VA Service Record File

2016 NHCS Data Linked to VA Data
Date Created: 09NOV2022
Number of Variables: 26

Variable Name	Variable (VAR) Label	VAR Type	Range of Values	Value Description	Variable Notes
SURVEY	Survey Name	Char	2016 NHCS		The value of this variable indicates the year of the NHCS survey linked to the VA data.
PATIENT_ID	NHCS Patient ID	Char	ID		Identifier for NHCS patients.
BRANCH_LAST_CAT	Branch of service at last separation - Numerical categories created by NCHS	Num	1	Army	Derived categorical variable based on USVETS source variable BRANCH_LAST.
			2	Navy	
			3	Air Force	
			4	Marines	
			5	Other or Unknown	
CHAR_HON	Any discharge is Honorable, General, or Honorable for VA	Num	0	No	Derived dichotomous variable based on USVETS source variable CHAR_COMBO. Veterans may have discharges of different characterizations and the discharge flags are not mutually exclusive.
			1	Yes	
CHAR_DISHON	Any discharge is Bad Conduct, Dishonorable, or Dishonorable for VA	Num	0	No	Derived dichotomous variable based on USVETS source variable CHAR_COMBO. Veterans may have discharges of different characterizations and the discharge flags are not mutually exclusive. Veterans who received an other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable discharge may not be eligible for VA benefits. However, the individual benefit programs determine Veteran eligibility.
			1	Yes	

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CHAR_OTH	Any discharge is Other than Honorable	Num	0	No	Derived dichotomous variable based on USVETS source variable CHAR_COMBO. Veterans may have discharges of different characterizations and the discharge flags are not mutually exclusive. Veterans who received an other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable discharge may not be eligible for VA benefits. However, the individual benefit programs determine Veteran eligibility.
			1	Yes	
CHAR_UNK	Any discharge is Uncharacterized or Unknown	Num	0	No	Derived dichotomous variable based on USVETS source variable CHAR_COMBO. Veterans may have discharges of different characterizations and the discharge flags are not mutually exclusive.
			1	Yes	
RETIRE_IND	Retirement indicator	Num	0	No	Retirement from military service.
			1	Yes	
RETIRE_TYPE	Retirement type	Char	0	Not known to be a retiree	Veterans who accumulate 20 or more years of active service are eligible for regular or non-disability retirement. Veterans determined medically unfit for continued service with a Department of Defense disability rating of at least 30% may be eligible for medical or disability retirement.
			1	Regular retirement	
			2	Medical/disability retirement	
			Z	Unknown retirement type	
RETIRE_DATE	Retirement date	Num	DATE		Date provided in SAS date (numeric) format.
MAX_ACT_DATE	Date of last activation	Num	DATE		Date provided in SAS date (numeric) format.
MAX_SEP_DATE	Date of last separation	Num	DATE		Date provided in SAS date (numeric) format.

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MIN_ACT_DATE	Date of first activation	Num	DATE		Date provided in SAS date (numeric) format.
MIN_SEP_DATE	Date of first separation	Num	DATE		Date provided in SAS date (numeric) format.
GWE_FLG	Active duty service during Gulf War Era	Num	0	No	Anyone who served on active duty from August 2, 1990 to present (Gulf War Era).
			1	Yes	
GWI_FLG	Active duty service during pre 9/11 Persian Gulf War Era (Gulf War I)	Num	0	No	Anyone who served on active duty from August 2, 1990 to September 11, 2001 (Gulf War I).
			1	Yes	
GWII_FLG	Active duty service during post 9/11 Persian Gulf War Era (Gulf War II)	Num	0	No	Anyone who served on active duty from September 11, 2001 to present (Gulf War II)
			1	Yes	
KW_FLG	Active duty service during Korean Conflict Era	Num	0	No	Anyone who served on active duty from June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955 (Korean Conflict).
			1	Yes	
P1918_41_FLG	Active duty service during peace time period 1918-1941	Num	0	No	Anyone who served on active duty during peace time period 1918-1941.
			1	Yes	
P1947_50_FLG	Active duty service during peace time period 1947-1950	Num	0	No	Anyone who served on active duty during peace time period 1947-1950.
			1	Yes	

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P1955_64_FLG	Active duty service during peace time period 1955-1964	Num	0	No	Anyone who served on active duty during peace time period 1955-1964.
			1	Yes	
P1975_90_FLG	Active duty service during peace time period 1975-1990	Num	0	No	Anyone who served on active duty during peace time period 1975-1990.
			1	Yes	
VNE_FLG	Active duty service during Vietnam Era	Num	0	No	Anyone who served on active duty from November 1, 1965 to May 7, 1975 for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, or August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975 for Veterans who served outside the Republic of Vietnam (Vietnam War Era).
			1	Yes	
WWII_FLG	Active duty service during World War II Era	Num	0	No	Anyone who served on active duty from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (World War II Era).
			1	Yes	
VA_HISPANIC	Hispanic Origin (VA Admin)	Char	0	Non-Hispanic	Administrative data on ethnicity is from the USVETS database, which stores race and ethnicity as separate variables. VA obtained ethnicity information from many sources, including purchased data. Limited administrative data is supplemented by commercial data that used a proprietary algorithm to identify ethnicity.
			1	Hispanic	
			Z	Unknown	

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Variable Name	Variable (VAR) Label	VAR Type	Range of Values	Value Description	Variable Notes
VA_RACE	Race (VA Admin)	Char	1	White	Administrative data on race is from the USVETS database, which stores race and ethnicity as separate variables. VA obtained race information from many sources, including purchased data. Limited administrative data is supplemented by commercial data that used a proprietary algorithm to identify race.
			2	Black/African American	
			3	American Indian/Alaskan Native	
			4	Asian	
			5	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	
			6	Asian or Pacific Islander Unspecified	
			7	Other	
			8	Multiple race	
			Z	Unknown	