



# 2012 Minority Veterans Report

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

September 2014

# Data Source and Methods

- Data for the demographic and socio-economic analyses came from the 2012 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
- 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
  - “Asian” includes Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians
  - “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
- The “Labor Force Participation” rate shows the percentage of the total population who are actively participating in the labor force
  - This includes both employed and unemployed individuals. The remainder of the population (referred to as “not in labor force”) could include retired people, full-time students, stay-at-home parents, caregivers, people with disabilities that preclude employment, or discouraged workers who are no longer looking for a job
- All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90% 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/>

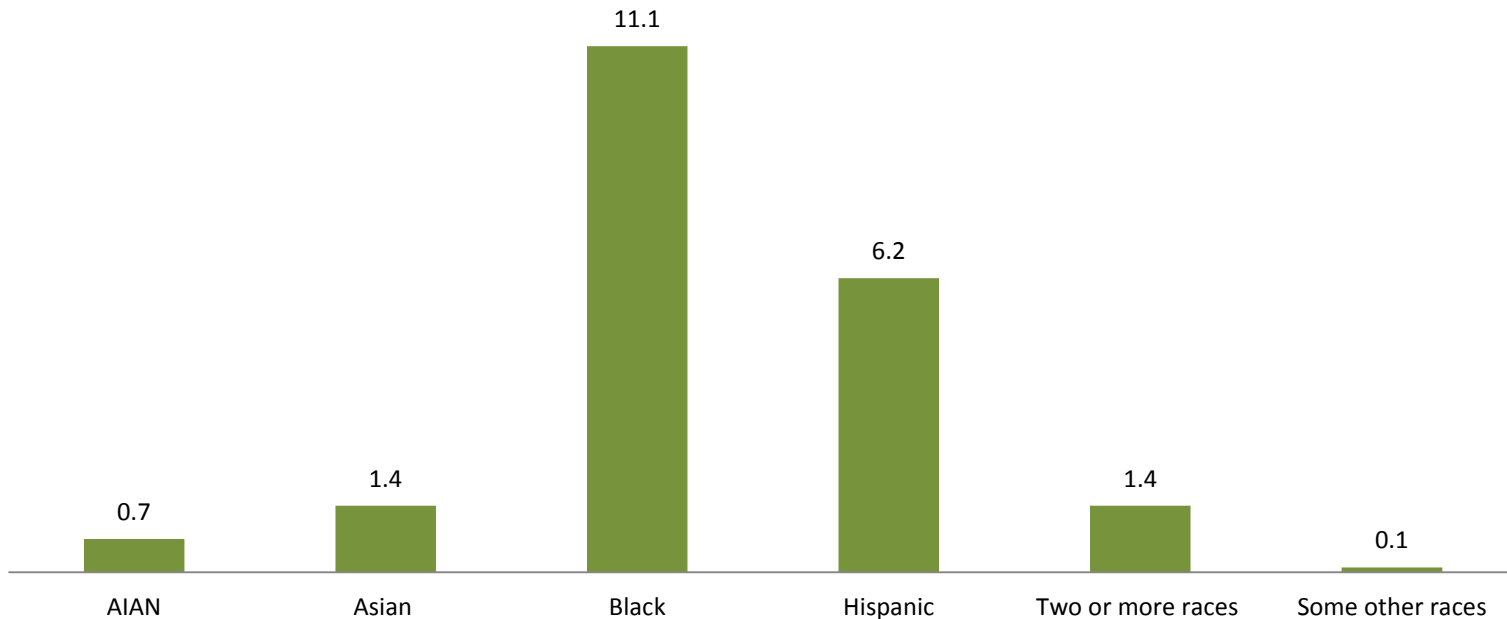
## Issues to consider when analyzing minority groups

The sample size of minority Veteran groups were small and could result in considerable 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.

**Minority Veterans made up about 21% of the total Veteran population in 2012.  
The two largest groups were Black (11%) and Hispanic (6%)**

**Minority Veterans by Race and Hispanic Origin  
(in percent)**



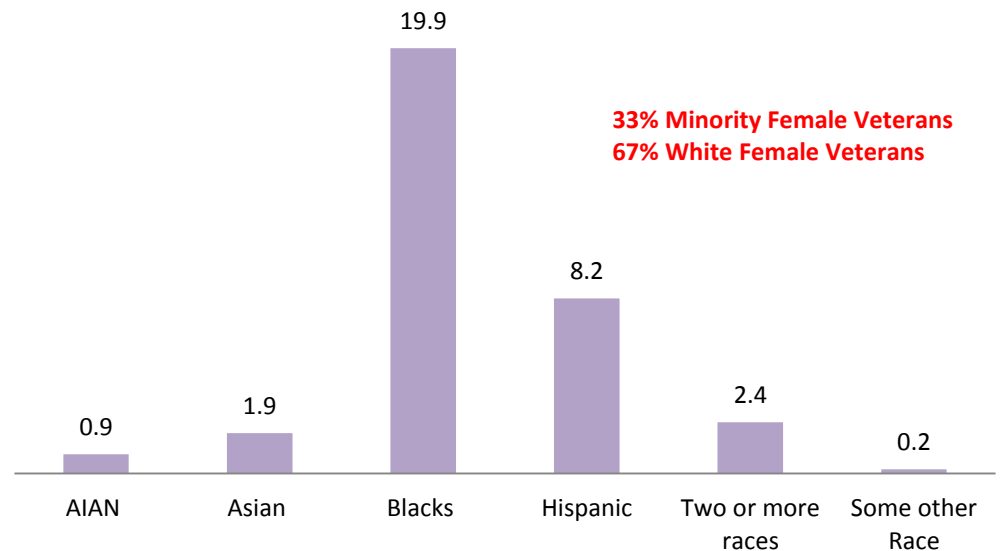
Percentages for Asian and Two or more races were not statistically different

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

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), 2012;  
Department of Defense, "Population Representation in the Military Services Fiscal Year 2012 Report, issued on December 2012"

**Women made up about 8% of the Veteran population in 2012.  
The two largest groups were Black (20%) and Hispanic (8%)**

**Female Veterans by Race and Ethnicity**  
(in percent)



**Women and minorities in the military:  
tomorrow's Veterans**

- In September 2011 there were about 202,500 women on active duty, about 17% of the active force

Source: Department of Defense, Active Duty Military Personnel by Service by Rank/Grade, September 2012. <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/MILITARY/miltop.htm>

- In FY 2011, 40% of non-prior service active component enlisted female accessions were minorities and 18.5% were Hispanic

Source: Department of Defense, "Population Representation in the Military Services," 2011

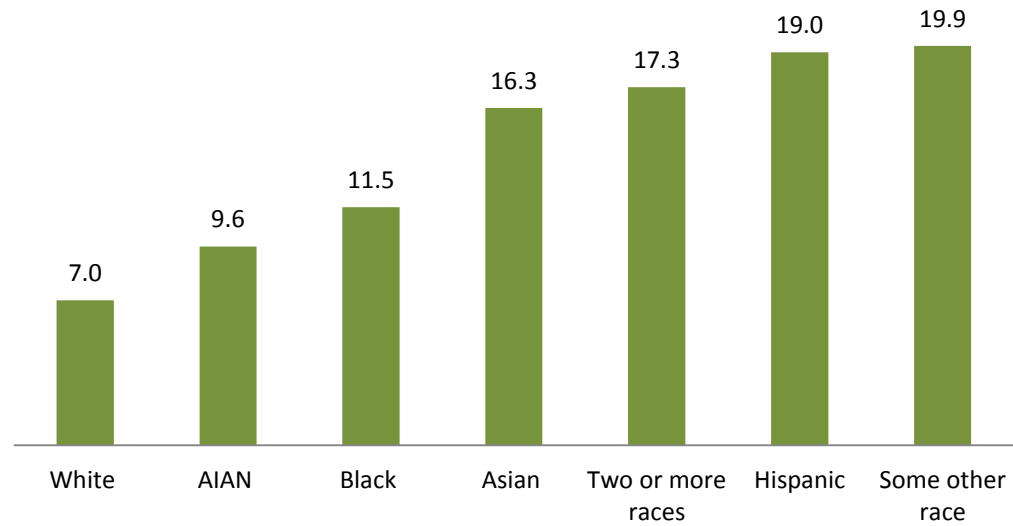
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), 2012.

# Minority Veterans are younger than White Veterans

## Among young Veterans

Only 7% of White Veterans are between 17 to 34 years old; but this figure increases dramatically for all minority groups, with some nearing 20%

## Youngest Veterans: 17 to 34 Years Old (in percent)

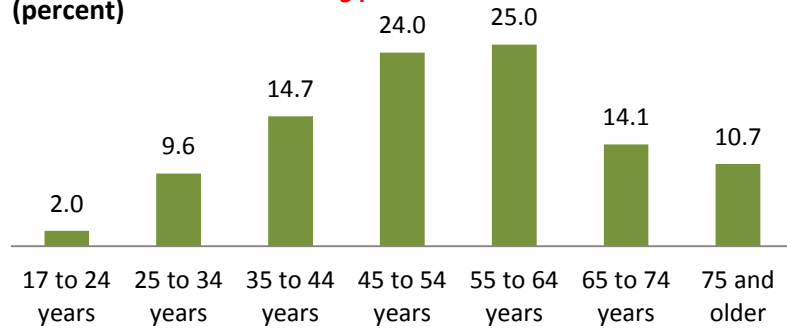


Percentages of Veterans were not statistically different from each other: Black and AIAN; Black and Some other race; AIAN and Some other race; Asian and Some other race; Asian and Two or more races; Some other race and Two or more races; Some other race and Hispanic and Two or more races and Hispanic

# Median age for minority Veteran groups is between 52 and 57 years old. It is 64 for White Veterans

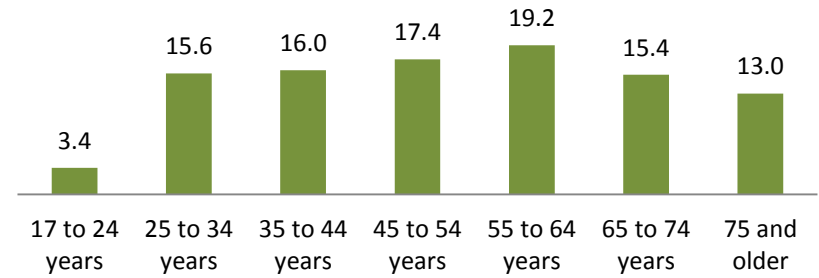
**Black Veterans (percent)**

**Median Age 54**



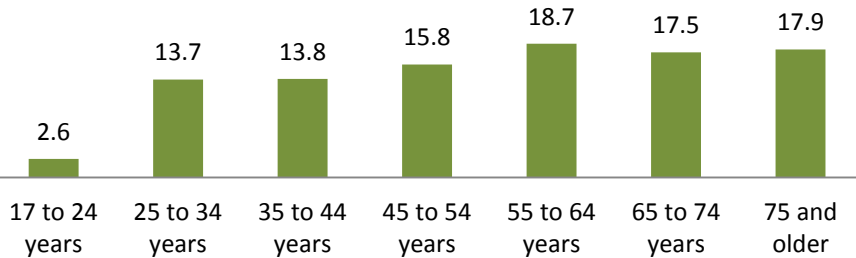
**Hispanic Veterans (percent)**

**Median Age 53**



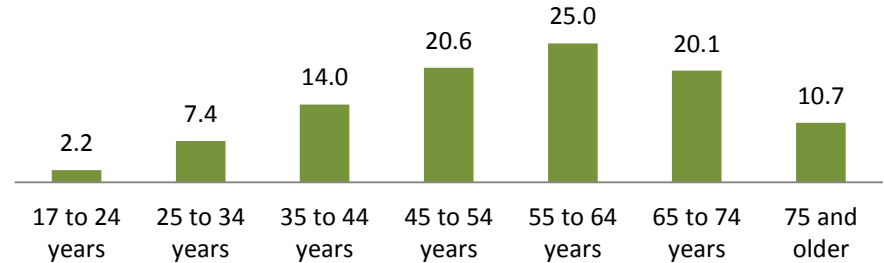
**Asian Veterans (percent)**

**Median Age 57**



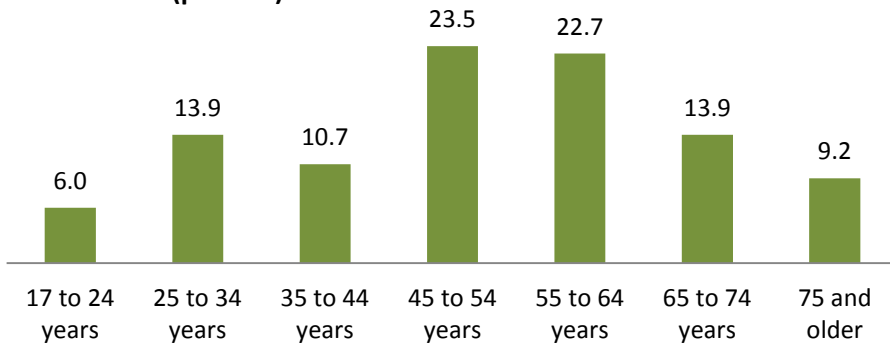
**AIAN Veterans (percent)**

**Median Age 57**



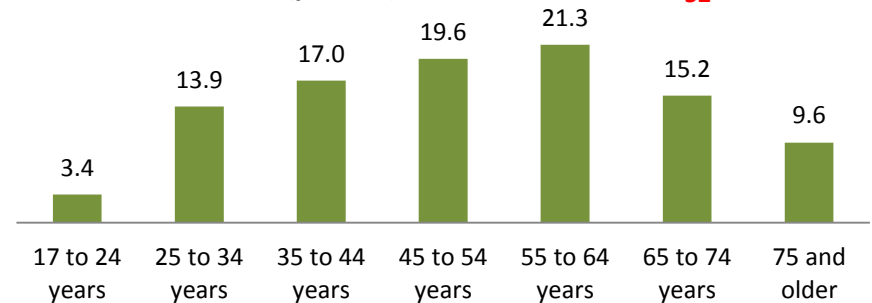
**Some other race Veterans (percent)**

**Median Age 53**

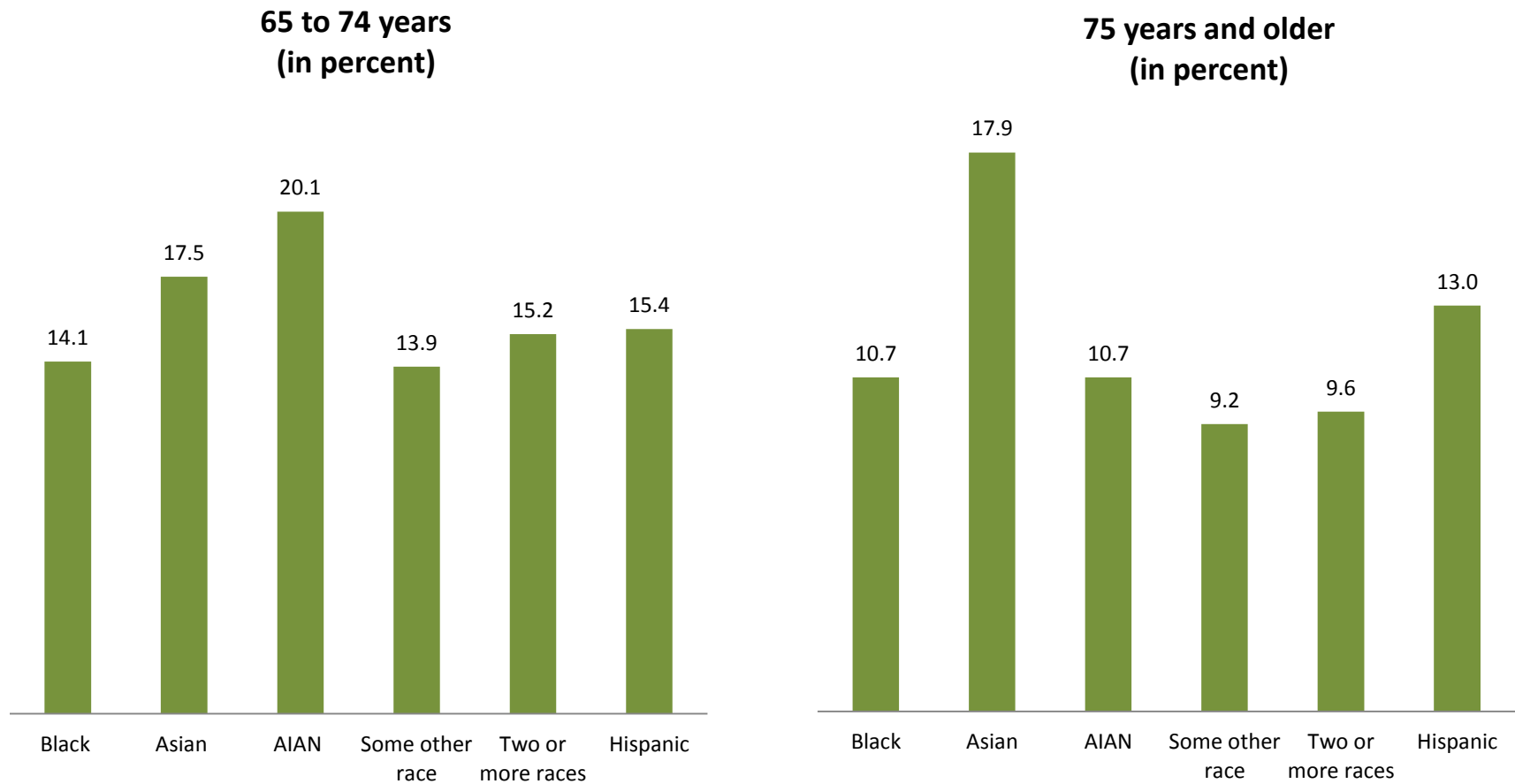


**Two or more races Veterans (percent)**

**Median Age 52**



## Among older minority Veterans, AIAN were predominant in the 65 to 74 year group while Asians dominated in the 75 and older group



Percentages of Black, Hispanic and Some other race Veterans were not statistically different in the 65 to 74 year old group. Percentages of AIAN, Black and Some other race Veterans were not statistically different in the 75 years and older group



# The Veteran population is getting more and more diverse with the Post-911 and Pre-911 cohorts having the highest number of minorities

## Veterans by Period of Service by Race and Ethnicity (in percent)

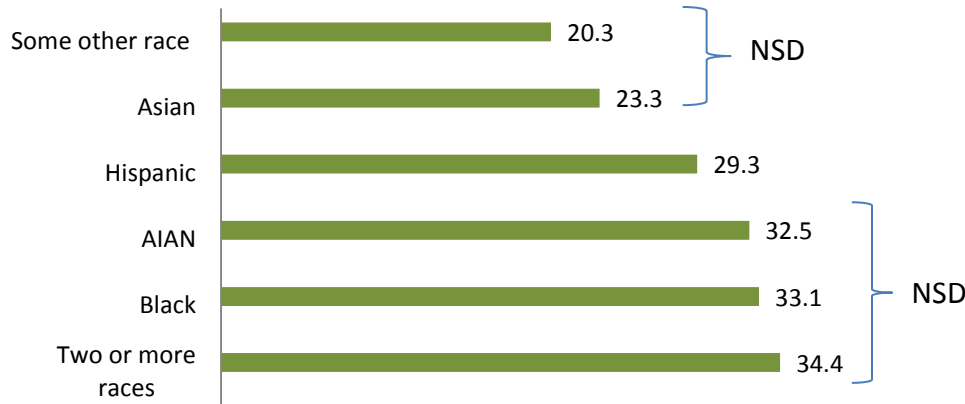
	White	Black	AIAN	Asian	Some Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic
<b>Post-911</b> (Sept. 2001 to present)	65.4	16.3	0.7	2.6	0.2	2.6	12.2
<b>Pre-911</b> (Aug. 1990 to Aug. 2001)	69.8	16.4	0.9	1.9	0.1	2.2	8.6
<b>Vietnam Era Only</b> (Aug. 1964 to April 1975)	83.1	9.3	0.7	1.1	0.1	1.1	4.7
<b>Korean Conflict Only</b> (July 1950 to Jan. 1955)	88.4	5.2	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.7	4.3
<b>World War II Only</b> (Dec. 1941 to Dec. 1946)	91.4	4.3	0.2	1.0	0.0	0.5	2.6
<b>Peacetime Only</b> (Jan. 1947 to June 1950; Feb. 1955 to July 1964; May 1975 to July 1990)	79.0	12.2	0.7	1.1	0.1	1.3	5.6

Note: 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.

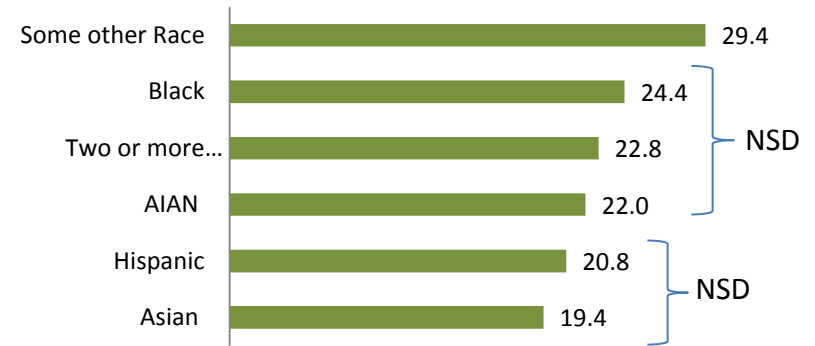
Asian and Some other Two or more races Veterans were not statistically different in their percentages for Post-911, Vietnam Era and Peacetime

# AIAN, Black, and Two or more races had the highest percentage of VA health care use. AIAN Veterans had the highest uninsured rate and a high poverty rate

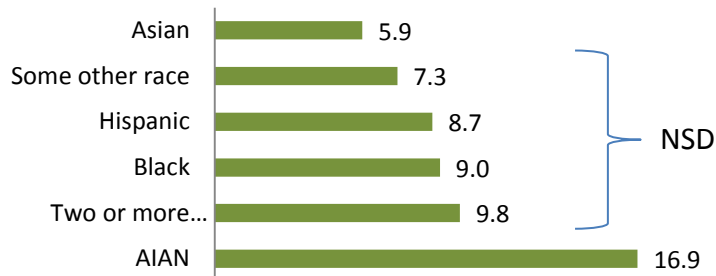
**Used VA Health Care  
(in percent)**



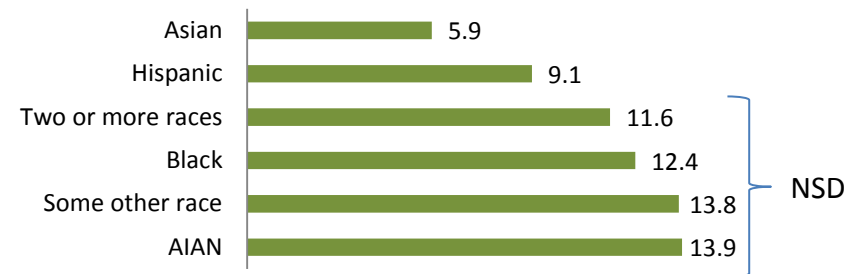
**Service-Connected Disabled  
(in percent)**



**Uninsured  
(in percent)**



**In Poverty  
(in percent)**



Note: For each of the graphs shown above, the base/denominator is the total number of Veterans in that particular race or ethnic group.

NSD = Not Statistically Different

## Issues to consider when comparing Veterans and non-Veterans

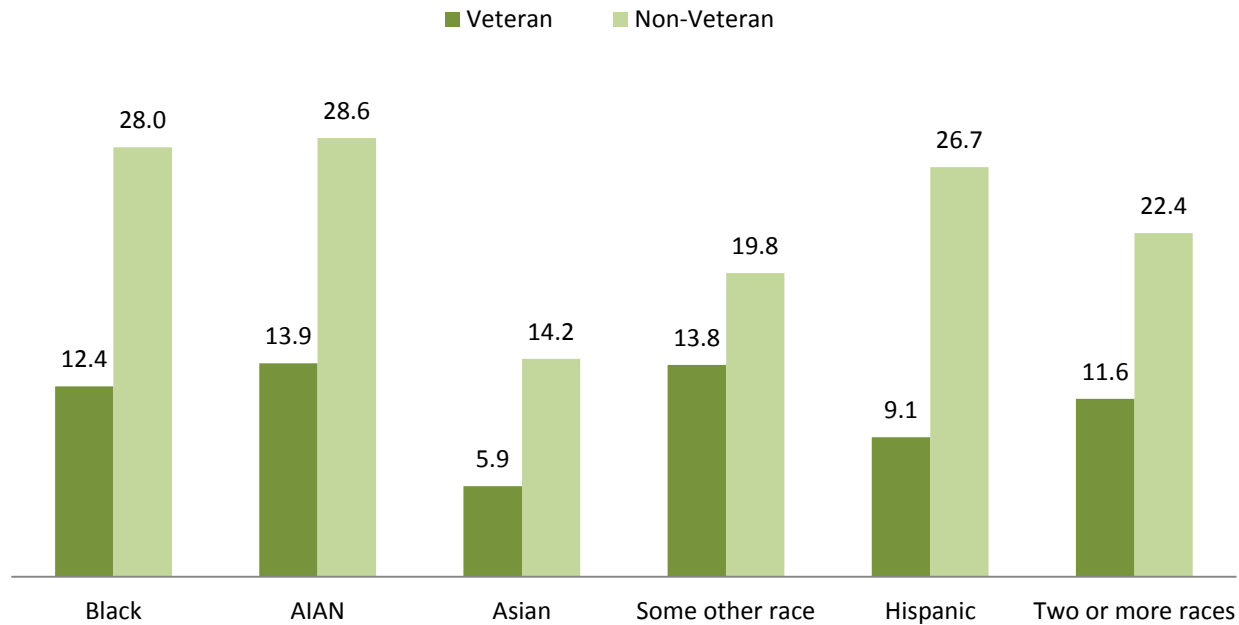
Veterans are predominantly men (around 93%) whereas over half of all non-Veterans are women. This difference is particularly important to remember when doing any economic comparisons. In general, men earn more, are more likely to be employed, less likely to be single parents, and less likely to live 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 63 compared with 43 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.

# Veterans were much less likely to live in poverty than non-Veterans. Asian Veterans were least likely to live in poverty

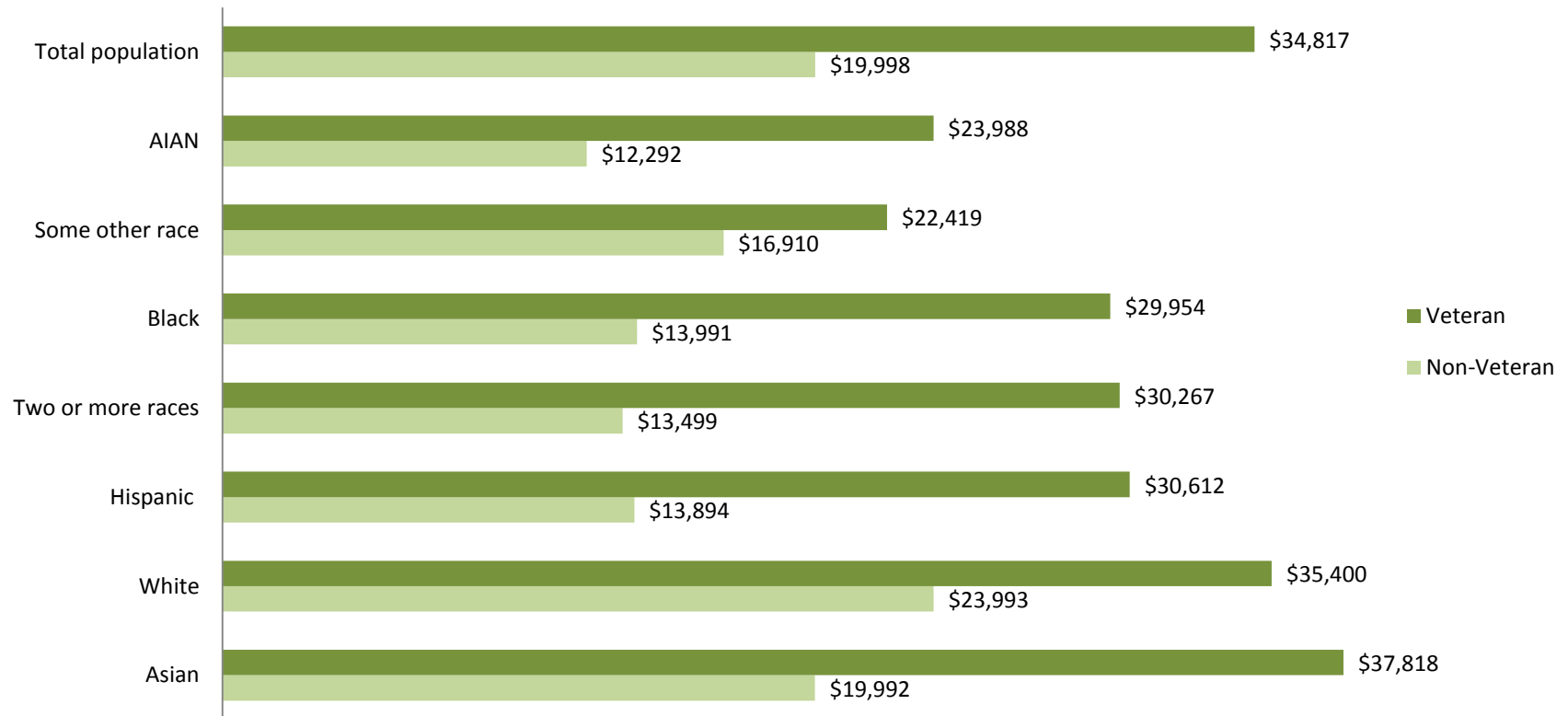
Percent in Poverty – Total Population  
(percent)



Some other race Veterans and non-Veterans were not statistically different from each other

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

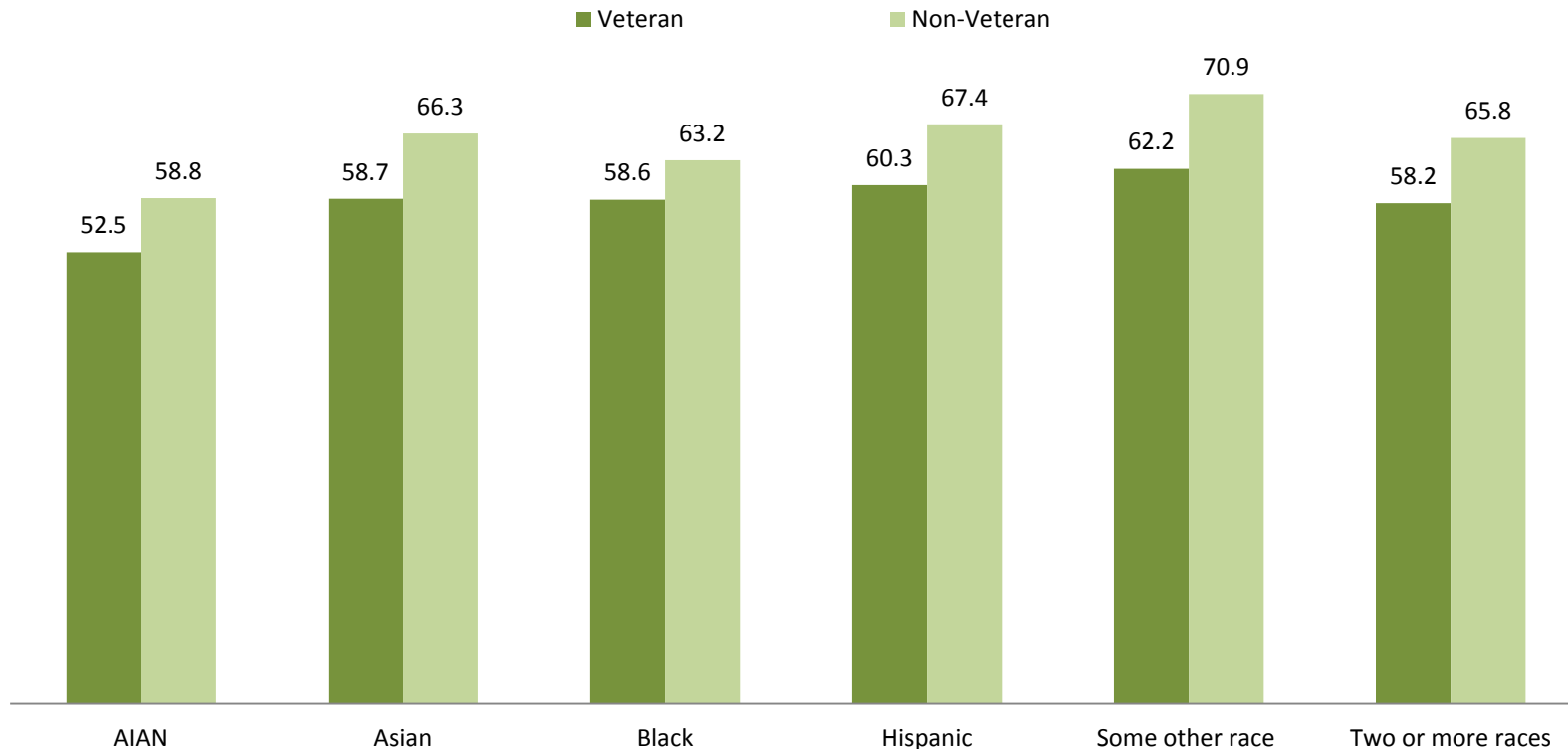
## Median Personal Income by Race and Hispanic Origin



The median personal income amounts for Some other race Veterans and Non-Veterans were not statistically different from each other

## Minority Veterans had lower labor force participation (LFP) rates than non-Veterans

### Labor Force Participation Percent by Race and Hispanic Origin

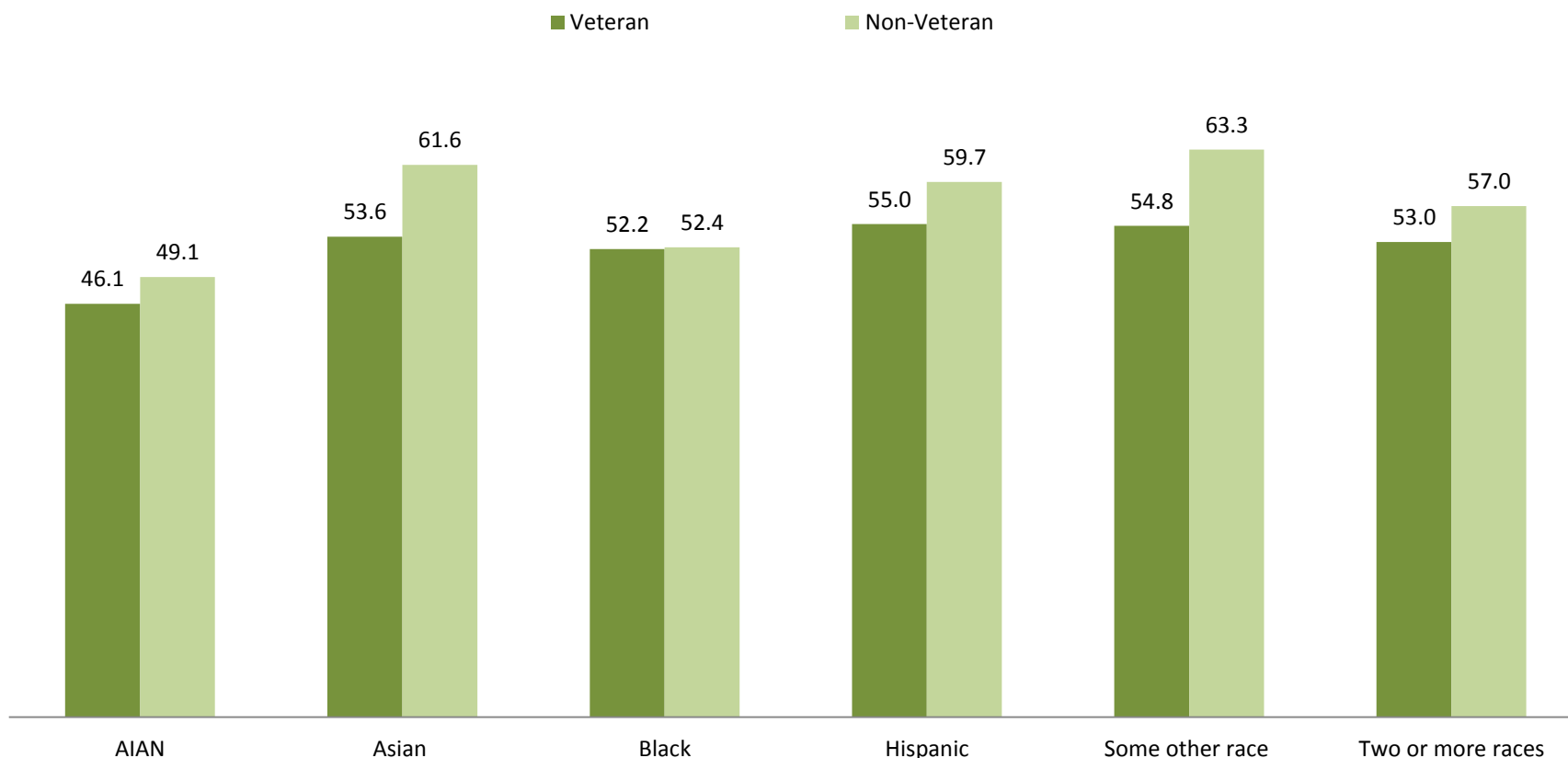


Note: Results are consistent with the 2013 BLS Veteran Supplement Press Release which shows Veterans had lower LFP (51.3%) than Nonveterans (66.1%) . Source: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf>

The labor force participation percentages for Some other race Veterans and non-Veterans were not statistically different

# Minority Veterans tend to have lower employed rates than non-Veterans

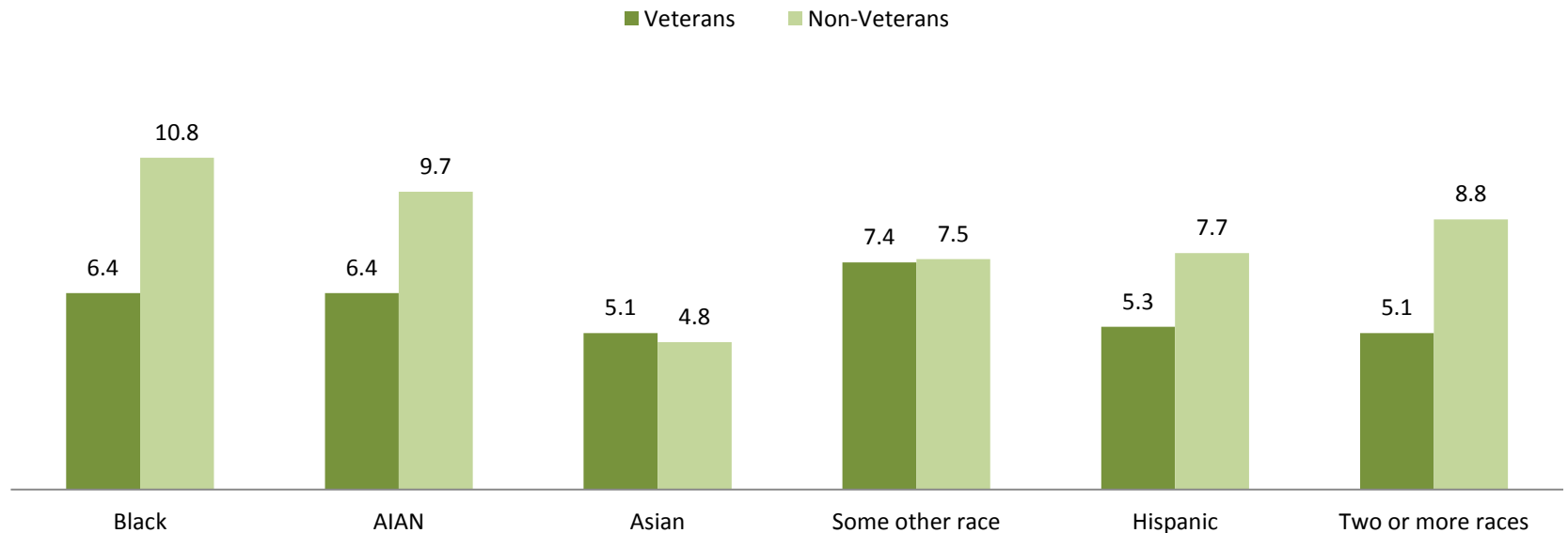
## Percent Employed by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Veteran Status



There was no statistical difference between Black, AIAN and Some other race Veterans and their counterparts

# Minority Veterans tend to have lower unemployment rates than non-Veterans

## Unemployment Percent by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Veteran Status

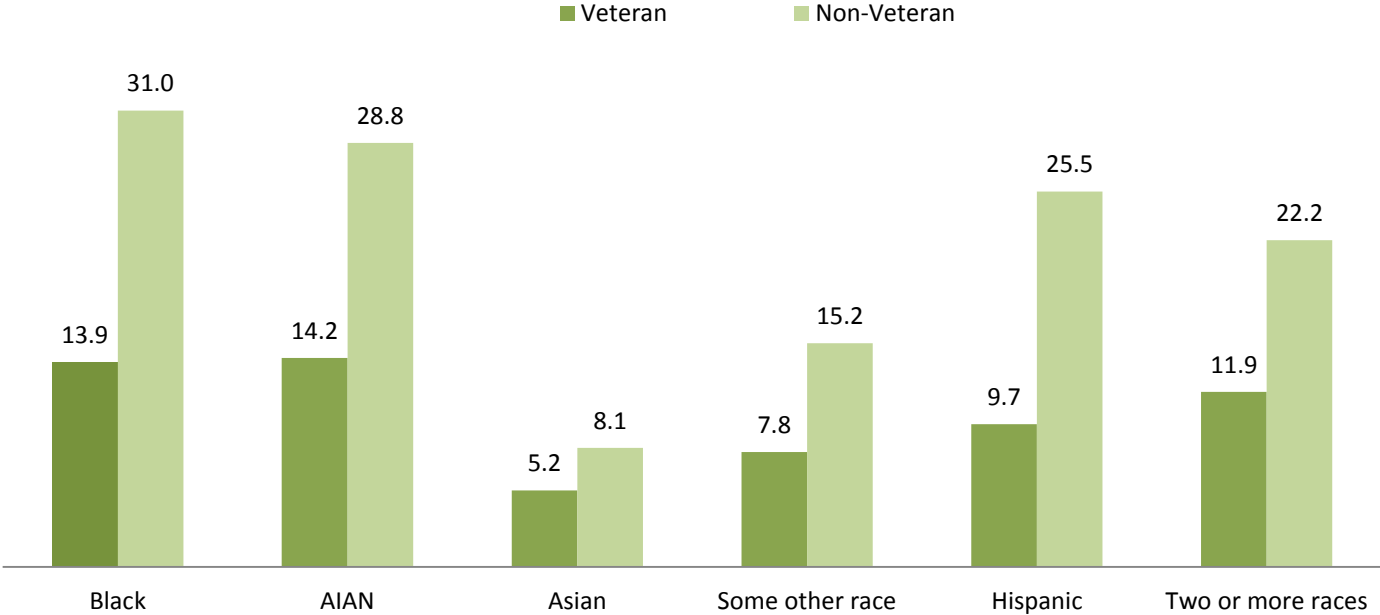


There was no statistical difference in percent of unemployment between Asian Veterans and non-Veterans and between Some other race Veterans and non-Veterans



# Minority Veteran households use food stamps about half as much as non-Veteran households

**\*Food Stamp Household Participation by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Veteran Status**



\*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

## Minority Veterans compared with minority non-Veterans

### **Blacks (non-Hispanic)**

Black Veterans were older, had a lower uninsured rate, and had a lower poverty rate than Black non-Veterans

### **Asians (non-Hispanic)**

Asian Veterans were older, had a lower employment rate, had a lower uninsured rate, and had a lower poverty rate than Asian non-Veterans

### **American Indians and Alaska Natives (non-Hispanic)**

American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans were older, had a lower uninsured rate, and had a lower poverty rate than American Indian and Alaska Native non-Veterans

### **Two or More Race (non-Hispanic)**

Two or More Race (non-Hispanic) Veterans were older, had a lower employment rate, a lower uninsured rate, and a lower poverty rate than Two or More Race non-Veterans

### **Hispanics**

Hispanic Veterans were older, had a lower employment rate, had a lower uninsured rate, and had a lower poverty rate than Hispanic non-Veterans

# Minority Veterans compared with each other

## In terms of employment...

Hispanic and Some other race Veterans had the highest percentage employed in the past 12 months. American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans had the lowest percentage employed in the past 12 months. The percentage of employment among all minority Veterans was not statistically different; except for Black and Hispanic Veterans.

## In terms of poverty...

American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans had the highest poverty rate in 2012. Asian Veterans had the lowest poverty rate in 2012. The percent of in-poverty for American Indian and Alaska Native, Black, Some other race and Two or more races Veterans was not statistically different. Black and American Indian and Alaska Native and Some Other Race Veterans lived in households with a high percentage of food stamps receivers while Asian Veterans lived in households with the least number of recipients. The percentage of food stamp household recipient for Black and American Indian and Alaska Native, Some other race, Two or more races and Hispanic Veterans was not statistically different.

## In terms of health care coverage...

American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans had the highest uninsured rate in 2012. Asian Veterans had the lowest uninsured rate in 2012. The percentage of health care coverage among Black, Hispanic and Two or more races Veterans was not statistically different as well as Some other race and Asian Veterans. *Note: Indian Health Services (IHS) is not included as a health insurance source in ACS therefore AIAN Veterans, using IHS, were not considered insured if IHS is the only means of obtaining health care services.*

## In terms of VA utilization...

Black, American Indian and Alaska Native, and Two or more races Veterans had the highest percentage use of VA health care while Some other race Veterans had the lowest. The percentage of VA utilization among Black, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans and Two or more races Veterans was not statistically different. Asian and Hispanic Veterans had the lowest percentage with a service-connected disability rating. The percentage of service-connected disability among Black, Some Other Race and Two or more races Veterans was not statistically different.

# Providing benefits and services to minority Veterans

**Understanding demographics of minority groups can help VA assess needs of these populations and anticipate future needs. Minority Veterans:**

- Made up approximately 21% of the total Veteran population
- Made up approximately 33% of the women Veteran population
- Are younger than White, non-Hispanic Veterans
  - Median age is 52-57 versus 64 for White, non-Hispanic Veterans

**Demographic implications of the All-Volunteer Force continue to affect composition of Veteran population over time**

- Older Veterans are from a draft-era military—one which was overwhelmingly male and White
- We project Veteran population will decrease from 22.3 million in 2012 to 14.5 million in 2040. Over this time, percent of minority Veterans will increase from 21% to 34%

## Summary

Minority Veterans have been a steadily growing segment of the total Veteran population and will continue to grow for the foreseeable future

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

It is difficult to determine whether minority status, Veteran status, age, sex, some other factor, or a combination of these things explains the differences between groups found in this study

# Contact Information

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