



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

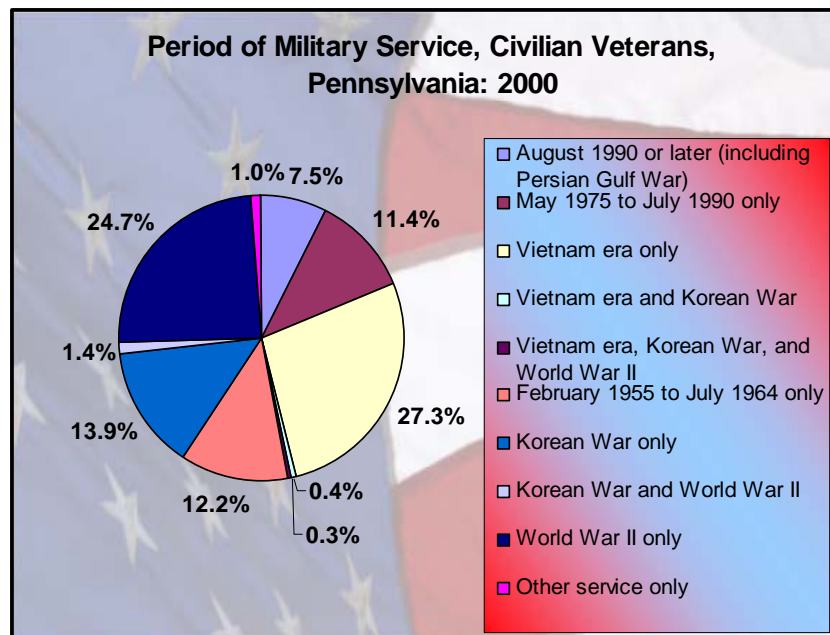
November 8, 2006

Veterans Day

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – This Veterans Day, Pennsylvanians won't have to look far to find a former serviceman to honor. As of 2000, more than 1.2 million Pennsylvanians (13.7 percent of the adult population) had served in the armed forces. The Commonwealth ranked behind just four other states (California, Florida, Texas, and New York) in the number of resident civilian veterans. An additional 7,595 Pennsylvanians were active duty military in 2000.

Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 to change the name to Veterans Day as a way to honor those who served in all American wars.

Pennsylvania's veterans have served in various theatres, but more than a quarter (350,055) of them served during the Vietnam Era. World War II era veterans account for another 24.7 percent (316,088) of the veteran population, while some 177,000 veterans (13.9 percent) served in the Korean War. Over 95,000 Pennsylvanians (7.5 percent) have served since August of 1990, (including the Persian Gulf War) and the careers of thousands more have spanned World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam Era, and recent history.



Among Pennsylvania counties, Allegheny had the largest veteran population in 2000 (142,638),



followed by Philadelphia (123,265), Montgomery County (70,232), Bucks County (57,396), and Delaware County (53,423). Cameron County had the smallest veteran population (800).

Forest County had the highest percentage of veterans in the adult population (21.2 percent). More than 800 of its 3,818 adult residents were veterans. Sullivan County ranked second (18.2 percent), followed by Cameron County (17.8 percent), Pike County (17.4 percent), and Carbon County (17.3 percent). Centre County had the lowest percentage of veterans in 2000 (9.9 percent).

Pennsylvania Veterans by Age, Sex, Race, and Ethnicity

Sixty-two percent (790,890) of all Pennsylvania veterans were 55 years or over in 2000. Veterans age 18-54 account for the remaining 38.2 percent (489,898). The veteran population was also overwhelmingly male (1,219,946, 95.2 percent) and White (1,162,801, 90.8 percent). African-Americans (98,083) accounted for 7.7 percent of the population, and Hispanics (13,175) were just 1.0 percent of the total veteran population.

Other Veteran Characteristics

Veterans live in a higher percentage of owner-occupied housing (82.9 percent), have higher median total incomes (\$27,166), and have about half the poverty rate (5.5 percent) of nonveterans. Many of these advantages can be attributed to the large proportion of elderly veterans. Other data show that more than 21.8 percent of veterans are disabled, compared to 14.3 percent of nonveterans, and that veterans have a slightly higher divorce rate (9.8 percent). Like the population as whole, more veterans are becoming primary caregivers for their grandchildren. Among persons that had served or were active duty military in 2000, nearly 12,000 were responsible for their grandchild's basic needs in households with related children. An additional 1,892 took responsibility for grandchildren in households with own children.

Defining "Veteran Status"

The Census Bureau defines a "civilian veteran" as a person 18 years old and over who, at the time of the enumeration, had served on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard in the past (even for a short time), but was not then on active duty, or who had served in the Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or Military Reserves were classified as veterans only if they had been called up or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4 to 6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps. All other civilians 18 years old and over were classified as nonveterans.

Download the PaSDC Map of the Month, *Population 55 Years and Older, Percent Veterans*, at: http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/whats_new/Map_of_the_month/PercentVeterans55Older.pdf

Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Advanced Query*

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

Table 1. Civilian Veteran Population, Pennsylvania Counties: 2000

County	Total Population (All ages)	Civilian Veteran Population (18 and over)	Total Population, Percent Civilian Veterans	Veterans 55 and Older	Percent of Veterans 55 and Older
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	1,280,788	10.4	790,890	61.8
Adams County	91,292	9,711	10.6	5,505	56.7
Allegheny County	1,281,666	142,638	11.1	93,807	65.8
Armstrong County	72,392	8,701	12.0	5,486	63.1
Beaver County	181,412	22,655	12.5	14,544	64.2
Bedford County	49,984	5,327	10.7	3,236	60.7
Berks County	373,638	37,758	10.1	23,344	61.8
Blair County	129,144	15,901	12.3	9,328	58.7
Bradford County	62,761	7,317	11.7	4,183	57.2
Bucks County	597,635	57,396	9.6	35,795	62.4
Butler County	174,083	18,354	10.5	10,913	59.5
Cambria County	152,598	18,918	12.4	12,193	64.5
Cameron County	5,974	800	13.4	521	65.1
Carbon County	58,802	7,917	13.5	5,048	63.8
Centre County	135,758	11,027	8.1	6,103	55.3
Chester County	433,501	38,103	8.8	23,659	62.1
Clarion County	41,765	4,456	10.7	2,695	60.5
Clearfield County	83,382	9,708	11.6	5,872	60.5
Clinton County	37,914	4,482	11.8	2,702	60.3
Columbia County	64,151	7,256	11.3	4,252	58.6
Crawford County	90,366	10,589	11.7	6,197	58.5
Cumberland County	213,674	24,610	11.5	13,950	56.7
Dauphin County	251,798	27,690	11.0	15,465	55.9
Delaware County	550,864	53,423	9.7	34,851	65.2
Elk County	35,112	4,225	12.0	2,560	60.6
Erie County	280,843	29,306	10.4	16,844	57.5
Fayette County	148,644	16,849	11.3	10,423	61.9
Forest County	4,946	811	16.4	558	68.8
Franklin County	129,313	14,702	11.4	8,528	58.0
Fulton County	14,261	1,482	10.4	859	58.0
Greene County	40,672	4,649	11.4	2,648	57.0
Huntingdon County	45,586	5,259	11.5	2,940	55.9
Indiana County	89,605	8,842	9.9	5,404	61.1
Jefferson County	45,932	5,191	11.3	3,320	64.0
Juniata County	22,821	2,098	9.2	1,332	63.5

Table 1. Civilian Veteran Population, Pennsylvania Counties: 2000 (Continued)

County	Total Population (All ages)	Civilian Veteran Population (18 and over)	Total Population, Percent Civilian Veterans	Veterans 55 and Older	Percent of Veterans 55 and Older
Lackawanna County	213,295	24,372	11.4	16,279	66.8
Lancaster County	470,658	41,565	8.8	24,816	59.7
Lawrence County	94,643	10,809	11.4	6,982	64.6
Lebanon County	120,327	13,528	11.2	8,107	59.9
Lehigh County	312,090	32,026	10.3	19,976	62.4
Luzerne County	319,250	40,016	12.5	26,033	65.1
Lycoming County	120,044	13,909	11.6	8,093	58.2
McKean County	45,936	5,842	12.7	3,327	56.9
Mercer County	120,293	13,775	11.5	8,718	63.3
Mifflin County	46,486	5,308	11.4	3,282	61.8
Monroe County	138,687	15,167	10.9	8,799	58.0
Montgomery County	750,097	70,232	9.4	46,766	66.6
Montour County	18,236	1,947	10.7	1,202	61.7
Northampton County	267,066	28,039	10.5	17,492	62.4
Northumberland County	94,556	11,851	12.5	7,413	62.6
Perry County	43,602	4,727	10.8	2,381	50.4
Philadelphia County	1,517,550	123,365	8.1	72,090	58.4
Pike County	46,302	5,915	12.8	3,771	63.8
Potter County	18,080	2,233	12.4	1,222	54.7
Schuylkill County	150,336	18,822	12.5	11,923	63.3
Snyder County	37,546	3,366	9.0	1,944	57.8
Somerset County	80,023	8,747	10.9	5,538	63.3
Sullivan County	6,556	942	14.4	663	70.4
Susquehanna County	42,238	5,124	12.1	2,995	58.5
Tioga County	41,373	5,185	12.5	2,982	57.5
Union County	41,624	3,912	9.4	2,393	61.2
Venango County	57,565	7,189	12.5	4,223	58.7
Warren County	43,863	5,584	12.7	3,325	59.5
Washington County	202,897	23,986	11.8	15,394	64.2
Wayne County	47,722	6,011	12.6	3,563	59.3
Westmoreland County	369,993	45,270	12.2	29,735	65.7
Wyoming County	28,080	3,037	10.8	1,704	56.1
York County	381,751	40,836	10.7	22,694	55.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary Files 1 and 3, Advanced Query