



**VETERANS**  
**EDUCATION SUCCESS**

## **Veteran Student Loan Debt: Data from NPSAS: 08, 12, 16**

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# ABOUT VETERANS EDUCATION SUCCESS

Veterans Education Success (VES) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and defending the integrity and promise of the GI Bill and other federal education programs for veterans and servicemembers. VES provides:

- **Research:** Non-partisan research on issues of concern to student veterans, including veteran student outcomes and student debt levels.
- **Free Help for Veterans:** Free legal services, advice, and college and career counseling to veterans, servicemembers, and their survivors and families who faced college fraud or abuse in using their GI Bill.
- **Civic Engagement:** Help for veterans to participate in their democracy by engaging their Congressional representatives, federal agencies, and local media, including speaking out at public hearings.
- **Policy and Advocacy:** Assistance to federal policymakers to improve quality in higher education and protect the integrity of the GI Bill and other student aid.
- **Whistleblowers:** Free assistance to college whistleblowers exposing fraud, and free assistance to federal and state law enforcement to stop college consumer fraud.

This document updates the tables and figures from a May 2018 VES [report](#) on veteran student loan debt with data from the most recent National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:16), which is conducted once every 4 years by the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). While our May report examined such debt 3 years after the 2009 implementation of the new, more generous Post-9/11 GI Bill, these data from the survey's 2015-16 cycle provide a longer, 7-year perspective.

This document is not meant to be a stand-alone report but rather was created to provide access to the tables and figures supporting our analyses in Issue Brief #8, "Veteran Student Loan Debt 7 Years After Implementation of the Post-9/11 GI Bill." The table and figure numbers in this document correspond to those in our May 2018 report (for tables 1 and 2, see the May report).<sup>1</sup> That report, as well as the Issue Brief, contain a detailed description of NPSAS and the approach we took in analyzing the data.

<b>Table 3: Distribution of Veteran Undergraduate Students by Sector, 2007-08, 2011-12, and 2015-16</b>			
<b>Sector</b>	<b>2007-08 (percent)</b>	<b>2011-12 (percent)</b>	<b>2015-16 (percent)</b>
For-profit	17	23	17
Public 2 year	42	38	39
Public 4 year	20	19	21
Nonprofit 4 year	12	10	11
Other <sup>a</sup>	9	9	12
Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: NPSAS:08,12,16.

<sup>a</sup>Other " includes less than 4 year nonprofit; less than 2-yr public and for-profit, and; those who attended more than one institution.

<b>Table 4: Average VA Undergraduate Tuition Payments by Sector, 2007-08, 2011-12, and 2015-16</b>				
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Average payment per recipient</b>			<b>Percent change</b>
	<b>2007-08 (in 2015\$s)</b>	<b>2011-12 (in 2015\$s)</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2011-12 to 2015-16</b>
All veterans	\$6,870	\$9,300	\$8,400	-10%
For-profit	\$8,830	\$12,050	\$13,290	10%
Public 2 year	\$5,900	\$7,280	\$3,870	-47%
Public 4 year	\$6,780	\$7,920	\$7,960	1%
Nonprofit 4 year	\$7,180	\$10,270	\$12,940	26%
Other <sup>a</sup>	\$8,090	\$9,690	\$9,980	3%

Source: NPSAS:08,12,16.

Note: Tuition payments are shown in 2015 dollars. Dollar values are rounded to the nearest \$10. We discussed the decline in average tuition payments in 2015-16 with NCES, particularly the 47 percent drop at public 2-year institutions. According to NCES, estimates of federal veterans' education benefits in NPSAS:08,12 were derived from self-reported amounts, amounts reported by the recipient's NPSAS institution, and stochastic imputation. In contrast, VA was the sole source for federal veterans' education benefits amounts, in NPSAS:16.

<sup>a</sup>Other " includes less than 4 year nonprofit; less than 2-yr public and for-profit, and; those who attended more than one institution.

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<sup>1</sup>Table 1 in our May report addressed differences between the Post-9/11 benefit and its predecessor, the Montgomery GI Bill, which many veterans were still using when the former was implemented in August 2009. Table 2 summarized factors contributing to veteran student loan debt.

**Table 5: Percentage of Veterans and Other Independent Students Attending School Mostly Full Time by Sector, 2007-08, 2011-12, 2015-16**

Sector	Veterans			Other Independent Students		
	2007-08	2011-12	2015-16	2007-08	2011-12	2015-16
Overall	46	61	53	38	48	41
For-profit	77	79	72	74	76	70
Public 2 year	28	47	41	20	33	23
Public 4 year	50	64	55	45	49	44
Nonprofit 4 year	52	52	52	51	57	54

Source: NPSAS:08,12,16.

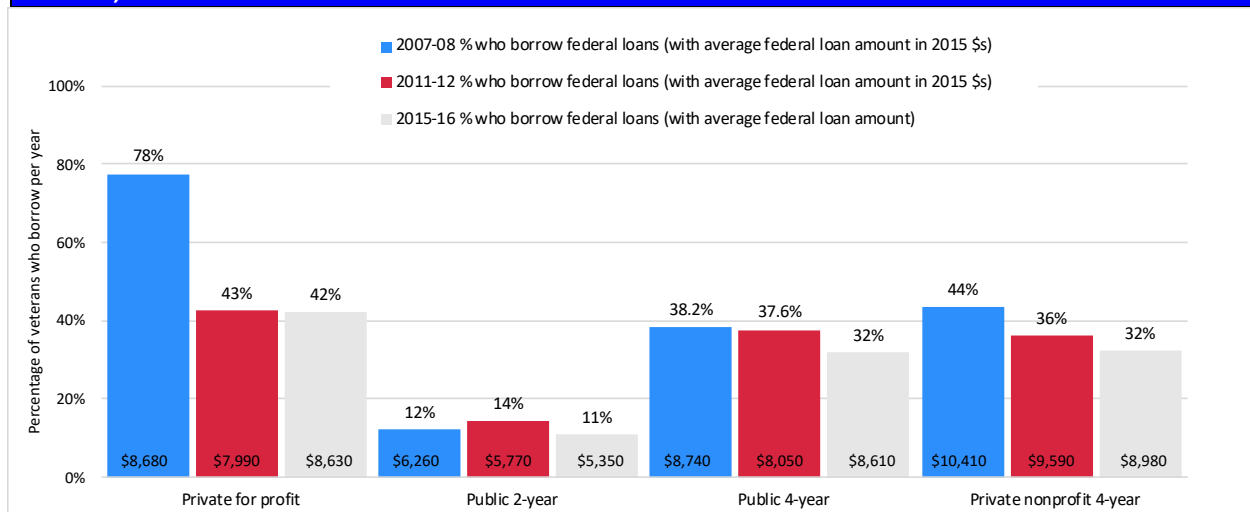
**Table 6: Comparison of Incomes and Family Sizes of Veterans and Other Independent Students by Sector, 2011-12**

Sector	Veterans				Other Independent Students			
	2011-12		2015-16		2011-12		2015-16	
	Total 2010 income	Family size	Total 2014 income	Family size	Total 2010 income	Family size	Total 2014 income	Family size
Total	\$39,500	2.6	\$40,800	2.4	\$31,020	2.5	\$31,880	2.3
For-profit	\$36,450	2.7	\$40,510	2.6	\$26,320	2.7	\$24,890	2.5
Public 2 year	\$40,100	2.5	\$40,740	2.3	\$31,860	2.5	\$33,090	2.3
Public 4 year	\$36,740	2.4	\$39,610	2.3	\$31,070	2.2	\$31,830	2.0
Nonprofit 4 year	\$54,210	3.1	\$49,350	2.7	\$39,700	2.5	\$38,940	2.5
Other <sup>a</sup>	\$34,620	2.4	\$35,710	2.6	\$30,020	2.4	\$28,210	2.3

Source: NPSAS:12,16.

Note: Dollar values are adjusted to 2014\$ and rounded to nearest \$10. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for each academic year collects prior calendar year income data. The 2011-12 FAFSA, uses 2010 income and is adjusted to reflect 2014\$, which was used for the 2015-16 FAFSA.

**Figure 1: Percentage of Veterans Borrowing Federal Loans and Average Annual Amount by Sector, 2007-08, 2011-12, and 2015-16**

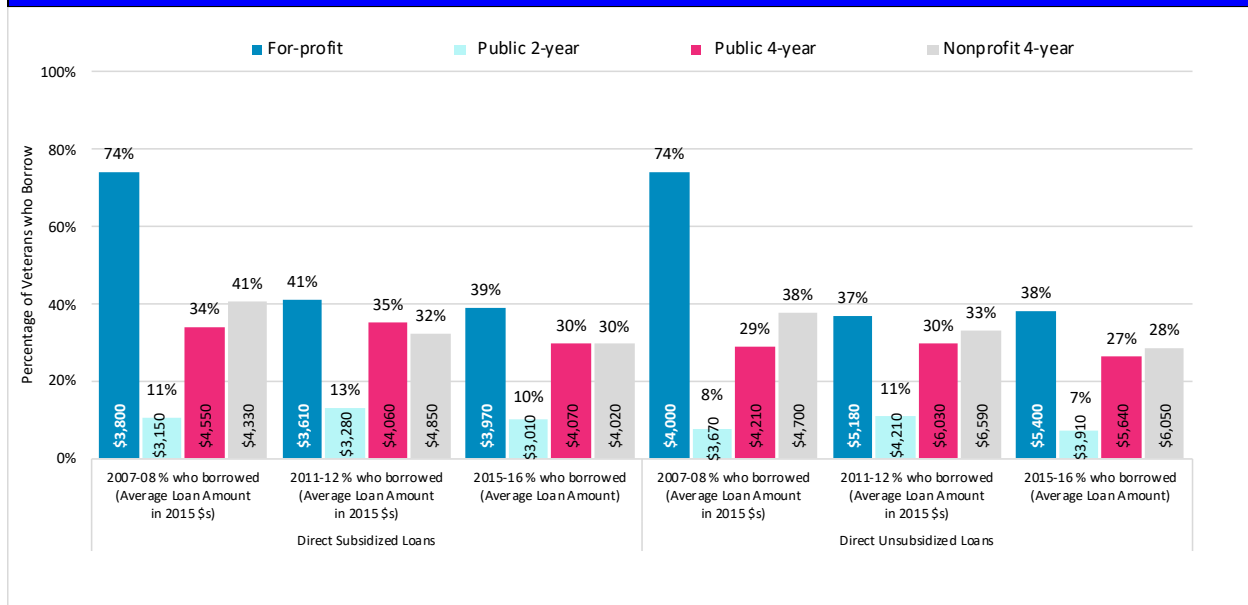


Source: NPSAS:08,12,16.

Note: The data represent average amount borrowed in a single academic year. Federal loans include subsidized and unsubsidized loans and Perkins loans. The 2007-08 and 2011-12 average loan values are in 2015 dollars and are rounded to nearest \$10. Prior to 2010, federal subsidized and unsubsidized loans known

today as Stafford loans were provided through two programs—the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program or the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). Under the Direct Loan Program, the Department of Education made the loans directly to students, while under the FFELP program the Department guaranteed loans made by private entities such as banks. FFELP loans were discontinued in 2010 and since then Stafford loans have been referred to as Direct Loans. The Perkins Loan Program provides low interest loans to help needy students finance the costs of postsecondary education. Students attending one of the approximately 1,700 participating postsecondary institutions can obtain these loans from the school. The school's revolving Perkins loan fund is replenished by ongoing activities, such as collections by the school on outstanding Perkins loans made by the school and reimbursements from the Department of Education for the cost of certain statutory loan cancellation provisions. The proportion of veterans with Perkins loans was less than 1 percent in all years reported.

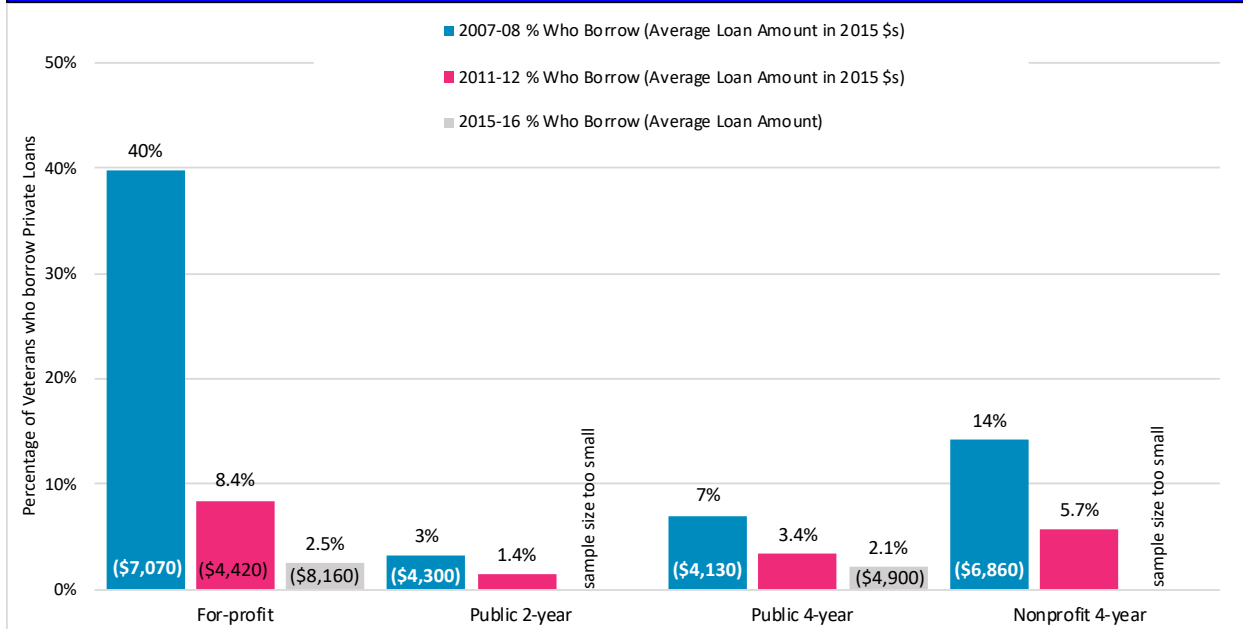
**Figure 2: Percentage of Veterans Borrowing Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans and Annual Average Amount by Sector, 2007-08, 2011-12, and 2015-16**



Source: NPSAS:08,12,16.

Note: The data represent average amount borrowed in a single academic year. The 2007-08 and 2011-12 average loan values are in 2015 dollars and are rounded to nearest \$10. Prior to 2010, federal subsidized and unsubsidized loans, known as Stafford loans, were provided through two programs—the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program or the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). Under the Direct Loan Program, the Department of Education made the loans directly to students, while under the FFELP program the Department guaranteed loans made by private entities such as banks. FFELP loans were discontinued in 2010 and since then Stafford loans have been referred to as Direct Loans.

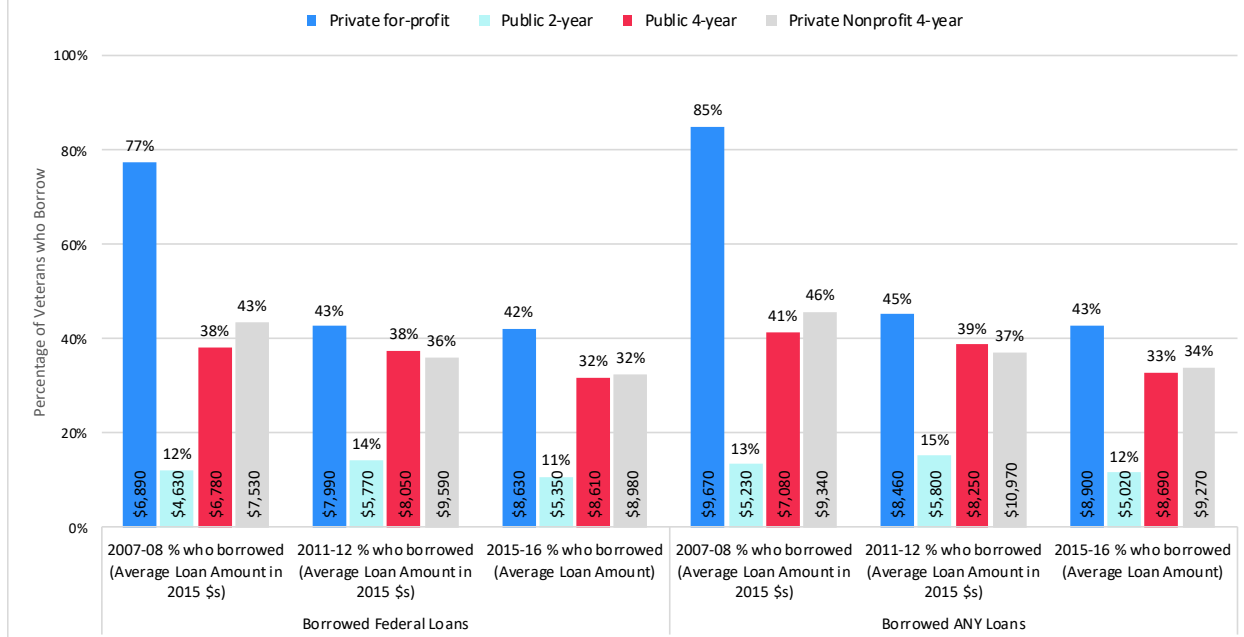
**Figure 3: Percentage of Veterans Borrowing Private Loans and Average Annual Amount by Sector, 2007-08, 2011-12, and 2015-16**



Source: NPSAS:08,12,16.

Note: The data represent the average amount borrowed in a single academic year. The 2007-08 average loan values are in 2015 dollars. Dollar values are rounded to nearest \$10. Sample sizes are too small to produce average loan amounts in the public and nonprofit sectors for 2011-12 and the percentage who borrow should be interpreted with caution.

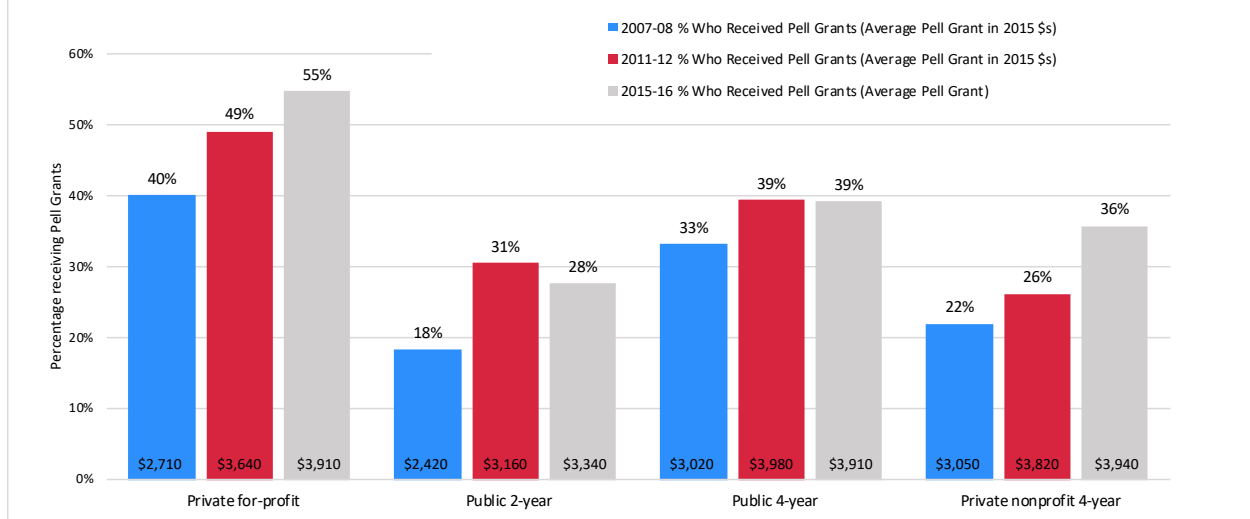
**Figure 4: Percentage of Veterans Borrowing Federal Loans Compared to Borrowing ANY Loans by Sector, 2007-08, 2011-12, and 2015-16**



Source: NPSAS:08,12,16.

Note: "Federal loans" include subsidized, unsubsidized and Perkins student loans. "ANY" loans include federal subsidized, unsubsidized loans, Perkins loans, as well as state, institutional, and private student loans. Fewer than 1 percent of veterans participate in state or institutional loan programs. We excluded the 8 percent of veterans who attended more than one institution in either academic year that were in different sectors.

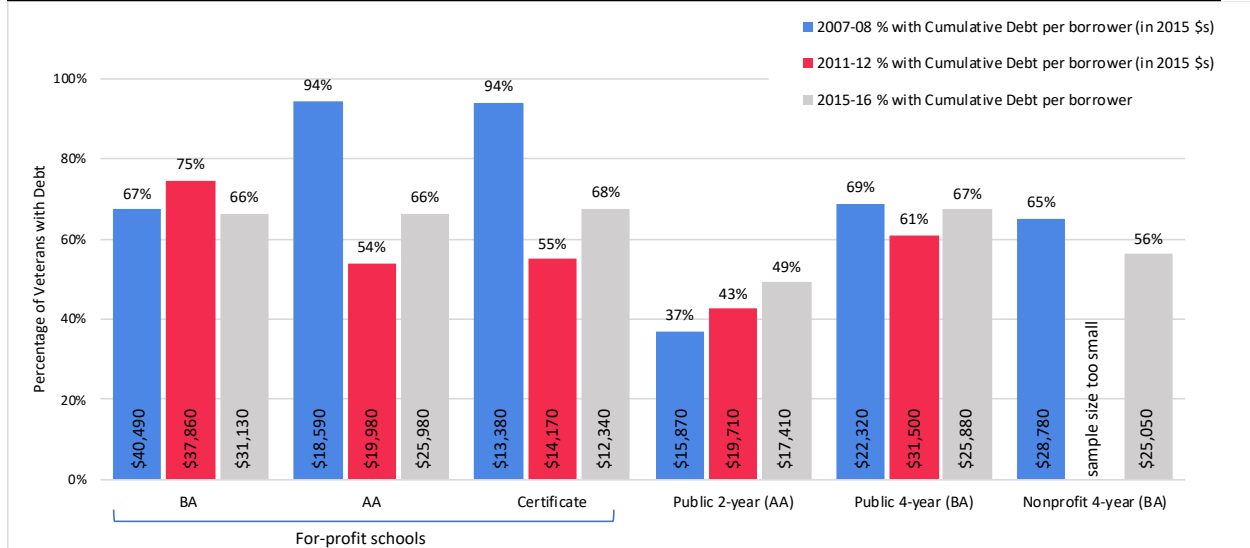
**Figure 5: Percentage of Veterans Qualifying for Pell Grants and Average Amount per Recipient by Sector, 2007-08, 2011-12, and 2015-16**



Source: NPSAS:08,12,16.

Note: The data represent average Pell Grants in a single academic year. The 2007-08 and 2011-12 average Pell grants are in 2015 dollars. Dollar values are rounded to nearest \$10.

**Figure 6: Percentage of Veterans with Cumulative Debt and Average Amount per Borrower for Graduates by Sector, 2007-08, 2011-12, 2015-16**

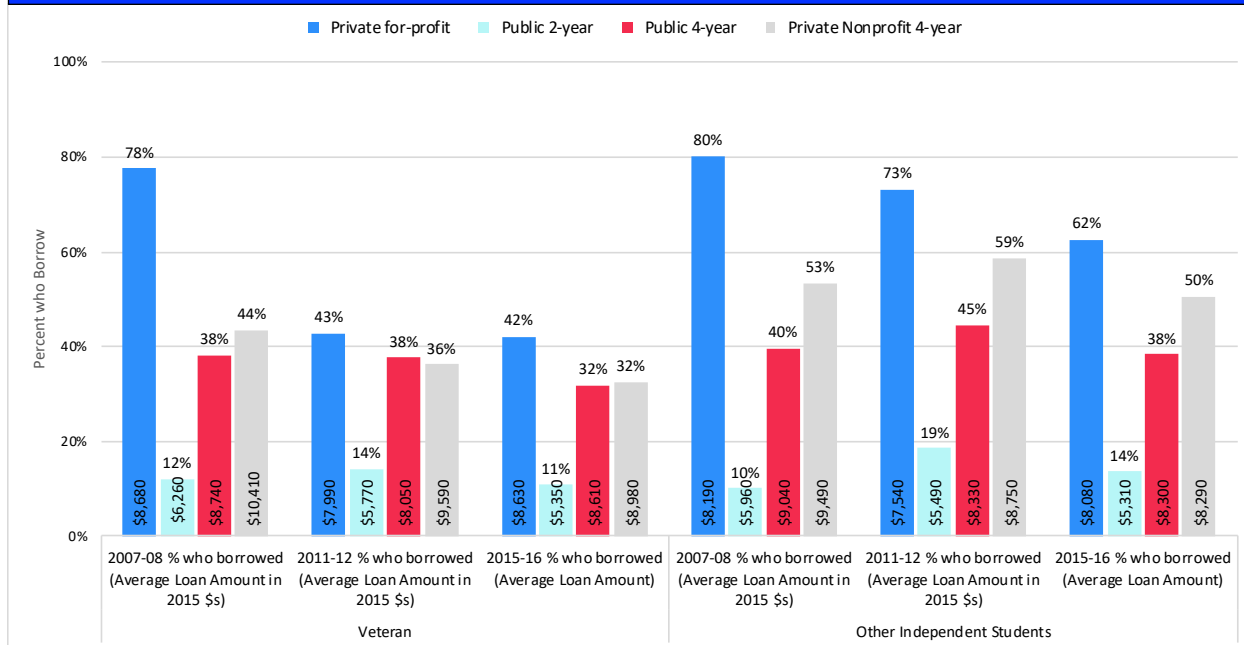


Source: NPSAS:08,12,16.

Note: The data reflect the average amount borrowed from federal or other sources at the point of graduation. Cumulative debt reported here may include debt acquired at prior enrollment for transfer students. Total cumulative debt for 2007-08 and 2011-12 are in 2015 dollars, rounded to nearest \$10.



**Figure 7: Percentage of Veterans and Other Independent students who borrowed federal Direct or Perkins Loans and Average Amount per Borrower by sector, 2007-08, 2011-12, and 2015-16**



Source: NPSAS:08,12,16.