

489

RESPONDENTS INCLUDING SERVICE MEMBERS AND MILITARY SPOUSES

Blue Star Families' annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey provides a comprehensive understanding of what it means to serve as a military family. For that reason, it is a blueprint for strengthening America, identifying how we can continue to enhance military family life.

This infographic represents a geographic cross-section of the results that **only includes active-duty families**. When referencing this data, please consider that the majority of respondents reported here are White/ Non-Hispanic, military spouses (85%), and half are field or general grade officers. There is no one service branch that represents the majority of respondents; thirty-five percent of respondents are Army, 25% are Navy, 23% are Air Force, 7% are Marine Corps, and 7% are Coast Guard. The average age of respondents here is 38, 91% are female, and 24% report they are unpaid caregivers.



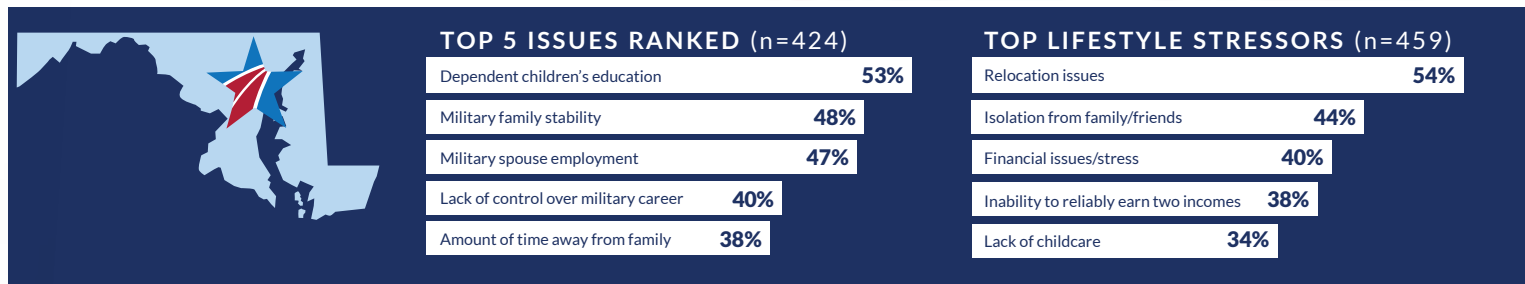
IN COLLABORATION WITH:



BALTIMORE AND THE CHESAPEAKE REGION RESULTS



2019 MILITARY FAMILY LIFESTYLE SURVEY



MILITARY FAMILY STABILITY

WORK-LIFE BALANCE



58%

feel current **OPTEMPO** is stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life (n=445)

RELOCATION

53%

received **hard orders 2 months or less** before relocating (n=463)

MOST CONCERNING PARTS OF RELOCATION (n=135)

finding and enrolling in **schools and childcare**



finding **housing** that fits family's needs

FINANCIAL READINESS

58%

experience stress due to current financial situation (n=360)

54%

say all in local civilian community do not have access to safe and affordable housing (n=360)

TOP CONTRIBUTORS TO CURRENT FINANCIAL STRESS (n=205)

- Un/under-employment
- Out-of-pocket housing costs
- Out-of-pocket relocation costs

BOLSTERING BELONGING

LOCAL CULTURAL COMPETENCE



60%

feel **local civilians support** military families (n=439)
22% have no opinion

13%

feel **local civilians understand** sacrifices local military families make (n=439)
16% have no opinion

SENSE OF BELONGING

55%

feel **welcome** in their local civilian community (n=419)
26% have no opinion

36%

do not feel a **sense of belonging** to their local community (n=420)
26% have no opinion*

COMMUNITY SERVICES



33%

feel local civilian support agencies aren't effectively addressing their needs
29% have no opinion and 23% don't know (n=383)

MILITARY COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIRING THE MOST IMPROVEMENT (n=416)



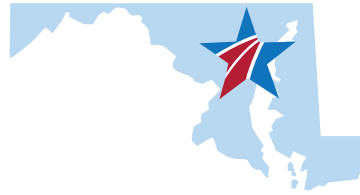
54%

base housing

n = total responses to each question

* Question asked differently in 2018

SNAPSHOT OF MILITARY FAMILIES IN BALTIMORE AND THE CHESAPEAKE REGION



SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT*



are not working, but **want or need to work** (n=301)



feel **local employers are eager to hire** military-connected employees (n=365)
23% have no opinion and 25% don't know



are **"not at all likely" to identify military affiliation** in interview (n=282)
27% say it depends on the employer

* Military spouse respondents only

n = total responses to each question

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey or ways to support?
survey@bluestarfam.org

Questions about Blue Star Families' Baltimore Chapter?

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MILITARY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION



feel their oldest child's school did an **excellent job of welcoming** (n=189)

Spotlight on Interstate Compact Implementation:



say oldest child was **unable to participate in extracurricular activities** regardless of application deadline (n=120)



want teachers and staff to **understand impact of frequent moves** on child (n=195)

CHILDCARE



cannot always find childcare for current situation (n=201)



experienced childcare **waitlist of 6+ months** (n=89)



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OVERALL TAKEAWAYS

Although the majority of respondents in the Baltimore / Chesapeake region are field or general grade officers themselves, or are married to one, over half of respondents also report they are financially stressed. Spouse unemployment, out-of-pocket housing costs, and out-of-pocket relocation costs exacerbate financial stress.

There is an opportunity for the Department of Defense to increase notice for hard orders to the Baltimore / Chesapeake region.

Schools in the Baltimore/Chesapeake region can better welcome military children, especially into extracurricular activities.

