L&S 39G
Health, Human Behavior, and Data
Prof. Ryan Edwards
Class 11
Natural experiments and instrumental variables:
War and wages
November 10, 2015
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<td>Bhattacharya chaps 1-2</td>
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Today’s agenda

• One-on-ones with you, me, and your term papers
  - 11:10 Eric
  - 11:25 Angela
  - 11:40 Leland
  - 11:55 Catherine
  - 12:10 Natalie
  - 12:25 Kyle

• More in depth on the reading
Office Hours

- This week, Wednesday 11/11 is a holiday
- Office Hours on Thursday 11/12 instead
  - 11am to noon
  - 2pm to 3pm
  - Please email me if you’d like to visit at another time
1980 Census data on men, earnings, and WWII service

Folder:

http://demog.berkeley.edu/~redwards/ls39g.html

Direct link:

http://demog.berkeley.edu/~redwards/Courses/LS39G/e11_wwii.csv

We’ll maybe look at this in the future
Figure 1
 Participation in the U.S. Armed Forces, 1793–2002
 Percent of population

The veteran share of the population: Falling since Vietnam

Source: ACS data via IPUMS, Historical Statistics
The U.S. population age pyramid in 1980

Source: Census 1980 via IPUMS
The U.S. population age pyramid in 2013

Source: ACS 2013 via IPUMS
Participation by birth cohorts in the midcentury conflicts dropped sharply for cohort born 16 or 17 years before the end.
Military service of any kind and exposure to combat and casualties also vary across birth cohorts.

Sources: Census 1980; 2001 National Survey of Veterans. Universe: Male birth cohorts in the U.S.
Surviving veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan report combat exposure near record highs.

Universe: Veteran male birth cohorts in the U.S. Source: 2010 National Survey of Veterans
Angrist and Krueger (1994)

• Their goal is to reexamine how earnings vary with veteran status

• Comparing male veterans to male nonveterans is problematic
  - Veterans of WWII, draftees or volunteers, could be inherently different than nonveterans
  - Also true today when military service is voluntary

• Method: examine birth cohorts of men, across which veteran status varies systematically, not other characteristics
Figure 1. Earnings of men born in 1926 Q3 or Q4

Source: Small and Rosenbaum (2008)
Figure 2. Earnings and WWII veteran status for men born in Q3 or Q4

Source: Small and Rosenbaum (2008)