**GDX File Analysis 2020 vs. 2019 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 & Pension (C&P); Education & Vocational Rehabilitation; Insurance & Indemnities; and Medical Care. The GDX Report also includes veteran population estimates 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 2019 GDX file shows Indiana continues to **rank 16th in veteran population** with **411,141**  **veterans**. This is **up by a net of 18,753 from 2019.** The reason for such a significant increase is because of recalibration of the last 10 years of estimates done by the VA as a result of the 2020 census. Every state in the nation increased in absolute veteran population except Tennessee. It is unknown why this estimate differed.

Reviewing the losses over the last 8 years shows **Indiana lost 16.2% of its veteran population between FY13 and FY20.** Comparing Indiana to 8 of our neighboring states reveals that Indiana ranks behind all others except Illinois. Tennessee (12.5%), Wisconsin (14%), Michigan (14.1%), Iowa (14.7%), Kentucky (14.9%), Missouri (15.5%), Ohio (15.5%) were better; Illinois (18.6%) was worse.

Indiana ranked 47th in 2020 in benefits paid as a percent of the total veteran population. Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey are below Indiana.

Indiana had **126,715 veterans actually receive VA benefits** in 2020 ***down*** from 130,347 in 2019. This is the 4rd year veterans receiving benefits declined. This decline in absolute number of veterans receiving benefits is most concerning and cannot be rationalized away by censes data as the number of veterans receiving benefits in any year is directly related to registered VA data and not based upon any estimates. The calculated average was **$8,559.00 /YR per veteran** based on this “average dollars received” by veterans receiving benefits; Indiana veterans’ benefits decreased by **$16,160.00**. We have no explanation except veterans stayed home because of COVID-19.

**$3,518,950,000 (over $3.5 BILLION) was paid directly to the veteran!** This expenditure is up from $3,222,020,000; this is an increase of $296,930,000 **($397 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. Twelve states have met or exceeded this 36% target. Indiana Ranks 33rd with a **30.82%** of Hoosier Veterans received these benefits in FY20. The national average for all states is 31.14%. We did not do year to year analysis as there is no value in this information with the census adjustment. County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) experience in assisting with processing claims continues to be the significant, if not only, reason for the millions added in direct payments.

**21,296 Hoosier Veterans are needed to get to the 36% mark!** Another way to look at this is that Indiana lost an average of $8,559.00 per veteran NOT PART OF THE CURRENT 36%-**$182,272,464.00.**

**About $182.27 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 2 due to the pandemic;

**Indiana missed out on $45,568,116.00 MILLION in taxes this period**.

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