



# Minority Veterans Report



## Military Service History and VA Benefit Utilization Statistics

Department of Veterans Affairs

National Center for Veterans Analysis  
and Statistics

March 2017

# **Minority Veteran Report**

## **Military Service History and VA Benefit Utilization Statistics**

**Prepared by:**

Office of Data Governance and Analytics

The Office of Data Governance and Analytics serve as the authoritative clearinghouse for VA to collect, validate, analyze, and disseminate key statistics on Veteran population and VA programs to support planning, analysis, and decision-making activities. For more information on reports, surveys, or statistics regarding the Veteran population, check our website at <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/>. For general inquiries, please e-mail us at [VANCVAS@va.gov](mailto:VANCVAS@va.gov).

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## Executive Summary

Over the past 30 years, racial and ethnic minorities have entered the military in ever-increasing numbers. Ultimately, they will make the transition from Servicemember to Veteran. For this report the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) adheres to the 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards on race and ethnicity which includes two ethnic categories (Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino) and five racial categories (American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI), and White). The 1997 OMB standards permit the reporting of more than one race. Non-Minorities are White non-Hispanic and all other race categories are included in the minority classification.

In 2014, minorities comprised 22.6 percent of the total Veteran population in the United States. By 2040, they are projected to make up 35.7 percent of all living Veterans. This comprehensive report chronicles the history of minorities in the military and as Veterans, profiles the characteristics of minority Veterans in 2014, illustrates how minority Veterans in 2014 utilized some of the major benefits and services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and discusses challenges of minority Veterans in relation to VA. The goal of this report is to gain an understanding of who our minority Veterans are, how their military service affects their post-military lives, and how they can be better served based on these insights.

### Data Sources

Various data sources were used in this report. The reference period for the data is calendar year 2014 for survey data, and fiscal year 2014 for administrative data. Data on demographic and socioeconomic characteristics come from the American Community Survey, conducted annually by the U.S. Census Bureau. Data about the utilization of VA benefits and services come from the U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics (USVETS). USVETS is a data environment consisting mainly of data sources from VA programs and the Defense Manpower Data Center prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics.

### Demographic Characteristics

- According to data from the 2014 Veterans Population Projection Model, 5.0 million Veterans in the United States and Puerto Rico were minorities. Minorities represented about 22.6 percent of the total Veteran population in 2014.
- Over forty-three percent of all minority Veterans have served during the Gulf War Era (August 1990 to the present).
- In 2014, 52.0 percent of minority Veterans were Black non-Hispanic, compared with 32.0 percent of non-Veteran minorities. In contrast, the percentage of minority Veterans who were Hispanic was two-thirds that of non-Veterans (30.8 percent compared with 46.0 percent).
- The median age of minority Veterans in 2014 was 55, compared with 39 for non-Veteran minorities.
- Minority Veterans were more likely to have been married than non-Veteran minorities.
- In 2014, 83.2 percent of minority Veterans were currently married, divorced, widowed, or separated compared with 58.1 percent of non-Veteran minorities.
- In 2014, among those who have been married, 19.3 percent of minority Veterans were currently divorced compared with 9.5 percent of non-Veteran minorities.

## Socioeconomic Characteristics

- Thirty-five percent of all minority Veterans had a high school diploma or less as their highest level of educational attainment in 2014, compared with 51.8 percent of non-Veteran minorities. About a third more minority Veterans had some college as their highest level of education compared with minority non-Veterans (42.7 percent compared with 28.3 percent, respectively). Overall, a higher percentage of all minority Veterans (22.6 percent) than non-Veterans (19.9 percent) had completed a Bachelor's or advanced degree.
- In 2014, working-age minority Veterans (i.e., those 17 to 64 years old) had a higher labor force participation rate (73.9 percent) than minority non-Veterans (71.6 percent).
- Minority Veterans have a 44 percent higher risk of unemployment than non-minority Veterans.
- A higher percentage of employed minority Veterans 17 to 64 years old worked in the government sector (34.2 percent) than minority non-Veterans (12.4 percent).
- Overall, minority Veterans were less likely than minority non-Veterans to be living in poverty in 2014. About 10.9 percent of all minority Veterans and 20.9 percent of all minority non-Veterans had incomes below poverty.
- About 6.2 percent of minority Veterans were uninsured in 2014, compared with 22.5 percent of non-Veteran minorities.
- A third of insured minority Veterans (32.2) had more than one type of health insurance coverage in 2014, compared with about 7.7 percent of non-Veteran minority.

## Utilization of VA Benefits and Services

- The number of minority Veterans who use at least one VA benefit or service has steadily grown from 35.2 percent in 2005 to 44.1 percent in 2014.

## Use of VA Health Care Services

- In 2014, about 45.6 percent of minority Veterans were enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) health care system. Not all minorities who enroll in the health care system ultimately become health care users. Of the 2.0 million enrolled minority Veterans, 1.3 million used VA health care in 2014.
- From 2005 to 2014, the number of minority Veterans using VA health care increased from 871,918 to 1,261,559. To put this in perspective, about 20.1 percent of all minority Veterans in 2005 used VA health care compared with 28.9 percent of all minority Veterans in 2014.
- In 2014, 16.9 percent of minority Veterans who used VHA health care had a service-connected disability rating.

## Use of Compensation and Pension Benefits

- In 2014, 849,835 minority Veterans received compensation from VA for a service-connected disability, representing about 19.5 percent of the total population of minority Veterans. Fifty-two percent of minority Veterans receiving compensation had a combined disability rating of 50 percent or higher.
- The top five service-connected conditions for minority Veterans (tinnitus, post-traumatic stress disorder, lower back pain, defective hearing and limited flexion of the leg) accounted for nearly 22 percent of all service-connected disabilities for minority Veterans in 2014.
- About 9.0 percent of minority Veterans who received compensation for a service-connected disability were receiving Individual Unemployability (IU) compensation in 2014. This represents less than 2.0 percent of the total minority Veteran population. Individual Unemployability is a component of VA's disability compensation benefit program which allows Veterans to receive financial compensation at the 100-percent level even though their total service-connected disability rating is below 100 percent.
- In 2014, 81,988 minority Veterans were receiving a VA disability pension.

## **Use of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program**

- Thirty-one percent of Veterans participating in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program in 2014 were minorities (40,021 out of 127,966). Participants are defined as Veterans in any of the following stages of the vocational rehabilitation process: extended evaluation, independent living, job-ready status, and rehabilitation-to-employment.

## **Use of Education Benefits**

- In 2014, 235,733 minority Veterans used education benefits. Education benefits reported here excludes Veterans who receive Reserve Education Assistance Program benefits. This represents 5.4 percent of the total population of minority Veterans.

## **Use of Burial Benefits**

- About 27,987 minority Veterans used memorial benefits in 2014.



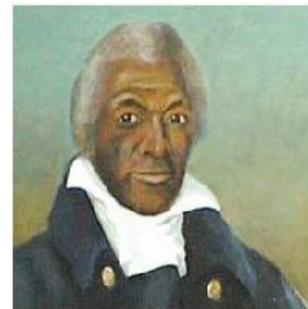


# Minorities in Military History

This section provides a historical overview of military service among Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino American, Asian American or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI), and American Indian or Alaskan Native (AIAN).

## Black or African American

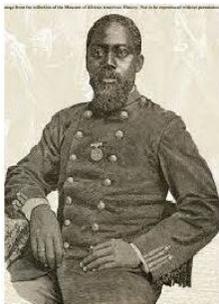
**Revolutionary War (1775-1783).** African Americans have fought in every American war. Free African Americans fought with the colonists in the Revolutionary War against the British. On the eve of the revolution, approximately 20 percent of the colonial population of 2.5 million men were African American.<sup>(1)</sup> As early as April, 1775, African American “minutemen” fought at Lexington and Concord.<sup>(1)</sup> James Armistead (1760-1832), for example, was a slave born in Virginia, and he entered the Army as a volunteer at the age of 21. Armistead was assigned to Marquis de Lafayette. His mission was to carry communications between the French units. But it wasn’t long before Lafayette realized his greater value as a spy. Armistead fabricated a story about being a runaway slave and joined the British ranks. Due to his knowledge about the area, General Cornwallis called Armistead up amongst the British officers so Armistead could serve as his personal guide when leading his armies. Armistead spied on Arnold and Cornwallis and his intelligence reports to Marquis de Lafayette helped America to win the Battle of Yorktown. Armistead was granted his freedom in 1786 and he was awarded full military honors at his death.<sup>(2)</sup> By war’s end, approximately 5,000 African American soldiers had served in the Colonial army of 300,000 soldiers.<sup>(1)</sup>



<http://www.blackpast.org/aah/lafayette-james-armistead-1760-1832>

**Civil War (1861-1865).** Over 200,000 African Americans, many of them former slaves, served in the U.S. military forces during the Civil War. About 180,000 African Americans fought in the Union Army and another 29,000 served in the Union Navy.<sup>(3)</sup> Of the 1,523 Medals of Honor awarded during the Civil War, twenty-three were awarded to African American service members.<sup>(1)</sup>

Shortly after the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, Massachusetts Governor John Andrew obtained authority from the War Department to raise two regiments of African American soldiers to fight for the Union Army. These regiments were later known as the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Colored Infantry Regiments. He chose Robert Gould Shaw as commander of the 54th Massachusetts, the first African American regiment for the state of Massachusetts. During its service in the Civil War, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment lost 270 men: 5 officers and 104 enlisted men were killed in battle or mortally wounded, including its commander, Robert Gould Shaw; 1 officer and 160 enlisted men died from disease. Highlights of the 54th Massachusetts’ war experiences were portrayed in the popular 1989 movie “Glory.”



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Harvey\\_Carney](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Harvey_Carney)

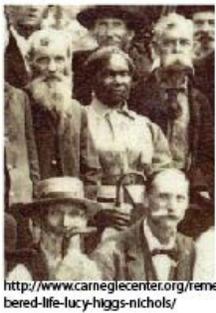
William Carney and Martin Delaney were two members of the 54th Massachusetts. Born a slave, William Carney, (1840-1908), was born in Norfolk, Virginia. His father was William Carney who had doubtlessly adopted the last name of his master, Major Carney, owner of a large plantation. Carney served as a color

bearer in the front lines. Best remembered for his heroic acts during the assault on Ft. Wagner, in Charleston, S.C., Carney prevented the American flag from touching the ground during the American retreat. Carney was wounded twice and went on to become the first African American to receive the Medal of Honor.<sup>(4)</sup>

Martin Robinson Delany, 1812-1885, became the highest ranking African American officer in the Union Army. Delany was an intellectual abolitionist and an activist for African American empowerment. He started one of the first African American newspapers, "The Mystery." He was admitted to Harvard Medical School in 1850. However, the white students strongly protested his presence and he was dismissed after one semester. Delany thought he had acquired enough knowledge, and started to practice medicine. In the 1850's he traveled to Africa where he planned to set up a African American colony. Once the civil war began, he stopped work on the colony and resumed his abolitionist activities. In 1863, Massachusetts Governor John Andrew was authorized to raise African American regiments. Delany recruited African American citizens from several New England states, including his own son, and they joined into the 54th Massachusetts. Delany served in the 104th US Colored Troops, and was promoted to major in 1865 by President Lincoln. After the war, he worked with the Freedman's Bureau to help former slaves adjust to life as Americans.<sup>(5)</sup>



Another notable African American in the Civil War was Lucy Higgs, 1828-1915. She, along with her daughter and husband, traveled at night on foot through fields, briars, and underbrush until they found a Union camp near Bolivar, Tennessee. There Lucy joined the 23rd Indiana Regiment and served as a nurse during the war. She was the only African American and only woman in the regiment. Her travels with the regiment took her to Vicksburg and other battlefields in the South. She came to be known affectionately as "Aunt Lucy" by the men in her regiment. During the war she lost her first husband and daughter. Lucy later married John Nichols and joined the Grand Army of the Republic as an honorary member. In 1898, after years of applying and being denied, she received a nurse's pension by a Special Act of Congress, with full support from Veterans of the 23rd Indiana Regiment.



During the Civil War, Robert Smalls began his life as a slave in Beaufort, South Carolina, and became the Navy's first African American captain. Smalls began his seafaring life in 1851 when he worked as a rigger in Charleston. He sailed the waters between South Carolina and Florida and eventually became a deck hand on the Confederate transport steamer, the Planter, in 1861. The Planter was used by General Ripley for cargo and carried special dispatches. It had a crew of at least eight slaves. Around May 12, 1862, the Planter's Captain and other officers went ashore at Charleston, a major port of the Confederacy, leaving the slaves (along with some of their family members) on board, unintentionally providing a window of opportunity for them to escape. Robert Smalls seized the moment and hijacked the well-stocked boat. He calmly navigated past the Confederate commander's headquarters, past Fort Sumter, onward to the nearest Union blockade, then raised a white flag and surrendered the boat. Smalls' actions created one of the most embarrassing moments of the war for the Confederates. Smalls enlisted in the Union Navy and served as pilot on several ships. Congress authorized Navy to provide him with a small reward for his bravery and daring. In November 1863, Chief Quartermaster J.J. Ewell placed Robert Smalls in charge of the Planter as captain. The Planter was used as a supply boat for the remainder of the war under Robert Smalls. After the war, Robert Smalls was elected to public office in his state and in Congress. He died in Beaufort, S.C., on February 22, 1915.<sup>(6)</sup>



The Civil War had cost a staggering price. The Union counted its dead at 360,222 and it's wounded at 275,175. The South estimated that 258,000 were dead. By 1865, over 37,000 African American soldiers had died, almost 35 percent of all African Americans who had served in combat. African American units demonstrated their great desire to prove their right to full citizenship and participation in the American society after the war. They had fought to be free and not to return as slaves.<sup>(1)</sup> In November 1863, President Lincoln had gone to Gettysburg to dedicate a National Cemetery. What the war must achieve he stated clearly, "...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Many of the problems that had plagued the country before the war still remained, but one did not. Slavery was gone and at long last African Americans had begun to be Americans.

**World War I (1914-1918).** Over 400,000 African American soldiers served in uniform during World War I. Of these soldiers approximately 10 percent were assigned to combat units. Over 1,300 African Americans were commissioned as officers. Although this was less than 1 percent of all officers, it was the largest number of African Americans in the commissioned grades since the entry of African American soldiers into the Army.<sup>(2)</sup> African Americans comprised 13 percent of active duty manpower during World War I with roughly 200,000 being deployed to Europe as part of the American Expeditionary Force and the French Army. When World War I broke out, Eugene Bullard, 1894-1961, joined the French Infantry. After being seriously wounded, Bullard was offered a chance to transfer from the French Army to the French Air Force. Bullard distinguished himself by shooting down enemy aircraft and destroying countless enemy supply points. Bullard was the first African American and United States citizen to be a combat fighter pilot. At a time when African American were not allowed to serve in the US Army Air Service, many believe it was Bullard's service in the French Air Force that helped pave the way for other African Americans to serve in the U.S. Army Air Service.<sup>(7)</sup>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene\\_Bullard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene_Bullard)

During World War I, Privates Henry Johnson and Needham Roberts, served with the 369th Regiment known as "the Harlem Hellfighters." It was one of a few African American units that saw action in Europe and they spent more than six months on the front lines—longer than any other American unit during the war. On the night of May 15, 1918, they were assigned to a listening outpost, to detect enemy movements, when they were attacked by a German raiding party. Roberts was quickly incapacitated, but he continued to hand off grenades to Johnson, who was also wounded. The Germans attempted to drag Roberts back to their trenches, but Johnson pursued them. Private Johnson fired his rifle continuously until it jammed, and then he used it as a club, until it broke. He then drew a bolo knife and continued to fight, killing four Germans. After reinforcements arrived, Private Johnson collapsed from his 21 wounds. Private Henry Johnson became the first American recipient of the Croix de Guerre (Cross of War), France's highest award for valor. Private Needham Roberts and nearly 500 of their fellow "Hellfighters" also received the award. African American soldiers received much acclaim in the press for their bravery in battle during World War I. Private Johnson died in 1929 and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross. In August 2014, the U.S. Defense Secretary recommended awarding Private Johnson the Medal of Honor. He is buried at Arlington Cemetery.<sup>(8)</sup>

While African Americans saw limited naval action during World War I, one of them, Edward Donohue Pierson, also earned the French Croix de Guerre for valor when he was wounded aboard the USS Mount Vernon when it was torpedoed off the coast of France.<sup>(9)</sup> Another one was John Henry ("Dick") Turpin. In 1917, he became the first African American chief petty officer, the Navy's highest enlisted rank at the time.<sup>(10)</sup> Turpin enlisted in 1896 and survived the sinking of the battleship USS Maine in Havana harbor in February 1898. He was one of few African American sailors allowed to serve during World War I. Not until 1932 were African Americans allowed into the Navy again and then only as stewards and mess attendants.<sup>(11)</sup>

**World War II (1941-1945).** In October 1940, the War Department announced that the strength of African Americans in the Army would be limited to their proportion of the general population in the United States which was approximately 10 percent.<sup>(1)</sup> Over 900,000 African American soldiers served and at the height of the African American participation, nearly 9 percent of the Army was African American.<sup>(2)</sup> Approximately, 167,000 African Americans served in the Navy (or about 4 percent of the Navy) and 17,000 served in the Marine Corps (or about 2 percent of the Marines). In 1940, the War Department opened officer candidate schools in addition to previously opened Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) units to African Americans. By 1945, African American officers constituted roughly 1.9 percent of all officers in the military.<sup>(1)</sup>

One of the first heroes of Pearl Harbor was Doris Miller, known as Dorie by his shipmates. Miller, a messman assigned to the USS West Virginia, had arisen at 6 a.m., and was collecting laundry when the alarm for general quarters sounded. He headed for his battle station, the anti-aircraft battery magazine amidship, only to discover that torpedo damage had wrecked it, so he went on deck. Because of his physical prowess, he was assigned to carry wounded fellow Sailors to places of greater safety. Then an officer ordered him to the bridge to aid the mortally wounded Captain of the ship. He subsequently manned a 50 caliber Browning anti-aircraft machine gun until he ran out of ammunition and was ordered to abandon ship. Miller described firing the machine gun during the battle, a weapon which he had not been trained to operate: "It wasn't hard. I just pulled the trigger and she worked fine. I had watched the others with these guns. I guess I fired her for about fifteen minutes. I think I got one of those Jap planes. They were diving pretty close to us."<sup>(13)</sup>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuskegee\\_Airmen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuskegee_Airmen)

In 1947, the group known as Tuskegee Airmen, 1939-1949, was the first African American squadron in the newly created United States Air Force.<sup>(14)</sup> The Airmen had fought triumphantly in the air over the WWII battlefield and quickly became the premier escort group for Air Force bomber pilots. The Tuskegee Airmen destroyed over 250 German aircraft and destroyed over 950 supply vehicles. Amongst the Tuskegee ranks are 8 Purple Heart recipients, 15 Bronze Star holders, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses and nearly 750 other Air Medal awardees.<sup>(15)</sup>

In February 1943, Louis C. Etheridge, Jr. and an all-African American gun crew on board the USCGC Campbell played a key role in sinking the German submarine U-606.<sup>(16)</sup> Etheridge was later awarded a Bronze Star and a Letter of Commendation from the Commandant for his heroic actions. Oscar Holmes was sworn in on 28 September 1942 as an ensign, making him the first African American Naval Aviator. Holmes entered the Navy as a qualified pilot, and was not required to attend basic pilot training.<sup>(17)</sup>

**Korean Conflict (1950-1953).** The Korean Conflict was a war fought between North and South Korea.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/24th\\_Infantry\\_Regiment\\_\(United\\_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/24th_Infantry_Regiment_(United_States))

The United Nations' force, led by the United States, fought for the South, and China fought for the North. The former Soviet Union assisted China. The war arose from the division of Korea at the end of World War II and from the global tension of the Cold War that developed immediately after World War II. For the United States, this was the first war fought under a policy of troop integration. The 24th Infantry Regiment was disbanded early in the Korean Conflict, which completely removed the last evidence of segregation in the Army.<sup>(18)</sup>

Private First Class (PFC) William Thompson's platoon was reorganizing when they were ambushed by enemy forces. PFC Thompson moved his machine gun into the path of the approaching enemy and delivered heavy suppressive fire. Even as he was being hit by grenade fragments and small arms fire, he continued to

deliver deadly, accurate fire giving his platoon time to withdraw to a better position. He was mortally wounded by an enemy grenade and was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.<sup>(19)</sup> He became the first African American so honored since the Spanish-American War in 1898. Sergeant Cornelius H. Charlton was the other African American who received the Medal of Honor in Korea.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Thompson\\_\(Medal\\_of\\_Honor\\_1950\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Thompson_(Medal_of_Honor_1950))

**Vietnam Era (1960-1973).** The Vietnam War was fought between North Vietnam, supported by the Soviet Union, China and other communist countries, and South Vietnam, supported by the United States and other non-communist countries. The North Vietnamese wanted to re-unite the country, the United States feared the influence of the former-USSR would begin to spread across Southeast Asia and the new communist regimes would be friendly to the former-USSR government.

Specialist (SPC) Clarence Eugene Sasser served as a medical aidman in the Vietnam War. As his company was air assaulting they fell under attack. Thirty casualties were sustained within the first few minutes. Without hesitation, SPC Sasser ran across an open rice patty through a barrage of fire to assist the wounded. He successfully brought one soldier to safety when he was hit in the shoulder by rocket fragments. However, he continued to search for and treat the wounded. He was wounded twice more immobilizing both of his legs. Despite his wounds, he dragged himself 100 meters to a nearby soldier and treated him. Then he encouraged another group of soldiers to crawl to a safe area 200 meters away where he treated their wounds for the following five hours until they were evacuated. SPC Sasser's perseverance and valor in the face of adversity earned him the Medal of Honor. He was one of 20 African Americans to be awarded the Medal of Honor in Vietnam.<sup>(20)</sup>



[https://www.google.com/search?q=clarence+eugene+sasser&biw=1280&bih=886&source=innr&tbm=isch&sa=X&wed=OahUKEwLsv6UosTPAhIGNSYKH5VEDNOQ\\_AUICSgC#imgrc=QKf4v91P1110M863A](https://www.google.com/search?q=clarence+eugene+sasser&biw=1280&bih=886&source=innr&tbm=isch&sa=X&wed=OahUKEwLsv6UosTPAhIGNSYKH5VEDNOQ_AUICSgC#imgrc=QKf4v91P1110M863A)

In 1979, Vietnam War Veteran Colonel Guy Bluford became the first U.S. astronaut of African American heritage.<sup>(21)</sup> Guion "Guy" Bluford, served with the Air Force's 557th Tactical Fighter Squadron during the Vietnam War, where he flew 144 combat missions. After his military dis-

charge, he became a flight instructor at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. In 1978 he was selected by NASA as one of 35 astronaut candidates and became an astronaut in August 1979. His first mission was STS-8 aboard the Challenger which launched on August 30, 1983; it was the first night launch and landing for that space shuttle. He flew on three more shuttle missions--STS-61-A Challenger, STS-39 and STS-53 on the Discovery before retiring in 1993.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guion\\_Bluford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guion_Bluford)

## Hispanic or Latino American

**Revolutionary War (1775-1783).** Hispanic or Latino Americans have a long history of service in the military. For example, as a 5-year old boy, Peter Francisco, 1760-1831, was found on a wharf on the James River in City Point, Virginia. A judge took Francisco in as an indenture servant. By the age of 16, when he enlisted in the army, Francisco was about 6'6" and 260 lbs. Due to his massive size and incredible bravery in battle, Francisco was known as the "Hercules of the Revolution." Francisco used his size, strength and courage to destroy entire British elements by himself. This Amazing feat became so regular it is told that George Washington himself referred to Peter Francisco as a "one man Army." Francisco was awarded full military honors at his death.<sup>(23)</sup>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_Francisco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Francisco)

**Civil War (1861-1865).** The Department of Defense estimates that 9,000 Mexican Americans, serving in both the Union and Confederate armies, fought in the Civil War.<sup>(24)</sup> The following are three examples of Hispanic or Latino-Americans who served in the Civil War. First, Juan Ortega, 1840-unknown, a Spanish immigrant, served aboard the USS Saratoga in the South Atlantic blockading a squadron under Commander George Musalas Colvocoresses. Ortega was a part of multiple landing party raids that helped cripple the Confederate Army by destroying key munitions facilities, crucial supply routes, and coastal strongholds. Ortega served from 1863-1865 and was awarded the Medal of Honor. He was the first American of Hispanic or Latino decent to do so.<sup>(25)</sup> Second, Maria Andreu served as the Keeper of the St. Augustine Lighthouse in Florida from 1859 to 1862, becoming the first Hispanic or Latino American woman to serve in the Coast Guard and the first Hispanic or Latino American woman to command a federal shore installation.<sup>(26)</sup> Third, Admiral David Farragut devoted



<https://www.google.com/search?q=juan+ortega+civil+war+saratoga+confederate+army&btw=1280&bih=886&source=images&tm=tsch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwif2ye3C08TPAHWM4SY9Hc1AC4kQAJIRinP#imgrc=DnFNcInWtcczomMR9A>

his life to service in the United States Navy. The son of a Spanish-American immigrant and Revolutionary War Veteran, Farragut himself was a Civil War hero remembered for his bravery at the Battle of Mobile Bay. Farragut was the first person to hold the ranks of Vice Admiral, Rear Admiral, and full Admiral in the United States Navy.<sup>(27)</sup>

**World War I (1914-1918).** More than 4,000 Hispanic or Latino Americans were trained for military service in World War I.<sup>(28)</sup> Two notable soldiers were David Barkley, 1899-1918, and Richard Cordova, died 1918. Barkley became the first American of Hispanic or Latino decent to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his services during WWI. When information was needed during the planning phases of an assault on German forces, Barkley volunteered to swim the near-frozen Meuse River in order to get behind enemy lines and conduct reconnaissance on the size and strength of the German force. The icy water caused him to cramp up and drowned on his swim back.<sup>(25)</sup> In September 26, 1918 Seaman Richard E. Cordova gave his life when his cutter, the CGC Tampa, was torpedoed and sunk with all hands onboard by a German U-Boat during World War I.<sup>(16)</sup>

**World War II (1941-1945).** One estimate indicates that approximately half a million Hispanic or Latino Americans fought in World War II.<sup>(29)</sup> Guy Louis Gabaldon, 1926-2006, was born in Los Angeles, and was soon adopted by a Japanese family at the age of 12. Learning to speak Japanese with the family, Gabaldon enlisted in the Navy at the beginning of WWII. Beginning on his first night in Saipan, Gabaldon began bringing back prisoners using his knowledge of the Japanese language to help coax Japanese soldiers into submission. Before long, Gabaldon had been credited with over 1,500 enemy soldiers captured. Gabaldon was awarded the Navy Cross Medal.<sup>(30)</sup>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy\\_Gabaldon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Gabaldon)

PFC Harold Gonsalves, 1926-1945, was a member of an eight man forward observer team that helped direct artillery fire. It became necessary for the team to advance to the front line.<sup>(31)</sup> PFC Gonsalves and one other marine accompanied the officer in charge to lay down telephone lines for communications with the artillery battalion. As they approached the front line, they fell under fire. Just as the three soldiers had reached the front line, a Japanese grenade landed amongst the group. Without hesitation PFC Gonsalves threw himself on the grenade, absorbing the explosion and leaving his comrades completely unharmed. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his sacrifice.

**Korean Conflict (1950-1953).** During the Korean Conflict, most Hispanic or Latino Americans served in integrated units.<sup>(24)</sup> The 65th Infantry

regiment, however, was an all Hispanic or Latino regiment and was nicknamed "The Borinqueneers" after a Puerto Rican Indian tribe who were ancestors of many of the soldiers in the regiment. After a three-day attack, the Borinqueneers helped secure the South Korean capital of Seoul. On the third and final day of the attack, with the two hilltops in reach, the Borinqueneers fixed bayonets and took the two hilltops. The regiment is responsible for capturing 2,086 and killing 5,905 enemies. This regiment's excellent performance in the Korean Conflict earned the American Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations, two Korean Presidential Unit Citations, and the Greek Gold Medal for Bravery.<sup>(32)</sup>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold\\_Gonsalves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Gonsalves)



<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/4-forgot-all-volunteer-puerto-rican-unit-borinqueneers-served-bravely-article-1.140594>

During the Korean Conflict, Sgt Joseph Rodriguez was taking part in an attack against a well-fortified enemy force when his squad could no longer move forward due to heavy fire from five emplacements of automatic weapons and small arms. The enemies were also barraging his squad with grenades. Rodriguez responded by sprinting 60 yards towards the enemy. He threw his first grenade into a foxhole with great accuracy, destroying the foxhole. He then proceeded to silence an automatic weapon with two grenades and destroy two more foxholes. He reached the last foxhole and annihilated the gun and its crew. His act of valor resulted in 15 enemy dead, the enemy's defense uprooted and the securing of a strategic strongpoint. He was awarded the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor.<sup>(32)</sup>

**Vietnam Era (1960-1973).** Over 500,000 Hispanic or Latino Americans (including 350,000 Mexican Americans and 53,000 Puerto Ricans) served in World War II.<sup>(33)</sup> Master Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant) Roy P. Benavidez was a member of the 5th Special Forces Group. On May 2, 1968, the 5th Special

Forces group inserted a 12 man team by helicopters into a dense jungle area to conduct reconnaissance on a large enemy force. Shortly after arriving, the team met heavy resistance from Vietnamese forces, and requested emergency evacuation. Three helicopters attempted to extract the team, but were unable to land due to small arms and anti aircraft fire. Benavidez was at the forward operating base monitoring the mission over the radio. Realizing the dire situation that the team was in, he voluntarily boarded a helicopter. He jumped from the hovering helicopter into the jungle and while running 75 meters to the reconnaissance team was wounded in the leg, face and head. Despite his injuries, he took charge and repositioned the team to facilitate the landing of an extraction helicopter. As he was loading the helicopter with the members of the team, Benavidez was hit by small arms fire



<http://www.badasssoftheweek.com/index.cgi?id=50095485956>

and grenade fragments leaving him severely wounded. At almost the same time, the helicopter pilot was mortally wounded and the helicopter crashed. Benavidez made his way back to the wreckage and set up a perimeter of the crash site with the survivors where he continued to supply them with ammunition and water, re-instilling in them the will to live and fight. He was wounded once again when he began to call in airstrikes on the enemy as he was performing first aid on one of his comrades. When an extraction helicopter arrived, he loaded the team onto the helicopter, making several trips. He saved the lives of at least 8 men in the face of overwhelming odds and earned the Medal of Honor for his efforts.<sup>(34) (25)</sup>

**Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/ OND).** Sergeant First Class (SFC)

then Staff Sergeant Leroy Petry was a weapons' squad leader in the 75th Ranger regiment.<sup>(35)</sup> Petry and his squad were clearing the courtyard of a house that potentially contained high value combatants. While crossing the courtyard, Petry and another Ranger encountered automatic weapon fire and were wounded. Petry, though wounded and under fire, helped bring the other Ranger to cover. He contacted more Rangers for help and engaged the enemy with a hand grenade as another Ranger moved to his position. The enemy responded quickly, moving closer and throwing more grenades. The first grenade landed nearby and knocked his fellow Rangers to the ground. A second grenade landed only feet away from Petry and his fellow Rangers. Petry then picked up the unexploded grenade and proceeded to throw it away from the Rangers. The grenade exploded as he threw it towards the enemy, amputating his right hand at the wrist and injuring him with shrapnel. Petry then placed a tourniquet on his right wrist and coordinated support for himself

and his fellow Rangers over the radio. Petry undeniably saved his fellow Rangers from being severely wounded or killed. Petry's gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty earned him the Medal of Honor.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leroy\\_Petry#/media/File:Leroy\\_A\\_Petry.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leroy_Petry#/media/File:Leroy_A_Petry.jpg)

**Asian American or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI)**

**Civil War (1861-1865).** Asian Americans, have fought and served on behalf of the United States since the War of 1812, but their participation in the US military is not well-documented. One documented example is Edward Day-Cohota, 1845-1935. In 1845, a small Chinese child was found aboard a ship, the Cohota, and was adopted by its Captain Day. With no name, Captain Day gave the small Chinese boy the name Edward as well as his last

name. Edward Day went on to go by Edward Day-Cohota absorbing the name of the ship he was found aboard. He fought in the bloody battles of General Grant's Virginia campaign of 1864. At Drewry's Bluff in Virginia, Cohota survived the battle despite seven bullet holes through his clothing. At the battle of Cold Harbor, he saved the life of a comrade by hiding the wounded soldier behind a rock. After the war, he re-enlisted in the Army, served for 30 years, married and had six children.<sup>(29)</sup>

**World War II (1941-1945).** Filipino Americans began serving in the Army shortly after the end of the Philippine-American War, 1899-1902, as Philippine Scouts and they began serving in the Navy in 1904.<sup>(36)</sup> By 1922, the Filipino Americans comprised 5.7 percent of the enlisted personnel in the Navy.<sup>(36)</sup> Between 200,000 and 300,000 Filipinos fought with U.S. during WW II.<sup>(37)</sup>

Over 30,000 Japanese Americans, mostly children of immigrants, served in the U.S. military during World War II.<sup>(38)</sup> Daniel Inouye, 1924-2012, wanted to join the service after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, but due to his Japanese heritage he was unable to enlist until 1943. He joined the Army and rose to the rank of Captain. In April 1945, while serving in Italy, He was shot and lost his right arm when a German grenade exploded. After he was discharged from the Army he returned to Hawaii, where he not only had to adapt to living without an arm, but he also faced racism due to his heritage. He did not, however, let this affect him. He got married, attended law school, and worked as an attorney. He was elected as Hawaii's first congressman in 1959, and he was the first Japanese-American to ever serve in Congress. He was elected to the Senate in 1962. He served consecutively for 9 terms over 50 years. On June 21, 2000, 21 Asian-American Veterans, including Senator Inouye, who served with the 442nd during WW II received the Medal of Honor from President Bill Clinton.<sup>(39)</sup>



<https://weservedtoo.wordpress.com/2013/05/22/1st-known-civil-war-soldier-of-asian-heritage-in-va-history-edward-day-cohota/>

During World War II, 13,499 Chinese Americans served in the military, which represented about 22 percent of all adult males of Chinese descent in America.<sup>(40)</sup> Three examples are Wilbur Carl Sze, Hazel Ying Lee, and Edmund Dixon Young. First, Sze was the first Chinese-American Marine Corps officer. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant on January 25, 1943. The 100th Infantry Battalion, a battalion of mainly Asian-Pacific soldiers, fought in the European theater of operation during WWII. The 100th Infantry Battalion was highly touted as the most distinguished element with 1 Medal of Honor Recipient, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 28 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Silver Star, 4,000 Bronze Stars, 1,200 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Bronze Star and, 9,486 Purple Hearts. The 100th was later absorbed into the 442nd Infantry.



[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/12/us/daniel-inouye-hawaii-quiet-voice-of-conscience-insenate-dies-at-88.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/12/us/daniel-inouye-hawaii-quiet-voice-of-conscience-insenate-dies-at-88.html?_r=0)

Daniel Inouye, in uniform when he was a member of the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team Cred 442nd Veterans Club, via Associated Press.

Second, in 1932, Hazel Ying Lee was one of the first American women of Chinese heritage to obtain a pilot's license in the U.S. She later served as a Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) and made the ultimate sacrifice for her country during World War II. Hazel Lee was born in Portland, Oregon on August 24, 1912 to Chinese parents. She took her first plane ride in 1932 at an air show and learned to fly under famed aviator Al Greenwood. In October 1932, she obtained her pilots license, making her one of the first women of Chinese heritage to do so. In 1943 she signed up for the WASPs and received her training at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas. The WASPs were civilians who aided the U.S. Army from 1942-1944 by ferrying planes between manufacturers and military air bases, testing planes for mechanical problems, and towing practice targets for aerial gunnery students. Roughly 1,000 women served as WASPs and 38 of them, including Hazel Ying Lee, died while in service to their country. Public Law 95-202, signed on November 23, 1977 by President Jimmy Carter, provided WASPs with official military

status for their service during World War II, making them eligible for federal Veterans benefits.

Third, one of VA's first medical doctors known to be of Asian American heritage was Dr. Edmund Dixon Jung.<sup>(41)</sup> He was a third generation American of Chinese heritage, born to Ming and Mabel Jung in California on January 29, 1914. He graduated from Stanford University and then pursued a medical degree at the University of California-San Francisco (UCSF) where he graduated in 1944. He met his future wife, Haw Chan, while they were both attending medical school. He enlisted with the U.S. Army medical department on June 24, 1943 and served in the South Pacific as a medical officer during World War II. After his war service, he resumed work on his medical career. He undertook an internship at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland and then completed his 1st year of residency at UCSF hospital before becoming a resident at the San Francisco VA hospital. At the time, he needed a total of 3 years of residency for a specialty in internal medicine, but he stayed an extra year after being appointed Chief Medical Resident. He began his full-time career as a VA physician in 1951 at the Oakland VA hospital where he provided primary care to acutely ill Veterans. He obtained additional training in allergies and was appointed as Chief of the Allergy section in 1959. The original Oakland VA hospital closed in 1963 and many of its staff was transferred to the new VA hospital built in nearby Martinez. For many years, Dr. Jung enjoyed a respectful, professional working relationship with his VA coworkers.<sup>(41)</sup>



<https://weservedtoo.wordpress.com/2014/09/01/dr-edmund-dixon-jung/>

**Korean Conflict (1950-1953).** Many Japanese Americans who had been part of the Military Intelligence Service also served during the Korean War.<sup>(42)</sup>

**Vietnam Era (1960-1973).** The Department of Defense has estimated that 35,000 Asian Americans or Other Pacific Islanders served honorably during the Vietnam War.<sup>(43)</sup> For example, SFC Rodney Yano was performing the duties of crew chief on board the troop's command and control helicopter when the helicopter fell under attack of intense small arms and anti aircraft fire. Yano returned suppressive fire on the enemy and marked their positions with smoke and white phosphorous grenades. This allowed for the troop commander to accurately fire artillery rounds at the enemy. One of the phosphorous grenades exploded prematurely, severely injuring Yano. The smoke from the grenade obstructed the pilot's vision and made him lose control. Yano though injured, began to toss blazing ammunition out of the helicopter further injuring himself. He continued to do so until the helicopter was no longer in danger. His selfless sacrifice prevented loss of life and additional injury to the rest of the crew. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.<sup>(39)</sup>



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodney\\_J.\\_T.\\_Yano#media/File:Rodney\\_J.\\_T.\\_Yano.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodney_J._T._Yano#media/File:Rodney_J._T._Yano.jpg)

**Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND).** LTC L. Tammy Duckworth, 1968 – Present, was a Major in the Illinois Army National Guard. She deployed to Iraq with in 2004. Duckworth served as an Assistant Operations Officer as well as a Blackhawk pilot. On a mission north of Baghdad, the Blackhawk Duckworth was copiloting was hit by a rocket propelled grenade. She lost both of her legs and partial use of one arm. As a result of her injuries she was awarded the Purple Heart. In 2008 and 2009, she ran in the Chicago Marathon. In 2009 she served as the Department of Veterans Affairs Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. From 2013 to 2016, Duckworth was a member of the House of Representatives for Illinois. She began serving as a junior United States Senator for Illinois in 2017.<sup>(44)</sup>



<http://www.blogula-rasa.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/90/20120904-142230.jpg>

## American Indian and Alaska Natives (AIAN)

Native Americans (American Indian and Alaska Native) have fought and served on behalf of the United States since the Revolutionary War.

**Revolutionary War (1775-1783).** At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Native Americans tended to fight on the British side. After three years of fighting, Congress made a treaty with the Delawares, initially bringing about 400 Native Americans to the American side.<sup>(45)</sup> John Montour, 1744-1788, was a Captain who commanded American troops in the fight against the British. Montour was part Native American, and a respected member of the Delaware Indian tribe. Montour could speak multiple Native American languages as well as both read and write English. This allowed Montour to be useful as an interpreter for American Officers and allowed Montour to make treaties and peace alliances amongst other tribes.<sup>(46)</sup>



[http://history.org/almanack/people/bios/images/montour1\\_sm.jpg](http://history.org/almanack/people/bios/images/montour1_sm.jpg)

**Civil War (1861-1865).** About 20,000 Native Americans fought on both sides of the Civil War.<sup>(45)</sup> There were two Native American Civil War generals. General Ely S. Parker, 1828-1895, was a Seneca attorney, engineer, and tribal diplomat. He rose to the rank of Brevet Brigadier General. General Parker was present when the Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court-house in April 1865. Robert E. Lee wore a puzzled look as he examined the officer's dark features, then recovered enough to extend his hand and remark, "I am glad to see one real American here." On that April 9th afternoon, 150 years ago, at the McLean House in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, General Lee was greeting Ely S. Parker, a Seneca Indian who was serving as General Ulysses S. Grant's secretary. Parker replied with dignity, "We are all Americans." In the picture above to the right, General Parker is the third person from the right in the back row.



<http://www.weaponsmen.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/appomattox-1.jpg>

The other general, Stand Watie, 1806-1871, a Cherokee Indian, was promoted through the ranks of the Confederate Army. Known for his determination and bravery, General Watie fought in multiple battles including the Battle of Pea Ridge. His determination was so fierce he ended his career as the last Confederate General to surrender. Surrounded by Union forces, General Watie and his men held out until all resources were depleted.<sup>(47)</sup>

**World War I (1914-1918).** Prior to World War I, Native American Veterans did not receive Veterans' benefits because they were not considered American citizens. When America engaged in World War I, many Native Americans tried to enlist for the war effort but again they were told they were not



[http://www.navajopeople.org/images/navajo\\_code\\_talkers\\_6.jpg](http://www.navajopeople.org/images/navajo_code_talkers_6.jpg)

citizens of the United States. So they volunteered and served as "code talkers" where they would be attached to different units but communicate amongst each other in their Native American tongue. This was done to secure the information that was being passed over the radio. Their code was unbreakable, and they proved a very valuable asset in both World War I and II. In 1919, Congress passed Public Law 66-75, signed on November 6, 1919, offering citizenship to all honorably discharged Native American World War I Veterans, which gave them access to full Veterans' benefits. Five years later, Congress extended citizenship to the rest of the Native American population.<sup>(48)</sup>

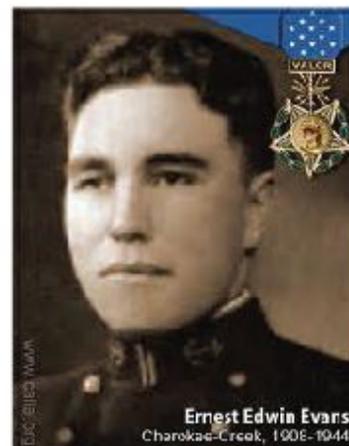
**World War II (1941-1945).** About 25,000 Native Americans served in the military during WW II and about 50,000 went to work in war-related jobs off of the reservation.<sup>(45)</sup> As in WW I, sixteen or more tribes furnished code talkers during the war.<sup>(49)</sup>

Two Native American Veterans who are also World War II Medal of Honor recipients had VA facilities named in their honor. On June 15, 2006, VA named its first facility in honor of a Native American Veteran, Jack C. Montgomery Veteran's Medical Center (VAMC). Lt. Montgomery fought his way to a battlefield commission and was awarded the Medal of Honor for personally breaking up a German strong position at Padiglione, Italy during which he killed eleven German soldiers and took 33 soldiers prisoner. On November 15, 2007, VA named its second facility in honor of a Native American, Ernest Childers Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Lt. Childers led a team of eight enlisted men and went after three enemy machine gun nests on a hill near Oliveto, Italy during which he threw rocks into the German nests. Thinking the rocks were grenades, the German soldiers leaped out of their nests and were shot.<sup>(50)</sup>

Other noteworthy examples follow. First, Roy Harmon, 1915-1944, was serving at the squad leader level when his platoon was pinned down by three heavily fortified machinegun nests. Harmon risked his cover and single handedly destroyed 2 machine gun nests. When approaching the 3rd nest, Harmon was wounded 3 times and continued forward. After being wounded a fourth time and near death, Harmon- with his last breath, managed to rise to his knees and toss a grenade that destroyed the machine gun nest saving his entire platoon. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions.

Second, Coast Guardsman Joseph R. Toahty, 1919-1997, was "the first Native American to participate in an offensive operation with United States naval forces in World War II." Toahty, a member of the Pawnee Nation, enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1941 and trained to become a landing craft coxswain. He participated in the initial landings at Tulagi and Guadalcanal.<sup>(51)</sup>

Third, Ernest E. Evans, 1908-1944, was half-Cherokee and one-quarter-Creek, a Naval Academy graduate, and a Lieutenant Commander serving onboard USS Johnston. During the Battle off Samar on 25 October 1944 the Johnston formed part of Task Unit 77.4.3 (Taffy 3), which came under attack by a vastly superior Japanese force comprising of battleships, heavy and light cruisers and destroyers. In spite of the odds, Evans gave orders to close the range and prepare for a torpedo attack, informing his crew that "survival cannot be expected." As his ship and the other destroyers of Taffy 3 drove the attack home, Japanese fire took the inevitable toll. After unloosing a spread of torpedoes, the Johnston was so badly damaged that Evans had to give the order to abandon ship. It is uncertain whether Evans died of wounds on board his ship or drowned after jumping into the water, but he was not among the Johnston's crew who were rescued. For his gallantry and unwavering courage that materially aided in the warding off of the Japanese force, Ernest E. Evans was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.<sup>(50)</sup>



Ernest Edwin Evans  
Cherokee-Creek, 1908-1944  
[https://www.google.com/search?q=coast+guardsman+Joseph+r.+toahty+1919-1997&btw=1280&bih=886&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwIavK2lqsTPAhXFbIYKHZ\\_uDAEQ\\_AUIBigB&tbm=isch&q=ernest+e+evans+1908-1944+&imgsrc=hiMbbKcWHPYgCM%3A](https://www.google.com/search?q=coast+guardsman+Joseph+r.+toahty+1919-1997&btw=1280&bih=886&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwIavK2lqsTPAhXFbIYKHZ_uDAEQ_AUIBigB&tbm=isch&q=ernest+e+evans+1908-1944+&imgsrc=hiMbbKcWHPYgCM%3A)



<https://circletoacircle.wordpress.com/tag/iwo-jima/>  
US Marines of the 28th Regiment, 5th Division atop Mt Suribachi AP Photo/Joe Rosenthal.

Fourth, PFC Ira H. Hayes was one of the six marines who raised the flag on Iwo Jima. He was a Pima Native American.

The Alaska Territorial Guard (ATG), more commonly called the Eskimo Scouts, was a military reserve force component of the US Army, organized in 1942 in response to attacks on United States soil in Hawaii and occupation of parts of Alaska by Japan during World War II. The ATG operated until 1947. Over 6,000 volunteers joined the ATG and served without pay. The ATG brought together for the first time into a joint effort members of these ethnic groups: Aleut, Athabaskan, White, Inupiaq, Haida, Tlingit, Tsimshian, Yupik, and most likely others.

**Korean Conflict (1950-1953).** About 29,700 Native Americans served in the Korean Conflict.<sup>(49)</sup> PFC Charles George was a member of a raiding party whose mission was to capture a prisoner for interrogation. His group fell under heavy machine gun and mortar fire. He valiantly fought his way up the hill and when he reached the crest of the hill, he jumped into the trenches engaging the enemy in hand to hand combat. Upon completion of the mission, George and two others were covering the withdrawal from the objective when an enemy soldier lobbed a grenade at the three Americans. Seeing what had just happened, George yelled to warn his comrade, pushed the other soldier out of harm's way, and then unhesitatingly threw himself on top of the grenade, absorbing the blast without a single outcry. The other two soldiers carried him to the forward aid station where he succumbed to his severe wounds. "Pfc. George's indomitable courage, consummate devotion to duty, and willing self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself and uphold the finest traditions of the military service." In his honor, VA named a third facility after an American Indian, Charles George VAMC on December 26, 2007.<sup>(52)</sup>

**Vietnam Era (1960-1973).** About 42,000 Native Americans served in Vietnam War.<sup>(30)</sup> Of those who served, First Sergeant Pascal Poolaw is perhaps the most decorated Native American to serve in the US Armed Forces with 42 total medals and citations. Among his medals are four Silver Stars and five Bronze Stars. He also earned three Purple Hearts, one for each of the wars in which he fought, WW II, Korea, and Vietnam.

**Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND).** Private Lori Piestewa, 1979 – 2003, was the first woman soldier to die in Iraq and the first Native American woman ever to die in combat on foreign soil.<sup>(54)</sup> She was driving a truck transporting troops when her convoy was ambushed. She was one of nine soldiers killed in that attack. Private Piestewa was raised as a Hopi on the Navajo reservation in Arizona. She was a divorced mother of two when she followed in her family's footsteps and enlisted in the army. She made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and the renaming of "Squaw's Peak" to "Piestewa Peak" was done in her honor.



<https://www.army.mil.americanindians/piestewa.html>

## Notable Minority Women

Angela Salinas is a retired Major General of the US Marine Corps. She joined the Marines after college and rose to be the first Hispanic woman to become a US Marine Corps general officer and the sixth woman in the Marine Corps to reach the rank of brigadier general. She was also the first woman in the Marine Corps to command a recruiting station and the first woman to serve as a recruiting district commanding officer. During her 39 years of service, Salinas was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal and was the highest ranking female officer in the Marines when she retired in 2013.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela\\_Salinas#/media/File:BGSalinas.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Salinas#/media/File:BGSalinas.jpg)



<http://armylive.dodlive.mil/index.php/2015/03/african-american-women-in-the-army/>

Hazel Johnson, 1927-2011 was the first African American woman to become a general in the U.S. Army.<sup>(56)</sup> Johnson joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1955. Johnson served in Japan at a U.S. Army Evacuation Hospital. She served at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1960 where she was a staff and operating room nurse. Between 1963 and 1967, she was an operating room instructor and supervisor while on a tour of three different hospitals. From 1969 to 1973, she helped develop new sterilizing methods for the Army's Field Hospital Systems as a staff member of the Army Medical Research and Development Command. In 1974, Johnson was promoted to Colonel and appointed the director of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing. In 1978, Johnson was sent to South Korea where she

was the chief of the department of nursing at the largest U.S. Army hospital in that country. In May 1979, she returned to Washington D.C. where she was appointed general. A military ceremony was held in her honor at the Pentagon, where U.S. Army Surgeon General Julius Richmond pinned on her the brigadier general star. Johnson was also sworn in as the sixteenth Chief of the Army Nurse Corps. Hazel Johnson retired from the U.S. Army in 1984.

On March 23, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Shoshana Johnson was in a convoy that was ambushed in the city of an-Nasiriyah. Johnson received a bullet wound to both ankles.<sup>(57)</sup> She and five other members of the 507th Maintenance Company were captured and taken as prisoners of war. The ambush and its aftermath made world news headlines. House raids conducted by US Marines in the city of Samarra, Iraq, resulted in the successful rescue of seven POWs on the morning of April 13. Later, along with six former POWs, Johnson came back to a hero's welcome in the US with a cheering crowd of over 3,000 people. Johnson has penned a memoir about her experience titled *I'm Still Standing: From Captured Soldier to Free Citizen-My Journey Home*. The biography was nominated for a NAACP Image Award and is a national bestseller.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshana\\_Johnson#/media/File:ShoshanaJohnson.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshana_Johnson#/media/File:ShoshanaJohnson.jpg)



## Department of Veterans Affairs: The History of Minority Veterans

Our mission, to care for those who “shall have borne the battle,” and their families,<sup>[1]</sup> guides our action towards the service to others. Throughout history, our leaders recognized that Veterans have represented every aspect of this nation’s great diversity. The following paragraphs attempt to highlight certain aspects of the role VA has played in the care of Veterans with a special emphasis on minority Veterans.

**Early America.** The first law in the colonies on pensions, enacted in 1636 by Plymouth, provided money to those disabled in the colony’s defense against Indians. Other colonies followed Plymouth’s example.<sup>(59)</sup> In the Revolutionary War, General George Washington initially banned African American participation, but later he changed his mind and allowed free African Americans to fight with the other colonists.<sup>(60) (61)</sup> In 1776, the Continental Congress granted half pay for life to soldiers in cases of loss of limb or other serious disability. But because the Continental Congress did not have authority or the money to make pension payments, the actual payments were left to the individual states. In 1789, with the ratification of the US Constitution, the first Congress assumed the burden of paying Veterans the benefits they earned.<sup>(59)</sup> In 1842, pensions were authorized for specific American Indian warriors who aided our nation during the War of 1812.

**Civil War (1861-1865) and its Legacy.** When the Civil War broke out in 1861, the nation had about 80,000 Veterans.<sup>(59)</sup> The Militia Act of 1862 enabled African Americans to serve in state militias, authorized them to enlist into the federal armed forces for the first time, and later received Federal benefits for their service. The Conscription Act of 1863 initiated the draft and included African Americans to be drafted. African Americans who enlisted in 1862 were not officially authorized to bear arms until shortly after the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863. There were 209,145 African American soldiers who fought in the Civil War.<sup>(62)</sup> African American soldiers who served in the Union forces were eligible for the same Veteran benefits as Caucasian Veterans. By the end of the war in 1865, another 1.9 million Veterans had been added to the rolls. Native Americans who served in the U.S. Regular or volunteer military forces, state regiments, or militia did not receive Veterans’ benefits because they were not considered legal citizens according to American law. They often served as guides or scouts for the Army and during the Civil War there were several Indian regiments on both sides. Some Native Americans successfully petitioned Congress and obtained small pensions or reimbursements for property losses, but they did not have access to the same benefits given to white military Veterans.

Beginning at the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, established in 1865, disabled Veterans were trained in new occupations as their interests and abilities allowed. Veterans were taught trades such as telegraphy, plastering, or gardening as residents at the National Homes. There were no education opportunities or benefits for them outside of the National Home. Congress authorized funds for farming or manufacturing operations at the National Homes as both a means to supply necessary food, supplies, and services to the Homes and as occupational endeavors for its residents. By 1875, Veterans at the National Homes were engaged in cigar-making, knitting socks, printing and book-

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<sup>1</sup>Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865

binding, shoe-making, wagon-making, iron work, plumbing, building steam engines, tin-smithing, tailoring, bread baking, breeding and raising livestock, cabinetry, and much more. They often sold items to the public in the Home's commissary and were paid for their labors.

**World War I (1914-1918).** Some 4.7 million Americans fought in World War I. Of these, 116,000 died in service and 204,000 were wounded.<sup>(59)</sup> When the U.S. declared war on Germany in April 1917, the "separate but equal" policies had been in place in America for 21 years (1896 Plessy v. Ferguson). Despite those segregation policies, thousands of African Americans enlisted for U.S. military service. The Army established four segregated units of African American soldiers during World War I. The Navy's segregation policy, at the time, accepted very few African Americans and the Marines accepted none. Of those who joined the military, most African Americans served in supply or labor battalions, but a few units actually went into battle overseas. The U.S. enlisted 367,710 African American men as soldiers, mostly from the south, into the Armed Services. About 200,000 were sent to France and approximately 50,000 of those saw combat.<sup>(63)</sup> Thousands of Native Americans tried to enlist for the war effort. They were required to register for the military draft of 1917, but they could not be formally drafted into the military, or receive benefits later, because they were not legally citizens, despite having been born in the U.S. Instead, they volunteered and were invaluable assets for the American forces.

**Veterans Administration Created.** In 1921, Congress created the Veterans' Bureau to consolidate Veterans programs managed by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, the Public Health Service, and the Federal Board of Vocational Education. It is located at 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington DC.<sup>(59)</sup> In 1929, President Hoover proposed consolidating agencies administering Veteran benefits. The Veterans Administration was created under authorization of the act of Congress approved July 3, 1930 (46 Stat. 1016: 38 U.S.C. 11), to consolidate and coordinate under a single control all Federal agencies dealing with Veterans' affairs. President Hoover signed the executive order establishing the VA on July 21, 1930, and retired Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines was named the first administrator of the agency.<sup>(59)</sup>

**World War II (1941-1945).** Over 2.5 million African Americans registered for the draft in WWII. Of that number, approximately half served in one of the four major services.<sup>(1)</sup> Nearly 750,000 served overseas in Europe and the Pacific.<sup>(64)</sup> In 1941, President Roosevelt brought the Philippine Commonwealth forces under the auspices of the US military. In 1942, Congress allowed for the naturalization of foreigners serving for the U.S. during the war. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, authorized the release of a one-time, lump-sum payment to eligible World War II Philippine Veterans.

**GI Bill.** On June 22, 1944, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Public Law 78-346, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, to provide sweeping new benefits to World War II Veterans. The law has been commonly referred to as the "G.I. Bill" since then. The G.I. Bill provided honorably discharged Veterans with access to a college education, job training and placement, loans to purchase homes, new home construction, or farms, farming equipment, and more. For the first time in history, it:

- Elevated the VA to a war essential agency, second only to the War and Navy Departments (at the time), giving it elevated priority in funding.
- Provided \$500,000,000 for additional Veterans hospitals
- Authorized interchange of staff and facilities between VA and the military services to facilitate adjudication and dissemination of all Veterans benefits.

- Authorized educational benefits to honorably discharged Veterans (not just the disabled) who served after September 16, 1940 (World War II Veterans); this included attending college, refresher courses, retraining, etc., at approved institutions for up to 4 years.
- Provided loans for Veterans to purchase homes, new construction, farms and farm equipment, and business property.
- Provided job counseling and employment services for World War II Veterans.

**Effects of the G.I. Bill.** As a result of the GI Bill, Veterans became college graduates, bought homes, started businesses and families. Veterans fueled the post-war economy, initiated the consumer culture, and transformed America's middle class. Levittown, NY was the first American planned community built specifically to attract returning World War II Veterans and their families.



President Roosevelt signing G.I. bill courtesy of FDR Library

According to Harry Belafonte, "What the GI Bill did was it gave us the qualifications or the credentials to compete for jobs that would ultimately lead us into the middle class...Once we had access to education, to knowledge, to skill we could upgrade ourselves."<sup>(65)</sup>

After the war, the African American colleges were inundated by Veteran students. Their enrollment increased by 50 percent and many Veterans were turned away or assisted by states to attend schools elsewhere. One beneficial result was increased federal support for buildings and equipment at the historically African American institutions.

The African American college enrollment

increased from a prewar 1.08 percent to 3.6 percent in 1950. The GI Bill played a key role in the integration of institutions of higher education.

The GI Bill opened the door to law school for WAC Captain Dovey Johnson Roundtree. As a Howard University Law student, Ms. Roundtree found herself at the center of the group of African American attorneys leading the charge against segregation. She went on to a distinguished career in civil and criminal law, setting legal precedent with a number of cases and becoming a mentor to dozens of young African American attorneys. She saw her journey from life in the segregationist South to the halls of federal courthouses as a testament to the infinite possibility of a government which, though imperfect, provides its citizens the means for change. In her case, the GI Bill allowed her to take the first giant step forward, providing the means for her to go to law school. "Democracy," Ms. Roundtree said, "Is not a fixed thing. It is always becoming. And it falls to each of us to do for America what the hymn says so beautifully: 'to mend thine every flaw.' In doing that, we help it to become all that it can be."<sup>(65)</sup>

**Post-World War II.** On July 26, 1948, President Truman signed Executive Order (EO) establishing the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services. The order stated:

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Forces without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible, having due regard to the time required to effectuate any necessary changes without impairing efficiency or morale.<sup>(66)</sup>

The EO created within the National Military Establishment an advisory committee called the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services. On behalf of the President, the committee is authorized to determine in what respect the rules, procedures and practices may be altered or improved with a view of carrying out the policy of the EO.

**Korean Conflict (1950-1953).** Among the 1.8 million men and women who fought in the Korean War there were more than 100,000 African Americans. African American personnel made up 13 percent of the total military strength in Korea. But before 1948, they fought when they were allowed to fight, in segregated units – denied the opportunity to show their abilities in an integrated setting. However, President Truman's 1948 Executive Order 9981 changed all that.<sup>(66)</sup>

**Vietnam Era (1960-1973).** Of the 3.14 million men who served in Vietnam, Cambodia, or Laos, during the Vietnam War, nearly 340,000 (10.8 percent) were African American. In the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study (NVVRS), the first large-scale nationally representative study of post war adjustment among African American men serving in Vietnam reported that 20.6 percent of African American male Vietnam Veterans met diagnostic criteria for PTSD.<sup>(67)</sup> These findings meant that about one in five African American men (or 70,000 male African American Veterans) who served in Vietnam met the full criteria for current PTSD as described in the third edition of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM III) of Mental Disorders. Roughly 82 percent had not sought mental health treatment from the VA, with the predominant reason offered "that the Veterans felt that he could handle the problem on his own."<sup>(68)</sup> Furthermore, a significant body of unanalyzed data from the 1988 Congressionally mandated NVVRS still exists. There remains a need for more knowledge about PTSD's effects on African American Veterans.

**All-Volunteer Force (AVF).** On March 27, 1969, President Nixon announced the appointment of the President's Commission on an All-Volunteer Armed Force.<sup>(69)</sup> The Commission studied a broad range of possibilities for increasing the supply of volunteers for service, including increased pay, benefits, recruitment incentives, and other practicable measures to make military careers more attractive to young men. In 1973, as the Vietnam War ended, the military began the era of the All-Volunteer Force. Historically, from 1940 to 1973, African Americans were less likely to join the military than Whites.<sup>(70)</sup> In 1970, African Americans were slightly underrepresented in the military (9.8 percent in the military and 11 percent in the military-age general population). Later research, however, has concluded that during the AVF era, African Americans have been overrepresented in the military.<sup>(71)</sup>

**Desert Storm (Jan 16, 1991 – Feb 28, 1991).** Of the 35,000 women who went to Desert Storm, an estimated 40 percent were African American. Today, over 30 percent of military women are African American, approximately 33.6 percent enlisted and 13.1 percent commissioned and warrant officers.<sup>(72)</sup> In 2002, African American women were over-represented in the Armed Services as compared with their population in the civilian population. This is simply to say that African American women made up only 12 percent of all civilian women.

**Center for Minority Veterans (CMV) Established.** On November 2, 1994, Public Law 103-446, Section 509, established the Center for Minority Veterans. The Director was given certain functions with respect to Veterans who are minorities which include the following: serve as advisor to the Secretary, make recommendations to establish or improve programs, promote the use of benefits, disseminate information, conduct and sponsor appropriate social and demographic research, and analyze and evaluate complaints.



## Today's Minority Veterans

Racial and ethnic minorities serve in every branch of the military. For this report the VA adheres to the 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards on race and ethnicity which include two ethnic categories (Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino) and five racial categories (American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) and White). The 1997 OMB standards permit the reporting of more than one race:

**White** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

**Black or African American** – A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

**American Indian or Alaska Native** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

**Asian** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

**Two or More Races** – A person having more than one race.

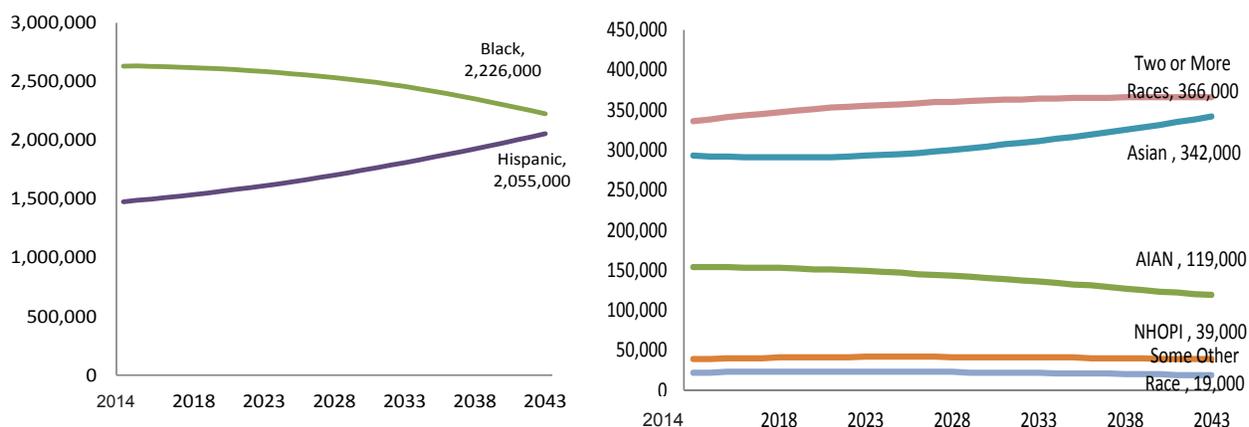
**Some Other Race** – includes individuals who did not report as belonging to any other race categories.

Non-Minorities are White non-Hispanic and all other race categories are included in the minority classification.



In 2014 31.2 percent of active duty military were racial minorities and 12.0 percent self-identified as being of Hispanic or Latino origin. Approximately one-quarter (25.6 percent) of National Guard and Reserve<sup>(2)</sup> forces identified themselves as being a racial minority and 10.6 as Hispanic in 2014.<sup>(73)</sup> The total Veteran population in 2014 was about 22.0 million. About 5.0 million or 22.6 percent of the total Veteran population were minority Veterans. Figure 1 shows the all minority groups have a steady increase from 2014 to 2043. The two largest cohorts, Hispanic and Black Veterans will experience the largest growth of 7.4 and 3.3 percentage points from 2014 to 2043.

**Figure 1.**  
**Projected Population Growth of Minority Veterans, 2014-2043**

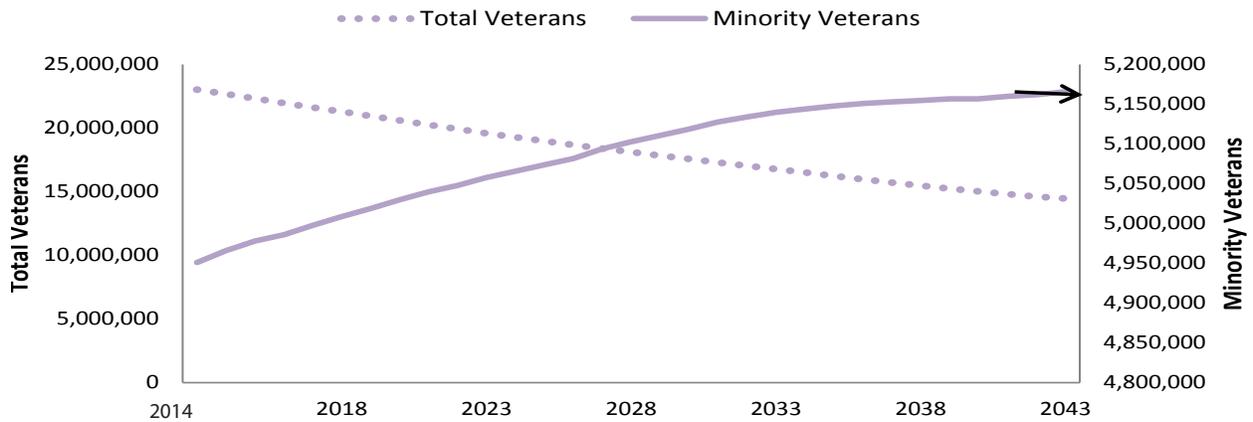


**Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Enterprise Integration, Veterans Population Projection Model, 2014 Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics**

Active duty and reserve forces decreased by 8.4 and 12.4 percent respectively from 1995 to 2014, while minority personnel increased by 26.6 and 4.2 percent respectively over the same time period. This same trend is seen in the Veteran population. Figure 2 shows that total Veteran population is projected to decrease from 22.0 million in 2014 to 14.5 million in 2043. This drop is about 7.5 million Veterans or 33.9 percent of the total Veteran Population in almost 30 years. During this same time-frame, the number of minority Veterans is projected to increase from 5.0 million in 2014 to 5.2 million in 2043 or about 4.5 percent increase.

<sup>2</sup>The data depicted here describes Reserve and Guard members in the Selected Reserve only. All Reserve and Guard manpower are assigned to one of three Reserve component categories: the Ready Reserve, the Standby Reserve, and the Retired Reserve. The report from which these numbers were pulled focused on Selected Reserve members because they train throughout the year and participate annually in Active Duty training exercises.

**Figure 2.**  
**Veteran Population Projections by Minority Status, 2014-2043**



Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Policy and Planning, Veterans population Projection Model, 2014  
 Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

## About the Data

Data for this section of the report come from the 2014 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing annual survey conducted in every county across the nation, including every municipio in Puerto Rico. ACS does not include Veterans and non-Veterans residing in other US territories and foreign countries. The ACS is the largest survey in the United States with a sample of about 3 million household addresses each year. The ACS collects essentially the same detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing information previously collected every ten years on the decennial census long-form questionnaire. Data for the ACS are collected continuously throughout the year using three modes of collection: mail, telephone, and personal visit. Interviews conducted between January 1st and December 31st of a given year are aggregated to produce annual estimates for that calendar year. Since 2006, the ACS sample has included the resident population living in both housing units and group quarters. Group quarters include institutional group quarters (e.g., nursing homes, correctional facilities, psychiatric hospitals) and non-institutional group quarters (e.g., college dormitories, military barracks, group homes).

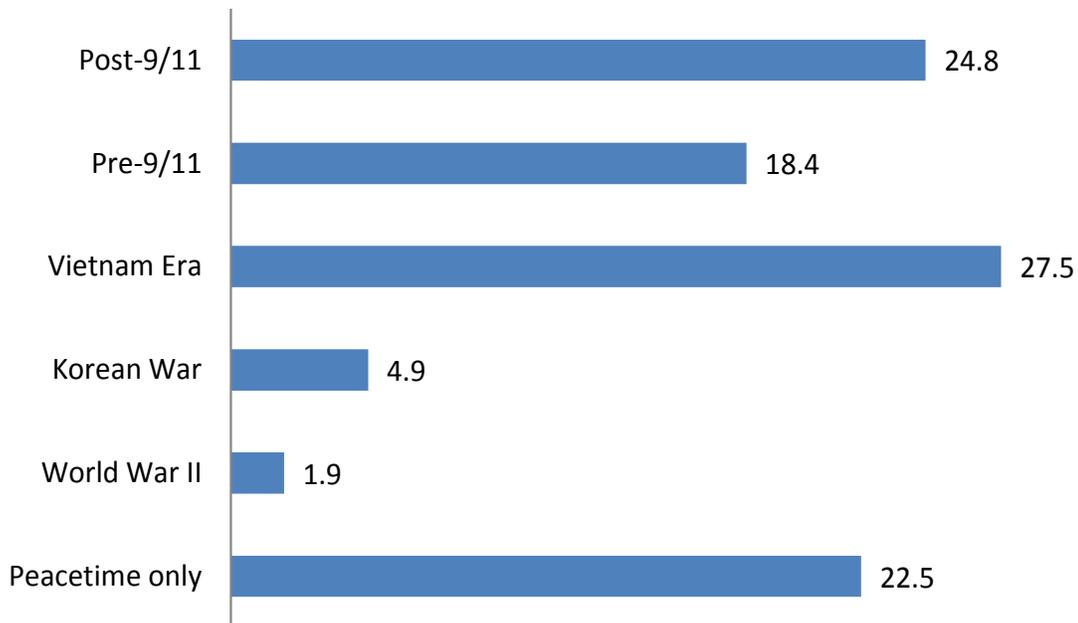
For more information about the ACS, see: <http://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about.htm>

## Who are Today's Minority Veterans?

Minority Veterans are a diverse group and they differ in many ways from their counterparts who never served in the military. Data from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) provides an in-depth profile of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of minority Veterans living in the U.S. and Puerto Rico today. A complete table of detailed characteristics from the ACS can be found in Appendix A to this report.

Most minority Veterans alive today served during the Vietnam Era (figure 3). Nearly twenty-three percent of all living minority Veterans served only during times of peace. Over forty-three percent of all minority Veterans have served during the Gulf War Era (August 1990 to the present).

**Figure 3.**  
**Period of Military Service of Minority Veterans: 2014**  
*(in percent)*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

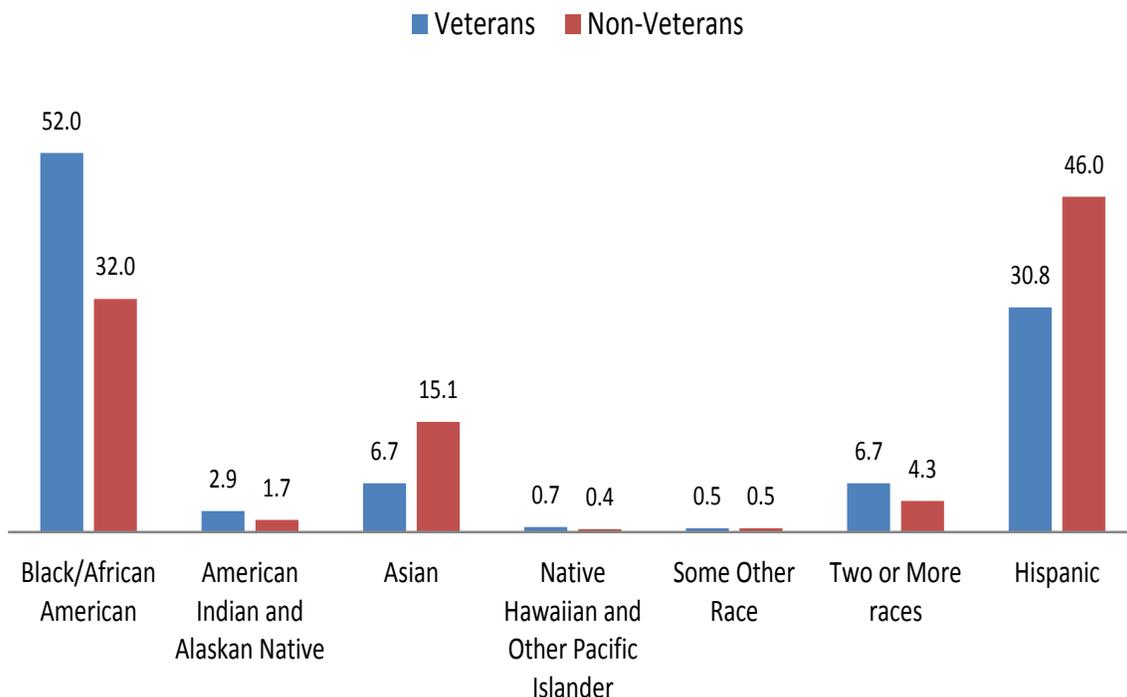
## Race and Hispanic Origin

In 2014, a higher percentage of minority Veterans were African American compared to non-Veterans (52.0 percent compared with 32.0 percent). Figure 4 shows that the percentage of minority Veterans who were American Indian and Alaskan Natives (AIAN) was almost twice that of non-Veterans (2.9 percent compared with 1.7).

In contrast, the percentage of minority Veterans who are Hispanic are significantly lower than those of non-Veterans (30.5 percent compared to 46.0). Many Hispanics in the U.S. may not qualify for military service due to citizenship status, education level, or English proficiency. As the percentage of Hispanics in the general population rises, their representation in the military rises as well, therefore the percentage of Hispanic Veterans is expected to increase in the future. The percentage of minority Veterans that are Asian are approximately a third that of non-Veterans (6.7 percent compared to 15.1).

The diversity index maps included in Appendix B shows how racially and ethnically diverse a population is. They measure the probability that two people chosen randomly in a county are of different races or ethnicities. The index ranges from 0 (low diversity) to 100 (high diversity). The maps demonstrate that Veterans, regardless of sex, are less racially and ethnically diverse than non-Veterans. Women Veterans are more diverse than male Veterans.

**Figure 4.**  
**Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Minorities, by Veteran Status: 2014**  
*(in percent)*

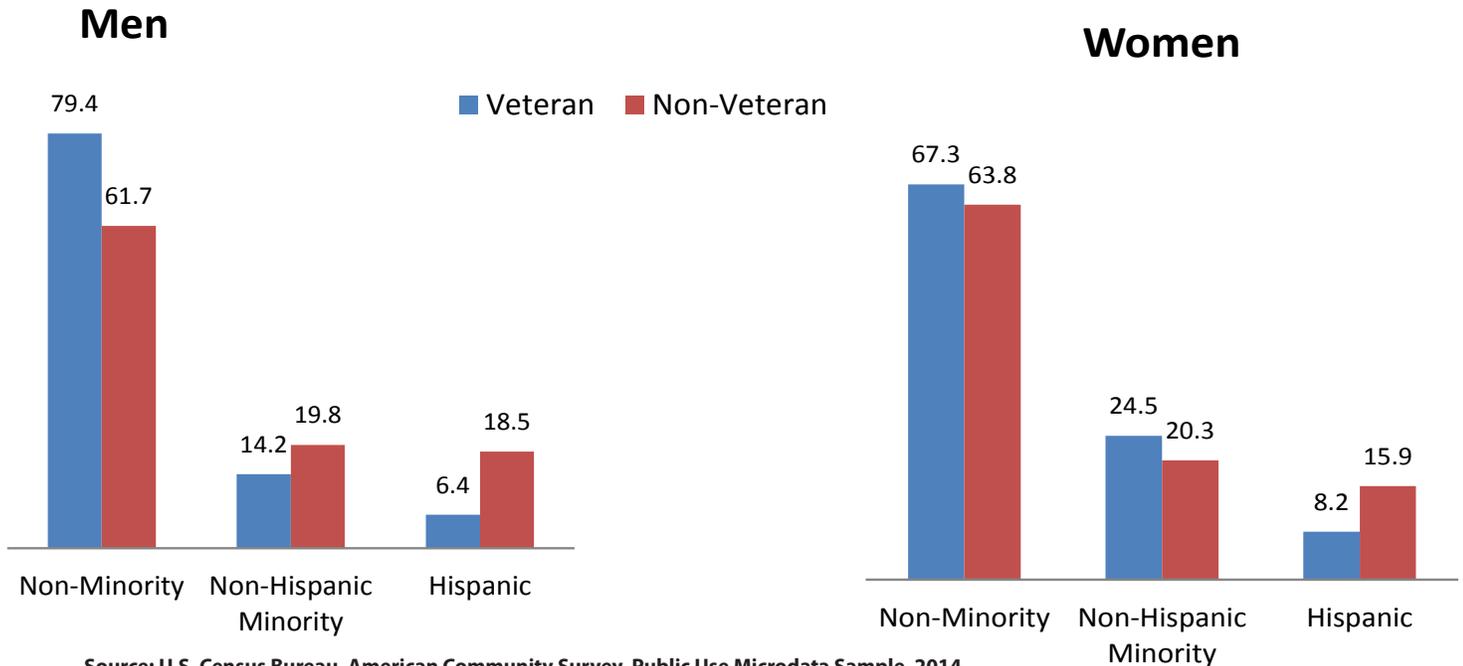


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

## Sex and Age

The Veteran population is majority male (91.8 percent). Figure 5 shows that male Veterans are more likely to be non-Minority (79.4 percent) than male non-Veterans (61.7 percent). Female Veterans are more likely to be minorities than their non-Veteran counterparts (24.5 percent and 20.3 percent, respectively). Veterans are less likely to be Hispanic than non-Veterans regardless of sex.

**Figure 5.**  
**Sex by Minority and Veteran Status: 2014**  
*(in percent)*



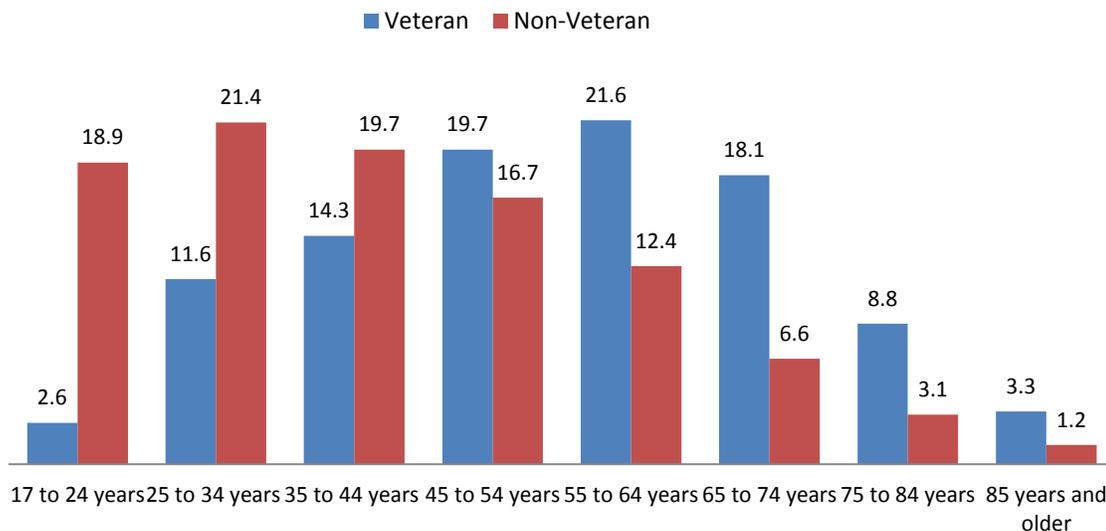
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

### About the Veteran Data

**VetPop** Data for this section of the report come from the 6th generation Veteran Population Projection Model 2014 (VetPop2014) that provides Veteran population projection from fiscal year 2014 to 2043. This model is developed by the Data Governance and Analytics (DGA) of VA. Using the best available Veteran data by the end of FY2013, VetPop2014 provides living Veteran counts by key demographic characteristics such as age, gender, period of service, and race/ethnicity at various geographic levels. VetPop data includes Veterans residing in states, US territories and foreign countries. VetPop2014 is a bottom-up model which projects future Veteran population at the county level as a starting point. The county-level projections are then aggregated to provide Veteran information at larger geographic units such as congressional districts, states, and at the national level. The VetPop2014 actuarial model uses both Veteran record-level data and survey data from a wide variety of sources including VA, Department of Defense (DOD), U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), Department of Treasury's Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Social Security Administration (SSA). For more information about the Vetpop2014, see [http://www1.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran\\_Population.asp](http://www1.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp)

On average, minority Veterans were older than minority non-Veterans in 2014. The median age of minority Veterans was 55 compared with 39 for their non-Veteran counterparts. Figure 6 shows that many of the youngest minorities (17 to 24 years old) have not yet become Veterans as these are the ages that most people are serving in the military. Minority Veterans are younger than White Veterans. The median age for minority Veteran groups ranges between 49 and 58 years old, which is younger than White Veterans.<sup>(65)</sup> Among older minority Veterans, AIAN were predominant in the 65 to 74 year group while Asians dominated in the 75 and older group.<sup>(74)</sup>

**Figure 6.**  
**Age Distribution of Minorities, by Veteran Status: 2014**  
*(in percent)*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
 Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

## About the Veteran Data

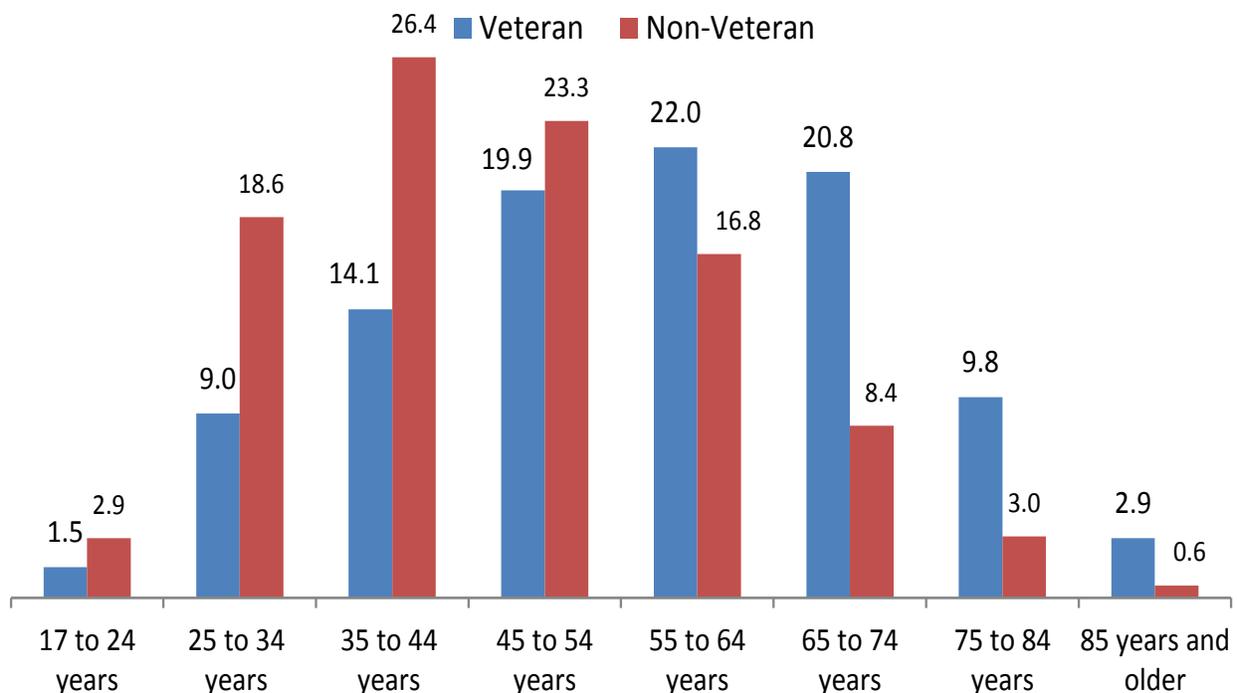
**U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics (USVETS)** dataset is developed by the Data Governance and Analytics of VA. USVETS is a data environment consisting mainly of data sources from VA programs and the Defense Manpower Data Center. This dataset contains information about individual Veterans including demographics, details of military service, VA benefit usage, and more. USVETS data includes Veterans residing in states, US territories and foreign countries. This Veteran dataset contains one record per Veteran. It includes all living and deceased Veterans that DGA have accumulated through VA, Department of Defense (DoD) and commercial data sources. This data environment is used by the VA Office of Policy and Planning to conduct statistical analysis, predictive modeling, and reporting.

## Marriage

Minority Veterans were more likely to have been married than non-Veterans minorities. In 2014, 83.2 percent of minority Veterans were currently married, divorced, widowed or separated compared with 58.1 percent of non-Veteran minorities. Higher percentages of minority non-Veterans age 17 to 54 were married compared with minority Veterans of the same age. For minority Veterans that are currently married, they appear to do so at older ages than minority non-Veterans (figure 7). The percentage of married minority Veterans is almost twice that of minority non-Veterans age 55 and older (55.5 percent compared with 28.8 percent, respectively). The rates for minority Veterans reflect the norm in delaying marriage to later ages among the general population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2014, the median age at first marriage was around 27.6 for women and 29.5 for men.<sup>(75)</sup> This represents a continuation of a long-term trend that has been noted since the mid-1950s.

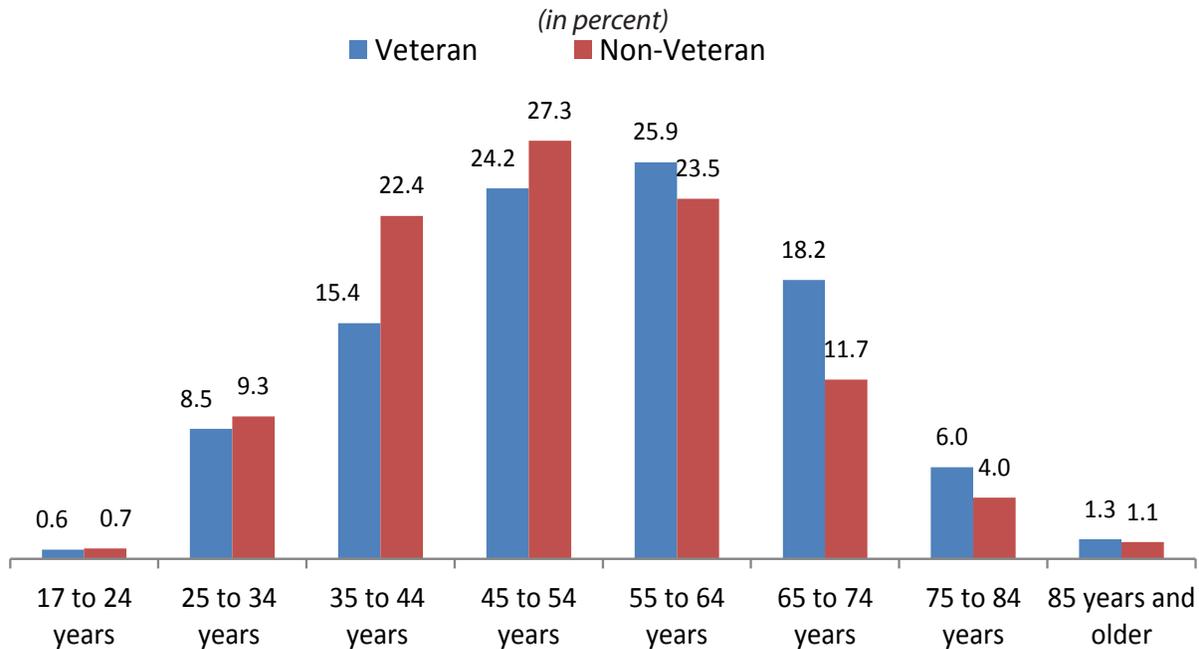
In 2014, among those who have ever been married, 19.3 percent of minority Veterans were currently divorced compared with 9.5 percent of non-Veteran minorities. There is no difference in the divorce rate for minorities aged 17 to 24 years regardless of Veteran status (figure 8). A lower percentage of minority Veterans than minority non-Veterans in aged 25 to 54 were currently divorced. The trend changes beginning at age 55, the percentage of minority Veterans that are divorced is larger than that of non-Veteran minorities.

**Figure 7.**  
**Age Distribution of Percentage of Minorities Who Were Currently Married, by Veteran Status:**  
**2014**  
*(in percent)*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
 Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

**Figure 8.**  
**Age Distribution of Percentage of Minorities Who Were Currently Divorced, by Veteran Status:**  
**2014**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
 Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics



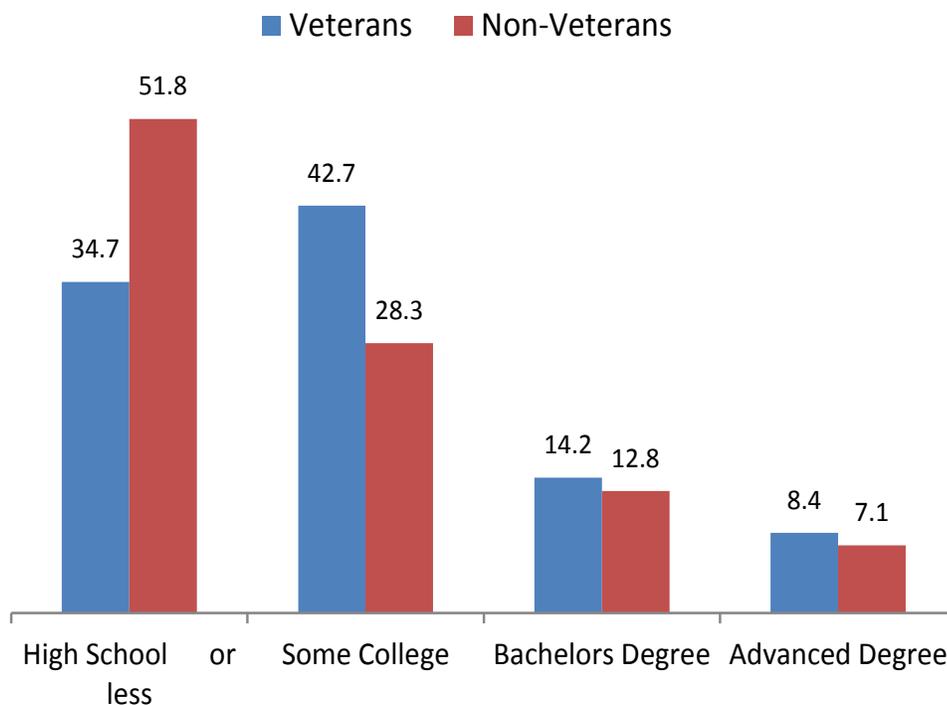


## Socioeconomic Indicators

### Educational Attainment

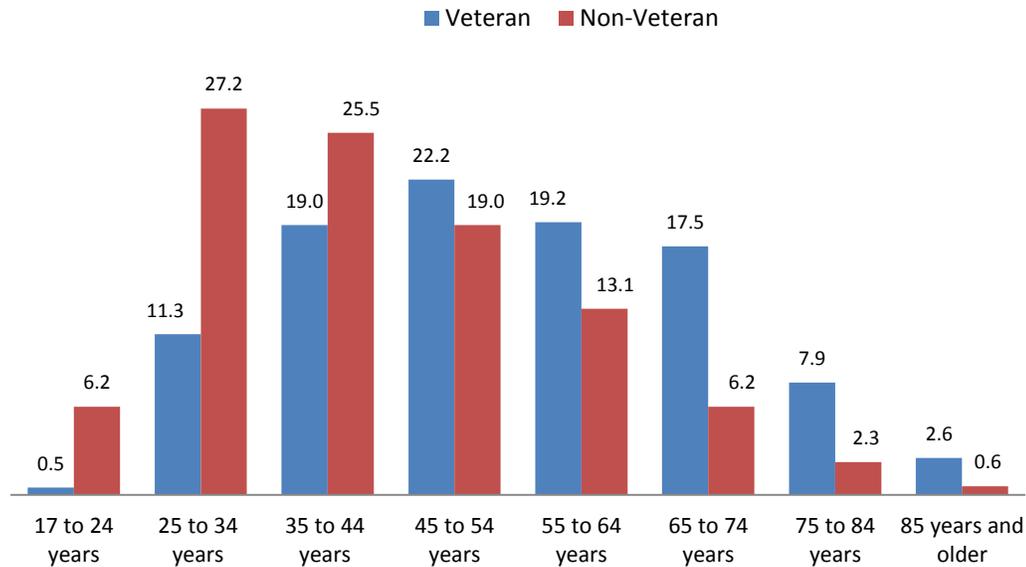
Military enlistment requirements stipulate that recruits must have a high school diploma or GED. By default, this means Veterans will have higher educational attainment overall than non-Veterans has. Currently, about 13.1 percent of the general U.S. population aged 18 and older has not received a high school diploma and 28.0 percent has a high school diploma as their highest level of attainment.<sup>(76)</sup> In 2014, 34.7 percent of all minority Veterans had a high school diploma or less as their highest level of educational attainment, compared with 51.8 percent of minority non-Veterans (figure 9). Another striking difference is the educational attainment of minorities by Veteran status is the percentage that has completed “some college” but not a four-year degree. About a third more minority Veterans had completed some college compared with minority non-Veterans (42.7 percent compared to 28.3 percent, respectively). This could suggest that many minority Veterans are in the process of completing their degrees or that they took advantage of tuition assistance or other educational benefits.

**Figure 9.**  
**Educational Attainment of Minorities, by Veteran Status: 2014**  
(in percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

**Figure 10.**  
**Age Distribution of Percentage of Minorities with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher,**  
**by Veteran Status: 2014**  
*(in percent)*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
 Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

### *Employment*

In 2014, working age minority Veterans (i.e. those 17 to 64 years old) had a higher labor force participation rate (73.9 percent) than minority non-Veterans (71.6 percent). The labor force participation rate represents the proportion of the total population in the civilian labor force. Active duty military personnel are not included. Unemployed individuals are those who are not currently working but are actively seeking work and they are different from those who are not participating in the labor force at all.

Individuals may not participate in the labor force for a variety of reasons. Disability may keep some minorities out of the labor force. A higher percentage of minority Veterans than non-Veterans who were not in the labor force had some type of disability (43.8 percent compared with 22.5 percent, respectively). Individuals may choose not to participate in the labor force while they complete higher education. Thirteen percent of minority Veterans who were not in the labor force were enrolled in school in 2014, compared with 15.9 percent of non-Veteran minorities.

A small but growing body of literature has suggested that recent Veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq face greater risk of unemployment than previous generations of Veterans. Post-9/11 minority Veterans in 2014 had 41 percent higher risk of unemployment than minorities that served in Pre-9/11, 76 percent more than minorities that served in the Vietnam Era and 20 percent higher than those that served during Peacetime only periods. The risk of unemployment for Post-9/11 minority Veterans was calculated by producing the ration of the percentage of unemployed Post-9/11 Veterans (7.2 percent) to the percentage of unemployed minority Veteran in other periods of serve (5.1, 4.1 and 6.0 for

Pre-9/11, Vietnam Era and Peacetime only, respectively). Ratios higher than 1.0 indicate that Post-911 Veterans were at a higher risk compared to minority Veterans who served in other periods. In 2014, minority Veterans were at 18 percent lower risk of unemployment than their non-Veteran counterparts. Minority Veterans have a 44 percent higher risk of unemployment than non-minority Veterans.

Employed minority Veterans were more likely to work year-round (50 to 52 weeks) and full-time (35 hours or more per week) than minority non-Veterans (80.9 percent compared with 68.2 percent, respectively). The median earnings of minorities in 2014 who worked year-round and full-time were \$47,941 for Veterans and \$34,907 for non-Veterans.

### *Occupation*

A higher percentage of employed minority Veterans aged 17 to 64 worked in the government sector (34.2 percent) than minority non-Veterans (12.4 percent). This includes local, state and Federal government workers. There are several initiatives in place to actively recruit Veterans for jobs in the Federal government, which may explain some of the difference. Also, Veterans may find the transition from military to government easier or more comparable to their experiences than to private sector.

Minority Veterans and non-Veterans differ in the specific kinds of work they do in their jobs. In 2014, almost one-third of all minority Veterans (33.8 percent) worked in management, professional, or other related occupations, compared with 28.7 percent of minority non-Veterans. Of the top ten occupations of minority Veterans, three were in the services category two of which were in protective service occupations (police officers, security guards and correctional officers) and one in maid service. Three were in sales field (retail sales and supervisors of retail workers), two were in transportation (driver/sales workers and truck drivers and laborers and freight, stock, and material movers) and one in management. For employed minority non-Veterans, four of the top ten occupations were in service occupations (nursing, food service, maids and janitorial services). Two were in sales (cashiers and retail sales), two in office occupations (secretaries and customer service representatives), one in transportation (driver/sales workers and truck drivers) and one in management.

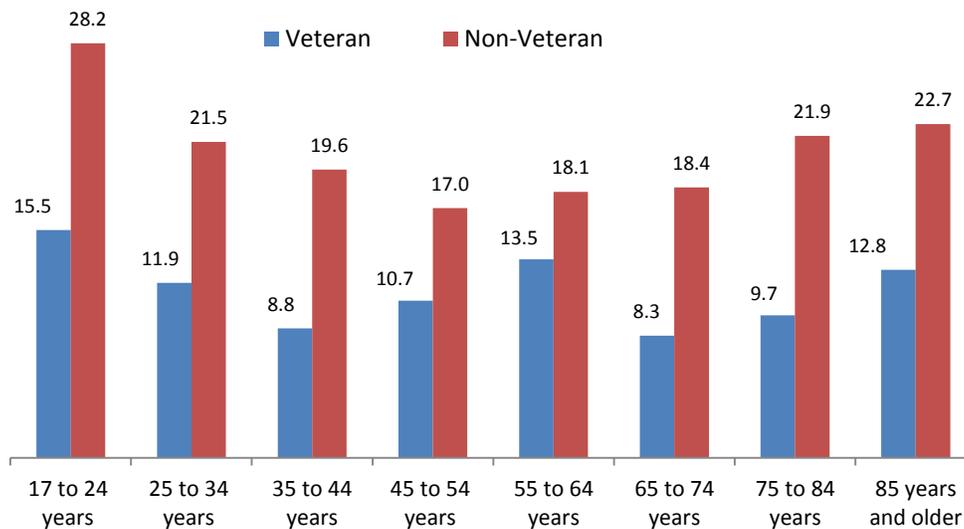
Seventeen percent of minority Veterans work in production and transportation occupations, compared with 14.5 of minority non-Veterans. This category includes jobs such as mechanics, freight handlers and payroll clerks. Minority Veterans are less likely to work in service and sales and office occupations than minority non-Veterans. Eighteen percent of minority Veterans work in service occupations, compared with 24.0 percent of minority non-Veterans. Service occupations include health care professionals, fire and law enforcement and food service workers. Nineteen percent of minority Veterans worked in sales and office occupations, compared with 23.1 percent of non-Veteran minorities. Sales and office category includes jobs such as cashiers, salespeople, receptionists, office clerks, and mail carriers.

## Poverty

The poverty rate shows the proportion of people with incomes below a specified poverty threshold during a given year. Poverty thresholds vary by family size and composition to determine who is living in poverty. The poverty universe is a subset of the total population and excludes those living in institutional group quarters (e.g., nursing homes, prisons) and those living in college dormitories and military barracks. Overall, minority Veterans are less likely than minority non-Veterans to be living in poverty (figure 11). In 2014, 10.9 percent of all minority Veterans and 20.9 percent of all minority non-Veterans had household incomes below poverty. Figure 11 shows that poverty rates were highest for minorities in the youngest age group (15.5 percent of Veterans and 28.2 percent for non-Veterans) and those 85 years and older (12.8 percent for Veterans and 22.7 percent for non-Veterans).

Minority Veterans are almost twice as likely to live in poverty as non-minority Veterans, 10.9 percent and 6.0 percent respectively. Poverty rates were highest among AIAN (14.0 percent), Two or More Races (1.0 percent) and African Americans (12.7) Veterans. Some Other Race and Asian Veterans had the lowest poverty rates of 7.1 and 7 percent respectively.

**Figure 11.**  
**Poverty Rates of Minorities, by Age and Veteran Status: 2014**  
(in percent)

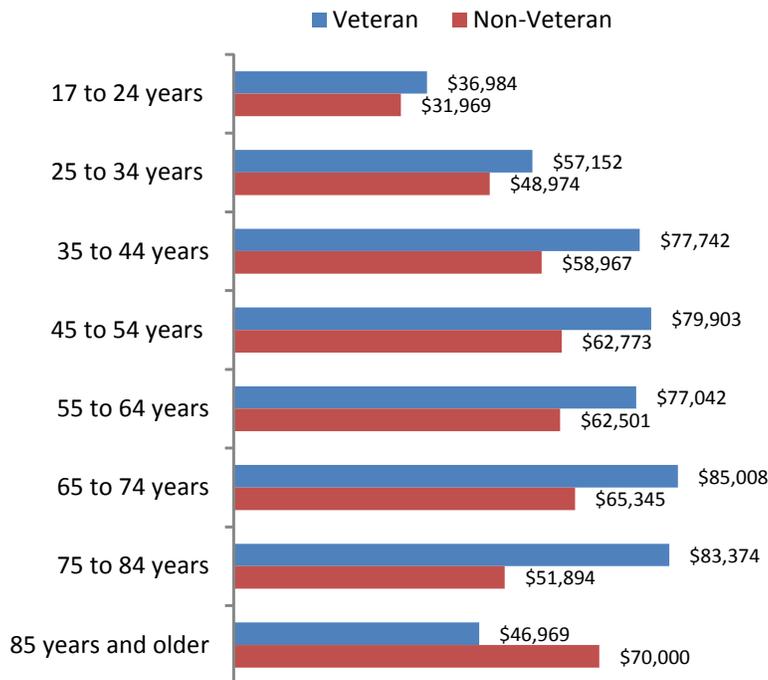


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

## Household Income

Household income includes the incomes of the householder and all other related and unrelated individuals 15 years and older living in the household. The median household income for all minority Veterans was \$54,981 in 2014, compared with \$39,998 for minority non-Veterans. Part of this difference could be explained by the fact that minority Veterans, on average, are older and more likely to participate in the labor force. Median household incomes were higher for minority Veterans than minority non-Veterans in all age categories (figure 12). Median household incomes were highest for Asian Veterans (\$75,173) and Asian non-Veterans (\$73,994).

**Figure 12.**  
**Median Household Income of Minorities, by Age and Veteran Status: 2014**  
**(in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)**



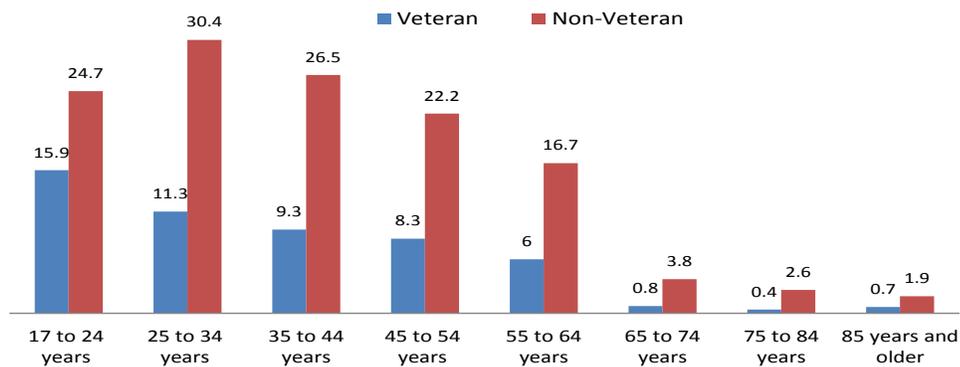
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics



## Health Insurance Coverage

Overall, 6.2 percent of all minority Veterans were uninsured, compared with 22.5 percent of non-Veteran minorities. In 2014, the uninsured rates for minorities varied by age. Minority Veterans under the age of 25 had the highest uninsured rate, at 15.9 percent (figure 13). Minority non-Veterans between the ages of 25 and 34 had the highest uninsured rate, at 30.4. The uninsured rates for all minorities decrease after age 34. The rates for minority Veterans over the age of 25, however, are significantly lower than those for non-Veterans. Once minorities reach age 65, the age of eligibility for Medicare, almost all were covered by some type of health insurance. Less than one percent of minority Veterans over age 65 are uninsured and less than four percent of non-Veteran minorities were uninsured.

**Figure 13.**  
**Uninsured Rates of Minorities, by Age and Veteran Status: 2014**  
(in percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

In 2014, Veterans of Some Other Race (10.4 percent) and AIAN had the highest rates of uninsured (10.0). The high rate of uninsured for AIAN Veterans could be attributed to the utilization of Indian Health Service (IHS). If someone only reports having IHS coverage and no other type of insurance, they are considered uninsured.<sup>[3]</sup> IHS is a health care program through which the Department of Health and Human Services provides medical assistance to eligible American Indians at IHS facilities. In addition, the IHS helps pay the cost of selected health care services provided at non-IHS facilities. Asian had the lowest rates of uninsured, 4.6 percent.

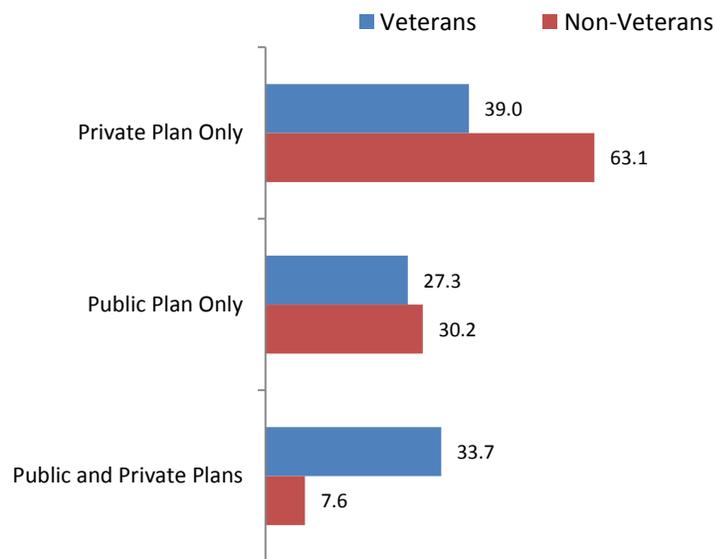
About a third of insured minority Veterans had more than one type of health insurance coverage in 2014 (32.2 percent), compared with 7.7 percent of minority non-Veterans (figure 14). Fourteen percent of insured minority Veterans with multiple coverages were using employer-based health care plans in conjunction with VA health care while 7.1 percent were using employer-based health insurance and Tricare. Tricare is a health care plan provided by the Department of Defense for military personnel, military retirees, and their dependents. Ten percent of minority Veterans used VA health care and Tricare.

Twenty-six percent of insured minority Veterans has some type of public health insurance as their only source of health care coverage, compared with 29.6 percent of minority non-Veterans (figure 14). Public plans include Medicaid, Medicare, VA and other state specific plans. While 34.6 percent of all minority Veterans reported using VA health care services alone or in combination with other plans, 20.4 percent reported using VA health services as their only source of health care coverage.<sup>[4]</sup>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hithins/methodology/definitions/acs.html>

<sup>4</sup>The question on the American Community Survey (ACS) asks respondents to choose their health care coverage from a list of six categories with the option of writing in a type of coverage that was not listed. The category for VA coverage reads "VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled in VA for VA health care)". The ACS estimates should therefore be expected to be somewhat higher than VA utilization estimates since some Veterans may mark the option if they are enrolled by not using services during the survey year.

**Figure 14.**  
**Health Insurance Coverage of Minorities, by Veteran Status: 2014**  
*(in percent)*



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

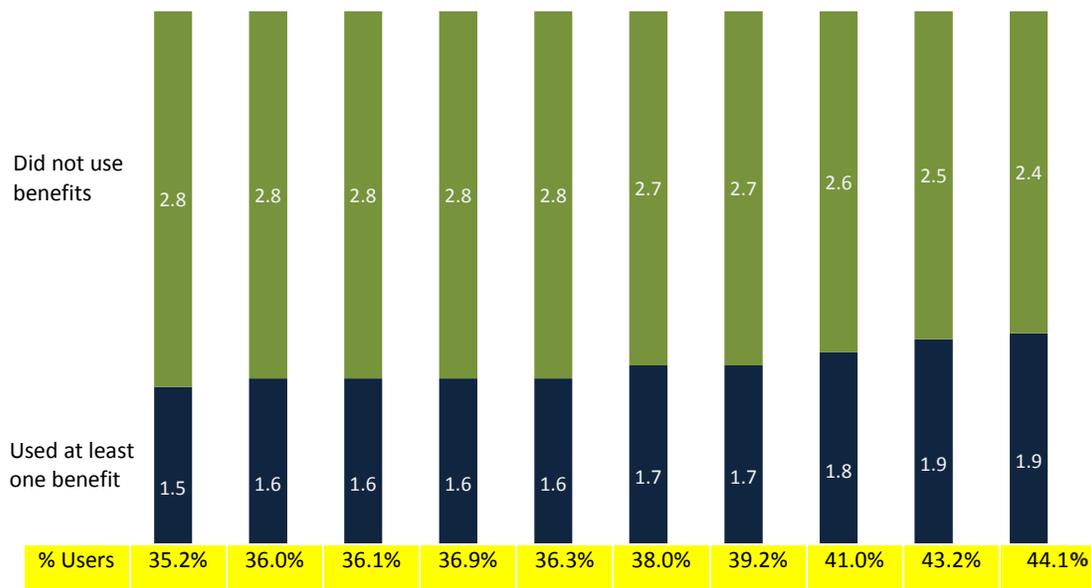


# Utilization of the Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits and Services

The Department of Veteran Affairs administers and delivers a wide array of federally authorized benefits and services to eligible veterans and their dependents and survivors. These benefit programs are overseen by three administrations within the VA – Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). This section of the report describes the utilization characteristics and trends of the Veterans for whom race/ethnicity could be determined.

Figures 15 and 16 present information about unique Veteran users. A unique Veteran user is defined as any Veteran who has received at least one VA benefit or service during fiscal year 2014. A Veteran may have received multiple benefits or services from VA but are only counted once in the total number of unique Veterans. In 2014, 1.9 million minority Veterans used at least one VA benefit or service. The number of minority Veterans who use at least one VA benefit or service has steadily grown from 35.2 percent in 2005 to 44.1 percent in 2014.

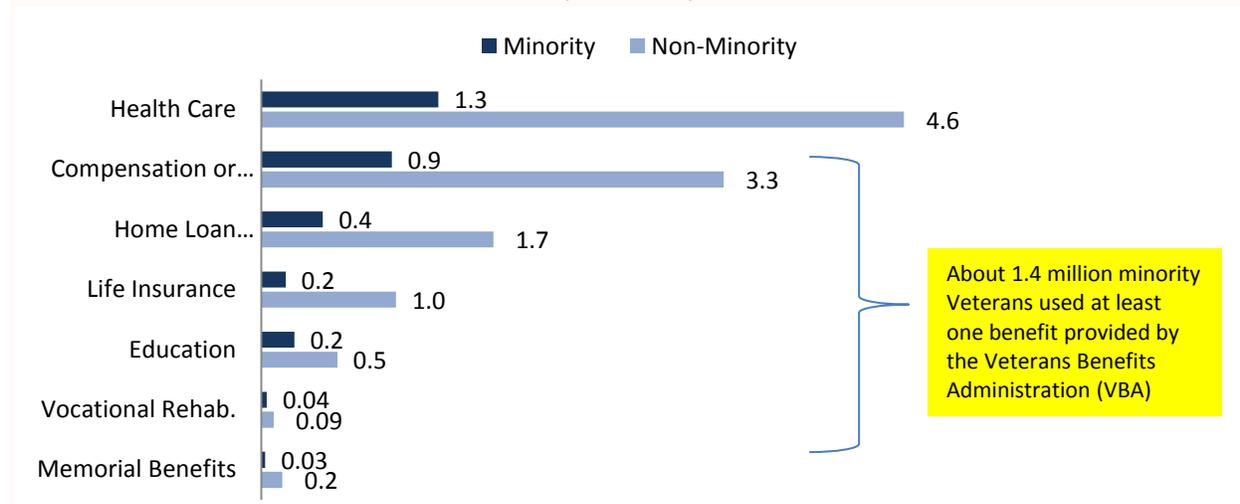
**Figure 15.**  
**Benefits Utilization of Minority Veterans: 2005-2014**  
*(in millions)*



Source: U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2014  
 Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Figure 16 shows the types of benefits and services VA provides and the number veterans who used each benefit during FY 2014. Of the total minority Veteran population in 2014, approximately 28.9 percent (1.3 million) used VA health care and less than 1 percent (27,987) were interred in a VA state or national cemetery or received a grave marker from VA. Of the 1.4 million minority Veterans (32.2 percent of total minority Veteran population) who used programs administered by VBA, 51.2 percent received disability payments, 24.1 percent had a VA home loan guaranty, 9.6 had a life insurance policy administered or supervised by VA, 12.9 percent used education benefits, and 2.2 percent participated in or completed a vocational rehabilitation training program during 2014.

**Figure 16.**  
**Benefits Utilization by Program and Minority Status: 2014**  
*(in millions)*



Source: U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2014  
 Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

\*The numbers from the chart do not sum to the total of VA users. Veterans who used multiple programs are counted in each individual program, but only once in the overall total

## Health Care Services

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) meets the health care needs of minority Veterans by providing a broad range of primary care, specialized care, and related medical and rehabilitative services. VA's health care delivery is one of the largest systems of integrated health care in the United States, with 150 medical centers, 819 community-based clinics, and 300 Vet Centers, comprising 1,269 sites of care for ease of access and convenience.<sup>(77)</sup>

Health care services are provided to minority Veterans at both VA and non-VA facilities in order to meet demand and ensure high quality service. When care at VA is not feasibly available, VA may furnish care through community providers. While there are some exceptions, Veterans generally must first enroll in the system in order to use VA health care (see the text box "Understanding VA Health Care" for more information). The number of minority Veterans enrolled in VA health care has been increasing over time. This is likely due to several factors, such as the increasing number of minorities serving in the military and VA outreach and initiatives targeted to minority Veterans.

From 2005 to 2014, the number of minority Veterans enrolled in VA health care increased by 43.1 percent, from 1.4 million to 2.0 million (figure 17). To put this in perspective, about 32.1 percent of all minority Veterans in 2005 were in enrolled in VA health care compared with 45.6 percent of all minority Veterans in 2014. During this same time period, the number of non-minority Veterans enrolled in VA health care increased only 23.9 percent.

In 2014, 45.6 percent of minority Veterans were enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) health care system compared with 44.3 percent of non-minority Veterans. Of the 2.0 million enrolled minority Veterans, 1.3 million used VA health care in 2014. Not all minorities who enroll in the health care system ultimately become health care users (figure 17). This could be due partly to eligibility requirements. Eligibility requirements give priority to Veterans with low incomes and service-connected disabilities (see the text box “Understanding VA health Care” for additional information). Responses from minority Veterans in the 2010 National Survey of Veterans (NSV) indicated that the top three reasons for having never used VA health care benefits were: unfamiliarity with application process, not aware of VA health care benefits and use of other sources for health care.

From 2005 to 2014, the number of minority Veterans using VA health care increased 46.4 percent, from 871,918 to 1,261,559. To put this in perspective, about 20.1 percent of all enrolled minority Veterans in 2005 used VA health care compared with 28.9 percent of all enrolled minority Veterans in 2014.

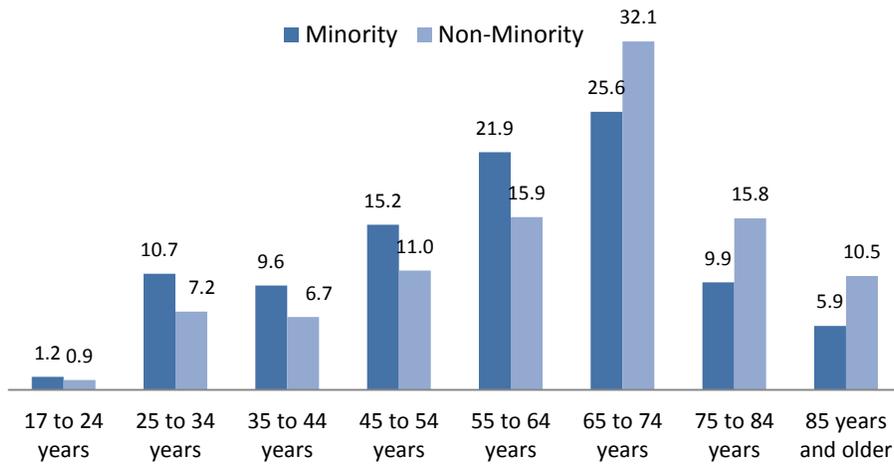
**Figure 17.**  
**Number of Minority Veterans Enrolled in VA Health Care, by VA Health Care Usage: 2005-2014**

	Enrolled		Not Enrolled
	Uses VAHC	Does not use VAHC	
2005	871,918	519,836	2,949,130
2006	899,354	550,592	2,906,517
2007	927,622	575,141	2,850,427
2008	960,374	594,033	2,803,381
2009	1,010,043	617,464	2,736,610
2010	1,069,498	640,195	2,662,665
2011	1,117,587	665,589	2,592,889
2012	1,162,240	691,005	2,516,297
2013	1,210,094	712,355	2,440,529
2014	1,261,559	729,377	2,371,571

Source: U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

The age distribution of minority Veterans using VA health care (figure 18) generally resembles that of the total minority Veteran population in the American Community Survey (ACS) presented in figure 5. Minorities who use VA health care are generally older than minority Veterans who do not use VA health care. The median age of minority Veterans who used VHA services was 60 years while the median age for minority Veterans who did not use VHA was 48 in 2014. Fifty-nine percent of minority Veterans who used VA health care were under the age of 65 years.

**Figure 18.**  
**Age Distribution of Minority Veterans who used VHA: 2014**  
*(in percent)*



Source: U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2014  
 Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics



## Understanding VA Health Care



An overview of the concepts of enrollment, eligibility, and means testing helps with understanding how VA health care benefits work.

### Enrollment

Most women Veterans who want to use VA health care services must apply for enrollment first. This is easily done by completing VA form 10-10EZ online, or calling 1-877-222-VETS or by a visit to any VA health care or Veterans' benefits facility. Enrollment can be done for future needs if services are not currently required. In some cases enrollment is not necessary. Women Veterans do not have to enroll for health care if they have a 50 percent or higher VA service-connected disability rating, if they are seeking care for a VA-rated disability only, or if they were discharged within the last year for a disability that was caused or worsened in military service but has not yet been rated by VA.

### Eligibility

Eligibility is determined as part of the enrollment process and is not automatic. Basic eligibility is determined based on type of service and discharge status. Many veterans must also satisfy a minimum duty requirement. Veterans are then generally assigned to one of eight priority groups based on different factors such as length of service, level of disability, and level of income. These priority groups help VA allocate its available health care resources among Veterans. VA priority groups range from 1 to 8 with priority group 1 as the highest priority for access to VA health care and priority group 8 as the lowest priority. Assignment to certain priority groups is based largely on income. Increases or decreases in income may affect future priority group determination and copayment obligations for services. VA uses a process of means testing to determine eligibility.

Priority group 3 is typically determined for veterans who are former Prisoner of War (POW), in receipt of the Purple Heart Medal, in receipt of the Medal of Honor, etc. The complete list can be found on <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/veterans.asp>.

### Means Testing

VA's means testing applies both national and geographic income limits in determining priority groups. For low income Veterans, Congress added geographic income limits to the existing national income limit to expand services for those who live in high-cost areas. For higher income Veterans, VA assigns Priority Group 8 for those who were enrolled prior to 2003, or who have income that exceeds current income limits by more than 10 percent and who agree to pay the applicable copayment. Below are some examples to illustrate how means testing works.

In 2010, a Veteran with no dependents living in Dupage County, Illinois would qualify for placement in Priority Group 7 with copay for health care services on an income basis if the gross household income is below the 2008 VA National Income Threshold of \$29,402, or below the 2008 VA National Geographic Income Threshold of \$42,100 for her area.

Changes in the number of dependents can influence priority group status. For example, if this same Veteran's income was \$48,100 and she had a child in 2009, her priority group would change due to higher income limit extensions for dependents. Separate income limit extensions are available for up to 7 children.

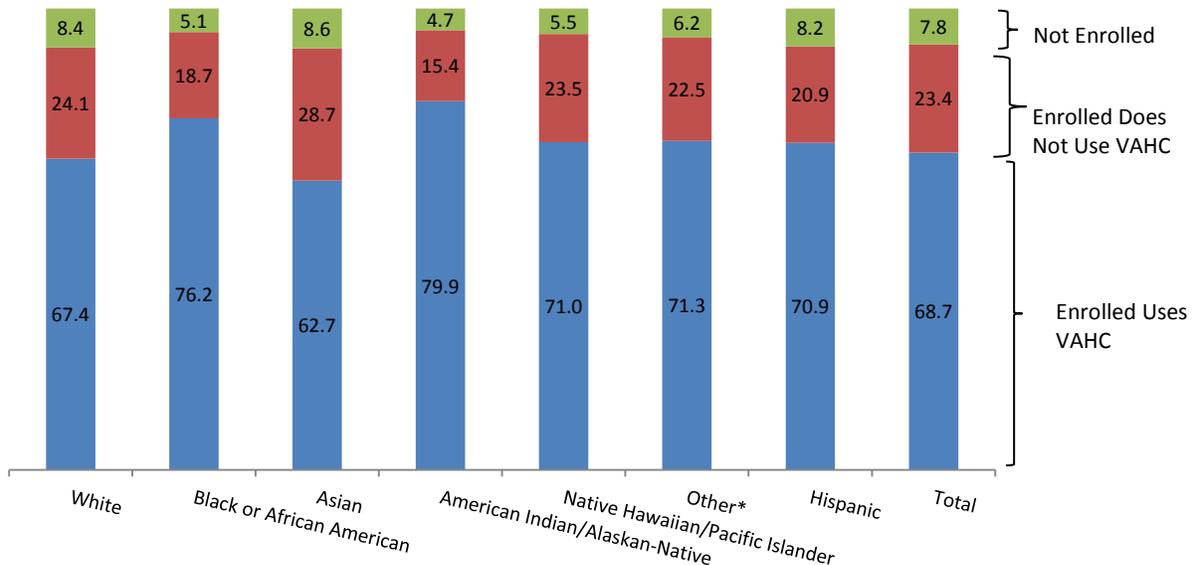
Unemployment or other common losses to income may increase available benefits. For example, if income drops below \$11,830 there may be eligibility for free medications and travel benefits to VA facilities.

*Service-Connected Disability and Health Care Utilization*

In 2014, 16.9 percent of minority Veterans who used VHA health care had a service-connected disability rating. Service-connected disabilities are injuries or illnesses that are incurred or aggravated during military service. VBA reviews disability compensation claims, determines if the disability is service-connected, and then rates the severity of the disability from 0 to 100. In the context of this analysis, “service-connected” refers only to Veterans who have been granted VA benefits for a service-connected disability. Minority Veteran patients with a service-connected disability who either have not yet applied for or have not been granted benefits would not be included here. Service-connected disability status can be granted for many conditions and diagnoses.

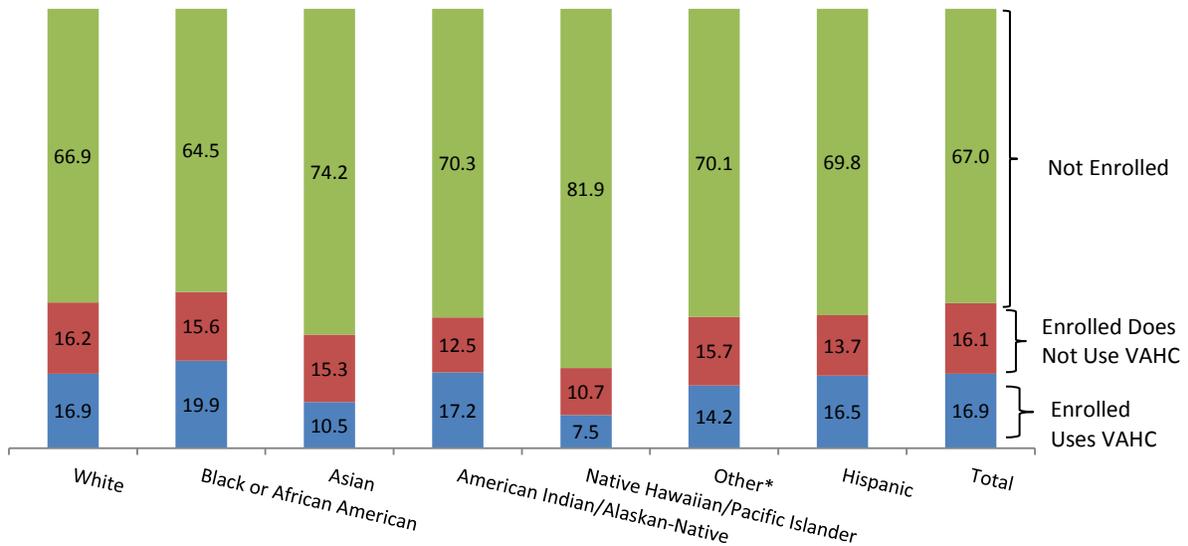
It should be noted that not all minority Veterans who have a service-connected disability use VA health care services. These Veterans can receive care from their choice of public or private providers depending on their access to health care insurance. The likelihood of a Veteran with a service connected disability seeking treatment from VA health care facilities varies by race and ethnicity. Veterans with a service-connected disability are more likely than those without a service-connected disability to use VA health care regardless of race/ethnicity (figure 19 and 20). Disabled American Indian/Alaskan-Native Veterans have the highest rate of VA health care use (figure 19). Among those who do not have a service-connected disability, the rates for Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander and Asian Veterans are considerably lower than other races/ethnicities (figure 20).

**Figure 19.**  
**Service-Connected Disabled Veterans who Used VA Health Care by Race/Ethnicity: 2014**  
*(in percent)*



**Note:**\*Other includes Veterans of two or more races  
**Source:** U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2014  
**Prepared by:** the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

**Figure 20.**  
**Non-Service-Connected Disabled Veterans who used VA Health Care by Race/Ethnicity: 2014**  
*(in percent)*



**Note:**\*Other includes Veterans of two or more races  
**Source:** U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2014  
**Prepared by:** the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics



## About the Data

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The 2010 National Survey of Veterans (NSV) was a comprehensive nationwide surveys designed to help the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) plan its future programs and services for Veterans. The information gathered through these surveys helps VA to identify the needs of Veterans and then allocate resources in ways that will ensure these needs are met. While the NSVs have been conducted under the general authorization of U.S. Code Title 38, Section 527 which requires the VA Secretary to gather data for the purposes of planning and evaluating VA programs, the 2010 NSV also included the requirement, at the direction of P.L. 108- 454, Section 805, to assess beneficiary awareness of VA benefits and services. The Public Law also expanded the survey populations in the 2010 NSV to include in addition to Veterans, other beneficiary groups: Active Duty Service members; demobilized National Guard and Reserve members; Family members and Surviving spouses. Survey items included measures of demographic and military service characteristics, health status, VA and non-VA health care use, and determinants of and barriers to VA health care use. All data were weighted to represent population estimates for the total Veteran population.

For additional information about NSV see:

<http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SurveysAndStudies/NVSSurveyFinalWeightedReport.pdf>

## Compensation Benefits

Disability Compensation is a monetary benefit paid to Veterans for disability resulting from illness or injury incurred or aggravated during military service. These conditions are referred to as service-connected conditions; also commonly known as service-connected disabilities. The amount of Disability Compensation payments varies with the degree of disability and the number of the Veteran's dependents. The benefit is paid monthly generally for the entirety of the Veteran's remaining life. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation. These financial benefits for service-connected disability are not subject to Federal or state income tax. To be eligible to receive this benefit, the service of the Veteran must have been terminated through separation or discharge under conditions other than dishonorable.

Veterans must apply to receive Disability Compensation benefits. Once the application process is started a file is created to document the conditions and injuries for which the Veteran is applying. The Veteran then may undergo a physical examination to determine the degree of disability. Results are compiled and analyzed, and the Veteran receives a disability rating for each separate condition found to be service connected. If the Veteran has more than one condition, those separate conditions are calculated into a singular disability rating. Ratings for service-connected disabilities range from 0 percent to 100 percent, in increments of 10. A 0 percent rating indicates that a disability exists, but is not so disabling that it entitles the Veteran to compensation benefits, where as a 100 percent disability rating generally indicates that the disability is severe and that the Veteran cannot gain or hold steady employment.<sup>(77)</sup> In 2014, 849,835 minority Veterans were receiving compensation from VA for a service-connected disability, representing about 19.5 percent of the total population of minority Veterans. Of those minorities receiving compensation, 52.4 percent had a combined disability rating of 50 percent or higher.

## Most Prevalent Service-Connected Disabilities

Of the top ten conditions for minority Veterans in 2014, the top five (tinnitus, post-traumatic stress disorder, lower back pain, defective hearing and limited flexion of the leg) accounted for nearly 22 percent of all service-connected disabilities (figure 21). The top five are the same in a different order for non-Minority Veterans.

### Tinnitus

Tinnitus is noise or ringing in the ears. A common problem, tinnitus affects about 1 in 5 people.<sup>(78)</sup> Tinnitus isn't a condition itself — it's a symptom of an underlying condition, such as age-related hearing loss, ear injury or a circulatory system disorder. Almost 7 percent of service-connected disabled minority Veterans received compensation for this condition in 2014.

### Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can occur as a result of experiencing a trauma, and between 7 and 8 percent of the general population will have PTSD at some point in their lives.<sup>(79)</sup> Minority Veterans had higher rates of PTSD than non-Minority Veterans (5.8 and 5.0 percent, respectively). According to the Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD, some groups of people, including African-Americans and Hispanics, may be more likely than Whites to develop PTSD. This may be because these groups are more likely to go through a trauma. For example, in Veterans who survived Vietnam, a larger percent of African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans were in combat than Whites.<sup>(79)</sup> Experiencing any trauma can predispose an individual to developing PTSD, but that does not mean that every individual will develop PTSD. There are several factors that influence the development of PTSD, such as length and intensity of the trauma, reaction to the trauma, or how much support and help the individual sought after the trauma.<sup>(79)</sup>

### Lower Back Pain (Lumbosacral or cervical strain)

Lower back pain is a common condition in the general population as well as in the population of minority Veterans. Approximately 4 percent of service-connected disabled, minority Veterans received compensation for this condition in 2014.

### Defective Hearing

Defective hearing includes a variety of diseases and impairments to the ear and auditory nerve as well as the individual's ability to hear. In 2014, around 4 percent of service-connected disabled minority Veterans received service-connected compensation for this condition.

### Limited Flexion of Leg

Flexion describes a bending movement that decreases the angle between a segment and its proximal segment. A particular knee condition or two different knee conditions can cause limitation of flexion of the knee joint. Almost 4 percent of service-connected disabled, minority Veterans received compensation for this condition.

**Figure 21.**  
**Ten Most Prevalent Service-Connected Disabilities for Minority Veterans: 2014**

Condition	Frequency	Percentage
Tinnitus	207,257	6.7
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	178,924	5.8
Lumbosacral or cervical strain	130,146	4.2
Defective hearing	121,713	3.9
Limitation of flexion of leg	116,793	3.8
Diabetes Mellitus	94,415	3.1
Degenerative arthritis of the spine	77,544	2.5
Limited motion of the ankle	70,443	2.3
Paralysis of sciatic nerve	68,110	2.2
Scars, other	64,975	2.1
Total – Most Prevalent Disabilities	1,130,320	36.5
Total – All Other Disabilities	1,962,631	63.5
Total – Number of Disabilities	3,092,951	100
Total – Unique Beneficiaries	849,835	

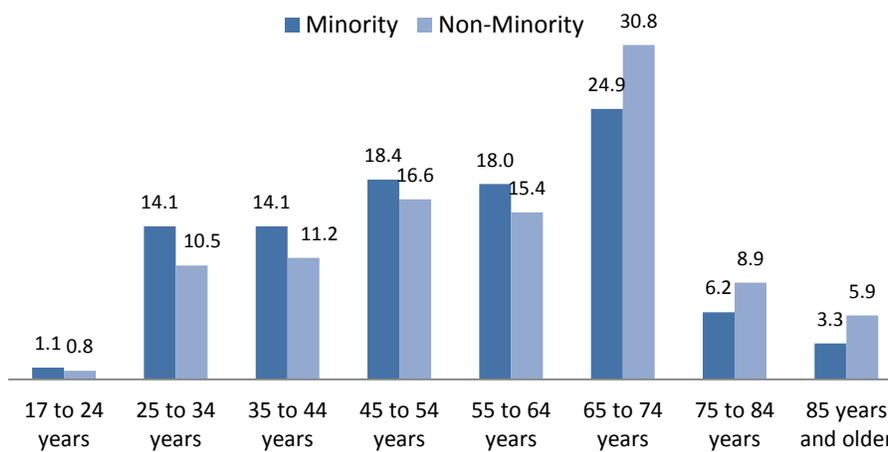
Source: U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2014  
 Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics



### Age Distribution for Minority Veterans Receiving Compensation

Minority Veterans who receive service-connected disability compensation are younger than their non-Minority counterparts (median age 56 and 61, respectively). Figure 22 shows that nearly two thirds (65.7 percent) of minority Veterans receiving compensation are below the age of 65. Comparatively for this same age group, slightly more than half (54.5 percent) of non-minority Veterans are receiving compensation. Compared with the total population of minority Veterans, both the youngest (17 to 24 years) and the oldest (75 years and older) generations make up smaller proportions of minority Veterans who received service-connected disability compensation in 2014. Conversely, those aged 65 to 74 years of age make up larger proportions of minority Veterans who received service-connected disability compensation when compared to total population.

**Figure 22**  
**Age Distribution of Minority Veterans Receiving Disability Compensation: 2014**  
(in percent)



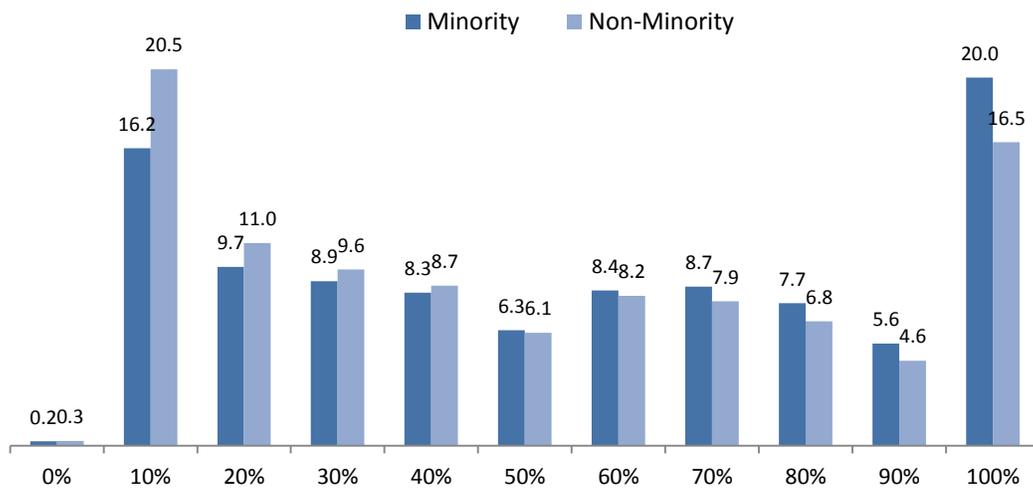
Source: U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics



## Degree of Disability

Minority and non-minority Veterans have similar distributions of disability ratings except for 10% and 100% disability ratings. Non-minority Veterans have 4% higher rate of Veterans who received a 10% rating than minority Veterans. A 10% rating has the lowest severity to receive compensation. Minority Veterans have 3.5 percent higher rate of Veterans who received a 100% rating than non-minority Veterans. A 100% rating has the highest severity to receive compensation.

**Figure 23.**  
**Distribution of Disability Rating by Minority Status: 2014**  
(in percent)



Source: U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics



## Individual Unemployment Compensation

Individual Unemployability (IU) is a component of VA's Disability Compensation benefit which allows Veterans to receive financial compensation at the 100-percent level even though their combined service-connected disability rating is below 100 percent. In order to qualify, a Veteran must be unable to maintain substantially gainful employment as a result of their service-connected disabilities. Veterans who receive IU are allowed to work as long as that employment is not considered substantially gainful. In other words, their employment must be considered marginal employment.<sup>(80)</sup> Marginal employment is generally deemed to exist when a Veteran's earned income does not exceed the amount established by the U.S. Census Bureau as the poverty level for the Veteran only.<sup>(5)</sup> In 2014, about 9 percent of minority Veterans who received compensation for a service-connected disability were receiving IU compensation. This represents less than 2 percent of the total minority Veteran population.

## Pension

Pension benefits are payable to wartime Veterans who meet certain eligibility requirements. Generally, in order to qualify for a disability pension, Veterans must meet the following criteria: (1) discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, (2) serve at least 90 days of active service, one of which was during a wartime period, (3) have a family income that falls below a set annual limit, and (4) be age 65 or older, or be permanently and totally disabled or be a patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care or the recipient of a supplemental social security income.<sup>(81)(6)</sup> Veterans are not required to have a service-connected disability in order to receive a disability pension. Veterans also cannot receive a VA disability pension and service-connected compensation at the same time. If a veteran is eligible for both, VA will pay the benefit that is the greater amount. In 2014, 81,988 minority Veterans were receiving a disability pension.

## Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program is authorized by Congress under title 38, code of federal regulations, Chapter 31. The VR&E program assists Veterans who have service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find and keep suitable employment. For Veterans with service-connected disabilities that cannot hold suitable employment VR&E provides services to help maximize their independence in daily life. Services that are provided by the VR&E program include: interest and aptitude testing, occupational exploration, career counseling, on-the-job and post-secondary training, and job placement assistance. Veterans are eligible to apply for VR&E benefits if they have received a discharge that is other than dishonorable and they either have a service connected disability of at least 20% and are in need of rehabilitation because of an employment handicap or have a service-connected disability of at least 10% and are in need of rehabilitation because of a serious employment handicap. The basic period of eligibility for which VR&E services may be used is 12 years following either: the date of separation from active duty military service or the date the veteran was first notified by VA of a service-connected disability rating.<sup>(82)(7)</sup> Thirty-one percent of Veterans participating in the VR&E program in 2014 were minority Veterans. Participants are defined as Veterans in any of the following stages of vocational rehabilitation process: extended evaluation, independent living, job ready status and rehabilitation to employment.

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<sup>5</sup>For more information on the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty thresholds, see <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html>

<sup>6</sup>If the Veteran entered active duty after September 7, 1980 generally he or she must serve at least 24 months or the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period.

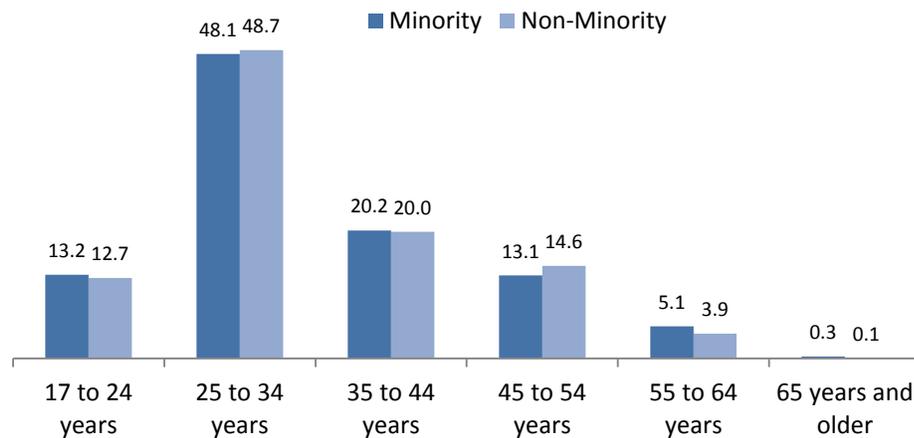
<sup>7</sup>The basic period of eligibility can be extended if a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor determines that a Veteran has a Serious Employment Handicap (SEH), which is defined as a significant impairment of a Veteran's ability to prepare for, obtain or retain employment consistent with his or her abilities, aptitudes and interests. The SEH must result in substantial part from a service-connected disability.

## Education Benefits

There are many benefits available to advance the education and skills of Veterans and Servicemembers (see text box “Various Department of Veteran Affairs Education Programs” for more information). The establishment of the G.I. Bill in 1944 was fundamental in creating educational benefits for those who have served this nation, a goal that continues as a high priority today.<sup>(61)</sup> Since 1944, Congress has continued to create education programs in order to reflect the changing times of service and to better serve the needs of current Veterans.

In 2014, 235,733 minority Veterans used education benefits. Education benefits reported here excludes Veterans who receive Reserve Education Assistance Program benefits. This represents 5.4 percent of the total population of minority Veterans. This is almost three times that of non-minority Veterans (3.1 percent). Regardless of minority status, almost half of Veterans using educational benefits are age 25 to 34 years (minority Veterans 48.7 percent and non-minority Veterans 48.7 percent). Less than 1 percent of all Veterans aged 65 or older used education benefits in 2014.

**Figure 24.**  
**Age Distribution of Education Benefits Use by Minority Status: 2014**  
*(in percent)*



Source: U.S. Veterans Eligibility Trends and Statistics, 2014  
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

## **Various Department of Veterans Affairs Education Programs: Post-Vietnam Era Veterans**

### **Veteran Education Assistance Program (VEAP):**

VEAP was the first G.I. Bill program that required a contribution from the Servicemember, which was matched by the government (\$2 for every \$1 the Servicemember contributed). To qualify for VEAP, Servicemembers must have first entered active duty after December 31, 1976 and before July 1, 1985 and been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

### **Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP):**

REAP provides educational benefits to certain National Guard and Reserve members who are called to active-duty service in response to a war or a national emergency declared by the President or Congress. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 ended REAP on November 25, 2015. Some individuals will remain eligible for REAP benefits until November 25, 2019, while others are no longer eligible for REAP benefits.

### **Montgomery G.I. Bill for Active-Duty and Selected Reserve (MGIB-AD, MGIB-SR):**

In 1984, the MGIB revamped the 1944 Servicemen's Readjustment act and provided up to 36 months of education benefits for individuals, including: degree and certification programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses. Montgomery G.I. Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD) is a contributory program, where the Servicemember's pay is automatically reduced by \$100 per month for the first 12 months of active duty unless the Servicemember declines to participate at the time of enlistment. The Montgomery G.I. Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) is the first G.I. Bill to provide educational assistance to members of the Selected Reserve (including National Guard members). The educational benefits for both programs are generally payable for ten years following discharge from an individual's military service. The MGIB is commonly referred to as Chapter 30.

### **The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill:**

The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill provides financial support for education and housing to all individuals who have at least 90 days of service on or after September 11, 2001 (or individuals who were discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days). In order to receive the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, Veterans must have received an honorable discharge. The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill includes education benefits for undergraduate and graduate degrees, vocational or technical training, as well as some licensing and certification tests. For the first time in history, the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill offers Servicemembers who qualify have the opportunity to transfer their unused educational benefits to their spouses and children.

For specific eligibility requirements for all VA education programs, see <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/connected>

## Burial and Memorial Benefits

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) oversees all of VA programs that provide burial benefits to Veterans, their dependents, and survivors. All honorably discharged Veterans became eligible for burial in 1873. In 1973, Public Law 93-43 authorized the transfer of 82 of the existing 84 national cemeteries from the Department of the Army to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The NCA cemetery system does not include Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia or Soldiers' Home National Cemetery in Washington, DC. In January 2010, VA opened its 131st cemetery—Washington Crossing National Cemetery.<sup>(84)</sup>

Veterans who served in a branch of the military and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable may be eligible for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery. Minority Veterans are entitled to grave, headstone or marker, burial flag and Presidential Memorial Certificate. In 2014, 27,987 minority Veterans used memorial benefits.

### Pre-Need Burial Eligibility Determination

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implemented the pre-need burial eligibility determination program to assist anyone who would like to know if they are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. VA is promoting pre-need eligibility determinations to encourage Veterans and their eligible family members to plan in advance to use VA burial benefits that Veterans have earned through their military service. Planning in advance for a Veteran's or loved-one's final resting place can eliminate unnecessary delays and reduce stress on a family at a difficult time. Veteran families will have increased confidence that their loved ones are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery at their time of need. Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery, along with a copy of supporting documentation of military service such as a DD214, if readily available, by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; email to [PreNeed@va.gov](mailto:PreNeed@va.gov); or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151. For additional information or to download the VA Form 40-10007 visit <http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/pre-need/>.

## Future Challenges

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made great strides in the past 30 years to meet the needs of minority Veterans as one of the fastest growing sub-populations within the Veteran community. VA is committed to continue ensuring that minority Veterans receive benefits and services equal to their non-minority counterparts and that they are treated with respect by all VA service providers. The challenge for the Department of Veterans Affairs in serving the increasingly diverse population is to ensure that every Veteran achieves the best outcomes regardless of who they are, where they live or what health problems they have.

The minority Veterans population is growing and more minorities are looking to use benefits that VA provides, giving even more importance for VA to anticipate and address the challenges that minority Veterans are currently facing. Four challenges were identified by the Center for Minority Veterans (CMV): homelessness, awareness of VA benefits, chronic diseases and unemployment. Three of which will be discussed below, for unemployment see the employment section of this report.

### Homelessness

Veterans of any race and ethnicity are fifty percent more likely to become homeless compared with all Americans and the risk is even greater among Veterans living in poverty and poor minority Veterans. There were 49,933 homeless veterans on a single night in January 2014.<sup>(85)</sup> This represents 8.6 percent of all homeless people and 11.3 percent of all homeless adults. Over 60 percent were located in shelters or transitional housing programs, and 35.8 percent were in unsheltered locations. Female Veterans represent 8.5 percent (4,456) of the homeless Veteran population. While only 20.7 percent of the total U.S. Veteran population identified themselves as part of a racial minority group, nearly half (47.6 percent) of sheltered Veterans in the U.S. were in a minority group. Veterans using shelter programs were 3.3 times more likely to be Black or African American than were Veterans overall (36.2 percent versus 11.1 percent). In 2014, Hispanic Veterans were slightly overrepresented in the sheltered population compared to the total Veteran population, 6.9 percent versus 6.0 percent. Between 2013 and 2014, the number of sheltered minority Veterans decreased by 10.3 percent.

VA is committed to ending homelessness among Veterans. VA conducts outreach to proactively seek out Veterans in need of assistance. VA provides health and rehabilitative services, employment assistance, transitional housing and supportive services. In conjunction with Housing Urban Development, Veterans can acquire permanent supportive housing. VA also collaborates with other federal, state and local agencies; employers; housing providers, faith-based and community nonprofits; and others to expand employment and affordable housing options for Veterans exiting homelessness.<sup>(86)</sup>

### Awareness of VA Benefits

VA has long understood the importance of outreach activities to raise awareness of available benefits and services among Veterans. The 2010 National Survey of Veterans found that over half of minority Veterans had little to no awareness of VA benefits and services.<sup>(87)</sup> For minority Veterans, the general understanding of VA benefits available to them had the highest percentage of positive responses

among the awareness questions: between 42 percent and 46 percent of minority Veterans indicated that they understood their general benefits “a lot” or “some”. Asian and Hispanic Veterans showed the highest percentage of understanding their general benefits with 45.1 percent and 46.0 percent, respectively. As the survey became more specific, this percentage declined about 22 percent reportedly understanding the “Veterans life insurance benefits” they are entitled to. For American Indian/Alaska Native and multiracial Veterans, this percentage declined even more to 15.1 percent and 18.8 percent, respectively.

Center for Minority Veterans (CMV) was created in November 1994 under Public Law 103-446. This law also established the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. CMV helps to educate Veterans, their families and survivors through targeted outreach and effective advocacy. VA continues making improvements to outreach programs and working with communities to ensure benefits are explained to raise awareness of services and benefits available to Veterans and their families.

## Chronic Diseases

Low income and minority Americans disproportionately experience chronic diseases and greater chronic illness related mortality.<sup>(88)</sup> In 2013, heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, stroke, diabetes, chronic liver disease, kidney disease, hypertension and Alzheimer’s disease were among the top ten leading causes of death for minority Americans. See Appendix C for tables of leading causes of death by race/ethnicity and sex in the United States.

Minority Veterans have greater access to care than their non-Veteran counterparts, with over 90 percent having health care insurance coverage. Studies of VA health care services have shown that VA is generally good at delivering preventive and primary care services (e.g. screenings for cancer, high blood pressure testing) regardless of demographic group.<sup>(89)(90)(91)</sup> VA has not been completely successful at eliminating the racial and ethnic disparity in outcomes (e.g. chronic illness mortality).<sup>(89)</sup> Continued research to identify effective strategies for reducing disparities and putting them into practice is needed.



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Characteristics of Veterans and Non-Veterans by Race/Ethnicity from the American Community Survey, 2014

White, Non-Hispanic					
Characteristic	Veterans		Non-Veterans		Significant
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	
<b>Total Population, 17 years and older</b>	15,207,706	100	145,826,429	100	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	14,133,348	92.9	64,227,498	44.0	*
Female	1,074,358	7.1	81,598,931	56.0	*
<b>Living in group quarters</b>	308,209	2.0	4,103,277	2.8	*
<b>Age</b>					
17 to 24 years	182,710	1.2	19,186,606	13.2	*
25 to 34 years	923,319	6.1	23,486,864	16.1	*
35 to 44 years	1,201,243	7.9	22,407,355	15.4	*
45 to 54 years	1,992,492	13.1	26,520,855	18.2	*
55 to 64 years	2,747,150	18.1	26,204,901	18.0	
65 to 74 years	4,186,555	27.5	16,144,944	11.1	*
75 to 84 years	2,665,401	17.5	8,209,386	5.6	*
85 years and older	1,308,836	8.6	3,665,518	2.5	*
Median age	65		47		*
<b>Citizen</b>					
Citizen	15,178,906	99.8	143,110,624	98.1	*
Not a citizen	28,800	0.2	2,715,805	1.9	*
<b>Language</b>					
Speaks a language other than English	434,147	2.9	8,339,351	5.7	*
Speaks English well	15,184,097	99.8	144,785,566	99.3	*
Speaks English less than well	23,609	0.2	1,040,863	0.7	*

Note: All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90% confidence level. \* indicates that there is a “statistically significant difference” in the comparative percentages/rates. This simply means there is statistical evidence that there is a difference; it does not mean the difference is necessarily large, important or significant in the usual sense of the word.

<b>Period of Military Service</b>					
Post-9/11	1,965,425	12.9			
Pre-9/11	1,757,670	11.6			
Vietnam Era	5,498,671	36.2			
Korean War	1,574,049	10.4			
World War II	913,673	6.0			
Peacetime only	3,498,218	23.0			
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married	10,142,623	66.7	76,027,126	52.1	*
Divorced	2,225,124	14.6	17,561,304	12.0	*
Widowed or Separated	1,528,161	10.0	12,085,178	8.3	*
Never married	1,311,798	8.6	40,152,821	27.5	*
<b>Educational Attainment</b>					
High school graduate or less	5,526,885	36.3	54,728,388	38.6	*
Some college	5,407,761	35.6	45,624,537	31.3	*
Bachelor's degree	2,517,180	16.6	28,942,435	19.3	*
Advanced degree	1,755,880	11.5	16,531,069	10.8	
Percent enrolled in school	560,166	3.6	12,498,415	8.6	*
<b>Poverty Status</b>					
0 to 99% of poverty	903,919	6.0	15,282,458	10.7	*
100 to 149% of poverty	957,706	6.4	9,988,087	7.0	*
150 to 199% of poverty	1,202,204	8.0	10,952,319	7.7	*
200 to 299% of poverty	2,590,661	17.3	22,328,903	15.7	*
300 to 399% of poverty	2,357,464	15.8	20,063,010	14.1	*
400% of poverty or higher	6,934,186	46.4	63,669,076	41.5	*

<b>Health Insurance</b>					
No health insurance coverage	524,042	3.4	14,109,564	9.7	*
Has private coverage only	4,287,062	28.2	89,224,226	61.2	*
Has public coverage only	3,596,991	23.7	22,212,413	15.2	*
Has private and public coverage	6,799,611	44.7	20,280,226	13.9	*
<b>Disability Status</b>					
Has one or more disability	4,634,308	30.5	22,447,551	15.4	*
No disability	10,573,398	69.5	123,378,878	85.6	*
<b>Service-connected Disability Status</b>					
Has service-connected disability	2,756,807	18.1			
No service-connected disability	12,450,899	81.9			
<b>Region</b>					
Northeast	2,399,180	15.8	28,476,406	19.5	*
Midwest	3,641,483	23.9	38,164,282	26.2	*
South	5,893,062	38.8	50,829,360	34.9	*
West	3,272,727	21.5	28,337,529	19.4	*
Puerto Rico	1,254	0.0	18,852	0.0	
<b>Median personal income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 50,373		\$ 35,998		*
<b>Median household income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 57,198		\$ 59,796		*

<b>Total Population, Between 17 and 65 years old</b>	5,476,842	100	92,730,289	100	
<b>Employment Status</b>					
Employed	5,036,784	92.0	84,394,009	91.0	*
Unemployed	171,497	3.1	3,007,008	3.2	
Not in labor force	268,561	4.9	5,329,272	5.7	*
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b>	5,208,281	95.1	87,401,017	94.3	*
<b>Work Status of Employed</b>					
Worked year-round, full-time	4,155,763	82.5	59,657,639	70.7	*
Worked less than year-round, full-time	881,021	17.5	24,736,370	29.3	*
<b>Personal Earnings of Employed (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>					
Less than \$20,000	684,373	13.6	21,404,022	25.4	*
\$20,000 to \$39,999	1,206,420	24.0	22,232,278	26.3	*
\$40,000 to \$59,999	1,160,629	23.0	164,583,626	19.5	*
\$60,000 to \$79,999	795,541	15.8	9,709,481	11.5	*
\$80,000 to \$99,999	439,535	8.7	5,117,581	6.1	*
\$100,000 or more	750,286	14.9	9,472,321	11.2	*
<b>Class of Worker of Employed</b>					
Private	3,445,106	68.4	64,502,502	76.4	*
Government	1,172,399	23.3	116,000,408	13.7	*
Self-employed	419,279	8.3	8,291,099	9.8	*
<b>Occupation of Employed</b>					
Management, professional, and related	1,824,833	36.2	35,272,794	41.8	*
Service	681,893	13.5	12,751,971	15.1	*
Sales and office	813,307	16.1	20,443,663	24.2	*
Farming, fishing, and forestry	20,810	0.4	398,355	0.5	*
Construction, extraction, maintenance, repair	783,007	15.5	6,606,176	7.8	*
Production, transportation, material moving	912,934	18.1	8,921,050	10.6	*

Black or African American, Non-Hispanic					
Characteristic	Veterans		Non-Veterans		Significant
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	
<b>Total Population, 17 years and older</b>	2,172,285	100	27,581,507	100	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	1,878,265	86.5	11,962,052	43.4	*
Female	294,020	13.5	15,619,455	56.6	*
<b>Living in group quarters</b>	79,937	3.7	1,570,427	5.7	*
<b>Age</b>					
17 to 24 years	44,523	2.0	5,148,040	18.7	*
25 to 34 years	187,434	8.6	5,435,228	19.7	*
35 to 44 years	295,250	13.6	4,902,960	17.8	*
45 to 54 years	484,799	22.3	4,748,605	17.2	*
55 to 64 years	531,198	24.5	3,962,506	14.4	*
65 to 74 years	386,575	17.8	2,050,205	7.4	*
75 to 84 years	180,558	8.3	962,451	3.5	*
85 years and older	61,948	2.9	371,512	1.3	*
Median age	55		41		*
<b>Citizen</b>					
Citizen	2,161,681	99.5	26,288,575	95.3	*
Not a citizen	10,604	0.5	1,292,932	4.7	*
<b>Language</b>					
Speaks a language other than English	74,341	3.4	2,254,544	8.2	*
Speaks English well	2,168,093	99.8	27,280,146	98.9	*
Speaks English less than well	4,192	0.2	301,361	1.1	*

<b>Period of Military Service</b>					
Post-9/11	463,407	21.3			
Pre-9/11	424,506	19.5			
Vietnam Era	609,534	28.1			
Korean War	95,716	4.4			
World War II	37,654	1.7			
Peacetime only	541,468	24.9			
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married	1,102,483	50.8	7,760,741	28.1	*
Divorced	450,922	20.8	3,258,733	11.8	*
Widowed or Separated	243,393	11.2	2,768,566	10.0	*
Never married	375,487	17.3	13,793,467	50.0	*
<b>Educational Attainment</b>					
High school graduate or less	787,774	36.3	13,733,020	49.8	*
Some college	928,464	42.7	9,207,445	33.4	*
Bachelor's degree	280,908	12.9	2,982,069	10.8	*
Advanced degree	175,139	8.1	1,658,973	6.0	*
Percent enrolled in school	180,513	8.3	3,160,477	11.5	*
<b>Poverty Status</b>					
0 to 99% of poverty	268,169	12.7	6,234,466	23.8	*
100 to 149% of poverty	191,855	9.1	3,207,598	12.2	*
150 to 199% of poverty	188,396	8.9	2,816,638	10.7	*
200 to 299% of poverty	370,767	17.5	4,665,993	17.8	
300 to 399% of poverty	307,194	14.5	3,172,982	12.1	*
400% of poverty or higher	791,256	37.4	6,132,042	23.4	*

<b>Health Insurance</b>					
No health insurance coverage	130,993	6.0	5,152,378	18.7	*
Has private coverage only	766,942	35.3	12,843,404	46.6	*
Has public coverage only	583,540	26.9	7,331,172	26.6	
Has private and public coverage	690,810	31.8	2,254,553	8.2	*
<b>Disability Status</b>					
Has one or more disability	552,741	25.4	4,765,277	17.3	*
No disability	1,619,544	74.6	22,816,230	82.7	*
<b>Service-connected Disability Status</b>					
Has service-connected disability	590,488	27.2			
No service-connected disability	1,581,797	72.8			
<b>Region</b>					
Northeast	216,838	10.0	4,625,381	16.8	*
Midwest	339,976	15.7	4,836,845	17.5	*
South	1,356,471	62.4	15,815,811	57.3	*
West	1,356,471	11.9	2,300,891	8.3	*
Puerto Rico	303	0.0	2,579	0.0	
<b>Median personal income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 41,968		\$ 24,979		*
<b>Median household income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 50,988		\$ 33,497		*

<b>Total Population, Between 17 and 65 years old</b>	1,107,118	100	16,596,130	100	
<b>Employment Status</b>					
Employed	1,012,153	91.4	14,639,321	88.2	*
Unemployed	47,448	4.3	1,037,943	6.3	*
Not in labor force	47,517	4.3	918,866	5.5	*
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b>	1,059,601	95.7	15,677,264	94.5	*
<b>Work Status of Employed</b>					
Worked year-round, full-time	818,214	80.8	9,983,567	68.2	*
Worked less than year-round, full-time	193,939	19.2	4,655,754	31.8	*
<b>Personal Earnings of Employed (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>					
Less than \$20,000	185,387	18.3	5,250,321	35.9	*
\$20,000 to \$39,999	296,454	29.3	4,764,989	32.5	*
\$40,000 to \$59,999	246,835	24.4	2,433,802	16.6	*
\$60,000 to \$79,999	139,703	13.8	1,116,004	7.6	*
\$80,000 to \$99,999	69,748	6.9	508,814	3.5	*
\$100,000 or more	74,026	7.3	565,391	3.9	*
<b>Class of Worker of Employed</b>					
Private	598,050	59.1	11,489,535	78.5	*
Government	361,828	35.7	2,470,268	16.9	*
Self-employed	52,275	5.2	679,518	4.6	
<b>Occupation of Employed</b>					
Management, professional, and related	332,046	32.8	4,194,135	28.6	*
Service	190,652	18.8	3,729,887	25.5	*
Sales and office	192,630	19.0	3,779,657	25.8	*
Farming, fishing, and forestry	4,000	0.4	33,190	0.2	
Construction, extraction, maintenance, repair	93,412	9.2	671,127	4.6	*
Production, transportation, material moving	199,413	19.7	2,231,325	15.2	*

American Indian Alaskan Native, Non-Hispanic					
Characteristic	Veterans		Non-Veterans		Significant
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	
<b>Total Population, 17 years and older</b>	123,017	100	1,424,171	100	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	109,021	86.6	632,406	44.4	*
Female	13,996	11.4	791,765	55.6	*
<b>Living in group quarters</b>	4,896	4.0	62,806	4.4	
<b>Age</b>					
17 to 24 years	1,806	1.5	259,658	18.2	*
25 to 34 years	11,636	9.5	270,734	19.0	*
35 to 44 years	12,986	10.6	255,302	17.9	*
45 to 54 years	23,740	19.3	261,156	18.3	
55 to 64 years	31,266	25.4	214,996	15.1	*
65 to 74 years	27,427	22.3	107,855	7.6	*
75 to 84 years	10,671	8.7	41,165	2.9	*
85 years and older	3,485	2.8	13,305	0.9	*
Median age	58		41		*
<b>Citizen</b>					
Citizen	122,942	99.9	1,415,182	99.4	*
Not a citizen	75	0.1	8,989	0.6	*
<b>Language</b>					
Speaks a language other than English	22,917	18.6	305,576	21.5	
Speaks English well	122,078	99.2	1,407,927	98.9	
Speaks English less than well	939	0.8	16,244	1.1	

<b>Period of Military Service</b>					
Post-9/11	20,860	17.0			
Pre-9/11	20,843	16.9			
Vietnam Era	43,859	35.7			
Korean War	6,774	5.5			
World War II	1,802	1.5			
Peacetime only	28,879	23.5			
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married	66,452	54.0	511,182	35.9	*
Divorced	25,302	20.6	195,359	13.7	*
Widowed or Separated	14,403	11.7	127,704	9.0	*
Never married	16,860	13.7	589,926	41.4	*
<b>Educational Attainment</b>					
High school graduate or less	49,312	40.1	784,354	55.1	*
Some college	49,968	40.6	472,342	33.2	*
Bachelor's degree	14,798	12.0	112,845	7.9	*
Advanced degree	8,939	7.3	54,630	3.8	*
Percent enrolled in school	5,871	4.8	110,806	7.8	*
<b>Poverty Status</b>					
0 to 99% of poverty	16,629	14.0	375,635	27.4	*
100 to 149% of poverty	13,415	11.3	182,761	13.3	
150 to 199% of poverty	13,883	11.7	145,402	10.6	
200 to 299% of poverty	21,420	18.0	236,682	17.2	
300 to 399% of poverty	17,231	14.5	156,133	11.4	*
400% of poverty or higher	36,527	30.7	276,365	20.1	*

<b>Health Insurance</b>					
No health insurance coverage	12,352	10.0	402,144	28.2	*
Has private coverage only	33,890	27.5	521,725	36.6	*
Has public coverage only	40,840	33.2	400,983	28.2	*
Has private and public coverage	35,935	29.2	99,319	7.0	*
<b>Disability Status</b>					
Has one or more disability	46,861	38.1	295,940	20.8	*
No disability	76,156	61.9	1,128,231	79.2	*
<b>Service-connected Disability Status</b>					
Has service-connected disability	29,568	24.0			
No service-connected disability	93,449	76.0			
<b>Region</b>					
Northeast	6,663	5.4	73,526	5.2	
Midwest	25,502	20.7	243,344	17.1	*
South	46,286	37.6	430,689	30.2	*
West	44,566	36.2	676,612	47.5	*
Puerto Rico					
<b>Median personal income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 39,702		\$ 23,976		*
<b>Median household income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 45,409		\$ 34,726		*

<b>Total Population, Between 17 and 65 years old</b>	56,446	100	798,660	100	
<b>Employment Status</b>					
Employed	50,782	90.0	673,203	84.3	*
Unemployed	1,313	2.3	55,777	7	*
Not in labor force	4,351	7.7	69,680	9	
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b>	52,095	92.3	728,980	91	
<b>Work Status of Employed</b>					
Worked year-round, full-time	40,352	79.5	451,968	67	*
Worked less than year-round, full-time	10,430	20.5	221,235	33	*
<b>Personal Earnings of Employed (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>					
Less than \$20,000	9,735	19.2	245,664	37	*
\$20,000 to \$39,999	16,260	32.0	227,876	34	
\$40,000 to \$59,999	10,484	20.6	108,118	16	
\$60,000 to \$79,999	6,811	13.4	48,905	7	*
\$80,000 to \$99,999	2,819	5.6	20,942	3	
\$100,000 or more	4,673	9.2	21,698	3	*
<b>Class of Worker of Employed</b>					
Private	30,924	60.9	453,874	67	*
Government	17,085	33.6	175,634	26	*
Self-employed	2,773	5.5	43,695	7	
<b>Occupation of Employed</b>					
Management, professional, and related	14,823	29.2	185,747	28	
Service	11,004	21.7	173,068	26	*
Sales and office	5,843	11.5	153,418	23	*
Farming, fishing, and forestry	436	0.9	7,543	1	
Construction, extraction, maintenance, repair	9,445	18.6	64,526	10	*
Production, transportation, material moving	9,231	18.2	88,901	13	*

Asian, Non-Hispanic					
Characteristic	Veterans		Non-Veterans		Significant
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	
<b>Total Population, 17 years and older</b>	280,531	100	13,025,698	100	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	246,924	88.0	5,935,175	45.6	*
Female	33,607	12.0	7,090,523	54.4	*
<b>Living in group quarters</b>	3,562	1.3	320,787	2.5	*
<b>Age</b>					
17 to 24 years	7,965	2.8	180,581	13.9	*
25 to 34 years	39,850	14.2	2,743,503	21.1	*
35 to 44 years	38,993	13.9	2,690,870	20.7	*
45 to 54 years	42,849	15.3	2,260,038	17.4	*
55 to 64 years	45,601	16.3	1,781,640	13.7	*
65 to 74 years	51,677	18.4	1,072,112	8.2	*
75 to 84 years	34,791	12.4	491,774	3.8	*
85 years and older	18,805	6.7	179,948	1.4	*
Median age	57		41		*
<b>Citizen</b>					
Citizen	261,896	93.4	8,862,333	68.0	*
Not a citizen	18,635	6.6	4,163,365	32.0	*
<b>Language</b>					
Speaks a language other than English	160,862	57.3	10,288,825	79.0	*
Speaks English well	256,262	91.3	10,690,084	82.1	*
Speaks English less than well	24,269	8.7	2,335,614	17.9	*

<b>Period of Military Service</b>					
Post-9/11	81,632	29.1			
Pre-9/11	43,975	15.7			
Vietnam Era	71,229	25.4			
Korean War	18,292	6.5			
World War II	10,857	3.9			
Peacetime only	54,546	19.4			
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married	179,964	64.2	7,756,111	59.5	*
Divorced	24,165	8.6	702,202	5.4	*
Widowed or Separated	22,712	8.1	776,665	6.0	*
Never married	53,690	19.1	3,790,720	29.1	*
<b>Educational Attainment</b>					
High school graduate or less	75,133	26.8	3,884,621	29.8	*
Some college	102,658	36.6	2,934,636	22.5	*
Bachelor's degree	64,113	22.9	3,675,966	28.2	*
Advanced degree	38,627	13.8	2,530,475	19.4	*
Percent enrolled in school	25,637	9.1	1,830,493	14.1	*
<b>Poverty Status</b>					
0 to 99% of poverty	19,572	7.0	1,593,474	12.5	*
100 to 149% of poverty	13,264	4.8	957,929	7.5	*
150 to 199% of poverty	18,772	6.7	952,326	7.5	
200 to 299% of poverty	40,844	14.6	1,759,509	13.8	
300 to 399% of poverty	37,515	13.4	1,572,008	12.3	
400% of poverty or higher	149,050	53.4	5,905,101	46.3	*

<b>Health Insurance</b>					
No health insurance coverage	12,924	4.6	1,535,013	11.8	*
Has private coverage only	114,863	40.9	85,144,661	65.4	*
Has public coverage only	53,108	18.9	2,211,479	17.0	*
Has private and public coverage	99,636	35.5	764,545	5.9	*
<b>Disability Status</b>					
Has one or more disability	53,542	19.1	1,040,020	8.0	*
No disability	226,989	80.9	11,985,678	92.0	*
<b>Service-connected Disability Status</b>					
Has service-connected disability	51,159	18.2			
No service-connected disability	229,372	81.8			
<b>Region</b>					
Northeast	28,813	10.3	2,765,925	21.2	*
Midwest	17,096	6.1	1,523,622	11.7	*
South	63,087	22.5	2,874,311	22.1	
West	171,468	61.1	5,859,520	45.0	*
Puerto Rico	67	0.0	2,320	0.0	
<b>Median personal income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 52,009		\$ 37,972		*
<b>Median household income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 75,173		\$ 73,994		

<b>Total Population, Between 17 and 65 years old</b>	143,824	100	8,396,121	100	
<b>Employment Status</b>					
Employed	133,779	93.0	7,782,880	92.7	
Unemployed	4,273	3.0	202,891	2.4	
Not in labor force	5,772	4.0	410,350	4.9	
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b>	138,052	96.0	7,985,771	95.1	
<b>Work Status of Employed</b>					
Worked year-round, full-time	107,528	80.4	5,524,612	71.0	*
Worked less than year-round, full-time	26,251	19.6	2,258,268	29.0	*
<b>Personal Earnings of Employed (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>					
Less than \$20,000	17,246	12.9	1,950,245	25.1	*
\$20,000 to \$39,999	30,944	23.1	1,844,651	23.7	
\$40,000 to \$59,999	29,791	22.3	1,185,057	15.2	*
\$60,000 to \$79,999	21,713	16.2	888,367	11.4	*
\$80,000 to \$99,999	12,032	9.0	631,995	8.1	
\$100,000 or more	22,053	16.5	128,565	16.5	*
<b>Class of Worker of Employed</b>					
Private	81,413	60.9	6,219,219	79.9	*
Government	44,485	33.3	841,510	10.8	*
Self-employed	7,881	5.9	722,151	9.3	*
<b>Occupation of Employed</b>					
Management, professional, and related	59,848	44.7	3,992,428	61.3	*
Service	19,518	14.6	1,301,814	16.7	
Sales and office	23,650	17.7	1,542,918	19.8	
Farming, fishing, and forestry	893	0.7	13,268	0.2	
Construction, extraction, maintenance, repair	13,601	10.2	205,210	2.6	*
Production, transportation, material moving	16,269	12.2	727,242	9.3	*

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic					
Characteristic	Veterans		Non-Veterans		Significant
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	
<b>Total Population, 17 years and older</b>	28,622	100	347,149	100	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	24,825	86.7	158,879	45.8	*
Female	3,797	13.3	188,270	54.2	*
<b>Living in group quarters</b>	1,134	4.0	14,420	4.2	
<b>Age</b>					
17 to 24 years	1,517	5.3	68,267	19.7	*
25 to 34 years	2,881	10.1	82,875	23.9	*
35 to 44 years	3,967	13.9	68,156	19.6	
45 to 54 years	5,056	17.7	56,665	16.3	
55 to 64 years	7,395	25.8	44,526	12.8	*
65 to 74 years	4,439	15.5	18,027	5.2	*
75 to 84 years	3,016	10.5	7,338	2.1	*
85 years and older	351	1.2	1,295	0.4	
Median age	55		37		*
<b>Citizen</b>					
Citizen	27,732	96.9	289,852	83.5	*
Not a citizen	890	3.1	57,297	16.5	*
<b>Language</b>					
Speaks a language other than English	7,806	27.3	151,551	43.7	*
Speaks English well	28,405	99.2	329,291	94.9	*
Speaks English less than well	217	0.8	17,858	5.1	*

<b>Period of Military Service</b>					
Post-9/11	7,474	26.1			
Pre-9/11	4,826	16.9			
Vietnam Era	7,675	26.8			
Korean War	1,687	5.9			
World War II	107	0.4			
Peacetime only	6,853	23.9			
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married	16,738	58.5	160,008	46.1	*
Divorced	4,828	16.9	27,174	7.8	*
Widowed or Separated	2,260	7.9	27,091	7.8	
Never married	4,796	16.8	132,876	38.3	*
<b>Educational Attainment</b>					
High school graduate or less	10,640	37.2	188,219	54.2	*
Some college	11,606	40.5	114,644	33.0	
Bachelor's degree	3,489	12.2	29,582	8.5	
Advanced degree	2,887	10.1	14,704	4.2	*
Percent enrolled in school	1,327	4.6	31,546	9.1	*
<b>Poverty Status</b>					
0 to 99% of poverty	2,687	9.6	66,442	19.7	*
100 to 149% of poverty	1,720	6.1	36,092	10.7	*
150 to 199% of poverty	3,322	11.8	37,174	11.0	
200 to 299% of poverty	4,167	14.8	56,491	16.7	
300 to 399% of poverty	5,443	19.4	57,853	17.1	
400% of poverty or higher	10,761	38.3	83,652	24.8	*

<b>Health Insurance</b>					
No health insurance coverage	1,983	6.9	58,232	16.8	*
Has private coverage only	12,422	43.4	200,191	57.7	*
Has public coverage only	5,076	17.7	66,987	19.3	
Has private and public coverage	9,141	31.9	21,739	6.3	*
<b>Disability Status</b>					
Has one or more disability	6,674	23.3	39,947	11.5	*
No disability	21,948	76.7	307,207	88.5	*
<b>Service-connected Disability Status</b>					
Has service-connected disability	6,530	22.8			
No service-connected disability	22,092	77.2			
<b>Region</b>					
Northeast	723	2.5	7,582	2.2	
Midwest	2,195	7.7	18,729	5.4	
South	6,857	24.0	46,037	13.3	*
West	18,847	65.8	274,633	79.1	*
Puerto Rico			168	0.0	
<b>Median personal income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 40,028			\$ 25,545	*
<b>Median household income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 60,401		\$ 51,403		

<b>Total Population, Between 17 and 65 years old</b>	15,446	100	231,778	100	
<b>Employment Status</b>					
Employed	14,223	92.1	210,613	90.9	
Unemployed	302	2.0	9,585	4.1	
Not in labor force	921	6.0	11,580	5.0	
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b>	14,525	94.0	220,198	95.0	
<b>Work Status of Employed</b>					
Worked year-round, full-time	11,871	83.5	144,523	68.6	*
Worked less than year-round, full-time	2,352	16.5	66,090	31.4	*
<b>Personal Earnings of Employed (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>					
Less than \$20,000	2,699	19.0	4,929	34.8	*
\$20,000 to \$39,999	4,658	32.7	4,371	34.1	
\$40,000 to \$59,999	3,368	23.7	3,380	16.1	
\$60,000 to \$79,999	1,460	10.3	2,172	6.7	
\$80,000 to \$99,999	741	5.2	1,976	4.3	
\$100,000 or more	1,297	9.1	1,691	4.0	
<b>Class of Worker of Employed</b>					
Private	9,599	67.5	168,072	79.8	*
Government	4,624	32.5	30,496	14.5	*
Self-employed			12,045	5.7	*
<b>Occupation of Employed</b>					
Management, professional, and related	4,458	31.3	50,610	24.0	
Service	1,455	10.2	50,485	24.0	*
Sales and office	3,173	22.3	54,924	26.1	
Farming, fishing, and forestry	81	0.6	1,137	0.5	
Construction, extraction, maintenance, repair	1,519	10.7	17,043	8.1	
Production, transportation, material moving	3,537	24.9	36,414	17.3	

Some Other Race, Non-Hispanic					
Characteristic	Veterans		Non-Veterans		Significant
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	
<b>Total Population, 17 years and older</b>	20,742	100	413,151	100	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	18,331	88.4	190,262	46.1	*
Female	2,411	11.6	222,889	53.9	*
<b>Living in group quarters</b>	545	2.6	1,460	2.5	
<b>Age</b>					
17 to 24 years	408	2.0	84,584	20.5	*
25 to 34 years	2,530	2.1	95,999	23.2	*
35 to 44 years	4,955	23.9	85,988	20.8	
45 to 54 years	4,383	21.1	68,225	16.5	
55 to 64 years	3,434	16.6	44,097	10.7	
65 to 74 years	3,059	14.7	22,385	5.4	*
75 to 84 years	1,794	8.6	7,923	1.9	*
85 years and older	179	0.9	3,950	1.0	
Median age	49		37		*
<b>Citizen</b>					
Citizen	20,141	97.1	311,754	75.5	*
Not a citizen	601	2.9	101,397	24.5	*
<b>Language</b>					
Speaks a language other than English	2,181	10.5	171,354	41.5	*
Speaks English well	20,241	97.6	376,144	91.0	*
Speaks English less than well	501	2.4	37,007	9.0	*

<b>Period of Military Service</b>					
Post-9/11	7,284	35.1			
Pre-9/11	3,883	18.7			
Vietnam Era	4,307	20.8			
Korean War	1,050	5.1			
World War II	110	0.5			
Peacetime only	4,108	19.8			
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married	10,947	52.8	173,516	42.0	*
Divorced	4,435	21.4	41,244	10.0	*
Widowed or Separated	1,710	8.2	24,151	5.8	
Never married	3,650	17.6	174,240	42.2	*
<b>Educational Attainment</b>					
High school graduate or less	5,050	24.3	184,967	44.8	*
Some college	8,576	41.3	112,913	27.3	*
Bachelor's degree	4,237	20.4	72,733	17.6	
Advanced degree	2,879	13.9	42,538	10.3	
Percent enrolled in school	2,227	16.6	45,703	15.8	
<b>Poverty Status</b>					
0 to 99% of poverty	1,453	7.1	65,653	16.3	*
100 to 149% of poverty	616	3.0	49,162	12.2	*
150 to 199% of poverty	1,743	8.5	37,353	9.3	
200 to 299% of poverty	3,769	18.5	67,245	16.7	
300 to 399% of poverty	3,525	17.3	53,731	13.3	
400% of poverty or higher	9,287	45.5	130,666	32.4	*

<b>Health Insurance</b>					
No health insurance coverage	2,158	10.4	84,838	20.5	*
Has private coverage only	8,502	41.0	221,836	53.7	*
Has public coverage only	3,549	17.1	83,336	20.2	
Has private and public coverage	6,533	31.5	23,141	5.6	*
<b>Disability Status</b>					
Has one or more disability	2,452	18.3	20,777	7.2	*
No disability	10,951	81.7	267,999	92.8	*
<b>Service-connected Disability Status</b>					
Has service-connected disability	4,651	22.4			
No service-connected disability	16,091	77.6			
<b>Region</b>					
Northeast	4,505	21.7	152,401	36.9	*
Midwest	3,127	15.1	40,573	9.8	
South	6,993	33.7	12,834	30.0	
West	6,117	29.5	95,867	23.2	
Puerto Rico			4,876	0.1	
<b>Median personal income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 56,680			\$ 26,779	*
<b>Median household income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 62,082		\$ 45,979		*

<b>Total Population, Between 17 and 65 years old</b>	12,103	100	279,098	100	
<b>Employment Status</b>					
Employed	10,961	90.6	249,846	89.5	
Unemployed	751	6.2	14,533	5.2	
Not in labor force	391	3.2	14,719	5.3	
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b>	11,712	96.8	264,379	94.7	
<b>Work Status of Employed</b>					
Worked year-round, full-time	8,478	77.3	164,604	65.9	
Worked less than year-round, full-time	2,483	22.7	85,242	34.1	
<b>Personal Earnings of Employed (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>					
Less than \$20,000	1,330	12.1	86,826	34.8	*
\$20,000 to \$39,999	2,123	19.4	73,349	29.4	*
\$40,000 to \$59,999	2,911	26.6	35,950	14.4	*
\$60,000 to \$79,999	1,900	17.3	3,323	9.3	*
\$80,000 to \$99,999	1,070	9.8	12,304	4.9	*
\$100,000 or more	1,627	14.8	18,094	7.2	*
<b>Class of Worker of Employed</b>					
Private	6,453	58.9	10,938	79.5	*
Government	3,804	34.7	3,106	10.6	*
Self-employed	704	6.4	2,744	9.9	
<b>Occupation of Employed</b>					
Management, professional, and related	5,233	47.7	88,709	35.5	
Service	1,530	14.0	57,565	23.0	
Sales and office	1,255	11.4	54,363	21.8	*
Farming, fishing, and forestry	457	4.2	2,050	0.8	
Construction, extraction, maintenance, repair	1,997	18.2	20,198	8.1	
Production, transportation, material moving	489	4.5	26,961	10.8	*

Two or More Races, Non-Hispanic					
Characteristic	Veterans		Non-Veterans		Significant
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	
<b>Total Population, 17 years and older</b>	2,172,285	100	3,694,958	100	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	237,866	84.9	1,676,754	45.4	*
Female	42,232	15.7	2,018,204	54.6	*
<b>Living in group quarters</b>	10,444	3.7	7,128	5.3	*
<b>Age</b>					
17 to 24 years	9,399	3.4	1,016,536	27.5	*
25 to 34 years	41,659	14.9	875,275	23.7	*
35 to 44 years	44,802	16.0	649,410	17.6	
45 to 54 years	49,270	17.6	487,833	13.2	*
55 to 64 years	56,727	20.3	365,831	9.9	*
65 to 74 years	51,335	18.3	191,017	5.2	*
75 to 84 years	18,728	6.7	82,115	2.2	*
85 years and older	8,178	2.9	26,941	0.7	*
Median age	53		33		*
<b>Citizen</b>					
Citizen	277,806	99.2	49,838	94.9	*
Not a citizen	2,292	0.8	9,355	5.1	*
<b>Language</b>					
Speaks a language other than English	22,922	8.2	531,979	14.4	*
Speaks English well	277,750	99.2	3,632,237	98.3	*
Speaks English less than well	2,348	0.8	62,721	1.7	*

<b>Period of Military Service</b>					
Post-9/11	81,700	29.2			
Pre-9/11	51,698	18.5			
Vietnam Era	78,114	27.9			
Korean War	9,745	3.5			
World War II	6,007	2.1			
Peacetime only	52,834	18.9			
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married	150,351	53.7	1,286,472	34.8	*
Divorced	57,984	20.7	386,381	10.5	*
Widowed or Separated	25,543	9.1	228,260	6.2	
Never married	46,220	16.5	1,793,845	48.5	*
<b>Educational Attainment</b>					
High school graduate or less	75,493	27.0	1,402,493	38.0	*
Some college	127,218	45.4	1,344,992	36.4	*
Bachelor's degree	49,458	17.7	621,316	16.8	
Advanced degree	27,929	10.0	326,157	8.8	
Percent enrolled in school	28,303	10.1	614,318	16.6	*
<b>Poverty Status</b>					
0 to 99% of poverty	32,677	12.0	647,687	18.4	*
100 to 149% of poverty	23,268	8.6	320,613	9.1	
150 to 199% of poverty	23,576	8.7	318,494	9.0	
200 to 299% of poverty	42,241	15.5	567,538	16.1	
300 to 399% of poverty	37,912	13.9	443,313	12.6	
400% of poverty or higher	112,438	41.3	1,225,265	34.8	*

<b>Health Insurance</b>					
No health insurance coverage	19,018	6.8	554,325	15.0	*
Has private coverage only	100,792	36.0	2,137,460	57.8	*
Has public coverage only	67,485	24.1	739,919	20.0	*
Has private and public coverage	92,803	33.1	263,254	7.1	*
<b>Disability Status</b>					
Has one or more disability	86,811	31.0	612,046	16.6	*
No disability	193,287	69.0	3,082,912	83.4	*
<b>Service-connected Disability Status</b>					
Has service-connected disability	73,145	26.1			
No service-connected disability	206,953	73.9			
<b>Region</b>					
Northeast	24,148	8.6	538,590	14.6	*
Midwest	49,633	17.7	664,281	18.0	
South	105,715	37.7	1,152,944	31.2	*
West	100,602	35.9	13,366,860	36.2	
Puerto Rico			2,283	0.1	
<b>Median personal income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 45,184		\$ 24,971		*
<b>Median household income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 56,722		\$ 47,992		*

<b>Total Population, Between 17 and 65 years old</b>	149,369	100	2,480,754	100	
<b>Employment Status</b>					
Employed	133,295	89.2	2,143,189	86.4	*
Unemployed	8,032	5.4	147,087	5.9	
Not in labor force	8,042	5.4	190,002	7.7	*
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b>	141,327	94.6	2,290,276	92.3	*
<b>Work Status of Employed</b>					
Worked year-round, full-time	104,950	78.7	1,315,730	61.4	*
Worked less than year-round, full-time	28,345	21.3	827,459	38.6	*
<b>Personal Earnings of Employed (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>					
Less than \$20,000	25,427	19.1	788,277	36.8	*
\$20,000 to \$39,999	34,435	25.8	570,203	26.6	*
\$40,000 to \$59,999	28,134	21.1	337,219	15.7	*
\$60,000 to \$79,999	17,566	13.2	187,892	8.8	*
\$80,000 to \$99,999	12,256	9.2	97,464	4.5	*
\$100,000 or more	15,477	11.6	162,134	7.6	*
<b>Class of Worker of Employed</b>					
Private	83,732	62.8	1,689,735	78.8	*
Government	43,441	32.6	299,948	14.0	*
Self-employed	6,122	4.6	153,506	7.2	*
<b>Occupation of Employed</b>					
Management, professional, and related	51,964	39.0	797,437	37.2	
Service	22,724	17.0	454,013	21.2	*
Sales and office	24,072	18.1	551,438	25.7	*
Farming, fishing, and forestry	561	0.4	6,718	0.3	
Construction, extraction, maintenance, repair	14,771	11.1	114,237	5.3	*
Production, transportation, material moving	19,203	14.4	219,346	10.2	*

Hispanic or Latino					
Characteristic	Veterans		Non-Veterans		Significant
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	
<b>Total Population, 17 years and older</b>	1,273,588	100	39,673,924	100	
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	1,142,395	89.7	19,306,079	48.7	*
Female	131,193	10.3	20,367,845	51.3	*
<b>Living in group quarters</b>	24,298	1.9	949,183	2.4	*
<b>Age</b>					
17 to 24 years	43,287	3.4	7,906,433	19.9	*
25 to 34 years	197,235	15.5	8,957,425	22.6	*
35 to 44 years	196,780	15.5	8,308,690	20.9	*
45 to 54 years	215,097	16.9	6,533,327	16.5	
55 to 64 years	224,962	17.7	4,233,712	10.7	*
65 to 74 years	231,437	18.2	2,249,266	5.7	*
75 to 84 years	119,868	9.4	1,092,221	2.8	*
85 years and older	44,922	3.5	392,850	1.0	*
Median age	53		37		*
<b>Citizen</b>					
Citizen	1,236,876	97.1	27,651,298	69.7	*
Not a citizen	36,712	2.9	12,022,626	30.3	*
<b>Language</b>					
Speaks a language other than English	761,404	59.8	31,273,916	78.8	*
Speaks English well	1,210,481	95.0	29,003,676	73.1	*
Speaks English less than well	63,107	5.0	10,670,248	26.9	*

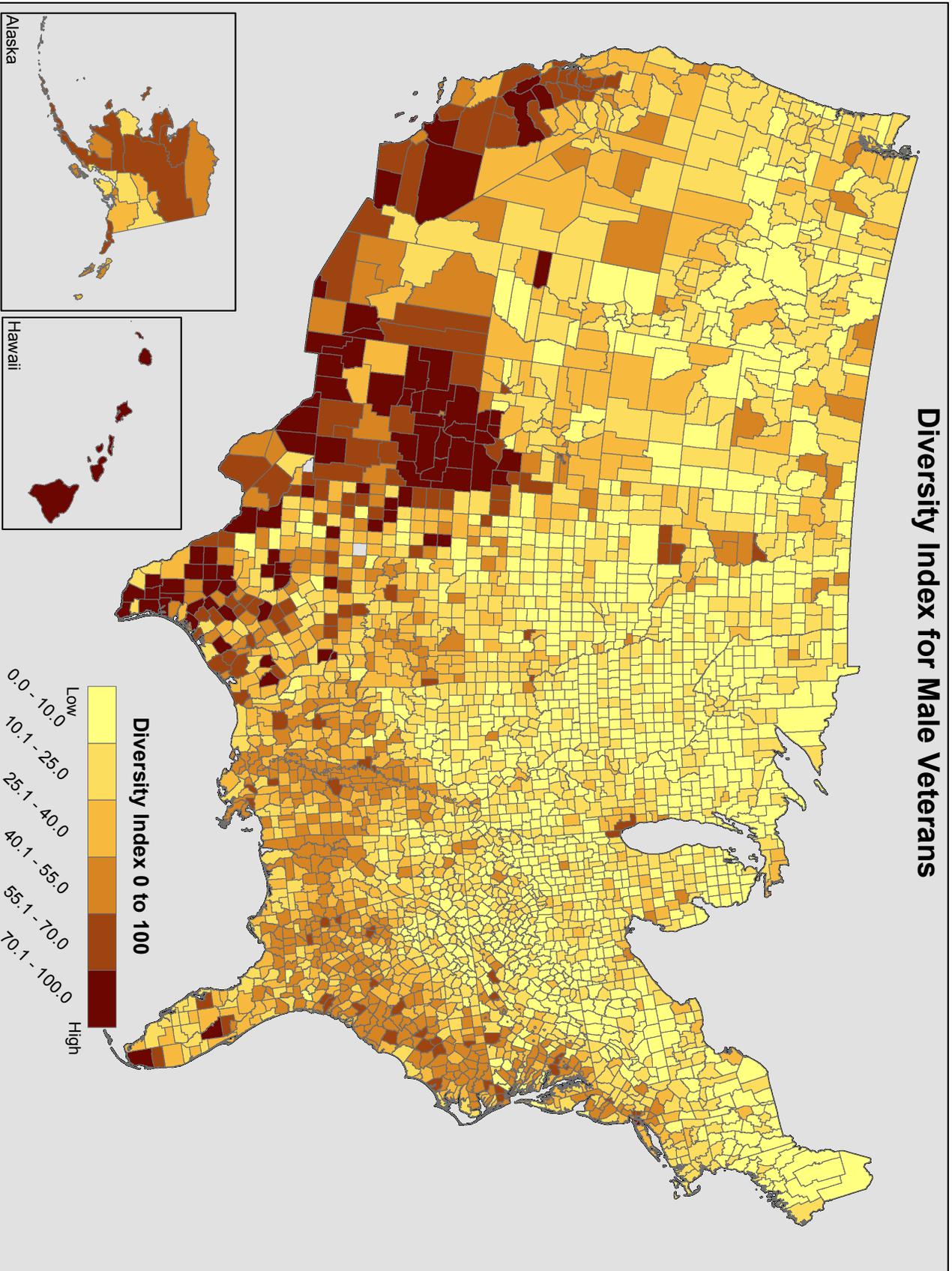
<b>Period of Military Service</b>					
Post-9/11	372,633	29.3			
Pre-9/11	220,803	17.3			
Vietnam Era	332,275	26.1			
Korean War	72,092	5.7			
World War II	23,826	1.9			
Peacetime only	251,959	19.8			
<b>Marital Status</b>					
Married	765,937	60.1	17,485,622	44.1	*
Divorced	218,632	17.2	3,546,138	8.9	*
Widowed or Separated	102,925	8.1	2,829,765	7.1	*
Never married	186,094	14.6	15,812,399	39.9	*
<b>Educational Attainment</b>					
High school graduate or less	445,756	35.0	24,429,601	61.6	*
Some college	557,230	43.8	10,178,274	25.7	*
Bachelor's degree	176,657	13.9	3,570,809	9.0	*
Advanced degree	93,945	7.4	1,495,240	3.8	*
Percent enrolled in school	122,617	9.6	32,770	9.8	
<b>Poverty Status</b>					
0 to 99% of poverty	120,956	9.6	8,738,530	22.5	*
100 to 149% of poverty	109,243	8.7	5,626,526	14.5	*
150 to 199% of poverty	118,749	9.5	5,065,668	13.0	*
200 to 299% of poverty	236,605	18.9	7,471,838	19.2	
300 to 399% of poverty	204,733	16.3	4,582,231	11.8	*
400% of poverty or higher	464,272	37.0	7,387,052	19.0	*

<b>Health Insurance</b>					
No health insurance coverage	79,382	6.2	11,631,593	29.3	*
Has private coverage only	490,834	38.5	17,020,545	42.9	*
Has public coverage only	317,732	24.9	9,367,513	23.6	*
Has private and public coverage	385,640	30.3	1,654,273	4.2	*
<b>Disability Status</b>					
Has one or more disability	329,824	25.9	4,705,298	11.9	*
No disability	943,764	74.1	34,968,626	88.1	*
<b>Service-connected Disability Status</b>					
Has service-connected disability	293,095	23.0			
No service-connected disability	980,493	77.0			
<b>Region</b>					
Northeast	115,591	9.1	5,431,504	13.7	*
Midwest	100,573	7.9	3,208,344	8.1	
South	507,734	39.9	13,502,319	34.0	*
West	461,807	36.3	14,815,906	37.3	
Puerto Rico	87,883	6.9	2,715,851	6.8	
<b>Median personal income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 43,957		\$ 22,684		*
<b>Median household income (in 2014 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>	\$ 57,493		\$ 39,962		*

<b>Total Population, Between 17 and 65 years old</b>	685,420	100	25,982,011	100	
<b>Employment Status</b>					
Employed	627,600	91.6	23,728,216	91.3	
Unemployed	23,822	3.4	1,095,838	4.2	*
Not in labor force	33,998	5.0	1,154,360	4.4	
<b>Labor Force Participation Rate</b>	651,422	95.0	24,824,054	95.6	
<b>Work Status of Employed</b>					
Worked year-round, full-time	513,338	81.8	16,123,837	68.0	*
Worked less than year-round, full-time	114,262	18.2	7,604,379	32.0	*
<b>Personal Earnings of Employed (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)</b>					
Less than \$20,000	110,459	17.6	9,568,182	40.3	*
\$20,000 to \$39,999	165,889	26.4	8,130,938	34.3	*
\$40,000 to \$59,999	147,595	23.5	3,230,161	13.6	*
\$60,000 to \$79,999	90,971	14.5	1,394,868	5.9	*
\$80,000 to \$99,999	54,328	8.7	635,151	2.7	*
\$100,000 or more	58,358	9.3	768,916	3.2	*
<b>Class of Worker of Employed</b>					
Private	390,564	62.2	19,447,596	82.0	*
Government	203,214	32.4	2,296,547	9.7	*
Self-employed	33,822	5.4	1,984,073	8.4	*
<b>Occupation of Employed</b>					
Management, professional, and related	202,350	32.2	4,854,947	20.5	*
Service	113,349	18.1	6,119,117	25.8	*
Sales and office	125,326	20.0	5,285,975	22.3	*
Farming, fishing, and forestry	2,644	0.4	553,673	2.3	*
Construction, extraction, maintenance, repair	87,523	13.9	3,077,394	13.0	
Production, transportation, material moving	96,408	15.4	3,837,110	16.2	

# Appendix..... B

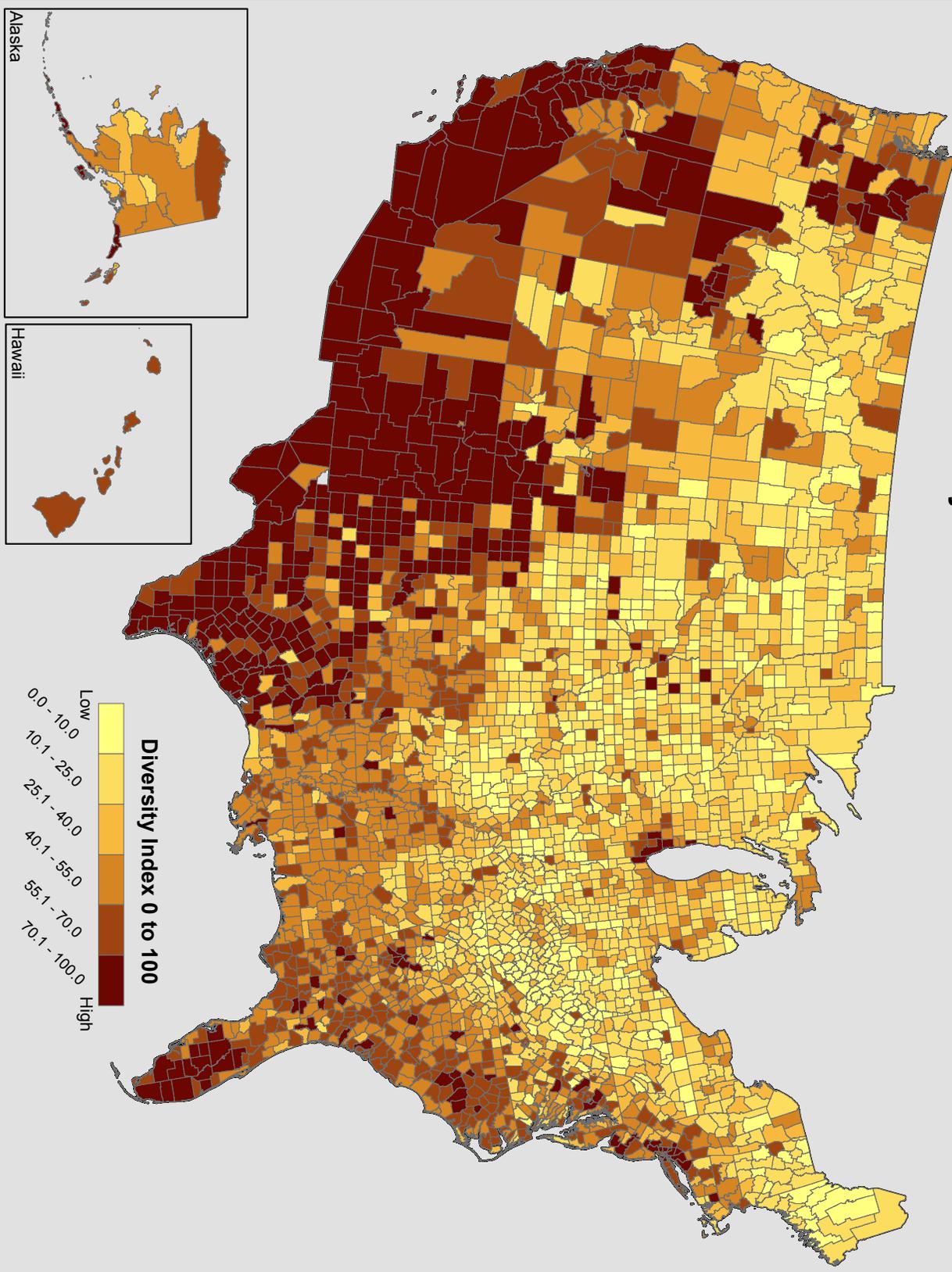
Diversity Index for Male Veterans



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

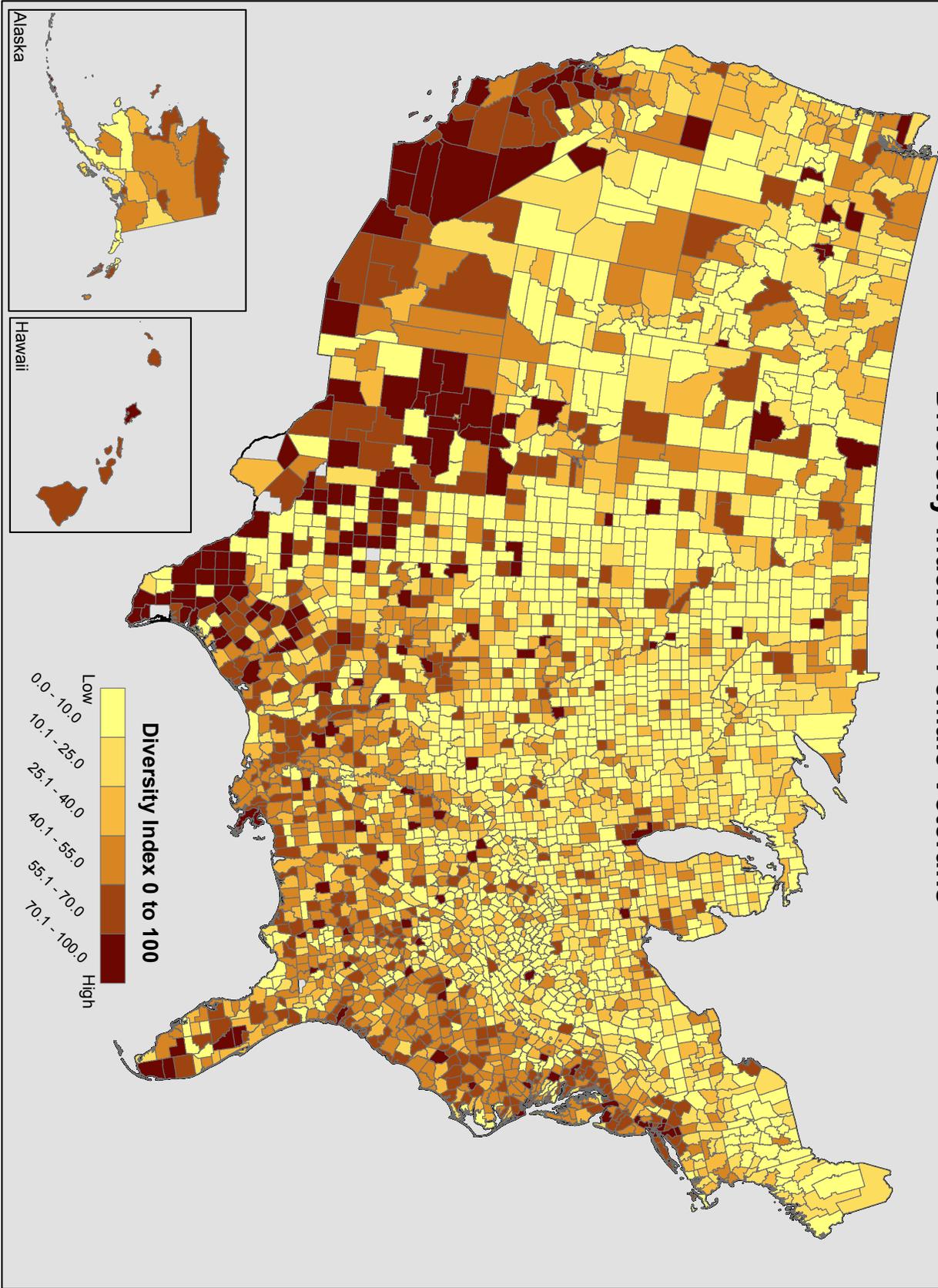
# Diversity Index for Male Non-Veterans



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

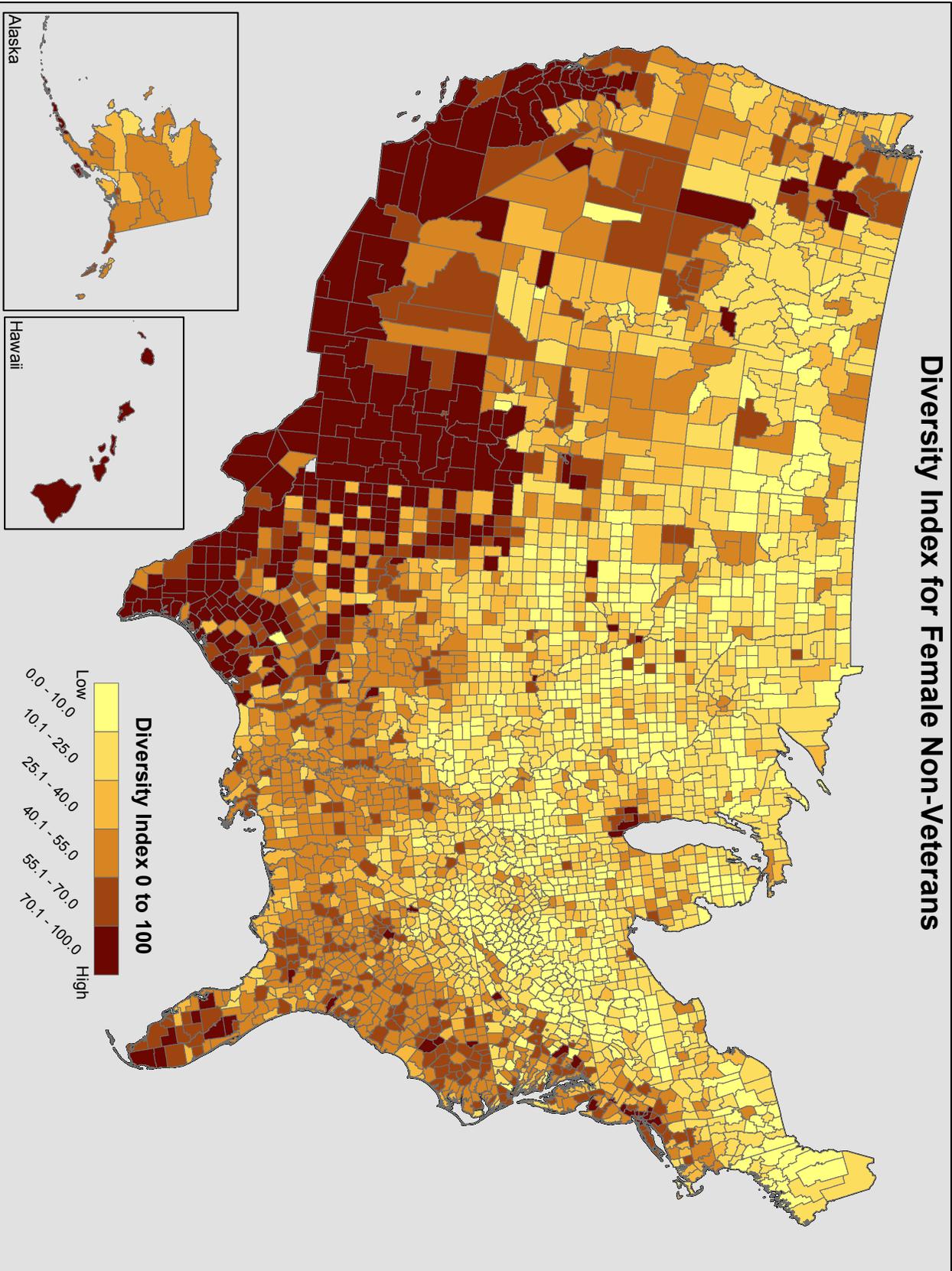
# Diversity Index for Female Veterans



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

# Diversity Index for Female Non-Veterans



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

# Appendix.....C

Leading Causes of Death by Age Group, Race/Ethnicity Males, United States, 2013\*

Rank	All Races	Hispanic	White	Black	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander
1	Heart disease 24.6%	Heart disease 20.7%	Heart disease 24.8%	Heart disease 24.0%	Heart disease 19.8%	Cancer 26.1%
2	Cancer 23.5%	Cancer 20.7%	Cancer 23.7%	Cancer 22.4%	Cancer 17.7%	Heart disease 23.6%
3	Unintentional Injuries 6.3%	Unintentional Injuries 9.9%	Unintentional Injuries 6.3%	Unintentional Injuries 5.8%	Unintentional Injuries 12.6%	Stroke 6.1%
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 5.4%	Diabetes 4.4%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 5.7%	Stroke 4.7%	Chronic liver disease 5.5%	Unintentional Injuries 5.0%
5	Stroke 4.1%	Stroke 4.3%	Stroke 4.0%	Homicide 4.5%	Diabetes 5.3%	Diabetes 4.0%
6	Diabetes 3.1%	Chronic liver disease 4.0%	Diabetes 2.9%	Diabetes 4.1%	Suicide 4.3%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 3.6%
7	Suicide 2.5%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 2.9%	Suicide 2.6%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 3.3%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 4.0%	Influenza & pneumonia 3.3%
8	Influenza & pneumonia 2.1%	Suicide 2.6%	Alzheimer's disease 2.1%	Kidney disease 2.6%	Stroke 2.7%	Suicide 2.6%
9	Alzheimer's disease 2.0%	Homicide 2.4%	Influenza & pneumonia 2.1%	Septicemia 1.9%	Influenza & pneumonia 2.0%	Kidney disease 1.9%
10	Chronic liver disease 1.8%	Influenza & pneumonia 2.0%	Chronic liver disease 1.9%	Influenza & pneumonia 1.7%	Homicide 2.0%	Alzheimer's disease 1.4%

\*Percentages represent total deaths in the age group due to the cause indicated. Numbers in parentheses indicate tied rankings. The white, black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander race groups include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin may be of any race. Some terms have been shortened from those used in the National Vital Statistics Report. See the next page for a listing of the shortened terms in the table and their full unabridged equivalents used in the report. To learn more, visit *Mortality Tables* at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mortality\\_tables.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mortality_tables.htm) or <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/deaths.htm> HHS (CDC, NCHS)

Leading Causes of Death by Race/Ethnicity, All Females-United States, 2013

Rank	All Races	Hispanic	White	Black	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian/Pacific Islander
1	Heart disease 22.4%	Cancer 22.6%	Heart disease 22.4%	Heart disease 23.6%	Cancer 18.9%	Cancer 26.4%
2	Cancer 21.5%	Heart disease 20.0%	Cancer 21.2%	Cancer 22.5%	Heart disease 16.8%	Heart disease 20.8%
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 6.1%	Stroke 5.8%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 6.6%	Stroke 6.0%	Unintentional injuries 8.5%	Stroke 8.0%
4	Stroke 5.8%	Diabetes 5.0%	Stroke 5.8%	Diabetes 4.7%	Diabetes 6.1%	Diabetes 3.7%
5	Alzheimer's disease 4.6%	Unintentional injuries 4.4%	Alzheimer's disease 4.9%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 3.3%	Chronic liver disease 5.6%	Influenza & pneumonia 3.5%
6	Unintentional injuries 3.8%	Alzheimer's disease 3.8%	Unintentional injuries 3.9%	Kidney disease 3.0%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 5.0%	Alzheimer's disease 3.4%
7	Diabetes 2.8%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 3.1%	Diabetes 2.5%	Unintentional injuries 3.0%	Stroke 4.4%	Unintentional injuries 3.3%
8	Influenza & pneumonia 2.3%	Influenza & pneumonia 2.4%	Influenza & pneumonia 2.4%	Alzheimer's disease 2.7%	Influenza & pneumonia 2.4%	Chronic lower respiratory diseases 2.5%
9	Kidney disease 1.8%	Chronic liver disease 2.1%	Kidney disease 1.7%	Septicemia 2.3%	Alzheimer's disease 2.1%	Kidney disease 2.0%
10	Septicemia 1.6%	Kidney disease 2.0%	Septicemia 1.5%	Hypertension 2.0%	Kidney disease 2.1%	Hypertension 1.9%

\*Percentages represent total deaths in the age group due to the cause indicated. Numbers in parentheses indicate tied rankings. The white, black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander race groups include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin may be of any race. Some terms have been shortened from those used in the National Vital Statistics Report. See the next page for a listing of the shortened terms in the table and their full unabridged equivalents used in the report. To learn more, visit *Mortality Tables* at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mortality\\_tables.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mortality_tables.htm) or <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/deaths.htm> (HHS, CDC, NCHS).