Veterans Studies Interest Group Listserv
Issue #3 November 7, 2016

Colleagues:

November 11 is of course Veterans Day, the subject of this month's Veterans Studies Interest Group Listserv.
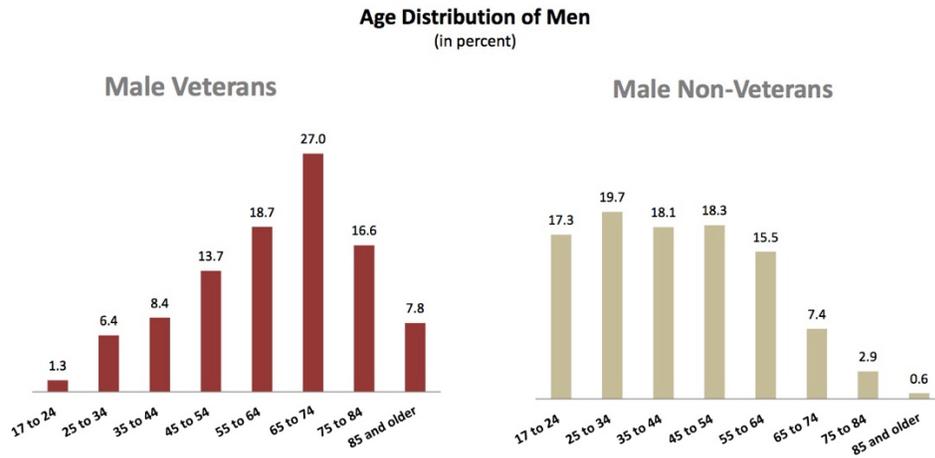
- Veterans Day remembers the Armistice of World War I which occurred on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month 1918.The Treaty of Versailles that ended the war was signed on June 28, 1919
- The combatants in World War I had agreed to an armistice at 5 AM on November 11. However, the later 11 AM time related to an ultimatum to end the war that had been given by the allied commander, Marshall Foch, A coincidental and unfortunate number - almost 11,000 soldiers died in those 6 hours when many of the allied forces launched attacks for various purposes.
- Henry Gunther, of Baltimore Maryland, was the last soldier to die in World War I at 10:59 AM, November 11, 1918.
- Red poppies worn on Veterans Day derive from the poem "In Flanders Fields" by Canadian John McCrae, 1915.
- In November, 1919 President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day
- On June 4, 1926, Congress officially recognized the end of World War I and passed this concurrent and hopeful resolution:

  > *Whereas* the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

  > *Whereas* it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

  > *Whereas* the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples

- Another congressional act on May 13, 1938 made November 11 a legal holiday to be known as "Armistice Day", primarily honoring veterans of World War I.

- In 1945, Alabama World War II veteran Raymond Weeks suggested that all veterans be honored. He was later given the Presidential Citizenship Medal in 1982 by President Ronald Reagan.
- On June 1, 1954 Public Law 380 made November 11 a day to honor American veterans of all wars and it was the renamed "Veterans Day".
- Like other holidays, Veterans Day was at first moved to assure three-day weekends in 1968 and to the fourth Monday in October in 1971, but it was moved back to November 11 no matter what day of the week by law on September 20, 1975 (effective 1978).
- Every year the President, Vice President or high government official conducts a Veterans Day National Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery at 11 AM with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier who was buried on November 11, 1921. I have attended several of these and it is a moving ceremony.
- Veterans Day occurs one day after the birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps, November 10 (1775).
- There are Veterans Day celebrations in a number of other countries including "Remembrance Day" on or near a November 11 in Commonwealth nations and on the following Sunday in the U.K. It is common to include one or two moments of silence at 11 AM.
- Another remembrance of Work War I, ANZAC Day (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) in the two countries commemorates their landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey on April 25, 1915.The protocol of ceremonies begins at dawn, the time of the initial attack. A link to then-and-now pictures of Gallipoli, a failed expedition with very heavy casualties and a powerful legacy for the countries that participated, is here.
- Veterans Day honors and celebrates all veterans while Memorial Day in May honors those who died in battle.
- Veterans Day is a federal holiday but most Americans go to work
- *Finally, remember the purpose and enjoy the day*

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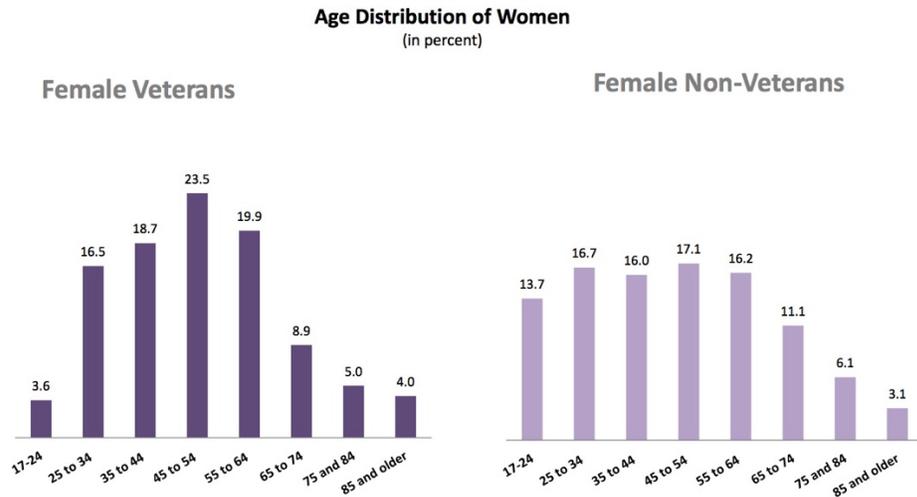Professor of Medicine

Stats Section

Male Veterans on average are older than non-Veteran men. In 2014, the median age of male Veterans was 64 and the median age of male non-Veterans was 41.

Age Distribution of Men
(in percent)

Male Veterans

Age	Percent
17 to 24	1.3
25 to 34	6.4
35 to 44	8.4
45 to 54	13.7
55 to 64	18.7
65 to 74	27.0
75 to 84	16.6
85 and older	7.8

Male Non-Veterans

Age	Percent
17 to 24	17.3
25 to 34	19.7
35 to 44	18.1
45 to 54	18.3
55 to 64	15.5
65 to 74	7.4
75 to 84	2.9
85 and older	0.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2014
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

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As with male Veterans, a lower percentage of female Veterans were in the youngest age group—17 to 24 years old than their non-Veteran counterparts. These are the ages when most men and women would still be serving in the military and would not yet have become Veterans. The median age of female Veterans was 49 and female non-Veterans was 46 in 2014.
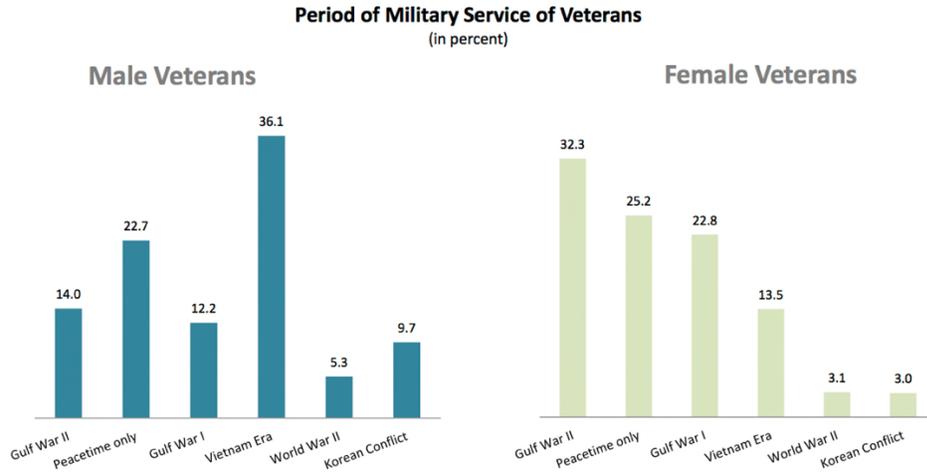
Age Distribution of Women
(in percent)

Female Veterans

Age	Percent
17-24	3.6
25 to 34	16.5
35 to 44	18.7
45 to 54	23.5
55 to 64	19.9
65 to 74	8.9
75 to 84	5.0
85 and older	4.0

Female Non-Veterans

Age	Percent
17-24	13.7
25 to 34	16.7
35 to 44	16.0
45 to 54	17.1
55 to 64	16.2
65 to 74	11.1
75 and 84	6.1
85 and older	3.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2014
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

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Age distribution of male and female veterans compared to non-veterans

The largest cohort of male Veterans served during the Vietnam Era while the largest cohort of female Veterans served during Gulf War II.

Period of Military Service of Veterans
(in percent)

Male Veterans

Gulf War II	Peacetime only	Gulf War I	Vietnam Era	World War II	Korean Conflict
14.0	22.7	12.2	36.1	5.3	9.7

Female Veterans

Gulf War II	Peacetime only	Gulf War I	Vietnam Era	World War II	Korean Conflict
32.3	25.2	22.8	13.5	3.1	3.0

Period of Service Dates: Post 9/11: Sept. 2001 to present; Pre 9/11: Aug. 1990 to Aug. 2001; Vietnam Era: Aug.1964 to April 1975; Korean War: July 1950 to Jan. 1955; World War II: Dec. 1941 to Dec, 1946; Peacetimes: Jan. 1947 to June 1950; Feb. 1955 to July 1964 and May 1975 to July 1990.

Note: Periods of service shown here are coded with multiple dispersed into categories with most recent period of service.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2014
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

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Periods of service of male and female veterans

Based on data from a 2014 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau via VA.