomes than female non-Veterans. Employed female Veterans were more likely to be in management and professional occupations, less likely to be in sales or service occupations, and more likely to work in local, state, or Federal government than female non-Veterans. Female Veterans who worked year-round and full-time earned about \$10,000 more than similar non-Veterans women.

# Summary of Veteran Comparisons

The largest living cohort of male Veterans served during the Vietnam Era (August 1964 to April 1975) while the largest living cohort of female Veterans served during Post 9/11 (September 2001 or later).

Compared with male Veterans, female Veterans were more likely to have completed some college, a Bachelor's degree, or an advanced degree, be enrolled in college, more likely to have a service-connected disability rating, less likely to use VA health care at all but more likely to use **only** VA health care, have no personal income, and live in poverty.

Employed female Veterans were more likely to work in management and professional occupations than employed male Veterans.

Some differences between male and female Veterans may be attributable to age as male Veterans are significantly older than female Veterans. The median age of male Veterans was 65 years in 2016, compared with 50 years for female Veterans.

# Summary of Minority Veterans Comparison

- Minority Veterans appear to be better off in key socio-economic indicators (income, employment, poverty, and health care coverage) than their non-Veteran minority counterparts.
- Understanding demographics of minority groups can help VA provide benefits and services to minority Veterans, assess their needs and anticipate future needs.  
Minority Veterans -
  1. Made up approximately 22 percent of the total Veteran population
  2. Made up approximately 34 percent of the female Veteran population
  3. Are younger than White, non-Hispanic Veterans
  4. Median age is 52-59 versus 66 for White, non-Hispanic Veterans
- Demographic implications of the All-Volunteer Force continue to affect composition of Veteran population over time -
  1. Older Veterans are from a draft-era military—one which was overwhelmingly men and White.
  2. We project Veteran population will decrease from 18.6 million in 2016 to 12.9 million in 2040. Over this time, percent of minority Veterans will increase from 23 percent to 34 percent.

# Contact Information

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