



WOMEN'S BUREAU  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

# ISSUE BRIEF

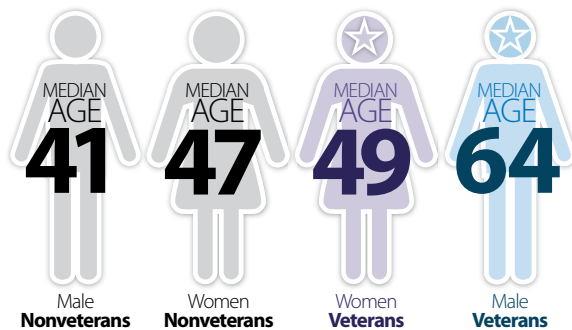
## WOMEN VETERANS PROFILE

Women veterans are the fastest growing segment of the veteran community. In 2013, about 2.2 million (or 10 percent) of the nation's nearly 22 million veterans were women. This number is projected to increase to 2.4 million by 2020. In contrast, the number of male veterans is projected to decrease from 20.1 million to 17.2 million by 2020.<sup>1</sup>

### AGE

In 2011, women veterans were more likely to be younger than men veterans and older than non-veterans of either gender. Almost 84 percent of women veterans were of working age (17-64 years), compared to 55 percent of men veterans and 81 percent of women non-veterans.<sup>2</sup>

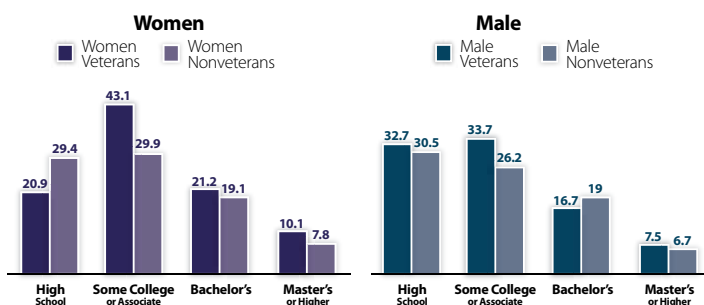
Median Age



### EDUCATION

In 2013, more women veterans completed some college or obtained an Associate, Bachelor's, Master's or higher degree, compared to men veterans or non-veterans of either gender.<sup>3</sup>

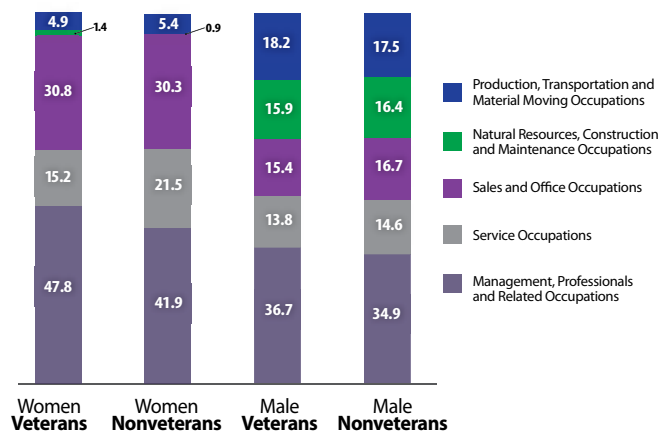
Educational Attainment in Percent



### EMPLOYMENT BY PROFESSION

In 2013, more women veterans worked in management, professional and related occupations than did men veterans or non-veterans of either gender. Fewer women veterans worked in sales, office and service occupations than women non-veterans. Men veterans and men non-veterans worked at nearly the same rates for similar occupations.<sup>4</sup>

Employment by Profession in Percent

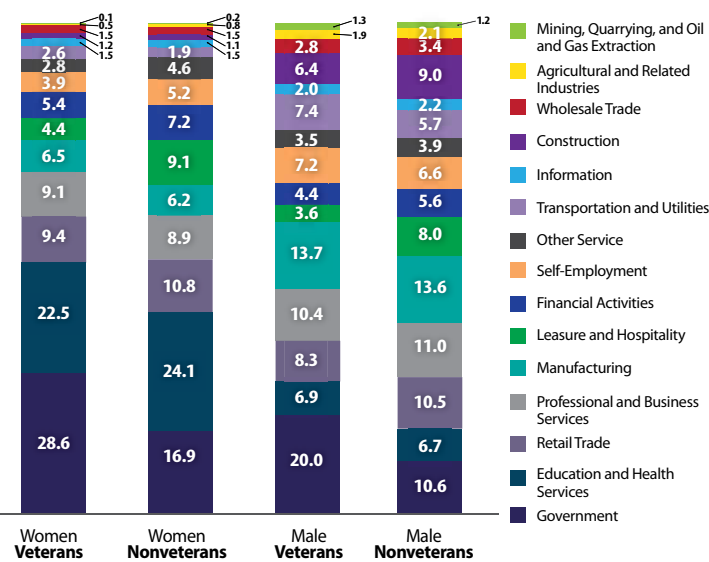




## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In 2013, women veterans worked in government more than any other industry. The education and health services industries employ the second highest percentage of women veterans. Women veterans worked in education and health services at a similar rate as women non-veterans.<sup>5</sup>

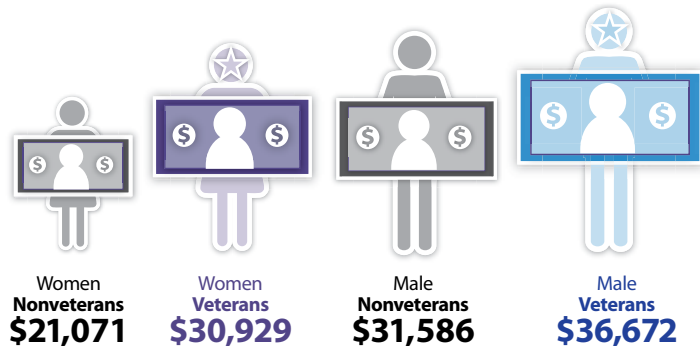
**Employment by Industry in Percent**



## INCOME LEVELS

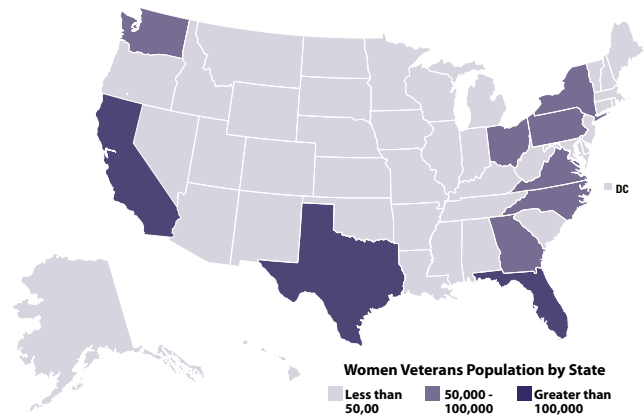
In 2012, men and women veterans had a higher median income than their non-veteran counterparts. However, women veterans had a lower median income than men veterans and men non-veterans.<sup>6</sup> In 2011, about 7 percent of women veterans and 3 percent of men veterans had no earnings or income.<sup>7</sup>

**Median Income Levels**

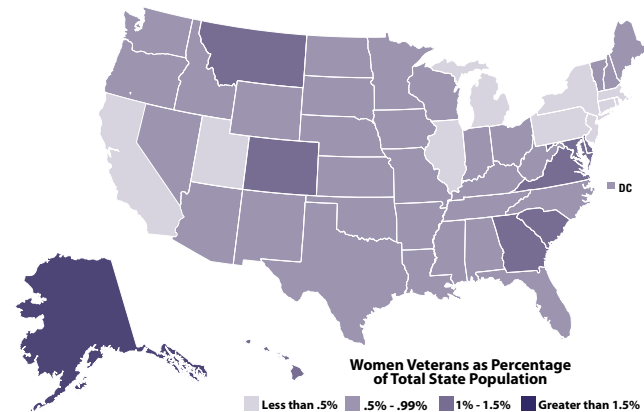


## LOCATION

The map below shows the total population of women veterans by state.<sup>8</sup>



The map below shows the population of women veterans as a percentage of the total population of each state.



The number and percentage of women veterans in each state, as reflected in the maps, is listed below:

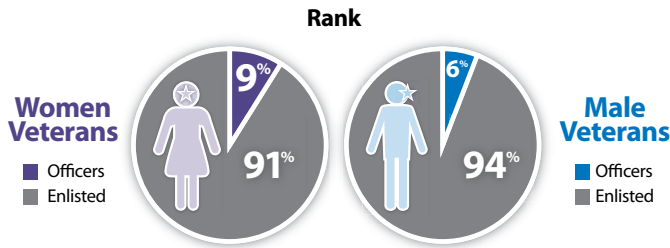


State	Total Population	Women Veteran Population	Women Veterans as Percentage of Total Population
Alabama	3,683,815	29,470	0.80%
Alaska	528,429	11,154	2.11%
Arizona	4,915,131	44,618	0.91%
Arkansas	2,232,468	18,595	0.83%
California	28,663,319	129,346	0.45%
Colorado	3,923,756	44,466	1.13%
Connecticut	2,789,272	10,929	0.39%
Delaware	709,551	7,749	1.09%
District of Columbia	519,476	4,058	0.78%
Florida	15,264,844	120,977	0.79%
Georgia	7,372,727	76,803	1.04%
Hawaii	1,051,883	10,880	1.03%
Idaho	1,168,256	8,121	0.70%
Illinois	9,795,470	44,713	0.46%
Indiana	4,944,218	26,712	0.54%
Iowa	2,349,788	14,061	0.60%
Kansas	2,145,653	15,101	0.70%
Kentucky	3,345,524	20,932	0.63%
Louisiana	3,467,978	23,936	0.69%
Maine	1,062,141	9,131	0.86%
Maryland	4,513,635	48,215	1.07%
Massachusetts	5,240,927	21,230	0.41%
Michigan	7,612,370	37,465	0.49%
Minnesota	4,098,333	22,528	0.55%
Mississippi	2,226,363	15,598	0.70%
Missouri	4,598,394	33,052	0.72%
Montana	781,686	8,469	1.08%
Nebraska	1,387,492	11,348	0.82%
Nevada	2,085,544	16,918	0.81%
New Hampshire	1,044,195	7,982	0.76%
New Jersey	6,830,487	24,893	0.36%
New Mexico	1,561,375	14,945	0.96%
New York	15,284,210	50,107	0.33%
North Carolina	7,383,857	65,213	0.88%
North Dakota	540,213	5,030	0.93%
Ohio	8,876,493	53,652	0.60%
Oklahoma	2,859,530	23,378	0.82%
Oregon	3,036,050	23,757	0.78%
Pennsylvania	10,019,703	51,396	0.51%
Rhode Island	830,726	3,850	0.46%
South Carolina	3,609,405	36,464	1.01%
South Dakota	626,965	5,425	0.87%
Tennessee	4,944,681	32,619	0.66%
Texas	18,982,973	136,874	0.72%
Utah	1,964,059	9,092	0.46%
Vermont	501,611	3,089	0.62%
Virginia	6,221,883	89,325	1.44%
Washington	5,266,221	51,439	0.98%
West Virginia	1,470,678	7,811	0.53%
Wisconsin	4,407,746	26,315	0.60%
Wyoming	437,264	4,000	0.91%

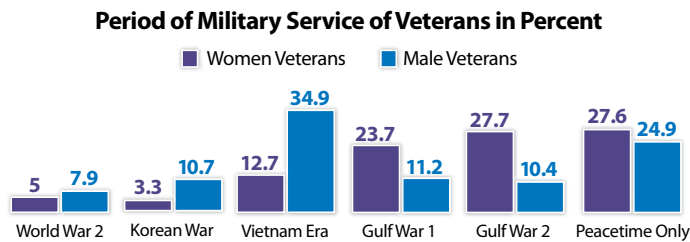


## MILITARY SERVICE

In 2011, nearly 9 percent of women veterans had served as officers during their military service as compared to 6 percent of men veterans. Ninety-one percent of women veterans were enlisted.<sup>9</sup>



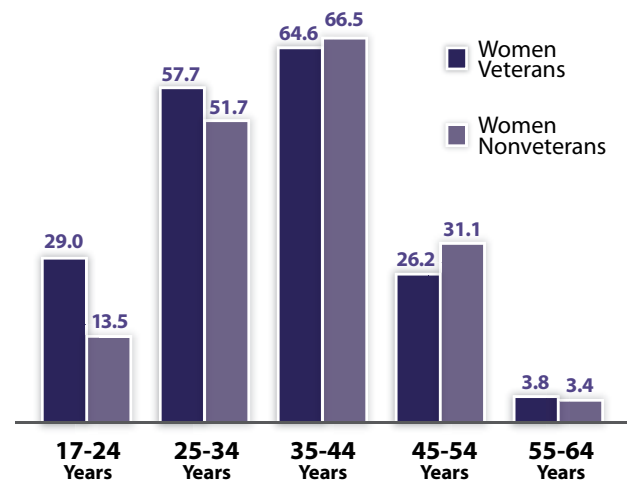
The largest cohort of men veterans served during the Vietnam era, while the largest cohort of women veterans served in the Gulf War 2 era (after 9/11) or during peacetime only. Just over 72 percent of women veterans served prior to 9/11.<sup>10</sup>



## PARENTAL STATUS

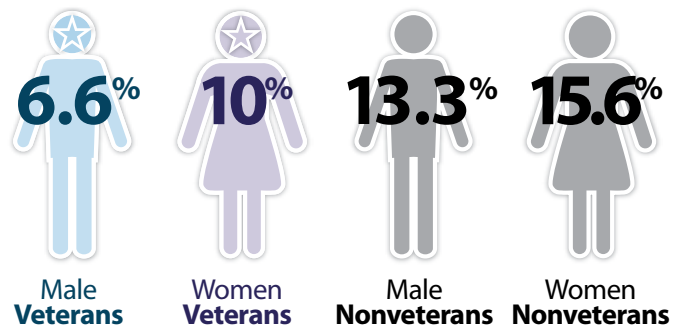
In 2011, the percentage of working-age women with children under 18 years old increased with age until 44 years, when the percentage began to decrease. Through the age of 34, more women veterans than women non-veterans had children who were under 18 years of age.<sup>11</sup>

**Percentage of Working-Age Women with Children Under 18 Years Old by Age and Veteran Status in Percent**



## POVERTY LEVELS

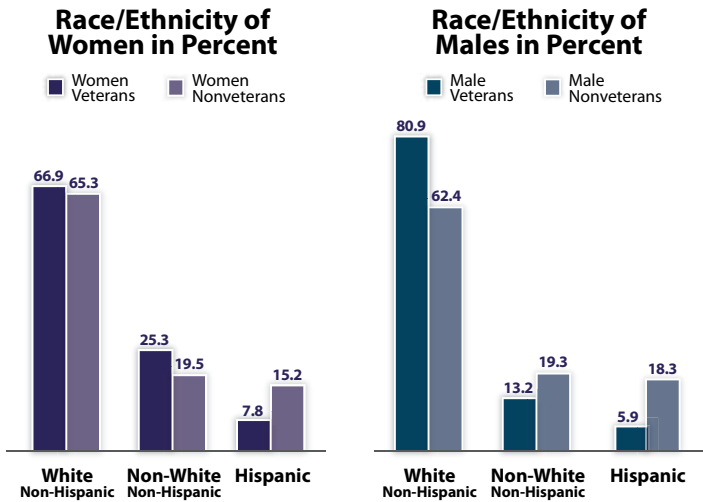
In 2011, 10 percent of women veterans and 6.6 percent of men veterans lived below the poverty threshold. These rates were lower than for their non-veteran counterparts (15.6 percent for women non-veterans and 13.3 percent for men non-veterans).<sup>12</sup>





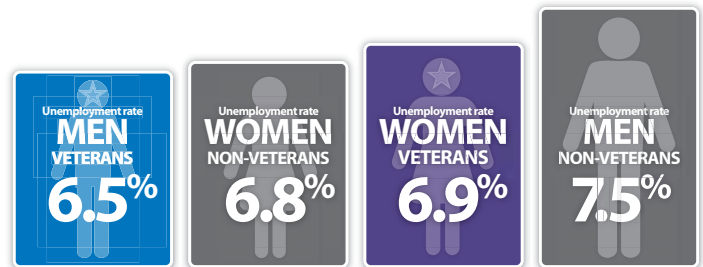
## RACE/ETHNICITY

In 2011, women and men veterans of any race were less likely to be Hispanic than non-veterans. Women veterans of any race were more likely to be Hispanic than men veterans.<sup>13</sup>



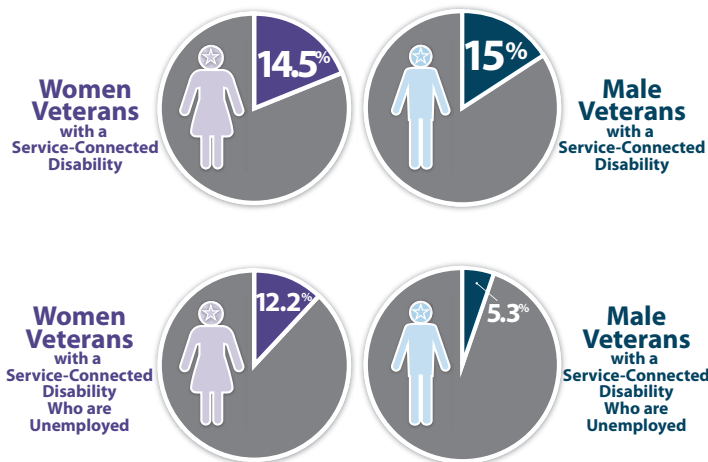
## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

In 2013, women veterans were more likely to be unemployed than men veterans and women non-veterans. However, the difference in the unemployment rate of women veterans and women non-veterans was not statistically significant. The unemployment rate for women veterans was lower than the rate for men non-veterans.<sup>16</sup>



## SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY

In 2011, about 14.5 percent of women veterans had a service-connected disability, compared to 15 percent of men veterans.<sup>14</sup>



Of those with a service-connected disability, women veterans were more likely to be unemployed than men veterans. In 2013, 12.2 percent of women veterans with a service-connected disability were unemployed, compared to 5.3 percent of men veterans.<sup>15</sup>



## SUMMARY

### Comparisons between Women Veterans and Women Non-veterans

*Compared to women non-veterans, women veterans:*

- Were more likely to be older.
- Were more likely to have completed some college or obtained an Associate degree, a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree or higher.
- Were more likely to be in management, professional and related occupations and less likely to be in service occupations.
- Were more likely to work in government.
- Had a higher median income.
- Until the age of 34, were more likely to have children under 18 years of age.
- Were less likely to live below the poverty threshold.
- Were less likely to be of Hispanic ethnicity, regardless of race.

### Comparisons between Women Veterans and Men Veterans

*Compared to men veterans, women veterans:*

- Were more likely to be younger.
- Were more likely to be in management, professional and related occupations and in sales and office occupations.
- Were more likely to work in government.
- Had a lower median income and were more likely to have no earnings or income.
- Were more likely to have served as officers.
- Were more likely to have served in the Gulf War 2 era or during peacetime only.
- Were more likely to live below the poverty threshold.
- Were more likely to be Hispanic, regardless of race.
- Were more likely to have a service-connected disability rating.

## DEFINITIONS

- **Earnings:** Salary, wages, and self-employment income. [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 (U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *2011 American Community Survey PUMS* (as cited in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, NCVAS, Profile of Veterans: 2011 [PDF]). Retrieved from [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile\\_of\\_Veterans\\_2011.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_Veterans_2011.pdf)]
- **Income:** The total of earnings and other sources of income such as pension, Supplemental Security Income, public assistance, etc. Median Income is calculated for the total population with personal income greater than zero. [U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *2011 American Community Survey PUMS* (as cited in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, NCVAS, Profile of Veterans: 2011 [PDF]). Retrieved from [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile\\_of\\_Veterans\\_2011.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_Veterans_2011.pdf)]
- **Non-veterans:** Men and women who have never served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2013). *Current Population Survey Data on Women Veterans* [PDF]. Retrieved from <http://www.dol.gov/vets/womenveterans/outlook.pdf>]
- **Poverty threshold:** Dollar amounts the Census Bureau uses to determine a family's or person's poverty status. [U.S. Census Bureau. (no date). *Poverty: Definitions*. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/methods/definitions.html>]





- **Veterans:** Men and women who previously served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and were civilians at the time they were surveyed. [U.S. Department of Labor. (2013). *Current Population Survey Data on Women Veterans*. Retrieved from <http://www.dol.gov/vets/womenveterans/outlook.pdf>]
- **Unemployed persons:** Persons aged 16 years and older who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed. [U.S. Department of Labor. (2013). *Bureau of Labor Statistics Glossary*. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/bls/glossary.htm>]
- **Unemployment rate:** The unemployment rate represents the number unemployed as a percent of the labor force. [U.S. Department of Labor. (2013). *Bureau of Labor Statistics Glossary*. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/bls/glossary.htm>]

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2010). *Veteran Population Projection Model 2011* – National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics [Excel]. Retrieved from most recent version of data source: [http://www.va.gov/VETDATA/docs/Demographics/New\\_Vetpop\\_Model/3/VetPop11\\_Race\\_National.xlsx](http://www.va.gov/VETDATA/docs/Demographics/New_Vetpop_Model/3/VetPop11_Race_National.xlsx)
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *2011 American Community Survey PUMS* (as cited in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, NCVAS, Profile of Veterans: 2011 [PDF]). Retrieved from [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile\\_of\\_Veterans\\_2011.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_Veterans_2011.pdf)
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2013). *Current Population Survey*, Unpublished Table 9. 2013 annual averages.
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2014). *Bureau of Labor Statistics Economic News Release, Table 4. Employed persons 18 years and over by occupation, sex, veteran status, and period of service, 2013 annual averages*. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.t04.htm>
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2014). *Bureau of Labor Statistics Economic News Release, Table 5. Employed persons 18 years and over by industry, class of worker, sex, veteran status, and period of service, 2013 annual averages*. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.t05.htm>
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2013). *2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates* [Data file S2101]. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t#>
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). *2011 American Community Survey PUMS* (as cited in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, NCVAS, Profile of Veterans: 2011 [PDF]). Retrieved from [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile\\_of\\_Veterans\\_2011.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_Veterans_2011.pdf)
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2013). *2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates* [Data file B21001]. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>
- <sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2010). *Veteran Population Projection Model 2011* – National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics [Excel]. Retrieved from [http://www.va.gov/VETDATA/docs/Demographics/New\\_Vetpop\\_Model/5/VetPop11\\_Rank.xlsx](http://www.va.gov/VETDATA/docs/Demographics/New_Vetpop_Model/5/VetPop11_Rank.xlsx)
- <sup>10</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *2011 American Community Survey PUMS* (as cited in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, NCVAS, Profile of Veterans: 2011 [PDF]). Retrieved from [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile\\_of\\_Veterans\\_2011.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_Veterans_2011.pdf)
- <sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *2011 American Community Survey PUMS* (as cited in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, NCVAS, Profile of Veterans: 2011 [PDF]). Retrieved from [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile\\_of\\_Veterans\\_2011.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_Veterans_2011.pdf)



- <sup>12</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *2011 American Community Survey PUMS* (as cited in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, NCVAS, Profile of Veterans: 2011 [PDF]). Retrieved from [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile\\_of\\_Veterans\\_2011.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_Veterans_2011.pdf)
- <sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *2011 American Community Survey PUMS* (as cited in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, NCVAS, Profile of Veterans: 2011 [PDF]). Retrieved from [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile\\_of\\_Veterans\\_2011.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_Veterans_2011.pdf)
- <sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). *2011 American Community Survey PUMS* (as cited in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, NCVAS, Profile of Veterans: 2011 [PDF]). Retrieved from [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile\\_of\\_Veterans\\_2011.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_Veterans_2011.pdf)
- <sup>15</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2013). *Bureau of Labor Statistics Economic News Release, Table 7. Employed persons 18 years and over by veteran status, presence of service-connected disability, period of service, and class of worker, August 2013, not seasonally adjusted*. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.t07.htm>
- <sup>16</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2014). *Bureau of Labor Statistics Economic News Release, Table 1. Employment status of persons 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, sex, race, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, 2013 annual averages*. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.t01.htm>

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