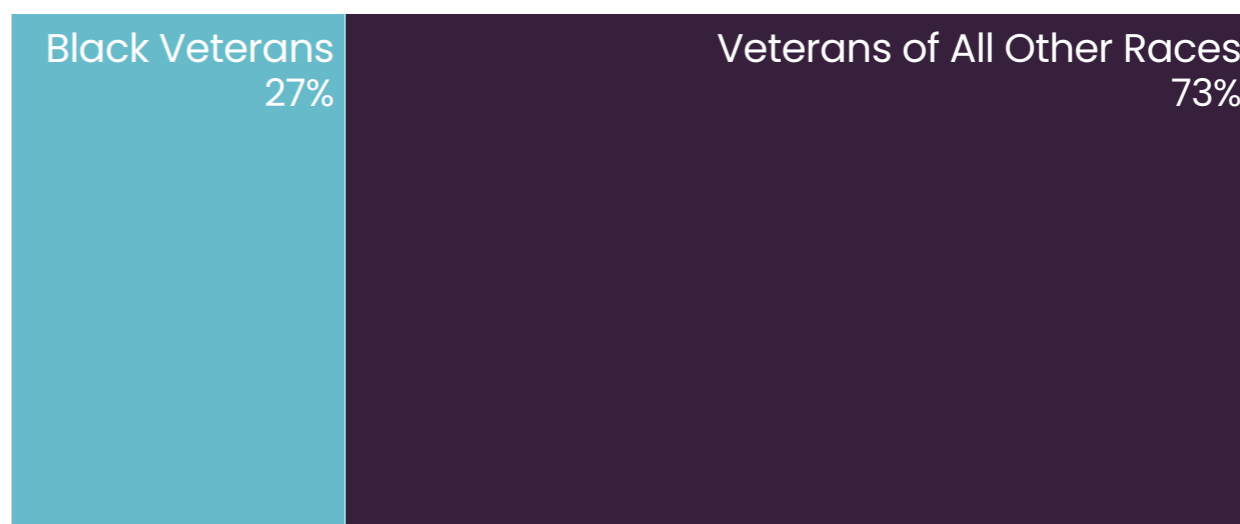


RACIAL DISPARITIES AMONG VETERANS

INCARCERATION

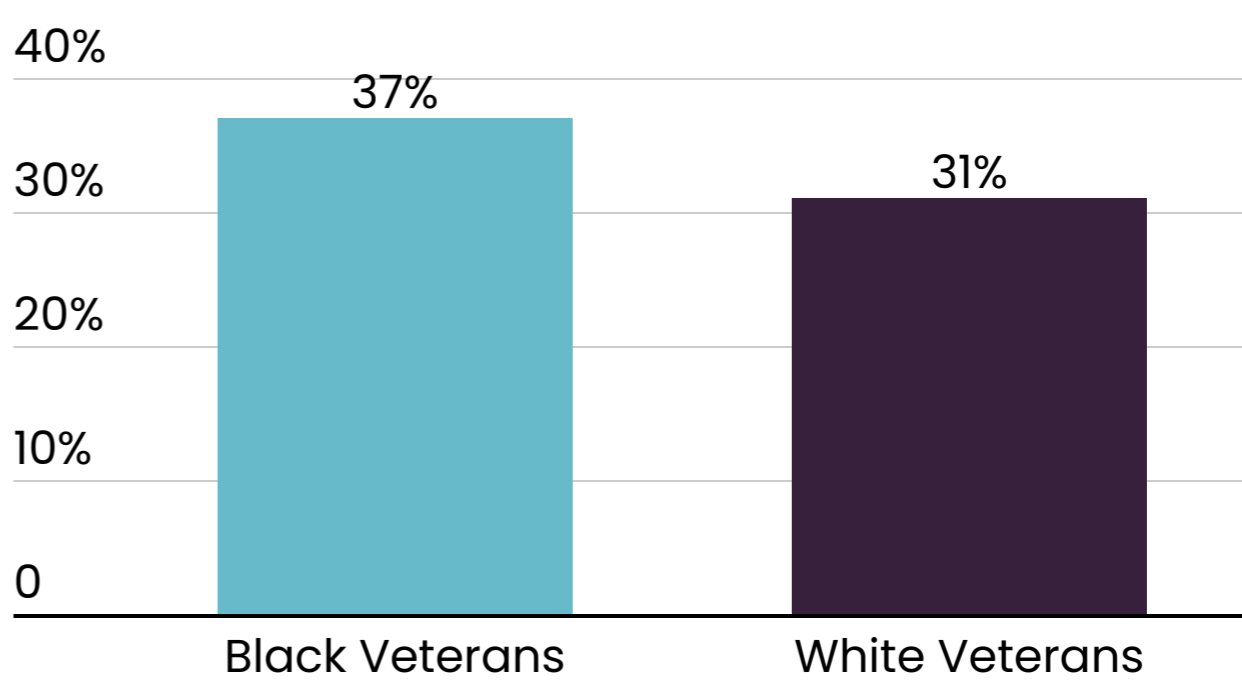
Black veterans comprised **27% of the incarcerated veteran population** between 2011 and 2012 but made up **just 12% of the overall veteran population** over the same period.



Sources: Bronson et al. (2015). [Veterans in prison and jail, 2011-12](#); U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.). [American Community Survey, S2101, veteran status, 1-year estimates subject tables, 2011 and 2012](#).

ARREST AND BOOKING

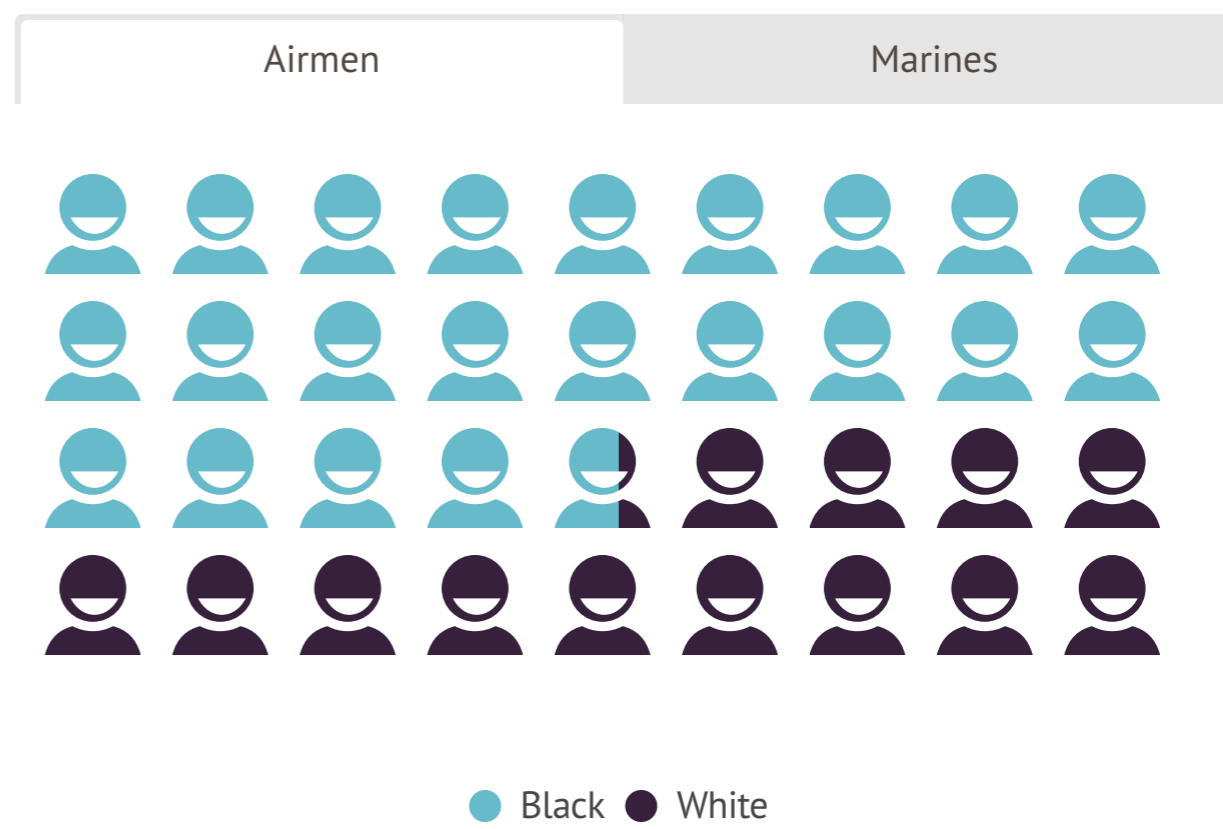
Among White veterans, **31% said they had been arrested and booked into jail** between 2002 and 2019; for **Black veterans the number was 37%**.



Source: Original calculations based on [National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\)](#) data.

MILITARY JUSTICE

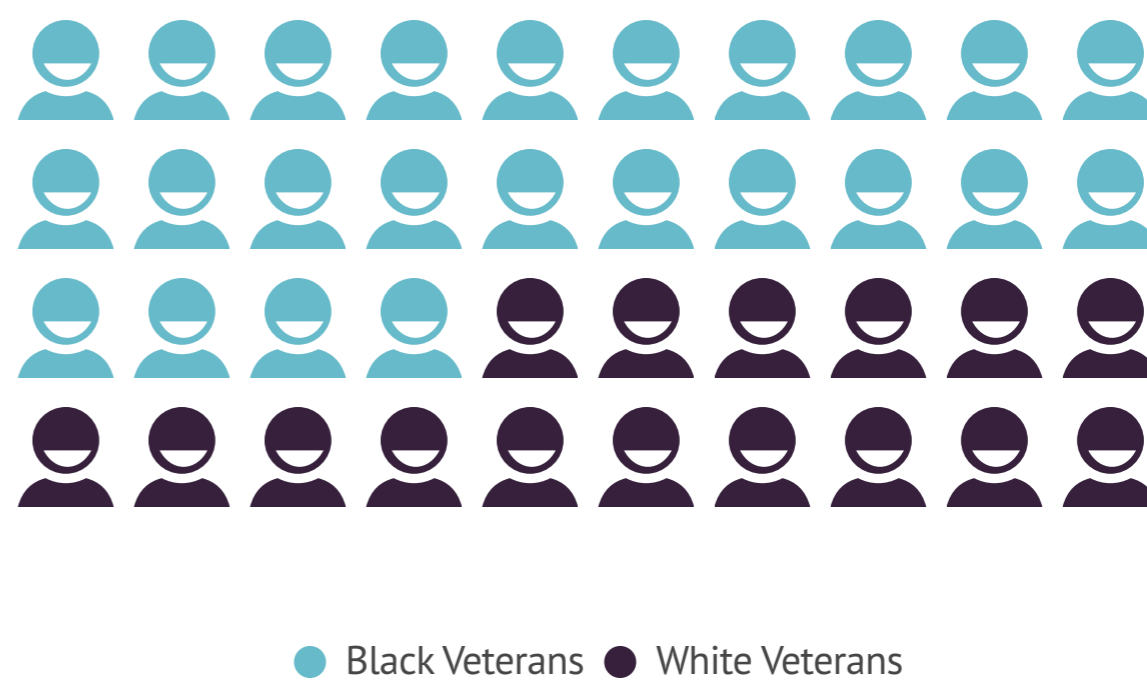
Black service members are much more likely to face disciplinary and military justice action. Black airmen were **1.7 times more likely to face court-martial** or non-judicial punishment than White airmen between 2006 and 2015. Black Marines were **2.6 times more likely to receive a guilty finding** at a general court-martial than White Marines over the same period.



Source: Protect our Defenders. (2017). [Racial disparities in military justice](#).

DISCHARGE CHARACTERIZATION

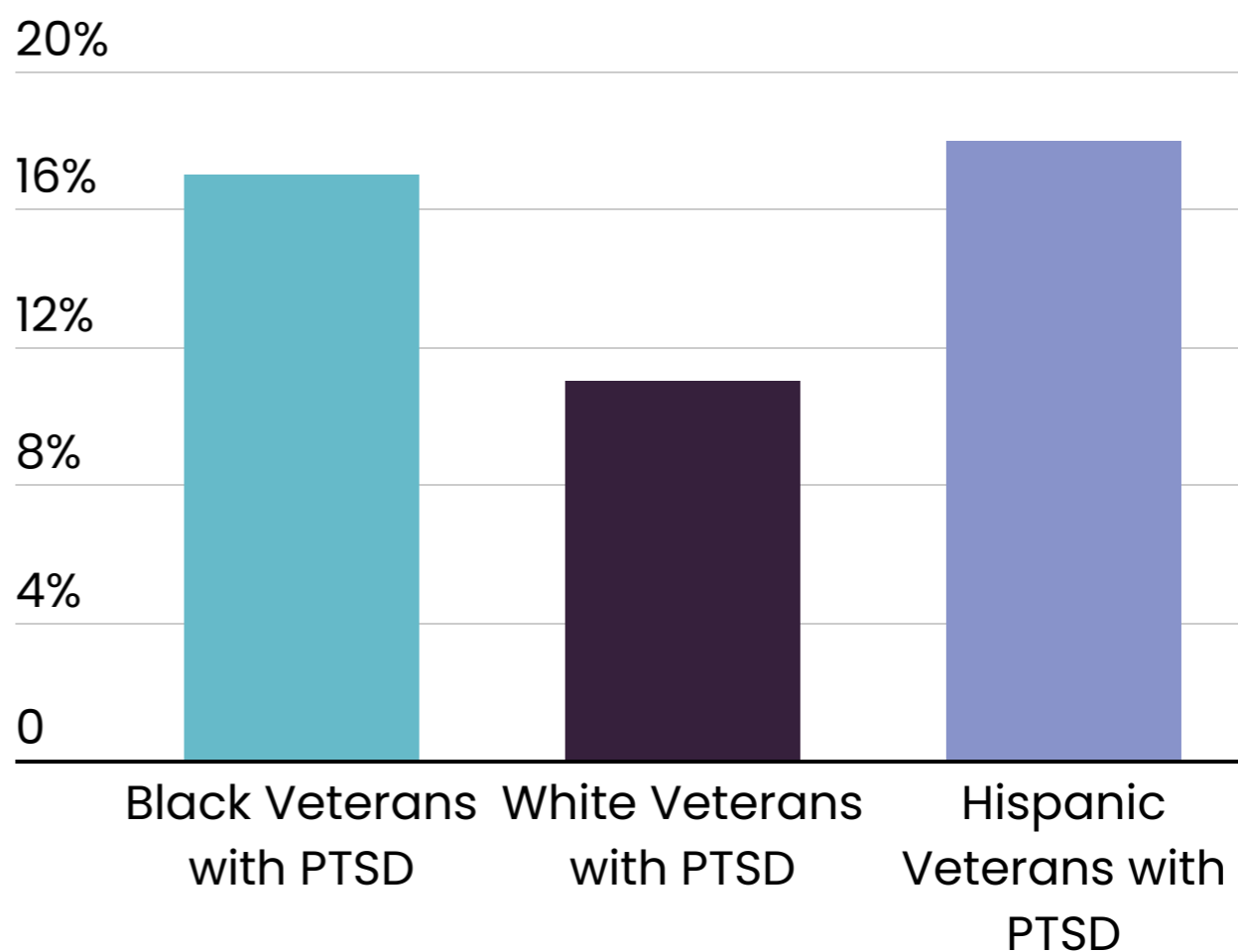
Black veterans were approximately **1.5 times more likely to receive an other-than-honorable discharge** than White veterans in 2018. This type of discharge generally results in a lifetime denial of services and benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and is associated with an increased risk of suicide and criminal justice system involvement.



Source: Connecticut Veterans Legal Center. (2022). [Discretionary injustice: How racial disparities in the military's administrative separation system harm Black veterans](#).

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

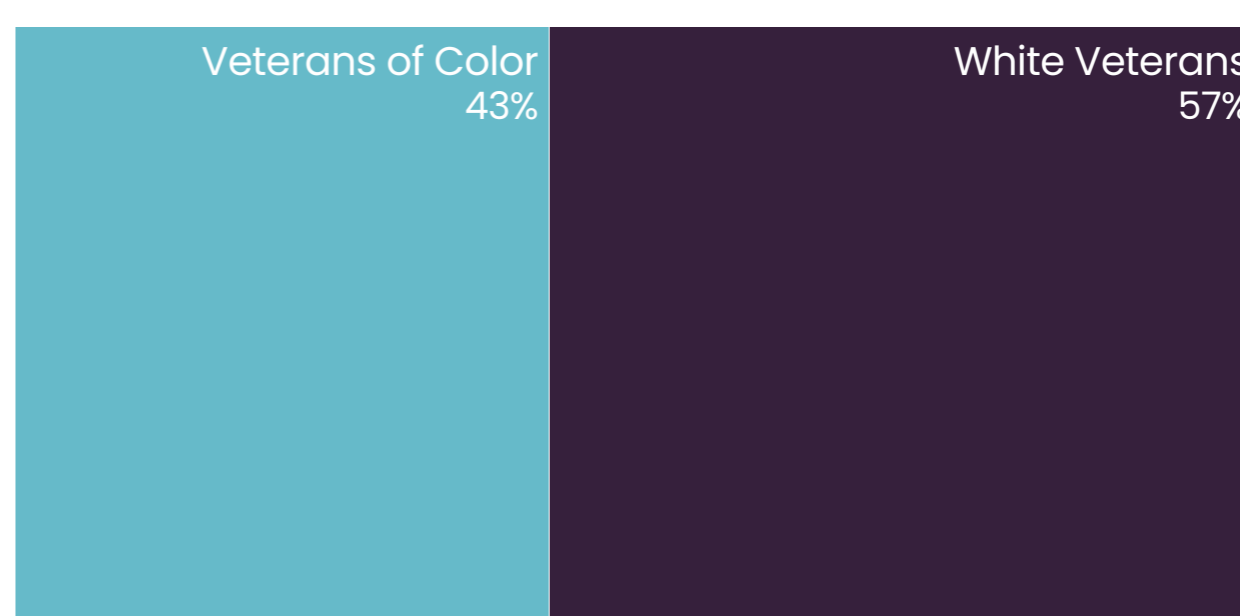
Between 2019 and 2020, Black and Hispanic veterans were more likely to experience mental health and substance use disorders than their White counterparts. Approximately **17% of Black veterans and 18% of Hispanic veterans** screened positive for post-traumatic stress disorder, **compared to 11% of White veterans**. During the same period, Black veterans were also more likely than White veterans to be diagnosed with a substance use disorder (13% vs. 9%).



Source: Merians et al. (2023). [Racial and ethnic mental health disparities in U.S. veterans: Results from the National Health and Resilience in Veterans study](#).

HOMELESSNESS

Roughly **43% of veterans experiencing homelessness are people of color**, with **Black veterans comprising 33%** of all homeless veterans. White veterans comprise just over half (57%) of the homeless veteran population, but White people make up more than 80% of all veterans.



Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness. (2018). [People of color make up a disproportionate share of the homeless population](#).