



**NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS**  
*“Disability, employment, and income: are Iraq/Afghanistan-era U.S. Veterans Unique?”* Jennifer Tennant/ [Full Report](#)

Quick Takeaways:

- Poverty rates for veterans of recent conflicts were significantly lower than those of the rest of the population.
- There were no significant differences in employment outcomes including employment rate, salary, and number of hours worked, between veterans of recent conflicts and the general population.

Study:

This study analyzed data from the 2009 and 2010 Annual Social Economic Supplements (ASEC) to the Current Population Survey (CPS). Data were collected about demographics, labor force participation, disability, and the type of income, including social security disability benefits, supplemental security income, and service connected disability compensation. Responses regarding disability and employment of veterans of recent conflicts, defined as those who served after September 2001 (Gulf War II Era) were compared to the “rest of the population,” composed of people who never served in the military or those who served prior to September 2001 (control group). Six categories of limitation/impairment were used to indicate disability: vision, hearing, remembering or concentrating, physical impairment, self-care, and independent living.

Findings:

Poverty rates were significantly lower for Gulf War II Era veterans than the control group. Veterans of recent conflicts received significantly more income from the VA, more service-connected disability payments, and were more likely to identify having at least one of the six disability categories. Veterans of recent conflicts with disabilities were more likely to work full time and three times less likely to be in poverty than the general population with disabilities.

Researchers found no significant difference between the control and comparison groups on most income/employment outcomes including household income, number of hours worked, labor force participation, and employment rate.

Conclusion:

The higher rate of full-time employment for veterans of recent conflicts with disabilities may be partially attributed to their ability to pursue employment while receiving VA benefits. This combination of income sources may explain the lower poverty rates among this group compared to other individuals with disabilities. Service providers can educate veterans with disabilities on the rules for working while receiving benefits and encourage them to access benefits from the VA as well as SSI and SSDI.