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# **American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (ACS-PUMS)**

## **Veterans Data Hub Codebook**

For more information on this publication, visit [www.rand.org/t/TLA1363-4](http://www.rand.org/t/TLA1363-4).

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# About This Tool

This codebook was compiled as part of the RAND Veterans Policy Research Institute’s effort to develop a repository of datasets that assess veteran status. This codebook for the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (ACS-PUMS) presents an overview of the data, how to access them, which variable(s) assess veteran status, other veteran-related questions, and additional resources for using the ACS-PUMS. In this codebook, we cite directly from the original documentation of the ACS-PUMS.

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# American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (ACS-PUMS): Veterans Data Hub Codebook

## Overview to the American Community Survey

The American Community Survey (ACS) was created by the U.S. Census Bureau to replace the long form questionnaire that was part of the Decennial Census and to allow for continuous estimates of important demographics in intercensal years. After a decade of testing, the ACS was first fielded in 2005, with various improvements and changes over the years.

ACS data are made publicly available in the form of the ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (ACS-PUMS). The ACS-PUMS files are distributed in two different forms. The **1-year** files combine a sample of surveys completed in a single calendar year, reflecting data for areas with populations of at least 65,000 individuals. These files are particularly useful for generating timely estimates of national trends. The **5-year** files combine a sample of survey data completed over five calendar years (from all areas, no minimum population size). These files have a larger sample for more-detailed analysis (e.g., among small geographic areas and population groups).

The ACS-PUMS variables are organized into two different records. The **housing** record contains variables that describe a housing unit (e.g., age of structure, number of rooms, apartment versus single family) and the people living there (e.g., family structure, household income, number of people). It also contains information on housing units that are vacant, so be cautious if you do not want to include these housing units. The **person** record contains variables describing each individual in the household. Most applications will use either just the person record or the person record merged with the housing record, limited to non-vacant housing units.

Table 1 and Table 2 show the total sample size of veterans in each of the ACS-PUMS person records from 2006 to 2019 relative to the total sample size (using the definition of *veterans* described in the “Key Variables” section).

**TABLE 1**  
**Veteran Sample Size, Relative to Total Sample Size: 1-Year Files**

Year	Sample Size (Total)		Sample Size (Veteran)	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
2019	3,239,553	328,239,523	204,214	17,413,872
2018	3,214,539	327,167,439	203,639	17,924,662
2017	3,190,040	325,719,178	205,129	18,192,089
2016	3,156,487	323,127,515	209,723	18,519,294
2015	3,147,005	321,418,821	213,193	18,846,175
2014	3,132,610	318,857,056	218,668	19,297,082
2013	3,132,795	316,128,839	221,546	19,586,573
2012	3,113,030	313,914,040	239,086	21,234,123
2011	3,112,017	311,591,919	243,563	21,490,366
2010	3,061,692	309,349,689	244,785	21,775,185
2009	3,030,728	307,006,556	248,943	21,848,693
2008	3,000,657	304,059,728	254,529	22,415,217
2007	2,994,662	301,621,159	259,131	22,919,800
2006	2,969,741	299,398,485	264,179	23,402,721

**TABLE 2**  
**Veteran Sample Size, Relative to Total Sample Size: 5-Year Files**

Years	Sample Size (Total)		Sample Size (Veteran)	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
2015–2019	15,947,624	324,697,795	1,035,898	18,184,709
2014–2018	15,840,681	322,903,031	1,050,352	18,566,011
2013–2017	15,758,937	321,004,407	1,068,259	18,899,461
2012–2016	15,681,927	318,558,162	1,102,216	19,510,333
2011–2015	15,637,457	316,515,024	1,136,056	20,101,934
2010–2014	15,552,144	314,107,085	1,167,648	20,693,159
2009–2013	15,450,262	311,536,599	1,197,923	21,249,755
2008–2012	15,318,124	309,138,716	1,230,906	21,849,751
2007–2011	15,199,756	306,603,777	1,250,951	22,228,185
2006–2010	15,057,480	303,965,275	1,271,567	22,633,974

Note that 2020 data collection was disrupted by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. The Census Bureau initially released a limited, experimental set of files but released a more complete set of files later in 2022.

## Data Access

### Public Use Files

There are multiple options for accessing public-use ACS-PUMS data:

1. All files can be downloaded from the Census Bureau website (U.S. Census Bureau, 2024a). Files are available via FTP in both CSV and SAS format, for an individual state or for all states combined.
2. In addition to the FTP site, the Census Bureau stores data on data.census.gov (U.S. Census Bureau, undated-a). This site allows users to work with files directly on the Census Bureau servers.

### Restricted-Use Files

The Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies (CES) provides access to restricted ACS files via Federal Statistical Research Data Centers (RDCs). To obtain access to restricted data, one must submit a proposal to CES. Anyone working with these files must apply for Special Sworn Status and physically work inside an RDC facility.

## Key Variables

Key variables for IDs and weights, demographic characteristics, and economic characteristics are presented in Table 3 through Table 28. The variable descriptions presented in these tables use 2019 variable names, and all variable definitions are sourced from the 2019 ACS 1-year PUMS data dictionary, unless otherwise noted (U.S. Census Bureau, undated-b).

## IDs and Weights

**TABLE 3**  
**Household and Respondent IDs**

Variable Name	Description	Values
SERIALNO	Housing unit/group quarter person serial number	CHAR13
SPORDER	Person number	01–20

**TABLE 4**  
**Panel Information**

Variable Name	Description
YEAR	Year of interview
PERIOD	Time period (1-year or 5-year)

The ACS-PUMS contains a series of replicate weights. *Replicate weights* (which simulate repeated sampling from a single sample) are used to obtain empirical standard error estimates and can be accounted for using the survey packages of standard statistical software. For analyses at the person level, use the person weight / replicate weights. For analyses at the household level, use the housing weight / replicate weights.

**TABLE 5**  
**Weights**

Variable Name	Description	Values
<b>Housing Record</b>		
WGTP	Housing unit weight	0 = Group Quarter (GQ), all others 1–9999. Note that vacant housing units will still have a positive weight.
WGTP1-WGTP80	Housing unit replicate weights	
<b>Person Record</b>		
PWGTP	Person weight	1–9999
PWGTP1– PWGTP80	Person replicate weights	

## Demographic Characteristics

Respondents who answer MIL = 2 (on active duty previously, but not currently) should be classified as veterans (as shown in bold in Table 6).

**TABLE 6**  
**Veteran Status (2014 to Present)**

Variable Name	Description	Values
<b>Person Record</b>		
MIL	Military service	b = N/A (less than 17 years old) 1 = Now on active duty <b>2 = On active duty in the past, but not now</b> 3 = Only on active duty for training in Reserves/National Guard 4 = Never served in the military

Prior to the 2009–2013 5-year and 2013 1-year files, MIL had different values. Respondents who answer either MIL = 2 or MIL = 3 should be classified as veterans (as shown in bold in Table 7).

**TABLE 7**  
**Veteran Status (2013 and Before)**

Variable Name	Description	Values
MIL	Military service	b = N/A (less than 17 years old) 1 = Yes, now on active duty <b>2 = Yes, on active duty during the last 12 months, but not now</b> <b>3 = Yes, on active duty in the past, but not during the last 12 months</b> 4 = No, training for Reserves/National Guard only 5 = No, never served in the military

**TABLE 8**  
**Sex and Gender**

Variable Name	Description	Values
Person Record		
SEX	Sex	1 = Male 2 = Female

**TABLE 9**  
**Age**

Variable Name	Description	Values
Person Record		
AGEP	Age in years	0–99 (top-coded)

**TABLE 10**  
**Race and Ethnicity**

Variable Name	Description	Values
Person Record		
HISP	Recoded detailed Hispanic origin	01 = Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino 02-24 Detailed origin
RAC1P	Recoded detailed race code	1 = White alone 2 = Black or African American alone 3 = American Indian alone 4 = Alaska Native alone 5 = American Indian and Alaska Native tribes specified; or American Indian or Alaska Native, not specified and no other races 6 = Asian alone 7 = Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone 8 = Some other race alone 9 = Two or More Races

**Table 10—Continued**

Variable Name	Description	Values
RAC2P	Recoded detailed race code	01–68
RAC3P	Recoded detailed race code	001–100
RACWHT	White recode	0 = No 1 = Yes
RACBLK	Black or African American recode	0 = No 1 = Yes
RACAIAN	American Indian and Alaska Native recode	0 = No 1 = Yes
RACASN	Asian recode	0 = No 1 = Yes
RACNH	Native Hawaiian recode	0 = No 1 = Yes
RACPI	Other Pacific Islander recode	0 = No 1 = Yes
RACSOR	Some other race recode	0 = No 1 = Yes
RACNUM	Number of major race groups represented	1–6

**TABLE 11  
Geographic Location(s)**

Variable Name	Description	Values
REGION	Region code	1 = Northeast 2 = Midwest 3 = South 4 = West 9 = Puerto Rico
DIVISION	Division code	0 = Puerto Rico 1 = New England 2 = Middle Atlantic 3 = East North Central 4 = West North Central 5 = South Atlantic 6 = East South Central 7 = West South Central 8 = Mountain 9 = Pacific
ST	State code	See state FIPS codes
PUMA	Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) code	00100–70301

NOTE: FIPS = Federal Information Processing Standards.

REGION and DIVISION are available in the person records starting in the 2003–2017 5-year file and 2017 1-year file. ST and PUMA are always available in all person records. All geographic variables are available in all of the housing record files.

PUMAs are a unique statistical geography created for the PUMS files to enable looking at areas smaller than a state but still maintaining confidentiality. Some characteristics of PUMAs are as follows:

- ST and PUMA can be combined to create a unique geographic identifier.
- PUMAs are created to have a population of roughly 100,000 or more.
- PUMA boundaries are updated every ten years based on the decennial census. The 1-year files from 2006–2011 use definitions created based on the 2000 census, and the 1-year files from 2010–2019 use definitions created based on the 2010 census. Care should be used if pooling multiple years with different PUMA definitions. For the 5-year files, from 2008–2012 to 2011–2015 there will be two different PUMA variables reflecting this change. The PUMA10 values will be complete only for surveys that are selected from the 2012 survey or later.

**TABLE 12**  
**Public Use Microdata Areas**

Variable Name	Description	Values
PUMA00	PUMA code based on 2000 census	–0009 missing value (Observation from 2012 survey or later)
PUMA10	PUMA code based on 2010 census	–0009 missing value (Observation from 2011 survey or earlier)

**TABLE 13**  
**Marital Status**

Variable Name	Description	Values
Person Record		
MAR	Marital status	1 = Married 2 = Widowed 3 = Divorced 4 = Separated 5 = Never married or under 15 years old
MSP	Married, spouse present/spouse absent	b = N/A (age less than 15 years) 1 = Now married, spouse present 2 = Now married, spouse absent 3 = Widowed 4 = Divorced 5 = Separated 6 = Never married

Starting with the 2008–2012 5-year and 2008 1-year files, the ACS-PUMS added some additional variables describing historical marital status.

**TABLE 14**  
**Marital History (2008 to Present)**

Variable Name	Description	Values
MARHM	Married in the past 12 months	b = N/A (age less than 15 years; never married) 1 = Yes 2 = No
MARHW	Widowed in the past 12 months	b = N/A (age less than 15 years; never married) 1 = Yes 2 = No
MARHD	Divorced in the past 12 months	b = N/A (age less than 15 years; never married) 1 = Yes 2 = No
MARHT	Number of times married	b = N/A (age less than 15 years; never married) 1 = One time 2 = Two times 3 = Three or more times

**TABLE 15**  
**Household Structure**

Variable Name	Description	Values
<b>Housing Record</b>		
HHT	Household/family type	b = N/A (Group Quarters [GQ]/vacant) 1 = Married couple household 2 = Other family household: Male householder, no spouse present 3 = Other family household: Female householder, no spouse present 4 = Nonfamily household: Male householder: Living alone 5 = Nonfamily household: Male householder: Not living alone 6 = Nonfamily household: Female householder: Living alone 7 = Nonfamily household: Female householder: Not living alone
PARTNER	Unmarried partner household	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 0 = No unmarried partner in household 1 = Male householder, male partner 2 = Male householder, female partner 3 = Female householder, female partner 4 = Female householder, male partner
NP	Number of persons in this household	numeric
NPF	Number of persons in family	numeric



**Table 15—Continued**

Variable Name	Description	Values
PSF	Presence of subfamilies in household	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 0 = No subfamilies 1 = 1 or more subfamilies
R18	Presence of persons under 18 years in household	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 0 = No person under 18 in household 1 = 1 or more persons under 18 in household
HUPAC	HH presence and age of children	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 1 = With children under 6 years only 2 = With children 6 to 17 years only 3 = With children under 6 years and 6 to 17 years 4 = No children
HUPAOC	HH presence and age of own children	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 1 = Presence of own children under 6 years only 2 = Presence of own children 6 to 17 years only 3 = Presence of own children under 6 years and 6 to 17 years 4 = No own children present
NOC	Number of own children in household	numeric
HUPARC	HH presence and age of related children	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 1 = Presence of related children under 6 years only 2 = Presence of related children 6 to 17 years only 3 = Presence of related children under 6 years and 6 to 17 years 4 = No related children present
FPARC	Family presence and age of related children	b = N/A (GQ/vacant/not a family) 1 = With related children under 5 years only 2 = With related children 5 to 17 years only 3 = With related children under 5 years and 5 to 17 years 4 = No related children
NRC	Number of related children in household	numeric
R60	Presence of persons 60 years and over in household	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 0 = No person 60 and over 1 = 1 person 60 and over 2 = 2 or more persons 60 and over
R65	Presence of persons 65 years and over in household	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 0 = No person 65 and over 1 = 1 person 65 and over 2 = 2 or more persons 65 and over
HUGCL	Household with grandparent living with grandchildren	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 0 = Household without grandparent living with grandchildren 1 = Household with grandparent living with grandchildren
NPP	Grandparent headed household with no parent present	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 0 = Not a grandparent headed household with no parent present 1 = Grandparent headed household with no parent present

**Table 15—Continued**

Variable Name	Description	Values
NR	Presence of nonrelative in household	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 0 = None 1 = 1 or more nonrelatives
<b>Person Record</b>		
RELSHIP	Relationship to reference person	20 = Reference person 21 = Opposite-sex husband/wife/spouse 22 = Opposite-sex unmarried partner 23 = Same-sex husband/wife/spouse 24 = Same-sex unmarried partner 25 = Biological son or daughter 26 = Adopted son or daughter 27 = Stepson or stepdaughter 28 = Brother or sister 29 = Father or mother 30 = Grandchild 31 = Parent-in-law 32 = Son-in-law or daughter-in-law 33 = Other relative 34 = Roommate or housemate 35 = Foster child 36 = Other nonrelative 37 = Institutionalized group quarters population 38 = Noninstitutionalized group quarters population
OC	Own child	b = N/A (in GQ) 0 = No 1 = Yes
RC	Related child	b = N/A (in GQ) 0 = No 1 = Yes
PAOC	Presence and age of own children	b = N/A (GQ/vacant) 1 = Presence of own children under 6 years only 2 = Presence of own children 6 to 17 years only 3 = Presence of own children under 6 years and 6 to 17 years 4 = No own children present
GCL	Grandparent living with grandchildren	b = N/A (less than 30 years/institutional GQ) 1 = Yes 2 = No
SFN	Subfamily number	b = N/A (GQ/not in a subfamily) 1 = In subfamily 1 2 = In subfamily 2 3 = In subfamily 3 4 = In subfamily 4
SFR	Subfamily relationship	b = N/A (GQ/not in a subfamily) 1 = Husband/wife no children 2 = Husband/wife with children 3 = Parent in a one-parent subfamily 4 = Child in a married-couple subfamily 5 = Child in a mother-child subfamily 6 = Child in a father-child subfamily

NOTE: HH = household.

Starting with the 2015–2019 5-year file and the 2019 1-year file, the housing record includes an additional household structure variable that can identify cohabiting partner households. For the variable HHT, a cohabiting household with children is considered an “other family with no spouse present,” and a cohabiting household without children is considered a “non-family with no spouse present.” Prior to the availability of the HHT2 variable, these cohabitating households can be identified using the PARTNER variable.

**TABLE 16**  
**Household Structure (2019 to Present)**

Variable Name	Description	Values
<b>Housing Record</b>		
HHT2	Household/family type, including cohabiting	bb = N/A (GQ/vacant) 01 = Married couple household with children of the householder less than 18 02 = Married couple household, no children of the householder less than 18 03 = Cohabiting couple household with children of the householder less than 18 04 = Cohabiting couple household, no children of the householder less than 18 05 = Female householder, no spouse/partner present, living alone 06 = Female householder, no spouse/partner present, with children of the householder less than 18 07 = Female householder, no spouse/partner present, with relatives, no children of the householder less than 18 08 = Female householder, no spouse/partner present, only nonrelatives present 09 = Male householder, no spouse/partner present, living alone 10 = Male householder, no spouse/partner present, with children of the householder less than 18 11 = Male householder, no spouse/partner present, with relatives, no children of the householder less than 18 12 = Male householder, no spouse/partner present, only nonrelatives present

The person record relationship to reference person variable has changed twice during this period. For the 1-year files from 2006 to 2009, the record uses the variable REL. For the 5-year files from 2006–2010 to 2014–2018 and the 1-year files from 2010 to 2018, this variable is renamed RELP but uses the same values. Starting with the 2015–2019 5-year file and the 2019 1-year file, the record uses the redefined variable RELSHIPP (see Table 15).

**TABLE 17**  
**Relationship to Reference Person**

Variable Name	Description	Values
Person Record		
REL, RELP	Relationship to reference person	00 = Reference person 01 = Husband/wife 02 = Biological son or daughter 03 = Adopted son or daughter 04 = Stepson or stepdaughter 05 = Brother or sister 06 = Father or mother 07 = Grandchild 08 = Parent-in-law 09 = Son-in-law or daughter-in-law 10 = Other relative 11 = Roomer or boarder 12 = Housemate or roommate 13 = Unmarried partner 14 = Foster child 15 = Other nonrelative 16 = Institutionalized group quarters population 17 = Noninstitutionalized group quarters population

Starting with the 2008–2012 5-year files and the 2008 1-year files, the ACS-PUMS asks questions about six categories of disability and provides an indicator for each category and an overall indicator for whether a respondent reports any category of disability.

**TABLE 18**  
**General Health and Disability**

Variable Name	Description	Values
Person Record		
DIS	Disability recode	1 = With a disability 2 = Without a disability
DEAR	Hearing difficulty	1 = Yes 2 = No
DEYE	Vision difficulty	1 = Yes 2 = No
DREM	Cognitive difficulty	b = N/A (Less than 5 years old) 1 = Yes 2 = No
DPHY	Ambulatory difficulty	b = N/A (Less than 5 years old) 1 = Yes 2 = No
DDRS	Self-care difficulty	b = N/A (Less than 5 years old) 1 = Yes 2 = No
DOUT	Independent living difficulty	b = N/A (Less than 15 years old) 1 = Yes 2 = No

Specifically, the six categories of disability indicated by the variables in Table 18 were assessed with the questions presented in Table 19.

**TABLE 19**  
**Questions About Disability**

Difficulty	Question
Hearing	Is this person deaf or does he/she have serious difficulty hearing?
Vision	Is this person blind or does he/she have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses?
Cognitive	Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?
Ambulatory	Does this person have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
Self-care	Does this person have difficulty dressing or bathing?
Independent living	Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping?

## Economic Characteristics

**TABLE 20**  
**Employment Status**

Variable Name	Description	Values
Housing Record		
FES	Family type and employment status	b = N/A (GQ/vacant/not a family/same-sex married-couple families) 1 = Married-couple family: Husband and wife in LF 2 = Married-couple family: Husband in labor force, wife not in LF 3 = Married-couple family: Husband not in LF, wife in LF 4 = Married-couple family: Neither husband nor wife in LF 5 = Other family: Male householder, no wife present, in LF 6 = Other family: Male householder, no wife present, not in LF 7 = Other family: Female householder, no husband present, in LF 8 = Other family: Female householder, no husband present, not in LF
WIF	Workers in family during the past 12 months	numeric

**Table 20—Continued**

Variable Name	Description	Values
WKEXREL	Work experience of householder and spouse	bb = N/A (GQ/vacant/not a family) 01 = Householder and spouse worked FT 02 = Householder worked FT; spouse worked less than FT 03 = Householder worked FT; spouse did not work 04 = Householder worked less than FT; spouse worked FT 05 = Householder worked less than FT; spouse worked less than FT 06 = Householder worked less than FT; spouse did not work 07 = Householder did not work; spouse worked FT 08 = Householder did not work; spouse worked less than FT 09 = Householder did not work; spouse did not work 10 = Male householder worked FT; no spouse present 11 = Male householder worked less than FT; no spouse present 12 = Male householder did not work; no spouse present 13 = Female householder worked FT; no spouse present 14 = Female householder worked less than FT; no spouse present
WORKSTAT	Work status of householder or spouse in family households	bb = N/A (GQ/not a family household/same-sex married-couple families) 01 = Husband and wife both in labor force, both employed or in Armed Forces 02 = Husband and wife both in labor force, husband employed or in Armed Forces, wife unemployed 03 = Husband in labor force and wife not in labor force, husband employed or in Armed Forces 04 = Husband and wife both in labor force, husband unemployed, wife employed or in Armed Forces 05 = Husband and wife both in labor force, husband unemployed, wife unemployed 06 = Husband in labor force, husband unemployed, wife not in labor force 07 = Husband not in labor force, wife in labor force, wife employed or in Armed Forces 08 = Husband not in labor force, wife in labor force, wife unemployed 09 = Neither husband nor wife in labor force 10 = Male householder with no wife present, householder in labor force, employed or in Armed Forces 11 = Male householder with no wife present, householder in labor force and unemployed 12 = Male householder with no wife present, householder not in labor force 13 = Female householder with no husband present, householder in labor force, employed or in Armed Forces 14 = Female householder with no husband present, householder in labor force and unemployed 15 = Female householder with no husband present, householder not in labor force

**Table 20—Continued**

Variable Name	Description	Values
<b>Person Record</b>		
ESR	Employment status recode	b = N/A (less than 16 years old) 1 = Civilian employed, at work 2 = Civilian employed, with a job but not at work 3 = Unemployed 4 = Armed Forces, At Work 5 = Armed Forces, With a Job But Not At Work 6 = Not in Labor Force
ESP	Employment status of parents	b = N/A (not own child of householder, and not child in subfamily) 1 = Living with two parents: Both parents in labor force 2 = Living with two parents: Father only in labor force 3 = Living with two parents: Mother only in labor force 4 = Living with two parents: Neither parent in labor force 5 = Living with father: Father in the labor force 6 = Living with father: Father not in labor force 7 = Living with mother: Mother in the labor force 8 = Living with mother: Mother not in labor force

NOTE: FT = full time; LF = labor force.

**TABLE 21  
Education Status**

Variable Name	Description	Values
<b>Person Record</b>		
SCH	School enrollment	b = N/A (less than 3 years old) 1 = No, has not attended in the last 3 months 2 = Yes, public school or public college 3 = Yes, private school, private college, or home school
SCHG	Grade level attending	01–16
SCHL	Educational attainment	01–24

Starting with the 2009–2013 5-year and 2009 1-year files, the ACS-PUMS added variables categorizing the field of study.

**TABLE 22**  
**Field of Study**

Variable Name	Description	Values
<b>Person Record</b>		
FOD1P	Recoded field of degree—first entry	1100–6403
FOD2P	Recoded field of degree—second entry	1100–6403
SCIENGP	Science and engineering field of degree	b = N/A (less than bachelor's degree) 1 = Yes 2 = No
SCIENGRPLP	Science and engineering related field of degree	b = N/A (less than bachelor's degree) 1 = Yes 2 = No

**TABLE 23**  
**Income**

Variable Name	Description	Values
<b>Housing Record</b>		
FINCP	Family income past 12 months	numeric
HINCP	Household income past 12 months	numeric
FS	Yearly food stamp/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) reciprocity	b = N/A (vacant) 1 = Yes 2 = No
<b>Person Record</b>		
PINCP	Total person's income	numeric
PERNP	Total person's earnings	numeric
WAGP	Wages or salary income past 12 months	numeric
RETP	Retirement income past 12 months	numeric
SSP	Social Security income past 12 months	numeric
SSIP	Supplementary Security Income past 12 months	numeric
SEMP	Self-employment income past 12 months	numeric
INTP	Interest, dividends, and net rental income past 12 months	numeric
PAP	Public assistance income past 12 months	numeric
OIP	All other income past 12 months	numeric
POVPIP	Income-to-poverty ratio recode	numeric



Health insurance coverage was included starting in the 2008–2012 5-year and 2008 1-year files.

**TABLE 24**  
**Health Insurance Coverage**

Variable Name	Description	Values
<b>Person Record</b>		
HICOV	Health insurance coverage recode	1 = With health insurance coverage 2 = No health insurance coverage
PRIVCOV	Private health insurance coverage recode	1 = With private health insurance coverage 2 = Without private health insurance coverage
PUBCOV	Public health coverage recode	1 = With public health coverage 2 = Without public health coverage
HINS1	Insurance through a current or former employer or union	1 = Yes 2 = No
HINS2	Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company	1 = Yes 2 = No
HINS3	Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities	1 = Yes 2 = No
HINS4	Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability	1 = Yes 2 = No
HINS5	TRICARE or other military health care	1 = Yes 2 = No
HINS6	VA (Health Insurance through VA Health Care)	1 = Yes 2 = No
HINS7	Indian Health Service	1 = Yes 2 = No

NOTE: VA = U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Starting with the 2009 1-year files, the ACS-PUMS also included a question about the health insurance marketplace.

**TABLE 25**  
**Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage**

Variable Name	Description	Values
HIMRKS	Subsidized marketplace coverage	0 = Categorically ineligible for subsidy 1 = Direct purchase coverage, with premium subsidy 2 = Direct purchase coverage, without a premium subsidy

## Veteran Characteristics

Period of service is described with a summary variable (VPS) and by a series of indicators.

**TABLE 26**  
**Period of Service**

Variable Name	Description	Values
<b>Person Record</b>		
VPS	Veteran period of service	bb = N/A (less than 17 years old, no active duty) 01 = Gulf War: 9/2001 or later 02 = Gulf War: 9/2001 or later and Gulf War: 8/1990–8/2001 03 = Gulf War: 9/2001 or later and Gulf War: 8/1990–8/2001 and Vietnam Era 04 = Gulf War: 8/1990–8/2001 05 = Gulf War: 8/1990–8/2001 and Vietnam Era 06 = Vietnam Era 07 = Vietnam Era and Korean War 08 = Vietnam Era, Korean War, and WWII 09 = Korean War 10 = Korean War and WWII 11 = WWII 12 = Between Gulf War and Vietnam Era only 13 = Between Vietnam Era and Korean War only 14 = Between Korean War and World War II only 15 = Pre-WWII only
MLPA	September 2001 or later	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period
MLPB	August 1990–August 2001 (including Persian Gulf War)	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period
MLPC	September 1980–July 1990	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period
MLPD	May 1975–August 1980	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period
MLPE	August 1964–April 1975 (Vietnam Era)	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period
MLPF	March 1961–July 1964	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period
MLPG	February 1955–February 1961	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period
MLPH	July 1950–January 1955 (Korean War)	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period

**Table 26—Continued**

Variable Name	Description	Values
MLPI	January 1947–June 1950	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period
MLPJ	December 1941–December 1946 (World War II)	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period
MLPK	November 1941 or earlier	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period

Starting with the 2009–2013 5-year and 2013 1-year files, the indicator variables MLPC, MLPD, MLPF, and MLPG are replaced with collapsed versions MLPCD and MLPFG.

**TABLE 27  
Period of Service (Updated)**

Variable Name	Description	Values
MLPCD	May 1975–July 1990	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period
MLPFG	February 1955–July 1964	b = N/A (less than 17 years old/no active duty) 0 = Did not serve this period 1 = Served this period

Service-connected disability was included starting in the 2008–2012 5-year and 2008 1-year files.

**TABLE 28  
Service-Connected Disability**

Variable Name	Description	Values
<b>Person Record</b>		
DRATX	Veteran service-connected disability rating (categorical)	b = N/A (Less than 17 years old/never served in military) 1 = Yes 2 = No
DRAT	Veteran service-connected disability rating percentage (categorical)	b = N/A (No service-connected disability/never served in military) 1 = 0 percent 2 = 10 or 20 percent 3 = 30 or 40 percent 4 = 50 or 60 percent 5 = 70, 80, 90, or 100 percent 6 = Not reported

The ACS-PUMS does not contain data about VA care recipients.

## Additional Resources

- The U.S. Census Bureau provides extensive documentation regarding the ACS-PUMS data files, including data codebooks, and details regarding changes in survey questions or sampling (U.S. Census Bureau, 2024b).
- The U.S. Census Bureau provides a QuickFacts interactive website that provides user-driven tables, maps, or charts for selected census data, including the estimated veteran population (U.S. Census Bureau, undated-b).
- The Minnesota Population Center produces the IPUMS USA website, which provides central access to federal census data, including the American Community Surveys since 2000 (IPUMS USA, undated). In particular, they harmonize ACS data across years, accounting for changes in variable names and measurement. These files can be very helpful for generating consistent time series, especially for very long periods. However, some of the harmonization can remove detailed information that could be useful. For recent snapshots or shorter time series, the raw data files are generally preferable.

# References

IPUMS USA, “U.S. Census Data for Social, Economic, and Health Research,” webpage, undated. As of May 31, 2024:

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U.S. Census Bureau, *2019 ACS PUMS Data Dictionary*, October 15, 2020. As of May 31, 2024:

[https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech\\_docs/pums/data\\_dict/PUMS\\_Data\\_Dictionary\\_2019.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/pums/data_dict/PUMS_Data_Dictionary_2019.pdf)

U.S. Census Bureau, “PUMS Data,” webpage, March 13, 2024a. As of May 31, 2024:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/microdata/access.html>

U.S. Census Bureau, “PUMS Documentation,” webpage, March 13, 2024b. As of May 31, 2024:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/microdata/documentation.2021.html>



**T**his codebook was compiled as part of the RAND Veterans Policy Research Institute’s effort to develop a repository of datasets that assess veteran status. This codebook for the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (ACS-PUMS) presents an overview of the data, how to access them, which variable(s) assess veteran status, other veteran-related questions, and additional resources for using the ACS-PUMS. The authors of this codebook cite directly from the original documentation of the ACS-PUMS.

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