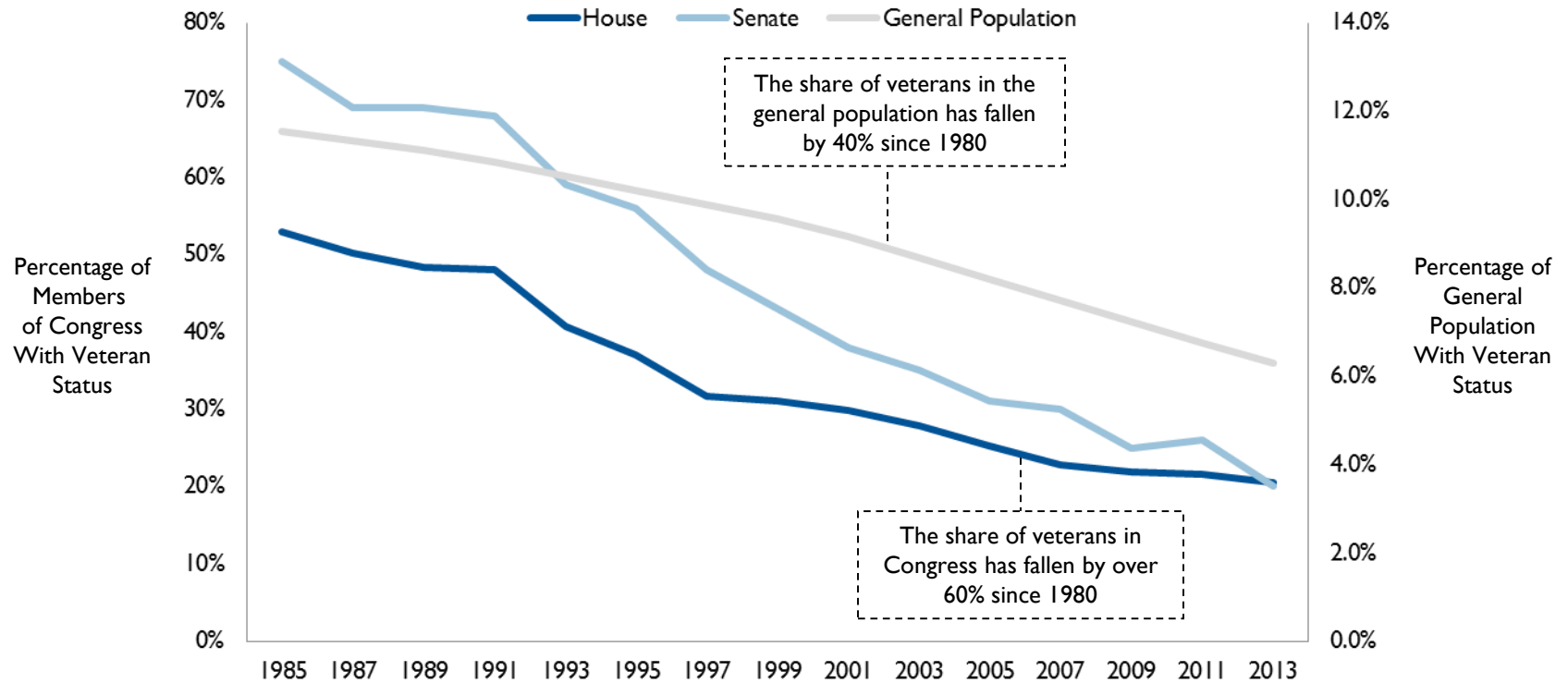


Decline of Veterans in Congress Reflects Decline of Veterans in the U.S.

Percentage of Members of Congress and Percentage of General Population with Veteran Status



Analysis

- The declining number of veterans serving in Congress mirrors a decline in the share of the general population with veteran status
- This decline is due in part to the fact that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have produced fewer veterans than previous conflicts
- Some observers note that the decline of veterans in Congress may leave legislators with a smaller pool of military expertise and familiarity to draw from in the event of escalating international conflicts