

2018 VETERANS PROFILE

The **2018 Veterans Profile** provides basic demographic and economic data on New Mexico's veterans. This is the fifth year that the Veterans Profile has been produced. National and state-level data are from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates, while county-level data are from the 2016 ACS 5-year estimates. Labor force and unemployment data are from the Current Population Survey's (CPS) 2017 annual estimates. Data on homeless veterans are from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). All ACS and CES 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 142,187 veterans living in New Mexico as of 2016. Veterans represented 9.0 percent of the civilian population 18 and older. There were 129,570 male and 12,617 female veterans in the state in 2016. Men made up 91.1 percent of the total veteran population, while women made up 8.9 percent.

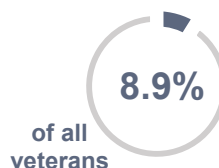
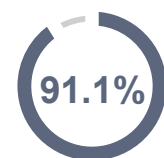
Within the U.S., veterans represented 7.4 percent of the total population as of 2017. New Mexico was ranked seventeenth in the nation for concentration of veterans. Alaska had the largest concentration of veterans, with 12.2 percent of the population having previously served in the armed forces. The District of Columbia (D.C.) and New York had the smallest concentration of veterans (4.7 percent each).

The concentration of veterans in New Mexico's counties ranged from 5.6 percent (McKinley) to 19.0 percent (Sierra) of the total

In New Mexico...



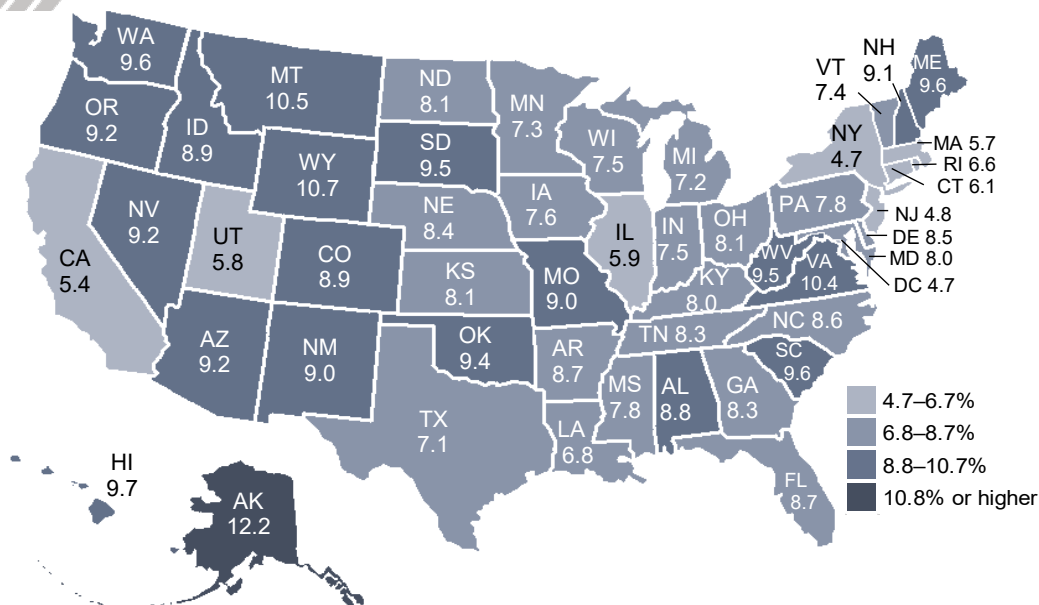
129,570
Male
Veterans



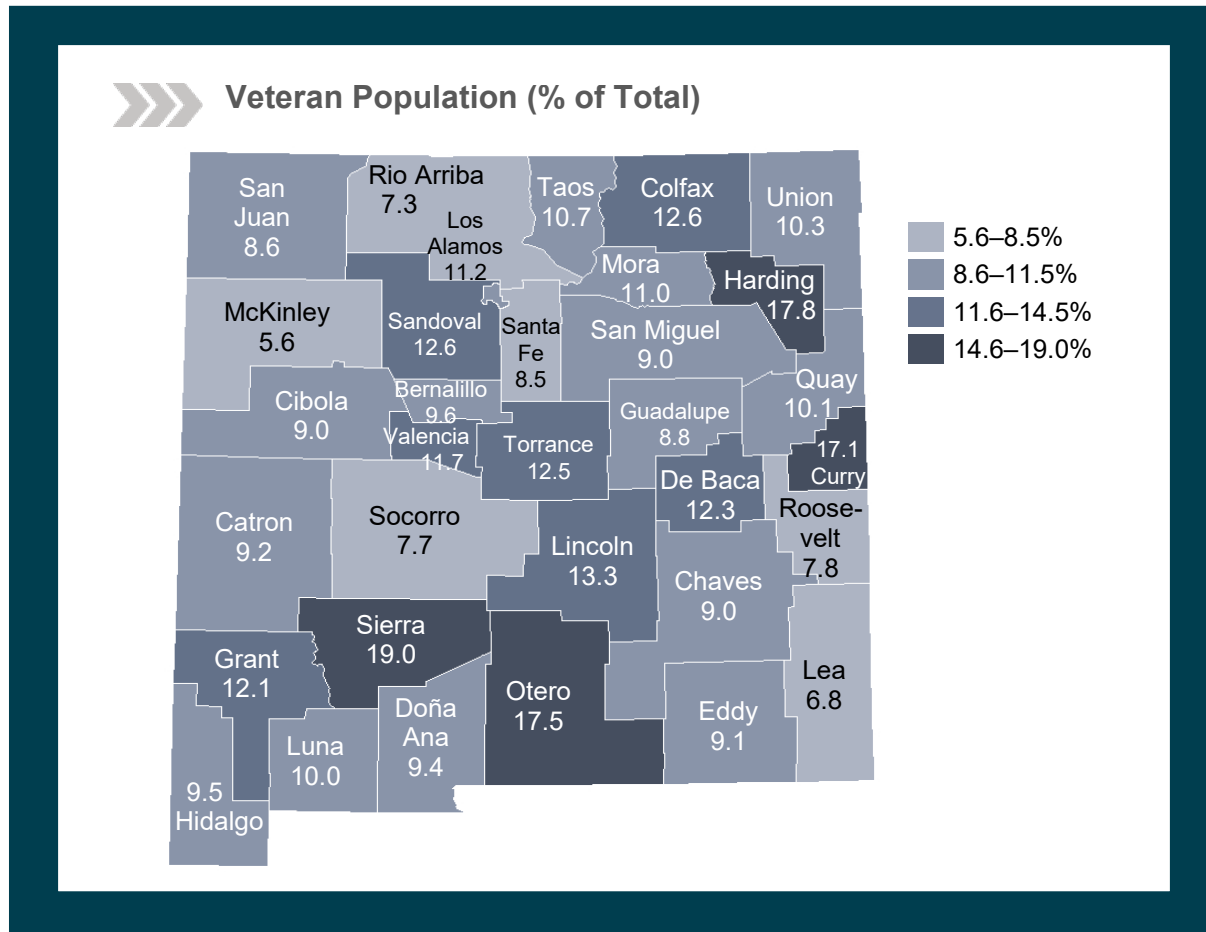
12,617
Female
Veterans



Veteran Population (% of Total)



population 18 and older. The veteran population exceeded 10 percent of the total population in 16 counties and exceeded 15 percent of the total population in four counties. White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base, both located in Otero County, likely contribute to that county's large concentration of veterans, which was the third highest (17.5 percent) in the state in 2016, and, to some degree, the concentration in Sierra, its close neighbor. Sierra is also known for its retiree population, which includes many veterans. Curry and Harding Counties also had veteran populations that made up over 15 percent of the total population in 2016. Curry County is the home of Canon Air Force Base. Harding's large concentration was, in part, due to its small total population.

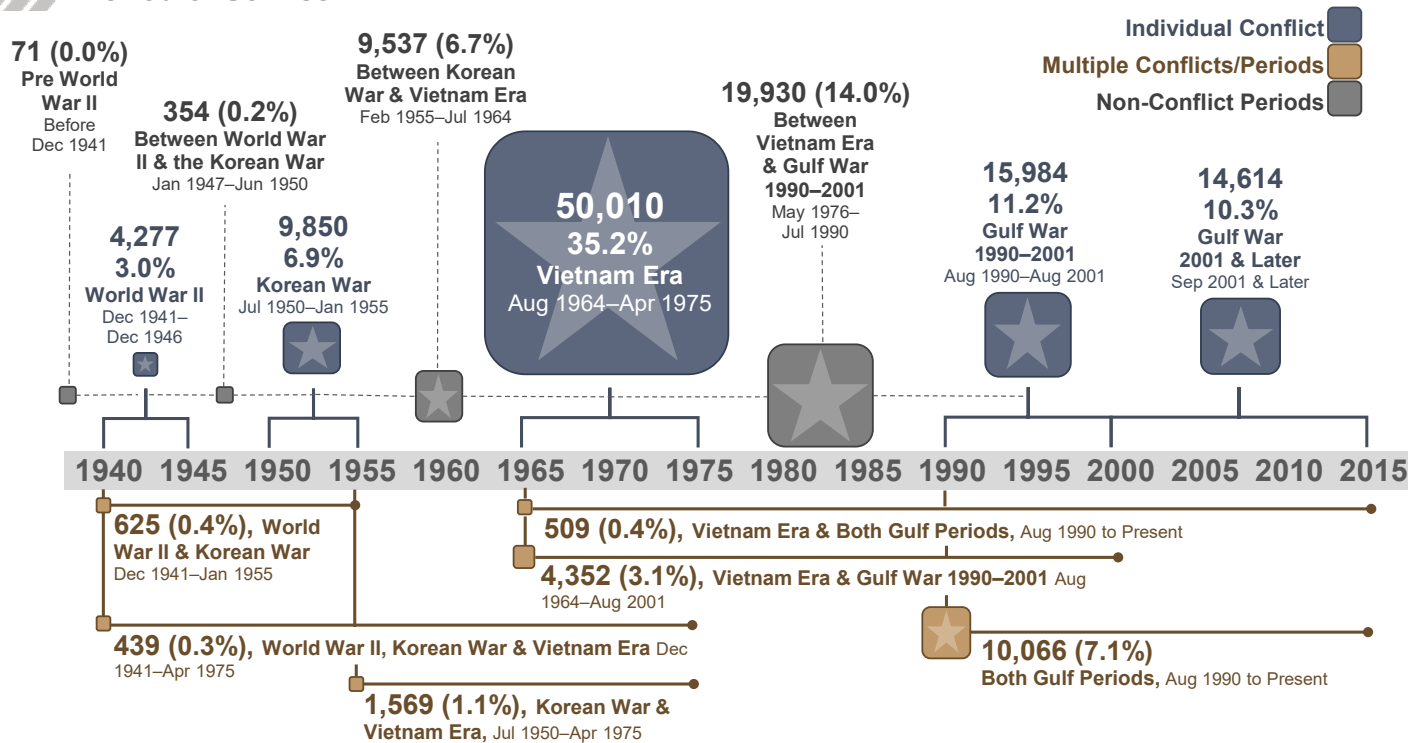


Veterans by Period of Service

Close to 80 percent of New Mexico's veterans had served in a conflict as of 2016.

- 40.0 percent of all veterans (56,879) and 50.7 percent of all conflict veterans had served in the Vietnam War. The majority (87.9 percent) of those who served in Vietnam did not serve in another conflict (World War II, Korean War, and/or the Gulf War).
- Veterans who served in the Gulf War (56,100) represented 39.5 percent of all veterans and 50.0 percent of conflict veterans in New Mexico. About 17.9 percent of Gulf War veterans served in both periods, August 1990 to August 2001 and September 2001 and later, but no other conflict.
- New Mexico's Korean War veterans (12,483) represented 8.8 percent of all veterans and 11.1 percent of conflict veterans as of 2016. Close to 80 percent of Korean War veterans only served during the Korean War.
- There were 5,341 World War II veterans in New Mexico as of 2016, representing 3.8 percent of all veterans and 4.8 percent of conflict veterans. About 80 percent of World War II veterans served only during the war.

Period of Service



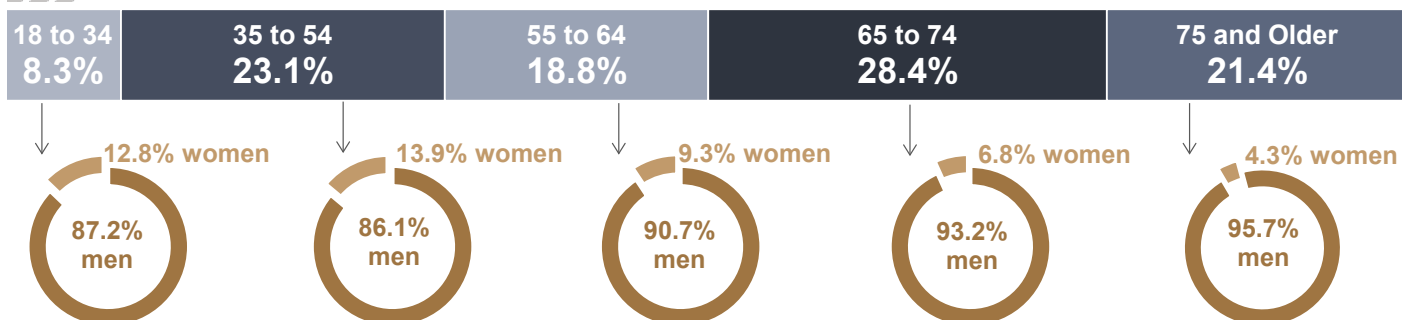
Veterans in conflicts (multiple or not)

World War II	Korean War	Vietnam	Gulf Wars	1990–2001	2001 & Later
5,341	12,483	56,879	56,100	30,911	25,189

Age and Gender of Veterans

Close to half (47.2 percent) of New Mexico's veterans were between the ages of 55 and 74 in 2016. This primarily reflects the swell in military service members during and around the Vietnam Era. The enlistment of women in the armed forces has generally increased over time. Women made up 5.7 percent of veterans 65 and older in 2016, compared to 13.6 percent of veterans 54 and younger and 12.8 percent of veterans 34 and younger.

Age and Gender

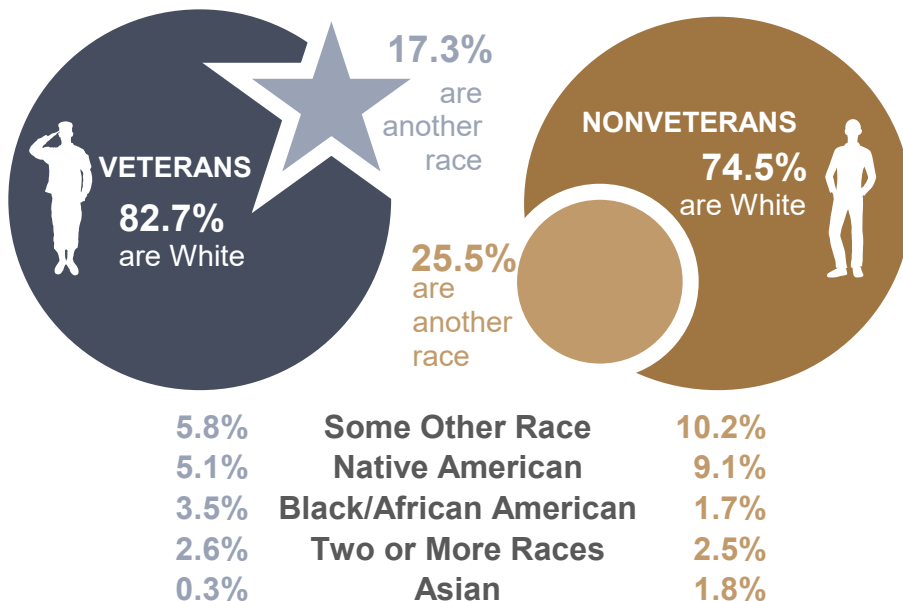


Race and Ethnicity of Veterans

The majority (82.7 percent) of New Mexico's veterans identified as being White, alone as of 2016. The second and third most common races reported by veterans were "some other race" (5.8 percent) and Native American/Alaska Native (5.1 percent). 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; 74.5 percent of nonveterans identified as White, alone. Persons identifying as Black/African American had a larger representation within the veteran population; 3.5 percent of veterans identified as Black/African American compared to just 1.7 percent of nonveterans. The representation of persons identifying as more than one race was similar in both populations (around 2.5 percent). On the other hand, veterans were less likely to be Native American, Asian, or some other race than nonveterans. The largest divergence in population share was between veterans and nonveterans reporting as some other race, for which the nonveteran share exceeded the veteran share by 4.4 percentage points.

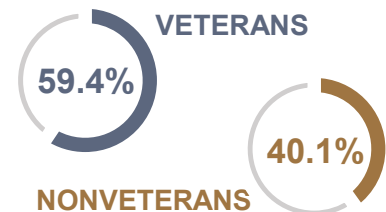
When looking at ethnicity, veterans were less likely to be Hispanic/Latino than nonveterans in 2016. Just over 59 percent of veterans reported being White, alone, whereas just over 40 percent of veterans reported that ethnicity. Veterans identifying as Hispanic/Latino represented 30.4 percent of all veterans, while nonveterans identifying as Hispanic/Latino represented 46.2 percent of all nonveterans, a difference of 15.8 percentage points.

Race

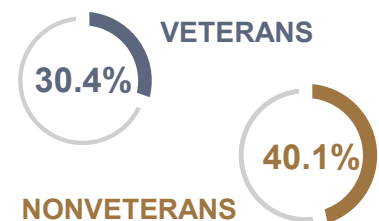


Ethnicity

White



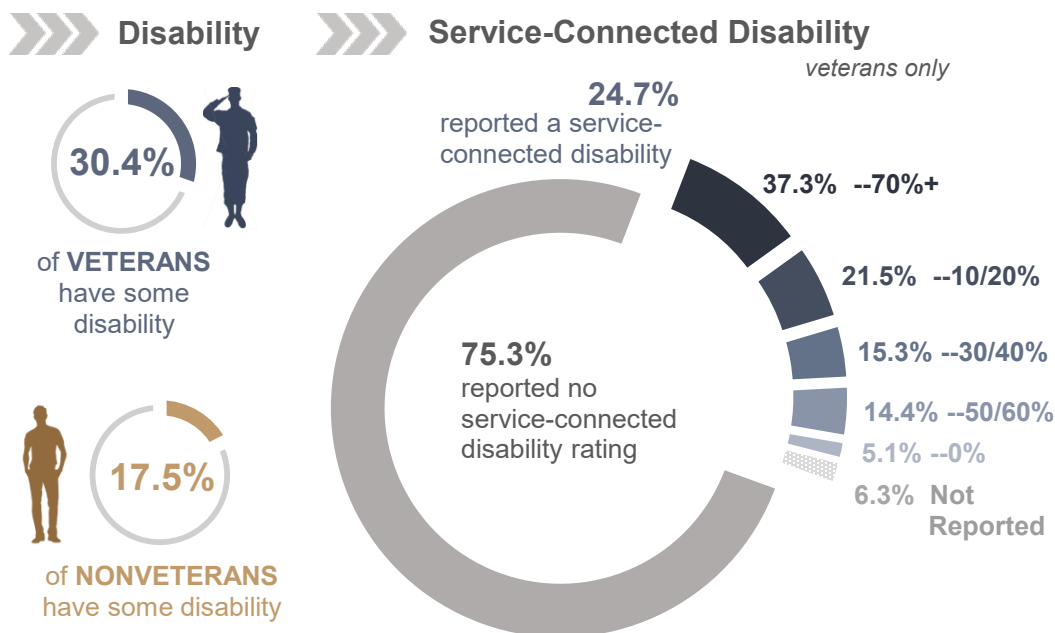
Hispanic/Latino



*Race totals may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Ethnicity totals do not sum to 100 due to how ethnicity is measured.

Disability Status of Veterans

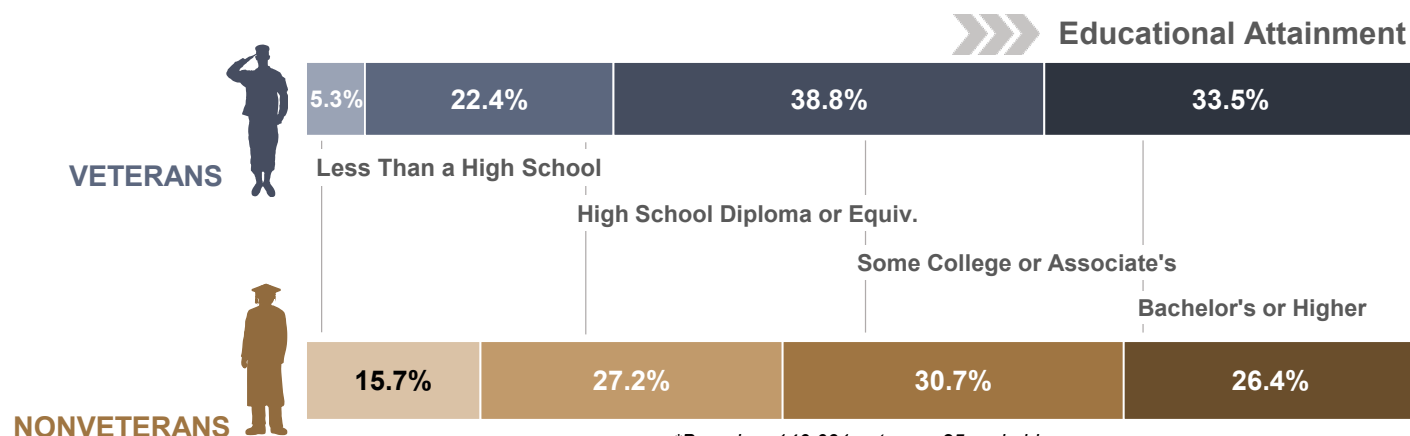
Veterans are almost twice as likely to have a disability than nonveterans. As of 2016, 30.4 percent of veterans reported having a disability, either service-connected or not, compared to 17.5 percent of nonveterans. In the same year, 24.7 percent of New Mexico's veterans reported having a service-connected disability specifically, of which 37.3 percent reported a disability rating of 70 percent or more, indicating the highest degree of disability. About 21.5 percent of veterans reported a rate of 10/20 percent, the second-largest percentage of veterans disabled from their service.



**The count of veterans for non-service-connected disability is 139,627 and differs from the total count of veterans because the measure for disability excludes some groups.*

Educational Attainment of Veterans

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. In 2016, 5.3 percent of veterans did not have a high school diploma/equivalent certificate, compared to 15.7 percent of nonveterans.



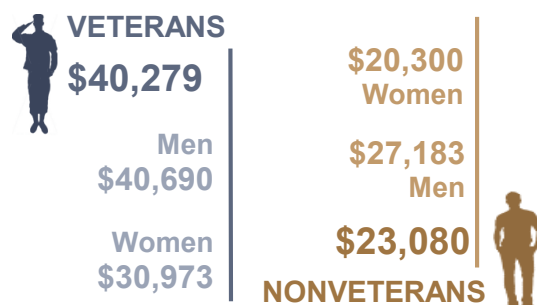
Veterans are more likely to have gained additional education after high school than nonveterans. In 2016, 38.8 percent of veterans had taken some college courses or had earned an associate's degree, and 33.5 percent of veterans had earned a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate/professional degree. The percentages were lower for nonveterans; 30.7 percent had taken some college courses or had earned an associate's degree, while 26.4 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. The differences between the share of veterans and nonveterans with these levels of education were 8.1 and 7.1 percentage points, respectively.

Income of Veterans, Poverty Status, and the Homeless Veteran Population

The median annual income of New Mexico's veterans in New Mexico in 2016 was \$40,279. This was higher than the income of nonveterans (\$23,080) by \$17,199; the state's nonveteran median annual income was just 57 percent of its veteran median annual income.

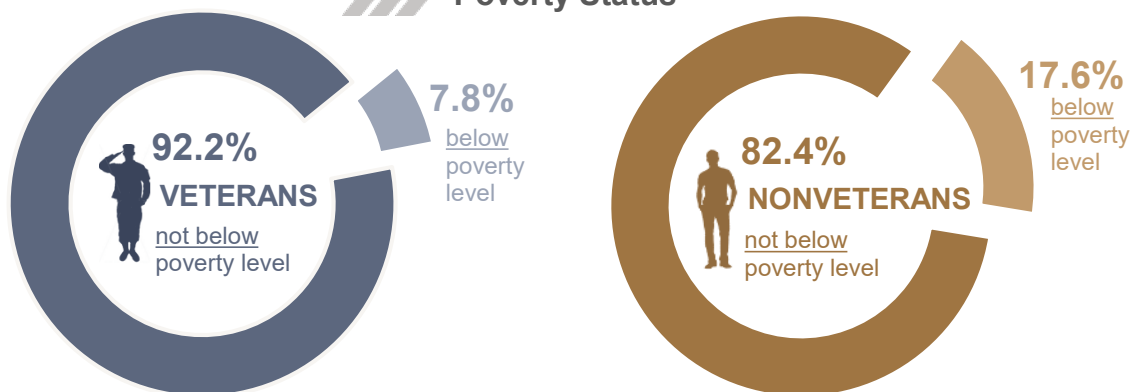
In 2016, the median annual income for women was around 75 percent of the median annual income for men, regardless of veteran status. The median annual income of nonveteran men (\$27,183) equaled around 66 percent of the income of veteran men (\$40,690). The ratio is about the same when comparing the median annual incomes of female nonveterans (\$20,300) and veterans (\$30,973).

Median Annual Income



Veterans are less likely to live in poverty than nonveterans in New Mexico. As of 2016, 7.8 percent of all New Mexico veterans were living in poverty, compared to 17.6 percent of nonveterans. In the U.S., 6.9 percent of veterans were living below the poverty level, compared to 12.9 percent of nonveterans.

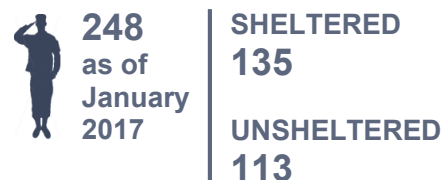
Poverty Status



**Note: The total count of veterans for poverty and disability statistic is 139,627, excluding some groups for the purposes of measuring poverty.*

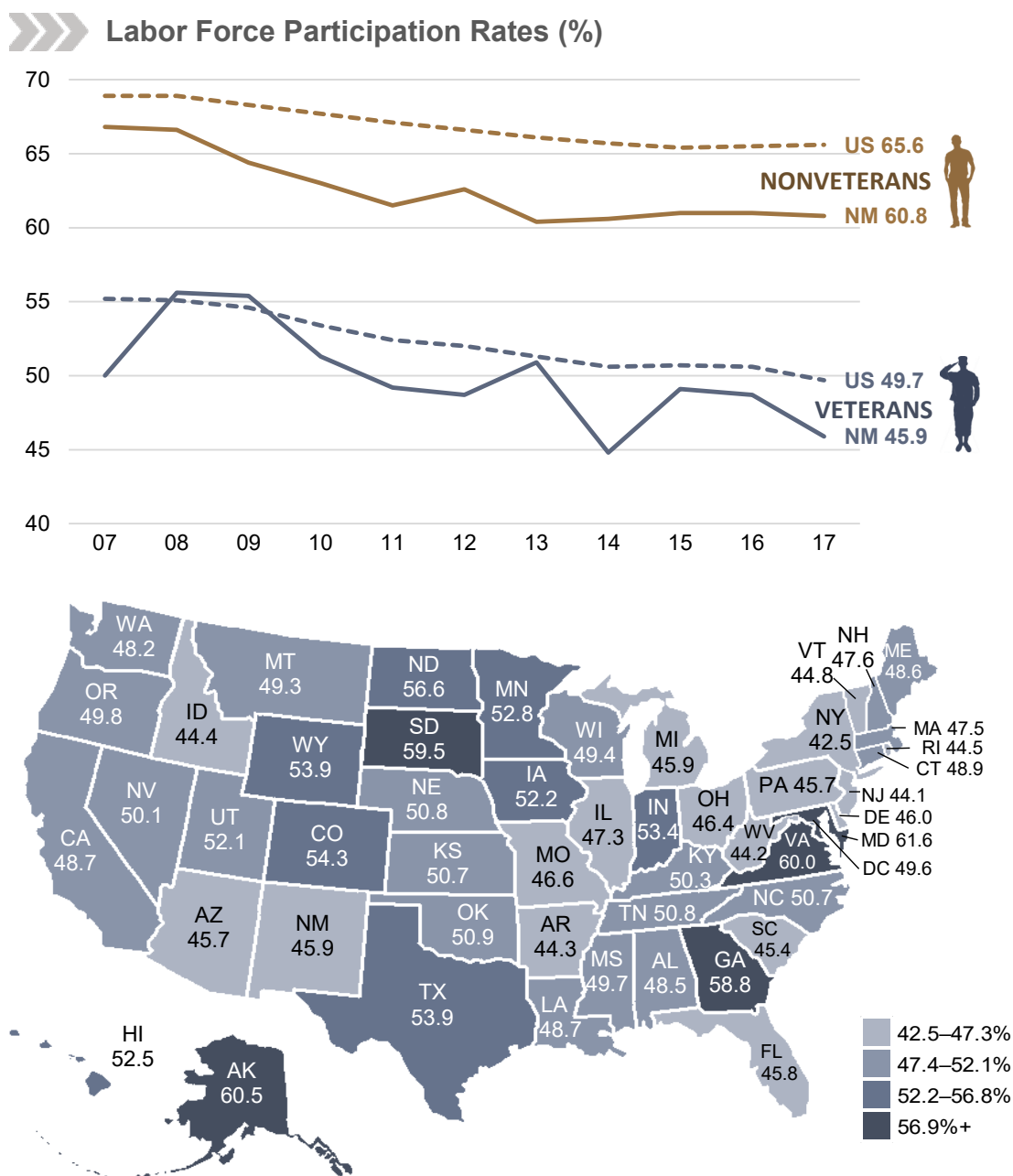
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates the number of homeless individuals (those without safe and stable housing) in January of each year. The estimates, called "point-in-time" counts, include an estimate of homeless veterans. As of January 2017, HUD estimated 248 homeless veterans in New Mexico, with 135 sheltered and 113 unsheltered. (<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>)

Homeless Veterans



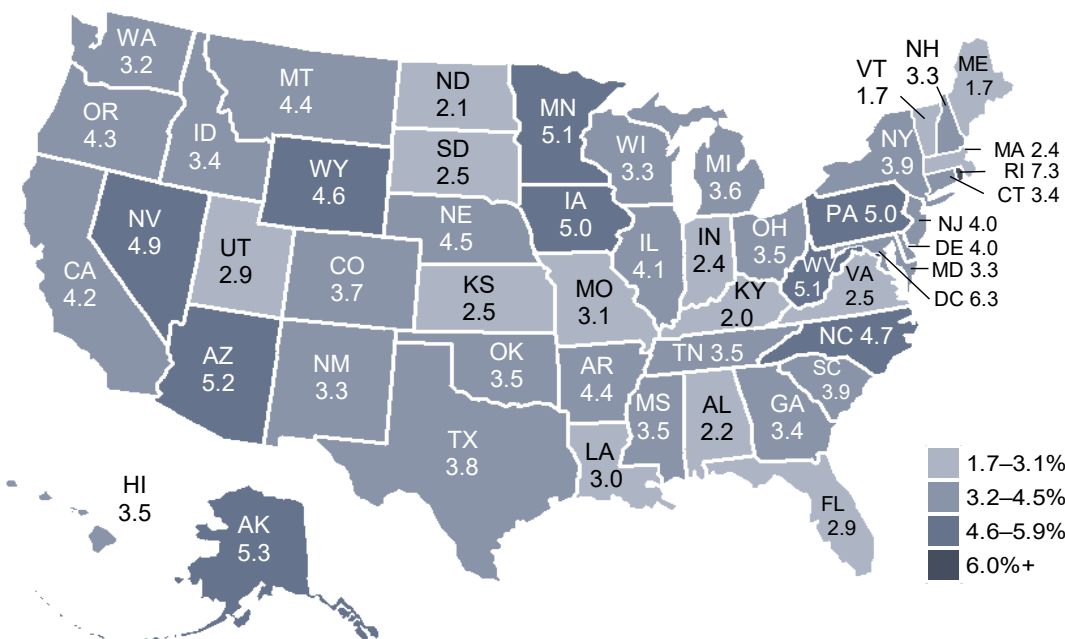
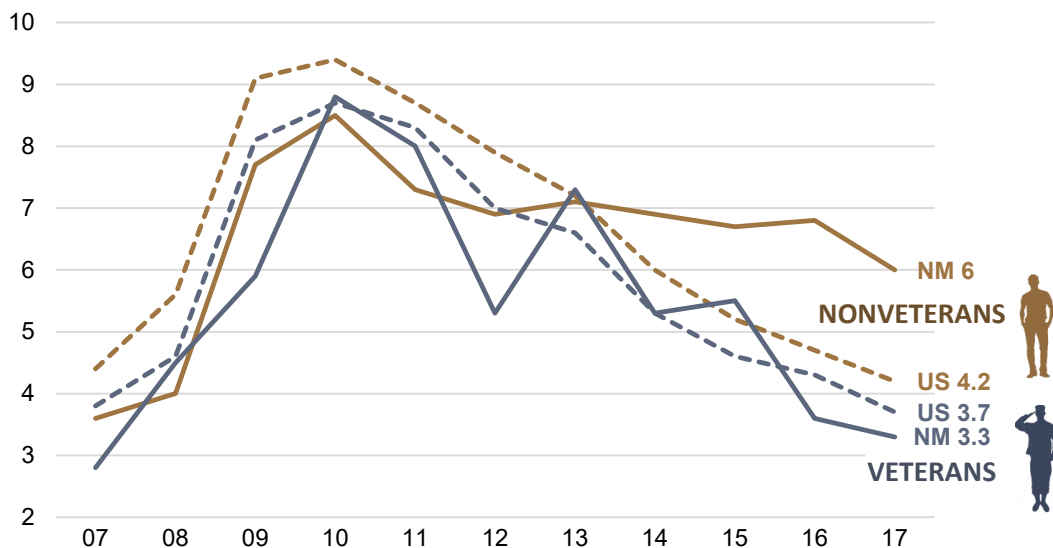
Labor Force Participation and Unemployment Rates of Veterans

As of 2017, 45.9 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 3.8 percentage points lower than the rate for veterans nationwide (49.7 percent) and 14.9 percentage points lower than the rate for New Mexico's nonveterans (60.8 percent). New Mexico's veteran labor force participation rate tied with that of Michigan and was higher than the rates of eleven other states. Maryland had the largest veteran participation rate (61.6 percent), while New York had the lowest (42.5 percent).



Over the last eleven years, the labor force participation of New Mexico's veterans ranged between 44.8 percent (2014) and 55.6 percent (2008). The 2017 rate was the second lowest reported over the period. Nonveteran labor force participation rates ranged between a low of 60.4 percent in 2013 and a high of 66.8 percent in 2007. The 2017 rate of 60.8 percent was the third lowest for the period. Labor force participation of veterans and nonveterans generally fell between 2007 and 2017 in New Mexico and the U.S., with participation for both groups in New Mexico declining at a slightly faster rate than in the U.S.

Unemployment Rates (%)



As of 2017, 3.3 percent of New Mexico's veterans participating in the labor force (i.e., they were employed or actively seeking work) were unemployed. This rate was 0.4 percentage point lower than the rate for veterans nationwide (3.7 percent) and 2.7 percentage points lower than the rate for New Mexico's nonveterans (6.0 percent). New Mexico's veteran unemployment rate tied with the rates of Maryland, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin and was lower than the rates of 31 states and D.C. Vermont and Maine tied for the lowest veteran unemployment rate, at 1.7 percent, while Rhode Island's rate was the highest in the nation, at 7.3 percent.

The veteran unemployment rate in New Mexico and the U.S. followed similar patterns as the nonveteran rate between 2007 and 2017. Veteran and nonveteran rates increased significantly between 2007 and 2010 due to the Great Recession. New Mexico's veteran unemployment rate hit an 11-year peak in 2010 at 8.8 percent, a rate which was nearly the same as the U.S. veteran rate of 8.7 percent. The state's nonveteran rate also peaked that year, but at 8.5 percent, which was 0.6 percentage point lower than the U.S. nonveteran rate of 9.4 percent. Unemployment both in the nation and state declined during the 2011–2017 period, albeit at varying rates. New Mexico's veteran unemployment rate declined swiftly, at a rate faster than the decline of the veteran and nonveteran rates for the U.S. The state's rate in 2017 was 5.5 percentage points lower than its peak rate in 2010, compared to a drop of 5.0 percentage points for the U.S. veteran rate and 5.2 percentage points for the U.S. nonveteran rate. The state's nonveteran unemployment rate declined more slowly than the U.S. rates, falling by 2.5 percentage points over the seven-year period.



New Mexico Vets at Work is an all-in-one career exploration and employment resource guide developed specifically for veterans. It provides information, tips, and tricks on exploring careers, making the transition to the civilian workforce, and finding work. A list of employment and education resources for veterans is included.

To view this publication and other veteran specific resources visit the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions Website at www.dws.state.nm.us and look under "Labor Market Information" in the main menu.

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Connection Centers.**

Find a location near
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of the
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Major contributor: Ashley Leach, Economist

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