



Profile of Veterans: 2009

Data from the American Community Survey

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

January 2011

Data Source and Methods

- Data for this analysis come from the 2009 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 a series of 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 United States.
 - This universe includes a weighted estimate of 21.8 million Veterans, of which 1.5 million were women.
- All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level.

Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparisons

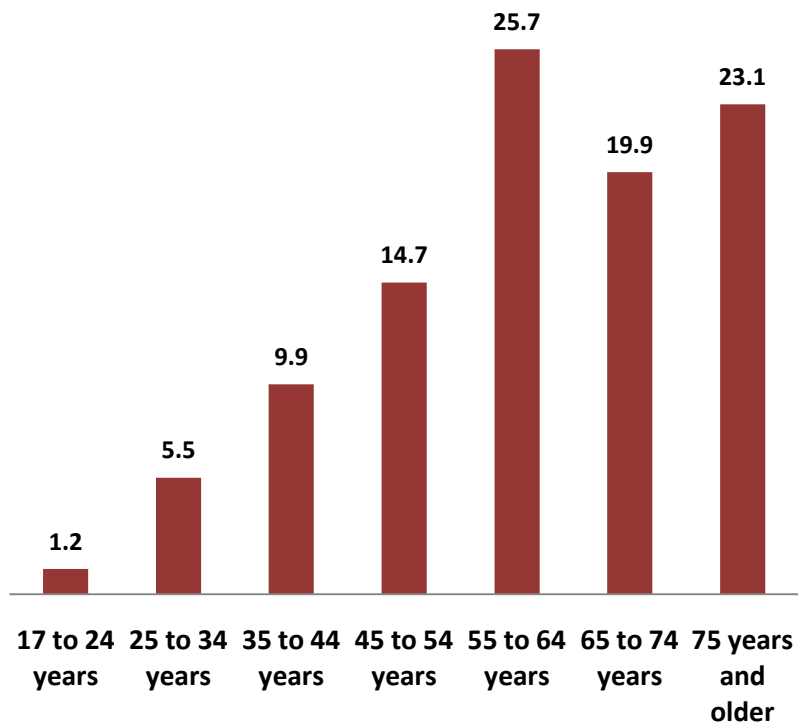
Veterans = 21,848,693

Non-Veterans= 213,645,687

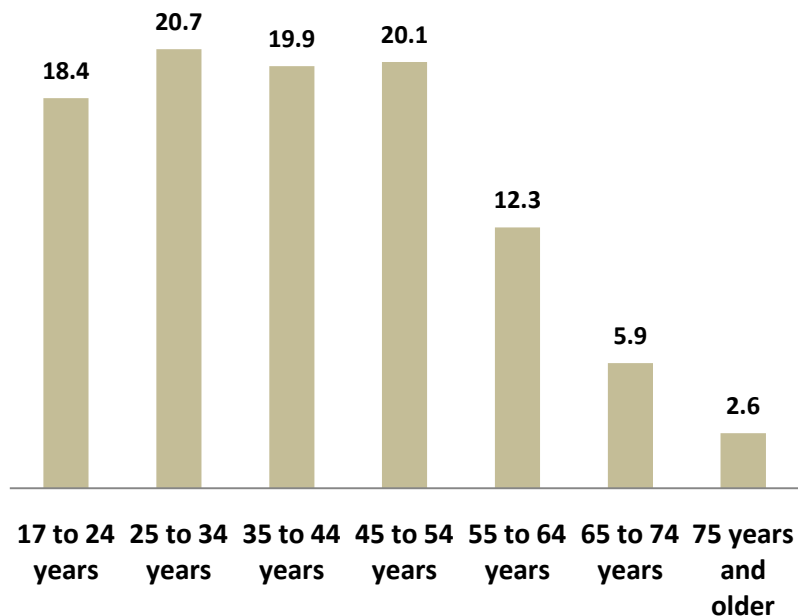
Male Veterans on average were older than non-Veteran men. In 2009, the median age of male Veterans was 64 years and the median age of male non-Veterans was 49 years.

Age Distributions of Men (in percent)

Male Veterans



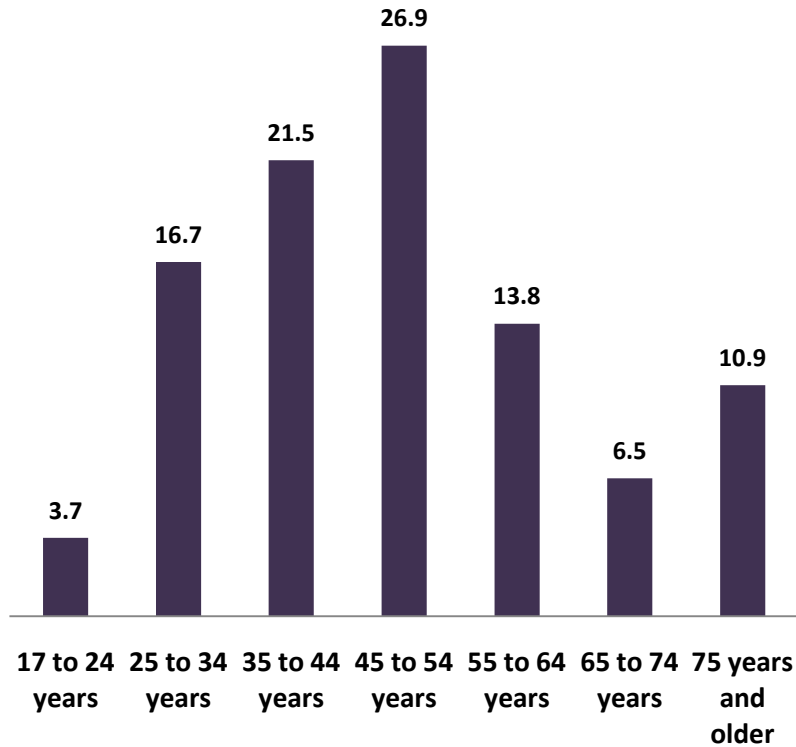
Male Non-Veterans



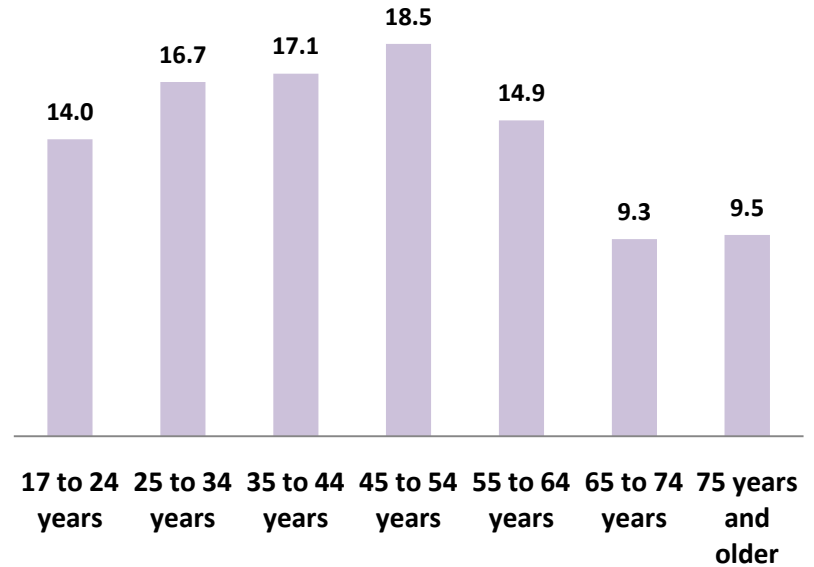
As with male Veterans, a lower percentage of female Veterans were in the youngest age group—17 to 24 years old. These are the ages when most men and women would still be serving in the military and would not yet have become Veterans. In 2009, the median age of both female Veterans and female non-Veterans was about 49 years.

Age Distributions of Women (in percent)

Female Veterans

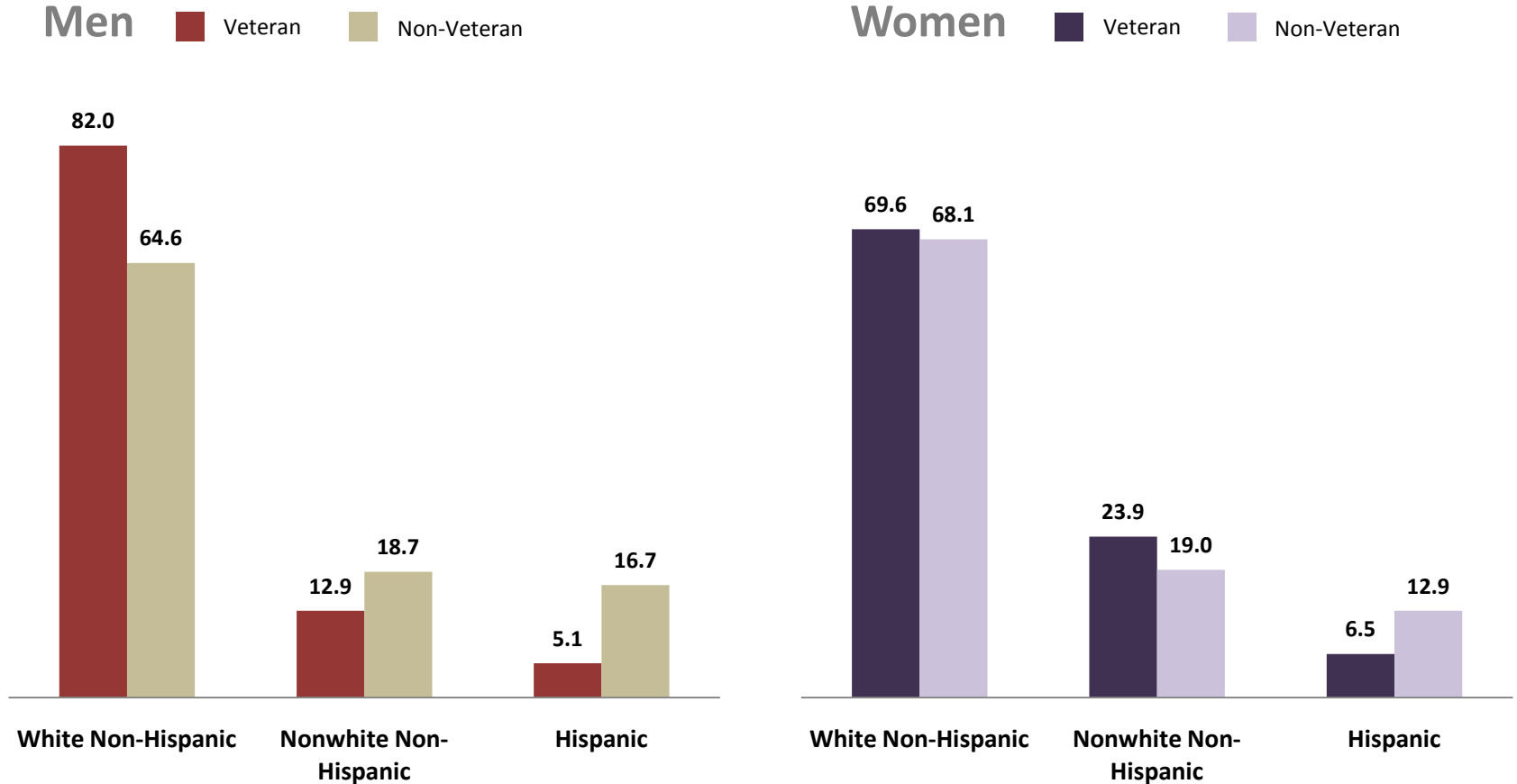


Female Non-Veterans



Male Veterans were more likely to be White non-Hispanic than male non-Veterans. Female Veterans were more likely to be Nonwhite non-Hispanic than non-Veteran women. Both male and female Veterans were less likely to be Hispanic than their non-Veteran counterparts.

Race and Hispanic Origin Distributions (in percent)



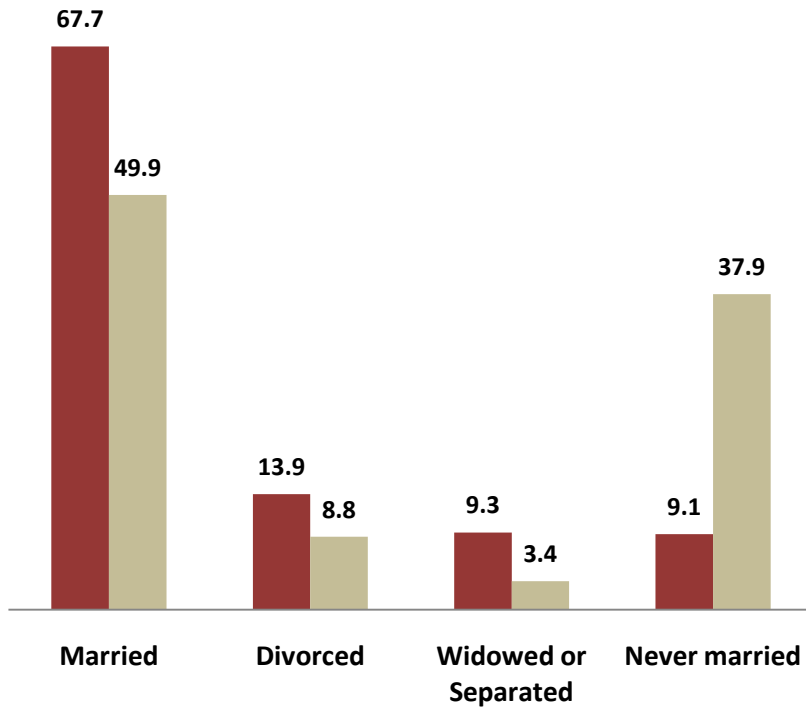
“Nonwhite” includes Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, and two or more races.

Male Veterans were more likely to be married and less likely to have never married compared with non-Veteran men. This is mostly a factor of the older ages of male Veterans. A higher percentage of Female Veterans were divorced compared with non-Veteran women.

Marital Status Distributions (in percent)

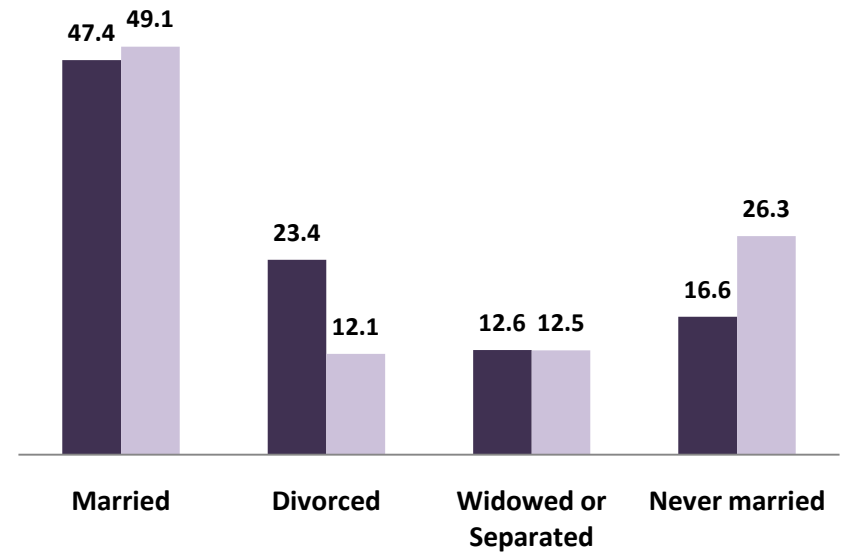
Men

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



Women

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran

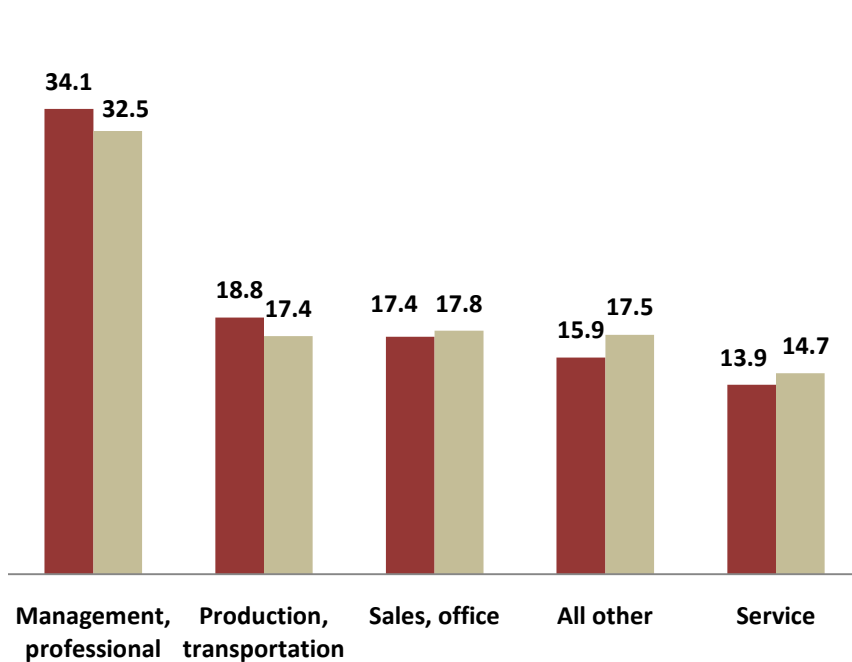


A higher percentage of male Veterans were in management and professional occupations compared with male non-Veterans. These include occupations such as engineers, educators, doctors, and various types of managers. The percentage of male Veterans working for local, state, or Federal government was about twice that of male non-Veterans. Slightly more male Veterans were self-employed compared with male non-Veterans.

Occupation of Employed Men

(in percent)

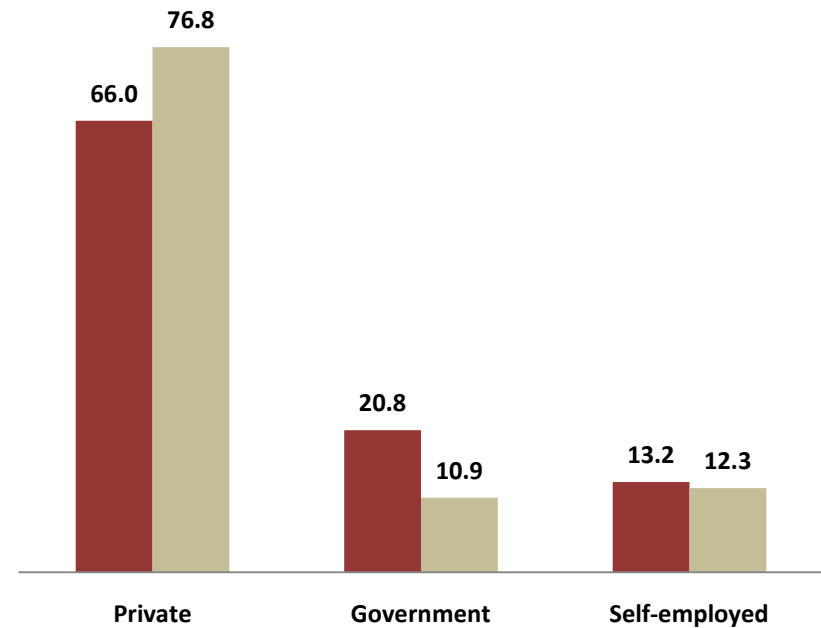
■ Veteran
 ■ Non-Veteran



Class of Worker of Employed Men

(in percent)

■ Veteran
 ■ Non-Veteran



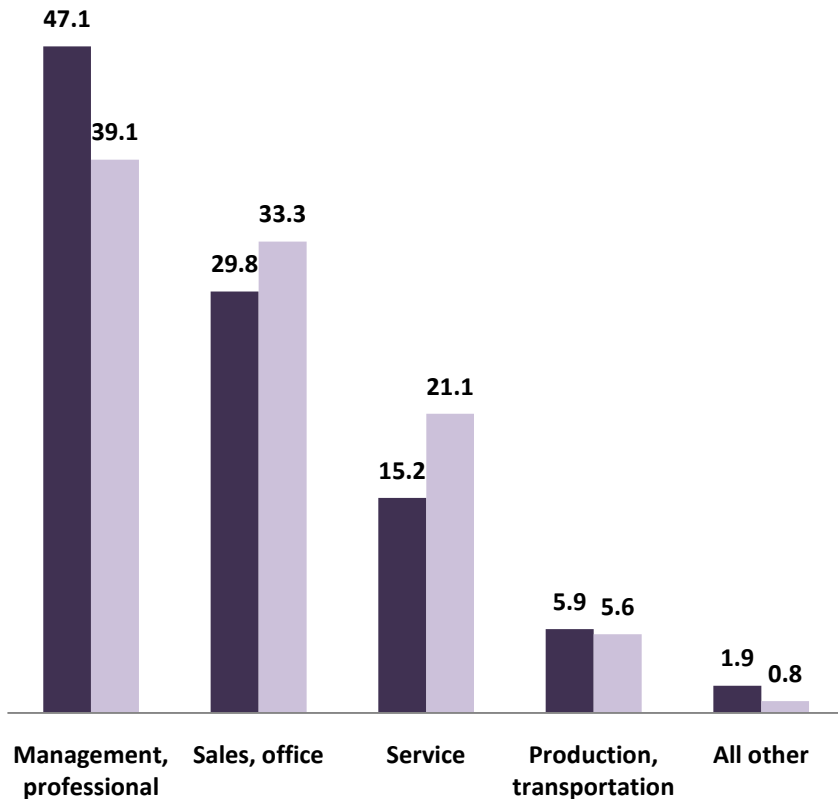
“All Other” includes farming, fishing, and forestry; construction, extraction, maintenance, repair; and military.

The percentage of female Veterans working in management and professional occupations was about 8 percentage points higher than that of non-Veteran women in 2009. A lower percentage of female Veterans worked in service occupations, such as food service, janitorial, and child care, than female non-Veterans. Thirty-one percent of female Veterans worked for local, state, or federal government, compared with 18 percent of female non-Veterans.

Occupation of Employed Women

(in percent)

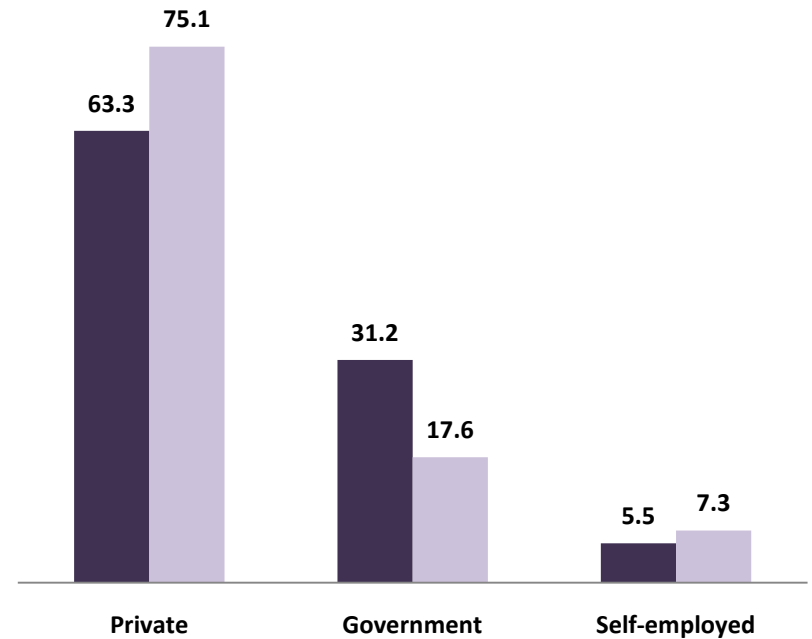
■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



Class of Worker of Employed Women

(in percent)

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



“All Other” includes farming, fishing, and forestry; construction, extraction, maintenance, repair; and military.

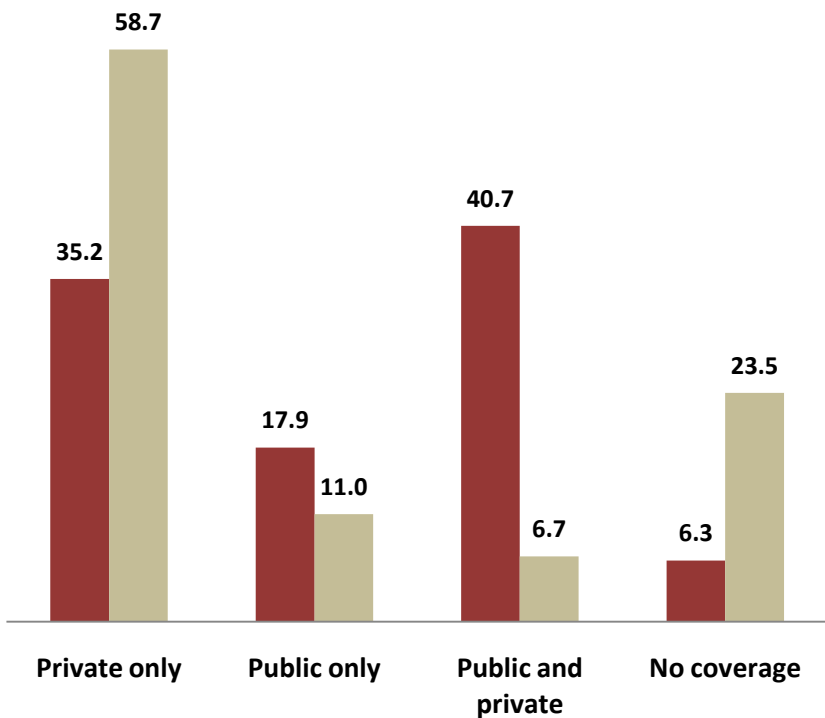
Both male and female Veterans were more likely to have a combination of public and private health insurance coverage compared with their non-Veteran counterparts. The high percentage of male Veterans in this category was likely due to their older ages, with far more eligible for Medicare coverage than non-Veterans. Male and female Veterans had lower uninsured rates than non-Veterans in 2009.

Health Insurance Coverage Distributions

(in percent)

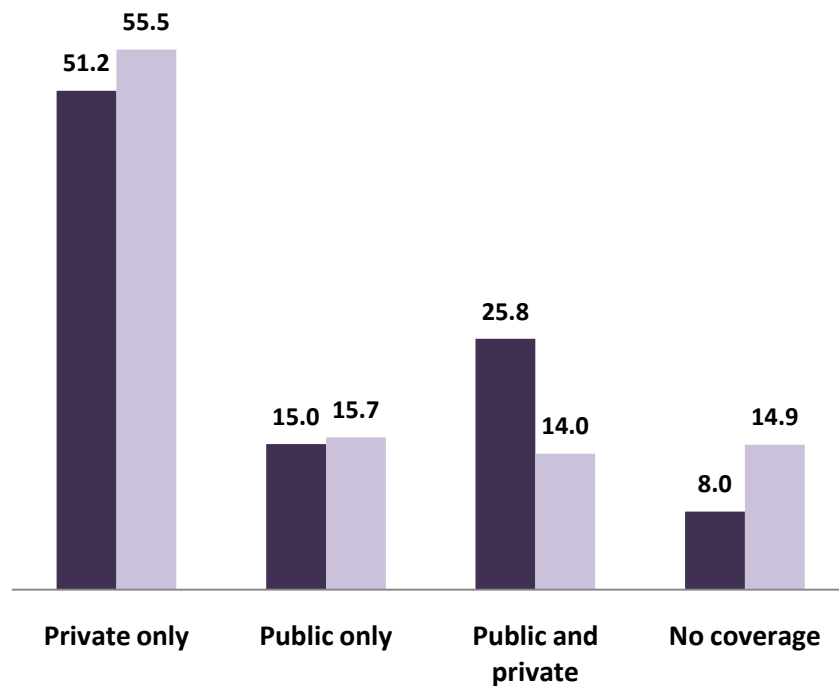
Men

■ Veteran
 ■ Non-Veteran



Women

■ Veteran
 ■ Non-Veteran

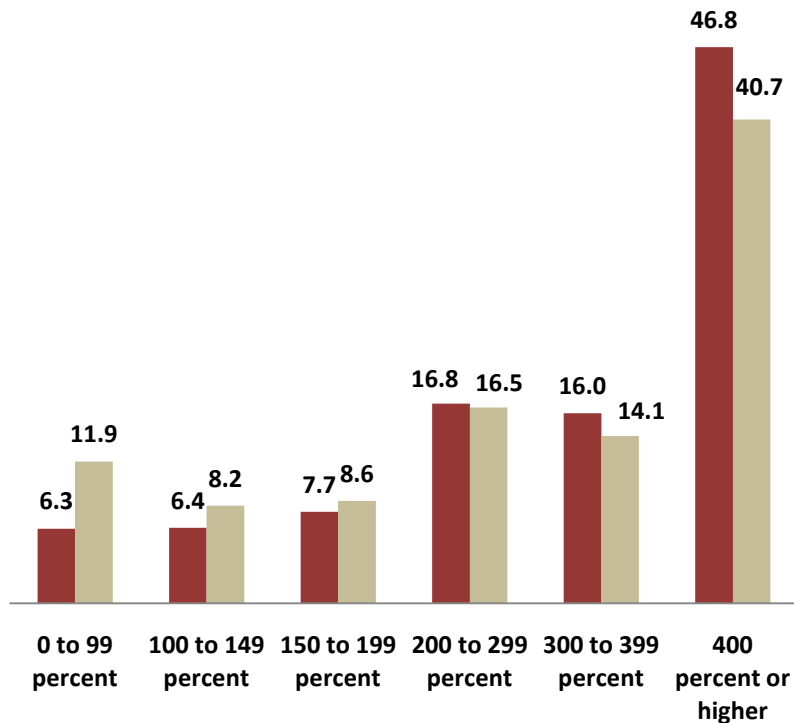


In 2009, a lower percentage of both male and female Veterans lived below 100 percent of poverty compared with their non-Veteran counterparts.

Poverty Level Distributions (in percent)

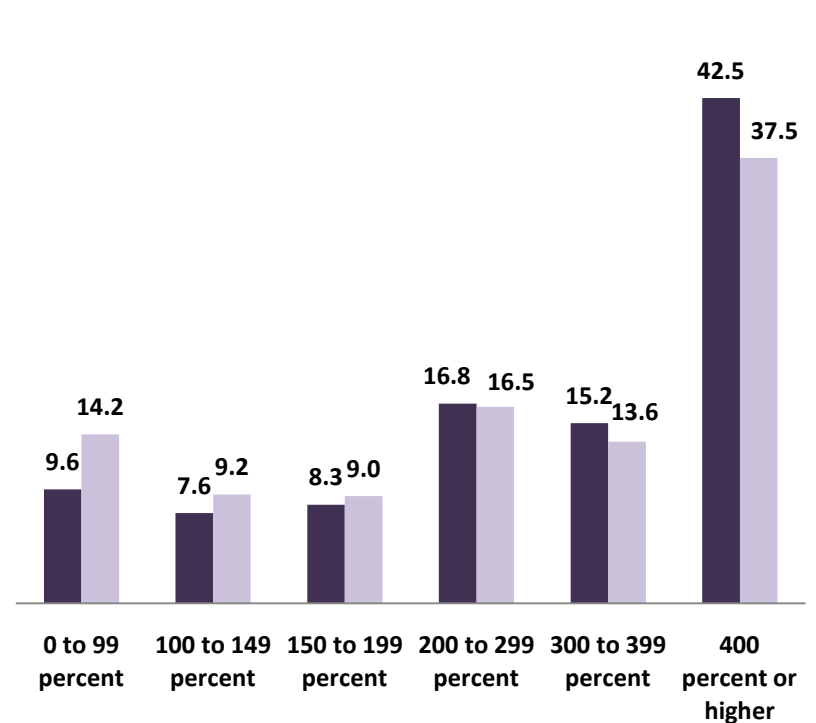
Men

■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



Women

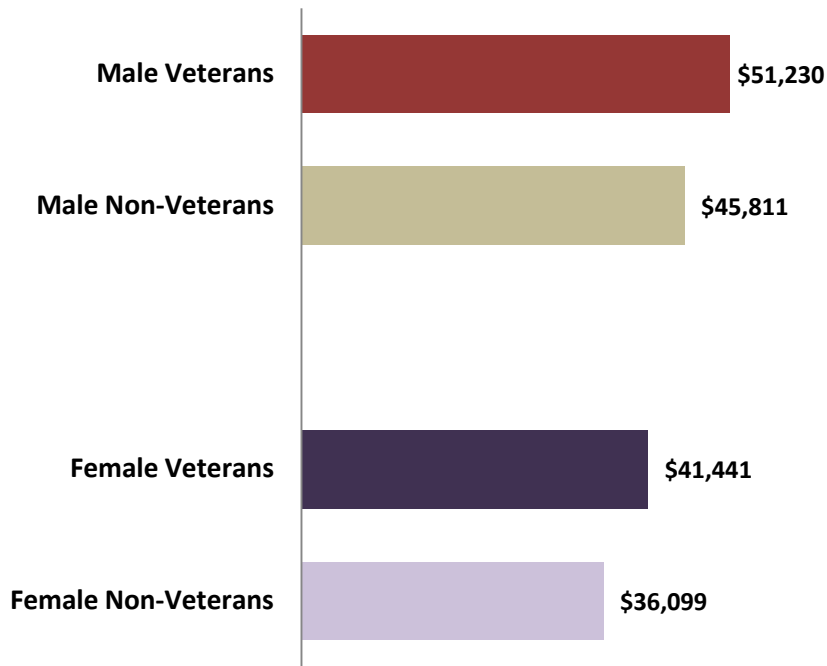
■ Veteran ■ Non-Veteran



Poverty status cannot be determined for individuals living in institutional group quarters (i.e., prisons or nursing homes), college dormitories, military barracks, and non-conventional housing situations.

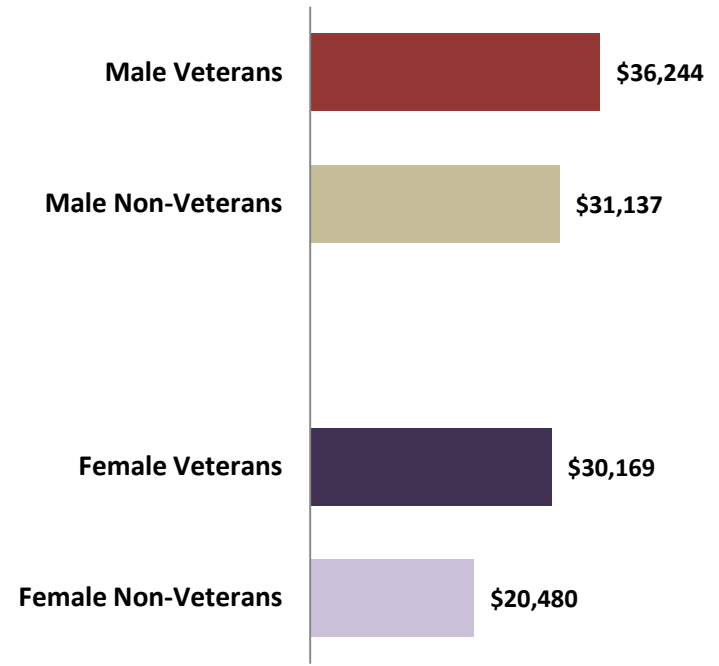
In 2009, both male and female Veterans who worked year-round and full-time had higher median earnings than their non-Veteran counterparts. Veterans of both sexes also had higher personal incomes than non-Veterans.

Median Earnings of Year-Round Full-Time Workers 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.

Median Personal Income by Sex and Veteran Status



“Income” refers to 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.

Veteran Comparisons

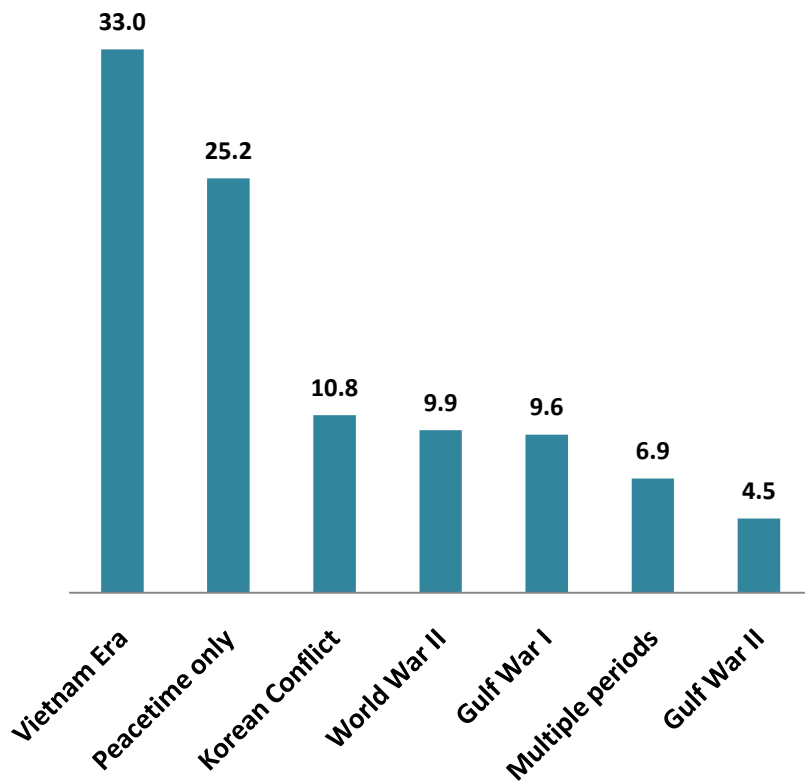
Male Veterans = 20,362,193

Female Veterans= 1,486,500

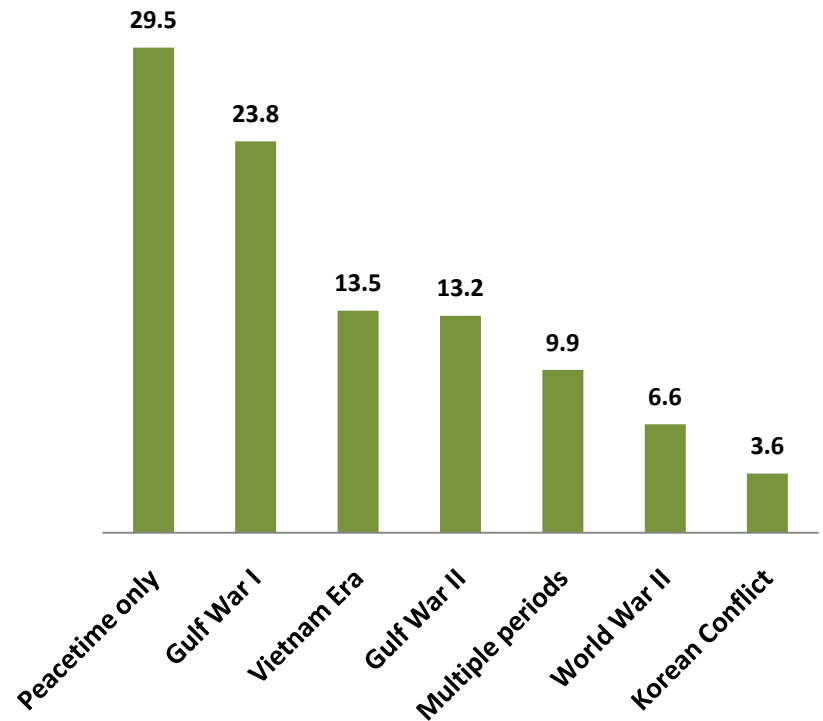
The largest living cohort of male Veterans served during the Vietnam Era (August 1964 to April 1975) while the largest living cohort of female Veterans served only during peacetime periods.

Period of Military Service of Veterans
(in percent)

Male Veterans



Female Veterans

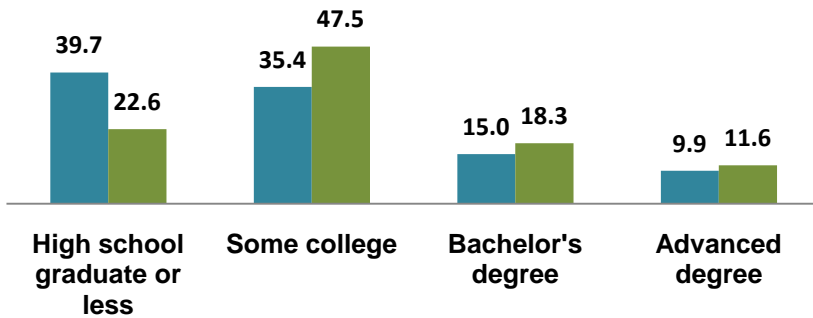


Note: Periods of service shown here are mutually exclusive.

In 2009, a higher percentage of female Veterans had completed some college, a Bachelor's degree, or an advanced degree, compared with male Veterans. A higher percentage of female Veterans than male Veterans in all age groups were enrolled in college. The percentages of 17- to 24-year-old and 25- to 34-year-old female Veterans enrolled in college were not statistically different.

Distribution of Educational Attainment

(in percent) ■ Male ■ Female

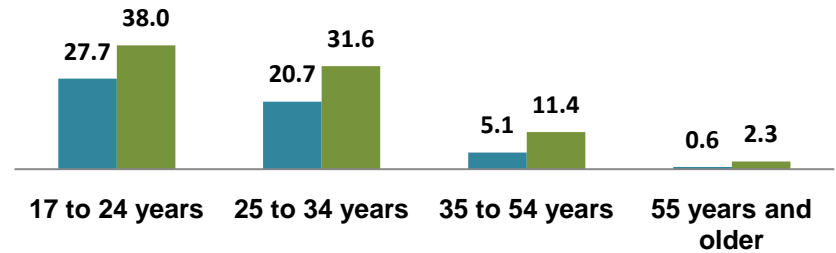


“Educational Attainment” refers to the highest level of education an individual has completed.

“Advanced Degree” refers to Master’s, PhD, JD, MD, or other professional degree.

Percent Enrolled in College by Age

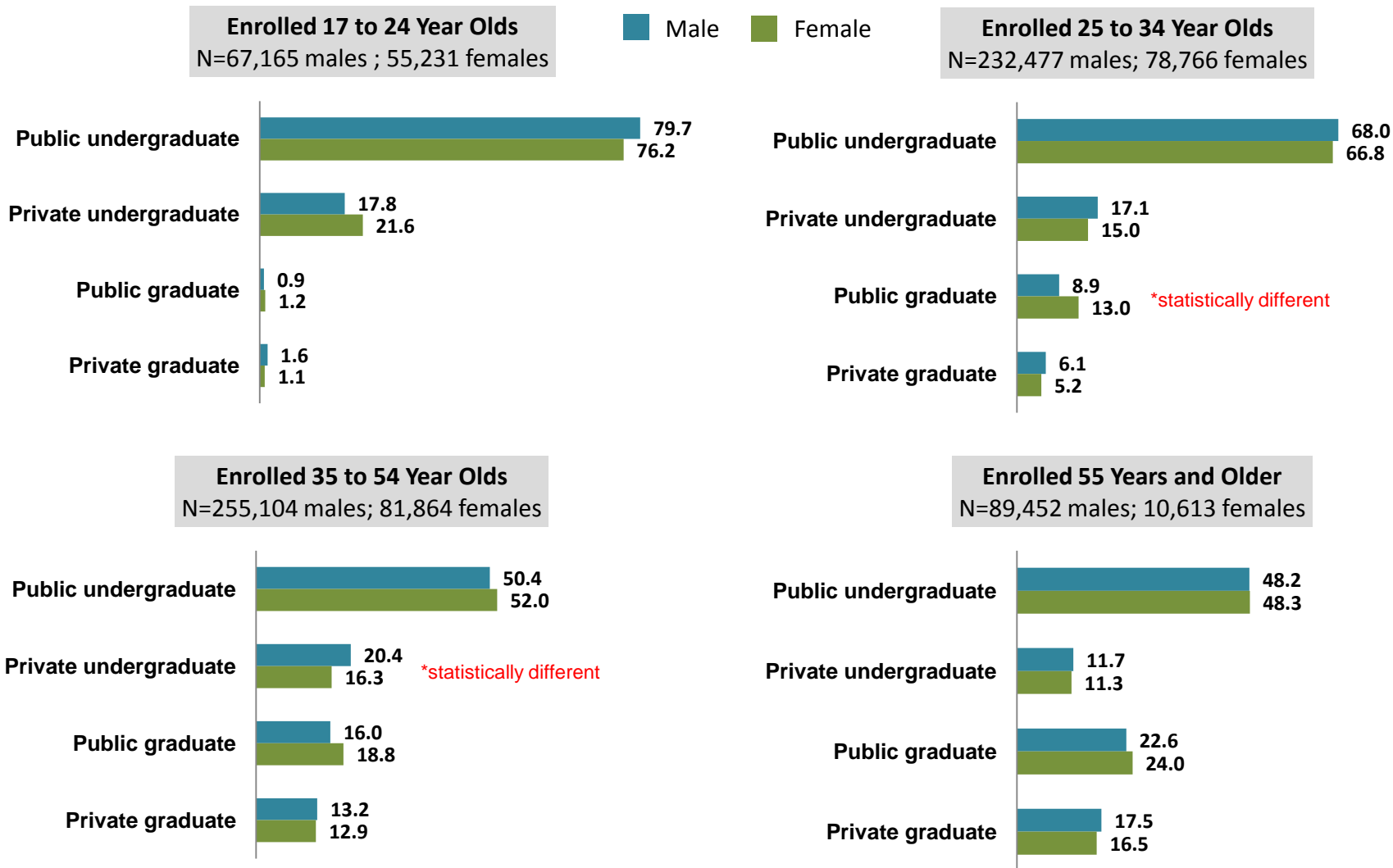
(in percent) ■ Male ■ Female



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

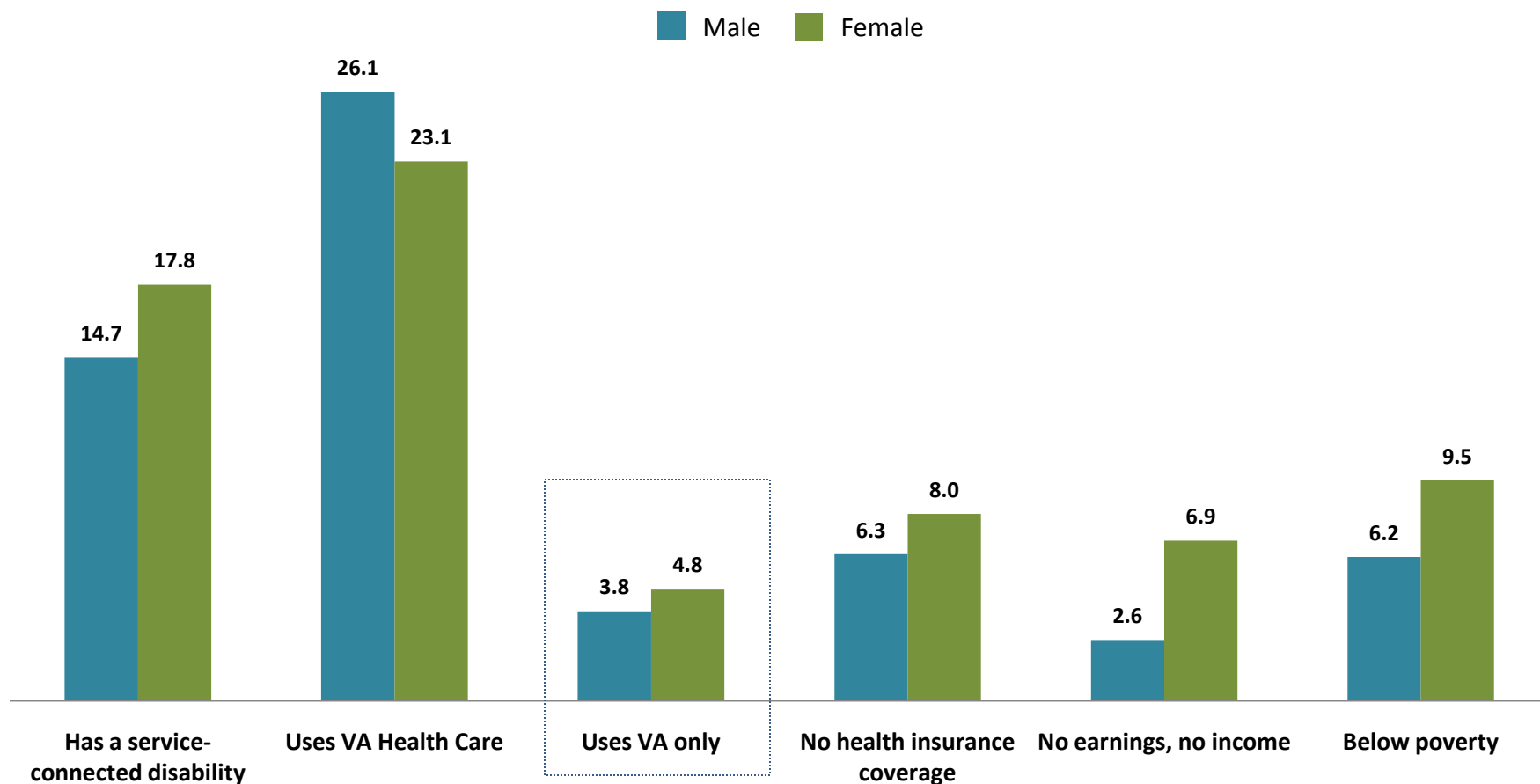
With the exception of 25- to 34-year-old Veterans enrolled in public graduate schools and 35- to 54-year-old Veterans enrolled in private undergraduate schools, there were no statistically significant differences between the enrollment rates of male and female Veterans by type of school.

Type of Enrollment for the Veteran Population Enrolled in College by Age (in percent)



A higher percentage of female Veterans than male Veterans had a service-connected disability rating in 2009. A higher percentage of male Veterans used VA health care at all but a higher percentage of female Veterans used VA health care only. Female Veterans were more likely than male Veterans to be uninsured, have no earnings or income, and live below the poverty threshold.

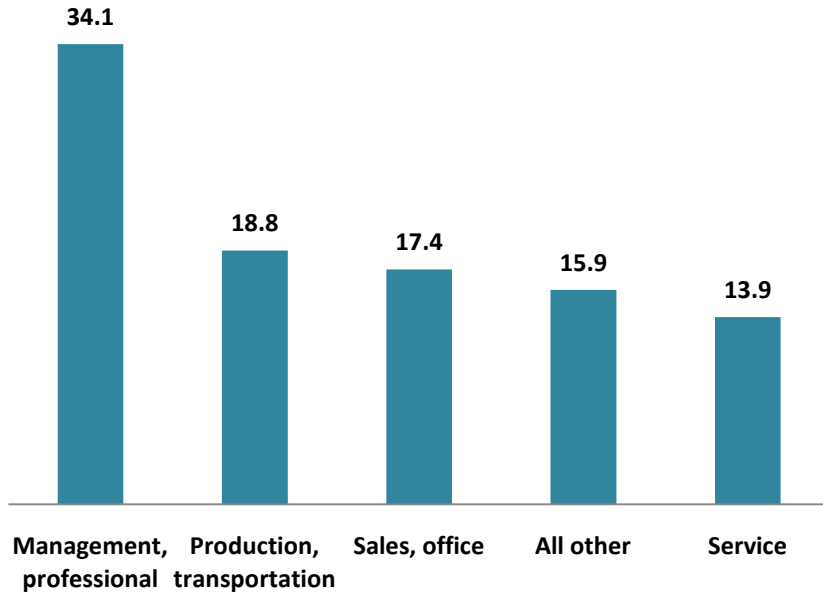
Selected Characteristics of Veterans (in percent)



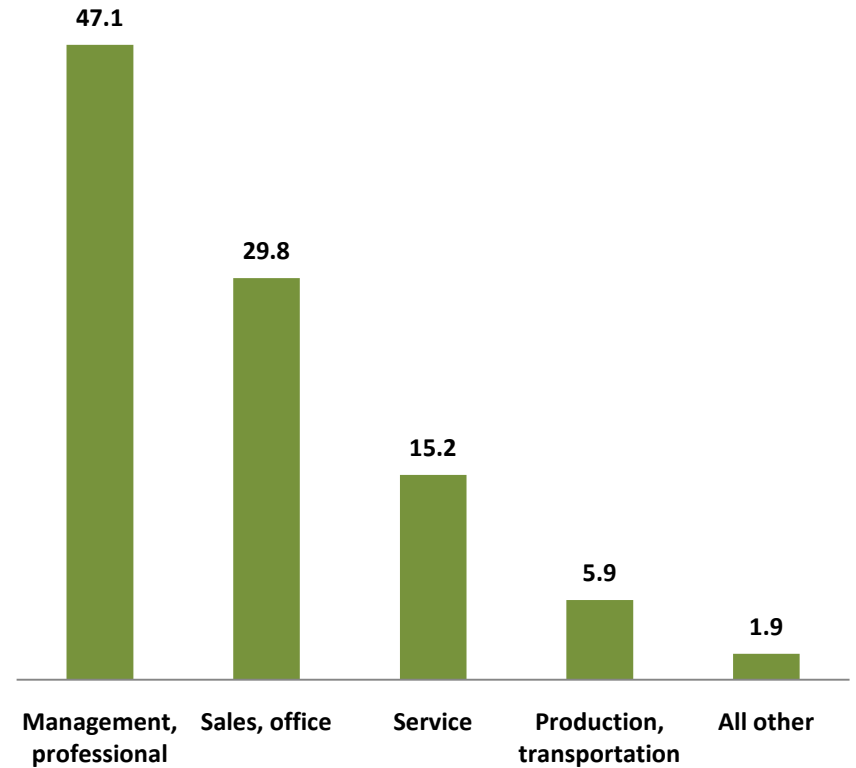
A higher percentage of female Veterans than male Veterans worked in management and professional and sales and office occupations. Nineteen percent of male Veterans worked in production and transportation occupations. These occupations include machinists, drivers, and aircraft pilots, jobs similar to what male Veterans may have done while in the military.

Occupations of Employed Veterans
(in percent)

Male Veterans



Female Veterans



“All other” includes farming, fishing, and forestry; construction, extraction, maintenance, repair; and military.

Summary of Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparisons

According to data from the 2009 American Community Survey, male Veterans were older, more likely to be White non-Hispanic, more likely to be married, less likely to be uninsured, less likely to live below poverty, and had higher personal incomes than male non-Veterans. Employed male Veterans were more likely to work in management and professional occupations or production and transportation occupations, and more likely to work for local, state, or Federal governments than their non-Veteran counterparts. Male Veterans who worked year-round and full-time earned about \$5,400 more than similar non-Veterans. Some differences between male Veterans and non-Veterans may be attributable to age. The median age of male Veterans in 2009 was 64 years while the median age of male non-Veterans was 49 years.

There was little difference in the ages of female Veterans and non-Veterans in 2009. Both had median ages of about 49 years. Female Veterans were more likely to be Nonwhite non-Hispanic, more likely to be divorced, less likely to be uninsured, less likely to live below poverty, and had higher personal incomes than female non-Veterans. Employed female Veterans were more likely to be in management and professional occupations, less likely to be in service occupations, and more likely to work in local, state, or Federal government than female non-Veterans. Female Veterans who worked year-round and full-time earned about \$5,300 more than similar non-Veterans.

Summary of Veteran Comparisons

The largest living cohort of male Veterans served during the Vietnam Era (August 1964 to April 1975) while the largest living cohort of female Veterans served only during peacetime periods.

Compared with male Veterans, female Veterans were more likely to have completed some college, a Bachelor's degree, or an advanced degree, more likely to 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, and more likely to be insured, have no earnings or income, and live below the poverty threshold.

Employed female Veterans were more likely to work in management and professional occupations and sales and office occupations than employed male Veterans.

Some differences between male and female Veterans may be attributable to age as male Veterans are significantly older than female Veterans. The median age of male Veterans was 64 years in 2009, compared with 49 years for female Veterans.

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