



# Profile of Women Veterans: 2015

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics  
December 2016

# Data Source and Methods

- Data for this analysis come from the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), and VA's 2014 Veteran Population Projection Model (VetPop).
  - The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides annual data on the social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population.
  - PUMS files are untabulated records at the person and household level, which allows users to make customized tables.
  - For more information about the ACS, see: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/> .
  - VetPop provides Veteran population projections from fiscal year 2013 to 2043. It provides living Veteran counts by age, gender, period of service, and race/ethnicity at various geographic levels.
  - For more information about VetPop, see: [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/Demographics/New\\_Vetpop\\_Model/VetPop2015Document.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/Demographics/New_Vetpop_Model/VetPop2015Document.pdf) .
- 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-percent 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.

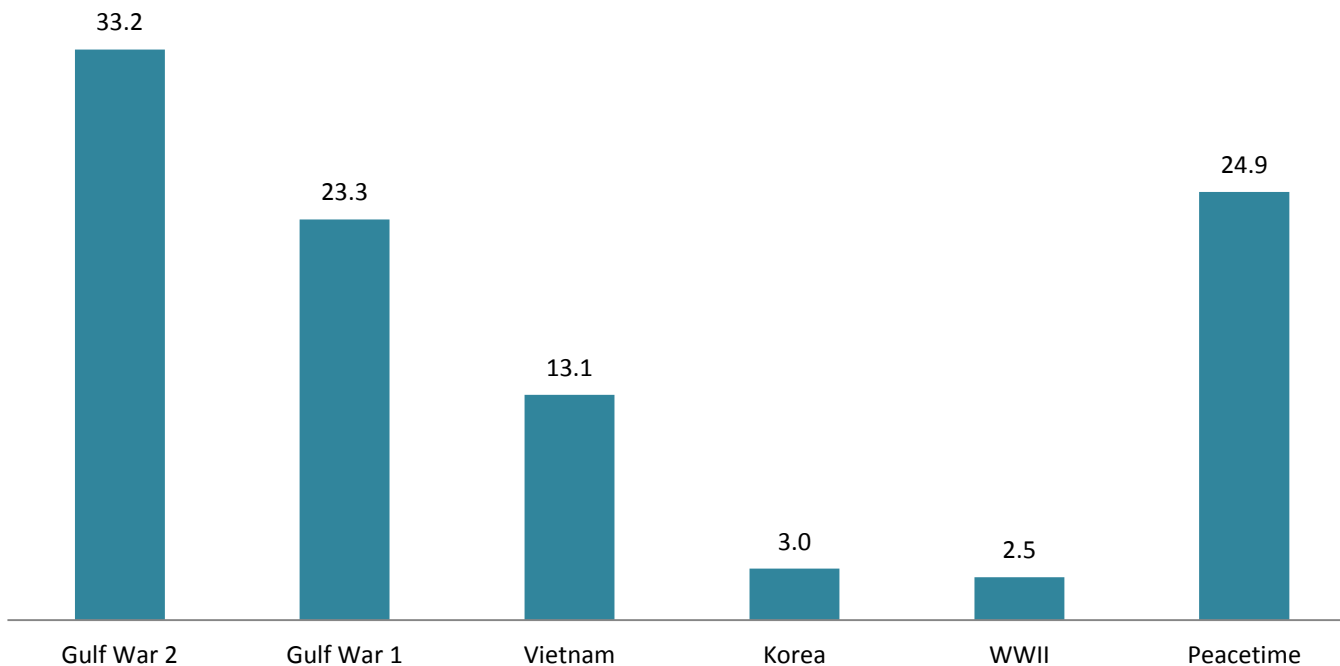
# Issues to Consider When Analyzing Women Veterans

According to ACS data, women Veterans are significantly different than men Veterans. Following legislative changes, women Veterans started entering the military branches in greater numbers during more recent periods of service. A higher percent of women Veterans are minorities. Fewer Veterans are women. According to VetPop, 2 million of the 21.7 million Veterans are women, or about 9 percent of Veterans are women.

Women Veterans are younger than men Veterans. The median age for women Veterans is 50, and the median age for men Veterans is 65. Any characteristics correlated with age (e.g., employment and income) will be affected by the differences in the age distributions of the two groups.

Most women Veterans alive today served only during Gulf War 2 or Post-9/11.

**Women Veterans by Period of Service: 2015**  
(in percent)



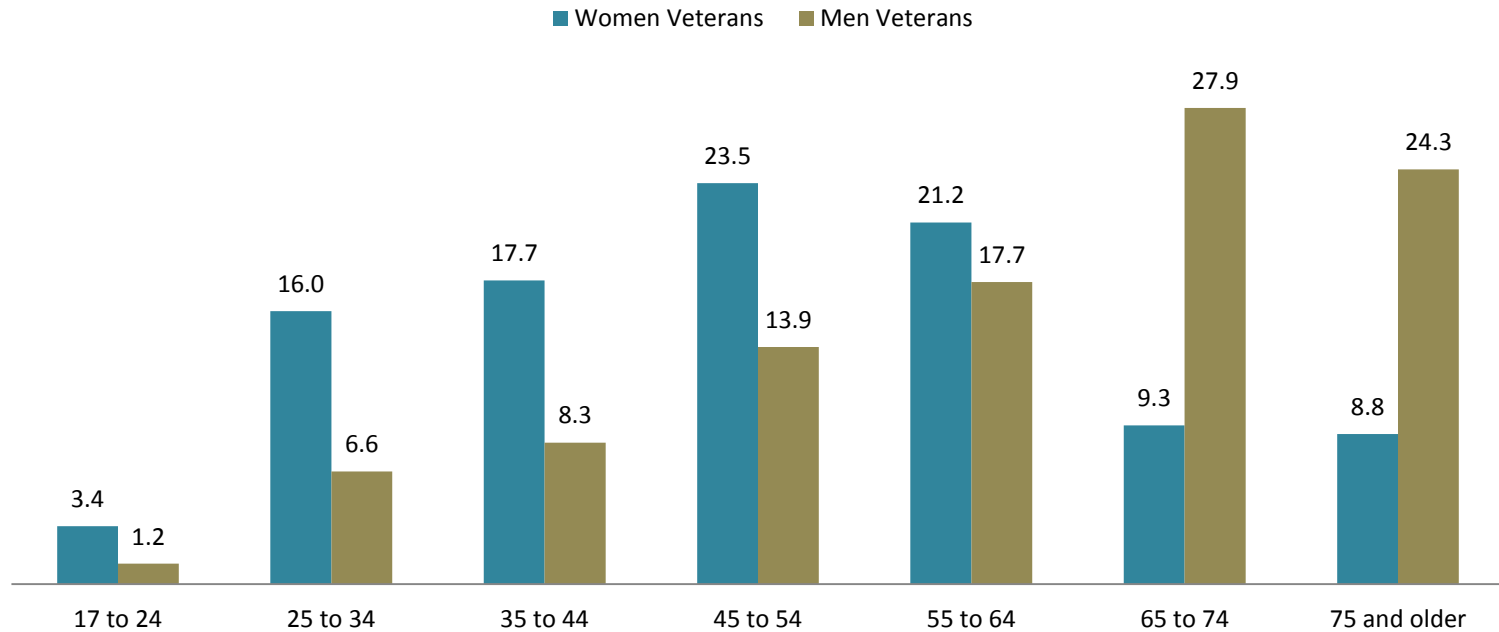
**Period of Service Dates**

- Gulf War 2 or Post-9/11: Sept. 2001 to present
- Gulf War 1 or Pre-9/11: 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

# **Women Veterans Compared to Men Veterans**

# Women Veterans are younger than men Veterans.

**Age Range of Veterans by Gender: 2015**  
*(in percent)*



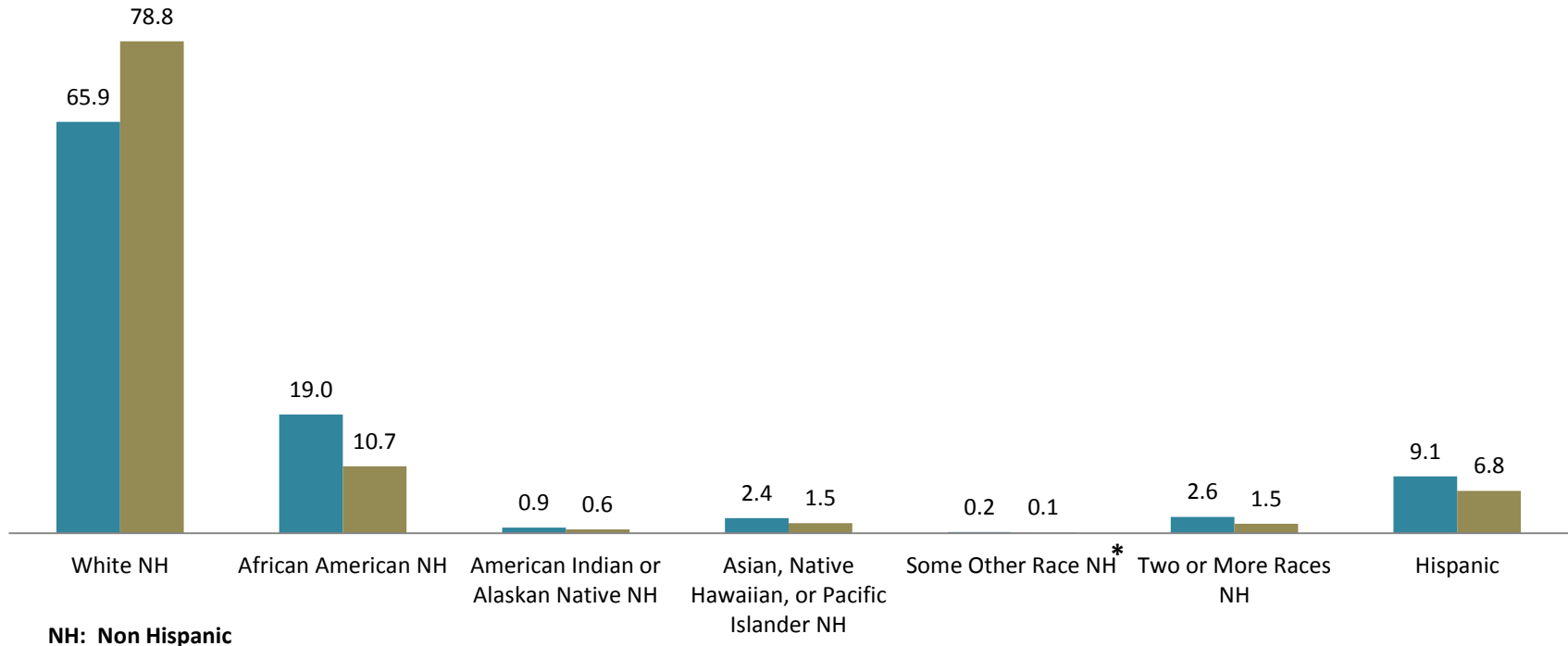
**Median Age by Gender: 2015**

Women Veterans	Men Veterans
50.0	65.0

# A higher percent of women Veterans are racially and ethnically diverse than men Veterans.

**Race and Ethnicity of Veterans by Gender: 2015**  
(in percent)

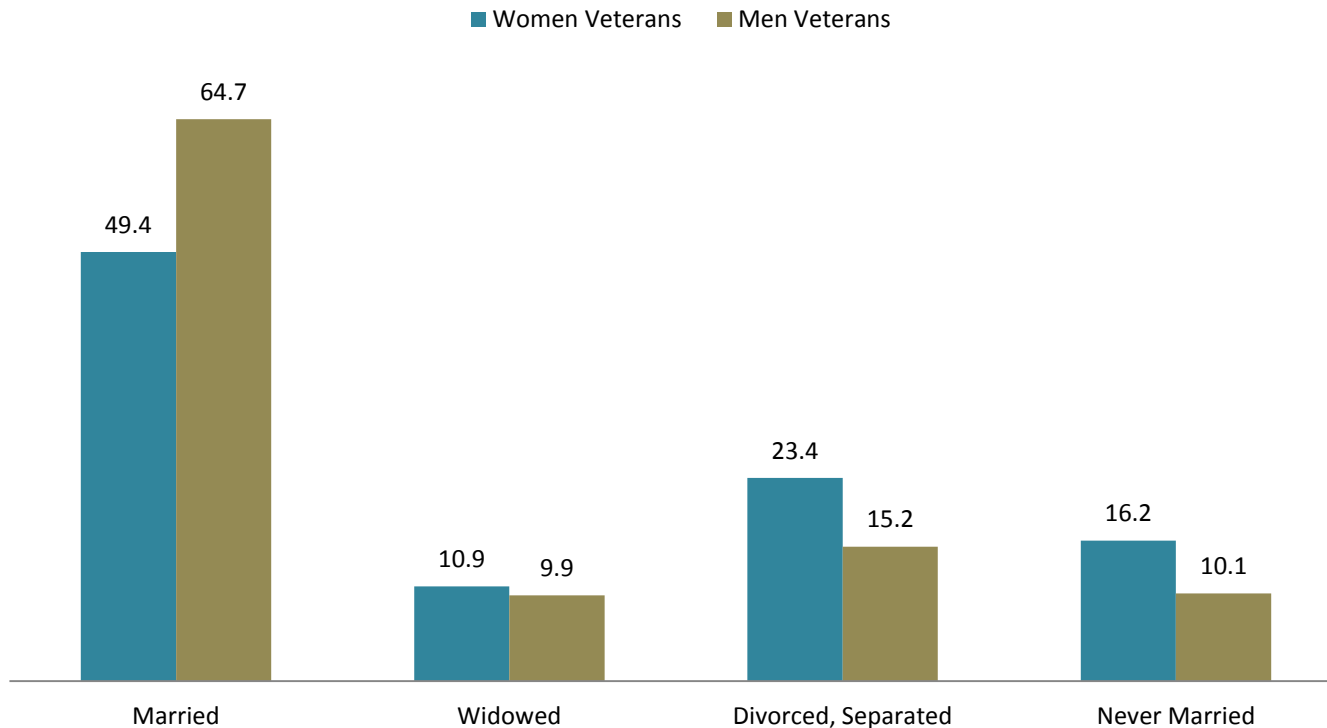
■ Women Veterans ■ Men Veterans



**\*Difference between women Veterans and men Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.**

A lower percent of women Veterans are married compared to men Veterans. A higher percent of women Veterans are divorced or never married compared to men Veterans.

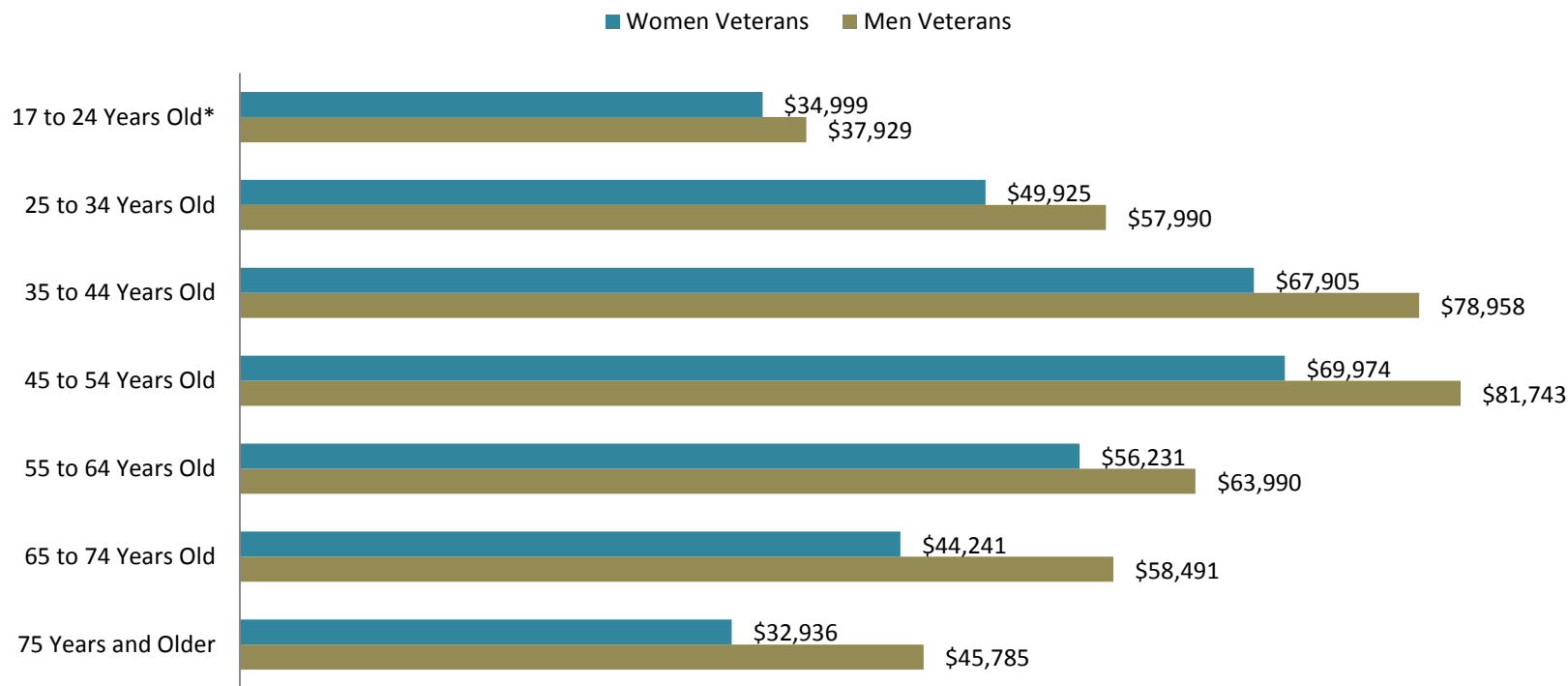
**Marital Status of Veterans by Gender: 2015**  
*(in percent)*





# Women Veterans have a lower median household income than men Veterans.

**Median Household Income of Veterans by Gender: 2015**



	Women Veterans	Men Veterans
Median Household Income	\$54,962	\$58,995
Households Using SNAP/Food Stamps	13.0%	6.3%

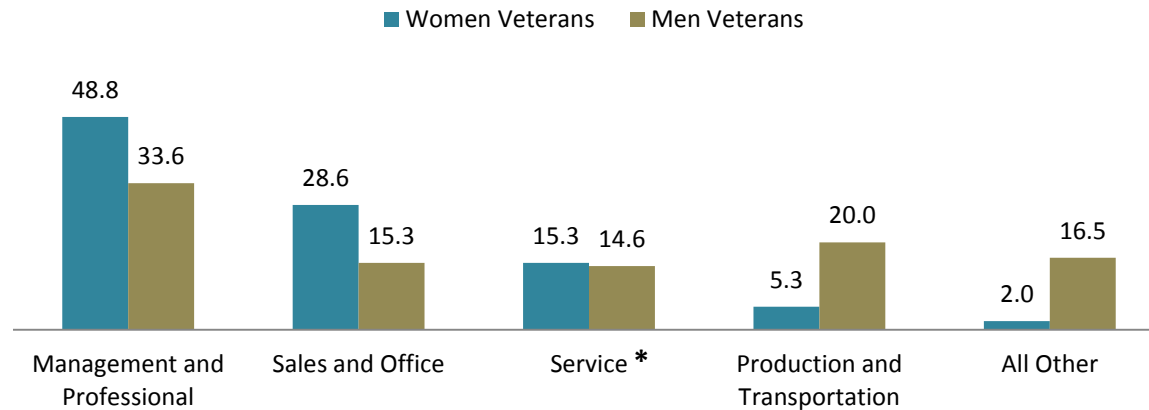
**\*Difference between women Veterans and men Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.**

**Note: Income of Households:** This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income. The **median** divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median and one-half above the median.

A higher percent of women Veterans work in the management, professional, sales, and office industries than men Veterans. A higher percent of women Veterans work for the government than men Veterans.

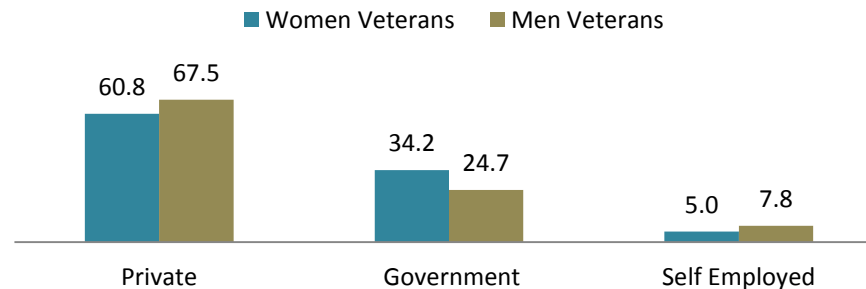
### Occupations of Employed Veterans by Gender: 2015

(in percent)



### Work Category of Employed Veterans by Gender: 2015

(in percent)

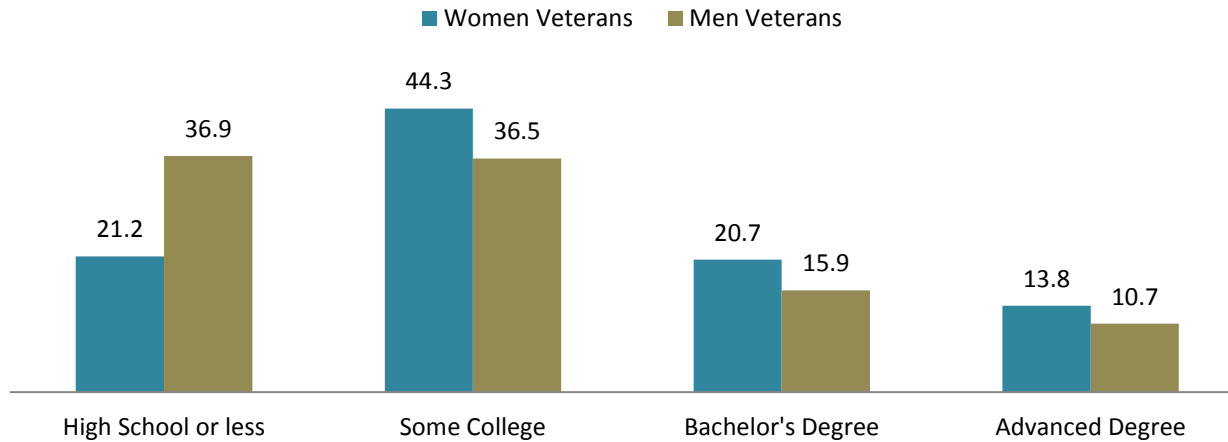


**\*Difference between women Veterans and men Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.**

A higher percent of women Veterans have higher education attainment and are enrolled in higher education compared to men Veterans.

### Education Level of Veterans by Gender: 2015

(in percent)

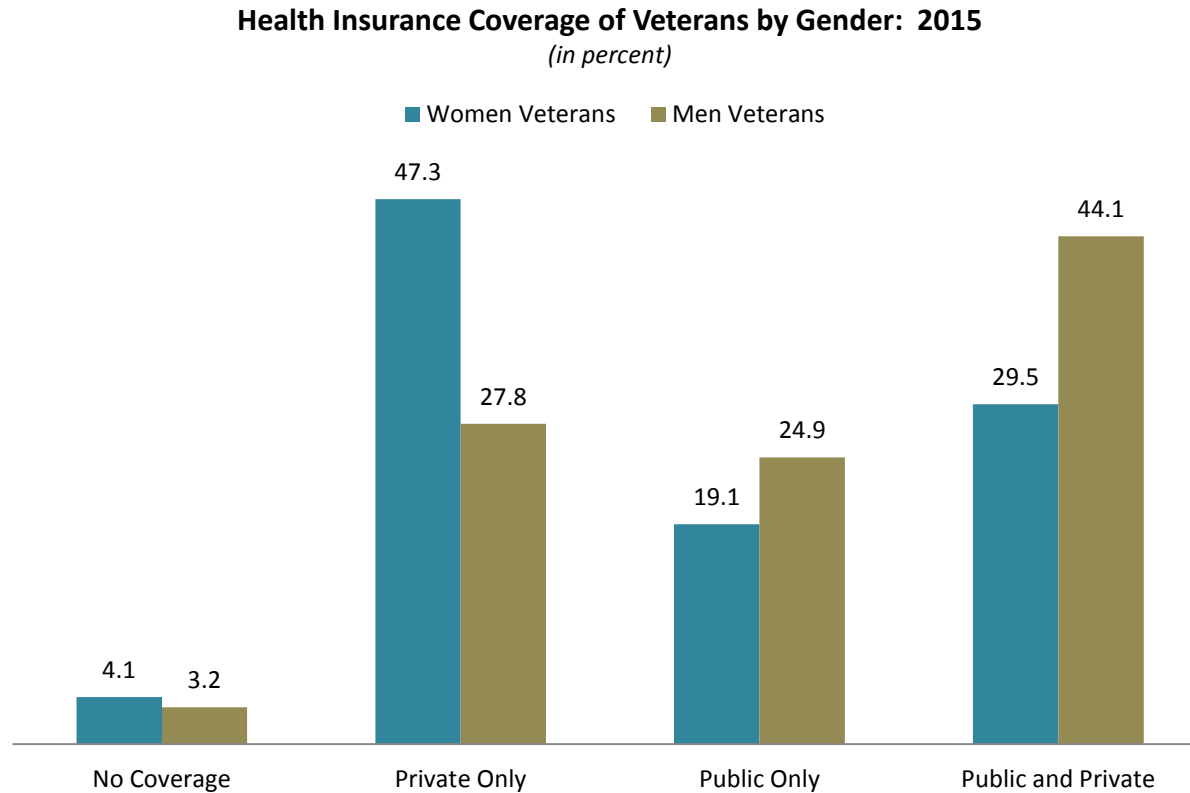


### Veterans Enrolled in Higher Education by Gender: 2015

(in percent)

	Women Veterans	Men Veterans
All Ages	11.9	3.9
17 to 24 Years Old*	35.7	28.5
25 to 34 Years Old	32.9	23.0
35 to 44 Years Old	14.3	10.0

# A higher percent of women Veterans than men Veterans have private health insurance or no coverage.



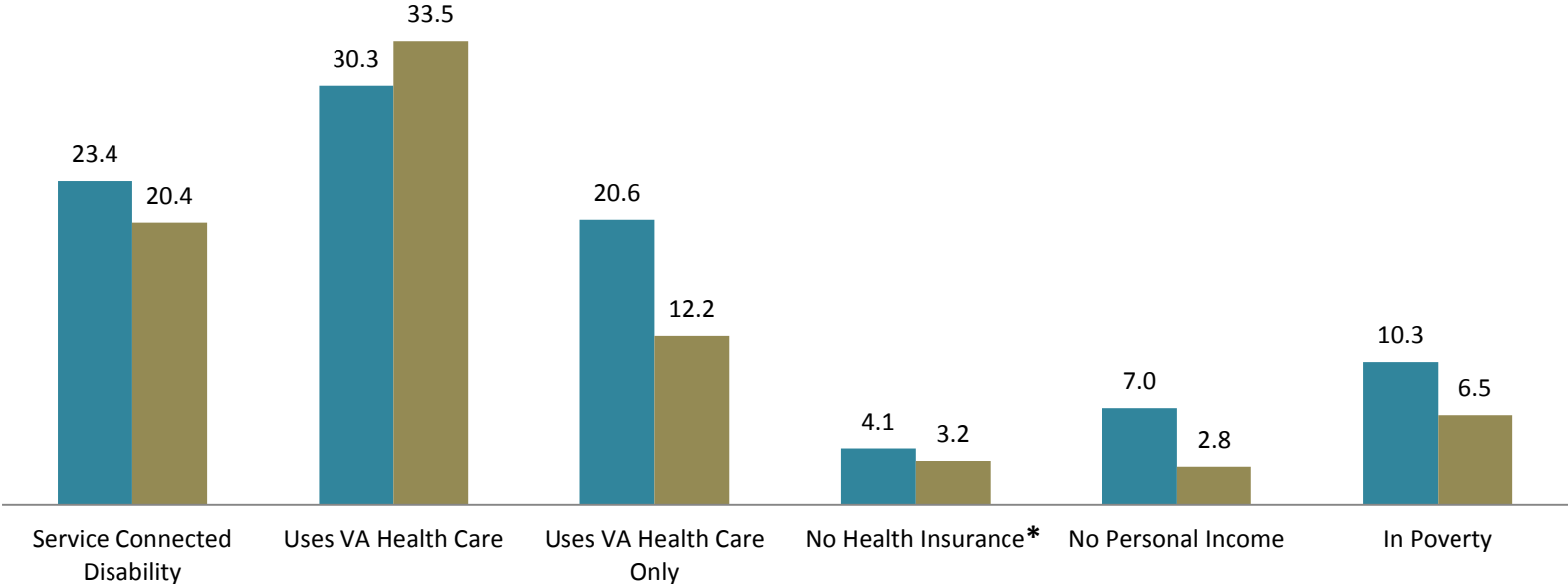
**Note:** The Census Bureau collects data about different types of health insurance coverage and broadly classifies the types into either private health insurance or public coverage. **Private health insurance** is a plan provided through an employer or union; a plan purchased by an individual from an insurance company; or TRICARE or other military health coverage. **Public coverage** includes the federal programs Medicare, Medicaid and other medical assistance programs, VA Health Care; the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP); and individual state health plans.

A higher percent of women Veterans have a service connected disability, have no personal income, and are in poverty than men Veterans. A lower percent of women Veterans use VA health care, but a higher percent only use VA health care than men Veterans.

**Selected Variables of Veterans by Gender: 2015**

*(in percent)*

■ Women Veterans ■ Men Veterans



**\*Difference between women Veterans and men Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.**

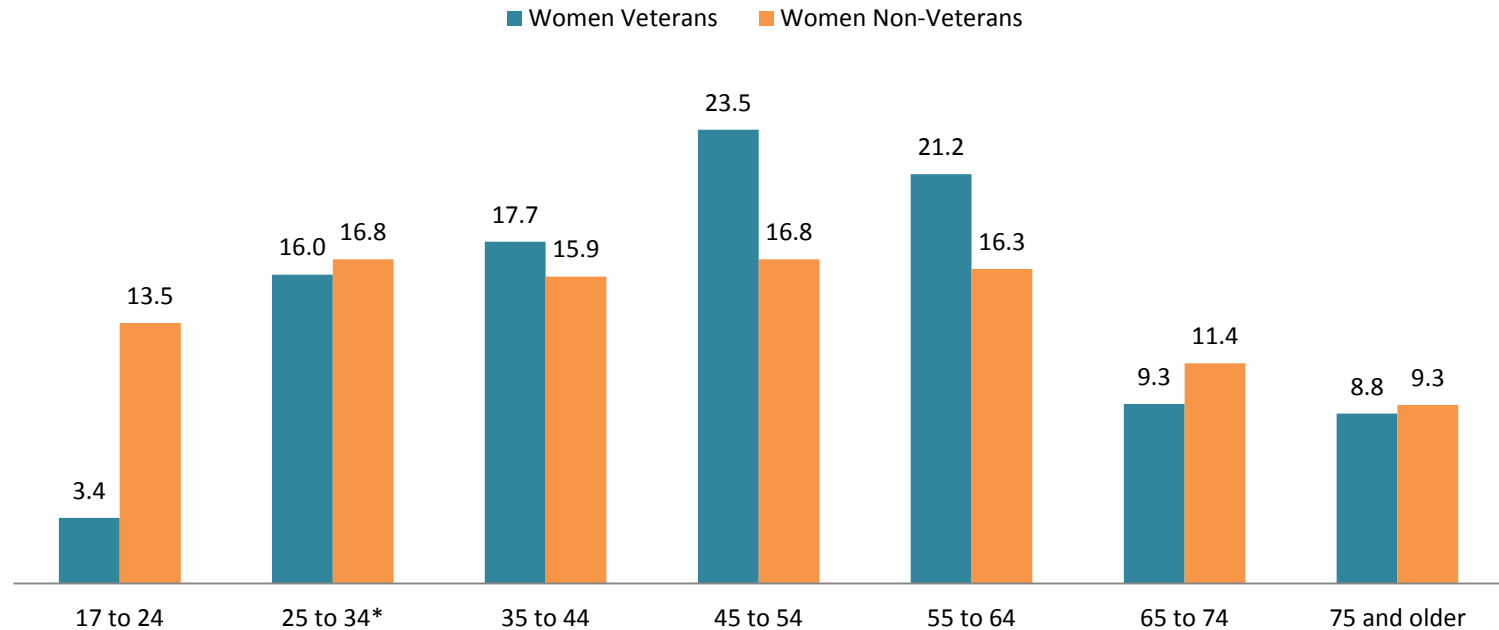
# Issues to Consider When Comparing Veterans and Non-Veterans

There are issues of selection bias when comparing 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 affects ascribed to military service may be attributable to pre-service characteristics and not necessarily Veteran status. Since women have never been subject to the draft, this has been true for women Veterans since before the transition to the All-Volunteer force.

# **Women Veterans Compared to Women Non-Veterans**

A higher percent of women Veterans are between 35 to 64 years old than women non-Veterans.

**Age Range of Women by Veteran Status: 2015**  
(in percent)



**Median Age by Gender and Veteran Status: 2015**

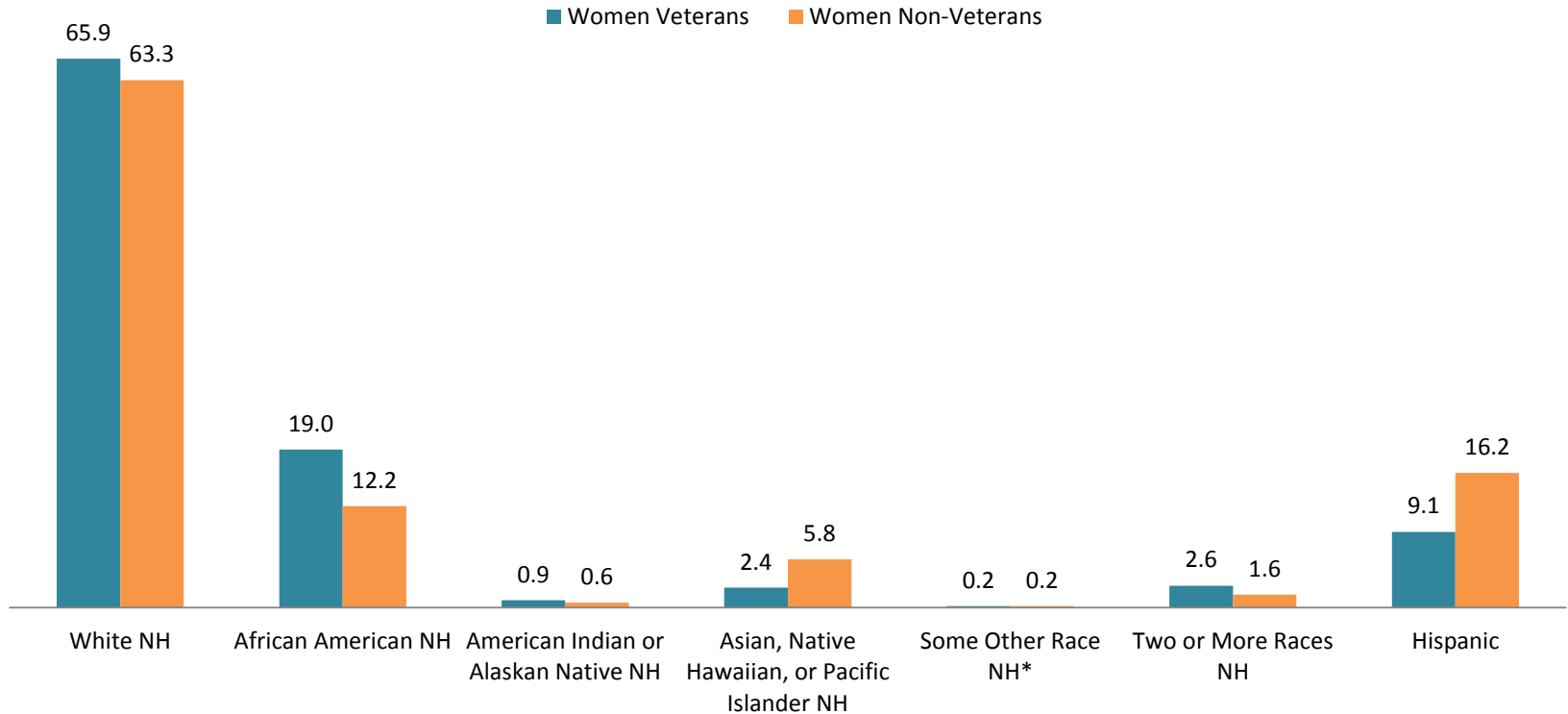
Women Veterans	Women Non-Veterans
50.0	46.0

\*Difference between women Veterans and women non-Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.



A higher percent of women Veterans are African American compared to non-Veterans. In contrast, the percent of women Veterans who are Hispanic are significantly lower than those of non-Veterans.

**Race and Ethnicity of Women by Veteran Status: 2015**  
(in percent)

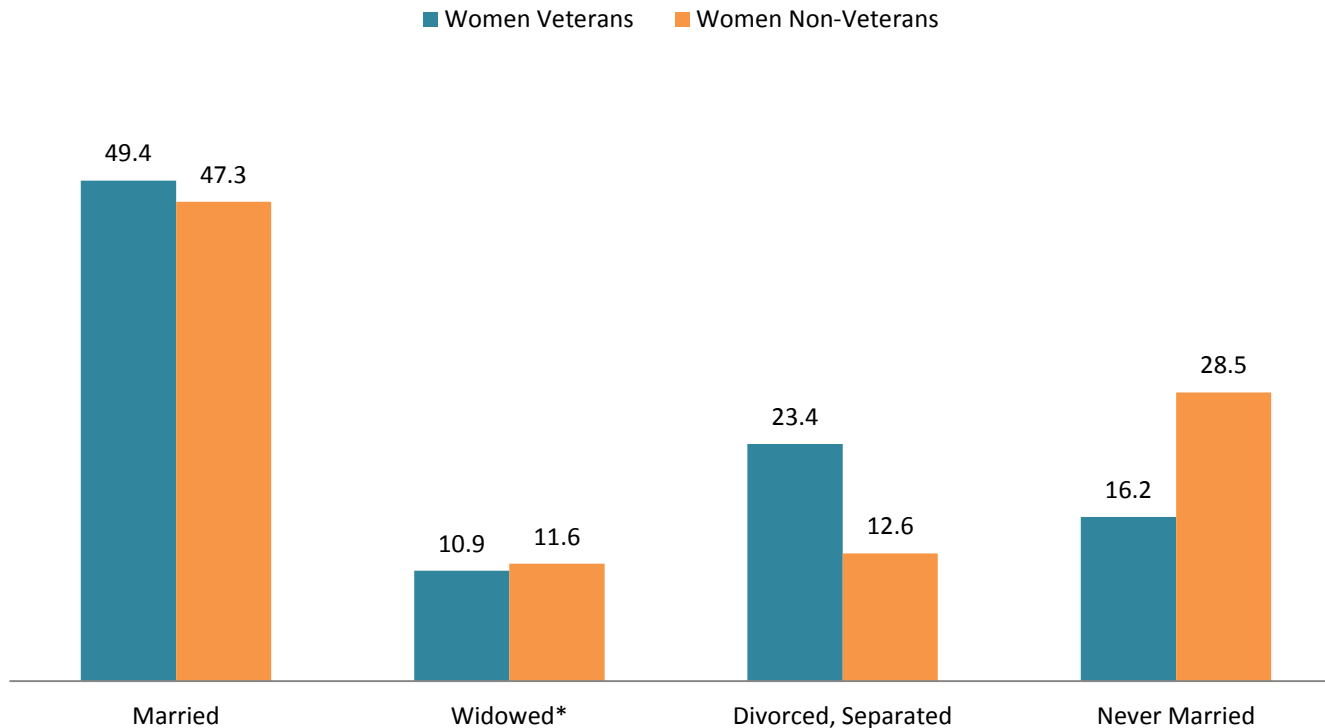


NH: Non Hispanic

**\*Difference between women Veterans and women non-Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.**

A higher percent of women Veterans are married or divorced compared to women non-Veterans.  
A higher percent of women non-Veterans have never married.

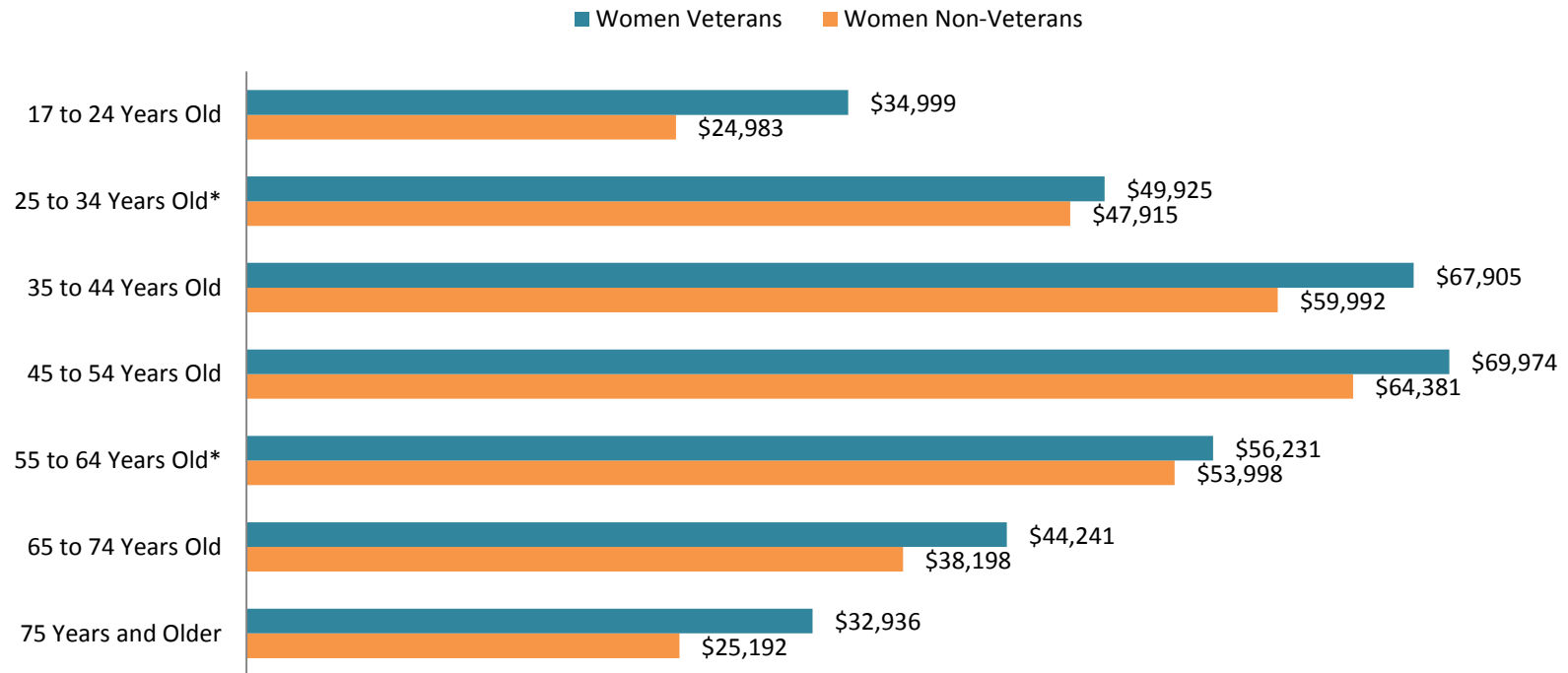
**Martial Status of Women by Veteran Status: 2015**  
(in percent)



**\*Difference between women Veterans and women non-Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.**

# Women Veterans have higher median household income than women non-Veterans.

Median Household Income of Women by Veteran Status: 2015



	Women Veterans	Women Non-Veterans
Median Household Income	\$54,962	\$46,992
Households Using SNAP/Food Stamps	13.0%	17.4%

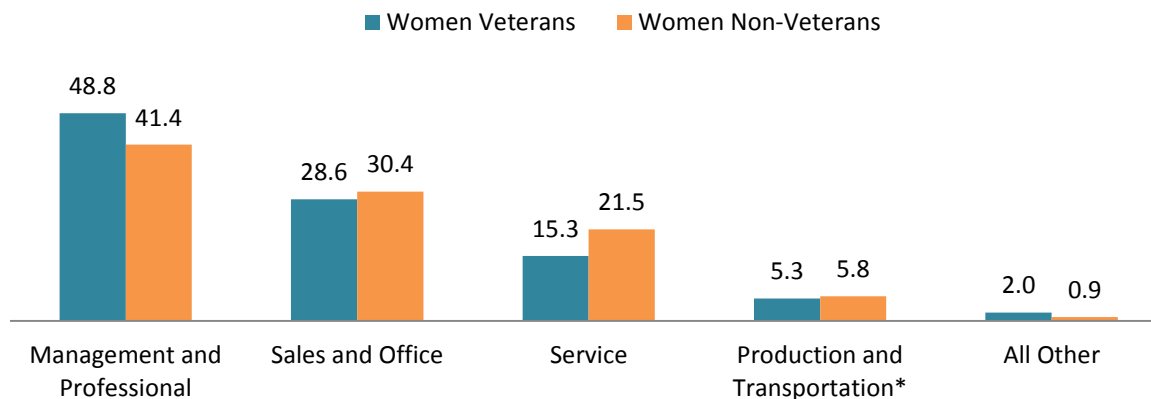
\*Difference between women Veterans and women non-Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

**Note: Income of Households:** This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income. The **median** divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median and one-half above the median.

A higher percent of employed women Veterans are in the management and professional industry and a lower percent are self employed compared to women non-Veterans.

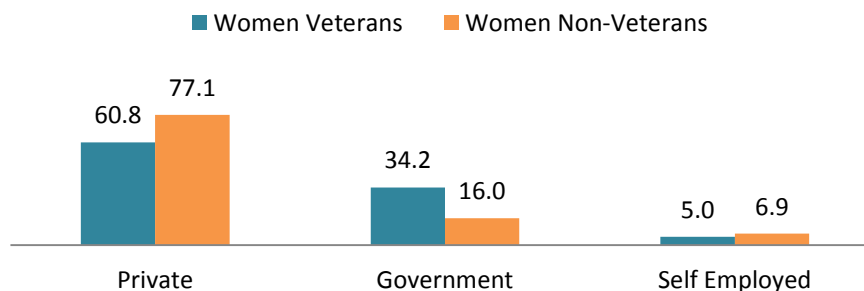
### Occupations of Women by Veteran Status: 2015

(in percent)



### Work Category of Employed Women by Veteran Status: 2015

(in percent)

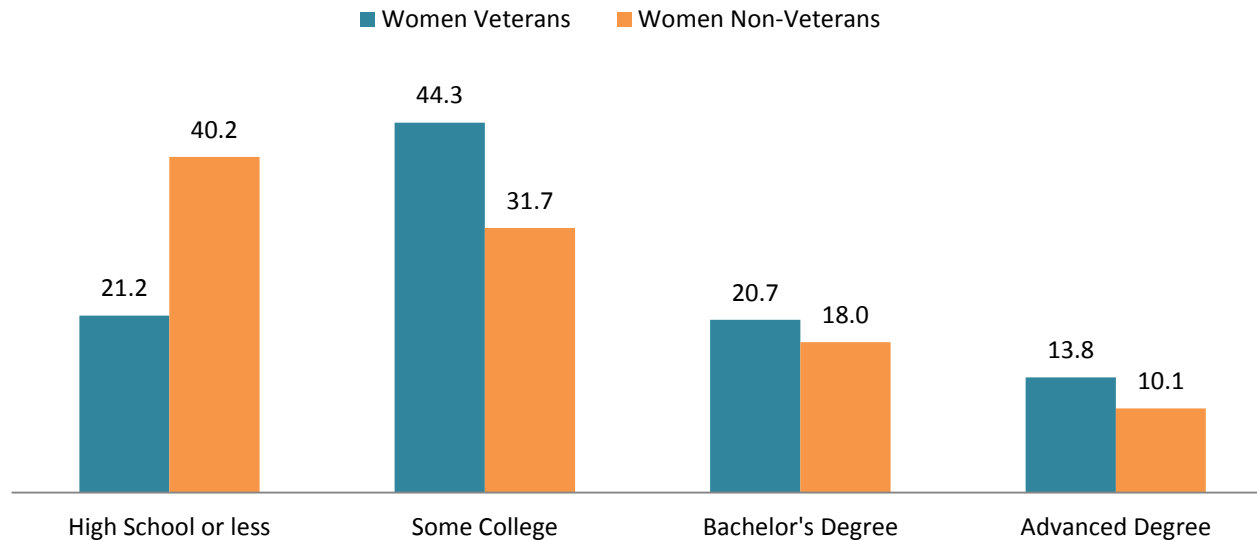


\*Difference between women Veterans and women non-Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

A higher percent of women Veterans have higher education attainment and a higher percent are enrolled in higher education compared to women non-Veterans.

### Education Levels of Women by Veteran Status: 2015

(in percent)



### Enrolled in Higher Education by Veteran Status: 2015

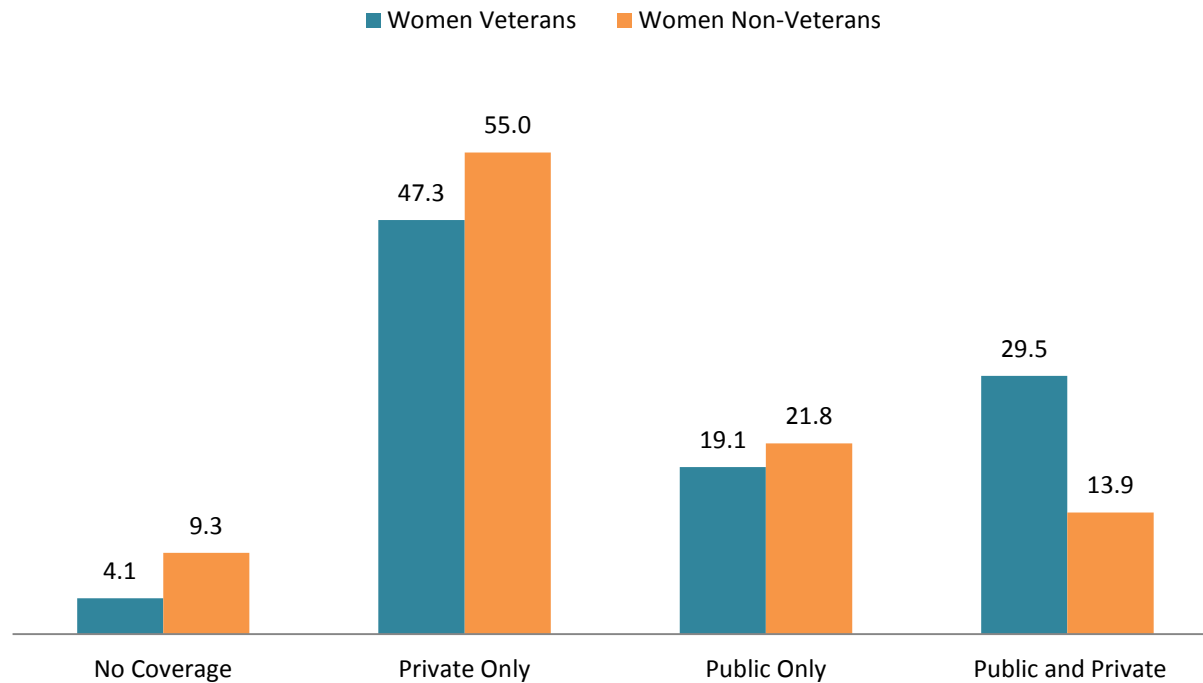
(in percent)

	Women Veterans (%)	Women Non-Veterans (%)
All Ages	11.9	9.7
17 to 24 Years Old*	35.7	41.7
25 to 34 Years Old	32.9	13.1
35 to 44 Years Old	14.3	5.9

\*Difference between women Veterans and women non-Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

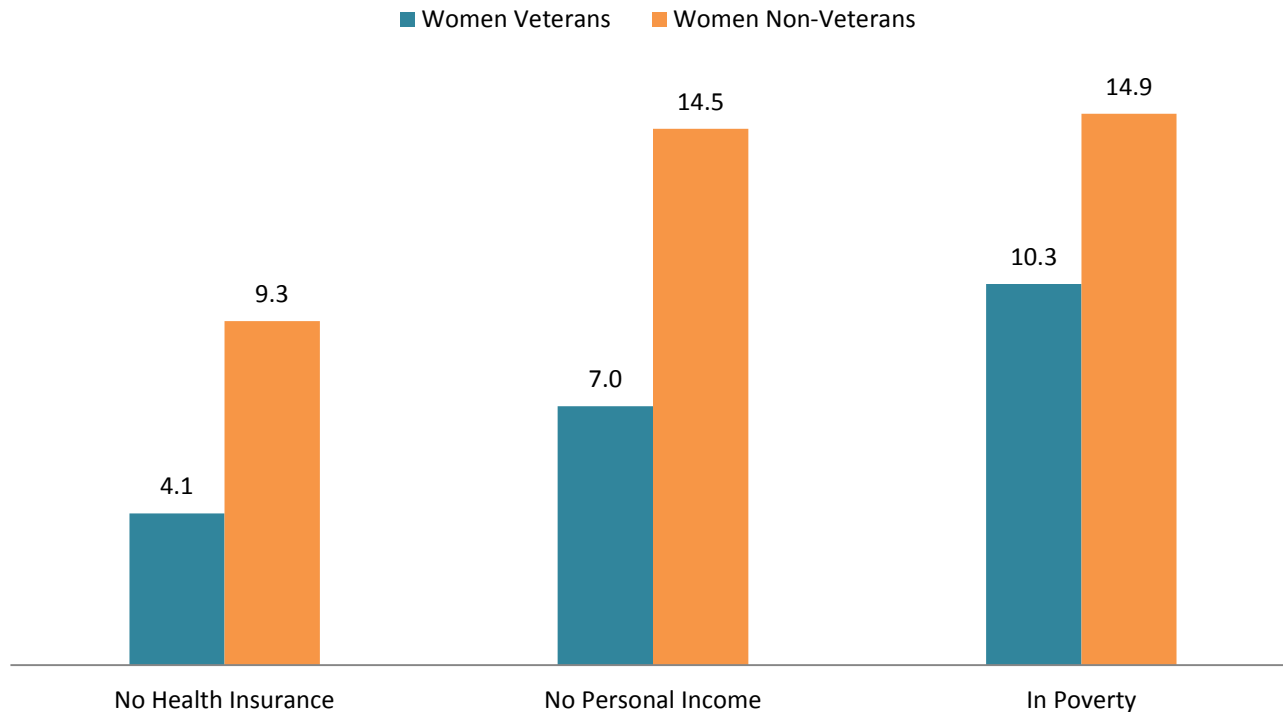
Compared to women non-Veterans, a higher percent of women Veterans have public and private health insurance. A lower percent of women Veterans are uninsured.

**Health Insurance Coverage by Veteran Status: 2015**  
*(in percent)*



# A lower percent of women Veterans are uninsured, have no income, and are in poverty than women non-Veterans.

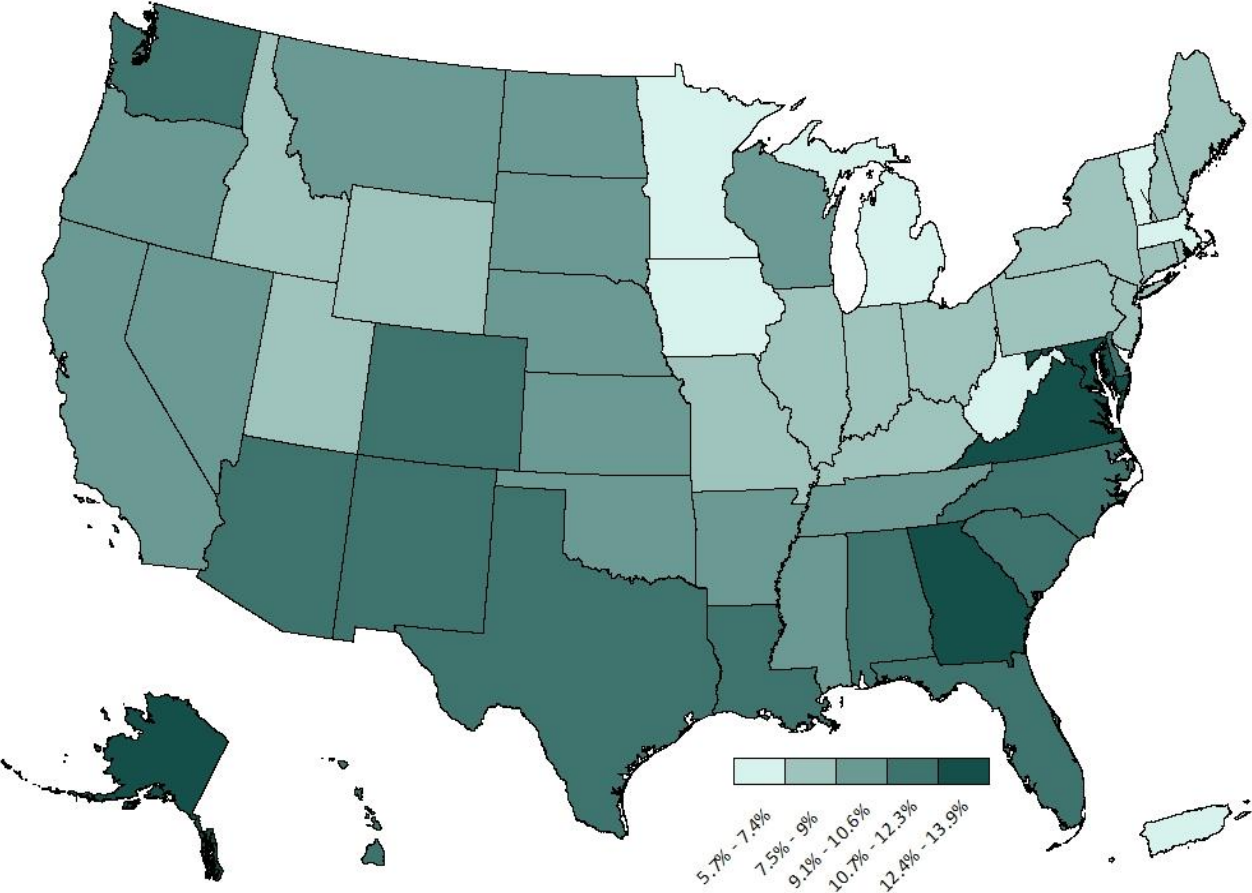
**Selected Variables of Women by Veteran Status: 2015**  
(in percent)



**Note:** The Census Bureau collects data about different types of health insurance coverage and broadly classifies the types into either private health insurance or public coverage. **Private health insurance** is a plan provided through an employer or union; a plan purchased by an individual from an insurance company; or TRICARE or other military health coverage. **Public coverage** includes the federal programs Medicare, Medicaid and other medical assistance programs, VA Health Care; the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP); and individual state health plans.

Alaska, Virginia, Maryland, Washington DC, and Georgia are the states with higher percentages of Veterans who are women.

**Percent of Veterans who are Women: 2015**



**States with the Highest Percent of Veterans who are Women: 2015**

State	Percent
Alaska	14.0%
Virginia	13.9%
Maryland	13.5%
District of Columbia	13.2%
Georgia	12.2%
Delaware	11.4%
Colorado	11.4%
South Carolina	11.2%
North Carolina	11.0%
Washington	10.8%

**States with the Highest Number of Women Veterans: 2015**

State	Women
Texas	180,286
California	164,516
Florida	154,321
Virginia	109,111
Georgia	91,830
North Carolina	85,421
Pennsylvania	71,287
Ohio	67,542
New York	65,866
Washington	64,886



# Summary

## Women and Men Veterans

- A higher percent women Veterans served in Gulf War 2 (Post-9/11) or during peacetime than men Veterans.
- Women Veterans are younger than men Veterans.
- A higher percent of women Veterans are more racially and ethnically diverse than men Veterans.
- A lower percent of women Veterans are married compared to men Veterans.
- Women Veterans have a lower median household income than men Veterans.
- A higher percent of women Veterans work for the government compared to men Veterans.
- A higher percent of women Veterans have higher education attainment and are enrolled in higher education compared to men Veterans.

## Women Veterans and Non-Veterans

- Women Veterans are older than women non-Veterans.
- A higher percent of women Veterans are African American compared to non-Veterans. In contrast, the percent of women Veterans who are Hispanic are significantly lower than those of non-Veterans.
- A higher percent of women non-Veterans have never married compared to women Veterans.
- Women Veterans have a higher median household income than women non-Veterans.
- A higher percent of women Veterans work for the government compared to women non-Veterans.
- A higher percent of women Veterans have higher education attainment and are enrolled in higher education compared to women non-Veterans.

# Contact Information For This Report

---

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of Policy and Planning  
National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

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