



Profile of Women Veterans: 2014

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

Data Source and Methods

- Data for this analysis come from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), and VA's 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/> .
 - VetPop2014 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/VetPop2014Document.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

Women Veterans are significantly different than men Veterans. 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 VetPop2014, 2 million of the 21.9 million Veterans are women, or about 9 percent of Veterans are women.

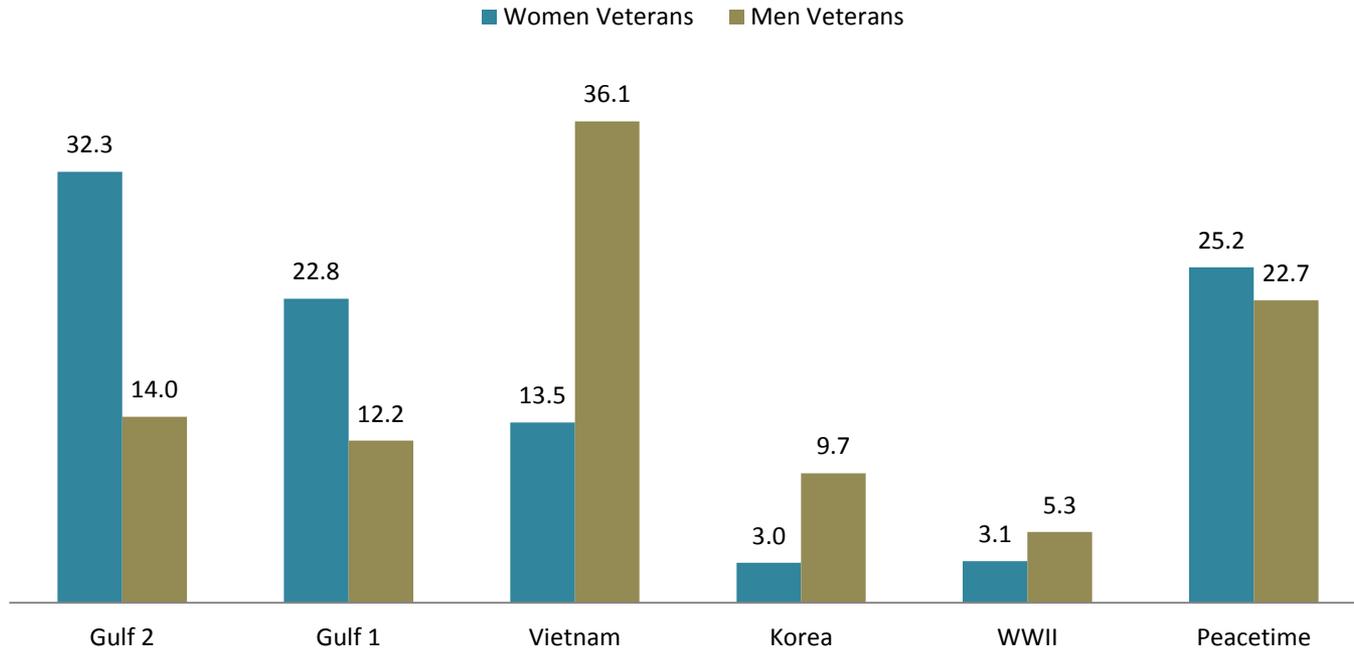
Women Veterans are younger than men Veterans. The median age for women Veterans is 49, and the median age for men Veterans is 64. Any characteristics correlated with age (e.g., employment and income) will be affected by the differences in the age distributions of the two groups.

Women Veterans Compared to Men Veterans

A higher percent of women Veterans served during the Gulf War Era (pre and post) or during peacetime than men Veterans.

Period of Service of Veterans by Gender: 2014

(in percent)

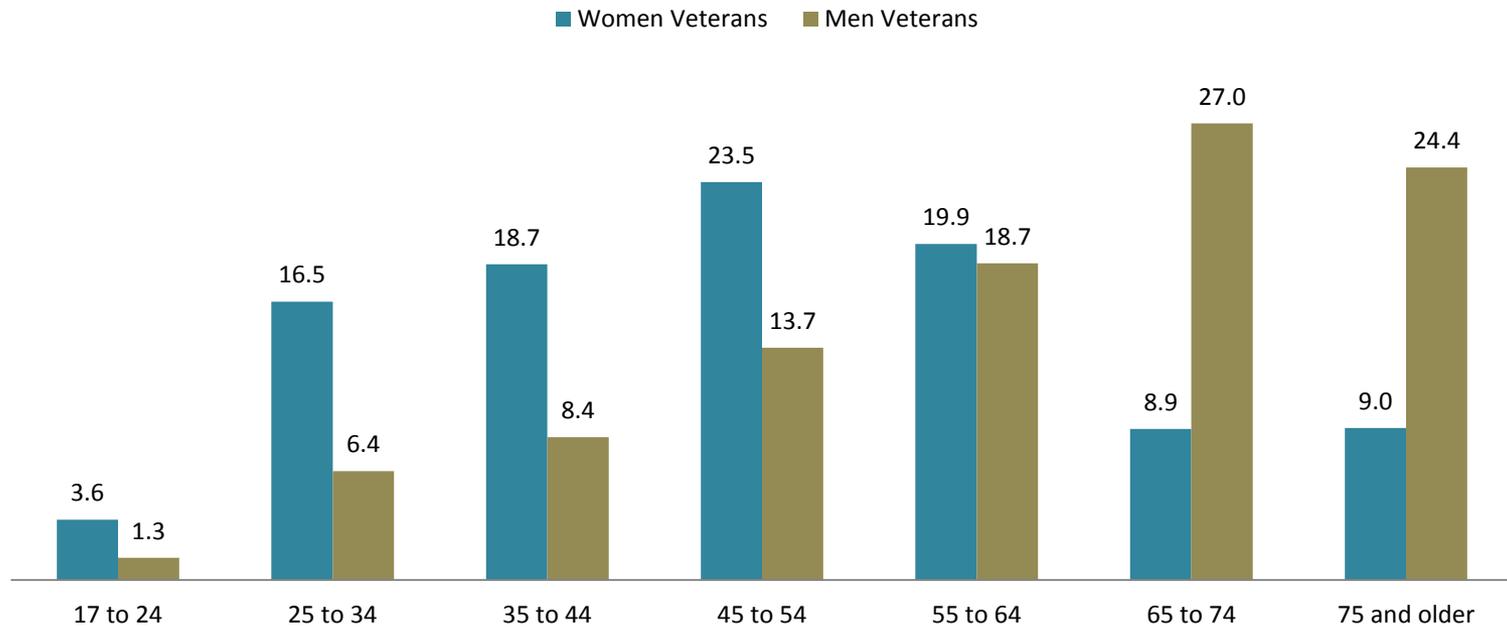


Period of Service Dates

- Gulf 2 or Post-9/11: Sept. 2001 to present
- Gulf 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 as a group are younger than men Veterans.

Age Range of Veterans by Gender: 2014
(in percent)



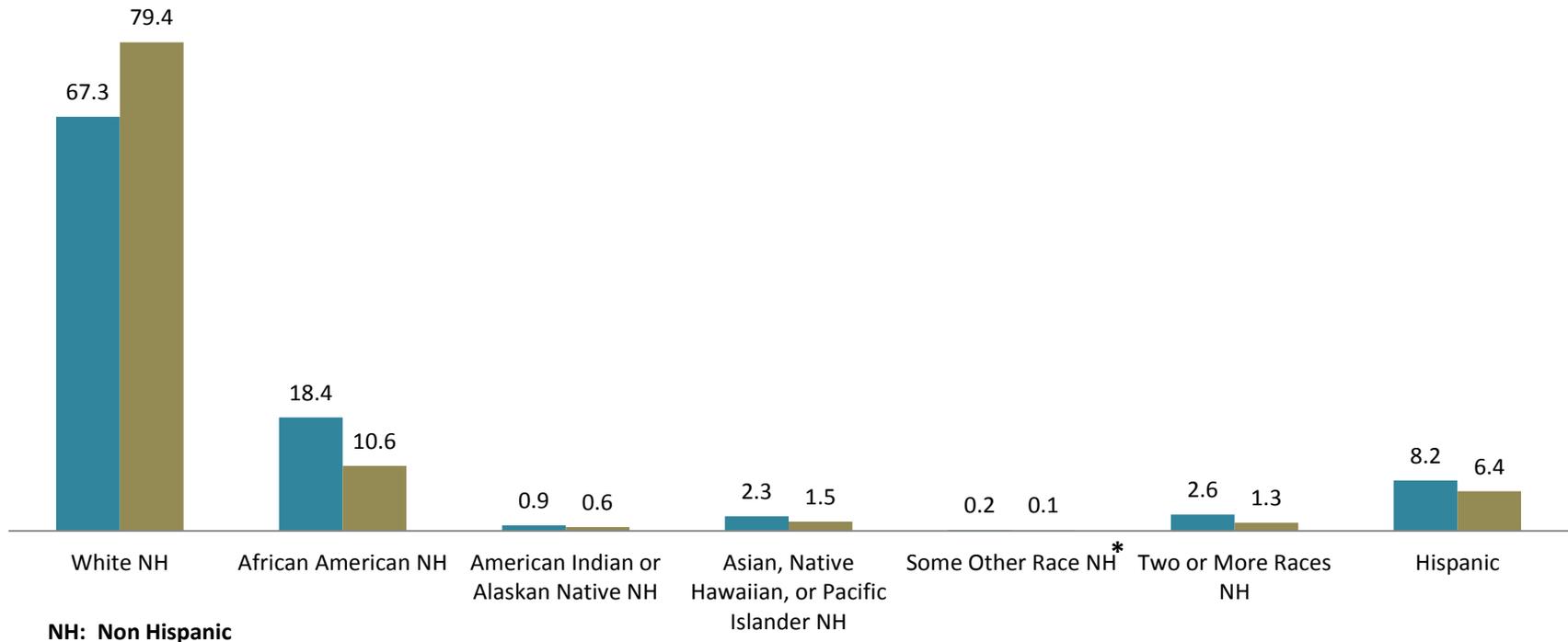
Median Age by Gender: 2014

Women Veterans	Men Veterans
49.2	64.4

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

Race and Ethnicity of Veterans by Gender: 2014
(in percent)

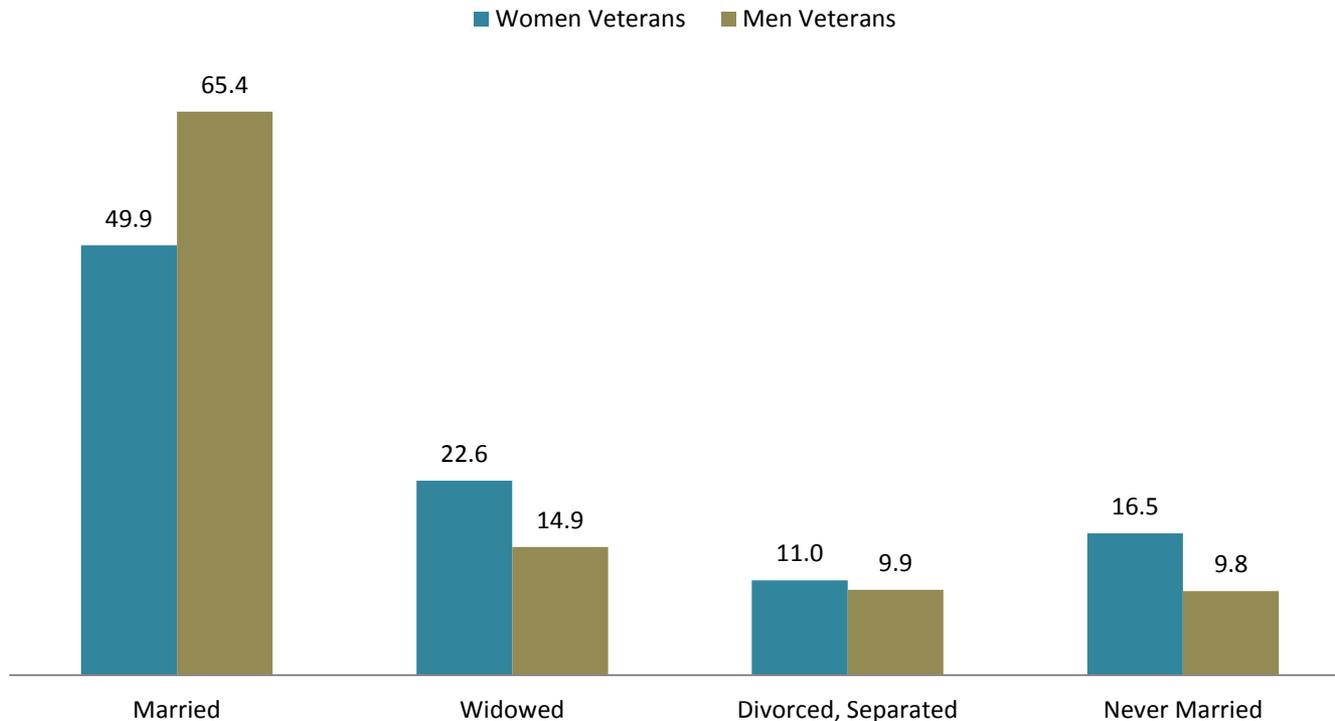
■ Women Veterans ■ Men Veterans



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

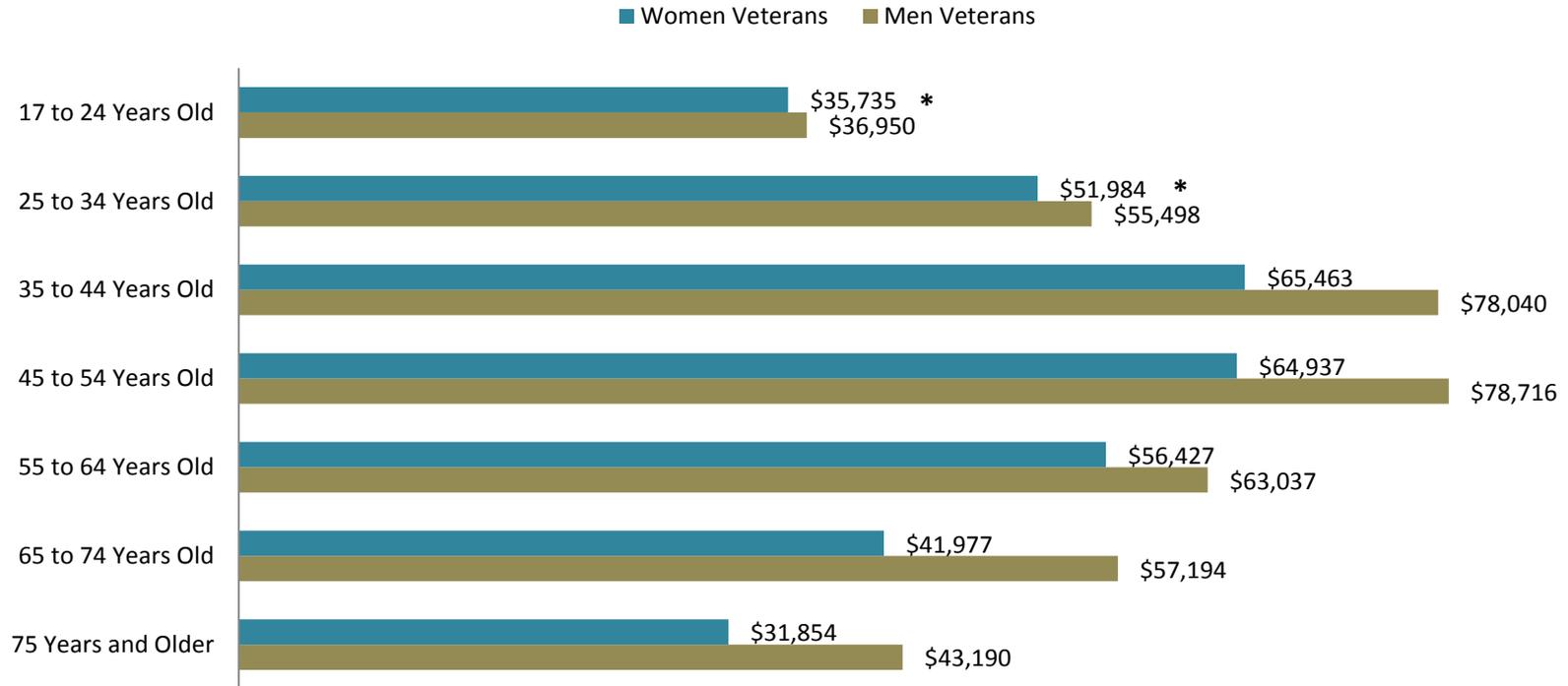
A lower percent of women Veterans are married compared to men Veterans. A higher percent of women Veterans are widowed or never married compared to men Veterans.

Marital Status of Veterans by Gender: 2014
(in percent)



Women Veterans age 35 and older have a lower median household income than men Veterans.

Median Household Income of Veterans by Gender: 2014



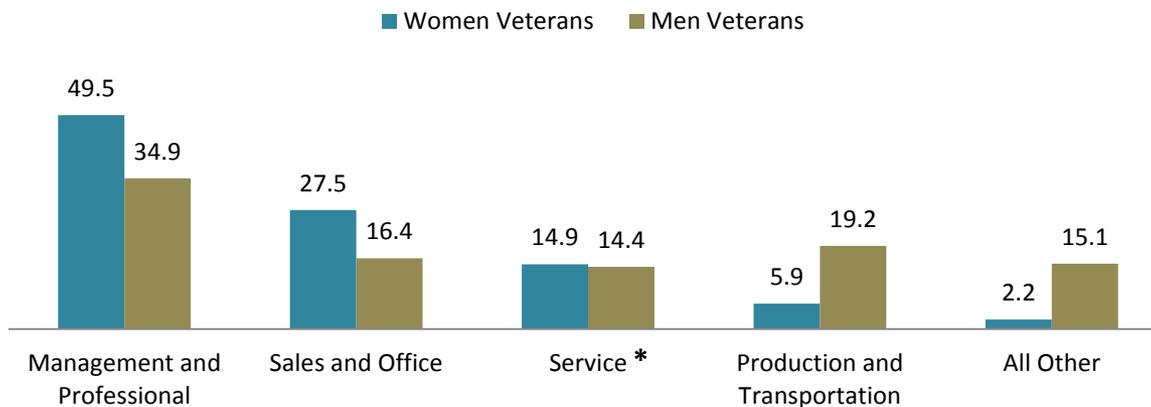
	Women Veterans	Men Veterans
Median Household Income	\$54,993	\$56,995
Households Using SNAP/Food Stamps	11.7%	6.3%

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

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: 2014

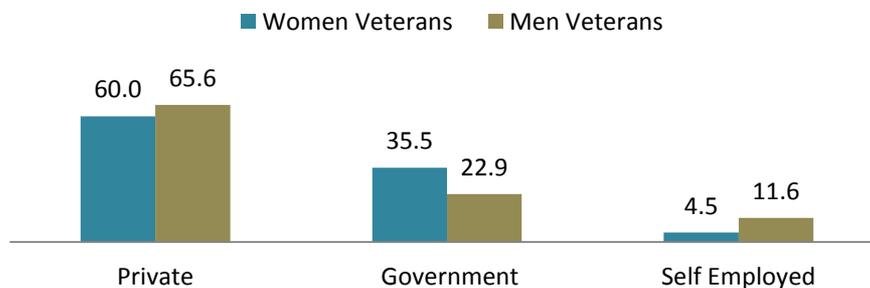
(in percent)



Work Category of Employed Veterans by Gender: 2014

2014

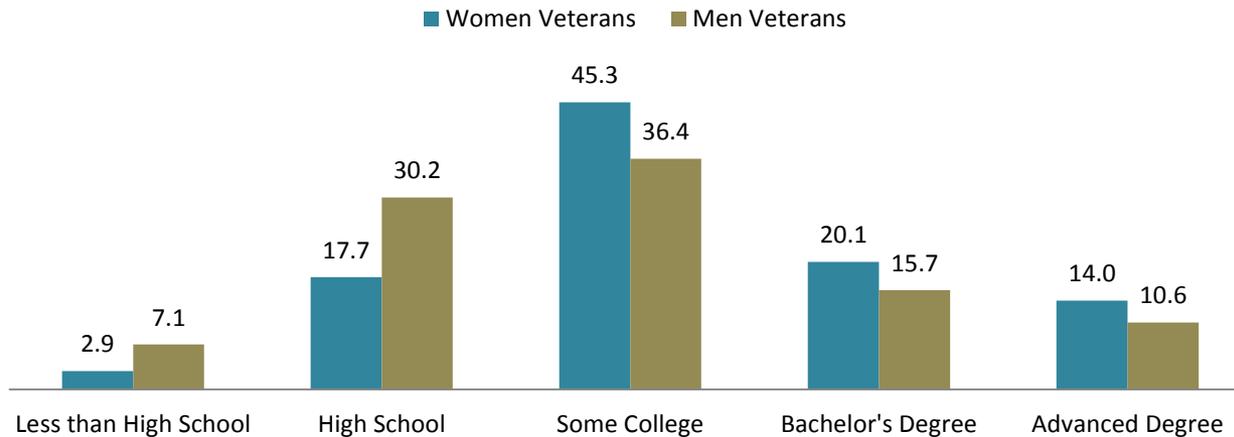
(in percent)



***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.

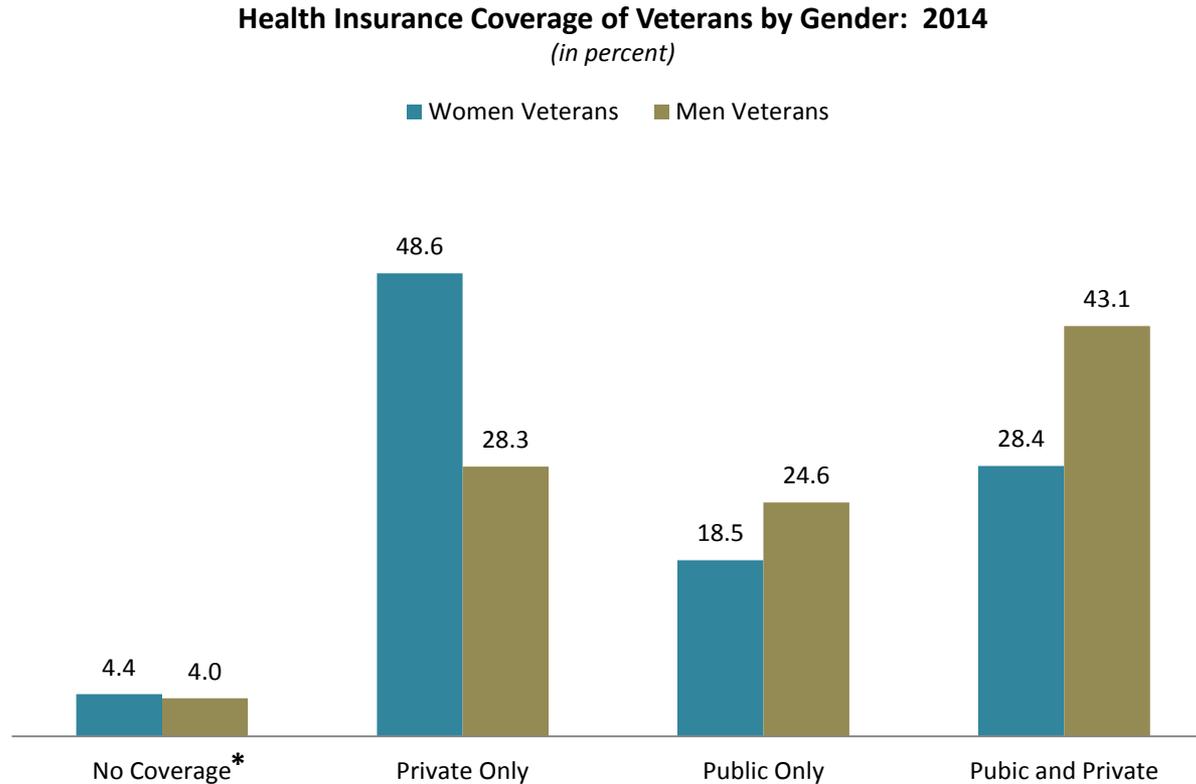
Education Level of Veterans by Gender: 2014
(in percent)



Veterans Enrolled in Higher Education by Gender: 2014
(in percent)

	Women Veterans	Men Veterans
All Ages	13.3	4.0
17 to 24 Years Old	35.1	28.1
25 to 34 Years Old	32.0	24.4
35 to 44 Years Old	18.6	10.7

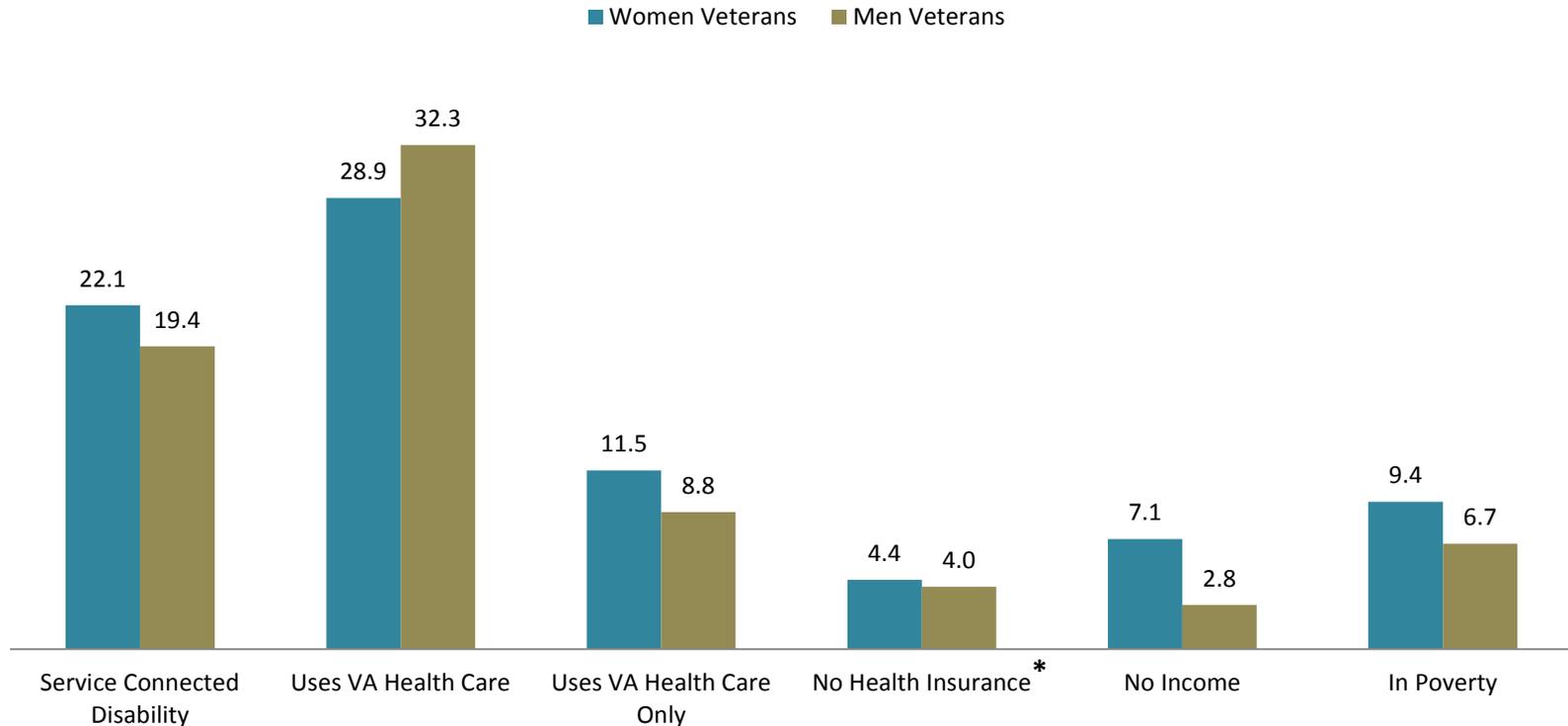
A higher percent of women Veterans than men Veterans have private health insurance.



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

A higher percent of women Veterans have a service connected disability, have no 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: 2014
(in percent)



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

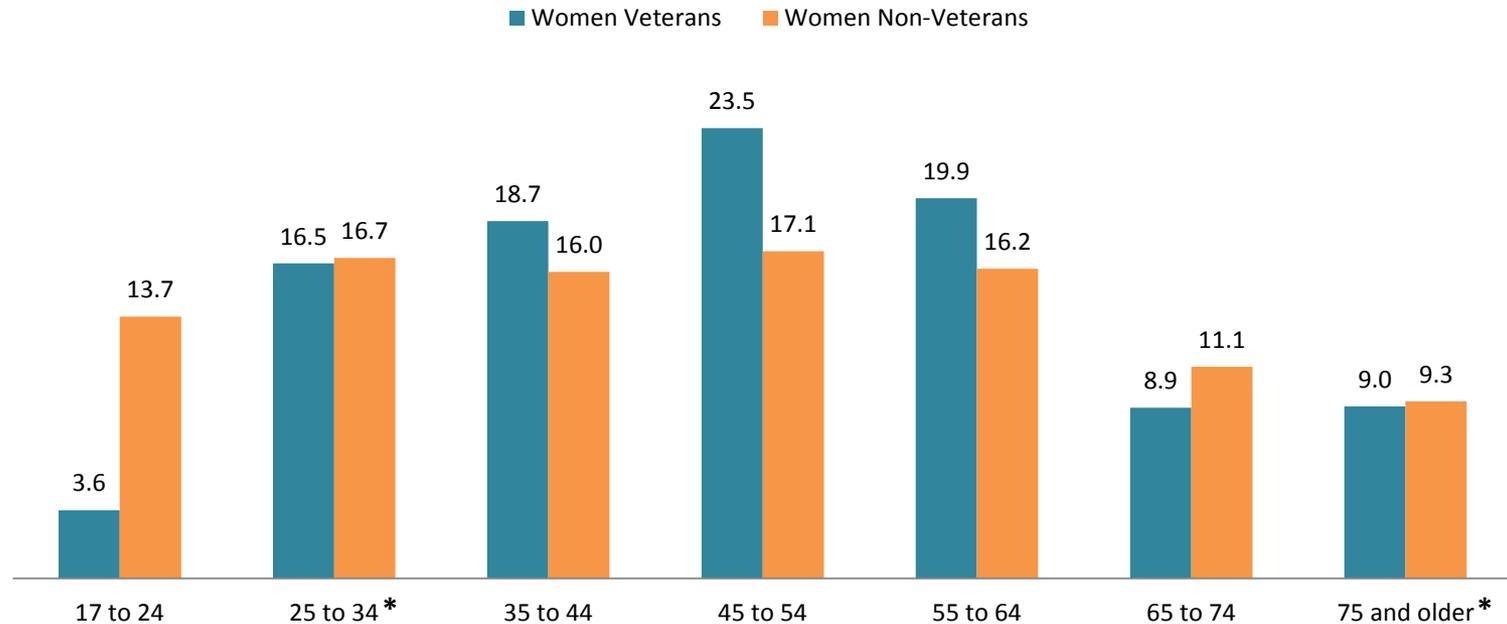
Issues to Consider When Comparing Veterans and Non-Veterans

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 effects ascribed to military service may be attributable to pre-service characteristics and not necessarily Veteran status.

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: 2014
(in percent)



Median Age by Gender and Veteran Status: 2014

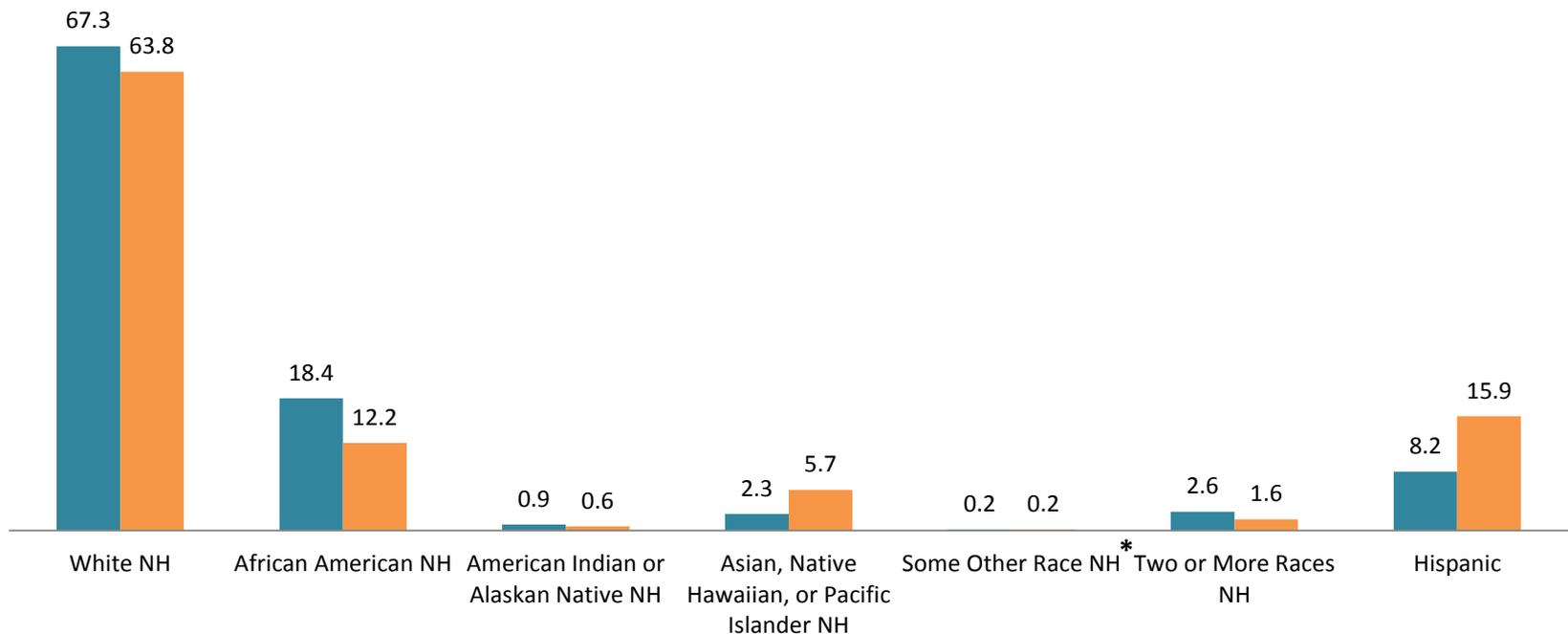


*Difference between women Veterans and women non-Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

A higher percent of women Veterans are racially and ethnically diverse than women non-Veterans.

Race and Ethnicity of Women by Veteran Status: 2014
(in percent)

■ Women Veterans ■ Women Non-Veterans

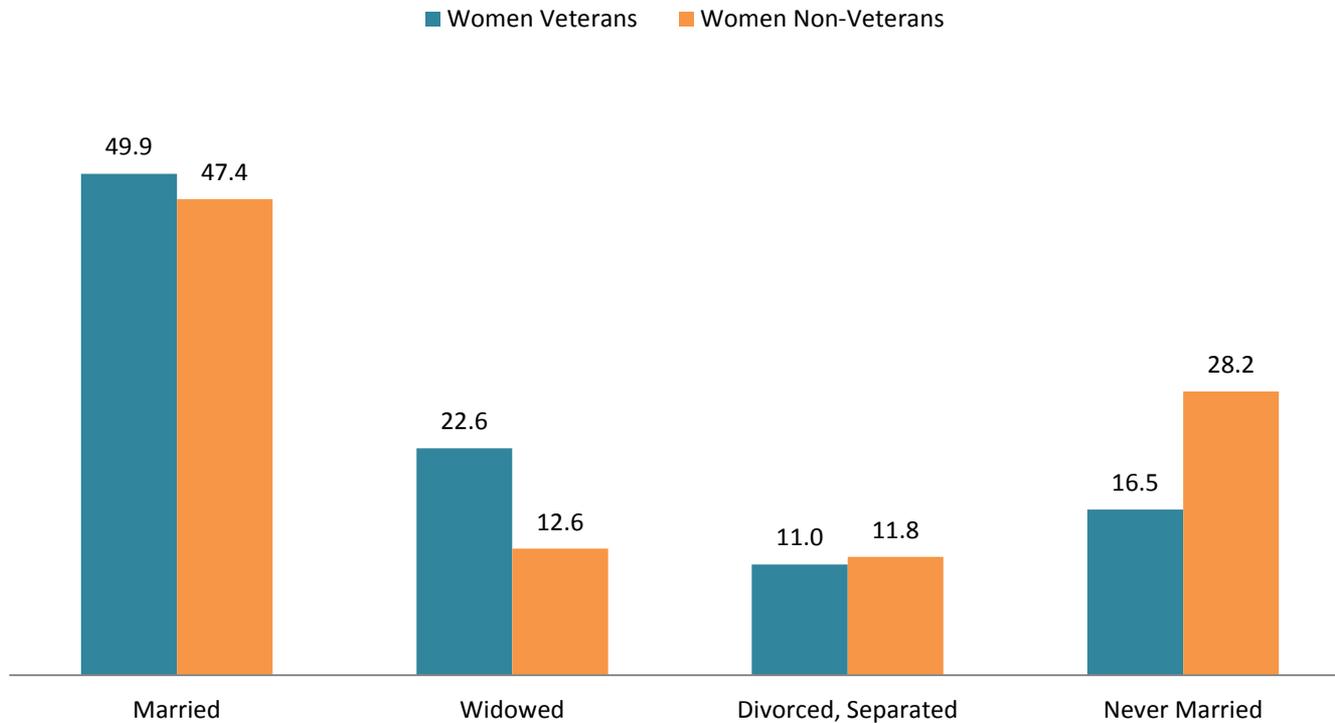


NH: Non Hispanic

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

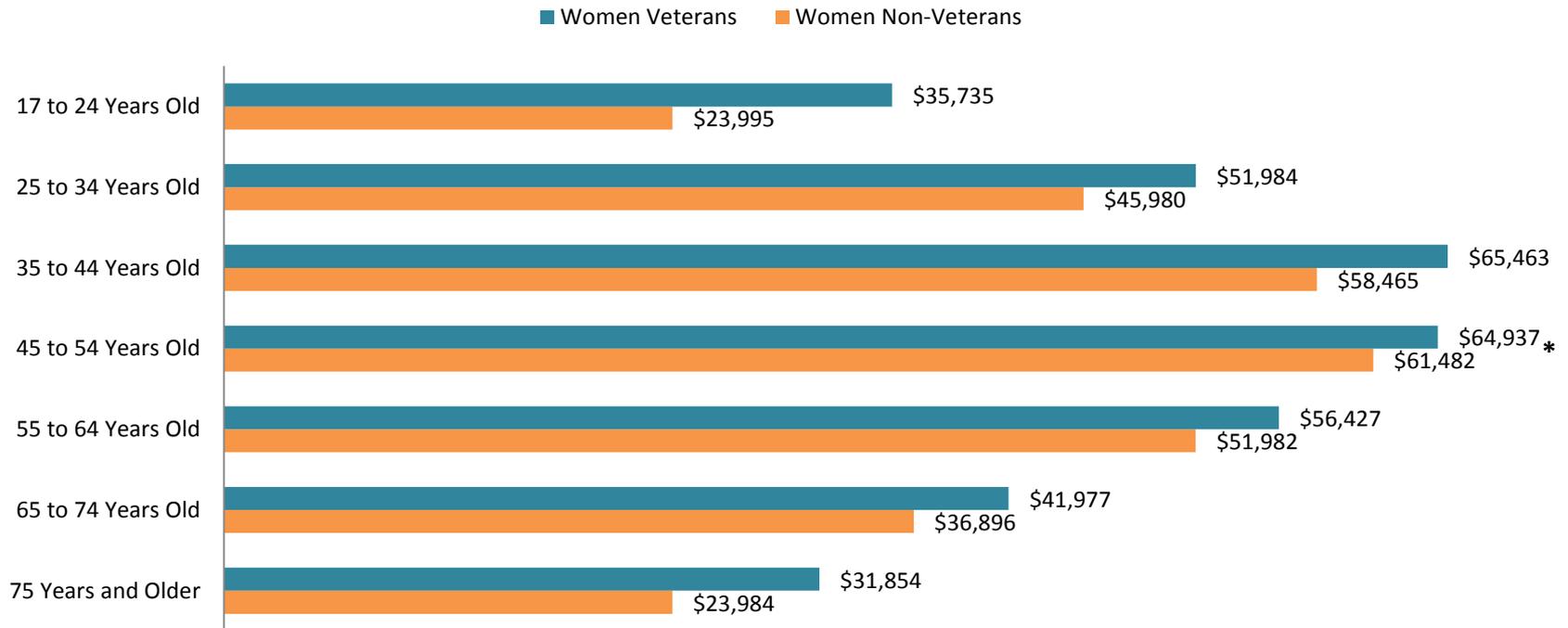
A higher percent of women Veterans are widowed compared to women non-Veterans.
A higher percent of women non-Veterans have never married.

Marital Status of Women by Veteran Status: 2014
(in percent)



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

Median Household Income of Women by Veteran Status: 2014



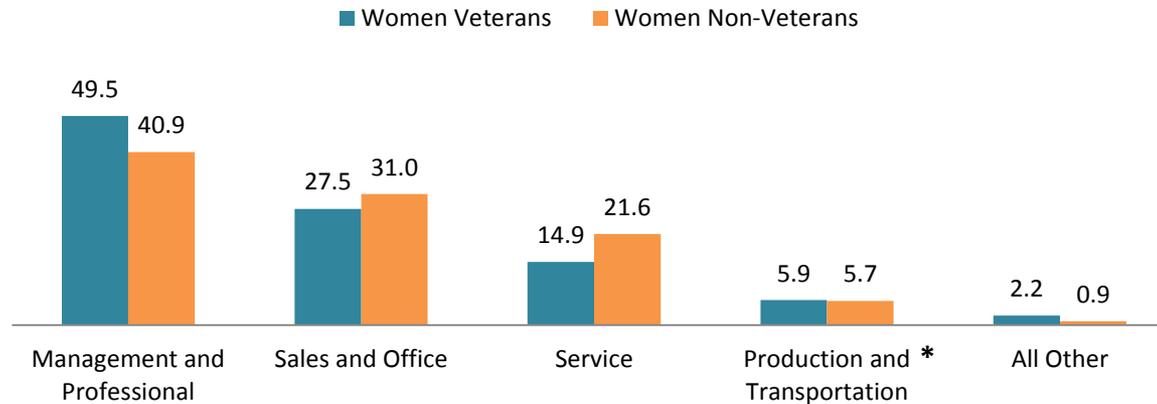
	Women Veterans	Women Non-Veterans
Median Household Income	\$54,993	\$44,999
Households Using SNAP/Food Stamps	11.7%	17.6%

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

A higher percent of women Veterans work in the management and professional industry and a higher percent work for the government compared to women non-Veterans.

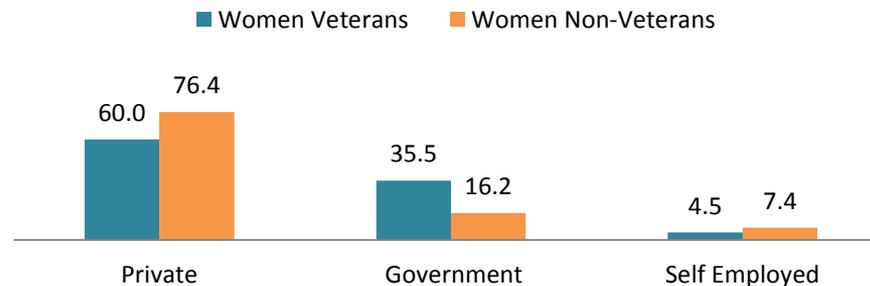
Occupations of Women by Veteran Status: 2014

(in percent)



Work Category of Employed Women by Veteran Status: 2014

(in percent)

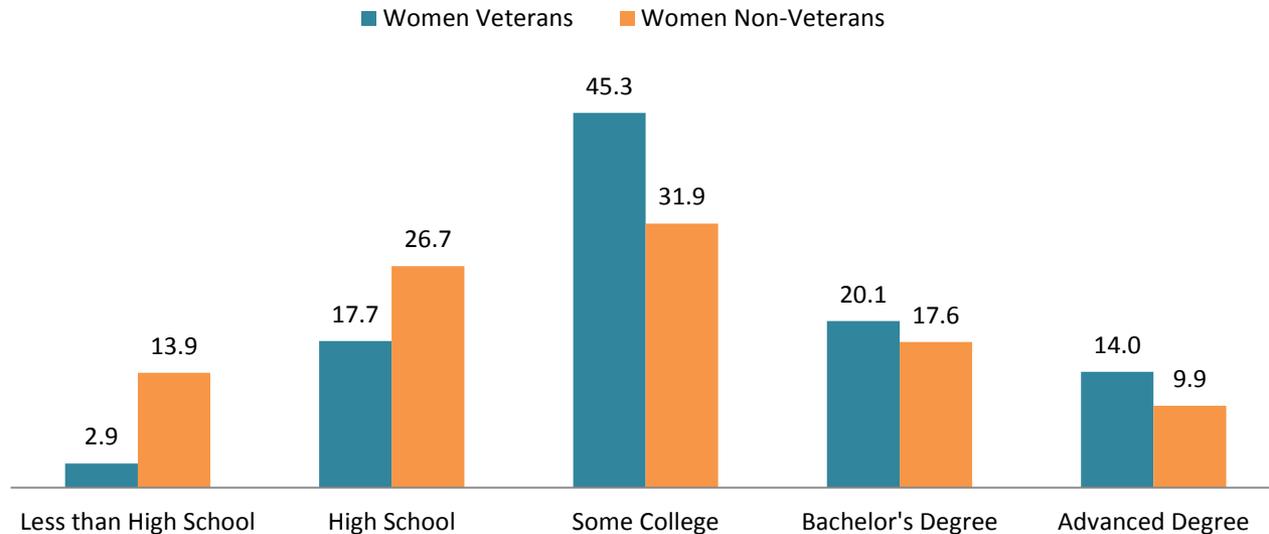


*Difference between women Veterans and women non-Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

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: 2014

(in percent)



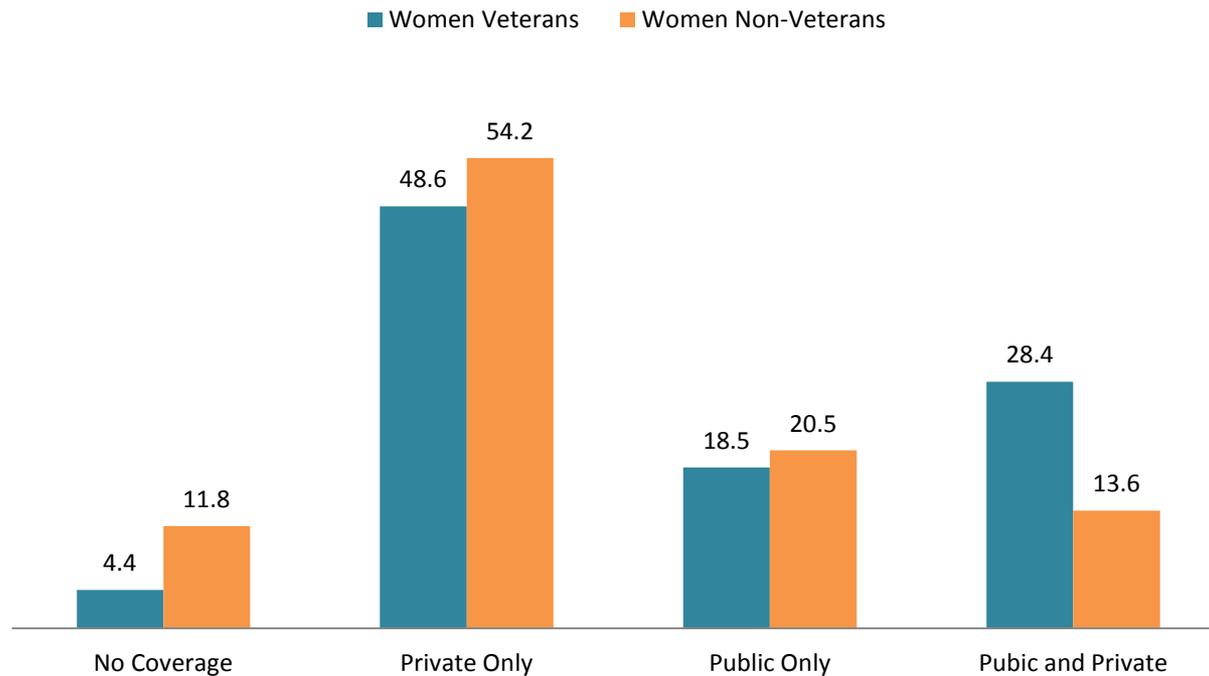
Enrolled in Higher Education by Veteran Status: 2014

(in percent)

	Women Veterans (%)	Women Non-Veterans (%)
All Ages	13.3	9.9
17 to 24 Years Old	35.1	41.5
25 to 34 Years Old	32.0	13.3
35 to 44 Years Old	18.6	6.3

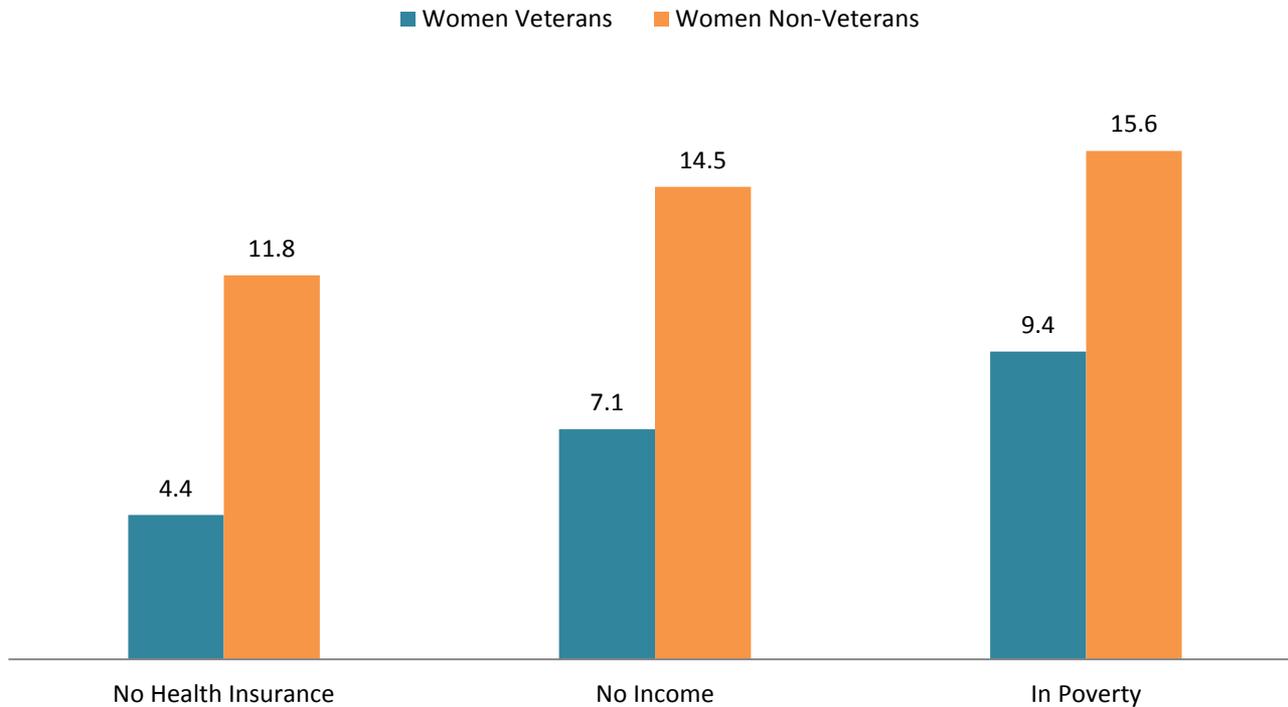
Compared to women non-Veterans, a higher percent of women Veterans have public and private health insurance. A lower percent of women Veterans are uninsured.

Health Insurance Coverage by Veteran Status: 2014
(in percent)



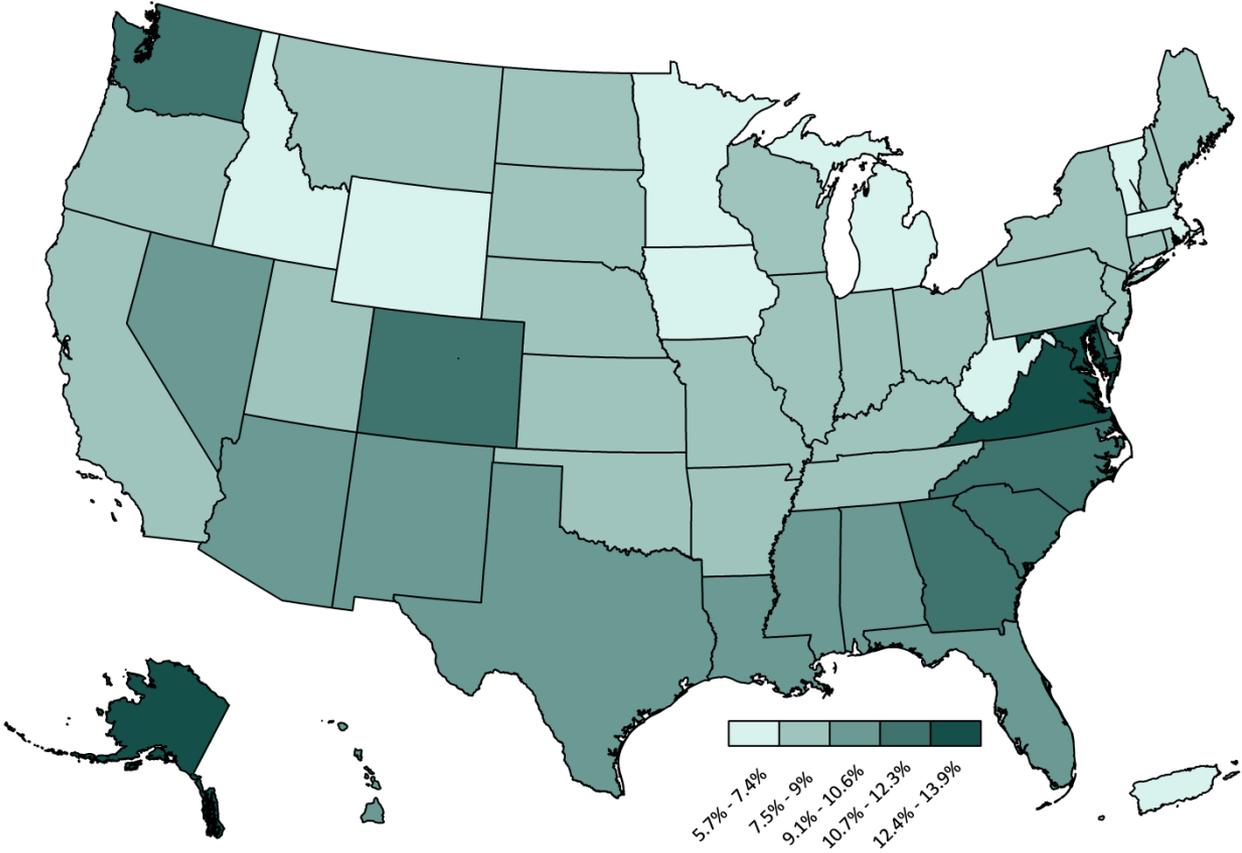
A lower percent of women Veterans are uninsured, have no income, and are in poverty than women non-Veterans.

Selected Variables of Women by Veteran Status: 2014
(in percent)



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

Percent of Veterans who are Women: 2014



States with the Highest Percent of Veterans who are Women: 2014

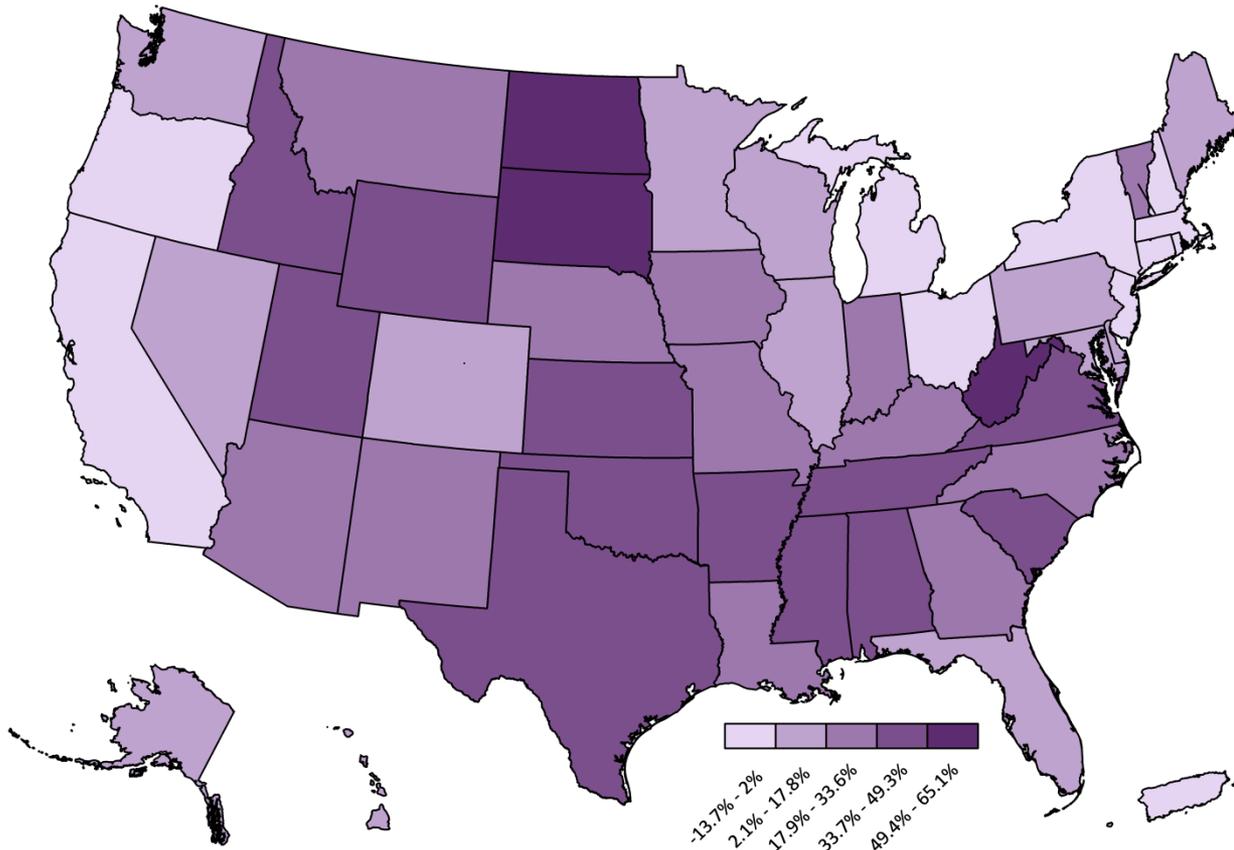
State	Percent
Alaska	13.9%
Virginia	13.7%
Maryland	13.2%
District of Columbia	13.1%
Georgia	12.0%
Delaware	11.3%
Colorado	11.2%
South Carolina	11.0%
North Carolina	10.8%
Washington	10.7%

States with the Highest Number of Women Veterans: 2014

State	Women
Texas	177,075
California	165,962
Florida	153,831
Virginia	107,201
Georgia	90,382
North Carolina	84,073
Pennsylvania	71,289
Ohio	67,553
New York	66,052
Washington	64,392

South Dakota, North Dakota, West Virginia, Idaho, and Wyoming are the states that may have the highest percent change in women Veterans from 2014 to 2034.

Percent Change in the Number of Women Veterans: 2014-2034



States with the Highest Percent Change in Women Veterans: 2014-2034

State	2014 - 2034
South Dakota	65.1%
North Dakota	59.1%
West Virginia	57.1%
Idaho	48.9%
Wyoming	41.2%
Mississippi	37.0%
Utah	36.9%
Kansas	36.5%
Virginia	35.7%
Oklahoma	35.4%

States with the Highest Number of Women Veterans: 2034

State	Women
Texas	238,057
Florida	157,807
California	150,905
Virginia	145,489
Georgia	118,948
North Carolina	111,910
Pennsylvania	73,333
Washington	71,251
Arizona	69,025
Ohio	68,134

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 racially and ethnically diverse than women 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