

Veterans Across Kentucky

Nelson 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>

For more info, contact: Nichole Huff, PhD, CFLE, University of Kentucky: nichole.huff@uky.edu

Overview

| | Estimate | Margin of Error |
|--|----------|-----------------|
| Total number of Veterans | 2,871 | +/- 316 |
| Male Veterans | 2,561 | +/- 313 |
| Female Veterans | 310 | +/- 111 |
| Percent of civilian population ages 18 and over who are Veterans | 8.0% | +/- 0.9 |

Period of Service

| | Estimate | Margin of Error |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Gulf War (9/2001 or later) Veterans | 600 | +/- 163 |
| Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001) Veterans | 674 | +/- 217 |
| Vietnam era Veterans | 1,012 | +/- 196 |
| Korean War Veterans | 133 | +/- 77 |
| World War II Veterans | 9 | +/- 16 |

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 | 182 | +/- 81 | 6.3% | +/- 2.8 | 28.8% | +/- 0.5 |
| 35-54 years | 806 | +/- 241 | 28.1% | +/- 6.9 | 33.1% | +/- 0.6 |
| 55-64 years | 396 | +/- 147 | 13.8% | +/- 4.6 | 18.7% | +/- 0.4 |
| 65-74 years | 713 | +/- 126 | 24.8% | +/- 4.4 | 12.9% | +/- 0.5 |
| 75 years and over | 774 | +/- 118 | 27.0% | +/- 4.0 | 6.5% | +/- 0.3 |

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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 | 134 | +/- 65 | 4.7% | +/- 2.2 | 8.5% | +/- 1.5 |
| High school graduate (includes equiv.) | 998 | +/- 180 | 34.9% | +/- 5.6 | 37.0% | +/- 2.4 |
| Some college or associate's degree | 1,082 | +/- 232 | 37.9% | +/- 6.5 | 31.6% | +/- 2.1 |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 644 | +/- 166 | 22.5% | +/- 5.2 | 22.9% | +/- 2.2 |

Economic Characteristics

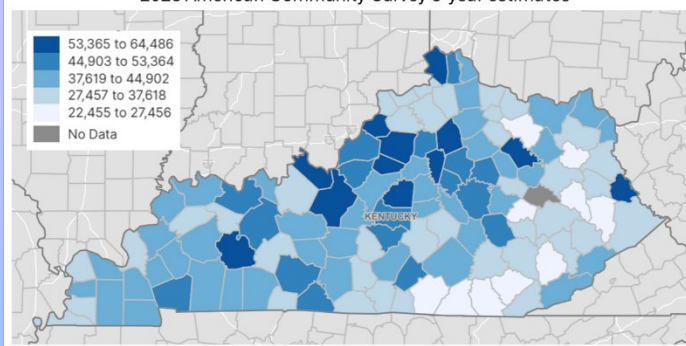
| | Veterans | | Nonveterans | |
|---|----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | Estimate | Margin of Error | Estimate | Margin of Error |
| Poverty Rate | 7.0% | +/- 3.5 | 8.7% | +/- 1.3 |
| Labor Force Participation Rate (Ages 18-64 years) | 80.9% | +/- 8.6 | 76.3% | +/- 2.1 |
| Median Income | \$42,696 | +/- \$7,587 | \$35,054 | +/- \$1,734 |

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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