



Profile of Veterans in Poverty: 2017

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

July 2017

Data Source and Methods

- Data for this analysis come from the one-year 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).
 - The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides annual data on the social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population.
 - PUMS files are un-tabulated records at the person and household level, which allows users to make customized tables.
- The universe for this analysis is the civilian population 17 years and older living in the United States and Puerto Rico.
- This report uses the Census Bureau definition for the following terms: poverty, disability, and service-connected disability.
 - The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps). The Census Bureau uses dollar value thresholds varying by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index. Poverty rate is defined as the percentage of Veterans who lived at or below the Census Bureau's dollar value threshold. For more information, visit: <https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html>.

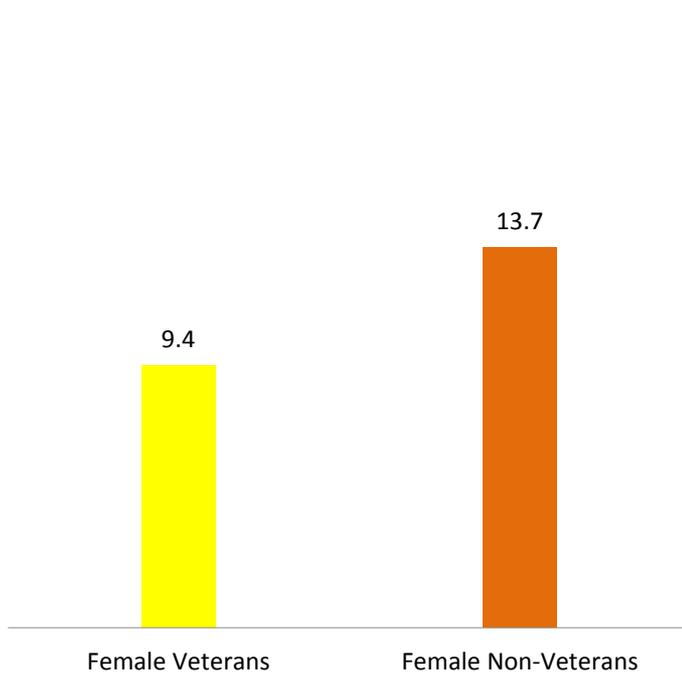
Data Source and Methods (Cont.)

- Disability is defined as the product of interactions among individuals' bodies; their physical, emotional, and mental health; and the physical and social environment in which they live, work or play. Disability exists where this interaction results in limitations of activities and restrictions to full participation at school, work home or in the community.
- Service-connected disability means the disability was a result of disease of injury incurred or aggravated during active military service.
- To learn more about ACS terminology, see https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/subject_definitions/2017_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf.
- All comparative statements and charts 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. A statement is included when there is no a statistically significant difference.
- For more information about the ACS, see: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

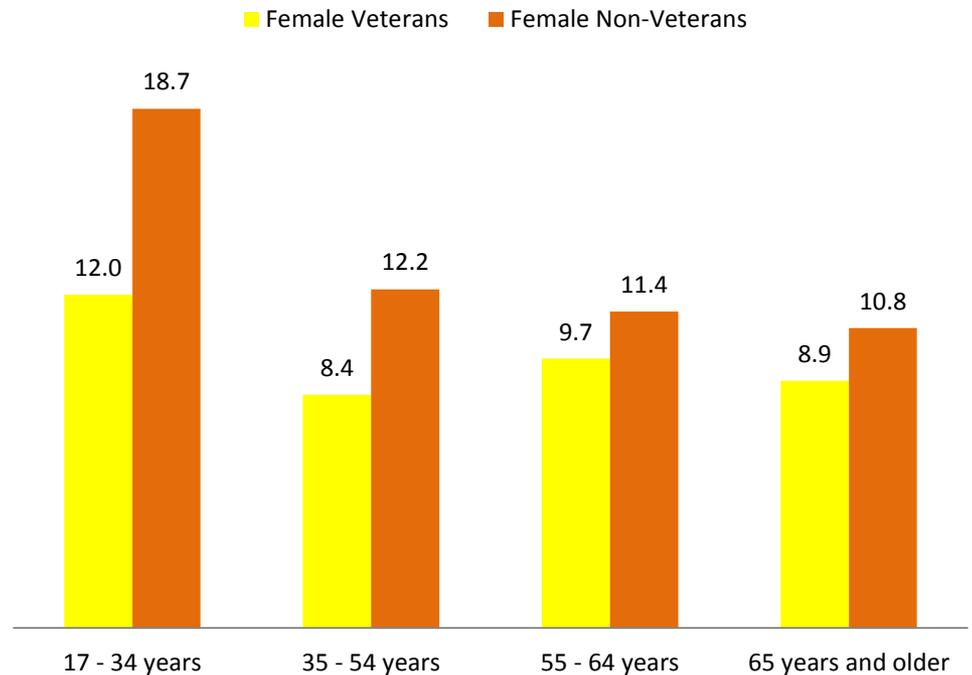
Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparisons

Female Veterans had lower poverty rates than female non-Veterans regardless of their age range.

Poverty Rates of Women by Veteran Status: 2017
(in percent)

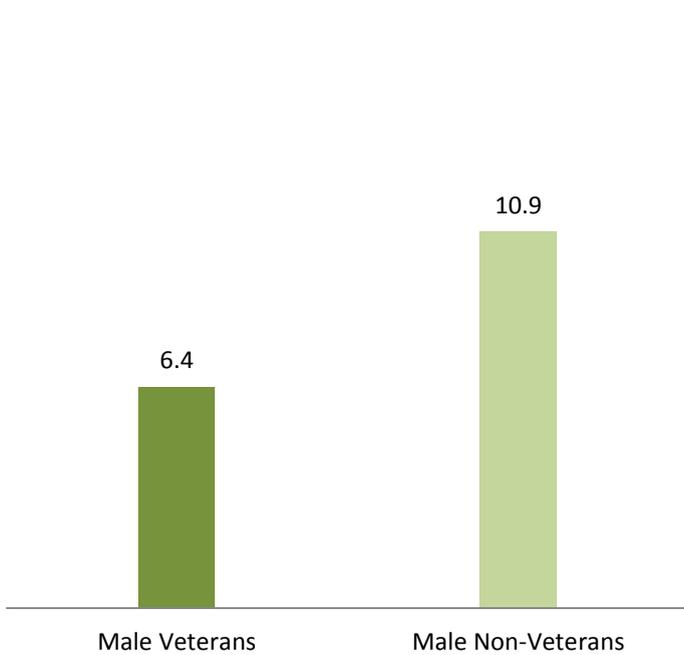


Poverty Rates of Women by Veterans Status and Age: 2017
(in percent)



Male Veterans had lower poverty rates than male non-Veterans except for age range 54-65.

**Poverty Rates of Men by Veteran Status:
2017**
(in percent)



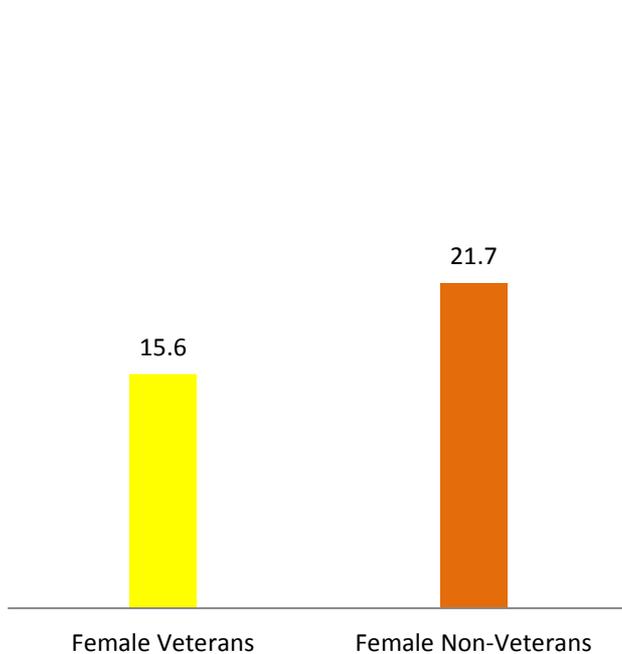
Poverty Rates of Men by Veteran Status and Age: 2017
(in percent)



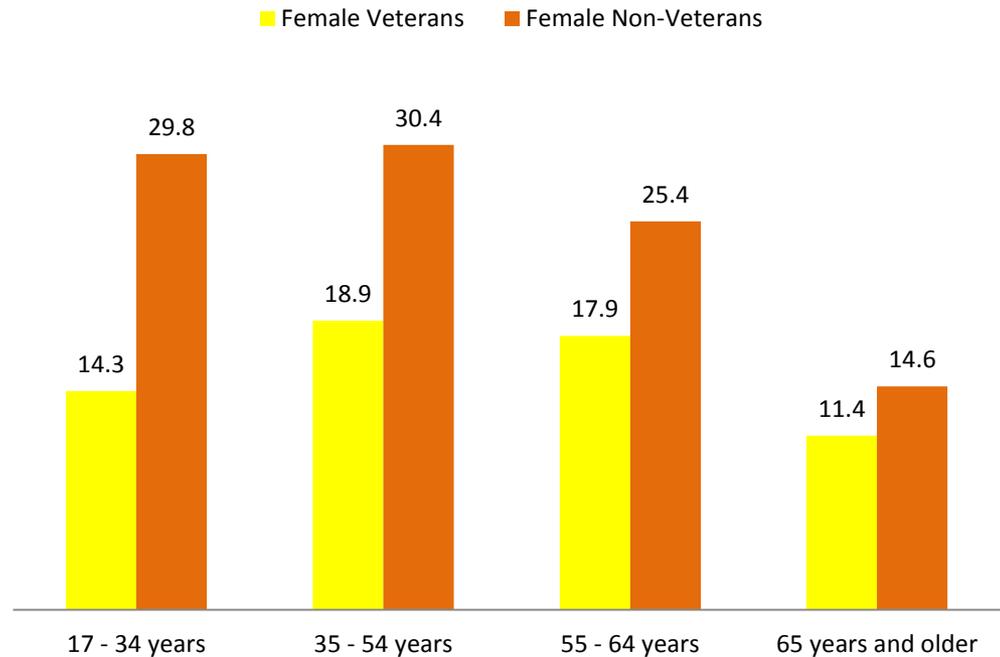
*Difference is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

Women Veterans with a disability had lower poverty rates than women non-Veterans with a disability, regardless of their age range. The difference in poverty rates between women Veterans and non-Veterans was largest for women between 17 and 34 years old.

**Poverty Rates of Women with a Disability
by Veteran Status: 2017**
(in percent)

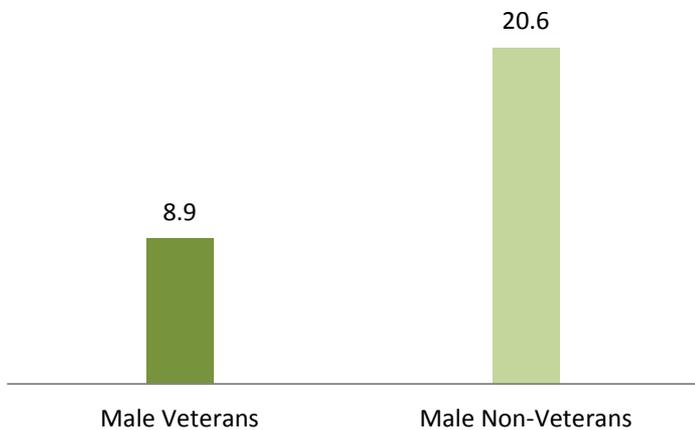


**Poverty Rates of Women with a Disability by Veteran Status
and Age: 2017**
(in percent)

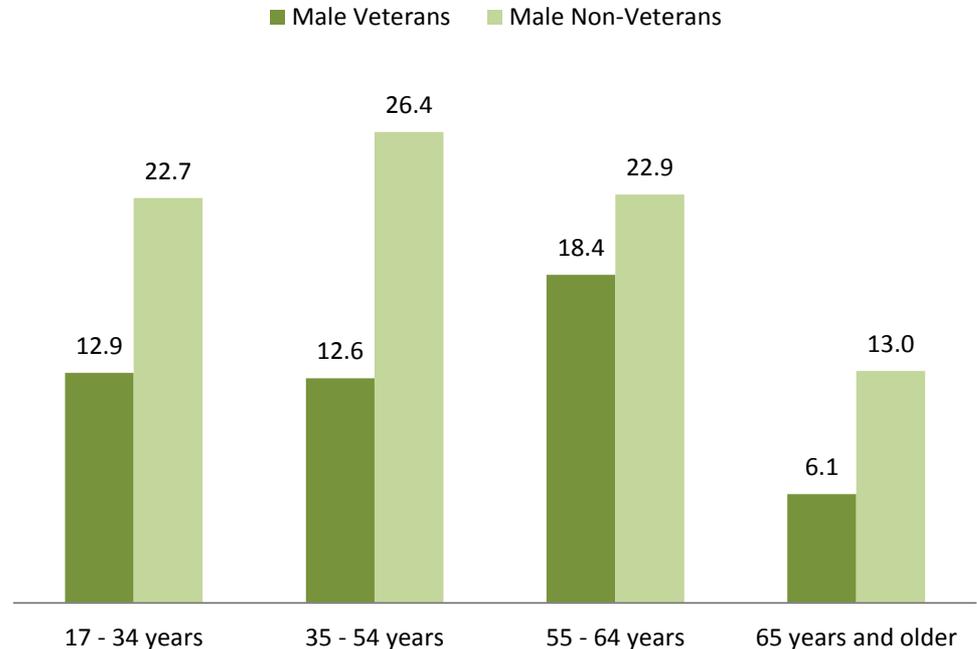


Veteran men with a disability had lower poverty rates than non-Veteran men with a disability, regardless of their age range. The difference in poverty rates between male Veteran and non-Veteran was largest for men between 35 and 54 years old.

**Poverty Rates of Men with a Disability by
Veteran Status: 2017**
(in percent)

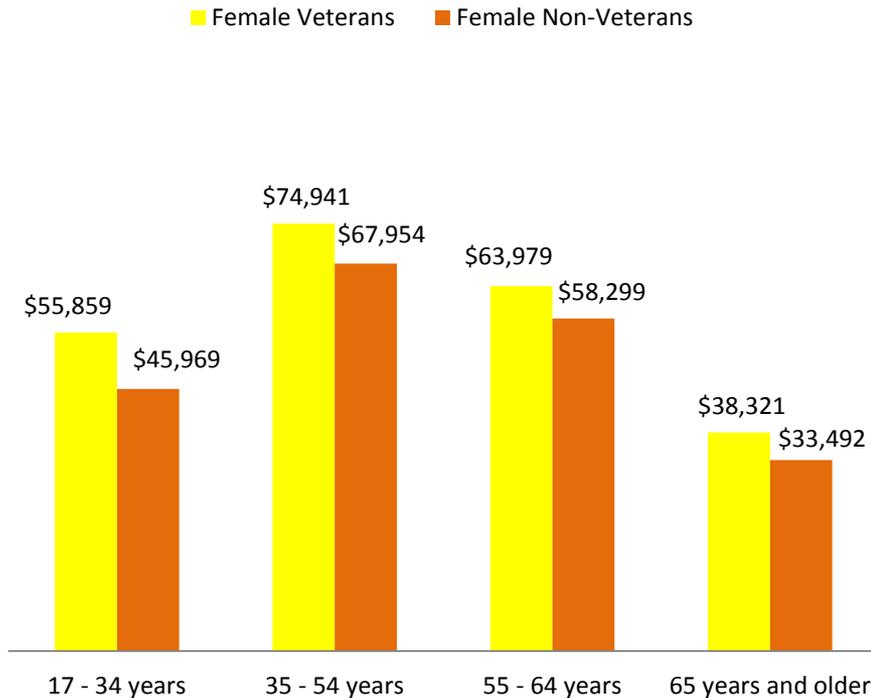


**Poverty Rates of Men with a Disability by Veteran Status
and Age: 2017**
(in percent)

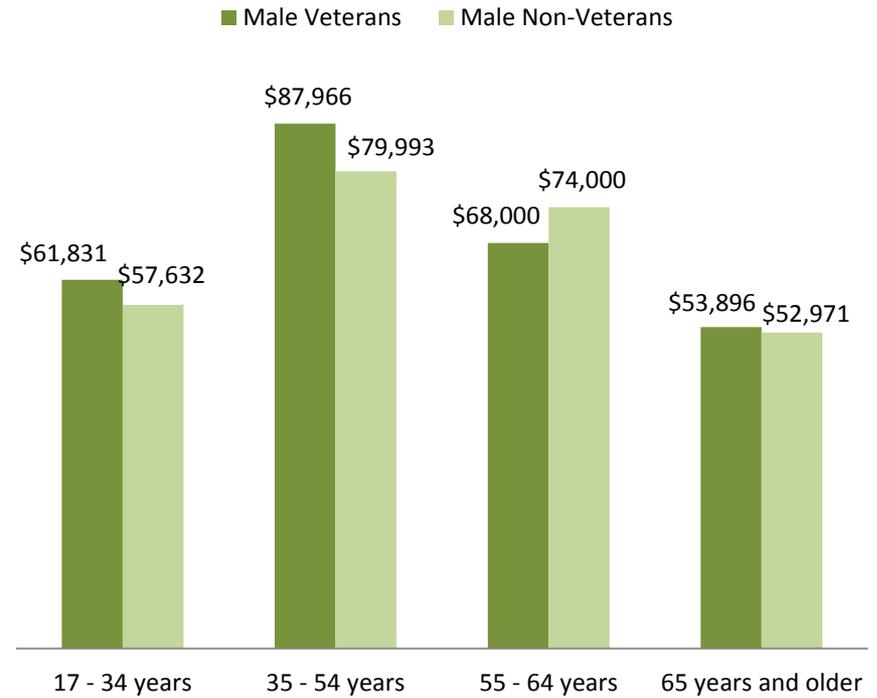


Male Veterans had a higher median household income than male non-Veterans except for between the ages of 55 and 64, while female Veterans had a higher median household income than female non-Veterans regardless of their age range.

Median Household Income of Women by Veteran Status and Age: 2017



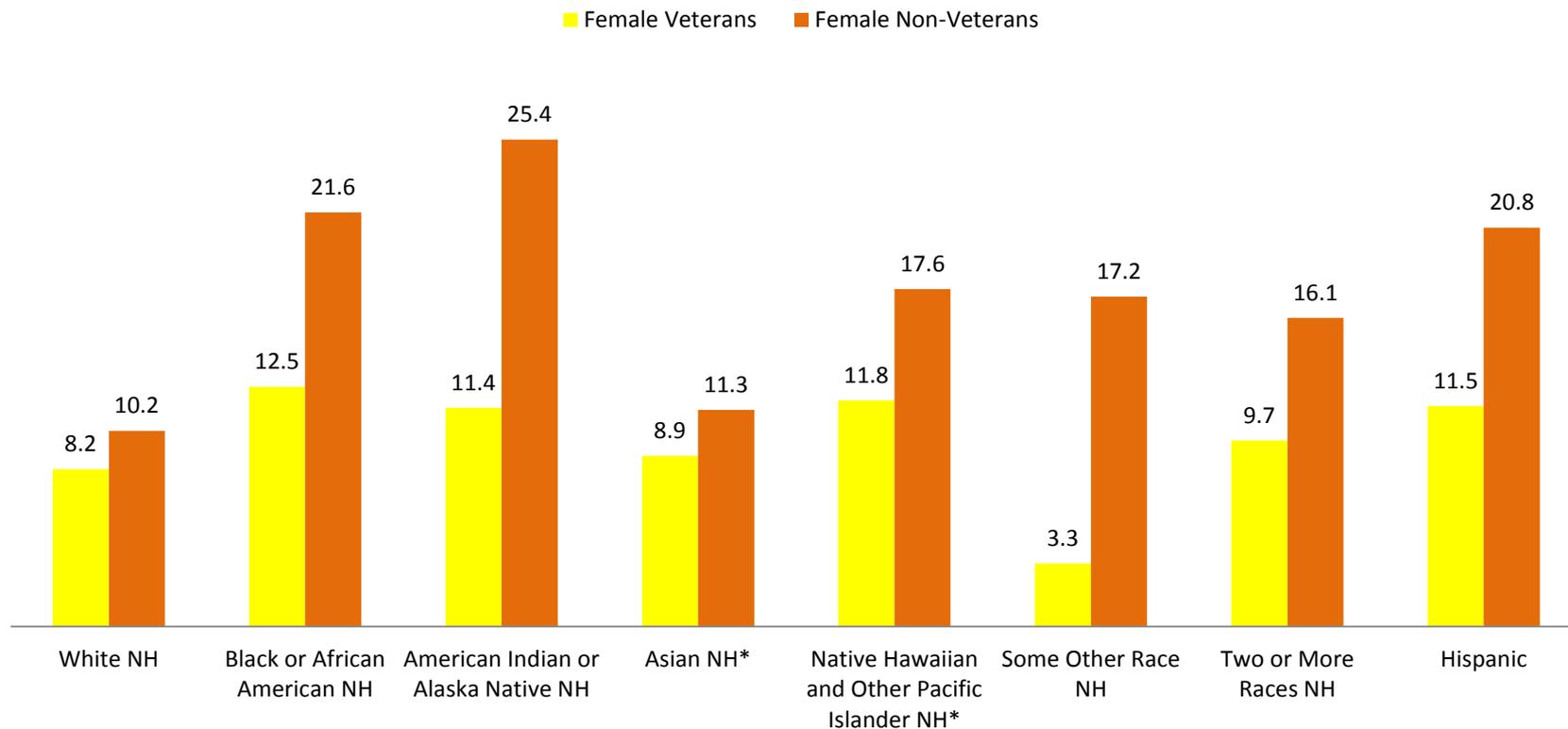
Median Household Income of Men by Veteran Status and Age: 2017



Female Veterans had a lower poverty rate than female non-Veterans regardless of their race and ethnicity. The difference in poverty rates between Veterans and non-Veterans was largest among American Indian or Alaska Native and Some Other Race groups.

Poverty Rates of Women by Veteran Status and Race: 2017

(in percent)



NH: Non Hispanic

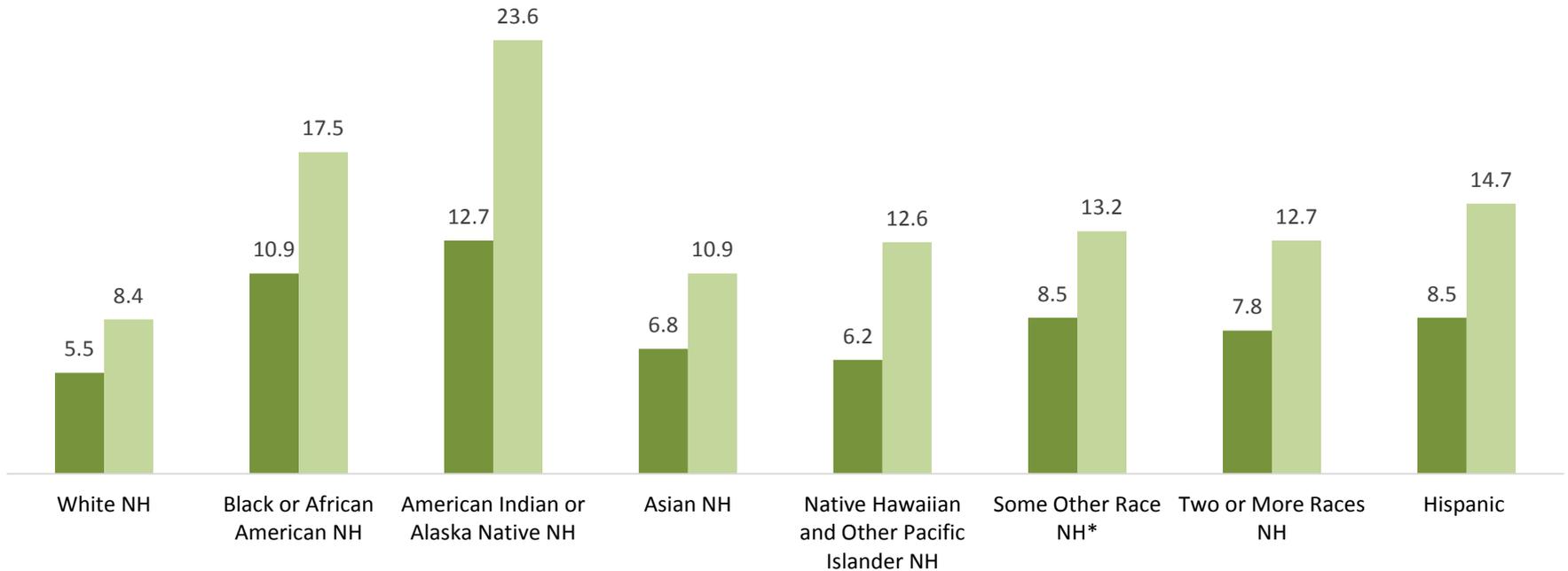
*Difference is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

Male Veterans had a lower poverty rate than male non-Veterans regardless of their race and ethnicity. The difference in the poverty rate between Veterans and non-Veterans was largest for American Indians or Alaska Natives.

Poverty Rates of Men by Veteran Status and Race: 2017

(in percent)

■ Male Veterans ■ Male Non-Veterans



NH: Non Hispanic

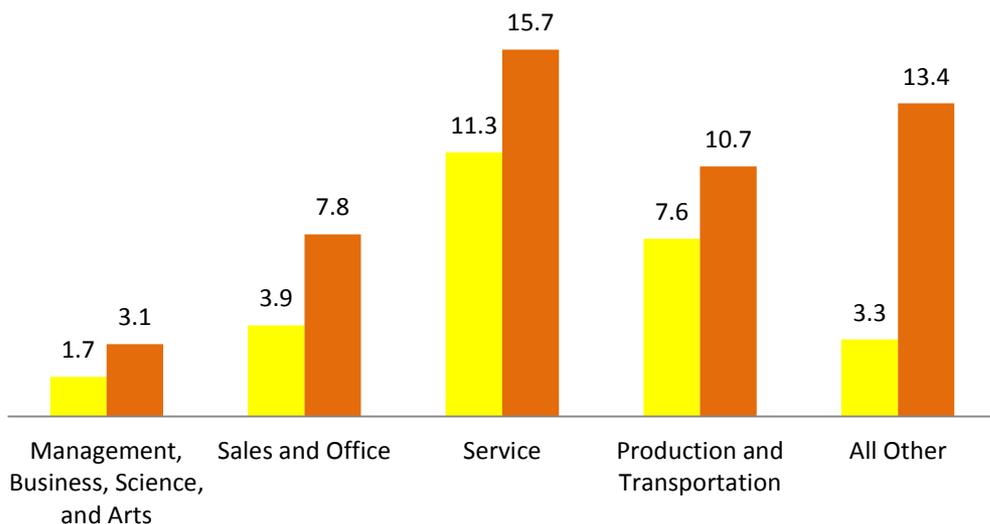
*Difference is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

Female Veterans had a lower poverty rate than female non-Veterans regardless of their occupation. Women who were self employed had a higher poverty rate than those who worked for the government or private industry.

Poverty Rates of Employed Women by Veteran Status and Occupation Category: 2017

(in percent)

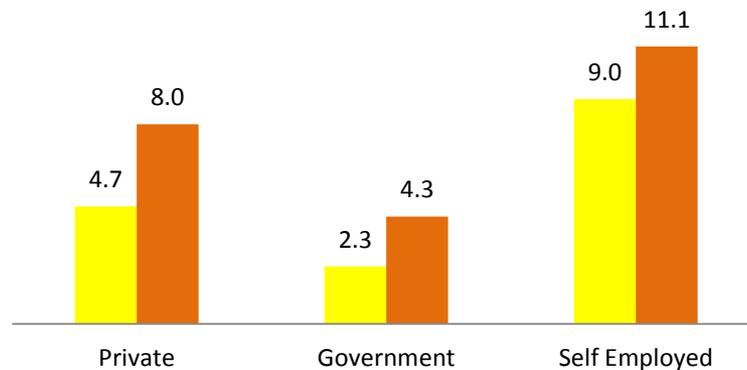
Female Veterans Female Non-Veterans



Poverty Rates of Women by Veteran Status and Class of Worker: 2017

(in percent)

Female Veterans Female Non-Veterans

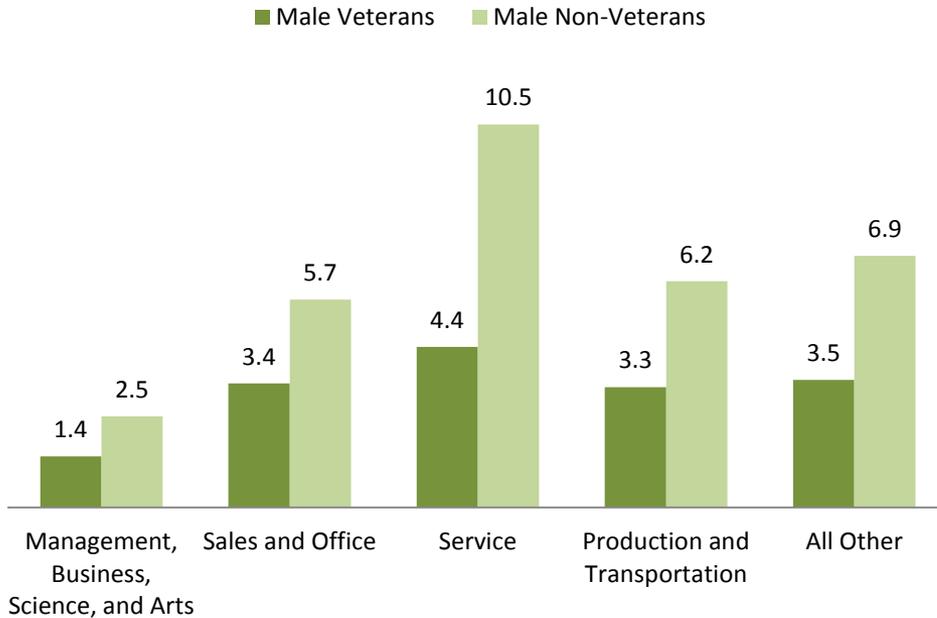


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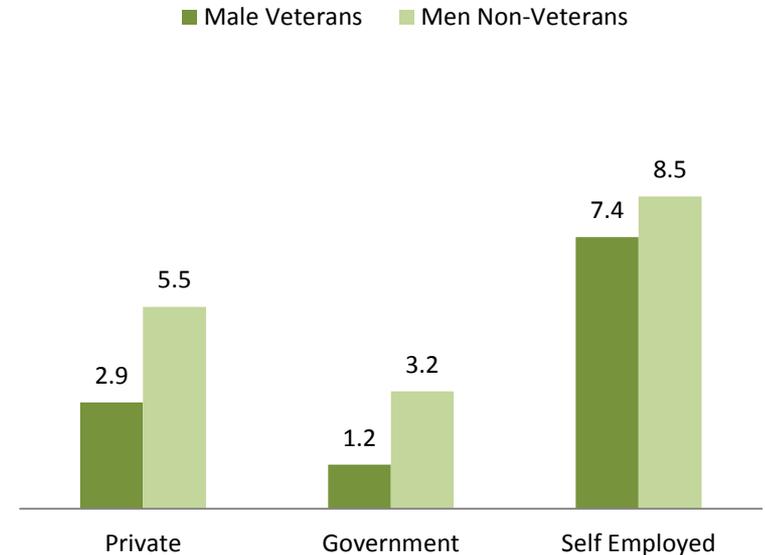
*Difference is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

Male Veterans in the management, business, science, and arts occupations and those who work for the government had the lowest poverty rates. Regardless of Veteran status, self-employed men had the highest poverty rates.

Poverty Rates of Employed Men by Veteran Status and Occupation Category: 2017
(in percent)

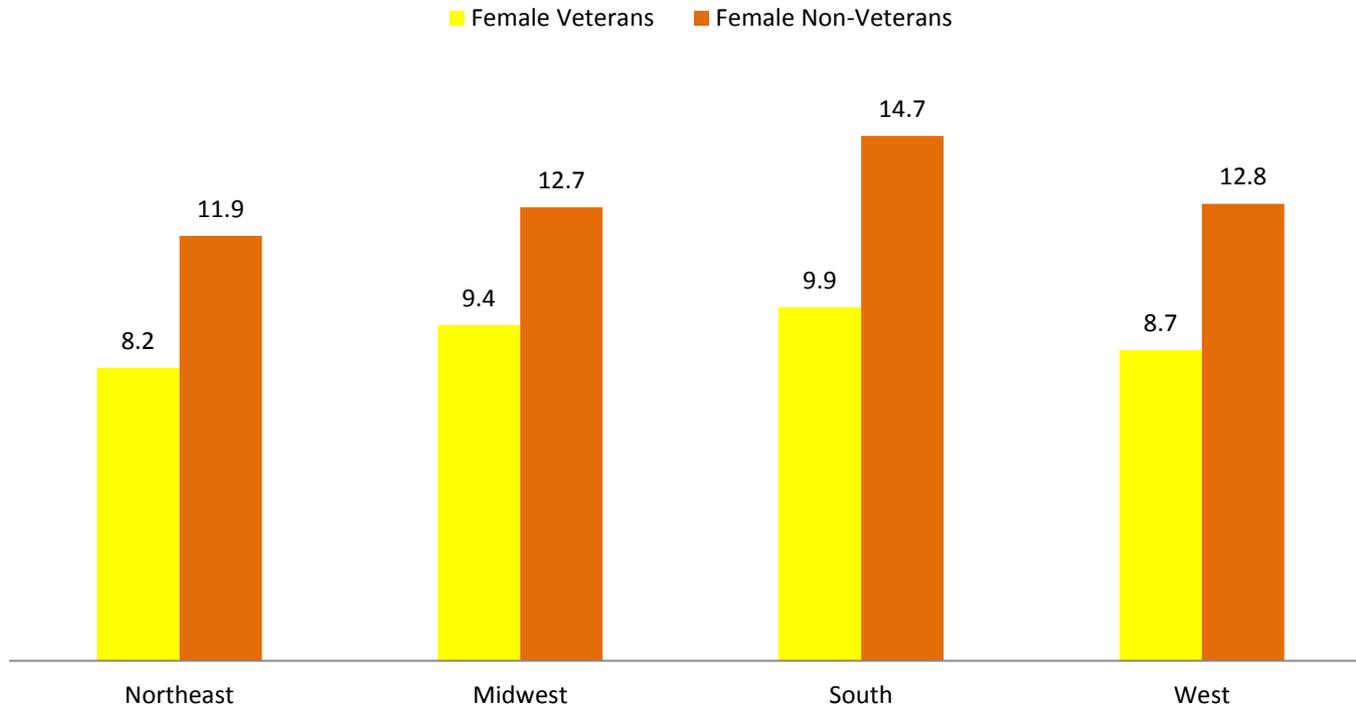


Poverty Rates of Men by Veteran Status and Class of Worker: 2017
(in percent)



The poverty rate for Veteran women was lower than for non-Veteran women across the regions.

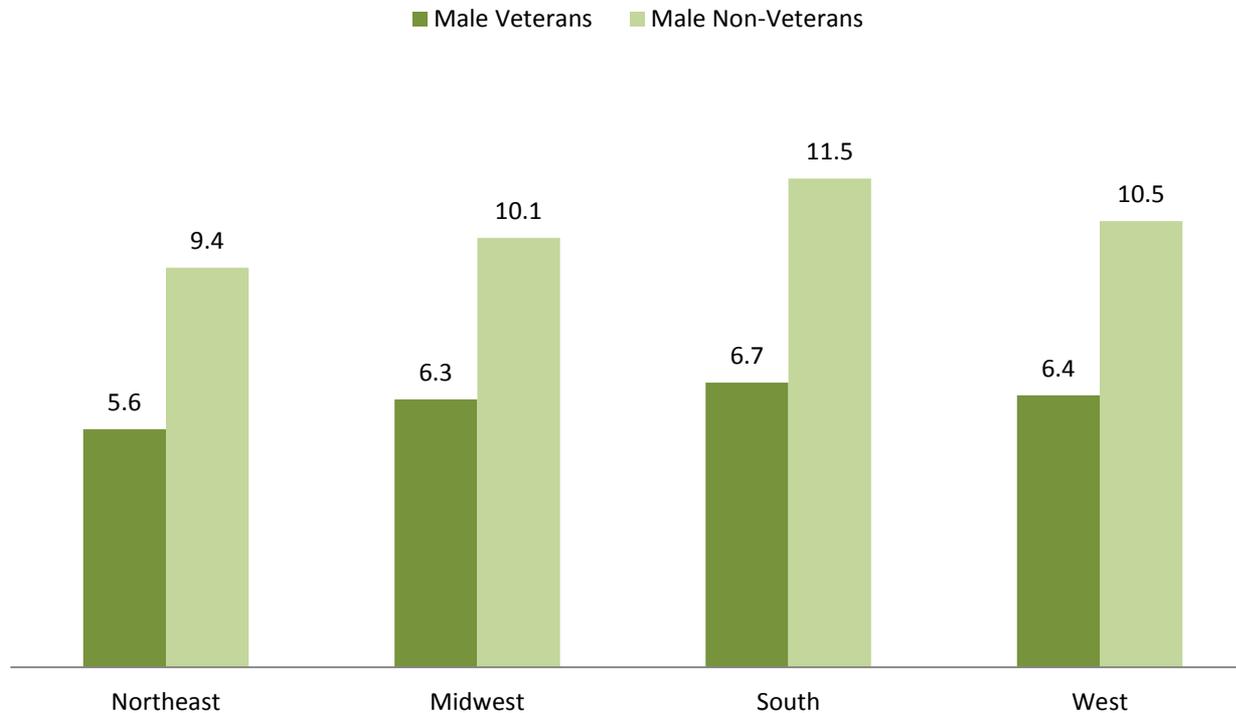
Poverty Rates of Women by Veteran Status and Region: 2017
(in percent)



Note: A full description of the Census Regions and divisions of the United States is found at:
https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf

Male Veterans and male non-Veterans in the Northeast had the lowest poverty rates compared with their counterparts living in other regions.

Poverty Rates of Men by Veteran Status and Region: 2017
(in percent)

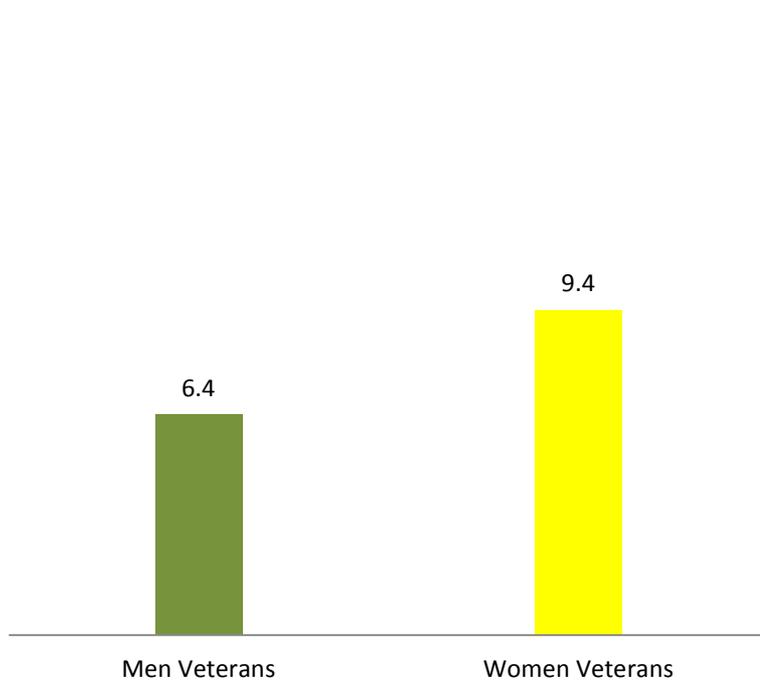


Note: A full description of the Census Regions and divisions of the United States is found at:
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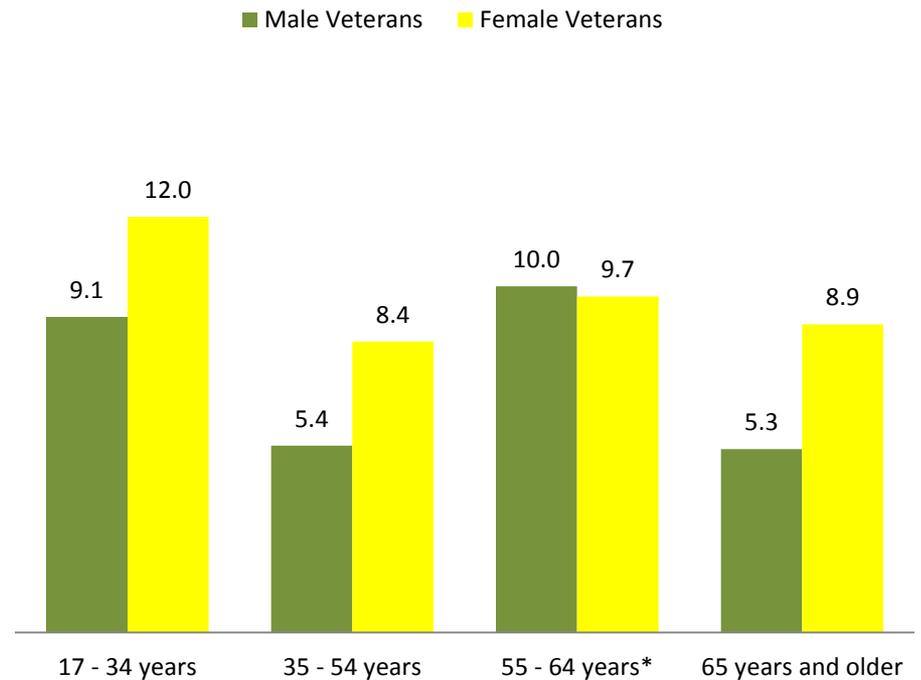
Veteran Comparisons

Male Veterans had lower poverty rates than female Veterans especially among the younger and the older Veterans.

Poverty Rates of Veterans by Gender: 2017
(in percent)



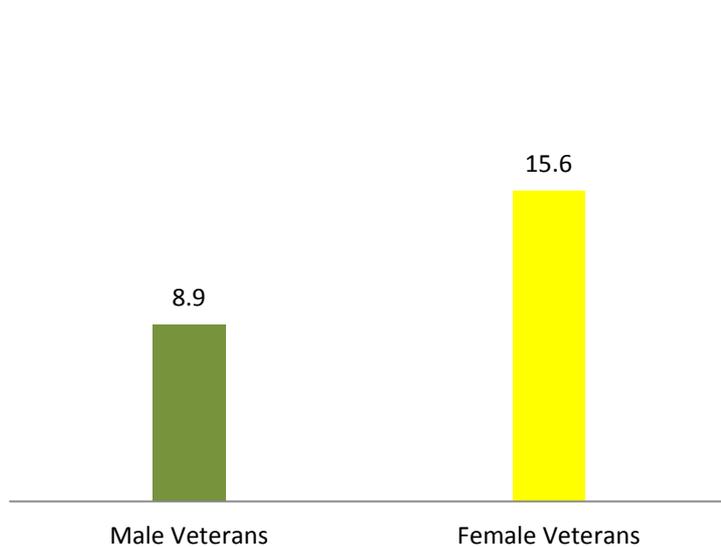
Poverty Rates of Veterans by Gender and Age: 2017
(in percent)



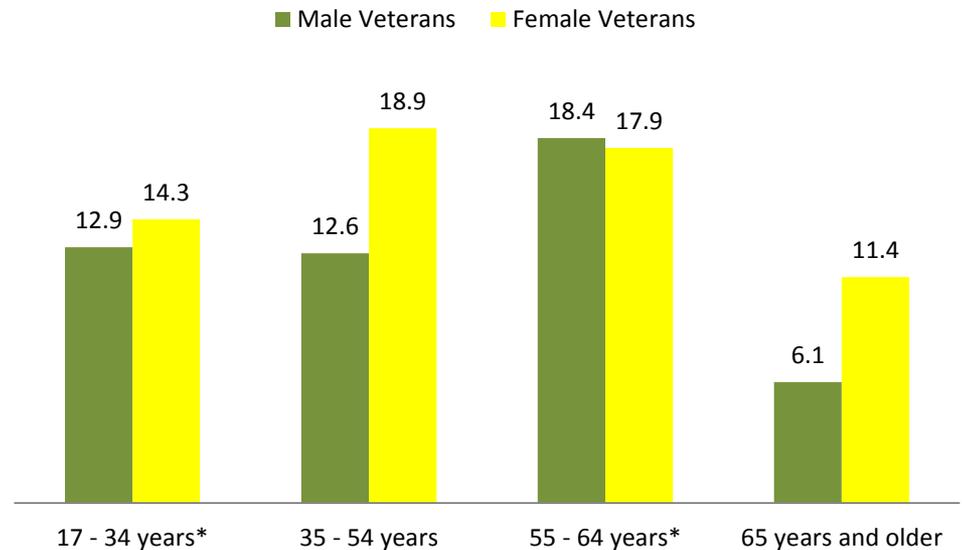
*Difference is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

Overall, 9.4 percent of male Veterans with a disability (not service-connected) were in poverty compared to 15.3 percent of female Veterans with a disability. When looking at poverty by age range, the difference in poverty rates between male and female Veterans with a disability was significant for those 35 to 54 years old and 65 years old and older.

**Poverty Rates of Veterans with a Disability
by Gender: 2017**
(in percent)



**Poverty Rates of Veterans with a Disability by Gender and
Age: 2017**
(in percent)

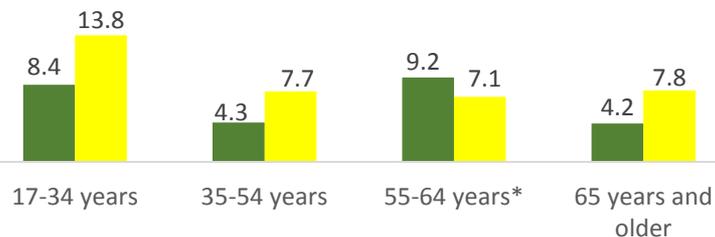


*Difference is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

For the youngest and oldest age groups, female Veterans with a service-connected disability had higher rates of poverty than their male counterparts. Half of the Veterans with a service-connected disability lived above 400 percent of poverty levels regardless of gender.

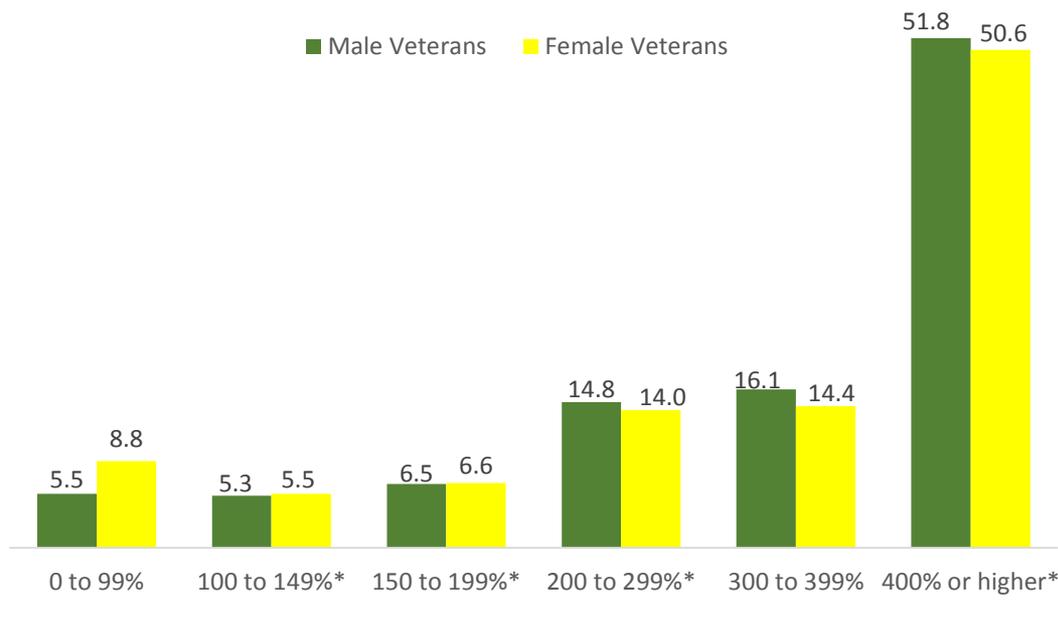
Poverty Rates of Veterans with a Service-Connected Disability by Gender and Age
(in percent)

■ Male Veterans ■ Female Veterans



Poverty Status of Veterans with a Service-Connected Disability by Gender
(in percent)

■ Male Veterans ■ Female Veterans

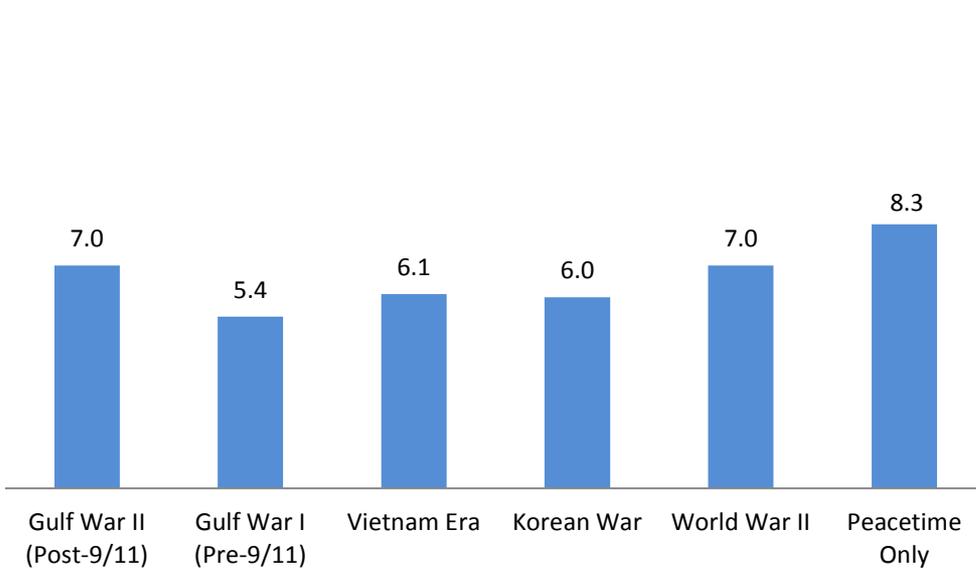


Note: Families in the "0 to 99 percent" are in poverty. Categories above 100 percent are used by public and private programs to determine eligibility.

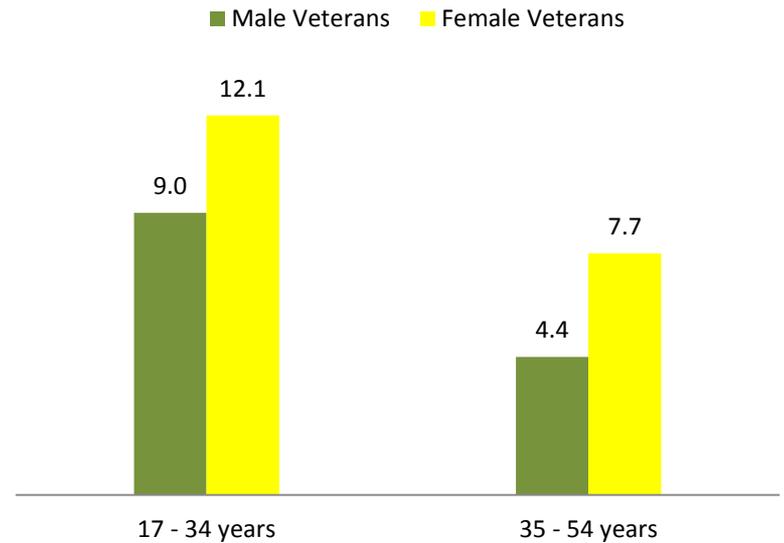
*Difference is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

Post-9/11, World War II, and Peacetime era Veterans had higher poverty rates. Younger Post-9/11 Veterans had higher poverty rates than those 35 and older.

Poverty Rates of Veterans by Period of Service: 2017
(in percent)



Poverty Rates of Post-9/11 Veterans by Gender and Age: 2017
(in percent)

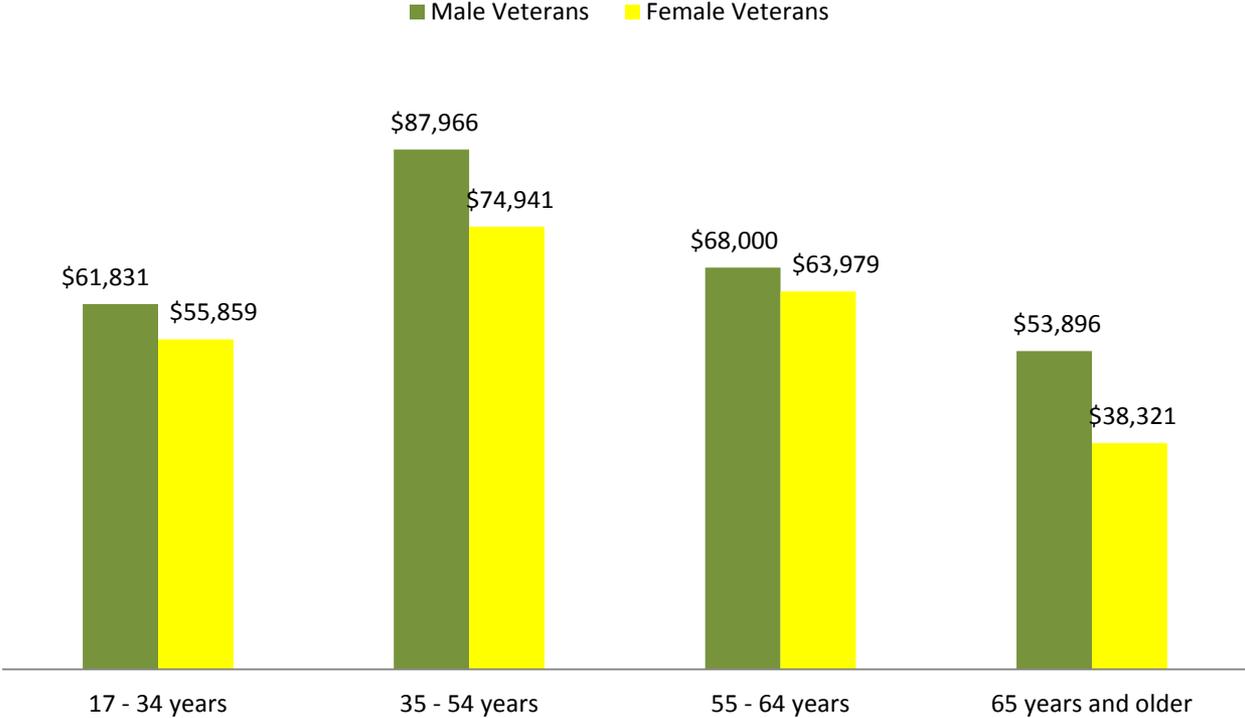


Period of Service Dates

- Post-9/11: Sept. 2001 to present
- 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
- Peacetime Only: Jan. 1947 to June 1950; Feb. 1955 to July 1964, and May 1975 to July 1990

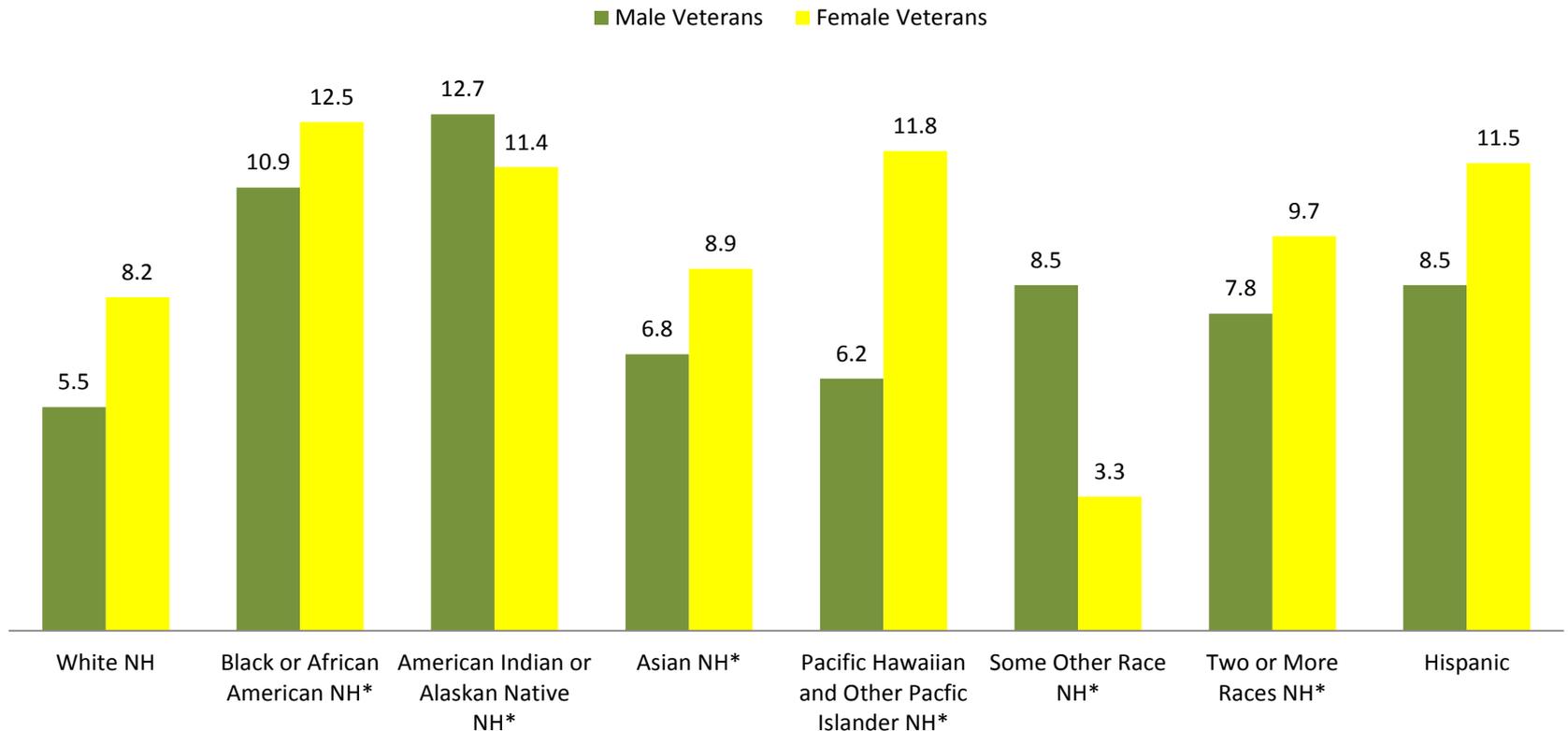
Female Veterans had lower median household income than male Veterans.

Median Household Income of Veterans by Gender and Age: 2017



A high percentage of American Indian or Alaska Native Veteran male and Black or African American female Veterans were in poverty.

Poverty Rates of Veterans by Gender and Race: 2017
(in percent)



NH: Non Hispanic

*Difference is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

A high percentage of female Veterans in service occupations were in poverty. A high percentage of female Veterans who were self employed were in poverty.

Poverty Rates of Employed Veterans by Gender and Occupation Category: 2017

(in percent)

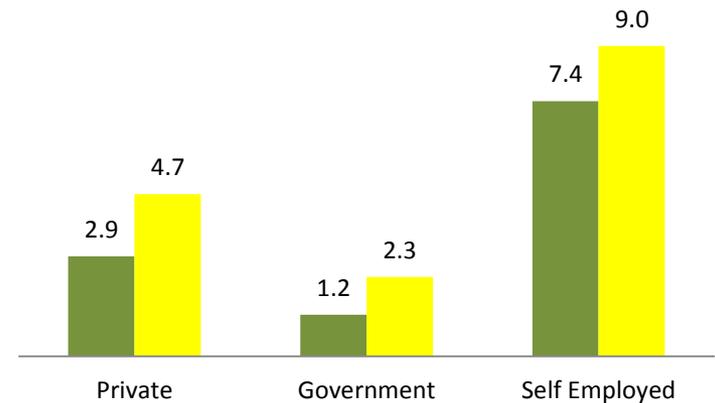
■ Male Veterans ■ Female Veterans



Poverty Rates of Employed Veterans by Gender and Class of Worker: 2017

(in percent)

■ Male Veterans ■ Female Veterans

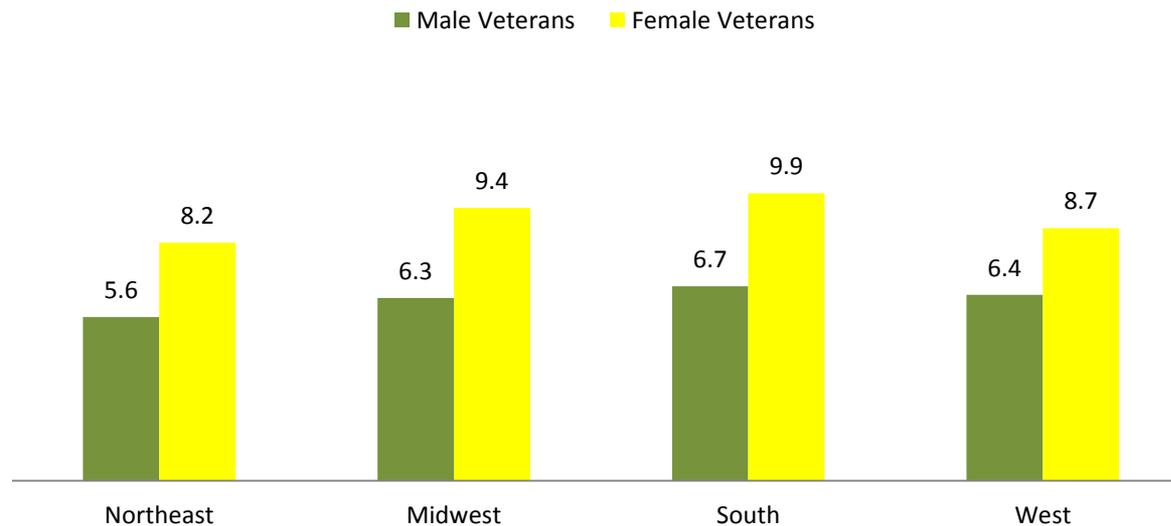


*Difference is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

Female Veterans in the South had a higher poverty rate compared to Veterans in other regions. The lowest poverty rates for male and female Veterans were in the northeast.

Poverty Rates of Veterans by Gender and Region: 2017

(in percent)

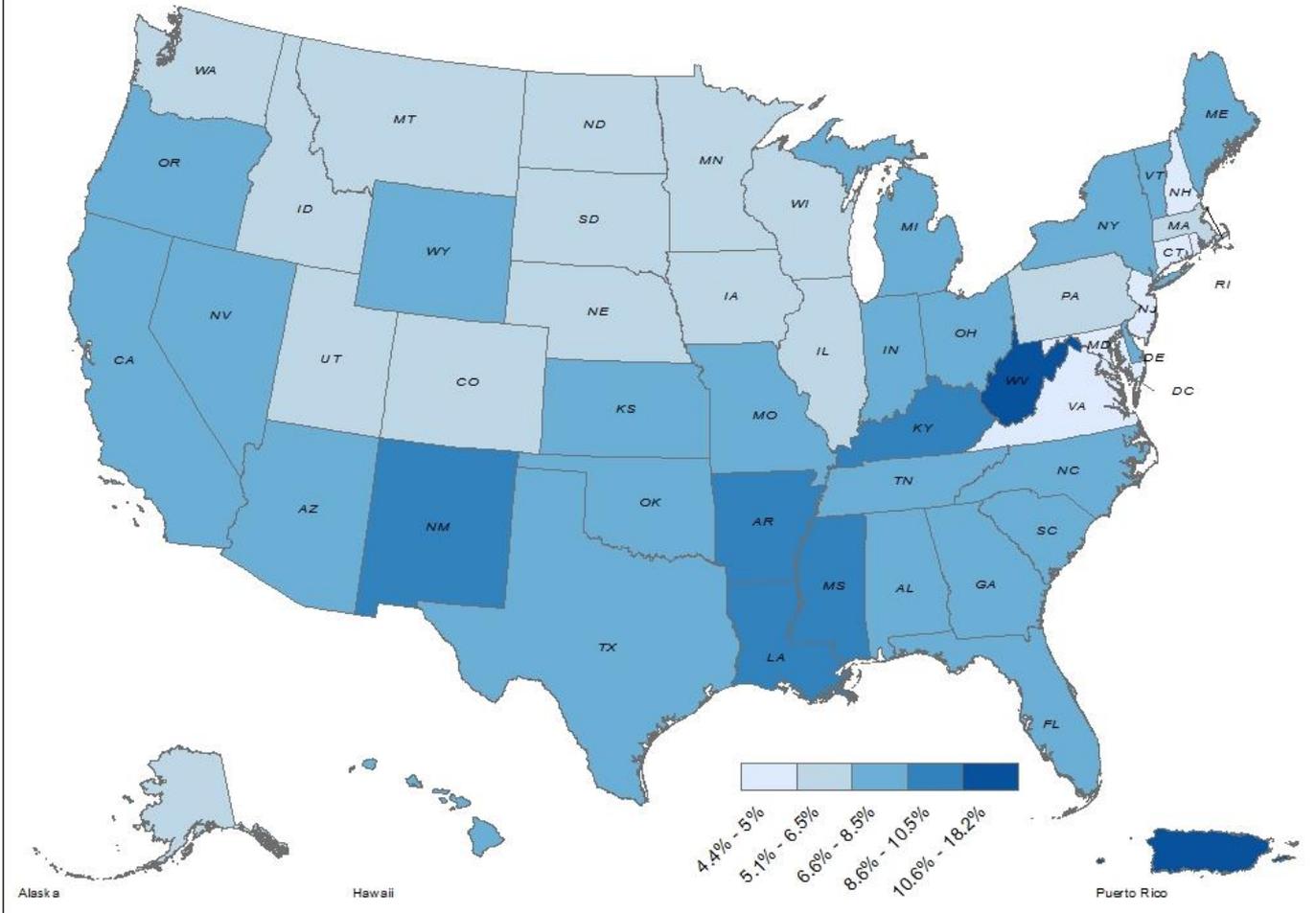


Note: A full description of the Census Regions and divisions of the United States is found at:

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The rate of Veterans in poverty by state ranged from 4.4 percent in Virginia to 18.2 percent in Puerto Rico.

Percent of Veterans in Poverty by State: 2017



States with the Highest Veteran Poverty Rate: 2017
(in percent)

State	Poverty
Puerto Rico	18.2
District of Columbia	13.7
West Virginia	10.7
Louisiana	9.4
Mississippi	9.3
Arkansas	9.1
Kentucky	9.0
New Mexico	8.8

Veteran and Non-Veteran Comparison Summary

- Regardless of gender, race, and ethnicity, Veterans had lower poverty rates than non-Veterans.
- Veterans with a disability had lower poverty rates than non-Veterans with a disability, regardless of their age and gender.
- For all ages, female Veterans had higher median household incomes than female non-Veterans.
- Male Veterans had a higher median household income than male non-Veterans except for those between the ages of 55 and 64.
- Veterans had a lower poverty rate than non-Veterans regardless of their type of employment.
- Veterans had lower poverty rates in each region of the country than non-Veterans regardless of their gender.

Veteran Comparison Summary

- Male Veterans had lower poverty rates than female Veterans except for those between the ages of 55 and 64.
- Male Veterans with a disability had lower poverty rates than female Veterans with a disability, except for those between the ages of 55 and 64.
- Post-9/11, World War II, and peacetime era Veterans had higher poverty rates than other periods of service.
- Female Veterans had lower median household income than male Veterans.
- A much higher percentage of female Veterans in the service occupations were in poverty than male Veterans in the service occupations.
- A much higher percentage of female Veterans who worked in the private sector, government, or were self employed were in poverty than male Veterans.
- The lowest poverty rates for male and female Veterans lived in the northeast.
- The rate of Veterans in poverty by state ranged from 4.4 percent in Virginia to 18.2 percent in Puerto Rico.
- Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and West Virginia had the highest percentages of Veterans in poverty.

Contact Information for this Report

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