

# Introduction to Veteran Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau

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# Objectives

- History of decennial (10-year) census
- Transition from decennial census long-form to American Community Survey
- What we ask about veterans on our surveys and why
- Access to data
- Other resources

# Decennial Census History

1790-1930

Census: one form to all households

1940-2000

Census: short form (100%) and long form (1 in 6 households in 2000)

2000

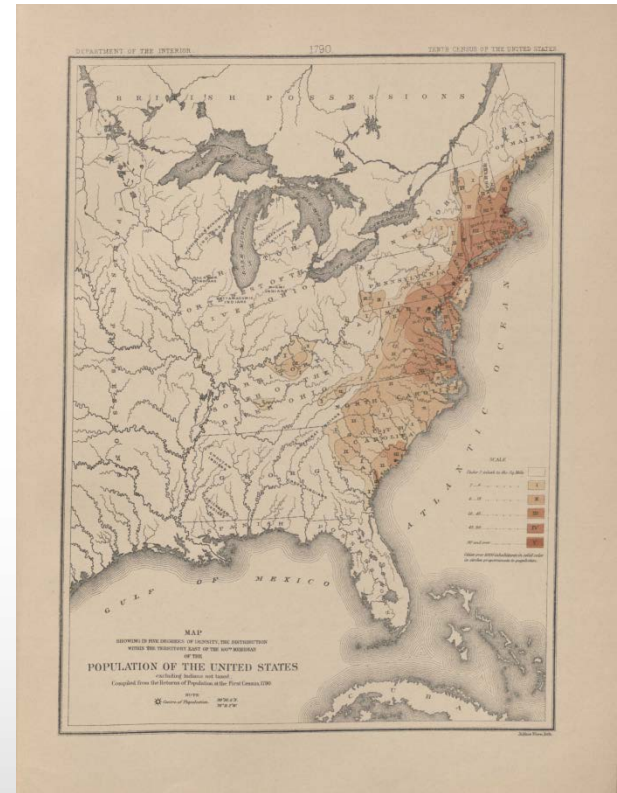
American Community Survey: large-scale demonstration

2005-present

American Community Survey\*: full implementation

2010

Census: short form only (stateside)



<http://www.census.gov/history/pdf/cff4.pdf>

\*Includes Puerto Rico Community Survey

# Census 2010

## Stateside

One of the shortest questionnaires in history

Very close to the length and scope of inquiries asked in 1790

Everyone in the household answered seven questions:

- Name
- age
- gender
- Race
- ethnicity
- whether homes are owned or rented
- how many people live in the residence
- whether it is a house, apartment, or mobile home

<http://www.census.gov/2010census/about/interactive-form.php>

# American Community Survey

## What is it?

Part of the decennial census program

Large-scale annual survey with a current sample of about 3.5 million (1 in 38) household addresses every year

Questionnaires are mailed to approximately 295,000 addresses a month across the United States

ACS is a mandatory survey

ACS serves the nation by providing a consistent and cohesive collection of population, social, housing, and economic characteristics that are comparable across all U.S. geographies

[https://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS\\_Information\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACS_Information_Guide.pdf)

# American Community Survey

## How is it different from a census?

The decennial census **counts the population** to support apportionment and redistricting

The ACS supplements this information with annually updated **estimates** on the nation's **population and housing characteristics**

The purpose of the ACS is not to count every person in a community or town but rather, to provide a portrait of the community's characteristics

# 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

# Why Do We Ask?

## Service-Connected Disability Status and Rating

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

### Meeting Federal Needs

- Used by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to measure a veteran's service-connected disability compensation entitlement status. This information will improve VA's ability to accurately anticipate the need for VA care and its associated cost

### Community Benefits

- VA medical centers and their associated outpatient clinics would use these data to measure key determinants of the demand for VA care
- Data on service-connected disability ratings would allow 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



# How to Access Data

- QuickFacts/QuickFacts Beta
- EasyStats
- My Congressional District
- American FactFinder
- DataFerrett
- Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

# QuickFacts

**When to use:** If you need an estimate of veterans in a state, county, or city  
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/>

## State & County QuickFacts

Select a State

USA QuickFacts

What's New

FAQ

*Quick, easy access to facts about people, business, and geography*

[+ Share this page](#)

To begin, select a state from this list or use the map to the right.

Alabama

GO

**QuickFacts includes statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with more than 5,000 people**



[Student State Facts](#) - a site specifically for younger students.

# Easy Stats

**When to use:** If you need simple statistics about veterans by race and Hispanic origin for a county or place

<http://www.census.gov/easystats/>

Easy Stats

## 1 Select Geography



**Optional:**  
Refine by  
 County  Place

2 Choose a topic:

Financial Jobs Housing People Education

Current Table: None

3 Get Results Clear Choices

## About Easy Stats

Easy Stats gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics collected by the U.S. Census Bureau through the American Community Survey. With the American Community Survey, detailed demographic and economic statistics are available every year for the nation's communities and their people.

This interactive tool provides the latest statistics about where you live. You can search different geographies including states, counties, incorporated places (towns/cities) and census designated places (CDP). With Easy Stats, you can view detailed racial, age and sex breakdowns and much more.

Powered by  
The American Community Survey  
and Census API

United States<sup>™</sup>  
**Census**  
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
census.gov

# My Congressional District

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

<http://www.census.gov/mycd/>

## My Congressional District

113th Congress POWERED BY The American Community Survey

1 Select a State

2

People Jobs Housing Economic Education



My Congressional District gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics collected by the U.S. Census Bureau through the American Community Survey. The American Community Survey provides updated detailed demographic, social and economic statistics every year for the nation's communities.

With My Congressional District, you can view statistics covering age, employment, education, and much more. My Congressional District is powered by the American Community Survey and Census Application Programming Interface (API).

**Source: 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates**

**United States Census Bureau** U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
census.gov

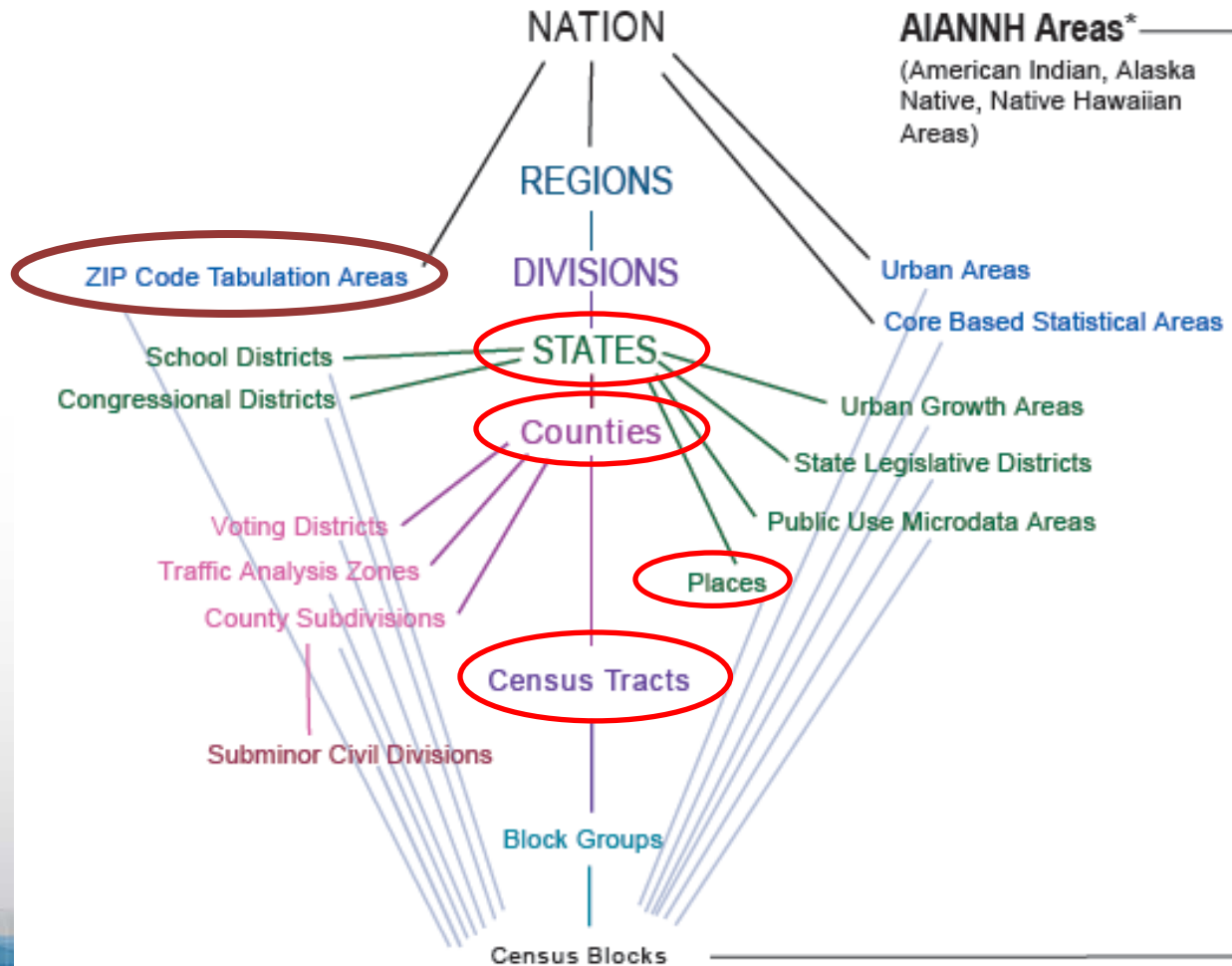
# American FactFinder

**When to use:** If you need detailed demographic, social, or economic statistics about veterans in a specific geography

<http://factfinder2.census.gov>

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the American FactFinder website. On the left is the United States Census Bureau logo. The main header area features the 'AMERICAN FactFinder' logo with a magnifying glass icon over a map of the United States. Navigation tabs include 'MAIN', 'COMMUNITY FACTS', 'GUIDED SEARCH', 'ADVANCED SEARCH', and 'DOWNLOAD CENTER'. On the right, there are links for 'Feedback', 'FAQs', and 'Glossary', along with a language selector set to 'English'. Below the navigation bar, the 'Community Facts' section is highlighted, showing a search input field with the text 'e.g., Atlanta, GA' and a 'GO' button. A list of search options includes 'Guided Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Download Center'. To the right of the search area is a photograph of a young woman with a blue headband smiling in a classroom setting.

# Standard Hierarchy of Census Geographic Entities



# ACS Population Thresholds for Data Products

Estimated Population of Geographic Area	Type of ACS Estimates Released
65,000 or more	1-year, 3-year, 5-year
20,000 to 64,999	3-year, 5-year
Less than 20,000	5-year

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance for data users/estimates/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance%20for%20data%20users/estimates/)

# American FactFinder

## Quick Link to Most Recent Veterans Tables

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance\\_for\\_data\\_users/subjects/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/subjects/)

Click on “Veterans” in the list for social characteristics.

ID	Table, File or Document Title	Dataset	About
<input type="checkbox"/> B21001	<a href="#">SEX BY AGE BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER</a>	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B21001	<a href="#">SEX BY AGE BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER</a>	2012 ACS 3-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B21001	<a href="#">SEX BY AGE BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER</a>	2012 ACS 5-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B21001A	<a href="#">SEX BY AGE BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER (WHITE ALONE)</a>	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B21001A	<a href="#">SEX BY AGE BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER (WHITE ALONE)</a>	2012 ACS 3-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B21001B	<a href="#">SEX BY AGE BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE)</a>	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B21001B	<a href="#">SEX BY AGE BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER (BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN ALONE)</a>	2012 ACS 3-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B21001C	<a href="#">SEX BY AGE BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER (AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE)</a>	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B21001C	<a href="#">SEX BY AGE BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER (AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE ALONE)</a>	2012 ACS 3-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B21001D	<a href="#">SEX BY AGE BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER (ASIAN ALONE)</a>	2012 ACS 1-year estimates	
<input type="checkbox"/> B21001D	<a href="#">SEX BY AGE BY VETERAN STATUS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION 18 YEARS AND OVER (ASIAN ALONE)</a>	2012 ACS 3-year estimates	



# American FactFinder

## Tips for finding data products on veterans

### ACS table types:

B or C = base or collapsed table

S = Subject table

R = Ranking table

GCT = Geographic comparison table

DP or CP = data profile or comparison profile

### Example:

**B21001** SEX BY AGE BY  
VETERAN STATUS FOR THE  
CIVILIAN POPULATION 18  
YEARS AND OVER

### ACS topic identifiers:

“21” is the identifier for veterans

# How to use American FactFinder

What you will learn:

- How to select a dataset
- How to select a geography
- How to view and download a table
- How to make a map

# DataFerrett

**When to use:** If you want to make custom tables of characteristics not found in published ACS data products and do not have access to statistical software

<http://dataferrett.census.gov/>

NOTE: ACS public-use microdata are only available for nation, state, and PUMAs.

The screenshot shows the DataFerrett website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About Us, Products/Services, Collaboration, and Contact Us. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a section titled "DataFerrett" with a description of the tool and a list of checks to perform before getting started. The right column contains a sidebar with a "Launch DataFerrett" button and a list of links including DataFerrett Home, Getting Started, About the Datasets, User Resources, and FAQs. A small illustration of a ferret is positioned between the two columns.

## TheDataWeb

Home About Us Products/Services Collaboration Contact Us

### DataFerrett

DataFerrett is a data analysis and extraction tool to customize federal, state, and local data to suit your requirements. Using DataFerrett, you can develop an unlimited array of customized spreadsheets that are as versatile and complex as your usage demands then turn those spreadsheets into graphs and maps without any additional software.

**What you should check before getting started:**

- ✓ Java Installed: [Check your version](#) or [Download the latest version](#)
- ✗ Allow Pop-ups  
The DataFerrett Applet **requires** you to have popup windows enabled in your browser for this website to function properly.  
[Allow popups for \*thedataweb.rm.census.gov\*](#) and [reload this page.](#)
- ✓ Run in IE/Firefox



### DATAFERRETT

- DataFerrett Home
- Getting Started
- About the Datasets
- User Resources
- FAQs
-  Launch DataFerrett

# DataFerrett

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?eml=gd&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery&v=STRn4XdTNo0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?eml=gd&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&v=STRn4XdTNo0)

Start Here to  
learn how to  
use  
Data Ferrett

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top, the YouTube logo is visible. Below it, the video player shows a thumbnail for a video titled "Creating ACS Custom Tables Using DataFerrett". The video is from the "uscensusbureau" channel, which has 3,247 subscribers. The video has 1,575 views. The video player controls show the video is at 0:07 / 7:07. The video content itself is a screenshot of the United States Census Bureau website, specifically the American Community Survey (ACS) section. The website header includes "United States Census Bureau" and navigation links for "People", "Business", "Geography", "Data", "Research", and "Newsroom". The main content area features a "Question Corner" for survey respondents, a "What is the American Community Survey?" section, and a "How do I respond to the survey?" section. A large blue banner across the middle of the video reads "Creating ACS Custom Tables Using DataFerrett". Below the banner, there are several small images and text blocks, including a "Key of aytsien" section and a "Polski Polish" section. The video player interface includes standard controls like play/pause, next, volume, and a progress bar.

# Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

**When to use:** If you have access to statistical software packages and want to create custom tabulations not available through published ACS products

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/pums\\_data/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/pums_data/)

NOTE: ACS public-use microdata are only available for nation, state, and PUMAs.

The screenshot shows the 'American Community Survey' website. The main navigation bar includes 'Main', 'About the Survey', 'Guidance for Data Users', 'Data & Documentation', 'Methodology', and 'Library'. The left sidebar menu lists various categories, with 'Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)' highlighted. Under 'PUMS Data', there are links for 'About PUMS', 'PUMS Data', 'PUMS Documentation', 'PUMS on DataFerrett', and 'PUMS FAQs'. The main content area is titled 'PUMS Data' and includes social media sharing options (Print, Share this page, Connect with us). Below this, it states: 'Supporting documentation for the data below is available on the PUMS Documentation page.' There are two columns of data links: 'PUMS Data 2000 - current' and 'PUMS Data for ACS 1998'. The 'PUMS Data 2000 - current' column lists links for 2008-2012 ACS 5-year PUMS, 2010-2012 ACS 3-year PUMS, 2012 ACS 1-year PUMS, 2007-2011 ACS 5-year PUMS, 2009-2011 ACS 3-year PUMS, 2011 ACS 1-year PUMS, 2006-2010 ACS 5-year PUMS, 2008-2010 ACS 3-year PUMS, and 2010 ACS 1-year PUMS. The 'PUMS Data for ACS 1998' column lists links for Florida [EXE 328KB], Nebraska [EXE 224KB], New York [EXE 142KB], Ohio [EXE 495KB], Oregon [EXE 321KB], South Carolina [EXE 372KB], and Texas [EXE 1.4MB]. Below this, there is a section for 'PUMS Data for ACS 1997' with links for Florida [EXE 398KB] and Nebraska [EXE 973KB].

# Other sources of data on veterans available from U.S. Census Bureau

Current Population Survey

- [Veteran Supplement](#)

Survey of Income and Program Participation

<http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/about.html>

Survey of Business Owners

<http://www.census.gov/econ/sbo/about.html>

# U.S. Census Bureau Resources

U.S. Census Bureau Veteran Statistics Webpage

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/veterans/>

ACS Questionnaire Archive

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/questionnaire\\_archive/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/methodology/questionnaire_archive/)

Other subjects included in the ACS

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance\\_for\\_data\\_users/subjects/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/subjects/)

Table list for ACS, Census 2000, and Census 2010 Island Areas  
(next two slides)

YouTube videos on how to access PUMS in Data Ferrett

[http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/public\\_use\\_microdata\\_sample/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/public_use_microdata_sample/)

American Community Survey Data Products	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year
<b>DETAILED TABLES:</b>			
B21001 – Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over	X	X	X
B21001A-I – Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over ( <i>race iterated tables</i> )	X	X	
B21002 – Period of Military Service for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Over	X	X	X
B21003 – Veteran Status by Educational Attainment for the Civilian Population 25 Years and Over	X	X	X
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	X	X	X
B21005 – Age by Veteran Status by Employment Status for the Civilian Population 18 to 64 Years	X	X	X
B21007 – Age by Veteran Status by Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over	X	X	
B21100 – Service-Connected Disability-Rating Status and Ratings for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Older	X	X	X
<b>COLLAPSED TABLES:</b>			
C21001A-I – Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over ( <i>race iterated tables</i> )	X	X	X
C21005 – Veteran Status by Employment Status for the Civilian Population 18 to 64 Years	X	X	
C21007 – Age by Veteran Status by Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over	X	X	X
C21100 – Service-Connected Disability-Rating Status for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Older	X	X	
<b>SUBJECT TABLES:</b>			
S2101 – Veteran Status	X	X	X
<b>RANKING TABLES:</b>			
R2101 – Percent of the Civilian Population 18 years and Over Who are Veterans	X		
GCT2101 – Percent of the Civilian Population 18 years and Over Who are Veterans	X	X	X
<b>PROFILE TABLES:</b>			
<i>Note: Estimate and percentage of civilian veterans ONLY are included in the following profile tables.</i>			
DP02 Data Profile—Social Characteristics Table	X	X	X
CP02 Comparison Data Profile—Social Characteristics Table	X	X	
S0201 Selected Population Profile	X	X	



# Decennial Census Data Products

Table Title	CENSUS 2000						CENSUS 2010			
	Summary File 3 (US & Puerto Rico)	Summary File 4 (US & Puerto Rico)	Guam	Northern Mariana Islands	American Samoa	U.S. Virgin Islands	Guam	Northern Mariana Islands	American Samoa	U.S. Virgin Islands
Armed Forces Status by School Enrollment by Educational Attainment by Employment Status for the Population 16 to 19 Years	P038									
Sex by Armed Forces Status by Veteran Status for the Population 18 Years and Over			PBG029	PBG029	PBG029	PBG025				
Sex by Age by Armed Forces Status by Veteran Status for the Population 18 Years and Over	P039	PCT067	PCT035	PCT035	PCT035	PCT031				
Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Population 18 Years and Over							PCT037	PCT037	PCT037	PCT033
Sex by Age by Armed Forces Status by Veteran Status for the Population 18 Years and Over ( <i>race iterated tables</i> )	PCT066A-PCT066I									
Age by Armed Forces Status by Veteran Status for the Population 18 Years and Over			PBG028	PBG028	PBG028	PBG024	PBG028	PBG028	PBG028	PBG026
Period of Military Service for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Over	P040	PCT068	PBG030	PBG030	PBG030	PBG026	PBG030	PBG030	PBG030	PBG028
Service-connected Disability Status and Ratings for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Over							PBG031	PBG031	PBG031	PBG029

# 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

# 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](#)

# Contact Information

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