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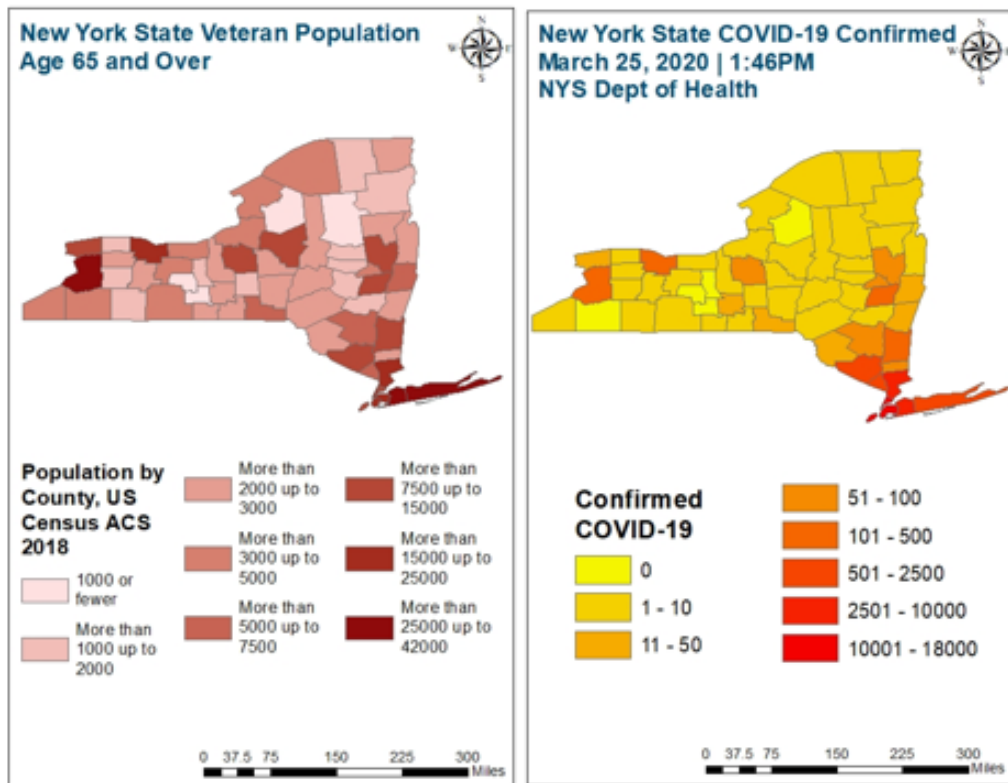
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COVID-19 is a Major Risk to New York State's Older Veterans

Mariah Brennan Nanni & Mary Helander

The older adult veteran population is at high risk of contracting the novel coronavirus. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 mirror the population density of older veterans in New York State. Communities with large veterans populations, such as Buffalo, Rochester, Utica, and NYC, have seen rapid increases confirmed cases of coronavirus. As the virus continues to spread, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) must prepare to provide coronavirus treatments to older veterans in NYS. Hospitals across the state are operating on limited supplies of masks, gowns and gloves. It is imperative to the health of our older veteran population that the VHA be prepared to treat more individuals for COVID-19 as the rest of the state scrambles to find beds and ventilators for patients.

New York State Veteran Population Age 65 and Over

Population by County, US Census ACS 2018

- 1000 or fewer
- More than 1000 up to 2000
- More than 2000 up to 3000
- More than 3000 up to 5000
- More than 5000 up to 7500
- More than 7500 up to 15000
- More than 15000 up to 25000
- More than 25000 up to 42000

New York State COVID-19 Confirmed March 25, 2020 | 1:46PM NYS Dept of Health

Confirmed COVID-19
- 0
- 1 - 10
- 11 - 50
- 51 - 100
- 101 - 500
- 501 - 2500
- 2501 - 10000
- 10001 - 18000

Maps: Mary Helander; Data Sources: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018; New York State Department of Health, https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/county-county-breakdown-positive-cases

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