

GDX File Analysis 2017 vs. 2016 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 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; 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).

Analysis of the 2017 GDX file shows Indiana continues to **rank 16th in veteran population** with **409,836 veterans**. This is **down by a net of 8,743 from 2016**. The reason for such a significant drop is departure of veterans from Indiana. The Military Entry Processing Station (MEPS) reports Indiana enlisted 5,400 new service members. An additional, 300+ were added via military academies and ROTC programs. When considering the losses and the accessions (8,743+ 5,400 + 300 = 14,443) this far exceeds the deaths of Hoosier veterans (usually about 11,000 per yr.). The numbers also do not account for Reservists and Guardsmen who served on active duty for over 180 day continuously to become veterans and added to the total. **Therefore, thousands of Hoosiers are leaving Indiana!**

Indiana ranked 43th in 2017 in benefits paid as a percent of the total veteran population- is a decline of one space. Ohio, Iowa, Connecticut, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey are below Indiana.

Indiana had **131,193 veterans actually receive VA benefits** in 2017 **down** from 131,227 in 2016. This is the 1st year the veterans receiving benefits has declined since we have done this calculation (9 years). The calculated average was **\$22,100 /YR per veteran** (IN ranks 44th). Based on this “average dollars received” by veterans receiving benefits, then Indiana veterans benefit **improved by \$248 annually**.

The total expenditures paid to veterans who are Indiana residence is \$2,898,952,000 up from \$2,812,510,000; this is a increase of **\$86.442,000 (\$86.4 MILLION) in one year!** Using General Assembly value 12 cents of every dollar spent goes to Indiana taxes and the velocity of money of 6;

The US Department of Veterans Affairs established a **target of 36%** of the veteran population should receive VA benefits and services. **32.01%** of Hoosier Veterans received these benefits in FY17 which is a positive uptick from the 2016 percentage of 31.35%. County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) experience in assisting with processing claims is the most likely reason.

16,348 Hoosier Veterans are needed to get to the 36% mark! Another way to look at this is that Indiana lost an average of \$22.100 per veteran NOT PART OF THE CURRENT 36%-- **\$361,234,544**
About \$361 MILLION 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 **\$260,088,871**

Indiana missed out on \$261 MILLION in taxes this period.

**INDIANA NEEDS TO TAKE STRONG ACTION TO KEEP AND GROW
OUR VETERAN POPULATION TO REVERSE THIS DOWNWARD
TREND!**