



# Profile of Women Veterans: 2012

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics  
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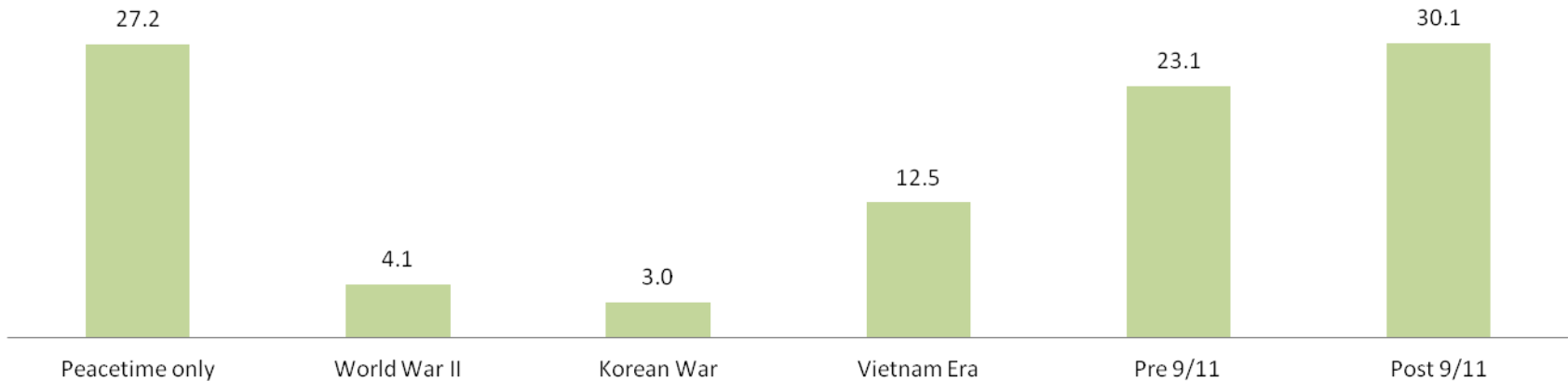
# Data Sources

## Source of Data: 2012 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 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 U.S. and Puerto Rico
- ACS estimates the number of female Veterans at 1.6 Million; and female non-Veterans at 125.3 Million
- The “Labor Force Participation” rate shows the percentage of the total population *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 those 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” means there is statistical evidence of a difference between numbers; 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 there is statistical evidence there is no difference in the comparative percentages/rates
- For more information about the ACS, see: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

# Most Women Veterans served during the Pre and Post 9/11 Period or Peacetime Period of Military Service

Women Veterans by Period of Service  
(in percent)

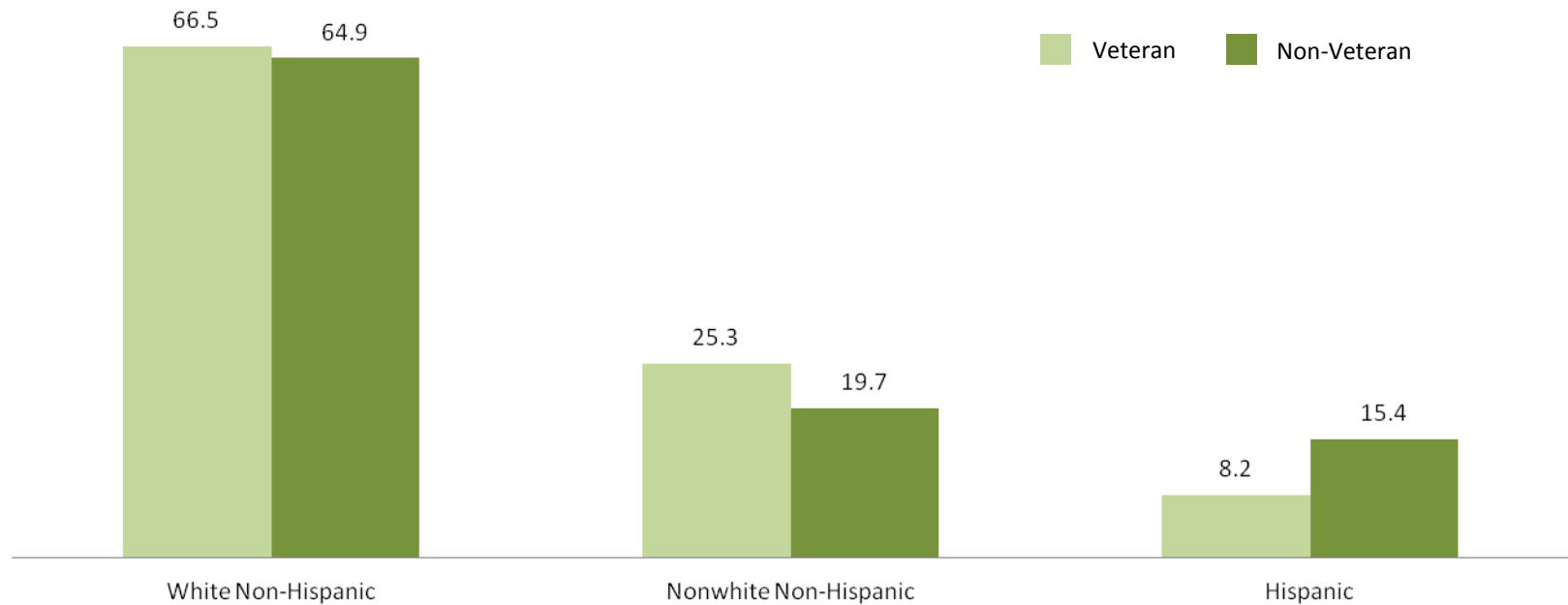


Period of Service Dates:

- Post 911: Sept. 2001 to present;
- Pre 911: 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.

# When compared with males who served, Women Veterans are more likely to be Non-White and Non-Hispanic

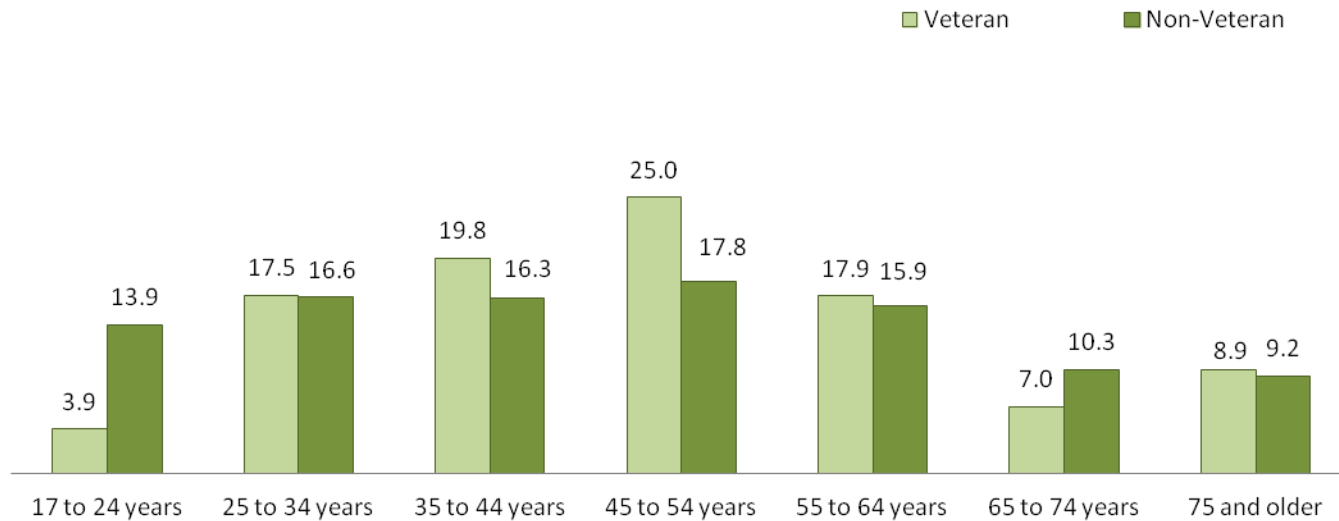
Race/Ethnicity by Veteran Status



“Non-White” includes Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, and two or more races

# About 80% of Women Veterans are 35 or older

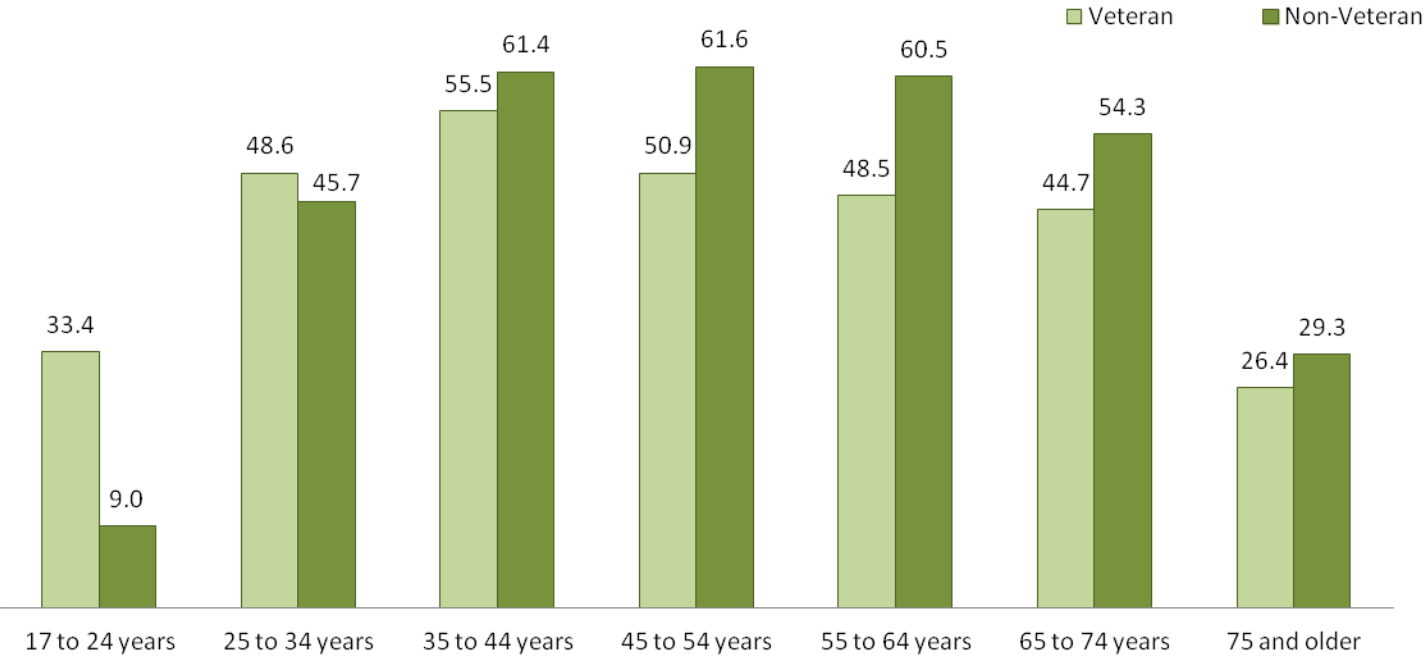
Women by age and Veteran status  
(in percent)



Only about 4% of Women Veterans are 24 or younger, while about 14% of Non-Veteran Women are in this group

# Women Veterans tend to marry younger than Non-Veteran women

Married women by age and Veteran status  
(in percent)

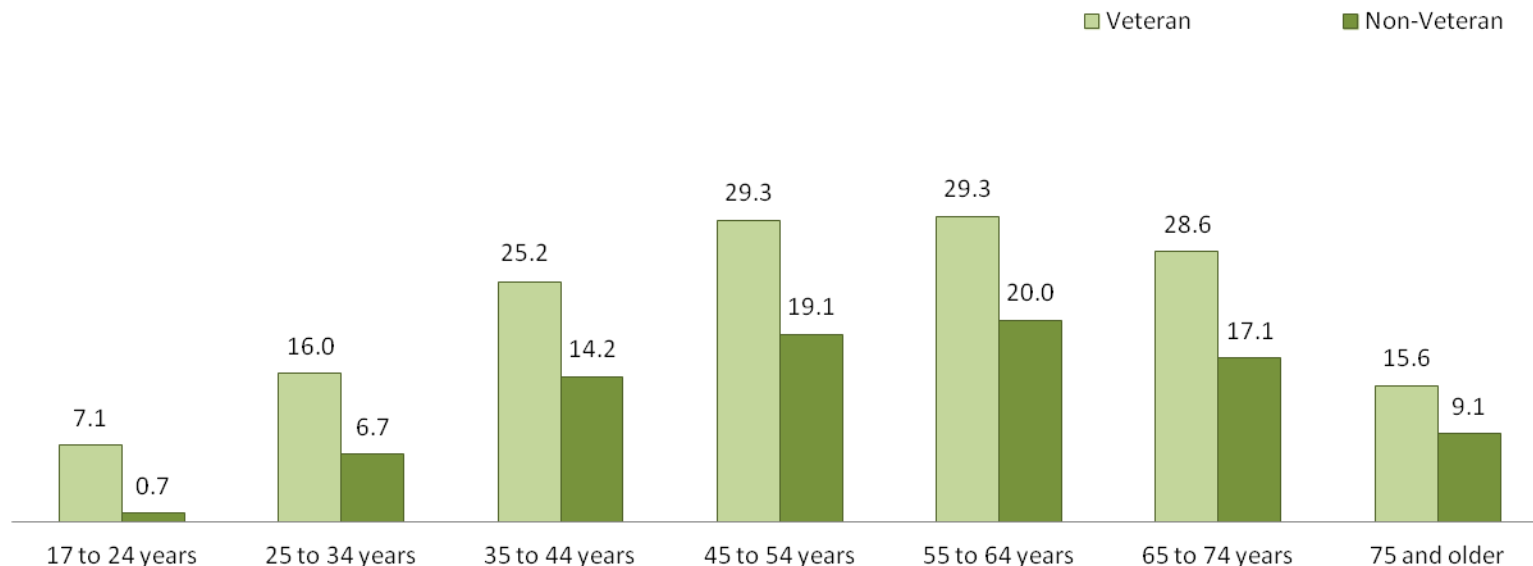


Percentages for 75 year-old women were not statistically different

About 33% of 17- to 24-year-old Women Veterans are married, compared with only 9% of their Non-Veteran counterparts

## Women Veterans experience higher divorce rates than Non-Veteran Women

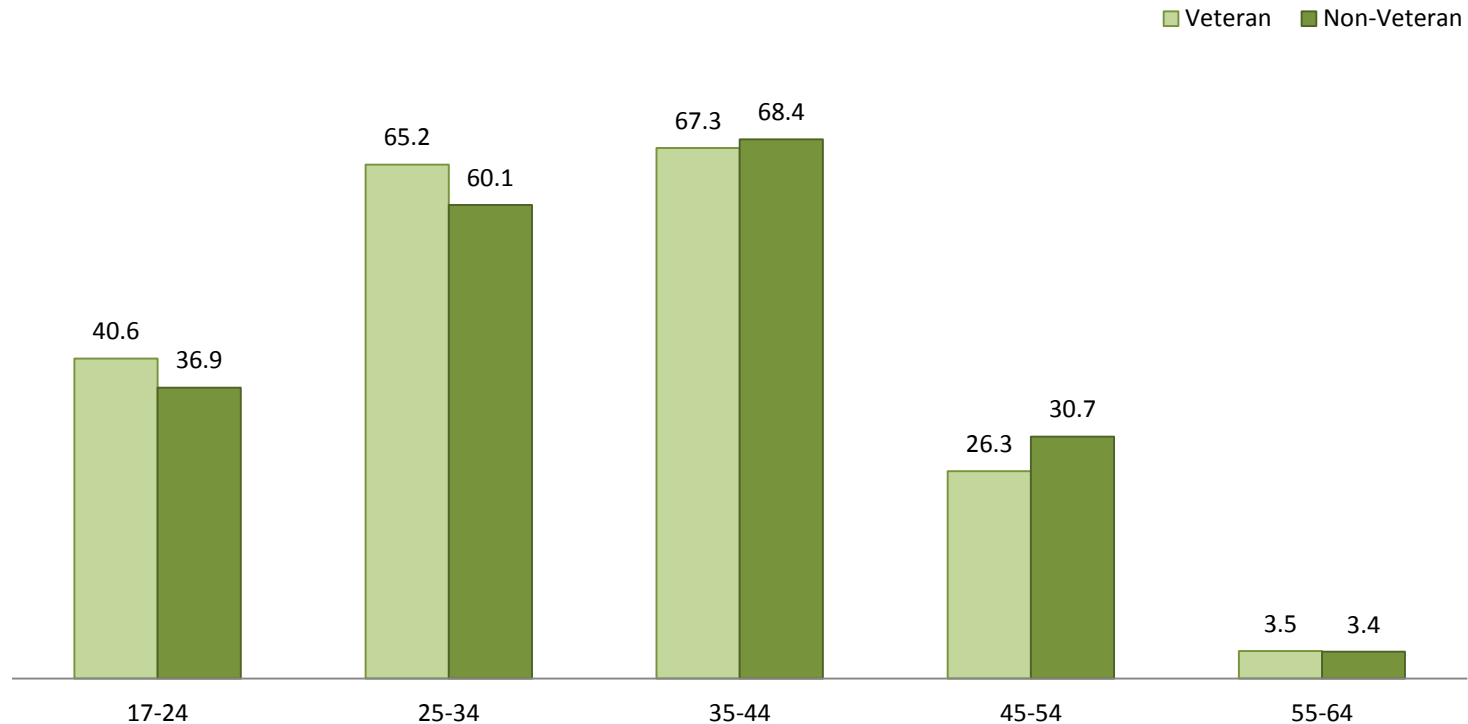
Divorced women by age and Veteran status  
(in percent)



Young Women Veterans are not only more likely to be married than Non-Veteran women, they are also much more likely to divorce. Over 7% of 17- to 24-year-old Women Veterans are divorced; compared with less than 1% of similar Non-Veteran Women. About 24% of all Women Veterans are currently divorced ; compared with 13% of non-Veteran Women

# Women Veterans age 35 or younger are more likely to have children

Working age women with children by age and Veteran status  
(in percent)



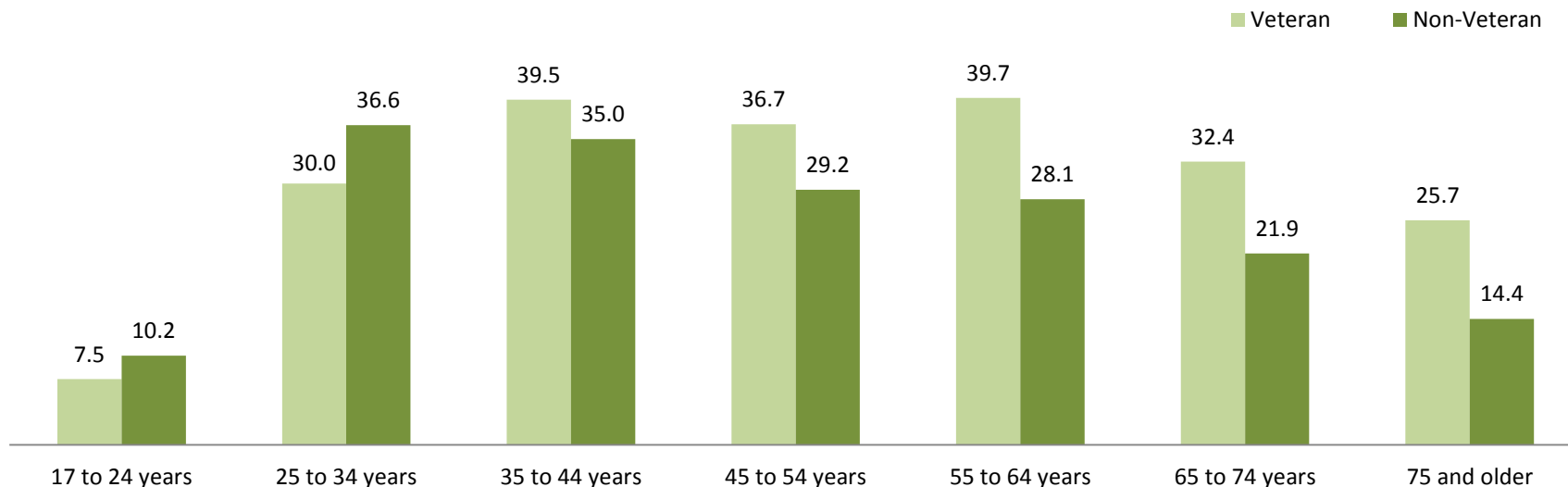
No statistical difference in percentages for age groups: 17-24, 25-34, and 55-64

Young women Veterans are not only more likely to be married and then divorced than non-Veteran women, they are also more likely to have children



# Veteran Women over 35 are more likely to hold a Bachelor's Degree (or higher) than Non-Veteran Women

Women with degrees by age and Veteran status (in percent)

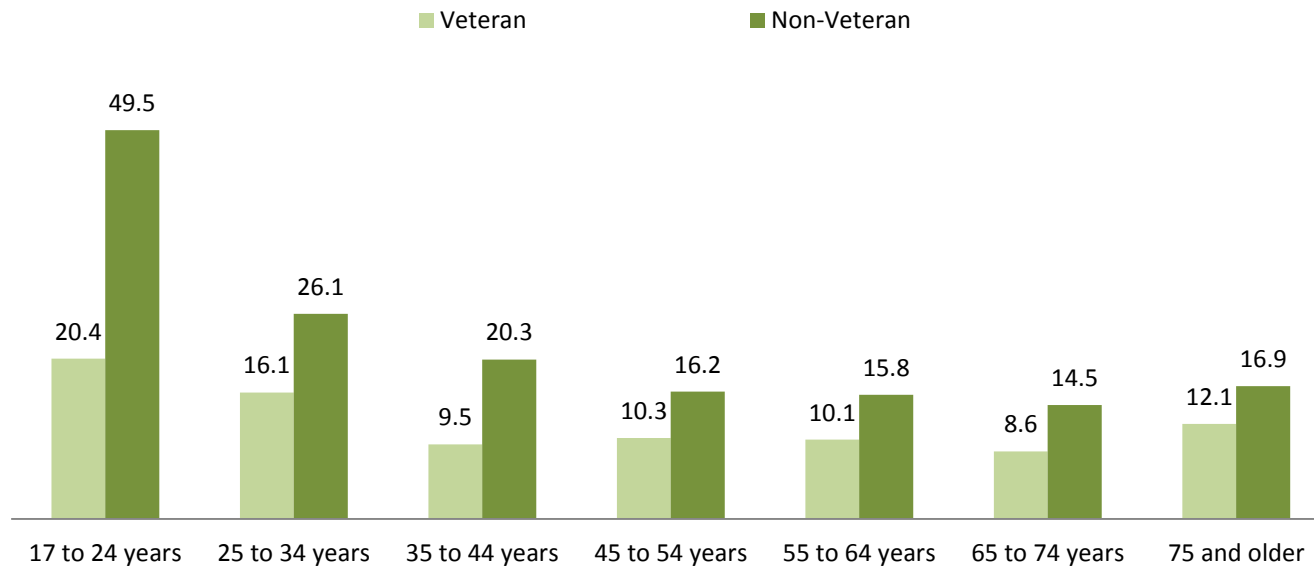


No statistical difference in percentages for 17-24 year old group

The older women Veterans become, the more likely they are to hold Bachelor's (or higher) degrees than their non-Veteran contemporaries

# Women Veterans are less likely to live in poverty than Non-Veteran Women

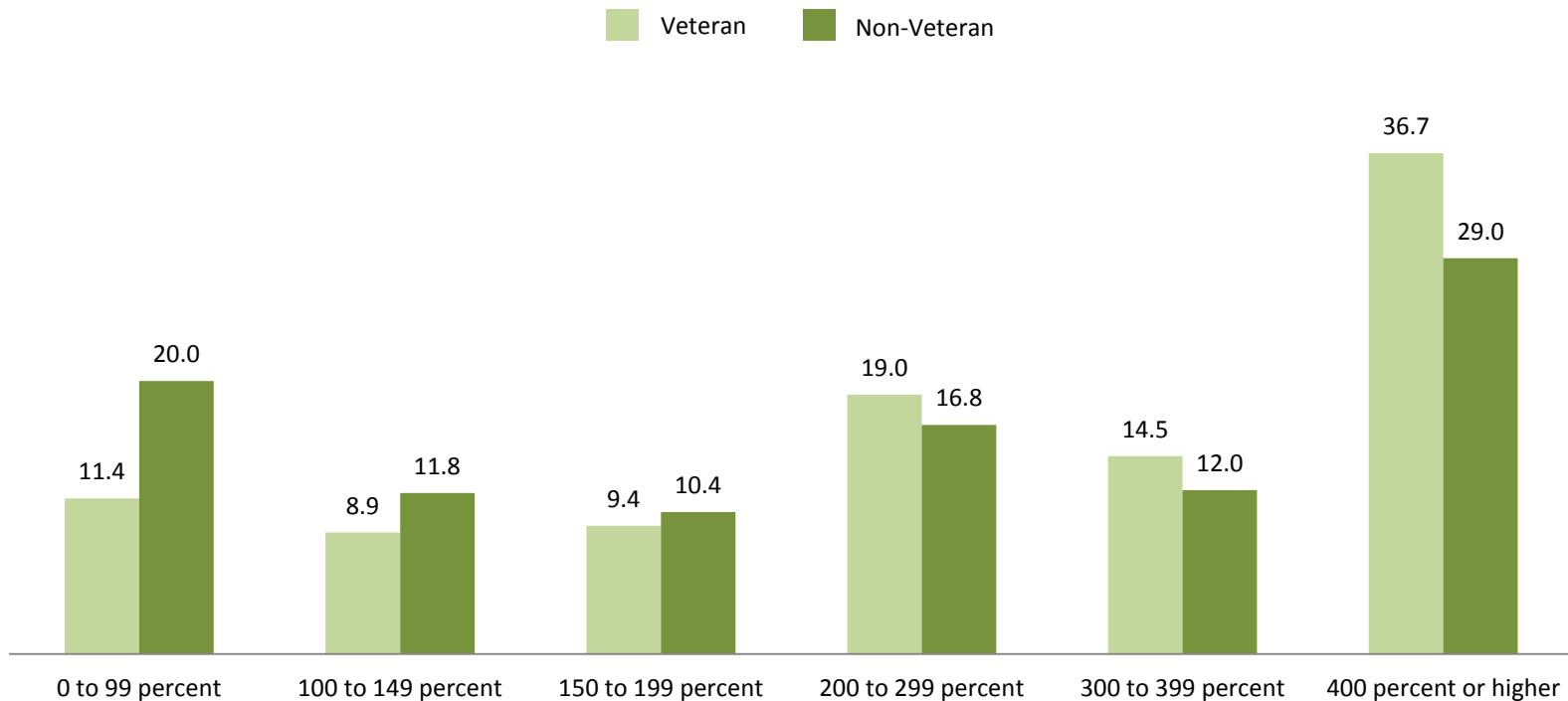
Women in poverty by age and Veteran status  
(in percent)



About 11% of Women Veterans and 20% of Non-Veteran Women live in poverty

# Nearly 51% of Women Veterans live at or above 3 times the poverty level compared to roughly 41% of Non-Veteran Women

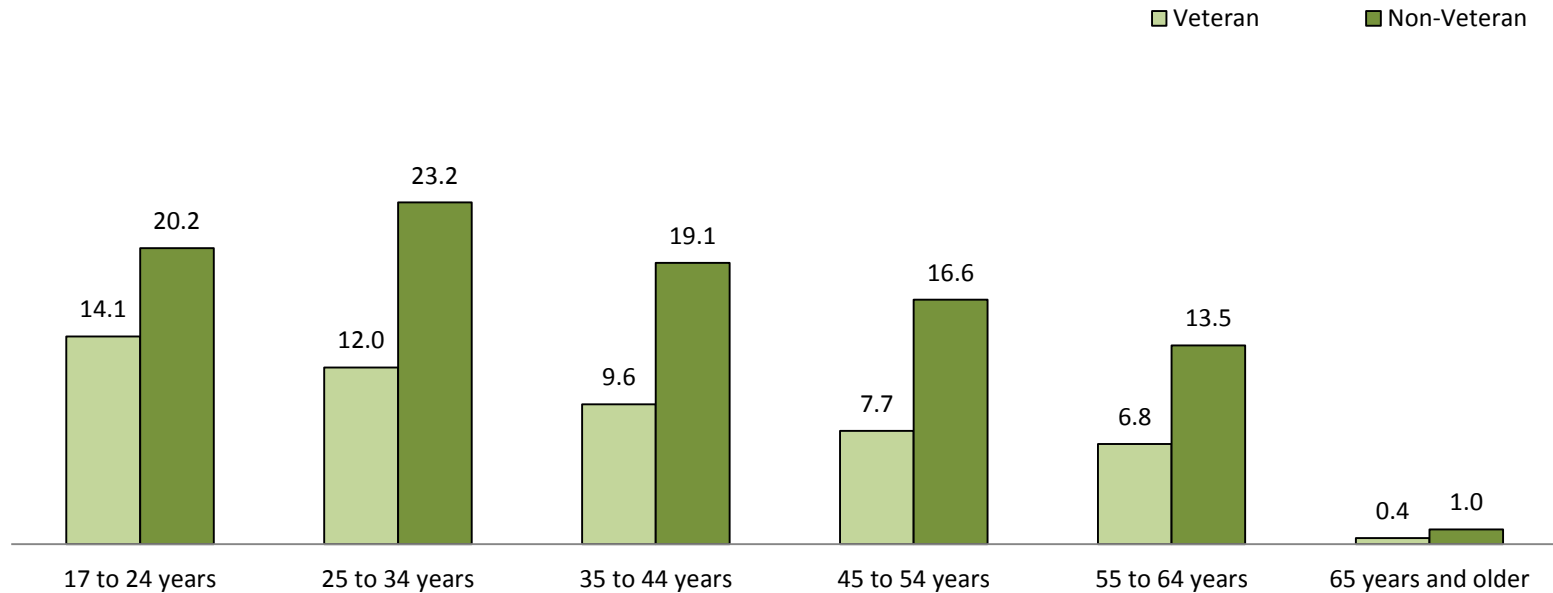
Women's poverty levels by age and Veteran status  
(in percent)



Note: 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.

# Women Veterans are less likely to be uninsured than Non-Veteran Women

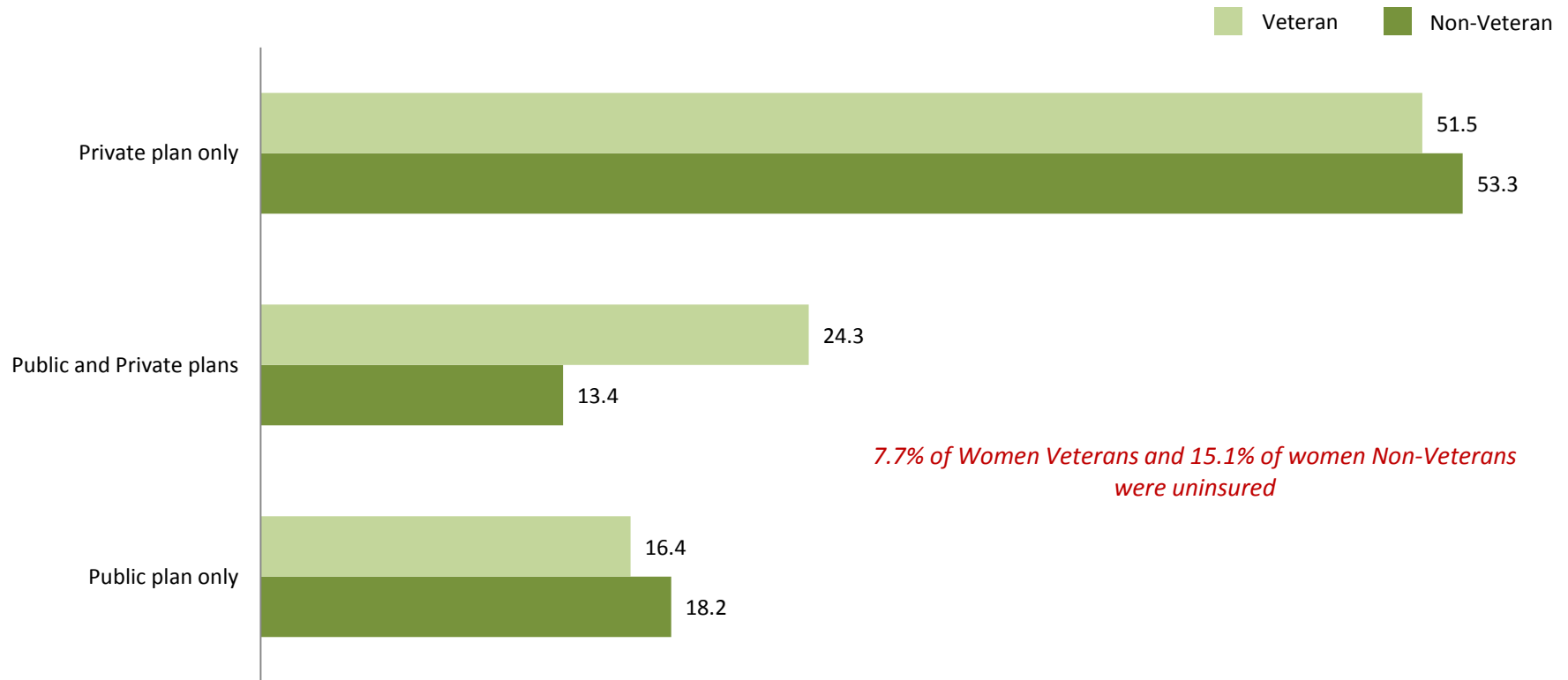
Uninsured women by age and Veteran status  
(in percent)



About 8% of Women Veterans and 15% of Non-Veteran Women have no health insurance

# Women Veterans are more likely to have both public and private health care plans than Non-Veteran Women

Women by health insurance plan type and Veteran status  
(in percent)



No statistical difference in percentages for private or public only plans

# Women Veterans are more likely to hold managerial/professional jobs than Non-Veteran Women

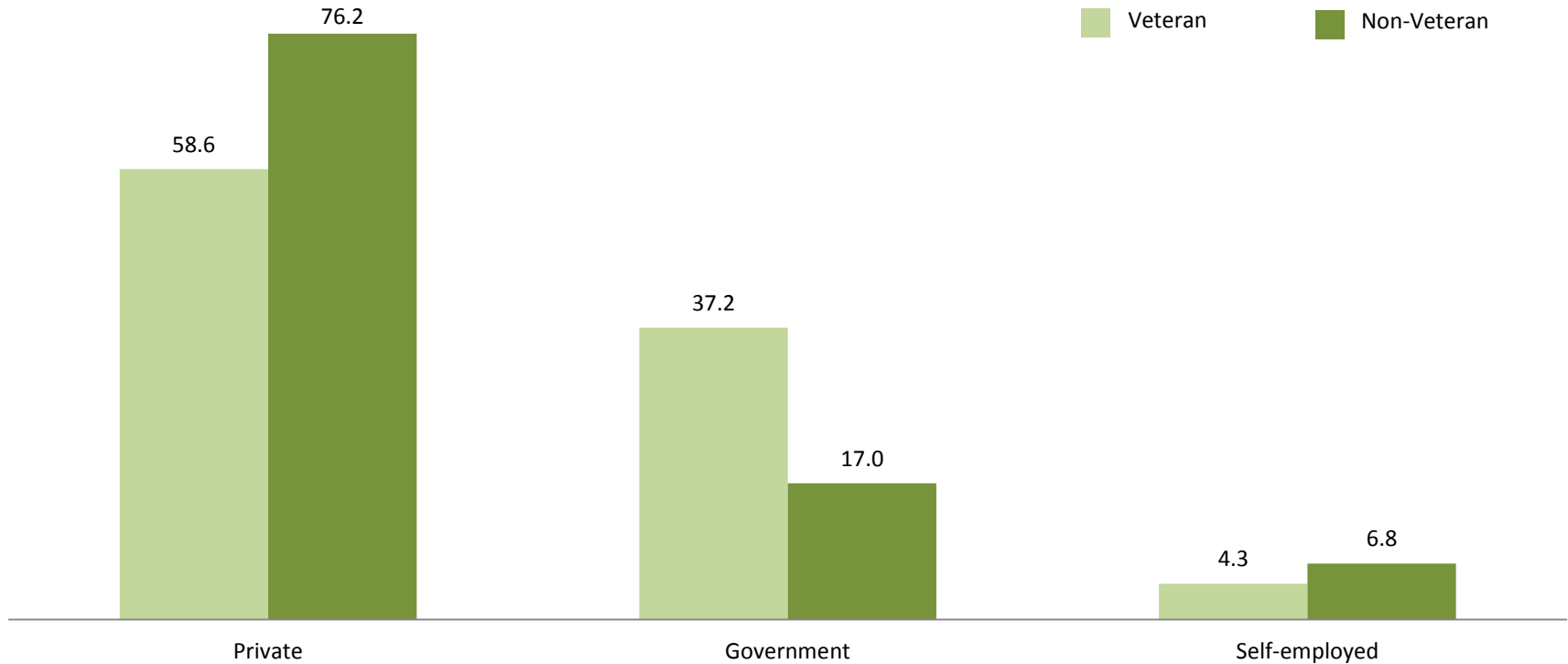
Women by occupation and Veteran status  
(in percent)



No statistical difference in percentages for production/transportation group

# Women Veterans are more likely to work in government than non-Veteran Women

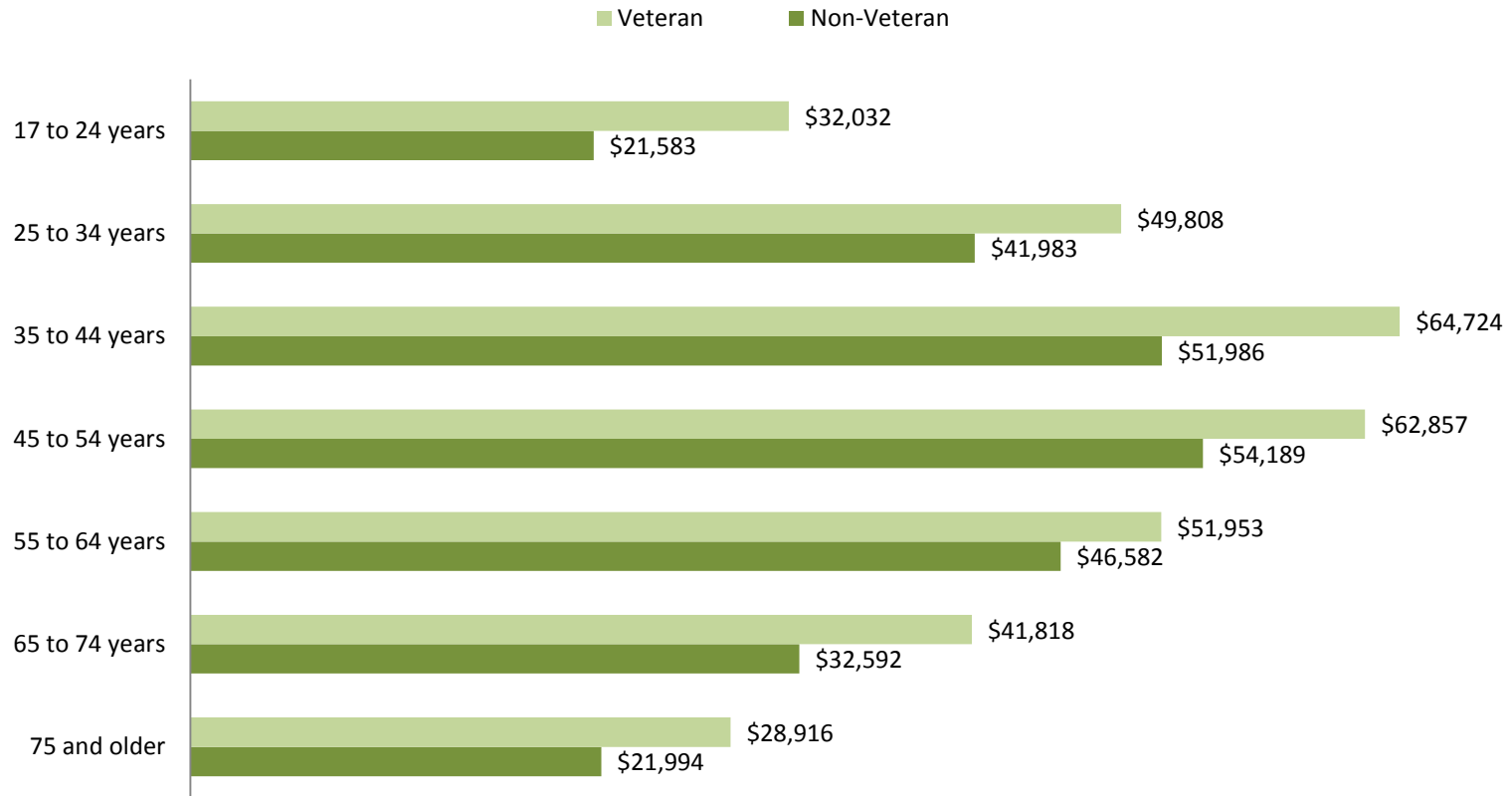
Women by occupation and Veteran status  
(in percent)



“Government” includes local, state or federal government

# Women Veterans tend to have higher household income than Non-Veteran Women

Women's household income by age and Veteran status

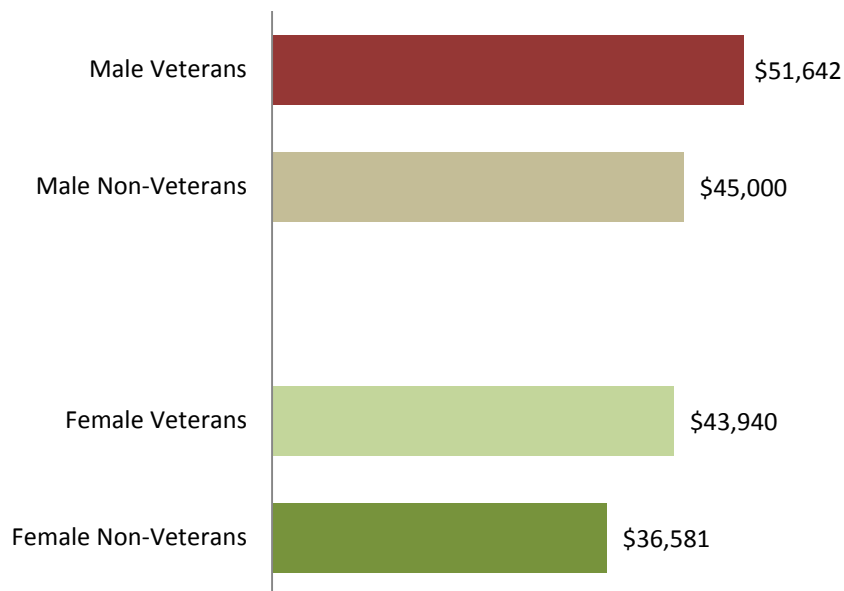


Women Veteran median household income was approximately \$51,785 and Non-Veteran Women median household income was about \$40,000

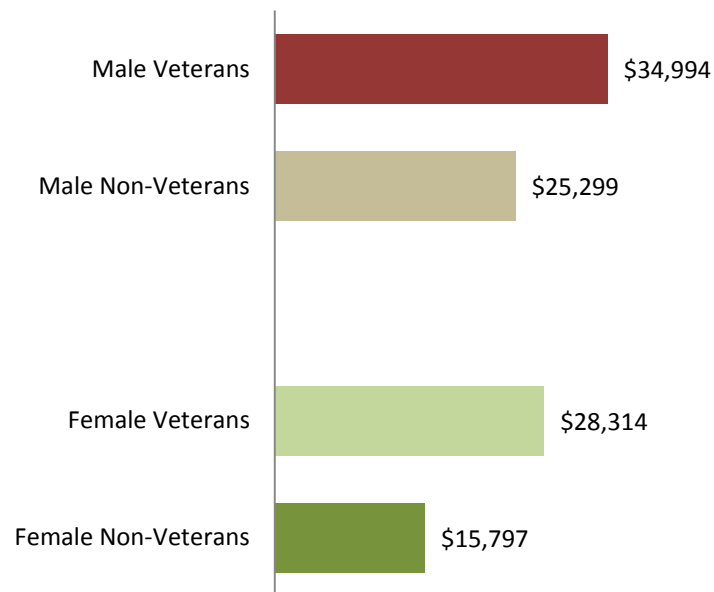


# Veterans who work year-round and full-time have higher median earnings than Non-Veterans and also have higher personal income

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



## Median Personal Income by Sex and Veteran Status

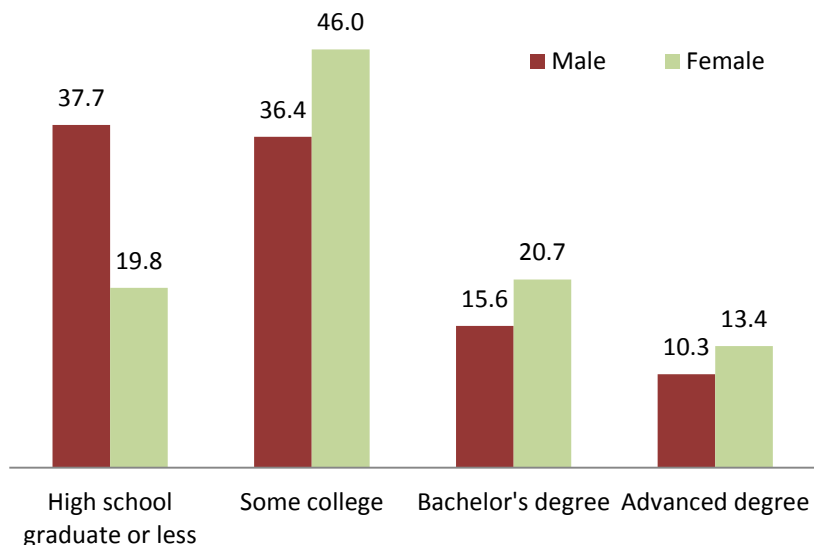


“Earnings” refer to salary, wages, and self employment income.  
“Year-round full-time (YRFT) refers to employment of 50 or more weeks per year and 35 or more hours per week. Median earnings are calculated for the YRFT employed population with earnings greater than zero.

“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.

# A higher percentage of Women Veterans have completed some college, have a Bachelor's Degree, or an advanced degree compared with Men who served

Veterans by 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.

Veterans Enrolled in College by Age  
(in percent)



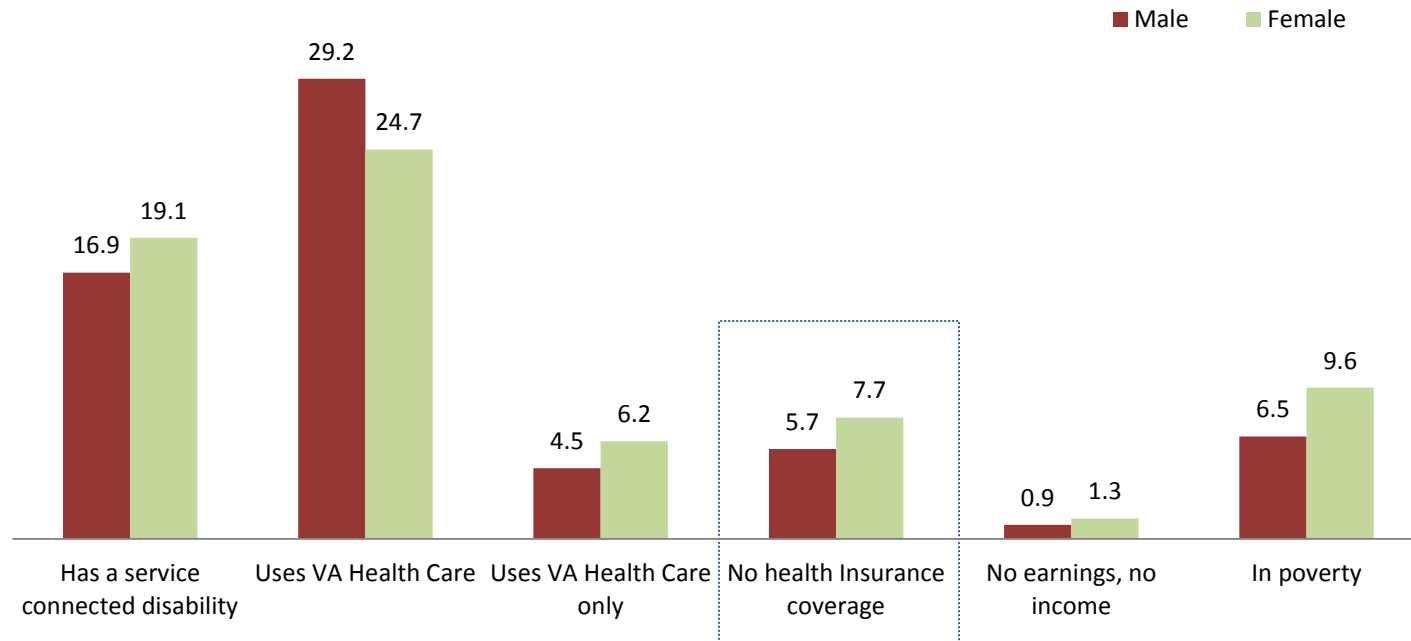
“Enrolled in College” includes enrollment in graduate years (freshman to senior) or enrollment in graduate or professional school (beyond a Bachelor’s degree).

No statistical difference in the percentage of Veterans enrolled in college for the 17-24 age group

A higher percentage of Women Veterans than Male Veterans in all age groups are enrolled in college except in the 17-24 age group

# Women Veterans are less likely to have health insurance and more likely to have no income or live in poverty

Various characteristics of the Veterans  
(in percent)



A higher percentage of Male Veterans use VA health care but a higher percentage of Women Veterans use VA health care only

# When compared to their male counterparts, a greater number of Women Veterans work in management and professional occupations

Veteran occupation by sex  
(in percent)



No statistical difference between percent of service between Women and Male 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 women Veterans by service.

# Summary of Comparisons: Women Veterans and Non-Veterans

- A low percentage of Women Veterans are in the 17- to 24-year-old age group (These are ages during which most women would still be serving in the military)
- The median age of Women Veterans is 48; and Women Non-Veterans is 46
- Compared to Non-Veteran Women, Women Veterans are:
  - More likely to be Non-White /Non-Hispanic
  - More likely to be divorced
  - Less likely to be uninsured
  - Less likely to live below poverty
  - More likely to have higher personal incomes
- Compared to Non-Veteran Women, employed Women Veterans are:
  - More likely to be in management and professional occupations
  - Less likely to be in service occupations
  - More likely to work in local, state or Federal government
- Women Veterans who work year-round and full-time earn about \$7,400 more than similar Non-Veterans

# Summary of Comparisons: Women and Male Veterans

- The largest cohort of Women Veterans served during Post 9/11 and Peacetime periods; the largest living cohort of male Veterans served during the Vietnam Era
- Compared with Male Veterans, Women Veterans are:
  - More likely to have completed some college, a Bachelor's degree or an advanced degree and 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
  - Less likely to be insured
  - More likely to have no earnings or income and live in poverty
- Employed Women Veterans are more likely to work in management and professional occupations and sales and office occupations than employed Male Veterans
- Some differences between Men and Women Veterans may be attributable to age since Male Veterans are on average significantly older than women Veterans
  - The median age of Male Veterans was 63
  - The median age of Women Veterans was 48

# Contact Information

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