

2021 MILITARY FAMILY LIFESTYLE SURVEY

# **Top 5 issues affecting military-connected families**<sup>1</sup> (n=84)

Impact of deployment on family

Amount of time away from family

26%

Military pay

26%

Understanding of military/Veteran issues among civilians

Access to VA healthcare/benefits

23%

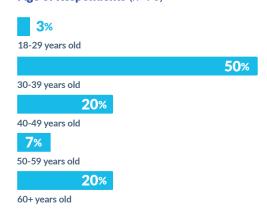
#### **Gender of Respondents** (n=89)

Female

33%

Male

#### Age of Respondents (n=90)





**18%** of respondents consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver (n = 72)

of all respondents report that caregiver respite/support programs in their community are inadequate (n=66)

<sup>1</sup>MFLS question and answer choice wording changed slightly from previous years.

# 90 respondents



This infographic represents a geographic cross-section of 2021 Military Family Lifestyle Survey (MFLS) data, which includes active-duty families, Veteran families, National Guard families, and spouses of Reserve service members.

When referencing this data, please consider the following sample demographics:

- 33% are Veteran/retired service members
- 29% are active-duty spouses
- 14% are National Guard spouses
- 11% are Veteran/retired service member spouses
- 6% are active-duty service members
- 4% are National Guard service members
- 2% are Reserve spouses

## Branch affiliation of respondents is:

- 40% Air Force
- 24% Army National Guard
- 12% Army
- 10% Marine Corps
- 6% Navy
- 6% Reserve
- 2% Air National Guard

## Respondents identify as:

- 84% white
- 16% Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin
- 3% Black/African American
- 3% Other
- 2% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 1% Asian

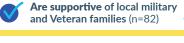
In collaboration with



# Military-connected families and their civilian communities

of military-connected family respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community (n=83)

Military-connected family respondents agree that civilians in their local community:



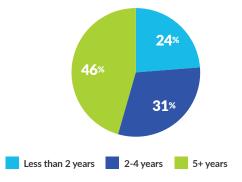
Truly appreciate the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=83)

Truly understand the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=82)

34%

15

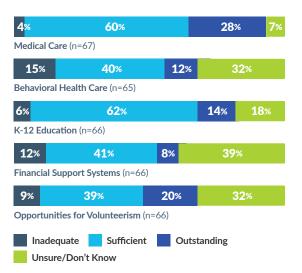
## Length of time in community where respondents currently reside (n=68)



\*Total may not equal 100 due to rounding

## Quality of community resources available to military-connected families

Not fulfilled by installation



\*Total may not equal 100 due to rounding

20%

report that community support (e.g., programming for military members, Veterans, and their families; available and accessible child care) is inadequate

# Snapshot of the military lifestyle



- **TAKEAWAYS**
- >> Just a third of Utah respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local community.
- >> More than half of Utah respondents are experiencing financial stress.
- >> 1 in 5 Utah respondents feel that community support for military-connected families is inadequate.
- >> The majority of Utah respondents report medical care in their community is "sufficient" or "outstanding."



### **Financial Readiness**

**52**%

report their family's current personal financial condition causes them some or a great deal of stress. (n=67)

# **Top Contributors to Their Financial Stress** (n=34)

Student loans	Out-of-pocket medical costs
Out-of-pocket housing costs	Other debt

## **Perceptions of Discrimination in the Military\***

Compared to the general U.S. society, there is...

- less racial discrimination (53%, n=58)
- about the same amount of gender discrimination (39%, n=57)
- about the same amount of sexual orientation discrimination (43%, n=54)
- about the same amount of religious discrimination (56%, n=46)

<sup>\*</sup>Respondent sample includes Veteran respondents, many of whom are over the age of 60 and may have been separated from the military for over 20 years.



Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey and how you can offer support? survey@bluestarfam.org

Questions about Blue Star Families' Utah Chapter? utah@bluestarfam.org

# Military Children's Education

**Currently-Serving Military Families\*** 



of currently-serving respondents with children have one or more children currently enrolled in K-12 education (n=39)

Type of school of oldest child in K-12 (n=34)









Public school

Homeschool

Other

Private school



68% agree that their oldest child enrolled in K-12 education is thriving in his/her school (n=25)

#### **OPTEMPO**

59% of currently-serving respondents characterize OPTEMPO as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life (n=44)



**Child Care** 

44%

of families with a need for child care can find child care that meets their needs (n=25)

**Top Resources Regularly Needed (n=37)** 



Communication from unit/command



Resources for children's activities



Access to medical care



Resources for sports/recreation

Funding for the 2021 Military Family Lifestyle Survey is provided through the generosity of our presenting sponsor USAA and from supporting sponsors Lockheed Martin, CSX, CVS Health, AARP, Starbucks, BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, Walmart Foundation, Verizon, The Barry Robinson Center, and the USO.