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CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA ON WOMEN VETERANS

Current Population Survey Data on Women Veterans: A snapshot

Jim Borbely
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www.bls.gov

Where do our data on women veterans come from?

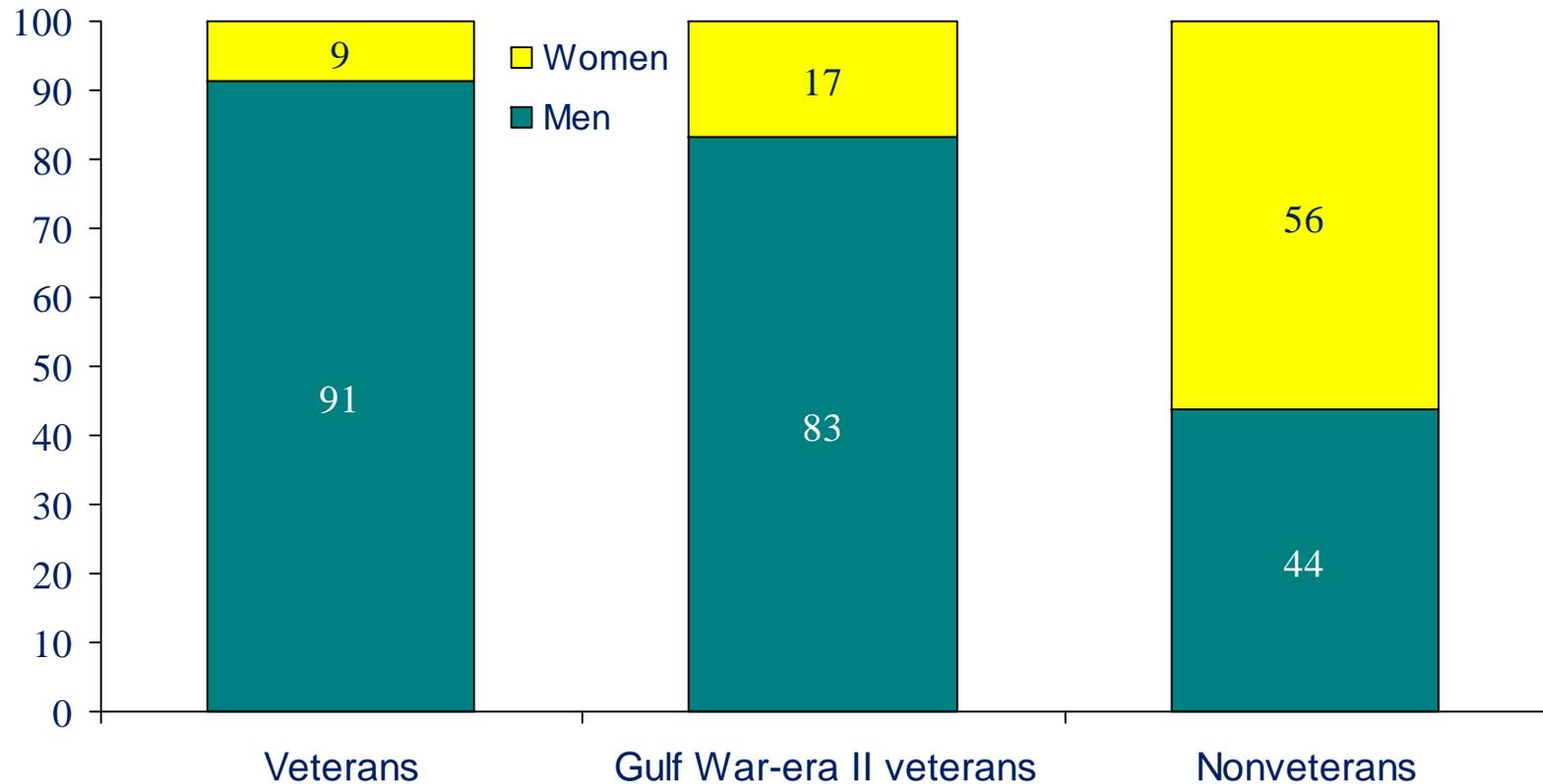
- The Current Population Survey (CPS) collects data from approximately 60,000 households each month; about 110,000 individuals ages 16 and over. About 10,000 veterans are included in the sample each month.
 - ▶ Source of national unemployment rate
 - ▶ Collects data on employment status, age, gender, education, period of service, industry, occupation, etc.
 - ▶ About 1,000 women veterans are interviewed each month
- Once a year additional questions are asked (usually in August). Source of data about:
 - ▶ Veterans with service-connected disability
 - ▶ Location of service among Gulf War-era II veterans (Iraq, Afghanistan, or other locations)
 - ▶ Current or past members of the Reserve or National Guard

How do we define veterans in the survey?

- **Veterans** are men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and were civilians at the time of the survey. Members of the Reserve and National Guard are counted as veterans if they have ever been called to active duty.
- **Nonveterans** are men and women who have never served on active duty in the U.S. military.

Most veterans are men, and most nonveterans are women

Percent of population



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2012.

Periods of service

Gulf War era II	=	Sept. 2001- present
Gulf War era I	=	Aug. 1990 - Aug. 2001
Vietnam era	=	Aug. 1964 - April 1975
Korean War	=	July 1950 - Jan. 1955
World War II	=	Dec. 1941- Dec. 1946

“Other service periods” are the dates between war periods:

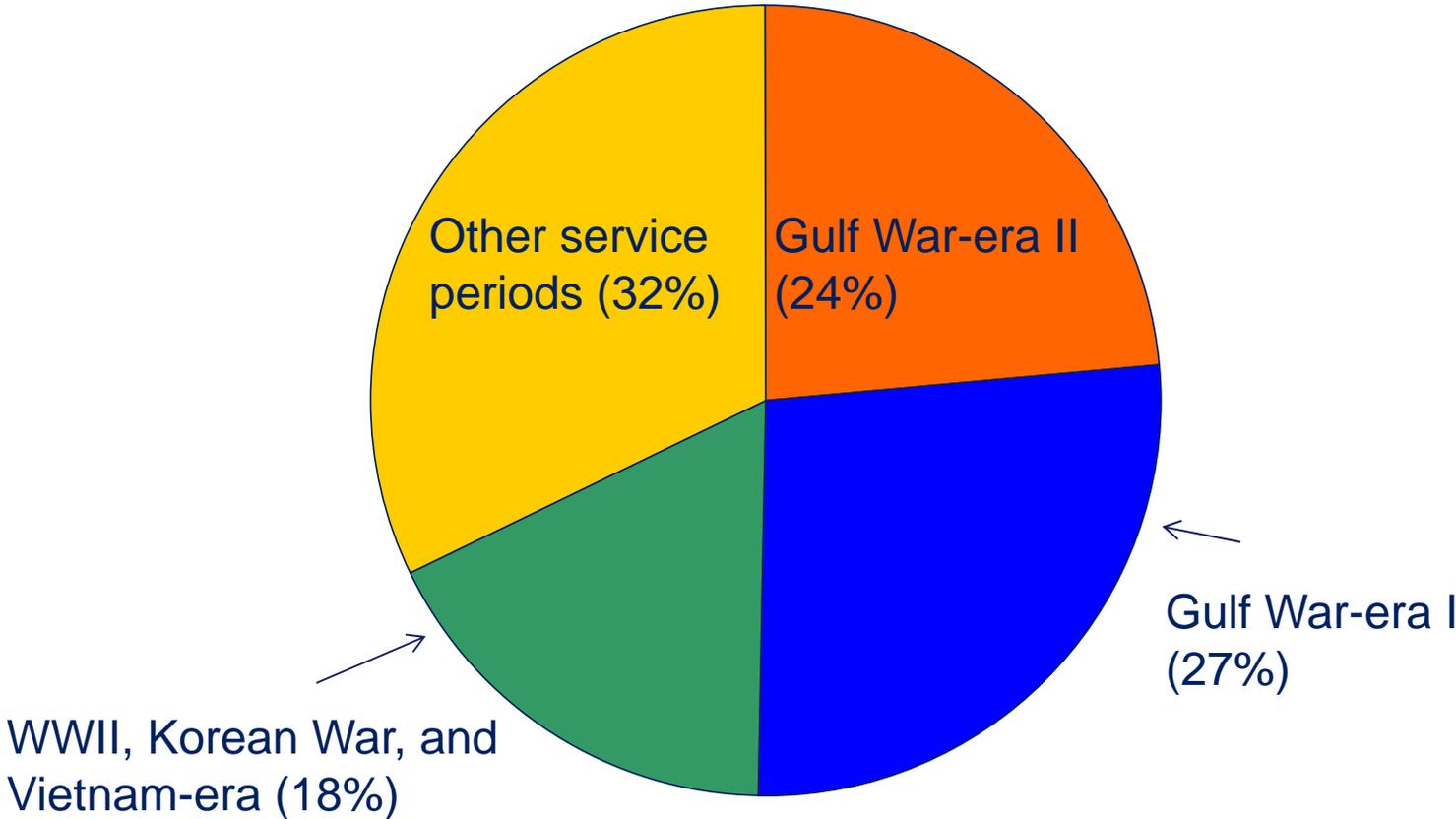
May 1975 - July 1990	Jan. 1947 - June 1950
Feb. 1955 - July 1964	Nov. 1941 or earlier



Note: Veterans may have served anywhere in the world during these periods of service.

About half of all women veterans served since 1990

Proportion of women veterans by period of service

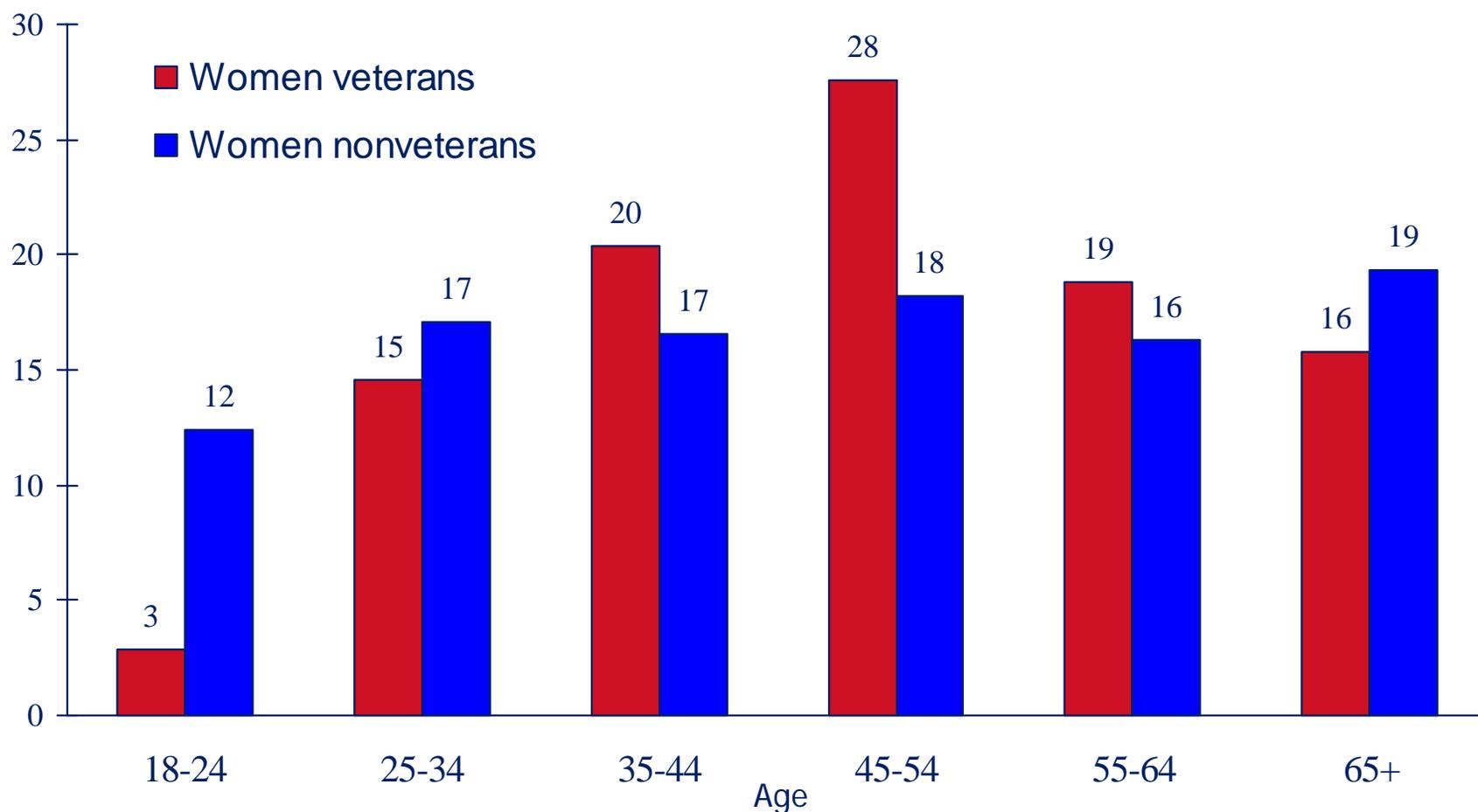


SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2012.



About half of women veterans were 35-54 years old

Percent of population

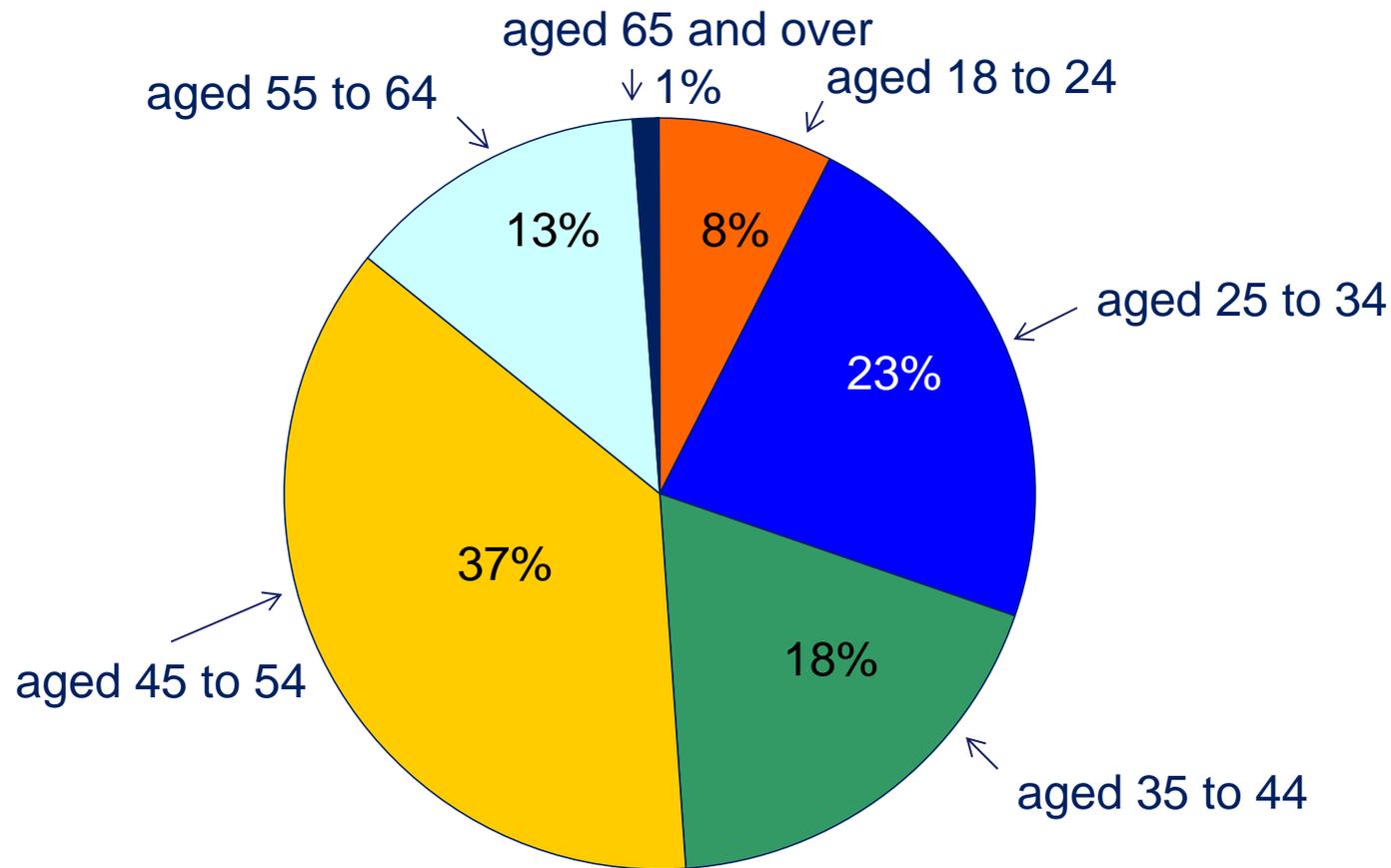


SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2012.



Among unemployed women veterans in 2012, more than half were 35-54 years old

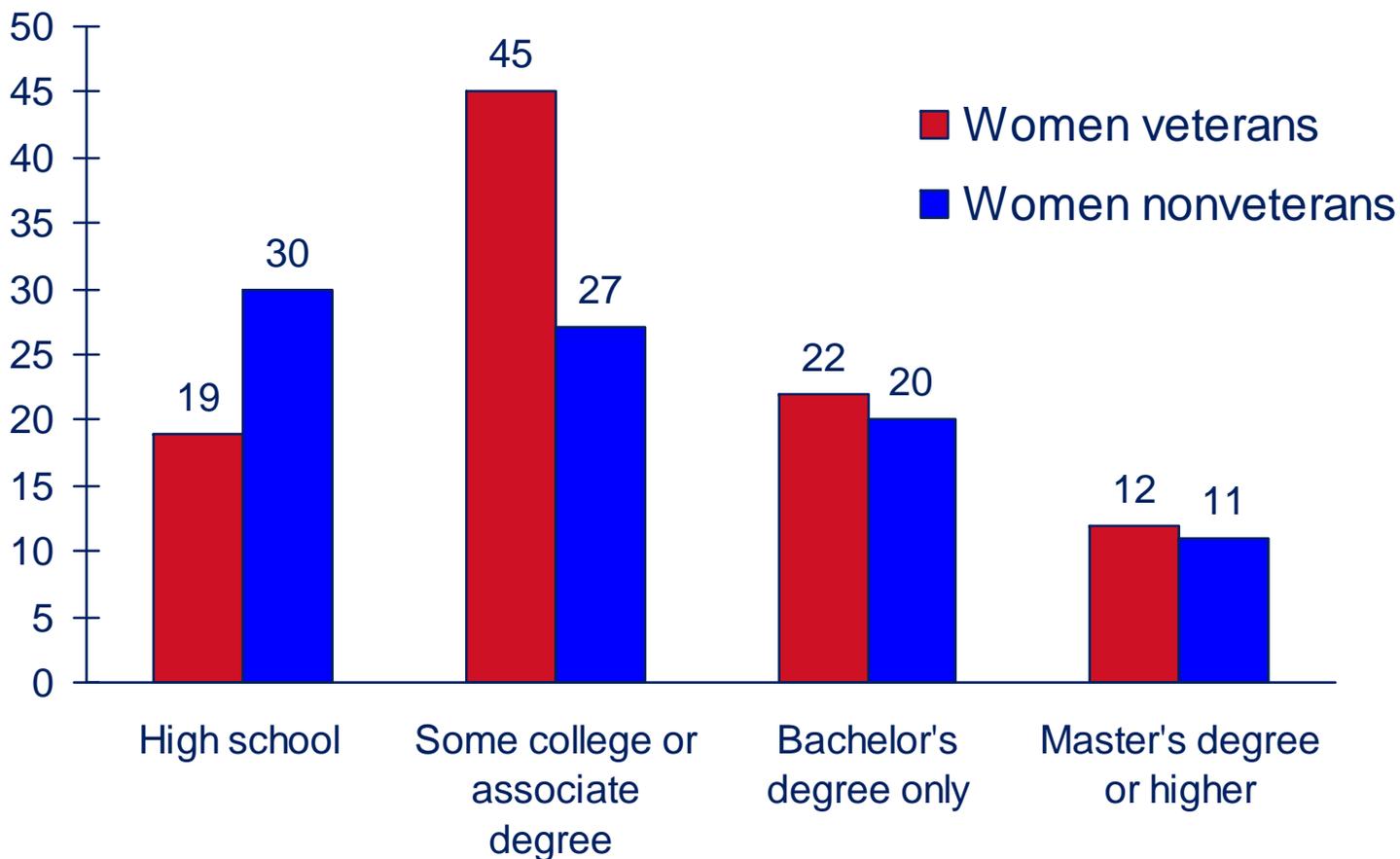
Unemployed female veterans by age



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2012.

A larger proportion of women veterans than nonveterans have some college or an associate degree

Percent of population age 25 and over

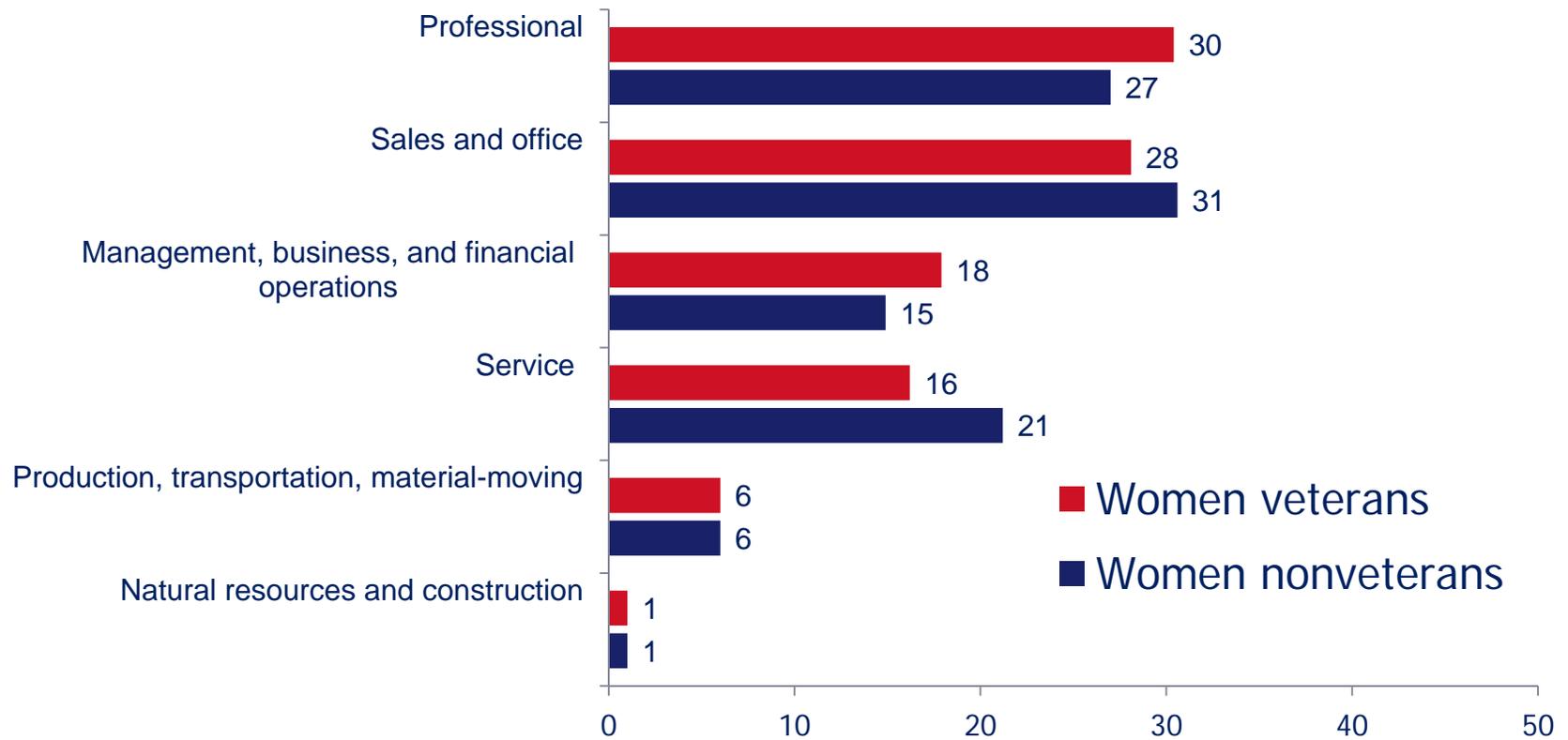


SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2012.



About 1 in 3 women veterans work in professional occupations

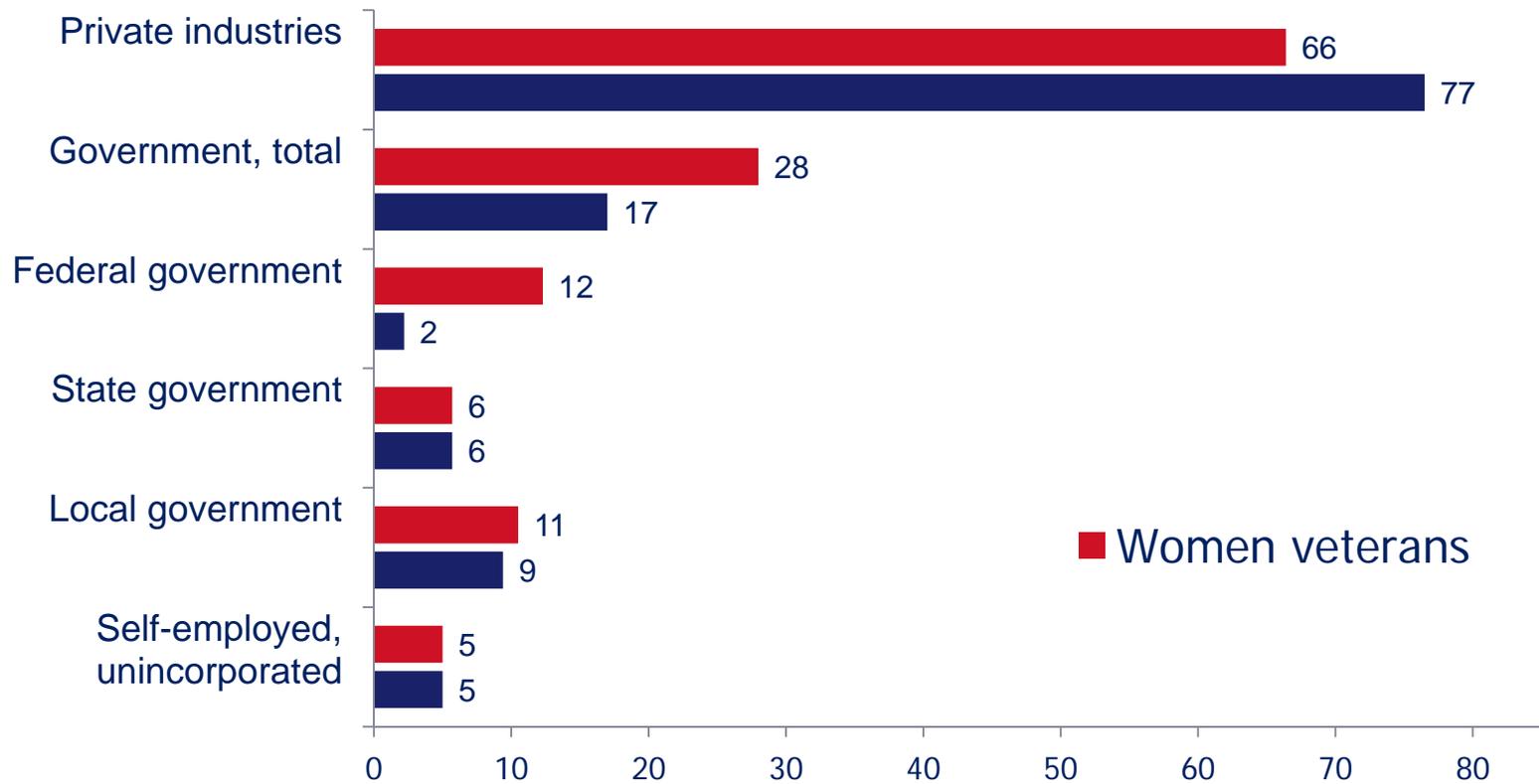
Percent distribution employed by occupation



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2012.

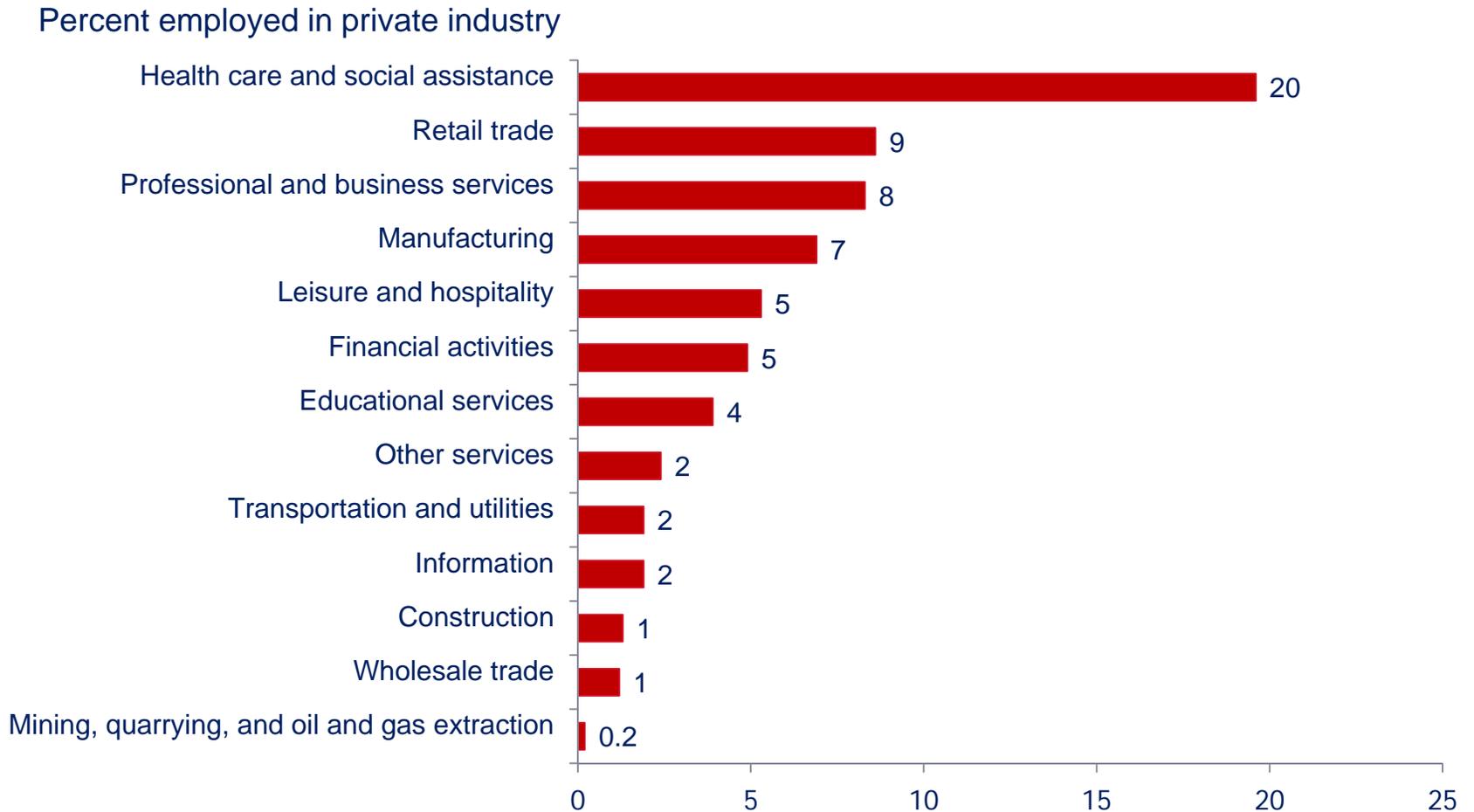
Women veterans are much more likely to work for the Federal government than nonveterans

Percent distribution employed by class of worker



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2012.

Women veterans tend to work in the health care industry



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, annual averages 2012.

Contact Information

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Dr. Jennifer Hunt, Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Labor

ANALYSIS ON FEMALE VETERANS



Female Veterans' Unemployment and Wages

August 29, 2013

**Dr. Jennifer Hunt
Chief Economist
US Department of Labor**



Data and sample

- ▶ Current Population Survey 2012
- ▶ Merged Outgoing Rotation Groups
 - (i.e. all respondents with wage information)
- ▶ Women
- ▶ Ages 18-64
- ▶ Median wages: sample of employed
- ▶ Unemployment: sample of those in labor force



Characteristics of veterans and non-veterans

- ▶ Veterans are 1.3% of the labor force
- ▶ Veterans are slightly older on average: 44.9 versus 40.6
 - This will tend to reduce veteran unemployment
 - And increase veteran wages
- ▶ Veterans' unemployment rate is higher: 9.3% versus 7.5%
- ▶ Veterans earn more



Veterans' wages – regression analysis

- ▶ Veterans earn 23.3% more
 - Vets of each era earn at least 10% more than non-vets
- ▶ Veterans earn 14.1% more than non-veterans of same age
 - Vets of each era earn at least 12% more than non-vets of same age
- ▶ Veterans earn 9.3% more than non-vets of the same age and education
 - Vets of each era earn at least 7% more than similar non-vets
 - But this advantage is statistically insignificant



Veterans' unemployment - regression analysis

- ▶ Veterans' unemployment rate is 1.8% higher
 - Driven by Gulf War II veterans, whose difference is 6.9%.
- ▶ Veterans have 2.9% higher unemployment than non-vets of same age
- ▶ Vets have 3.6% higher unemp than non-vets of same age and education
 - Indicates veterans are more educated
 - Gulf II vets have huge 7.3% higher unemployment than similar non-vets
 - 1975-1990 vets have 3.8% higher unemployment than similar non-vets
- ▶ Race and ethnicity play almost no role in explaining the remaining gap.



Conclusions

- ▶ Female veterans earn considerably more than non-veterans
 - Mostly because older and more educated
- ▶ Female vets have slightly higher unemployment rate than non-vets
 - Despite being older and more educated
 - Gulf War II is much of the problem
- ▶ Puzzle: why the opposing results for Gulf War II?



Thank you!