

The Educational Attainment of Veterans: 2007

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Background

- In 1944, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the original GI Bill into law. The legislation was meant to ensure that returning combat veterans would be able to afford an education.
- The success of the 1944 GI Bill prompted the government to offer similar programs to later generations of veterans. These programs include the Veteran's Adjustment Act of 1952, the Veteran's Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966, the Veteran's Educational Assistance Program, and the Montgomery GI Bill.
- A **new GI Bill** was signed into law in June 2008. This new benefit will cover the full cost of education at any public school in the country and many private schools. The benefits under the new GI Bill will go into effect on August 1, 2009.
- With the passage of a new GI Bill, an analysis of the current school enrollment and educational attainment of veterans is not only timely, but also relevant as a baseline for future studies of the impact of such legislation. This short visual essay—bar charts, maps, and text—will include comparisons of veterans and nonveterans as well as comparisons of male and female veterans.

About the Data

Data Source : 2007 American Community Survey (ACS)

The universe for this analysis is the **civilian population 18 years and older**.

Active-duty military members are excluded.

A **veteran** is defined as a man or woman who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

A **nonveteran** has never served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The ACS collects detailed person-level data from a national sample of 3 million households each year.

Data for the ACS are collected continuously throughout the year.

The 2007 sample includes the household population as well as the population living in group quarters.

Descriptive statistics only are used in this analysis.

All comparative figures and statements have undergone statistical testing at the 90-percent confidence level.

The following graphs show the **percent distributions** of veterans and nonveterans, unless otherwise indicated.

Table of Contents for Graphics

Total Population Graphics

Comparisons between veterans and nonveterans:

- Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Older
- Educational Attainment by Age of the Population 18 Years and Older
- College Enrollment of the Population 18 Years and Older
- School Type and Level of the Enrolled Population 18 Years and Older
- Type of School of the Enrolled Population 18 to 24 Years Old

Veterans only graphics

All Veterans:

- Educational Attainment of Veterans 25 Years and Older by State
- Educational Attainment by Period of Military Service of Veterans 18 Years and Older

Comparisons between male and female veterans:

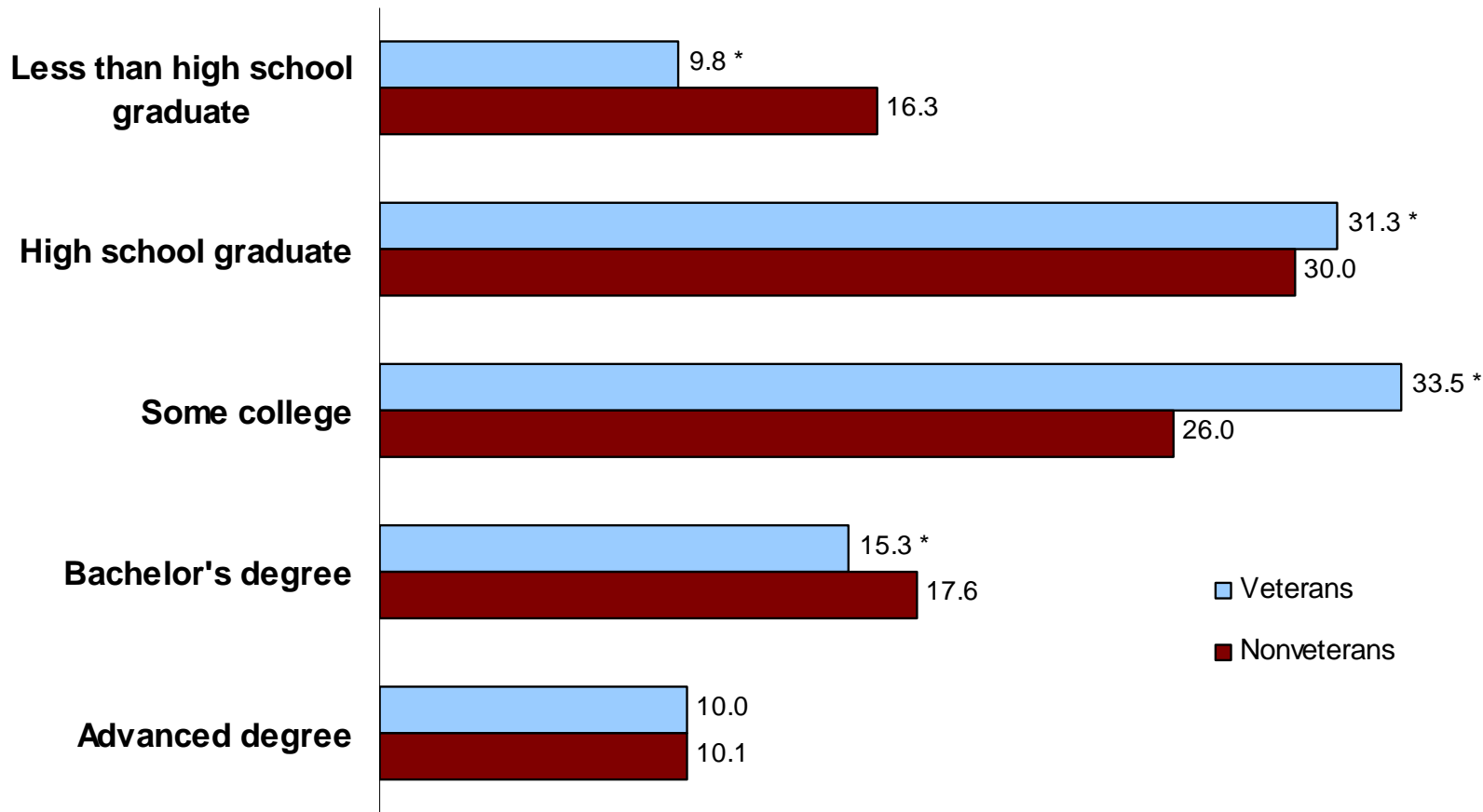
- Educational Attainment of Veterans 25 Years and Older
- College Enrollment of Veterans 18 Years and Older
- School Type and Level of Enrolled Veterans 18 Years and Older
- Type of School of Enrolled Veterans 18 to 24 Years Old

Total population

The following slides show educational characteristics of the total civilian population by veteran status.

Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Older

One-third of veterans 25 years and older had completed some college or received an associate's degree as their highest level of educational attainment. However, more nonveterans than veterans had completed a Bachelor's degree.



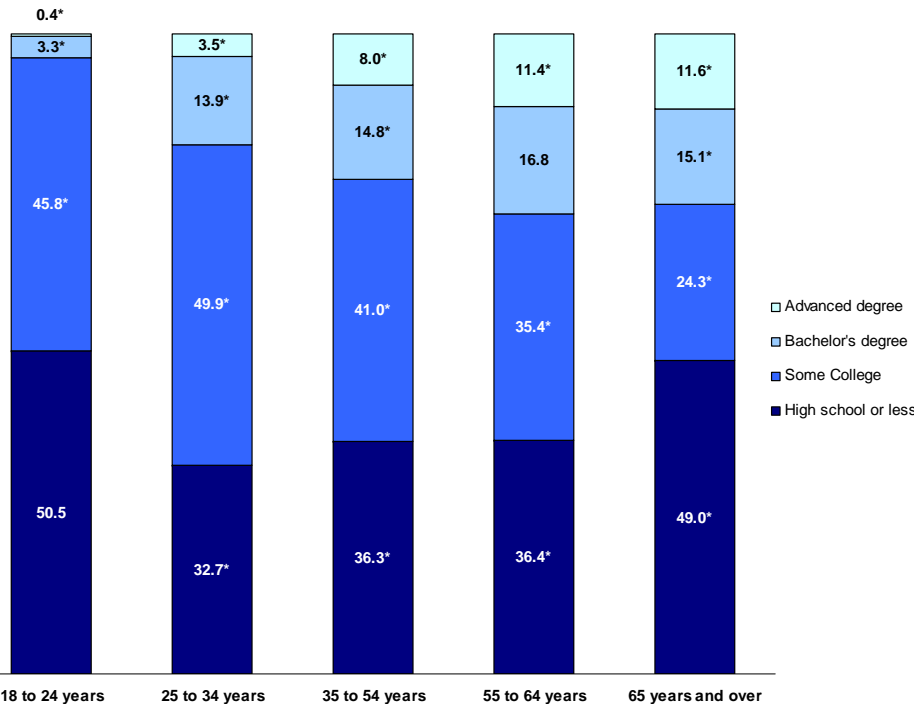
An asterisk (*) in a graph denotes a statistically significant difference between groups.

Educational Attainment by Age of the Population 18 Years and Older

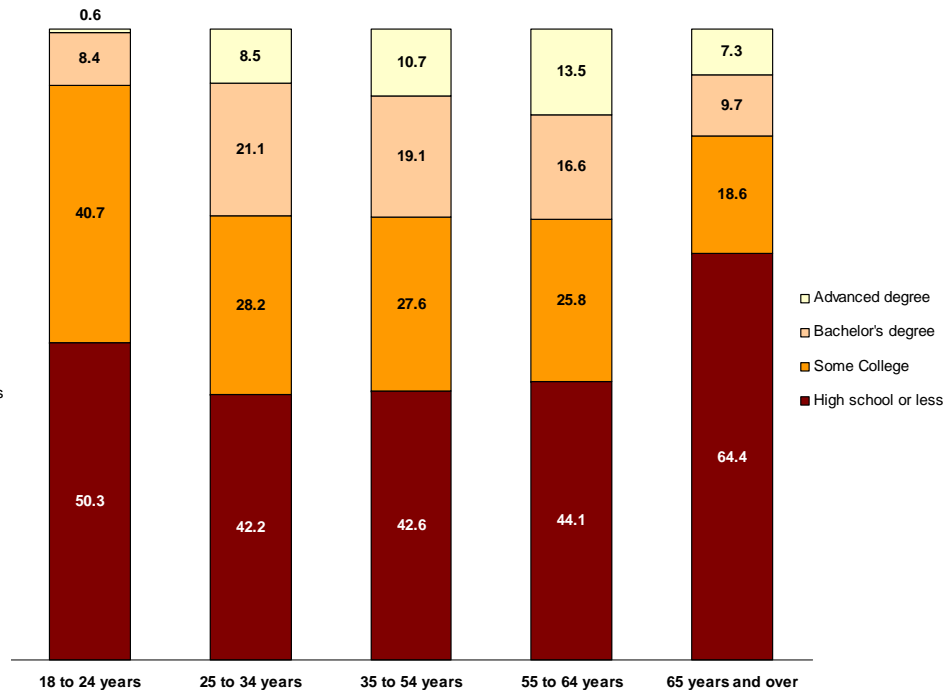
Twenty-seven percent of veterans 65 years and older had completed at least a Bachelor's degree, compared with 17 percent of nonveterans the same age.

With the exception of individuals 65 years and older, veterans of all ages lagged behind nonveterans for completion of an advanced degree.

Veterans



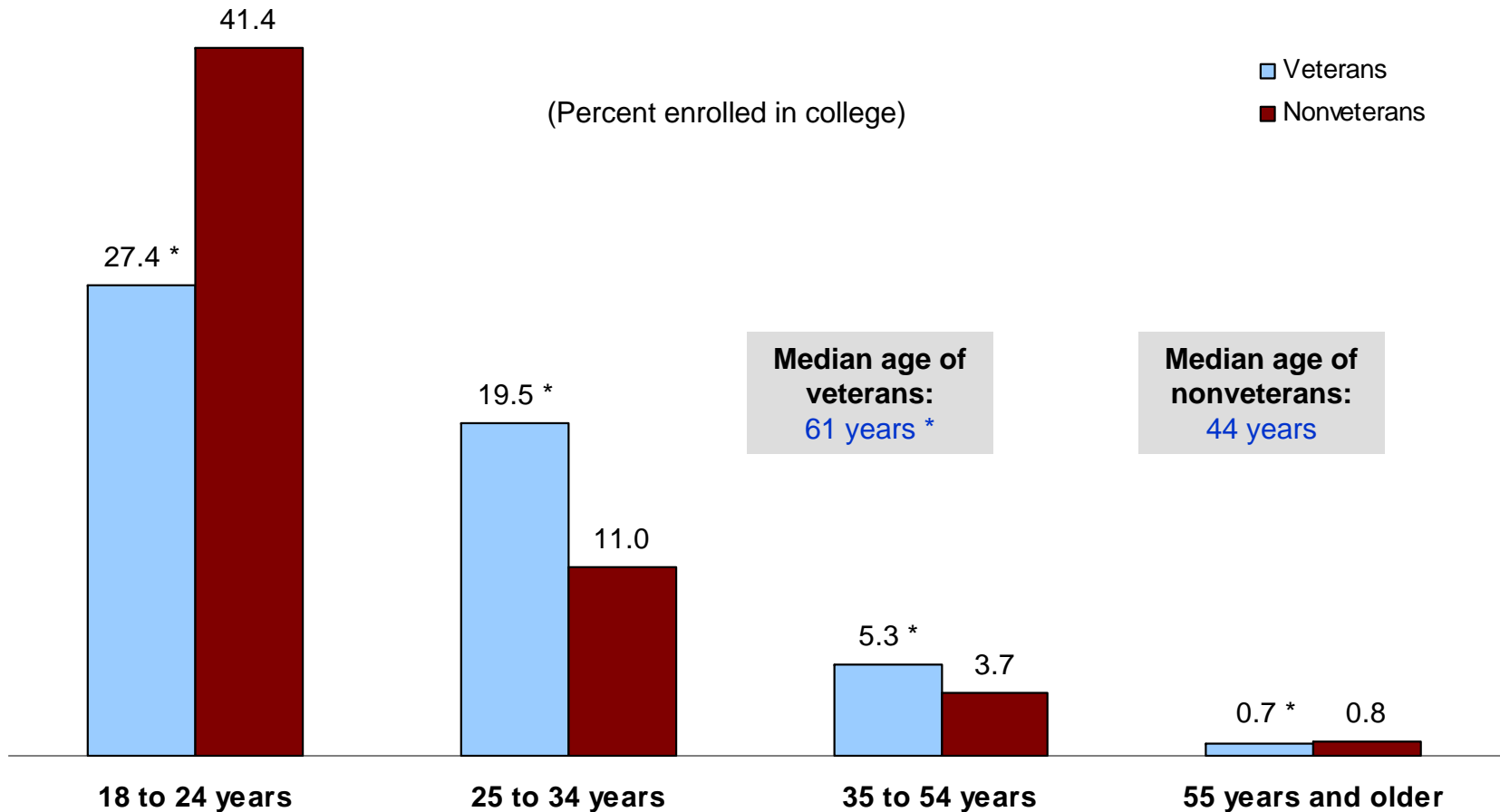
Nonveterans



An asterisk (*) in a graph denotes a statistically significant difference between groups.

College Enrollment of the Population 18 Years and Older

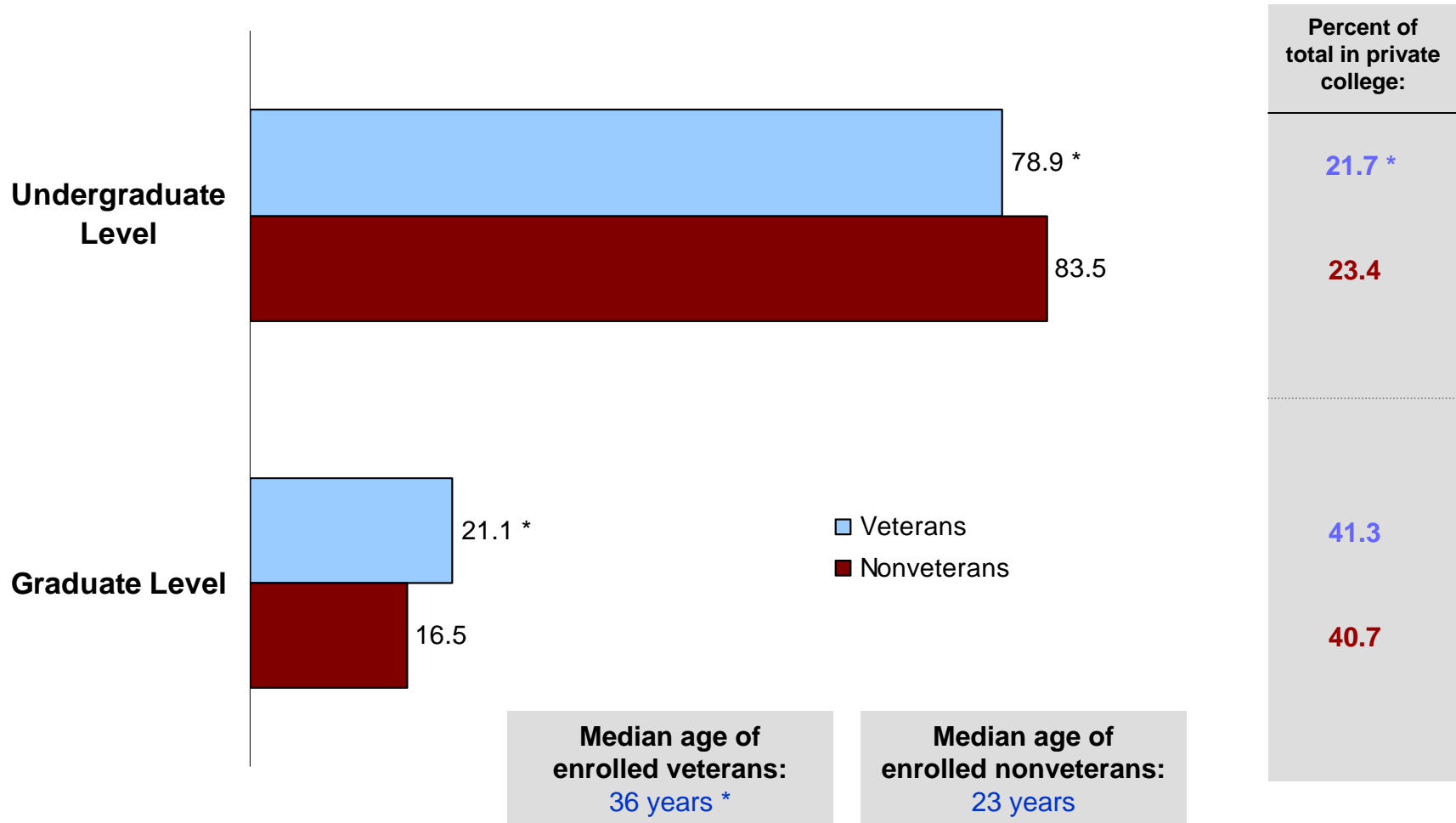
Veterans, an older population in general, tend to be enrolled in college at older ages more often than nonveterans. Twenty percent of veterans 25 to 34 years old were enrolled in college in 2007, compared with 11 percent of nonveterans the same age.



An asterisk (*) in a graph denotes a statistically significant difference between groups.

School Type and Level of the Enrolled Population 18 Years and Older

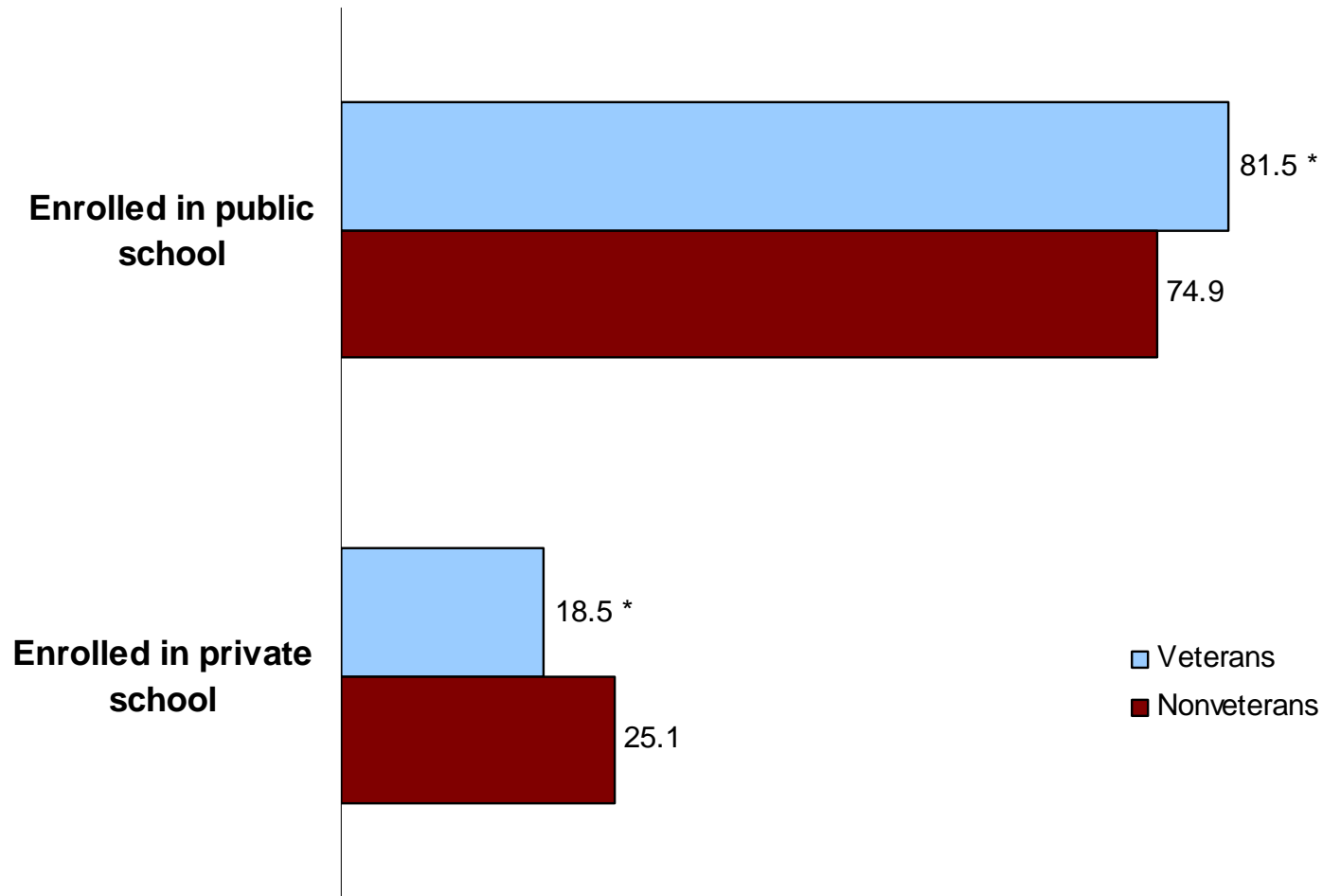
Among those enrolled in college, a higher proportion of veterans than nonveterans 18 years and older was enrolled in graduate school. Veterans were enrolled in college at older ages more often than nonveterans.



An asterisk (*) in a graph denotes a statistically significant difference between groups.

Type of School of the Enrolled Population 18 to 24 Years Old

Among adults in the traditional college ages of 18 to 24 years, a higher percentage of veterans who were currently enrolled were attending public schools compared with nonveterans.



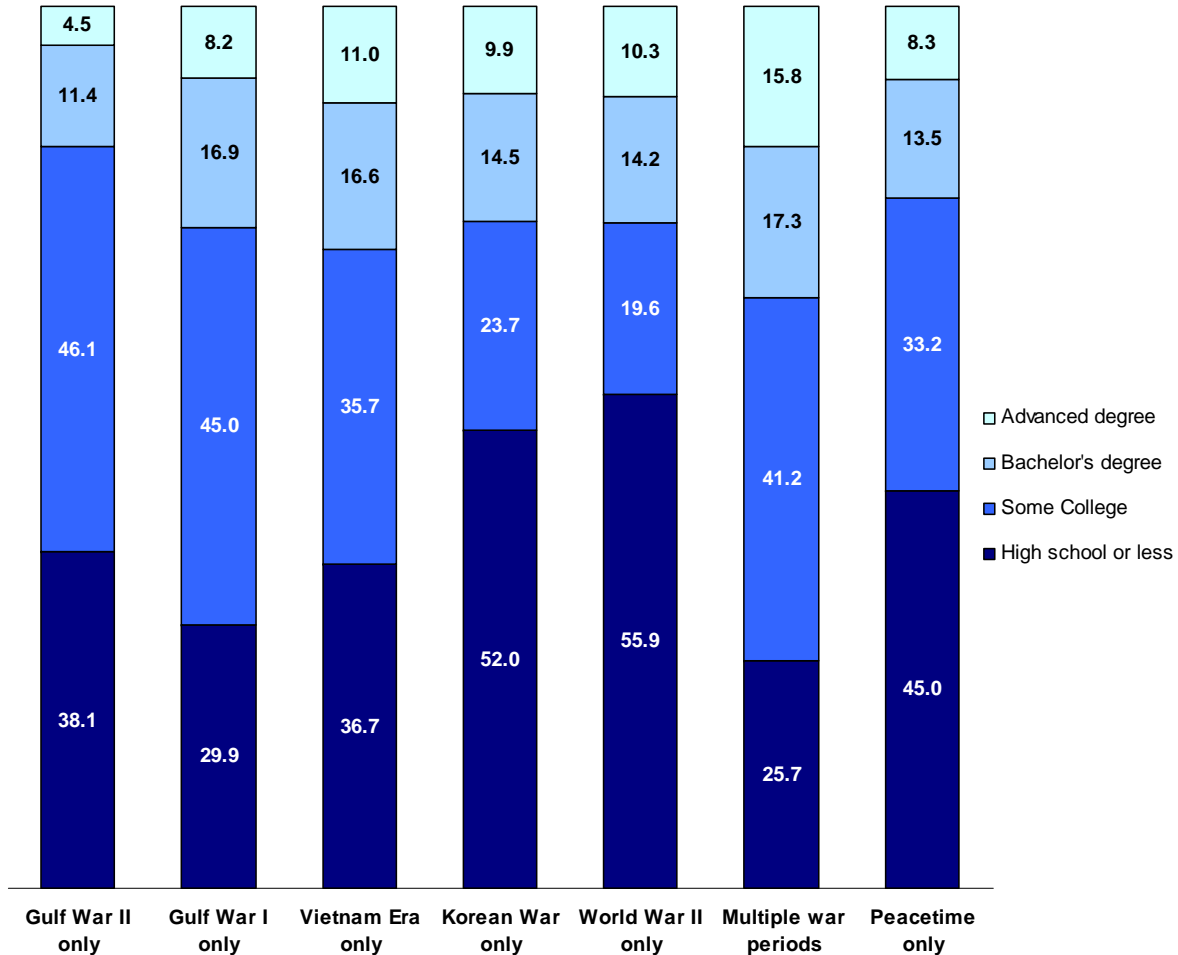
An asterisk (*) in a graph denotes a statistically significant difference between groups.

Veterans Only

The following slides show educational characteristics of veterans only.

Educational Attainment by Period of Military Service of Veterans 18 Years and Older

Among veterans 18 years and older, those who served in multiple war periods had the highest levels of educational attainment. This could be attributable to their age (median age of 54 years) or possibly their lengthy military careers.

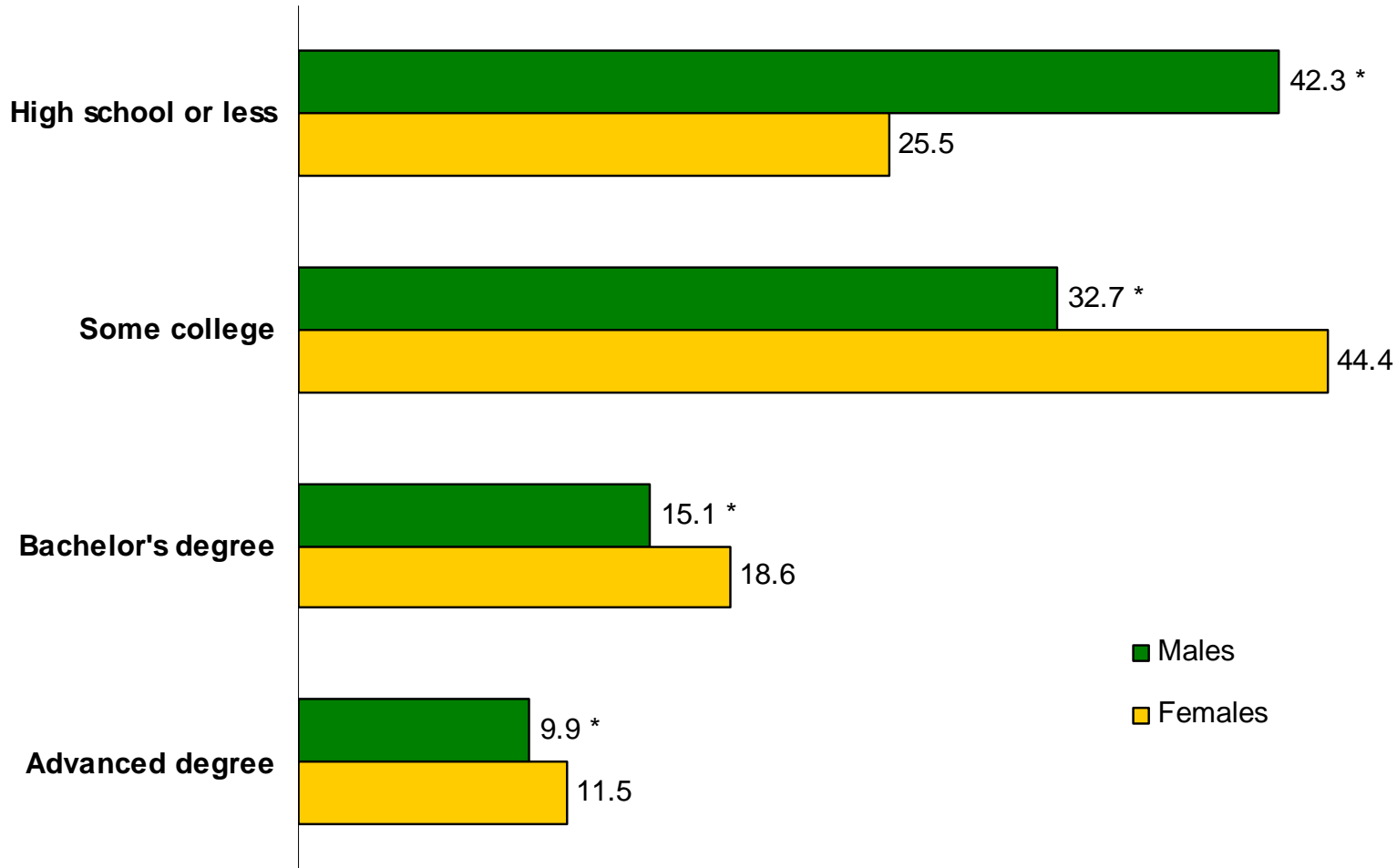


Note: The following comparisons are not statistically different: GWI and Peacetime with advanced degree; GWII and Korea War with Bachelor's degree; GWI and Vietnam Era with Bachelor's degree; GWI and multiple war periods with Bachelor's degree.

Median age: 27 37 60 76 84 54 55

Educational Attainment of Veterans 25 Years and Older

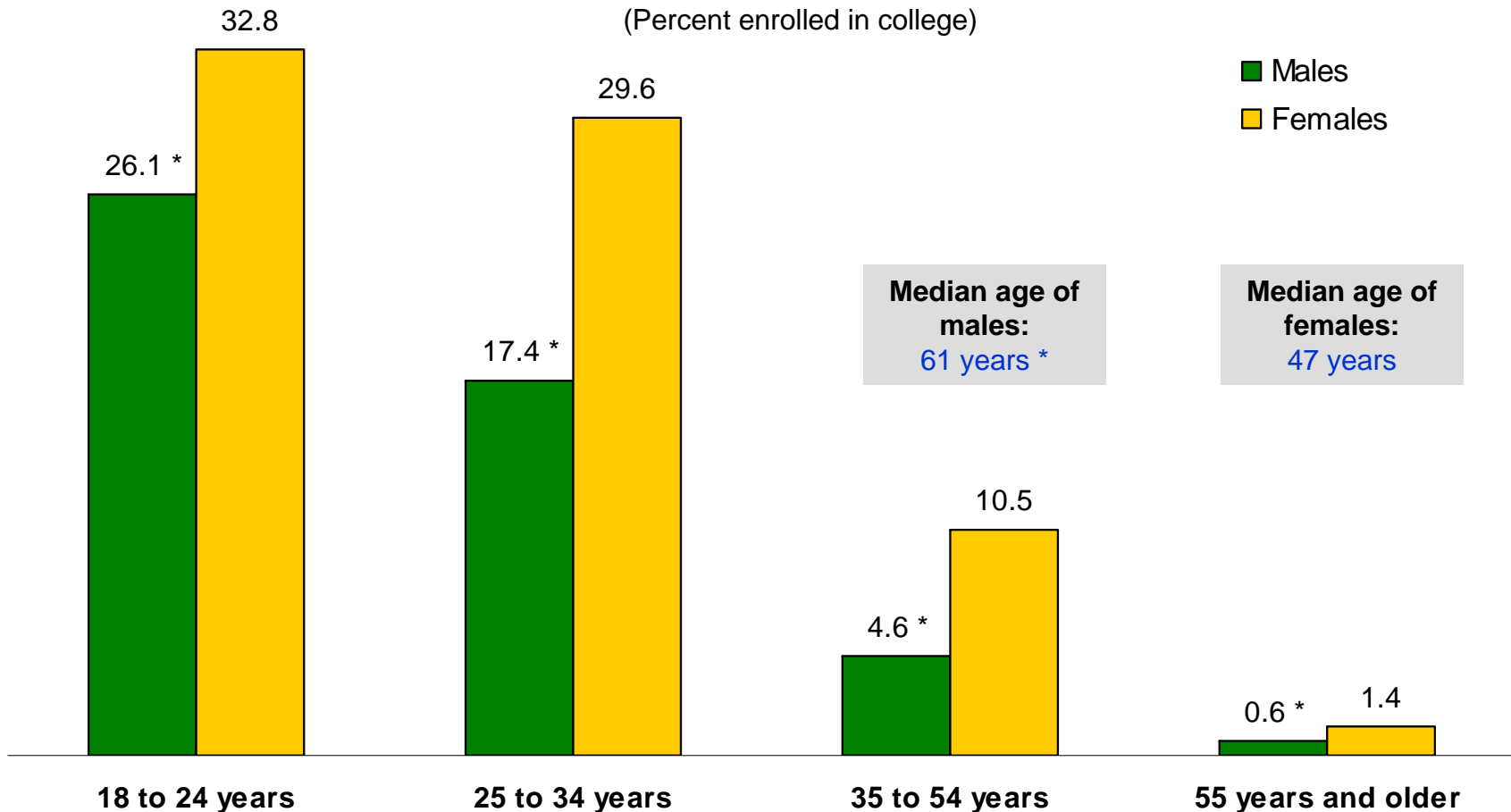
Female veterans 25 years and older were more likely to have attended some college and to have completed a Bachelor's degree or higher than male veterans.



An asterisk (*) in a graph denotes a statistically significant difference between groups.

College Enrollment of Veterans 18 years and Older

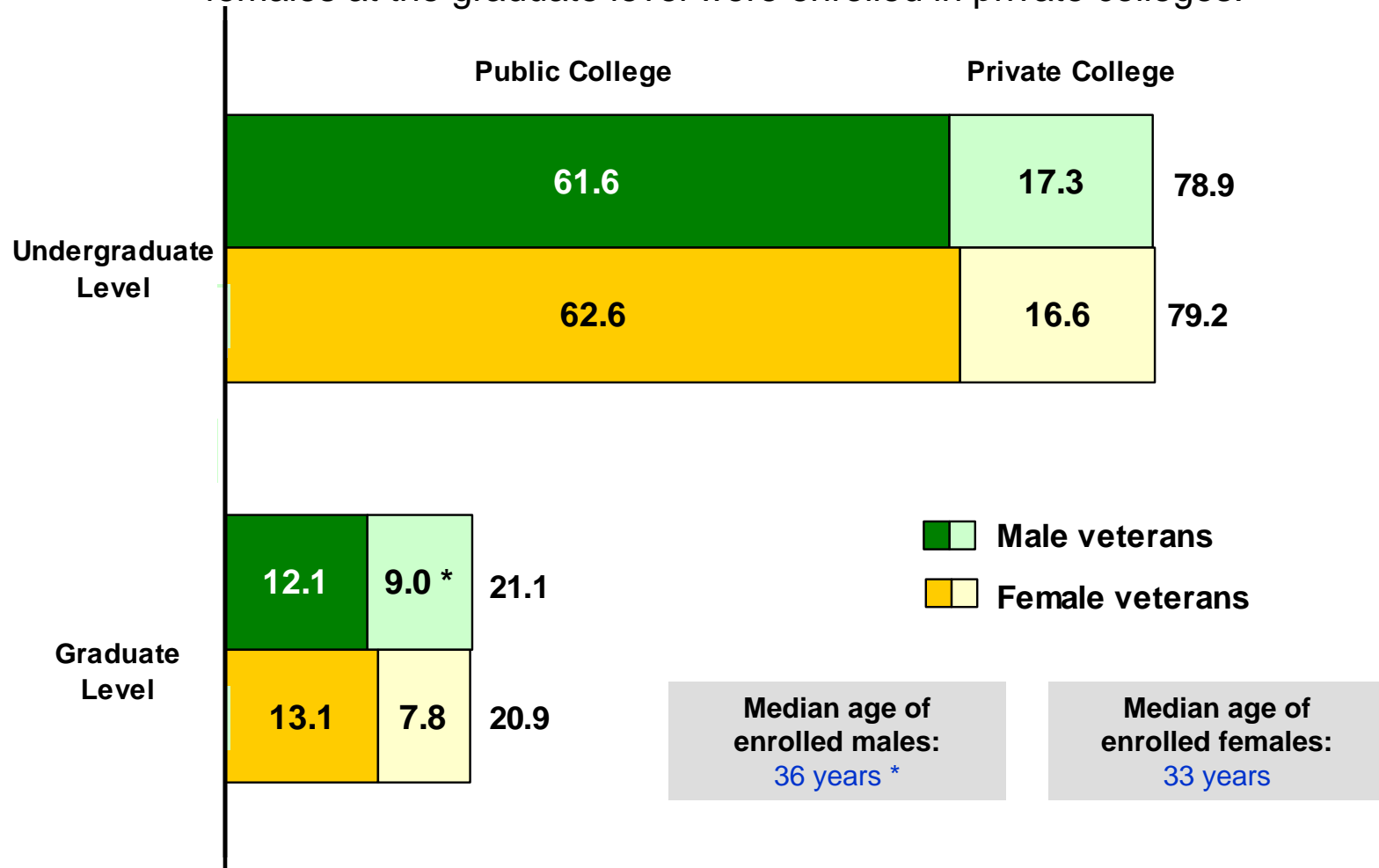
A higher percentage of female veterans was enrolled in college compared with male veterans for all age groups. Female veterans, in general, are younger than male veterans.



An asterisk (*) in a graph denotes a statistically significant difference between groups.

School Type and Level of Enrolled Veterans 18 Years and Older

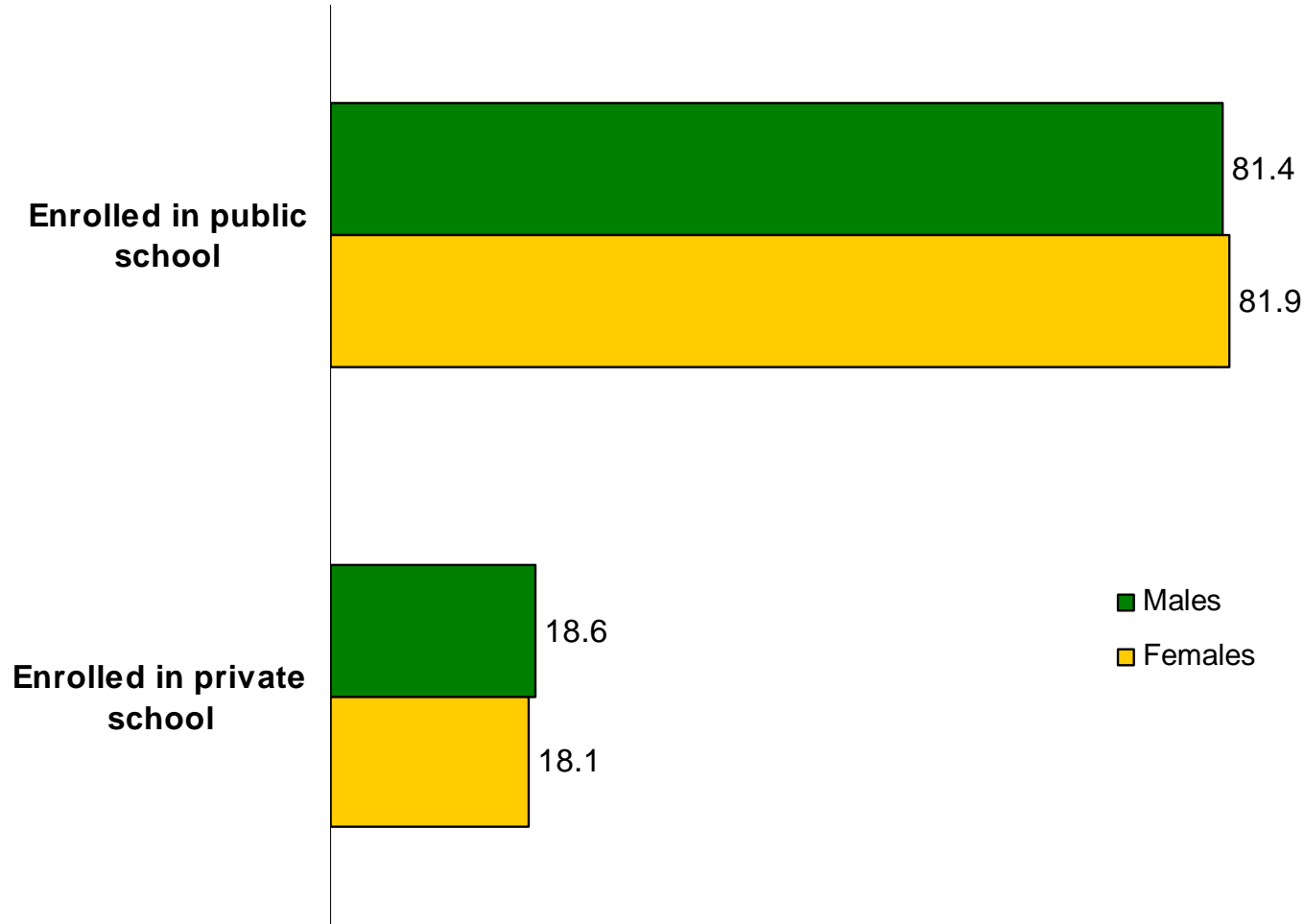
Among those enrolled in college, male and female veterans 18 years and older were enrolled in undergraduate and graduate level programs at similar rates. A higher proportion of males than females at the graduate level were enrolled in private colleges.



An asterisk (*) in a graph denotes a statistically significant difference between groups.

Type of School of Enrolled Veterans 18 to 24 Years Old

Among the population of veterans 18 to 24 years old who were enrolled in college, males and females attended public and private schools at similar rates.



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