

GDX File Analysis 2018 vs. 2017 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 2018 GDX file shows Indiana continues to **rank 16th in veteran population** with **401,070 veterans**. This is **down by a net of 8,766 from 2017**. 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 losses and accessions ($8,766 + 5,400 + 300 = 14,466$), **non-death losses** exceed the deaths of Hoosier veterans (usually about 11,000 per yr.) **by 3,443**. 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 45th in 2018 in benefits paid as a percent of the total veteran population; this is a decline of one space. Michigan, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey are below Indiana.

Indiana had **130,750 veterans actually receive VA benefits** in 2018 **down** from 131,193 in 2017. This is the 2nd year veterans receiving benefits declined (443 down). The calculated average was **\$21,816 /YR per veteran** based on this “average dollars received” by veterans receiving benefits; Indiana veterans’ benefits **declined by \$283.44 annually**.

\$2,852,515,000 (almost \$2.86 BILLION) was paid directly to the veteran! This expenditure is down from \$2,898,952,000; this is a decrease of \$46,437,000 (\$46.4 MILLION) in one year!

The US Department of Veterans Affairs established a **target of 36%** of the veteran population should receive VA benefits and services. **32.06%** of Hoosier Veterans received these benefits in FY18 which is a positive uptick from the 2017 percentage of 32.01%. County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) experience in assisting with processing claims is the most likely reason.

13,635 Hoosier Veterans are needed to get to the 36% mark! Another way to look at this is that Indiana lost an average of \$21,816.00 per veteran NOT PART OF THE CURRENT 36% - **\$297,465,371.33**
About \$297.5 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 a tax rate for IN of \$.125 and a velocity of money of 6;

Indiana missed out on \$223 MILLION in taxes this period.

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