

# Conflict By The Numbers: *The Story of Conflict Through Numbers*

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Conflict is a disagreement between two opposing forces. That conflict could be anywhere from a minor argument between friends to a significant war between countries. Throughout the sections in this booklet, we will be looking at almost all of the major wars that the United States have participated in and the impact they have

had on the state of Wisconsin. All this will be done through numbers. Numbers? How could numbers tell us anything about a war? That's the thing about numbers though, they give the cold hard facts of a war. There is no opinion with numbers and no way that the truth could have been twisted.

# 1

## Overview of America's Wars

According to Merriam-Webster:  
**conflict (noun):**  
a struggle for power, property, etc



Looking at all of the wars that the U.S. have participated in helps us realize the effect that a particular war has had on our country. When looking at all of the wars at once, it is easier to notice and compare how wars have

changed since the start of America. For example, could the wars be slowly getting shorter or longer over time? Or are there more casualties in more recent wars or wars that happened a hundred years ago?

# Prior to World Wars

## American Revolution

Length of Conflict	8 years
Total Number of Soldiers Served	217,000 soldiers
Total Deaths	4,435 soldiers died
Soldiers Served : Deaths	49 : 1
Total Casualties	10,623 soldiers with a casualty
Soldiers Served : Casualties	20 : 1
Total Cost of War in Present Year Currency	\$2,407 million
Total Percentage GDP in Peak Year of War	NA

## War of 1812

Length of Conflict	3 years
Total Number of Soldiers Served	286,730 soldiers
Total Deaths	2,260 soldiers died
Soldiers Served : Deaths	6 : 1
Total Casualties	6,765 soldiers with a casualty
Soldiers Served : Casualties	5 : 1
Total Cost of War in Present Year Currency	\$1,553 million
Total Percentage GDP in Peak Year of War	2.7%

## Mexican War

Length of Conflict	2 years
Total Number of Soldiers Served	78,718 soldiers
Total Deaths	13,283 soldiers died
Soldiers Served : Deaths	127 : 1
Total Casualties	17,435 soldiers with a casualty
Soldiers Served : Casualties	42 : 1
Total Cost of War in Present Year Currency	\$2,376 million
Total Percentage GDP in Peak Year of War	1.9%

### Civil War

<b>Length of Conflict</b>	4 years
<b>Total Number of Soldiers Served</b>	3,263,363 soldiers
<b>Total Deaths</b>	498,332 soldiers died
<b>Soldiers Served : Deaths</b>	7 : 1
<b>Total Casualties</b>	780,213 soldiers with a casualty *
<b>Soldiers Served : Casualties</b>	4 : 1 *
<b>Total Cost of War in Present Year Currency</b>	\$79,742 million
<b>Total Percentage GDP in Peak Year of War</b>	11.7%

\*more casualties than listed as the Confederate soldiers' woundings are unkown

### Spanish American War

<b>Length of Conflict</b>	4 years
<b>Total Number of Soldiers Served</b>	306,760 soldiers
<b>Total Deaths</b>	2,446 soldiers died
<b>Soldiers Served : Deaths</b>	125 : 1
<b>Total Casualties</b>	4,108 soldiers with a casualty
<b>Soldiers Served : Casualties</b>	75 : 1
<b>Total Cost of War in Present Year Currency</b>	\$79,742 million
<b>Total Percentage GDP in Peak Year of War</b>	11.7%

# World Wars and After

## World War I

Length of Conflict	1 year
Total Number of Soldiers Served	4,734,991 soldiers
Total Deaths	116,516 soldiers died
Soldiers Served : Deaths	41 : 1
Total Casualties	320,518 soldiers with a casualty
Soldiers Served : Casualties	15 : 1
Total Cost of War in Present Year Currency	\$334 billion
Total Percentage GDP in Peak Year of War	14.1%

## World War II

Length of Conflict	4 years
Total Number of Soldiers Served	16,112,566 soldiers
Total Deaths	405,399 soldiers died
Soldiers Served : Deaths	40 : 1
Total Casualties	1,076,245 soldiers with a casualty
Soldiers Served : Casualties	15 : 1
Total Cost of War in Present Year Currency	\$4,104 billion
Total Percentage GDP in Peak Year of War	37.5%

## Korean War

Length of Conflict	3 years
Total Number of Soldiers Served	5,720,000 soldiers
Total Deaths	54,246 soldiers died
Soldiers Served : Deaths	105 : 1
Total Casualties	157,530 soldiers with a casualty
Soldiers Served : Casualties	36 : 1
Total Cost of War in Present Year Currency	\$341 billion
Total Percentage GDP in Peak Year of War	13.2%

### Vietnam War

<b>Length of Conflict</b>	11 years
<b>Total Number of Soldiers Served</b>	8,744,000 soldiers
<b>Total Deaths</b>	90,220 soldiers died
<b>Soldiers Served : Deaths</b>	97 : 1
<b>Total Casualties</b>	243,523 soldiers with a casualty
<b>Soldiers Served : Casualties</b>	36 : 1
<b>Total Cost of War in Present Year Currency</b>	\$738 billion
<b>Total Percentage GDP in Peak Year of War</b>	9.5%

### Desert Shield/Desert Storm

<b>Length of Conflict</b>	1 year
<b>Total Number of Soldiers Served</b>	2,322,000 soldiers
<b>Total Deaths</b>	1,948 soldiers died
<b>Soldiers Served : Deaths</b>	1191 : 1
<b>Total Casualties</b>	2,415 soldiers with a casualty
<b>Soldiers Served : Casualties</b>	961 : 1
<b>Total Cost of War in Present Year Currency</b>	\$102 billion
<b>Total Percentage GDP in Peak Year of War</b>	0.3%

### Global War on Terror

<b>Length of Conflict</b>	12 years
<b>Total Number of Soldiers Served</b>	2,333,972 soldiers
<b>Total Deaths</b>	6,795 died
<b>Soldiers Served : Deaths</b>	343 : 1
<b>Total Casualties</b>	58,671 soldiers with a casualty
<b>Soldiers Served : Casualties</b>	40 : 1
<b>Total Cost of War in Present Year Currency</b>	\$2252 billion
<b>Total Percentage GDP in Peak Year of War</b>	2.9%

# Conflict Brings Devastation

Without calculating any ratios and looking at the standard statistics, World War II was the most devastating war to the United States. First off, over 16 million soldiers were deployed, which is more than any other war. Those men made a huge sacrifice to defend their country and leave behind their families. About 400,000 servicemembers had died at war and almost 700,000 soldiers had left with an injury. That adds up to a total of 1,076,245 casualties. Believe it or not, there are still about 1.7 million living veterans from World War II that have had to live with the emotional, and maybe even physical, hardships over the past 60+ years.



After calculating two ratios, *soldiers served:deaths* and *soldiers served:casualties*, the Mexican War and the Civil war are neck and neck competing for the most devastating war. The Mexican War and the Civil War swapped the first and second rankings back and forth for the two categories, making it a hard decision to decide which war was more devastating.

Which war impacted America more? Well, the Mexican War had the lowest ratio for *soldiers served:deaths* with a ratio of 6:1. This means that for every 6 soldiers that were out battling for the United States, 1 would die at war. The Civil War came in at second place with a ratio of 7:1. This time for every 7 soldiers that were at war, 1 would die defending our country. If we stopped here, the Mexican War would be more devastating because less people had to go to war to have the same amount of soldiers die.

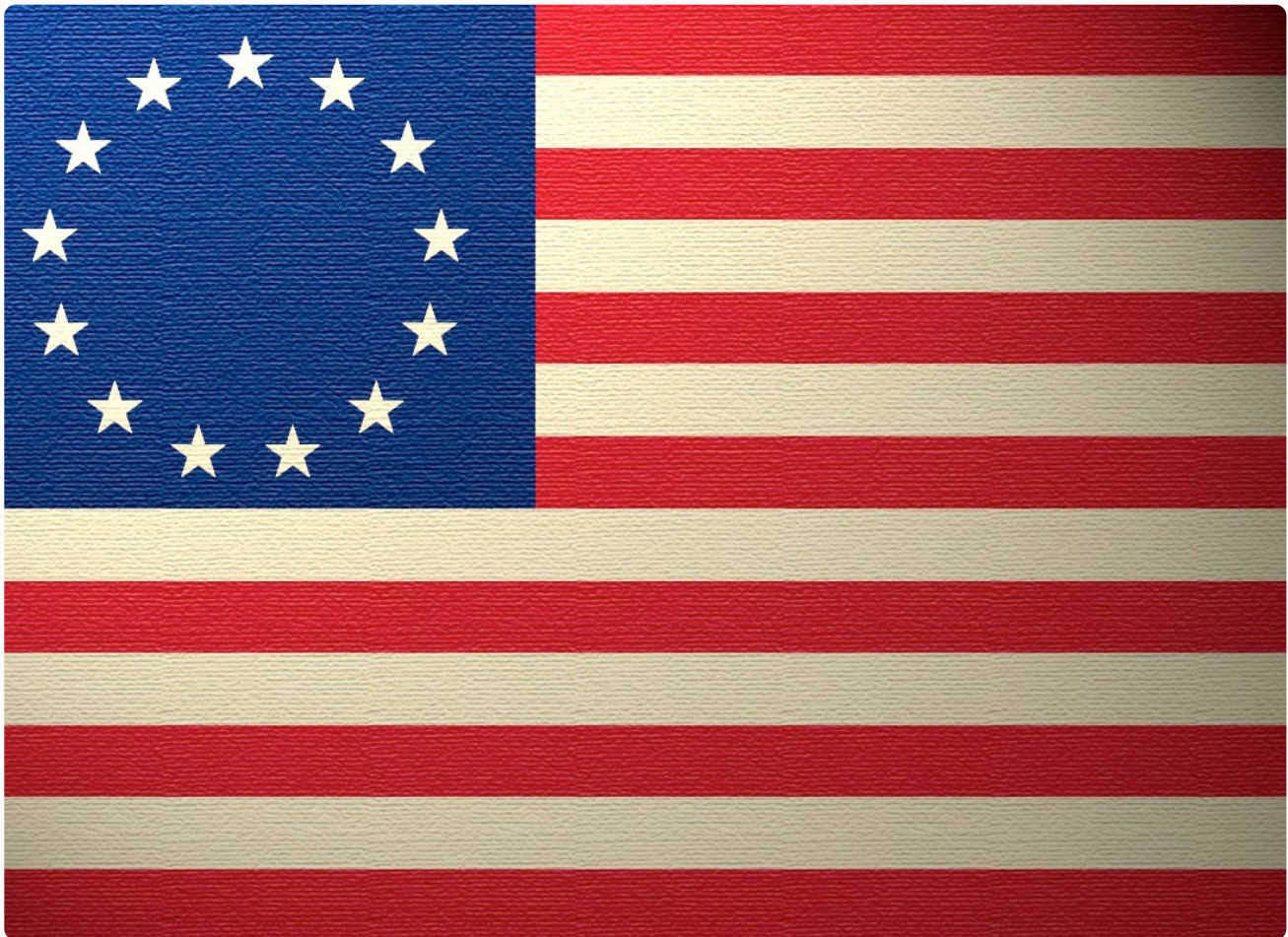
When looking into the ratio for *soldiers served:casualties*, the Civil War actually comes back to take the highest ranking. For every 4 soldiers entering the Civil War, 1 would end up with a casualty. Surprisingly, this number is actually lower because the Confederate side's wounding count is unknown. Don't forget that the Union side and the Confederate side had to be included for the Civil War statistics as they are both American armies. The Mexican War then took the second highest ranking in this ratio. For every 5 U.S. service members in this war, 1 ended up with a casualty. That's 20% of all American soldiers!

So which war was more devastating? The Mexican War with a higher percentage of deaths, or the Civil War with a higher percentage of casualties? The Mexican War was probably more devastating because those soldiers that had died didn't get to go home to their families. Yes, the Civil War did have soldiers that died also, but servicemen in the Mexican War had a higher chance of dying at war. Soldiers would probably rather come home with a casualty than sadly not making it back at all.

# 2

## American Revolution

The American Revolution consists of the 13 colonies fighting for freedom against their ruler, Britain.



### George Washington

The Revolutionary War is when George Washington really starts to come into play. He was the commander-in-chief of the colonies' troops at the

start of the war in 1775. His greatest accomplishments were forcing the British out of Boston and crossing the Delaware River on Christmas of 1776 to have a surprise raid on the British. Washington later became America's first president in 1789.



# Background of American Revolution

## The Revolutionary War Overview

The Revolutionary War lasted for 8 years, from 1775 to 1783. A revolution was happening in America long before 1775. The colonists didn't think it was fair that the British Parliament was allowed to tax them without someone representing them that they had elected. That led to the Boston Tea Party in 1773. A group of patriots, called the Sons of Liberty, went and dumped tea into the Boston River that was to be taxed by British authority. British soon declared war on the colonies, but the war didn't pick up pace until around 1776.

## Early On

The colonists had complete control over the entire east coast, where majority of people had lived. British had taken New York City and used it as their main fort. In the fall of 1777, colonists had won the Battle of Saratoga and convinced France to join the war on their side officially in 1778, although they had been secretly supplying the 13 colonies with war supplies for a couple of years.

## Battle of Lexington and Concord

The Battle of Lexington and Concord was Britain's way of trying to destroy some of the colonists' ammunition at their fort in Concord on April 17, 1775. They were surprised by the 'Minute Men', which are fast responding soldiers on the patriots' side, in Lexington. The Americans won the battle on April 19, 1775 with 100 soldiers killed, while the British had lost 300 soldiers. The Battle of Lexington and Concord was the first battle of the war.



## Did it ever end?

The fighting between the colonists and the British finally and officially ended in 1783, when Britain signed America's Treaty of Paris on September 3rd. The Treaty of Paris declared the United States independence from Britain and they stopped sending

# American Revolution By the Numbers

<b>Length of War</b>	8 years
<b>Total Number of Soldiers Served</b>	217,000 soldiers
<b>Total Deaths</b>	4,435 soldiers died
<b>Total Casualties</b>	10,623 soldiers with a casualty
<b>Cost of War in Present Year Currency</b>	\$2,407 million
<b>Soldiers Served : Deaths</b>	49 : 1
<b>Explanation of Soldiers Served : Deaths</b>	For every 49 soldiers deployed, 1 would die at war.
<b>Soldiers Served : Casualties</b>	20 : 1
<b>Explanation of Soldiers Served : Casualties</b>	For every 20 soldiers deployed, 1 would have a casualty.
<b>Soldiers Died : Years Fought</b>	554 : 1
<b>Explanation of Soldiers Died : Years Fought</b>	Every year, 554 soldiers would die at war.
<b>Soldiers With a Casualty : Years Fought</b>	1,328 : 1
<b>Explanation of Soldiers With a Casualty : Years Fought</b>	Every year, 1,328 soldiers would have a casualty from the war.



## Delaware River

George Washington crossed the Delaware River on December 25th, 1776 with his troops for a sneak attack on the British troops.

# 3

## World War II

Germany felt oppressed by the taxations from other countries due to the results of World War I, which led to World War II.



### Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler played a huge role in WWII. He was the chancellor for Germany starting in 1933, but he had formed the Nazi Party in the early 1920s. Hit-

ler wanted to expand Germany's border and completely ignore the payments the country owed to other countries from World War I.

# Background of World War II

The war started in 1939 when Germany attacked Poland under Adolf's orders while Britain and France allied together to fight the Germans.

## The Two Theaters of the War

There were two different theaters of war going on at once, the 'European' and the 'Pacific'. The 'European' side involved Germany and Italy allied against Britain and France. Japan was technically allies with Germany, but they were in their own war against China, and later brought in the United States. The main purpose of Germany in the 'European War' was to expand territory into the Soviet Union. They started to venture into the Union's land in 1941, but were forced to retreat in 1943 by the Russians after the Germans lost the two battles of Stalingrad and Kursk. The Pacific side of the war was originally between China and Japan, but Japan soon brought the United States into the war with the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

## Pearl Harbor and Battle of Midway

Pearl Harbor was a U.S. Navy base in Hawaii that was surprisingly attacked by Japan on December 7, 1941. This action led to the United States to

declaring a war between the countries the day after the attack. Battles became more popular between the two countries that eventually brought them to the Battle of Midway in 1942. The U.S. completely won the battle lasting between June 3 and June 6. Pearl Harbor and the Battle of Midway occurred on the 'Pacific' side of the war.



## The Ending of World War II

The Germans started their downhill fall when Russia pushed them back into their own territory. Attacks on Berlin started on April 16th, 1945 by the Russians. On April 30th, Adolf Hitler committed suicide. Without Hitler to guide them, many of Germany's troops were scrambling; some surrendered while others kept on fighting for their country. General Alfred Jodl officially signed the surrender of the German's troops on May 7th, 1945. The Western Allies came out with the win.

# World War II By the Numbers

<b>Length of War</b>	4 years
<b>Total Number of Soldiers Served</b>	16,112,566 soldiers
<b>Total Deaths</b>	405,399 soldiers died
<b>Total Casualties</b>	1,076,245 soldiers with a casualty
<b>Cost of War in Present Year Currency</b>	\$4,104 billion
<b>Soldiers Served : Deaths</b>	40 : 1
<b>Explanation of Soldiers Served : Deaths</b>	For every 40 soldiers deployed, 1 would die at war.
<b>Soldiers Served : Casualties</b>	15 : 1
<b>Explanation of Soldiers Served : Casualties</b>	For every 15 soldiers deployed, 1 would have a casualty.
<b>Soldiers Died : Years Fought</b>	101,350 : 1
<b>Explanation of Soldiers Died : Years Fought</b>	Every year, 101,350 soldiers would die at war.
<b>Soldiers With a Casualty : Years Fought</b>	269,061 : 1
<b>Explanation of Soldiers With a Casualty : Years Fought</b>	Every year, 269,061 soldiers would have a casualty from the war.



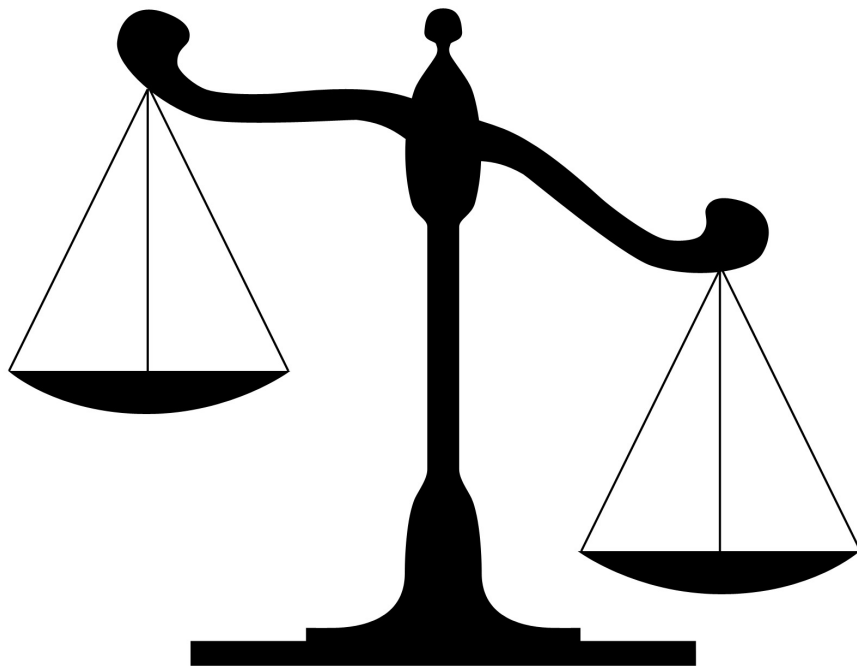
## Theaters of WWII

German fighting often occurred in the European continent while the Japanese fighting took place in Asia.

# 4

## Comparing Conflicts

How is it possible to compare wars almost 175 years apart?



To compare wars that happened at completely different times throughout history, proportions are needed. Proportions are similar to fractions, they have one number 'over' another. These mathematical statements are really good at putting two different situations under similar conditions. To put the situations into those special conditions, you must divide the two things you wish to compare by each other, which is creating a proportion. For example,

let's say Mr. Johnson has 50 apples and eats one. Well that's not a very big deal because he only ate 2% of his apples. But if he ate one apple and only had 5 to begin with, he would have eaten 20% of his apples! That's kind of how the American Revolution and World War II were compared, but those wars are way more important than the apples. But if he ate 20% of his 50 apples, 10 apples would have been eaten.

# Similar Circumstances

## Soldiers Served : Casualties

$$\text{American Revolution: } \frac{217,000}{10,623}$$

$$\text{World War II: } \frac{16,112,566}{1,076,245}$$

To set the two wars into similar circumstances, one of the 'denominators' will need to be turned into a variable, the proportions will be set equal to each other, and then cross-multiplied to solve.

$$\frac{217,000}{10,623} = \frac{16,112,566}{x}$$

Once the equation is completely solved, it will be stated that  $x=788,773$ . What does that number mean though? Since the  $x$  value is placed on the second part of the proportion, it represents casualties. But this is where it gets complicated.  $788,773$  isn't how many soldiers had a casualty in the American Revolution or the World War II... The proportion set the wars into similar conditions, so if  $16,112,566$  (amount of soldiers in World War II) soldiers were sent into the American Revolution, there would have been  $788,773$  (number from solved proportion) soldiers with a casualty. This is how it is decided that World War II was more devastating than the American Revolution. WWII actually had  $1,076,245$  casualties. Even if the same amount of soldiers that were in WWII were in the American Revolution, World War II would end up with more casualties by approximately  $1.4$  ( $1,076,245/788,773$ ) times the devastation

## Casualties : Length of War

$$\text{American Revolution: } \frac{10,623}{8}$$

$$\text{World War II: } \frac{1,076,245}{4}$$

To set the two wars into similar circumstances, one of the 'denominators' will need to be turned into a variable, the proportions will be set equal to each other, and then cross-multiplied to solve.

$$\frac{10,623}{8} = \frac{1,076,245}{x}$$

After all the steps of the equation are finished, a number around  $810.5$  should be equalled to  $x$ . That means that the American Revolution would have had to last  $810$  years to be just as devastating as World War II. How is that even possible? When you replace the  $x$  with  $810$ , you have  $1,076,245/810$ . It just seems like one complicated fraction, but really it is a larger version of  $10,623/8$ . The proportion put the two wars into similar conditions. Just like in the previous proportion, let's say that  $1,076,245$  (amount of soldiers in WWII) soldiers are sent into the American Revolution. In the Revolution,  $5\%$  of all  $217,000$  soldiers had casualties. So,  $5\%$  of  $1,076,245$  soldiers would also have to have a casualty for WWII to be similar to the American Revolution. World War II was  $101$  ( $810.5/8$ ) times more devastating than the American Revolution because it would have taken the Revolution  $810$  years to end up with the same amount of casualties as WWII.



## **Why are there differences between the wars?**

All wars have different outcomes and there are many things that would affect the statistics of a war. The American Revolution and World War II in particular have quite a few variables that made them so unique. Things that affect outcomes of wars could be things such as how well and long the U.S. has been formed and the technology of the weapons.

It may not seem like much, but the quality of the U.S.'s past severely impacts wars. For instance, during the Revolutionary War, America didn't really have all of its 'pieces in place'. We weren't really a country yet when we stated our war against Britain. But when WWII came along, America was prepared. We had already been through one world war by that time and we had an army in stone. WWII had deployed over one million soldiers, while the first war of America barely had over 200,000 soldiers. America may not have had a ton of experience during World War II, but it was far more than Americans had during the Revolutionary War.

Technology also played a war in determining a war's outcome. During the American Revolution, soldiers had almost no control over their muskets as the guns practically aimed themselves. But during WWII, the technology was more advanced so soldiers could do way more damage to other countries. Vice versa, other countries could do damage to them, resulting in more casualties. Countries had air fare and automatic weapons along with grenades to do deadly damage.



# 5

## Wisconsin's Contribution

Chapter 5 compares the impact the United States's wars have had on the nation in general and to Wisconsin specifically.



### Wisconsin

Comparing Wisconsin to the United States isn't just a number game. When we compare those two communities, it really gives citizens in the state

of Wisconsin a realization of how much they have contributed to America as a whole.

# Wisconsin vs. The United States

## Civil War

<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served</b>	91,379 soldiers
<b>Number of WI Deaths</b>	12,216 soldiers died
<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served : Number of WI Soldiers Deaths</b>	7 : 1
<b>Number of U.S. Soldiers Served : Number of U.S. Soldiers Deaths</b>	7 : 1

## Spanish-American War

<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served</b>	5,439 soldiers
<b>Number of WI Deaths</b>	134 soldiers died
<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served : Number of WI Soldiers Deaths</b>	41 : 1
<b>Number of U.S. Soldiers Served : Number of U.S. Soldiers Deaths</b>	125 : 1

## World War I

<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served</b>	122,215 soldiers
<b>Number of WI Deaths</b>	3,932 soldiers died
<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served : Number of WI Soldiers Deaths</b>	31 : 1
<b>Number of U.S. Soldiers Served : Number of U.S. Soldiers Deaths</b>	41 : 1

## World War II

<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served</b>	332,200 soldiers
<b>Number of WI Deaths</b>	8,390 soldiers died
<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served : Number of WI Soldiers Deaths</b>	40 : 1
<b>Number of U.S. Soldiers Served : Number of U.S. Soldiers Deaths</b>	40 : 1

# Wisconsin vs. The United States continued

## Korean War

<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served</b>	132,000 soldiers
<b>Number of WI Deaths</b>	729 soldiers died
<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served : Number of WI Soldiers Deaths</b>	181 : 1
<b>Number of U.S. Soldiers Served : Number of U.S. Soldiers Deaths</b>	105 : 1

## Vietnam War

<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served</b>	165,400 soldiers
<b>Number of WI Deaths</b>	1,239 soldiers died
<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served : Number of WI Soldiers Deaths</b>	133 : 1
<b>Number of U.S. Soldiers Served : Number of U.S. Soldiers Deaths</b>	97 : 1

## Desert Shield/Desert Storm

<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served</b>	10,400 soldiers
<b>Number of WI Deaths</b>	11 soldiers died
<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served : Number of WI Soldiers Deaths</b>	945 : 1
<b>Number of U.S. Soldiers Served : Number of U.S. Soldiers Deaths</b>	1192 : 1

## Global War on Terror

<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served</b>	34,543 soldiers
<b>Number of WI Deaths</b>	123 soldiers died
<b>Number of WI Soldiers Served : Number of WI Soldiers Deaths</b>	281 : 1
<b>Number of U.S. Soldiers Served : Number of U.S. Soldiers Deaths</b>	343 : 1

# Wisconsin Veterans

Comparing the ratios between Wisconsin and the United States as a whole, all these wars in total were more devastating to the United States. The soldiers that came specifically from Wisconsin that had died in the war feels to be have a more devastating impact on Wisconsin because 75% of the wars had either the same ratio or a lower ratio as the national ratios. Lower ratios are more devastating because less soldiers would need to go to war to have one die, which means a higher percentage of soldiers would have died. There was definitely a major difference between the ratios of the Spanish-American War. 1 soldier died for every 125 soldiers serving in the national ratio, but 1 Wisconsin soldier would die for every 41 Wisconsin soldiers serving. That means about 3 times (125/41) less Wisconsin soldiers would need to go to war to have just 1 soldier pass away at war compared to the national average.

The veterans that do not have a very high disability, such as veterans with a disability ranging in the 30-60%, get paid a decent amount because those veterans are still capable to get a job. The more severely disabled veterans, such as someone with an 80-100% disability, does not get paid enough. Those veterans have lots of medical expenses and \$25,000 a year doesn't seem like enough, especially when they have a family they need to provide for. Wisconsin spends a total amount of \$396,980,356.20 a year compensating their veterans.

## Southeastern Wisconsin Veteran Populations

County of WI	Population of County	State Population	% of Veterans Within County
Kenosha County	11,663 veterans	397,664 veterans	2.9%
Racine County	13,380 veterans	397,664 veterans	3.4%
Walworth County	7,534 veterans	397,664 veterans	1.9%
Milwaukee County	48,037 veterans	397,664 veterans	12%
Waukesha County	28,795 veterans	397,664 veterans	7.2%
Total of All 5 Counties	109,409 veterans	397,664 veterans	27.5%

## Wisconsin's Compensation Pay to its Veterans

% Disabled	Monthly Compensation Pay	Yearly Compensation Pay	# of Wisconsin Veterans Receiving Compensation	Total Cost for WI
30%	\$483.75	\$5,805.00	5,300 veterans	\$30,766,500.00
40%	\$687.97	\$8,255.64	4,004 veterans	\$33,055,582.56
50%	\$960.19	\$11,522.28	2,556 veterans	\$29,450,947.68
60%	\$1,207.04	\$14,484.48	2,889 veterans	\$41,845,662.72
70%	\$1,505.66	\$18,067.92	2,479 veterans	\$44,790,373.68
80%	\$1,746.41	\$20,956.92	1,770 veterans	\$37,093,748.40
90%	\$1,962.81	\$23,553.72	1,019 veterans	\$24,001,240.68
100%	\$3,134.32	\$37,611.84	4,147 veterans	\$155,976,300.48

# 6

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