Frequently Asked Questions

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Q: Where can I find information about the number of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn Veterans? Are statistics available on their usage of VA benefits and services?

Q: Where can I find the Veteran population for the Nation, states, counties, and Congressional Districts?

A: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides official estimates and projections of the Veteran population using the VetPop2007 Veteran Population Model. Estimates and projections are available at the national, state, county, and Congressional District levels in detail from VetPop2007 tables and in total from the first numerical column of the Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX). Periods of service are based on those used in Census 2000, as shown in Figure 1b of the Veterans: 2000 Census 2000 Brief.

Q: Where can I find the Veteran population for geographies below the county or Congressional District level?

A: Estimates of the Veteran population for geographies below the county level are available from the U.S. Census Bureau's <u>American Community Survey (ACS)</u>. One-year data are available for the Nation, all states and Congressional Districts, and counties and places with populations 65,000 or more. Three-year data are available for the Nation, all states and Congressional Districts, and counties and places with populations 20,000 or more. Five-year data are available for the Nation, all states, Congressional Districts, counties, places, and smaller geographies (block, tract). Five-year data will be available for the first time starting December 2010.

Tables pertaining to Veterans can be identified by topic ID "21" in the table number. As of 2010, tables include R2101, S2101, and B21001 through B21100. Individual table descriptions are found in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Fact Finder tool under <u>List all tables</u>. Click on a table name and then click on the "What's this?" button to see a table shell.

Q: Where can I find detailed demographic, period of service, or socioeconomic data about Veterans and non Veterans?

A: Demographic tables are available in VetPop2007. Age and gender are available from every table, although the level of detail of the age breakouts decreases for smaller geographic levels. Period of service is available from all national and state level tables, except for 4L. Race/ethnicity is available from Tables 4L & 5L.

Aside from VetPop2007, there are a number of demographic and socioeconomic reports and analyses on the <u>NCVAS web page</u>.

Unlike VetPop2007, the <u>American Community Survey (ACS)</u> has numerical comparisons of Veterans to non veterans and socioeconomic data such as educational attainment, median income, and employment, poverty, disability, and service-connected disability rating status. Tables pertaining to Veterans are R2101, S2101 and B21001 through B21100. Individual table descriptions are found under

List all tables.

At the national level, demographic and socioeconomic information on Veterans from the Current Population Survey (CPS) is found in the <u>Employment Situation of Veterans</u> and the <u>Employment Status of</u> the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over by Veteran Status.

Q: Where can I find basic information and data about utilization of VA services by type of program?

A: The <u>Analysis of Unique Veterans Utilization of VA Benefits and Services</u> provides basic information about the utilization of VA services for Fiscal Year 2008, including the number using multiple VA programs. <u>VA Stats at a Glance</u> provides more recent summarized data.

Unique patients receiving treatment at VA Medical Facilities are presented by state, county and Congressional District in the <u>Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures</u>.

The 2010 National Survey of Veterans has information on data utilization of VA services by type of program in the Final Weighted Report as follows:

- 1) VA Disability and Vocational Rehabilitation Chapter 4.1.4, pages 106 to 116 and Appendix D-Detailed Data Tables, pages D-10, D-13 to D-14, and D-16.
- 2) VA Health Care Chapter 4.1.6, pages 122 to 136 and Appendix D- Detailed Data Tables, pages D-21 to D-39.
- 3) VA Education and Training Chapter 4.1.8, pages 145 to 153 and Appendix D- Detailed Data Tables, pages D-42 to D-46.
- 4) VA Life Insurance Chapter 4.1.10, pages 161 to 164 and Appendix D- Detailed Data Tables, pages D-48 to D-50.
- 5) VA Home Loans Chapter 4.1.11, pages 165 to 169 and Appendix D- Detailed Data Tables, pages D-51 to D-54.
- 6) VA Burial Plans Chapter 4.1.12, pages 171 to 180 and Appendix D- Detailed Data Tables, pages D-56 to D-60.
- Q: Where can I find detailed information and data about beneficiaries of VA programs for service-connected and non-service-connected disability, education, insurance, loan guaranty, and vocational rehabilitation and employment?

A: The <u>Veterans Benefits Administration Annual Benefits Report</u> covers each of these programs in separate chapters. Appendix E shows state-level data.

Q: Where can I find information and data about Veterans with health conditions or disabilities, regardless of whether or not they are receiving VA benefits?

A: The 2001 National Survey of Veterans has information on Veterans' health in the Final Reports & Appendixes, Chapter 5, and Tabulations & Responses, Tables 3-11 to 3-14. The 2010 National Survey of Veterans has information on Veterans' service-connected disability rating and VA disability benefits in the Final Weighted Report in Chapters 4.1.4, on pages 109 and 112, and Appendix D- Detailed Data Tables, pages D-11 to D-12. Also, The 2010 National Survey of Veterans has information on Veterans' health status, health care, and health insurance in the Final Weighted Report in Chapters 4.1.5, 4.1.6 and 4.1.7, respectively on pages 117 to 143, and Appendix D- Detailed Data Tables, pages D-18 to D-42.

Below the national and state levels, estimates of disabled Veterans are found in the <u>American</u> <u>Community Survey</u> (ACS) in Table S2101 and in Table B21007. The estimated numbers of service-connected disabled Veterans are shown by disability percent rating in Table B21100.

The ACS estimates for both disabled Veterans in general and service-connected disabled Veterans will differ somewhat from those found in the VBA Annual Report because the ACS estimates are: (1) not limited to those receiving VA compensation & pension; and (2) survey estimates rather than counts from a computerized record, as are the VBA numbers.

Q: Where can I find expenditures for the Nation, states, counties, and Congressional Districts?

A: These data are found in the Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX). The GDX is an annual report produced by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (NCVAS), in the Office of Policy and Planning (OPP). GDX provides VA expenditures at the state, county and Congressional District levels in seven categories. The GDX categories are Compensation & Pension, Construction, Education and Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment, General Operating Expenses, Insurance and Indemnities, Medical Care, and Loan Guaranty. Each of the GDX categories consists of funding appropriations with similar funding purposes. The expenditures included in GDX are direct payments to Veterans and their dependents (e.g. compensation and pension), operating expenses incurred for providing services to Veterans (e.g. medical care programs), and overhead expenses (e.g. general administrative supports). Whenever possible, expenditures to Veterans are captured at the zip code level and then aggregated at the county, Congressional District, and state levels.

Q: Where can I find information and data about recently separated Veterans, active duty military, and reservists and National Guard, including those with service in the Global War on Terrorism?

A: The 2010 National Survey of Veterans has information on recently separated Veterans, active duty military, and reservists and National Guard, including those with service in the Global War on Terrorism. Findings and results for these groups are in the Final Weighted Report and Appendix D- Detailed Data Tables as follows:

- 1) Veterans Chapter 4.1, pages 51 to 180 and tables in Appendix D on pages D-2 to D-177.
- 2) Demobilized National Guard and Reserve Members Chapter 4.2, pages 181 to 247 and tables in Appendix D on pages D-178 to D-247.
- 3) Active Duty Service Members Chapter 4.3, pages 248 to 278 and tables in Appendix D on pages D-248 to D-275.

4) Veteran Spouses, Active Duty Spouses, and Surviving Spouses of deceased Veterans – Chapter 4.4, pages 279 to 316 and tables in Appendix D on pages D-276 to D-304 (Veteran Spouses), pages D-305 to D-324 (Active Duty Spouses), and pages D-325 to D-355 (Surviving Spouse).

Q: Where can I find the number of recently separated Veterans for the Nation, states, counties, and Congressional Districts?

A: In <u>VetPop2007</u>, the actual and projected numbers of separated Veterans are found in every table ending in the letter "S". Post-September 30, 2001 Veterans are shown at the national level in Tables 10L, 10D & 10S. For counties, Congressional Districts or other localities below the state level that meet specified population thresholds, estimates by period of service, including September 2001 or later, are available from Table B21002 of the American Community Survey.

Q: How many homeless Veterans are there in my area of interest?

A: The <u>CHALENG Report</u> has estimated homeless veterans by locality in Appendix 5. Each year Project CHALENG publishes a report summarizing the results of annual surveys of both local VA staff and community participants (local government, service providers, formerly and currently homeless Veterans). These surveys ask for current perceptions of homeless Veterans' needs, the degree of VA/community cooperation and collaboration in serving homeless Veterans, and progress on local homeless Veterans program initiatives. The most recent CHALENG report is available at this site. The Report includes both Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) and facility data.

Q: How many served and how many casualties were there by war period, nationally and at the state level?

A: Service members and casualties are summarized in the document <u>America's Wars</u>. This factsheet is produced in response to numerous requests for war casualty statistics. It provides statistics compiled by sources at the Department of Defense (DoD), indicating the number of fatalities and numbers of wounded among American military personnel serving in principal wars and combat actions from the Revolutionary War to the current Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) operations in Afghanistan and related conflicts. The casualty statistics for wars long ended are updated periodically, sometimes yearly. This almost always reflects the identification of remains of persons previously listed as missing in action and those persons' reclassification as dead. Additional detail is available from the Department of Defense <u>Military and Personnel Casualties Statistics</u>.

Q: How many military retirees are there nationally or in my state or zip code area?

A: This information is provided in the annual Department of Defense <u>Statistical Report on the Military Retirement System</u>. Choose a fiscal year under Statistical Report. The military retirement system applies to members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. However, most of the provisions also apply to retirement systems for members of the Coast Guard (administered by the Department of Homeland Security), officers of the Public Health Service (administered by the Department of Health and Human Services), and officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (administered by the Department of Commerce).

Q: Where can I find information and data about Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)?

A: General information about PTSD is available from the <u>National Center for PTSD</u>. Expert opinion about PTSD is found under <u>PTSD and the Military</u>. Findings are also available from the <u>National Vietnam</u> <u>Veterans Readjustment Study</u>.

Q: Where can I find the latest information and data about dependents and survivors of Veterans?

A: The 2010 National Survey of Veterans has information on spouses of living Veterans and survivors of deceased Veterans and service personnel in the Final Weighted Report Chapter 4.4 and Appendix D-Detailed Data Tables on pages D-276 to D-304 (Veteran Spouses), pages D-305 to D-324 (Active Duty Spouses), and pages D-325 to D-355 (Surviving Spouse).

Q: Where can I find the latest results of the National Survey of Veterans(NSV)?

A:The 2010 National Survey of Veterans is the most recent NSV conducted by VA. The results are described in the <u>Final Weighted Report.</u>

Q: Where can I find information for the Nation or my state about how many Veterans are using their G.I. Bill benefits? Can I get these statistics by period of service?

A: Individuals can view the number of students who have used the G.I. Bill Benefits at the national and state level by going to the <u>Veterans Benefits Administration's Annual Benefits Report.</u>

There is currently no VA website that provides G.I. Bill benefits by period of service.

Q: Where can I find information for the Nation or my state about what types of schools or programs Veterans are enrolled in using G.I. Bill benefits? Can I get these statistics by period of service?

A: The Veterans Benefits Administration's Annual Benefits Report shows the types of programs (i.e., graduate, undergraduate, non-college degree, vocational). The 2009 Annual Benefits Report provided a statistical "snapshot" that showed the discipline most of VA beneficiaries tend to pursue (i.e. Nursing, Criminal Justice, Business Administration, etc.). This snapshot is currently only available in the 2009 report.

Q: Where can I find information about the number of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn Veterans? Are statistics available on their usage of VA benefits and services?

A: There is currently not a VA website that would provide Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn Veterans statistics.