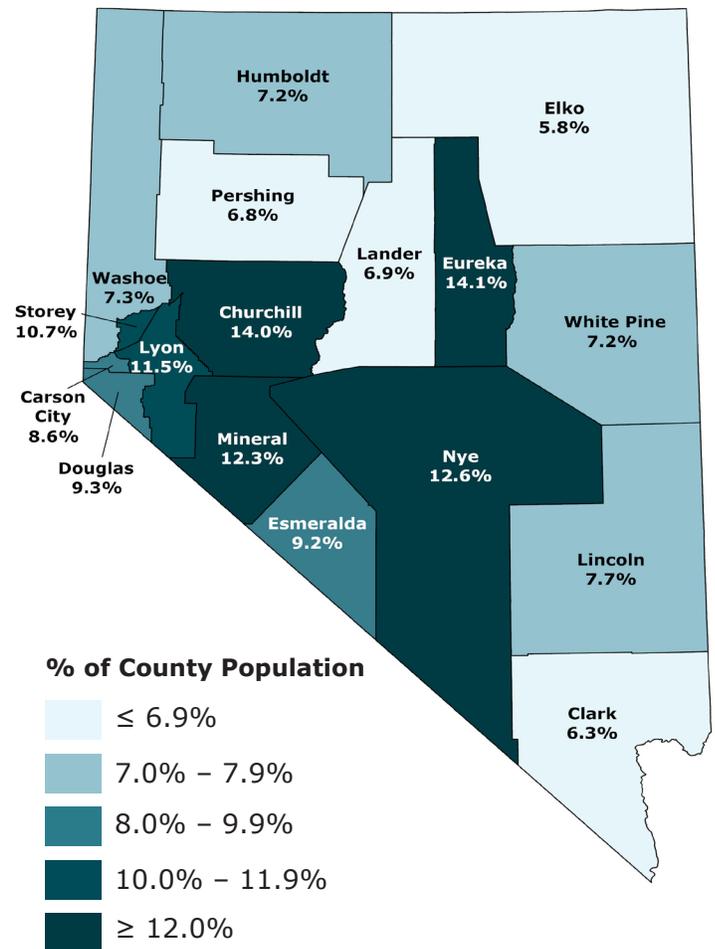


As of 2019, Nevada was home to an estimated 211,000 of the nation's 19.2 million veterans, according to the [United States Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\)](#). This represents about 9 percent of adults in the state, or 7 percent of the total state population. Almost half of Nevada's veterans are 65 years of age or older, and about one in ten is female. The vast majority reside in Clark and Washoe Counties, followed by Lyon and Nye Counties.

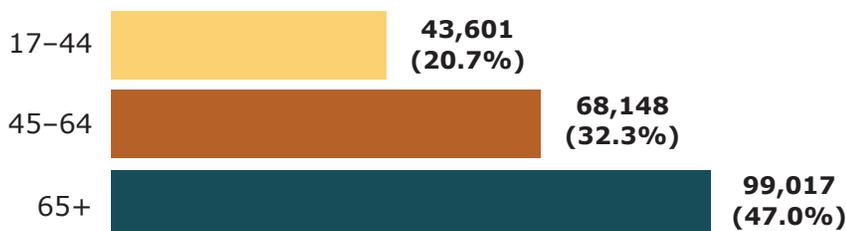
### Veterans by Nevada County (Estimated)

County	Number	% of Population
Carson City	4,856	8.6%
Churchill	3,616	14.0%
Clark	143,457	6.3%
Douglas	4,637	9.3%
Elko	3,195	5.8%
Esmeralda	89	9.2%
Eureka	276	14.1%
Humboldt	1,229	7.2%
Lander	416	6.9%
Lincoln	406	7.7%
Lyon	6,487	11.5%
Mineral	571	12.3%
Nye	6,124	12.6%
Pershing	468	6.8%
Storey	460	10.7%
Washoe	33,712	7.3%
White Pine	766	7.2%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>210,766</b>	<b>6.8%</b>

### ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF COUNTY POPULATION WHO ARE VETERANS, 2019



### NEVADA VETERANS BY AGE, 2019 (ESTIMATED)



#### Sources:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, "Table 9L: VetPop2016 County-Level Veteran Population by State, Age Group, Gender, 2015-2045"; Office of the State Demographer, Nevada's Department of Taxation, "Five Year Population Projections for Nevada and Its Counties 2019 to 2023 Based on the 2018 Estimate"; and U.S. Census Bureau, "Quick Facts: Nevada."

## WHO IS CONSIDERED A VETERAN?

### FEDERAL DEFINITION

For the purpose of most federal benefits, [the VA defines veterans](#) as individuals who served on “active duty” as members of the U.S. Armed Forces—as well as those who served as commissioned officers of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Administration, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—and who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

### NEVADA DEFINITION

In Nevada, the Legislature created a broader definition for the purpose of establishing who is entitled to certain privileges and benefits. For state residents discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, the term “veteran” also includes those who served in the National Guard or a reserve component of the Armed Forces for a minimum of six continuous years ([Nevada Revised Statutes \[NRS\] 417.005](#)).

## STATE BENEFITS FOR NEVADA'S VETERANS

### NEVADA'S DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES

While the federal government provides an array of benefits to veterans, the state has taken steps to enhance services for veterans in Nevada. In 1943, the Legislature first created an entity to serve and advocate for the state’s veterans and servicemembers, as well as their families and survivors. Today, that agency is known as [Nevada’s Department of Veterans Services \(NDVS\)](#). The Department helps veterans integrate into Nevada communities, assists in preparing and submitting claims for benefits, offers skilled nursing care, and provides burial support at state veterans’ cemeteries.

#### *Among other [services](#), NDVS:*

- ✓ *Helps veterans integrate into communities;*
- ✓ *Assists in preparing and submitting claims for benefits;*
- ✓ *Offers skilled nursing care; and*
- ✓ *Provides burial support at state veterans’ cemeteries.*

### LEGISLATION RELATED TO VETERANS

Each session, the Nevada Legislature considers numerous bills related to veterans. Proposed legislation covers a wide range of topics and sometimes addresses specific issues that veterans themselves establish as priorities through the [Veterans Legislative Symposia](#). In 2019, the Legislature passed more than 15 bills related to veterans and their families, covering issues from education benefits and health care, to specialty court programs and NDVS administration. (For more information about these bills, see the Research Division's [2019 Summary of Legislation](#).)

***The Veterans Legislative Symposia is an event hosted in even-numbered years by NDVS and various veterans’ organizations. At the Symposia, Nevada veterans come together to develop legislative priorities and recommendations for the next legislative session.***

## STATE BENEFITS FOR NEVADA'S VETERANS (CONT'D)

### VETERANS' ENTITIES ESTABLISHED BY THE LEGISLATURE

The Legislature has established various entities dedicated to conducting outreach and education, advocating on behalf of Nevada veterans, and making recommendations to the governor and the Nevada Legislature regarding veterans' issues.

ENTITY	DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
<p><b><u><a href="#">Nevada Veterans' Services Commission</a></u></b></p>	<p>The Commission advises NDVS on veterans programs and services funded by the state. This 11-member body—established by <a href="#">NRS 417.150</a>—is made up of state legislators, representatives from various veterans organizations, and other appointees.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs</a></u></b></p>	<p>The Legislature permanently established this Council in 2013 to align the many veterans programs offered in Nevada (<a href="#">NRS 417.0191</a>). The Council consists of representatives from various state agencies, as well as other appointees. It works with all levels of government and provides policy recommendations to the governor and the Nevada Legislature.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Women Veterans Advisory Committee</a></u></b></p>	<p>With women accounting for a growing number of veterans, the 2015 Legislature permanently established this Committee to address the needs of this important population (<a href="#">NRS 417.320</a>). The Committee—made up of five veterans appointed by the governor—is responsible for conducting outreach and addressing women veterans' unique needs in Nevada.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Advisory Committees for Veterans Cemeteries in Northern Nevada and Southern Nevada</a></u></b></p>	<p>The director of NDVS must consult with each seven-member committee regarding the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the cemeteries for which they were created. Committee members include legislators and members of veterans organizations (<a href="#">NRS 417.230</a>).</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs</a></u></b></p>	<p>In 2009, the Legislature created the Committee—made up of six legislators—to review, study, and comment on issues relating to senior citizens, veterans, and adults with special needs (<a href="#">NRS 218E.750</a>). As a statutory interim legislative committee, this entity may request up to ten bills to be drafted for consideration at each legislative session.</p>

***In 2019, the Nevada Legislature passed more than 15 bills related to veterans and their families, covering issues from education benefits and health care, to specialty court programs and NDVS administration.***

## RESOURCES FOR NEVADA'S VETERANS

For those who have served in the Armed Forces, the transition from military to civilian life can be difficult. Even determining whether an individual is considered a "veteran" for the purpose of benefits can be complicated. This is why many services and programs are available to veterans; some aim to help facilitate the transition, while others provide ongoing or intermittent services, such as health care, housing support, and education and employment services. In addition to the resources listed here, see the Research Division [website](#) for more publications relating to veterans and veterans benefits.

### NEVADA'S DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES MAIN OFFICE

**6630 S. McCarran Blvd.  
Building C, Suite 204  
Reno, NV 89509  
Phone: (775) 688-1653**

### NDVS VETERANS ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT TEAMS (VAST)

#### **CARSON CITY**

106 E. Adams St., Suite 203  
Carson City, NV 89706  
Phone: (775) 300-6796

#### **ELKO**

1500 College Parkway  
McMullen Hall, Room 114  
Elko, NV 89801  
Phone: (775) 777-1000

#### **FALLON**

485 W. B Street, Suite 103  
Fallon, NV 89406  
Phone: (775) 428-1177

#### **LAS VEGAS**

6900 N. Pecos Rd., Room 1C237  
North Las Vegas, NV 89086  
Phone: (702) 224-6025 or  
(702) 791-9000, Ext. 46025

#### **PAHRUMP**

1981 E. Calvada Blvd #110  
Pahrump, NV 89048  
Phone: (775) 751-63721

#### **RENO**

5460 Reno Corporate Dr., Suite 131  
Reno, NV 89511  
Phone: (775) 321-4880

#### **RURAL OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

6900 N. Pecos Rd., Room 1C238  
North Las Vegas, NV 89086  
Phone: (702) 791-9000, Ext. 15518

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Veteran service officers at NDVS help veterans, servicemembers, and their families access the state and federal benefits they earned through military service. According to [NDVS](#), in Fiscal Year 2017–2018, officers' work resulted in:

**4,464**  
veterans served.

**\$16.8 million**  
generated per officer  
in benefits to  
Nevada veterans.

**\$156.7 million**  
generated total in benefits  
to Nevada veterans.