

# Characteristics of Student Veterans

## VA College Toolkit Handout

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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- The number of Student Veterans on campus is on a slight decline.
  - In 2009 there were approximately 500,000 student Veterans using VA benefits to attend school. By 2013, that number had more than doubled. In 2017, there were 905,000 Veterans attending school with VA benefits.
- Most institutions of higher education serve Student Veterans.
  - 96% of all post-secondary institutions enroll Student Veterans.
  - 82% have a designated point of contact.
- Student Veterans are pursuing different degrees and educational experiences.
  - 52% are enrolled in an undergraduate program, 24% in a two-year school
  - 59.7% of Student Veterans successfully complete their degree/certificate
  - The student success rate (completion & persistence combined) is 71.6%.
- The number of family members using a Veteran's GI Bill benefits is only a small percentage of all GI Bill users.
  - In 2017, 128,000 (13%) of GI Bill beneficiaries were family members of a Veteran. Of that number, 75% were children; the remaining 25% were spouses.

### STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS

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- 73% of Student Veterans are male; 27% are female.
  - Women comprise 16% of the Active Duty force, but a larger percent of the student veteran population (20-22%)
- 62% of Student Veterans are first generation students.
- Only 15% of Student Veterans are traditionally aged college students (18-23). Most are between the ages of 24 and 40.
- Many Student Veterans have families.
  - 47% of Student Veterans have children.
  - 47.3% of Student Veterans are married.

## References

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VA Campus Toolkit Handout [www.mentalhealth.va.gov/studentveteran/](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/studentveteran/)

