



Economic Profile of California's Veterans' Population

This report provides an overview of the economic trends associated with California's veterans' population. The 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year estimates were used to provide insight into the demographic, economic, and educational attributes associated with these members of California's labor force.

*A report by
Paul Wessen and
Brandon T. Hooker,
Statewide Information
Services Group.*

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Introduction

According to the Current Population Survey (CPS), there were more than twenty million military veterans in the United States in 2011, whose period of service ranged from Pre-World War II to the latest Gulf War. Roughly 9 percent of the nation's veterans are located in California, the largest percent share of any state.

In 2011, California's 1.9 million veterans made up roughly 7 percent of the state's 27.5 million civilians aged 18 years and over. The latest CPS figures show that nearly 50 percent of these veterans (47.8 percent) and just over two-thirds of non-veterans (67.3 percent) participated in California's labor force in April 2013.

This report distinguishes between veterans from two periods of the Gulf War: Gulf War I era veterans and Gulf War II era veterans. Gulf War I era veterans are those who served between August 1990 and August 2001. Gulf War II era veterans served in the armed forces since 2001.

The 2007-2011 American Community Survey's (ACS) 5-year estimates were the primary data source for this report. The ACS provides 1-, 3-, and 5-year estimates of demographics, housing, social, and economic characteristics for the nation, states, cities, counties, and other small geographic areas. The following report provides an overview of the demographic, economic, and educational characteristics associated with California's veteran population.

Demographic Profile of California's Veterans

- The ACS 5-year data show that California's veterans' population has a much larger share of persons 65 years and older than the non-veteran population. Just over two-fifths (43.4 percent) of California veterans were age 65 and older (see Figure 1). For non-veterans, this age group made up just under one-fifth (12.9 percent) of their respective population (see Figure 2).
- In 2011, just over 91 percent of the state's veterans were 35 years and older (see Figure 1), nearly 30 percentage points higher than that of non-veterans (65.3 percent). In contrast, the share of persons aged 18 to 34 years old (34.7 percent) among non-veterans was nearly four times as large as that of veterans (8.7 percent).

California Labor Market Trends

Figure 1

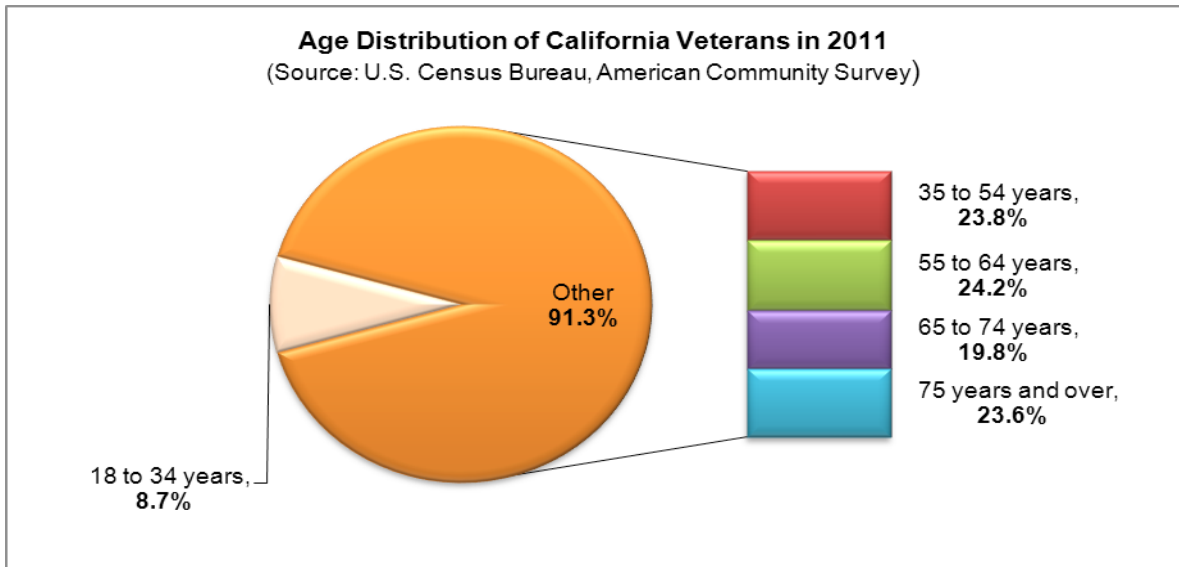
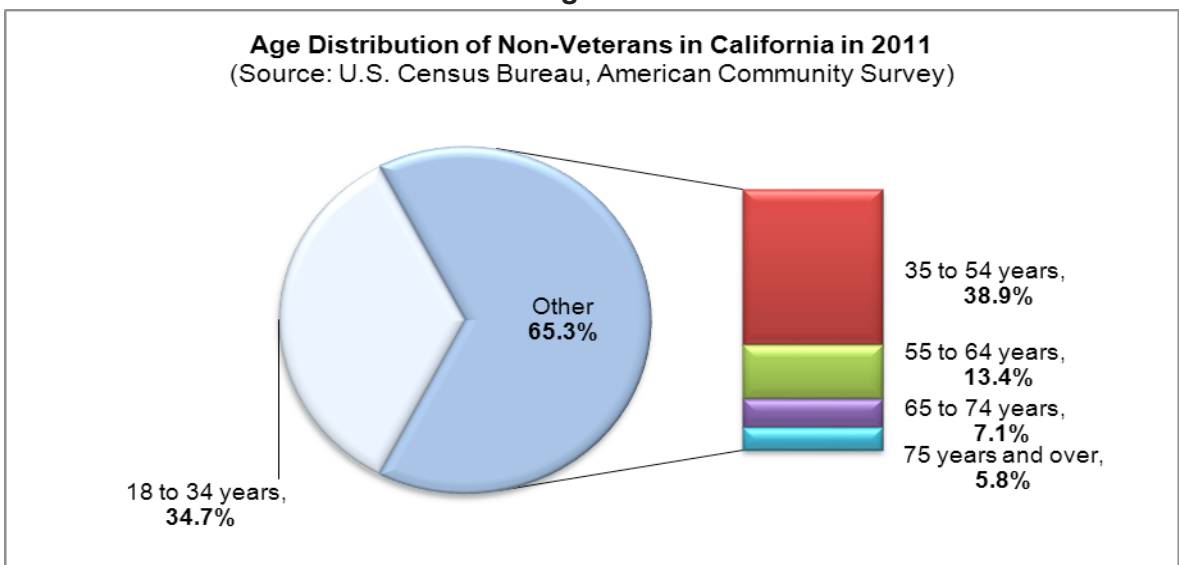


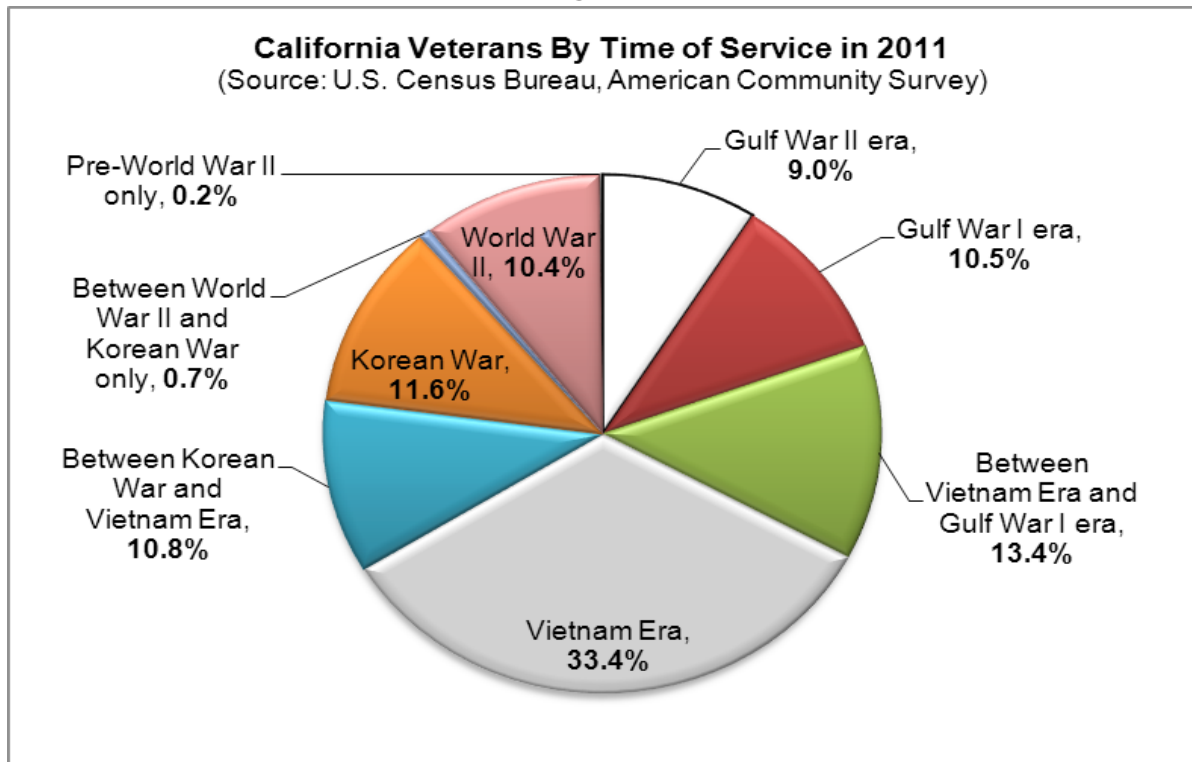
Figure 2



- Vietnam era veterans comprised the largest group of veterans, making up 33.4 percent of California's total population of veterans. Nearly 20 percent of California's veterans served in Gulf War I or II (see Figure 3).
- Veterans that served between the Vietnam era and the Gulf War I era comprised 13.4 percent of California's veteran population, followed by veterans who served in Gulf War I era (10.5 percent), and Gulf War II era (9.0 percent). Despite their advanced age, World War II veterans comprised just over 10 percent of California's veteran population in 2009.

California Labor Market Trends

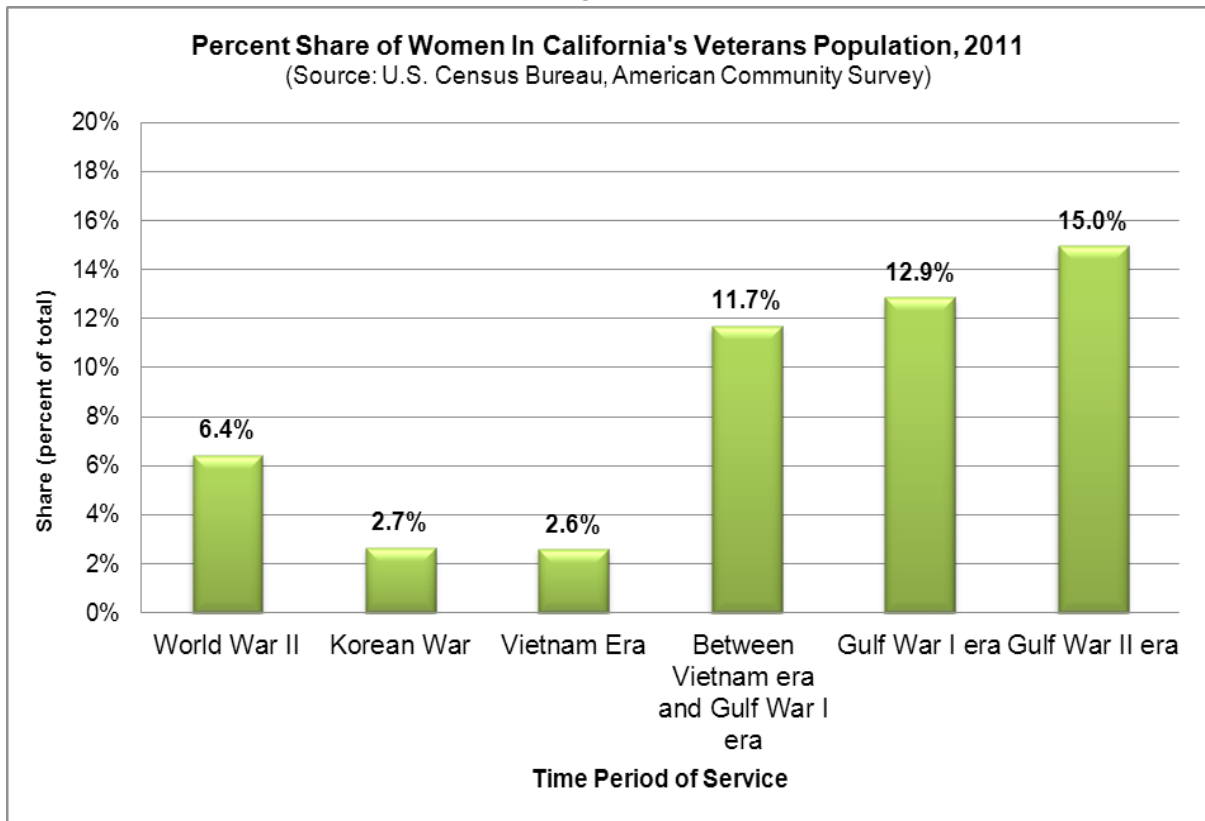
Figure 3



- Women make up an increasingly large share of California veterans. Nearly one out of every seven (15.0 percent) Gulf War II era veterans were women. Their share has steadily increased since the Vietnam era, increasing by just over ten percentage points (see Figure 4).
- Women's share of veterans that served during the Korean War and the Vietnam era hovered below three percent. This share more than tripled (11.7 percent) during the period between the Vietnam era and the Gulf War I era.
- Women's percent share of Gulf War II era veterans (15.0 percent) was more than twice as large as their share in World War II (6.4 percent), and more than five times larger than their share in the Korean War (2.7 percent) and the Vietnam era (2.6 percent).

California Labor Market Trends

Figure 4



- In 2011, nearly four-fifths (78.3 percent) of California veterans were white. In contrast, less than two-thirds (62.3 percent) of the state's non-veterans were white (see Figure 5).
- African-Americans, who comprised 8.8 percent of all veterans, were the next largest group of veterans, followed by Asian-Americans (5.3 percent of all veterans) (see Figure 5). Asian-Americans share (5.3 percent) of the veteran population is less than half of its share within the non-veteran (14.6 percent) and statewide (13.1 percent) populations.
- The share of white veterans declined by more than 20 percentage points between World War II and Gulf War II era. However, the shares of American-Indian, Asian-American, and African-American veterans among veterans who served in the Gulf War II era were nearly triple that of veterans who served in World War II (see Figure 6).

California Labor Market Trends

Figure 5

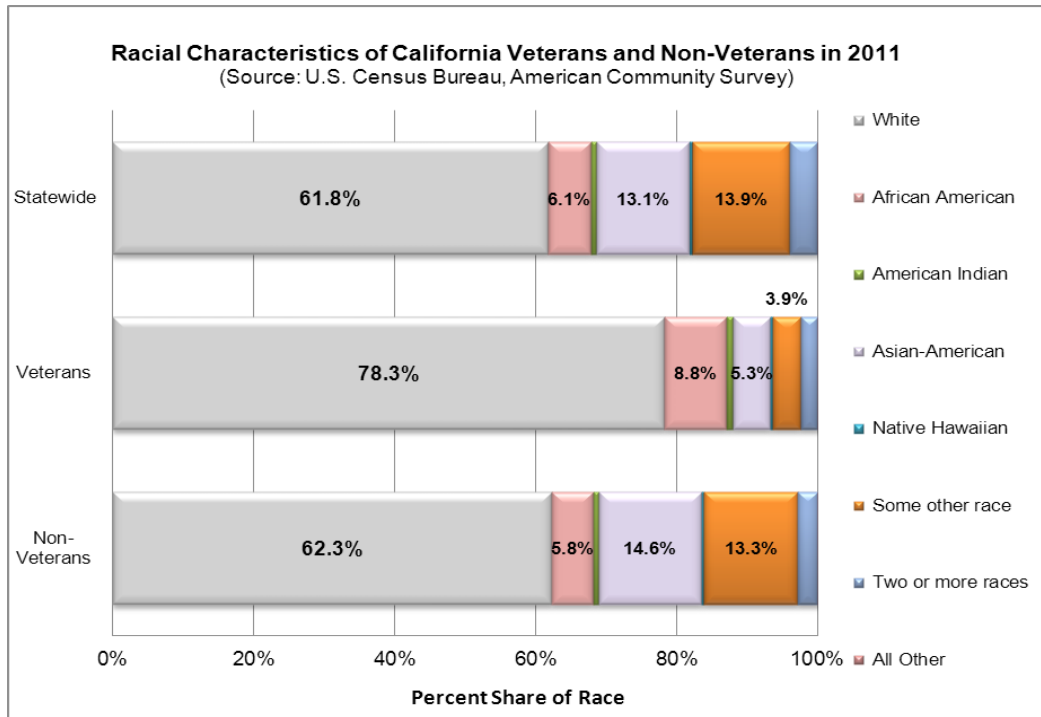
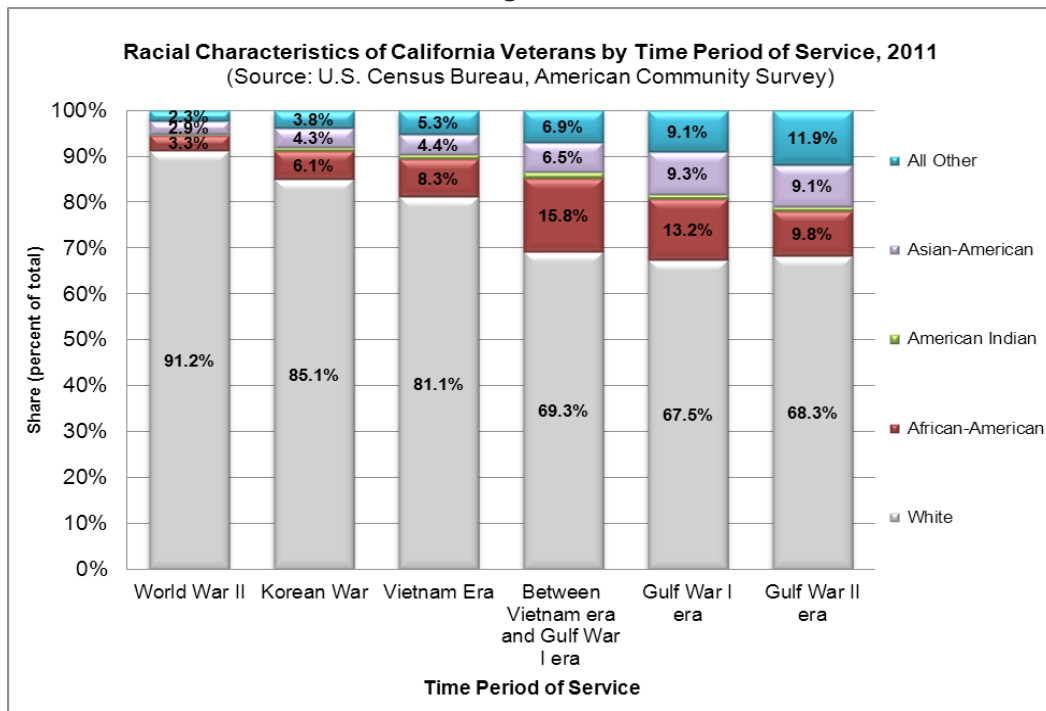


Figure 6



California Labor Market Trends

- Hispanics made up roughly one out of every eight (13.2 percent) veterans within the state. This share was more than 20 percentage points less than their share of non-veterans (34.3 percent) and the statewide population (37.2 percent) as a whole (see Figure 7).
- In contrast, one-quarter (25.1 percent) of Gulf War II era veterans were Hispanic. This share was more than triple that of World War II vets (7.8 percent). Since the Vietnam era, the share of Hispanics increased by roughly 4 percentage points in every period of service that followed (Figure 8).

Figure 7

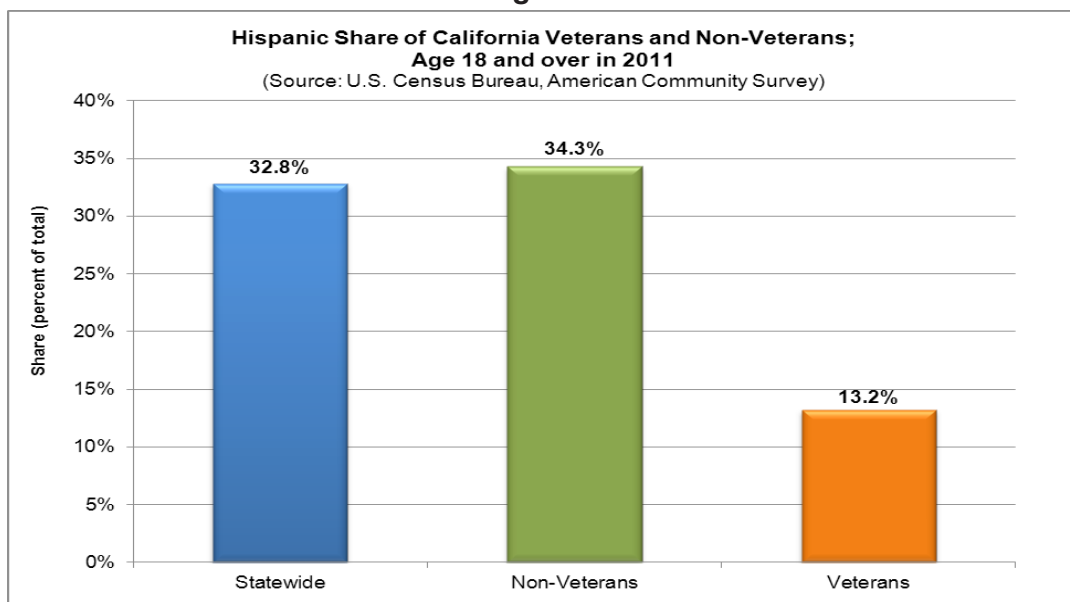
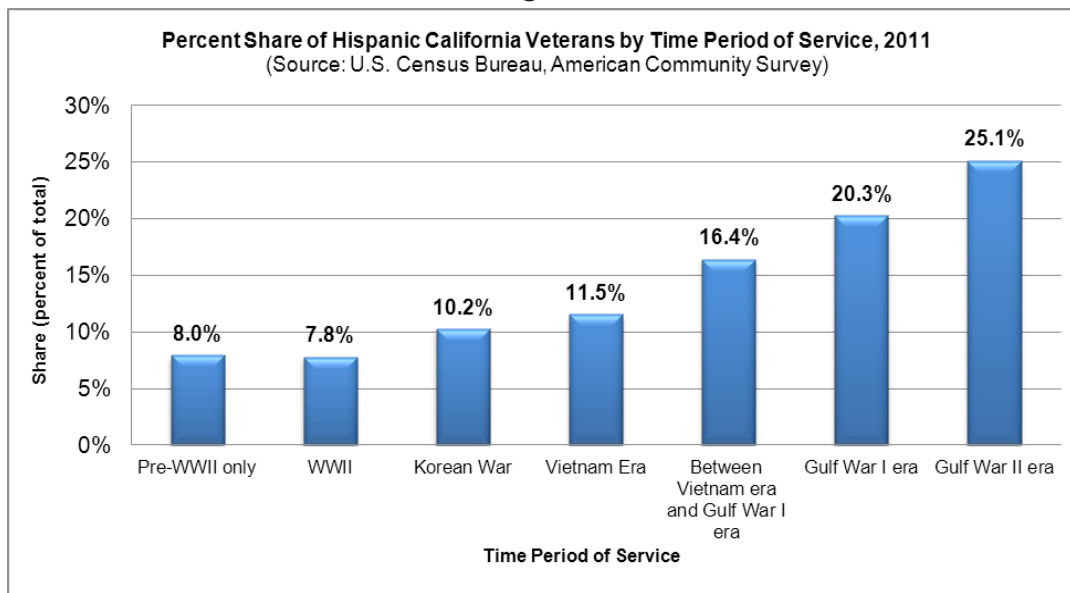


Figure 8

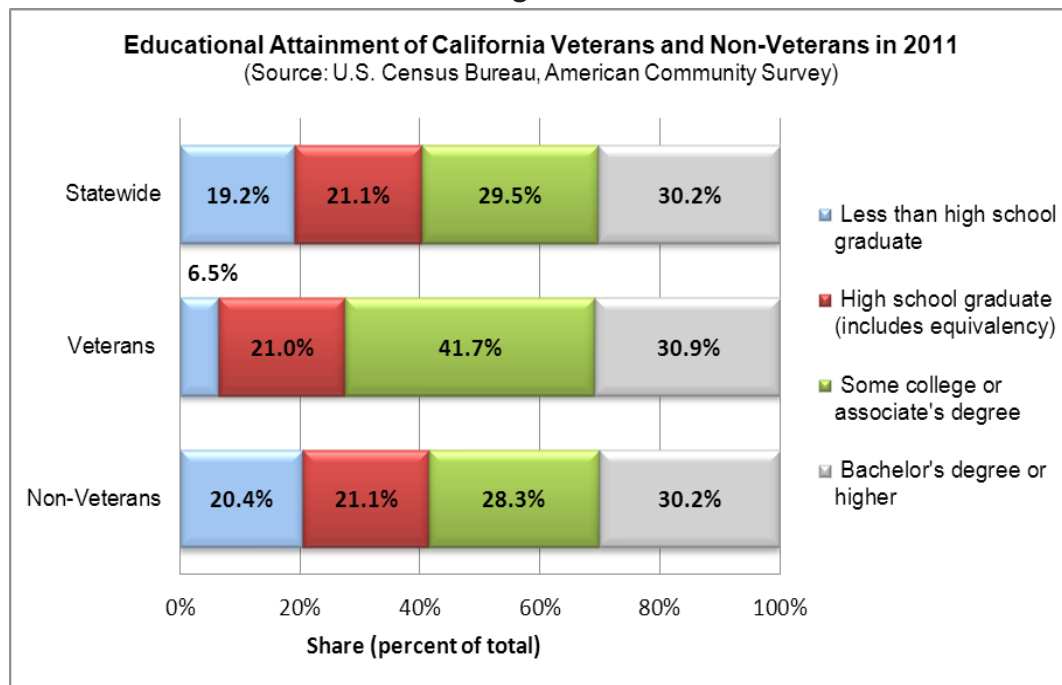


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Educational Attainment of California's Veterans

- The ACS 5-year data showed that more than 70 percent of California's military veterans had attained some college experience or a degree (associates, bachelor's or higher). This was higher than that of non-veterans (58.5 percent) and exceeds the state as a whole (59.7 percent) (see Figure 9).
- The shares of persons with a high school diploma or equivalent only, within the veteran, non-veteran, and the statewide populations were comparable at just over 20 percent. The share of non-veterans that did not graduate from high school was nearly three times as high as the share for veterans (6.5 percent).

Figure 9

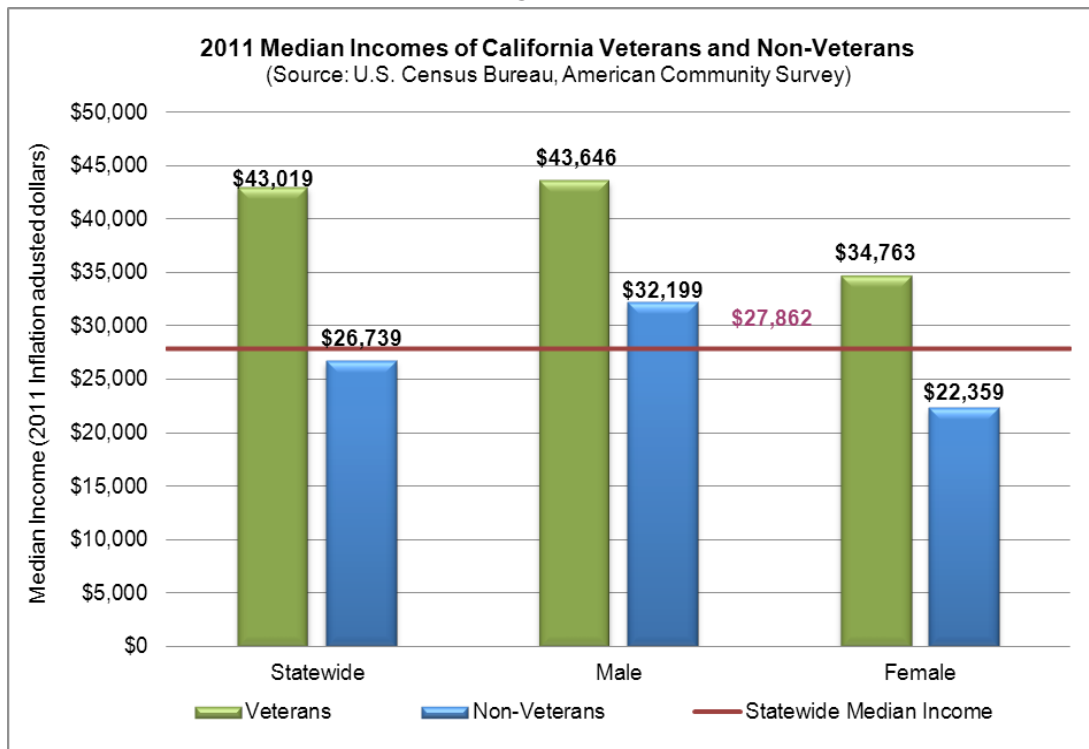


Income of California's Veterans

- According to the ACS 5-year data, the state's median income was \$27,862. The median income for all veterans was just over \$40,000, which was \$16,280 higher than that of non-veterans (see Figure 10).
- Overall, California veterans' median incomes were higher than the statewide total, with female veterans exceeding it by roughly \$7,000 and male veterans by close to \$16,000.
- Male veterans' median incomes exceeded those of female veterans by nearly \$10,000 in 2011. Of all the income groups analyzed, only female non-veterans had a median income that fell below the statewide median by roughly \$5,000 less.

California Labor Market Trends

Figure 10



State of California
Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Employment Development Department

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