

Veterans Across Kentucky

Mercer County

Julie N. Zimmerman, 2025



Kentucky: By The Numbers
<http://kybtn.ca.uky.edu>

Definitions of who is counted as a veteran varies by data source. These data are from the Census Bureau who defines veterans this way: "A "civilian veteran" is a person 18 years old or over who has served (even for a short time), but is not now serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or military Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps. All other civilians 16 years old and over are classified as nonveterans."

For counties with small populations and small population groups, the margins of error (indicated by a +/-) can be quite large.

*The **margin of error** tells us how precise the estimate is by indicating the **range within which the estimate most likely falls**.*

For help in understanding the margin of error, see the brief Kentucky: By The Numbers publication "[And Now for the Grain of Salt](#)."

The 2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2019-2023) that there were 235,118 (+/- 3,869) veterans in Kentucky. This issue of Kentucky: By The Numbers is in conjunction with the **Kentucky Extension Military Collaborative**. With funding from the UK Engage initiative, the Extension Military Collaborative is designed to increase awareness of the University's military engagement across the Commonwealth through developing a multidisciplinary statewide collaborative. <https://extension.ca.uky.edu/military>

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Overview

	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total number of Veterans	1,343	+/- 226
Male Veterans	1,285	+/- 223
Female Veterans	58	+/- 39
Percent of civilian population ages 18 and over who are Veterans	7.6%	+/- 1.3

Period of Service

	Estimate	Margin of Error
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) Veterans	240	+/- 127
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001) Veterans	343	+/- 135
Vietnam era Veterans	420	+/- 103
Korean War Veterans	42	+/- 35
World War II Veterans	11	+/- 25

Veterans may have served in more than one period. To see estimates of veterans only serving during peace time, see ACS Table B21002.

Age Groups

	Veterans		Percent of Veterans		Percent of Nonveterans	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
18-34 years	90	+/- 64	6.7%	+/- 4.7	26.9%	+/- 0.7
35-54 years	279	+/- 116	20.8%	+/- 7.6	31.2%	+/- 0.9
55-64 years	264	+/- 139	19.7%	+/- 9.1	19.5%	+/- 1.0
65-74 years	325	+/- 85	24.2%	+/- 5.7	13.3%	+/- 0.6
75 years and over	385	+/- 118	28.7%	+/- 8.0	9.1%	+/- 0.8

Continued on Next Page


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Educational Attainment

(Population ages 25 and over)	Veterans		Percent of Veterans		Percent of Nonveterans	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Less than high school graduate	52	+/- 46	3.9%	+/- 3.5	9.4%	+/- 1.5
High school graduate (includes equiv.)	541	+/- 168	40.7%	+/- 9.3	34.1%	+/- 3.6
Some college or associate's degree	494	+/- 147	37.2%	+/- 9.8	33.7%	+/- 3.5
Bachelor's degree or higher	241	+/- 95	18.1%	+/- 6.9	22.9%	+/- 3.0

Economic Characteristics

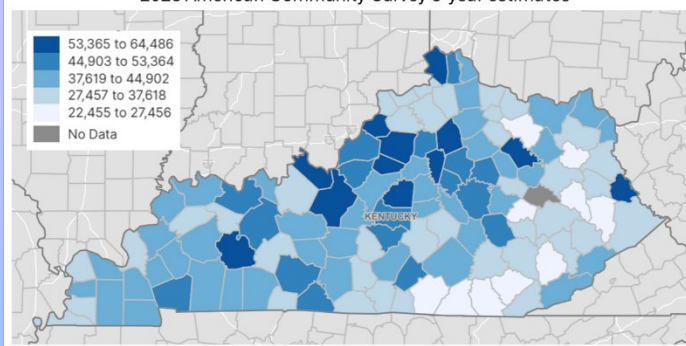
	Veterans		Nonveterans	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Poverty Rate	14.2%	+/- 6.2	10.0%	+/- 2.3
Labor Force Participation Rate (Ages 18-64 years)	67.9%	+/- 14.1	73.8%	+/- 2.7
Median Income	\$44,405	+/- \$9,319	\$35,973	+/- \$1,671

Percent of Civilian Population 18 Years and over who are Veterans
 2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates



Median Income of Veterans

2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates



These data are from **Table S2101** of the 2023 American Community Survey 5-year estimates and can be accessed at <https://data.census.gov/>

Kentucky: By The Numbers is an Extension program in the Department of Community and Leadership Development at the University of Kentucky. For more information contact your local Cooperative Extension office or Dr. Julie N. Zimmerman, Professor of Rural Sociology, Department of Community and Leadership Development, 500 Garrigus Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215. email: jzimm@uky.edu. The entire series is online at <http://kybtn.ca.uky.edu>

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