



Growing ND by the Numbers

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November 2017

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Female Veterans and Government Employment

One surprising finding was the percentage of female veterans serving in government. Responses to the ACS indicated that about one in five working female veterans were employed with federal government agencies. Not one ND-based female veteran indicated she was unemployed in the survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2015 5-yr PUMS Data

North Dakota's Female Veteran Population

Females have served in the US Armed Forces for generations. The population of North Dakota is no different in this regard. The Census Bureau's American Community Survey estimates there were 3,592 female veterans in North Dakota in 2016. Of the state's total veteran population of 46,905, females make up 8.1 percent of that total, slightly higher than the national average of 7.9 percent. Veterans make up only one and a quarter percent of the population of females in the state, very close to the national average.

The current pool of North Dakota's female veterans has served in every timeframe the Census Bureau asks about going back to WWII. The largest number has served since September 2001, the timeframe generally referred to as Gulf War II, the second largest for the timeframe between August 1990 and August 2001.

When examining available data on female veterans by age groups, nearly 2 percent of North Dakota's female population in the age range of 35 – 54 were veterans, exceeding the national rate of 1.5 percent.

Conversely, North Dakota has a lower percentage of veterans among female ages 65 plus at .8 percent, or less than 500, in the state. This compares to 1.1 percent nationally for females of the same age group. As a result, female veterans tend to be younger than their non-veteran counterparts.

Female veterans are less likely to report a service connected disability in the state than their male counterparts. Only 10 percent of female veterans reported a disability compared to 17 percent of male veterans.

In North Dakota, the percentage of veterans which are female appears to

vary greatly by county. In 18 counties, more than 20 percent of veterans are estimated to be female. Most of these counties tend to have lower populations in the state. One exception appears to be Williams, where just over 20 percent of the veterans are estimated to be female. In 6 counties, the percentage of veterans exceeds 2 percent of the female population. These are Ward, Mountrail, Dunn, Foster, Burke and Pembina counties.

Ward County was unique in that, although it had a much lower percentage of veterans that were female, it had by far the highest percentage of its female population made up of veterans, with 4.4 percent. This is likely due to Ward County's high population of male veterans.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2016 1-yr and 2015 5-yr Tables S2101 and PUMS Data

Social Characteristics of Female Veterans

Women who served in the military are equally likely to be married, slightly less likely to be widowed, but more likely to be divorced or separated than non-veterans.

They are also slightly more likely to have children present in their home: generally one or two while non-veterans tended to have none or more than two.

Eighty-five percent of those that had children present has one or two, compared to 74 percent of non-veteran female households.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2015 5-yr PUMS Data

Military Service more likely Among Non-White Females in the State

Responses from American Indian, Blacks, Pacific Islanders and those indicating two or more races indicate they are veterans at a rate higher than Whites. Nearly 10 percent of Black females in the state reported being veterans, for American Indians it was 4 percent, about double that of White females of the same age group. Only Asian females were less likely to be veterans than Whites.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2015 5-YR PUMS Data

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Economic Characteristics of Female Veterans

Data from the American Community Survey indicates that working female veterans on average earn substantially more than their non-veteran sisters. Data in the most recent 5-Year ACS tables shows a median income for female veterans of \$31,345 compared to \$23,402 for non-veteran females, a difference of 31 percent. While both female veterans and non-veterans' incomes are lower than their male counterparts, military service appears to

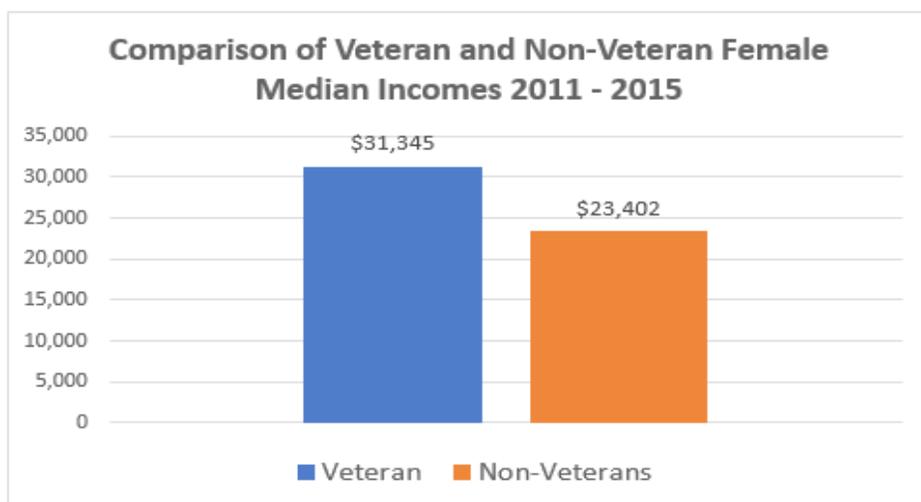
make a more substantial difference in female median income than male, as the difference between male veterans and non-veterans is only 14 percent in the state.

Female veterans were more likely to be in the labor force and work slightly more hours per week than non-veteran females. They were also far less likely to be below the poverty line, similar to their male veteran counterparts, when those under age 25

(college age) were excluded. Those that were below the poverty line tended to be American Indians.

Conversely, female veterans tended to be slightly less likely to be in households at the upper economic layers, five and six times the poverty ratio, indicating this group is likely representative of the middle class.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2015 5-yr Table S2101 and PUMS Data



Female Veterans' incomes on average were 31 percent more than their Non-Veterans' counterparts. While still lower than their males, the difference was more than double that found in a similar comparison between male Veterans and Non-Veterans in North Dakota

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2015 5-YR Table S2101

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