

American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans: 2013 American Community Survey



May 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Veterans have played a vital role in the United States military for over two hundred years. This report provides comprehensive statistics on AIAN Veterans through an examination of the demographic, socioeconomic, and health status statistics. The report uses the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data.

AIAN Veteran Analysis

- AIAN Veterans were 88.5 percent males and 11.5 percent females. The proportion of female AIAN Veterans was higher than that of female Veterans of other races (11.5% vs. 8.0%, respectively).
- More AIAN Veterans lived in the West region of the United States than Veterans of other races (39.6% vs. 22.1%, respectively).
- AIAN Veterans' median age was 57.8 while the median age for Veterans of other races was 63.2. The AIAN non-Veterans' median age was 39.5.
- The AIAN Veteran cohort served in the Post-9/11 period of service in a higher percentage than Veterans of other races (18.6% vs. 14.0%, respectively).
- AIAN Veterans had lower personal incomes than Veterans of other races; however, AIAN Veterans had higher incomes than AIAN non-Veterans (\$26,872 vs. \$12,551, respectively).
- AIAN Veterans were as likely to have a bachelors' degree as Veterans of other races; however, AIAN Veterans were less likely to have an advanced degree compared to Veterans of other races. AIAN Veterans' unemployment rate was not statistically different from Veterans of other races.
- AIAN Veterans were more likely to lack health insurance and to have a disability, service-connected or otherwise, than Veterans of other races.

Section I: Introduction

Overview

In honoring November 2011 as National Native American Heritage Month, the President of the United States extolled American Indians and Alaska Natives, saying:

Native Americans stand among America's most distinguished authors, artists, scientists, and political leaders, and in their accomplishments, they have profoundly strengthened the legacy we will leave our children. So, too, have American Indians and Alaska Natives bravely fought to protect this legacy as members of our Armed Forces.¹

Indeed, Native Americans have made lasting contributions to the United States, including significant military service to defend our country. Continuing in the November 2011 proclamation, the President praised American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Veterans, stating:

As service members, [Native Americans] have shown exceptional valor and heroism on battlefields from the American Revolution to Iraq and Afghanistan.

This report focuses on demographic, socioeconomic, and health characteristics of AIAN Veterans and presents similar summary information for all Veterans of other races. Appendix A defines the data source. Appendix B provides a definition of AIAN geographic areas. Appendix C provides a brief overview of the contributions of AIAN Veterans in the military. Appendix D lists the references.

Objective

The objective is to put forth accurate data concerning the demographics, socioeconomic status, and health characteristics of AIAN Veterans.

¹ The full text of the November 2011 Presidential proclamation is available from: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-native-american-heritage-month-2011>.

Section I: Veteran Demographics

Overview

The following summary tables provide demographic information for AIAN Veterans and for Veterans of all other races combined. Specific demographic characteristics include age, sex, Period of Service (POS), and current state of residence.

All data in this section come from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS). All Veterans 17 years and older living in the United States are included in this analysis.

For the purposes of this analysis, only Veterans who reported a single race of AIAN are included in this group. Veterans who reported AIAN in combination with any other race are classified along with all other Veterans in the category “All Other Races.” The single race of AIAN Veterans includes the Hispanic ethnicity.

Veterans by Sex and Age

Table 1. Veterans by Sex and Race

Sex	AIAN	Percent	All Other Races	Percent
Male	124,639	88.5	17,974,865	92.0*
Female	16,189	11.5*	1,557,024	8.0*
Total	140,828	100.0	19,531,889	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

An asterisk (*) denotes a statistically significant difference between the percentages for AIAN Veterans and Veterans of all other races. Statistical testing assessed significance at the 90 percent confidence level.

- According to Census data, there are 16,189 female AIAN Veterans, or roughly 11.5 percent of the AIAN Veteran population. The percentage of female Veterans for all races is eight percent. This difference may be partly due to the military becoming more diverse in recent years, particularly among female service-members. Another explanation is that the larger category of “All Other Races” includes a large cohort of older Veterans who are predominately male and White.

- Female AIAN Veterans constitute 1.0 percent of all female Veterans, while all AIAN Veterans comprise 0.7 percent of the entire Veteran population.

Table 2. Veterans by Age and Race

Age Group	AIAN	Percent	All Other Races	Percent
17 to 24 years	2231	1.6	284,419	1.5
25 to 34 years	13,769	9.8*	1,332,162	6.8*
35 to 44 years	16,845	12.0	1,809,532	9.3
45 to 54 years	24,209	17.2	2,885,624	14.8
55 to 64 years	39,360	27.9*	3,948,858	20.2*
65 to 74 years	28,162	20.0*	4,698,884	24.1*
75 years and older	16,252	11.5*	4,572,410	23.4*
Total	140,828	100.0	19,531,889	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013. Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

An asterisk (*) denotes a statistically significant difference between the percentages for AIAN Veterans and Veterans of all other races. Statistical testing assessed significance at the 90 percent confidence level.

- According to Census data, 140,828 Veterans identified themselves as solely AIAN, comprising 0.7 percent of approximately 19.5 million Veterans.
- In 2013, AIAN Veterans were younger than Veterans of all other races combined. The median age of AIAN Veterans was 57.8, compared with 63.2 for Veterans of other races.

Veterans by Period of Service

The ACS questionnaire allows Veterans to mark all periods that apply to their active-duty military service based on the established dates of wartime periods and peacetime periods. For this analysis, Veterans who served in multiple wartime periods were categorized in their most recent period of service. The ACS cannot capture information on whether a Veteran was deployed, or “in country,” for a particular war.

Table 3. Veterans by Period of Service and Race

Period of Service	AIAN	Percent	All Other Races	Percent
Gulf War II (Sept. 2001 to present)	26,223	18.6*	2,739,076	14.0*
Gulf War I (Aug. 1990 to Aug. 2001)	21,283	15.1*	2,466,058	12.6*
Vietnam Era	49,204	34.9	6,578,973	33.7
Korean Conflict	7811	5.5*	1,884,637	9.6*
World War II	2854	2.0*	1,171,862	6.0*
Peacetime Only	33,453	23.8	4,691,283	24.0
Total	140,828	100.0	19,531,889	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

An asterisk (*) denotes a statistically significant difference between the percentages for AIAN Veterans and Veterans of all other races. Statistical testing assessed significance at the 90 percent confidence level.

- In 2013, the largest living cohort of Veterans was the Vietnam Era. Over one-third of Veterans served during this period.
- A higher percentage of AIAN Veterans served in the Post-9/11 period (18.6%), compared with Veterans of all other races (14.0%).

Estimated Veteran Population by State

Table 4. Estimated AIAN Veteran Population by State

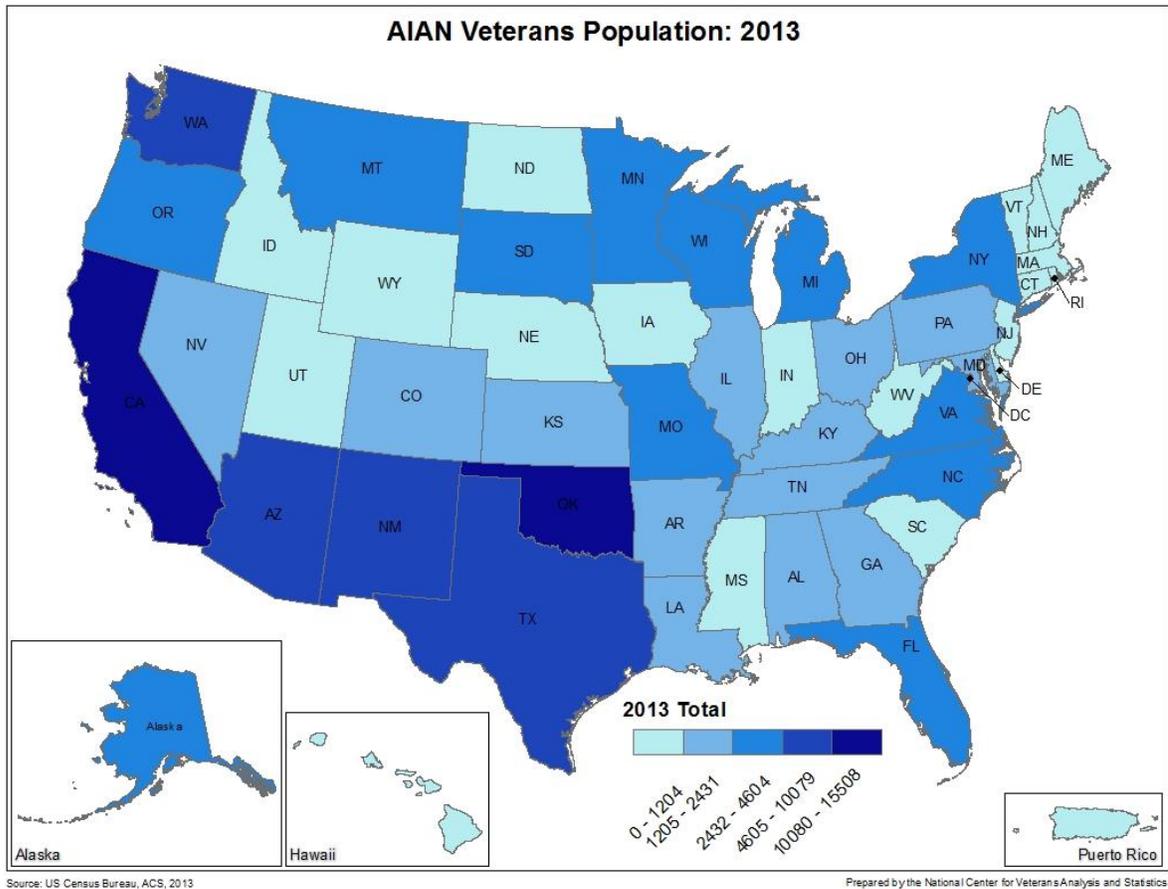
State	Total	Percent	Male	Female
Alabama	2,218	1.6	2,000	218
Alaska	3,714	2.6	3,598	116
Arizona	10,079	7.2	9,034	1,045
Arkansas	1,492	1.1	1,492	0
California	15,508	11.1	13,951	1,557
Colorado	2,389	1.7	2,306	83
Connecticut	432	0.3	432	0
Delaware	298	0.2	164	134
District of Columbia	0	0.0	0	0
Florida	4,292	3.1	3,820	472
Georgia	2,340	1.7	2,331	9
Hawaii	375	0.3	113	262
Idaho	1,110	0.8	697	413
Illinois	1,821	1.3	1,821	0
Indiana	986	0.7	939	47
Iowa	864	0.6	453	411
Kansas	2,085	1.5	1,830	255
Kentucky	1,465	1.0	1,375	90
Louisiana	1,552	1.1	1,244	308
Maine	471	0.3	471	0
Maryland	1,610	1.2	1,398	212
Massachusetts	1,204	0.9	714	490
Michigan	3,463	2.5	3,375	88
Minnesota	2,957	2.1	2,957	0
Mississippi	377	0.3	236	141
Missouri	3,062	2.2	2,926	136
Montana	2,876	2.1	2,573	303
Nebraska	642	0.5	359	283
Nevada	1,776	1.3	1,639	137
New Hampshire	167	0.1	167	0
New Jersey	339	0.2	339	0

State	Total	Percent	Male	Female
New Mexico	7,357	5.3	5,725	1,632
New York	4,298	3.1	3,688	610
North Carolina	4,604	3.3	4,292	312
North Dakota	929	0.7	929	0
Ohio	2,360	1.7	1,980	380
Oklahoma	13,665	9.8	12,622	1,043
Oregon	2,987	2.1	2,587	400
Pennsylvania	2,431	1.7	2,205	226
Rhode Island	643	0.5	643	0
South Carolina	1,057	0.8	1,043	14
South Dakota	3,017	2.2	2,547	470
Tennessee	2,001	1.4	1,784	217
Texas	8,233	5.9	6,908	1,325
Utah	611	0.4	537	74
Vermont	10	0.0	10	0
Virginia	2,830	2.0	2,252	578
Washington	6,543	4.7	5,607	936
West Virginia	533	0.4	369	164
Wisconsin	4,125	2.9	3,527	598
Wyoming	400	0.3	400	0
Puerto Rico	230	0.2	230	0
Total	140,828	100.0	124,639	16,189

Note: Rows with '0' Veterans may be the result of sampling variation and may not mean an actual zero count.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

- The states with the greatest number of AIAN Veterans are Oklahoma and California with over 13,000 AIAN Veterans estimated to reside in each of these states. Please see the map that follows.



- In 2013, approximately 44 percent of all AIAN Veterans lived in just six states: California (11.1%), Oklahoma (9.8%), Arizona (7.2%), Texas (5.9%) New Mexico (5.3%), and Washington (4.7%).
- More AIAN Veterans lived in the West region² of the United States than Veterans of other races (39.6% vs. 22.1%, respectively).

² The US Census Bureau includes the following 13 states in the Western region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Section II: Veteran Socioeconomic Status

Overview

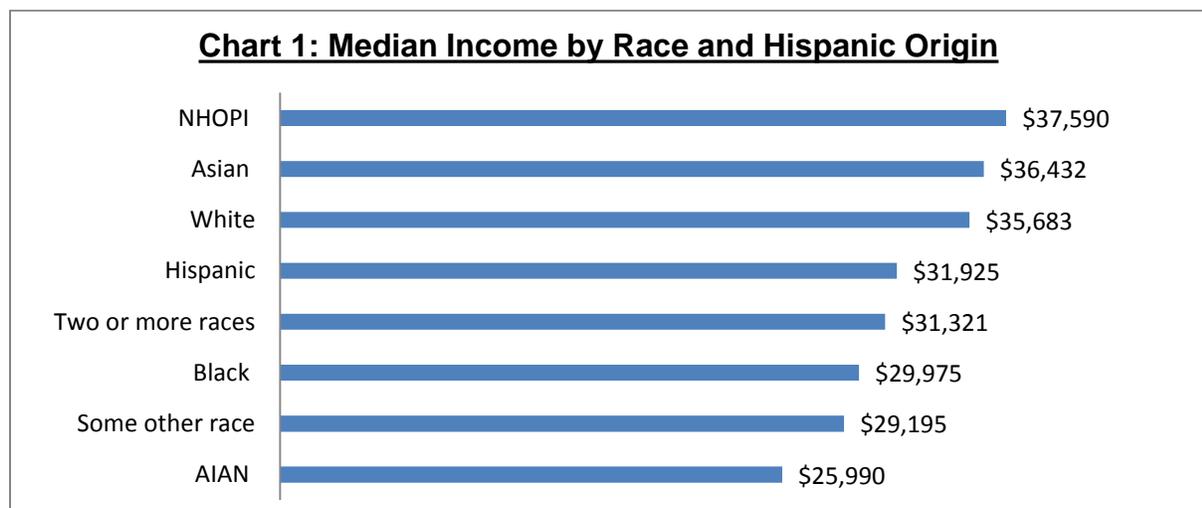
Income, educational attainment, and employment figures can be useful indicators of socioeconomic welfare. While they are clearly not the only indicators of wellbeing, they are valuable measures of socioeconomic status. These data enable the Department of Veterans Affairs to plan needed services and benefits for the Veteran population.

All data in this section come from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS). This analysis includes Veterans 17 years and older living in the United States.

Income for Veterans

In the ACS data, “total personal income” is defined as the sum of wage or salary income; net self-employment income; interest, dividends, or net rental or royalty income or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income; public assistance or welfare payments; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and any other sources of income received regularly such as VA compensation payments, unemployment compensation, and child support or alimony.

Data for personal income are shown for all individual race groups by AIAN alone and all other races combined, as in other sections of this report. This allows for a more complete picture of how AIAN Veterans compare to other minority race groups.



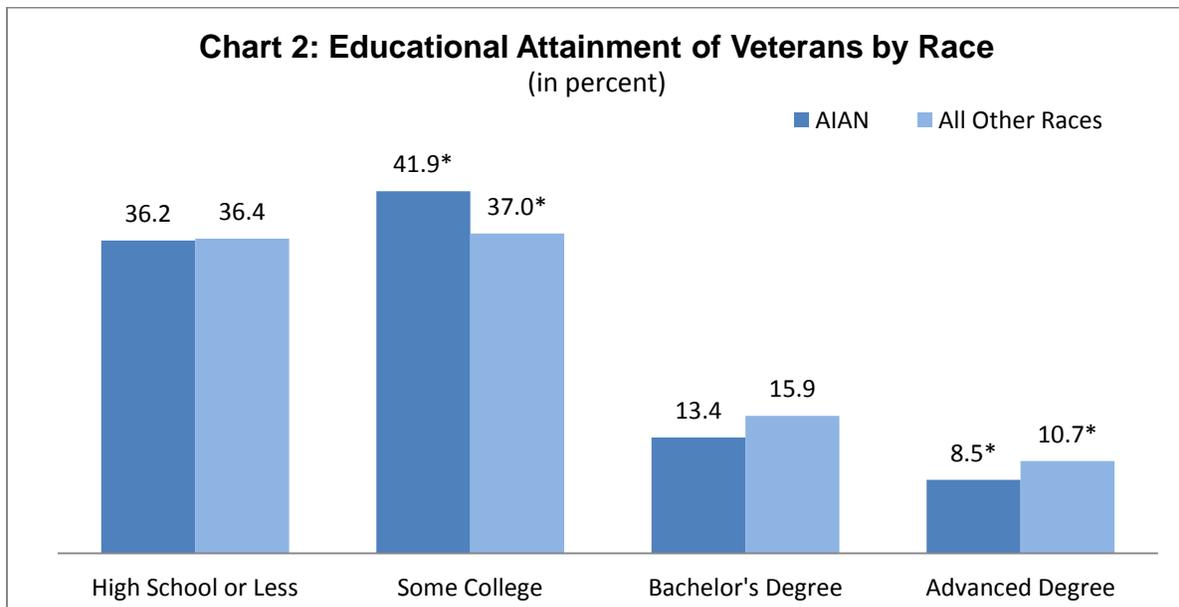
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

NHOPI = Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

- In 2013, AIAN (\$25,990) and some other race (\$29,195) Veterans had the lowest median personal incomes.² Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander and Asian Veterans had the highest median personal incomes.³ The median personal income for Hispanic and Two or more races is about \$31,000⁴ and for Black and Some other race is about \$29,000.⁵

Educational Attainment of Veterans

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education an individual has completed. In this analysis, individuals who have completed some college credit, but no degree, or have completed an Associate's degree are classified as "Some College." The category "Advanced Degree" refers to Master's, PhD, JD, MD, or other professional degree.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

² The median personal incomes of Asian and NHOPI Veterans were not statistically different.

³ The median personal incomes of Asian and White Veterans were not statistically different.

⁵ The median personal incomes of Hispanic and Two or more races Veterans were not statistically different.

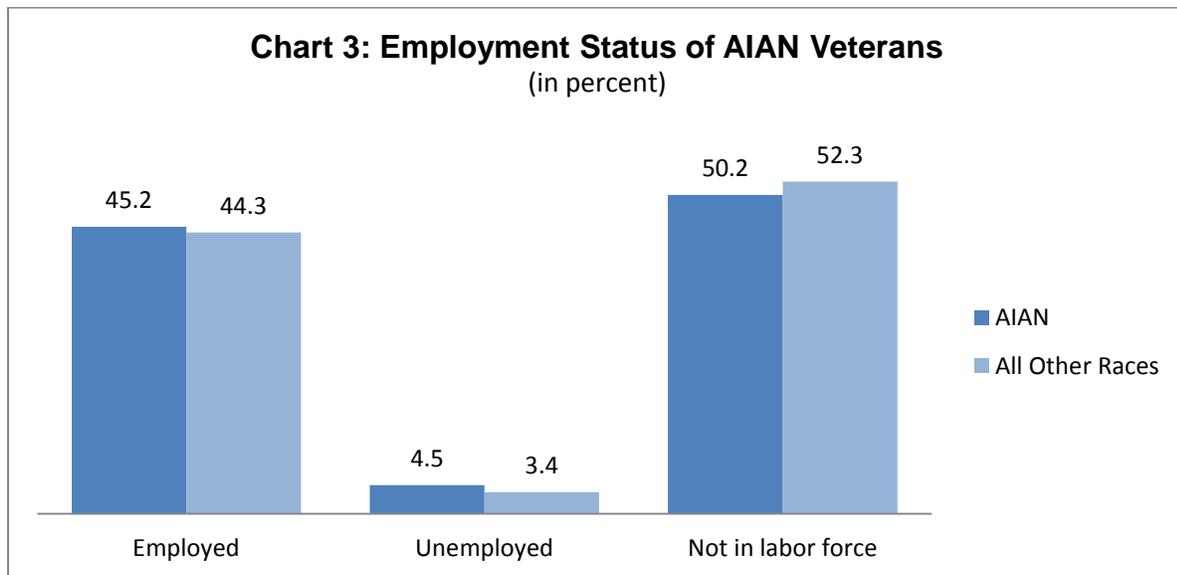
⁶ The median personal incomes of Black and Some other race Veterans were not statistically different.

An asterisk (*) denotes a statistically significant difference between the percentages for AIAN Veterans and Veterans of all other races. Statistical testing assessed significance at the 90 percent confidence level.

- While a higher percentage of AIAN Veterans had completed some college credit (41.9% compared with 37.0%, respectively), a lower percent had finished an advanced degree than other Veterans (8.5% and 10.7%, respectively).

Employment Status of Veterans

The ACS asks respondents a series of six questions to determine their current employment status. Individuals are classified as “employed” if they responded that they worked for pay at a job or business in the last week or if they were temporarily absent from their regular job in the last week. Individuals are classified as “unemployed” if they meet all of the following criteria: (1) They were neither “at work” nor “with a job but not at work” during the reference week. (2) They were looking for work during the last four weeks. (3) They were available to start a job. All other individuals who were not at work and not looking for work are classified as “not in the labor force.” Note that the percentage of Veterans who were unemployed is not the same thing as the unemployment rate of Veterans.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

- In 2013, there was no statistically significant difference in the proportion of AIAN Veterans and Veterans of other races who were employed, unemployed or not in labor force.

Section V: Veteran Health Status

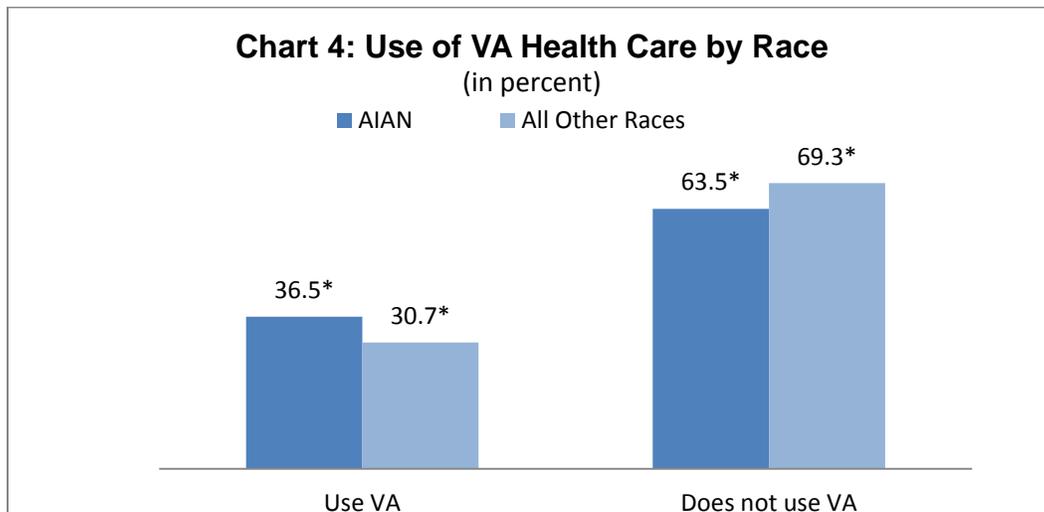
Overview

The following tables examine the percentage of AIAN Veterans who use VA health care; what type(s) of insurance they have, if any; the percentage with a disability; and the percentage with a service-connected disability rating. These figures provide insight into the post-military health status of AIAN Veterans and their use of health care provided by VA.

VA Health Care Usage

The ACS questionnaire asks respondents about the type(s) of health care coverage they had in the past year. The question reads “*Is this person CURRENTLY covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans?*” One of the possible responses is “*VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care).*” For the purposes of this analysis, Veterans who answered “yes” to this category are considered to be users of VA health care.

These estimates from ACS differ from usage statistics reported by VA because of the differences in definitions and the limitations of the survey data.



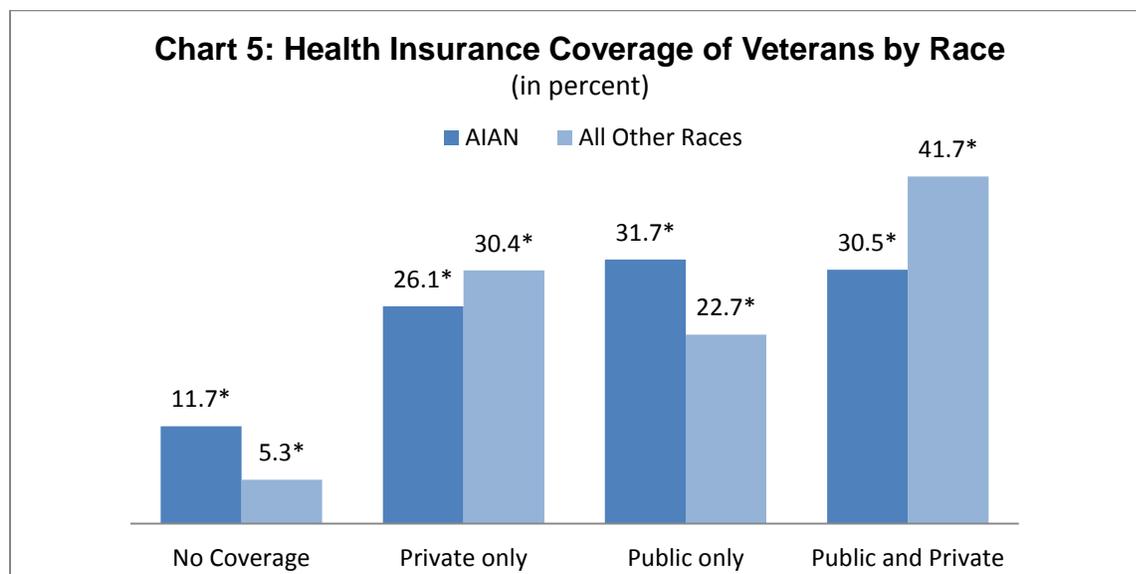
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

An asterisk (*) denotes a statistically significant difference between the percentages for AIAN Veterans and Veterans of all other races. Statistical testing assessed significance at the 90 percent confidence level.

- A higher percentage of AIAN Veterans (36.5%) used VA health care in 2013, compared with Veterans of all other races (30.7%). The percentage of AIAN Veterans who did not use VA health care included the uninsured population.

Health Insurance Coverage of Veterans

The ACS questionnaire asks respondents to choose from a list of different health care insurance plans. These plans can be categorized as “private” or “public.” Private health insurance includes plans provided through an employer or a union or purchased by an individual from a private company. Public health insurance includes such federal programs as Medicare, Medicaid, and military health care; and individual state health plans. Veterans were considered uninsured (i.e., “No Health Insurance”) if they indicated they were not covered by any type of health insurance during the year. Individuals whose only source of health coverage is Indian Health Service are considered uninsured in ACS.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

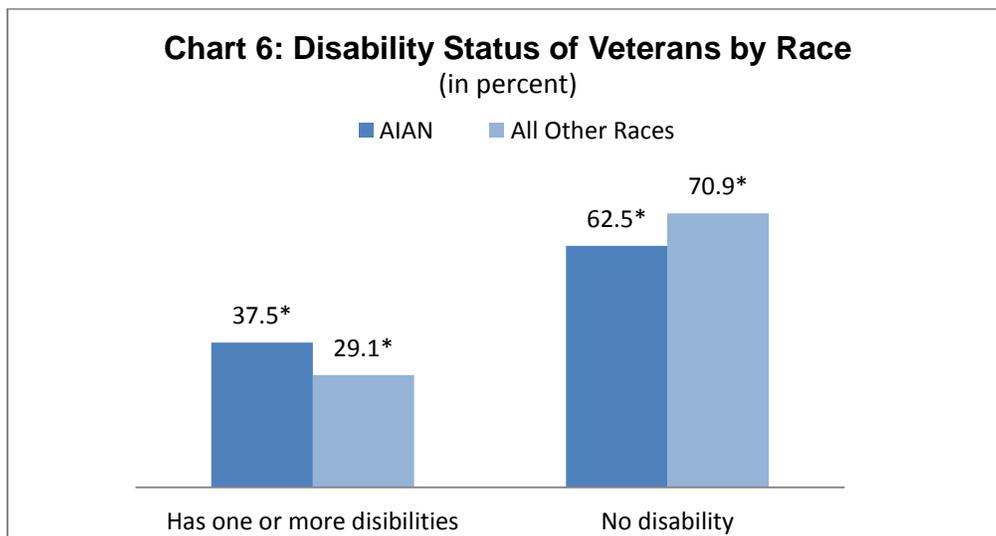
An asterisk (*) denotes a statistically significant difference between the percentages for AIAN Veterans and Veterans of all other races. Statistical testing assessed significance at the 90 percent confidence level.

- A higher percentage of AIAN Veterans (31.7%) were covered only by public plans in 2013, compared with all other Veterans (22.7%).

- The percentage of AIAN Veterans with no health insurance (11.7%) was over twice that of all other race Veterans (5.3%).
- About 30 percent of uninsured AIAN Veterans reported using Indian Health Services (IHS) as their only source of health care. As previously stated, IHS alone is considered a health system, but not health coverage in ACS.

Disability Status of Veterans

The ACS identifies disability as serious difficulty with any of six basic areas of functioning and limitations in activities – hearing, vision, cognition, and ambulation, difficulty bathing and dressing, and difficulty performing errands such as shopping. Any Veteran who answered yes to having serious difficulties with one or more of the disabilities listed above is considered to have a disability.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013. Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

An asterisk (*) denotes a statistically significant difference between the percentages for AIAN Veterans and Veterans of all other races. Statistical testing assessed significance at the 90 percent confidence level.

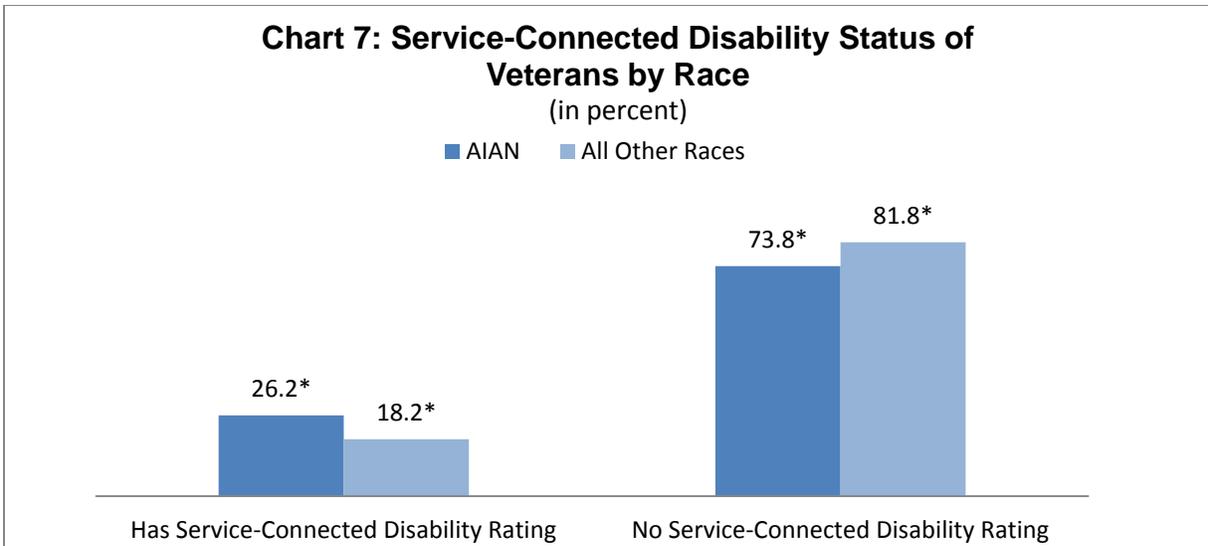
- A higher percentage of AIAN Veterans have a disability, compared with all other Veterans (37.5% versus 29.1%, respectively).

Service-Connected Disability Status of Veterans

Service-connected disabilities are evaluated according to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Schedule for Rating Disabilities in Title 38, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Part 4. “Service-connected” means the disability was a result of disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty during active military service. Ratings are graduated according to the degree of the Veteran’s disability on a scale from 0 to 100 percent, in increments of 10 percent. Zero percent is a valid rating and is different than having no rating at all. A zero-percent rating means a disability exists and is related to the Veteran’s service; however, it is not so disabling that it entitles the Veteran to compensation payments.

Beginning in 2008, the ACS questionnaire added the question “*Does this person have a VA service-connected disability rating?*” The question does not ask whether or not the Veteran is being compensated for this rating. Estimates of service-connected disability from ACS differ from compensation statistics reported by VA because of the differences in definitions and the limitations of the survey data.

It should also be noted that service-connected disability ratings are not necessarily correlated with having a disability, as defined in the previous section. Veterans can receive a service-connected disability rating for a wide variety of conditions. Caution should be used when trying to compare disability status (Chart 6) and service-connected disability status (Chart 7).



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2013.
Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics

An asterisk (*) denotes a statistically significant difference between the percentages for AIAN Veterans and Veterans of all other races. Statistical testing assessed significance at the 90 percent confidence level.

- About 26 percent of AIAN Veterans had a service-connected disability rating in 2013, compared with 18.2 percent of Veterans of all other races.

Appendix A. Data Sources

Census Bureau

American Community Survey 2013 Public Use Microdata Sample

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual household survey that provides data on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the U.S. population. It collects data annually on topics such as race, age, income, health insurance, education, Veteran status, and disability. Demographic and socio-economic tables in this report were produced from the ACS 2013 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). ACS respondents had the choice of selecting one or more races for the survey. AIAN estimates reflect data from those respondents who only selected AIAN and did not select more than one race or Hispanic ethnicity. Statistics from the ACS 2013 PUMS are estimates and should not be construed to be exact figures. All comparative statements have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90% confidence level.

A “statistically significant difference” simply means there is statistical evidence that there is a difference; it does not mean the difference is necessarily large, important or significant in the usual sense of the word. A “no statistically significant difference” means that there is statistical evidence that there is no difference in the comparative percentages/rates.

Appendix B. Definitions of American Indian and Alaska Native Geographic Areas

Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs)

ANVSAs are statistical geographic entities representing permanent and/or seasonal residences of Alaska Natives who are members of, or receive governmental services from, the defining Alaska Native village (ANV). ANVSAs are intended to include only an area where Alaska Natives, especially members of the defining ANV, represent a substantial proportion of the population during at least one season of the year.

Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRCs)

ANRCs are corporate entities organized to conduct both for-profit and non-profit affairs of Alaska Natives pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. ANRCs have legally defined boundaries that subdivide all of Alaska into twelve regions (except for the area within the Annette Island Reserve). The non-profit officials of ANRCs review their legal boundary and may, in the absence of participation by the Alaska Native village official, act as proxy in the delineation of ANVSAs in their regions.

Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSAs)

OTSAs are statistical areas that were identified and delineated by the Census Bureau in consultation with federally recognized American Indian tribes based in Oklahoma. An OTSA is intended to represent the former American Indian reservation that existed in Indian and Oklahoma territories prior to Oklahoma statehood in 1907. OTSAs are intended to provide geographic entities comparable to the former Oklahoma reservations so that statistical data can be viewed over time. OTSAs were referred to as Tribal Jurisdiction Statistical Areas (TJSAs) in the 1990 Census data products.

OTSA Tribal Subdivisions

Tribal subdivisions are internal units of self-government and/or administration that serve social, cultural, and/or economic purposes. Federally recognized Oklahoma tribes with OTSAs may identify and delineate an administrative subdivision within their OTSA. Although some tribes have more than one type of subdivision, tribes may identify only one type of subdivision on their OTSA for Census Bureau purposes.

Tribal Designated Statistical Areas (TDSAs)

TDSAs are statistical geographic entities identified and delineated for the Census Bureau by federally recognized American Indian tribes that do not currently have an American Indian reservation and/or off-reservation trust land. A TDSA is intended to encompass a compact and contiguous area that contains a concentration of individuals who identify with the delineating federally recognized American Indian tribe. TDSAs are also intended to be comparable to American Indian reservations within the same state or region and provide a means for reporting statistical data for the area.

Tribal Census Tracts and Tribal Block Groups

Tribal census tracts and tribal block groups are statistical geographic entities defined by the Census Bureau in cooperation with tribal officials, unique to and within the boundaries of federally recognized American Indian reservations and/or off-reservation trust lands. Tribal census tracts and tribal block groups allow for an unambiguous presentation of tract and block group level data specific to the reservations and off-reservation trust lands without the imposition of state or county boundaries, and provide a geographic framework for the tabulation and presentation of statistical data for communities within the reservation. Tribal census tract identifiers differ from standard census tract identifiers. The tribal census tract code is alpha-numeric and always begins with a "T." For example, a reservation with 2 tribal census tracts would have tract codes T001 and T002. Tribal block groups nest within tribal census tracts and are identified by a single capital letter from "A" through "K" (except for the letter "I") following the tribal tract identifier. Tribal block groups are identified as "T001A", "T001B", continuing until every tribal block group within that tract is labeled.

Census Designated Places (CDPs)

CDPs are statistical geographic areas representing closely settled, unincorporated communities, which are locally recognized and identified by name. They are statistical equivalents of incorporated places with the primary differences being the lack of both a legally defined boundary and an active, functioning government. A CDP generally consists of a contiguous area with a concentration of housing and commercial structures similar to that of an incorporated place of similar size. CDPs are delineated on reservations by the Census Bureau in collaboration with tribal officials. Tribal officials may also work with counties or regional agencies to define CDPs for tribal communities completely off their reservations.

State American Indian Reservations (SAIRs)

State American Indian reservations are the legally defined reservations of state-recognized tribes. The reservations of state-recognized tribes are established by treaty, statute, executive order and/or court order, and represent area over which the tribal government of a state-recognized American Indian tribe may have governmental authority. The Census Bureau works with a governor appointed state liaison to obtain the name and boundary for each state-recognized American Indian reservation.

State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSAs)

SDTSAs are statistical geographic areas identified and delineated for state recognized tribes that are not federally recognized and do not have an American Indian reservation or off-reservation trust land. The Census Bureau works with a governor appointed state liaison to delineate statistical areas for state-recognized tribes. SDTSAs do not cross state lines and are limited to the state in which the respective tribe is officially recognized. SDTSAs provide state recognized tribes without reservations statistical data for a geographic area that encompasses a substantial concentration of tribal members. SDTSAs were called State Designated American Indian Statistical Areas (SDAISAs) for Census 2000.

https://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/aian_tsap.html

Appendix C. Historical Background

A brief overview⁶ of the contributions of AIAN Veterans in the military is provided in the following text:

Early Wars (before World War I)

- From the Revolutionary War through the Civil War, American Indians served as auxiliary troops and as scouts.
- The Indian Scouts were established in 1866. This service was active for the remainder of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.

World War I

- Roughly 12,000 Native Americans served in the military during World War I.
- Four American Indians serving in the 142nd Infantry of the 36th Texas-Oklahoma National Guard Division received the *Croix de Guerre* medal from France.

World War II

- Over 44,000 Native Americans served between 1941 and 1945. The entire population of Native Americans in the United States was less than 350,000 at the time.
- Native American military personnel worked as cryptologists, using their Native languages to encode messages so that enemy code-breakers could not decipher them.
- Alaska Natives were a significant presence on the Alaska Combat Intelligence Detachment. This outfit was the first ashore on each island occupied by Allied forces in the Aleutian Campaign.⁷

⁶ Unless otherwise noted, historical information is obtained from a U.S. Army article celebrating AIAN heritage (available from: <http://www.army.mil/article/48472/honoring-native-american-alaska-native-heritage>).

⁷ Information obtained from a Department of Defense report titled *Native Alaska - Military Relations: 1867 to Current*.

Korean Conflict

- Approximately 10,000 Native Americans served in the military during this period.
- Three were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Vietnam Era

- More than 42,000 Native Americans served in the military in the Vietnam Era, and over 90 percent of these Servicemembers were volunteers.

Post-Vietnam Era

- AIAN Servicemembers continued to serve in high numbers after the Vietnam Era.
- AIAN Servicemembers saw action in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, the Gulf War, and in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND).

Appendix D. References

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