

Benefits Received by Veterans and Their Survivors: 2017

Current Population Reports

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INTRODUCTION

This brief discusses several benefits that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides to veterans and their survivors, as well as complementary programs administered by other branches of the federal government.^{1,2} Veterans are individuals who previously served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces.³ After leaving the military, veterans and their survivors are eligible for a variety of cash and non-cash benefits.⁴ The receipt of these benefits is the focus of this brief.

In 2017, almost one-half of veterans (46.7 percent) received at least one benefit (Figure 1).

This report uses data from the 2018 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The SIPP is a nationally representative survey of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States.

¹ This report is based on data from the 2018 Survey of Income and Program Participation public use file and did not require review for unauthorized disclosure of confidential information.

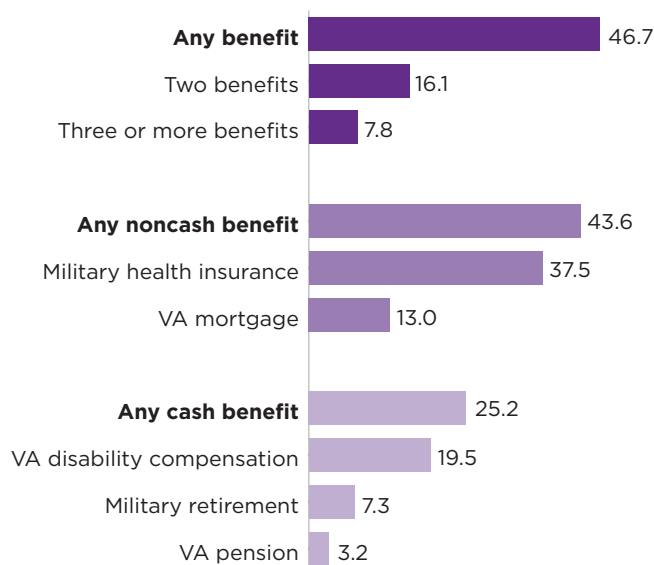
² States offer veterans an array of benefits, but the SIPP does not ask about these benefits. More information is available at <https://nvf.org/state-benefits-for-veterans/> and www.va.gov/files/2020-11/state-benefits-quick-start-guide.pdf.

³ This report does not include former reservists or National Guard unless they reported being on active duty in the past.

⁴ Eligibility also depends on not having been dishonorably discharged.

Figure 1.

Cash and Noncash Benefit Receipt Among Veterans: 2017
(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Survey of Income and Program Participation public use file.

As such, it does not typically include active-duty service members.⁵ However, the SIPP does include and collect information about veterans of the armed forces and their families.

⁵ If an interviewed household contains a combination of active-duty service members and civilians, the household will be interviewed, and the survey will collect individual data for the service member. More information about Census Bureau-wide data limitations about veterans and active-duty service members is available at www.census.gov/topics/population/veterans/guidance/data-limitations.html.

This report is divided into several sections. The first section provides context to better understand the veteran population. The second section describes the noncash benefits that veterans may be eligible to receive, while the third section focuses on cash benefits. The fourth section looks at the employment status of working-age veterans who start a second career after leaving the military, with additional attention paid to veteran involvement in the National Guard or reserves. The final section discusses programs available to the families of veterans who have died.

CONTEXTUALIZING THE VETERAN EXPERIENCE

While the population of the United States is fairly evenly divided between males and females, men are comparatively overrepresented in the armed forces: 91.3 percent of veterans in the SIPP were male in 2017.⁶ Veterans, on average, were also older than nonveterans. More than 90 percent of veterans were aged 35 and over, and many of that group were aged 65 and over (52.8 percent). Additionally, compared with similarly aged nonveterans, veterans were more likely to be non-Hispanic White and less likely to be Hispanic (Table 1).

Veterans differed from their nonveteran counterparts across several key measures in 2017 (Table 1). For example, veterans, by definition, had left a career by separating from the armed forces. While most adults over

⁶ More information is available at <<https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2018-demographics-report.pdf>>.

WHAT IS SIPP?

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a nationally representative panel survey administered by the U.S. Census Bureau. It collects information on the short-term dynamics of employment, income, household composition, and eligibility and participation in government assistance programs. It is a leading source of information on topics related to economic well-being, family dynamics, education, wealth and assets, health insurance, child care, and food security. Each SIPP panel follows individuals for several years, providing monthly data that measure changes in household and family composition and economic circumstances over time. For more information, visit the SIPP Web site at <www.census.gov/sipp>.

age 65 were retired, veterans were disproportionately represented among those under age 65 who were ever retired. Veterans were more likely than nonveterans to have some college or an associate degree, while one-third of veterans and nonveterans had a college degree. Marriage and separation or divorce were more common among veterans than nonveterans. Rates of homeownership and health insurance coverage were also higher among veterans than nonveterans.

Many of these differences are tied to the veteran experience in combination with the programs that support veterans after they return to civilian life. For example, most individuals join the military at an age when many civilians are in college. In part to compensate veterans for a career path that disrupts their educational trajectory, the United States sponsors the GI Bill, which pays for secondary education and job training for veterans. Similarly, veterans are eligible for both health insurance and mortgage loans through the VA, both of which facilitate the transition from military service to civilian life. Notably, the VA

operates the largest integrated health care network in the United States, which covers 9 million veterans each year. This likely explains the differential health insurance coverage of America's veterans.⁷ Recognizing the risks that come with military service and the need for longer term assistance for some veterans and their survivors, the VA provides disability compensation to cover combat veterans who have been injured, as well as pensions to low-income veterans.⁸

NONCASH BENEFITS

This section of the brief focuses on several types of noncash benefits that veterans may receive.

Health Insurance

Veterans have the option of getting health insurance through a variety of programs. Two main programs are VA health benefits and the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs

⁷ More information is available at <www.va.gov/about_va/index.asp>.

⁸ The VA's Veteran Pension program is different from military retirement payments received by veterans who served for at least 20 years, both are discussed in more detail later in this brief.

Table 1.

Selected Characteristics of Veterans and Nonveterans Aged 17 and Over: 2017

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic ¹	Individuals aged 17 and over			Veterans aged 17 and over			Nonveterans aged 17 and over		
	Number	Percent	Margin of error ² (±)	Number	Percent	Margin of error ² (±)	Number	Percent	Margin of error ² (±)
Total	252,300	100.0	Z	19,870	100.0	Z	232,400	100.0	Z
Sex									
Male	121,700	48.2	Z	18,140	91.3	0.7	103,600	44.6	0.1
Female	130,600	51.8	Z	1,736	8.7	0.7	128,800	55.4	0.1
Age									
Average age in years	46	X	Z	61	X	0.4	45	X	Z
17 to 24	34,220	13.6	0.1	179	0.9	0.2	34,040	14.6	0.1
25 to 34	44,150	17.5	Z	1,418	7.1	0.7	42,730	18.4	0.1
35 to 44	40,170	15.9	Z	1,941	9.8	0.8	38,230	16.4	0.1
45 to 54	41,560	16.5	Z	2,997	15.1	0.9	38,560	16.6	0.1
55 to 64	41,890	16.6	Z	3,691	18.6	1.0	38,200	16.4	0.1
65 and over	50,310	19.9	Z	9,649	48.6	1.1	40,660	17.5	0.1
Race and Hispanic Origin³									
White, not Hispanic	160,300	63.5	0.1	15,490	77.9	1.1	144,800	62.3	0.2
Black, not Hispanic	29,680	11.8	0.1	2,316	11.7	0.9	27,360	11.8	0.1
Asian, not Hispanic	14,670	5.8	0.2	190	1.0	0.2	14,480	6.2	0.2
All other race groups, race combinations	6,814	2.7	0.1	645	3.2	0.4	6,169	2.7	0.1
Hispanic (any race)	40,820	16.2	0.1	1,238	6.2	0.7	39,580	17.0	0.1
Marital Status²									
Never married	75,980	30.1	0.3	1,848	9.3	0.8	74,130	31.9	0.3
Married	129,400	51.3	0.4	12,700	63.9	1.2	116,700	50.2	0.4
Divorced or separated	32,330	12.8	0.3	3,867	19.5	1.0	28,460	12.2	0.3
Widowed	14,630	5.8	0.1	1,459	7.3	0.6	13,170	5.7	0.1
Educational Attainment									
No high school diploma	29,790	11.8	0.3	762	3.8	0.4	29,030	12.5	0.3
High school diploma or GED	68,450	27.1	0.4	5,640	28.4	1.1	62,810	27.0	0.4
Some college or associate degree	71,810	28.5	0.4	7,068	35.6	1.2	64,740	27.9	0.4
Bachelor's degree or higher	82,250	32.6	0.4	6,404	32.2	1.1	75,850	32.6	0.5
Ever Retired From Military or Civilian Employment									
Aged 30 to 64	11,760	5.8	0.2	2,014	19.7	1.5	9,750	5.1	0.2
Aged 65 and over	40,440	80.4	0.6	8,513	88.2	1.2	31,930	78.5	0.7
Health Insurance Coverage									
Health insurance coverage in every month	218,400	86.6	0.3	18,870	94.9	0.6	199,500	85.8	0.3
Tenure⁴									
Residence is owned or being bought	165,300	66.0	0.4	15,070	76.1	1.1	150,200	65.2	0.4
Mortgage is owed	103,700	41.4	0.6	8,034	40.6	1.3	95,620	41.5	0.6
Federal Housing Administration	20,340	19.6	0.7	1,002	12.5	1.4	19,340	20.2	0.7
VA	7,334	7.1	0.5	2,582	32.1	2.0	4,752	5.0	0.4
Other ⁵	23,960	23.1	0.8	1,547	19.3	1.7	22,410	23.4	0.8
None of these	52,020	50.2	1.0	2,903	36.1	2.1	49,120	51.4	1.0
Residence is rented	80,040	32.0	0.4	4,435	22.4	1.1	75,610	32.8	0.5
Residence is occupied without payment of rent	4,989	2.0	0.2	289	1.5	0.3	4,700	2.0	0.2

X Not applicable.

Z Represents or rounds to zero.

¹ Age and Marital Status are measured in December of 2017. Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin, Educational Attainment, Ever Retired, and Tenure are measured at the time of interview.² When added to or subtracted from the estimate, this number represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.³ Federal surveys, including the 2018 SIPP, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone," or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." This table shows race using the first method.⁴ The universe for tenure is restricted to people who had an in-universe value for type of living quarters.⁵ This category includes conventional mortgage loans.

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) public use file.

(CHAMPVA).⁹ Another health care option available to most veterans is TRICARE, which is a Department of Defense health care program.¹⁰

Nearly all veterans had health insurance in every month of 2017 (94.9 percent) with coverage through a variety of public and private health insurance sources. For example, just over one-half of veterans had private insurance. Almost two-fifths of veterans had military health care benefits. Among veterans with this type of coverage, just over one-half had VA health benefits, while just under one-half had TRICARE or CHAMPVA.¹¹ Additionally, about one-half had Medicare, a program providing health care coverage to people aged 65 and over who have a history of employment or qualify through a current or former spouse. These shares show that some veterans had more than one type of health insurance at the same time, which is called concurrent receipt. One-third of veterans aged 65 and over had concurrent receipt of Medicare and military insurance (Table 2).

Home Loans

Veterans and surviving spouses are eligible to apply for home loans through the VA. These loans are provided by private lenders, but the VA can negotiate better terms with the lender because they guarantee part of the loan. Advantages of VA home loans

⁹ More information about these programs is available at <www.va.gov/health-care/family-caregiver-benefits/>.

¹⁰ TRICARE was formerly called Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS). More information about TRICARE is available at <www.tricare.mil/>.

¹¹ More information is available at <www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/dependents/champva/champva_faq.asp>.

POST-9/11 GI BILL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

According to the VA, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is an education benefit program for individuals who served on active duty after September 10, 2001. This education benefit became effective on August 1, 2009.

Features of the Post-9/11 GI Bill include:

- Tuition and fees, monthly housing allowance, and a monthly stipend for books and supplies.
- 36 months of full-time education benefits.
- Ability to transfer educational benefit to dependent if individual meets Department of Defense eligibility criteria.

Requirements for receiving benefits include:

- Minimum of 90 days of aggregate active duty after September 10, 2001, or a service-connected disability discharge after 30 continuous days of service.
- Honorable discharge from the armed forces or remain on active duty.
- For veterans who left active duty on or after January 1, 2013, there is no time limit to use benefits.
- Veterans who left active duty before January 1, 2013, have 15 years from last discharge to use benefits.

include no down payment, no mortgage insurance, and lower interest rates.¹²

Just over three-quarters of veterans own or are in the process of purchasing their home. Among veterans with a mortgage, one-third have a loan secured through the VA (Table 1).

Education Benefits

The VA has programs that allow veterans to pursue educational opportunities that may have been missed due to their time in the military. These benefits also help to recruit and retain members of

¹² The VA also offers cash out refinance loans, which allow veterans to take cash out of their home's equity and can be used for paying off debt, home improvements, or funding their education. The SIPP does not collect information on these loans. More information is available at <www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/loan-types/purchase-loan/>.

the military. There are several different educational benefits available to veterans, their spouses, and their children.

According to the VA, the program that serves the largest number of veterans is the Post-9/11 GI Bill, with 755,000 veterans or family members receiving assistance for tuition, books, and other school-related expenses totaling almost \$12 billion in 2017.¹³

Other programs include the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program, Educational Assistance for Members of the Selected Reserve (Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve), Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance

¹³ More information is available at <www.benefits.va.gov/REPORTS/abr/docs/2019-education.pdf>.

Table 2.

Selected Characteristics of Veterans Aged 17 and Over: 2017

(Numbers in thousands, dollars as shown)

Characteristic	Veterans aged 17 and over		
	Number	Percent	Margin of error ¹ (±)
Total	19,870	Z	Z
Period of Service			
September 2001–time of interview	3,621	18.2	1.1
August 1990–August 2001	4,331	21.8	1.1
May 1975–July 1990	5,854	29.5	1.1
Vietnam era	6,942	34.9	1.1
February 1955–July 1964	2,804	14.1	0.8
Korean War	1,251	6.3	0.5
June 1950 and earlier	683	3.4	0.4
VA Benefit Receipt			
Disability compensation:			
Received in at least 1 month of the year	3,873	19.5	1.1
Median monthly payment (in dollars)	724	X	59
Pension:			
Received in at least 1 month of the year	637	3.2	0.5
Median monthly payment (in dollars)	1,087	X	117
GI bill:			
Received in at least 1 month of the year	184	0.9	0.3
Median monthly value (in dollars)	1,547	X	257
Military Retirement Payments			
Military retirement benefits:			
Received in at least 1 month of the year	1,450	7.3	0.7
Under age 65	793	7.8	1.1
Aged 65 and over	657	6.8	0.9
Median monthly military payment (in dollars)	1,756	X	59
Health Insurance Coverage			
Aged 17 and over:			
Health insurance coverage in every month	18,870	94.9	0.6
Private health insurance	10,290	51.8	1.3
Military health insurance	7,383	37.1	1.4
VA health insurance	4,318	58.5	2.2
Tricare	2,983	40.4	2.2
Other	82	1.1	0.4
Medicare	9,707	48.8	1.2
Medicaid	1,001	5.0	0.6
Aged 65 and over:	9,649	100.0	Z
Health insurance coverage in every month	9,579	99.3	0.3
Private health insurance	4,221	43.7	1.7
Military health insurance	3,447	35.7	1.8
Medicare	8,984	93.1	1.0
Medicare and military health insurance	3,147	32.6	1.7
Medicaid	252	2.6	0.5

X Not applicable.

Z Represents or rounds to zero.

¹ This number, when added to or subtracted from the estimate, represents the 90 percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) public use file.

(Dependents' Educational Assistance—DEA), and Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP).

In the SIPP, the median monthly value of school-related expenses

covered by the GI Bill was \$1,547 in 2017 (Table 2).

CASH BENEFITS

Veterans may be eligible for a variety of cash benefits after they leave the armed forces. This

section of the brief focuses on cash benefits that veterans may receive.

Disability Compensation Payments

To be eligible for VA disability compensation benefits, veterans

must have been injured during their time in service. That injury (or those injuries) must be severe enough to have been assigned a disability rating of 10 percent or more. To receive a disability rating, veterans must complete an application that requires evidence of service-connected health issues and complete a VA exam.¹⁴ Using the information from the application and exam, the VA rates the disability from 0 percent to 100 percent disabled based on the degree that a service-connected condition affects veterans' "overall health and ability to function."¹⁵

Monthly disability compensation payments vary by the disability rating a veteran received. According to the VA, monthly payments for veterans with a 10 percent rating were \$136 in December 2017, while a veteran with a 100 percent rating and no dependents received \$2,974. For veterans with ratings of 30 percent or more, the monthly payment increases with the number of qualified dependents living with them including spouses, children, and parents. However, payments may be reduced when veterans begin receiving retirement payments.¹⁶

In 2017, nearly 3.9 million veterans (19.5 percent) received disability compensation payments. The

¹⁴ More information about the application process is available at <www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/>.

¹⁵ More information about how disability ratings are assigned is available at <www.va.gov/disability/about-disability-ratings/>.

¹⁶ More information about combining retirement and disability compensation is available at <www.military.com/military-transition/retirees/combining-retirement-and-disability-comp.html>.

median monthly payment was \$724 (Table 2).

Retirement Payments

Military retirement is primarily a defined benefit, commonly referred to as a pension. It is funded by the government, which means members of the military do not make contributions toward their future pension while serving in the armed forces. To retire from the military, an individual must have served for 20 years or qualify for the disability retirement program.¹⁷

Military retirees begin receiving monthly payments at the time of their retirement. Monthly payments vary based on time served and basic pay at or near retirement.¹⁸ An annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) aims to keep the payments in line with inflation.¹⁹

In 2017, almost 1.5 million veterans (7.3 percent) received military retirement benefits with median monthly payments of \$1,756

¹⁷ Exceptions are periodically available through the Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA). More information is available at <<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34751.pdf>>.

¹⁸ Depending on when veterans joined the military, there are different retirement plans that have slight variations in how pay is valued. More information is available at <<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34751.pdf>>.

¹⁹ A second component of military retirement is a defined contribution plan offered through the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), which began after the SIPP data collection. Beginning in January 2018, service members were required to contribute 1.0 percent of their salary, with a match by the military of up to 4.0 percent. Even if service members separate before retiring, they may receive retirement payments from a TSP account if they contributed to one during the time they served.

(Table 2).²⁰ The share of veterans receiving retirement payments was similar for veterans under age 65 and those aged 65 and over.

Pension Payments

The VA's Veteran Pension program provides payments to low-income veterans who served in the military but did not qualify for military retirement pay from the armed forces. It was established by Congress in 1858 and is given to veterans who meet the eligibility requirements.²¹

Along with payments, veterans may receive additional benefits such as educational support and healthcare, depending on their needs.

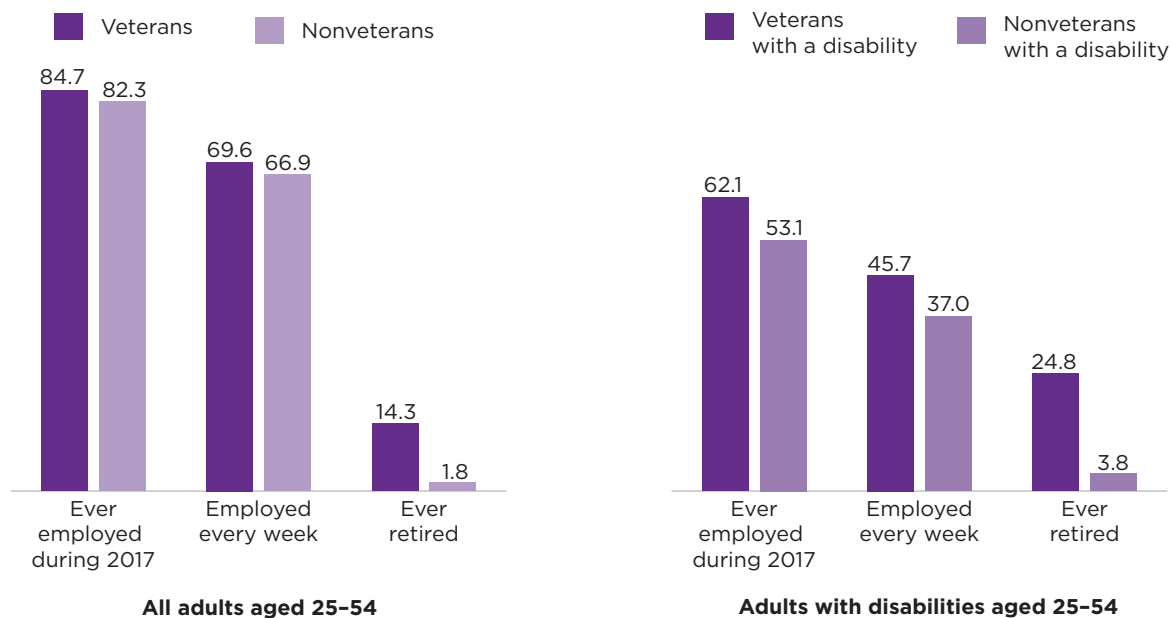
To be eligible for a veteran's pension, an individual must have been honorably discharged from the armed forces and have annual family income and net worth below limits set by Congress. Additionally, eligible veterans must have served for at least 90 days of active duty with at least one day of wartime and be either age 65 or over or permanently and totally disabled.²² Surviving spouses can also be eligible to receive veteran's pensions.

²⁰ This estimate is below the reported amount for 2017 available at <<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34751.pdf>> (see Table 1 of that report). The SIPP sample consists of the noninstitutionalized population, so it does not include people living in VA homes, nursing homes, hospitals, or other institutionalized settings in which veterans may reside.

²¹ Military retirement and veteran pensions are collected in separate batteries of the SIPP instrument. Less than 1 percent of respondents in the SIPP received both.

²² More information about eligibility is available at <www.va.gov/pension/eligibility/>.

Figure 2.
Employment Characteristics of Veterans and Nonveterans Aged 25 to 54: 2017
 (In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Survey of Income and Program Participation public use file.

The SIPP estimates show that more than 600,000 veterans received veterans pension payments in 2017, and the median payment was \$1,087 per month (Table 2).²³

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN VETERANS LEAVE THE MILITARY?

Service members can retire after 20 years of service. Making it to this milestone makes veterans eligible for lifetime pension

²³ The maximum annual pension rate (MAPR) for veterans who did not qualify for housebound benefits or aid and attendant benefits in 2018 was \$13,166, while it was \$17,241 for comparable veterans with at least one dependent. An additional \$2,250 is added to the MAPR for each additional dependent. More information is available at <www.va.gov/pension/veterans-pension-rates/past-rates-2018/>.

payments. Most individuals in the armed forces, however, leave with fewer years of service. Many veterans pursue careers outside the armed forces after they leave the military.

Labor Force Participation of Prime Working-Age Veterans

Employment outcomes were similar among prime working-age veterans and nonveterans. More than 80 percent of adults aged 25 to 54, regardless of veteran status, worked at some point in the year, while roughly two-thirds were employed full-time all year long (Figure 2).²⁴

²⁴ Information about Post-9/11 veterans' paid labor force participation is available at <www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/acs-46.pdf>.

However, there were differences in employment when accounting for disability among prime age workers. One-quarter of all veterans aged 25 to 54 had a work-preventing or other disability, which was higher than the rate among similarly aged nonveterans.²⁵

Not all disabilities prevent work though. Among prime working-age veterans and nonveterans with any disability, veterans were more likely to have worked during the year and to have worked all year (Figure 2).

²⁵ Authors' calculation based on the 2018 Survey of Program and Participation public use file. Results not shown but are available by request.

National Guard and Reserves

Many veterans join the National Guard or military reserves after leaving the armed forces, but no prior military experience is needed. Members, who are paid for their service, train one weekend per month and two weeks every summer. While both are under presidential control, reserve units are under federal command while the guard is operated at the state level by governors. Veterans comprised one-half of individuals receiving income from the National Guard or reserves in 2017.²⁶

WHAT ABOUT THOSE LEFT BEHIND?

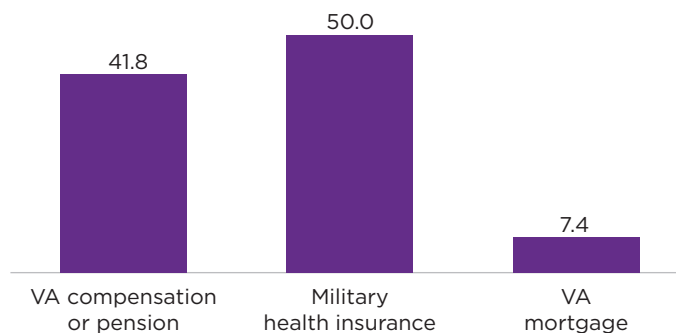
Benefits are not exclusively received by veterans. In 2017, there were some 450,000 “survivor” households receiving benefits in the SIPP, meaning a household without a veteran that received benefits.²⁷ Recipients of survivor benefits can include a veteran’s spouse, children, or parents. The monthly payment amount received is dependent on several factors, including the year the veteran died, if he or she had a disability, and the number of children. Among survivor households that received VA benefits, two-fifths received payments from a veterans’ compensation or pension (Figure 3).

Another valuable benefit for survivors is comprehensive health care benefits through either CHAMPVA

²⁶ Authors’ calculation based on the 2018 Survey of Program and Participation public use file. Results are not shown but are available by request.

²⁷ More information is available at <www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/05/veterans-and-those-they-left-behind-what-benefits-do-they-receive.html>.

Figure 3.
Receipt of Survivor Benefits: 2017
(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 Survey of Income and Program Participation public use file.

OTHER BENEFITS AND PAYMENTS

Veterans may also receive additional benefits and payments that the SIPP does not collect information about. Some additional types of benefits include:

- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), which is paid to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of a veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness.
- Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) is a paid at a higher rate of compensation for circumstances such as the loss of use or one hand or leg.
- Life insurance policies to veterans through the Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) program.
- Miscellaneous benefits such as an automobile allowance, clothing allowance, or insurance proceeds.

or TRICARE depending on their circumstances.²⁸ In 2017, one-half of the households that received survivor benefits had coverage through these health care plans. Additionally, 7 percent of these

²⁸ More information about CHAMPVA is available at <www.va.gov/health-care/family-caregiver-benefits/champva/>. More information about TRICARE is available at <www.tricare.mil/>.

households had a mortgage through the VA (Figure 3).

CONCLUSION

This brief discusses several benefits the VA provides to veterans and their survivors, as well as complementary programs administered by other branches of the federal government. As shown in this brief, these benefits allow

veterans and their survivors to pursue post-secondary education, buy homes, access affordable health care, and meet monthly living expenses.²⁹

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey was designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and

willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. To minimize these errors, the U.S. Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process, including the overall design of surveys, wording of questions, review of the work of interviewers and coders, and the statistical review of reports.

Additional information can be found on the main SIPP Web site at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.html>; the SIPP Users' Guide at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/guidance/users-guide.html>; and the SIPP Source and Accuracy Statements at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements.html>.

²⁹ States offer veterans an array of benefits, but the SIPP does not ask about these benefits. More information is available at <<https://nvf.org/state-benefits-for-veterans/>> and <www.va.gov/files/2020-11/state-benefits-quick-start-guide.pdf>.

CONTACTS

For more information on the SIPP, including data and methodology, please contact the SIPP Coordination and Outreach staff at <census.sipp@census.gov> or 1-888-245-3076. For further information on the content of this report, contact Katherine Giefer or Tracy Loveless of the Census Bureau's Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division at 301-763-6685.

SUGGESTED CITATION

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