Profile of Veterans: 2017
Highlights

The Office of Enterprise Integration (OEI), National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (NCVAS) has released the Profile of Veterans: 2017, which shows the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of Veterans by gender, race and ethnicity. It compares Veteran men with Veteran women; Veteran and non-Veteran men and women; and minority Veterans, non-minority Veterans, and minority non-Veterans.

Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparisons

- **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.
- Regardless of gender, full-time, year-round **Veterans** earned about $10,000 more than similar non-Veteran counterparts.
- The median age of **male Veterans** in 2017 was 65 years while the median age of **male non-Veterans** was 42 years. The median age of **female Veterans** was 51 and **female non-Veterans** was 47. These are the ages when most men and women may still be serving in the military and have not yet become Veterans.
- **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, business, science and arts 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.
- Among Veterans who did not use VA healthcare, less than 5% have no insurance.

Veteran Men and Women Comparisons

- About **45%** of Veteran men and **31%** of Veteran women have access to public and private healthcare insurance.
- 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 the Post-9/11 period (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 VA health care only, have no personal income, and live in poverty.
- **Employed female Veterans** were more likely to work in management, business, science and arts occupations than employed male Veterans.

Prepared by the OEI NCVAS: www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_Veterans_2017.pdf
For general inquiries, please email us at VANCVAS@va.gov.
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- Male Veterans were significantly older than female Veterans. The median age of male Veterans was 65 years in 2017, compared with 51 years for female Veterans.
- The top three states with the highest percentage of Veterans were: Alaska, Maine and Montana, respectively.
- The District of Columbia, Virginia and Alaska were the top three states with the highest percentage of Veteran women.

Minority Veterans

- Understanding demographics of minority groups can help VA provide benefits and services to minority Veterans, assess their needs and anticipate future needs.
  Minority Veterans -
  - Made up approximately 23 percent of the total Veteran population,
  - Made up approximately 35 percent of the female Veteran population,
  - Were younger than White, non-Hispanic Veterans,
  - Had a median age of 53 to 59 versus 66 for White, non-Hispanic Veterans.
- The Veteran population is projected to decrease from 18.6 million in 2017 to 12.9 million in 2040. Over this time, the proportion of minorities among all Veterans will increase from 23 percent to 34 percent.

Data Sources

- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), 2017.
- Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics (USVETS), 9/30/2017.

Users of the Veteran Profile

- There were, on average, 1557 downloads per month from January to June 2018. (Total over 9300.)
- Known users include: Office of the Secretary (e.g., speech writers), VHA, VBA, NCA, OEI, OCLA, OPIA, CWV, CMV, Congressional Budget Office, professional associations, and researchers.

NCVAS Resources

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