

## Health Systems - 2 Veteran Access

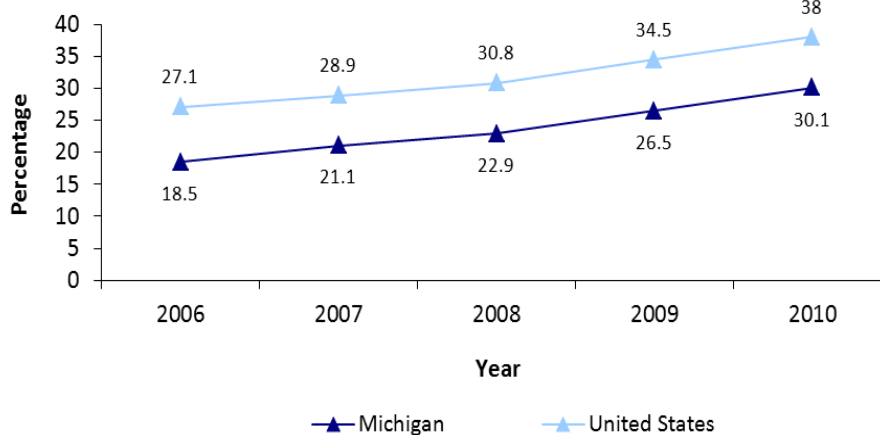
**MICHIGAN 2011  
CRITICAL  
HEALTH  
INDICATORS**

**Indicator Definition:** Percent of veterans who are currently enrolled in Veterans Administration Health Care. Percent of unenrolled veterans who report understanding their entitled Veterans Administration Health Care benefits.

**Indicator Overview:**

- Individuals who served in the active military and were not recipients of a dishonorable discharge may be eligible for healthcare through the United States Veterans Administration.
- Certain categories of individuals – such as former prisoners of war, recipients of a Purple Heart, or catastrophically disabled persons – may be granted enhanced eligibility.
- There are an estimated 704,000 veterans living in Michigan as of September 2010.

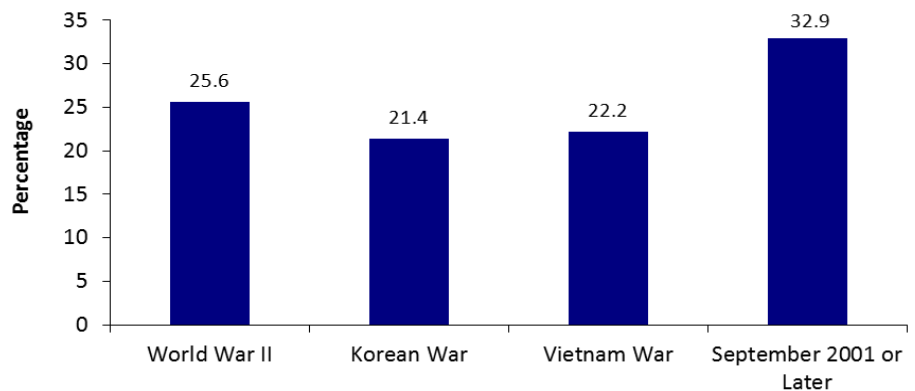
**Percentage of Veterans Enrolled in Veterans Administration Health Care, 2006-2010**



← **Trends:** The pattern of growth in veteran healthcare enrollment in Michigan closely parallels that of the United States, though United States enrollment is consistently higher. Enrollment has grown in Michigan by nearly 12 percentage points from 2006 to 2010.

→ **Health Disparities:** A nationwide survey revealed that older, unenrolled veterans are generally not as likely to understand their entitled Veterans Administration health benefits as those who served in September 2001 or later. Only 21.4 percent of those who served in the Korean War era confirmed understanding of their benefits, while 32.9 percent of those who served on or after September 2001 reported understanding.

**Unenrolled Veterans in the United States Who Understand Their Entitled Veterans Administration Health Care Benefits**



**Links to Other Sources of Information:**

United States Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics: <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/>  
Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs: <http://www.michigan.gov/dmva>

**Links to Related Public Health Programs:**

Applying for Veterans Administration healthcare benefits: <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/>  
Veterans Administration health facilities in Michigan: <http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?State=MI&dnum=ALL>