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THE ABSENCE OF VETERANS IN EDUCATION

Why are so few veterans pursuing degrees in education compared to other degrees, especially considering how strongly the military pushes the importance of education amongst their own soldiers?



INTRODUCTION

My hypothesis is that military service negatively affects one's outlook on educators and therefore decreases the likelihood of military personnel to pursue a degree within the field of education. The reasons for this are varied. As a veteran myself, I can pull from personal experiences to provide some of the reasons that this happens. In my experience, some higher-ranking individuals within the military will tell you that college professors are only there to brainwash you into believing falsehoods about the "real world" and will only try to get you to hate the military. Others believe there are simply better fields you can study in, and that your goal should be what makes you the most amount of money. The most common degrees for military veterans to receive are in the fields of technology and business, two of the most lucrative degrees currently available.

METHODOLOGY

I approached this topic in multiple ways including:

- **Personal Experience**
- **Anecdotal Evidence/Interviews**
- **Data Mining**
- **Literature Review**

I was able to put together a hypothesis on why Veterans tend not to choose education majors or careers based largely on my personal experiences in the military, relationships with service members and other veterans, and conversations I have had with peers.

I also utilized published data collected by the United States Government on GI Bill usage and outcomes to determine what fields are most popular amongst those attending college on a GI Bill.

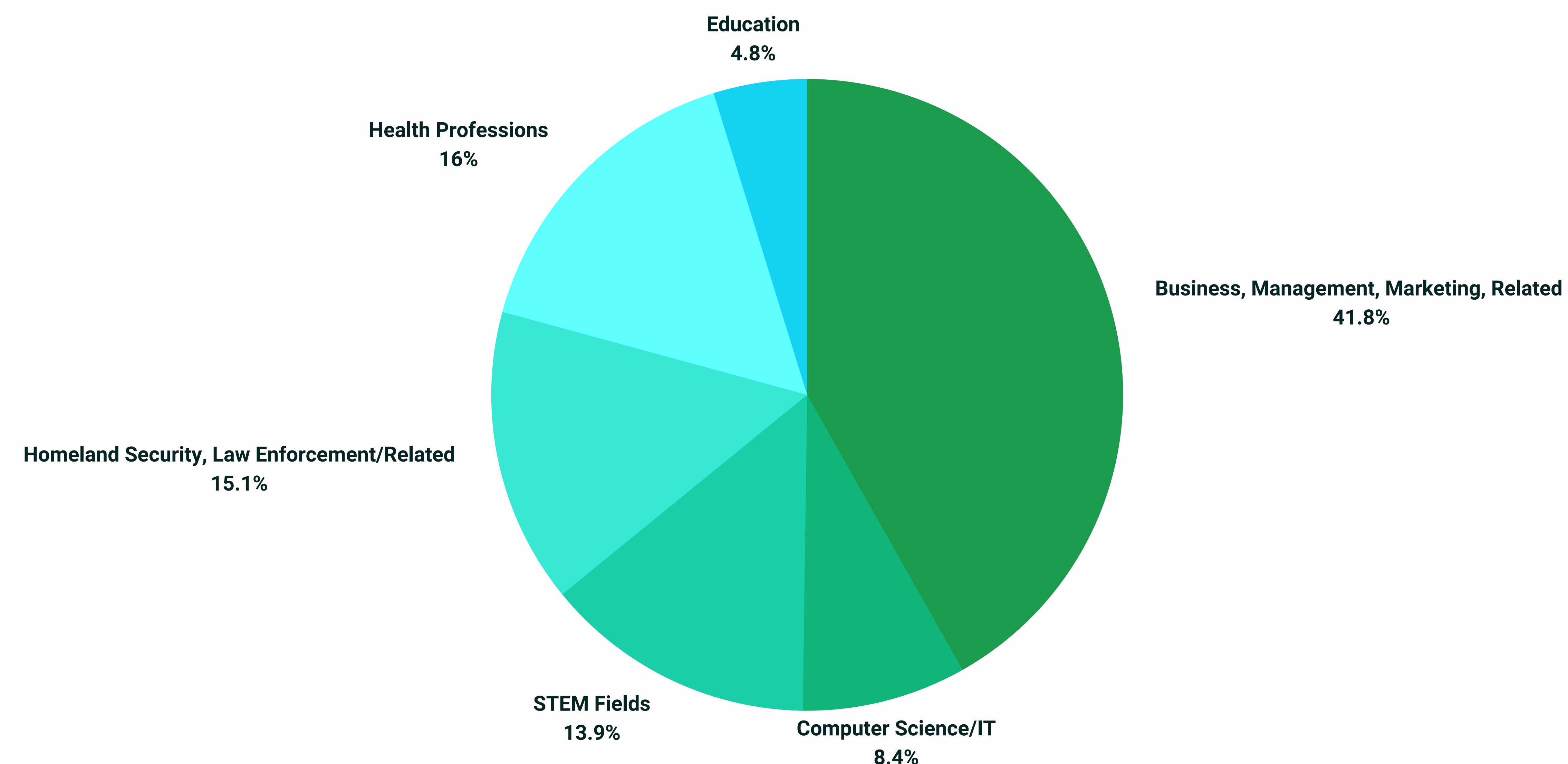
RESULTS/FINDINGS

When grouped together, degree fields and majors that constitute STEM and STEM-related fields were the second most frequent degree fields or majors student veterans pursued. And, one-in-ten student veterans earn a degree in Health-related majors. STEM, Business, and Health-related majors are the top three highest entry-level salaries and earn more than the average college graduate, according to a report by the Center for Education and the Workforce (CEW) at Georgetown University (Carnevale, Cheah, & Hanson, 2015).



*All about the money?
Are Veterans choosing their majors
based purely on earning potential?*

Majors of Total Degrees Earned by Student Veterans in NVEST Project Sample, 2017



FUTURE RESEARCH

I intend to continue this project by conducting more interviews with military veterans who are currently taking college courses or have recently obtained a degree of any kind. I also wish to create a survey that could be sent out on a wider scale to gather some quantifiable data about military members' opinions of college as well as their reasoning behind choosing the degree path they have.

