



Key Numbers in Understanding Children of Veterans

- Total number of veterans leaving service after deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan: 1.48 million—60% of all service members serving in OIF/OEF
- Estimated number of children of separated veterans: 1.18 million
- Estimated % of OIF/OEF veterans with effects of trauma or substance use disorders: 30%
- Estimated number of children affected by veterans;' trauma or substance use disorders: 354,000
- Total number of veterans not receiving healthcare from VA: 45%
- Total number of non elderly veterans without any health insurance or access to VA health service: 10.5%



A Method for Determining Total Number of Children of Veterans

As opposed to the decennial census, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts the American Community Survey (ACS)—a sample survey—on an ongoing basis to obtain current demographic and housing information. A sample of the actual responses to the ACS is made available as Public Use Microdata Sample files (PUMS). These files provide researchers the flexibility to prepare customized tabulations. To develop an estimate of the number of children in the households of post-9/11 veterans, the 2007-11 ACS PUMS “Person” file for the State of California¹ (n= 1,776,827 records) was downloaded.

Extracting from this file 152,117 records associated with the 17 Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAS) consistent with the boundaries of Orange County, active duty and non-active duty veterans who served from September 2001 to 2011 were identified. Their unique survey identifiers were then associated with the IDs of others in their households. Their children between the ages of 0 and 17 were counted and these data were weighted to produce the final estimated counts of the children of both active duty and non-active duty post-9/11 veterans in Orange County. The confidence interval around these estimated counts of children will be greater than +/- 3.84 associated with the 2011 ACS estimate of 130,156 veterans in Orange County.

MLPA Inactive (Served September 2001 or later, Not now on Active Duty)		
PUMS Age	Frequency	Percent
AGEP		
0	716	12.21
1	648	11.05
2	491	8.37
3	399	6.8
4	195	3.32
5	341	5.81
6	392	6.68
7	320	5.46
8	245	4.18
9	164	2.8
10	201	3.43
11	236	4.02
12	378	6.44
13	179	3.05
14	284	4.84
15	207	3.53
16	161	2.74
17	309	5.27
	5866	

¹http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_pums_csv_2007_2011&prodType=document