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Current Population Survey Veterans Supplement (CPS Vet Supplement)

Veterans Data Hub Codebook

For more information on this publication, visit www.rand.org/t/TLA1363-3.

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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 Current Population Survey (CPS) Veterans Supplement 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 CPS. In this codebook, we cite directly from the original documentation of the CPS.

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Current Population Survey Veterans Supplement (CPS Vet Supplement): Veterans Data Hub Codebook

Overview to the Current Population Survey

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a monthly survey capturing employment and demographic data for the U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population. The CPS collects data from about 54,000 households containing at least one noninstitutionalized civilian aged 16 or older. Households are selected by area of residence to represent the nation, states, and other geographical areas. Selected households are interviewed for four consecutive months in one year and for the same months the following year.

In August of each year, an additional Veterans Supplement survey is administered containing both the basic monthly CPS demographic and labor force items and the veteran-specific items. Data are collected through interviews of the full CPS sample at that time. Responses to the veteran items are collected for veterans of at least 17 or 18 years of age, depending on the year; items relate to disability, disability compensation, labor force status, and Transition Assistance Program participation. The CPS Veterans Supplement survey was first administered in 1985 and was fielded biennially until 2007; it has been administered annually since 2009. The 1985 survey was fielded among only male veterans; female veterans have been included since 1987. Since 1995, active-duty personnel have also been included in the sample.

When working with the data, it is important to be aware that the Veterans Supplement datasets do not contain data for veterans only. Nonveterans sampled will have “Not in Universe” (-1) values for veterans-specific questions but are still present. Be sure to filter your data appropriately and calculate weighted statistics only for observations within the correct universe.

Table 1 shows the total sample size of veterans in each wave of this dataset from 1995 to 2020, relative to the total sample size (using the definition of *veterans* in the “Key Variables” section).

TABLE 1
Veteran Sample Size per Survey Wave, Relative to Total Sample Size

Year	Sample Size (Total)		Sample Size (Veteran)	
	Unweighted	Weighted	Unweighted	Weighted
2020	126,448	324,994,700	6,103	18,422,000
2019	139,590	324,292,273	7,168	18,776,000
2018	143,126	323,180,965	7,420	19,151,000
2017	147,025	320,449,680	8,123	20,562,000
2016	152,195	318,997,008	8,549	20,857,000
2015	150,370	316,228,123	8,590	21,174,300
2014	152,232	313,360,208	8,815	21,131,550
2013	150,346	311,150,514	8,986	21,359,336
2012	151,453	308,854,021	9,225	21,161,322
2011	152,438	306,171,688	9,601	21,562,000
2010	153,705	304,193,207	9,739	22,000,241
2009	152,654	301,681,362	10,098	22,137,000
2007	152,331	297,269,408	10,766	22,622,704
2005	153,649	291,485,240	11,331	23,411,485
2003	156,654	286,368,667	12,379	23,476,890
2001	158,911	276,777,066	12,901	24,103,984
1999	136,622	272,376,380	11,887	24,914,032
1997	135,984	267,131,760	12,272	25,616,858
1995	154,227	262,182,904	14,505	25,133,296

Data Access

The CPS Veterans Supplement is publicly released on the U.S. Census Bureau website along with technical documentation (U.S. Census Bureau, 2024).

Key Variables

The availability and variable names of CPS data fields vary over time. When assembling cross-sectional data, you are advised to consult the official CPS Veteran Supplement codebooks, aggregated at the University of Minnesota IPUMS website (IPUMS CPS, undated-c).

The CPS codebook documentation also provides additional information about the structure of CPS datasets, including the definitions of various weighting variables and specifications for which weights to use for different calculations.

Key variables for IDs and weights, demographic characteristics, and economic characteristics are presented in Table 2 through Table 12. The variable descriptions presented in these tables use 2020 variable names, and all variable definitions are sourced from the 2020 CPS Veterans Supplement technical document (U.S. Census Bureau, undated-a).

IDs and Weights

TABLE 2
Respondent Identifiers

Variable Name	Description
HRHHID	Household identifier (part 1) (use for backwards matching)
HRHHID2	Household identifier (part 2) (use for forwards matching)
QSTNUM	Unique household identifier within a month
OCCURNUM	Unique person identifier within a month

TABLE 3
Panel Information

Variable Name	Description
HRMONTH	Month of interview
HRYEAR4	Year of interview

The proper weight variable to use depends on whether the data fields are being drawn from the Veterans Supplement or from the base CPS items and the analysis level. A variable is from the Veterans Supplement if those nonveteran observations (PEAFEVER = 2) are not in universe for the question (response value of -1) (Table 4).

TABLE 4
Weights

Variable Name	Description	Purpose
PWSUPWGT (or PWVETWGT prior to 2015)	(Veterans) supplement weight, accounting for supplement nonrespondents	Used for estimates drawing from any Veterans Supplement items, even if base CPS items are also used
HWHHWGT	Household weight	Used for household-level estimates that do not draw from Veterans Supplement items
PWFMWGT	Family weight	Used for family-level estimates that do not draw from Veterans Supplement items
PWSSWGT	Final weight	Used for person-level estimates that do not draw from Veterans Supplement items

Demographic Characteristics

Respondents who answer “yes” to PEAFEVER (ever served on active duty) AND “no” to PEAFNOW (shown in bold in Table 5) should be classified as veterans.

TABLE 5
Veteran Status

Variable Name	Description	Values
PEAFEVER (previous PUAFEVER)	Ever served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces	1 = Yes 2 = No
PEAFNOW	Currently in the armed forces	1 = Yes 2 = No

TABLE 6
Sex and Gender

Variable Name	Description	Values
PESEX	Sex	1 = Male 2 = Female

TABLE 7
Age

Variable Name	Description	Values
PRTAGE	Person's age	00–79 = Age in Years 80 = 80–84 Years Old 85 = 85+ Years Old

TABLE 8
Race and Ethnicity

Variable Name	Description	Values
PTDTRACE	Race	1 = White Only 2 = Black Only 3 = American Indian, Alaskan Native Only 4 = Asian Only 5 = Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Only 6 = White-Black 7 = White-AI 8 = White-Asian 9 = White-HP 10 = Black-AI 11 = Black-Asian 12 = Black-HP 13 = AI-Asian 14 = AI-HP 15 = Asian-HP 16 = W-B-AI 17 = W-B-A 18 = W-B-HP 19 = W-AI-A

Table 8—Continued

Variable Name	Description	Values
		20 = W-AI-HP 21 = W-A-HP 22 = B-AI-A 23 = W-B-AI-A 24 = W-AI-A-HP 25 = Other 3 Race Combinations 26 = Other 4 and 5 Race Combinations
PEHSPNON	Hispanic or non-Hispanic	1 = Hispanic 2 = Non-Hispanic
PRDTHSP	Detailed Hispanic origin group	1 = Mexican 2 = Puerto Rican 3 = Cuban 4 = Dominican 5 = Salvadoran 6 = Central American, excluding Salvadoran 7 = South American 8 = Other Spanish

NOTE: A = Asian; AI = American Indian; B = Black; HP = Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; W = White.

The CPS identifies states, regions, and divisions fully. It also provides information for core-based statistical areas (CBSAs), combined statistical areas (CSAs), counties, metropolitan versus nonmetropolitan areas, and CBSA size, but these units may be affected by confidentiality restrictions (Table 9).

**TABLE 9
Geographic Location(s)**

Variable Name	Description	Values
GESTFIPS	FIPS State Code	FIPS codes
GTCBSA	Metropolitan CBSA Code	CBSA codes (detailed in CPS codebook)
GTCO	FIPS County Code (must be combined with State)	Specific county codes (detailed in CPS codebook)
GTCBSAST	Principal city/balance status	1 = Principal City 2 = Balance 3 = Nonmetropolitan 4 = Not Identified
GTMETSTA	Metropolitan status	1 = Metropolitan 2 = Nonmetropolitan 3 = Not Identified
GTINDVPC	Individual principal city (must be combined with GTCBSA to uniquely identify a city)	0 = Not identified, nonmetropolitan, or not a central city 1–7 = Specific principal city code (detailed in CPS codebook)

Table 9—Continued

Variable Name	Description	Values
GTCBSASZ	CBSA size	0 = Not identified or nonmetropolitan 2 = 100,000–249,999 3 = 250,000–499,999 4 = 500,000–999,999 5 = 1,000,000–2,499,999 6 = 2,500,000–4,999,999 7 = 5,000,000+
GTCSA	CSA FIPS code	Detailed in CPS codebook

NOTE: FIPS = Federal Information Processing Standards.

Economic Characteristics

One of the primary objectives of the CPS is to collect labor force data, so data are collected for many socioeconomic survey items. Some key ones are listed here in Table 10 through Table 12, but see the full documentation for more.

**TABLE 10
Employment Status**

Variable Name	Description	Values
PEMLR	Monthly labor force recode	1 = Employed—At Work 2 = Employed—Absent 3 = Unemployed—On Layoff 4 = Unemployed—Looking 5 = Retired—Not In Labor Force 6 = Disabled—Not In Labor Force 7 = Other—Not In Labor Force
PEHRUSLT	Hours per week worked (summed responses to hours worked at main job and hours worked at other jobs)	–4 = Hours vary 0–198 = Hours
PULK	Have you been doing anything to find work during the last 4 weeks?	1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Retired 4 = Disabled 5 = Unable to work

Table 10—Continued

Variable Name	Description	Values
PRDTIND1	Detailed industry recode – job 1	1 = Agriculture 2 = Forestry, logging, fishing, hunting, and trapping 3 = Mining 4 = Construction 5 = Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing 6 = Primary metals and fabricated metal products 7 = Machinery manufacturing 8 = Computer and electronic product manufacturing 9 = Electrical equipment, appliance manufacturing 10 = Transportation equipment manufacturing 11 = Wood products 12 = Furniture and fixtures manufacturing 13 = Miscellaneous and not specified manufacturing 14 = Food manufacturing 15 = Beverage and tobacco products 16 = Textile, apparel, and leather manufacturing 17 = Paper and printing 18 = Petroleum and coal products manufacturing 19 = Chemical manufacturing 20 = Plastics and rubber products 21 = Wholesale trade 22 = Retail trade 23 = Transportation and warehousing 24 = Utilities 25 = Publishing industries (except internet) 26 = Motion picture and sound recording industries 27 = Broadcasting (except internet) 28 = Internet publishing and broadcasting 29 = Telecommunications 30 = Internet service providers and data processing services 31 = Other information services 32 = Finance 33 = Insurance 34 = Real estate 35 = Rental and leasing services 36 = Professional and technical services 37 = Management of companies and enterprises 38 = Administrative and support services 39 = Waste management and remediation services 40 = Educational services 41 = Hospitals 42 = Health care services, except hospitals 43 = Social assistance 44 = Arts, entertainment, and recreation 45 = Accommodation 46 = Food services and drinking places 47 = Repair and maintenance 48 = Personal and laundry services 49 = Membership associations and organizations 50 = Private households 51 = Public administration 52 = Armed forces

TABLE 11
Education Status

Variable Name	Description	Values
PEEDUCA	Highest level of school completed or degree received	31 = Less Than 1st Grade 32 = 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th Grade 33 = 5th or 6th Grade 34 = 7th or 8th Grade 35 = 9th Grade 36 = 10th Grade 37 = 11th Grade 38 = 12th Grade No Diploma 39 = High School Grad—Diploma or Equiv (GED) 40 = Some College but No Degree 41 = Associate Degree—Occupational/Vocational 42 = Associate Degree—Academic program 43 = Bachelor’s Degree (ex: BA, AB, BS) 44 = Master’s Degree (ex: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW) 45 = Professional School Deg (ex: MD, DDS, DVM) 46 = Doctorate Degree (ex: PhD, EdD)
PESCHENR	Last week enrolled in a high school, college, or university	1 = Yes 2 = No
PESCHFT	Enrolled in school as a full-time or part-time student	1 = Full-time 2 = Part-time

TABLE 12
Income

Variable Name	Description	Values
HEFAMINC	Combined income of all family members during last 12 months	1 = Less Than \$5,000 2 = 5,000 to 7,499 3 = 7,500 to 9,999 4 = 10,000 to 12,499 5 = 12,500 to 14,999 6 = 15,000 to 19,999 7 = 20,000 to 24,999 8 = 25,000 to 29,999 9 = 30,000 to 34,999 10 = 35,000 to 39,999 11 = 40,000 to 49,999 12 = 50,000 to 59,999 13 = 60,000 to 74,999 14 = 75,000 to 99,999 15 = 100,000 to 149,999 16 = 150,000 or More

The CPS Veterans Supplement does not contain health insurance data.

Veteran Characteristics (CPS 2021–present)

The CPS Veterans Supplement was significantly revised and expanded for 2021. The items presented in Tables 13 through 16 have been included on the CPS since 2021. The variable

descriptions use 2021 variable names, and all variable definitions are sourced from the 2021 CPS Veterans Supplement technical document (U.S. Census Bureau, undated-b).

TABLE 13
Period of Service (CPS 2021–Present)

Variable Name	Description	Values
PRAFWHEN	When did you serve?	-3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = September 2001 or later 2 = August 1990 to August 2001 3 = May 1975 to July 1990 4 = Vietnam era (Aug 1964 to Apr 1975) 5 = February 1955 to July 1964 6 = Korean War (July 1950 to January 1955) 7 = January 1947 to June 1950 8 = World War II (Dec 1941 to Dec 1946)
PES1	Have you ever been a member of the Reserve or National Guard?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No
PES2	Are you currently a member of the Reserve or National Guard?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No
PES3	Was any of your active service the result of a call-up from the Reserve or National Guard?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No
PES4	Was your LAST period on active duty a result of a call-up from the Reserve or National Guard?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No
PES5	How long did you serve on active duty in the Armed Forces?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Less than 6 months 2 = 6 months to 2 years 3 = 2 to 3 years 4 = 3 to 4 years 5 = 5 to 9 years 6 = 10 to 14 years 7 = 15 to 19 years 8 = 20 years or more

Table 13—Continued

Variable Name	Description	Values
PES6	Did you EVER serve in a combat or war zone? [P]ersons serving in a combat or war zone often receive combat zone tax exclusion, Imminent Danger Pay, or Hostile Fire Pay.	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No
PES7	Were you on active duty in Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia; in the waters in or around these countries; or fly missions over these areas at any time between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No
PES7A	Were you on active duty in Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia; in the waters in or around these countries; or fly missions over these areas at any time between February 28, 1961 and August 4, 1964?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No
PES8	Did you serve in Iraq, off the coast of Iraq, or did you fly missions over Iraq at any time since March 2003?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No
PES8A	Did you serve in Afghanistan, or did you fly missions over Afghanistan, at any time since October 2001?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No
PTS9	In what year were you LAST released from active duty?	[year]
PES10	From which branch of the Armed Forces were you last released from active duty?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Air Force 2 = Army 3 = Coast Guard 4 = Marine Corps 5 = Navy 6 = Other
PES11	What was your pay grade at separation?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = E-1 to E-3 2 = E-4 to E-6 3 = E-7 to E-9 4 = O-1 to O-10 5 = W-1 to W-5
PES12	What kind of work did you do, that is, what was your primary occupation? For example, geospatial engineer or combat medic specialist.	[occupation code]

Table 13—Continued

Variable Name	Description	Values
PES12A	What were your usual activities or duties at this job?	[occupation code]
PES13	Did you retire from the Armed Forces?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No

**TABLE 14
Service-Connected Disability (CPS 2021–Present)**

Variable Name	Description	Values	Skip Logic (if applicable)
PED1	Have you filed a claim for or received a rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense confirming that you have a service-connected disability; that is, a health condition or impairment caused or made worse by military service?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	
PED2	Did you receive a VA disability rating?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No, claim was denied 3 = No, claim is pending	Asked if PED1 = 1
PRD2A	What is your current service-connected disability rating?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = 0 percent 2 = 10–20 percent 3 = 30–50 percent 4 = 60–90 percent 5 = 100 percent	Asked if PED2 = 1
PED3	Has your service-connected disability EVER prevented you from getting or holding a job that met your long-term career goals?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PED1 = 1
PED4	Does your service-connected disability CURRENTLY keep you from getting or holding a job that meets your long-term career goals?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PED3 = 1

Table 14—Continued

Variable Name	Description	Values	Skip Logic (if applicable)
PED5	Do you think that your service-connected disability will EVENTUALLY keep you from getting or holding a job that meets your long-term career goals?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PED3 = 2 or PED4 = 2
PTD6	What is the last year you worked at a job or business?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 0 = Never worked 2016: 2016 or earlier 2017 2018: 2018 or 2019 2020: 2020 or 2021	Asked if PED4 = 1
PED7	Have you ever requested any change in your workplace to help you do your job better and accommodate your service-connected disability? For example, change[s] in work policies, equipment, or schedules?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PED1 = 1
PED8	Were any of those requests granted?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PED7 = 1

**TABLE 15
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Care Recipient (CPS 2021–Present)**

Variable Name	Description	Values
PEB1	How confident are you that you are aware of all the benefits that you are eligible for from the VA?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Not at all confident 2 = Somewhat confident 3 = Very confident
	Finally, I'd like to read you a list of different ways the VA could reach out to you about the benefits that you are eligible for. For each one, please let me know if that's a way that you would like to learn about your benefits.	
PEB21	In-person visit to a local VA officer	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No
PEB22	Website for browsing all benefits and programs	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No

Table 15—Continued

Variable Name	Description	Values
PEB23	Online account with personal information	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No
PEB24	Social media	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No
PEB25	Personal letter in the mail	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No
PEB26	Personal e-mail	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No
PEB27	Personal text message	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No

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

Many of the veterans’ supplement questions relate to employment experiences and employment-related training after individuals have transitioned out of the military (Table 16).

**TABLE 16
Other Relevant Variables (CPS 2021–Present)**

Variable Name	Description	Values	Skip Logic (if applicable)
PEE1	While still on active duty, did you attend any of the Transition Assistance Program workshops, known as TAP or A-CAP?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don’t know 1 = Yes 2 = No	
PEE2	When did you first apply for a civilian job?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don’t know 1 = Before separation 2 = Within 1 month of separation 3 = 1 to 3 months after separation 4 = More than 4 months after separation 5 = Have not applied	
PEE3	Did you not want a job, return to a previous job, go back to school, or something else?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don’t know 1 = Not want a job 2 = Return to a previous job 3 = Go back to school 4 = Something else	Asked if PEE2 = 5

Table 16—Continued

Variable Name	Description	Values	Skip Logic (if applicable)
PEE4	When first applying for a civilian job, did you want a job that used the specialized training you acquired in your military occupation?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PEE2 != 5
PEE5	Have you received an offer for a civilian job?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PEE2 = 1, 2, 3, or 4
PEE6	When did you accept the offer for your first civilian job?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Before separation 2 = Within 1 month of separation 3 = 1 to 3 months after separation 4 = More than 4 months after separation	Asked if PEE5 = 1
PEE7	What was that first civilian job, that is, what was your occupation. For example, information security officer or management analyst.	[occupation code]	Asked if PEE5 = 1
PEE7a	What were your usual activities or duties at this job?	[occupation code]	Asked if PEE5 = 1
PEE8	Was that the job that you wanted at the time of separation?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	
PET1	Have you used the specialized training that you acquired in your military occupation in any civilian job?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	
PET2	[Since separation/At any time in the last four years], have you TRIED to find any job-related education or training?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	
PET3	Were you ABLE to find the job-related education or training that you looked for most recently?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PET2 = 1

Table 16—Continued

Variable Name	Description	Values	Skip Logic (if applicable)
PET4	Were you able to complete that education or training?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PET3 = 1
PTT5	What was the main reason you weren't able to [find/complete] that education or training?	-9 = No Response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't Know 3 = Could Not Afford Cost 4 = Inconvenient Time Or Location 5 = Family Obligations 7 = Desired Training/Education Not Available 8 = Wrong Information From Employment Specialists	Asked if PET3 = 2 or PET4 = 2
PET6	In the next four years, how likely is it that you will seek job-related education or training?	-9 = No Response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Very likely 2 = Somewhat likely 3 = Not at all likely	
	Are you planning to seek out any of the following?		
PET71	Occupational certification	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PET6 = 1 or 2
PET72	Entrepreneurship training	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PET6 = 1 or 2
PET73	On-the-job training or an apprenticeship	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PET6 = 1 or 2
PET74	School-based education	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PET6 = 1 or 2
PET8	Did you receive any GI Bill benefits?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	
	Who used the benefits or who plans to use them?		
PET91	Yourself	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PET8 = 1

Table 16—Continued

Variable Name	Description	Values	Skip Logic (if applicable)
PET92	Child or another dependent	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PET8 = 1
PET93	Spouse	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PET8 = 1
PEW1	[Since separation/At any time in the last four years], have you ever visited a website or made face-to-face or telephone contact with a state employment or career services agency, sometimes known as American Job Centers, for help finding a job or job-related training? What were the reasons you did not visit or contact a state employment or career services center or website?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	
PEW21	NOT AWARE of services offered at centers	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PEW1 = 2
PEW22	NOT USEFUL/NO FAITH in centers	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PEW1 = 2
PEW23	CONTACTED OTHER job search/headhunter/VA service	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PEW1 = 2
PEW24	Believe NO JOBS AVAILABLE	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PEW1 = 2
PEW25	DID NOT WANT HELP/Found own job	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PEW1 = 2
PEW26	ALREADY HAVE job lined up	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PEW1 = 2
PEW27	NOT LOOKING for a job or work	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PEW1 = 2
PEW28	DISABLED or UNABLE to work	-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PEW1 = 2

Table 16—Continued

Variable Name	Description	Values	Skip Logic (if applicable)
PEW3	<p>Were you able to get all the help that you needed from the state employment or career services center or website?</p> <p>I am going to read a list of services that a state employment or career services center might offer to help with your next job search. For each service, please tell me if you would prefer to use the service in-person, online, or not at all.</p>	<p>-1 = Not in Universe 1 = Yes 2 = No</p>	<p>Asked if PEW1 = 1</p>
PEW4A	Resume help	<p>-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = In-person 2 = On-line 3 = Would not use the service</p>	
PEW4B	Job application help	<p>-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = In-person 2 = On-line 3 = Would not use the service</p>	
PEW4C	Finding job opportunities	<p>-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = In-person 2 = On-line 3 = Would not use the service</p>	
PEW4D	Developing career goals	<p>-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = In-person 2 = On-line 3 = Would not use the service</p>	
PEW4E	Translating military work experience for civilian employees	<p>-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = In-person 2 = On-line 3 = Would not use the service</p>	

Veteran Characteristics (CPS prior to 2021)

The items presented in Table 17 through Table 19 were included on the CPS prior to 2021. The variable descriptions use 2020 variable names, and all variable definitions are sourced from the 2020 CPS Veterans Supplement technical document (U.S. Census Bureau, undated-a).

TABLE 17
Period of Service (Prior to 2021)

Variable Name	Description	Values
PRAFWHEN	When did you serve?	-3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = September 2001 or later 2 = August 1990 to August 2001 3 = May 1975 to July 1990 4 = Vietnam era (Aug 1964 to Apr 1975) 5 = February 1955 to July 1964 6 = Korean War (July 1950 to January 1955) 7 = January 1947 to June 1950 8 = World War II (Dec 1941 to Dec 1946) 9 = November 1941 or earlier
PES1B	Was any of your service a result of call-up from the Reserve or National Guard?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No
PES10A	From which branch of the Armed Forces were you last released from active duty?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Air Force 2 = Army 3 = Coast Guard 4 = Marine Corps 5 = Navy 6 = Other
PES11	Altogether, how long did you serve on active duty in the Armed Forces?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Less than 6 months 2 = 6 months to 2 years 3 = 2 to 3 years 4 = 3 to 4 years 5 = 5 to 9 years 6 = 10 to 14 years 7 = 15 to 19 years
PES11A	Did you EVER serve in a combat or war zone? Persons serving in a combat or war zone often receive combat zone tax exclusion, Imminent Danger Pay, or Hostile Fire Pay.	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No

TABLE 18
Service-Connected Disability (Prior to 2021)

Variable Name	Description	Values	Skip Logic (if applicable)
PES4	Has the Department of Veteran[s] Affairs (VA) or the Department of Defense determined that you have a service-connected disability?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	
PTS5	What is your current service-connected disability rating?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = 0 percent 2 = 10–20 percent 3 = 30–40 percent 4 = 50–60 percent 5 = 70–90 percent 6 = 100 percent	Asked if PES4 = 1
PES6	Do you currently receive a monthly check for a service-connected disability from either the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or a branch of the military service?	-3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PES4 = 1
PES7	Did your service connected disability ever prevent you from getting or holding a job in the past?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PES4 = 1
PES8	Does this disability currently keep you from getting or holding a job?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	Asked if PES4 = 1

The only VA care–related variables in the CPS Veterans Supplement prior to 2021 are related to disability, covered in Table 18.

Many of the veterans' supplement questions relate to labor prospects of veterans after returning from military duty and employment workshops provided by the Transition Assistance Program (Table 19).

TABLE 19
Other Relevant Variables (Prior to 2021)

Variable Name	Description	Values	Skip Logic (if applicable)
PES12	While still on active duty, did you attend any Transition Assistance Program workshops?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	
PES12AA	Was information provided during this workshop useful to you in finding a job or obtaining job-related training after you left service?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Other: Specify	Asked if PES12 = 1
PES12BA	Did you find the transition program useful in providing information on topics OTHER THAN employment and job training, topics such as VA educational, medical or housing benefits?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Other: Specify	Asked if PES12 = 1
PES12F1 through PES12F9	Why did you choose NOT to attend one of these transition workshops?	[different items for various response options]	Asked if PES12 = 2
PES13	[Since leaving active duty in the armed forces]/[At any time in the past four years], have you tried to obtain formal job training or job-related schooling?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No	
PES13AA	Were you able to obtain the training or schooling you were seeking?	-9 = No response -3 = Refused -2 = Don't know 1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Training or schooling in progress 4 = Other: Specify	Asked if PES13 = 1
PES13B1 through PES13B10	For what reason were you unable to obtain the training or schooling that you were seeking?	[different items for various response options]	Asked if PES13AA = 2
PES13C1 through PES13C11	What specific type of training or schooling were you unable to obtain and still need?	[different items for various response options]	Asked if PES13AA = 2

Additional Resources

Full CPS documentation can be obtained from the University of Minnesota IPUMS website (IPUMS CPS, undated-b). Additional information can also be found on the CPS home page at the U.S. Census Bureau website (U.S. Census Bureau. 2023).

References

IPUMS CPS, homepage, undated-a. As of May 31, 2024:

<https://cps.ipums.org/cps>

IPUMS CPS, “Original Current Population Survey,” undated-b, as of May 31, 2024:

<https://cps.ipums.org/cps/codebooks.shtml>

IPUMS CPS, “Original Current Population Survey: Veteran Supplements,” undated-c. As of May 31, 2024:

https://cps.ipums.org/cps/codebooks.shtml#vet_codebooks

U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey, August 2020 Veterans Supplement: Technical Documentation CPS – 20*, undated-a. As of May 31, 2024:

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsaug20.pdf>

U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey, August 2021 Veterans Supplement: Technical Documentation CPS – 21*, undated-b. As of May 31, 2024:

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsaug21.pdf>

U.S. Census Bureau, “Current Population Survey (CPS),” webpage, October 20, 2023. As of May 31, 2024:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>

U.S. Census Bureau, “Veterans,” webpage, January 30, 2024. As of May 31, 2024:

https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/cps/cps-supp_cps-repwgt/cps-veterans.html



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 Current Population Survey (CPS) Veterans Supplement 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 CPS. The authors of this codebook cite directly from the original documentation of the CPS.

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