



Growing ND by the Numbers

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Female Veterans in North Dakota

In both North Dakota and nationwide, females make up about 8 percent of all veterans. For veterans ages 65 and above, females represent less than 2 percent of that cohort. Conversely, when we examine veterans under 40 we find that females make up about 15 percent of this cohort.

Source: ACS 2015 1-Yr Table S2101 and PUMS data.

Veteran Population in North Dakota

The Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) estimates North Dakota's veteran population at 46,507, or about 8 percent of the state's population. This percentage has steadily declined in the past several decades. In 1980, veterans represented just over 15 percent of the state's population, and by 2000, that percentage had dropped to just under 13 percent. In 2005, 12.4 percent of the state population was made up of veterans compared to 10.9 percent of the U.S. population.

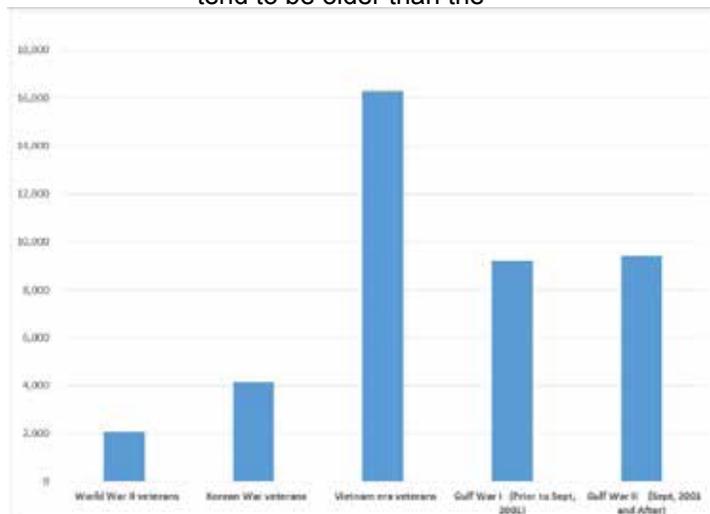
An estimated 18,616 veterans served in the more recent Gulf Wars, while an estimated 22,461 served in Vietnam, Korea or WWII.

These shifts are the likely results of a number of factors: the larger cohorts of WWII and Korean War veterans have been passing away in greater numbers. In 2005, there was an estimated 7,427 WWII veterans. As of 2015, the number of these veterans is estimated to have dropped to 2,056.

Veterans in North Dakota tend to be older than the

general population, with a median age of 56 compared to 46 when all individuals under age 18 are excluded. Today, the largest group of veterans are those that served during the Vietnam war. The veteran population is overwhelmingly male at about 92 percent, both nationally and in North Dakota.

Source: Census 1980, 1990, 2000. ACS 1-Yr Tables S2101 2005 and 2015.



Vietnam Veterans make up the largest share of veterans in the state constituting 35 percent of the veteran population. The percentage of veterans from WWII and Korea has declined in recent years as members of these cohorts pass away.

North Dakota Cities with the Highest Percentage of Veterans

Three cities in North Dakota were estimated to have greater than 50 percent of their respective population made up of veterans. These included Calvin in Cavalier County, Gascoyne in Bowman County and Barton in Pierce County. Minot, at 13 percent, has the highest percentage of veterans for cities in the state with over 2,500 residents, followed by Grafton at 11 percent.

Source: ACS 2014 5-Yr Tables GCT2101 and B01003.

Joe Cicha
Census Specialist

Phone
701-328-7283

E-mail
jcicha@nd.gov

Web
NDCensus.gov

Counties with the Highest Veteran Population

Between 2010 and 2014, forty-seven of North Dakota's fifty-three counties had a percentage of veteran population higher than the national average of just under 8 percent. The counties with the highest percentage of veterans are Ward and Bottineau, both at 13 percent. These were followed by Griggs, Steele, Renville and Nelson, all with

over 12 percent.

Counties with the lowest percentages of veteran populations include Billings, Rolette, Slope, Wells, Cass and Sioux, all with percentage at eight or below. The percentage of veterans who served in WWII or the Korean War tends to be higher in more rural counties that have

experienced outmigration over a long period of time. Counties such as Golden Valley and Slope are examples of this situation where the percentage of veterans from these conflicts is estimated to exceed 30 percent of their veteran population.

Source: ACS 2015 1-Yr Table S2101

Veterans Educational and Socio-Economic Characteristics

Veterans tend to be neither the least educated nor the most educated and are probably more representative of the "middle class" than those who have not served.

Veterans tend to be twice as likely as non-veterans to have at least high school education, but are less likely to hold a bachelor's degree. When the population over age 65 is excluded, the percentage of veterans without high school diplomas drops to less than 2 percent, about a third of the rate of non-veterans.

The rate of those with some college or an associate's degree exceeds 50 percent. When the age range of

veterans is narrowed to examine only those in the age range of 25 to 40 years of age, the percentage of veterans without a high school diploma or a GED drops to less than one half a percent, while the percentage of those who have attended at least some college grows to 50 percent compared to about 35 percent for non-veterans.

While their labor force participation rate is similar to nonveterans, veterans have a lower rate of unemployment than non-veterans at 2.6 percent compared to 3.1 percent during the timeframe from 2010 to 2014.

In 2015, veterans' median income in North Dakota was substantially higher than that of non-veterans. Although non-veterans had a median income of just under \$32,000, veterans' median income was nearly \$46,000, a forty-four percent difference. Given veterans' higher income, it is not surprising to find that veterans' rate of poverty is about half the rate of non-veterans. An estimated 6 percent of veterans had incomes below the poverty level compared to 12 percent for non-veterans in the same age range.

Source: ACS 2015 1-Yr Table S2101 and PUMS data.

North Dakota Department of Commerce
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 2
Bismarck, ND 58503 | 701.328.5300

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