America's Veterans: *A Demographic Profile*

Beginning with our Nation's struggle for freedom more than two centuries ago, approximately 43 million men and women have served this country during wartime periods. The charts below provide various social and demographic information on today's veteran population.

Data	Analysis
Veteran Population Compared to Total U.S. Population (Millions)	• Currently there are about 23.5 million living U.S. veterans, 7 percent of whom are women. The percentage of women veterans is expected to increase over time given the increased role of women in the Armed Forces. • There are an estimated 36 million dependents (spouses and dependent children) of living veterans and survivors of deceased veterans in the U.S. • Together, veterans, dependents, and survivors make up about 20 percent of America's population.
Veteran Population by Period of Service* (Thousands)	• More than 17 million (74 percent) of America's veterans served during at least one wartime period. • The nearly 8 million Vietnam Era veterans account for the largest segment of the veteran population. • About 71 percent of all women veterans served during the post-Vietnam Era compared to 32 percent of men. • The number of women veterans enrolled in VA's health care system is 420,045 as of June 30, 2007 – up from 398,621 as of last September.
Age Distribution of the Veteran Population By 5-Year Age Groups (Thousands)	• As of September 2007, the median age of all living veterans was 60 years. • Men's median age was 61; women's 47. • The number of veterans 85 and older totaled about 1,146,000, compared to 164,000 in 1990. • Between 2007 and 2014, veterans 85 and older enrolled in VA's health care system are expected to increase from 481,000 to 760,000, or 58 percent.

*Notes: 1) There are too few living World War I veterans to estimate their number with an acceptable level of reliability. 2) The sum of period of service will exceed number of all veterans because veterans who served in multiple periods are shown in each period.