



Heartland Heroes

America's Rural Veterans

Meredith Kleykamp

Center for Research on Military Organization



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

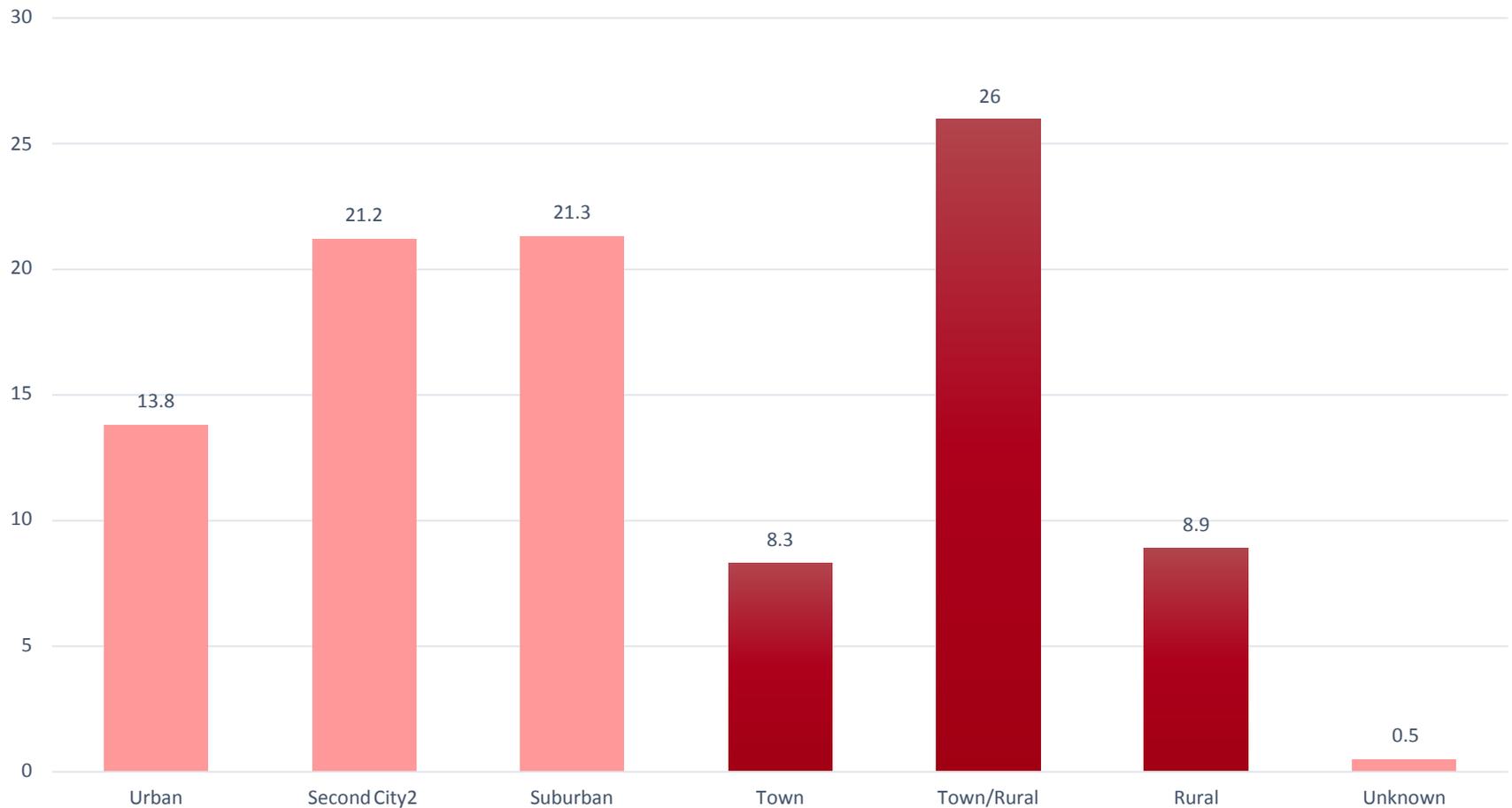
A note about definitions

There are several inconsistent definitions of rurality across major national data sources and federal agencies

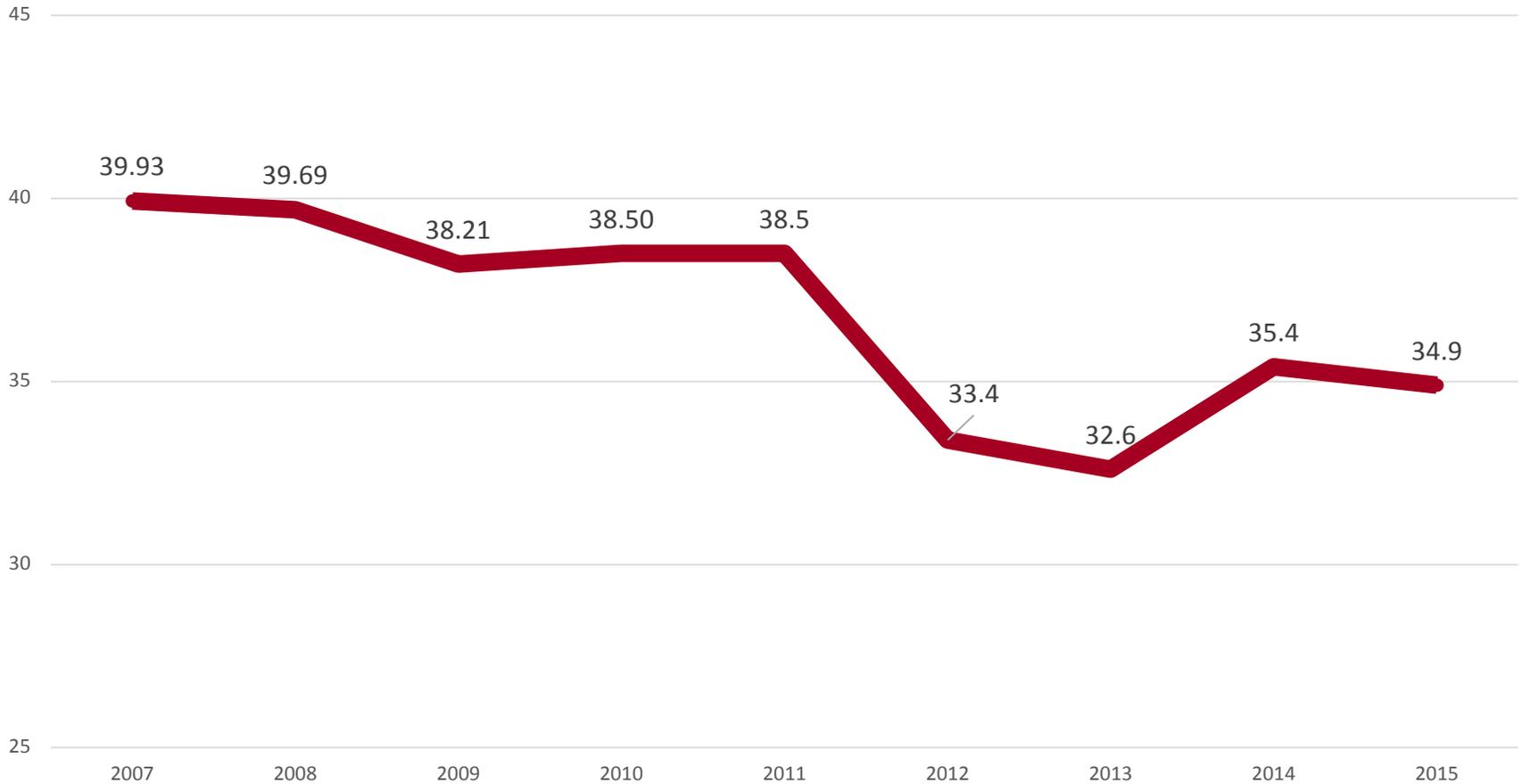
Census, DoD, and VA data all use different metrics, as do specific study measures.

These different metrics may imply differences that aren't "real", and can lead to quite different conclusions

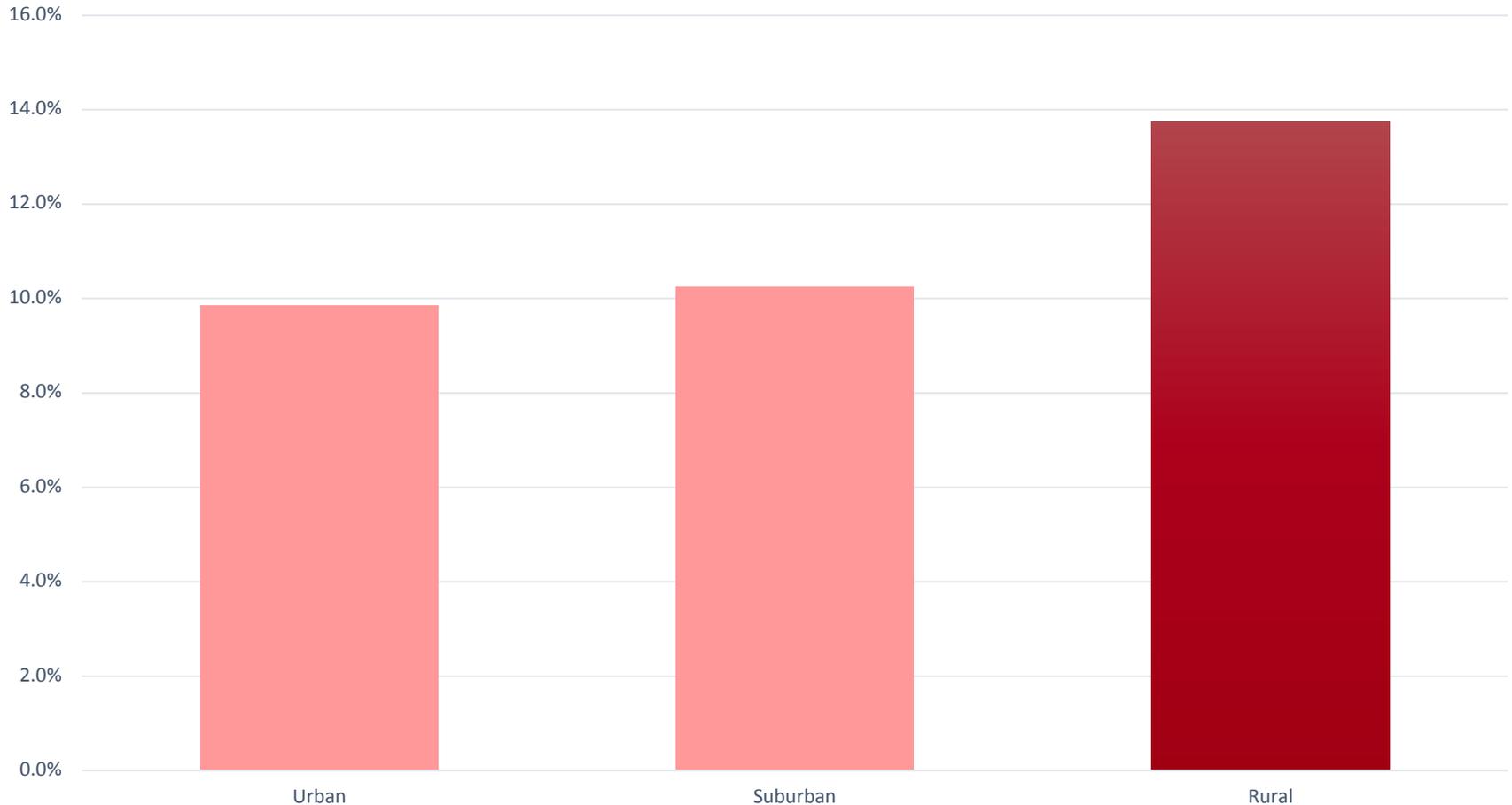
More than 1/3rd of new enlistees come from rural & small town areas



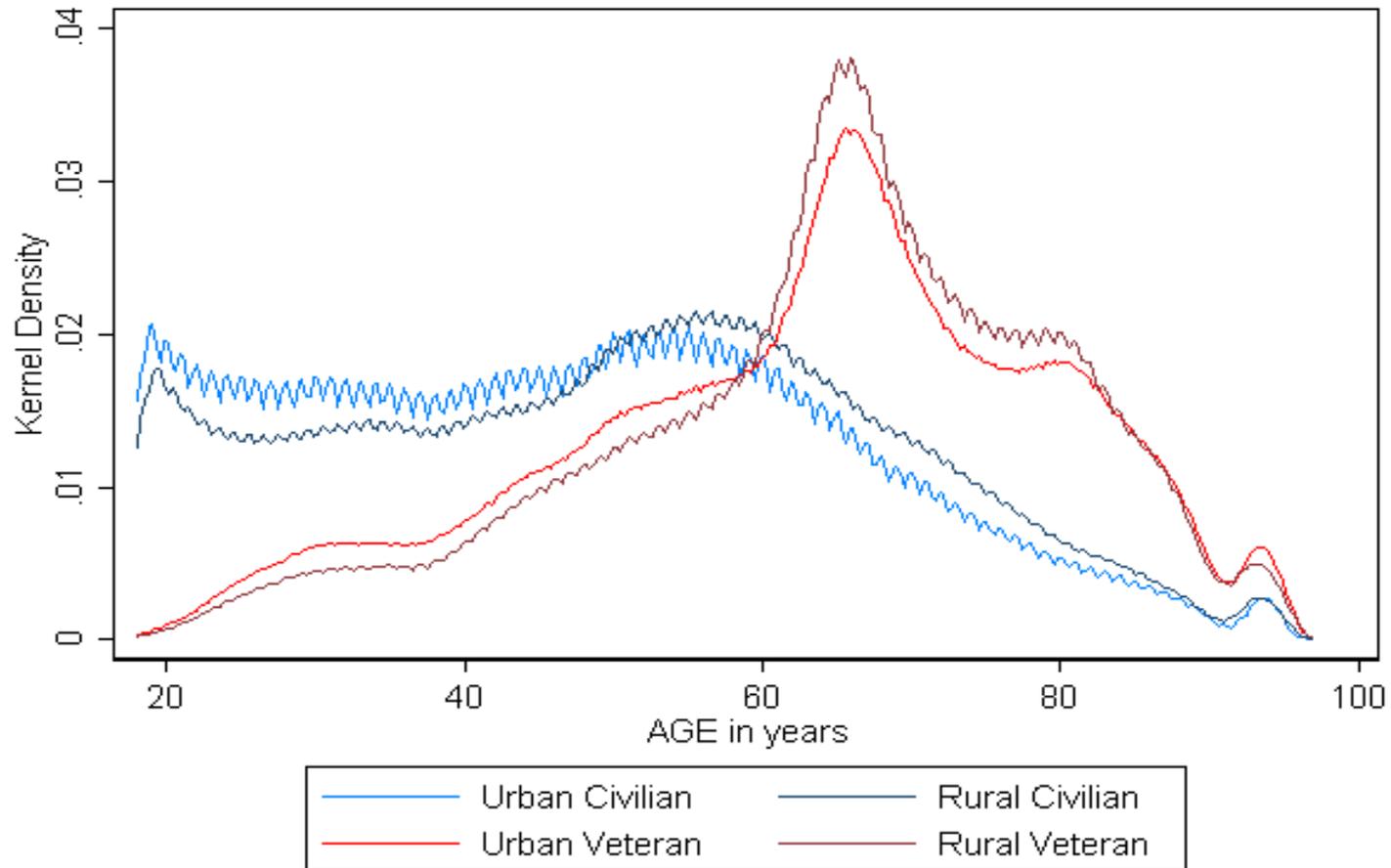
This fraction is down from 40% in 2007



Rural young men are 34-39% more likely to enlist than non-rural peers, controlling for family income, parental education, test scores, race, college expectations



Rural and non-rural veterans are older than non-veterans



Rural veteran demographics, in brief

6% are women

69% are married, 14%
divorced

92% are white

9% served since 9/11

95% have health
insurance:

37% VA insurance

13% Tricare

59% Medicare

35% have 1 or more
health limitations

33% working age out of
Labor force

10% VA disability rating
50%+

Avg income \$39,945

Rural veterans' challenges

Health care

- Provider & specialist shortages
- Fewer health care facilities
- Hospital closings due to financial instability
- Geographic barriers
- Limited internet access
- Higher uninsured rates
- Higher poverty rates

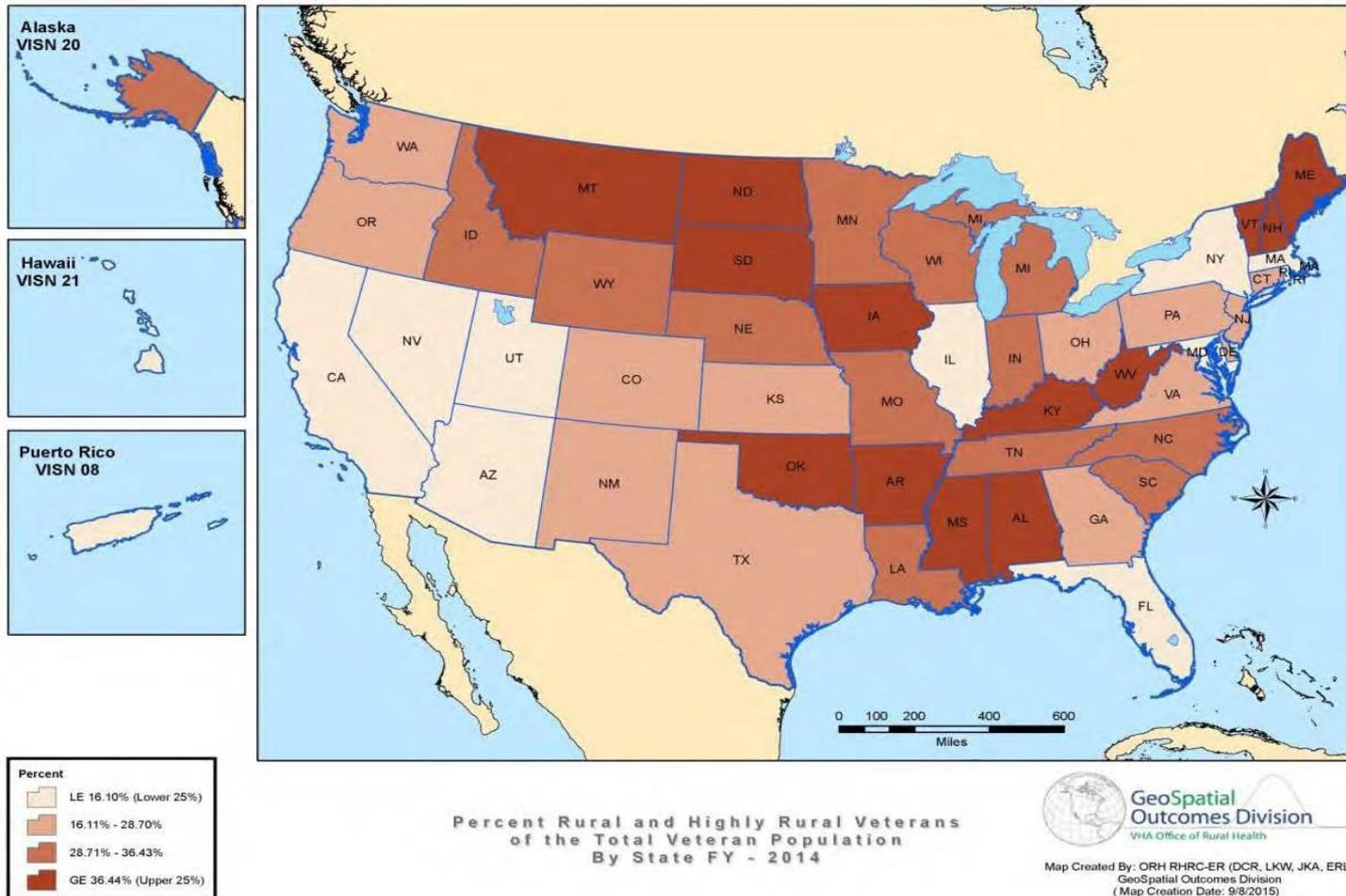
Opportunities

- Jobs
 - Federal employment
- School
- Transportation
- Institutional capacity

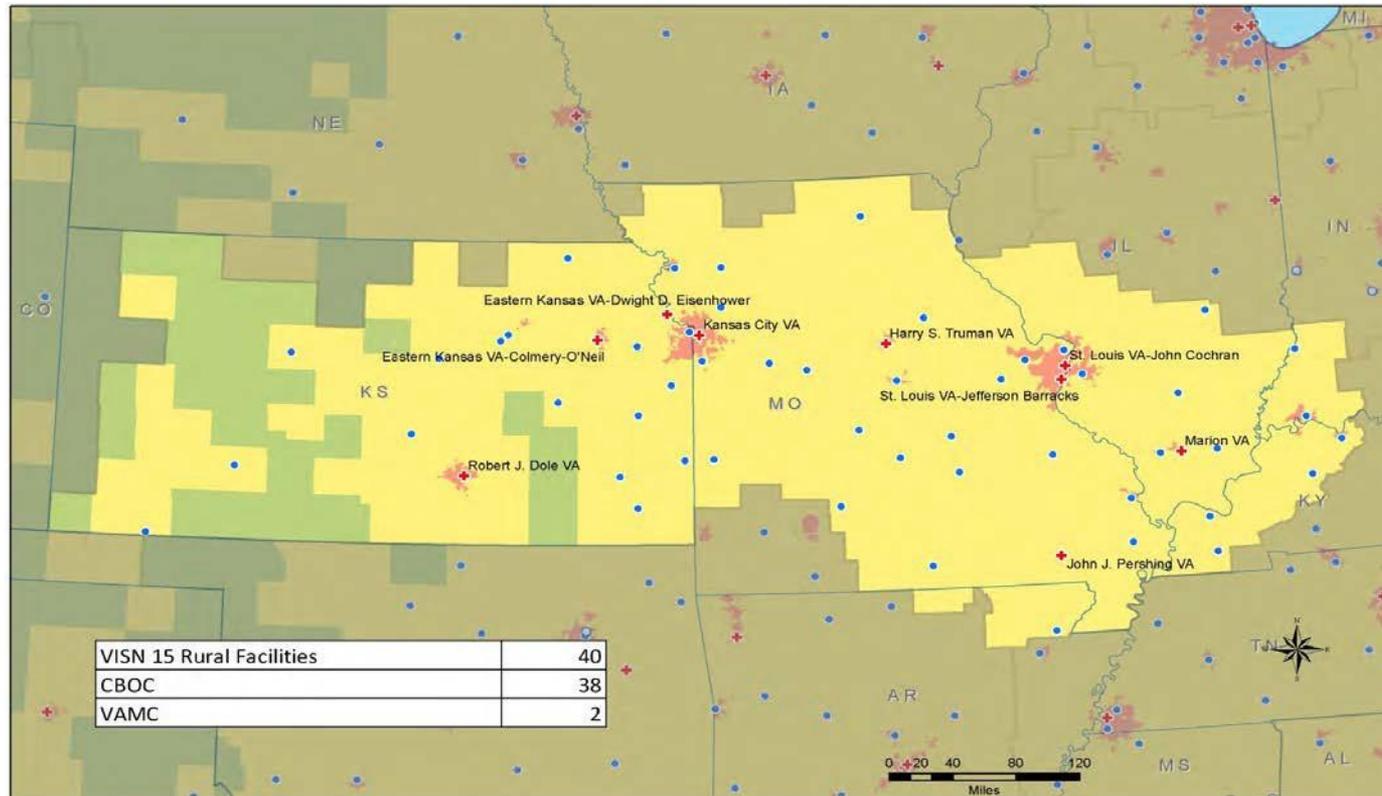
Social Isolation

- Young veterans

States with highest percentages of veterans living in rural areas



Realistic difficulty of going to a VA medical center



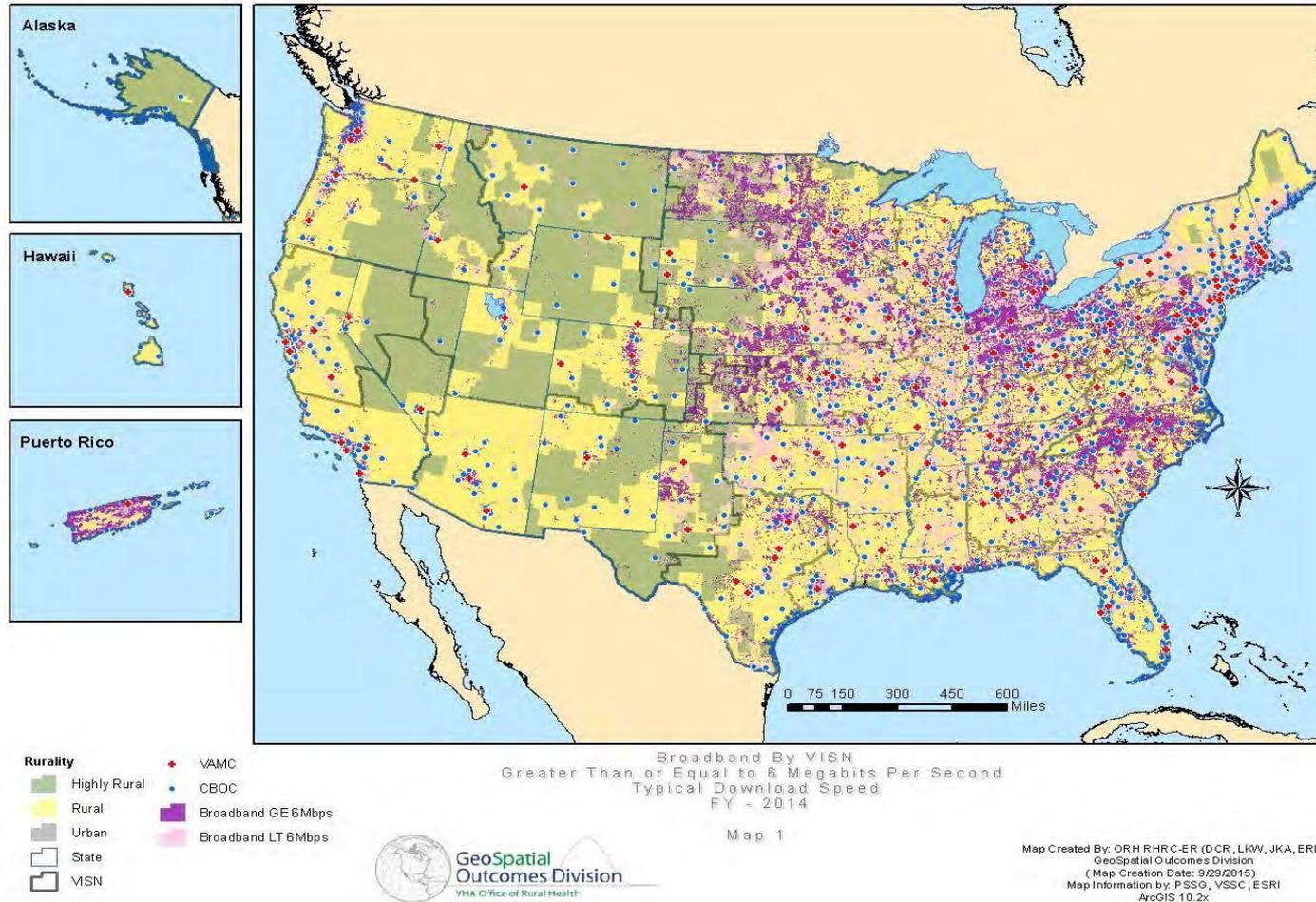
- Primary Service**
- Community Based Outpatient Clinic
 - Community Living Center (CLC)
 - Domiciliary Residential
 - Rehab Treatment Program
 - ◆ Independent Outpatient Clinic
 - Mobile Outpatient Clinic
 - Multi-Contract Site/Secondary Sites
 - ✚ VA Medical Center

- Rurality**
- Highly Rural
 - Rural
 - Urban

Veterans Health Administration
Medical Facilities
FY - 2014
VISN 15


VHA Office of Rural Health
Map Created By: ORH RHRC-ER (DCR, LKW, JKA, ERL)
GeoSpatial Outcomes Division
(Map Creation Date: 9/24/2015)
Map Information by: PSSG, VSSC, ESRI
ArcGIS 10.2x

Telemedicine improving access, but broadband services limited in rural areas



We do not know enough about what rural-origin service members do when they leave the military

Longitudinal transition experiences and migration dynamics of rural veterans

Social processes involved in leaving military service and returning (or not) home to rural communities?

Who leaves but doesn't come back to rural communities? And why not?

Thank you!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Meredith Kleykamp

2112 Parren J. Mitchell Art-Sociology Bldg

College Park, MD 20742

phone: 301.405.6409

email: kleykamp@umd.edu



@kleykamp / www.meredithkleykamp.com

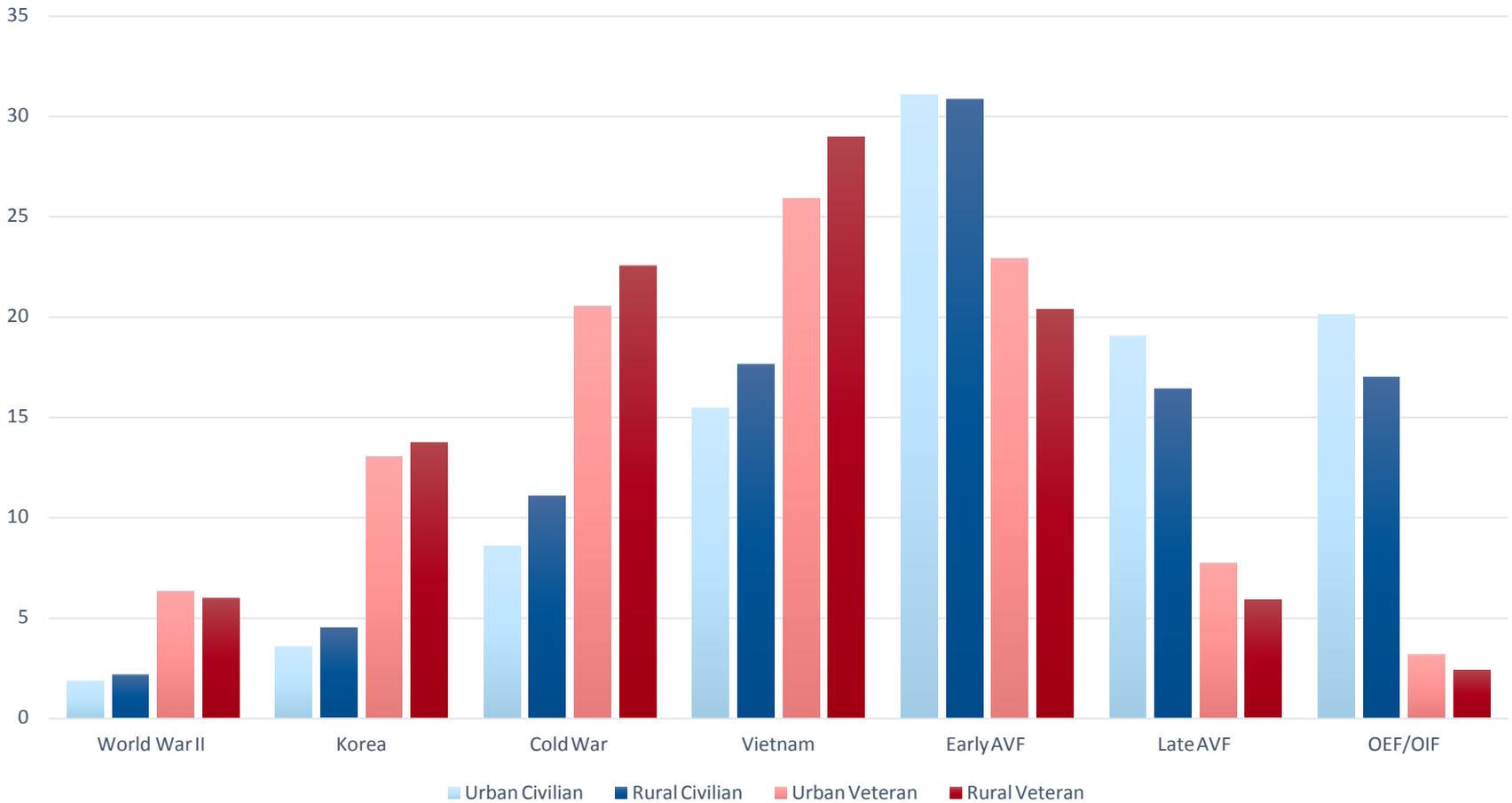


UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

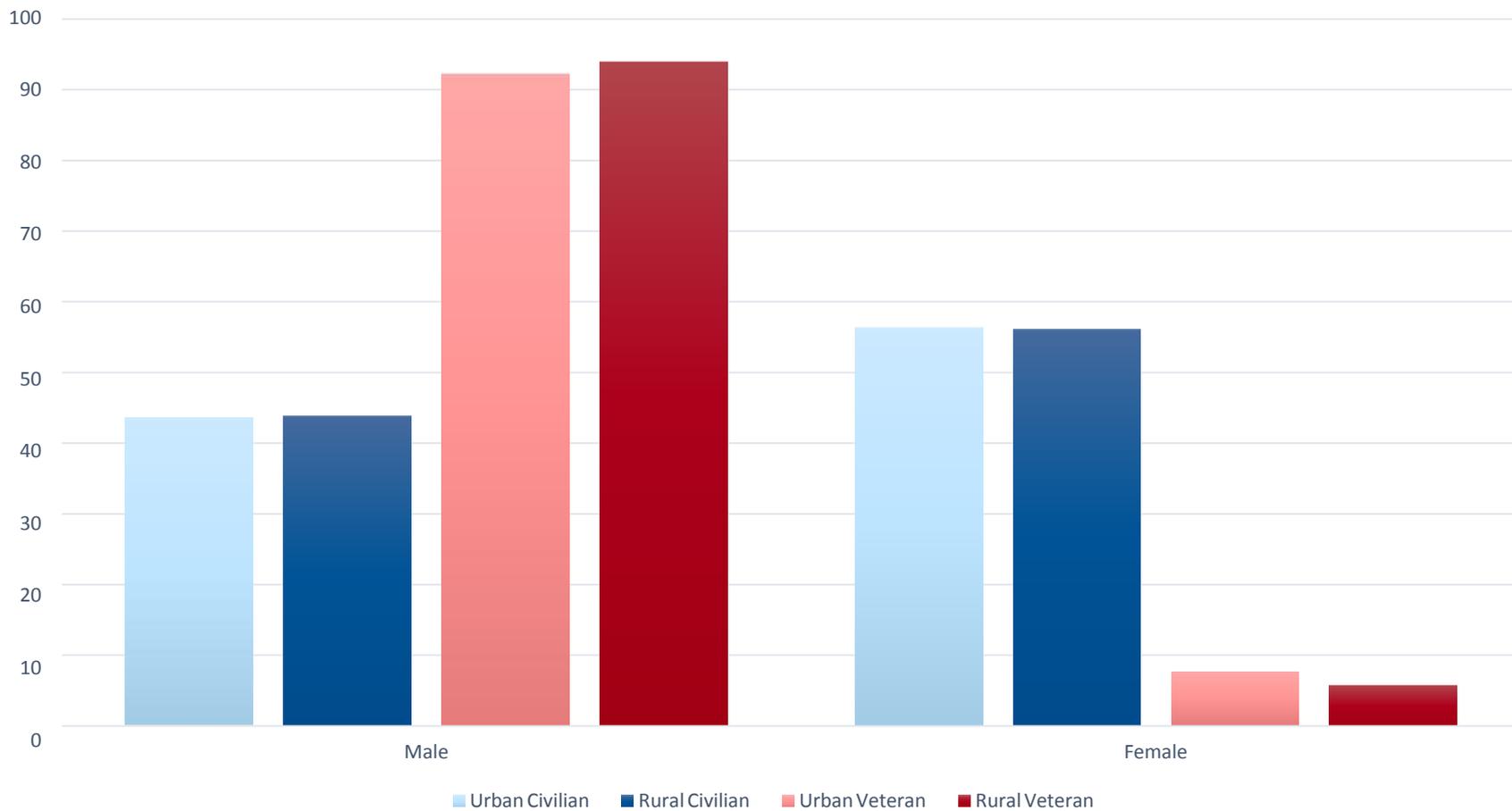
Summary charts from ACS-backup

Veterans are older than non-veterans

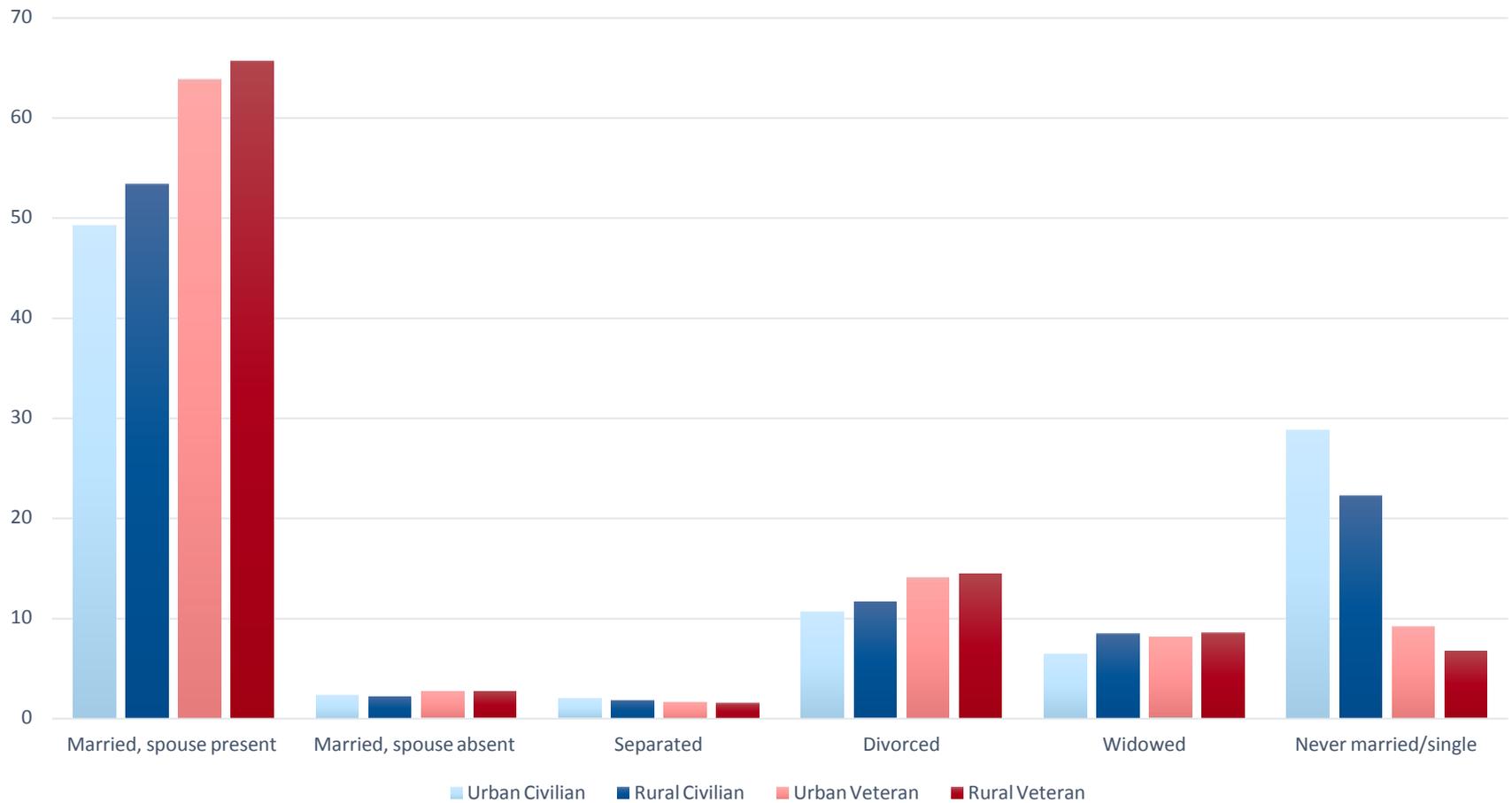
Rural residents are older than non-rural



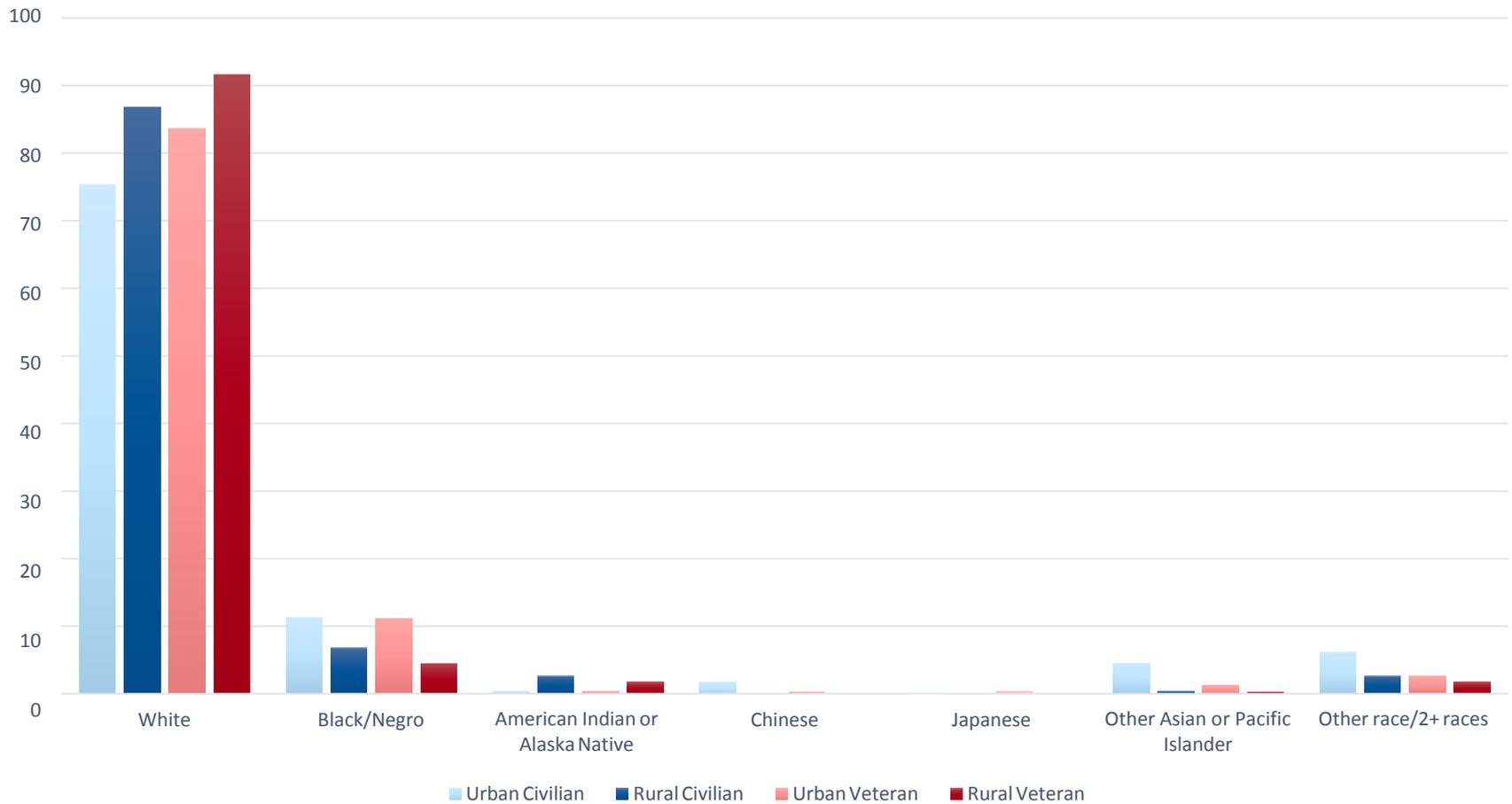
Veterans are much more likely to be men



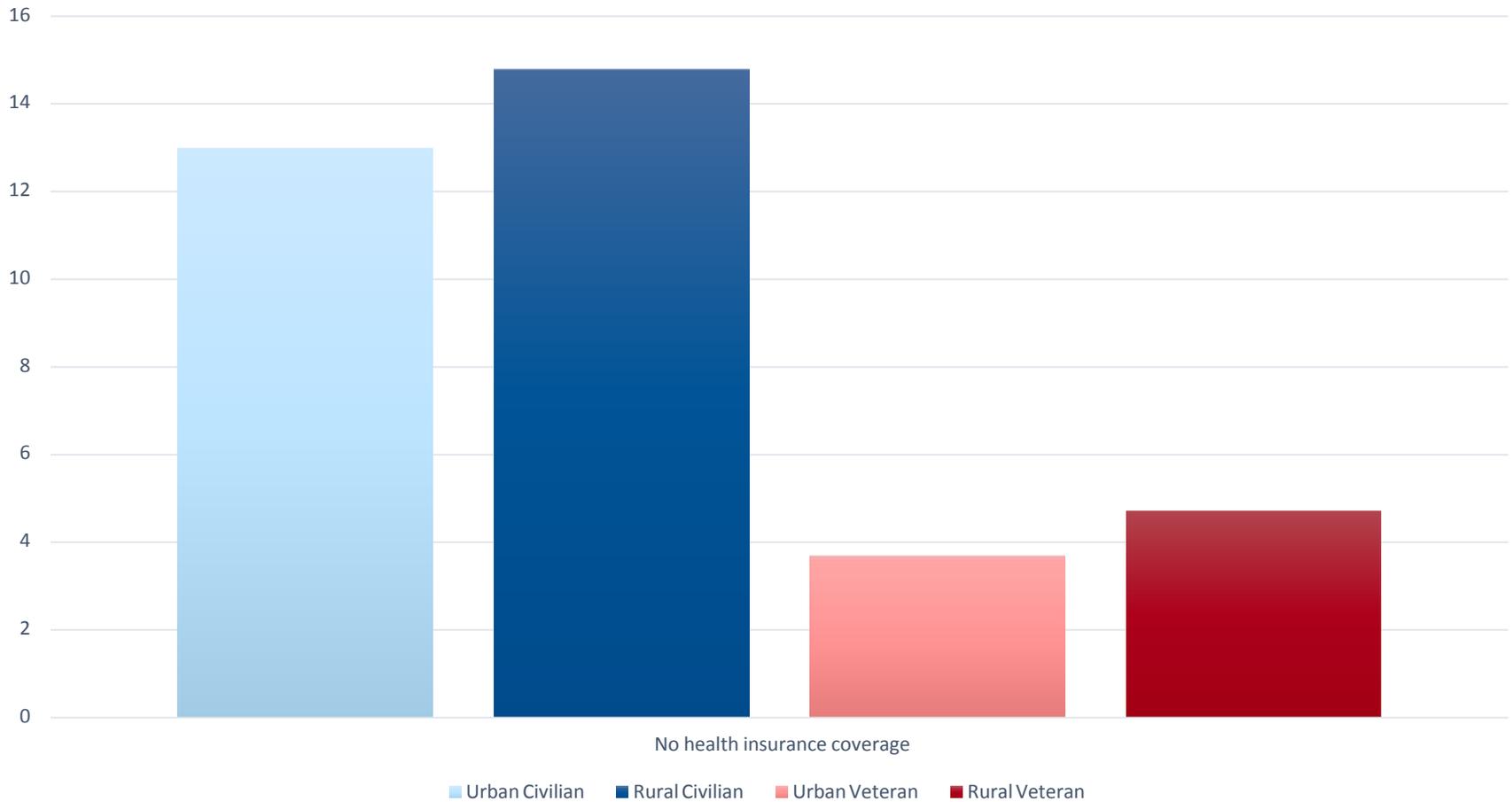
Rural veterans are more likely to be married and divorced



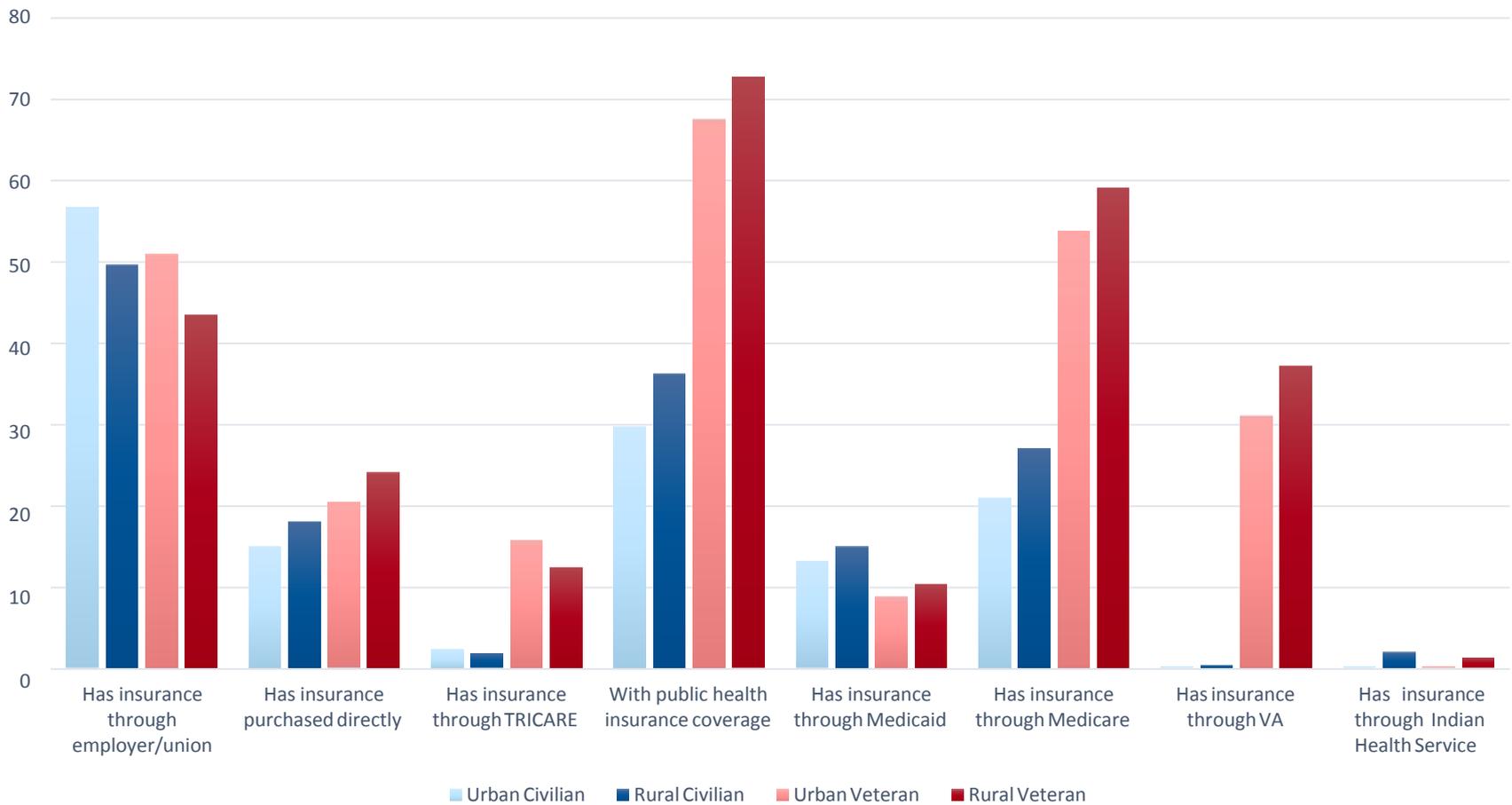
Rural veterans are disproportionately white



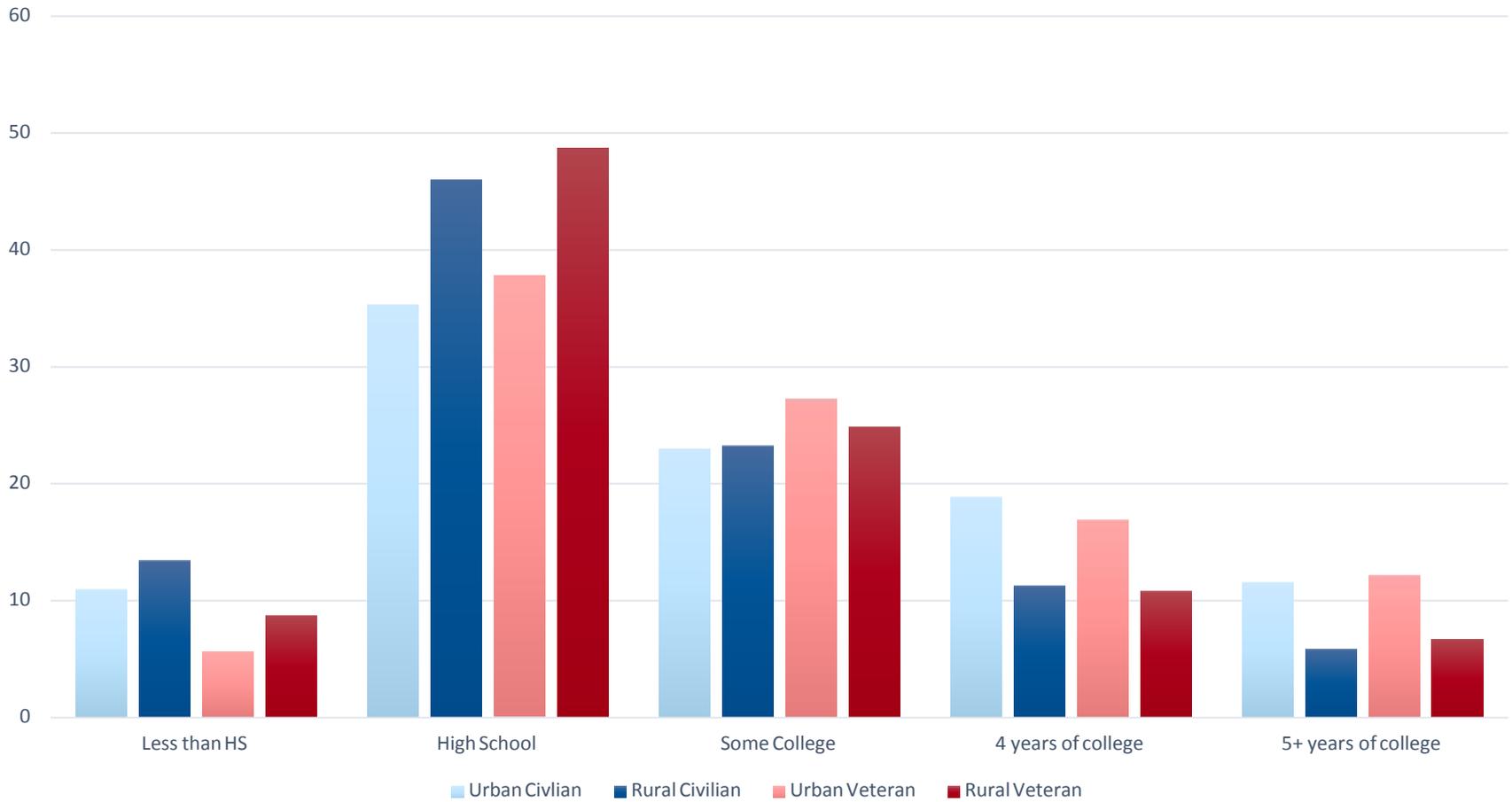
Veterans have low rates of being uninsured



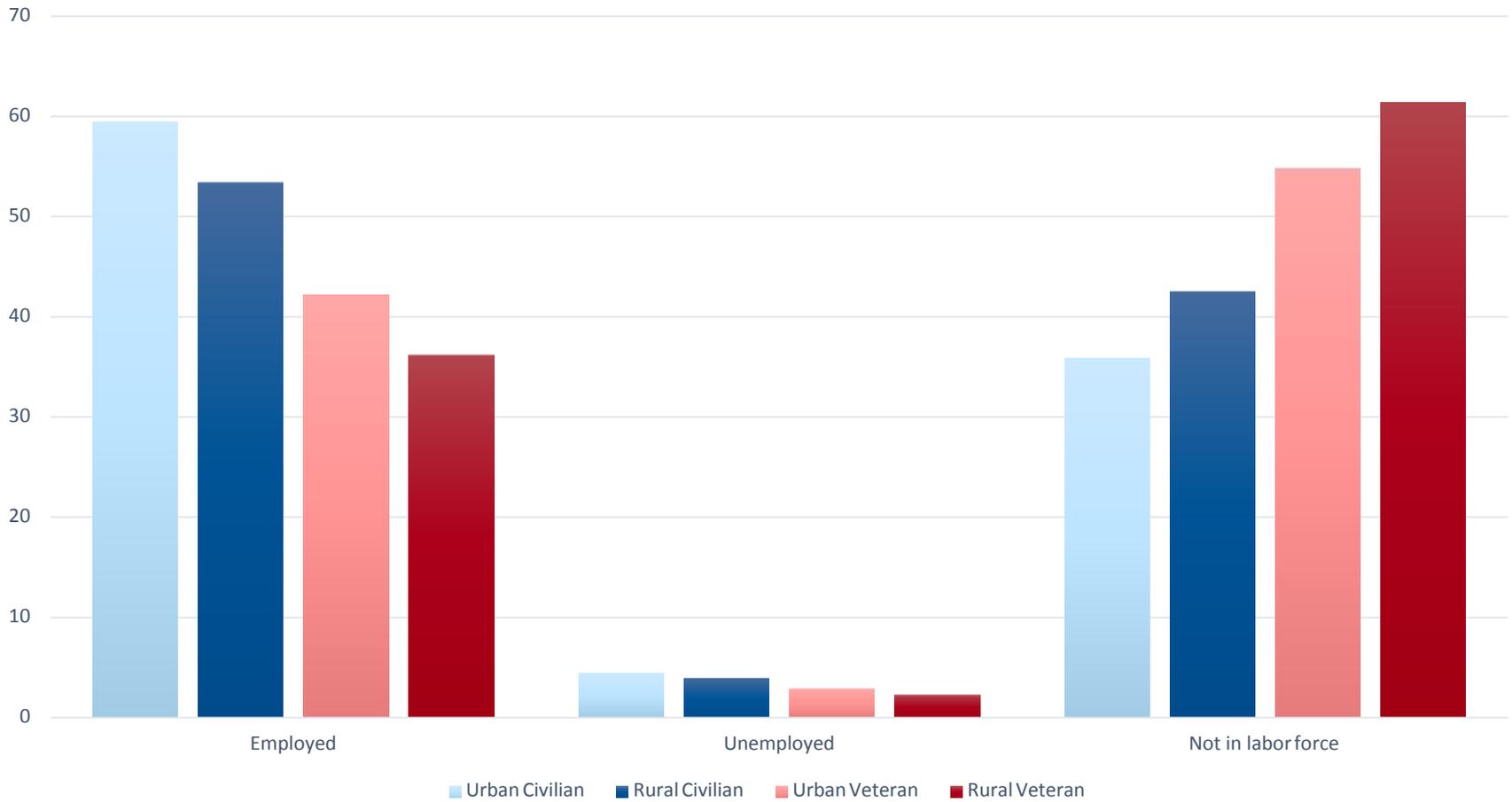
Veterans have unique sources of insurance coverage



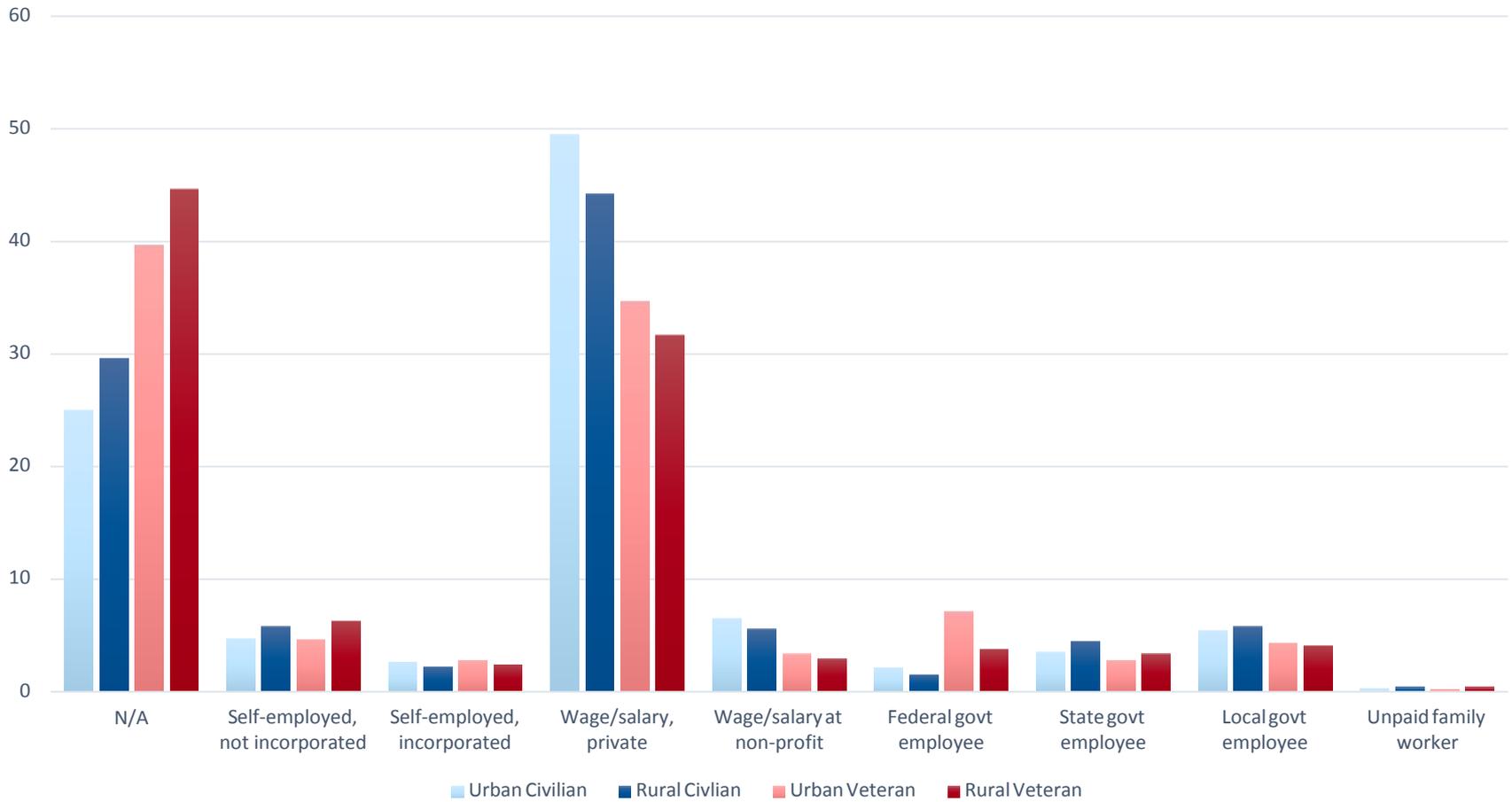
Veterans less likely to be dropouts, similar education otherwise



Many rural veterans are not in the labor force



Rural veterans least likely to be employed in private sector



Disability ratings among veterans

