

The number of Veterans living in Aitkin County in FY 16 is approximately 2,004 - down more than 400 in 10 years.

- I. Veterans Services Office data – November 1, 2016 – Oct 31, 2017
 - a. 650 office visits
 - b. 90 outreach visits in McGregor, Hill City and Malmo; 15 visits to veterans in a hospital or nursing home
 - c. 99 new clients
 - d. 25 veterans signed up for VA medical benefits for the first time.
 - e. 610 forms completed and mailed to the VA
 - f. 4900 files edited in VIMS (Veterans Information Management System)
 - g. 92% success rate for positive outcomes on claims filed from our office.

- II. 2016 Vet Van Statistics
 - a. 127 trips to Mpls and St. Cloud
 - b. 161 veterans rode the Aitkin County Veterans van.
 - c. Total Expenses - \$ 10,831
 - d. Reimbursements - \$ 6,392
 - e. Net expenses for vet van \$ 4,439.

- III. Federal Benefits to Aitkin County Veterans FY 16
 - a. Compensation and Pension - **\$ 8,411,000**
 - b. Education and Vocational Rehabilitation - **\$ 259,000**
 - c. Insurance and Indemnities - **\$ 53,000**

Total Federal VA \$s coming directly to veterans in Aitkin County = \$ 8,723,000

This is a 237% increase in the last 10 years. 2007 = \$3,678,000

 - d. Medical Care to Aitkin County Veterans - **\$ 6,365,000** 912 veterans in Aitkin County received care at a VA medical center in 2016

Total Federal VA expenditures to Aitkin County Vets for FY2016 = \$ 16,258,000

- IV. MN Department of Veterans Affairs State Soldier's Assistance Program to Aitkin County Veterans – Dental, Optical, Subsistence, and Special Needs Grants. **Total for FY16 - \$ 35,431**
Special needs grants for 2016 included money for foreclosure prevention, new furnace and car repairs and various utility bills. Subsistence benefits cover basic housing needs for a short period while recovering from an injury or surgery. 3 veterans used this program

- V. Minnesota Assistance Council to Veterans (MACV). Provides a Assistance to Aitkin County Veterans for 1 time emergency fund payments for rent, utilities, etc; and ongoing subsistence to families having financial difficulties. 7 applications were initiated by the Aitkin CVSO.
Total to Aitkin County veterans for FY 16 is approximately \$ 6300

- 7 CVSO Operation Enhancement Grant award Aitkin County \$10,000 per year. These dollars can be used to purchase office equipment, advertising, veterans van, and numerous other items. In 2016, half of the grant was used for the Veterans Van. This year, grant moneys are being used for a variety of things including jackets for the drivers and CVSO's, computer equipment for Josh when we move, advertising, 2nd opinions on denied claims, and a variety of office expenses.

Earlier this year, my office received a donation of \$2520.50 from a fund raiser held at Castaway's. Part of that money was used to pay for the van driver's dinner, held on September 25th. At the dinner, each driver received a jacket with a logo and their name to help identify them to the vets who ride the van. Many of them also received pins for their many hours of volunteer service driving for us. It was a wonderful way to thank our volunteers for assisting veterans. They are all proudly sporting their jackets and showing their support and Aitkin County's support for our veterans.

The remainder of that donation will be going to area veterans in the form of assistance this Christmas. We are planning to purchase specific items such winter boots, work coveralls, and warm jackets, but we also plan to purchase and give gift cards for local businesses.

The Aitkin Veterans Service Organizations keep us well supplied with gas and grocery cards throughout the year along with bags of household supplies. We are able to give them to veterans as we see the need. In that past 12 months, we have given out 60 gas cards and 95 grocery cards valued at \$25 each. These were donated by the Aitkin DAV, AL, VFW and their auxiliaries.

The Aitkin CVSO office collaborates with many local agencies including Aitkin County H&HS, Salvation Army, Aitkin County Homeless Coalition and Habitat for Humanity to assist our veterans. We occasionally assist veterans with applications for Food Stamps, Energy Assistance, and Home rehabilitation. I have one veteran who just had his leaky roof replaced through USDA Rural Development and another getting \$30,000 of energy efficiency and accessibility upgrades to his home through Lakes and Pines.

In the past year, Aitkin County has lost more than 60 veterans: 11 WWII veterans, 18 Korean War veterans, 15 Vietnam veterans, 1 Gulf war veteran and the remainder served during the various Peacetime years.

Attached is a page taken from the MNDVA website comparing the state and county populations by age. The first 2 pie charts show the state overall population and the Aitkin County overall population by age. Throughout the state of Minnesota, about ¼ of the population is 55 and over while in Aitkin County close to half of the residents are 55 and over. The next 2 charts show the state veteran population and the Aitkin County veteran population by age. While ¼ of the veterans in Minnesota are over 75, in Aitkin County it is closer to 20% with about 2/3 of them over 65. That is approximately 1300 veterans in Aitkin County that are currently over 65.

Because of the age of our local veterans, we are constantly working to make sure they are taking advantage of all the VA Medical Center has to offer. This year we worked with 6 veterans to get home care services, 2 to get aluminum ramps, 1 to have alterations made to his bathroom, and many others to get wheelchairs, scooters, shower chairs, grab bars, and more, all at no expense to the veterans.

The goal of the Aitkin County Veterans Services Office is to take care of our veterans by working to ensure they get the most out of their VA benefits and any other benefits they are entitled to.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Aitkin County Veterans as the CVSO.

Penny Harms
Aitkin CVSO

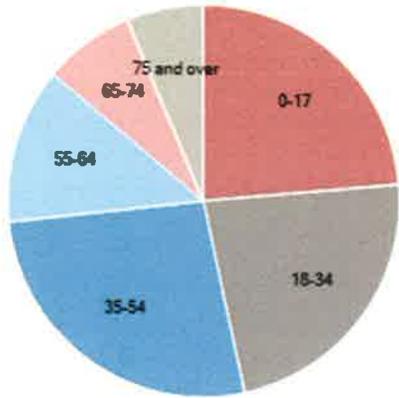
Select Area Type

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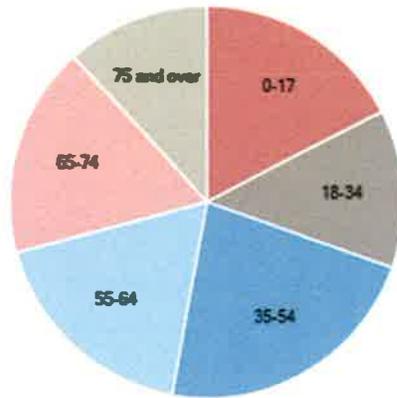
County

Aitkin County

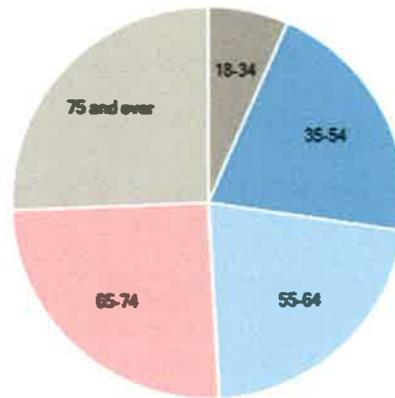
State Overall Population



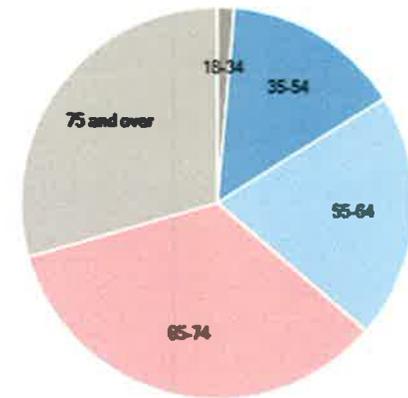
Selected Area(s) Overall Population



State Veteran Population



Selected Area(s) Veteran Population



2011-2015** Veterans Population Breakdown

Area	Population	Veterans	Veterans (%)	Male Vets	Male Vets (%)	Female Vets	Female Vets (%)
Aitkin County	15,839	2,004	12.7	1,909	95.3	95	4.7

**The following data is collected from the US Census Bureau 5-year data (2011-2015)

- Geographic Boundary Data (TIGER/LINE)
- State Veteran Population
- State Veteran Employment

The 5-year data is used due to of limitations in the 3-year and 1-year data. Please refer to the Census Bureau's information on the American Community Survey and geography limitations via the link below.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/estimates.html>

**MONTHLY STATEMENT OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED IN
OFFICE OF COUNTY RECORDER, AITKIN COUNTY
October 2017**

NATURE OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED	FEES RECEIVED
COUNTY RECORDER FEES	\$0.00
MISC RECEIPTS	
COPIES & C/COPIES	\$2,170.60
NOTARY	\$40.00
TORRENS	\$156.00
TORRENS ASSURANCE *** 9.2031	\$18.00
COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$8,888.50
STATE TREASURY GENERAL FUND *** 9.2036	\$6,562.50
LAND RECORDS COMPLIANCE FUND (UNALLOC) 1-100-195-5529	\$6,875.00
RECORDER TECHNOLOGY FUND 1-100-196-5529	\$6,250.00
COUNTY WELL CERTIFICATE	\$255.00
STATE WELL CERTIFICATE *** 9.2027	\$1,445.00
COUNTY DEATH CERTIFICATE	\$380.00
STATE DEATH SURCHARGE *** 9.2022	\$480.00
COUNTY BIRTH CERTIFICATES	\$317.00
STATE BIRTH SURCHARGE *** 9.2022	\$144.00
CHILDREN'S SURCHARGE *** 9.2024	\$108.00
LEGISLATIVE SURCHARGE (144.226 SUBD 3 (b)) *** 9.2036	\$360.00
TOTAL DEPOSIT OF CASH OR CHECKS TO THE AITKIN COUNTY TREASURER	\$34,449.60

RECORDING DONE FOR WHICH NO PAYMENT WAS RECEIVED	
VETERANS HONORABLE DISCHARGES	
AITKIN COUNTY	\$46.00
AITKIN CO ROAD & BRIDGE	
OTHERS	
TOTAL	\$46.00

Michael T. Moriarty
 Michael T. Moriarty, Aitkin County Recorder

By *Paul C. Hepp, deputy*
 Deputy October 31, 2017

Documents Recorded for Month: 617
 Documents Recorded for Year: 5005

Previous Year Statistics
Documents Recorded for Month: 437
Documents Recorded for Year:
Last Year's Monthly Deposit: \$28,579.50

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
Jessica Seibert, Administrator
217 Second Street N.W. Room 134
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-3093
Fax: 218-927-7374

October 26, 2017

Aitkin Lions Club
c/o Carroll and Joy Janzen
36208 Deer Street
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Carroll, Joy, and Lions Club:

Aitkin County thanks you for the new benches you placed in front of the courthouse. They are beautiful benches, and very much appreciated.

Warm regards,



Jessica Seibert
County Administrator

cc: County Board

