



VETERAN'S POVERTY

“To care for him who shall have borne the battle,
and for his widow, and his orphan” Abraham
Lincoln

Christopher Marchewka | Social Welfare Policy | 4/2/23

GOAL

To those that have served our nation voluntarily or involuntarily
deserve to live a life that is not held captive by the basic needs of

every American food, shelter, financial stability. The past wars America has fought there have been many to benefit, whether the nations we went to war with, or the companies or countries used to finance these wars. The “boots on the ground” seems not to benefit, except to come home to a nation that does not understand them or the cause they went to fight for. This must change, the goal of this brief is to bring to light the issues facing our veterans and their families. We will discuss homelessness, food insecurity, employment. We are trying to eradicate poverty in a population that has given service to something greater themselves. Some of the veterans will have mental and physical disabilities have given literally life and limb for causes that our country has deemed “worthy”. If we can even fix one population and get them out of poverty, there is hope for all other populations. We should strive to accomplish this goal not just for the veteran population, but for the whole country. Veterans started their journey with a purpose and most want to give back to the society they went to protect. We will make this happen if we address current policy about poverty of veterans. Most policies for Poverty in general apply for veterans, but why do veterans still live in poverty? For veterans with families this influences service to our nation. Recruiting for the military has been in crisis. The reason could be that society sees how we treat our service members. So, this has an ecological effect on many facets of our society.

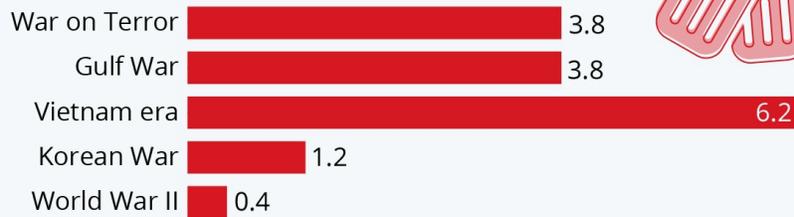
SCOPE OF PROBLEM

Problems facing the Veteran community to date are many Unemployment, Working Poor, Homelessness, Food security. Disability, Mental health. The most updated information that I found from the Veterans Administration for some information and statistics from 2012-2017. The veteran population is a population that is often overlooked and discriminated against due to society. Society knows that veterans receive education, disability and other incentives through the government and nonprofits. Even so there are still gaps and veterans are still in poverty. With the rise of inflation and taxes from state-to-state veterans in poverty is increasing. American poverty in 2021 poverty rate in 2021 was 11.6 percent, with 37.9 million people (about twice the population of New York) in poverty. (census.gov). About 1.5 million veterans live below the poverty line(nvhs.org). Post-9/11, World War II, and peacetime era Veterans had higher poverty rates than other periods of service. This population also must deal with stigma from the general population because some believe that this population is better off than the general public. Though the veteran population is shrinking, there has been an increase in veterans' poverty. Veterans' homelessness is 13% percent of the homeless population of the

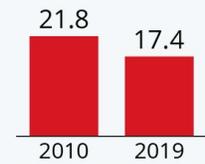
Number of U.S. Veterans Is Shrinking

Number of U.S. veterans as of 2019 (in millions)

U.S. veterans by war



Cumulative number of veterans



1.6
Number of female veterans

1.5
Number of veterans 18-34 y/o

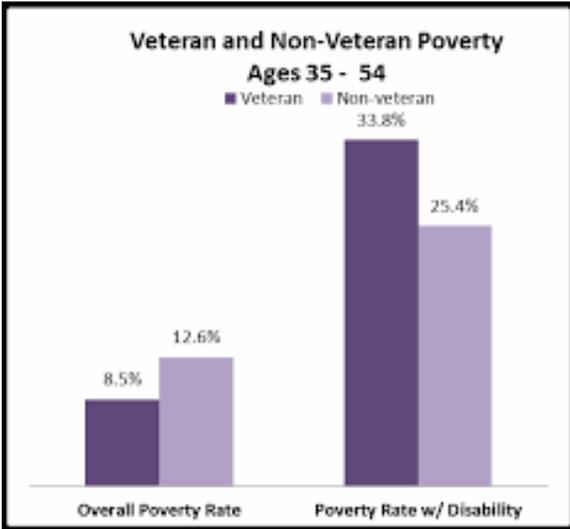
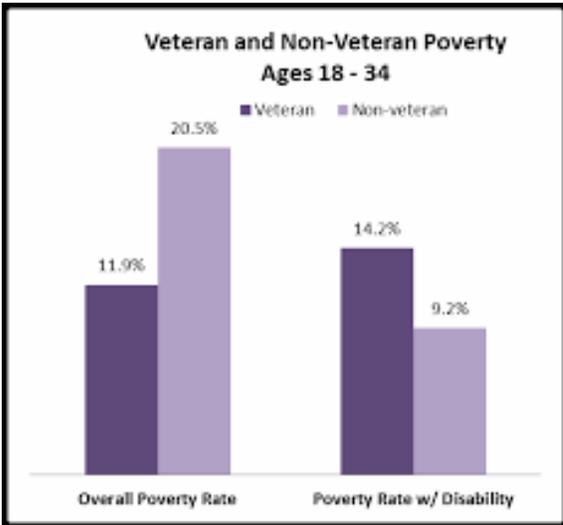
8.8
Number of veterans aged 65+

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



statista

Data from: <https://usafacts.org/>



(VA.GOV)

PAST POLICY

- **Social Security Income**-(SSI) (Established in 1974)

Helps Elderly and Disabled.

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**-(SNAP)

Helps with food insecurity

- **Earned Income Tax Credit**-(EITC) (Established 1974)

Reduce taxes you owe and increase your refund

- **Child Tax Credit**-(CTC) (Established 1975)

Reduces taxes you owe and increase refund due to children in your family

- **Family and Medical Leave Act**- (FMLA) (Established 1993.)
Enables Job protected unpaid leave up to 12 weeks (about 3 months).

These are just a few of the past policies most still in effect today with some changes, Veterans may qualify for some of these programs
Veterans may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) in conjunction with, or as an alternative to, VA disability compensation. Veterans may also use the Medicaid and Medicare health benefits that come with SSI/SSDI to supplement VA health services. (VA.gov)

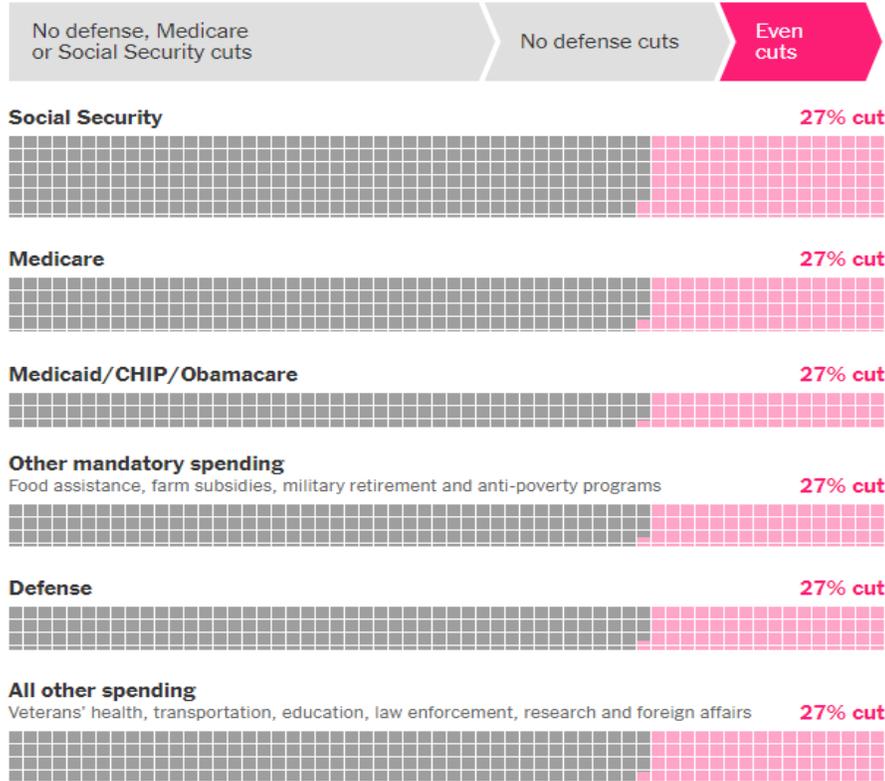
CURRENT POLICY

Most Policy that has been enacted since the War on Poverty in the 1980s have been improved upon Social Security, unemployment, SNAP, and low- and moderate-income tax credits. Have helped improve the poverty situation in America, where we have not risen past 17% in the last 50 years.

Social Security, unemployment insurance, nutrition assistance, and low-income tax credits, among other successful anti-poverty programs. Currently the Federal budget since inflation started post Covid, prices of everything have gone up, from real estate to eggs. Now with people spending and not saving inflation seems like it's here to stay for a while at least. The talk in the government right now is to balance the budget in ten years, here are some proposed ways they plan to do that. This most of these will severely hurt veterans and other populations that are already in need. These next charts will show the next possible options we have to balance our budget, with or without raising taxes. Here are the projections of what the future of the "balanced" budget in America could be in 10 years and how veterans and most vulnerable populations will be affected. Here are some projections of what that can look like in the next few years.

What You'd Have to Cut if You Take Options Off the Table

Three scenarios for balancing the budget in 10 years without raising taxes.

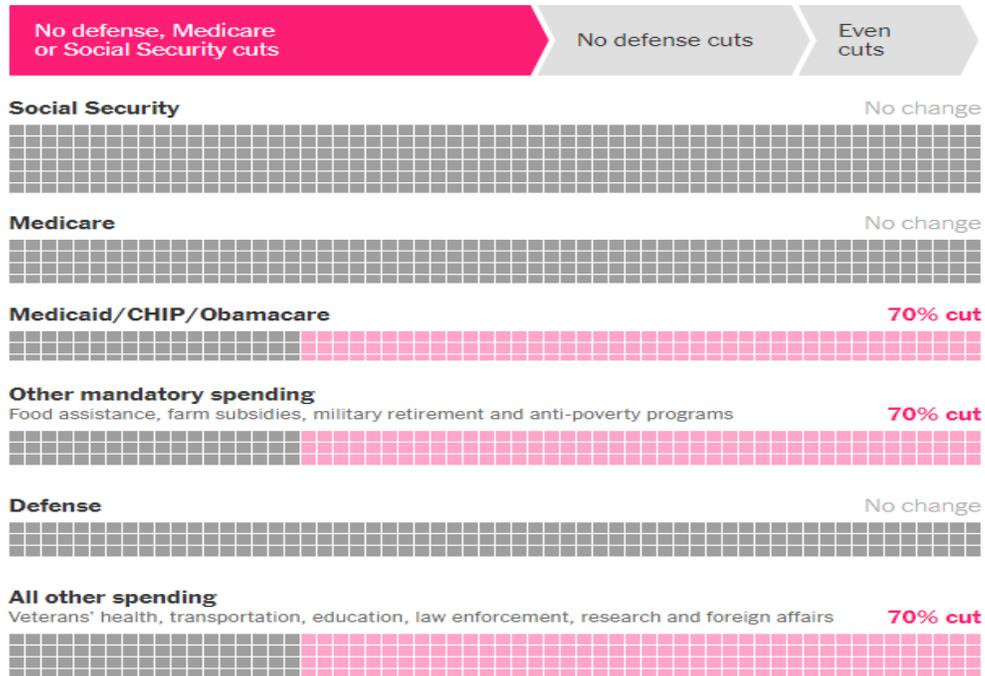


■ Each box represents \$50 billion in spending over 10 years.

Source: Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget • Note: Interest payments on the federal debt are not shown. • The New York Times

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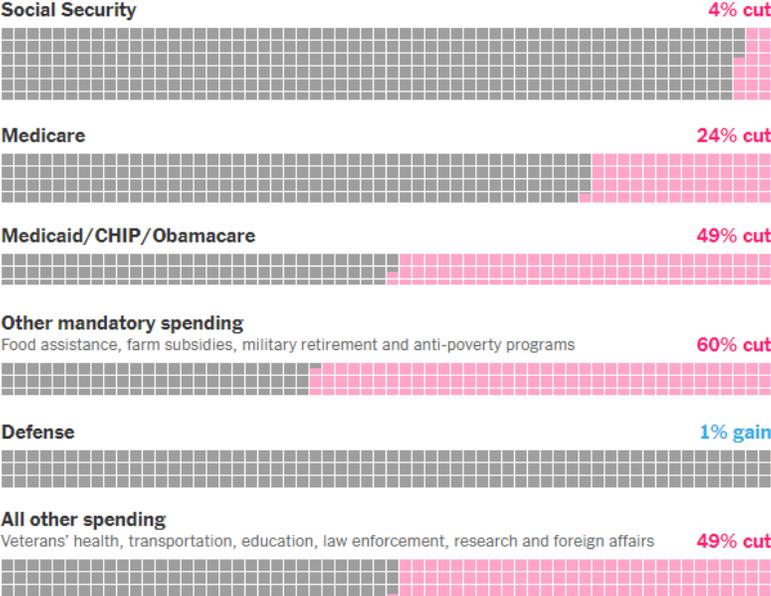


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The Republican Study Committee Plan

The plan would balance the budget in 10 years by slashing government health programs and other domestic spending.

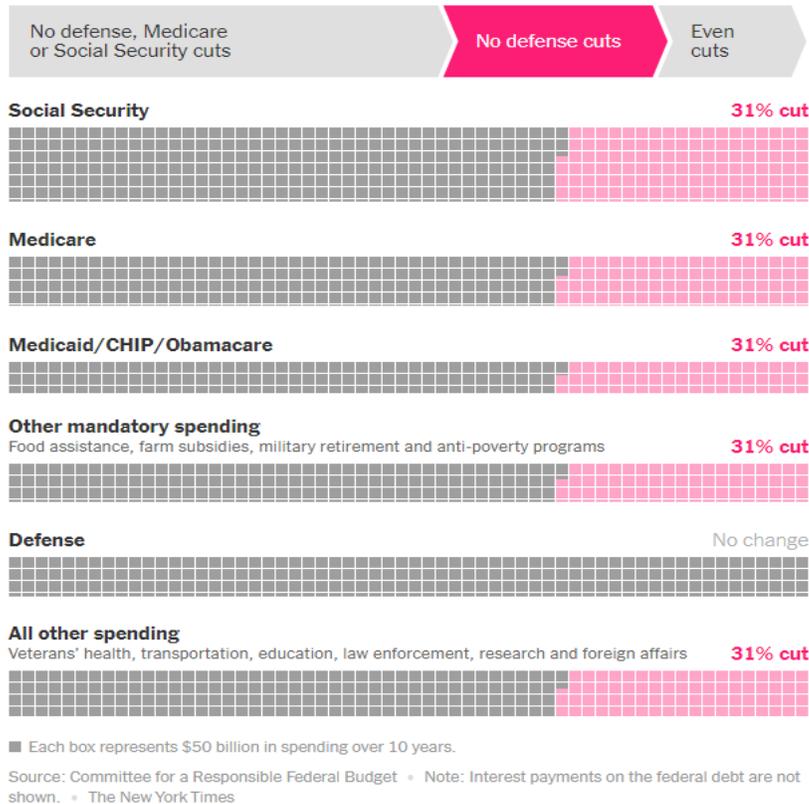


■ Each box represents \$50 billion in spending over 10 years.

Source: Republican Study Committee • Note: The plan was released in 2022 and is based on outdated projections for the baseline budget. The plan also includes tax cuts representing about 2 percent of revenue. Interest payments on the federal debt are not shown. • The New York Times

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Solutions

There have been many opportunities to eradicate poverty in America, starting with the WAR on poverty in the 80s it seems that there has not been much done about it. I proposed that with the current state of American at inflation at 6 % most of these programs do not cover for the inflation, believing that this inflation is temporary issue. Bringing veterans out of poverty will affect society. Giving vets meaningful jobs to give them a purpose can help with a decrease in mental health and an increase in our labor force. Employment veteran statistics state

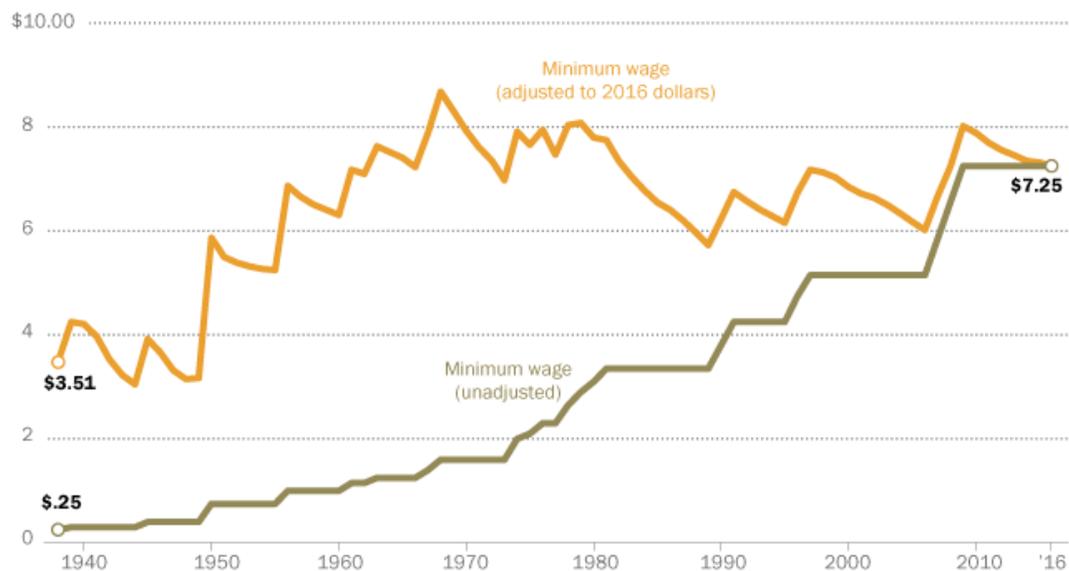
that Food support thought SNAP for veterans that live below the poverty line can help feed those that do not have food.

Snap Benefits from 2017-2019 have been helping 1.2 million veterans, which does help.

- Have Meaningful, equal employment
- Raise the minimum wage. Minimum wage raises would bring many out of poverty

Federal minimum wage, 1938-2016

Shown in nominal (not adjusted for inflation) dollars and 2016 (inflation-adjusted) dollars



Note: Wage rates adjusted for inflation using implicit price deflator for personal consumption expenditures.
Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Pew Research Center analysis.

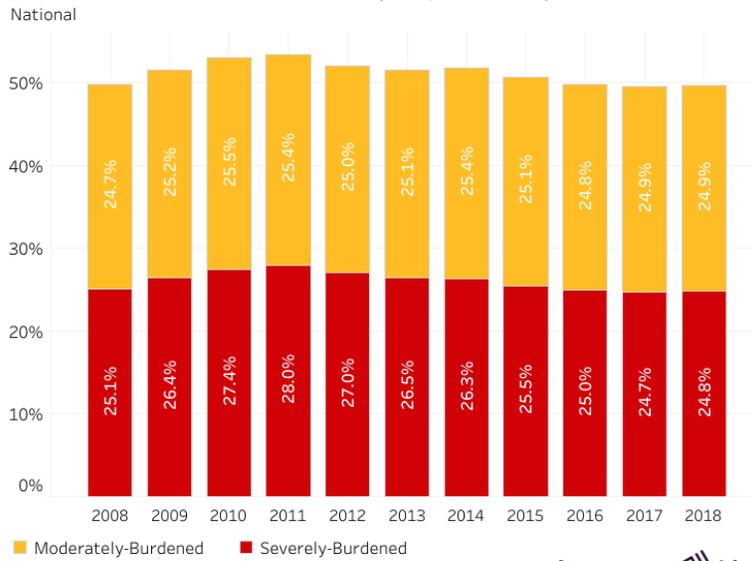
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- Paid medical and family leave
- Permanent increases to Earned Income Credit and Child Tax Credit.
 - High quality childcare and Child education
 - Expand Healthcare to allow everyone accesses
- Criminal Justice reform- Allow successful and fruitful reentry back into society
- Affordable, Accessible housing- One in four renters are low income, and most half of renters are moderately or severely cost-burdened, meaning that they pay more than a third to half of their income on rent and utilities.
 - Renter Burden

Cost-burden rate ticks up for first time since 2014

Share of cost-burdened renters: 2008-2018

Find Local Data Here (County, Metro, State):

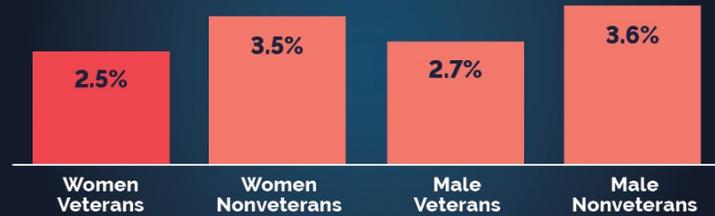


Apartment  List

Source: Census ACS; Apartment List calculations.

Unemployment Rates

MARCH 2022 – FEBRUARY 2023 AVERAGED

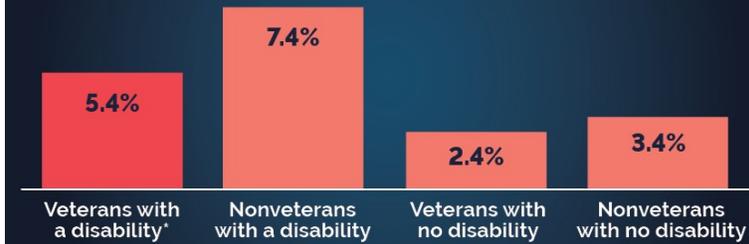


*12-month moving average generated using unpublished data tables obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Table 1. Employment status of persons by veteran status, age, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and sex; not seasonally adjusted

Source: bls.gov (Current Population Survey)

Unemployment Rates

MARCH 2022 – FEBRUARY 2023 AVERAGED



*12-month moving average generated using unpublished data tables obtained from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Table 16. Employment status of persons 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and disability status.

Source: bls.gov (Current Population Survey)

Organizations/Individual's

Organizations and individuals that can address this problem with policy are everyone. If everyone was aware of the state of people in poverty and truly loved their neighbor, then poverty in American may not be an issue.

- Federal, State, policymakers

Advocacy for veterans in poverty whether through emails or letters can help. We can raise the visibility of the issue at our state and local levels. In doing this you can make

- Non-Profits/For-Profits
- Dept of Labor
- Veteran's Administration

With a look at poverty for veterans you can see that not just veterans but the whole country is affected by this social illness. We need to address poverty within groups then eventually we will address the poverty issues, it starts with one group at a time.

References

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