

2017 VETERANS PROFILE

The 2017 Veterans Profile provides basic demographic and economic data on New Mexico's veterans. This is the fourth year that the Veterans Profile has been produced. National and state-level data are from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates, while county-level data are from the 2015 ACS 5-year estimates. Labor force and unemployment data are from the Current Population Survey's 2016 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 150,538 veterans living in New Mexico as of 2015. Veterans represented 9.6 percent of the civilian population 18 and older.

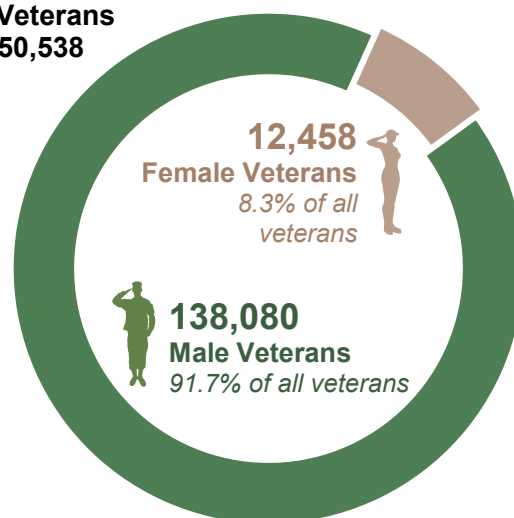
There were 138,080 male and 12,458 female veterans in the state in 2015. Men made up 91.7 percent of the total veteran population, while women made up 8.3 percent.

Within the U.S., veterans represented 7.6 percent of the total population as of 2015. New Mexico was ranked tenth in the nation for concentration of veterans, an increase of three places from 2014, when the state was ranked thirteenth. Alaska had the largest concentration of veterans, with 12.5 percent of the population having previously served in the armed forces. The District of Columbia (D.C.) had the smallest concentration of veterans (4.7 percent) yet the most balanced veteran population across gender; 14.5 percent of veterans were female (the largest percentage in the nation) and, conversely, 85.5 percent of veterans were male. Maine and Massachusetts tied for the smallest share of female veterans, at just 5.5 percent of the total veteran population in each state.

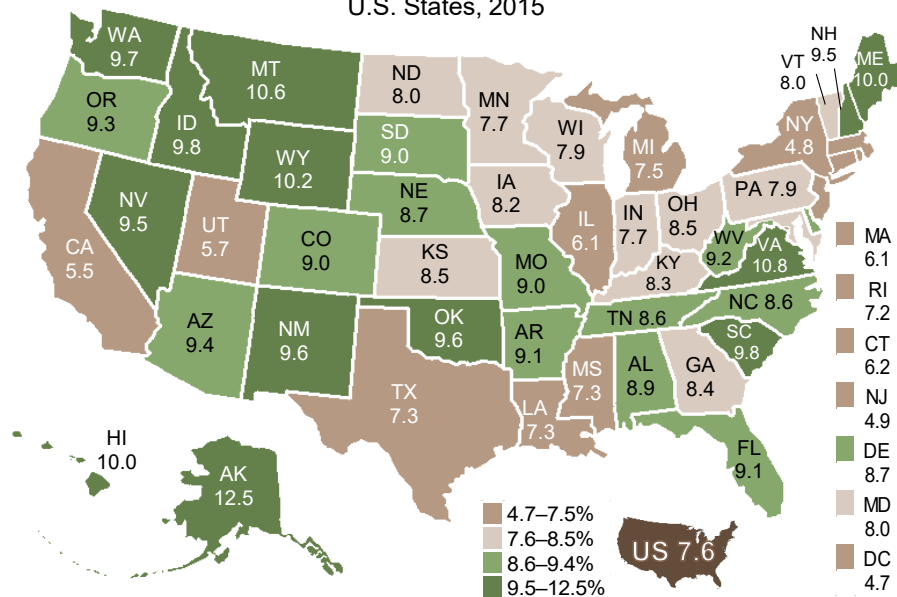
Most of New Mexico's veterans were living in the most populated counties of the state in 2015. Nearly 56 percent of veterans resided in one of the four New Mexico counties with more than 100,000 people 18 and older—Bernalillo, Doña Ana, Santa Fe, and Sandoval. These counties did not have the largest concentrations of veterans, however.

Veterans as a Percentage of the Total Population New Mexico, 2015

All Veterans
150,538

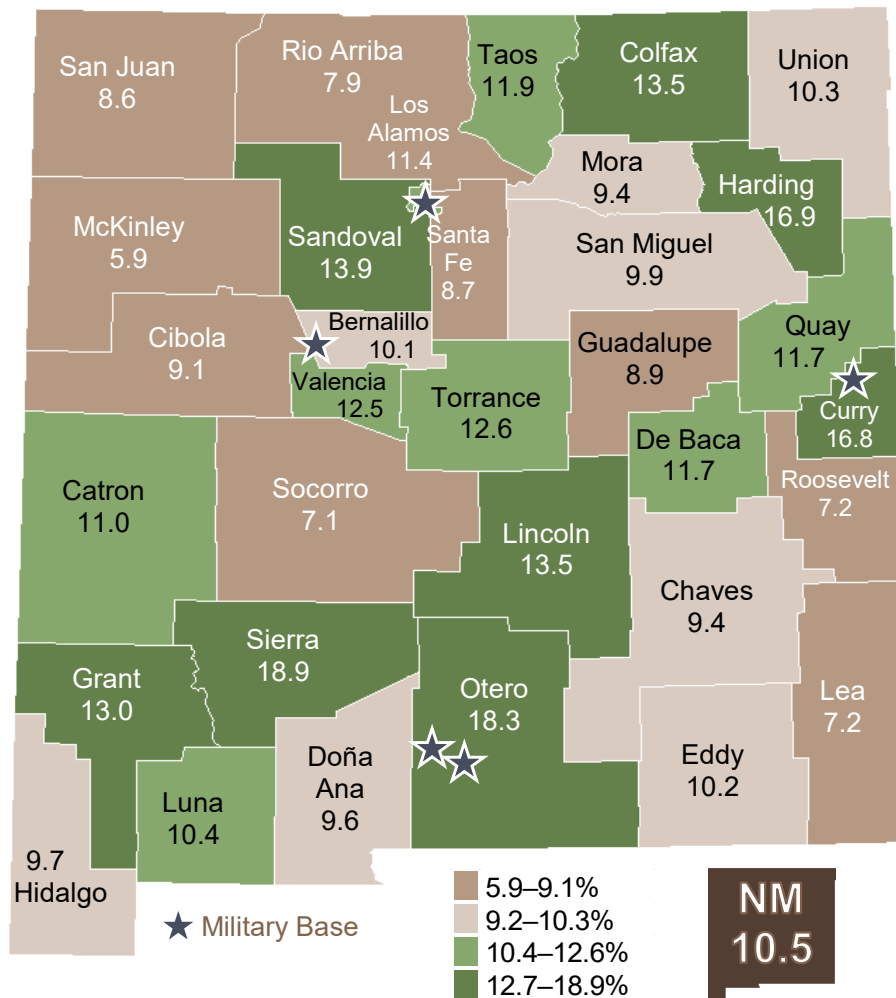


Veterans as a Percentage of the Total Population U.S. States, 2015



The concentration of veterans in New Mexico's counties ranged from 5.9 percent (McKinley) to 18.9 percent (Sierra) of the total population 18 and older. The veteran population exceeded 10 percent of the total population in 19 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 third-highest (18.3 percent) in the state in 2015, 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 2015. Curry County is the home of Canon Air Force Base. Harding's large concentration was, in part, due to its small total population.

Veterans as a Percentage of the Total Population New Mexico, 2015

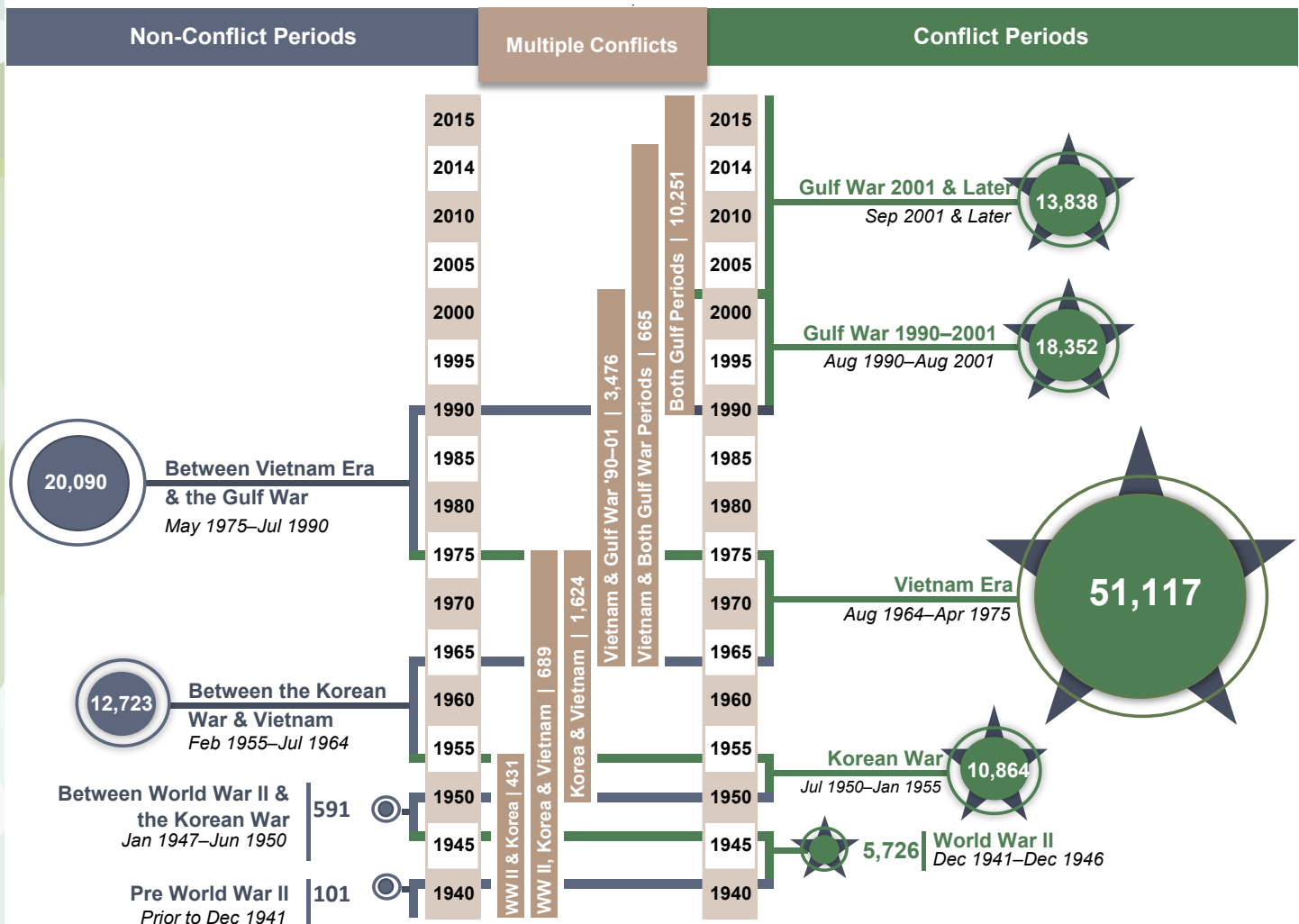


When New Mexico's Veterans Served

Close to 80 percent of New Mexico's veterans had served in a conflict as of 2015.

- Just over 38 percent of all veterans (57,571) and around 49 percent of all conflict veterans had served in the Vietnam War. The majority (88.8 percent) of those who served in Vietnam did not serve in another conflict (Korean War, World War II, and/or the Gulf War).
- Veterans who served in the Gulf War (46,582) represented 30.9 percent of all veterans and 39.8 percent of conflict veterans in New Mexico. About 23 percent of Gulf War veterans served in both periods, August 1990 to August 2001 and September 2001 and later. Close to 9 percent also served in Vietnam.
- New Mexico's Korean War veterans (13,608) represented 9.0 percent of all veterans and 11.6 percent of conflict veterans as of 2015. Close to 80 percent of Korean War veterans only served during the Korean War, while 20 percent served in another conflict (Vietnam and/or World War II).
- There were 6,846 World War II veterans in New Mexico as of 2015, representing 4.5 percent of all veterans and 5.8 percent of conflict veterans. About one in every six World War II veterans also served in another conflict (Korea and/or Vietnam).

Veterans by Period of Service New Mexico, 2015



Who Are New Mexico's Veterans?

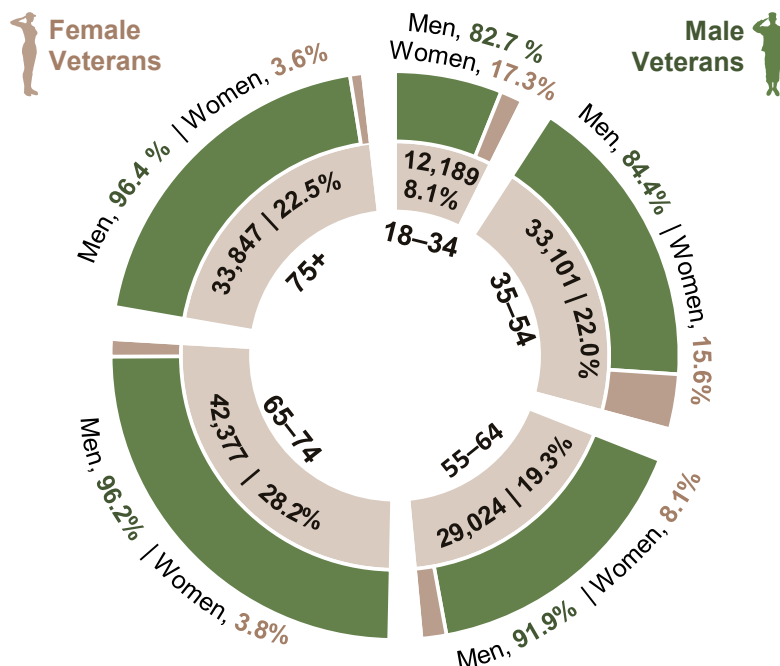
AGE OF NEW MEXICO'S VETERANS

Close to half (47.5 percent) of New Mexico's veterans were between the ages of 55 and 74 in 2015. This primarily reflects the swell in military service members during and around the Vietnam Era. Korean War and World War II veteran populations continue to shrink, yet veterans 75 and older still comprised 22.5 percent of all veterans as of 2015.

The enlistment of women in the armed forces has increased over time, and this demographic shift is evident in the data on our military's veterans. The percentage of female veterans grows as age decreases. Women made up just 3.7 percent of veterans 65 and older in 2015, compared to 16.1 percent of veterans 54 and younger and 17.3 percent of veterans 34 and younger.

Veterans by Age and Gender

New Mexico, 2015



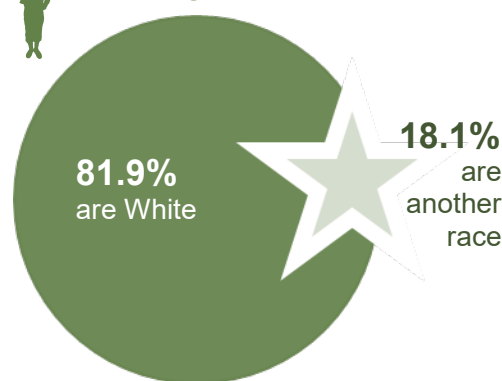
RACE AND ETHNICITY OF NEW MEXICO'S VETERANS

The majority (81.9 percent) of New Mexico's veterans were White as of 2015. The second and third most common races reported by veterans were "some other race" (6.1 percent) and Native American/Alaska Native (6.0 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 as of 2015; just over 74 percent of nonveterans identified as White alone. Persons identifying as Black/African American were more represented among the veteran population; 3.2 percent of veterans identified as Black/African American compared to 2.6 percent of nonveterans. On the other hand, veterans were less likely to be Native American, Asian, some other race, or two or

Veterans and Nonveterans by Race

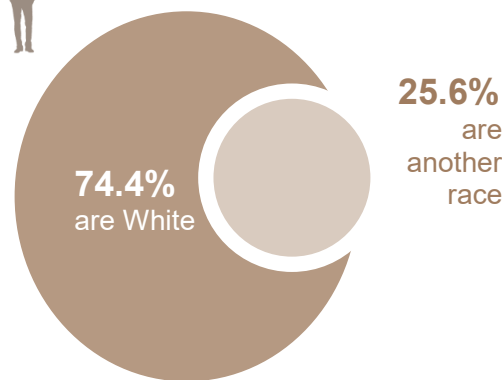
New Mexico, 2015



- 6.1% Some Other Race
- 6.0% Native American
- 3.2% Black/African Amer.
- 1.9% Two or More Races
- 0.8% Asian



NONVETERANS

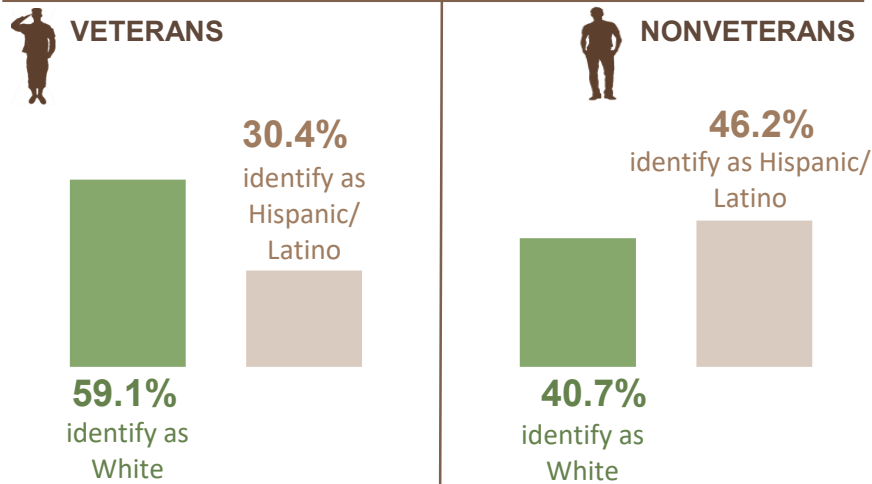


- 10.4% Some Other Race
- 9.0% Native American
- 2.6% Black/African Amer.
- 2.1% Two or More Races
- 1.5% Asian

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

Veterans and Nonveterans by Ethnicity

New Mexico, 2015



**Note: Totals do not sum to 100 percent due to how ethnicity is measured.*

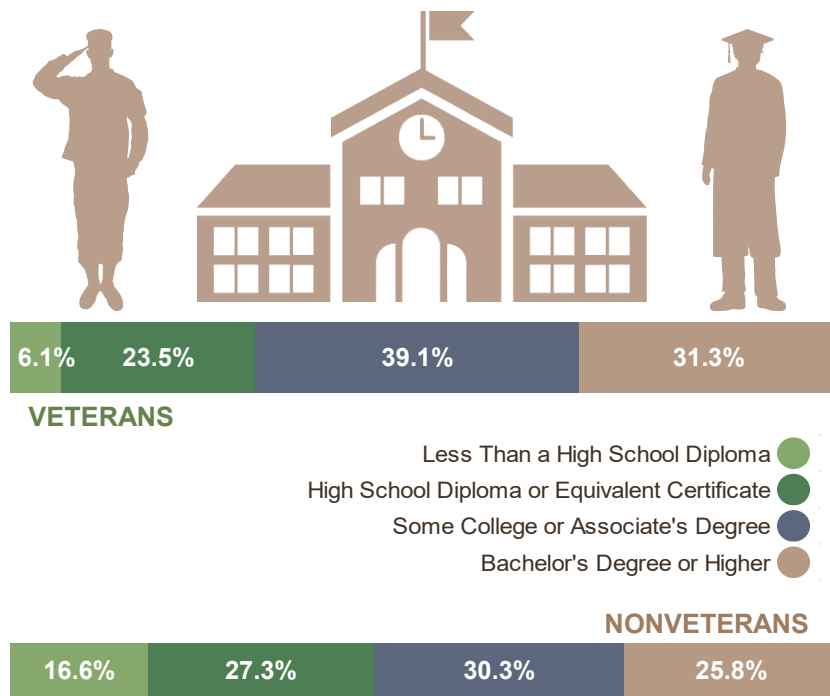
more races than nonveterans. The largest divergence in population share was between Native American veterans and nonveterans, for which the nonveteran share exceeded the veteran share by 3.4 percentage points.

When looking at ethnicity, veterans were less likely to be Hispanic/Latino than nonveterans in 2015. 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.

Veterans and Nonveterans by Educational Attainment

New Mexico, 2015



**Based on 148,575 veterans 25 and older.*

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. In 2015, 6.1 percent of veterans did not have a high school diploma/equivalent certificate, compared to 16.6 percent of nonveterans.

Veterans are more likely to have gained additional education after high school than nonveterans. In 2015, 39.1 percent of veterans had taken some college courses or had earned an associate's degree, and 31.3 percent of veterans had earned a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate/professional degree. The percentages were lower for nonveterans; 30.3 percent had taken some college courses or had earned an associate's degree, while 25.8 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. The differences between the share of veterans and nonveterans with these levels of education were 8.8 and 5.5 percentage points, respectively.

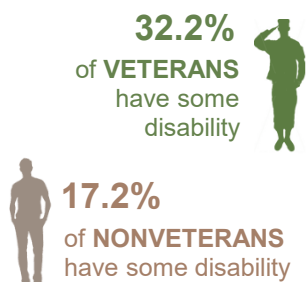
DISABILITIES AND SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES

Veterans are almost twice as likely to have a disability than nonveterans. As of 2015, 32.2 percent of veterans reported having a disability, either service-connected or not, compared to 17.2 percent of nonveterans. In the same year, 24.2 percent of New Mexico's veterans reported having a service-connected disability, of which

42.5 percent reported a disability rating of 70 percent or more, indicating the highest degree of disability. About 20.8 percent of veterans reported a rate of 10/20 percent, the second-largest percentage of veterans disabled from their service.

Disability

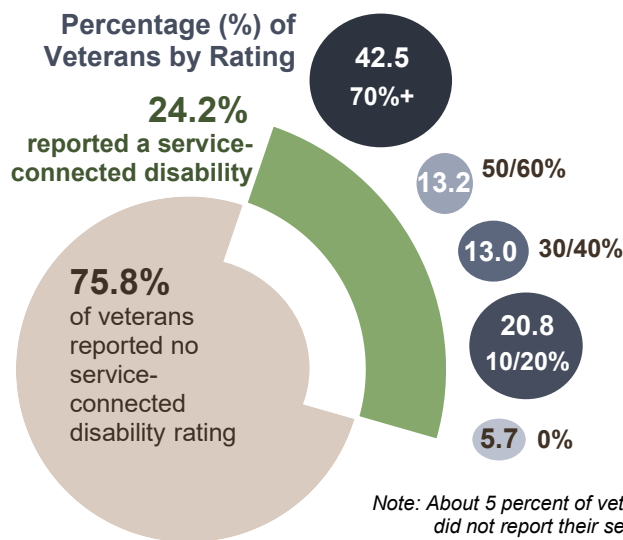
(Service-Connected OR Non-Service-Connected)



Note: The total count of veterans for disability is 149,226 and differs from the main count of veterans because the measure excludes some groups

Veterans With Disabilities New Mexico, 2015

Service-Connected Disability



Note: About 5 percent of veterans did not report their service-connected disability rating.

New Mexico Veterans: Income and Poverty

MEDIAN ANNUAL INCOME

The median annual income of New Mexico's veterans (\$37,050) was close to the income of veterans nationwide (\$38,334) in 2015. The income of New Mexico's veterans was higher than the income of nonveterans that year, to the tune of \$14,670; the state's nonveteran median annual income was just 60 percent of its veteran median annual income.

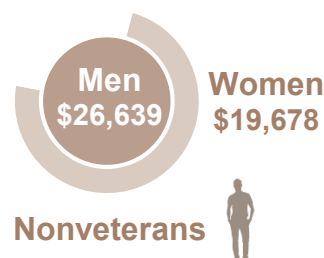
In 2015, the income of nonveteran women equaled 74 percent of the income of nonveteran men in New Mexico. Positively, income equality was more of a reality for female veterans, whose median annual income was nearly equal to that of men (with the income of men just \$86 higher). New Mexico veteran and nonveteran women fared better than women nationwide. The incomes of nonveteran and veteran women across the U.S.

Median Annual Income of Veterans New Mexico and the U.S., 2015

VETERANS

New Mexico **\$37,050** United States **\$38,334**

NEW MEXICO

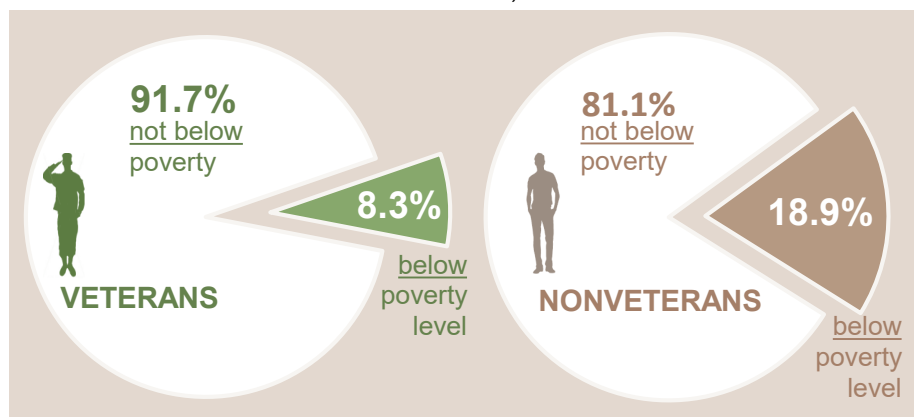


equaled 66 and 83 percent of the incomes of nonveteran and veteran men, respectively.

POVERTY

Veterans are less likely to live in poverty than nonveterans both in New Mexico and across the U.S. As of 2015, 8.3 percent of all New Mexico veterans were living in poverty, compared to 18.9 percent of nonveterans. In the U.S., 6.9 percent of veterans were living below the poverty level compared to 13.5 percent of nonveterans. The difference between the two poverty rates (10.6 percentage points) was largest in New Mexico, indicating that veterans fared particularly well in the state, compared to nonveterans. New Mexico was ranked eighth in the nation for veterans living in poverty and second for nonveterans. D.C. veterans faced the highest poverty rate (10.9 percent) in 2015.

Veterans and Nonveterans by Poverty Status New Mexico, 2015



**Note: The total count of veterans for poverty statistics is 149,226 and differs from the main count of veterans because this measure excludes some groups for the purposes of measuring poverty.*

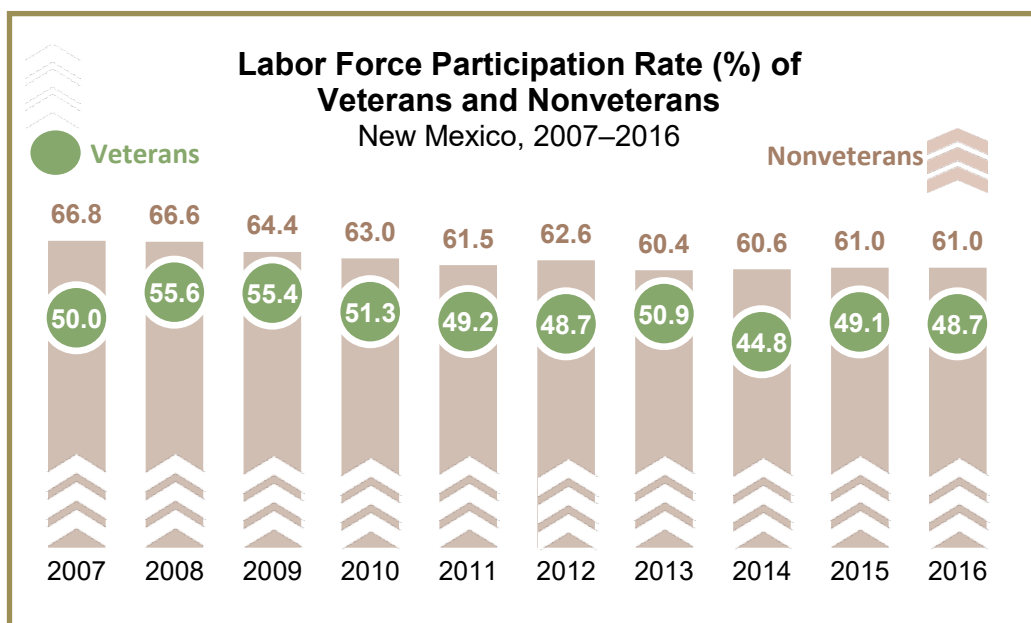
The Employment Situation of New Mexico's Veterans

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

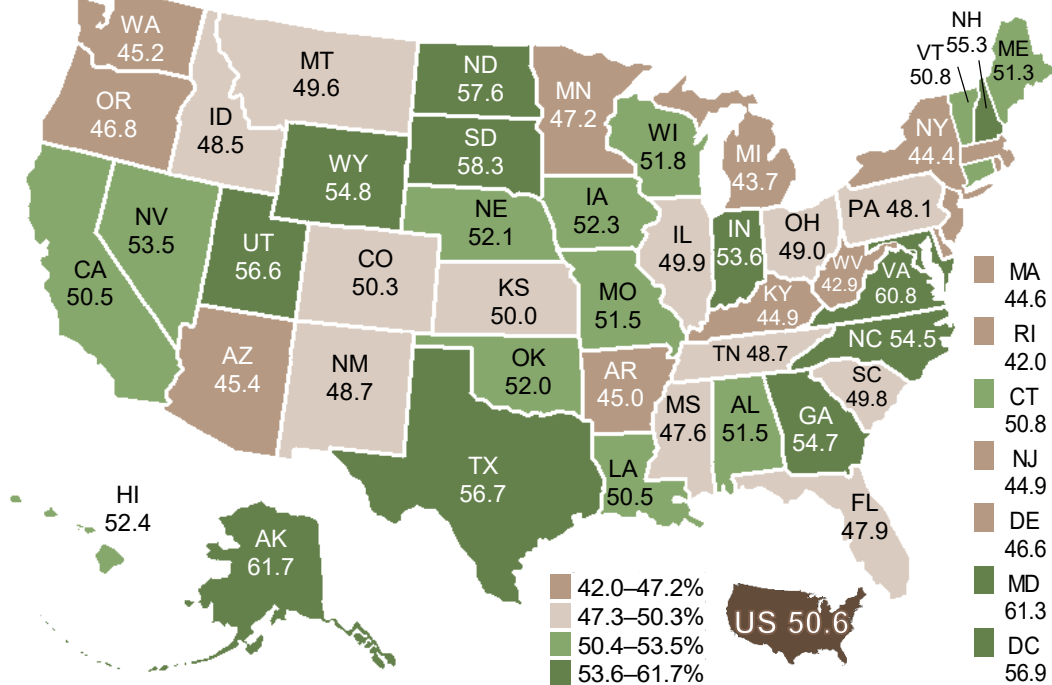
As of 2016, 48.7 percent of the veteran population in New Mexico was participating in the labor force (i.e., they were employed or actively seeking work). This rate was 12.3 percentage points lower than the rate for veterans nationwide (61.0 percent). New Mexico ranked thirty-third in the nation for veteran labor force participation. Alaska had the highest participation (61.7 percent) and Rhode Island had the lowest (42.0 percent).

Nonveterans are more likely to participate in the labor force than veterans. As of 2016, 61.0 percent of the state's nonveterans and 65.5 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, the labor force participation of New Mexico's veterans ranged between 44.8 percent (2014) and 55.6 percent (2008). The 2016 rate was tied with the 2012 rate for 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 largest disparity between New Mexico's veteran and nonveteran rates during the period occurred in



Labor Force Participation Rates of Veterans (%) U.S. States, 2016



2007, when the rates differed by 16.8 percentage points. The nonveteran participation rate was higher than the veteran rate by at least 9.0 percentage points throughout the ten-year period.

VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT

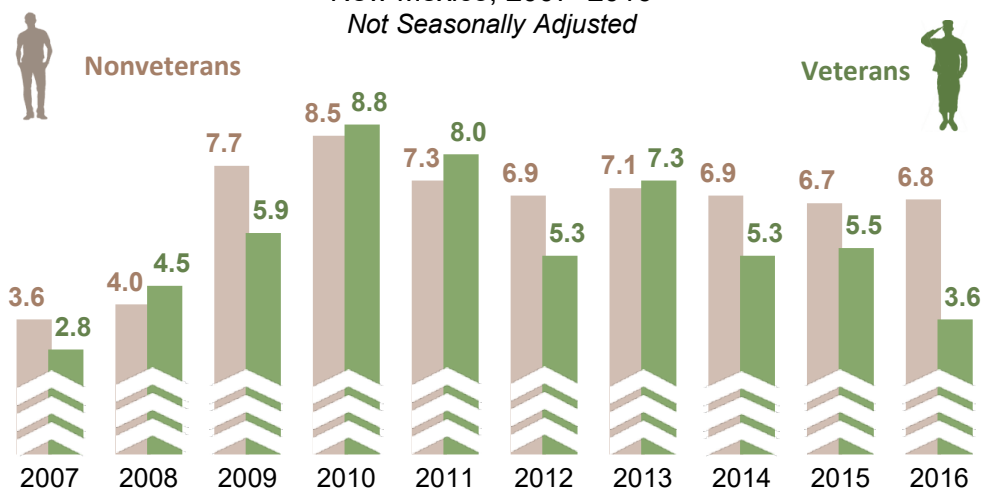
The 2016 unemployment rate for New Mexico's nonveterans was 6.8 percent, 2.1 percentage points higher than the rate for U.S. nonveterans. New Mexico, along with Alaska, had the highest rate in the nation, while New Hampshire and South Dakota reported the lowest rates. The state's nonveteran unemployment rate remained stubbornly stagnant—between 6.7 and 7.3 percent—between 2011 and 2016, after hitting a ten-year peak of 8.5 percent in 2010. The difference between nonveteran unemployment rates in New Mexico and the U.S. increased between 2014 and 2016, as the U.S. rate fell more quickly.

Positively, New Mexico's veteran unemployment rate dropped significantly (1.9 percentage points) between 2015 and 2016, leaving the state's 2016 rate of 3.6 percent below the U.S. rate of 4.3 percent. New Mexico's veteran unemployment rate,

Unemployment Rate (%) of Veterans and Nonveterans

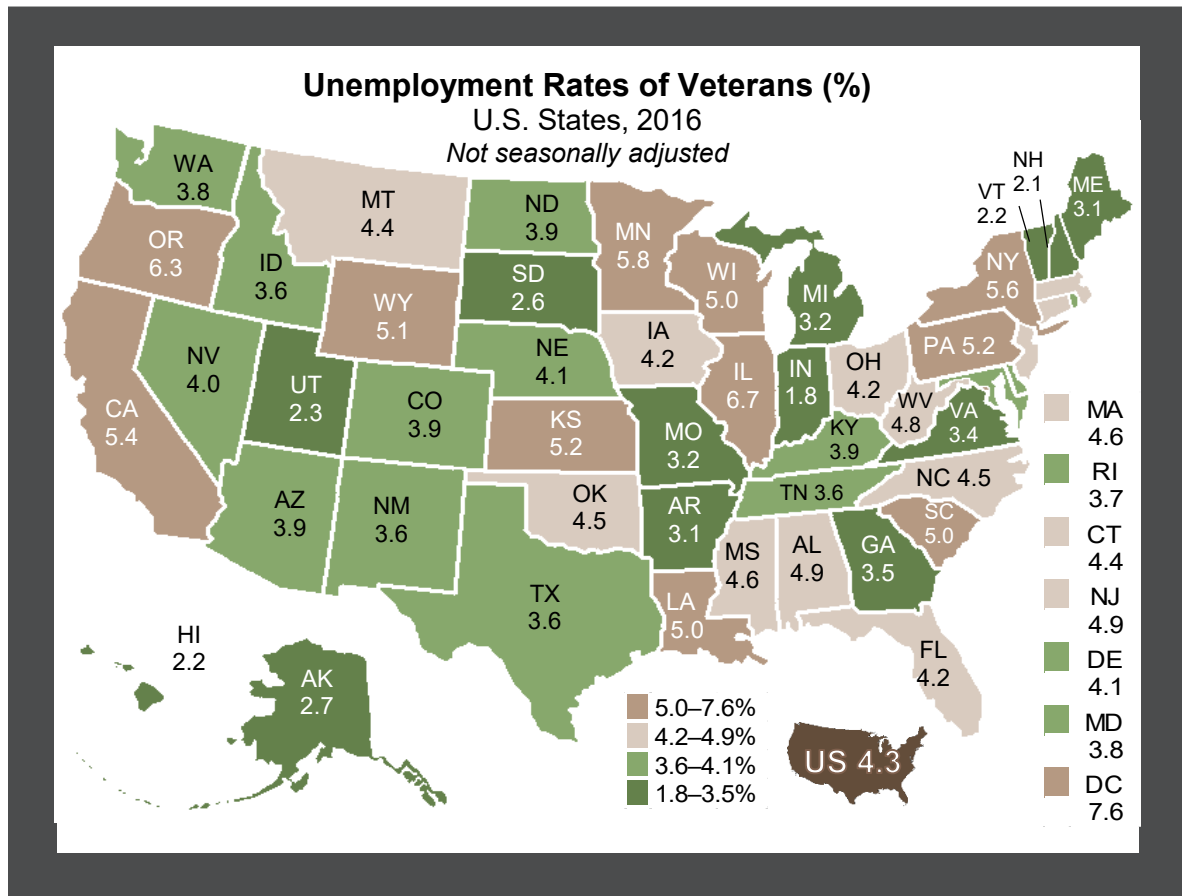
New Mexico, 2007–2016

Not Seasonally Adjusted



which tied with the rates of Idaho, Tennessee, and Texas, was lower than the rates of 34 other states. This was in sharp contrast to the state's ranking of first for nonveteran unemployment rate in the same year. Indiana had the lowest veteran unemployment rate (1.8 percent), while D.C. had the highest (7.6 percent and 0.9 percentage point higher than the next-highest rate of 6.7 percent in Illinois).

Over the 2007–2016 period, New Mexico's veteran rate fluctuated. The 2016 rate was the second-lowest rate reported for the state during the ten-year period (following only the rate of 2.8 percent in 2007) and 3.2 percentage points below the state's nonveteran rate, a difference that was the largest reported during the same period. The 2016 rate was 5.2 percentage points lower than the period-peak rate of 8.8 percent in 2010.



2017 VETERANS PROFILE

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