# Veterans in New Hampshire 2023

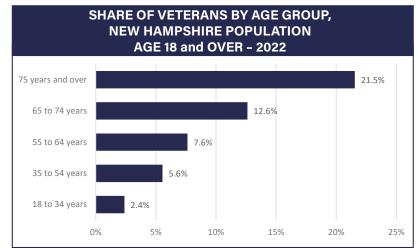
Veterans are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as men and women age 18 or over who have served, even for a short time, but are not now serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. Those who served in the National Guard or military Reserves are considered veterans if they were ever called or ordered to active duty.

# **Veteran Share of Population by Age**

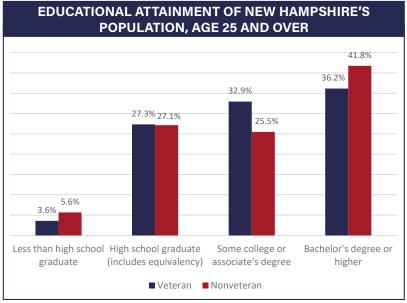
- In 2022, there were 88,297 veterans in New Hampshire, 7.7 percent of the population age 18 and over.
- 34.1 percent of New Hampshire veterans are age 65 and over.
- Although residents age 75 and over accounted for the smallest share of the total age 18 and over population,
  9.8 percent, this age group accounts for the largest number of veterans. Over one fifth of New Hampshire residents age 75 and over were veterans.
- A much smaller share (two percent) of age 18 to 34 years residents are veterans, largely because younger military members are more likely to still be in active service and are not yet considered veterans.

### **Educational Attainment**

- A higher percentage of veterans have obtained only a high school diploma or equivalency than nonveterans. Additionally, the percentage of veterans who have attended some college or received an associate degree (33 percent) is appreciably higher than their nonveteran counterparts.
- The percentage of veterans who did not complete high school or an equivalency (3.6 percent) is lower than that of nonveterans, likely due to educational requirements for enlistment.
- These dynamics could change in the future as college enrollment drops in New Hampshire and the Department of Defense mulls strategies to increase recruitment.
- In a 2022 effort to bolster recruiting numbers, the Army briefly reversed a policy requiring completion of high school or an equivalency program as a condition of enlistment. According to a June 2022 press release cited by Military.com, recruits without diplomas who enlisted before the requirement was reinstated were eligible for service pending satisfactory scores on the ASVAB, the military's standardized test that is often compared to the SAT.



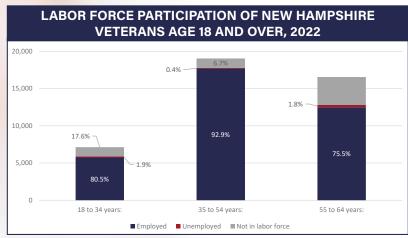
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates



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### **Labor Force Participation**

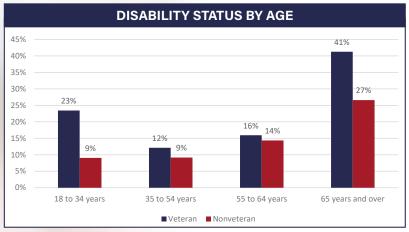
- The largest number of employed veterans were in the 35 to 54 years age group.
- Labor force participation was highest among veterans age 35 to 54 years, at 93 percent. Veterans in this age range also had the lowest unemployment rate, 0.4 percent. This was below the unemployment rate for nonveterans age 35 to 54 years, 1.6 percent.
- While the labor force participation rate among veterans aged 55 to 64 (75 percent) was lower than the participation rate among younger veterans, it was higher than nonveterans in the same age cohort (70 percent).



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

# **Disability Status**

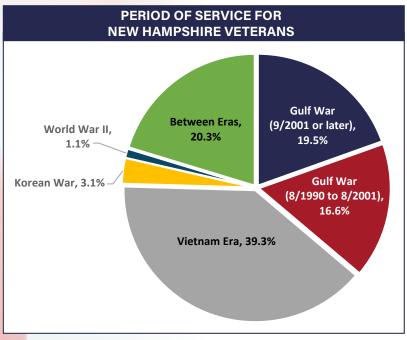
- Across all age cohorts, veterans were approximately one and a half times more likely than nonveterans to have a disability.
- Because the likelihood of disability increases with age, the high percentage of veterans age 65 or older contributes to this disparity. However, in every age cohort, veterans were more likely to have a disability than nonveterans.
- Among veterans with a disability, 97 percent had a service-connected disability.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

## **Period of Service**

- One fifth of New Hampshire veterans served in peacetime.
- Among veterans who served during a war era, the largest share, 49 percent, served during the Vietnam Era.
- Veterans of the first Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001, Desert Storm) accounted for 21 percent of New Hampshire veterans who served during a war era.
- Among all New Hampshire veterans, 7,117 served during more than one war era.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates