

Veterans' Expenditures on Housing and Healthcare

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Introduction

- Due to their years of service, many Veterans delay their education and their careers.
- CE defines Veterans as someone who served on Active Duty in the U.S. Armed Forces but is not currently in the Armed Forces.
- The Department of Veteran Affairs provides benefits designed to help Veterans adjust, but how much do Veterans ‘benefit’ from these benefits?
- Understanding how expenditure patterns for Veterans compare to and differ from those of non-Veterans status is one way to gain insight into this transition.



Disclaimer

- This presentation provides a summary of research results. The information is being released for statistical purposes, to inform interested parties, and to encourage discussion of work in progress. The presentation does not represent an existing, or a forthcoming new, official BLS statistical data product or production series.



Data Description

- In 2022, the U.S. population included 134.1 million consumer units (CUs).
- 15.3 million of these CUs (11 percent) included at least one Veteran.
- However, ...



Data Description, Cont.

- CE collects expenditures for the CU as a whole, rather than for individual members of the CU, it is necessary to look at single-member CUs to be able to directly compare Veteran to non-Veteran spending.
- Therefore, from now on in this presentation the terms “Veterans” and “non-Veterans” will refer to single-member CUs.

Data Description, Conclusion

- Single member CUs accounted for 31 percent of all CUs.
- There were 3.9 million single member Veteran CUs and 37.7 million single member non-Veteran CUs.



Demographics

Item	Non-Veterans	Veterans
Number of Consumer Units (in 000s)	37,712	3,862
Percent of Single-member Consumer Units	90.7	9.3
Consumer Unit Characteristics (mean values):		
Income before taxes	\$47,735	\$40,065
Age of reference person	55.2	68.4
Percent Distribution:		
Men	43.0	89.4
Women	57.0	10.6
Urban	82.1	71.9
Rural	17.9	28.1
Education of reference person:		
Elementary (1-8)	2.3	1.3
High school (9-12)	28.6	29.2
College	68.8	69.5
Never attended and other	0.3	0.0*

*Less than one-half of one percent



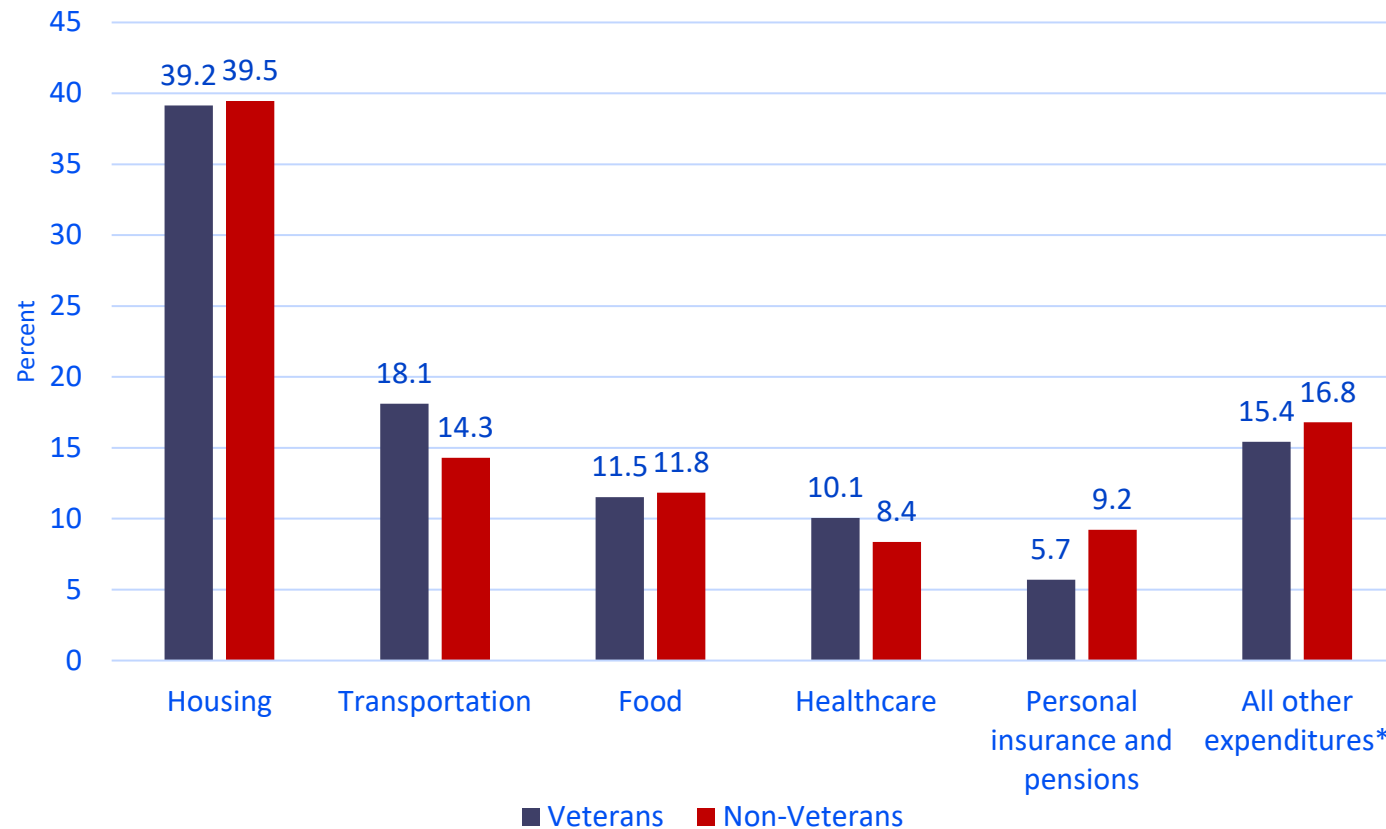
Age Distribution

	Under 45 Years Old		45-64 Years Old		65 Years and Older	
	Non-Veterans	Veterans	Non-Veterans	Veterans	Non-Veterans	Veterans
Number of CUs (in 000s)	12,332	286	10,640	1,118	14,740	2,459
Percent of Total CUs in Group	32.7	7.4	28.2	28.9	39.1	63.7



Selected Expenditures

Percent Distribution of Selected Expenditures by Veteran Status, 2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Veterans and non-Veterans allotted most of their expenditures to the same five categories: housing, transportation, food, healthcare, and personal insurance and pensions.



VA Housing Benefits

- VA-backed purchase loans often offer:
 - ▶ No down payment
 - ▶ Better terms and interest rates
 - ▶ Fewer closing costs
 - ▶ No penalty fee
- In FY22 the VA spend \$256.6 billion on home loans.
- Guaranteed 746,091 home loans with an average loan amount of \$343,895

Sources: [VA-backed Purchase Loans](#) and [VA Annual Benefits Report](#)



Housing Tenure by Veteran Status

Housing Tenure:	Non-Veterans	Veterans
Homeowner	49.6	64.2
With mortgage	21.0	24.5
Without mortgage	28.5	39.7
Renter	50.4	35.8

Housing Tenure by Veteran Status and Age

	Under 45 Years Old		45-64 Years Old		65 Years and Older	
	Non-Veterans	Veterans	Non-Veterans	Veterans	Non-Veterans	Veterans
Number of CUs (in 000s)	12,332	286	10,640	1,118	14,740	2,459
Percent of Total CUs in Group	32.7	7.4	28.2	28.9	39.1	63.7
Housing Tenure:						
Homeowner	23.3	46.2	58.0	56.3	65.5	69.9
Homeowner with mortgage	17.1	35.6	29.7	34.7	18.0	18.6
Homeowner without mortgage	6.1	10.7	28.2	21.6	47.5	51.3
Renter	76.7	53.8	42.0	43.7	34.5	30.1

Housing Spending by Veteran Status and Age

	All		Under 64 Years Old		65 Years and Older	
	Non-Veterans	Veterans	Non-Veterans	Veterans	Non-Veterans	Veterans
Number of CUs (in 000s)	37,712	3,862	22,972	1,404	14,740	2,459
Percent of Total CUs in Group	100	100	60.9	36.3	39.1	63.7
Owned dwellings	\$11,927	\$9,513	\$13,550	\$12,335	\$10,409	\$8,263
Mortgage payments*	\$5,032	\$4,049	\$7,022	\$6,896	\$3,171	\$2,787
All other owned dwelling costs**	\$6,895	\$5,465	\$6,528	\$5,439	\$7,237	\$5,476

*Mortgage payments include mortgage interest and charges and the absolute value of the reduction of mortgage principal (owned home).

**All other owned dwelling costs include property taxes and maintenance, repairs, insurance, and other expenses.



VA Healthcare Benefits

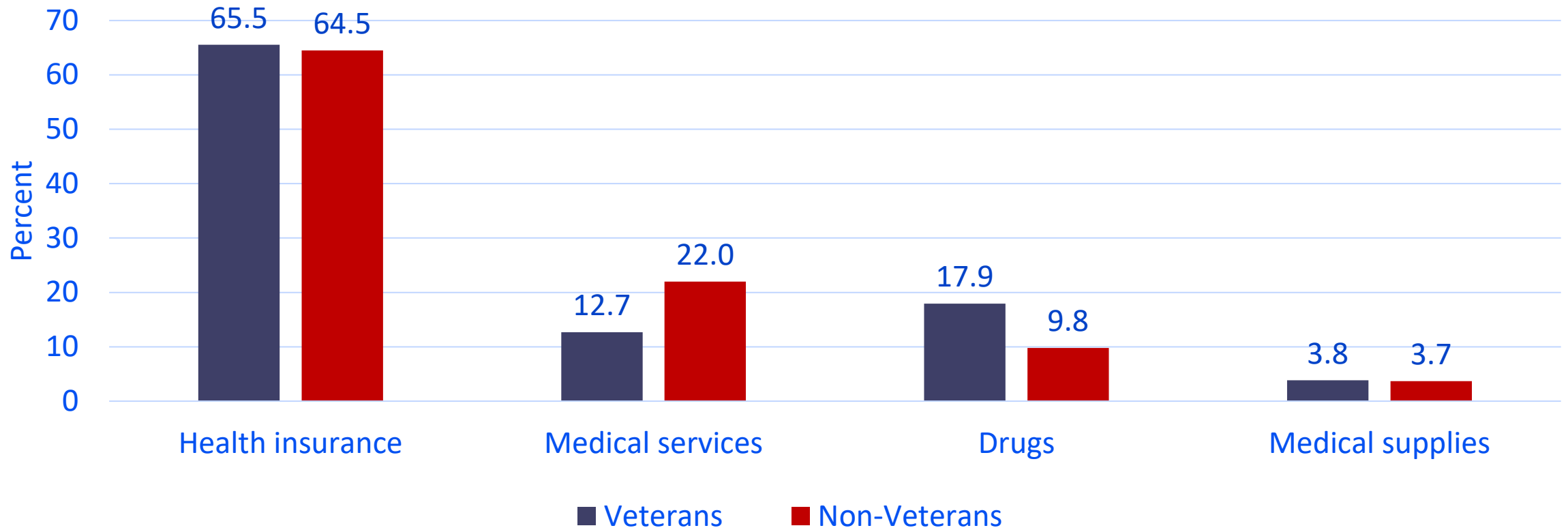
- The benefits they receive include no charges for:
 - ▶ Enrollment fees;
 - ▶ Monthly premiums;
 - ▶ Deductibles.
- Veterans pay nothing for any illness or injury that the VA determines is related to their military service.
- As of September 2023, there were 9.1 million eligible Veterans enrolled in the VA health system.

Sources: [VA Health Care](#) and [VA Benefits and Health Care Utilization](#)



Healthcare Spending by Veteran Status

Veteran vs Non-Veteran Healthcare Expenditure Shares, Singles Only, 2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



Healthcare Spending by Veteran Status and Age

	Under 45 Years Old		45-64 Years Old		65 Years and Older	
	Non-Veterans	Veterans	Non-Veterans	Veterans	Non-Veterans	Veterans
Number of CUs (in 000s)	12,332	286	10,640	1,118	14,740	2,459
Percent of Total CUs in Group	32.7	7.4	28.2	28.9	39.1	63.7
Healthcare	\$1,999	\$1,654	\$3,480	\$2,507	\$5,422	\$4,917
Health Insurance	1,263	1,157	2,106	1,692	3,618	3,203
Medical Services	471	374	885	553	1,080	500
Prescription Drugs	194	79	350	212	529	1,002
Medical Supplies	71	45	139	50	196	212

Summary and Conclusion

- Veterans are more likely than non-Veterans to own their homes and do so at a younger age.
- As they grow older, VA benefits help Veterans to have a lower mortgage, allowing them to be more likely to own their homes outright.
- When controlling for age, Veterans spent less than their same age non-Veterans counterparts on total healthcare and almost every major healthcare component.

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