Veterans by the Numbers

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

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Data Dissemination Specialist
U.S. Census Bureau

Agenda

How the data are used

Programs (sources)

History

American Community Survey
- Overview
- Geography

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Ways to access Census data

Additional resources

Q&A

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How the Data Are Used?

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

https://census.gov/topics/population/veterans/guidance/data-uses.html

Sources of Veteran Statistics

Demographic Surveys

American Community Survey

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance.html

2010 Census (U.S. Territories only)

https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010_census/press-kits/island-areas.html

Current Population Survey

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html

Survey of Income and Program Participation

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

Economic Surveys

Survey of Business Owners (discontinued)

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sbo.html

Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs (discontinued)

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ase.html

Annual Business Survey (ABS) (first release 12/19)

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/abs.html

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Data on Veterans <u>NOT</u> available from any U.S. Census Bureau surveys

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

- Combat experience
  - Exception: Available in the CPS veteran supplement

- Homelessness

- VA benefits other than service-connected disability

- Health status of veterans

Decennial Census
History of Veteran Questions

The first data on veterans to be published by the U.S. government were based on an inquiry in the **1840 census** which asked the name, age, and place of residence of pensioners of the Revolutionary War

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

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

Starting in 1980, the veteran status questions were asked of all **individuals** 15 years and older

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

The American Community Survey
Census & ACS

1790-1930 Census
one form to all households

1940-2000 Census
short form & long form

1996-2004 ACS
demonstration period

2005-present ACS/PRCS
annual estimates for all geographies

2010 Census and future
short form only

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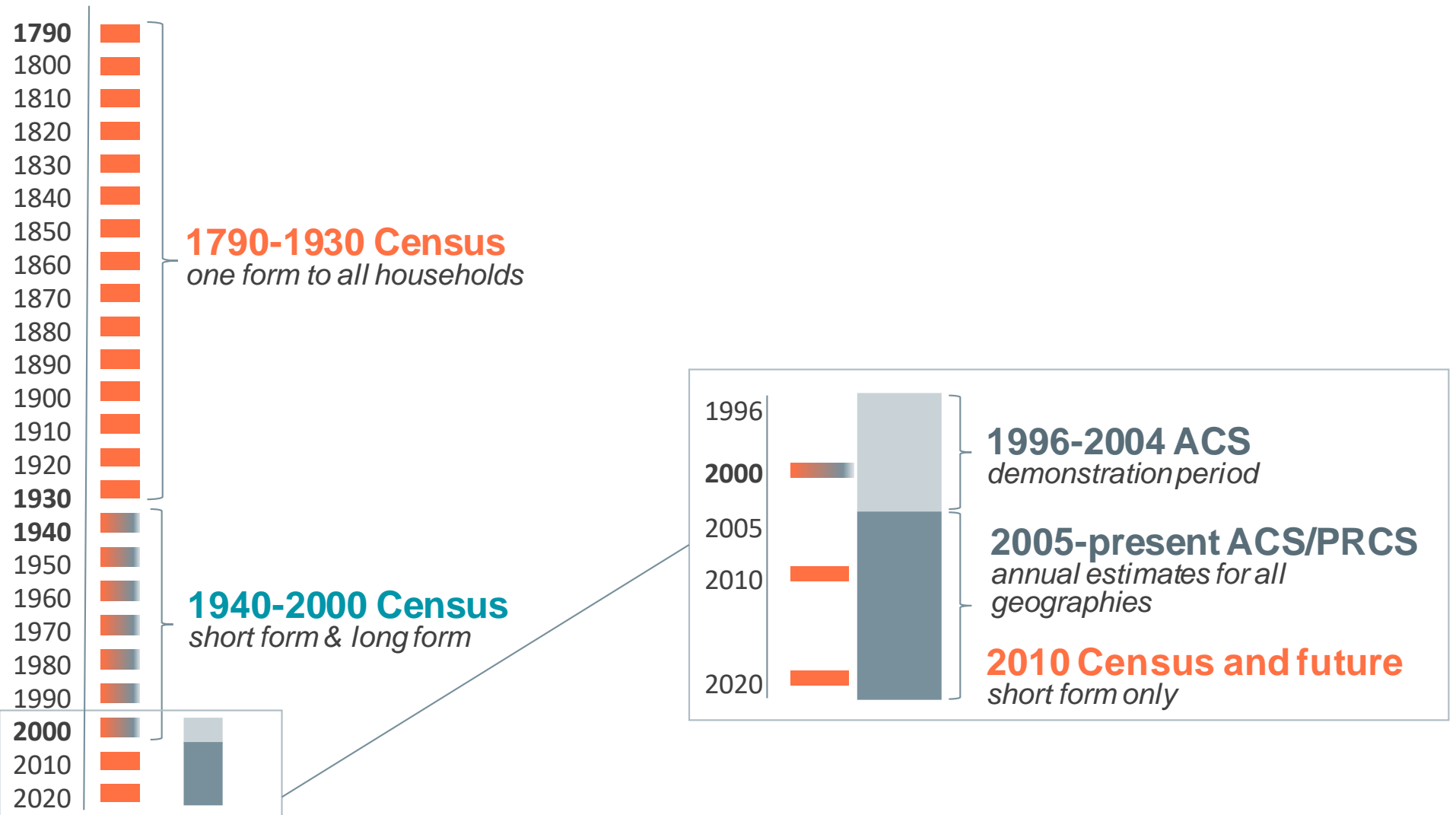
The American Community Survey
The Foundation

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

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

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

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

- Three key annual data releases:
  - 1-year Estimates (for large populations)
  - 1-year Supplemental Estimates (for small populations)
  - 5-year Estimates (for very small populations)

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The American Community Survey
How is the ACS Different from the Census?

	ACS	2010 and 2020 Census
purpose	Sample estimates	Official counts
produces	Population characteristics	Population totals
new data every	Year	10 years
data reflect	Period of time	Point in time
Collects	Information previously on the census "long form"	"Short form" information

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American Community Survey
Why do we ask questions about veterans?

Meeting Federal Needs

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

Community Benefits

- Budgeting and program planning for medical services and nursing homes for veterans
- Planning locations and sizes of veterans' cemeteries
- Determining segments of population who may not be receiving needed medical services
- Allocating funds for employment and job training programs for veterans
- Allowing VA medical centers and their regional networks to engage in meaningful local area planning that accounts for expectations of the future demand for VA care

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American Community Survey
History of Veteran Questions

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

At the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

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

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

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

American Community Survey
Current Veterans Content

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

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

Veterans

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

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

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

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

b. What is this person's service-connected disability rating?

- ☐ 0 percent
- ☐ 10 or 20 percent
- ☐ 30 or 40 percent
- ☐ 50 or 60 percent
- ☐ 70 percent or higher

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaire-archive.html

American Community Survey Tables Pertaining to Veterans	1-Year	5-Year
DETAILED TABLES:		
B21001 – Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over	X	X
B21001A-I – Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over *(race iterated tables)*	X	
B21002 – Period of Military Service for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Over	X	X
B21003 – Veteran Status by Educational Attainment for the Civilian Population 25 Years and Over	X	X
B21004 – Median Income in the Past 12 Months by Veteran Status by Sex for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over with Income in the Past 12 Months	X	X
B21005 – Age by Veteran Status by Employment Status for the Civilian Population 18 to 64 Years	X	X
B21007 – Age by Veteran Status by Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over	X	
B21100 – Service-Connected Disability-Rating Status and Ratings for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Older	X	X
COLLAPSED TABLES:		
C21001A-I – Sex by Age by Veteran Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over (race iterated tables)	X	X
C21005 – Veteran Status by Employment Status for the Civilian Population 18 to 64 Years	X	
C21007 – Age by Veteran Status by Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Disability Status for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over	X	X
C21100 – Service-Connected Disability-Rating Status for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Older	X	
SUBJECT TABLES:		
S2101 – Veteran Status	X	X
RANKING TABLES:		
R2101 – Percent of the Civilian Population 18 years and Over Who are Veterans	X	
GCT2101 – Percent of the Civilian Population 18 years and Over Who are Veterans	X	X
PROFILE TABLES:		
Note: Estimate and percentage of civilian veterans ONLY are included in the following profile tables.		
DP02 Data Profile—Social Characteristics Table	X	X
CP02 Comparison Data Profile—Social Characteristics Table	X	
S0201 Selected Population Profile	X	

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The American Community Survey
Content Overview

POPULATION		HOUSING
SOCIAL Ancestry Citizenship Disability Educational Attainment Fertility Grandparents Language Marital Status Migration School Enrollment Veterans	**DEMOGRAPHIC** Age Hispanic Origin Race Relationship Sex **ECONOMIC** Class of Worker Commuting Employment Status Food Stamps (SNAP) Health Insurance Hours/Week, Weeks/Year Income Industry & Occupation	Computer & Internet Use Costs (Mortgage, Taxes, Insurance) Heating Fuel Home Value Occupancy Plumbing/Kitchen Facilities Structure Tenure (Own/Rent) Utilities Vehicles Year Built/ Year Moved In

The American Community Survey
Availability of 2018 ACS Data Products

Estimated Population of Geographic Area	2018 1-Year Estimates	2018 1-Year •Selected Population Profiles •Subject Tables	2014-2018 5-Year Estimates	2014-2018 5-Year •Subject Tables •Narrative Profiles (on ACS Website)	2018 1-Year Supplemental Estimates
65,000 or more	X	X	X	X	X
20,000 to 64,999			X	X	X
Less than 20,000			X	X	
Release Date	September 26, 2019	October 17, 2019	December 19, 2019	January 16, 2020	February 6, 2020

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases/2018/release-schedule.html

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Census Geography

Selected Census Geographic Concepts—Statistical Areas

- Regions
- Divisions
- Census Designated Places
- Census County Divisions
- Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA)
- Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs)
- Census Tracts
- Block Groups
- Block
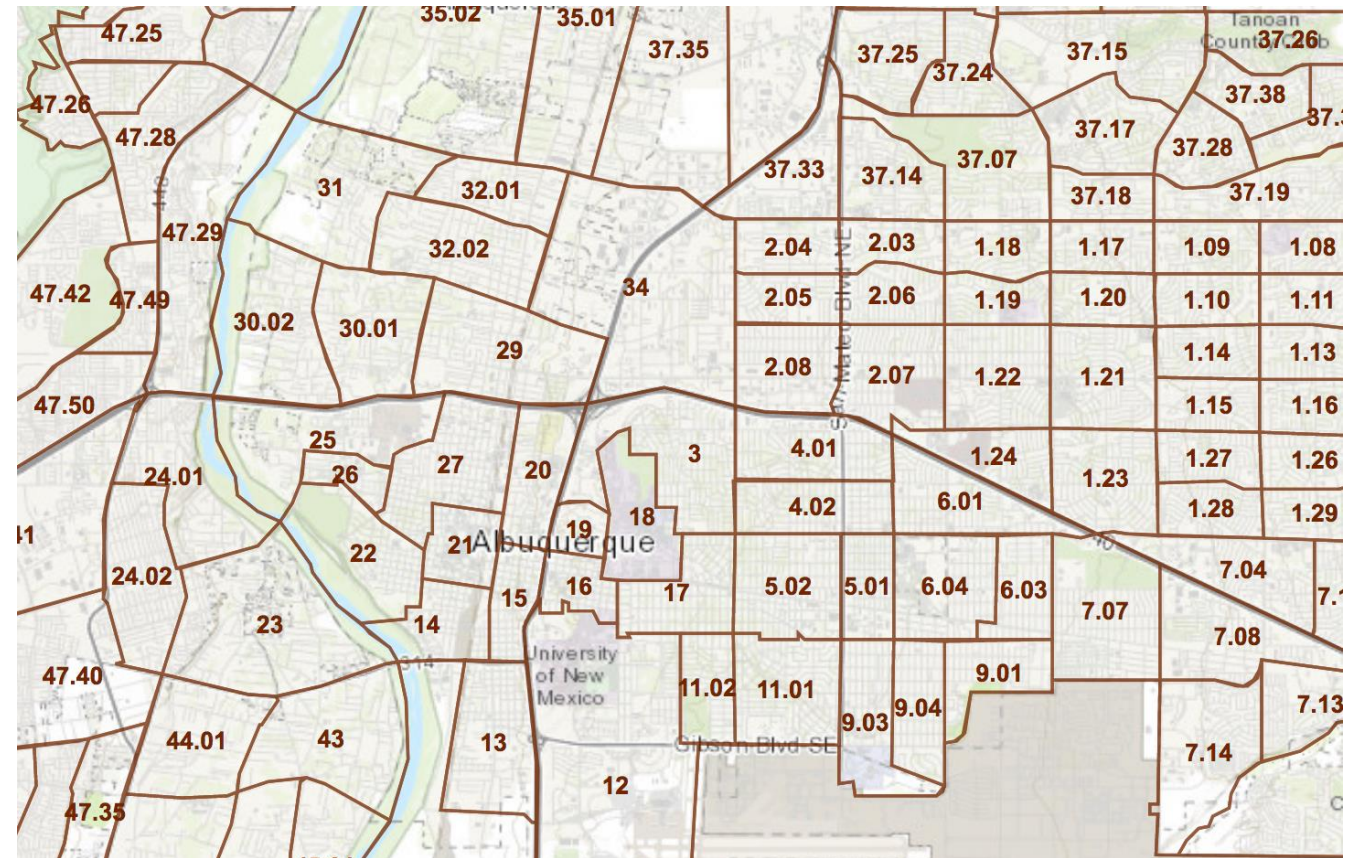
Geographic Area Relationships—Small Statistical Areas
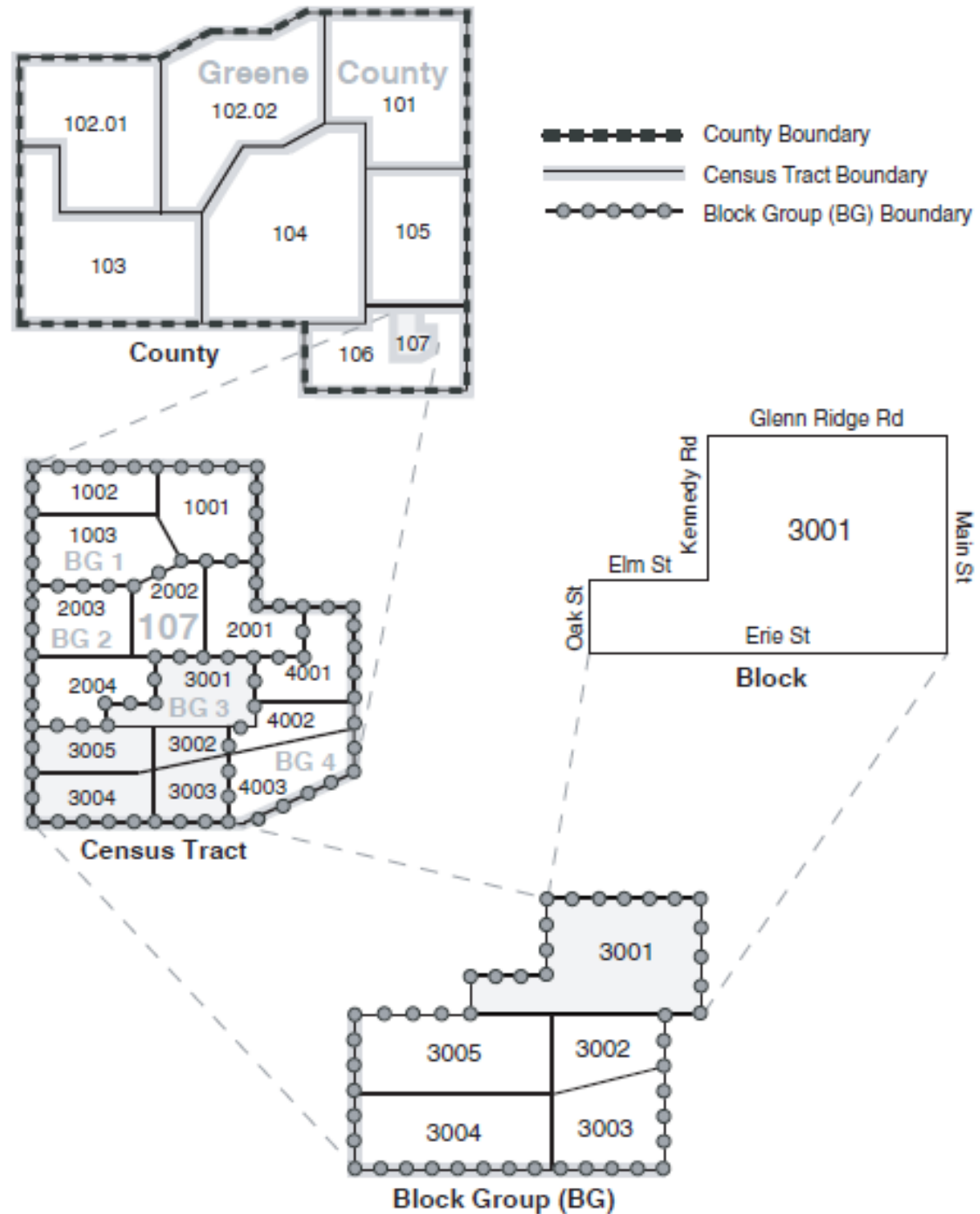
The American Community Survey
Selected Census Geographic Concepts

Nation

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Areas

Urban Areas

Regions

American Indian/ Alaska Native Areas/ Hawaiian Home Lands

Zip Code Tabulation Areas

States

Congressional Districts

School Districts

Places

Counties

Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs)

Alaska Native Regional Areas

State Legislative Districts

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

Census Tracts

- **1,200 to 8,000 population (optimum 4,000)**
- **480 to 3,200 housing units**

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

Block Groups

Census Blocks

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

Data Highlights & Visuals

Veteran Highlights for the U.S.

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

A Century of Serving
Size of the U.S. Armed Forces and Number of Veterans Since 1915

A Century of Serving
(Numbers in millions)
■ U.S. armed forces

World War I
2.9 million men in arms, 1918

World War II
12.1 million men in arms, 1945

Korean War
3.6 million men in arms, 1952

Surge in American troops in Vietnam
3.5 million men in arms, 1968

All-Volunteer Force
Draft ends. U.S. moves to an all-volunteer force, 1973

1915 1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2017

Those Who Served
(Numbers in millions)
■ U.S. veterans
▼ Percent of the male 18+ population
▼ Percent of the female 18+ population

15%   37%   1%*   37%   1%   25%   1%   14%

1915 1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1966 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2017

World War I   World War II   Korean War   Vietnam War   Global War on Terror

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11 NOVEMBER
★ VETERANS DAY ★

Percentage of Veterans Among the Adult Population

Percent
- 10.0 or more
- 8.0 to 9.9
- 6.0 to 7.9
- Less than 6.0

Note: Estimates are the percentage of veterans among the civilian population 18 years and older.

D-Day: 75th Anniversary of the Allied Invasion of Normandy

U.S. World War II Veterans

M=millions

1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017
14.1M	13.8M	13.3M	11.5M	9.0M	5.7M	2.1M	0.6M
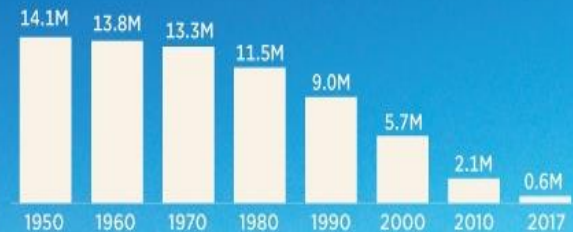
The total number of U.S. service members in WWII was 16.1 million.

Note: Data from 1970 and earlier include only male veterans; data from 1980 and more recent years include both male and female veterans.
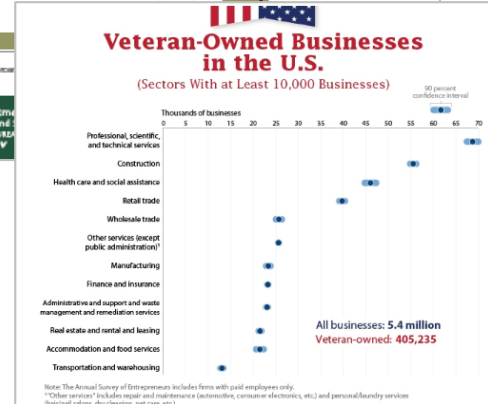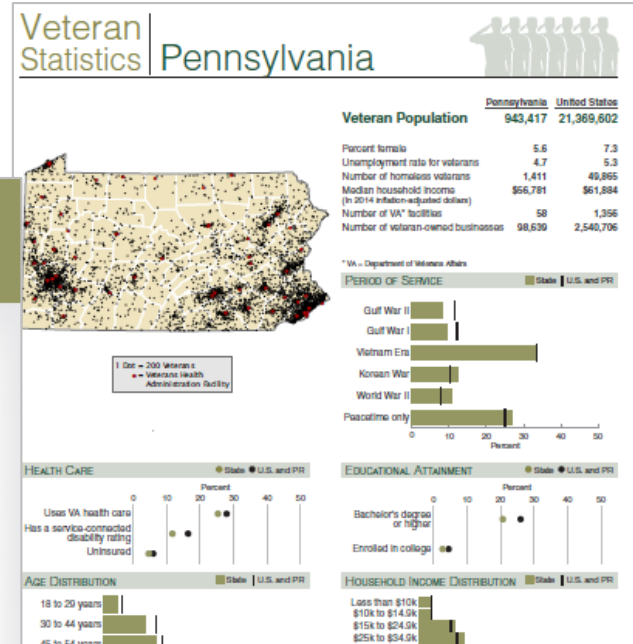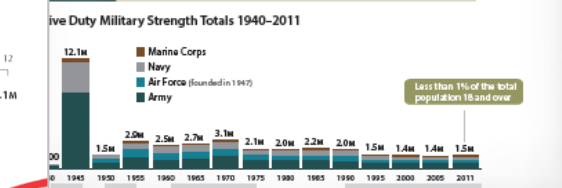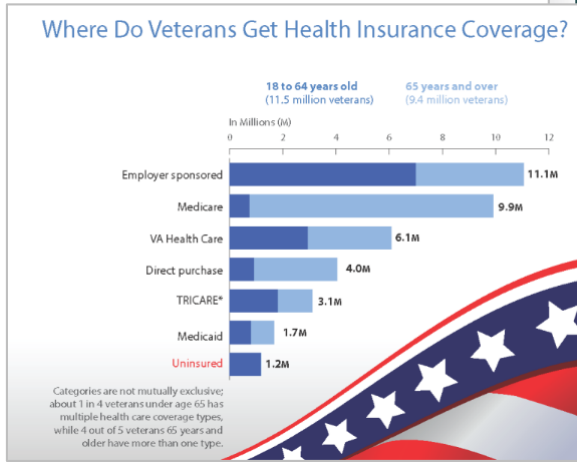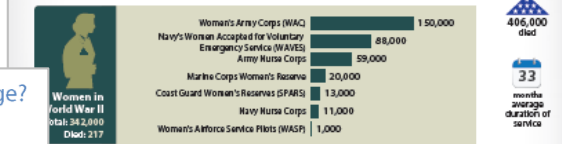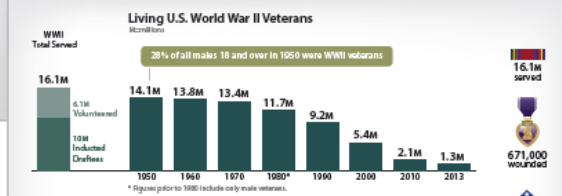
Visualizations

census.gov/topics/population/veterans/library/visualizations.html

Accessing Census Data
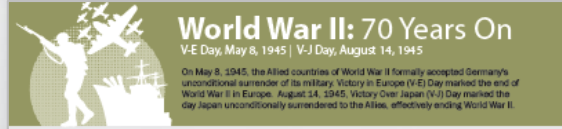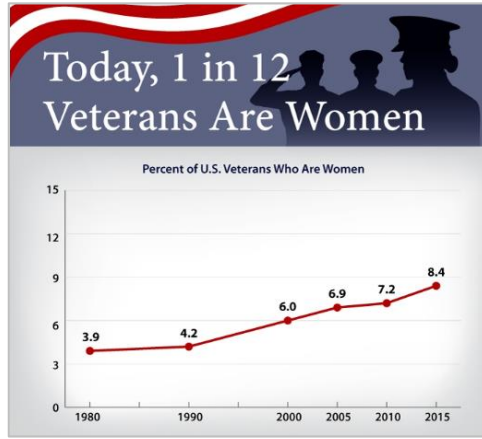
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How to Access Data

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

- **QuickFacts**
  - **When to use**: If you need an estimate of veterans in a state, county, or city (5K population threshold)
- **My Congressional District**
  - **When to use:** If you need an estimate of how many veterans live in your Congressional District
- **Census Business Builder**
  - **When to use:** If you need an estimate of how many veterans live in your state, county, city, ZCTA, or census tract (Veteran-Owned Business data available for the RAE edition)
- **census.data.gov**
  - **When to use:** If you need detailed demographic or socio-economic statistics about veterans in a specific geography
- **Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)**
  - **When to use:** If you need to create custom tabulations

census.gov/data/data-tools.html

New Data Dissemination on Data.census.gov

Interactive Maps

census.gov/geography/interactive-maps

Additional Resources

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Additional Census Bureau Resources

U.S. Census Bureau Veteran Statistics Webpage

census.gov/topics/population/veterans.html

ACS Questionnaire Archive

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaire-archive

Other subjects included in the ACS

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/subjects

ACS/Census Table Comparison

census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/comparing-acs-data

YouTube videos on how to access PUMS in Data Ferrett

https://www.census.gov/library/video/acs-dataferrett-part1.html

https://www.census.gov/library/video/acs-dataferrett-part2.html

External Resources

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment Situation of Veterans Report

Department of Veterans Affairs

National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

Veterans Benefits Administration Reports

Project CHALENG (veteran homelessness)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress

Homeless Population and Subpopulation Reports

Stay Current

NEWSROOM

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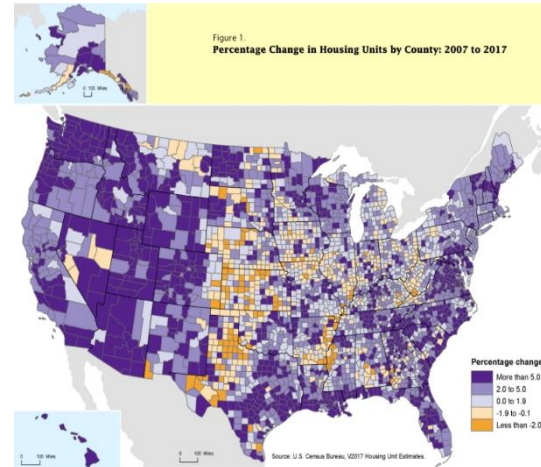census.gov/newsroom.html

DIRECTOR'S BLOG

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

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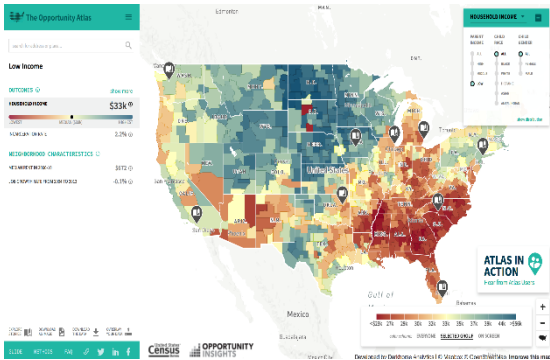
Featured stories on various topics such as families, housing, employment, business, education, the economy, emergency preparedness, and population
census.gov/AmericaCounts

STATS FOR STORIES

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

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twitter.com/uscensusbureau

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

youtube.com/user/uscensusbureau

instagram.com/uscensusbureau

Census (Non-media inquiries) 800-923-8282

Public Information Office (Media) 301-763-3030

pinterest.com/uscensusbureau

linkedin.com/company/us-census-bureau

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You will learn-at-your-own-pace with these video-tutorials designed for different skill levels.

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

✓ **Take part in this community**
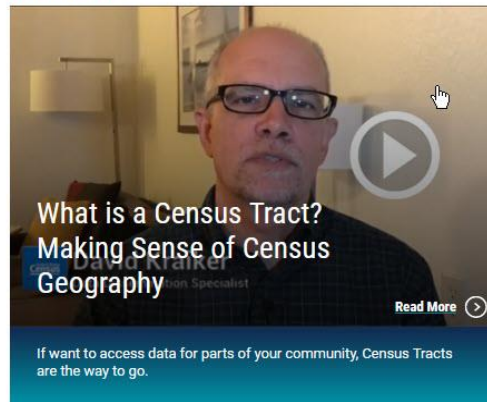Share your feedback and ideas for our educational content: Census.academy@census.gov

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Additional Resources:
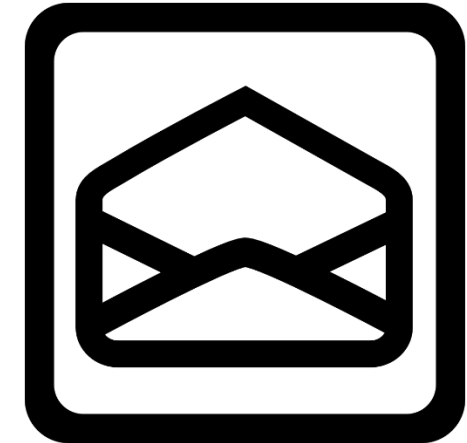Want Free Training?
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U.S. Census Bureau

Data Dissemination Specialist

Eric Coyle
(702) 236-3202

eric.a.coyle@census.gov

Additional Assistance:

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

census.askdata@census.gov

Q&A &
Thank You!

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