CenSoc World War II Enlistment File Codebook*

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Summary: The CenSoc World War II Enlistment File captures 9,200,232 of the 15 million enlistees of World War II. The dataset contains 22 variables on demographic information of the men and women enlisted in the United States Army and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.
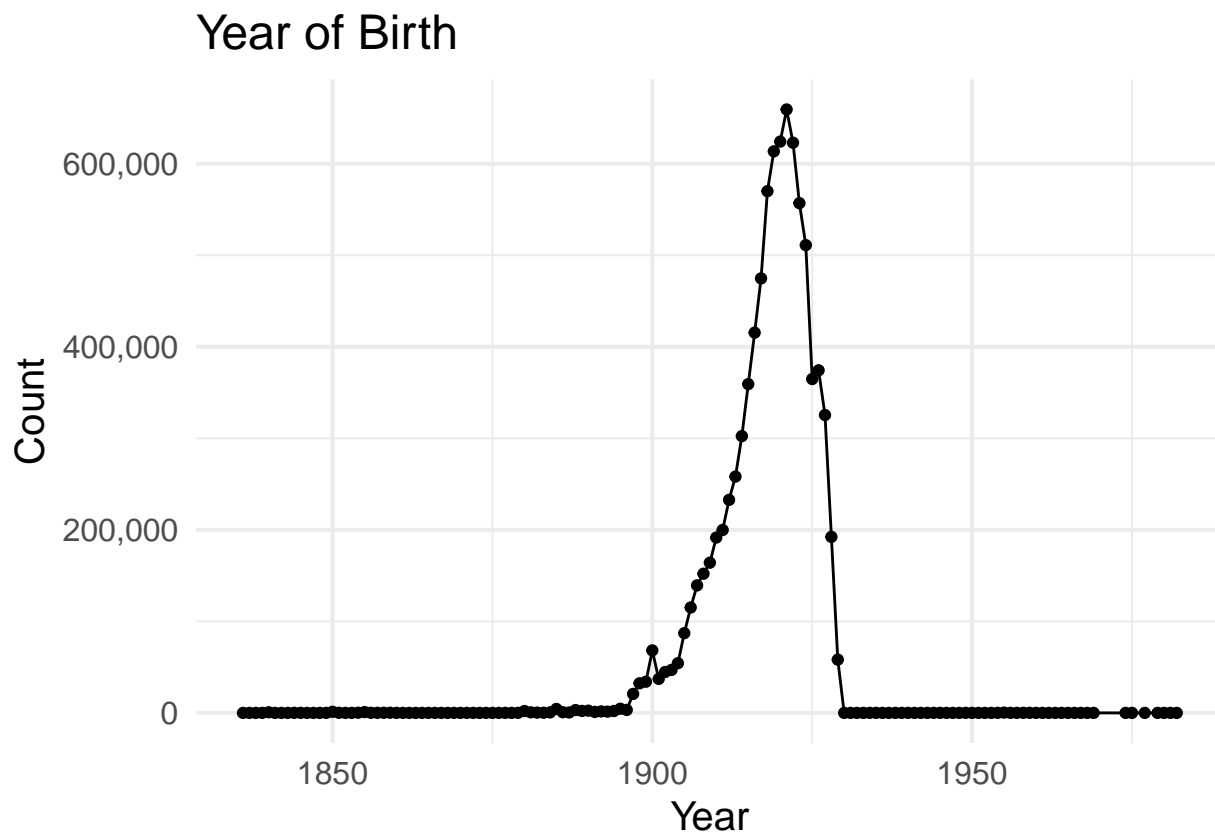
serial_number

Label: Army Serial Number

Description: serial_number is a character variable reporting a person's serial number, as recorded in the World War II Army Enlistment Records. This variable uniquely identifies each enlistee.

byear

Label: Year of Birth

Description: byear is a numeric variable reporting a person's year of birth, as recorded in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

Year of Birth

fname

Label: First Name

Description: fname is a character variable reporting a person's first name, as recorded in the World War II Army Enlistment Records. This variable was cleaned from raw first names by removing titles (e.g., Dr.) and replacing nicknames with standard names (e.g., Billy to William. Non-alphabetical characters were also removed.

mname

Label: Middle Name

Description: mname is a character variable reporting a person's middle name, as recorded in the World War II Army Enlistment Records. This variable was cleaned from raw middle names by removing titles (e.g., Dr.) and replacing nicknames with standard names (e.g., Billy to William. Non-alphabetical characters were also removed.

lname

Label: Last Name

Description: lname is a character variable reporting a person's last name, as recorded in the World War II Army Enlistment Records. This variable was cleaned from raw last names by removing titles (e.g., Dr.) and replacing nicknames with standard names (e.g., Billy to William. Non-alphabetical characters were also removed.
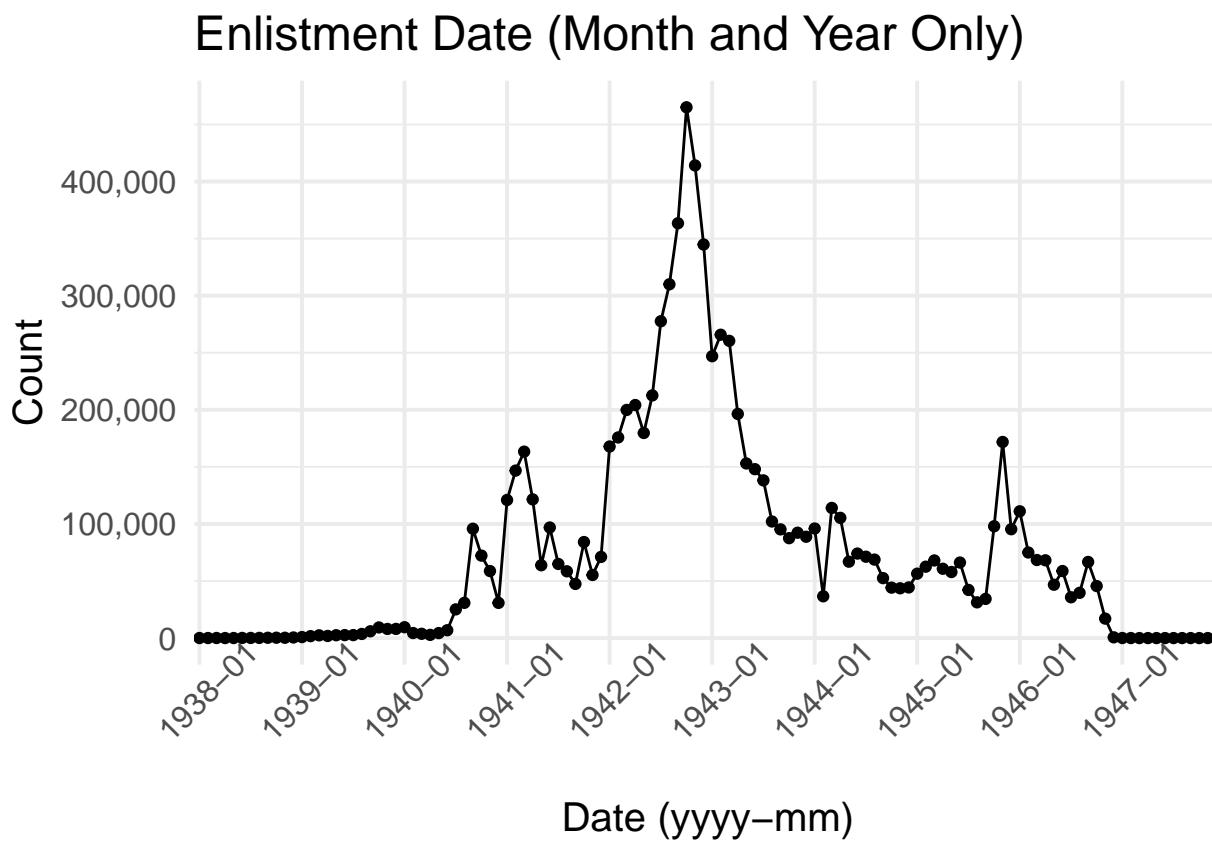
sex

Label: Sex

Description: sex is a numeric variable that reports a person's sex, as recorded in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

sex	label	n	freq %
1	Men	8906784	96.80
2	Women	133056	1.45
NA	NA	160392	1.74

date_of_enlistment

Label: Date of Enlistment

Description: date_of_enlistment is a date variable that reports a person's date of enlistment in dd-mm-yyyy format, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

Enlistment Date (Month and Year Only)

bpl

Label: Place of Birth

Description: bpl is a numeric variable that reports a person's place of birth, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

For a complete list of codes, please see: https://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variables/BPL#codes_section

residence_state

Label: State of residence

Description: residence_state is a character variable that reports a person's state of residence at time of enlistment, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records. This variable is only available for enlistees residing in the US.

For a complete list of codes, please see: https://aad.archives.gov/aad/popup-codelist.jsp?cl__id=2057&dt=893&c_id=24998

residence_county

Label: County of residence

Description: residence_county is a character variable that reports a person's county of residence at time of enlistment, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records. This variable is only available for enlistees residing in the US.

For a complete list of codes, please see: https://aad.archives.gov/aad/popup-codelist.jsp?cl_id=2057&dt=893&c_id=24998

place_of_enlistment

Label: Place of enlistment

Description: place_of_enlistment_enlistment is a character variable that reports where a person was enlisted, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

For a complete list of codes, please see: https://aad.archives.gov/aad/popup-codelist.jsp?cl_id=4123&dt=893&c_id=24997

education

Label: Education

Description: education is a numeric variable that reports an individual's educational attainment at time of enlistment, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records. Codes also available at: https://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variables/EDUC#codes_section

education	label	n	freq %
0	NA/No Schooling	2776711	30.200
1	Nursery school to grade 4	773497	8.410
2	Grade 5, 6, 7, or 8	955260	10.400
3	Grade 9	843115	9.160
4	Grade 10	2376525	25.800
5	Grade 11	499514	5.430
6	Grade 12	315862	3.430
7	1 year of college	146253	1.590
8	2 years of college	279704	3.040
9	3 years of college	73398	0.798
NA	NA	160393	1.740

grade_code

Label: Army grade

Description: grade_code is a numeric variable that records a person's grade (rank), as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records. Code list also is available at: https://aad.archives.gov/aad/popup-codelist.jsp?cl_id=2072&dt=893&c_id=24999

grade_code	label	n	freq %
1	Master Sergeant	1896	0.0659%
2	First Sergeant	1042	0.0362%
3	Technical Sergeant	2286	0.0795%
4	Staff Sergeant	4662	0.162%
5	Sergeant	6905	0.24%
6	Corporal	8458	0.294%
7	Private First Class	35066	1.22%
8	Private	2786213	96.8%
9	Aviation Cadet	30317	1.05%

branch_code

Label: Army branch

Description: branch_code is a numeric variable that records the army branch in which the enlistee served, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

branch_code	label	n	freq %
0	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA	3976527	43.200000
1	General Staff Corps	1699	0.018500
2	No branch assignment	2829637	30.800000
3	Philippine Scouts	27402	0.298000
4	Professor US Military Academy	2537	0.027600
5	Military Intelligence	7835	0.085200
6	Corps of Military Police	19502	0.212000
7	Specialist Reserve	101	0.001100
8	Detached Enlisted Men's List	13125	0.143000
9	Inactive Reserve	56127	0.610000
10	Infantry	231058	2.510000
18	Women's Army Corps	71592	0.778000
20	Air Corps	955300	10.400000
30	Field Artillery	109267	1.190000
38	Transportation Corps	20736	0.225000
40	Coast Artillery Corps or Army Mine Planter Service	83355	0.906000
50	Quartermaster Corps	90281	0.981000
70	Medical Department - For Enlisted Men of the Medical Department (includes Enlisted Men of the Medical Department on Duty with the Dental Corps) or Army Nurse Corps	55386	0.602000
71	Medical Corps - For Officers only	74	0.000804
72	Hospital Dietitians	829	0.009010
73	Physical Therapy Aides	112	0.001220
74	Dental Corps - For Officers only	198	0.002150
75	Veterinary Corps or Service - For Officers of the Veterinary Corps and for Enlisted Men of the Veterinary Service	873	0.009490
77	Medical Administrative Corps - For Officers only	669	0.007270
78	Adjutant General's Department	1312	0.014300
79	Pharmacy Corps	267	0.002900
80	Chemical Warfare Service	6094	0.066200
82	Corps of Engineers	46725	0.508000
87	Ordnance Department	57965	0.630000
90	Signal Corps	95326	1.040000
93	Cavalry	28088	0.305000
96	Chaplains	1612	0.017500
97	Finance Department	2439	0.026500
98	Inspector General's Department	613	0.006660
99	Judge Advocate General's Department	11907	0.129000
NA	NA	393662	4.280000

term_of_enlistment	label	n	freq %
1	One year enlistment	217859	2.370
2	Enlistment for Alaska	28447	0.309
3	Enlistment for Hawaiian Department	473506	5.150
4	Enlistment for assignment to another corps area	23166	0.252
5	Enlistment for the duration of the War or other emergency, plus six months, subject to the discretion of the President or otherwise according to law	6281919	68.300
6	Enlistment for the Panama Canal Department	339363	3.690
7	Enlistment for the Philippine Department	120956	1.310
8	Enlistment for the Puerto Rican Department	9950	0.108
9	Three year enlistment	100269	1.090
NA	NA	1604797	17.400

term_of_enlistment

Label: Term of enlistment

Description: term_of_enlistment is a numeric variable that reports the length of a person's enlistment or their department of enlistment, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records. Codes also available at: https://aad.archives.gov/aad/popup-codelist.jsp?cl_id=2076&dt=893&c_id=24979

race

Label: Race

Description: race is a numeric variable that reports an individual's race, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

Codes also available at: https://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variables/RACE#codes_section

race	label	n	freq %
100	White	7797528	84.8000
150	Puerto Rican	63911	0.6950
200	Black	834688	9.0700
300	Native American	19943	0.2170
400	Chinese	15759	0.1710
500	Japanese	28153	0.3060
600	Filipino	29263	0.3180
630	Native Hawaiian	4275	0.0465
991	Other	36416	0.3960
NA	NA	370296	4.0200

citizenship

Label: Citizenship

Description: citizenship is a numeric variable that reports an individual's citizenship, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

citizenship	label	n	freq %
0	Non-Citizen	106768	1.16
1	Citizen	8723168	94.80
NA	NA	370296	4.02

civilian_occupation

Label: civilian occupation

Description: civilian_occupation is a numeric variable that reports a person's occupation at time of enlistment, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

For complete codes, please see: https://aad.archives.gov/aad/popup-codelist.jsp?cl_id=3323&dt=893&c_id=24986

marital_status

Label: marital status

Description: marital_status is a numeric variable that reports a person's marital status at time of enlistment, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

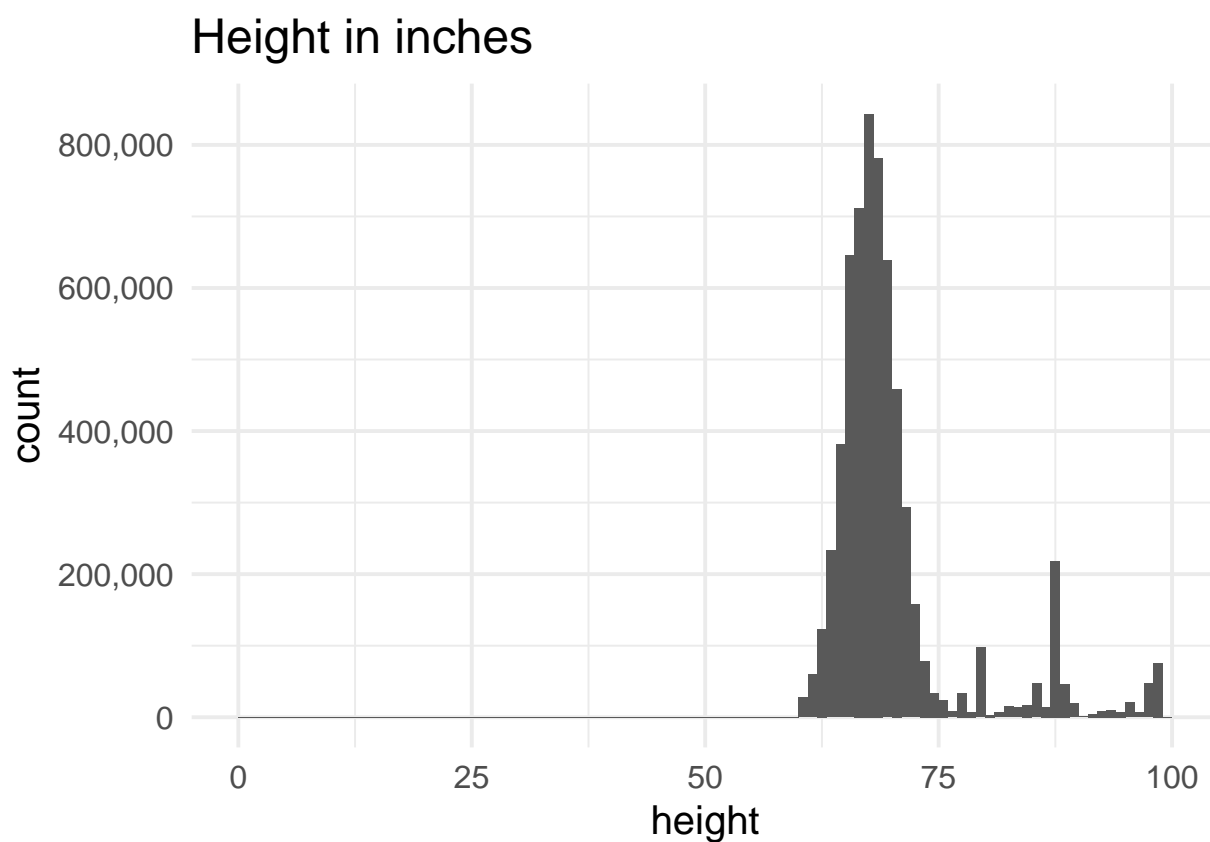Codes also available at: https://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variables/MARST#codes_section

marital_status	label	n	freq %
1	Married	2048974	22.300
3	Separated	157700	1.710
4	Divorced	215371	2.340
5	Widowed	68436	0.744
6	Single	6471628	70.300
NA	NA	238123	2.590

height

Label: Height

Description: height is a numeric variable that reports a person's height in inches at time of enlistment, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records. Height was filtered based on a reasonable range of numbers compliant with what is permissible for enlistment in the military, 60 - 109 inches.

Note: Please be aware that instructions on how to use this field on enlistment punch cards varied over time. This field may encode military occupation or other information. Height may have been recorded through about 1943, but height data recorded after February 1943 are likely unreliable. See the National Archives' technical documentation on the Amy Serial Number Electronic File for further information.
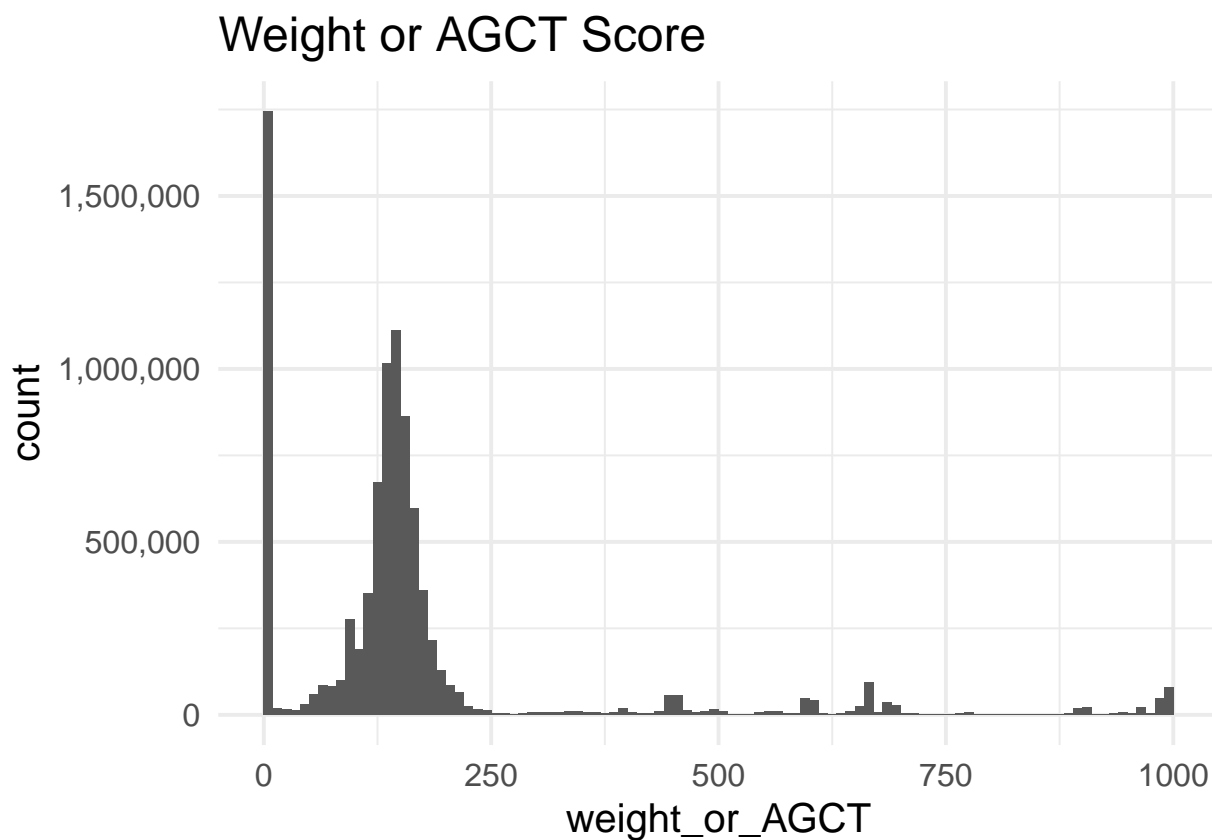

Height in inches

weight_or_AGCT_enlistment

Label: Weight (pounds) at enlistment or AGCT score

Description: weight_or_AGCT_enlistment is a numeric variable that reports a person's weight in pounds at time of enlistment or their Army General Classification Test (AGCT) score, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

Note: Please be aware that instructions on how to use this field on enlistment punch cards varied over time. This field was explicitly used for both weight and AGCT scores, but may also encode military occupation or other information. Weight may have been recorded through about 1943 at some enlistment sites, but the recording of AGCT score instead of weight at some enlistment sites likely began in March 1943. Refer to the National Archives' technical documentation on the Amy Serial Number Electronic File for further information.

component	label	n	freq %
1	Regular Army (including Officers, Nurses, Warrant Officers, and Enlisted Men)	1294899	14.1000
2	Regular Army Reserve (Enlisted Men Only)	2901	0.0315
3	Reserves - exclusive of Regular Army Reserve and Officers of the Officers Reserve Corps on active duty under the Thomason Act (Officers and Enlisted Men – O.R.C. and E.R.C., and Nurses-Reserve Status)	511487	5.5600
4	National Guard (Officers, Warrant Officers, and Enlisted Men)	251739	2.7400
5	Philippine Scouts (Officers and Enlisted Men)	15377	0.1670
6	Army of the United States - includes the following: Voluntary enlistments effective December 8, 1941 and thereafter; One year enlistments of National Guardsman whose State enlistment expires while in the Federal Service; Officers appointed in the Army of the United States under Army Regulations 605-10	679919	7.3900
7	Selectees (Enlisted Men)	6063465	65.9000
9	Women's Army Corps	140580	1.5300
NA	NA	239865	2.6100

component_enlistment

Label: Army Component

Description: component_enlistment is a numeric variable that records the component of the army in which an individual served, as recorded in the World War II Army Enlistment Records.

Codes also available at: https://aad.archives.gov/aad/popup-codelist.jsp?cl_id=2078&dt=929&c_id=25014

source	label	n	freq %
0	NA	7345292	79.80000
1	Regular Army (including Officers, Nurses, Warrant Officers, and Enlisted Men)	26398	0.28700
2	Regular Army Reserve (Enlisted Men Only)	397528	4.32000
3	Reserves - exclusive of Regular Army Reserve and Officers of the Officers Reserve Corps on active duty under the Thomason Act (Officers and Enlisted Men – O.R.C. and E.R.C., and Nurses-Reserve Status)	52222	0.56800
4	National Guard (Officers, Warrant Officers, and Enlisted Men)	44337	0.48200
5	Philippine Scouts (Officers and Enlisted Men)	181675	1.97000
6	Army of the United States - includes the following: Voluntary enlistments effective December 8, 1941 and thereafter; One year enlistments of National Guardsman whose State enlistment expires while in the Federal Service; Officers appointed in the Army of the United States under Army Regulations 605-10	389605	4.23000
7	Selectees (Enlisted Men)	259526	2.82000
8	NA	6570	0.07140
9	Women's Army Corps	1361	0.01480
11	NA	32986	0.35900
12	NA	312	0.00339
NA	NA	462420	5.03000

source

Label: Source of army personnel

Description: source is a numeric variable that reports the source of the enlisted person, as reported in the World War II Army Enlistment Records. This denotes if an enlistee was a civilian prior to enlistment, or if they were already enlisted in the National Guard or another faction of the military.

Codes also available at: https://aad.archives.gov/aad/popup-codelist.jsp?cl_id=2077&dt=893&c_id=24981