

RUI: Determinants and Consequences of Military Service: 1940-1998
Award ID: 0214296

Activities and Findings:

Teachman, Jay and Lucky Tedrow. 2004. 'World War II, Income, and Occupational Status: Did Veterans Receive a Premium?' *Social Science Research* 33:581-606.

We used survey data from the National Longitudinal Study of Mature Men (NLSMM) to examine the long-term effects of military service during WWII on occupational and income attainments. We found that the effects associated with being a veteran of WWII are modest and are mostly limited to less advantaged veterans, and can be largely explained by differences in human capital investment or selectivity. The one finding that cannot be explained by differences in family background, human capital investments, and selectivity is a higher hourly wage rate associated with being a Black veteran.

Teachman, Jay. 2004. 'Military Service During the Vietnam Era: Were There Consequences for Subsequent Civilian Earnings?' *Social Forces* 83:709-730.

We used longitudinal data from the National Longitudinal Study of Young Men (NLSYM) for the years 1966-1981 to examine the effect of military service during the Vietnam era on civilian earnings. The results indicate that Vietnam-era veterans have earnings profiles that differ from those of nonveterans. In particular, after leaving military service, veterans who were drafted earn less than nonveterans, but this difference erodes over time because veterans have a steeper earnings profile. By ten years following discharge there is no statistically significant difference between the earnings of veterans and nonveterans.

Teachman, Jay. 2004. 'Military Service in the Vietnam Era and Educational Attainment.' *Sociology of Education* 78:50-68.

Using longitudinal data gathered in the National Longitudinal Study of Young Men (NLSYM) spanning the years 1966-1981, we ascertained the effect of military service on highest grade of schooling completed. The results indicate that veterans have educational profiles that differ from those of nonveterans. The veteran-nonveteran difference in schooling is substantial at the time veterans are discharged from the military (on average, a deficit of about one year), but diminishes thereafter (on average, to about one-half year). The results also indicate that the effect of veteran status varies according to draft status, schooling prior to military service, and age at entry into the military, but not race.

Teachman, Jay. 2006. 'Veteran Status and Educational Attainment in the All-Volunteer Era.' Under journal review.

We used data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth for the years 1979-2000 to examine the long-term relationship between service in the All Volunteer Force military and educational attainment. The results indicate that on average there is a small deficit in education associated with being a veteran (about .2 years of schooling), even after implementing strong controls for selectivity. However, there is considerable diversity in the effect of military service according to variables such as education prior to service, AFQT score, branch of service, length of service, participation in educational benefits programs, age at entry into the military, and race.

Teachman, Jay and Lucky Tedrow. 2006. 'Joining Up: Does Military Service in the All Volunteer Era Affect Subsequent Civilian Income.' Under journal review.

Using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth for the years 1979-2002, we examined the relationship between military service and income. We found that AVF military service does affect income. While serving in the military, young men from disadvantaged backgrounds earn more than their civilian counterparts. Upon discharge, however, White veterans with a high school degree or more are at a disadvantage in the labor market, a disadvantage that persists over time. Blacks and men with little education (less than a high school degree) are less likely to suffer an income deficit associated with military service. We also found considerable evidence for selectivity that affects the substantive conclusions that would otherwise be made.