

American Community Survey

Population: Question on VA Service-Connected Disability Rating

Question as it appears in the questionnaire.

28 a. **Does this person have a VA service-connected disability rating?**

Yes (such as 0%, 10%, 20%, ... , 100%)

No → *SKIP to question 29a*

b. What is this person's service-connected disability rating?

0 percent

10 or 20 percent

30 or 40 percent

50 or 60 percent

70 percent or higher

Source: ACS-1(2009)KFI

MEETING FEDERAL NEEDS

Veterans Affairs (VA) service-connected disability rating was added to the American Community Survey (ACS) to enable the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to measure a veteran's service-connected disability compensation entitlement status. This information will improve the VA's ability to accurately anticipate the need for VA care and its associated cost.

VA is required to provide an annual report to Congress that determines whether VA health care appropriations for the coming fiscal year are sufficient to cover expenditures associated with the expected demand for VA health care services. Adding the proposed service-connected disability status measure to the ACS will enable VA to make county-level estimates of veterans classified by income, service-connected status, and several other characteristics that are needed to classify enrollment priorities.

This information will fundamentally improve VA's capability to describe the total veteran population in terms of age, priority, and market area and to more accurately estimate the demand for VA care.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Health

VA medical centers and their associated outpatient clinics would use these data to measure key determinants of the demand for VA care.

Data on service-connected disability ratings would allow VA medical centers (and their regional networks) to engage in meaningful local area planning that accounts for expectations of the future demand for VA care.

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