

2015 Veterans Profile



The 2015 Veterans Profile provides basic demographic and economic data on New Mexico's veterans. This is the third year that the Veterans Profile has been produced. National and state-level data are from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates, while county-level data are from the 2014 ACS 5-year estimates. Labor force and unemployment data are from the Current Population Survey's 2015 annual estimates. All data measure veterans and nonveterans 18 and older, except educational attainment data, which measure those 25 and older.

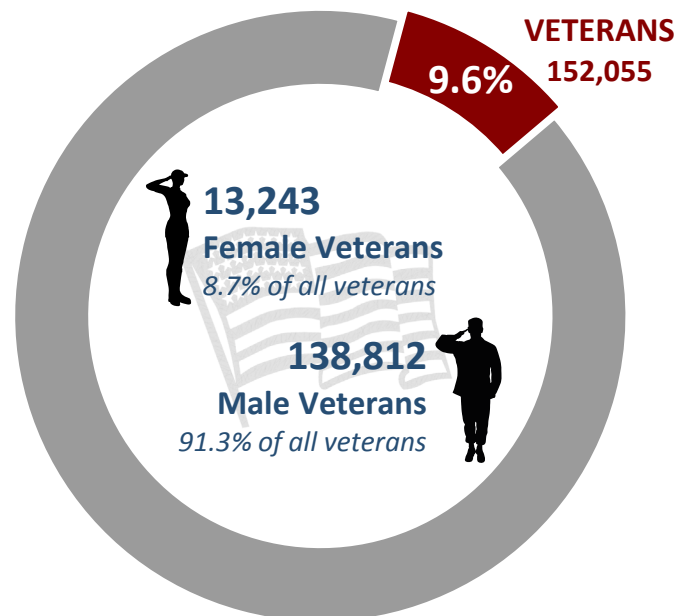
Veterans Living in New Mexico

There were 152,055 veterans living in New Mexico as of 2014. Veterans represented 9.6 percent of the civilian population 18 and older.

There were 138,812 male and 13,243 female veterans in the state in 2014. Men made up just over 91 percent of the total veteran population, while women made up 8.7 percent.

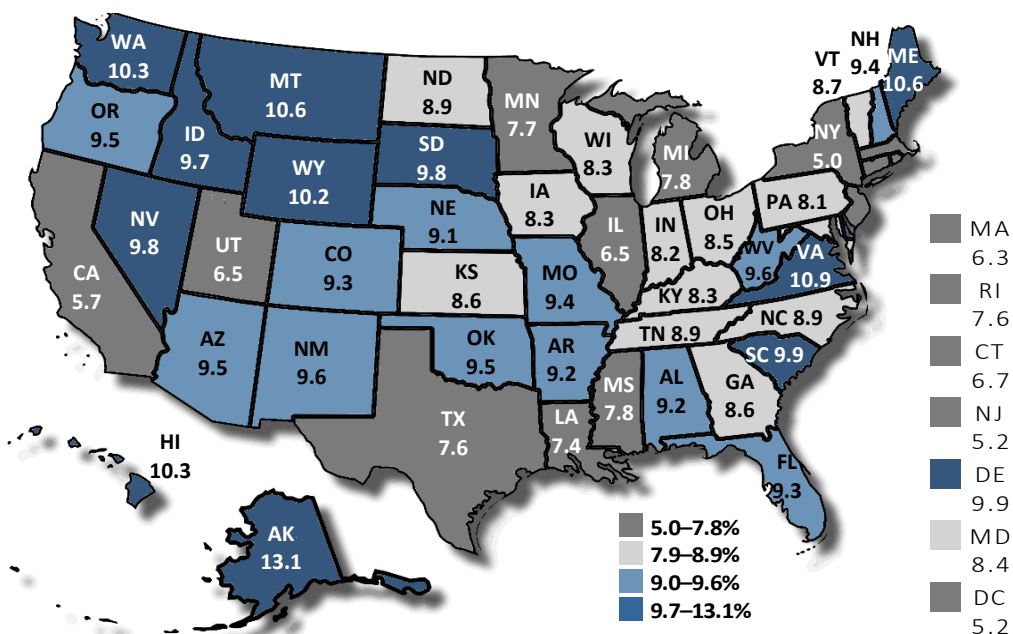
Within the U.S., veterans represented 7.9 percent of the total population as of 2014. New Mexico was ranked thirteenth in the nation for concentration of veterans. Alaska had the largest concentration, with 13.1 percent of the population having previously served in the armed forces. Alaska's veteran population was also the most balanced across gender; 13.0 percent of veterans were women, representing the highest concentration in the nation. New York had the smallest concentration of veterans (5.0 percent). Its neighbor, New Jersey, had the smallest concentration of female veterans (5.7 percent).

Veterans as a Percentage of the Total Population New Mexico, 2014



Veterans as a Percentage of the Total Population

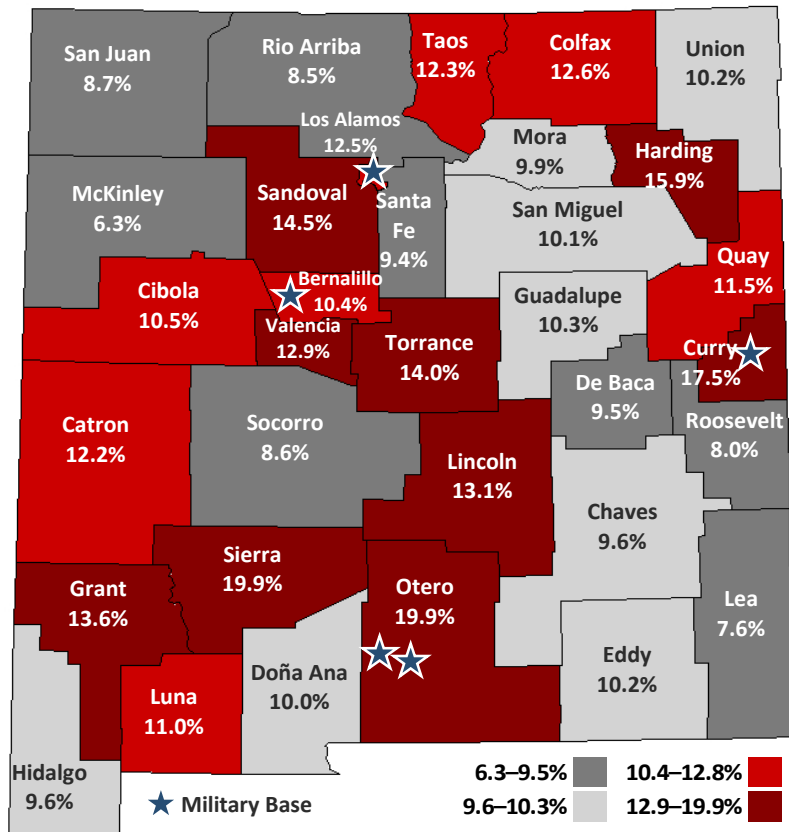
U.S. States, 2014



Most of New Mexico's veterans were living in the most populated counties of the state in 2014. Nearly 56 percent of veterans resided in one of the four New Mexico counties with more than 100,000 people 18 and older—Bernalillo, Doña Ana, Santa Fe, and Sandoval. These counties did not have the largest concentrations of veterans, however.

Veterans as a Percentage of the Total Population

New Mexico, 2014



The concentration of veterans in New Mexico's counties ranged from 6.3 percent to 19.9 percent of the total population 18 and older. McKinley County had the lowest concentration of veterans, and Otero and Sierra Counties had the highest concentration. White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, both located in Otero County, likely contributed to that county's large concentration and, to some degree, the concentration in Sierra, its close neighbor. Sierra is also known for its retiree population, many of which are likely veterans.

Curry and Harding Counties also had veteran populations that made up over 15 percent of the total population. Curry County is the home of Canon Air Force Base. Harding's large concentration was, at least to some degree, due to its small total population. Sandoval County was the only county with more than 100,000 people, 18 and older, that had a veteran population representing more than 11 percent of the total population as of 2014.

When New Mexico's Veterans Served

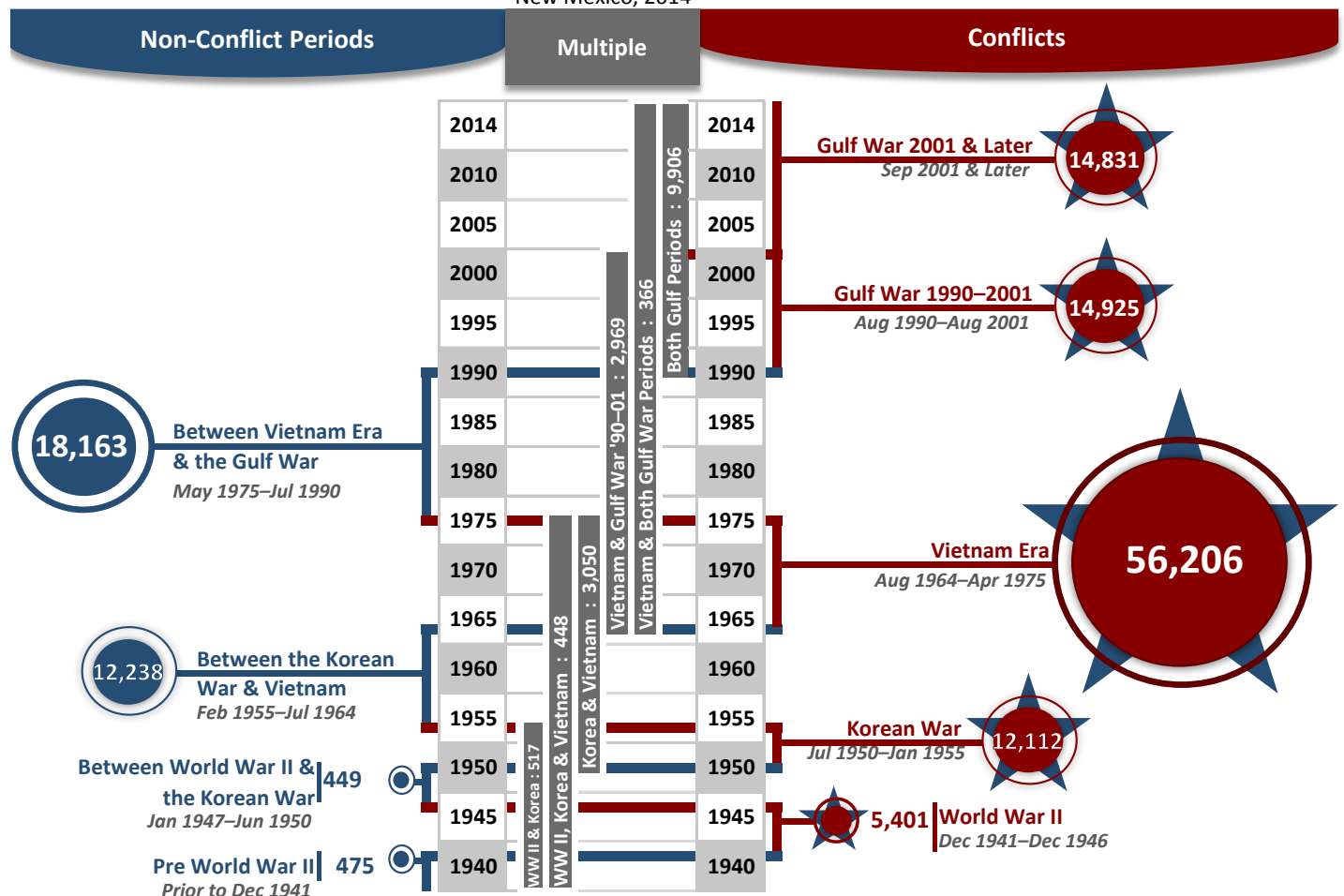
Close to 80 percent of New Mexico's veterans had served in a conflict as of 2014.

- Just under 40 percent of all veterans (59,703), and nearly 50 percent of all conflict veterans, had served in the Vietnam War. Close to 6 percent of those veterans also served in Korea and/or World War II.
- Veterans who served in the Gulf War (starting in 1990) represented 28.3 percent of all veterans and 35.6 percent of conflict veterans in New Mexico. Approximately 7.8 percent of those veterans also served in Vietnam.
- New Mexico's Korean War veterans represented 10.6 percent of all veterans and 13.4 percent of conflict veterans as of 2014. Nearly one quarter of those veterans also served in World War II and/or Vietnam.
- There were 6,366 World War II veterans in New Mexico as of 2014, representing just over 4 percent of all veterans and just over 5 percent of conflict veterans. About 15 percent of the state's World War II veterans also served in Korea and/or Vietnam.



Veterans by Period of Service

New Mexico, 2014



Who Are New Mexico's Veterans?

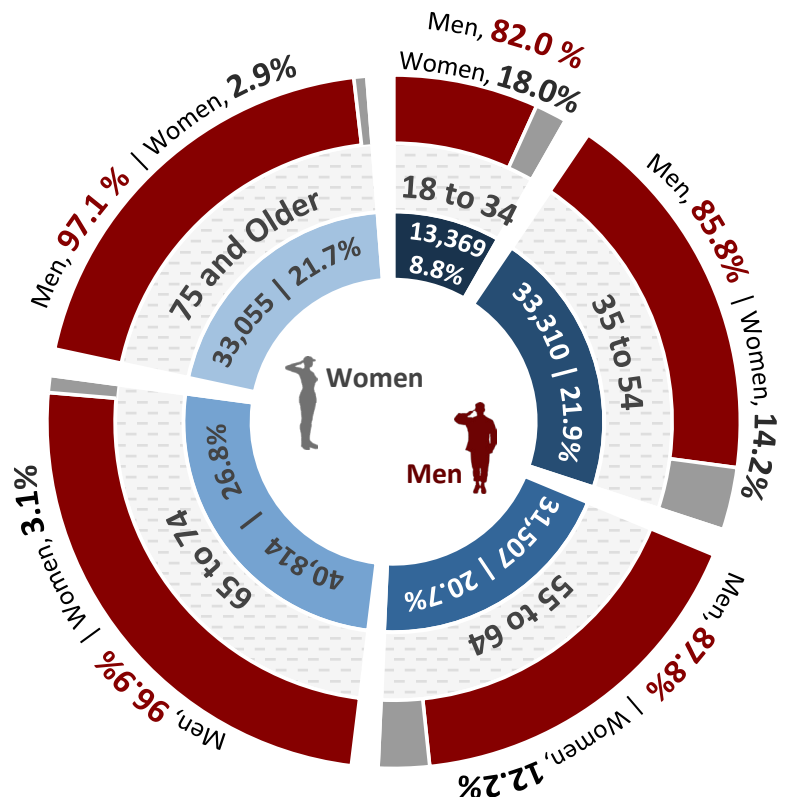
★ AGE OF NEW MEXICO'S VETERANS

Between 20 and 27 percent of veterans fell within the four oldest age groups—35 to 54 years old, 55 to 64 years old, 65 to 74 years old, and 75 years old and older. The largest of these was the 65 to 74 group, with 40,814 of the state's veterans falling between those two ages. This age group likely served in Vietnam or during that time, when a large number of Americans were enlisted. Only 8.8 percent of veterans were 18 to 34.

The enlistment of women in the armed forces has increased over time, and this shift in demographics of enlisted members is evident in the data. The percentage of female veterans grows as age decreases. Just around 3 percent of veterans 65 and older were women as of 2014, compared to 18 percent of veterans 18 to 34 years old.

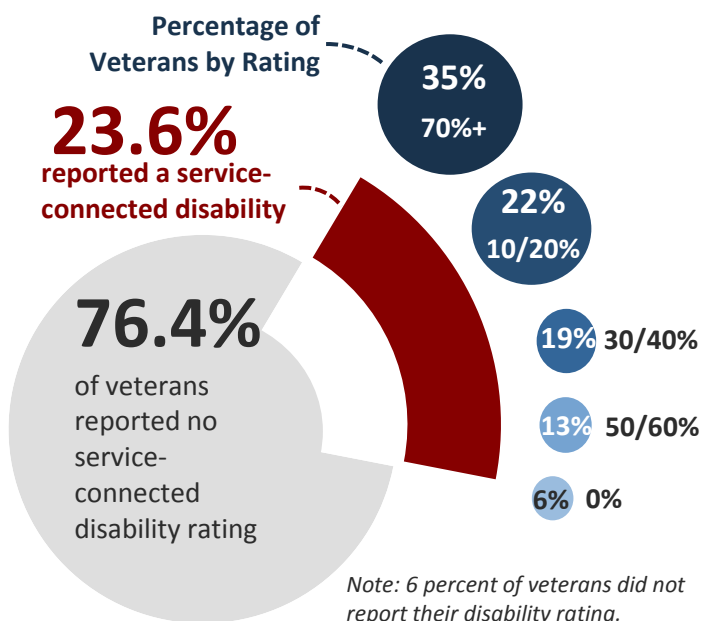
Veterans by Age and Gender

New Mexico, 2014



Veterans With Service-Connected Disabilities

New Mexico, 2014



★ SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

As of 2014, 23.6 percent of New Mexico's veterans reported having a service-connected disability. Of those veterans, 35 percent reported a disability rating of 70 percent or more, indicating the highest degree of disability. Veterans with a disability rating of 10 or 20 percent made up 22 percent, and those with a rating of 30 or 40 percent made up 19 percent of all veterans with a service-connected disability. About 13 percent of disabled veterans with a service-connected disability reported a rating of 50 or 60 percent, while 6 percent reported a disability with no reduction in abilities (a rating of 0 percent).

★ RACE AND ETHNICITY OF NEW MEXICO'S VETERANS

The majority (84.4 percent) of New Mexico's veterans were White as of 2014. Around 15 percent of veterans identified another race. The second and third most common races of veterans were "some other race" (5.1 percent of the state's veterans) and Native American/Alaska Native (4.9 percent). Asian veterans were the least common veterans in New Mexico.

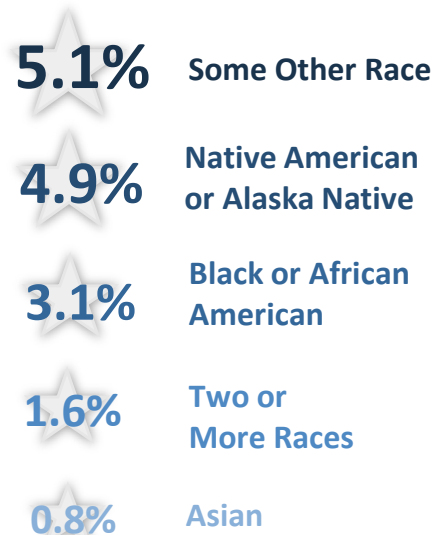
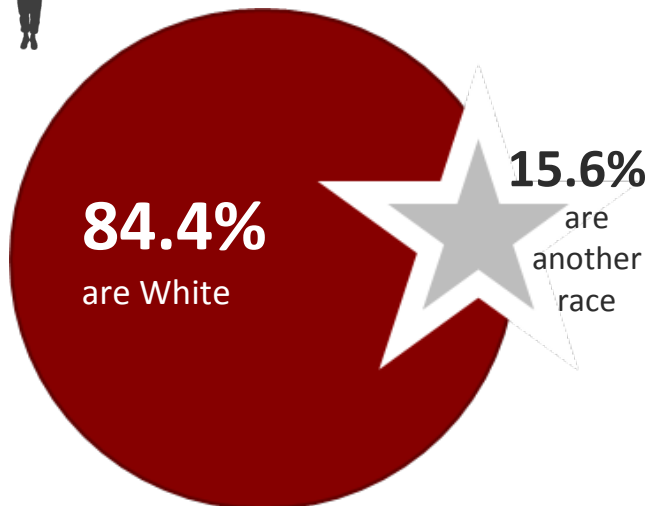


Veterans and Nonveterans by Race

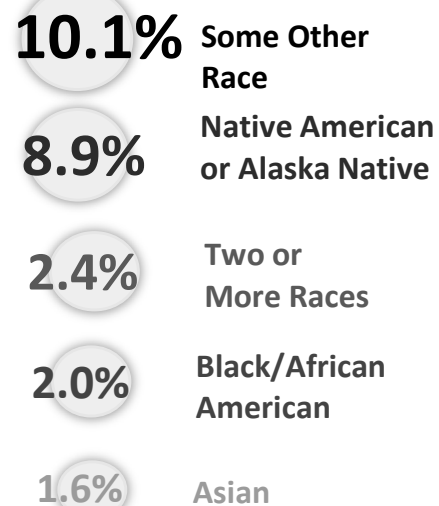
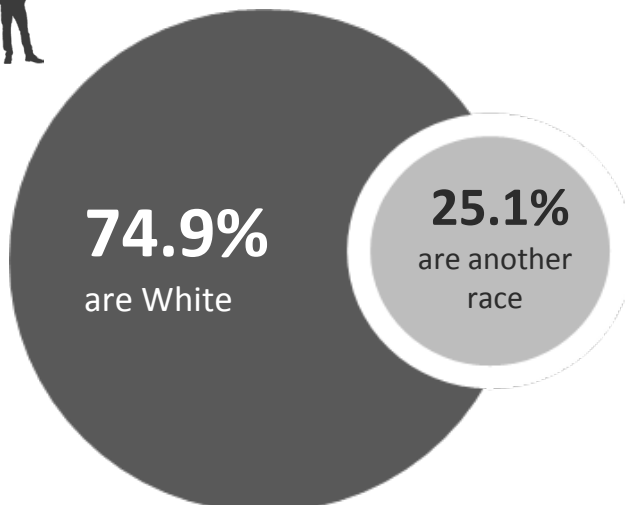
New Mexico, 2014



VETERANS



NONVETERANS



**Note: Individual percentages may not sum to totals due to rounding.*

The veteran population appears to be somewhat less diverse than the general population. Veterans in New Mexico were more likely to be White than nonveterans in 2014. Persons who identified themselves as Black/African American made up a larger share of veterans than nonveterans. On the other hand, veterans were less likely to be Native American, Asian, some other race, or two or more races. The share of Native Americans and persons of another race amongst veterans was 4 to 5 percentage points lower than the share amongst nonveterans.

When looking at ethnicity, veterans were less likely to be Hispanic/Latino than nonveterans in 2014. Just over 61 percent of veterans reported being White, alone, whereas 41 percent of veterans reported that ethnicity. Just under 30 percent of veterans reported being Hispanic/Latino, compared to close to 46 percent of nonveterans.

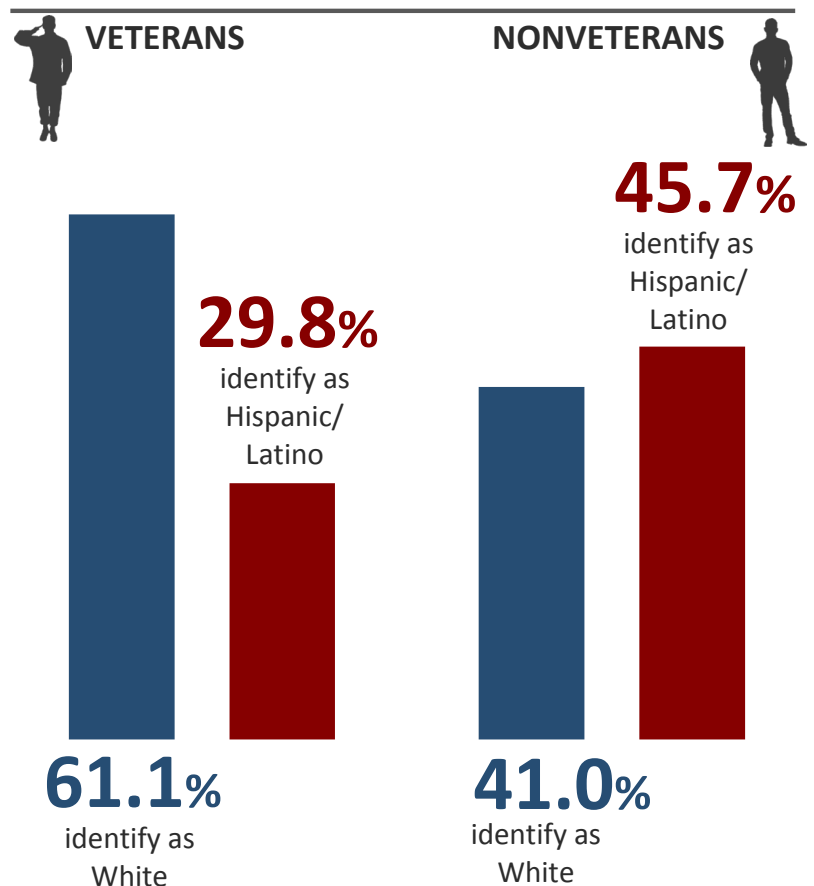
★ EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Veterans typically have a higher level of educational attainment than nonveterans. This is at least somewhat due to the requirement that people enlisting in the armed forces have a high school diploma or equivalent certificate. Just under 6 percent of veterans did not have a high school diploma/equivalent certificate as of 2014, compared to just over 17 percent of nonveterans.

Veterans were more likely to have gained additional education after high school than nonveterans. About 39 percent of New Mexico's veterans had completed some college or earned an associate's degree as of 2014, and nearly 30 percent of veterans had earned a bachelor's degree or more. Around 30 and 26 percent of nonveterans had reached those same levels of educational attainment as of 2014, respectively.

Veterans and Nonveterans by Ethnicity

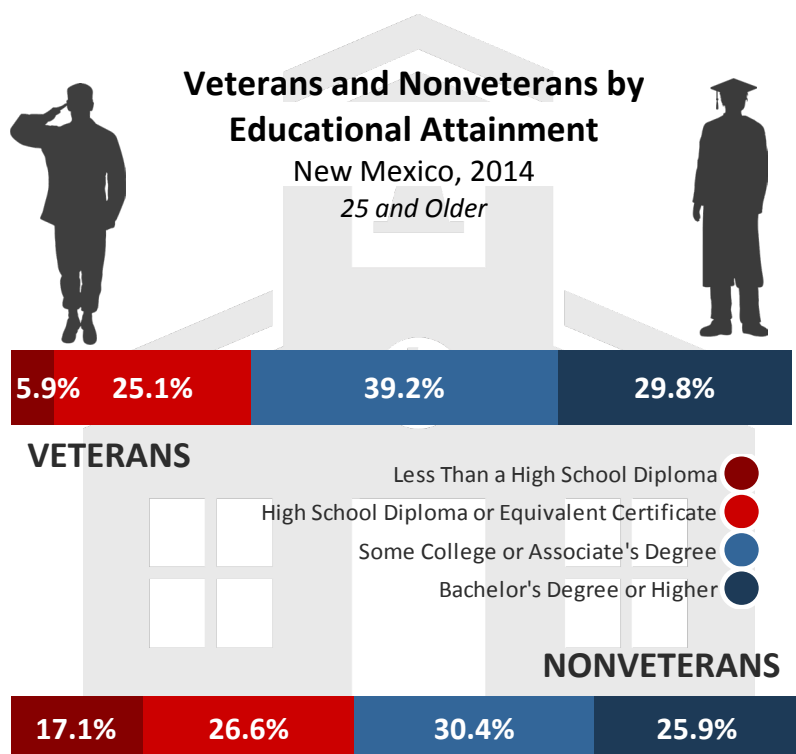
New Mexico, 2014



Veterans and Nonveterans by Educational Attainment

New Mexico, 2014

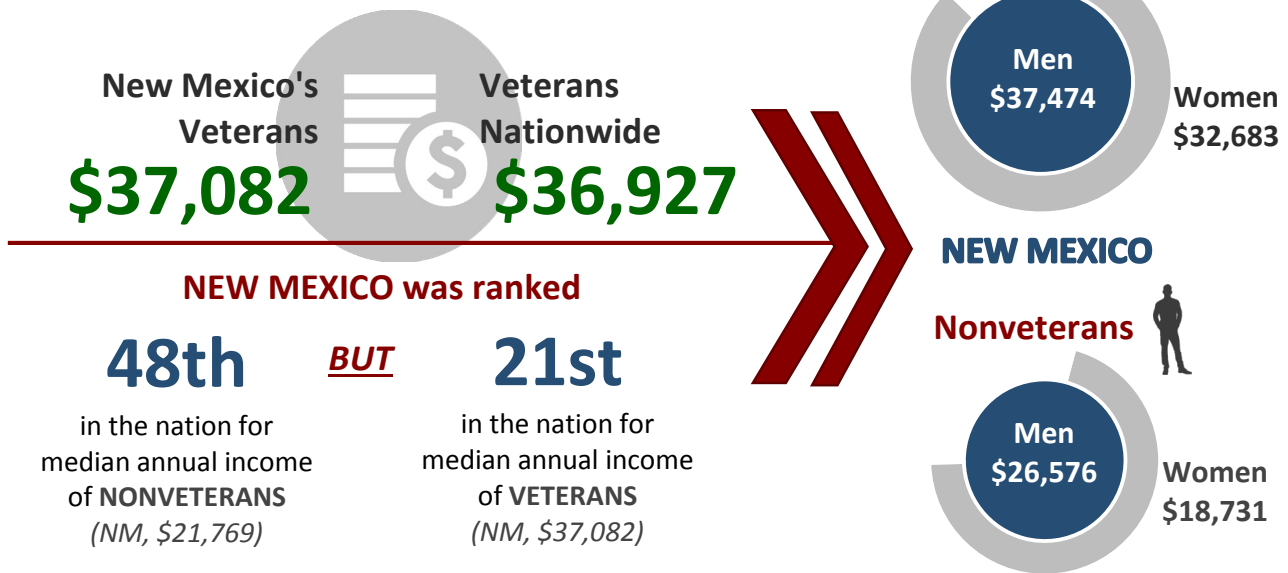
25 and Older



*Based on 150,002 veterans 25 and older.

Median Annual Income of Veterans

New Mexico and the U.S, 2014



New Mexico Veterans: Income and Poverty

★ MEDIAN ANNUAL INCOME

The median annual income of New Mexico's veterans is very close to the income of veterans nationwide. As of 2014, the median income of the state's veterans was \$37,082, whereas the income of the nation's veterans was \$36,927. New Mexico's veterans also earned more than nonveterans that year, to the tune of \$15,313. The difference in median annual incomes of veterans and nonveterans was significant; the state ranked forty-eight in the nation for nonveteran income but twenty-first in the nation for veteran income.

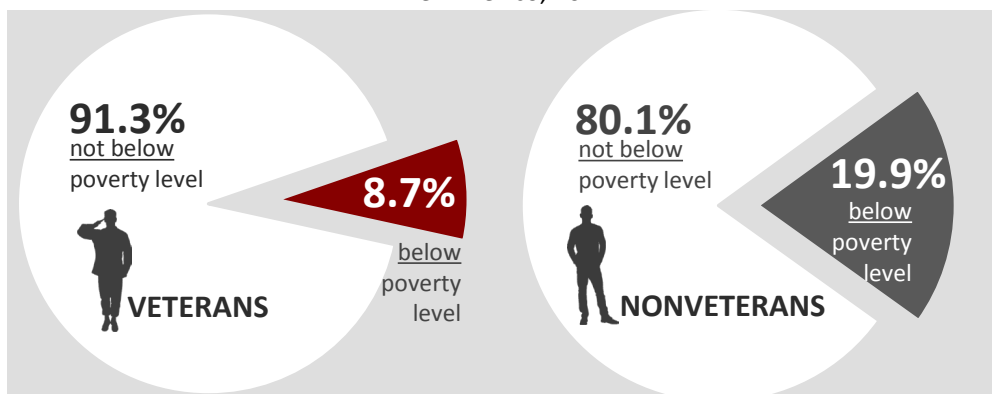
Male veterans and nonveterans both earned more than the women of those respective groups. Female veterans earned 87 cents for every dollar earned by male veterans. This difference in incomes was smaller than the difference in incomes for nonveterans. Nonveteran women earned 70 cents for every dollar earned by nonveteran men.

★ POVERTY AND DISABILITY

Veterans were less likely to live in poverty than nonveterans as of 2014. Approximately 8.7 percent of veterans reported living below the poverty level, compared to close to 20 percent of nonveterans. On the other hand, veterans were more likely to have a disability than nonveterans. Just over 30 percent of veterans reported having a disability, either service-connected or not, while only 17.2 percent of nonveterans reported having a disability.

Veterans and Nonveterans by Poverty Status

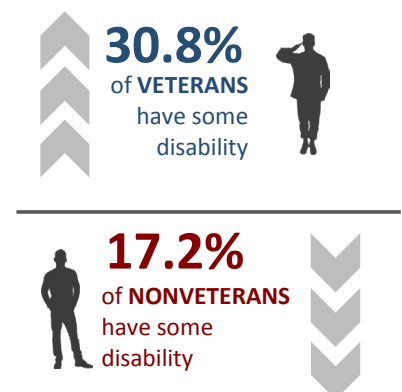
New Mexico, 2014



*Note: The total count of veterans for poverty and disability statistics is 149,436 and differs from the main count of veterans because this measure excludes some groups for the purposes of measuring poverty.

Veterans and Nonveterans by Disability Status

New Mexico, 2014



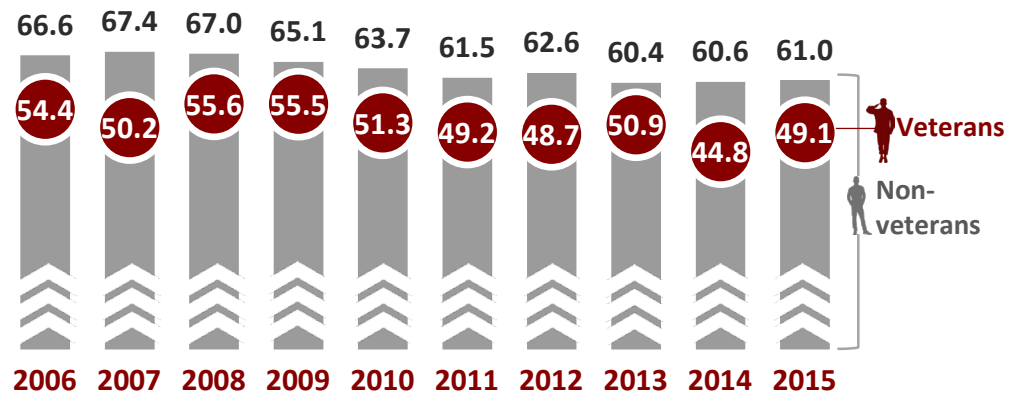
The Employment Situation of New Mexico's Veterans

★ LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

As of 2015, 49.1 percent of the veteran population in New Mexico was participating in the labor force, (i.e., they were employed or actively seeking work). This rate was slightly lower than the rate for veterans nationwide (50.7 percent). New Mexico ranked thirty-first in the nation for veteran labor force participation. Alaska had the highest participation (62.9 percent), and West Virginia had the lowest (41.9 percent).

Labor Force Participation Rate (%) of Veterans and Nonveterans

New Mexico, 2006–2015

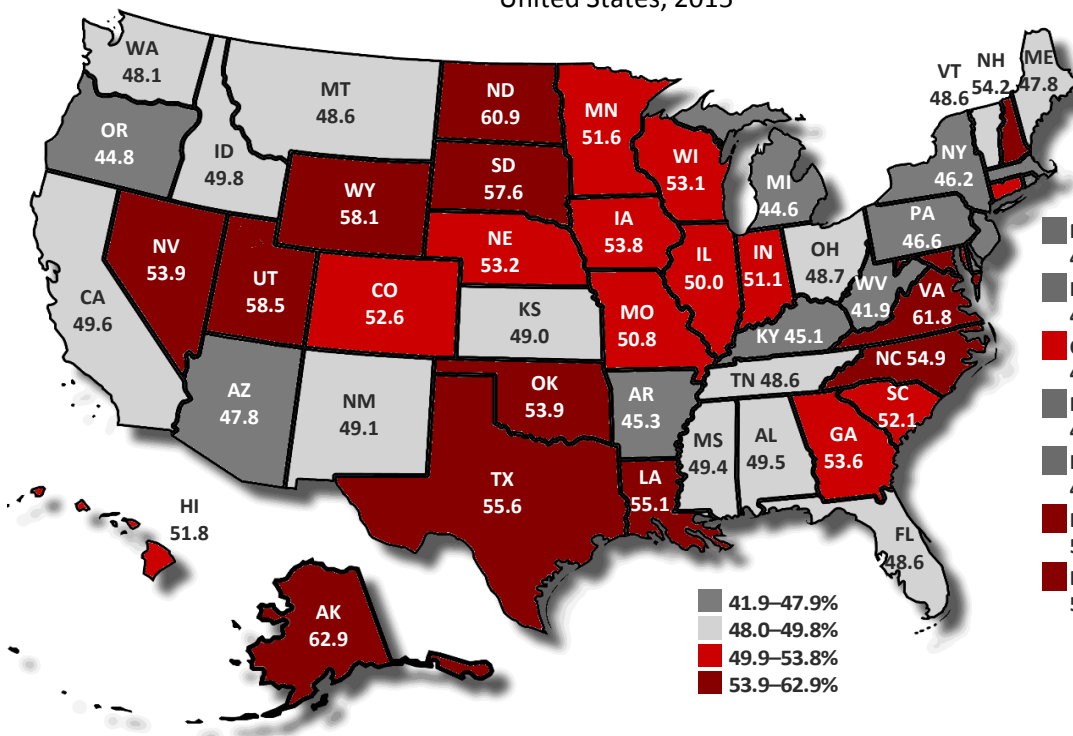


Nonveterans are more likely to participate in the labor force than veterans. As of 2015, 61.0 percent of the state's nonveterans and 65.4 percent of the nation's nonveterans participated in the labor force. New Mexico had one of the lowest labor force participation rates; the state ranked forty-seventh in the nation for nonveteran participation.

Over the last ten years, nonveterans participating in the labor force ranged from 60.4 to 67.4 percent of all nonveterans. Veteran labor force participation rates ranged from 44.8 to 55.6 percent of all veterans. Labor force participation rates have generally been declining over time, and the state and nation both saw their veteran and nonveteran rates hit their lowest levels in at least ten years between 2013 and 2015.

Labor Force Participation Rates of Veterans (%)

United States, 2015



NEW MEXICO
was ranked

47th

in the nation for
participation of
NONVETERANS
(LFP=61.0%)

BUT

31st

in the nation for
participation of
VETERANS
(2015)



50.7%

Labor Force Participation
of U.S. Veterans



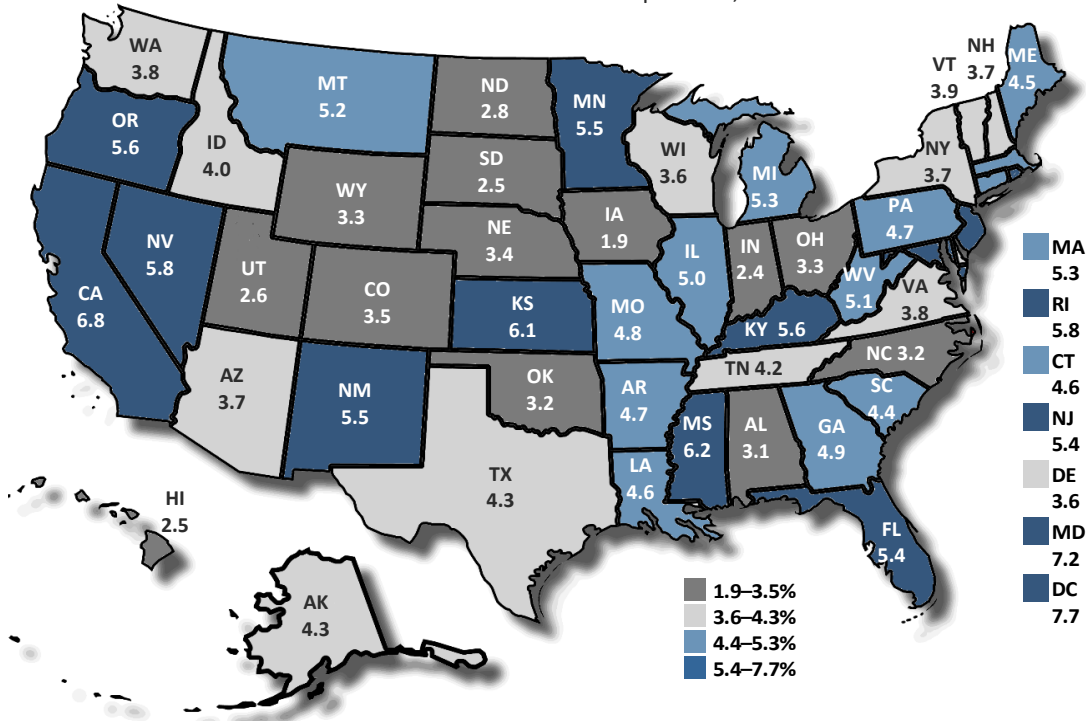
65.4%

Labor Force Participation
of U.S. Nonveterans

Unemployment Rate of Veterans (%)

United States, 2015

Civilian Noninstitutional Population, 18 and Older



NEW MEXICO
was ranked

47th

in the nation for
unemployment rate
of **NONVETERANS**
(6.7%)

AND

41st

in the nation for
unemployment rate
of
VETERANS
(2015)

4.6% Unemployment Rate
of U.S. Veterans

5.2% Unemployment Rate
of U.S. Nonveterans

**Note: Data prior to 2011 is based on veterans 20 and older, while data for 2012 and on is based on veterans 18 and older. The difference, however, between those 18 and older and 20 and older is so small as to be zero or negligible.*

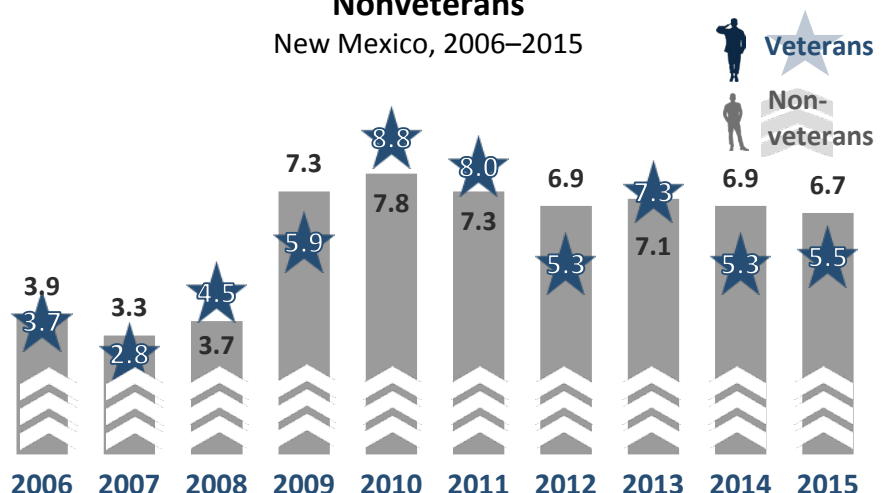
★ VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate of New Mexico's veterans was 5.5 percent in 2015. This rate was higher than the veteran rate nationwide (4.6 percent). New Mexico has struggled with unemployment since the Great Recession began in December 2007. The state's unemployment rate (for all people participating in the labor force) ranked it forty-eighth in the nation in 2015. Veterans appear to have fared slightly better than nonveterans; the nonveteran rate was 6.7 percent. The state was ranked forty-seventh for nonveterans and forty-first for veterans for unemployment rate in the nation as of 2015. The District of Columbia had the highest veteran unemployment rate (7.7 percent), while Iowa had the lowest (1.9 percent).

In the last ten years, the unemployment rate of New Mexico's veterans ranged from a low of 2.8 percent in 2007 (prior to the start of the recession) to a peak of 8.8 percent in 2010. Veterans saw some relief in the unemployment rate in 2014 and 2015, with the rate dropping to 5.3 and 5.5 percent, respectively. These rates were much lower than the rates of nonveterans during those years. The recent drop in rates was a welcoming sign for veterans after they saw their rate rise to 8 percent or higher, and to rates surpassing those of nonveterans, during the early recovery (2010 and 2011).

Unemployment Rate (%) of Veterans and Nonveterans

New Mexico, 2006–2015



The 2015 *Veterans Profile* is a publication from the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions,
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