Veterans by the Numbers

Eric Coyle
Data Dissemination Specialist
U.S. Census Bureau
Agenda

- How the data are used
- Programs (sources)
- History
- Data highlights & visuals
- Other sources of veteran statistics
- Live demonstration
How the Data Are Used?

- Veteran Affairs uses to:
  - Measure veteran needs
  - Evaluate impact of veteran’s programs for education, employment and healthcare
  - Conduct policy analysis
  - Plan programs
  - Budget for Federal veterans’ programs
  - Report to Congress on state projections of veterans; facilities and services

https://www.census.gov/hhes/veterans/data/uses.html
Sources of Veteran Statistics

- American Community Survey (ACS)
- Current Population Survey (CPS)
- Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
- Decennial Census (2000 and earlier)
- Survey of Business Owners (SBO)
The first data on veterans to be published by the U.S. government were based on an inquiry in the 1840 census which asked the name, age, and place of residence of pensioners of the Revolutionary War.

Veteran status questions were asked in every decennial census from 1910 to 2000, with the exception of 1920.

Prior to 1980, the veteran status questions were asked of all males 14 years and older.

Starting in 1980, the veteran status questions were asked of all individuals 15 years and older.
What data on veterans are not available from any U.S. Census Bureau surveys?

Military rank, branch of service, length of service
  – Exception: Branch and length are available in the CPS veteran supplement

Combat experience
  • Exception: Available in the CPS veteran supplement

Homelessness

VA benefits other than service-connected disability

Health status of veterans
Census / ACS History

- **1790-1930**
  - Census: one form to all households

- **1940-2000**
  - Census: short form and long form

- **2000**
  - ACS: large-scale demonstration

- **2005-present**
  - ACS / PRCS: full implementation

- **2010**
  - Census: short form only
What is the ACS?

An ongoing monthly survey sent to 3.5 million addresses

- Data collection through four modes: Internet, Mail, Telephone, Personal Visit

Annually produces 1-year and 5-year period datasets:

- Detailed population and housing estimates previously collected on the decennial long form
- Critical information on small areas and small population groups
- Over 11 billion estimates for over 35,000 communities

[census.gov/acs]
2010 Census vs. ACS

2010 Census

100 % Data

How many people live in the U.S.?

Point in time
April 1, 2010

Count - People, Housing units,

American Community Survey

Sample Data

How do people live in the U.S.?

Period in Time
1yr, 5yr

Characteristics
Income, Poverty, Education

2000 Long Form SF3 & SF4
Why Do We Ask?

Veteran Status and Period of Service

Title 13 of the U.S. Code provides the current legal authority for collecting all American Community Survey data

Meeting Federal Needs

- Used primarily by the Department of Veterans Affairs to measure the needs of veterans and to evaluate the impact of veterans’ programs dealing with education, employment, and health care

Community Benefits

- Budgeting and program planning for medical services and nursing homes for veterans
- Planning locations and sizes of veterans’ cemeteries
- Determining segments of population who may not be receiving needed medical services
- Allocating funds for employment and job training programs for veterans
History of Veteran Questions
American Community Survey

For the 1999 to 2002 ACS, the veteran status question matched Census 2000

In 2003, several changes were made:
- The “on active duty in the past” category was split into two groups to aid in VA research into veteran migration
- The most recent period of service category was changed to reflect the era that began after the events of September 11, 2001
- Some wartime dates were revised to match Title 38, U.S. Code

In 2008, new content about service-connected disability was added to the questionnaire

In 2013, the veteran status question was simplified and the periods of military service categories were collapsed

For more information on the 2008 and 2013 changes: https://www.census.gov/topics/population/veterans/working-papers.html
American Community Survey
Veteran Status

Question wording 2003 to 2013

- Has this person ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, military Reserves, or National Guard? Active duty does not include training for the Reserves or National Guard, but DOES include activation, for example, for the Persian Gulf War.

  - [ ] Yes, now on active duty
  - [ ] Yes, on active duty during the last 12 months, but not now
  - [ ] Yes, on active duty in the past, but not during the last 12 months
  - [ ] No, training for Reserves or National Guard only → SKIP to question 28a
  - [ ] No, never served in the military → SKIP to question 29a

Question wording 2013 and later

- Has this person ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard? Mark (X) ONE box.

  - [ ] Never served in the military → SKIP to question 29a
  - [ ] Only on active duty for training in the Reserves or National Guard → SKIP to question 28a
  - [ ] Now on active duty
  - [ ] On active duty in the past, but not now

For more information on wording changes:

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaire-archive.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaire-archive.html)
American Community Survey
Period of Military Service

Question wording 2003 to 2013

When did this person serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces? Mark (X) a box for EACH period in which this person served, even if just for part of the period.

- September 2001 or later
- August 1990 to August 2001 (including Persian Gulf War)
- September 1980 to July 1990
- May 1975 to August 1980
- Vietnam era (August 1964 to April 1975)
- March 1961 to July 1964
- February 1955 to February 1961
- Korean War (July 1950 to January 1955)
- January 1947 to June 1950
- World War II (December 1941 to December 1946)
- November 1941 or earlier

Question wording 2013 and later

When did this person serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces? Mark (X) a box for EACH period in which this person served, even if just for part of the period.

- September 2001 or later
- August 1990 to August 2001 (including Persian Gulf War)
- May 1975 to July 1990
- Vietnam era (August 1964 to April 1975)
- February 1955 to July 1964
- Korean War (July 1950 to January 1955)
- January 1947 to June 1950
- World War II (December 1941 to December 1946)
- November 1941 or earlier

Wartime dates are defined in Title 38 U.S. Code.
American Community Survey
Service-Connected Disability Status and Rating

Question wording 2008 and later

a. Does this person have a VA service-connected disability rating?
   - Yes (such as 0%, 10%, 20%, ..., 100%)
   - No → SKIP to question 29a

b. What is this person’s service-connected disability rating?
   - 0 percent
   - 10 or 20 percent
   - 30 or 40 percent
   - 50 or 60 percent
   - 70 percent or higher

The years of service question from Census 2000 was deleted to make room for this new question in 2008.
Items in red were also collected on the 2010 Census

Demographic Characteristics
- Age
- Sex
- Race
- Hispanic Origin
- Household Relationship
- Group Quarters

Social Characteristics
- Families
- Education
- Marital Status
- Fertility
- Grandparent Caregivers
- Veterans
- Disability Status
- Place of Birth
- Citizenship
- Year of Entry
- Language Spoken at Home
- Ancestry/Tribal Affiliation

Economic Characteristics
- Income
- Poverty
- Benefits
- Employment Status
- Occupation
- Industry
- Commuting to Work

Housing Characteristics
- Tenure (Rent/Own)
- Occupancy
- Structure
- Housing Value
- Taxes & Insurance
- Utilities
- Mortgage/Monthly Rent
ACS Data Sets

CURRENT DATA AVAILABLE

- Areas with a population **65,000+**: 1 Year Estimates
  

All areas (incl. census tracts & block groups): 5-year estimates

## Availability of ACS Data Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65,000 or more</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 20,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Release Date**
- September 14, 2017
- December 7, 2017

Selected Census Geographic Concepts—Legal Areas

- Nation
- States
- Counties
- Incorporated Places
- Minor Civil Divisions
- Congressional Districts
- School Districts
- Zip Codes
Selected Census Geographic Concepts—Statistical Areas

- Regions
- Divisions
- Census Designated Places
- Census County Divisions
- Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA)
- Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs)
- Census Tracts
- Block Groups
Small Area Census Geography
How it Fits Together

Census Tract > Place (City or CDP) > Census County Division (CCD) > County
Census Geography Hierarchy

Central axis describes a nesting relationship

- 600 to 3,000 population
- 240 to 1,200 housing units

Blocks are not defined by population and are the smallest geographic level at which data are ever released (Decennial Census, not the ACS)

- Cities and towns -- incorporated
- Census Designated Places (CDPs):
  - Unincorporated; no size threshold
  - Separate and distinct from city/town
  - Redefined each census

- 1,200 to 8,000 population (optimum 4,000)
- 480 to 3,200 housing units
Data Highlights & Visuals
## Veteran Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>2015 ACS 1-year Estimate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Veterans in the U.S.</td>
<td>18.8 million (7.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Veterans in the U.S.</td>
<td>1.5 million (8.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American population</td>
<td>2.1 million (11.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino Population</td>
<td>1.2 million (6.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans 65 and older</td>
<td>9.3 million (49.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than 35</td>
<td>1.6 million (8.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans 18 to 64 in the labor force</td>
<td>7.2 million (4.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a service-connected disability</td>
<td>3.8 million (20.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Median income</td>
<td>$38,334</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Today, 1 in 12 Veterans Are Women
Working Veterans

Employment Rate by Age of Urban and Rural Veterans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 to 25</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 to 44</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>80.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 64</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>66.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Veteran-Owned Businesses in the U.S.
(Sectors With at Least 10,000 Businesses)

Thousands of businesses

Professional, scientific, and technical services
Construction
Health care and social assistance
Retail trade
Wholesale trade
Other services (except public administration)¹
Manufacturing
Finance and insurance
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services
Real estate and rental and leasing
Accommodation and food services
Transportation and warehousing

All businesses: 5.4 million
Veteran-owned: 405,235

Note: The Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs includes firms with paid employees only.
¹“Other services” includes repair and maintenance (automotive, consumer electronics, etc.) and personal/laundry services (hair/nail salons, dry cleaning, pet care, etc.).
census.gov/library/visualizations/2016/comm/cb16_ff21_veteran.html
Veteran Statistics: New York

Veteran Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New York</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>912,499</td>
<td>21,369,602</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Percent female: 5.6% (NY) vs. 7.3% (US)
- Unemployment rate for veterans: 5.8% (NY) vs. 5.3% (US)
- Number of homeless veterans: 2,542 (NY) vs. 49,865 (US)
- Median household income: $64,555 (NY) vs. $61,884 (US)
- Number of VA facilities: 79 (NY) vs. 1,356 (US)
- Number of veteran-owned businesses: 138,670 (NY) vs. 2,540,705 (US)

Period of Service

- Gulf War II
- Gulf War I
- Vietnam Era
- Korean War
- World War II
- Peacetime only

Health Care

- Uses VA health care
- Has a service-connected disability rating
- Uninsured

Educational Attainment

- Bachelor’s degree or higher
- Enrolled in college

Age Distribution

- 18 to 29 years
- 30 to 44 years
- 45 to 54 years
- 55 to 64 years
- 65 years or older

Household Income Distribution

- Less than $10k
- $10k to $14.9k
- $15k to $19.9k
- $20k to $24.9k
- $25k to $29.9k
- $30k to $34.9k
- $35k to $39.9k
- $40k to $44.9k
- $45k to $49.9k
- $50k to $54.9k
- $55k to $59.9k
- $60k to $64.9k
- $65k to $69.9k
- $70k to $74.9k
- $75k to $79.9k
- $80k to $84.9k
- $85k to $89.9k
- $90k to $94.9k
- $95k to $99.9k
- $100k to $124.9k
- $125k to $149.9k
- $150k to $174.9k
- $175k to $199.9k
- $200k or more

For more information, visit: https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2015/comm/veterans-statistics.html
Our Nation’s Veterans

World War II: 70 Years On


On May 8, 1945, the Allied countries of World War II formally accepted Germany’s unconditional surrender of its military. Victory in Europe (V-E) Day marked the end of World War II in Europe. August 14, 1945, Victory Over Japan (V-J) Day marked the day Japan unconditionally surrendered to the Allies, effectively ending World War II.

Living U.S. World War II Veterans

28% of all males 18 and over in 1950 were WWII veterans

Women in World War II
Total: 342,000
Died: 217

Women’s Army Corps (WAC)
Navy’s Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES)
Army Nurse Corps
Marine Corps Women’s Reserve
Coast Guard Women’s Reserve (SPARS)
Navy Nurse Corps
Women’s Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)

Active Duty Military Strength Totals 1940–2011

Less than 1% of the total population 18 and over

https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/releases/2015/cb15-tps41_wwii_graphic.pdf
Where Do Veterans Get Health Insurance Coverage?

Categories are not mutually exclusive; about 1 in 4 veterans under age 65 has multiple health care coverage types, while 4 out of 5 veterans 65 years and older have more than one type.

*TRICARE* is the health care program serving uniformed service members, retirees and their families worldwide.

https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2013/cb13-ff27.html
Living U.S. Veterans Who Served in Different Eras

Periods of Service
The Number of Living U.S. Veterans Who Served in Different Eras
Veterans may have served in multiple conflicts.

Total living veterans: 19,588,586

Pre-World War II only: 15,889
World War II: 1,305,803
Between World War II and Korean War only: 109,753
Korean War: 2,089,285
Between Korean War and Vietnam Era only: 1,816,731
Vietnam Era: 6,978,549
Between Vietnam Era and Gulf War Era only: 2,738,607
Gulf War (August 1990-August 2001): 3,555,358
Gulf War (September 2001 or later): 2,744,379

https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/facts-for-features/2014/cb14-ff.24_graphic.pdf
How to Access Data

Statistics on the veteran population can be found in many of our online data tools:

- QuickFacts
- My Congressional District
- Census Business Builder
- American FactFinder
- DataFerrett
- Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)
DataFerrett

When to use: If you want to make custom tables of characteristics not found in the American Fact Finder

https://dataferrett.census.gov/

NOTE: ACS public-use microdata are only available for nation, state, and PUMAs. ACS summarized data (tabulations) are available for all geographies.
Other sources of data on veterans available from U.S. Census Bureau

Current Population Survey
-- *Data available in DataFerrett*
  – [Veteran Supplement](#)

Survey of Income and Program Participation
-- *Data available in DataFerrett*

[https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/about.html](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/about.html)

Survey of Business Owners
-- *Tables available in American FactFinder*

[https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sbo.html](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sbo.html)
U.S. Census Bureau Resources

U.S. Census Bureau Veteran Statistics Webpage
[census.gov/hhes/veterans/](https://census.gov/hhes/veterans/)

ACS Questionnaire Archive
[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaire-archive.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaire-archive.html)

Other subjects included in the ACS
[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/subjects.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/subjects.html)

ACS/Census Table Comparison

YouTube videos on how to access PUMS in Data Ferrett
External Resources

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment Situation of Veterans Report

Department of Veterans Affairs

National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics
Veterans Benefits Administration Reports
Project CHALENG (veteran homelessness)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress
Homeless Population and Subpopulation Reports
Continue the Conversation

@uscensusbureau
#ACSdata

facebook.com/uscensusbureau

@uscensusbureau

youtube.com/user/uscensusbureau

Source us:
“U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey”

YYYY-YYYY American Community Survey 1/5-year estimates/statistics/data release
- 2015 American Community Survey 1-year estimates
- 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year estimates
Resources: Need Assistance?

U.S. Census Bureau
Data Dissemination Specialist

Eric Coyle
(702) 236-3202
eric.a.coyle@census.gov

Toll-free number:
1-844-ASK-DATA (1-844-275-2342)

For general questions:
census.askdata@census.gov
Questions?