Just over one in ten people aged over 16 are classified as veterans. The national average is 12.7%. Megalopolis with only 11% is below the national average, as is California, Illinois, Texas and New York.

Across Megalopolis veterans are found in a cluster around Washington DC, and in the counties with relatively older populations. Civilian veterans are a proxy for elderly population since more elderly people saw active service. The 'Great Generation' that fought the Second World War are ageing and also dying off rapidly. Counties such as Kent DE, Pike PA and Barnstable MA contain higher than average percentages of elderly population and thus proportionately more civilian veterans.

The larger than average number of veterans around Washington DC is a reflection of the prominent military-industrial complex, which attracts active and retired military personnel. Prince William VA, Stafford VA and King George VA all have a marked military presence. In Stafford County, home to Quantico Marine Base, one in five people aged 16 and over are civilian veterans.

NOTE: The national mean is 12.7% of population is civilian veteran status, while the Megalopolis mean is 11.0%. A "civilian veteran" is a person 18 years or over who has served (even for a short time), but is not now serving, in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or military Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called to active duty, not counting the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps. All other civilians 18 years and over are classified as nonveterans.

SOURCE: U.S. Census, 2000