



# Profile of Post-9/11 Veterans: 2012

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

July 2015

# Introduction

**Post-9/11 Veterans** are the youngest cohort being served by The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (NCVAS) produced this profile to meet the demands for data and understanding of the Post-9/11 Veteran population. This population is expected to jump from 2.6 million in 2014 to under 3.6 million in 2019— an increase of 36%.

VA continues to deliver a wide array of benefits and services Veterans, eligible dependents, and survivors to help to ease the transition from the military to civilian life and to improve quality of life. These programs are overseen by three administrations:

- Veterans Health Administration (VHA) provides Health Care and Pharmacy services.
- Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) provides Compensation and Pension disability benefits, Education Assistance, Life Insurance, Vocational Rehabilitation/employment services, and Home Loan Guaranty assistance.
- National Cemetery Administration (NCA) provides memorial benefits including graves, markers, flags, medallions, and burial allowance.

## **Key questions addressed in this profile are:**

- How many Post-9/11 Veterans used VA benefits? How many did not?
- Which programs do Post-9/11 Veterans use most?
- What are the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Post-9/11 Veterans and how do they differ from other Veterans and non-Veterans?
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Race
  - Marital Status
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Occupation
  - Health Insurance
  - Poverty
  - income

# Data Source and Methods

- Demographic data for this analysis come from the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample.
  - ACS is an ongoing survey that provides annual data on the social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population.
  - 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.
- 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/rate.
- For more information about the ACS, see: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>
- The utilization data come from the United States Veterans Eligibility Trends & Statistics (USVETS) 2012 database and VetPop2012.

# Data Source and Methods (Cont'd)

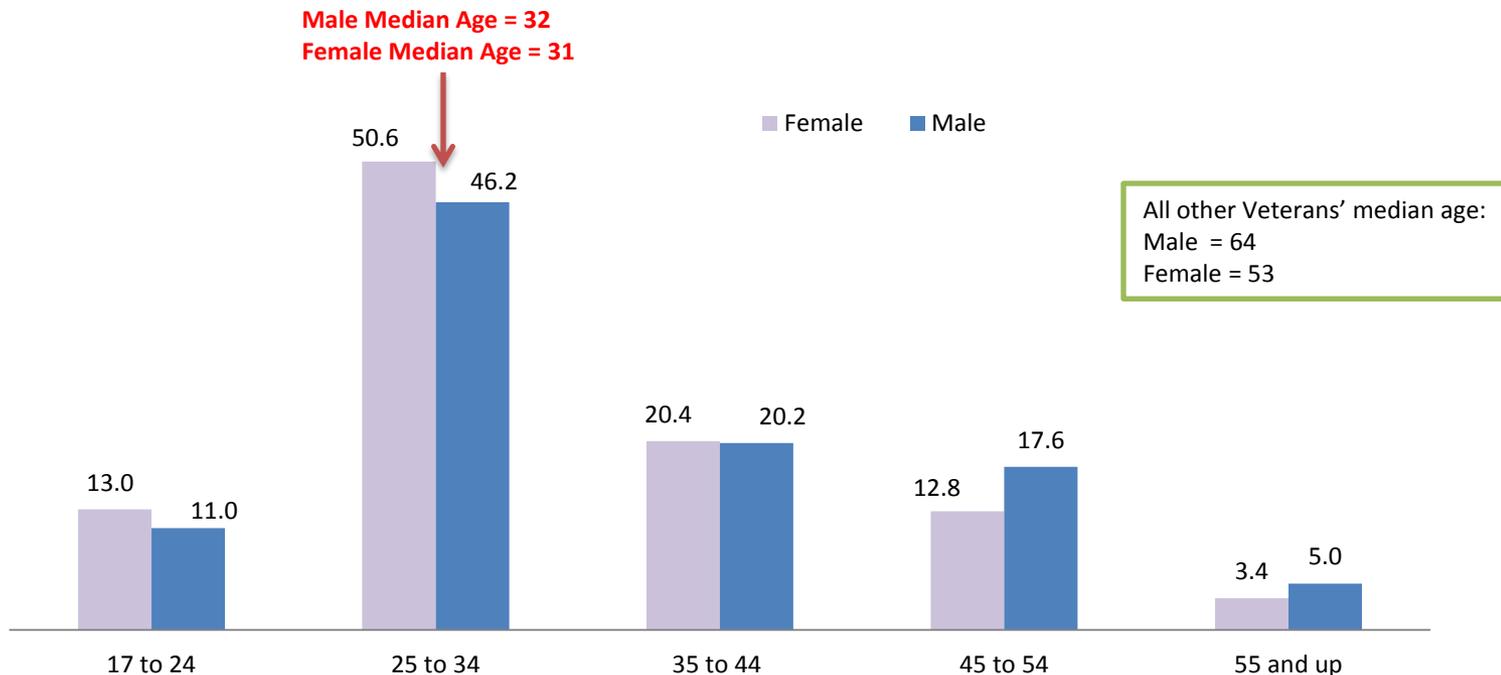
A Veteran user is defined as any Veteran who received or used at least one VA benefit or service during the fiscal year. Veteran spouses, Veteran dependents, and active military service members who used VA benefits and services were not included in the analysis. Each Veteran is only counted once in the overall total even if he/she used multiple programs.

- **Health Care:** All Veterans who received either VA inpatient care, VA outpatient care, purchased (fee basis) care, VA long-term services and support, or VA pharmacy care were included. VA Health Care enrollees who did not seek care from VA during the current year were not included. Veterans who only sought care from a VHA Vet Center were not included.
- **Memorial Affairs:** All Veterans who were interred in a National, State, Interior, or Military cemeteries, or Veterans who were interred in private cemeteries and requested headstones/markers from VA were included. Due to data unavailability, Veterans who only received Presidential Memorial Certificates or a flag were not included.
- **Compensation & Pension:** All Veterans who received VA disability compensation or pension payments were included. Veterans who received Special Adaptive Housing benefits were also included in the analysis. Veterans with pending or denied claims were not included.
- **Education:** All Veterans who received benefits for Chapter 30, 32, 33, 1606, and 1607 education programs were included.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation:** All Veterans who participated in various stages of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program were included.
- **Loan Guaranty :** All Veterans who had an active, new or re-financed VA-guaranteed home loan were included.
- **Life Insurance:** All Veterans who had an active VA life insurance policy or were in receipt of a benefit from a policy that was administered or supervised by VA were included. VA insurance programs included in the analysis were National Service Life Insurance (NSLI), United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI), Veterans' Special Life Insurance (VSLI), Veterans' Reopened Insurance (VRI), Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI), Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI), Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI), and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI). The analysis does not include Service-members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Family Service-members' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI).

# **Post-9/11 Veteran Gender Comparisons**

For the Post-9/11 Veteran population, more females than males were age 34 or younger. Over 58 percent of the Post-9/11 population is age 34 or younger.

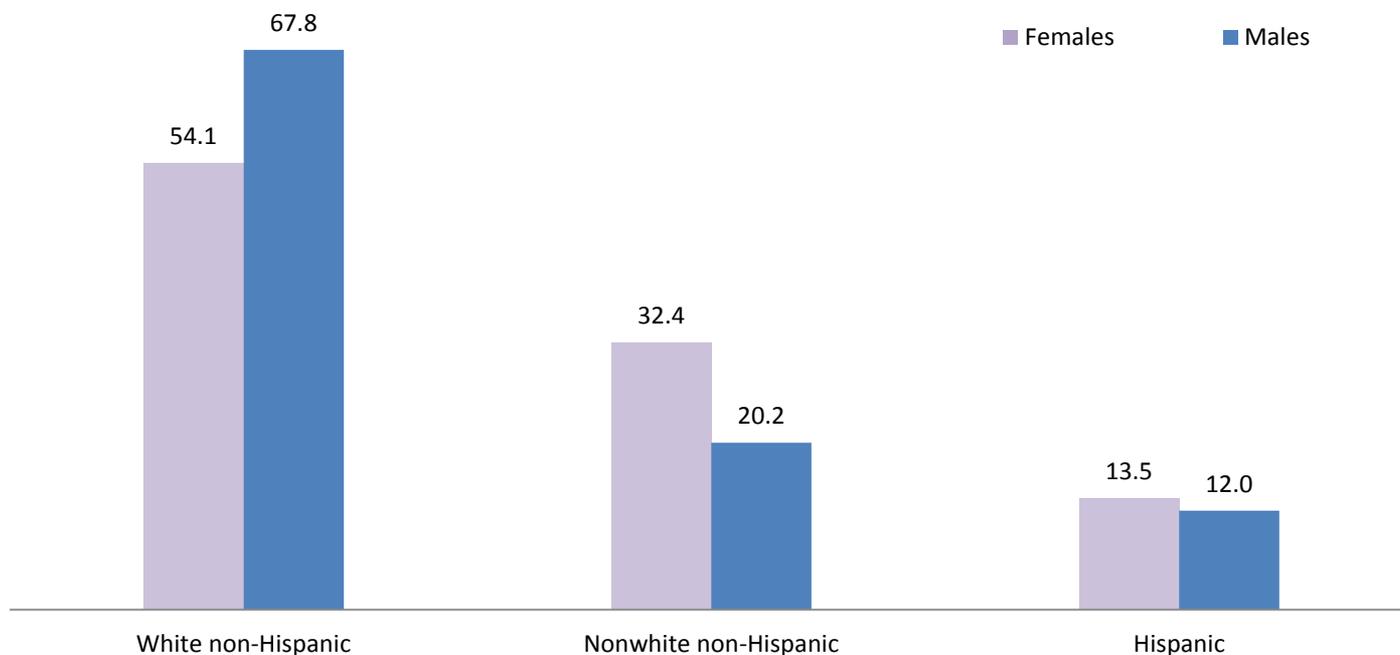
### Age Distribution (in percent)



*No significant difference among age group 35 to 44 for the Post-9/11 Veterans.*

# Post-9/11 female Veterans were more racially diverse than their male colleagues.

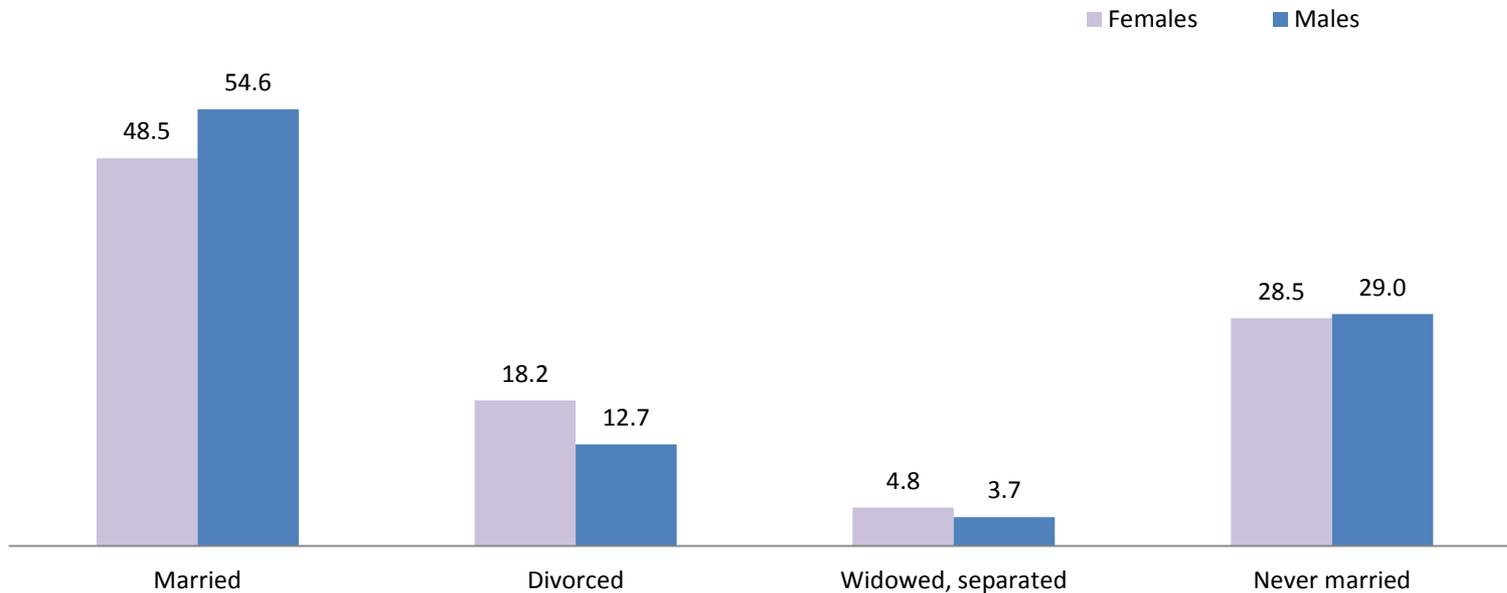
**Race Distribution**  
(in percent)



*No significant difference in the percentage of Hispanics by gender.*

# Post-9/11 male Veterans were more likely to be married. Females were more likely to be divorced.

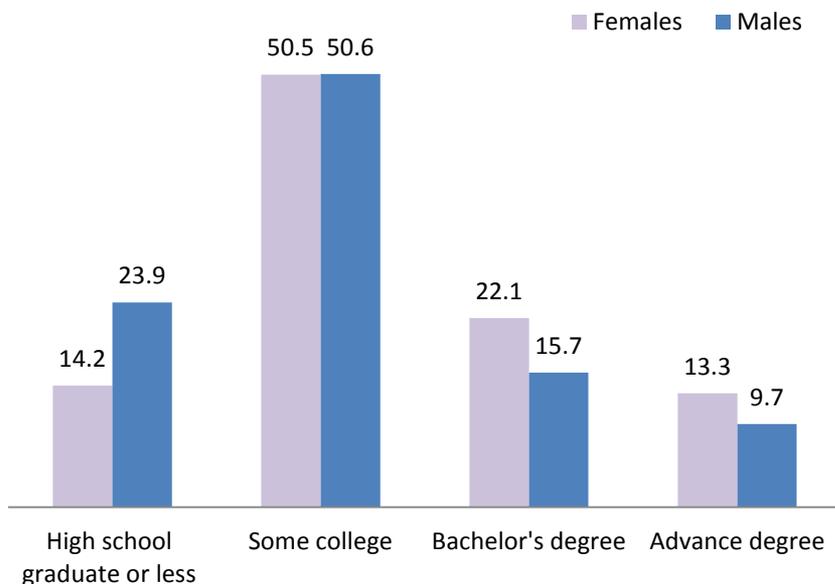
**Marital Status Distribution**  
(in percent)



*No significant difference among widowed, separated and never married Post-9/11 female and male Veterans.*

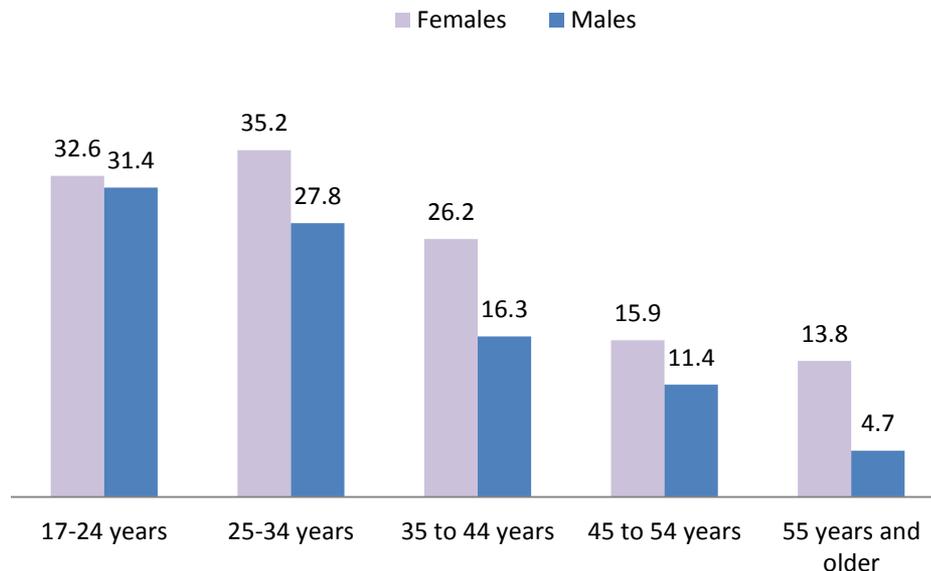
# Post-9/11 female Veterans were more likely to hold a degree or be enrolled in college than their male colleagues.

## Distribution of Education Attainment



“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

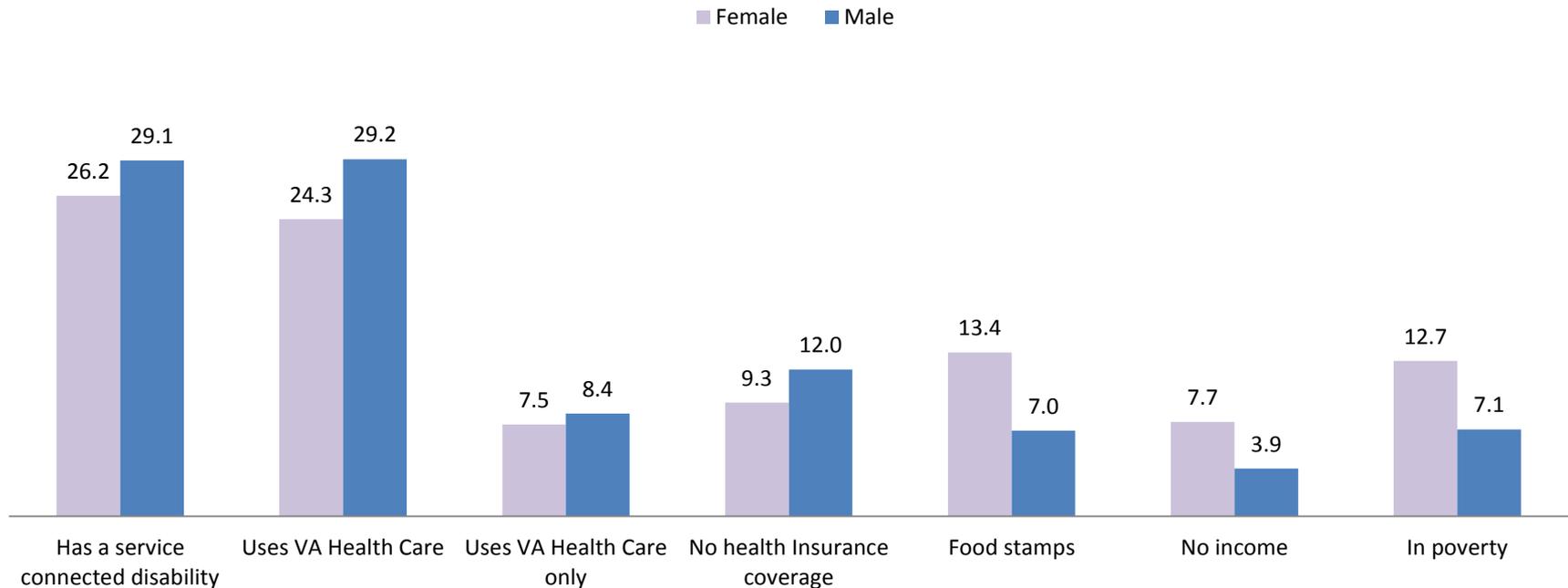


“Enrolled in College” includes enrollment in graduate years (freshman to senior) or enrollment in graduate or professional school (beyond a Bachelor’s degree).

*No significant difference for Post-9/11 Veterans by gender in the percentages of “Some college” and enrolled by age group 17-24.*

More Post-9/11 female Veterans lived in poverty, used food stamps and had no income compared to their male colleagues. More Post-9/11 male Veterans had a service-connected disability, used VA health care and had no health insurance coverage than their female colleagues.

### Selected Characteristics of Post-9/11 Veterans (in percent)

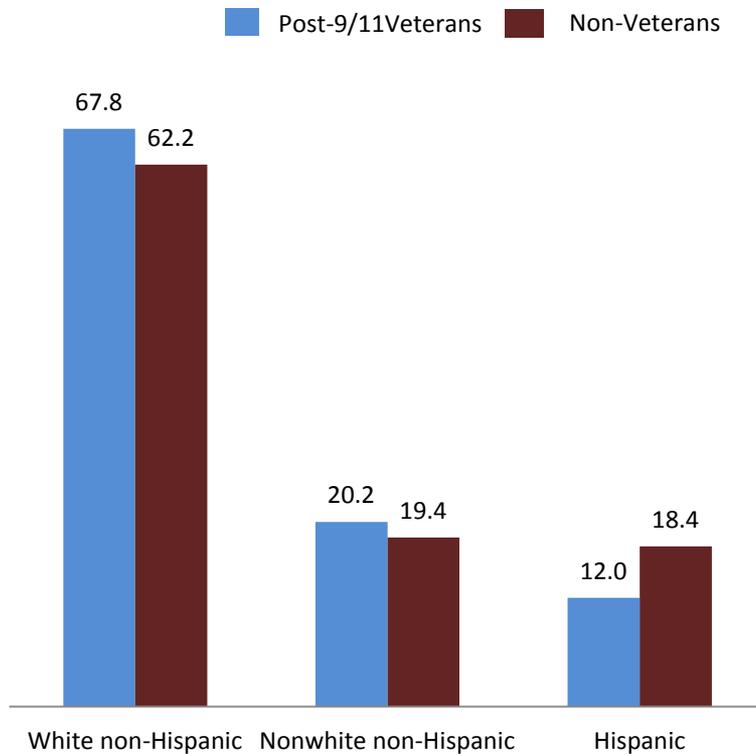


# **Post-9/11 Veteran and non-Veteran Comparisons**

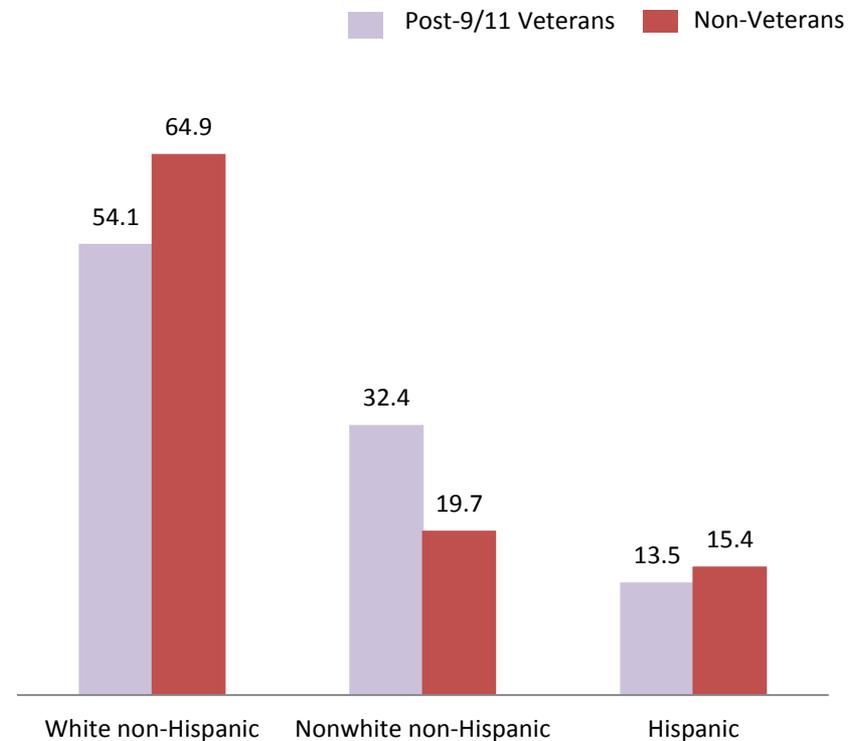
Post-9/11 male Veterans were more likely to be White non-Hispanic than non-Veterans males. Post-9/11 female Veterans were more likely to be Nonwhite non-Hispanic than non-Veterans females.

### Race Distribution (in percent)

#### Men



#### Women

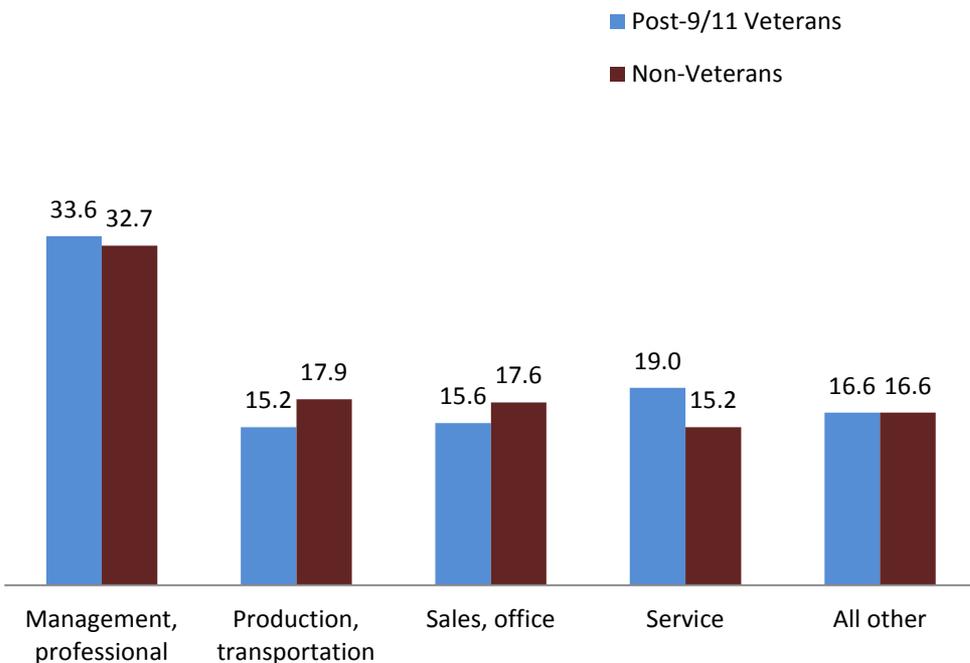


Note: "Nonwhite" includes Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, and two or more races. 12

Post-9/11 male Veterans were more likely to be in service occupations compared to non-Veterans. Post-9/11 male Veterans working in government almost tripled percent of non-Veterans.

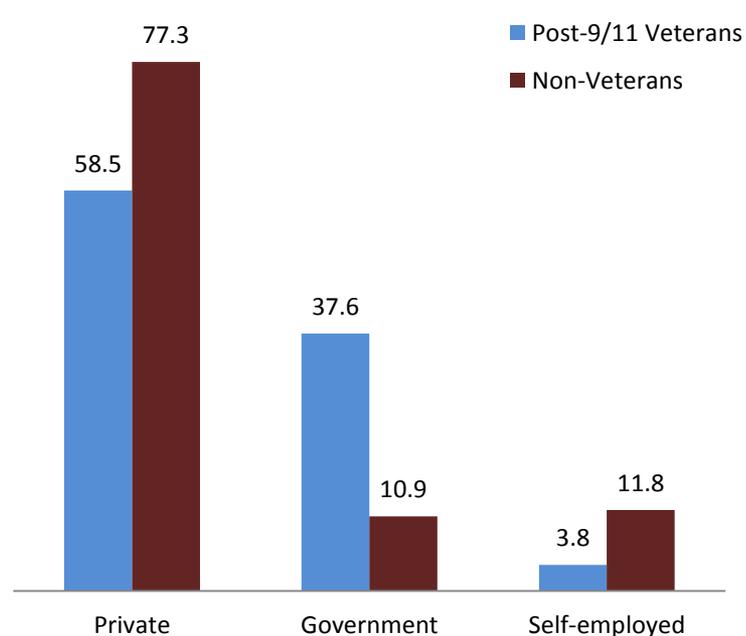
### Occupation of Employed Men

(in percent)



### Class of Worker of Employed Men

(in percent)



Notes:

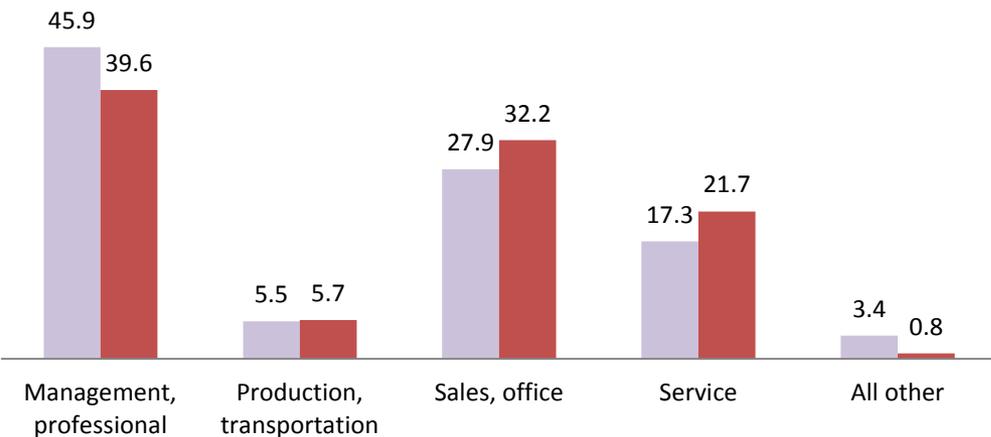
(1) "Service" occupations are those such as medical assistance, police, firefighter, retail supervisor, etc. The "All other" occupations include farming, fishing, forestry, construction, extraction, maintenance and repair. "Government" includes local, state, and Federal government. (2) There was no significant difference by "Management, professional" and "All other" occupations.

More Post-9/11 female Veterans were in management/professional occupations compared to non-Veterans females. Post-9/11 female Veterans were more than twice as likely to work in government than non-Veterans females.

### Occupation of Employed Women

(in percent)

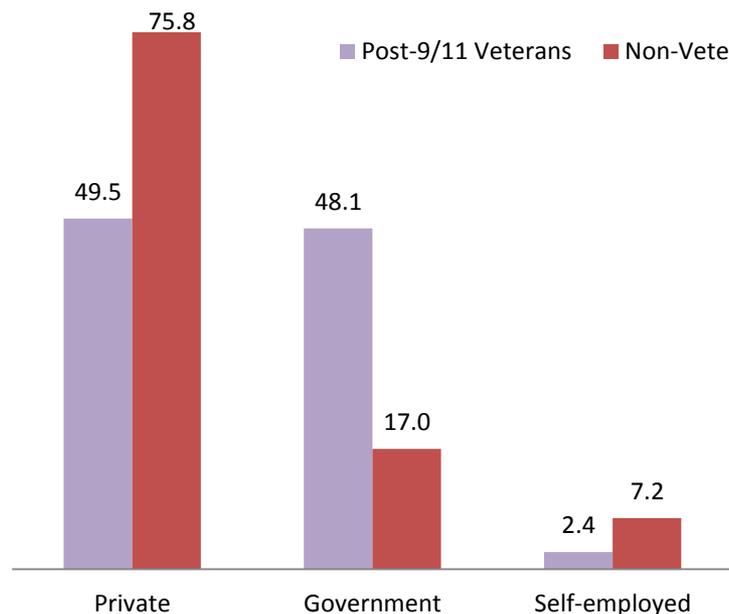
■ Post-9/11 Veterans ■ Non-Veterans



### Class of Worker of Employed Women

(in percent)

■ Post-9/11 Veterans ■ Non-Veterans



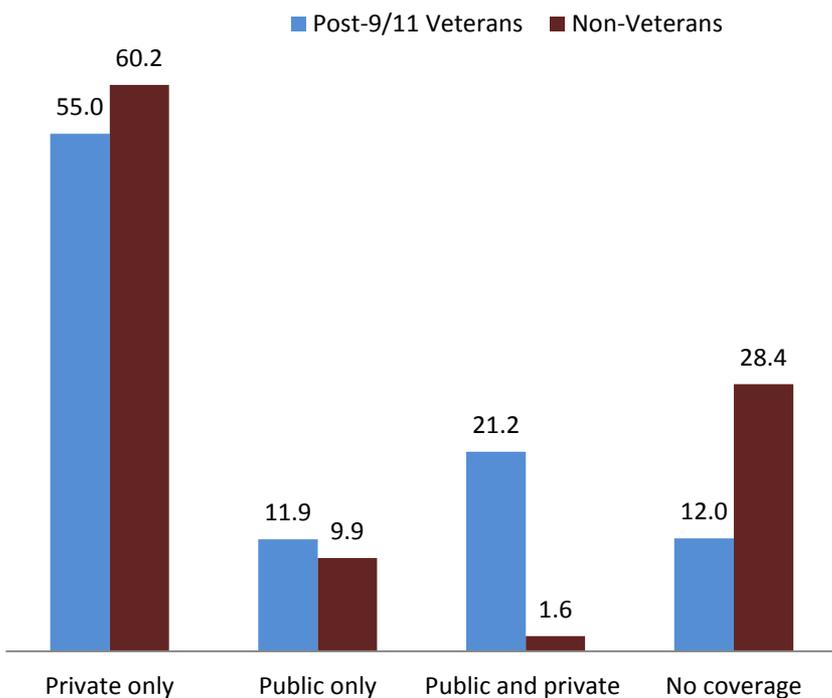
Notes:

- (1) "Service" occupations are those such as medical assistance, police, firefighter, retail supervisor, etc. The "All other" occupations include farming, fishing, forestry, construction, extraction, maintenance and repair. "Government" includes local, state, and Federal government.
- (2) There was no significant difference by production and transportation.

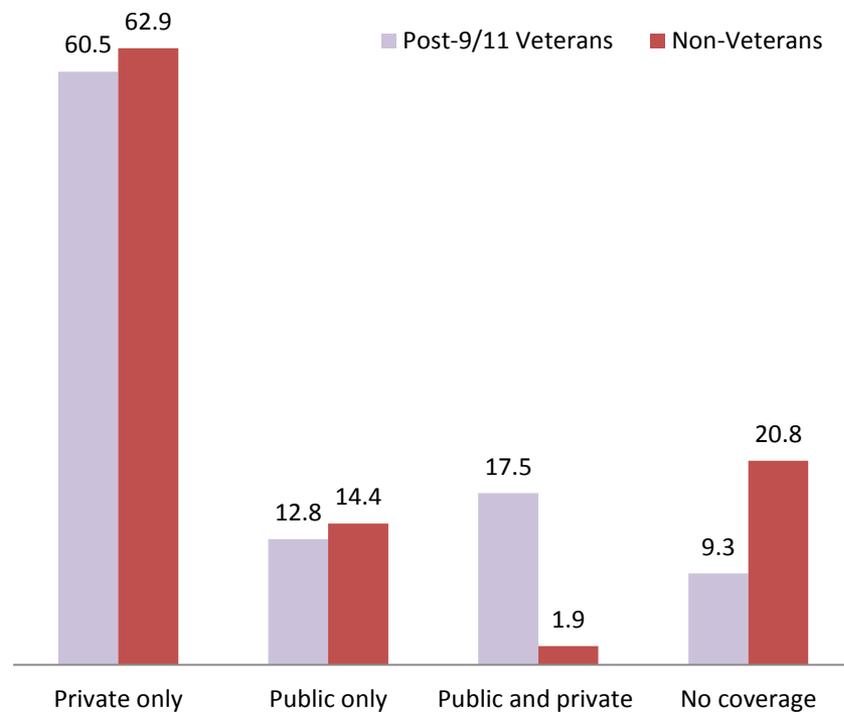
More Post-9/11 Veterans had both public and private health insurance compared to their non-Veteran counterparts. Post-9/11 Veterans had lower uninsured rates than their non-Veteran counterparts in 2012.

### Health Insurance Coverage Distribution (in percent)

#### Men



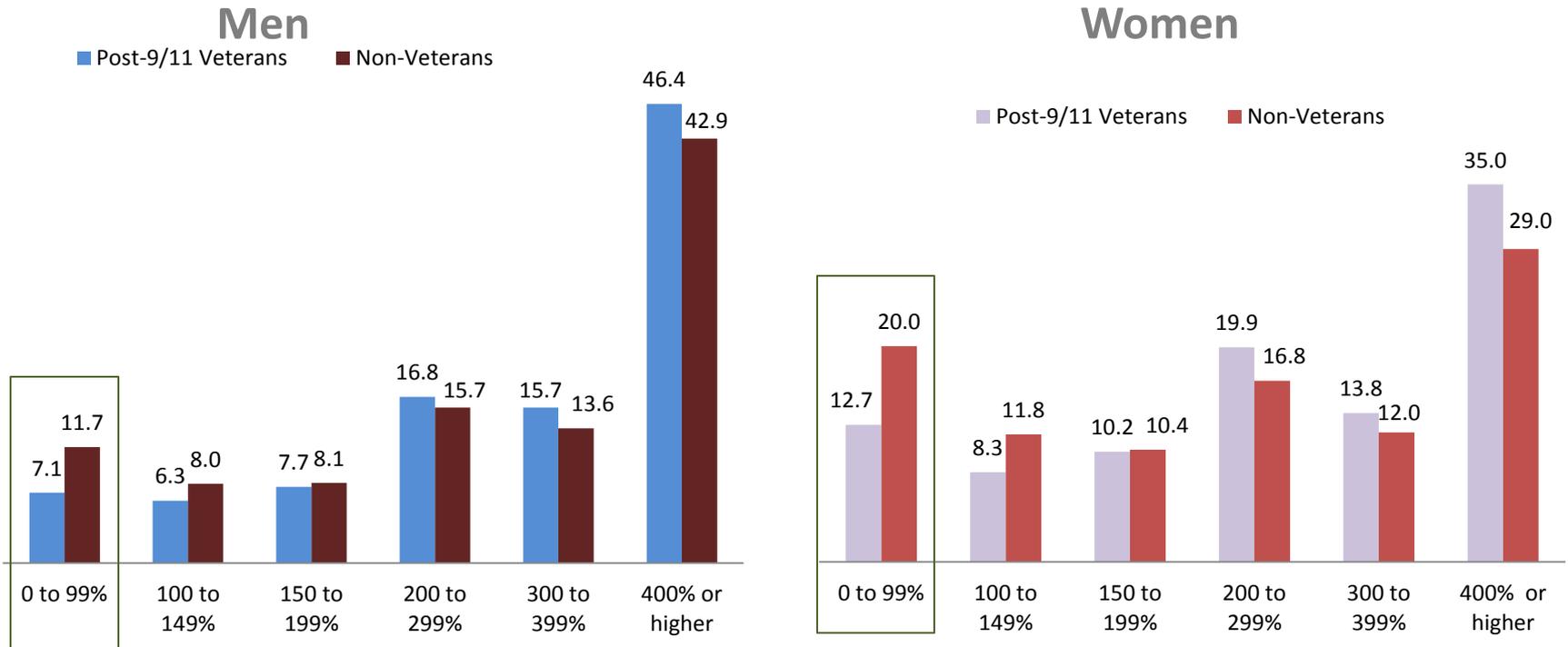
#### Women



*No significant difference in percentages of "Private only" between female Post-9/11 Veterans and female non-Veterans.*

More Post-9/11 Veterans lived above 400% of poverty level compared to non-Veterans.  
Fewer Post-9/11 Veterans lived at or below poverty level than their non-Veteran counterparts.

### Poverty Level Distributions (in percent)

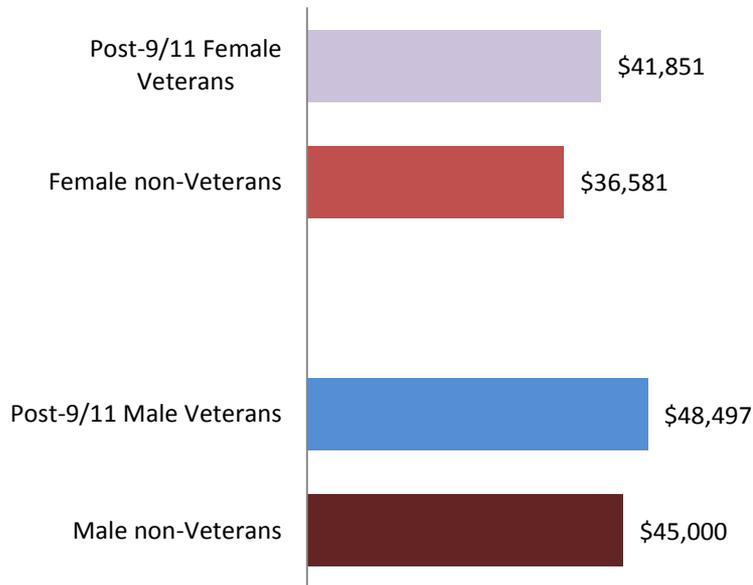


**Note:** Families in the “0 to 99 percent” are in poverty. Categories above 100% are used by public and private programs to determine eligibility. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index. The official poverty definition 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>.

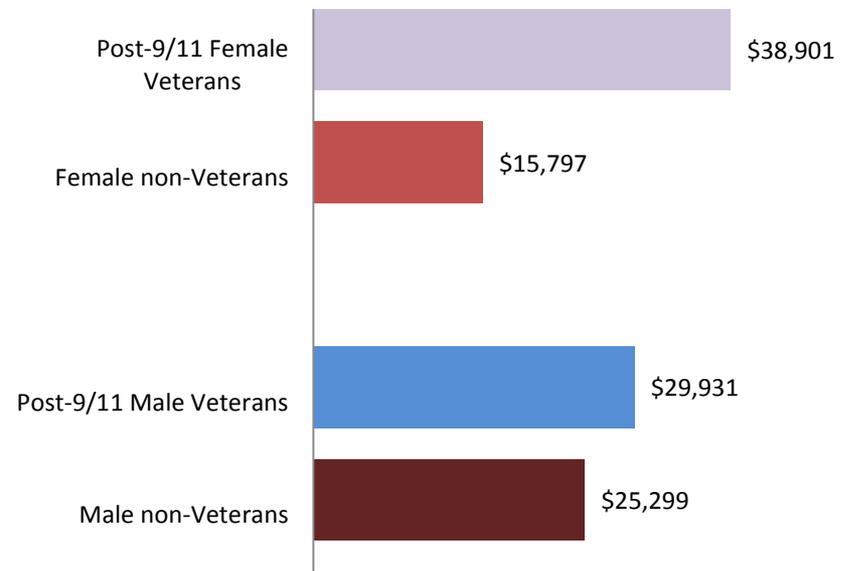
Regardless of gender, there is no significant difference in percentages between Post-9/11 Veterans and non-Veterans in the 150- to 199 percent poverty level. For females, no statistical difference in the 300 to 399 percent poverty level.

# Post-9/11 Veterans had higher median earnings and personal incomes than their non-Veteran counterparts.

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



## Median Personal Income by Sex and Veteran Status



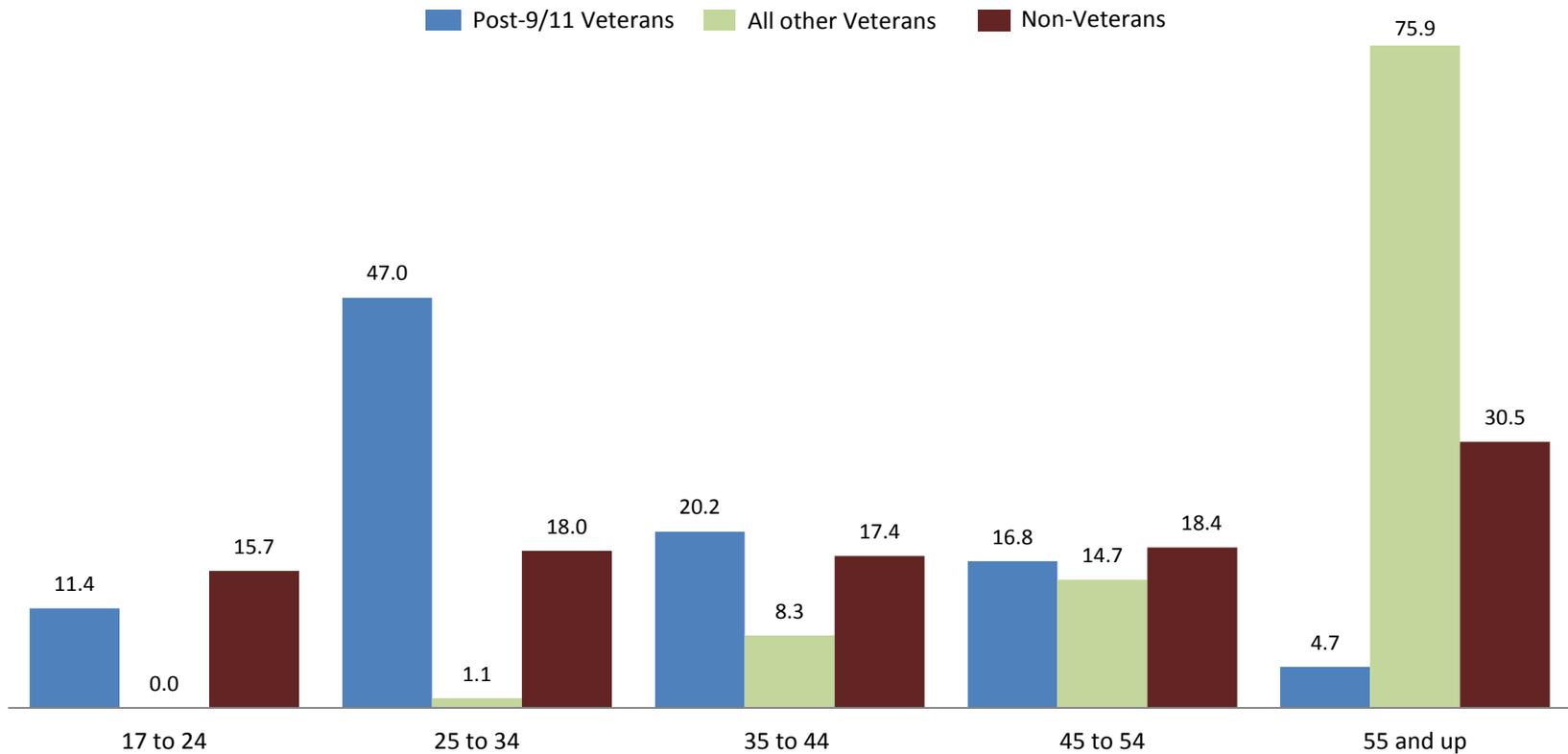
“Earnings” refer to salary, wages, and self employment income. “Year-round full-time(YRFT) refers to employment of 50 or more weeks per year and 35 or more hours per week. Median earnings are calculated for the YRFT employed population with earnings greater than zero.

“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.

# **Post-9/11 Veterans and All Other Veterans Comparisons**

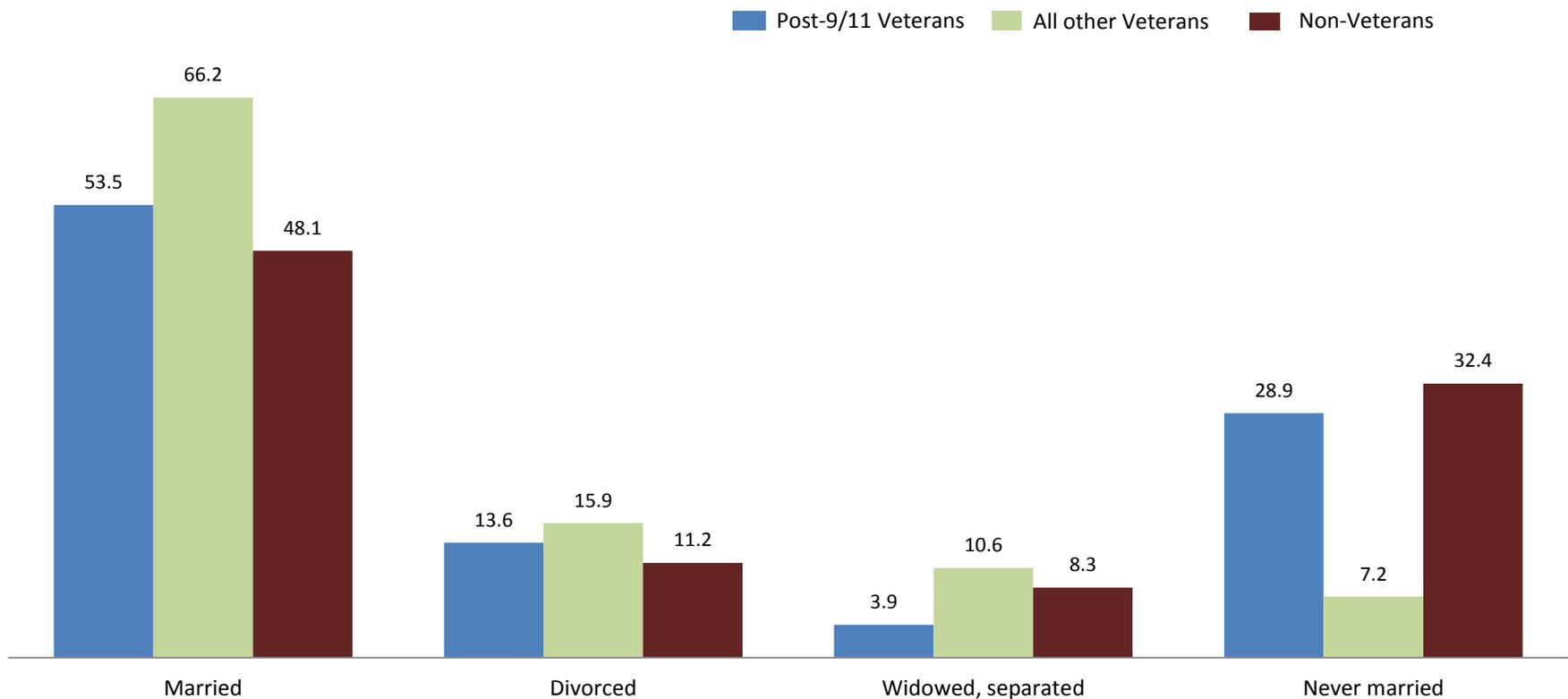
About 80 percent of Post-9/11 Veterans were under age 44 while about 80 percent of all other Veterans were over age 55.

**Age Distribution for Post-9/11 Veterans, All Other Veterans, and Non-Veterans**  
(in percent)



About 54 percent of Post-9/11 Veterans were married while about 66 percent of all other Vets were married.

**Marital Status Distribution for Post-9/11 Veterans, All Other Veterans, and Non-Veterans**  
(in percent)

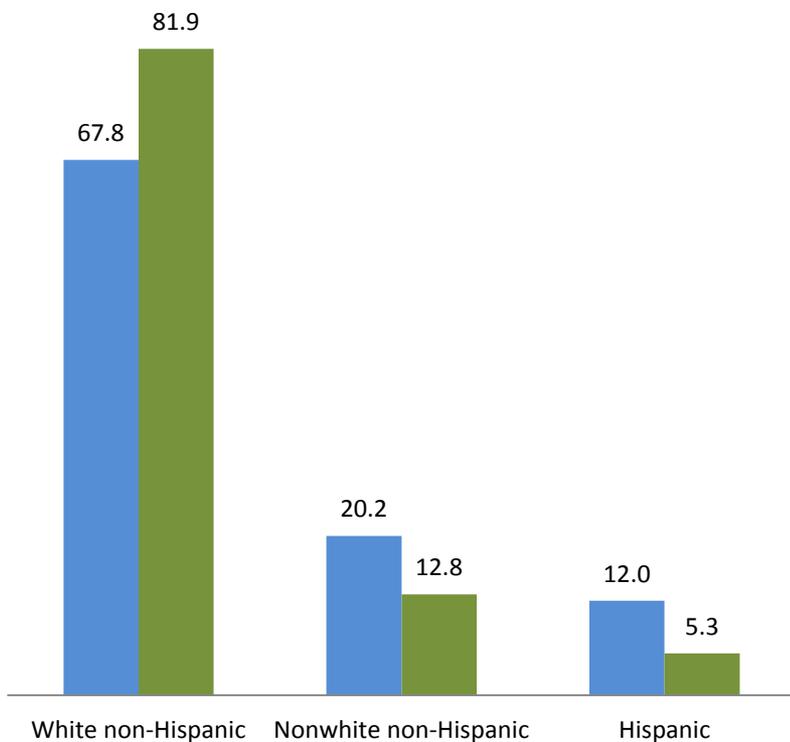


# Post-9/11 Veterans were more racially diverse than all other Veterans.

**Race Distribution**  
(in percent)

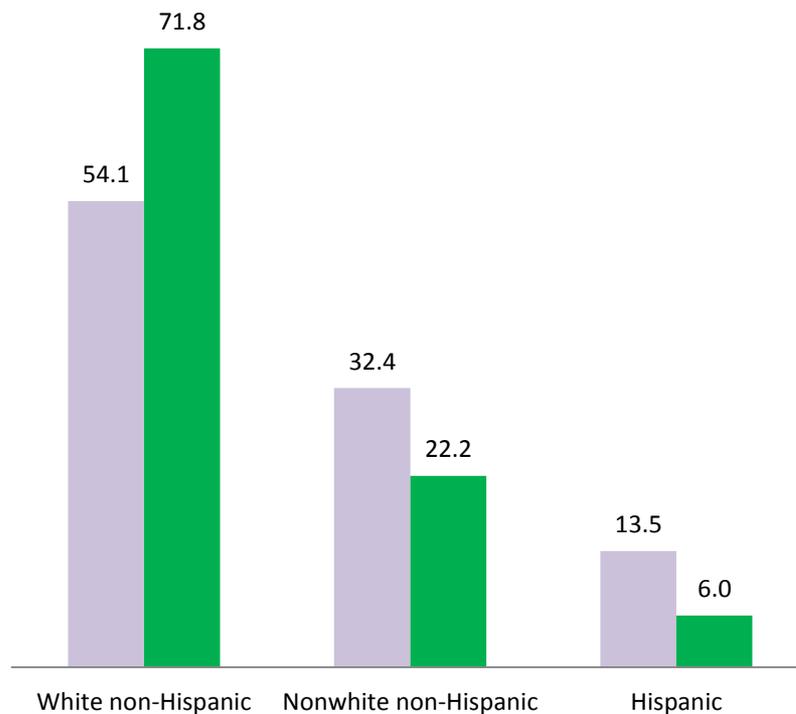
**Men**

■ Post-9/11 Veterans ■ All other Veterans



**Women**

■ Post-9/11 Veterans ■ All other Veterans



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

# Like other Veterans, Post-9/11 Veterans worked in “Management, professional” occupations.

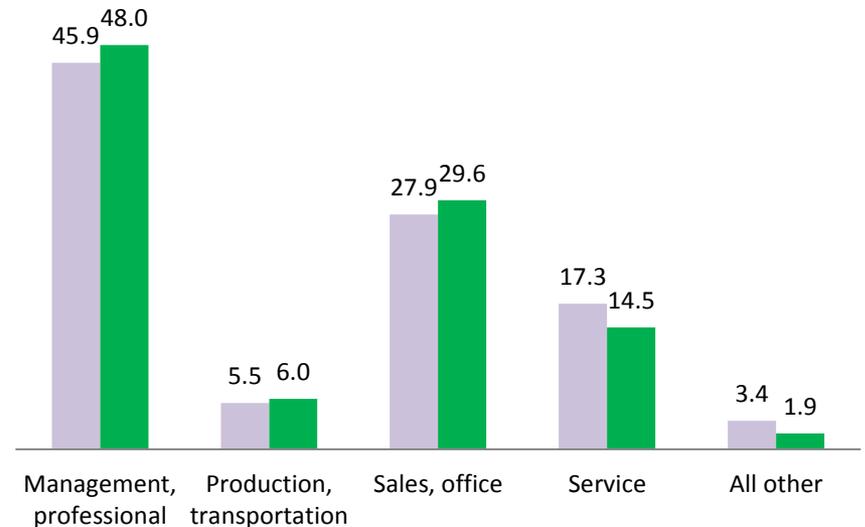
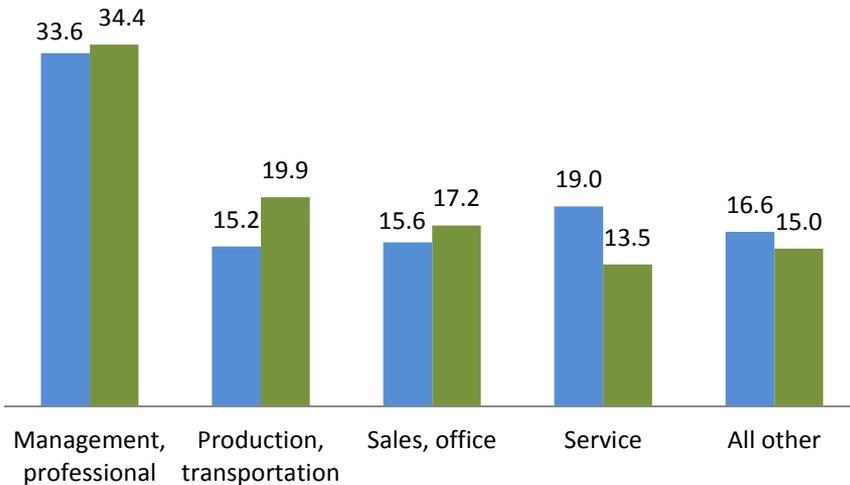
## Occupations of Employed Veterans (in percent)

### Male

### Female

■ Post-9/11 Veterans ■ All other Veterans

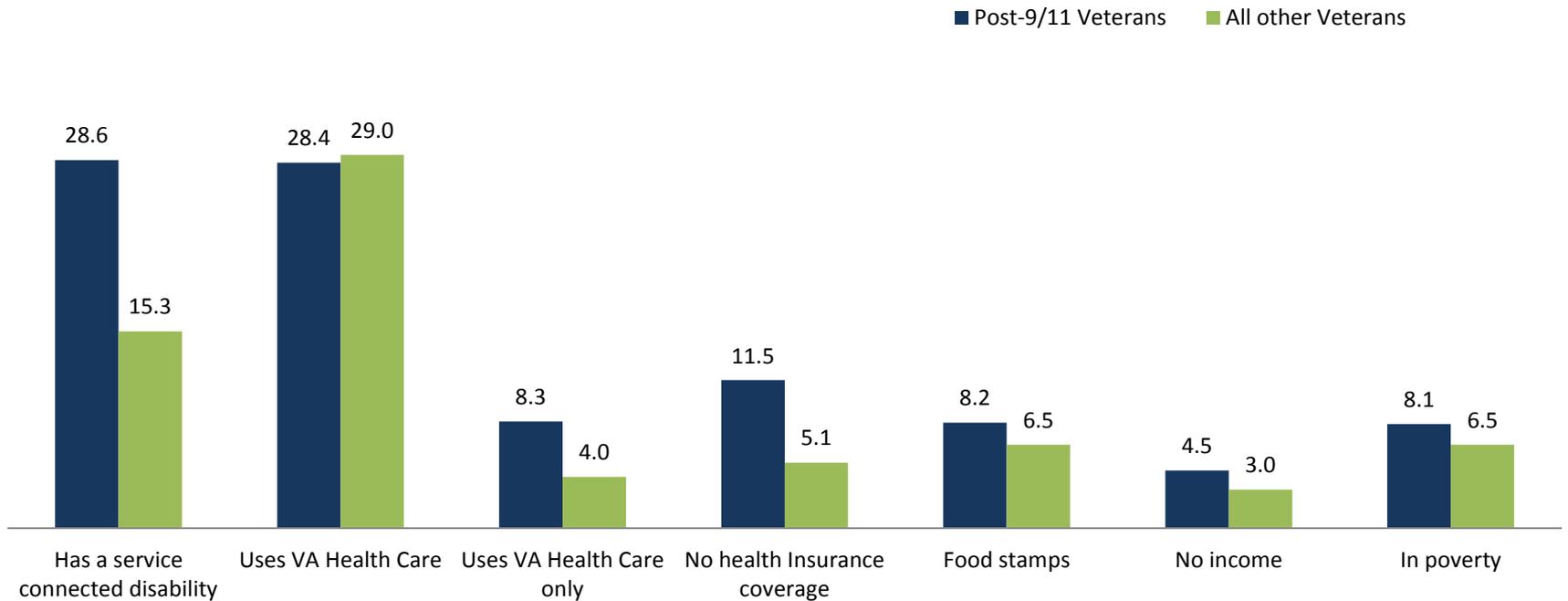
■ Post-9/11 Veterans ■ All other Veterans



There was no significant difference by: 1) Management and professional occupations between male Post-9/11 Veterans and all other male Veterans and 2) Management /professional, production, transportation, sales and office occupations between females in the Post-9/11 and all other female Veterans.

# More Post-9/11 Veterans had a service-connected disability, used VA health care only, used food stamps, and lived in poverty than their counterparts.

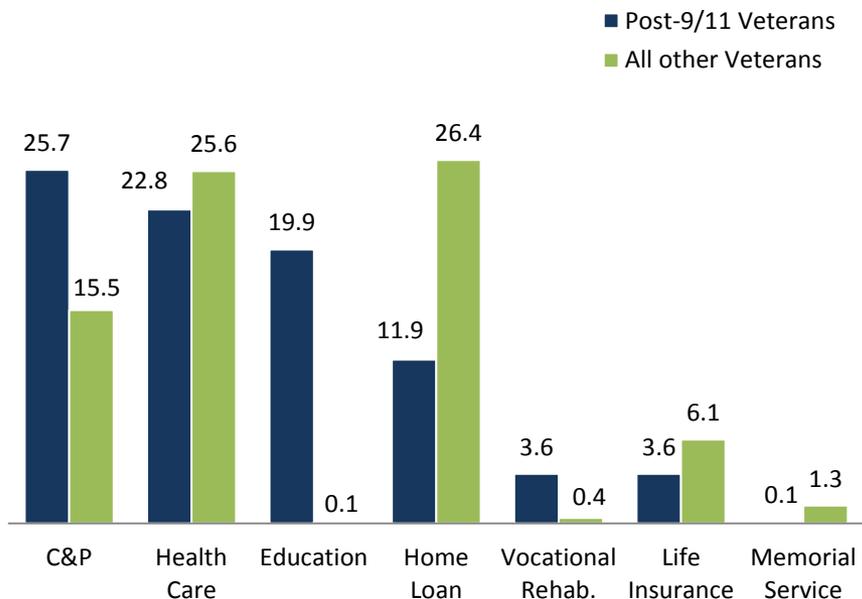
## Selected Characteristics of Veterans (in percent)



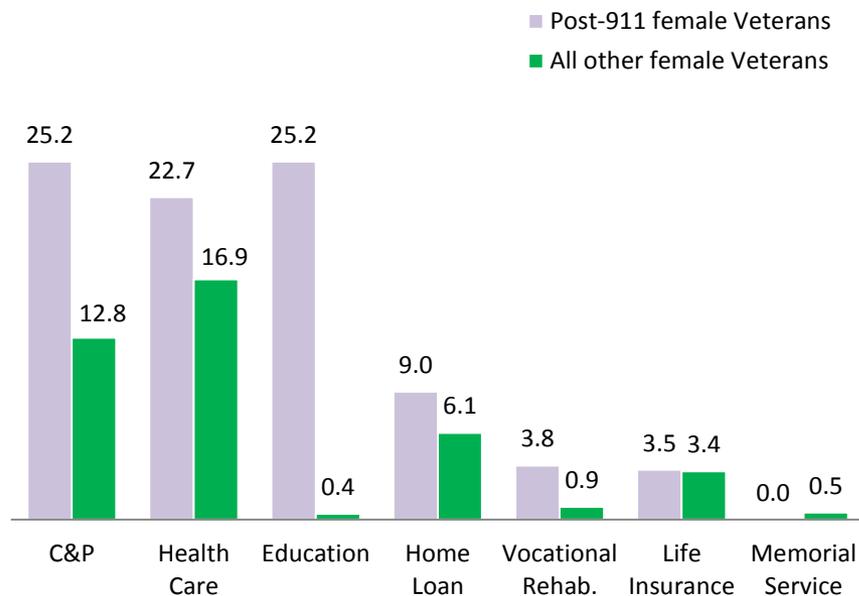
Regarding VA programs/benefits participation, more Post-9/11 Veterans used Compensation and Pension, Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment than their counterparts. More Post-9/11 female Veterans used Health Care and Home Loan than their female counterparts.

### VA Benefit Utilization by Program\* - Veterans only: FY 2012 (in percent)

Total Veterans Population



Female Veterans Population



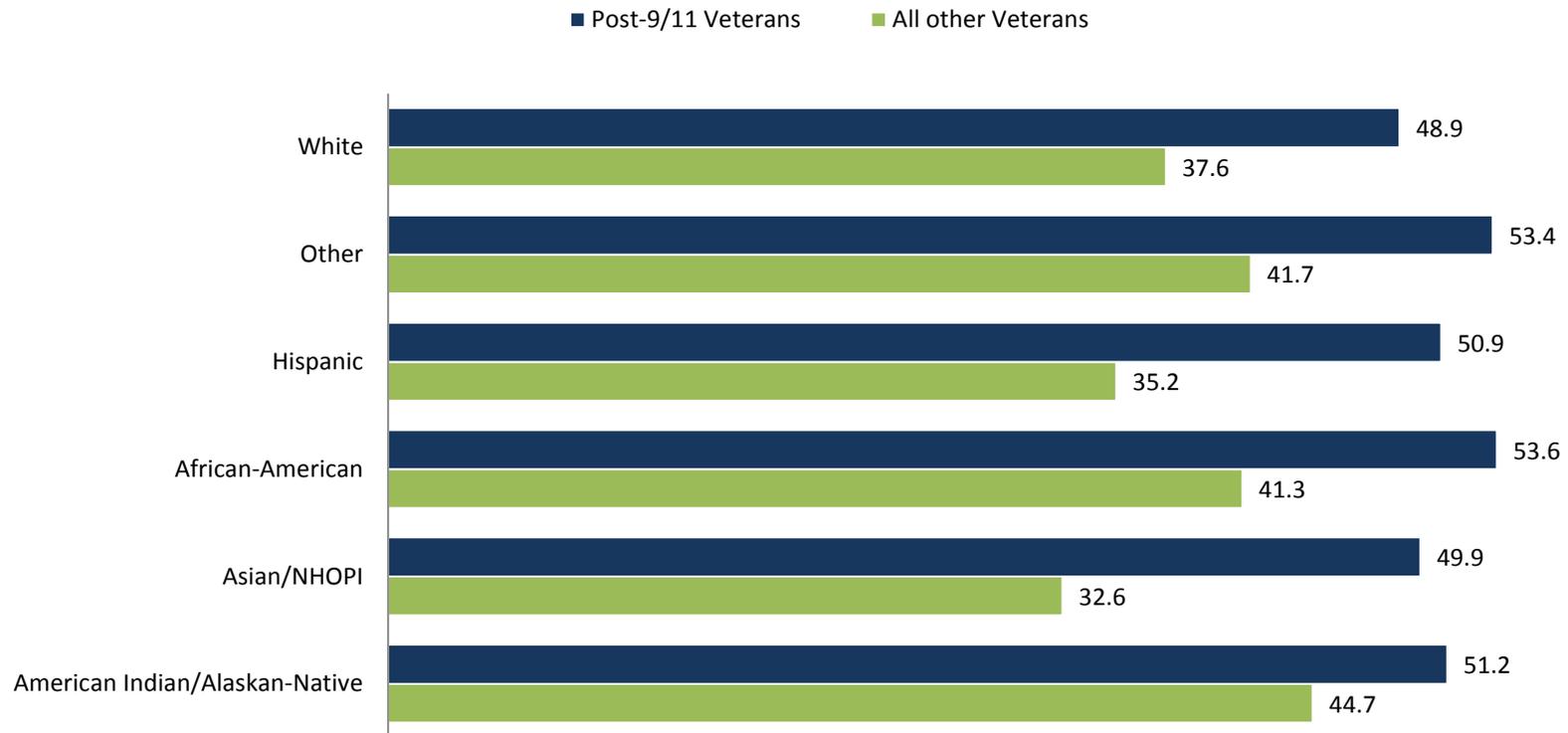
About 50% Post-9/11 Veterans and 38% of all other Veterans used at least one benefit provided by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).

\* Numbers 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.

# Post-9/11 Veterans used at least one VA benefit program at a higher rate than all other Veterans of same race / ethnicity.

## Veterans by Race who Used at Least One VA Program\*

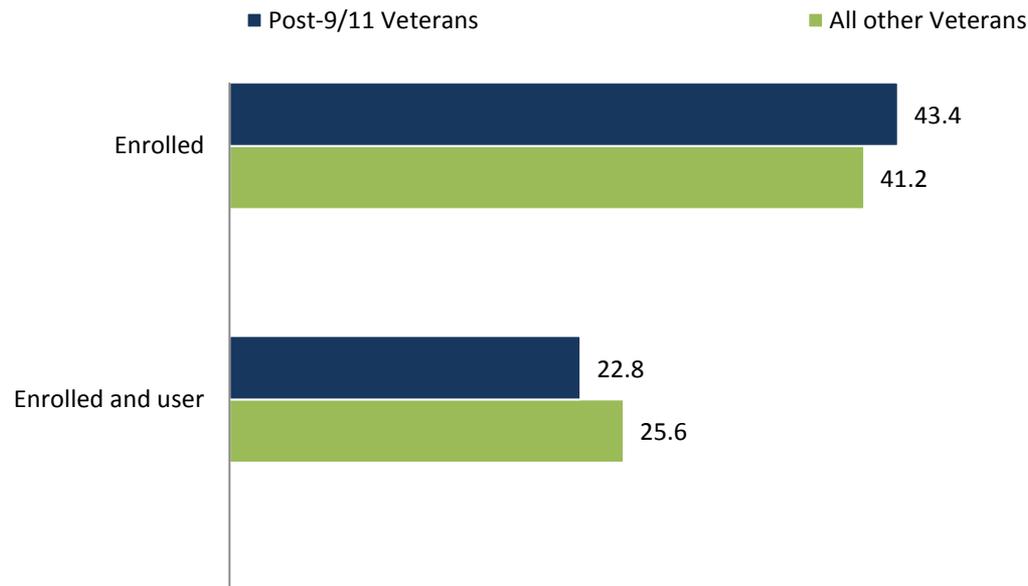
(in percent)



\* 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.

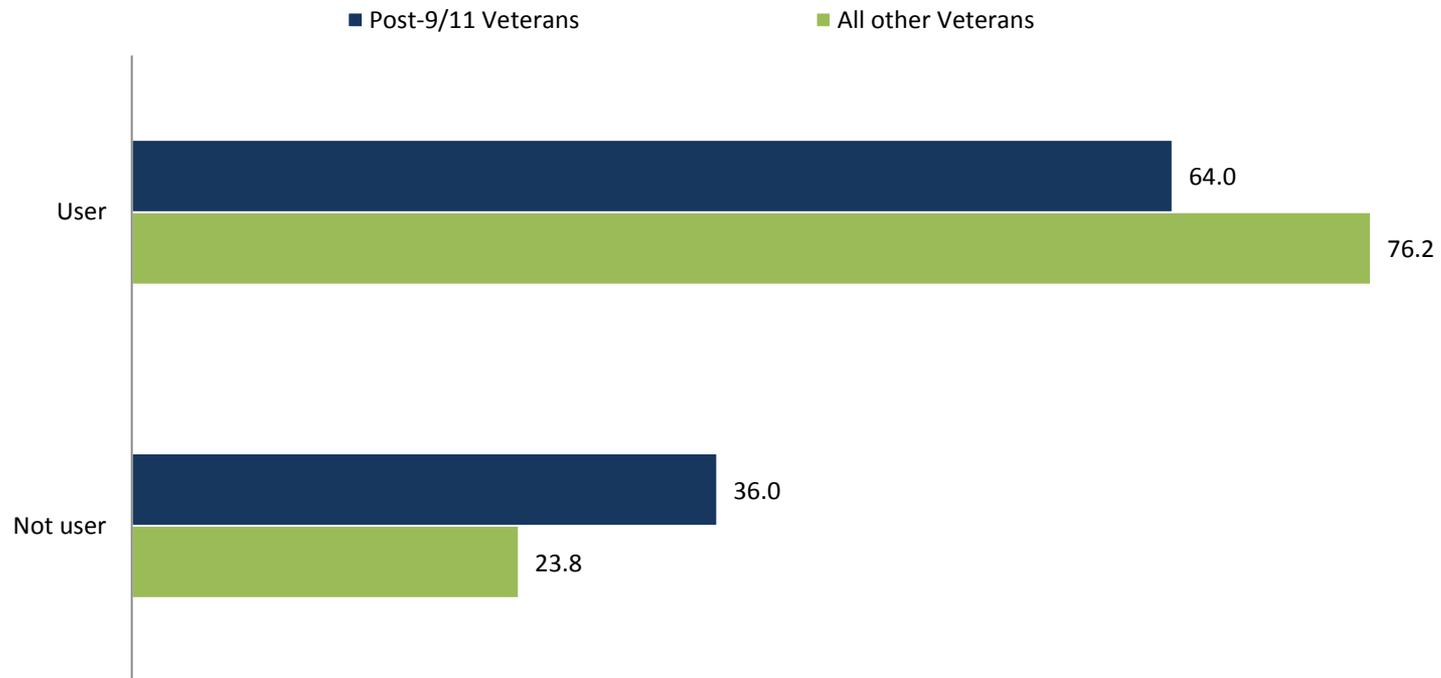
More Post-9/11 Veterans enrolled in VA health care than other Veterans; however, they actually used VA health care at a lower rate.

### VA Health Care Enrollment and Utilization (in percent)

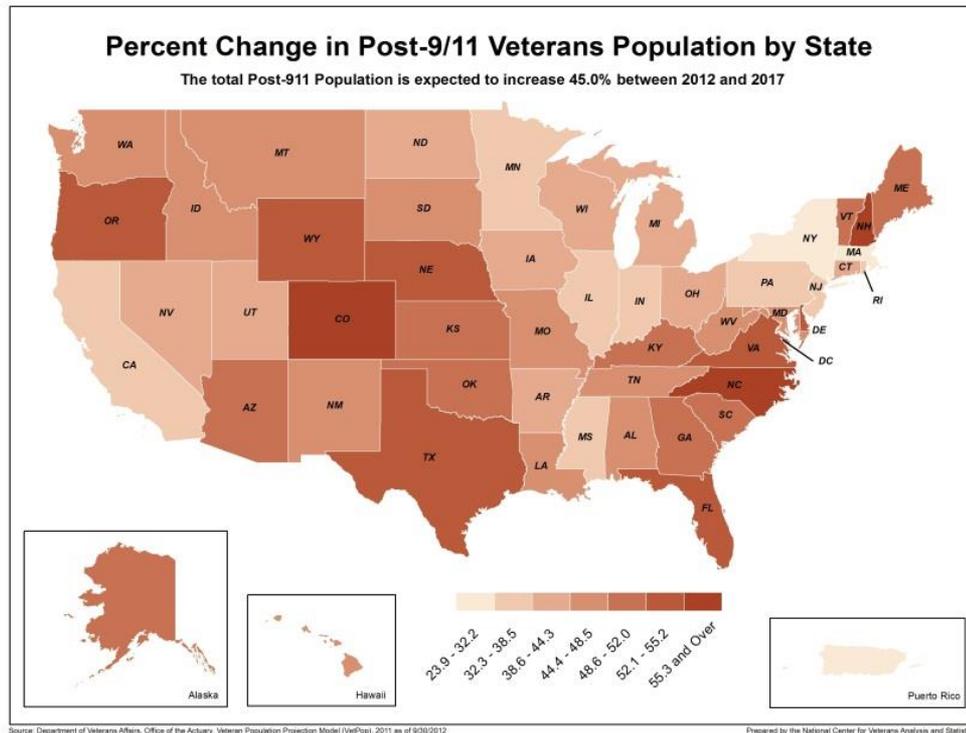
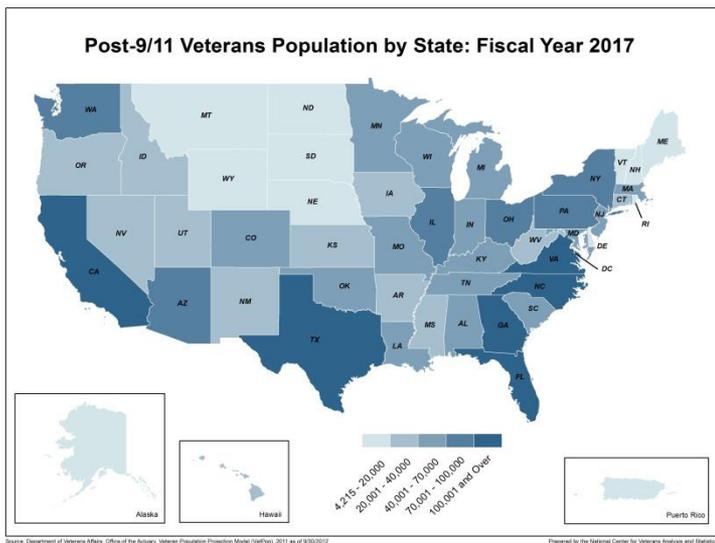
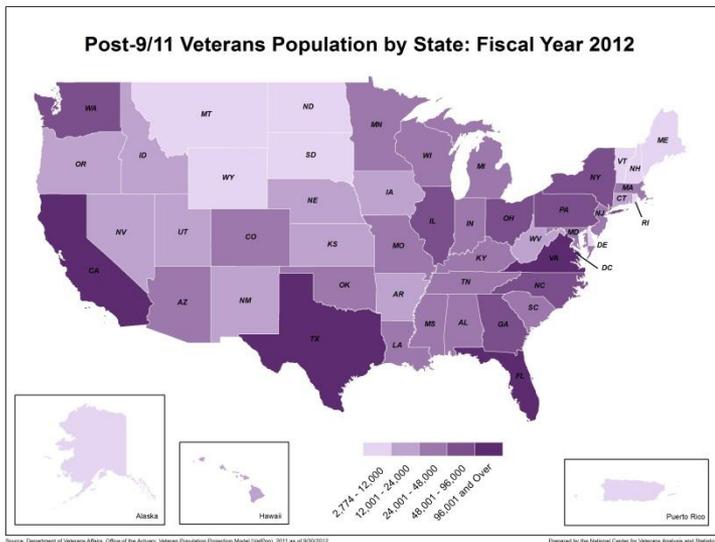


Among the service-connected disabled population, the Post-9/11 Veterans enrolled in VA health care used health care at a lower rate than all other Veterans.

**Service-Connected Disability: VA Health Care Enrolled Veterans**  
(in percent)



# The Post-9/11 Veteran population is expected to increase 45 percent between 2012 and 2017.



*Colorado, North Carolina and New Hampshire are the states with highest percent change in Post-9/11 Veteran population at 60% or higher.*

# Summary of Post-9/11 Veterans and Non-Veterans Comparisons

According to data from the 2012 American Community Survey, Post-9/11 Veterans were younger, more likely to be non-white non-Hispanic, more likely to be divorced, more likely to be insured, less likely to live in poverty, and had higher personal incomes than non-Veterans. Male Post-9/11 Veterans were more likely to be white non-Hispanic, work in service occupations, and more likely to work for local, state, or Federal governments than their non-Veteran counterparts. Male Post-9/11 Veterans who worked year-round and full-time earned about \$3,500 more than similar non-Veterans. The median age of male Post-9/11 Veterans in 2012 was 32 years while the median age of male non-Veterans was 41 years.

Female Post-9/11 Veterans were less likely to be white non-Hispanic, less likely to be uninsured, less likely to live in poverty, and had higher personal incomes than female non-Veterans. Female Post-9/11 Veterans were more likely to be divorced, work in management and professional occupations and more likely to work in local, state, or Federal government than female non-Veterans. Female Post-9/11 Veterans who worked year-round and full-time earned about \$5,000 more than similar non-Veterans. This gap may increase as the female Post-9/11 Veteran ages. The median age of female Post-9/11 Veterans was 31 and female non-Veterans was 46 in 2012.

# Summary of Post-9/11 Veterans and All Other Veterans Comparisons

Post-9/11 Veterans are the youngest cohort of Veterans. This group was more likely to be nonwhite non Hispanic and Hispanic, single, live in poverty, be uninsured, had no income and lived in a household receiving food stamps than all other Veterans in 2012. These may be attributed to age since the Post-9/11 Veterans' median age was 32.

For both genders, employed Post-9/11 Veterans were more likely to work in service occupations than their Veteran counterparts. Male Post-9/11 Veterans who worked year-round and full-time earned about \$4,400 less than other similar Veterans. Some differences between male Post-9/11 Veterans and non-Veterans may be attributed to age. The median age of male Post-9/11 Veterans was 32 years while the median age of male non-Veterans was 41 years in 2012. As for female Post-9/11 Veterans, the personal income was about \$11,000 higher than other female Veterans. This could be attributed to the aging of the other female Veterans and a higher number of females serving in Post-9/11 Era.

Within the Post-9/11 Veterans population, females had higher educational attainment but were poorer and more likely to be in a household receiving food stamps than males in 2012. But males were more likely to have no health insurance coverage than females.

As for users of VA programs, about half of the Post-9/11 Veterans used at least one VA benefit or service compared to 38 percent of all other Veterans. The Post-9/11 Veterans used more the C&P program than all other Veterans. More Post-9/11 Veterans had a SCD than other Veterans however Post-9/11 Veterans used VA health care less than other Veterans.

# Contact Information

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