



# Profile of Veterans: 2011

Data from the American Community Survey

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

March 2013

# Official Veteran Population

- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released the Veteran Population Model 2011 (VetPop2011) which provides the latest official Veteran population projection.
- VetPop2011 is an actuarial projection model developed by the Office of the Actuary for Veteran population projection from Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 to FY2040.
- Using the best available Veteran data by the end of FY2010, VetPop2011 projects future living Veteran counts by key demographic characteristics.
- The official Veteran population projection as of 9/30/2011 is 22,676,149 Veterans, of which 2,224,547 were women.
- For more information, please go to:  
[http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran\\_Population.asp](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp)

# Data Source and Methods

- Data for this analysis come from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample
  - 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 21.6 million Veterans, of which 1.6 million were women.
  - The universe includes a weighted estimate of 244 million civilian population, of which 222.3 million were non-Veterans.
- All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

# Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparisons

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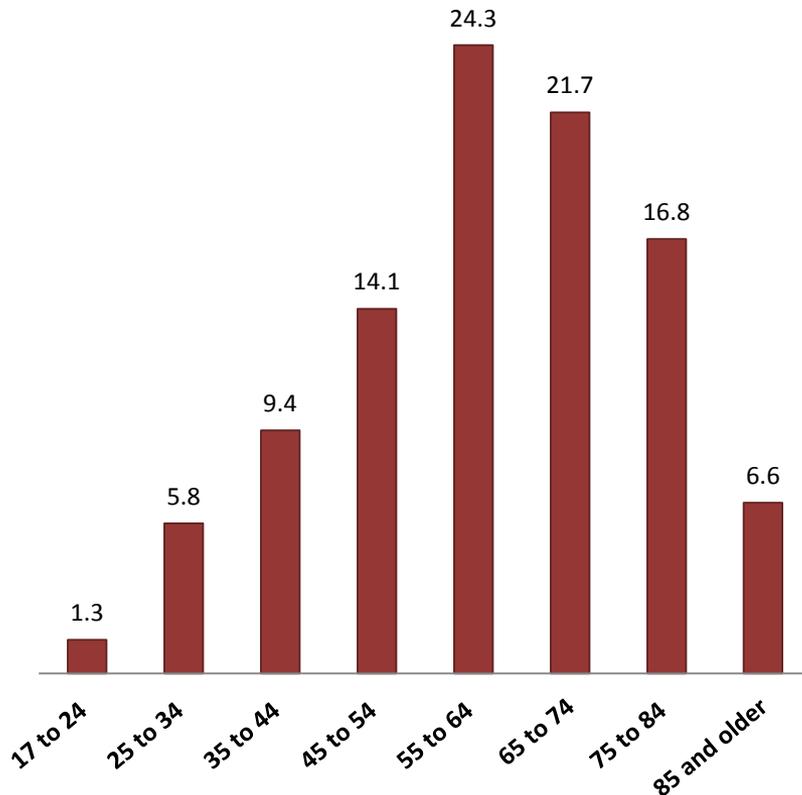
Veterans = 21,596,951

Non-Veterans = 222,306,675

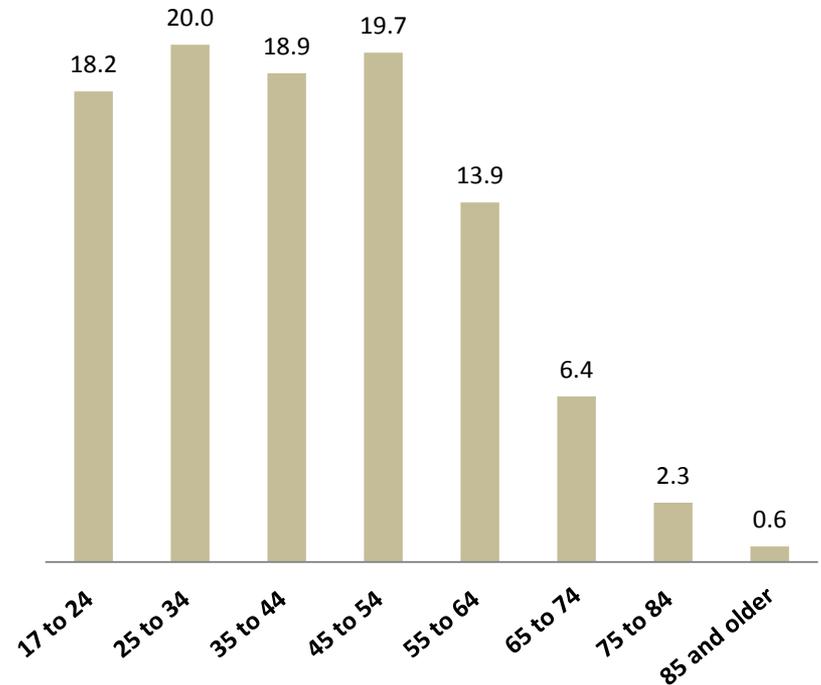
Male Veterans on average are older than non-Veteran men. In 2011, the median age of male Veterans was 64 and the median age of male non-Veterans was 41 in 2011.

### Age Distribution of Men (in percent)

#### Male Veterans



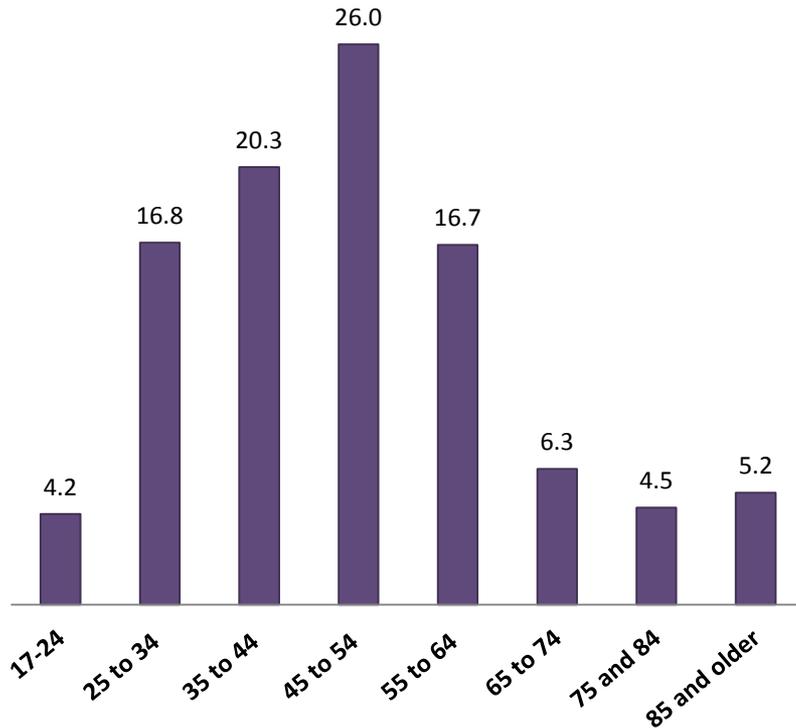
#### Male Non-Veterans



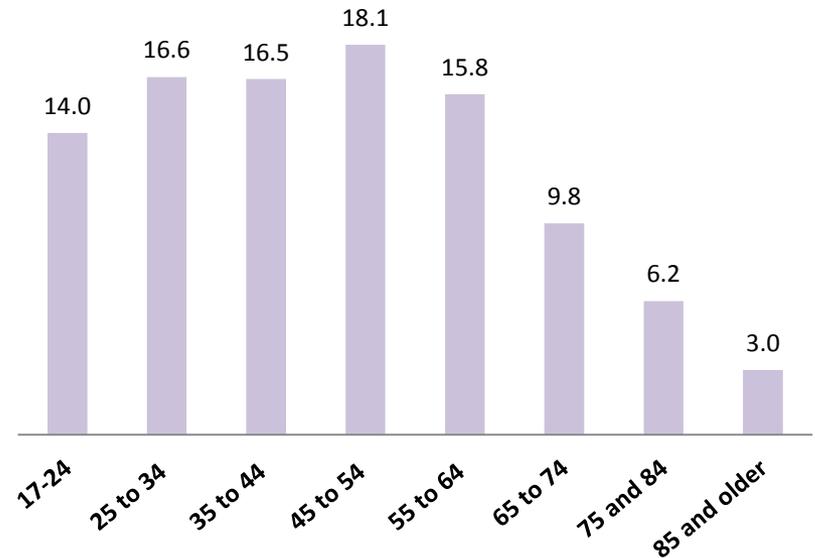
As with male Veterans, a lower percentage of female Veterans were in the youngest age group—17 to 24 years old. These are the ages when most men and women would still be serving in the military and would not yet have become Veterans. The median age of female Veterans was 49 and female non-Veterans was 47 in 2011.

### Age Distribution of Women (in percent)

#### Female Veterans



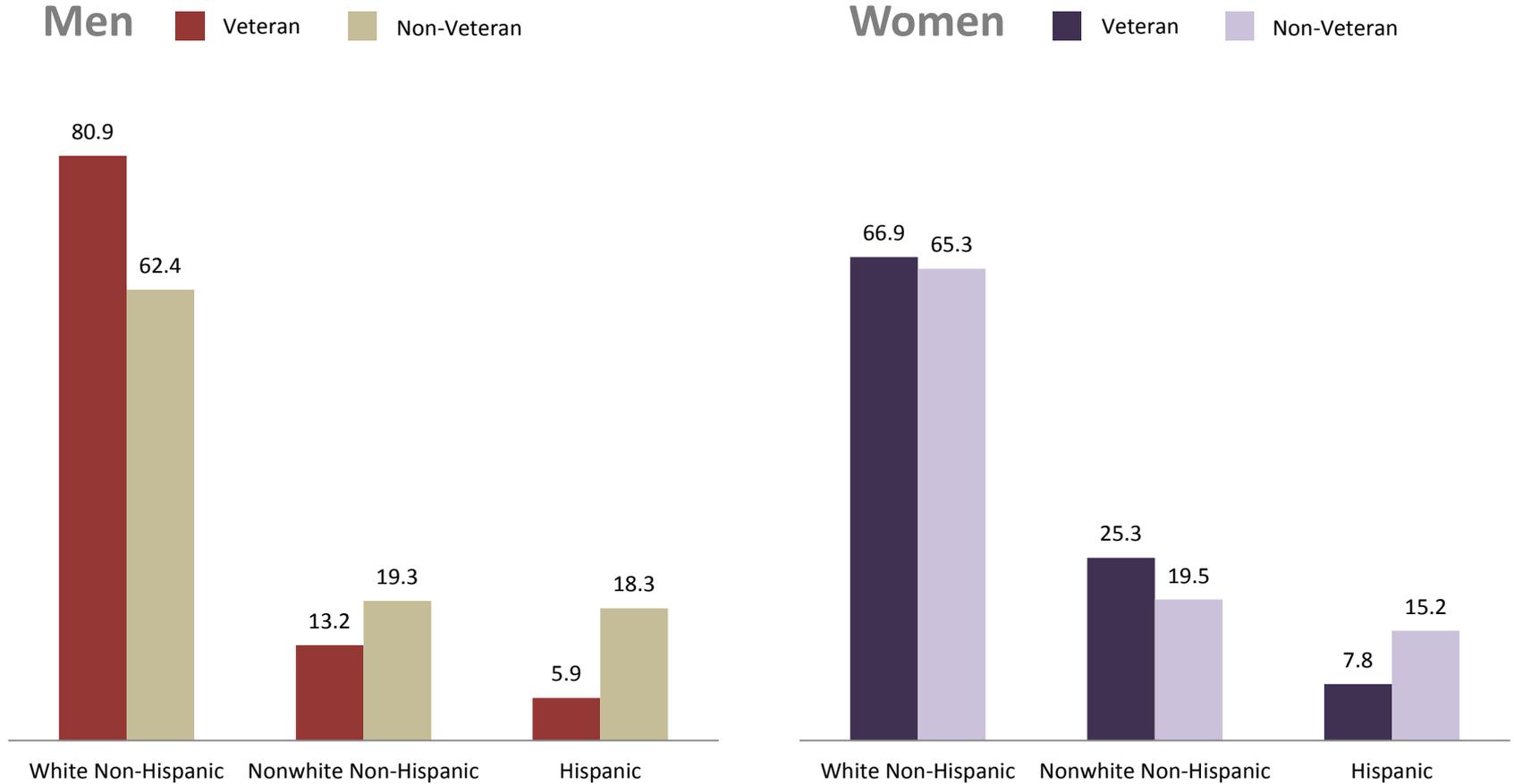
#### Female Non-Veterans



Note: There was no statistical significant difference between female veterans and non-Veterans by age 25 to 34 years old.

Male Veterans are more likely to be White not Hispanic than male non-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)



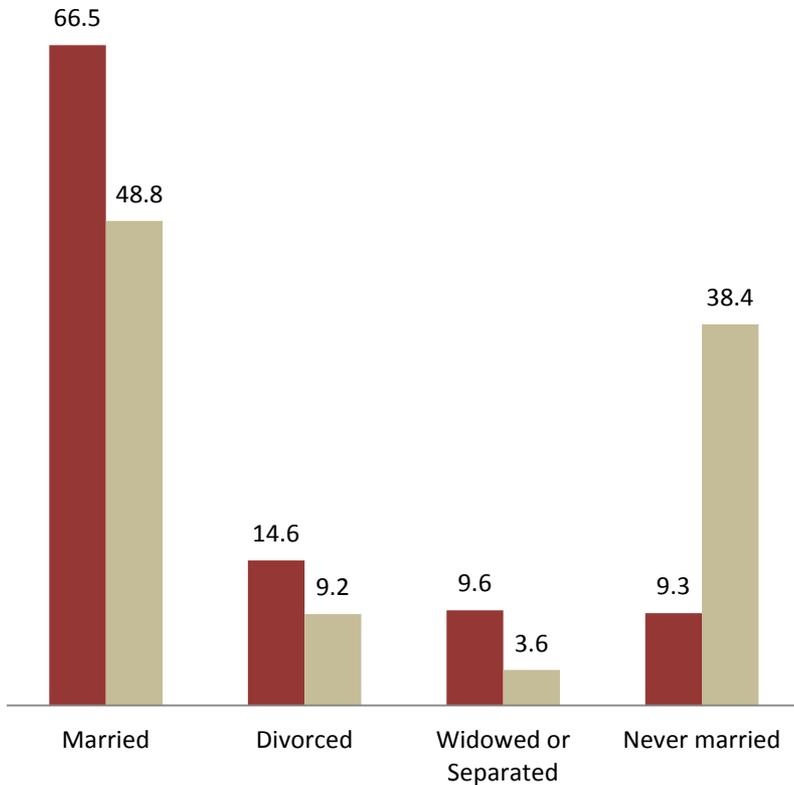
Note: "Nonwhite" includes Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, and two or more races.

Male Veterans were more likely to be married and less likely to have never married compared with non-Veteran men. This is mostly a factor of the older ages of male Veterans. Female Veterans were more likely to be divorced than non-Veteran women. Female Veterans were more likely to be divorced than non-Veteran women.

### Marital Status Distribution (in percent)

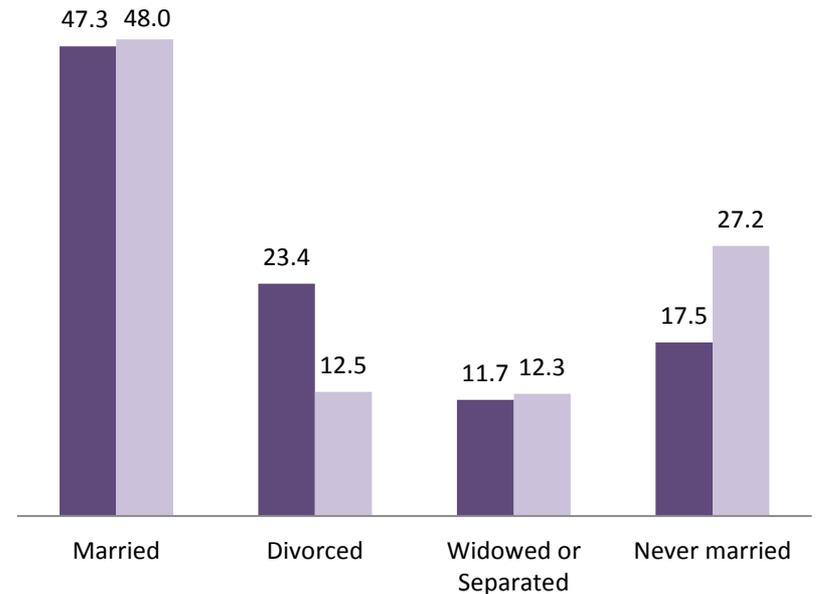
#### Men

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



#### Women

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



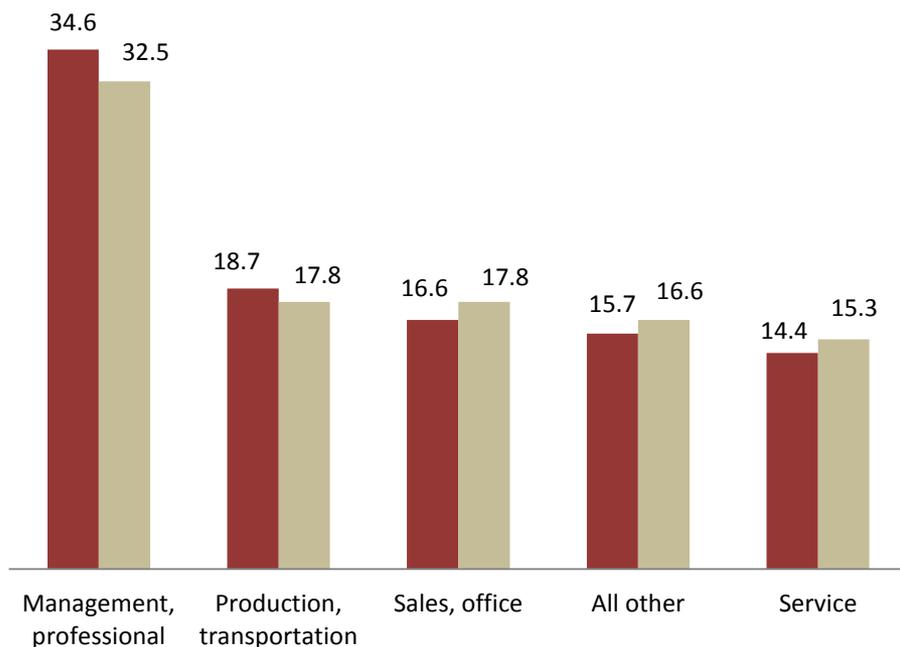
Note: There was no statistical significant difference between female Veterans and non-Veterans by married status.

A higher percentage of male Veterans were in management and professional occupations compared with male non-Veterans in 2011. These include occupations such as engineers, educators, doctors, and various types of managers. The percentage of male Veterans working for local, state, or Federal government was about twice that of male non-Veterans. Slightly more male Veterans were self-employed compared with male non-Veterans.

## Occupation of Employed Men

(in percent)

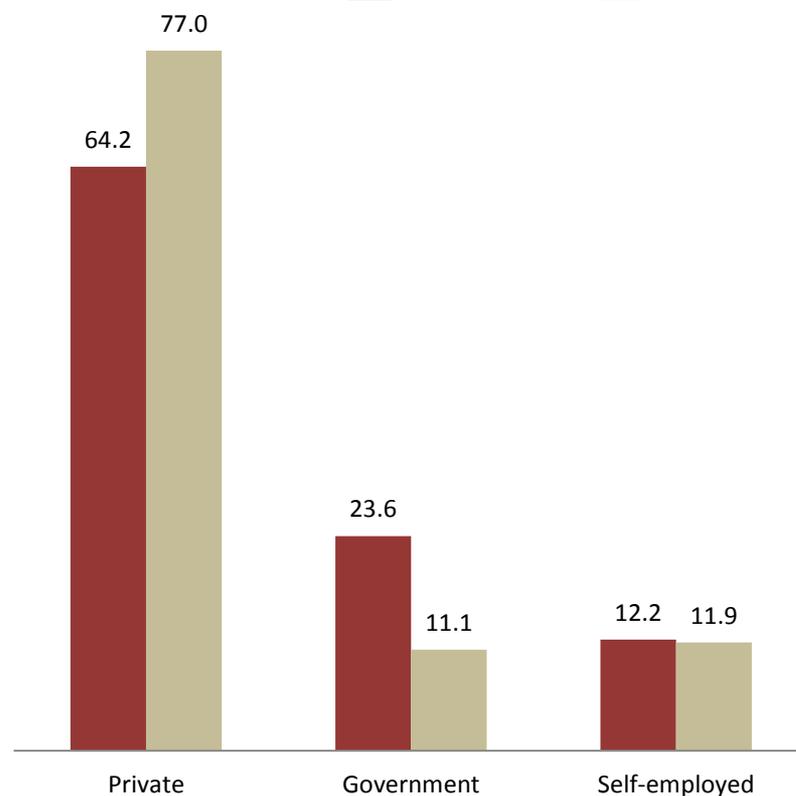
■ Veteran
 ■ Non-Veteran



## Class of Worker of Employed Men

(in percent)

■ Veteran
 ■ Non-Veteran



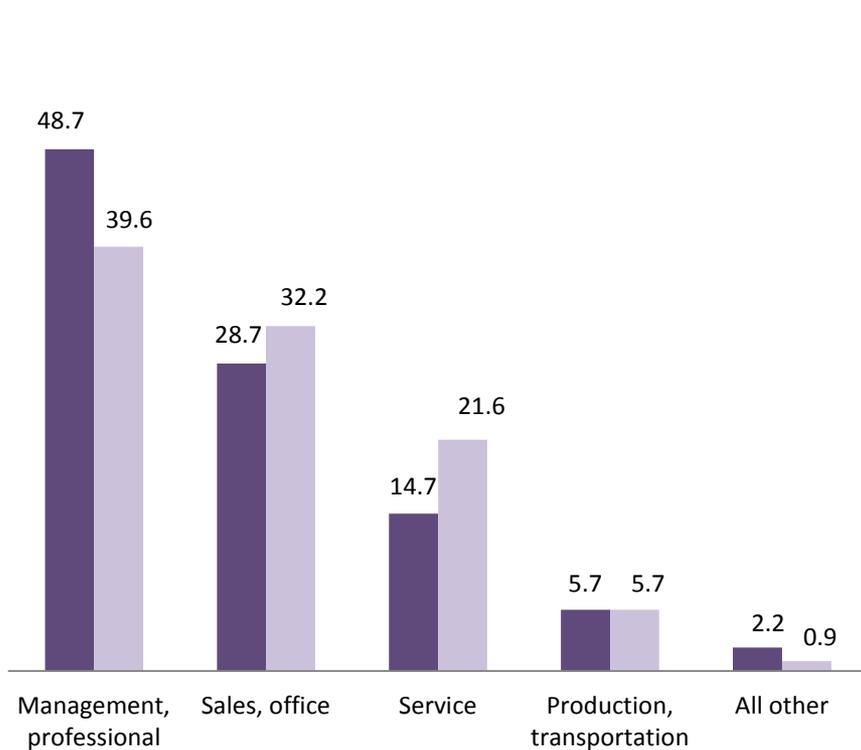
Note: "All Other" includes Farming, fishing, and forestry; construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair.

The percentage of female Veterans working in management and professional occupations was about 8 percentage points higher than that of non-Veteran women in 2011. A lower percentage of female Veterans worked in service occupations, such as food service, janitorial, and child care, than female non-Veterans. About 38 percent of female Veterans worked for local, state, or Federal government, compared to 18 percent of female non-Veterans.

## Occupation of Employed Women

(in percent)

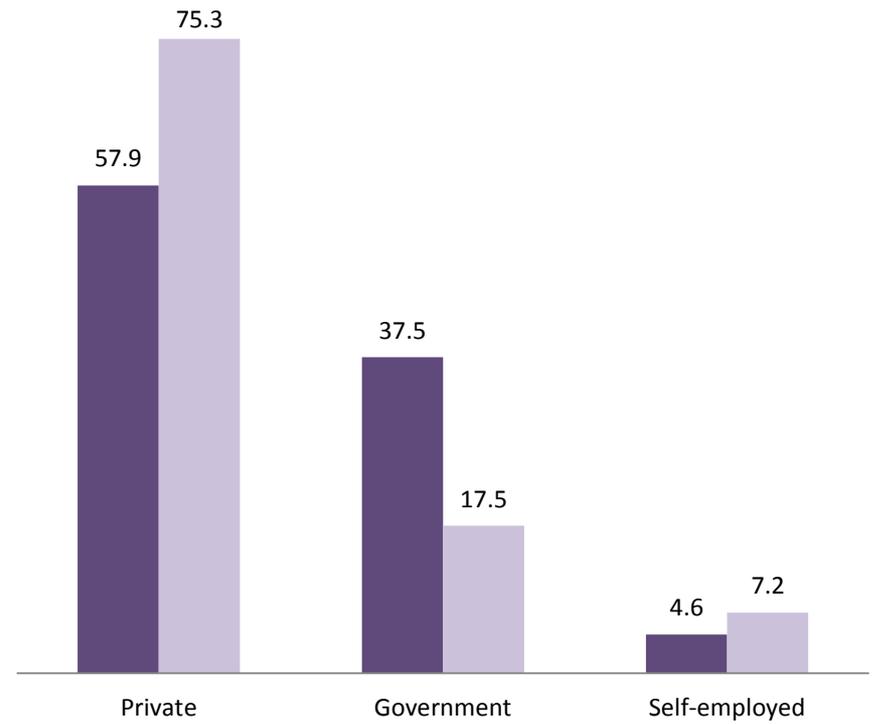
■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



## Class of Worker of Employed Women

(in percent)

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



Notes:(1) "All Other" includes Farming, fishing, and forestry; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair. (2) There was no statistical significant difference between female Veterans and non-Veterans by production and transportation.

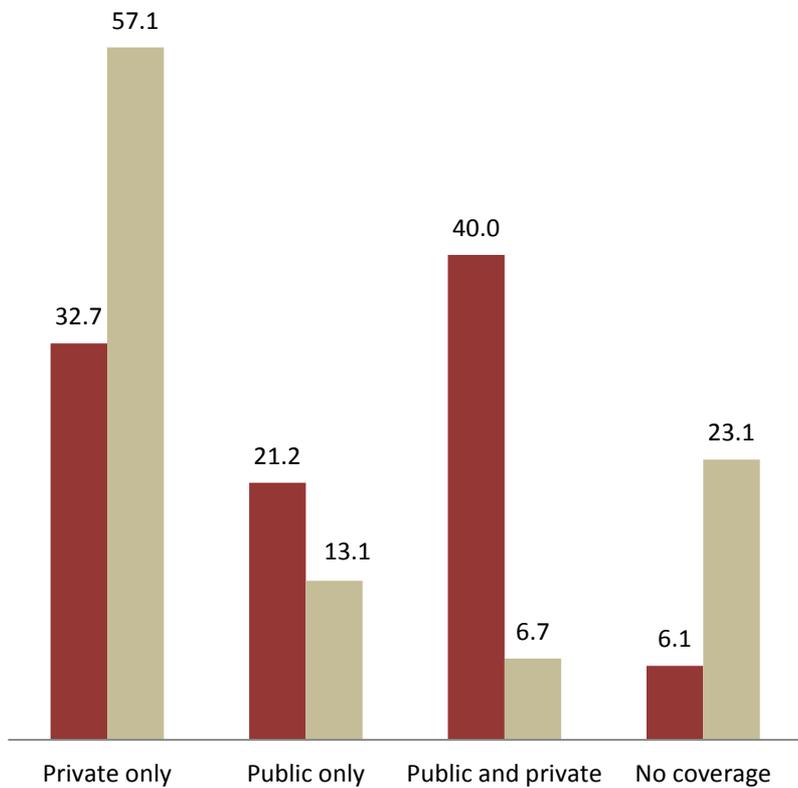
Both male and female Veterans were more likely to have a combination of public and private health insurance coverage compared with their non-Veteran counterparts. The high percentage of male Veterans in this category was likely due to their older ages, with far more eligible for Medicare coverage than non-Veterans. Male and female Veterans had lower uninsured rates than non-Veterans in 2011.

### Health Insurance Coverage Distribution

(in percent)

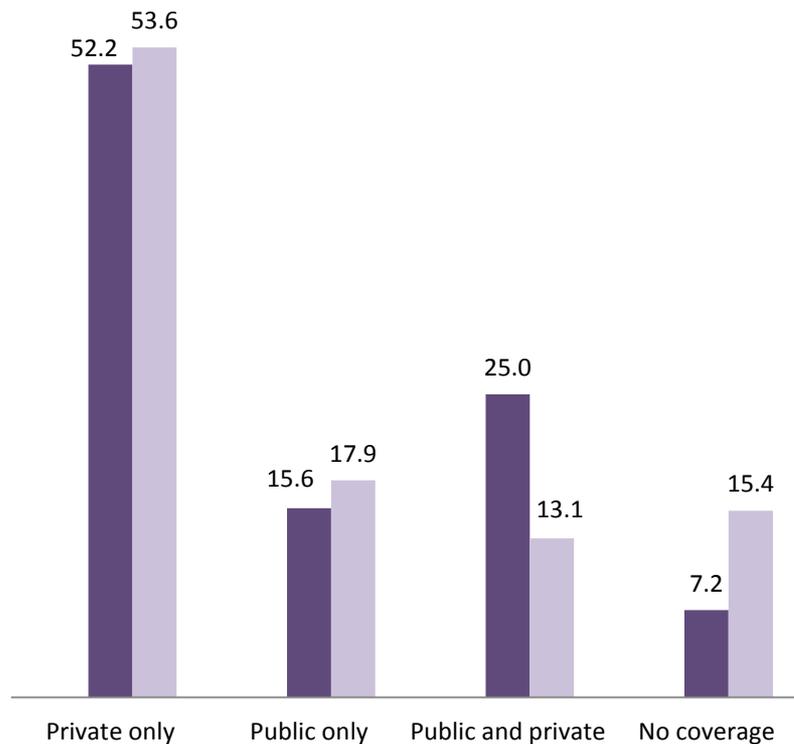
#### Men

■ Veteran
 ■ Non-Veteran



#### Women

■ Veteran
 ■ Non-Veteran

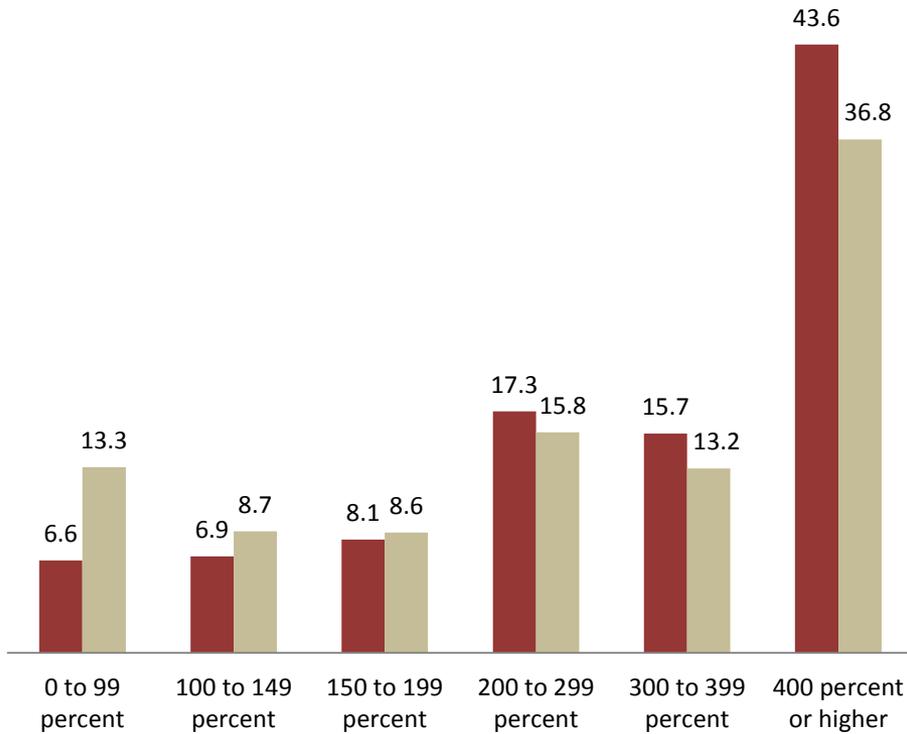


In 2011, a lower percentage of both male and female Veterans lived below 100 percent of poverty compared with their non-Veteran counterparts

### Poverty Level Distributions (in percent)

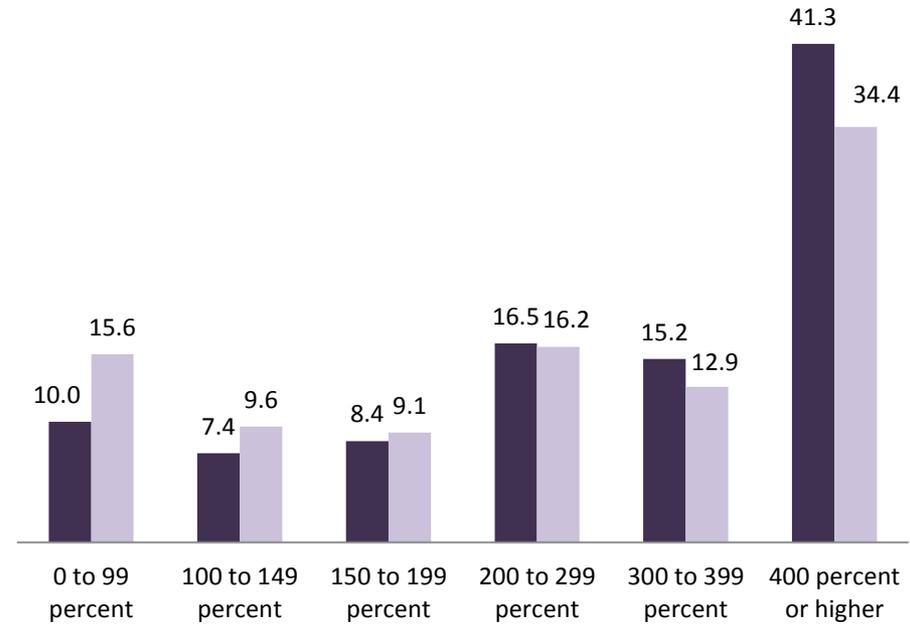
#### Men

■ Veteran   
 ■ Non-Veteran



#### Women

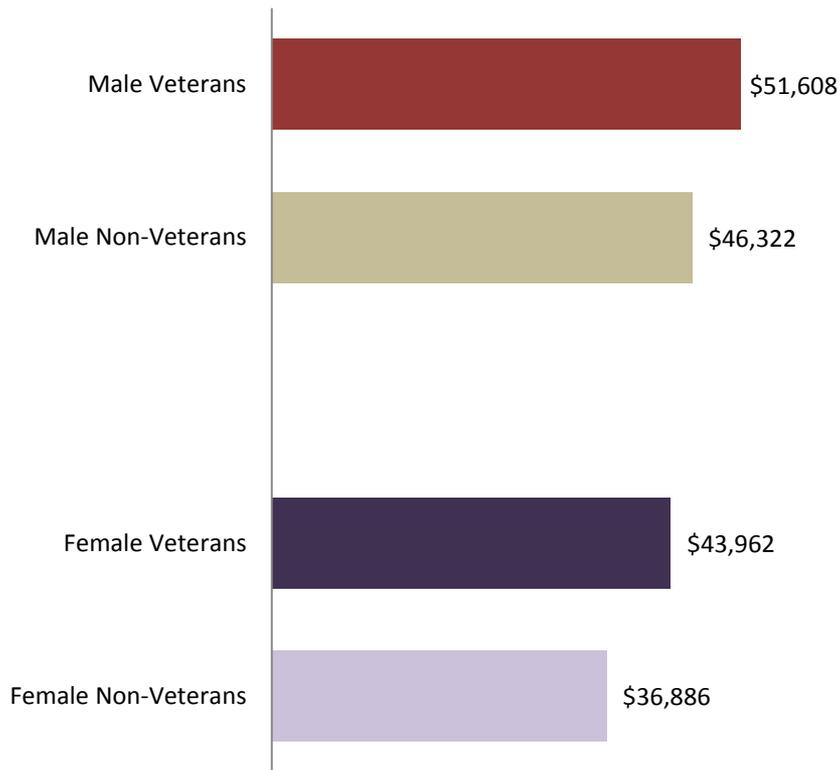
■ Veteran   
 ■ Non-Veteran



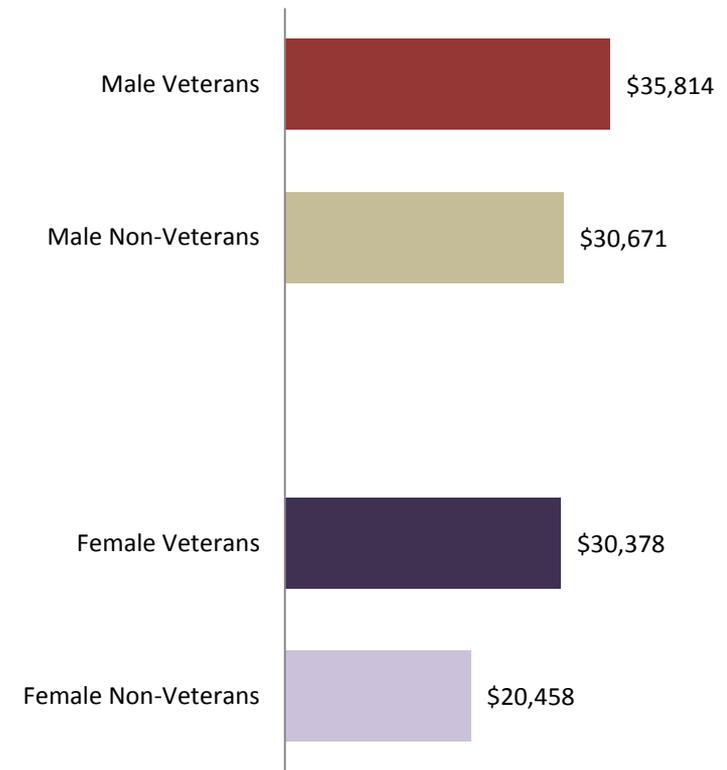
Notes: (1) Rates do not add up to 100 percent because institutionalized people, people in college dormitories, people in military group quarters and people under 15 years old were excluded. (2) There was no statistical significant difference between female Veterans and non-Veterans by 200 to 299 percent poverty level.

In 2011, 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.

# Veteran Comparisons

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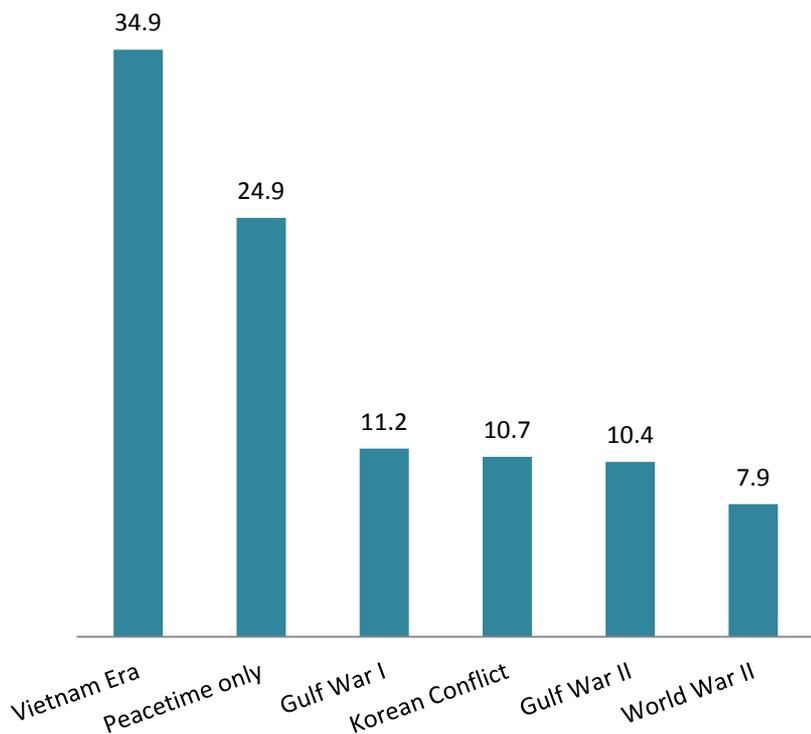
Male Veterans = 20,013,903

Female Veterans= 1,583,048

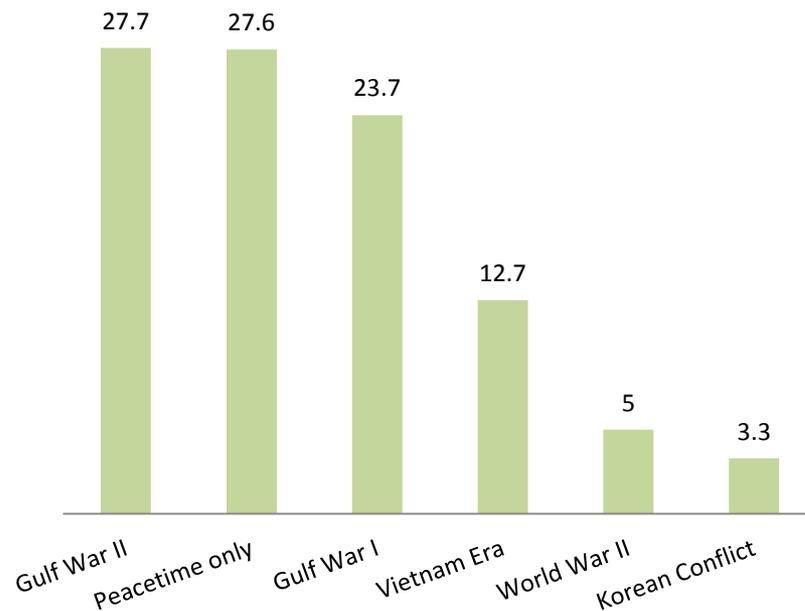
The largest cohort of male Veterans served during the Vietnam Era while the largest cohort of female Veterans served on the Gulf War II.

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

#### Male Veterans



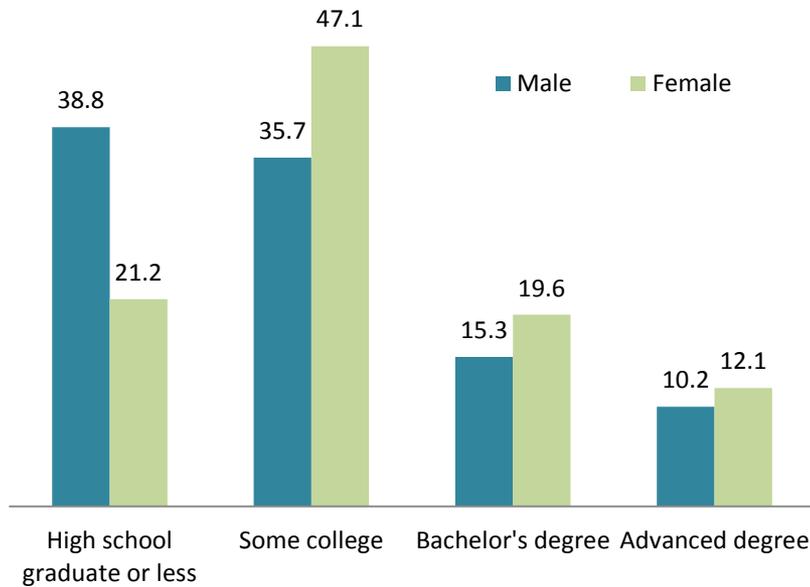
#### Female Veterans



In 2011, a higher percentage of female Veterans had completed some college, a Bachelor's degree, or an advanced degree, compared with male Veterans. A higher percentage of female Veterans than male Veterans in all age groups were enrolled in college.

## Distribution of Education Attainment

(in percent)

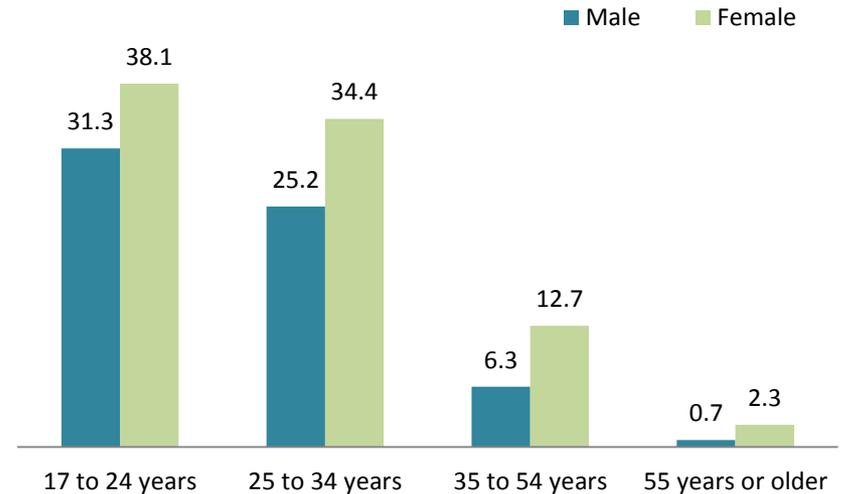


“Educational Attainment” refers to the highest level of education an individual has completed.

“Advanced Degree” refers to Master’s, PhD, JD, MD, or other professional degree.

## Enrolled in College by Age

(in percent)



“Enrolled in College” includes enrollment in graduate years (freshman to senior) or enrollment in graduate or professional school (beyond a Bachelor’s degree)..

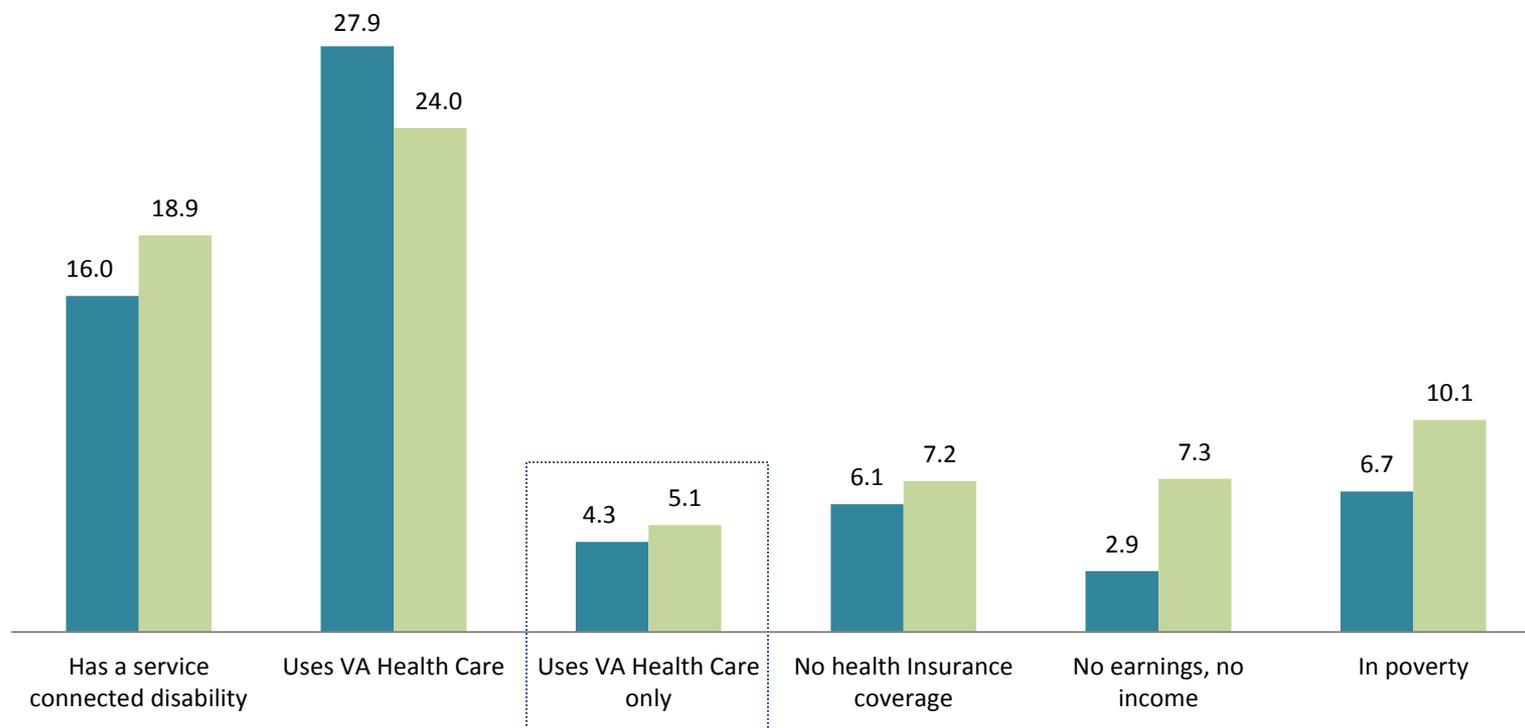
Note: The percentage of 17- to 24-year-old and 25- to 34-year-old female Veterans enrolled in college were not statistically different.

A higher percentage of female Veterans than male Veterans had a service-connected disability rating in 2011. A higher percentage of male Veterans used VA health care but a higher percentage of female Veterans used VA health care only.

### Selected Characteristics of Veterans

(in percent)

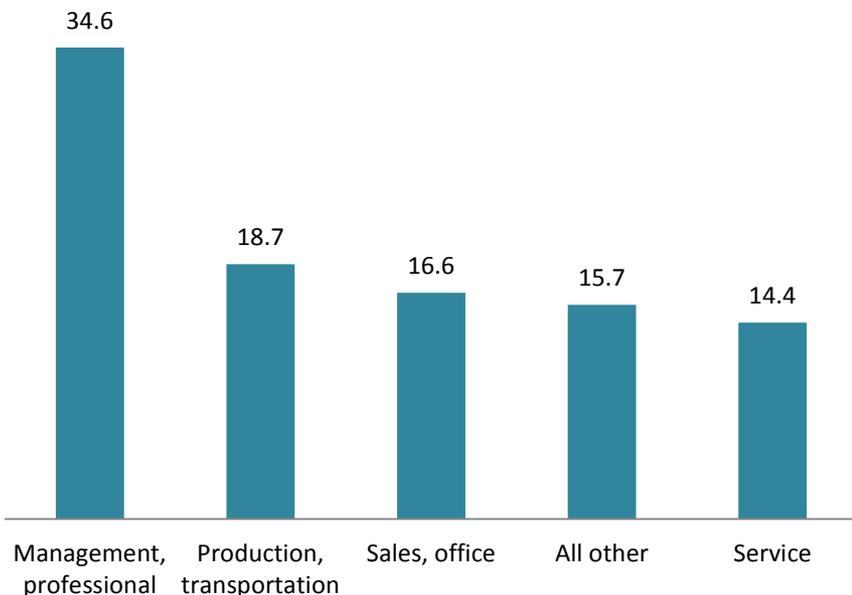
Male Female



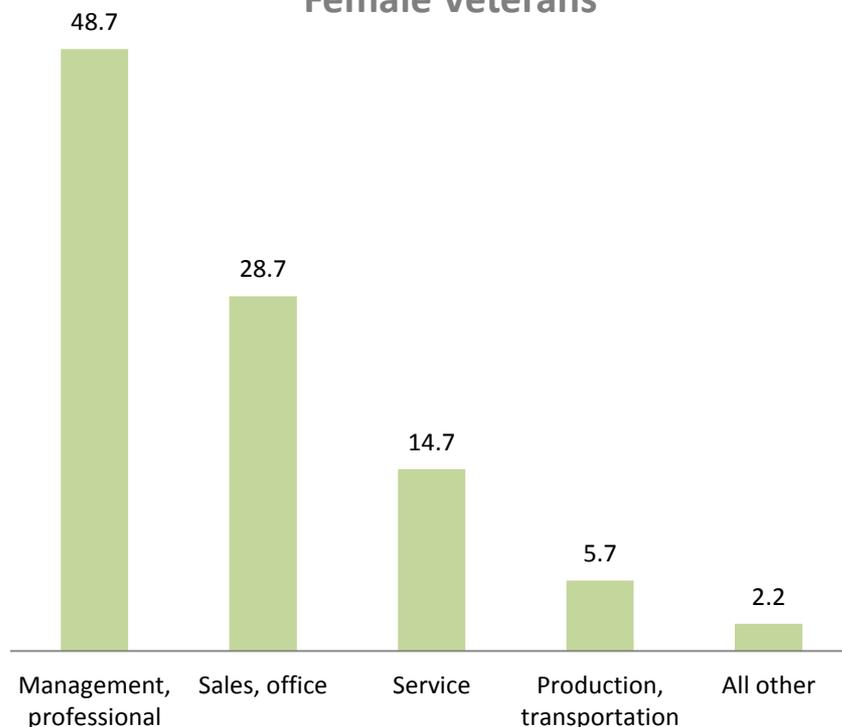
A higher percentage of female Veterans than male Veterans worked in management and professional and sales and office occupations in 2011. Nineteen percent of male Veterans worked in production and transportation occupations. These occupations include machinists, drivers, and aircraft pilots, jobs similar to what male Veterans may have done while in the military.

### Occupations of Employed Veterans (in percent)

#### Male Veterans



#### Female Veterans



Notes: (1) "All other" includes farming, fishing, and forestry; construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair. (2) There was no statistical significant difference between male and female Veterans by service.

# Summary of Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparisons

According to data from the 2011 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 management and professional occupations or production and transportation occupations, 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 \$5,300 more than similar non-Veterans. Some differences between male Veterans and non-Veterans may be attributable to age. The median age of male Veterans in 2011 was 64 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 49 and female non-Veterans was 47 in 2011. Female Veterans were more likely to be Nonwhite non-Hispanic, more likely to be divorced, 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 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 \$7,000 more than similar non-Veterans.

# 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 Gulf War II (September 2001 or later) and peacetime periods.

Compared with male Veterans, female Veterans were more likely to have completed some college, a Bachelor's degree, or an advanced degree, 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, and less likely to be insured, have no earnings or income, and live in poverty.

Employed female Veterans were more likely to work in management and professional occupations and sales and office 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 64 years in 2011, compared with 49 years for female Veterans.

# Contact Information

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Department of Veterans Affairs  
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For general inquiries, please email us at [VANCVAS@va.gov](mailto:VANCVAS@va.gov).