

Workforce Conditions for Veterans in Maine

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Unemployment and labor force participation rates differ among demographic groups, which is important to consider when comparing workforce conditions for veterans and non-veterans. Veterans are:

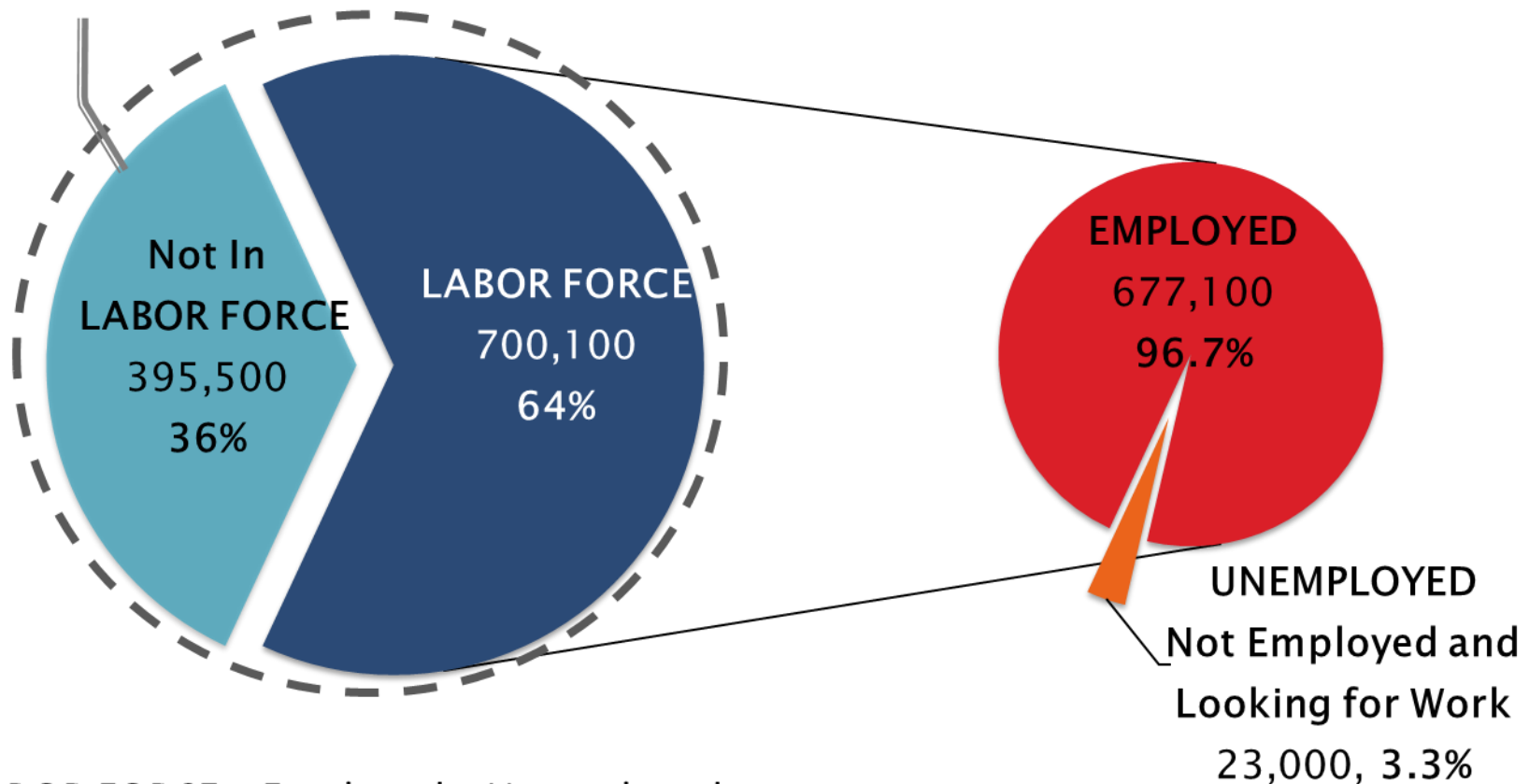
- 93% male (Maine)**
- Older than the general adult population**
- More likely to have a disability that prevents them from being in the labor force (those not looking for work are not counted as unemployed — they are not in the labor force).**

Maine has a lot of Veterans:

- 112,000 age 18+ population, the 10th highest share in U.S.**

Civilian noninstitutional
population
16 years +

Maine Labor Force Statistics, 2017



LABOR FORCE = Employed + Unemployed.

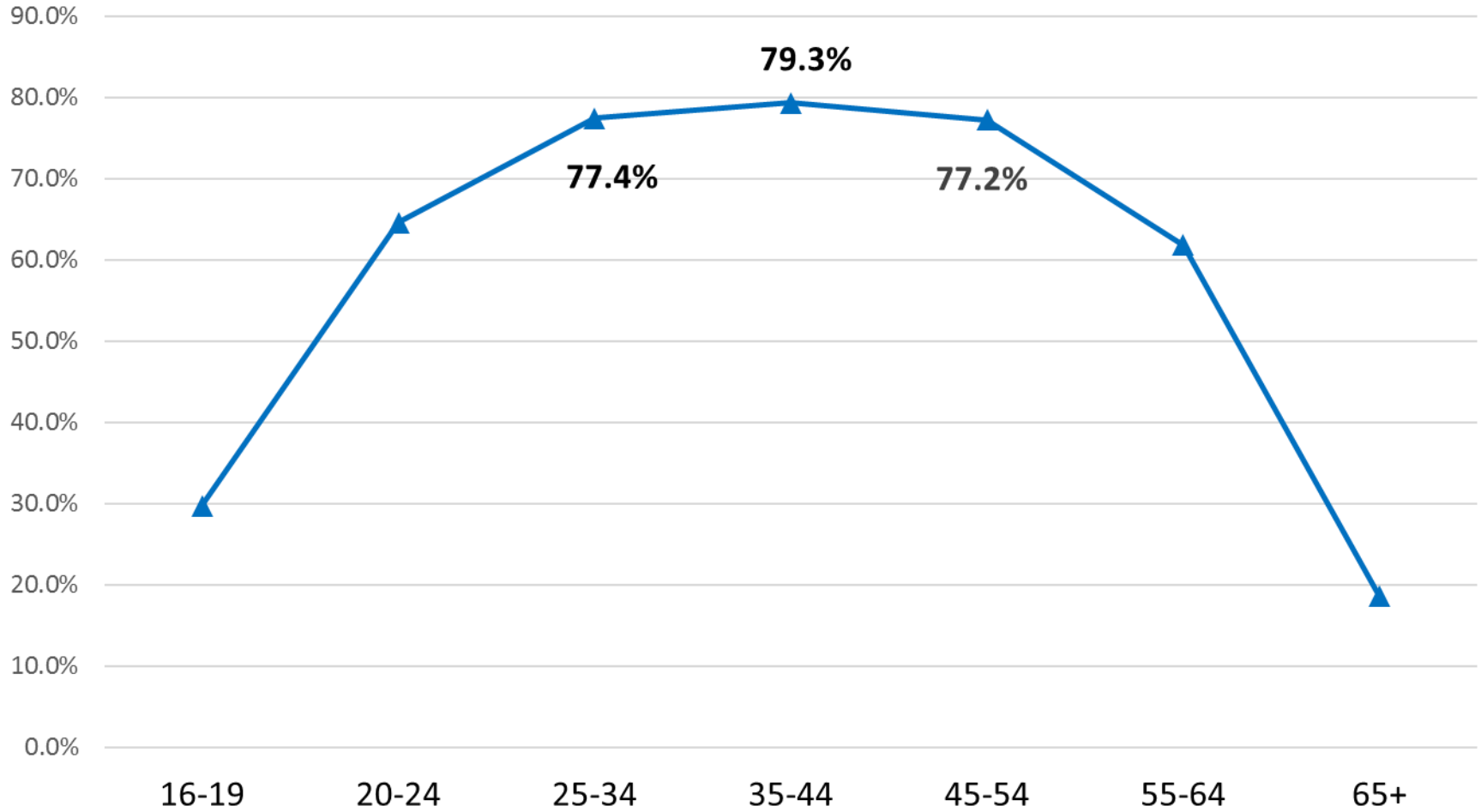
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE = 64%

NOT in LABOR FORCE = Not working nor available nor seeking work

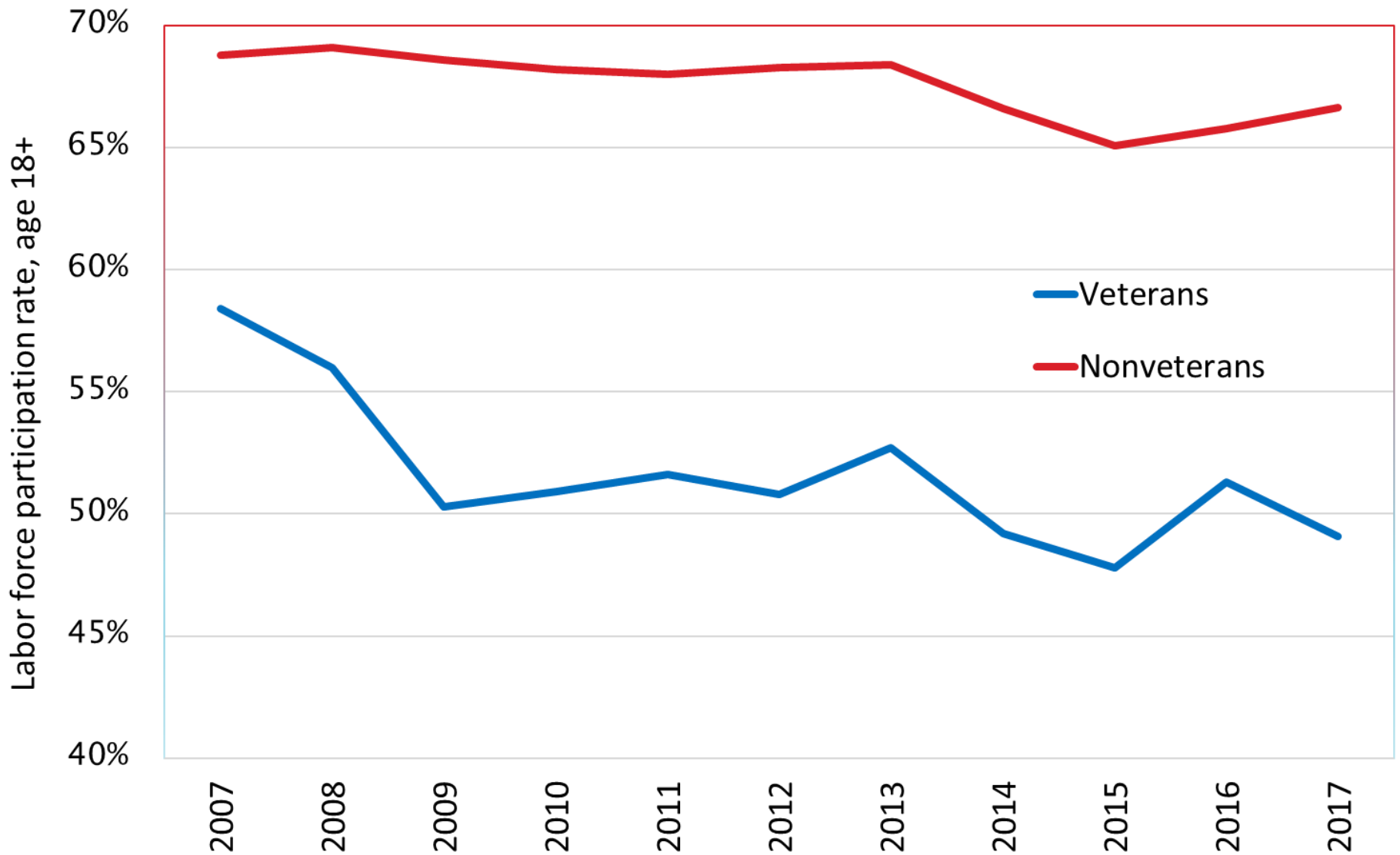
UNEMPLOYED = not working but *available and looking for work*

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE = percent of *LABOR FORCE* that is not employed = 3.3%

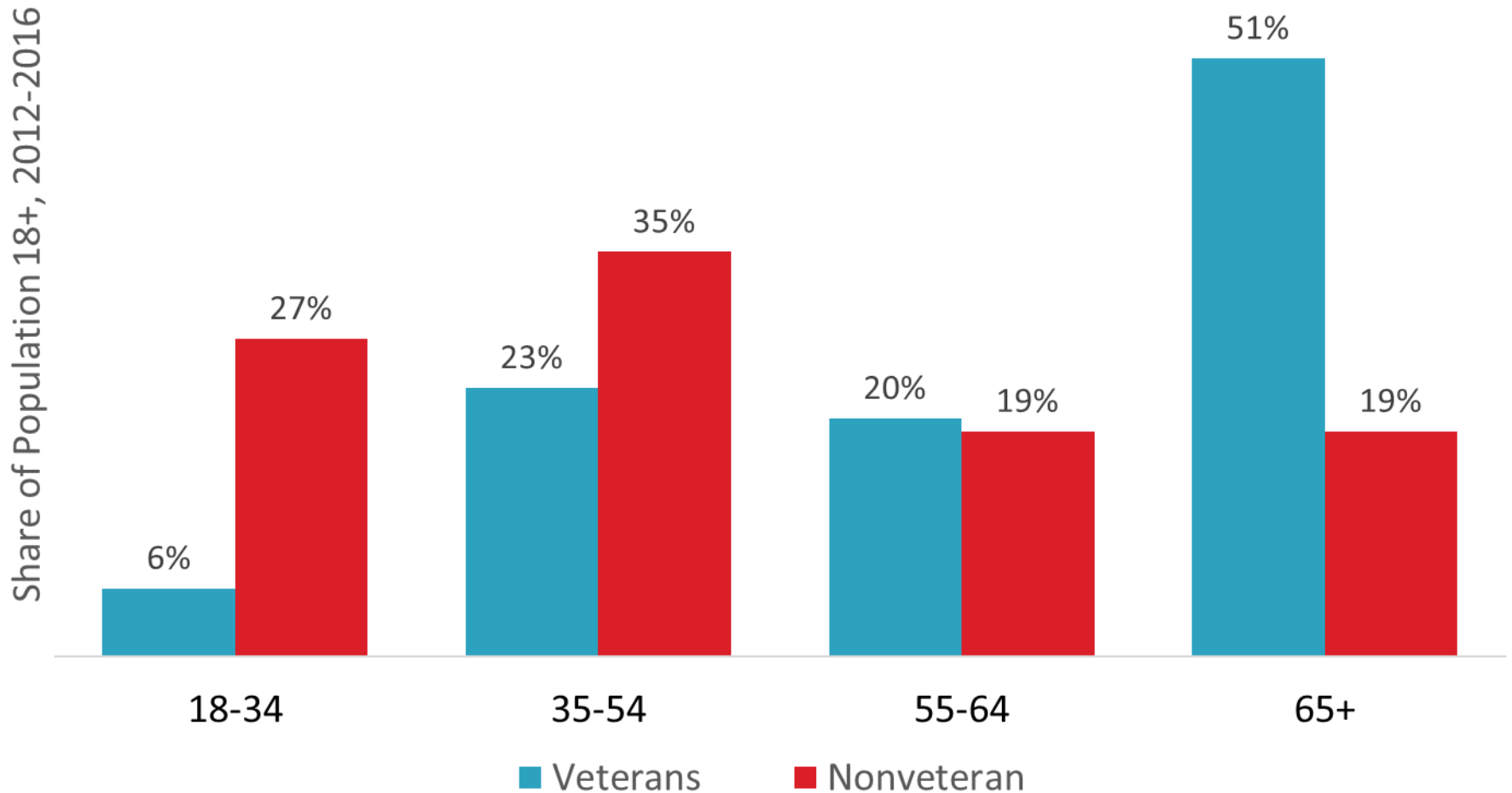
Labor force participation peaks between the ages of 25 and 54.



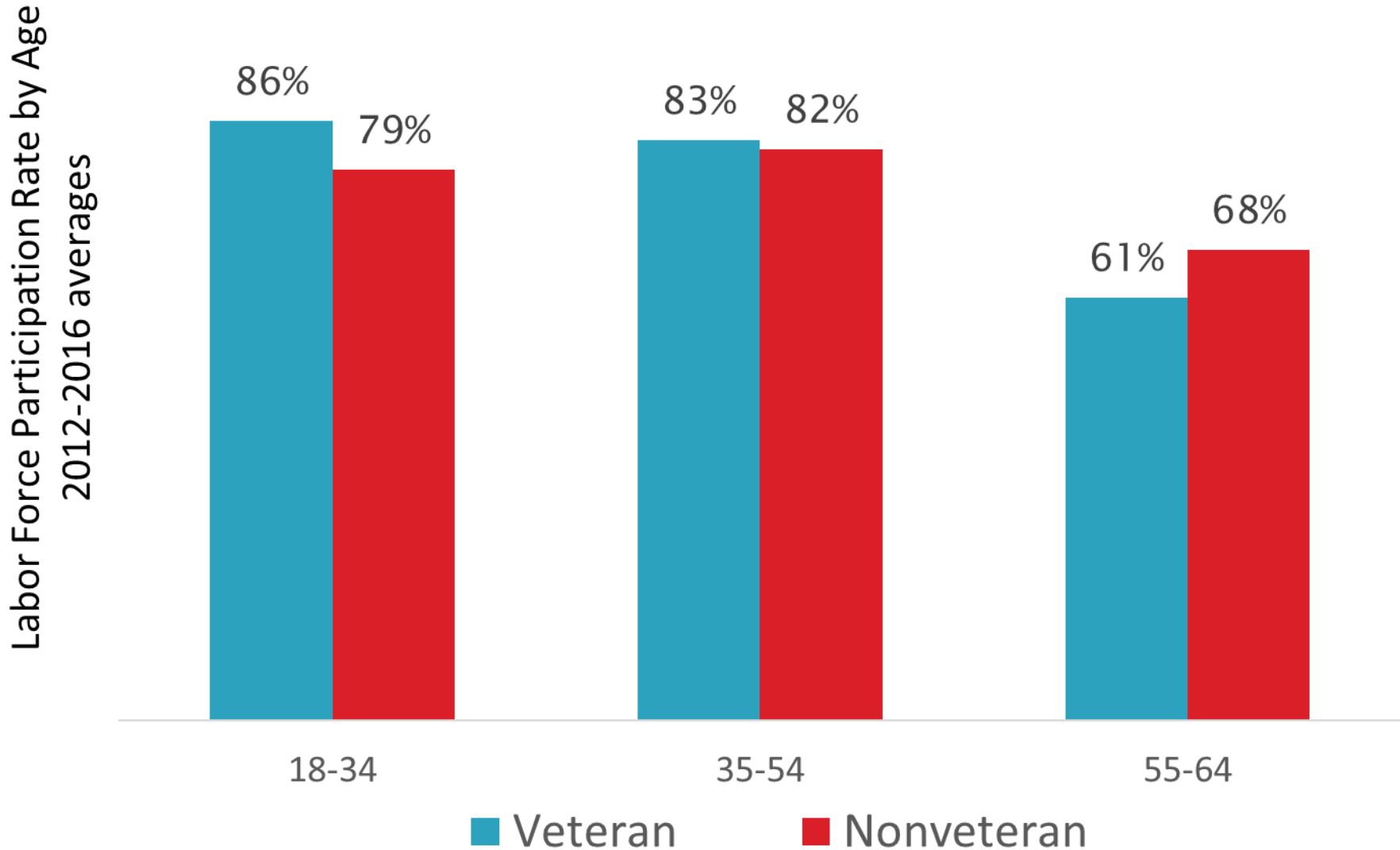
Labor force participation of Maine veterans is lower and declining relative to non-veterans.



Labor force participation is lower among veterans because more than half of Maine veterans are beyond prime working age.

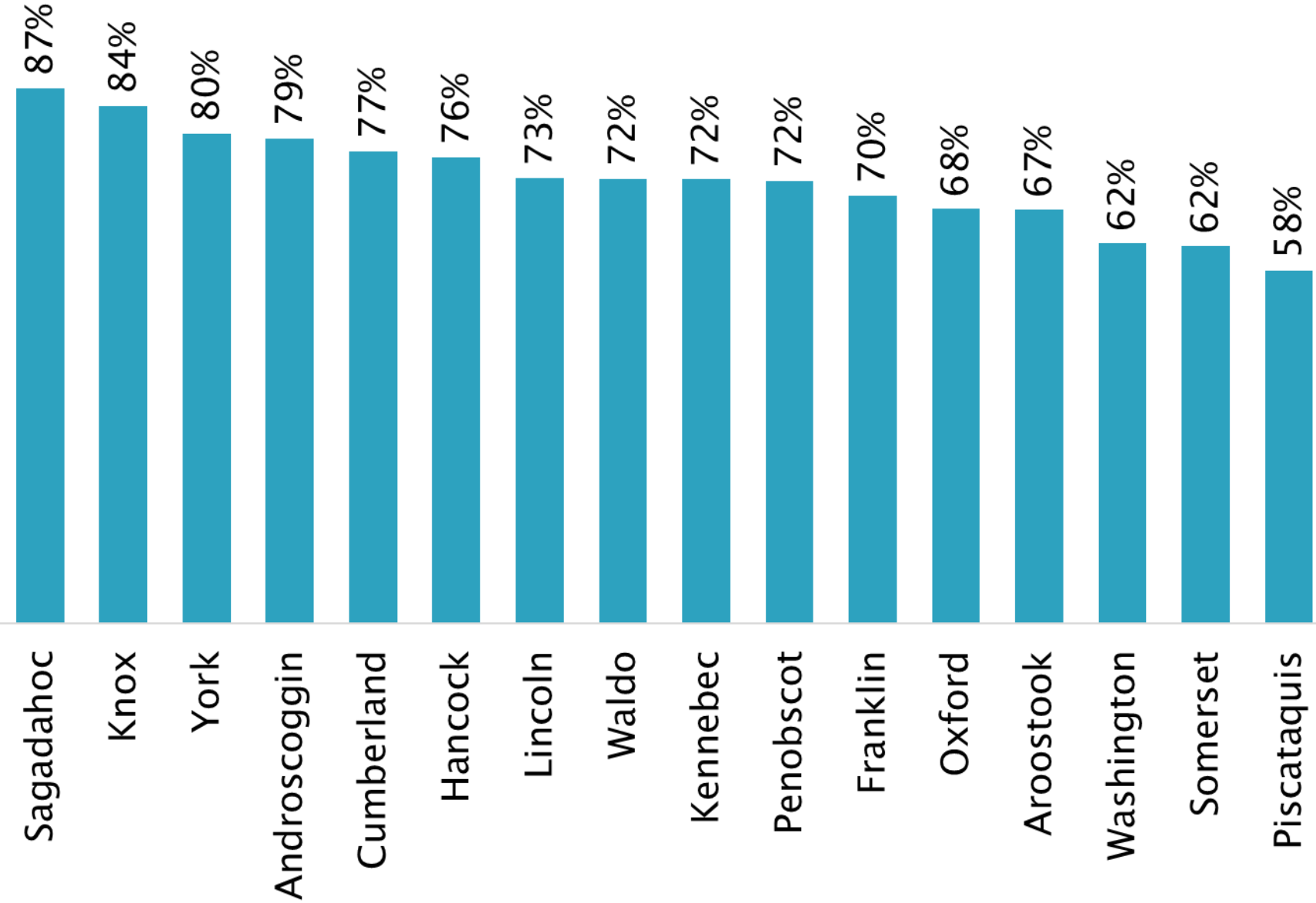


From 18 to 64, participation by veterans is higher than non-veterans among younger Mainers and lower among older Mainers.



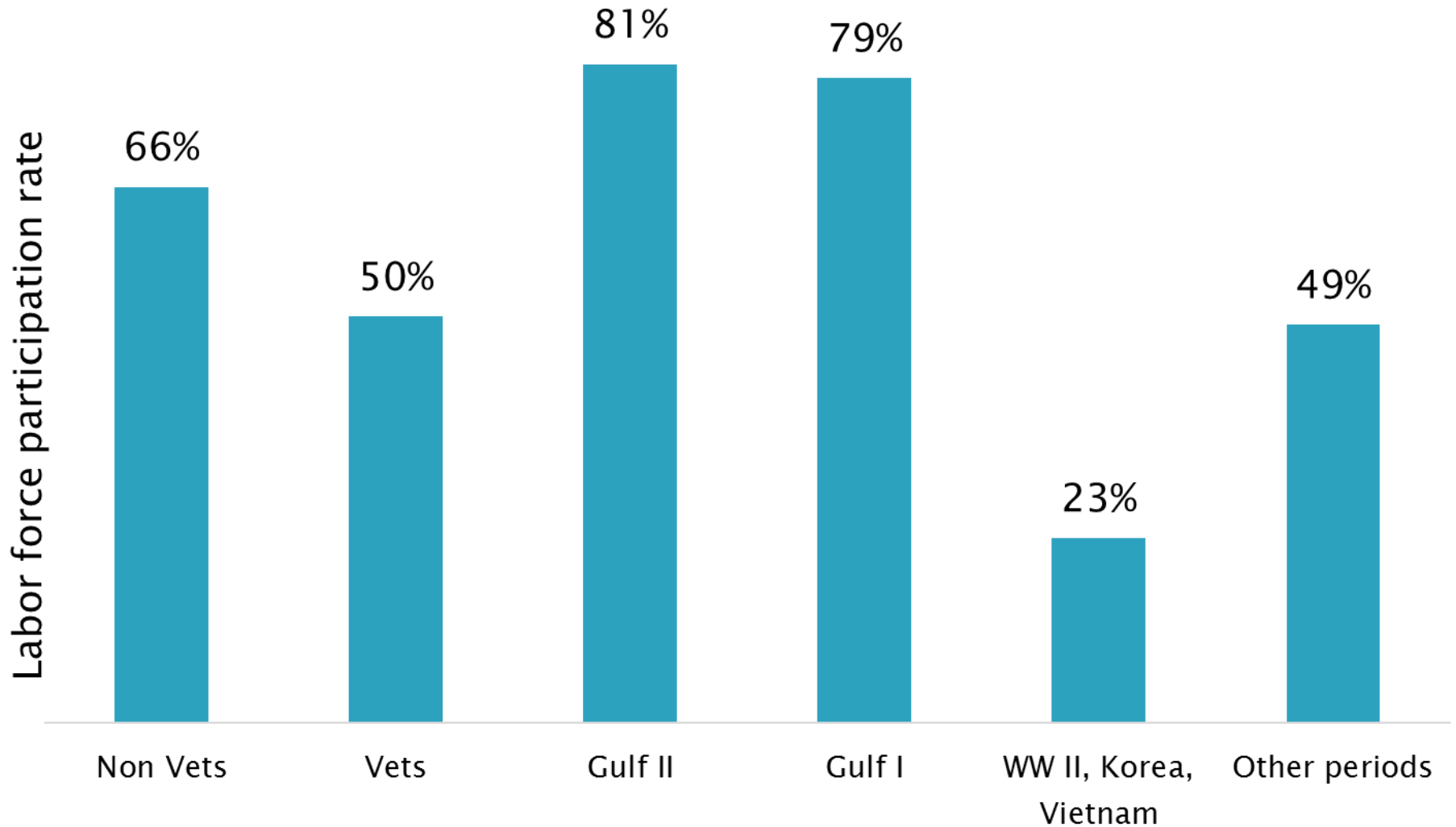
Labor force participation of veterans 18-64 is generally higher where the economy is strongest.

Veterans Labor Force Participation Rates Age 18-64, 2012 to 2016 averages



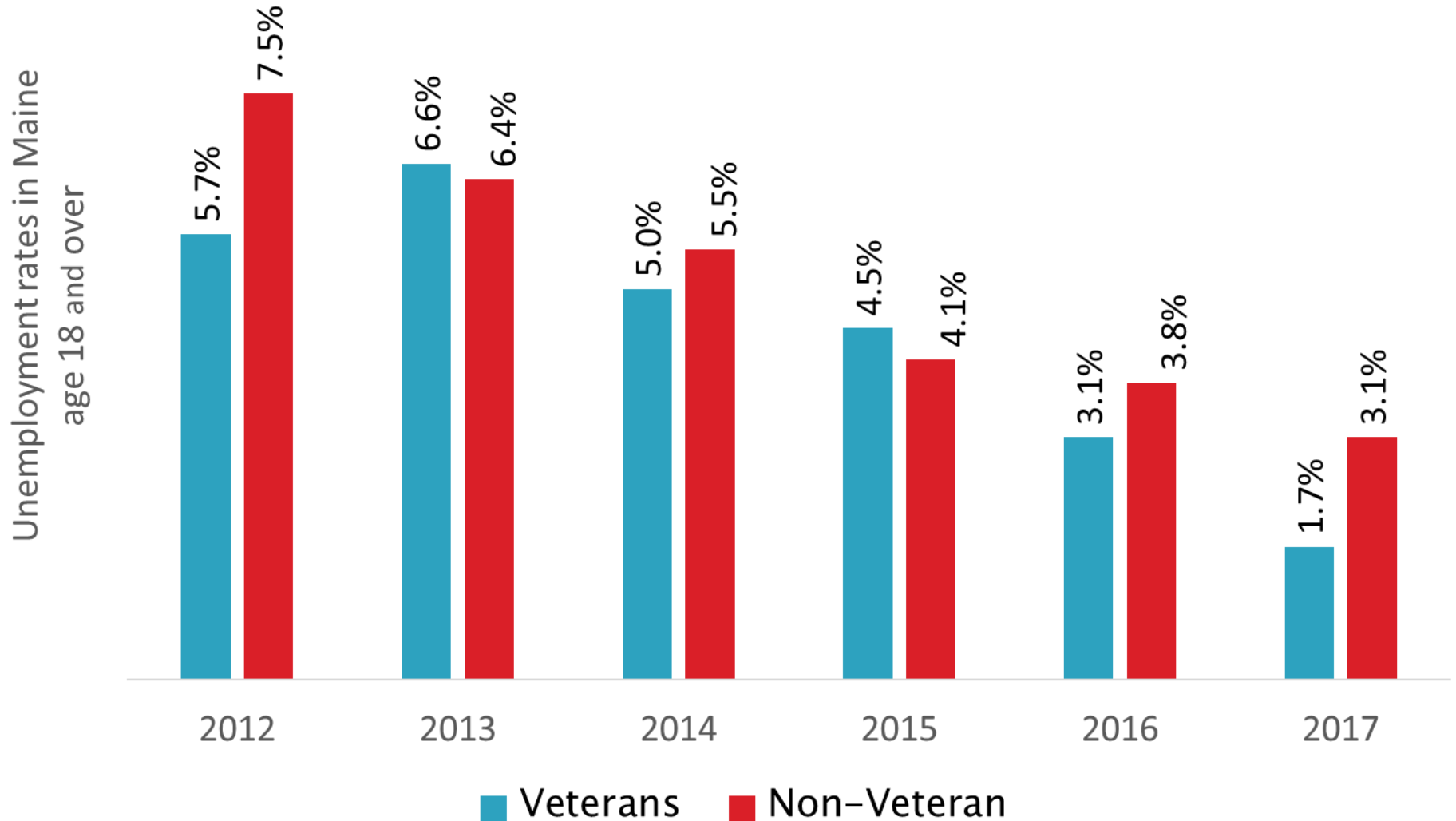
Nationally, participation rates are highest among those who served in the Gulf era

2017 U.S. Averages

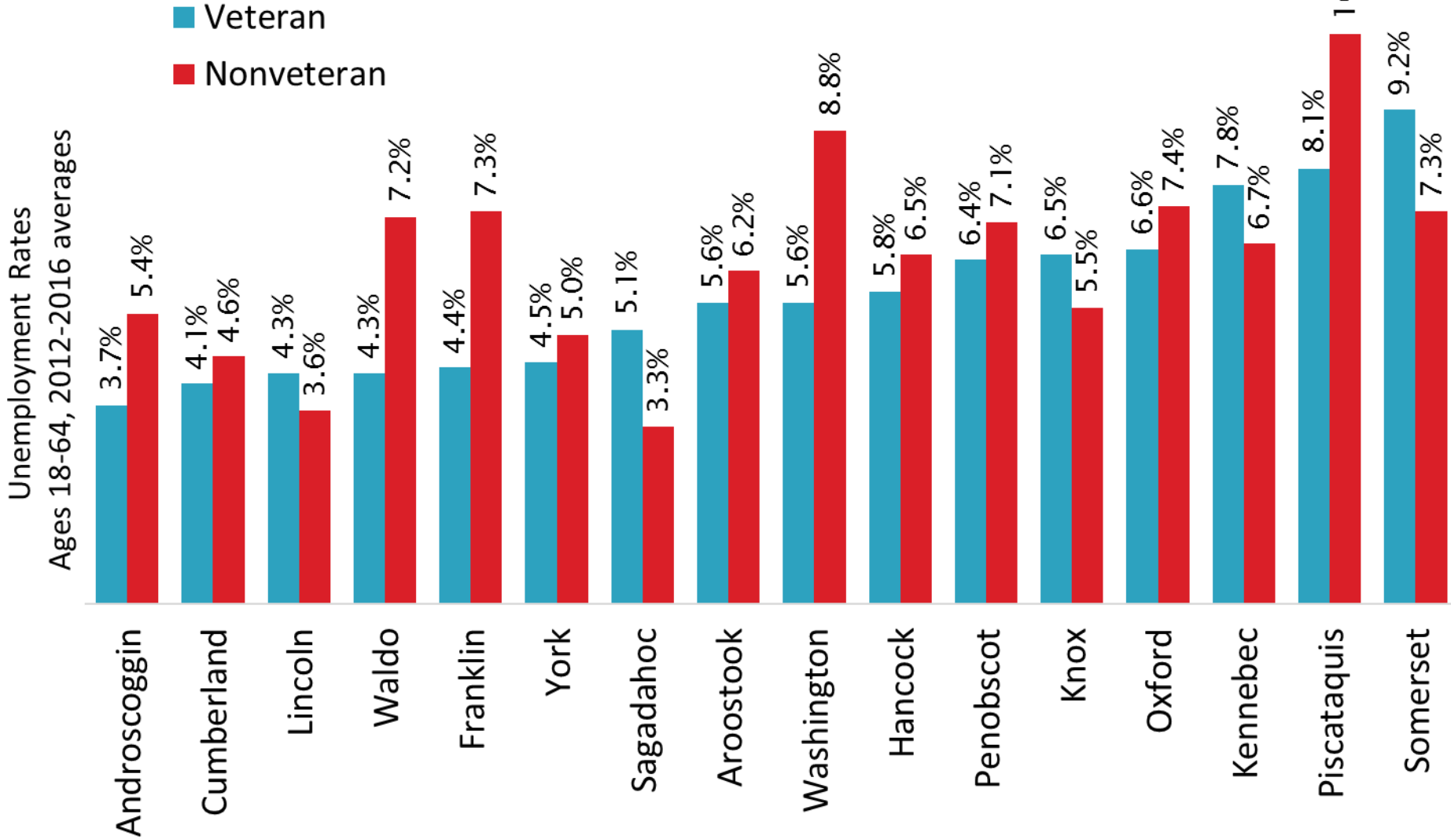


In general, unemployment rates have been about the same for veterans and non-veterans.

In 2017 Maine and Vermont recorded the lowest rates of unemployment among veterans in the U.S. (1.7%).



There is no clear pattern in county unemployment rates of veterans 18-64 across the state.



Veterans and disability status

Service-Connected

- ▶ Based on VA determination.
- ▶ A factor in determining disability payments (not all receive payments)
- ▶ Not necessarily functionally disabled.
- ▶ VA's definitions tend to be broader than functional categories.

Functional

- ▶ Self-reported “difficulty or serious difficulty” with activities of daily life.
- ▶ Based on responses to ACS survey question(s).
- ▶ Impairments may restrict ability to work.

“The relationship between having a functional disability and receiving a VA disability rating is complex.”

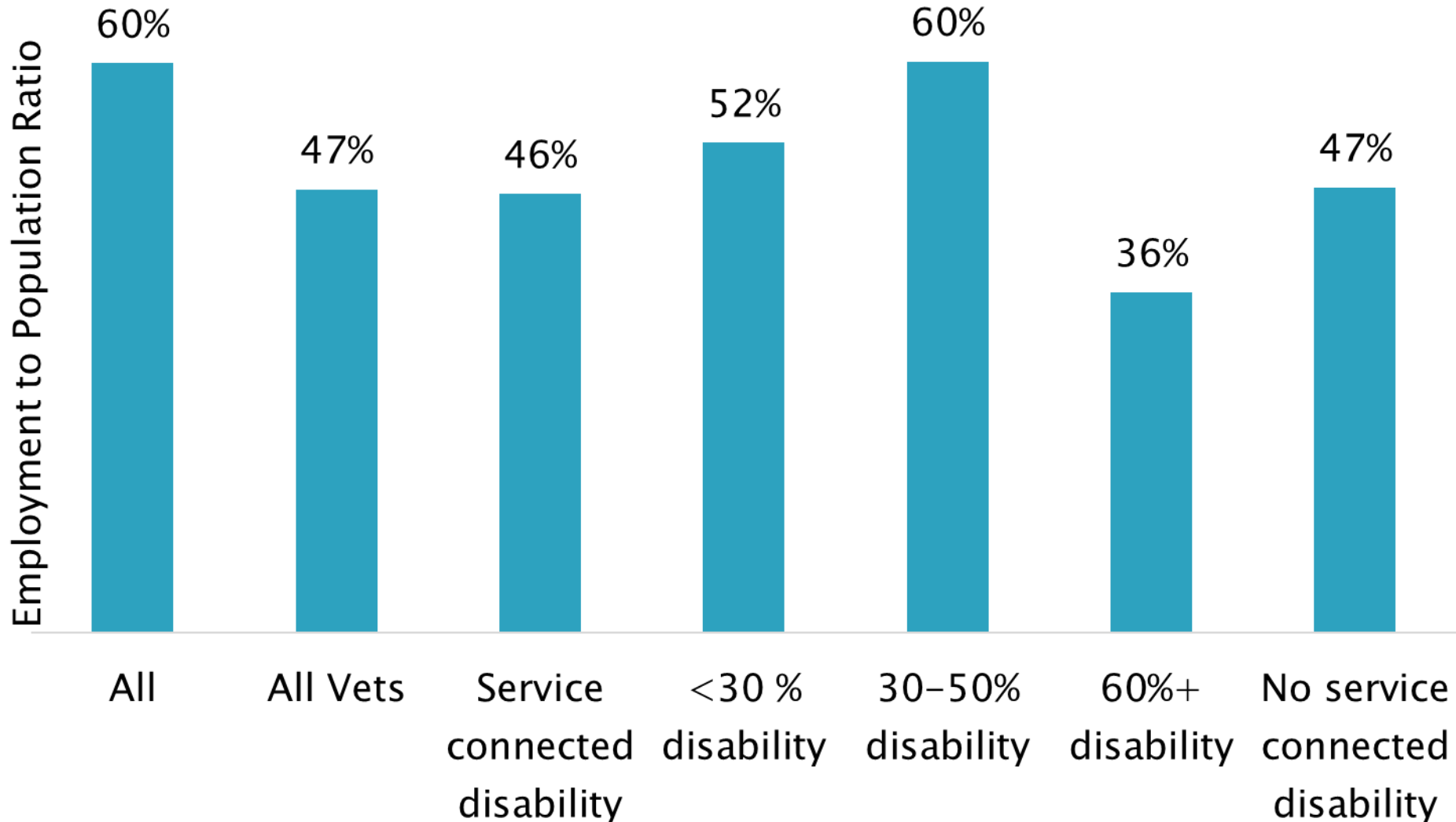
(Labor Force Experiences of Recent Veterans, May 2017, Congressional Budget Office)

The CBO analyzed male Gulf II veterans ages 22 to 44 during the years 2008-2015. Of these:

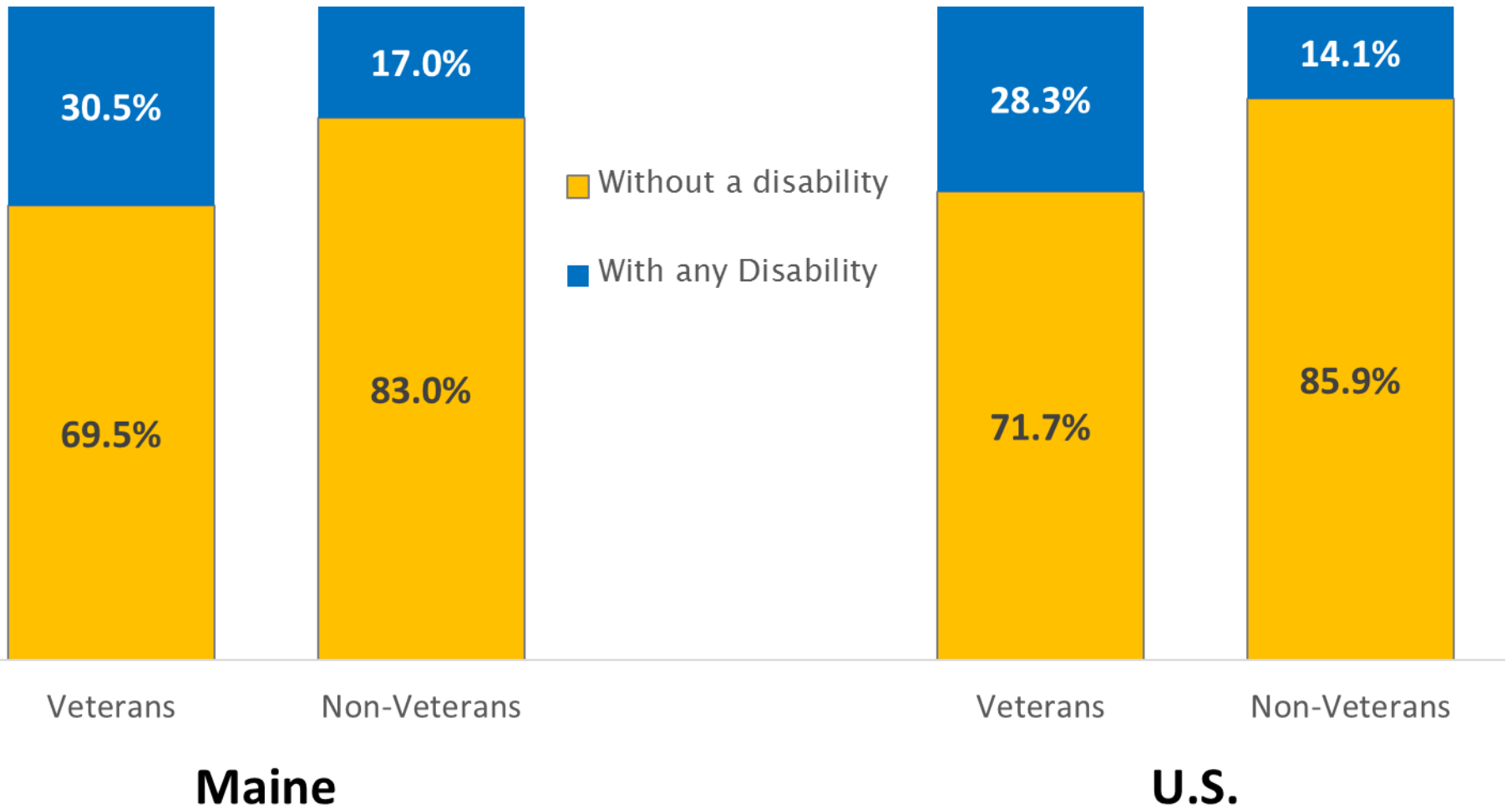
- About one-quarter of the Gulf War II veterans with a VA disability rating in CBO’s data reported themselves as functionally disabled
 - Among those with a VA disability rating of 70 percent or higher, nearly half reported that they were functionally disabled.
- Of veterans who reported a functional disability, only about two-thirds had a VA disability rating.
 - There are several possible reasons for that: They did not apply for VA benefits, they applied but their claims were still being adjudicated, or they became disabled after leaving military service.

Among veterans, a VA disability rating is not always associated with lower employment rates.

August 2017, NSA

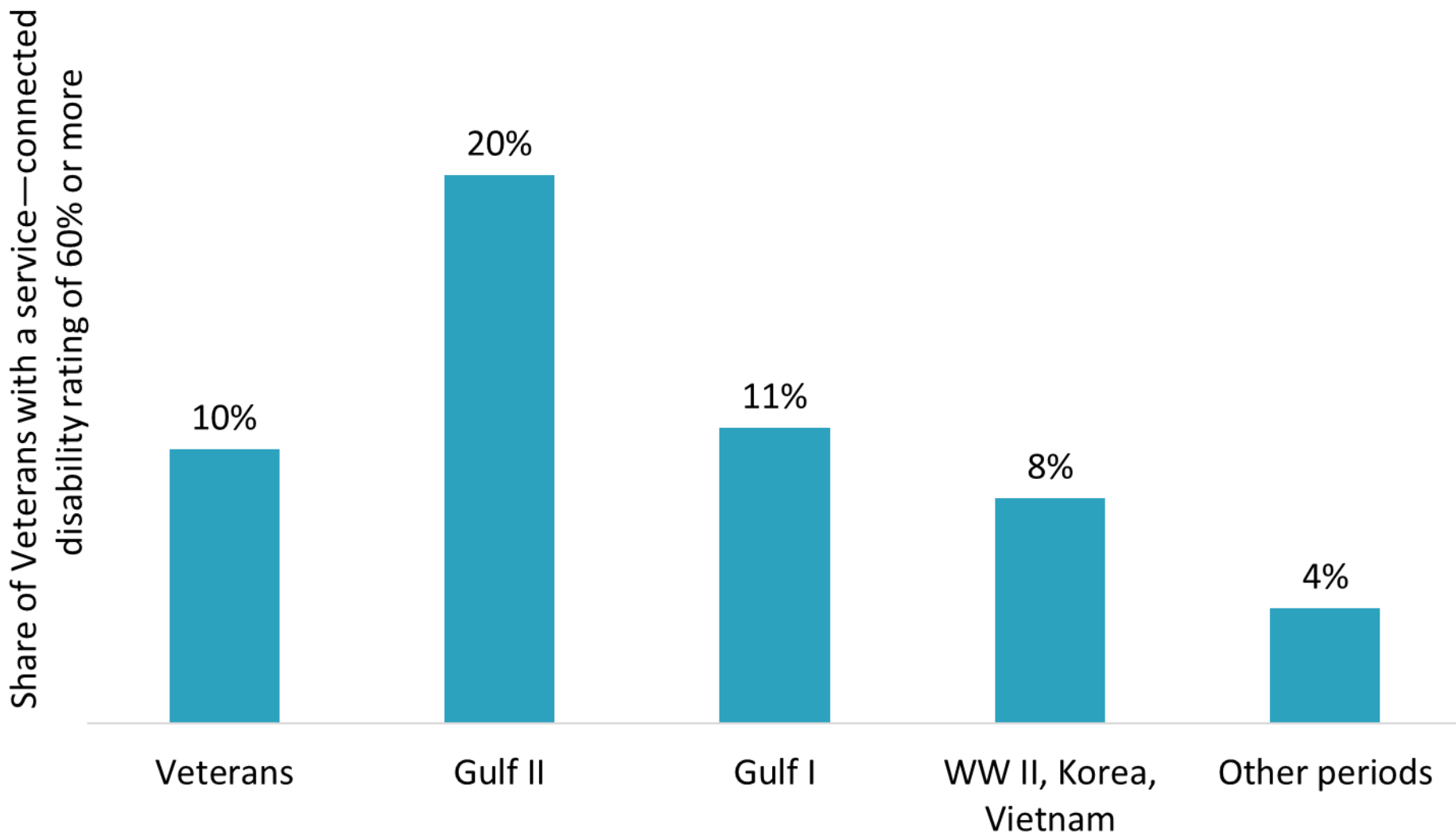


Veterans are more likely to have one or more functional disabilities than non-veterans. Disability rates in Maine are higher than the U.S.



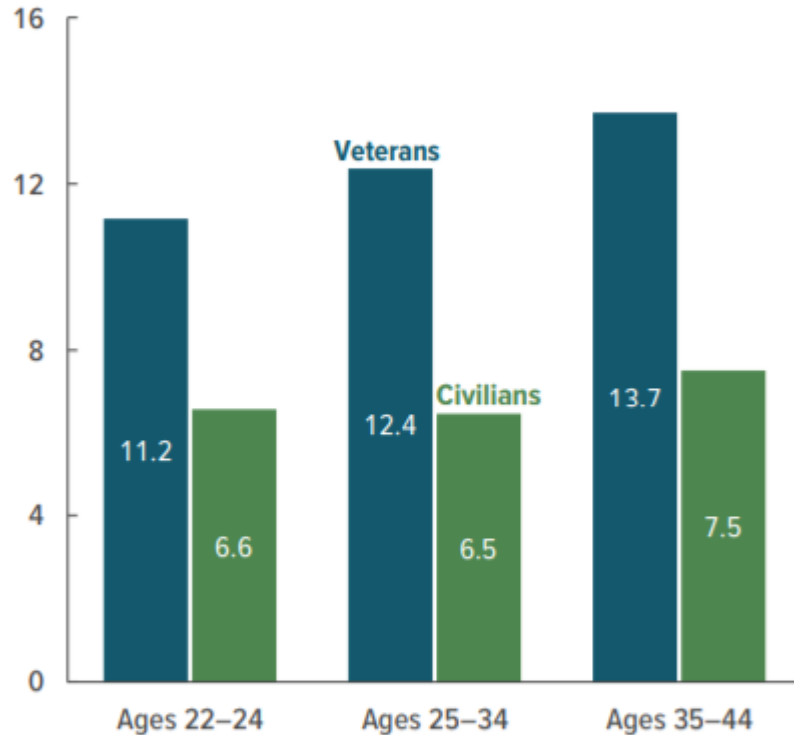
Veterans of the Gulf II era are the most likely to have a 60% or more service—connected disability

2017 U.S. averages



Functional Disability Rates of Male Gulf War II Veterans and Civilians, 2015

Percentage of Population



Source: Congressional Budget Office, using 2015 data from the American Community Survey.

Functional disabilities are difficulties with activities of daily life, as reported to the American Community Survey, rather than service-connected disabilities as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“According to 2015 data from the ACS, male Gulf War II veterans had a higher prevalence of functional disabilities than civilian men.”

“Although recruits must meet the military’s health and fitness standards, serious injuries and medical impairments may be more common among Gulf War II veterans than among civilians because of veterans’ intensive physical training and, in some cases, their combat experiences.”

Key Differences identified by CBO between male Gulf War II veterans ages 22 to 44 and their non-veteran peers

- ▶ Age distribution (a higher share of veterans are younger)
- ▶ Educational attainment (more veterans with HS diploma)
- ▶ Citizenship (more veterans are citizens)
- ▶ Race/Ethnicity (veterans more likely to be white)
- ▶ Enrollment in post-secondary school (many veterans return to school)
- ▶ Geographic location (more likely to live in the Southern U.S.)
- ▶ Rates of functional disability (elevated among veterans)
- ▶ Other unique factors that may affect labor force outcomes:
 - Military experience (selection, tenure, training)
 - Employer's hiring preferences (variable affect on opportunity)
 - Service-connected disabilities (incentives and disincentives)
 - Challenges in transitioning to the workforce

Source: Labor Force Experiences of Recent Veterans, Congressional Budget Office, May 2017, found at https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/reports/52418-laborforceveterans_0.pdf