



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, DC

2024 CENSUS UPDATE

Table of contents

INTRODUCTION	2
ABOUT THE EVEN-YEAR CENSUS UPDATE	2
GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS	3
ACADEMIC INFORMATION	5
EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION	8
MILITARY INFORMATION	10

Introduction

The purpose of the annual Student Veterans of America (SVA) Census is to gather information about current and former student veterans primarily regarding their academic and vocational pursuits. This information helps SVA modify its annual programming to better meet the needs of student veterans, as well as make broader policy recommendations that aim to improve the quality of life for veterans, their families, dependents, caregivers, and survivors. Other groups and organizations also make use of the information gathered by the SVA census to help them better understand the changing dynamic of the student veteran population. There is no other currently active project collecting this type of information at the scale of the SVA Census.

In order for SVA to appropriately analyze the data from the census and make confident generalizations, a certain threshold of response must be met. This level has generally been set at 1,000 individuals responding to the questionnaire. At this level of response, the results can be seen as generally representative of the actual targeted population. When fewer individuals respond, SVA must feel less confident in the generalizability of the results and cannot make strong inferences regarding the target population.

In 2024, SVA received 646 responses to the census questionnaire. This, unfortunately, is below the threshold required for appropriate analysis. Still, certain pieces of high-level information can be taken from the information available. The following sections will highlight general trends found in previous census reports and show how the current year census may align or differ.

About the Even-Year Census Update

Even-year updates serve as maintenance years for the SVA Census. These updates are used to refine data collection, test new questions, and monitor outliers or emerging trends. While valuable for identifying potential shifts, this data is not intended to replace the comprehensive insights provided by the latest full report. For a detailed analysis, please refer to the 2023 SVA Census.

General Demographics

This section provides general information regarding respondent demographic information. By and large trends remained consistent with the past several years of census information. There was no major change in response by gender identification, sexual orientation, or race/ethnicity. There was a small rise in the percentage of respondents identifying as married and as parents. The percentage of individuals identifying as single parents decreased compared to prior years.

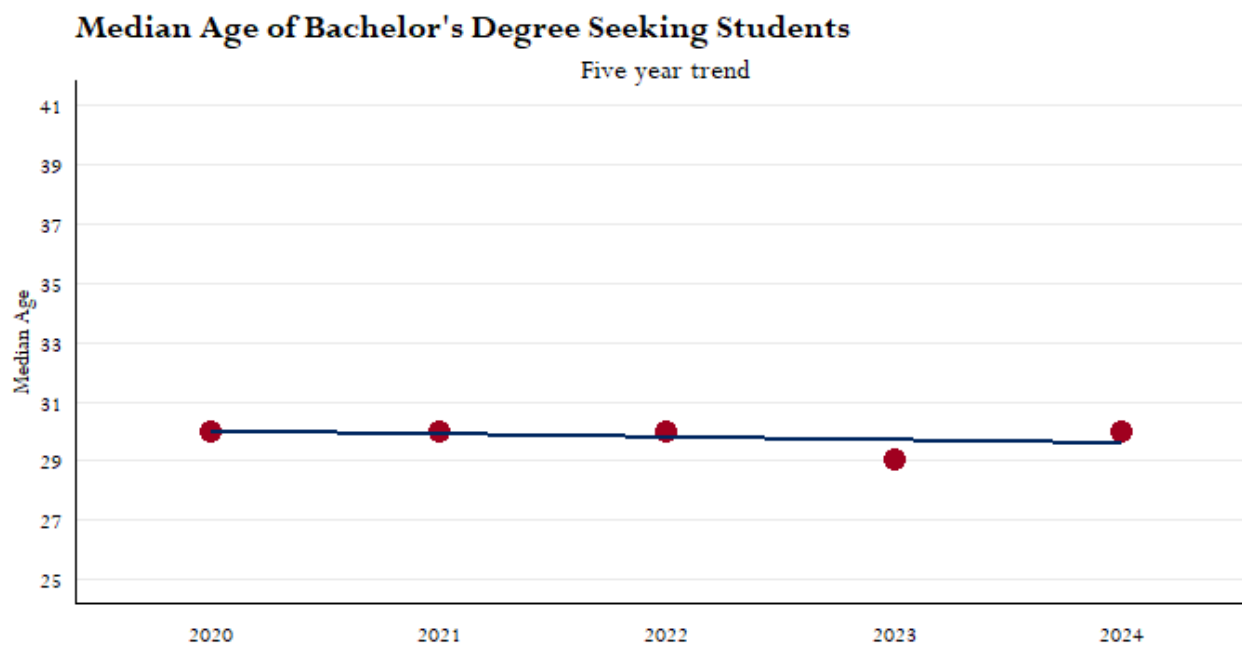


Figure 1: The median age of all respondents to the SVA Census seeking a bachelor's degree has remained around 30 for the last 5 years.

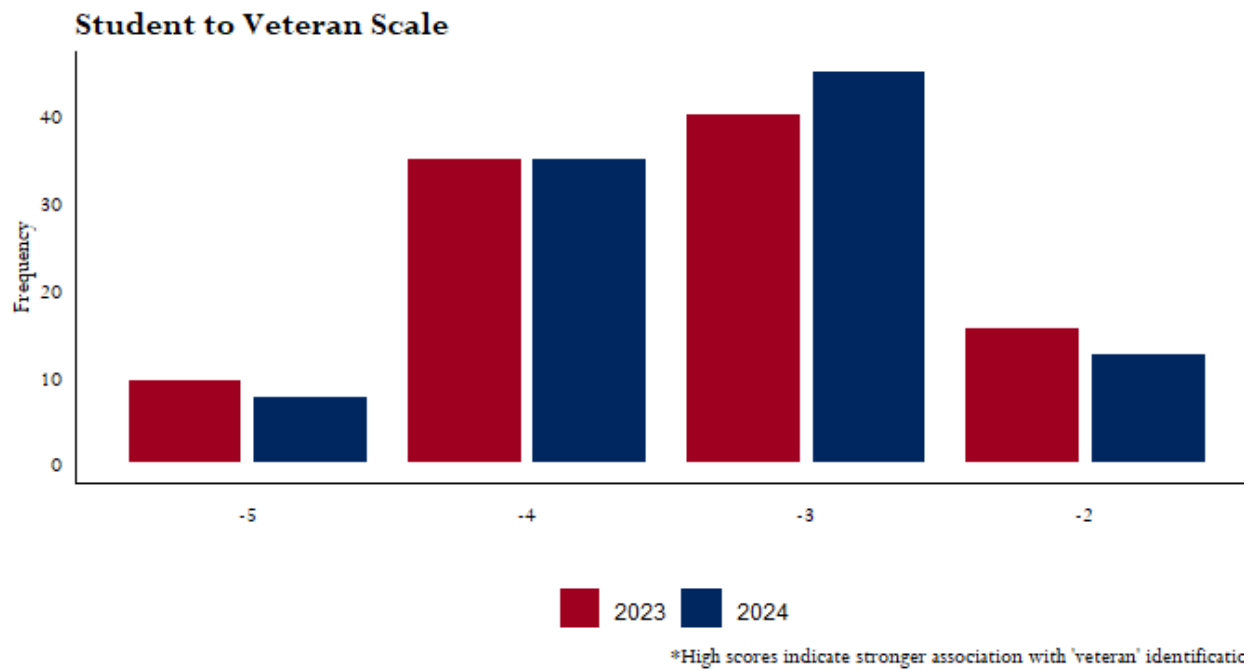


Figure 2: In the past two years, respondents have not strongly self-identified as students or veterans.

Academic Information

No major changes were seen in the area of academics. Response still generally came from individuals attending public 4-year institutions. While some respondents had previously earned degrees (primarily associate's degrees) most had not. Median GPA and first-generation student status remained stable. As for financial information, prior trends of decreasing Post 9/11 GI Bill use and increasing use of VR&E continued.

2024 SVA Census Responses

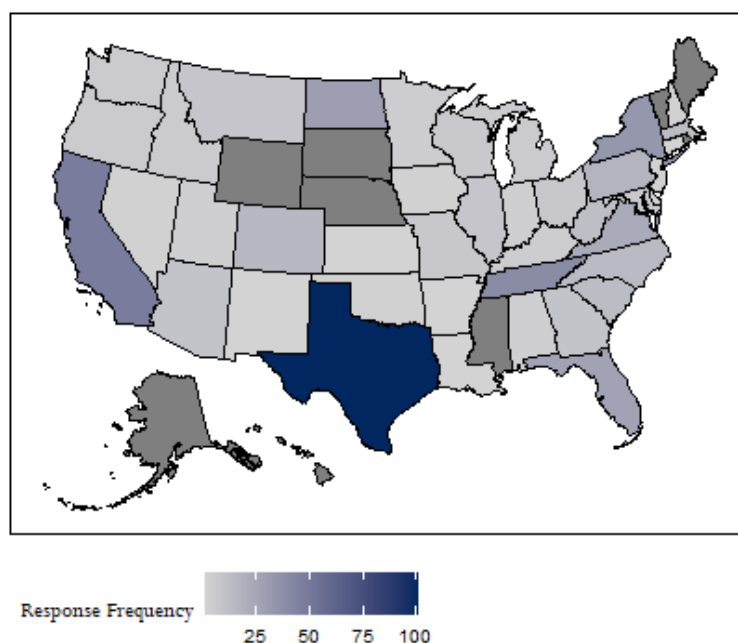


Figure 3: Response to the census came from 41 states and the District of Columbia.

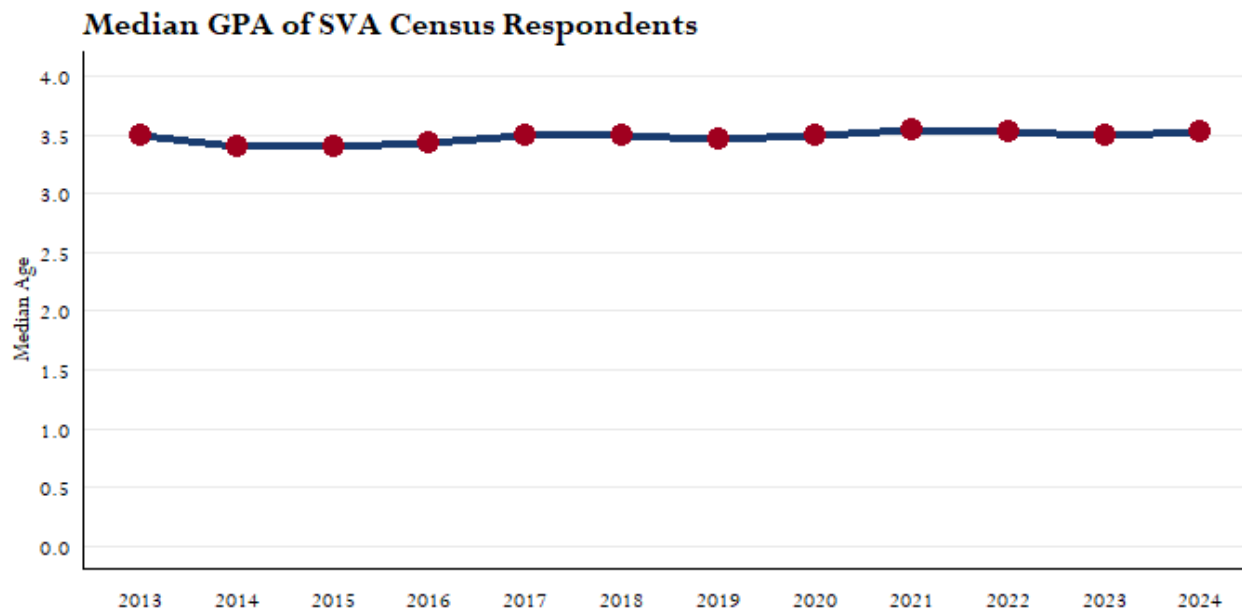


Figure 4: Census respondent GPA has remained relatively unchanged through the life of the census at or above a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

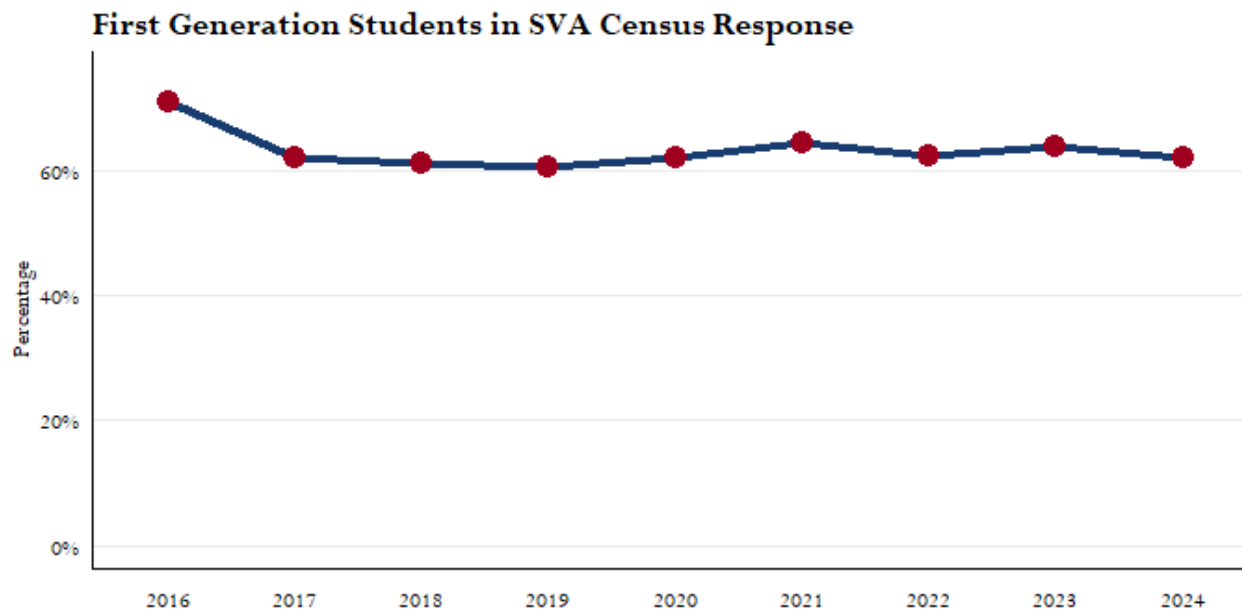


Figure 5: With the exception of the 2016 census, percentage of first-generation students responding has remained at around 60 percent throughout the life of the census.

Employment Information

Similar to prior years, over half of respondents indicated employment. Most individuals reported working a single job and an average of 40 hours per week. Alignment of current job to MOS remains low, with alignment of current job to future plans having a more positive alignment.

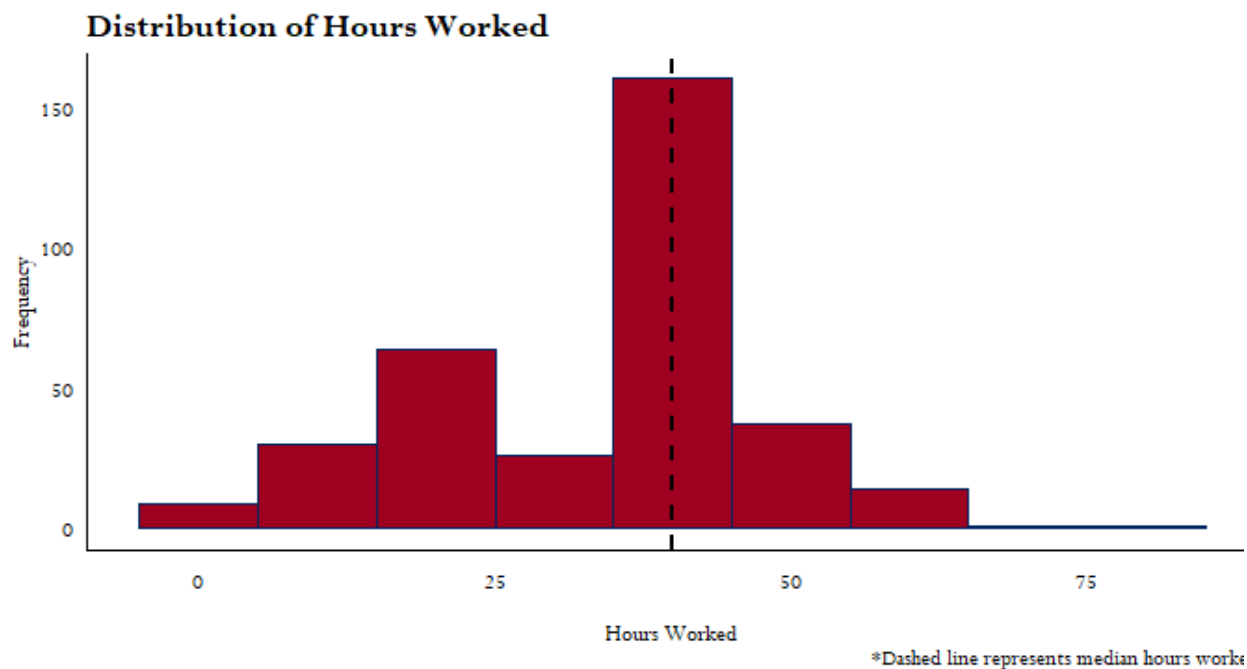


Figure 6: The majority of respondents who were employed worked a median of 40 hours per week.

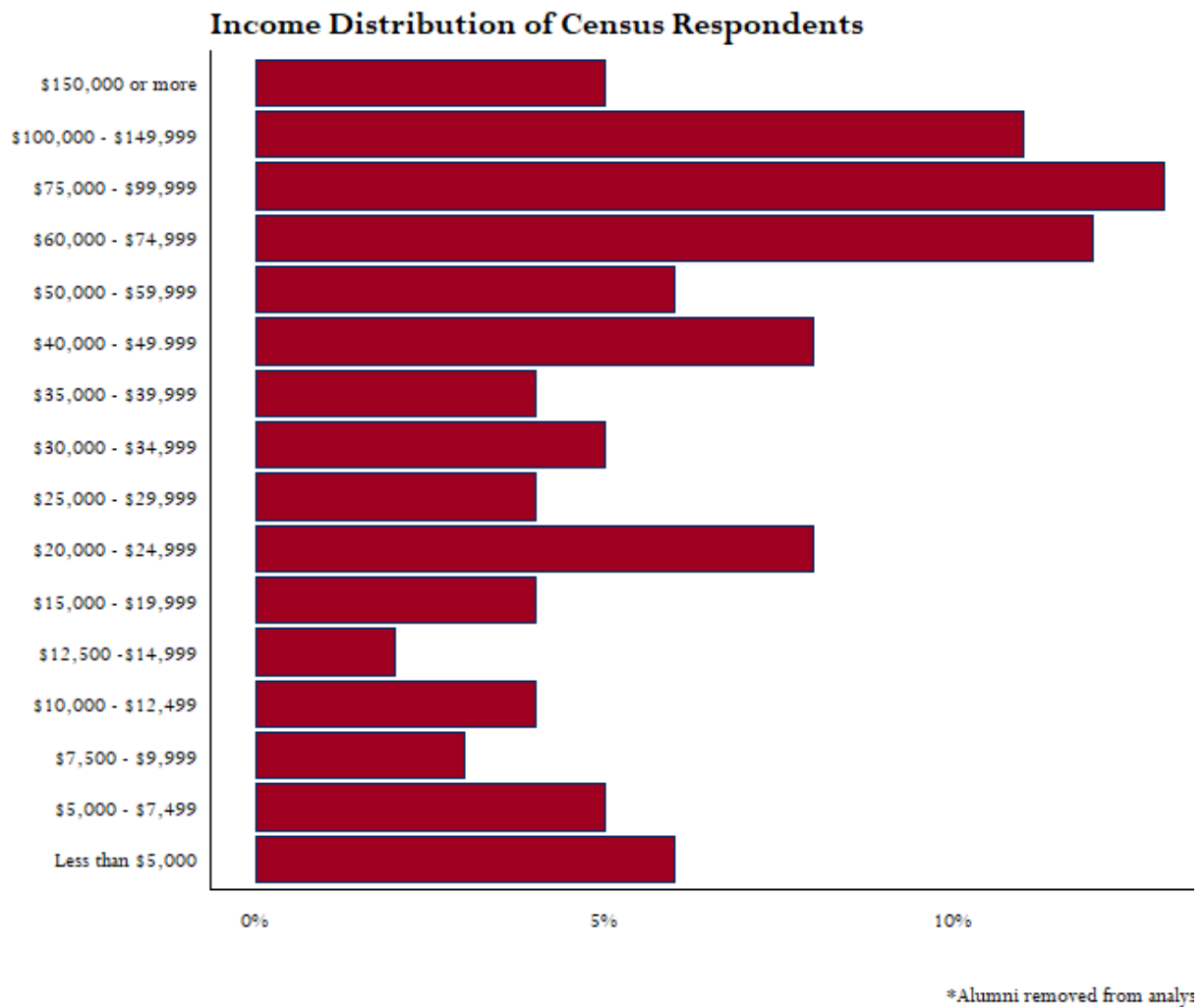
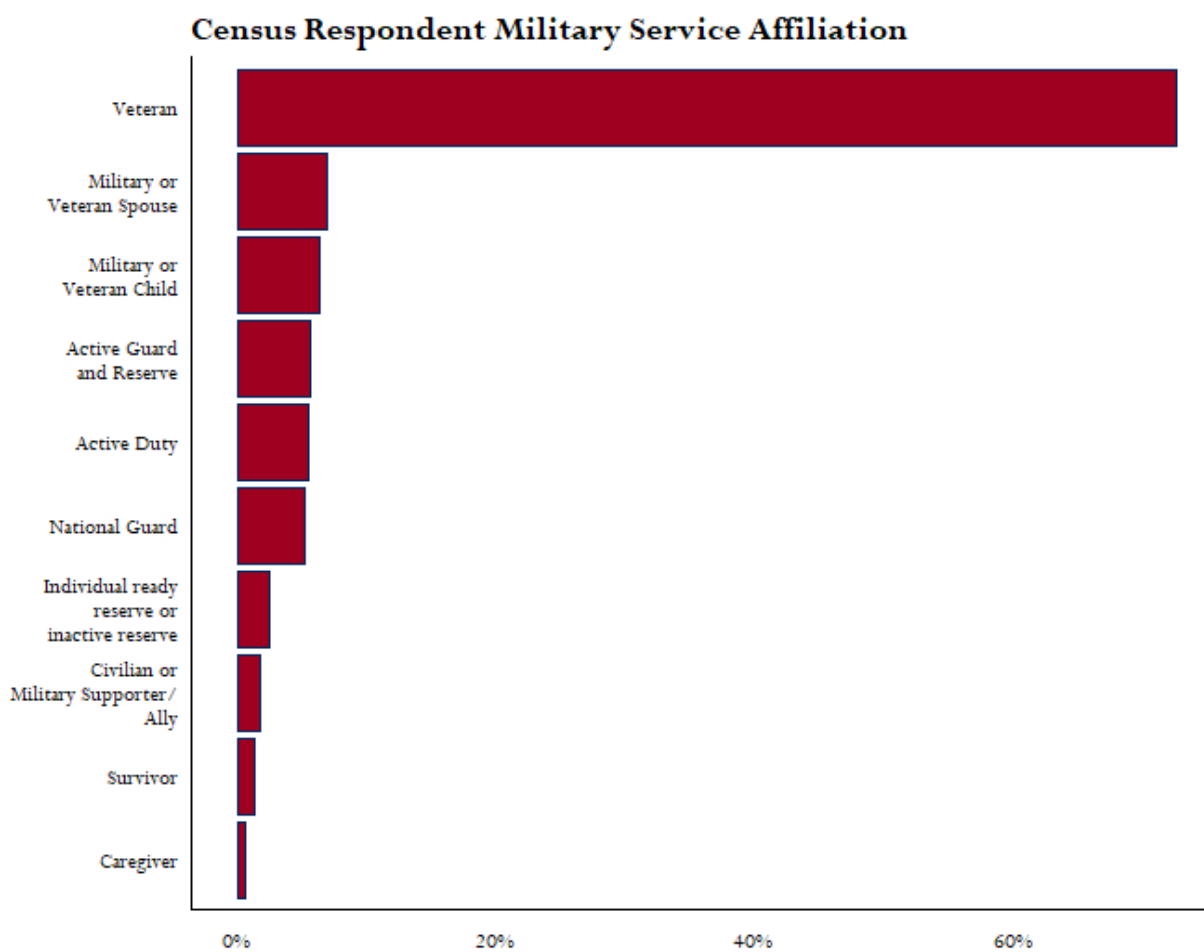


Figure 7: Respondents providing personal income data skewed toward the higher end of the scale.

Military Information

Most respondents come from the ranks of E-4 to E-6, a continuation of prior census trends. This aligns with an average service time of 4 to 6 years for respondents. 2024 saw a rise of individuals reporting a VA disability rating of 100 percent. The percentage of individuals reporting a 100 percent rating has increased in each year of the census. Positively, knowledge and use of campus disability services increased this year. This has been an upward trend in the last few years of the census.



Note: Individuals who select more than one affiliation are counted in each category they select.

Figure 8: The vast majority of respondents identify as veterans.

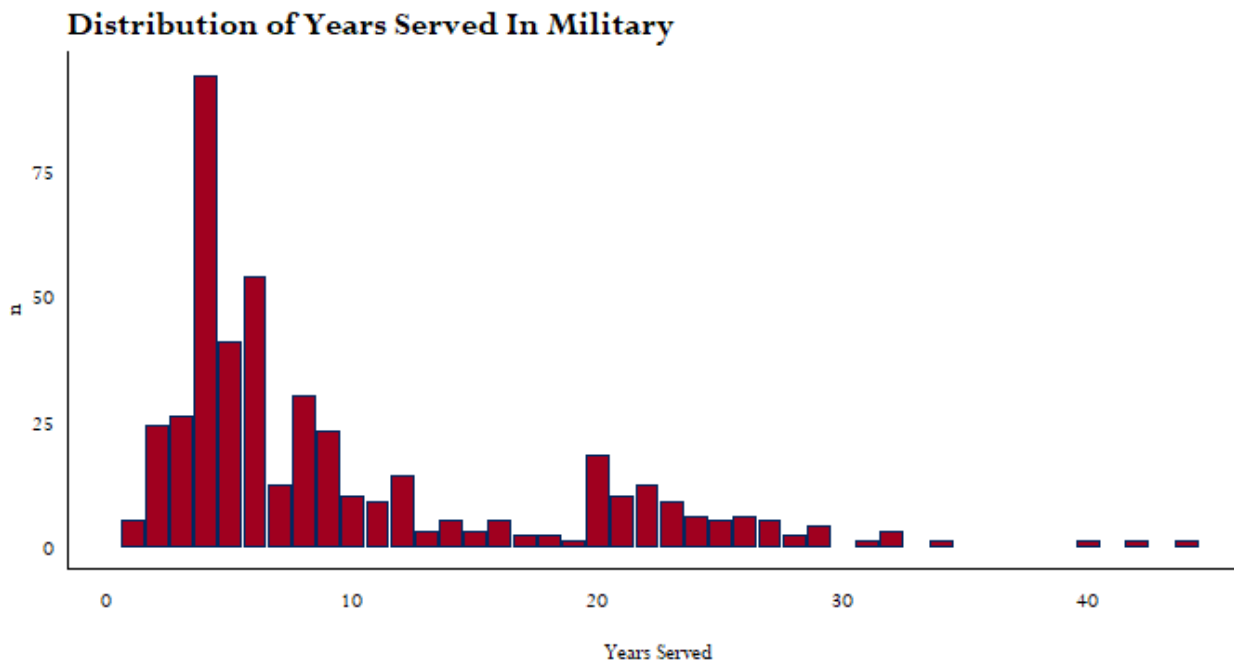


Figure 9: Most respondents served between 4 and 6 years, with secondary group who served around 20 years.

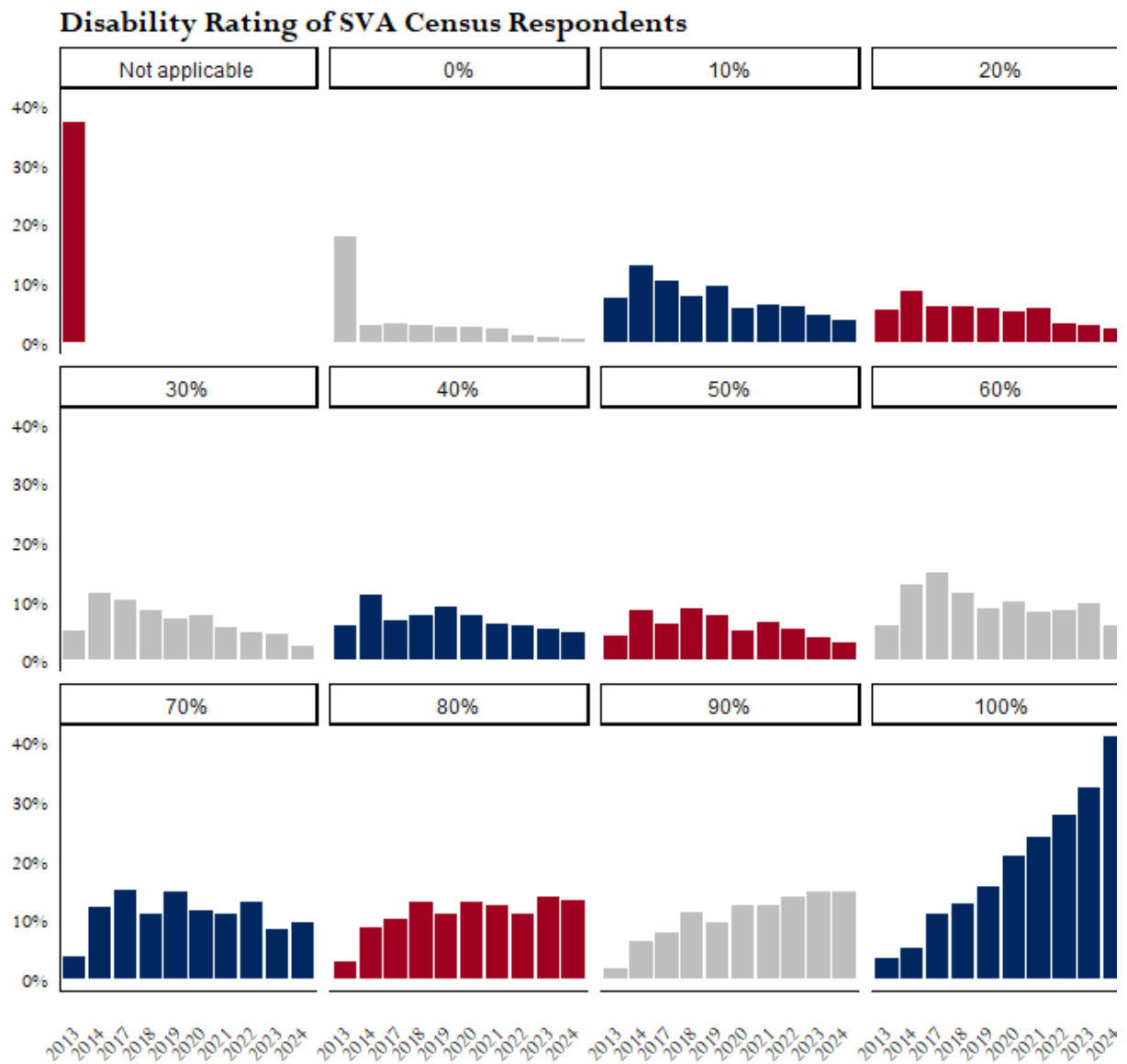


Figure 10: Respondents have increasingly reported being rated at 100 percent disability

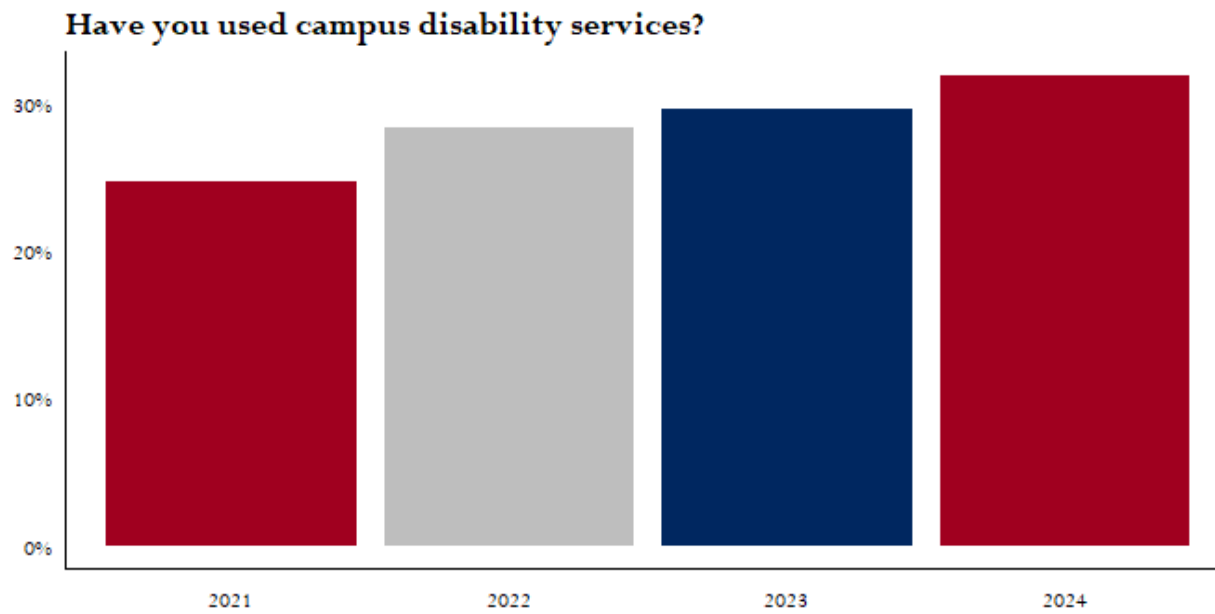


Figure 11: Use of campus disability services has increased for the past four years. Note: This question was added in 2021.

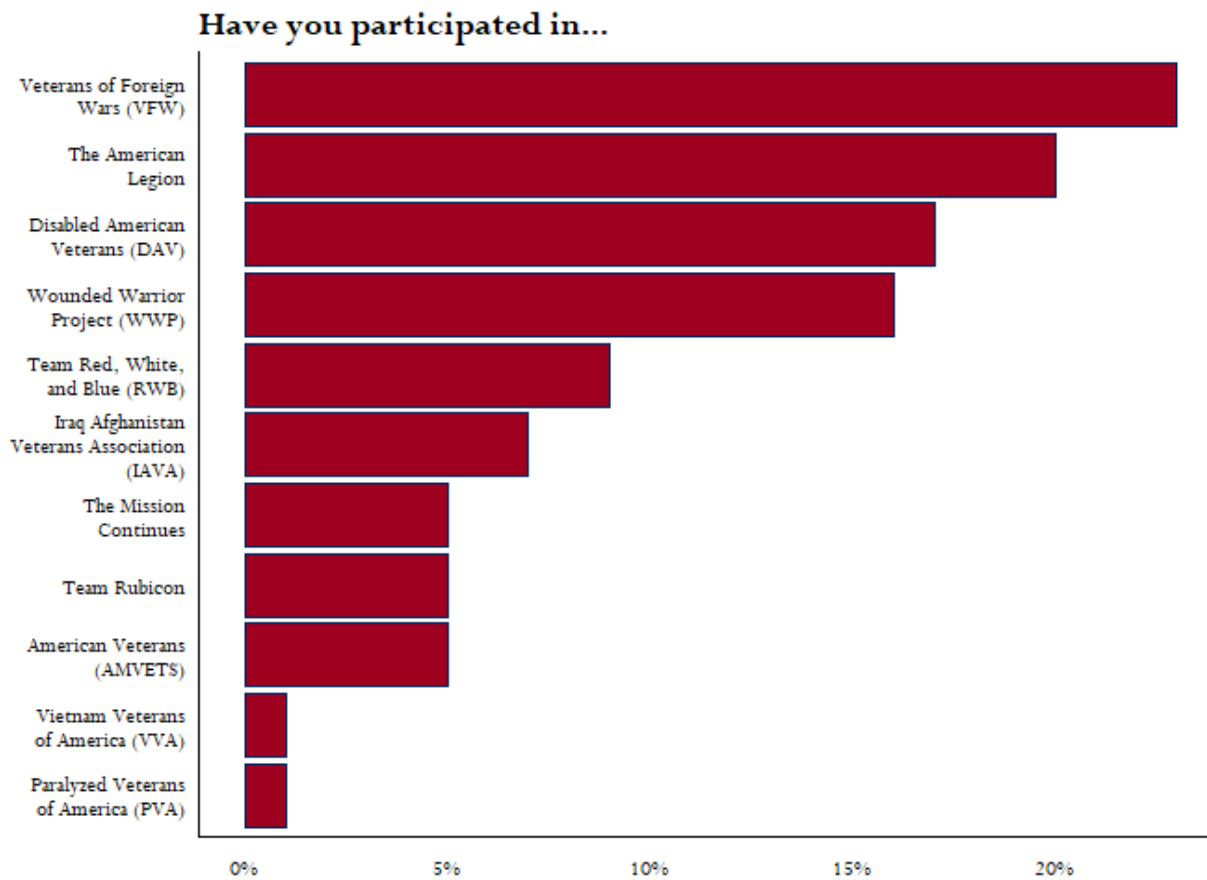


Figure 12: Participation in non-SVA Veteran Service Organizations is relatively low for all groups measured.