



Veteran's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Participants: 2013 American Community Survey

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

April 2015

Data Source and Methods

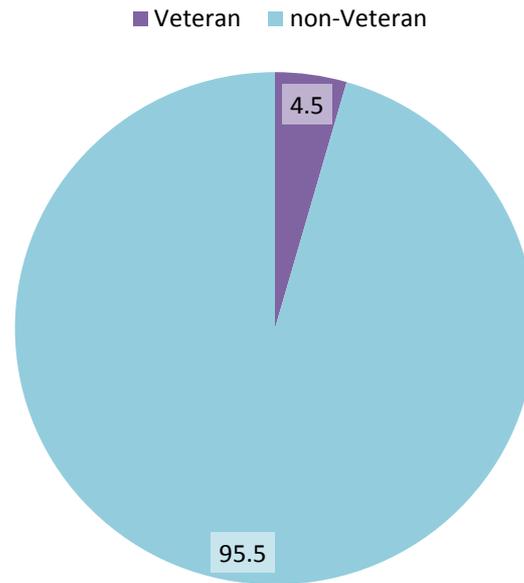
- Data for this analysis come from the one year 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), except where otherwise noted.
 - The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides annual data on the social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population.
 - PUMS files are untabulated records at the person and household level, which allows users to make customized tables.
- The universe for this analysis is the civilian population 18 years and older living in the United States.
- Veteran status was collected at the individual level, and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) use was collected at the household level. This study measures Veterans and non-Veterans living in households where someone receives SNAP.
- 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.
- For more information about the ACS, see: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

About SNAP

- The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest nutritional assistance program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture and serves as a key social safety net program in the United States.
- Households must meet income and resource thresholds to receive SNAP. Typically gross income is below 130% of poverty level and households may have no more than \$2,000 in countable resources or \$3,250 if at least someone is elderly or disabled. For a family of four, net monthly income of \$1,960 would qualify for SNAP. The income threshold increases as the household size increases.
 - There are several deductions, including medical expenses for disabled or elderly family members, dependent care costs, and child support payments, that applicants subtract from net income to determine eligibility.
- The monthly benefit is determined by multiplying the household income by 0.3 and then subtracting this from the maximum benefit. Maximum benefit for a family of four is \$668.
- Recipients receive a card, similar to a bank card, to make purchases at grocery stores and some farmers markets. SNAP can only be used to buy food for home consumption. This excludes alcohol and tobacco products.
- Basic eligibility requirement can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligibility>. Since each state's requirements are slightly different, the following link has the contact information for each state's SNAP office <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/snap-application-and-local-office-locators>.

Veterans in SNAP Households and Non-Veterans in SNAP Households

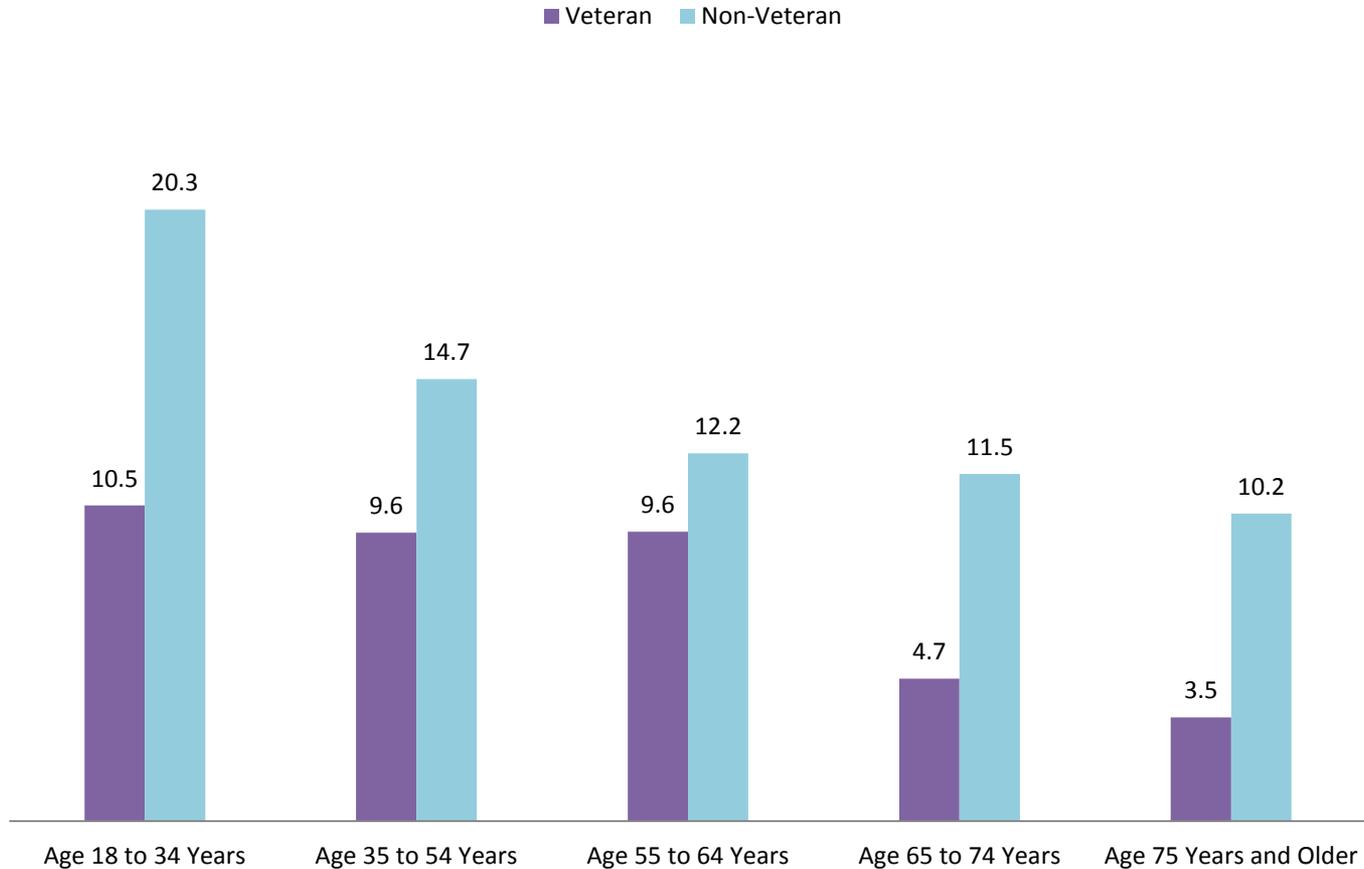
SNAP Use by Veteran Status
(in percent)



Veterans lived in about 5% of households using SNAP.

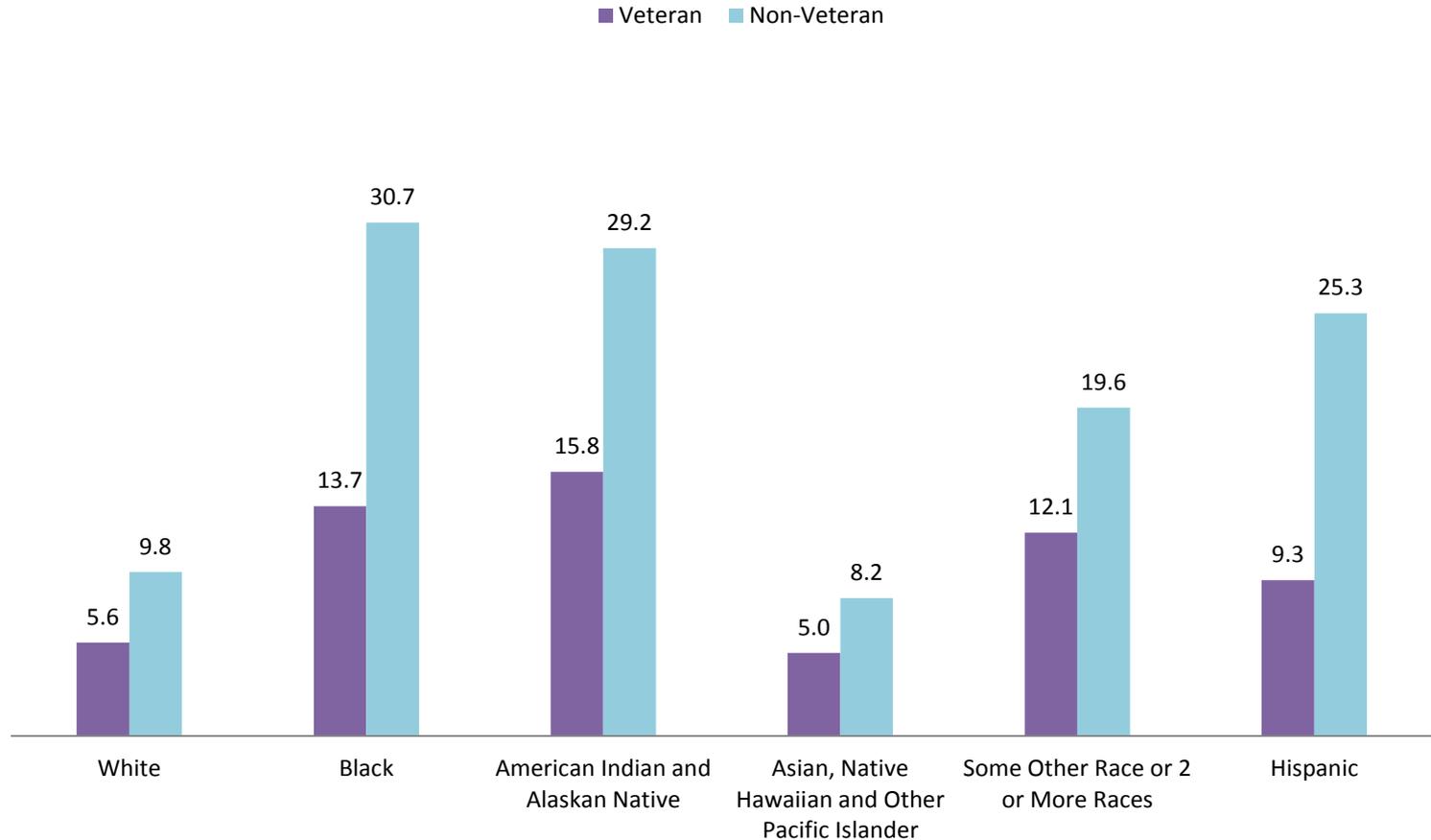
A lower percentage of Veterans were in households using SNAP than non-Veterans for all age groups.

SNAP Use by Veteran Status and Age
(in percent)



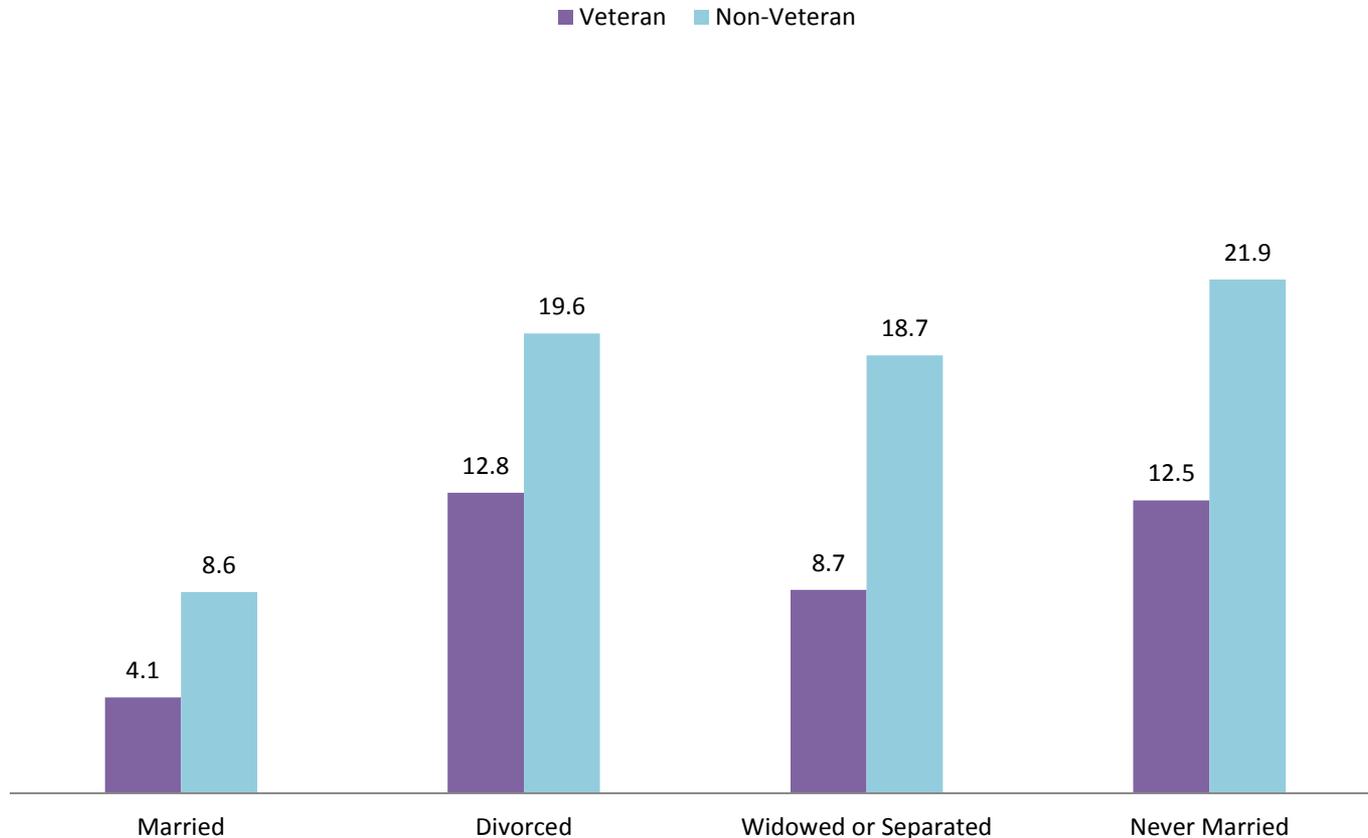
A lower percentage of Veterans were present in households using SNAP than non-Veterans for all races or origins in 2013.

SNAP Use by Veteran Status and Race or Origin
(in percent)



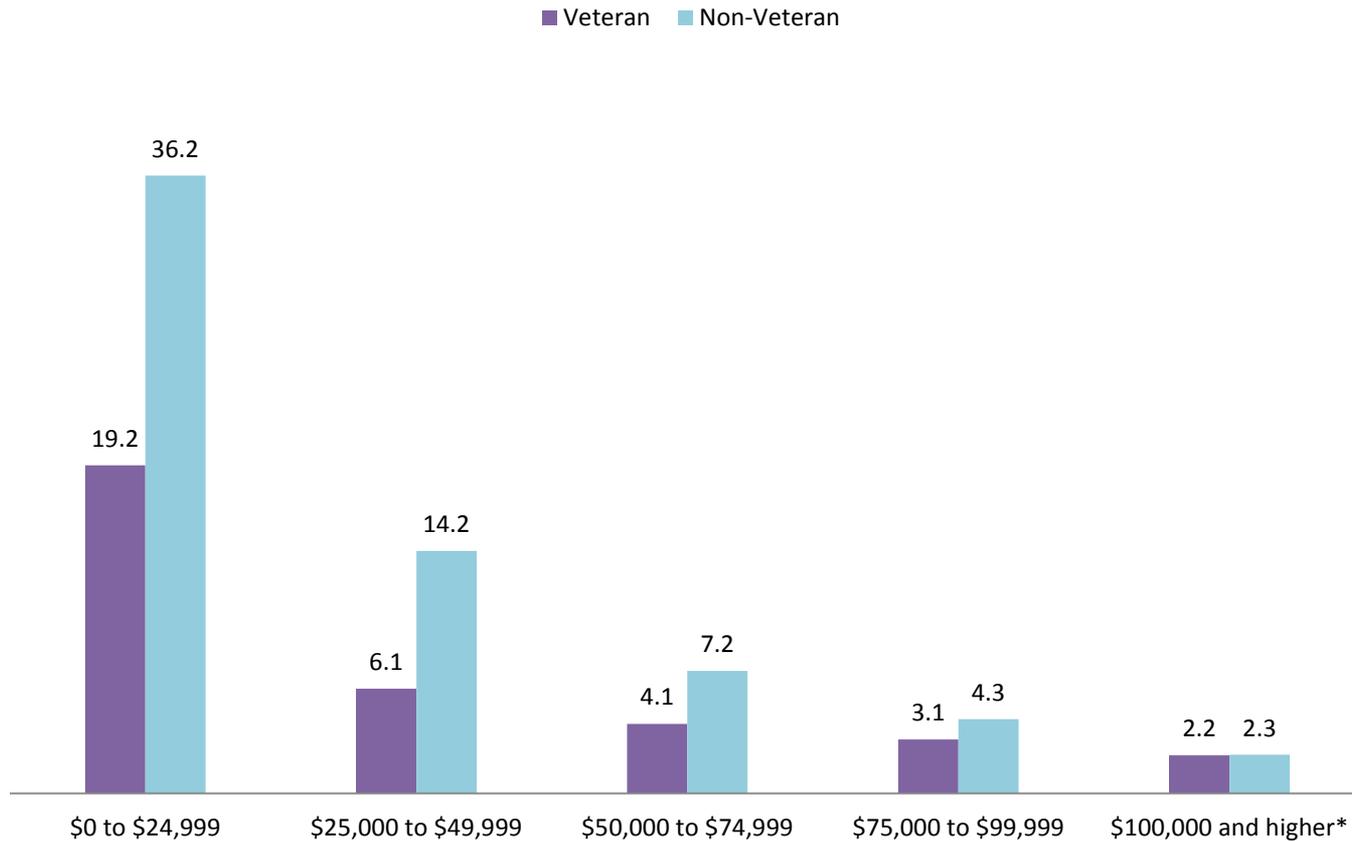
Veterans were present in lower percentages of households using SNAP than non-Veteran households for all marital status groups.

SNAP Use by Veteran Status and Marital Status
(in percent)



Veterans were present in lower percentages of households using SNAP than non-Veteran households for all but the '\$100,000 and higher' income group, whose rates were about the same.

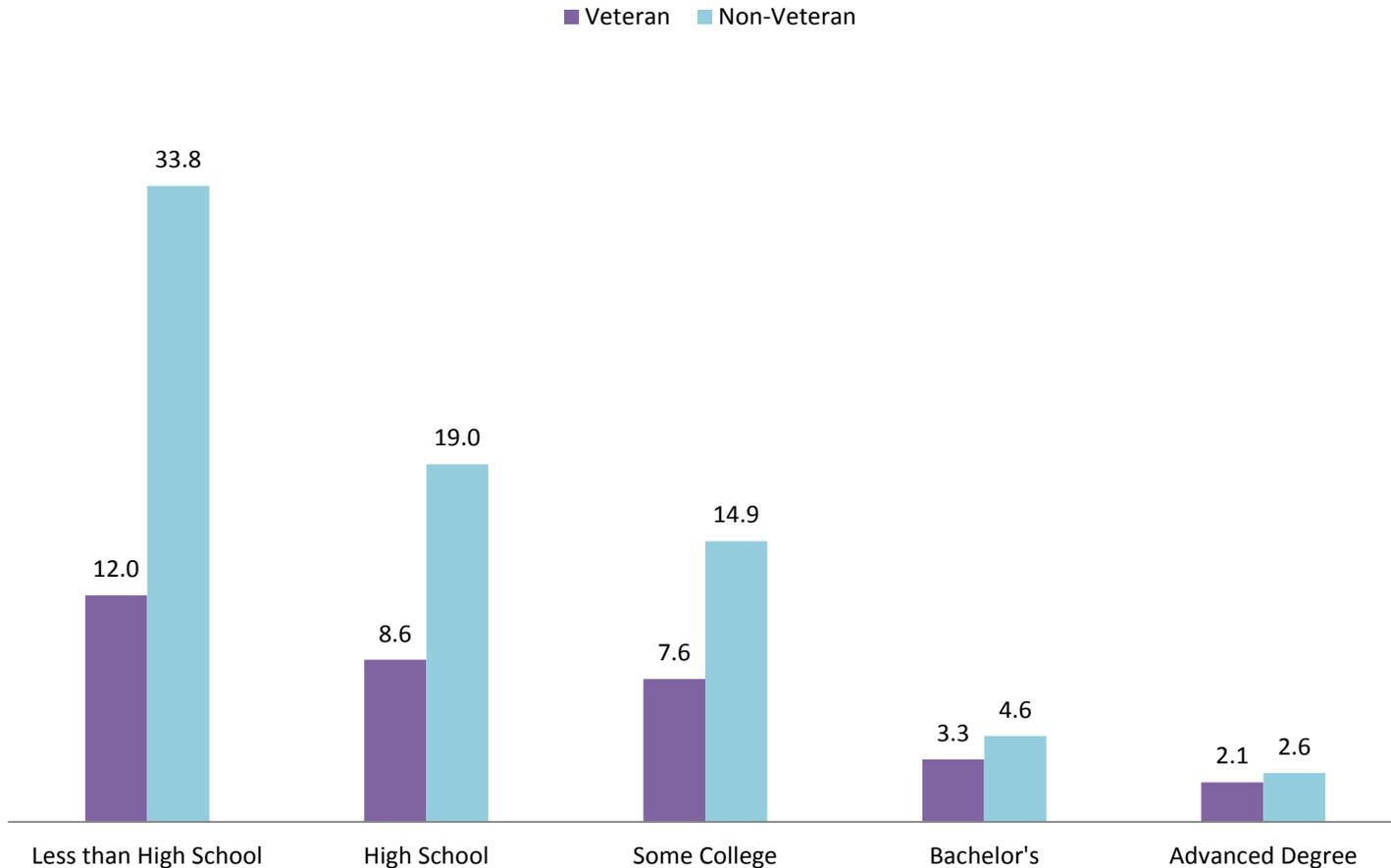
SNAP Use by Veteran Status and Income
(in percent)



*Not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level

Veterans were present in lower percentages of households using SNAP than non-Veteran households for all education levels.

SNAP Use by Veteran Status and Education Level
(in percent)

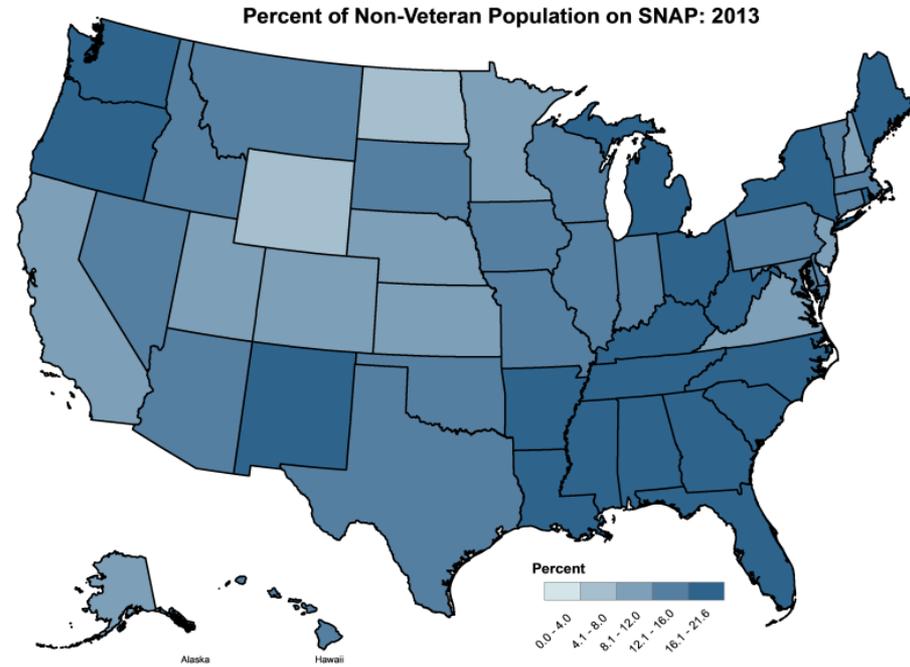
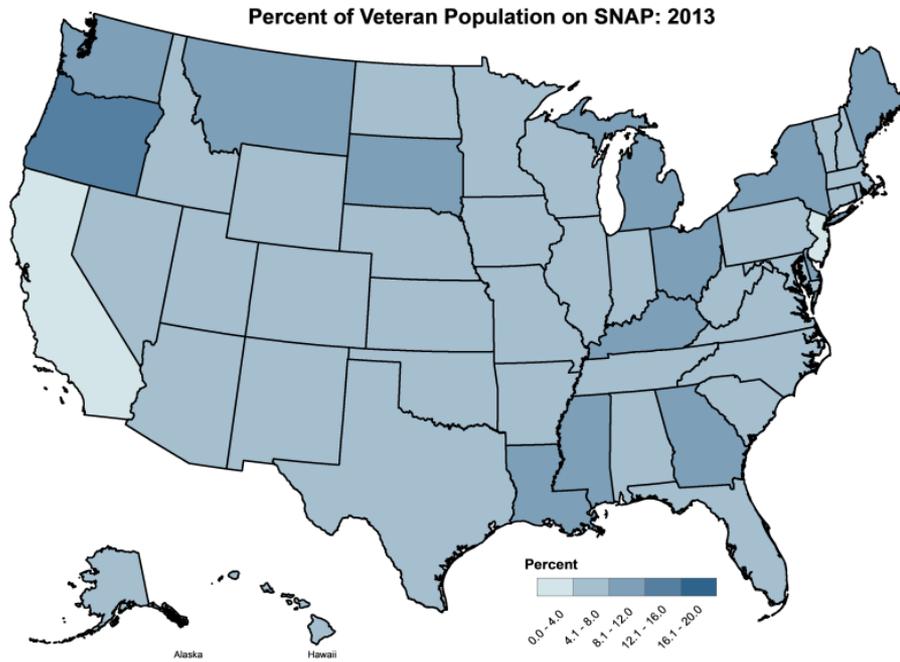


Veteran SNAP users are better off socioeconomically than Non-Veteran SNAP participants.

Comparison of Veteran and Non-Veteran SNAP Participants

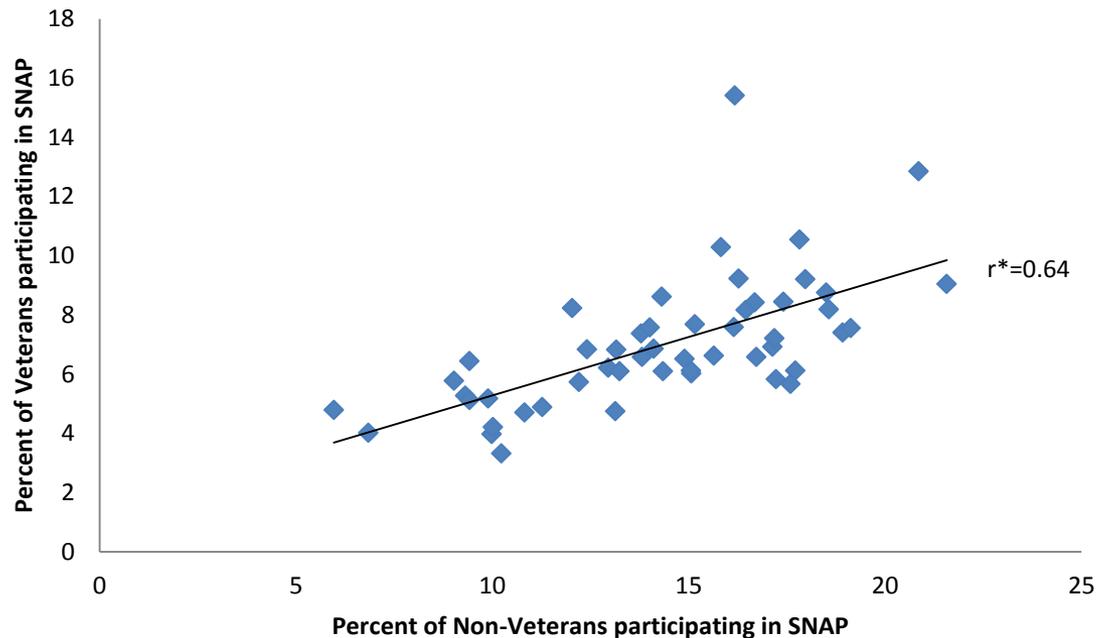
	Veteran SNAP participants	Non-Veteran SNAP participants
Median Household Income	\$24,557	\$18,390
With Children	20.4%	45.6%
Mean Number of Children of those with Children	2.0	2.1
In Poverty	33.8%	53.2%
Median Age	55	38
Female	11.6%	58.9%
Disabled	39.4%	25.3%
Born in the U.S.	96.6%	80.7%

A higher percentage of Non-Veterans than Veterans in each state participate in SNAP.



States with larger percentages of non-Veteran SNAP households also had larger percentages of Veteran SNAP households.

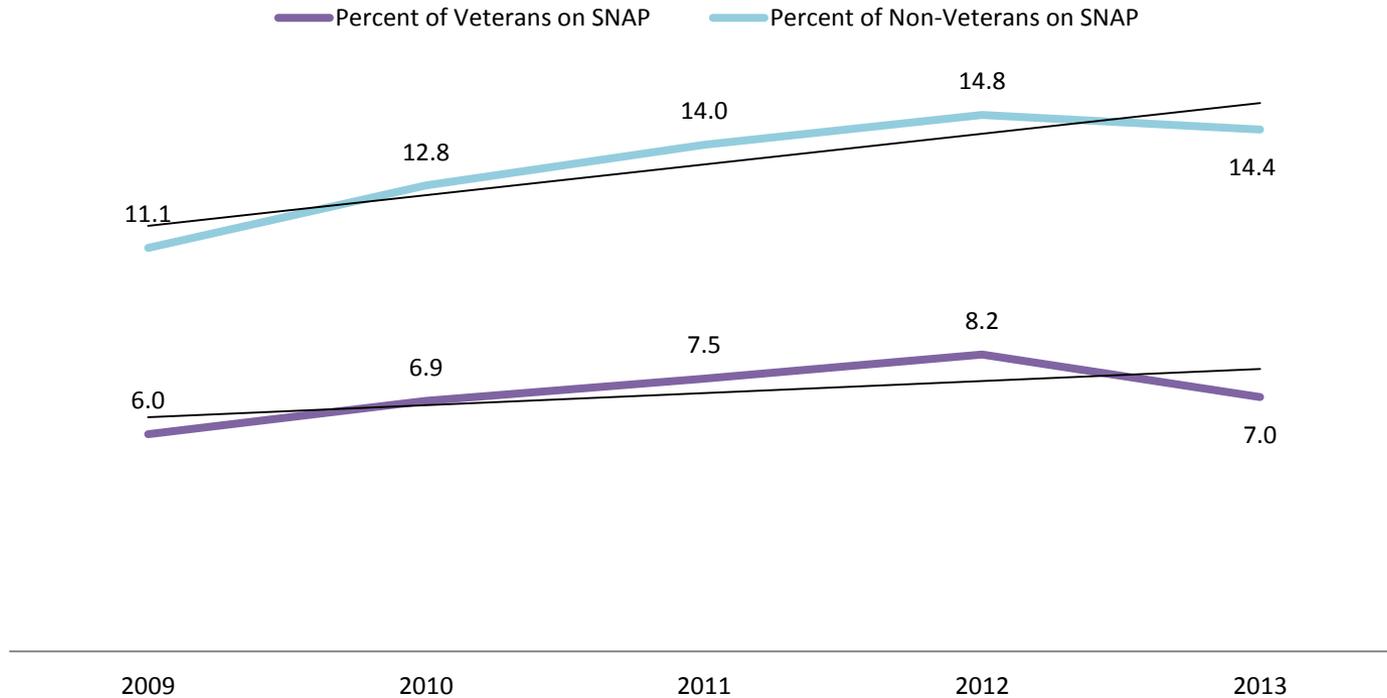
Veteran and non-Veteran household SNAP participation by State in 2013
(in percent)



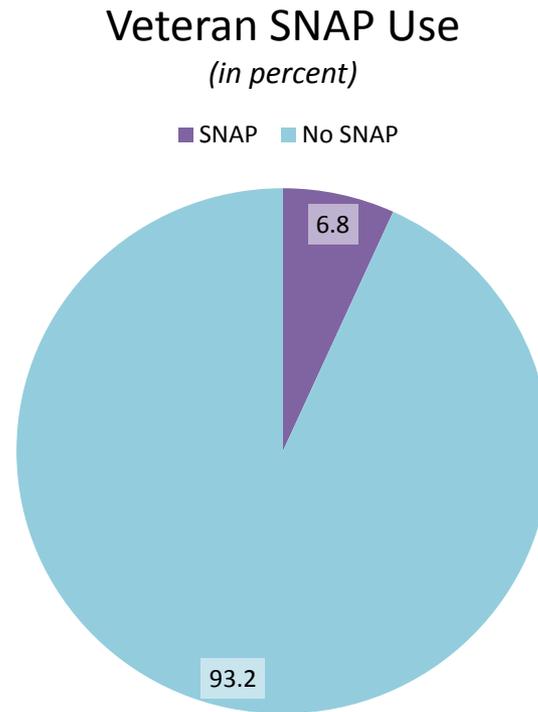
* Since the r value is greater than .6, there exists a positive correlation among the states and other geographic locations for Veteran and non-Veteran SNAP household participation. This means if we know Non-Veteran SNAP household participation is high for a state, then the Veteran SNAP household participation will also more likely to be high.

A larger percentage of non-Veterans than Veterans are in SNAP households, and Veteran and non-Veteran SNAP participation has increased from 2009 to 2013.

Veterans and Non-Veterans Participating in SNAP from 2009 to 2013
(in percent)



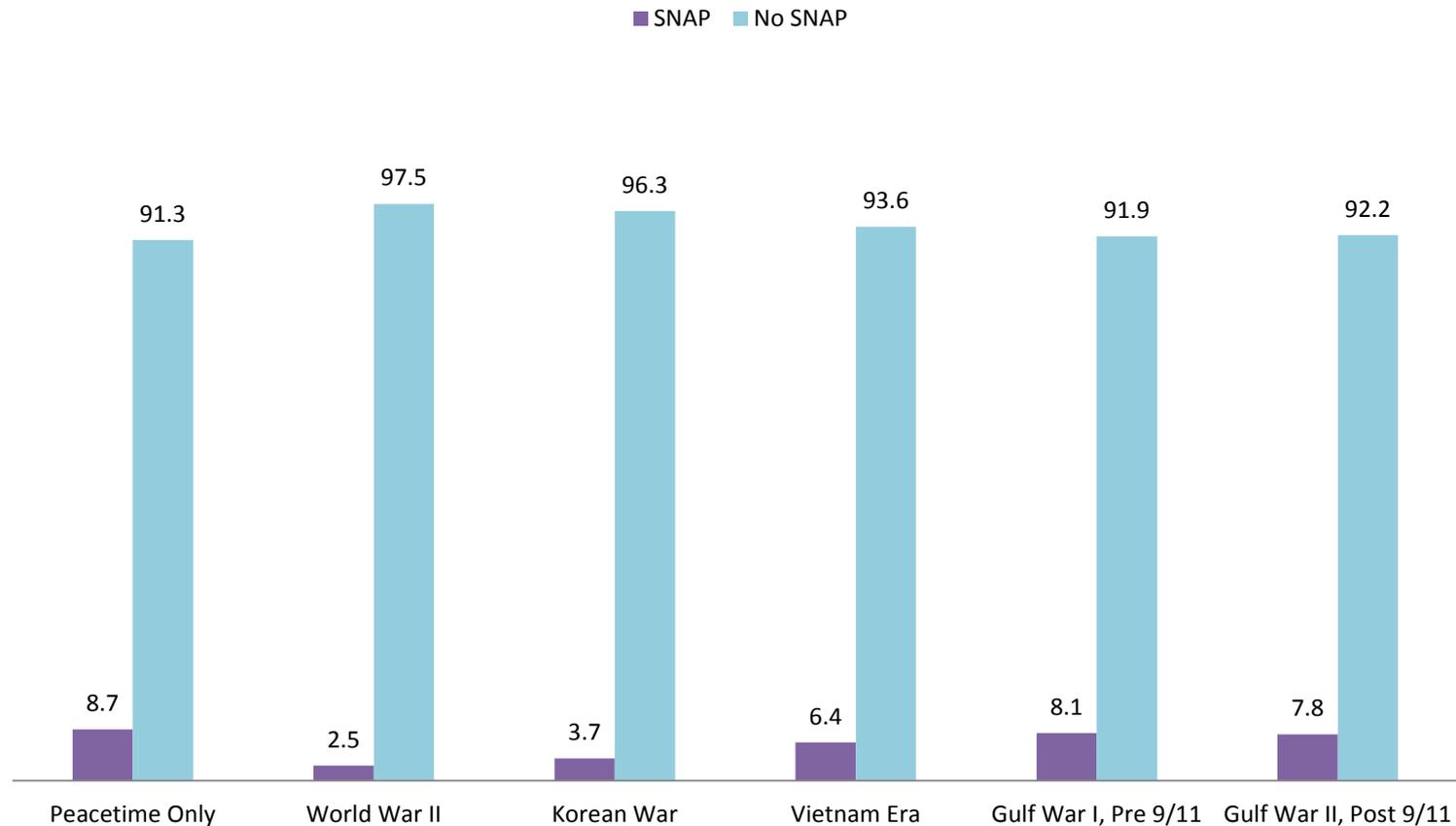
Veterans in SNAP Households and Veterans not in SNAP Households



About 7% of Veteran households used SNAP in 2013.

A higher percentage of Peacetime and Gulf War Era Veterans lived in households using SNAP than World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam Era Veterans.

Veteran SNAP Use by Period of Service
(in percent)



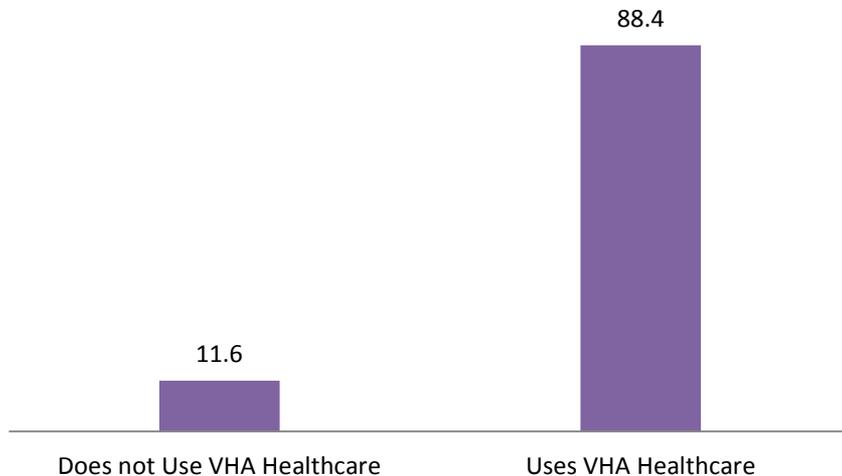
Note: Periods of service are mutually exclusive. Veterans cannot serve in more than one period.

Most Veterans in SNAP households used VHA healthcare and have a service-connected disability.

Veteran SNAP Participants by VHA Healthcare Use

(in percent)

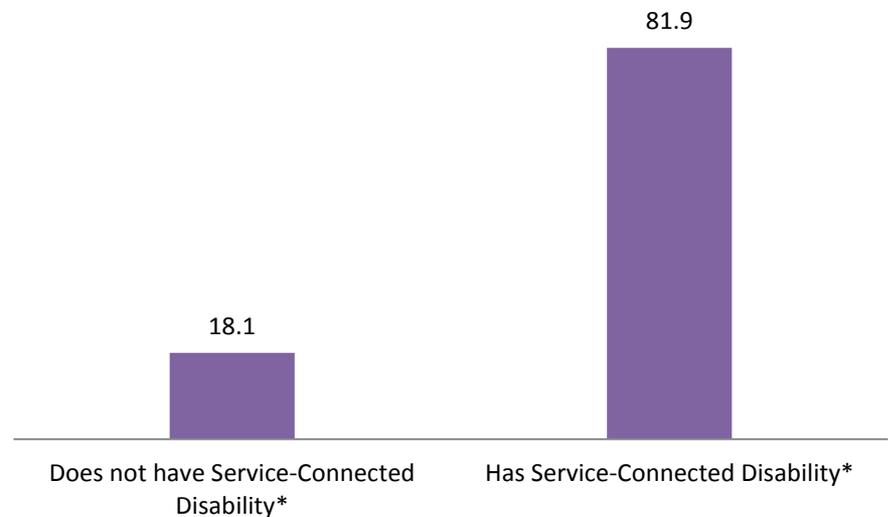
■ SNAP



Veteran SNAP Participants by Service-Connected Disability Status

(in percent)

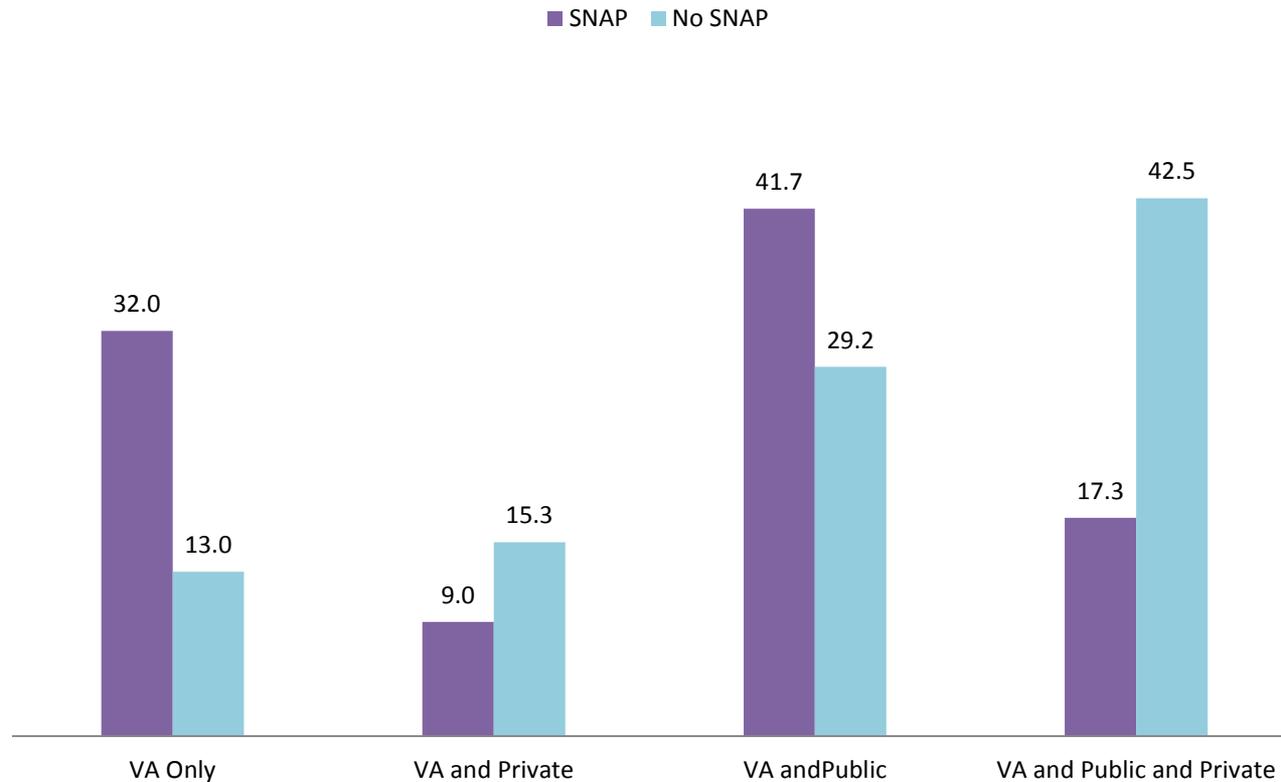
■ SNAP



Note: A person with a service-connected disability has received a Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disability rating.

Of Veterans in SNAP households who used VHA health care, 32% had no other health insurance.

Health Insurance Options Among Veterans who Used VHA by SNAP Participation
(in percent)



Veterans who are not in SNAP households are better off socioeconomically than Veterans in SNAP households.

Comparison of Veteran in SNAP Households and Veterans not in SNAP Households

	Veteran SNAP Participants	Veteran Non-SNAP Participants
Median Household Income	\$24,557	\$57,796
With Children	20.4%	12.8%
Mean Number of Children of those with Children	2.0	1.8
In Poverty	33.8%	5.3%
Median Age	55	64
Female	88.4%	92.3%
Disabled	39.4%	28.3%
Service-Connected Disabled*	18.1%	18.3%

*Not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level

Note: Disabled includes anyone who identifies as having hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, or independent living difficulty.
A person with a service-connected disability has received a Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disability rating.

Summary

Veteran and Non-Veteran SNAP Households

- For all ages, a lower percentage of Veterans lived in households using SNAP than non-Veterans.
- Regardless of race, ethnicity, or marital status Veteran households used SNAP at a lower rate than non-Veteran households.
- Veterans in SNAP households had higher incomes, fewer children, and a smaller percentage living below the poverty threshold than non-Veterans.
- Veterans in SNAP households were older and fewer were female compared with non-Veterans.
- A higher percentage of Veterans in SNAP households had a disability compared with non-Veterans.
- States with larger percentages of non-Veteran SNAP households had larger percentages of Veteran SNAP households.

Veterans in SNAP and non-SNAP Households

- Veteran SNAP users had smaller median household incomes than Veterans not using SNAP.
- A higher percentage of Veteran SNAP users had children in the home than Veteran non-SNAP households.
- A higher percentage of Veteran SNAP households were in poverty than Veteran households not using SNAP.
- SNAP users were younger than Veterans not participating in SNAP.
- A higher percentage of Veteran SNAP users were female.

Contact Information For This Report

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