Department:	Veterans Affairs
Organization:	National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics
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Narrative:

On May 14, 2019, the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (NCVAS) released the Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX) for Fiscal Year 2018. Each fiscal year NCVAS publishes the annual GDX Report for the public and all stakeholders. The GDX report provides the estimated dollar expenditures for major VA programs at the state, county, and Congressional District levels. Expenditure data are grouped by the following categories: Compensation and Pension; Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment; Insurance and Indemnities; Construction and Related Costs; General Operating Expenses and Related Costs; Loan Guaranty; and Medical Expenditures.

The GDX FY18 Report also includes Veteran population estimates at the state, county and Congressional District level and the number of unique patients who used VA health care services. The Veteran population data is an indication of the number of Veterans who may be using benefits and services from VA. About 9 million unique Veterans out of 19.5 million Veterans use VA benefits and services. The count of unique patients is based on the home residence of the patient.

Some highlights from the 2018 GDX statistics:

- As the Veteran population declined from 2009 to 2018 (-15 percent), the total expenditures VA pays for Veteran services and benefits increased 86 percent over the same period.
- There is variability in VA expenditures from state-to-state and even within states. VA expenditures in the same geographic location also varied over time.
- States with larger Veteran populations (California, Texas and Florida) also had larger total VA expenditures. Similarly, states with lower Veteran populations had lower VA expenditures.
- The District of Columbia had the lowest Veteran population in FY18 and lower VA expenditures, but it had the highest percent rise in total VA expenditures (8.8 percent) from FY17 to FY18.

Contribution to Strategic Priorities:

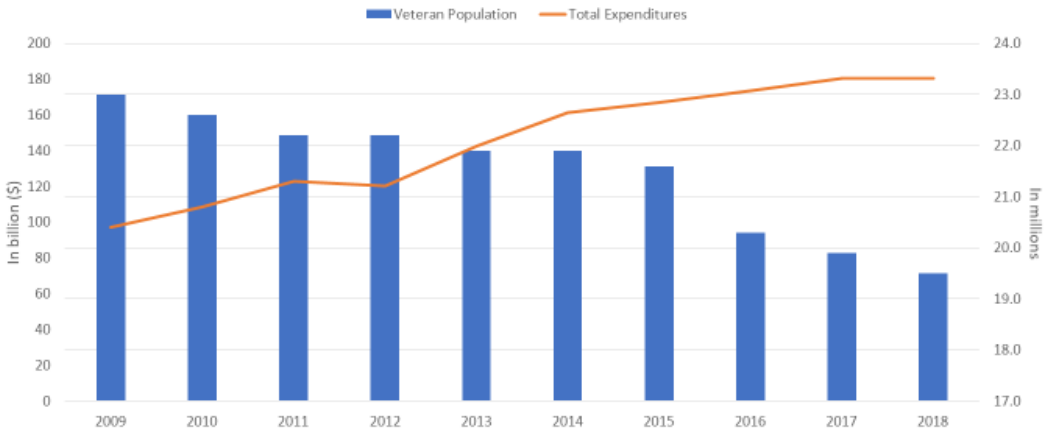
The GDX data sources include expenditure data from VA financial systems, administrative data on the entire Veteran population, US Census Bureau survey data, and unique patient user data from the VA healthcare systems. VA shares expenditure data by geographic area with stakeholders and the public.

The annual GDX helps state governments compare their Veteran population and their dollars received from VA with other states. Some reasons for the disparities are beyond their state's control. For example, Veterans often cross state lines to use DC's VA Medical Center. Other disparities the state can do something about. For example, Veterans in one state may not be using their VA benefits and services they earned at the same rate as Veterans in another state. States can hire and train more Veteran Service officers to do outreach and change the expenditure statistics for their state.

State and local governments may use the annual GDX expenditure data to collaborate with private businesses and stakeholders. By forming partnerships, they can entice Veterans to retire in their area or move there. This, in turn, should increase the Veteran population living in their area and increase the likelihood that more VA services and benefits would be used in their area.

Total Expenditures

Expenditure data are grouped by the following categories: Compensation and Pension; Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment; Insurance and Indemnities; Construction and Related Costs; General Operating Expenses and Related Costs; Loan Guaranty; and Medical Expenditures.



Note: Expenditures are shown for U.S. states only. Puerto Rico and other island areas expenditures were not available for all years.

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, Geographic Distribution of Expenditures reports, 2009 to 2018; VetPop 2016 model
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Link to Product: https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Expenditures.asp