Veterans of color (VoC) and people of color in rural areas face disparities compared to their non-Hispanic White counterparts. However, little is known about the intersection of these populations - rural VoC. This poster answers:

- Where do rural VoC live?
- What socioeconomic disparities do rural VoC face?

**METHODS**

Datasets (county-level):
- 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates
- Veteran: status, % below poverty level, % unemployed
- 2018 Social Vulnerability Index
- Total uninsured rate
- 2013 Rural-Urban Commuting Codes (RUCC)

Definitions (county-level):
- **Rural** → RUCC codes 4-9
- **VoC** → ≥ 20% Hispanic or non-white Veterans
- **non-VoC** → > 80% non-Hispanic white Veterans

Map: ArcGIS Enterprise

**RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Non-VoC (n=1505)</th>
<th>VoC (n=470)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veteran unemployment rate</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran % below poverty level</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total uninsured rate</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DISCUSSION**

- Research on rural VoC is significantly lacking.
- Though rural Veterans tend to be less racially diverse, numerous counties with sizable populations of rural VoC exist.
- Veterans in these counties are more likely to experience poverty, unemployment, and being uninsured.
- Socioeconomic disparities are likely to be exacerbated by the discrimination, historical trauma, and lack of access to culturally appropriate healthcare VoC face.

Future researchers should collaborate with rural Veterans of Color to better explore their needs and identify areas to provide funding and resources to reduce socioeconomic disparities.