UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Profile of Veterans: Internet Use Deep Dive

Data from the 2016 American Community Survey

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

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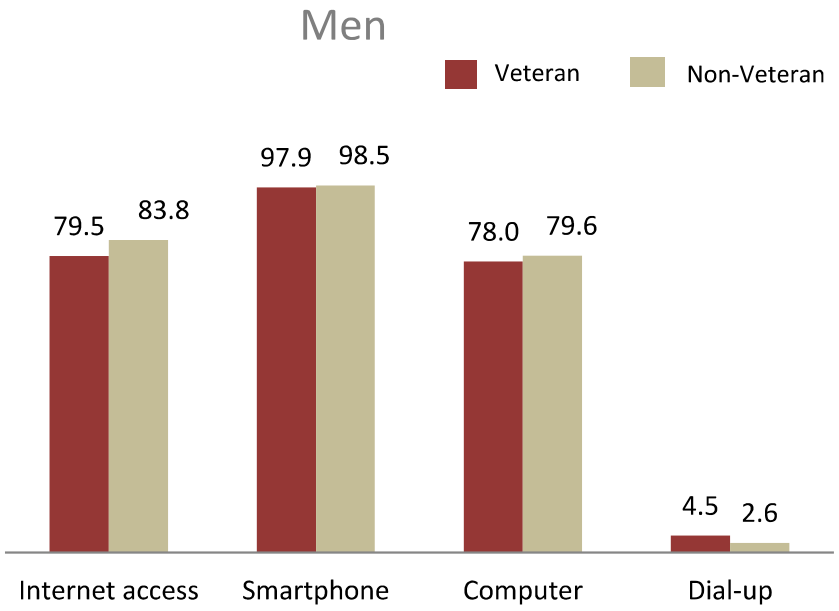
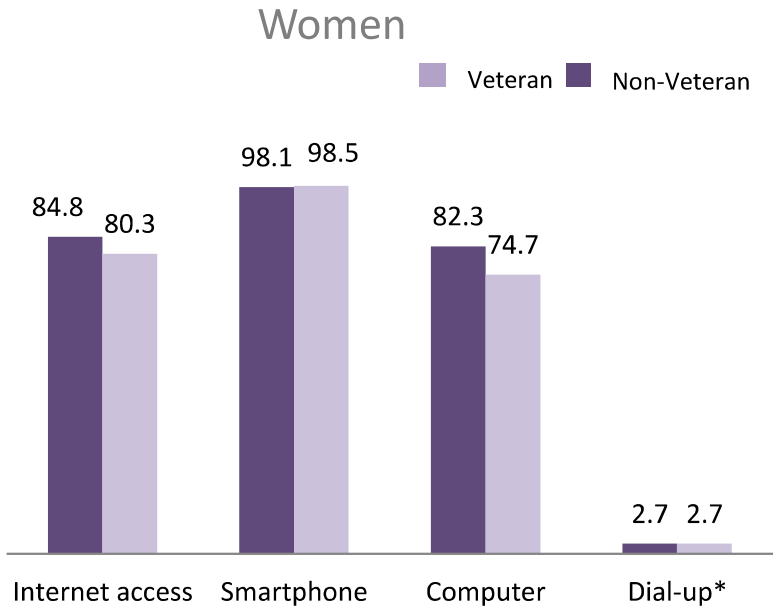
Introduction

- The "Profile of Veterans : 2016" found at: https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Profile_of_Veterans_2016.pdf, provided an overview of internet use in households in which a Veteran resides. This deep dive profile explores internet use tendencies of Veteran's households by gender, age groups and period of service to better understand the ability to access internet and use of computers and smart devices.





ALL	Veteran (%)	Non-Veteran (%)
Internet access	79.9	81.8
Smartphone	97.9	98.5
Computer	78.3	76.9
Dial-up	4.4	2.7

*Difference between women Veterans and Non-Veteran women is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Note: "Internet access" only includes households with internet service.

Data Source and Methods

- Data for this analysis come from the 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).
  - The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides annual data on the social and economic characteristics of the U.S. population.
  - The ACS uses a series of monthly samples to produce annually updated data for the same small areas (census tracts and block groups) formerly surveyed via the decennial census long-form sample.

- The universe for this analysis is the civilian population 17 years and older living in the United States and Puerto Rico.
  - The analysis in this presentation shows important demographic characteristics for males who have (1) no high school diploma and (2) earned a high school diploma or general education development (GED) by Veteran status.

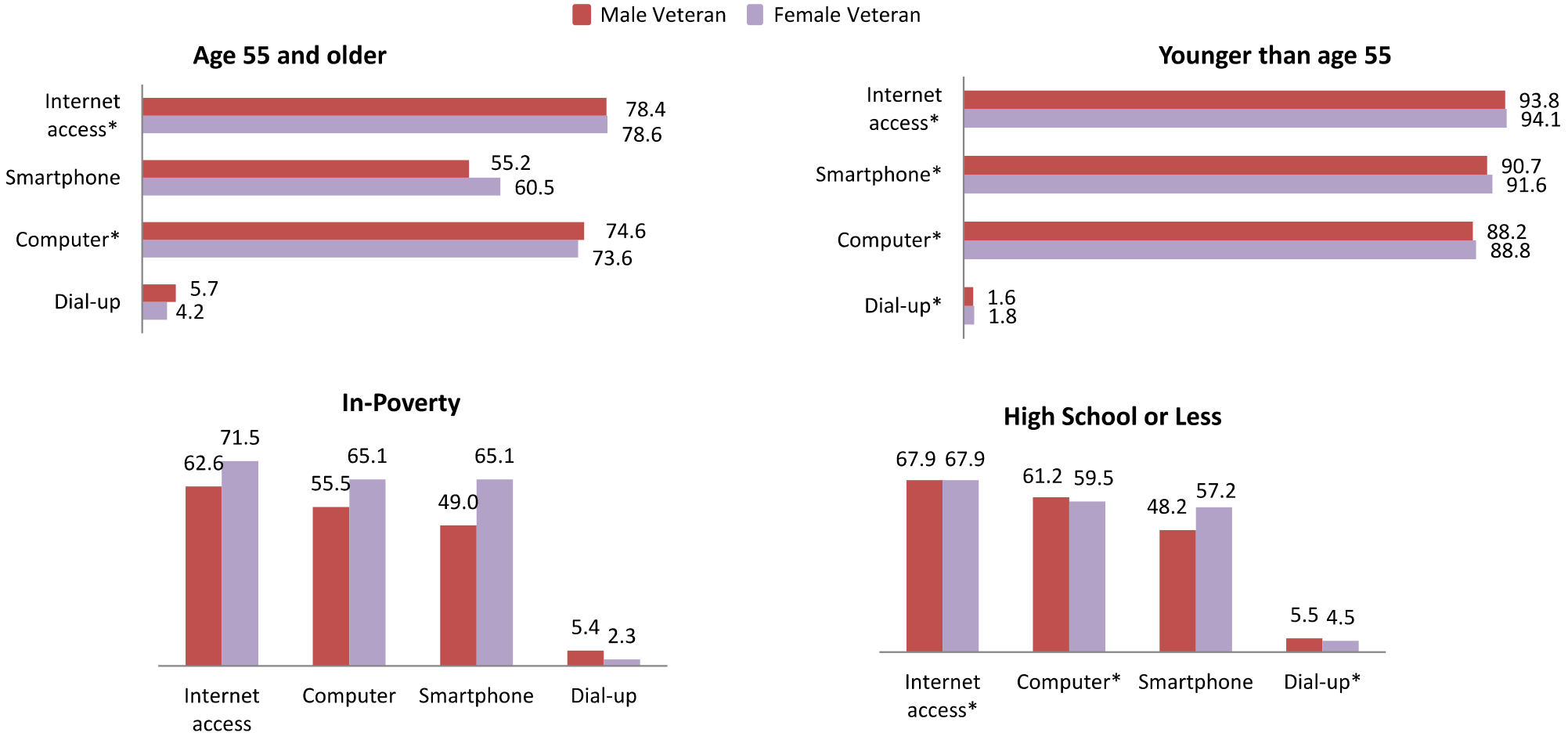
- All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level.
  - A "statistically significant difference" simply means there is statistical evidence that there is a difference; it does not mean the difference is necessarily large, important or significant in the usual sense of the word.'
  - A "no statistically significant difference" means that there is statistical evidence that there is no difference in the comparative percentages/rates.

- For more information about the ACS, see: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/.

Most households in which a Veteran resides have internet access, use/own a computer or smartphone regardless of gender, age, economic status or educational level. A higher percentage of female Veterans' households have internet access than male Veterans except those with a high school diploma or less. A higher percentage of female Veterans' households have smartphones than male Veterans.

Internet Access, Computer and Smart Phone Use in the Household

(in percent)



*Difference between male and female Veterans is not statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Notes:
(1) "Internet access" is regardless of internet service in the household.
(2) "Computer" refers to a laptop, desktop or notebook computer.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS, 2016
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