Veterans by the Numbers

21st Annual New Mexico Data Users Conference
November 14, 2019

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Data Dissemination Specialist
U.S. Census Bureau
Agenda

How the data are used

Programs (sources)

History

American Community Survey
  • Overview
  • Geography

Data highlights & visuals

Ways to access Census data

Additional resources

Q&A
How the Data Are Used?

• Veteran Affairs uses data 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://census.gov/topics/population/veterans/guidance/data-uses.html
## Sources of Veteran Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic Surveys</th>
<th>Economic Surveys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Community Survey</td>
<td>Survey of Business Owners (discontinued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance.html">https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance.html</a></td>
<td><a href="https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sbo.html">https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sbo.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Census (U.S. Territories only)</td>
<td>Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs (discontinued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Population Survey</td>
<td>Annual Business Survey (ABS) (first release 12/19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html">https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html</a></td>
<td><a href="https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/abs.html">https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/abs.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey of Income and Program Participation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/about.html">http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/about.html</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data on Veterans 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
Decennial Census

History of Veteran Questions

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.

Complete question wording for the 1910 through 2000 decennial censuses can be found here: https://census.gov/content/dam/Census/topics/population/veterans/guidance/veteran-questions-over-time.pdf
The American Community Survey
Census & ACS

1790-1930 Census
one form to all households

1940-2000 Census
short form & long form

1996-2004 ACS
demonstration period

2005-present ACS/PRCS
annual estimates for all geographies

2010 Census and future
short form only
The American Community Survey

The Foundation

The American Community Survey is on the leading edge of survey design, continuous improvement, and data quality

• The nation’s most current, reliable, and accessible data source for local statistics on critical planning topics such as age, children, veterans, commuting, education, income, and employment

• Surveys 3.5 million households and informs over $675 billion of Federal government spending each year
  • Visit 20,000 Group Quarter facilities and sample approximately 194,000 residents each year

• Covers 35+ topics, supports over 300 evidence-based Federal government uses, and produces 11 billion estimates each year

• Three key annual data releases:
  • 1-year Estimates (for large populations)
  • 1-year Supplemental Estimates (for small populations)
  • 5-year Estimates (for very small populations)
The American Community Survey
How is the ACS Different from the Census?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACS</th>
<th>2010 and 2020 Census</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>purpose</strong></td>
<td>Sample estimates</td>
<td>Official counts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>produces</strong></td>
<td>Population characteristics</td>
<td>Population totals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>new data every</strong></td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>data reflect</strong></td>
<td>Period of time</td>
<td>Point in time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collects</strong></td>
<td>Information previously on the census “long form”</td>
<td>“Short form” information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
American Community Survey
Why do we ask questions about veterans?

Meeting Federal Needs
- Used primarily by the Department of Veterans Affairs to:
  - Measure the needs of veterans and evaluate the impact of veterans’ programs dealing with education, employment, and health care
  - Measure a veteran’s service-connected disability compensation entitlement status to accurately anticipate the need for VA care and its associated cost

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
- Allowing VA medical centers and their regional networks to engage in meaningful local area planning that accounts for expectations of the future demand for VA care
American Community Survey

History of Veteran Questions

For the 1999 to 2002 ACS, the veterans series of questions matched Census 2000

At the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

• In 2003, several changes were made to the veteran status and periods of military service questions

• In 2008, new content about service-connected disability was added to the questionnaire and the years of service question was removed

• In 2013, the veteran status question was simplified and the periods of military service categories were collapsed
American Community Survey
Current Veterans Content

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 29a
- Now on active duty
- On active duty in the past, but not now

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 1989 to August 2001 (including Persian Gulf War)
- May 1975 to July 1990
- Vietnam era (August 1964 to April 1975)
- February 1955 to July 1994
- Korean War (July 1950 to January 1955)
- January 1947 to June 1959
- World War II (December 1941 to December 1946)
- November 1941 or earlier

Does this person have a VA service-connected disability rating?

- Yes (such as 0%, 10%, 20%, ... , 100%)
- No → SKIP to question 29a

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

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaire-archive.html
### American Community Survey Tables Pertaining to Veterans

#### DETAILED TABLES:
- B21001 – Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over
- B21001A – Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over (race iterated tables)
- B21002 – Period of Military Service for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Over
- B21003 – Veteran Status by Educational Attainment for the Civilian Population 25 Years and Over
- B21004 – Median Income in the Past 12 Months by Veteran Status by Sex for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over with Income in the Past 12 Months
- B21005 – Age by Veteran Status by Employment Status for the Civilian Population 18 to 64 Years
- B21007 – Age by Veteran Status by Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over
- B21100 – Service-Connected Disability-Rating Status and Ratings for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Older

#### COLLAPSED TABLES:
- C21001A – Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over (race iterated tables)
- C21005 – Veteran Status by Employment Status for the Civilian Population 18 to 64 Years
- C21007 – Age by Veteran Status by Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over
- C21100 – Service-Connected Disability-Rating Status and Ratings for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Older

#### SUBJECT TABLES:
- S2101 – Veteran Status

#### RANKING TABLES:
- R2101 – Percent of the Civilian Population 18 years and Over Who are Veterans
- GCT2101 – Percent of the Civilian Population 18 years and Over Who are Veterans

#### PROFILE TABLES:
- Note: Estimate and percentage of civilian veterans ONLY are included in the following profile tables.
- DP02 Data Profile — Social Characteristics Table
- CP02 Comparison Data Profile — Social Characteristics Table
- S0201 Selected Population Profile

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<td>B21001A</td>
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<tr>
<td>B21002</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B21003</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>B21100</td>
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<td>C21001A</td>
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<td>S2101</td>
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<td>GCT2101</td>
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<td>S0201</td>
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## The American Community Survey
### Content Overview

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>HOUSING</th>
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<td><strong>SOCIAL</strong></td>
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<td>Ancestry</td>
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<td>Citizenship</td>
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<td>Disability</td>
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<td>Educational Attainment</td>
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<td>Fertility</td>
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<td>Grandparents</td>
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<td>Language</td>
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<td>Marital Status</td>
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<td>Migration</td>
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<td>School Enrollment</td>
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<td>Veterans</td>
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<td><strong>DEMOGRAPHIC</strong></td>
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<td>Age</td>
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<td>Hispanic Origin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race</td>
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<td>Relationship</td>
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<td>Sex</td>
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<td><strong>ECONOMIC</strong></td>
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<td>Class of Worker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commuting</td>
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<td>Employment Status</td>
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<td>Food Stamps (SNAP)</td>
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<td>Health Insurance</td>
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<td>Hours/Week, Weeks/Year</td>
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<td>Income</td>
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<td>Industry &amp; Occupation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Computer &amp; Internet Use</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Costs (Mortgage, Taxes, Insurance)</td>
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<td>Heating Fuel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Value</td>
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<td>Occupancy</td>
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<td>Plumbing/Kitchen Facilities</td>
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<td>Structure</td>
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<td>Tenure (Own/Rent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Vehicles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Built/Year Moved In</td>
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## The American Community Survey
### Availability of 2018 ACS Data Products

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<td>65,000 or more</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>20,000 to 64,999</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 20,000</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Release Date</td>
<td>September 26, 2019</td>
<td>October 17, 2019</td>
<td>December 19, 2019</td>
<td>January 16, 2020</td>
<td>February 6, 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Census Geography
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
- Block
Geographic Area Relationships—Small Statistical Areas
The American Community Survey
Selected Census Geographic Concepts

Nation

Regions

States

Counties

Census Tracts

Block Groups

Census Blocks

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Areas

Urban Areas

American Indian/Alaska Native Areas/Hawaiian Home Lands

Zip Code Tabulation Areas

Congressional Districts

School Districts

Places

Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs)

Alaska Native Regional Areas

State Legislative Districts

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

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

• 1,200 to 8,000 population (optimum 4,000)
• 480 to 3,200 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)
Data Highlights & Visuals
## Veteran Highlights for the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>2018 ACS 1-year Estimate (%)</th>
<th>2017 ACS 1-year Estimate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Veterans in the U.S.</td>
<td>18 million (7.1%)</td>
<td>18.2 million (7.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Veterans in the U.S.</td>
<td>1.7 million (9.2%)</td>
<td>1.6 million (8.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American population</td>
<td>2.1 million (12.0%)</td>
<td>2.1 million (11.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino Population</td>
<td>1.2 million (7.2%)</td>
<td>1.2 million (6.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans 65 and older</td>
<td>8.9 million (50.1%)</td>
<td>9.1 million (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than 35</td>
<td>1.6 million (9.1%)</td>
<td>1.6 million (8.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans 18 to 64 in the labor force</td>
<td>6.9 million (4.7%)</td>
<td>7.0 million (4.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a service-connected disability</td>
<td>4.3 million (24%)</td>
<td>4.2 million (23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Median income</td>
<td>$41,555</td>
<td>$40,577</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accessing Census Data
How to Access Data

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

- **QuickFacts**
  - *When to use:* If you need an estimate of veterans in a state, county, or city (5K population threshold)

- **My Congressional District**
  - *When to use:* If you need an estimate of how many veterans live in your Congressional District

- **Census Business Builder**
  - *When to use:* If you need an estimate of how many veterans live in your state, county, city, ZCTA, or census tract (Veteran-Owned Business data available for the RAE edition)

- **census.data.gov**
  - *When to use:* If you need detailed demographic or socio-economic statistics about veterans in a specific geography

- **Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)**
  - *When to use:* If you need to create custom tabulations

[census.gov/data/data-tools.html](http://census.gov/data/data-tools.html)
New Data Dissemination on Data.census.gov
Interactive Maps

census.gov/geography/interactive-maps
Additional Resources
Additional Census Bureau Resources

U.S. Census Bureau Veteran Statistics Webpage
\url{census.gov/topics/population/veterans.html}

ACS Questionnaire Archive
\url{census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaire-archive}

Other subjects included in the ACS
\url{census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/subjects}

ACS/Census Table Comparison
\url{census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/comparing-acs-data}

YouTube videos on how to access PUMS in Data Ferrett
\url{https://www.census.gov/library/video/acs-dataferrett-part1.html}
\url{https://www.census.gov/library/video/acs-dataferrett-part2.html}
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
Stay Current

NEWSROOM

The latest news releases and statements from the U.S. Census Bureau. Also, find upcoming events, and useful information for media.
census.gov/newsroom.html

AMERICA COUNTS

Featured stories on various topics such as families, housing, employment, business, education, the economy, emergency preparedness, and population.
census.gov/AmericaCounts

DIRECTOR’S BLOG

This blog gives the director’s point of view on everything from Census Bureau news to how we measure America’s people, places and economy.
census.gov/newsroom/blogs/director.html

STATS FOR STORIES

Provides links to timely story ideas highlighting the Census Bureau’s newsworthy statistics that relate to current events, observances, holidays, and anniversaries.
census.gov/newsroom/stories.html
census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features.html
Stay Connected #CensusData

Sign up for and manage alerts at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/subscriber/new

More information on the American Community Survey: https://www.census.gov/acs

Census (Non-media inquiries) 800-923-8282
Public Information Office (Media) 301-763-3030

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twitter.com/uscensusbureau
youtube.com/user/uscensusbureau
instagram.com/uscensusbureau
pinterest.com/uscensusbureau
linkedin.com/company/us-census-bureau
Census.gov/Academy: Visit and Subscribe

✓ Receive our Data Gems.
These short “how-to” videos are an easy and quick way to increase your knowledge of Census data. Get them in your inbox!

✓ Get access to our data courses.
You will learn-at-your-own-pace with these video-tutorials designed for different skill levels.

✓ Interact with our instructors via webinars.
Learn about our data releases and tools while attending these live virtual classes.

✓ Bring our data experts to you.
Request free workshops and webinars for your organization: census.askdata@census.gov

✓ Take part in this community
Share your feedback and ideas for our educational content: Census.academy@census.gov
U.S. Census Bureau
Data Dissemination Specialist

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

Additional Assistance:
Toll-free number:
1-844-ASK-DATA (1-844-275-2342)
census.askdata@census.gov

Additional Resources:
Want Free Training?
Need Local Stats?