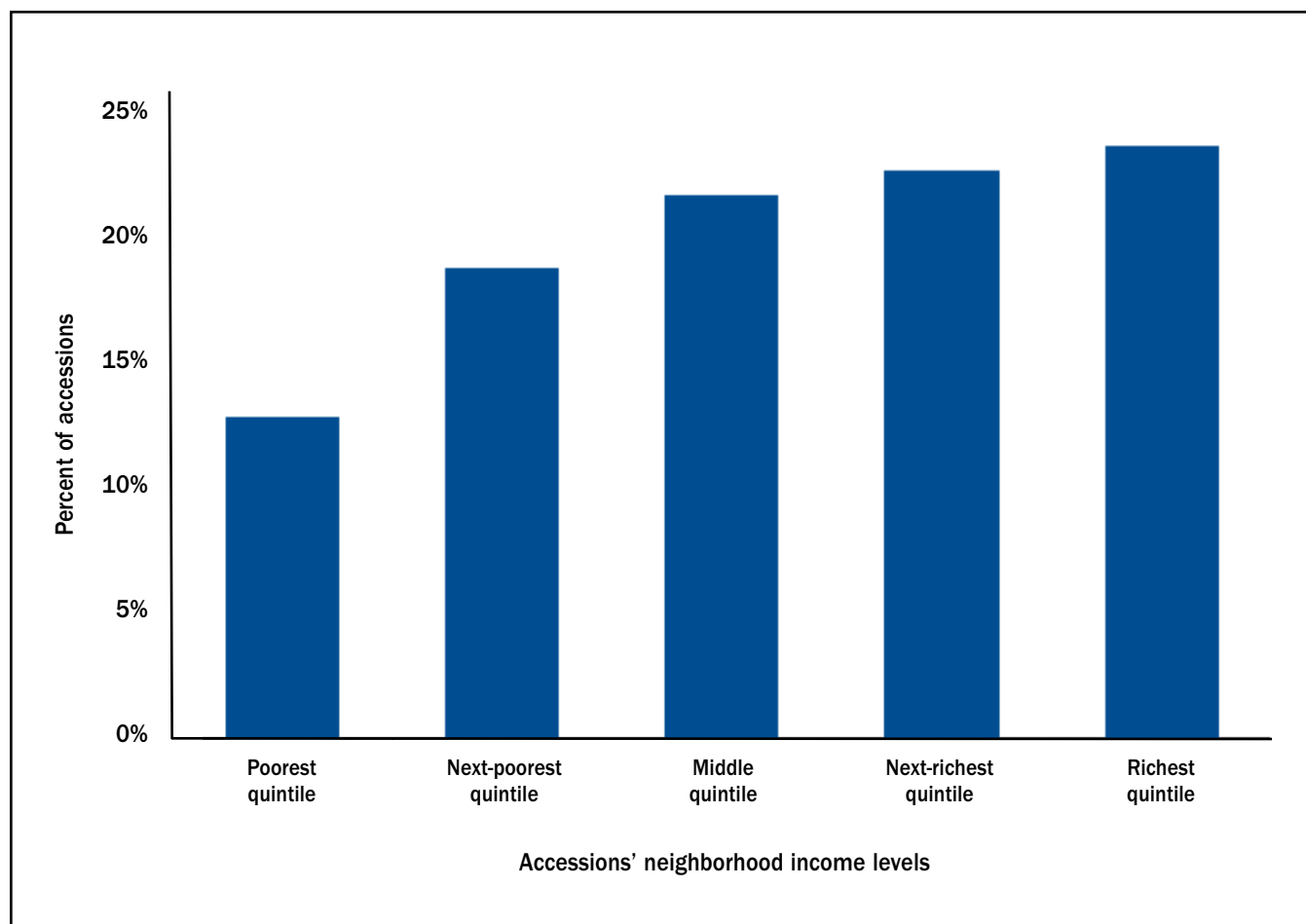


Wealth and Military Recruits

It's long been conventional wisdom that the US armed services recruit disproportionately among the poor. If that claim was ever true, it isn't any longer. Today, says a DOD report, "a majority of new recruits come from middle and upper income neighborhoods." The report divides neighborhoods into five income quintiles, from "richest" to "poorest." Nearly a quarter of the 165,291 men and women recruited

in Fiscal 2010 came from the richest quintile, compared to 13 percent from the poorest. The top three quintiles produced 68 percent of recruits. The Pentagon did not say whether this is a trend. However, it noted that the current 9.6 percent unemployment level is one factor, as is the availability of a generous G.I. bill for college education.

Family Income of Today's Recruits



Source: "Recruiting and the All-Volunteer Force (AVF)," report and briefing by Undersecretary of Defense Clifford L. Stanley, Department of Defense, Washington, D.C., Oct. 12, 2010.