World War II

The distribution of WWII veterans in California tends to follow patterns in median age. The county with the largest percentage of its veterans from WWII is Mono County with 15.2 percent of the veteran population having served in this war. The second highest county was Inyo County, with 12.4 percent. The distribution of WWII vets appears higher in counties that could be seen as retirement destinations for the older veterans of WWII. The state average for WWII veterans as a percentage of all veterans was 7.7 percent while the CSU Chico Service Region’s average was 6.8%. The county with the highest percentage in the CSU Chico Service Region was Modoc County at 9.5 percent, while Tehama, Butte and Glenn counties all ranged from 8.6 to 8.8 percent.

Korean War

Veterans of the Korean War are more prevalent in the northern half of the state overall. Like the WWII vets, the highest percentages are from counties on the eastern border of the state. Mono County was again the highest, having 21.9 percent, followed by Alpine County with 16.3 percent. Again, these counties seem to be retirement destination for older-aged veterans. The statewide average and the CSU Chico Service Region averaged out the same at 11.8 percent. Glenn (14.9), Plumas (14.7) and Colusa (14.2) were the top counties in the Service Region.

Vietnam War

The Vietnam War brought about a tremendous deployment of American troops over a sustained period of time, and was also the last military conflict to utilize a draft of the citizenry. This translates today to the veterans of the Vietnam War as the dominant veteran group for all counties. As with veterans of the Korean War, veterans of the the Vietnam War are more prevalent in northern counties. The CSU Chico Service Region averaged higher than the state slightly, at 40.3 percent of its veterans serving in the Vietnam War to the state’s 39.3. The top counties in the Service Region were Trinity (49.4), Plumas (46.4) and Modoc (45.5).

Gulf War

Data for Gulf War veterans begins to show a switch in geographic distribution, as the vets for this war are more clustered in the south. Even though the overall percentages were much higher in the south, some of the highest counties were still in the north, specifically in Sutter (24.9) and Yuba (23.8) counties. San Diego was the highest in the south at 24.4 percent. The State average of veterans of the Gulf War was higher than the CSU Chico Service Region slightly, having a 13.2 percent average to the Service Region’s 12.6 percent. The switch in
distribution is important to note as this war saw much higher percentages overall in the south, ranging from 12 to 23 percent while the previously highest counties of Mono, Alpine and Inyo were all much lower. Mono had 9.9 percent, Alpine had 2.6 percent and Inyo was 11.5.

**Iraq War / War on Terror**

Veterans of the United States’ Post-2001 military operations are the youngest and also the most diverse group of veterans – and the trend toward a higher percentage of these younger veterans in central and southern Californian counties continues. The highest average in the state was Kings County with 31.7 percent, followed by Yuba County with 28.6 and San Diego with 25.5. Overall, 10.9 percent of the state’s veterans served in these operations, while the number for the CSU, Chico Service Region’s was only 9.8 percent.
Percent Veterans from World War II by California County

Statewide Average:
7.7%

CSU Chico Service Region Average:
6.8%

*The CSU Chico Service Region includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba.

Source:
American Community Survey, 2015
Percent Veterans from The Vietnam War by California County

Statewide Average:
39.3

CSU Chico Service Region Average:
40.3

*The CSU Chico Service Region includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba.

Source:
American Community Survey, 2015
Percent Veterans from The Korean War by California County

Statewide Average:
11.8

CSU Chico Service Region Average:
11.8

*The CSU Chico Service Region includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba.

Source:
American Community Survey, 2015
Percent Veterans from The Gulf War by California County

Statewide Average:
13.2

CSU Chico Service Region Average:
12.6

*The CSU Chico Service Region includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba.

Source:
American Community Survey, 2015
Percent Veterans from The Iraq War by California County (2001 and On)

Statewide Average:

10.9

CSU Chico Service Region Average:

9.8

*The CSU Chico Service Region includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, and Yuba.

Source:
American Community Survey, 2015