

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Profile of Vietnam War Veterans

From the 2015 American Community Survey

Prepared by the National Center for Veteran Analysis and Statistics

July 2017

NCVAS National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Data Sources: American Community Survey (ACS) and U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2015 (USVETS 2015)

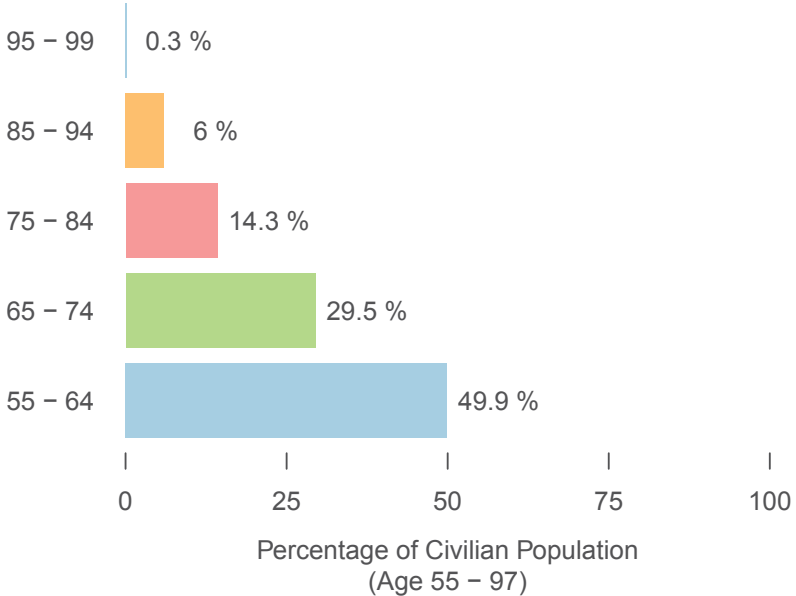
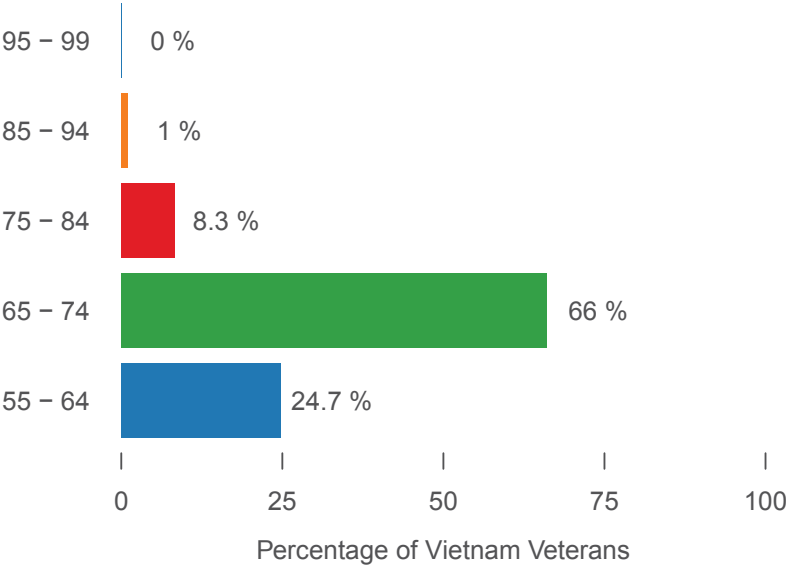
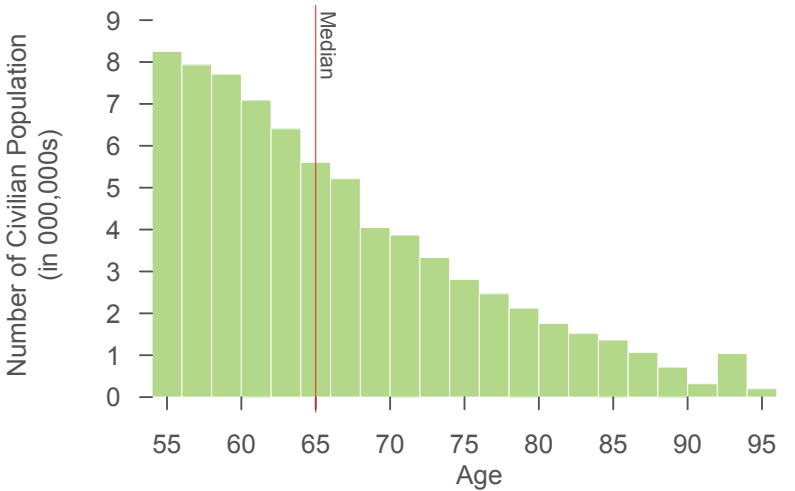
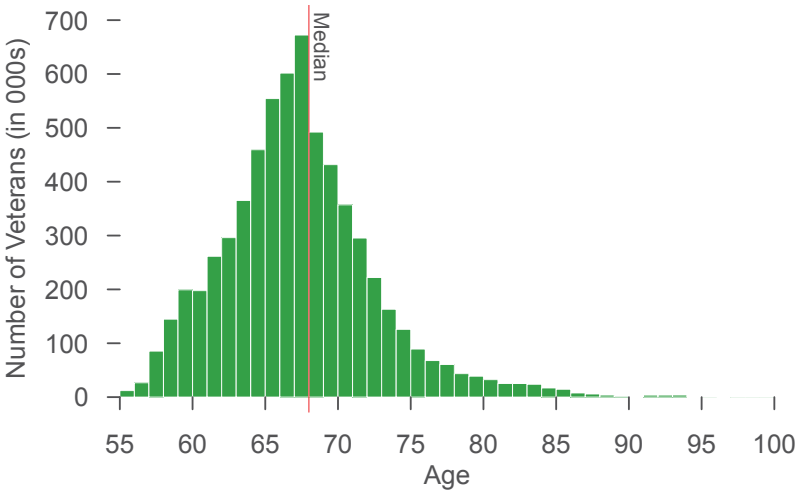
- ▶ The primary data source is the [2015 ACS Public Use Microdata Sample \(PUMS\)](#). USVETS 2015 is used to provide a view into utilization of VA services.
 - ▶ The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides annual data on the social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population.
 - ▶ The ACS uses a series of monthly samples to produce annually updated data for the same small areas (census tracts and block groups) formerly surveyed via the decennial census long-form sample.
 - ▶ Data on the utilization of VA services is provided by USVETS 2015.
- ▶ All comparative statements (Vietnam Veterans vs. Civilian Population) have undergone statistical testing according to the [method prescribed in the ACS technical documentation](#). Results are significant at the 95% confidence level.
 - ▶ A statistically significant difference simply means there is statistical evidence that there is a difference; it does not mean the difference is necessarily large, important or significant in the usual sense of the word.
 - ▶ No statistically significant difference means that there is statistical evidence that there is no difference in the comparative percentages/rates.
- ▶ Race categories are shown for the non-Hispanic population (e.g., White non-Hispanic, Black non-Hispanic, Asian non-Hispanic). Hispanics can be of any race.
 - ▶ The Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders category is abbreviated as “NHOPI”. They are also grouped together with the “Asian” category.
 - ▶ Other includes individuals who reported as belonging to “Some Other Race” or “Two or More Races”.
 - ▶ American Indians and Alaska Natives are grouped together and are abbreviated as “AIAN”
- ▶ For more information about the ACS please visit the [U.S. Census Bureau website](#).

Notes on Comparing Vietnam Veterans to Non-Veterans

- ▶ Between 1964 and 1973, there were roughly 8.8 million¹ personnel, composed of both volunteers and draftees, who served in the Vietnam War. As of 2015 there are an estimated 6.4M Veterans.
- ▶ Estimates reported here do not represent the number of troops deployed, killed, or wounded. They only represent Veterans who responded to the ACS in 2015.
- ▶ Vietnam War Veterans are identified through the variable Veteran Period of Service (VPS) where respondents answered with either Vietnam Era/Korean War/WWII, Vietnam War/Korean, or Vietnam War.
- ▶ Vietnam Veteran ages range from 55 to 97 years old. In order to make equitable comparisons, these Veterans are compared with the civilian population of the same age group. Both groups are likely to exhibit characteristics that are associated with that age cohort.
- ▶ Vietnam Veterans are predominantly men (97%) whereas non-Veterans are mostly women (64%). Any characteristic (e.g. income) associated with sex will be affected by the inherent differences amongst men and women.

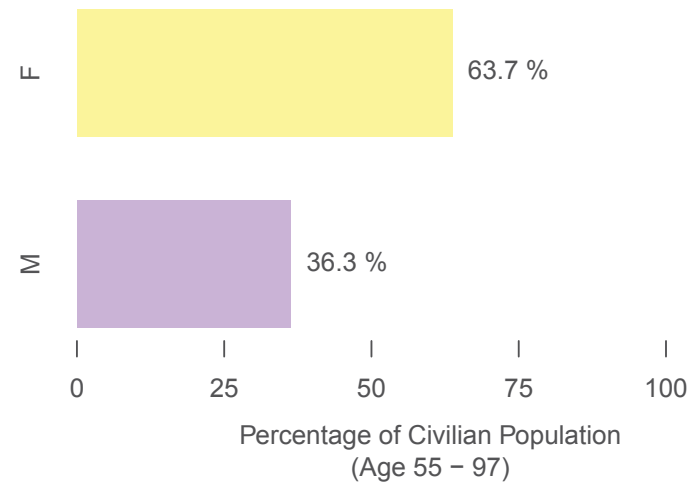
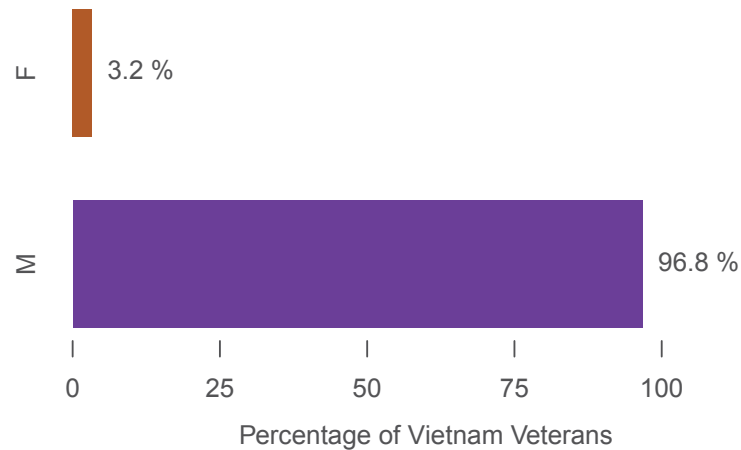
¹U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, “Vietnam Conflict—U.S. Military Forces in Vietnam and Casualties Incurred: 1961 to 1972”, table 590, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1977 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1980), 369.

Estimated 6.4M Vietnam Era Veterans. Ages range from 97 to 55 years old (born between 1918 and 1960). Median age is 68 years.

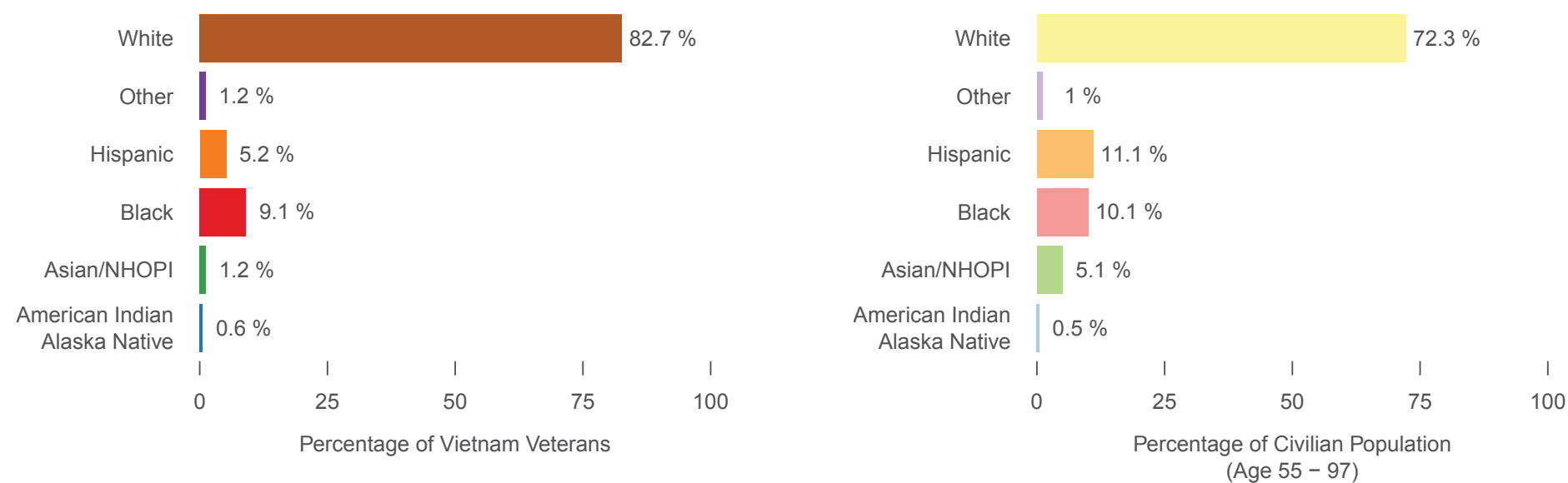


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2015
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

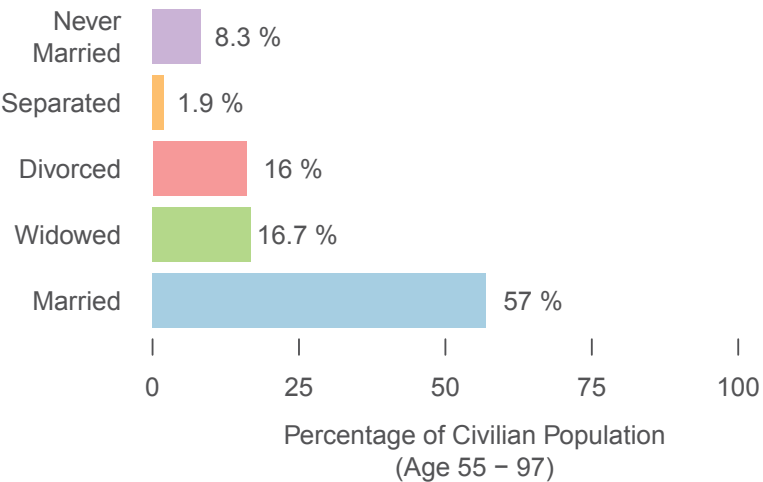
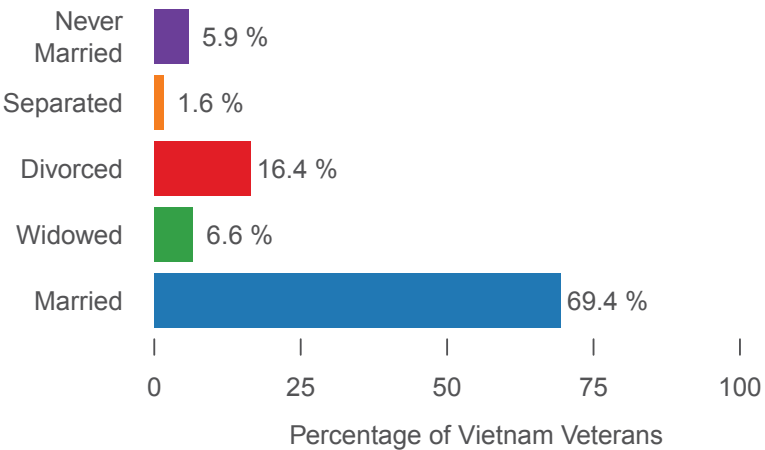
An overwhelming majority of Vietnam Veterans are male (6.2M) while in the civilian population females (47.7M) outnumber males by 20.5M.



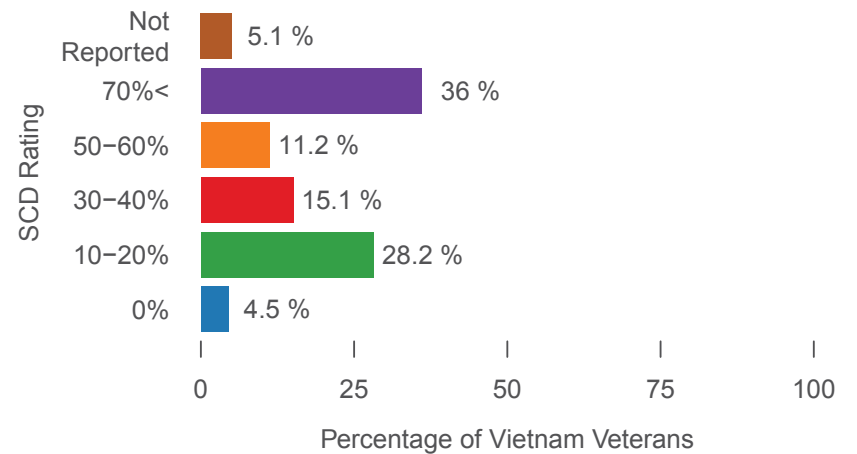
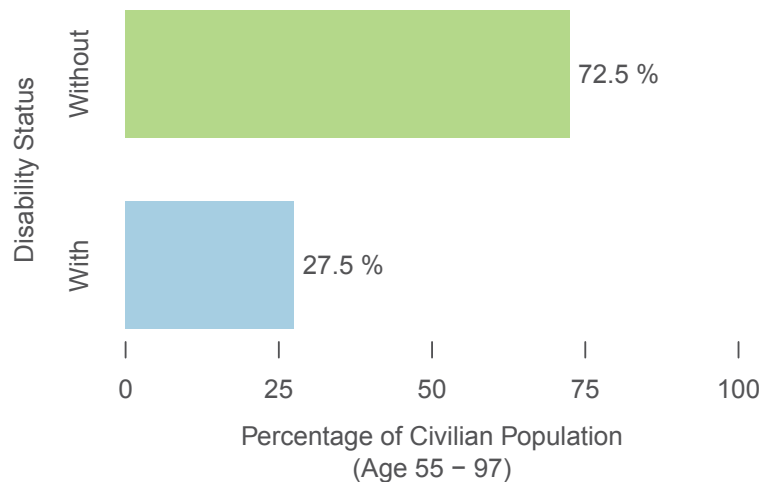
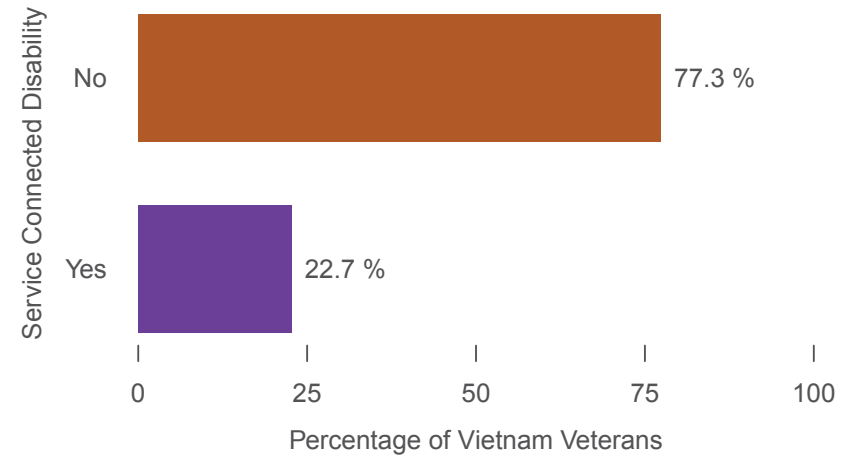
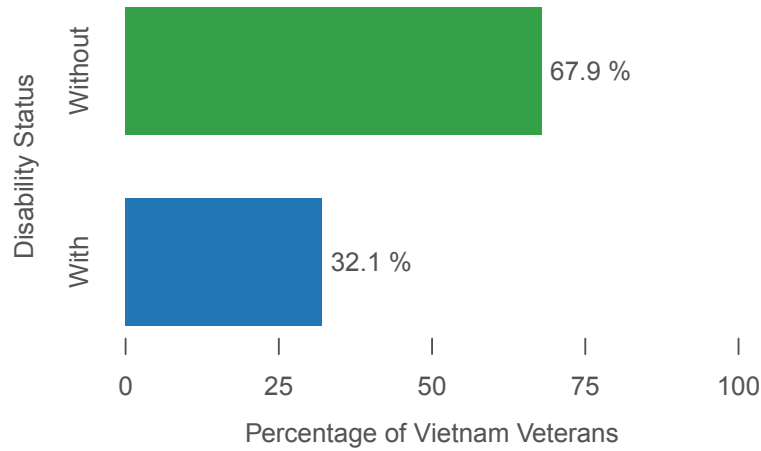
Non-Hispanic Whites are the largest racial group amongst Vietnam Veterans and Civilian Population.



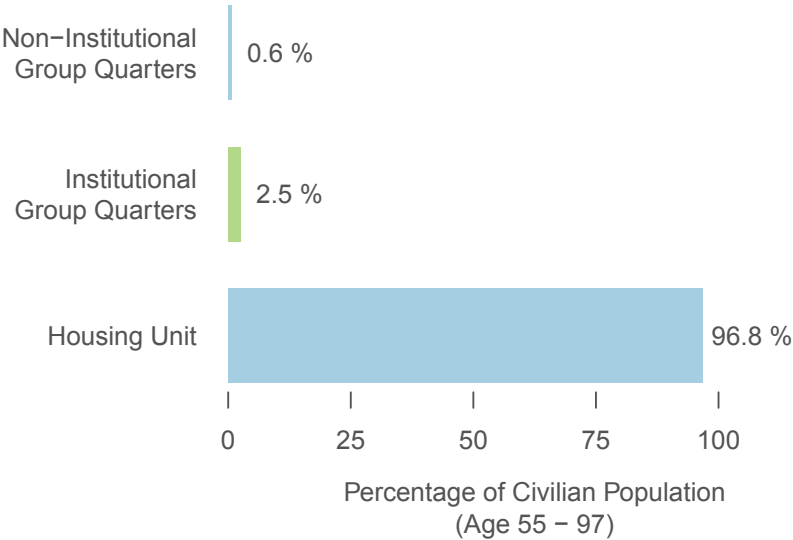
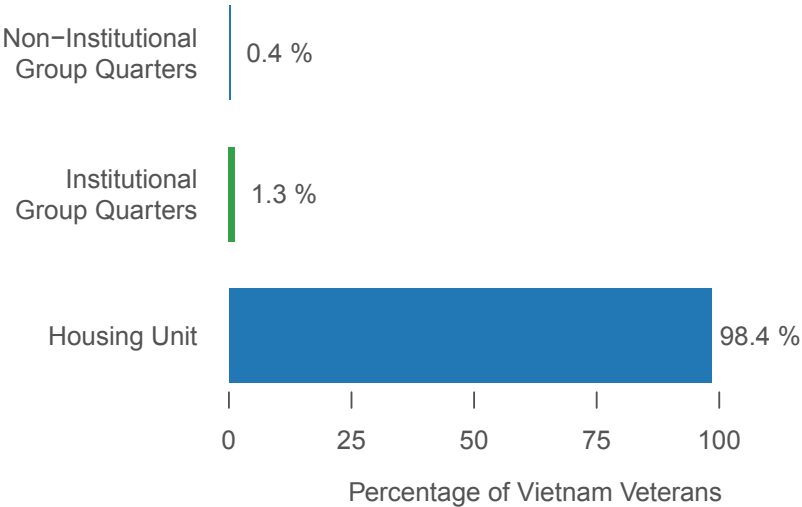
Relative to the Civilian Population, more Vietnam Veterans are married and fewer are widowed.



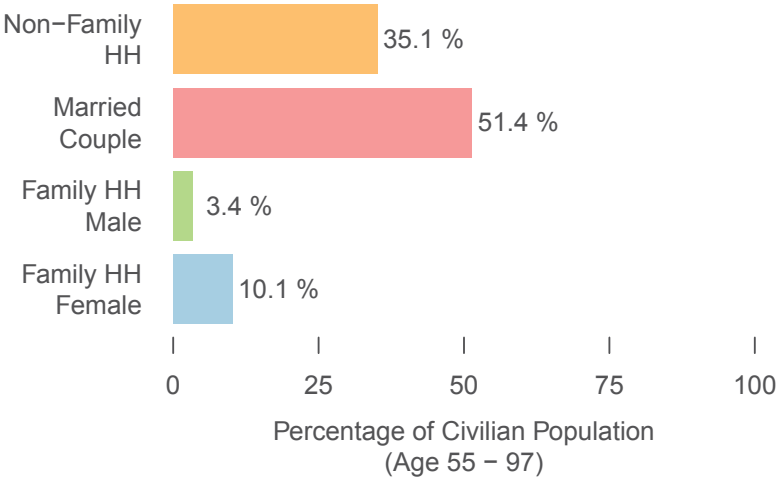
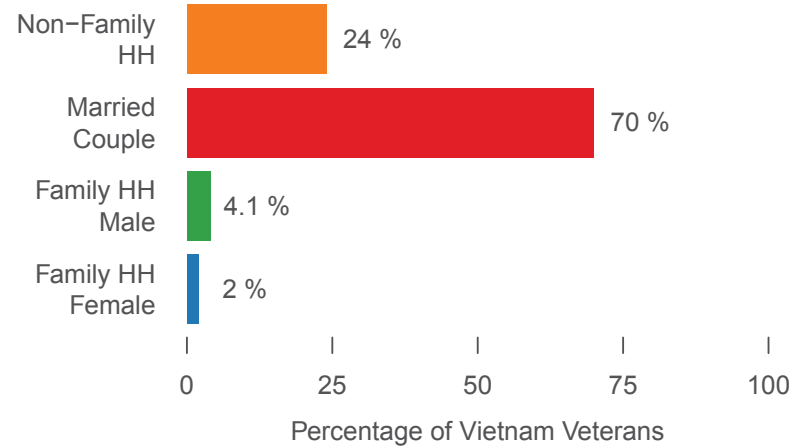
A third of Vietnam Veterans are more than 70% disabled. Though their disability is not necessarily service connected.



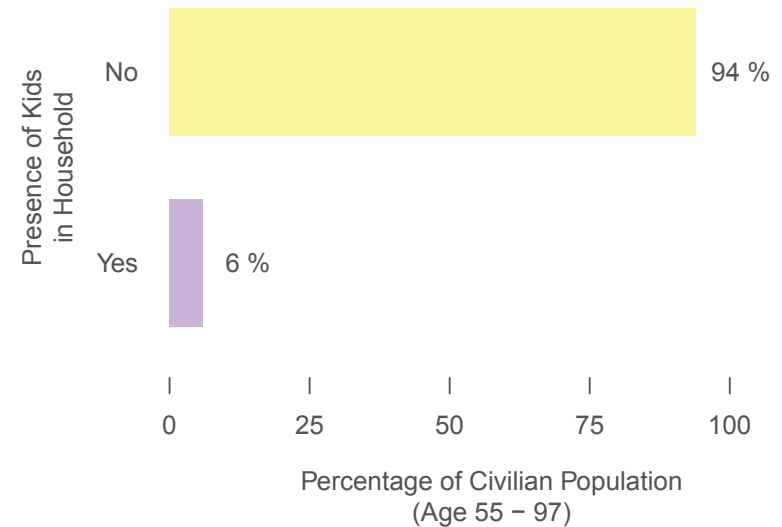
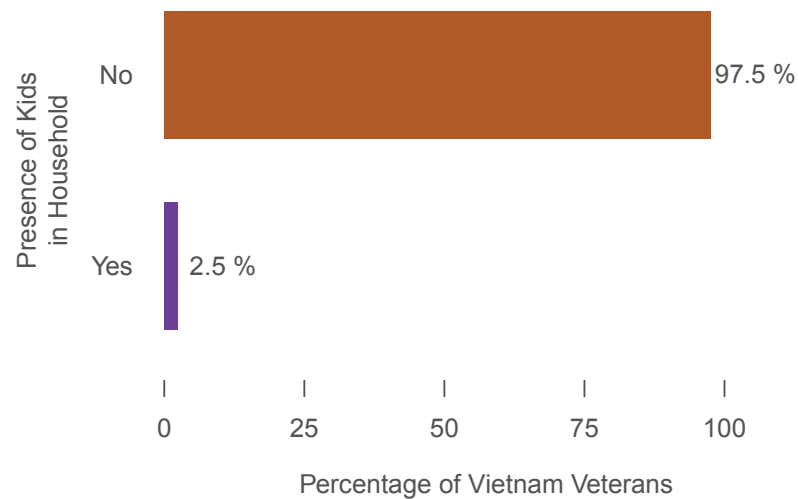
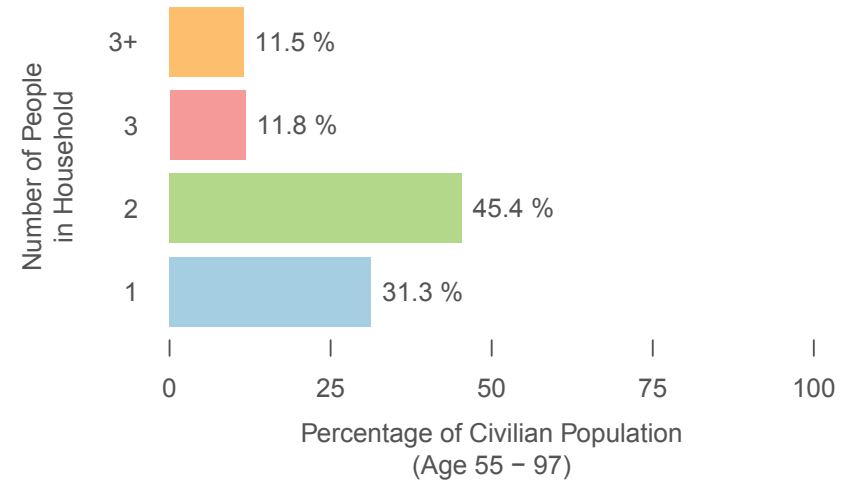
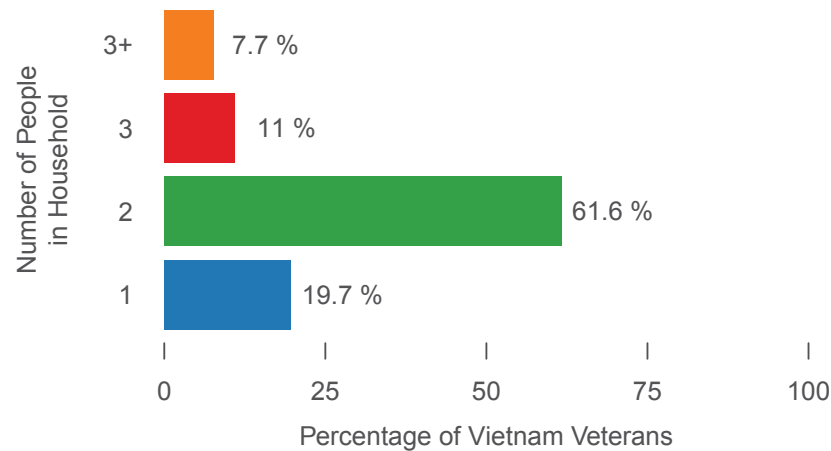
Less than 2% of Vietnam Veterans live group quarters*. More Veteran households headed by married couples relative to the civilian population.



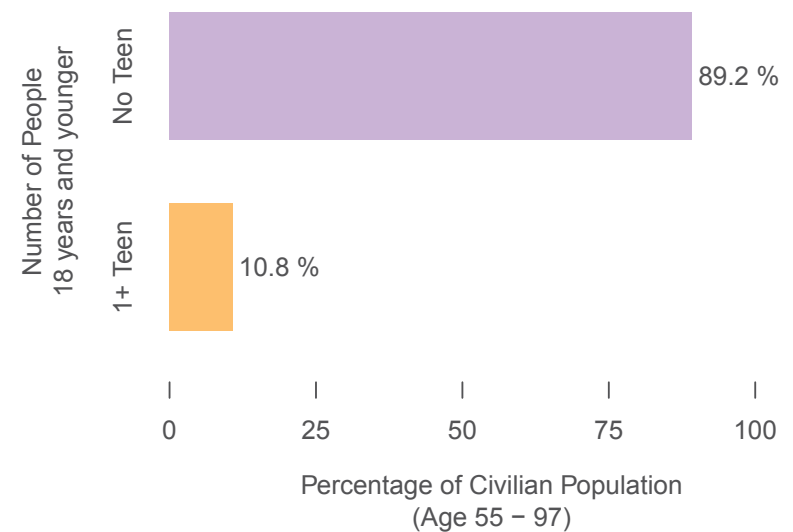
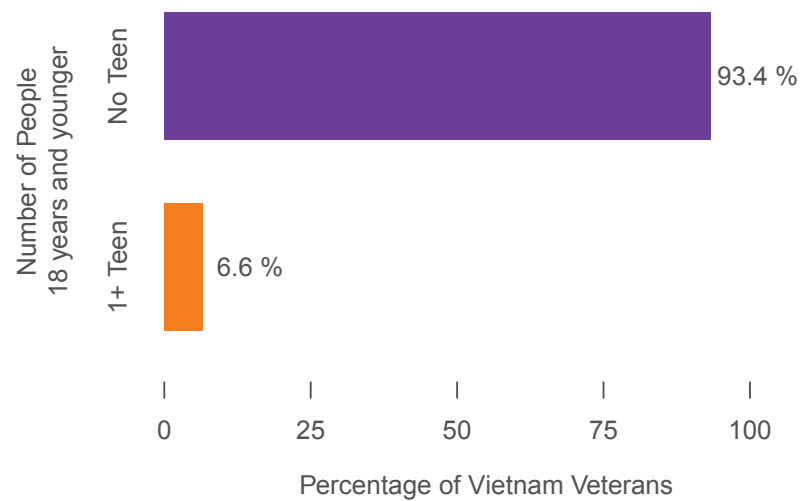
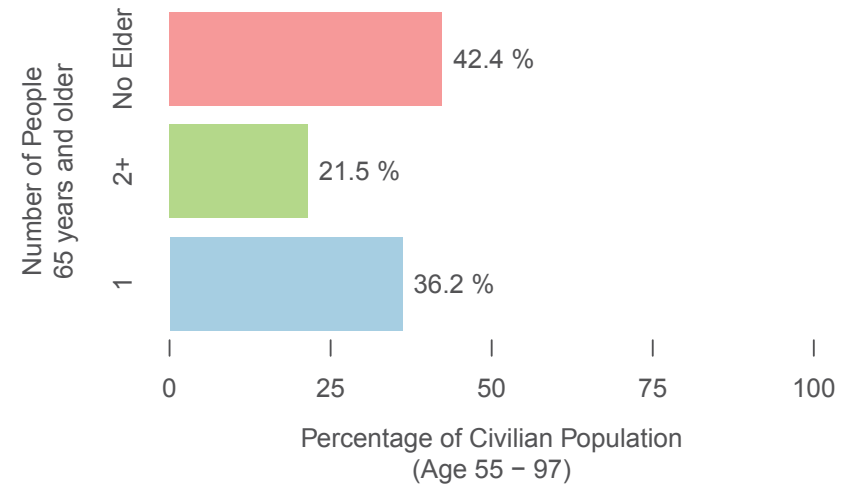
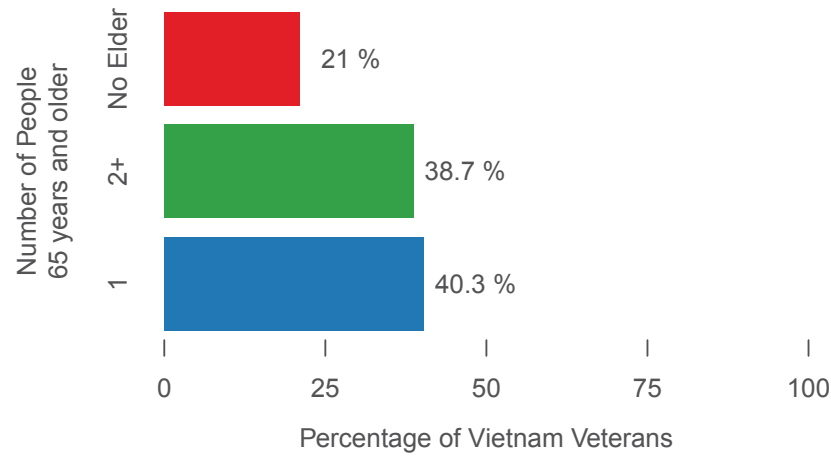
**Group Quarters include facilities like nursing homes, group homes, college dormitories, prisons, etc.*



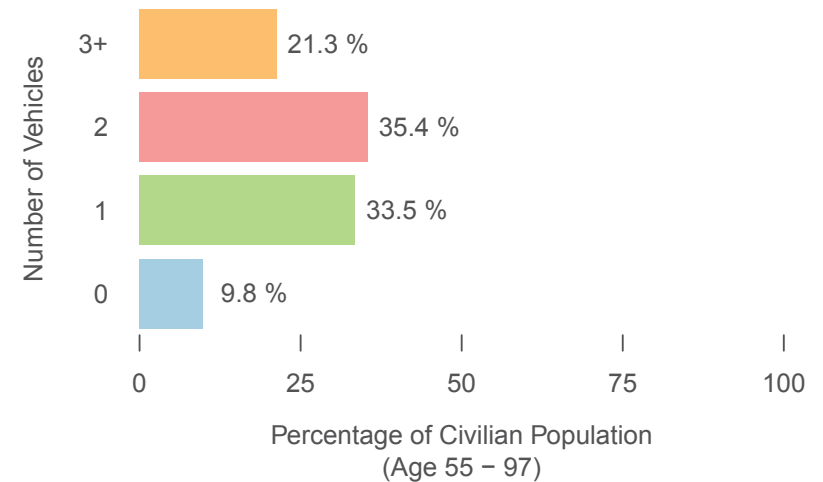
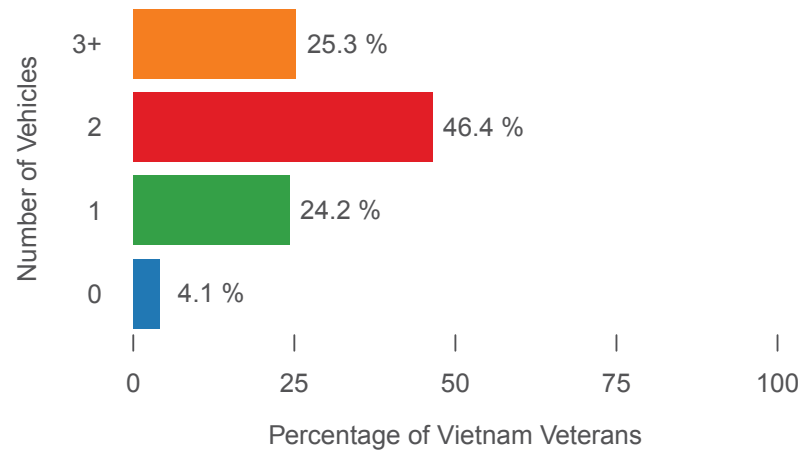
There are 16% more Vietnam Veteran households that have two people and no kids than civilian households.



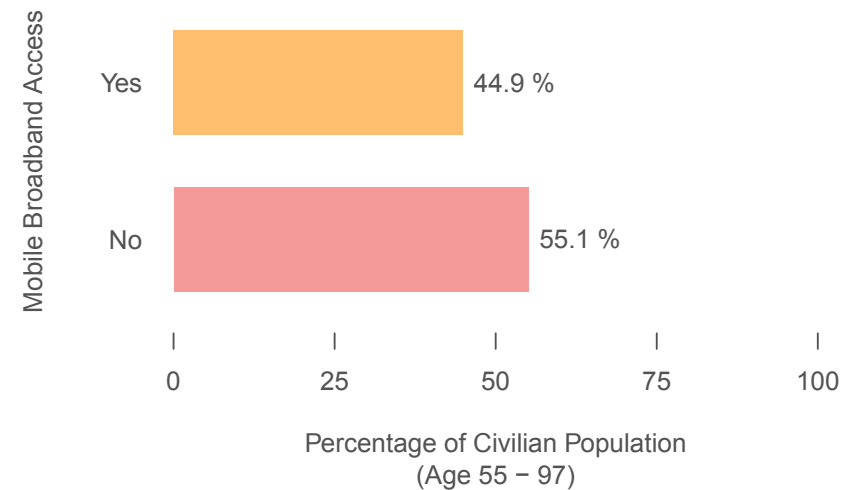
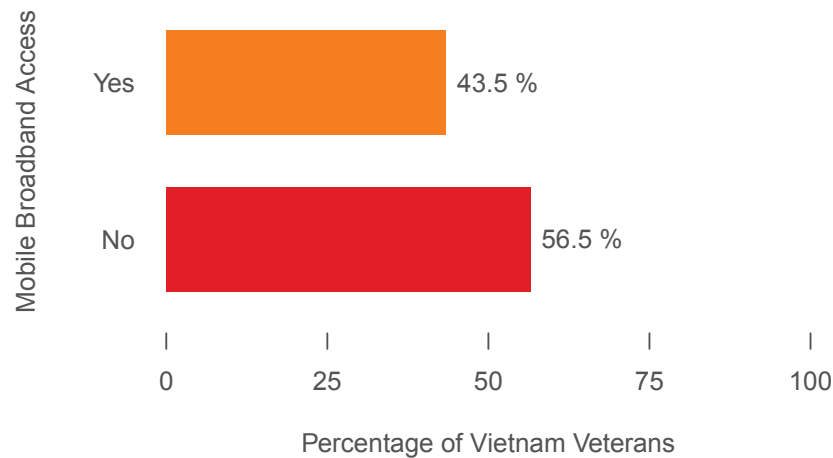
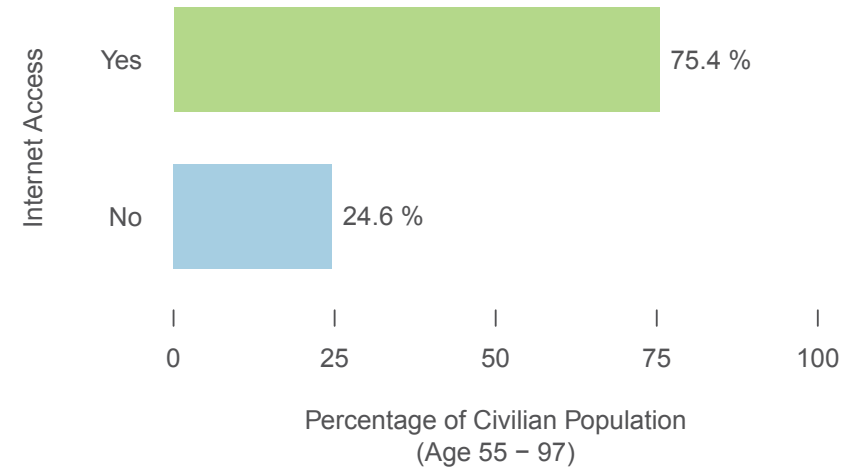
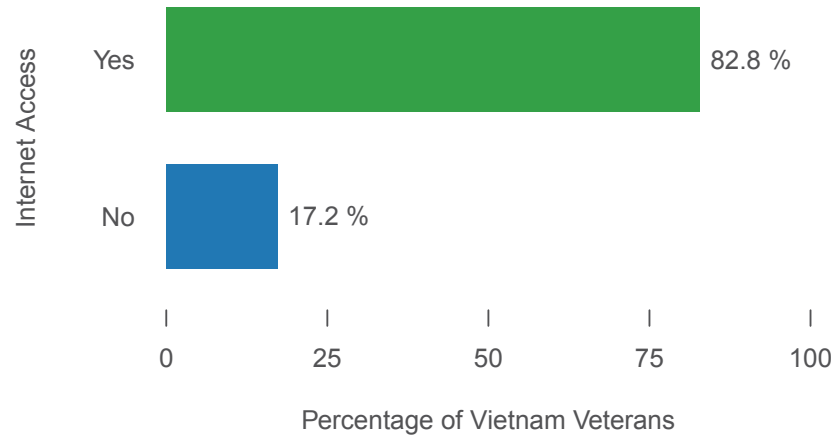
Most households have the presence of someone 65 years and older while a small percentage have the presence of someone 18 years and younger.



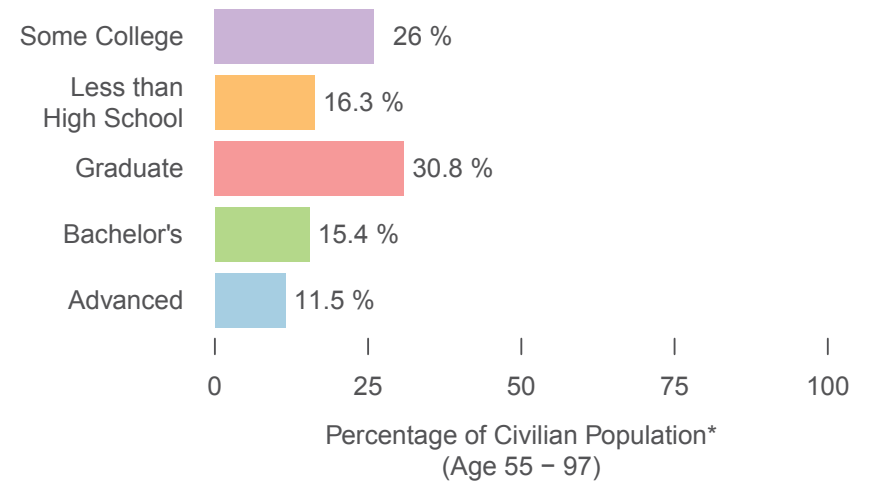
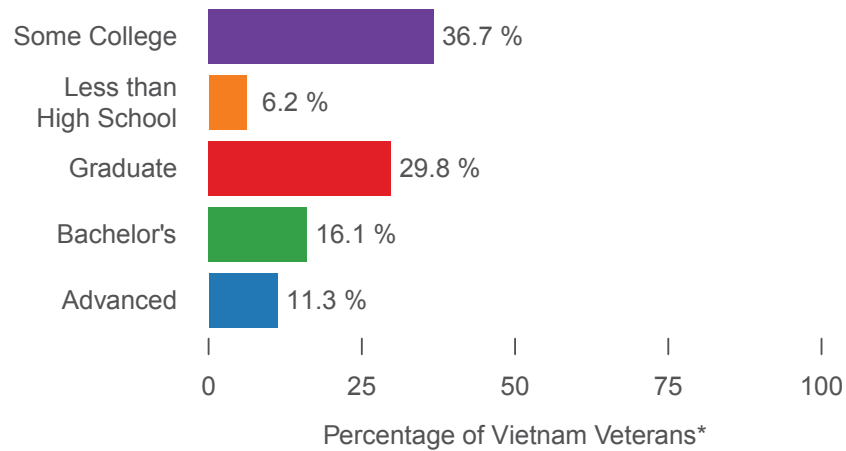
More than 90% of Vietnam Veteran and civilian households have at least one vehicle. There are 11% more Veteran households that have two vehicles.



Three-quarters of all households have internet access while more than 50% don't have mobile broadband access.

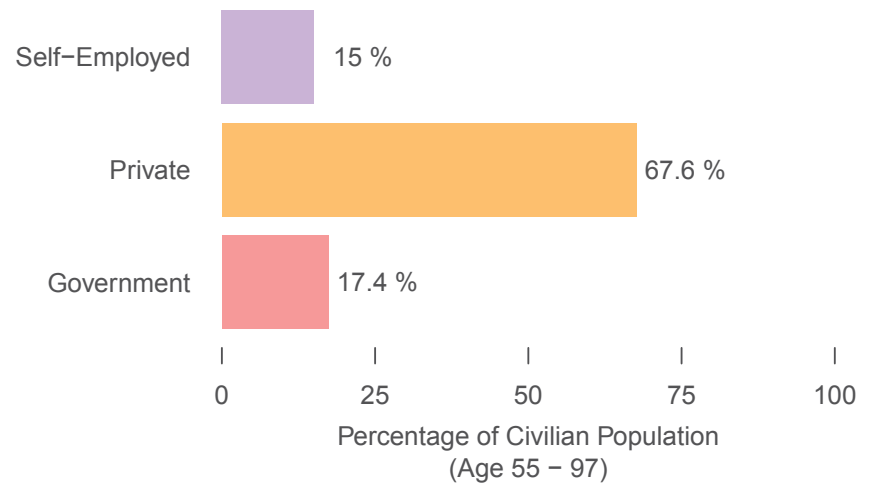
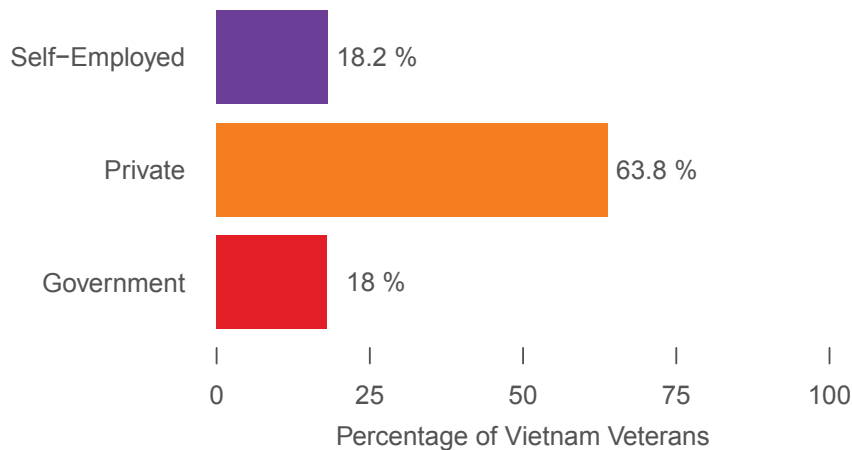
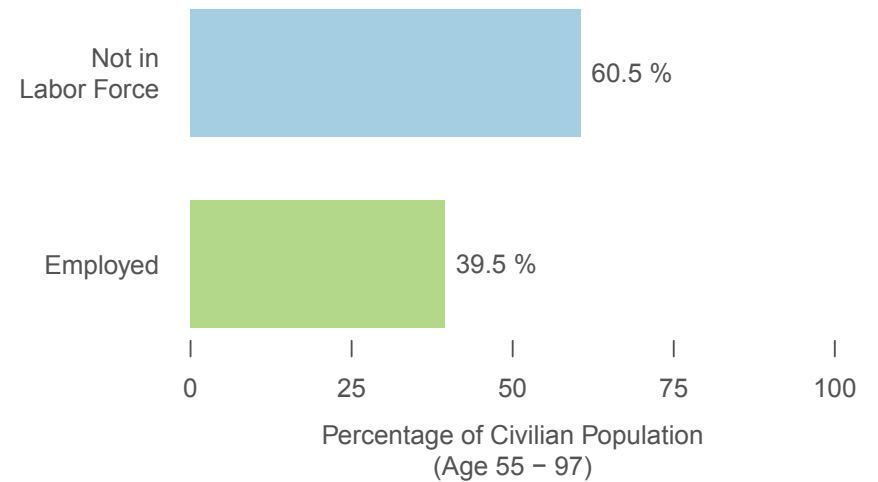
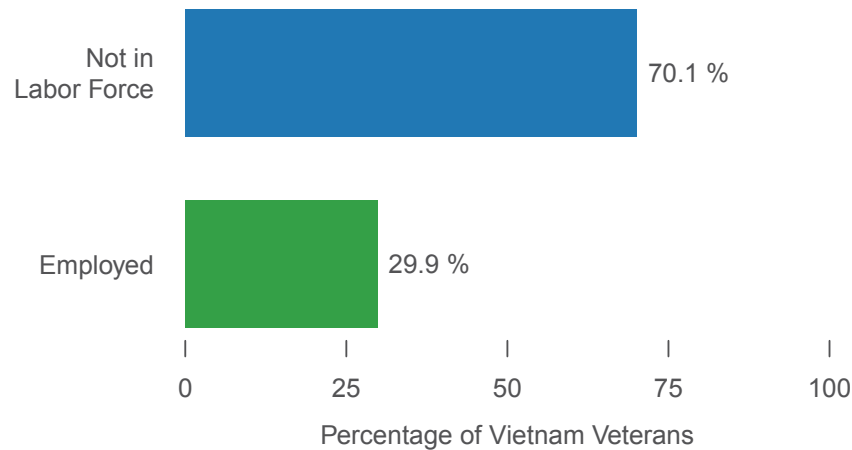


Education attainment levels are consistent with the civilian population*.

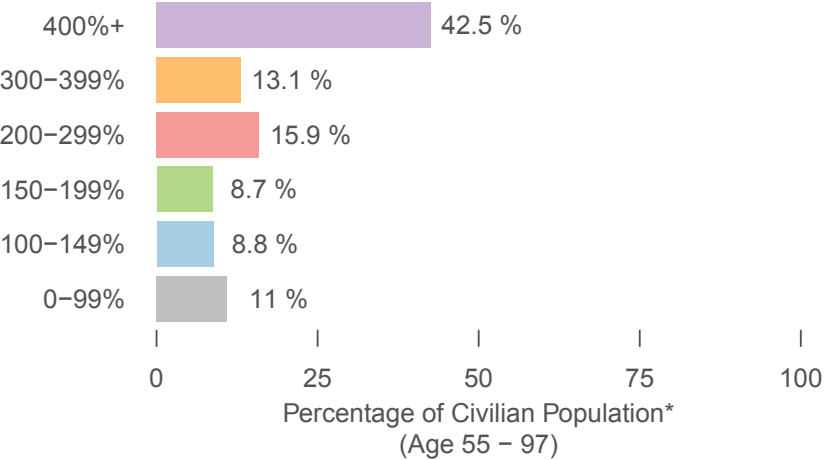
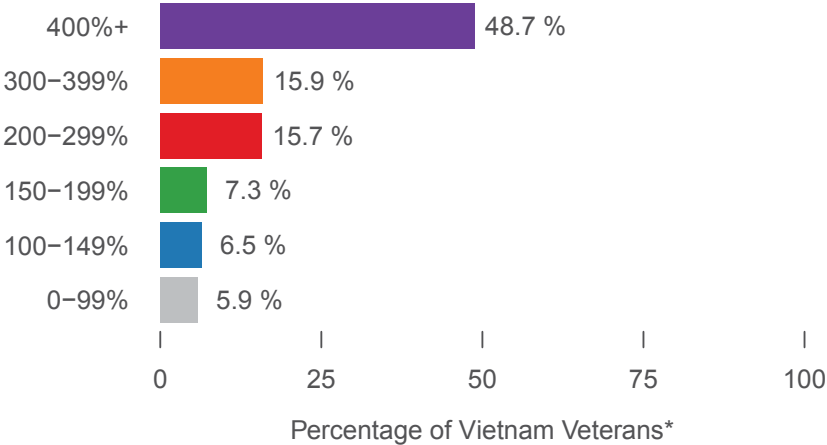


**Differences are not significant.*

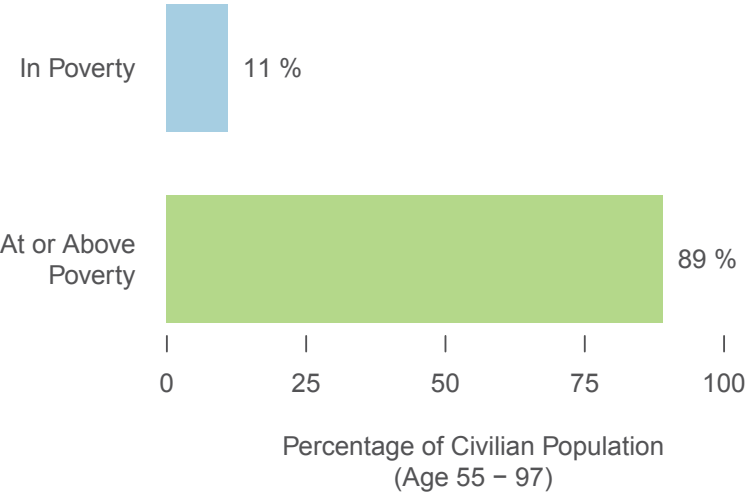
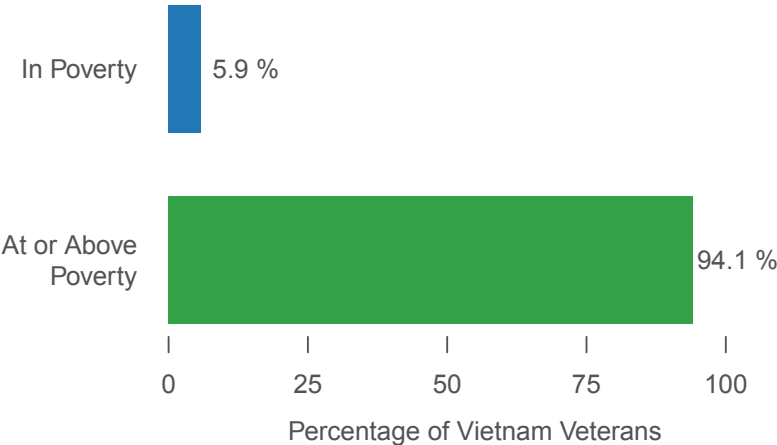
10% more Non-Veterans in the labor force. Of those in the labor force (Vietnam Veterans and Non-Veterans), more than two-thirds are occupied in the private sector.



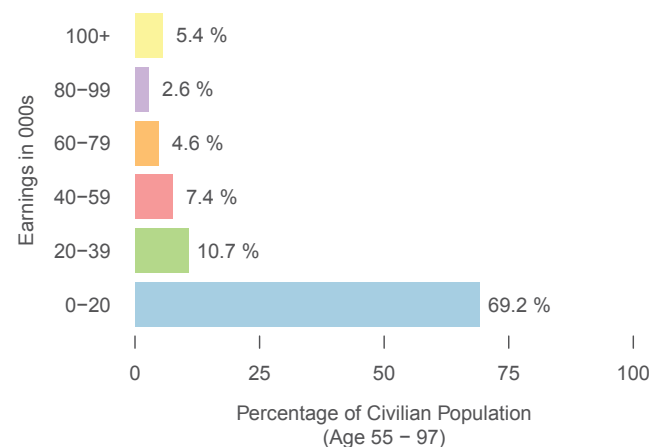
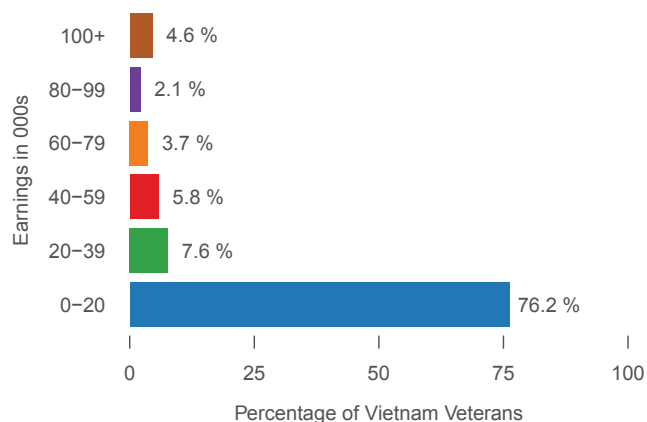
While most Vietnam Veterans and non-Veterans are well above the poverty line, Vietnam Veterans are about 5% less likely to be living in poverty.



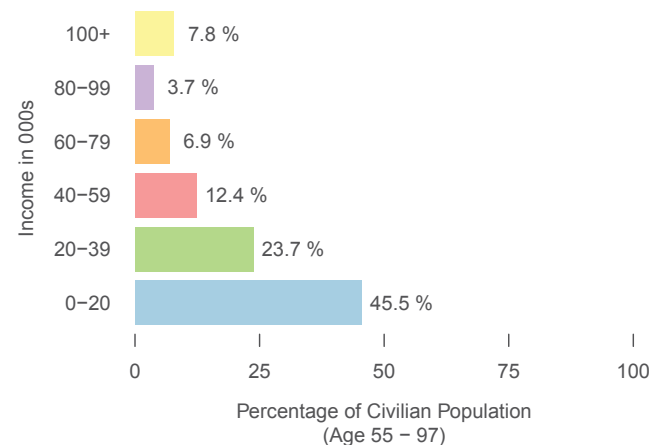
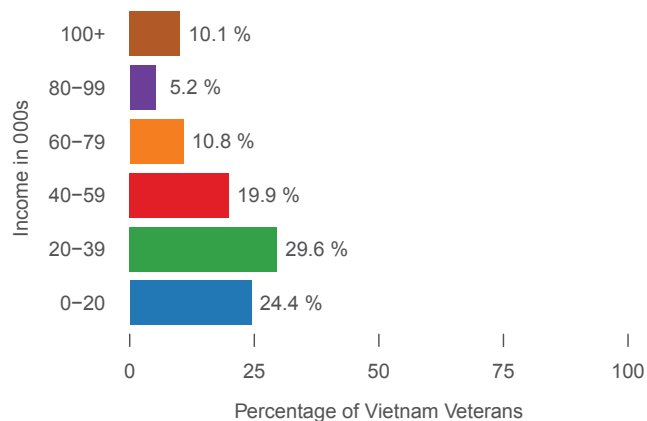
**Differences are not significant.*



No major differences in earnings*. In terms of income** there are more Vietnam Veterans in brackets above \$20K.

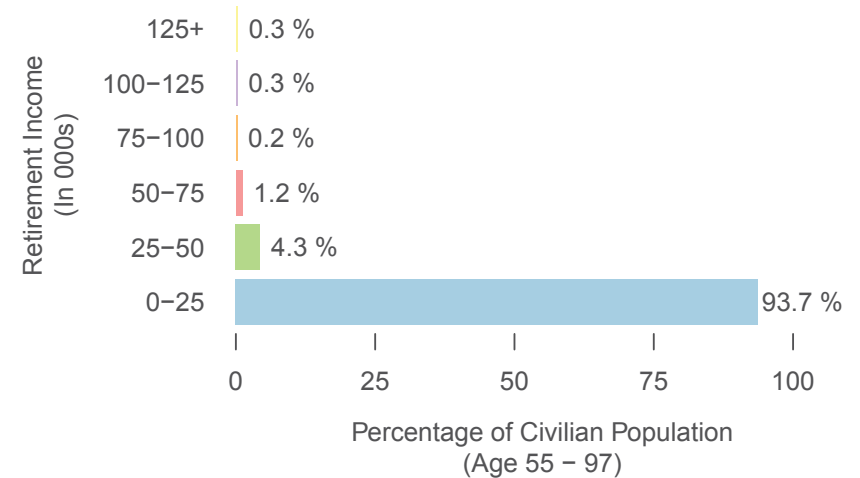
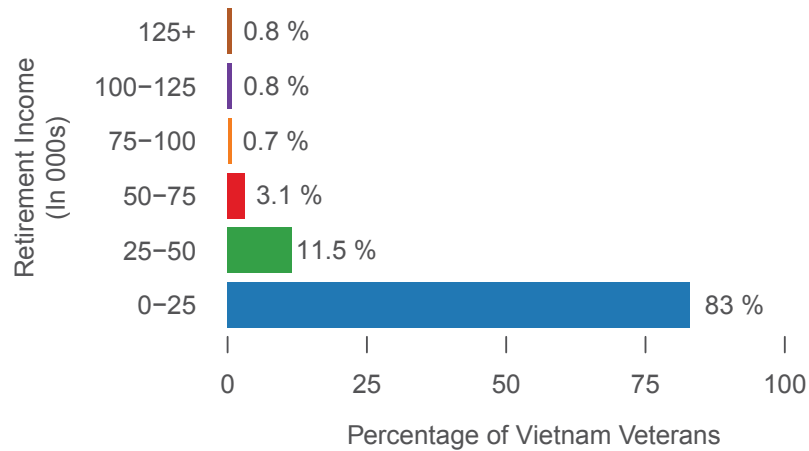


**Earnings refer to salary, wages, and self employment income. "Year-round full-time(YRFT)" refers to employment of 50 or more weeks per year and 35 or more hours per week. Median earnings are calculated for the YRFT employed population with earnings greater than zero.*

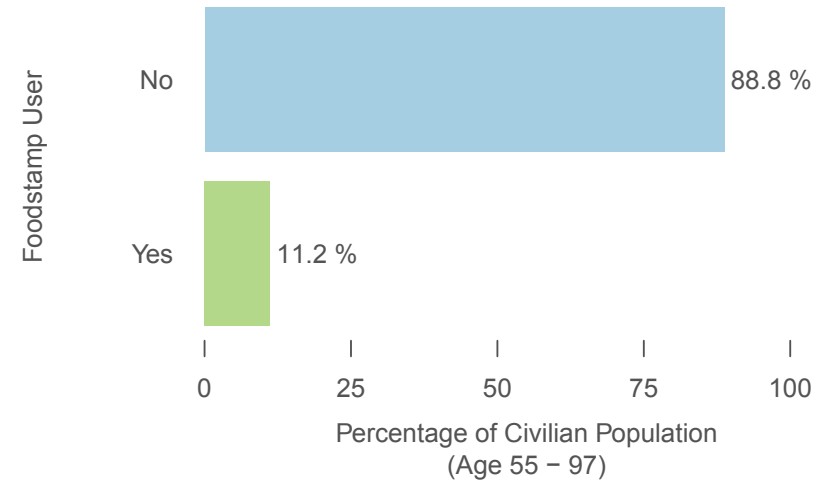
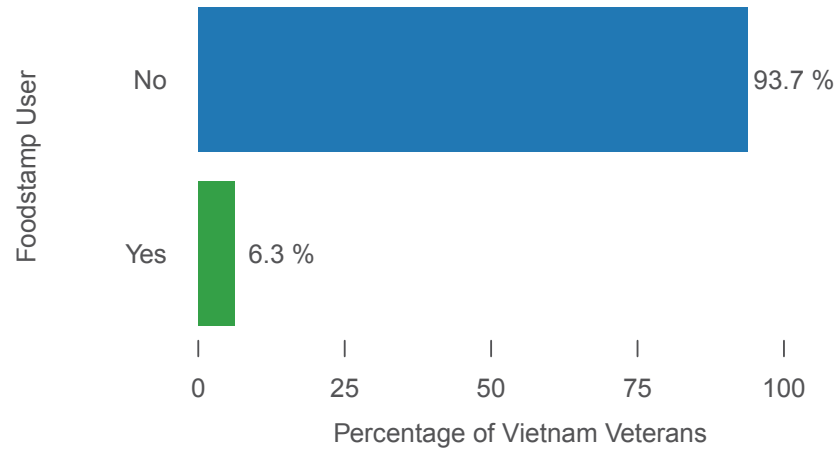


***Income refers to the total of earnings and other sources of income such as pension, Supplement Security Income, public assistance, etc. Median Income is calculated for the total population with personal income greater than zero.*

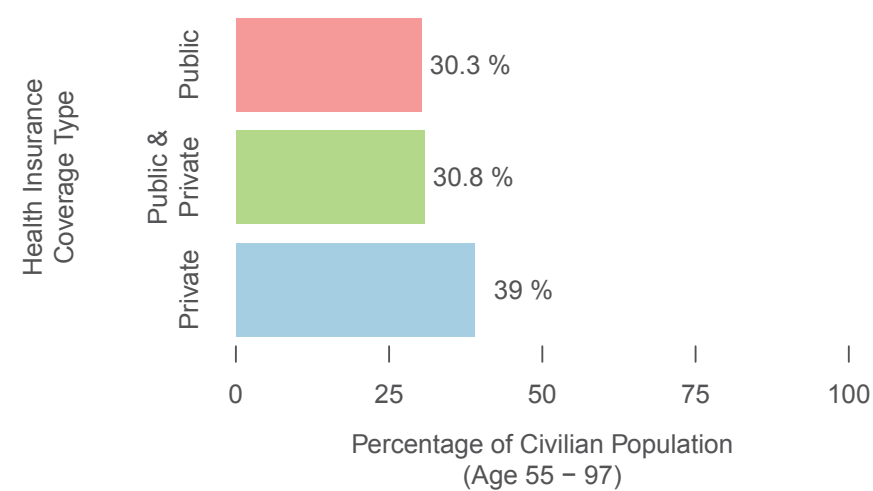
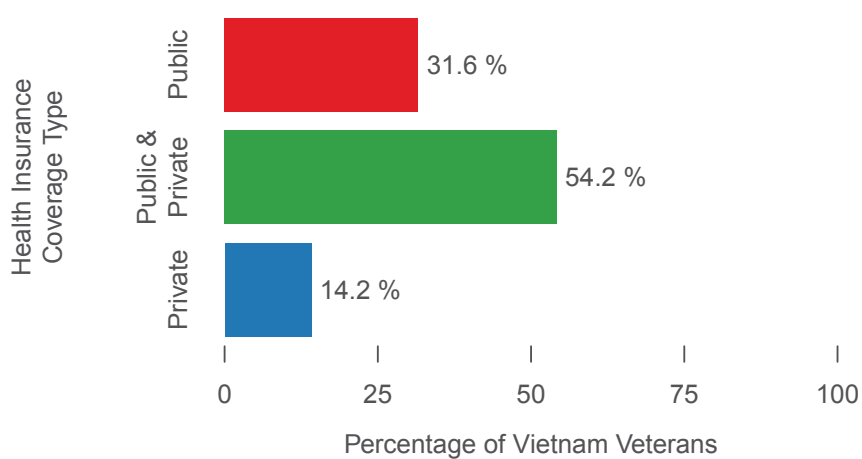
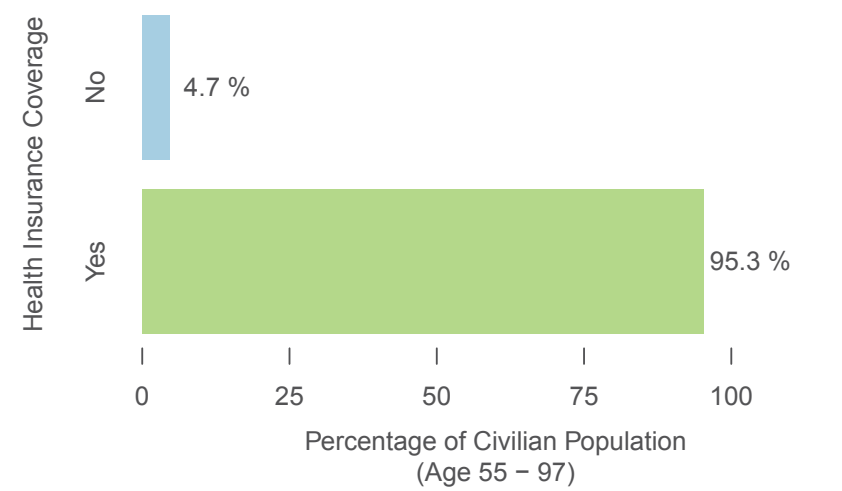
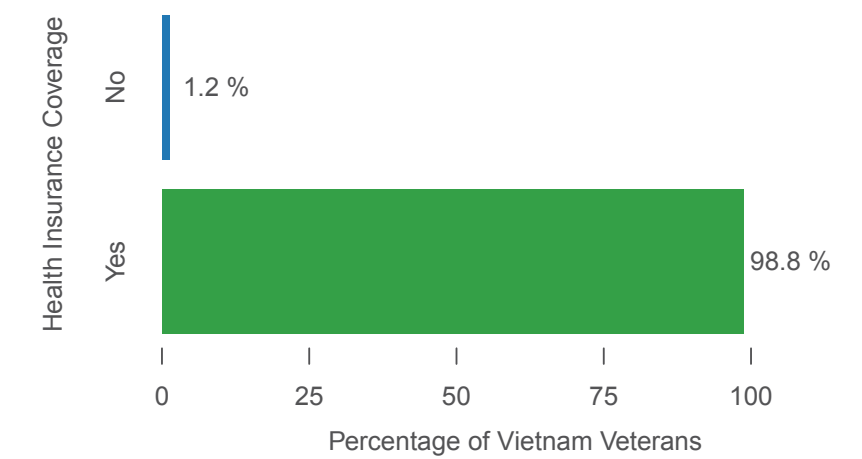
Of those receiving retirement income, a majority of Vietnam Veterans and non-Veterans get under \$25K. There are about 7% more Vietnam Veterans in the \$25K-\$50K income range.



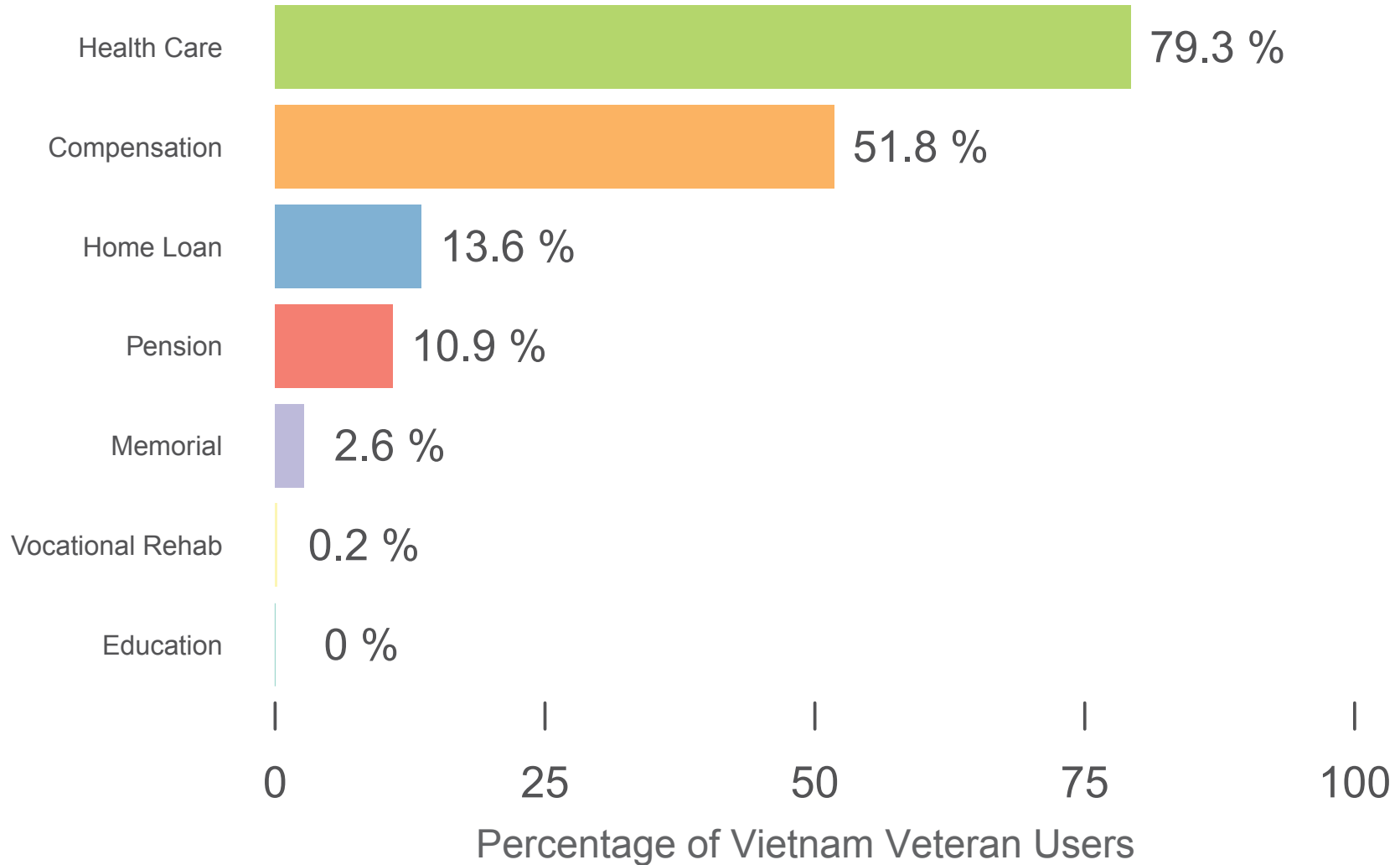
Overall Vietnam Veterans and non-Veterans are not Food Stamp users, though there are fewer Vietnam Veteran users than non-Veterans.



Nearly all Veterans and non-Veterans have health insurance coverage. Though Vietnam Veterans tend to have less private and more public coverage.



Most Vietnam Veterans receive health care or compensation benefits from VA.



- ▶ This profile was prepared by the [National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics](#). For general inquiries, please email us at VANCVAS@va.gov
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