

**MICU** | MICHIGAN  
INDEPENDENT  
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

# VETERANS IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

## MICHIGAN BRIEF 2019

[micolleges.org](http://micolleges.org)



# About this report

This briefing document outlines data on Michigan's veteran population including the uptake of higher education for veterans and their families at colleges and universities in Michigan. Analysis within the report focuses on Michigan's independent, non-profit higher education institutions.

## **Data Sources:**

Data referenced within the report comes from a variety of sources, including: the Integrated Postsecondary Educational Data System (IPEDS), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Community Survey, and the Michigan Department of Treasury.



# About MICU

Michigan Independent Colleges & Universities (MICU) represents Michigan's non-profit independent colleges and universities. As the voice of these institutions in Michigan, we increase awareness of the impact MICU members have on higher education and the economy. With nearly 100,000 students at our schools, Michigan's independent, non-profit colleges and universities educate approximately 20 percent of all college students in the state.

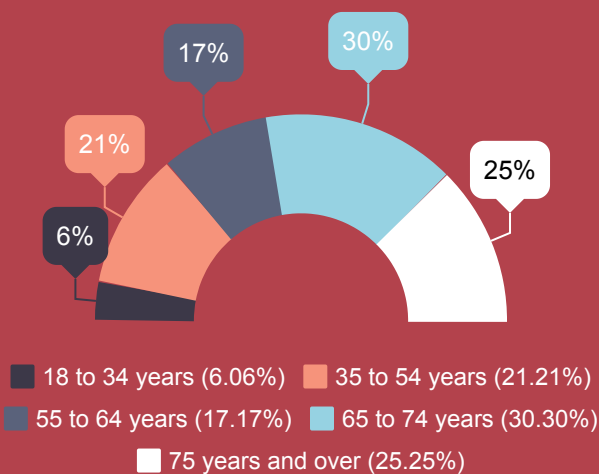
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# Michigan's Veteran Population

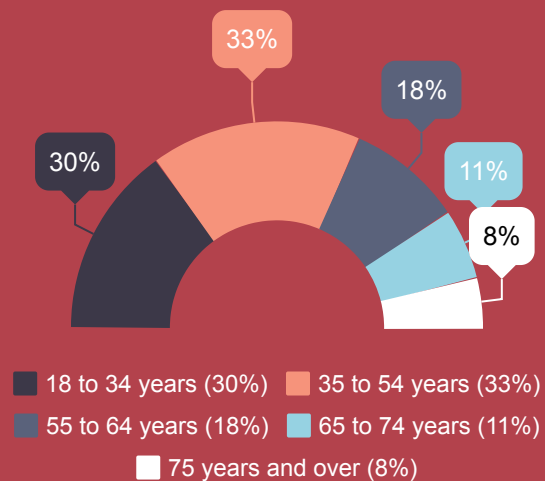


Approximately 550,000 Michigan residents 18 and over are veterans (seven percent of the Michigan population 18 and over). Of these individuals, approximately six percent are 18–34 years old and 21 percent are 35–54 years old. The majority of veterans in Michigan (73 percent) are aged 55 and older. This is a dramatic contrast to the non-veteran population in the state, where 63 percent are aged 18–54.

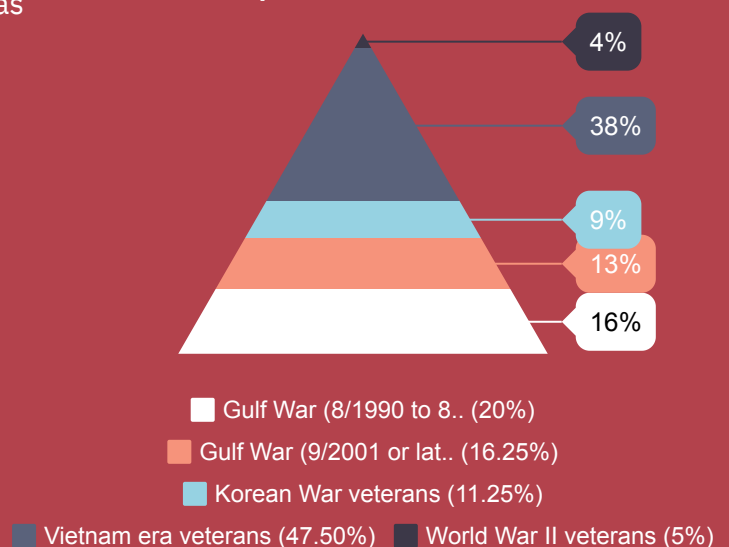
### Veteran Age Demographics, MI 2017



### Non-Veteran Age Demographics, MI 2017



### Period of Service, MI Veteran Population 2017



As the veteran population in Michigan has aged, so has the distribution of those in each period of service category. Michigan's veterans are now more likely to have served in the Vietnam War or one of the Gulf Wars (total of 66 percent of veterans), whereas in 2005, a large proportion of veterans served in the Korean War. Interestingly, the share of the veteran population in Michigan that served in World War II increased from two to four percent from 2005 to 2017, most likely due to migration and a smaller overall veteran population in the state.

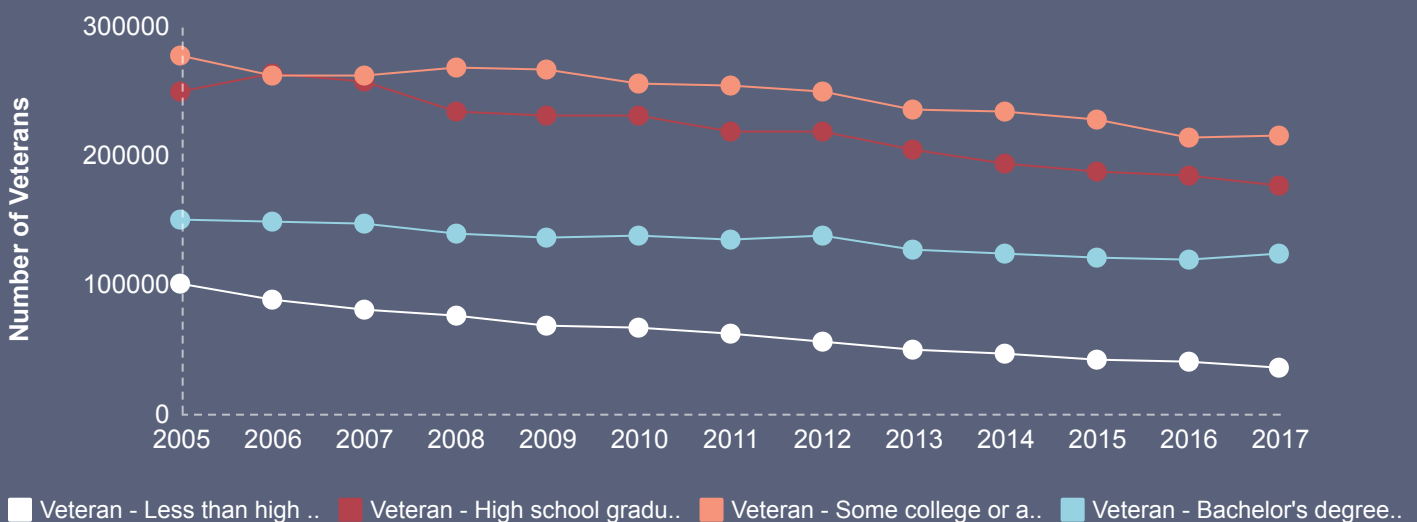
# Educational Attainment for Veterans in MI



Educational attainment levels are lower for veterans in Michigan compared to the non-veteran population. Between 2005 and 2017, the non-veteran population in Michigan aged 25 and older with a bachelor’s degree increased from 25 percent to 30 percent. For veterans in Michigan, the population with a bachelor’s degree or higher increased at a slower rate, from 19 percent to 22 percent. While both increased over the time frame, the educational attainment of veterans continues to lag the non-veteran population and the gap is widening.

The population of Michigan veterans with some college experience or an associate’s degree is also growing, with 39 percent of veterans 25 and older falling into this category. As the veteran population has aged, growth in educational attainment has primarily been in the “some college, associate’s degree” and the “bachelor’s and higher” categories. The share of veterans with a “high school diploma/equivalent” has not shifted and the population in the “less than high school” category dropped from 13 percent to just six percent between 2005 and 2017.

## Educational Attainment, MI Veterans Age 25+



While the shares of veterans in the “some college, associate’s degree” and the “bachelor’s and higher” categories has increased since 2005, the number of individuals in all attainment categories has dropped. The decline in the veteran population can be attributed to three factors: (i) an aging population, (ii) veterans migrating out of the state of Michigan, and/or (iii) service members choosing to live in other states once they are discharged from the military.

# Veteran Access to Higher Education in Michigan

Michigan's postsecondary institutions are performing well in service to veterans in many categories relative to national averages. Nearly 80 percent of institutions in the state have a dedicated point of contact on campus for veterans, compared to just 65 percent of postsecondary institutions nationally. Forty-five percent of Michigan's institutions have a recognized veteran student group on campus compared to just 34 percent nationally.

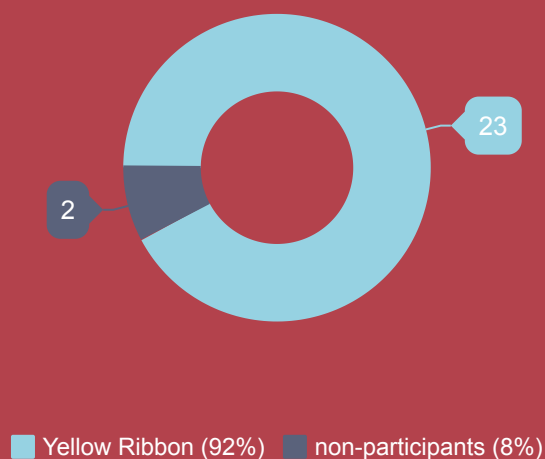
## The Yellow Ribbon Program

Institutions of higher learning (degree granting institutions) may elect to participate in the Yellow Ribbon program to make additional funds available for a veteran's education program without an additional charge to his/her GI Bill entitlement. These institutions voluntarily enter into a Yellow Ribbon Agreement with the Veteran's Administration and choose the amount of tuition and fees that will be contributed. The VA matches that amount and issues payments directly to the institution.

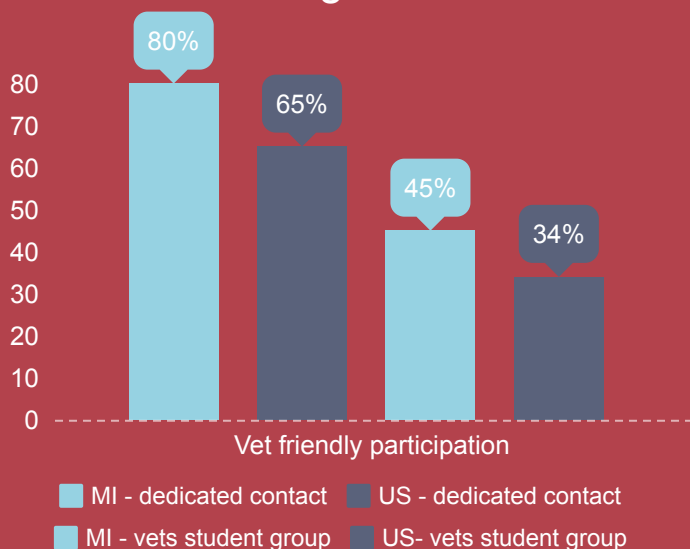
Degree-granting institutions of higher learning participating in the Post-9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program agree to make additional funds available for your education program without an additional charge to your GI Bill entitlement. These institutions voluntarily enter into a Yellow Ribbon Agreement with VA and choose the amount of tuition and fees that will be contributed. VA matches that amount and issues payments directly to the institution.

In Michigan, 23 out of 25 independent, non-profit colleges and universities participate the Yellow Ribbon Program. See [https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/yellow\\_ribbon/yrp\\_list\\_2019.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/yellow_ribbon/yrp_list_2019.asp) for a complete list of Yellow Ribbon participating institutions and institution-specific benefits.

### MI Independent Institutions: Yellow Ribbon Program



### Veteran's Benefits: MI vs. National Average 2017



# Veteran Access to Higher Education in Michigan



## State of Michigan Programs

The State of Michigan also has programs and designations designed to support service members and veterans in postsecondary institutions. One such program is the Michigan Veteran-Friendly School program. The Michigan Veteran-Friendly School program recognizes academic institutions of higher learning committed to supporting the needs of student veterans and dependents.

The program awards Gold-, Silver- and Bronze-level status to institutions that offer veteran-centric services and programs. Any institution of higher learning and/or training facility in Michigan eligible to receive veteran education benefits can to apply for the program regardless of size, location and program delivery.

For more information see: <https://www.michiganveterans.com/p/Michigan-s-Veteran-Friendly-Schools>

## Veteran Friendly Schools - Independent Colleges & Universities

### Gold

- Davenport University
- Northwood University
- Olivet College
- University of Detroit Mercy
- Walsh College

### Silver

- Alma College
- Andrews University
- Aquinas College
- Kettering University
- Siena Heights University
- Spring Arbor University

### Bronze

- Cleary University
- Rochester University

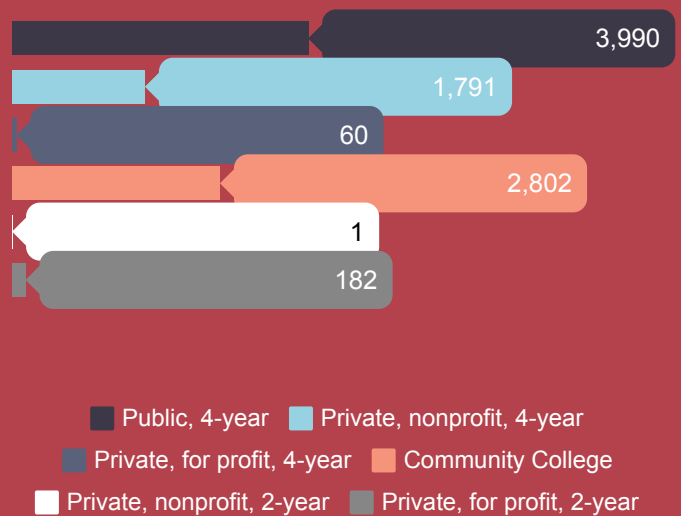
# Use of Higher Education Benefits in Michigan

Michigan veterans and their families are not using federal G.I. Bill benefits at the same rates as other states. The percentage of the undergraduate student population using post-911 G.I. Bill benefits in nearly every postsecondary sector is lower in Michigan than in the rest of the nation. Only the for-profit two-year postsecondary sector in Michigan has a larger share of its undergraduate population using these benefits compared to the national average.

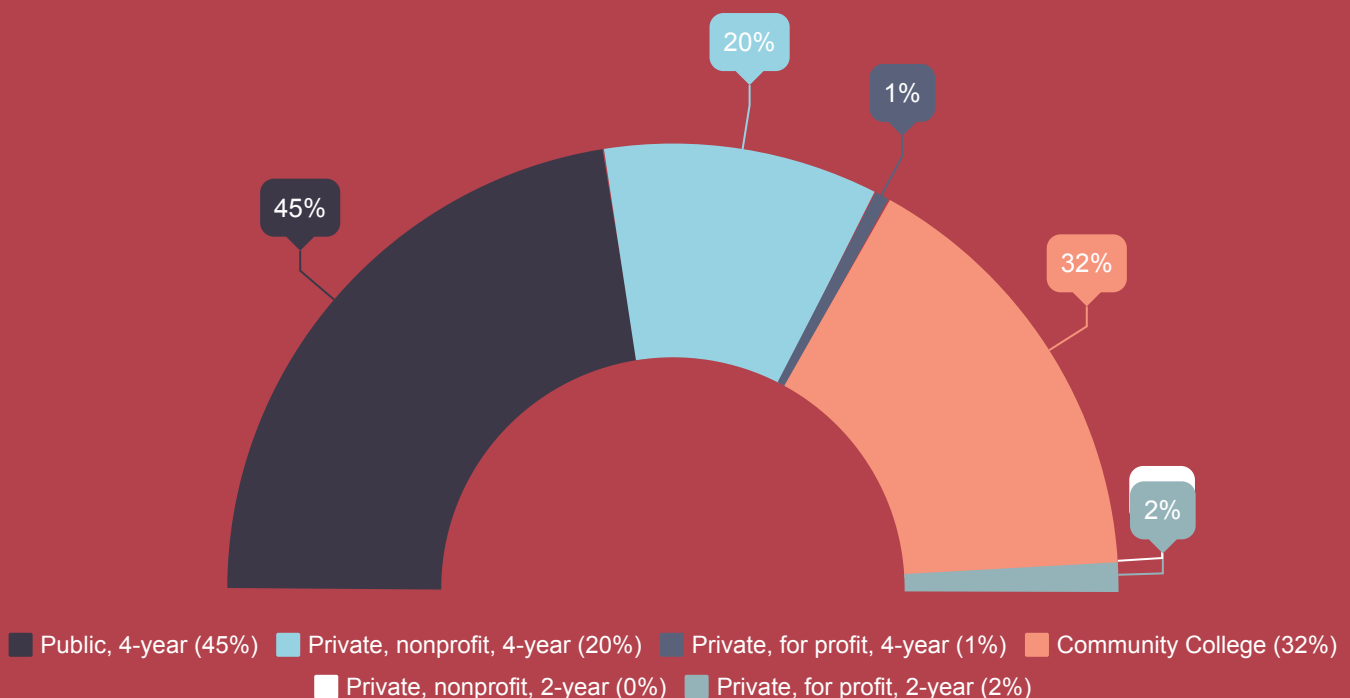
Between 2014 and 2017, the number of undergraduates using post-911 G.I. Bill benefits in Michigan increased 13 percent, from 7,837 to 8,826 individuals. For those using benefits, the share of undergraduates enrolling at independent, non-profit four-year institutions increased from 1.2 percent in 2014 to 2.2 percent in 2017.

Comparatively, the share of undergraduates enrolling at public universities and community colleges in Michigan increased modestly from 1.2 to 1.3 percent and 1.1 to 1.3 percent, respectively.

## MI Undergraduate Enrollment, Post-911 G.I. Bill 2017



## Undergraduate Enrollment % by Sector, Post-911 G.I. Bill, 2017



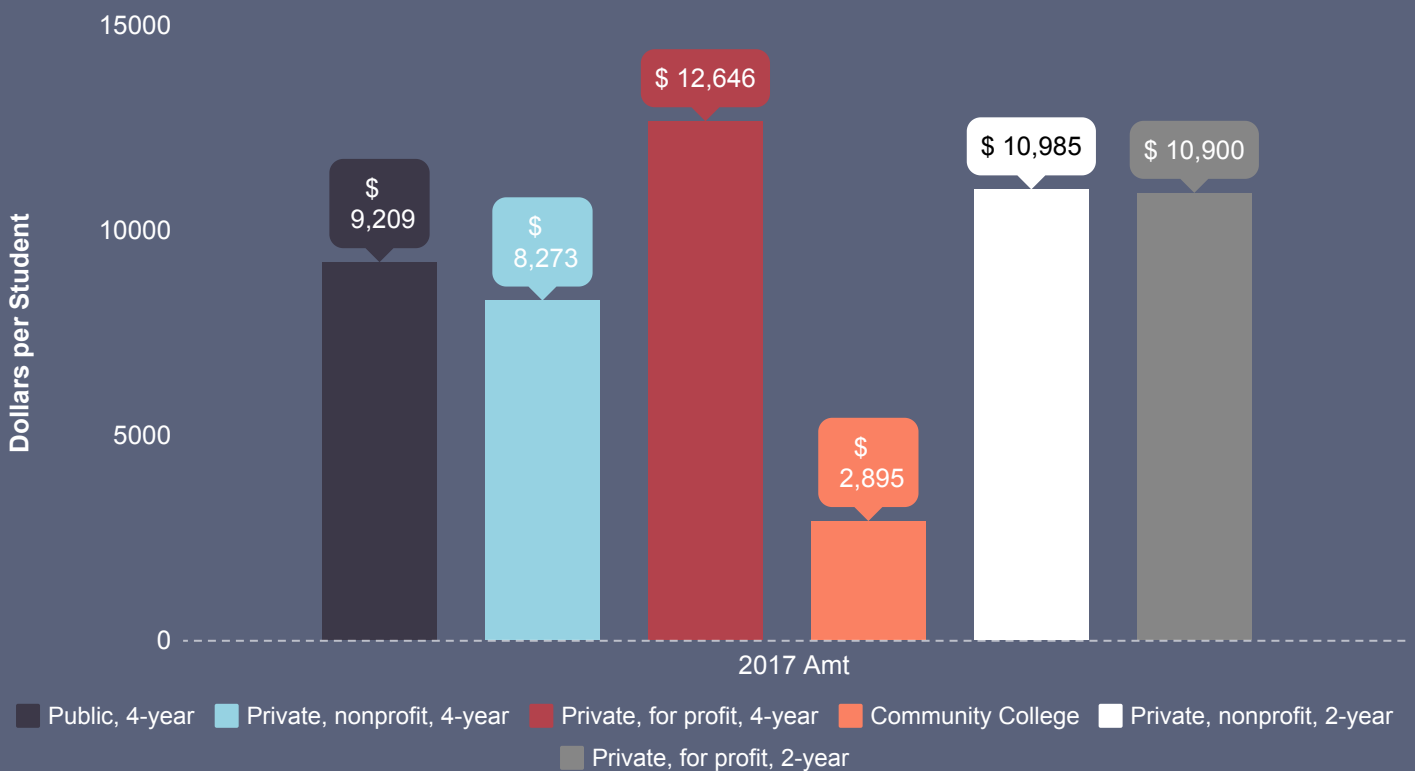
# Use of Higher Education Benefits in Michigan



The distribution of post-911 G.I. Bill benefits is not equal among sectors for undergraduate students. Students at community colleges in Michigan receive the lowest amount, on average, at \$2,895 per student per year. The largest amount of dollars per student are for those enrolled at for-profit, four-year institutions in Michigan, at \$12,646 per student per year.

Public university students using post-911 G.I. Bill benefits receive an average of \$9,209 per year, and students in independent, non-profit four-year institutions receive an average of \$8,273 per year. Students at private, for-profit institutions in Michigan receive an average of \$10,900 per year. While the majority of students using post-911 G.I. Bill benefits in Michigan enroll at public universities, community colleges and independent, non-profit four-year colleges and universities, the largest per-student benefits go to those enrolled in the for-profit sector.

## Average Post-911 G.I. Bill Benefits per Student, 2017





# Findings

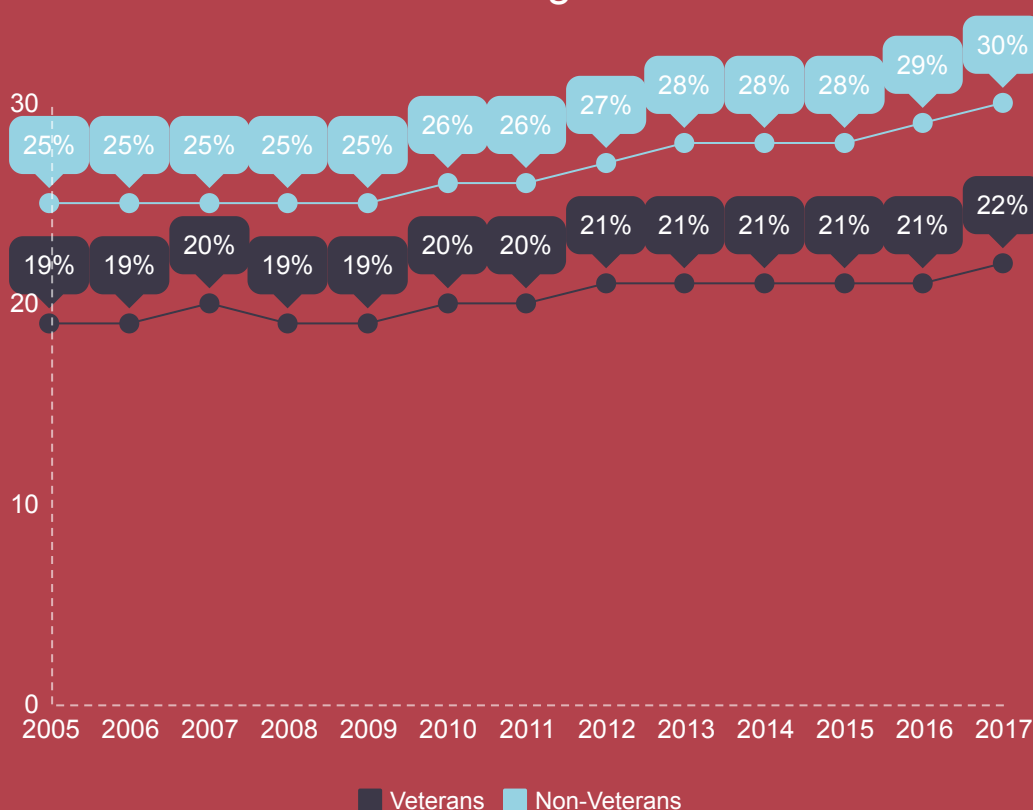
## Finding 1



Higher education attainment in Michigan is lower among veterans—and growing more slowly—compared to the state average attainment rate for non-veterans.

In Michigan, approximately 22 percent of veterans have a bachelor's degree or higher, while 30 percent of the non-veteran population holds a bachelor's degree or higher. Since 2005, the attainment rate for non-veterans grew from 25 to 30 percent while the rate for veterans increased from 19 to 22 percent. While educational attainment for veterans is growing, it grew at almost half the rate of non-veterans.

### Educational Attainment in MI, Veterans and Non-Veterans Aged 25+



NON-VETERANS

5% pts.

growth 2005-2017

VETERANS

3% pts.

growth 2005-2017

# Findings

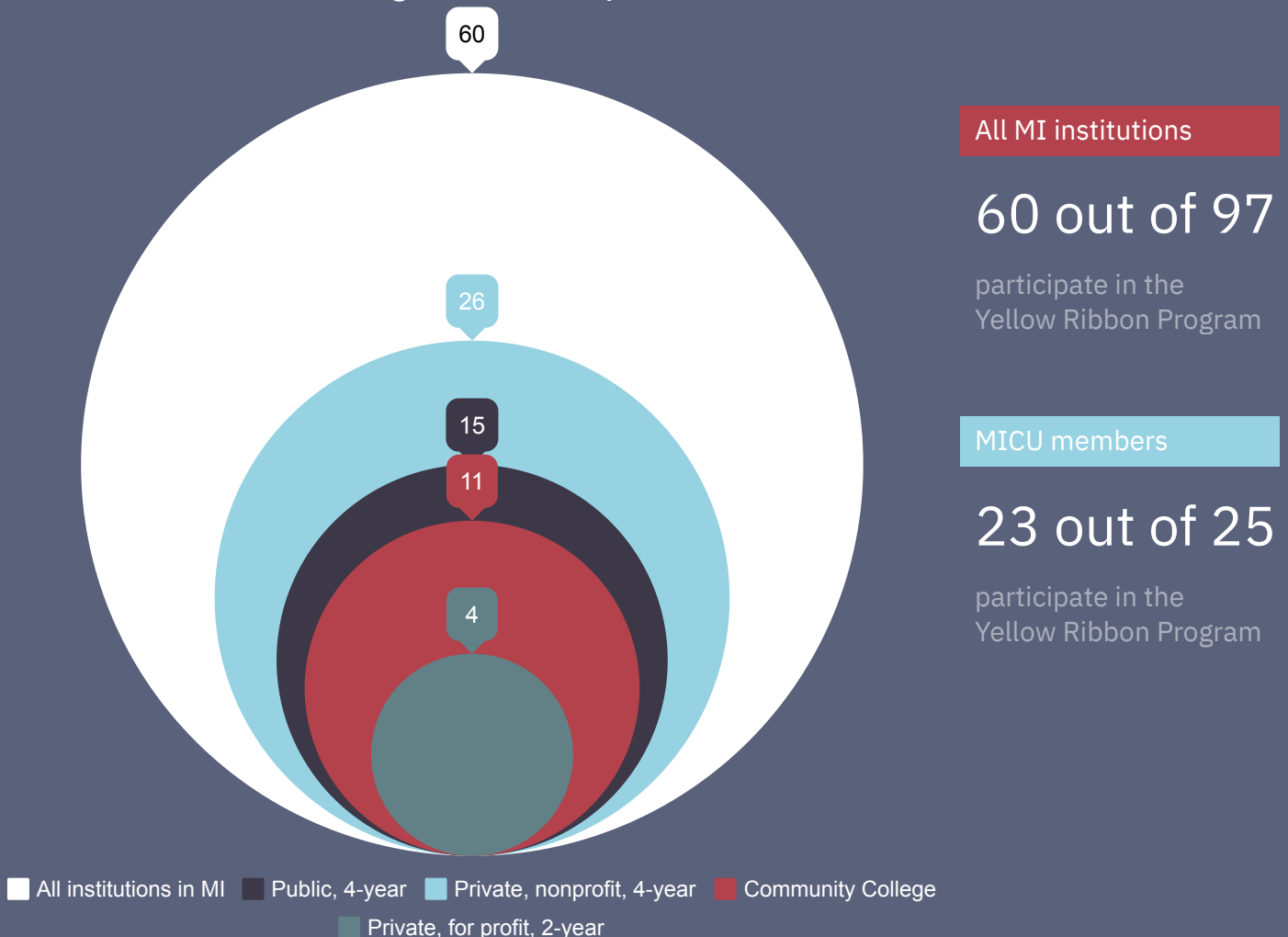
## Finding 2



Veterans enrolled in programs at Michigan's college and universities have access to specialized services, student groups, and financial aid from federal, state, and institutional sources. These students also have access to more institutional resources than veteran students at other institutions in Michigan.

Michigan's four-year colleges and universities have strong programming and access for veterans enrolling in their programs. Michigan's community colleges have low participation in national programs like the Yellow Ribbon program.

### Yellow Ribbon Program Participation, MI 2017



# Findings

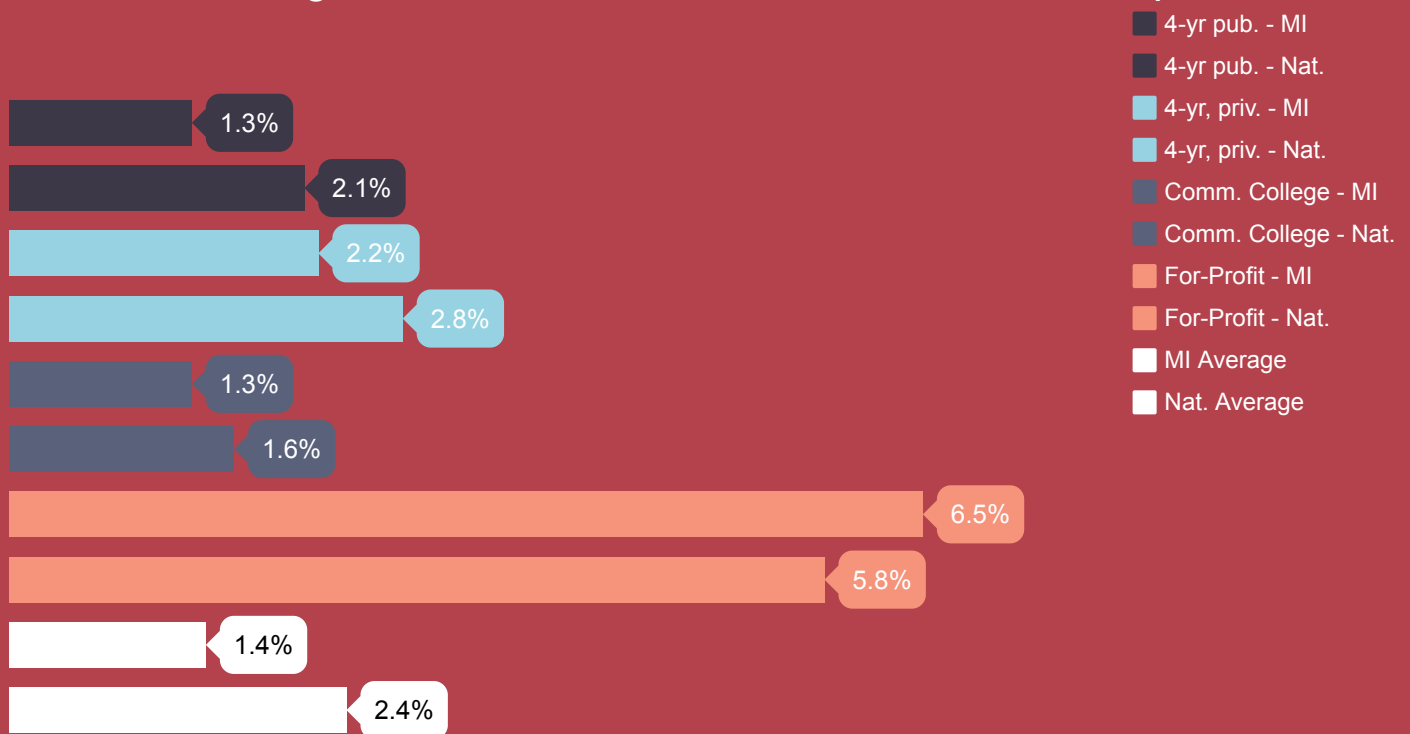
## Finding 3



**Undergraduate enrollment of veterans and their family members using post-911 G.I. Bill benefits is growing at Michigan's higher education institutions but still lags the national average.**

While the number of students using post-911 G.I. Bill benefits at Michigan's postsecondary institutions is growing, the share of students using these benefits lags the national average in all sectors except among for-profit two-year colleges. Overall, 1.4 percent of Michigan's undergraduates are using these benefits compared to 2.4 percent nationally.

### Share of Undergraduate Enrollment, Post-911 G.I. Bill Recipients 2017



Just over two percent of undergraduates at Michigan's independent, non-profit colleges and universities are using post-911 G.I. Bill benefits compared to 1.3 percent at public universities and 1.3 percent at community colleges.

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