

## GDX File Analysis 2016 vs. 2015 for Indiana at the state level

The General Description of **Geographic Distribution of the US Department of Veterans Affairs Expenditures(GDX)** is prepared each fiscal year by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Policy, Planning and Preparedness. The GDX Report presents the estimated dollar expenditures for major VA Programs by county and Congressional Districts within each state. Expenditure data is grouped by the following categories: Compensation and Pension (C&P); Education and Vocational Rehabilitation; Insurance and Indemnities; Construction (CNSTR); General Operating Expenses (GOE); and Medical Care. The GDX Report also includes veteran population estimates by county and Congressional District within each state and the number of unique patients who used VA health care services ([http://www.va.gov/VETDATA/docs/GDX/GDX\\_Readme.pdf](http://www.va.gov/VETDATA/docs/GDX/GDX_Readme.pdf)).

Analysis of the 2016 GDX file shows Indiana continues to **rank 16<sup>th</sup> in veteran population** with **418,579 veterans**. This is **down by a net of 50,631 from 2015**. The reason for such a significant drop is because the office of Predictive Analytics and Actuary, Department of Veterans Affairs updated their Veteran Population Projection Model 2016 (VetPop2016). To read more about this model go to [https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran\\_Population.asp](https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp). Further analysis is not possible as there is not comparable data using this model.

Indiana ranked 47<sup>th</sup> in 2015 in benefits paid as a percent of the total veteran population; under the new model **Indiana improved to 42<sup>nd</sup> for 2016** ahead of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey, Connecticut, Michigan, Iowa, Ohio, and New Hampshire.

Indiana had **131,227 veterans actually receive VA benefits** in 2016 for a calculated average amount of **\$21,432 /YR** per veteran. If one looks at performance, based on average dollars received by veterans receiving benefits, then Indiana veterans benefit **“income” improved by \$109.40 annually**. Indiana also improved in ranking when we compare the percentage of veterans receiving benefits. Indiana is now **24<sup>th</sup> up from 27<sup>th</sup> last year**.

**The total expenditures paid to veterans who are Indiana residence is \$2,812,510,000** up from **\$2,787,006,000**; this is an **increase of \$31,504,000 (\$31.5 MILLION) in one year!** This is **impressive when considering the 50,631 loss in veteran population**. Using General Assembly value 10 cents of every dollar spent goes to Indiana taxes and the velocity of money being 6, **that equates to \$1.688 BILLION** contributed to the Indiana tax base in FY16.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs established a **target of 36%** of the veteran population should receive VA benefits and services. **31.35%** of Hoosier Veterans received these benefits in FY16 which is a very positive uptick from the 2015 percentage of 27.86%. County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) experience in assisting with processing claims is the most likely reason. Only 6 states met the 36% goal; South Dakota, West Virginia, Wyoming, Montana, Arkansas, and North Dakota. Five others are within 1% of the goal.

**19,462 Hoosier Veterans, receiving benefits, are needed to get to the 36% mark!** Another way to look at this is that Indiana lost an average of \$21,432 per veteran NOT PART OF THE CURRENT 36% --  
**This is \$417,109,584 LOST last year!**

AND Indiana Government lost ALL the taxes that would have been garnered had the veterans had this money to spend! Using the established calculation from above

**Indiana missed out on \$250,265,750 in taxes this period.**

**IT IS SOUND BUSINESS TO “INVEST” IN INDIANA VETERANS!**