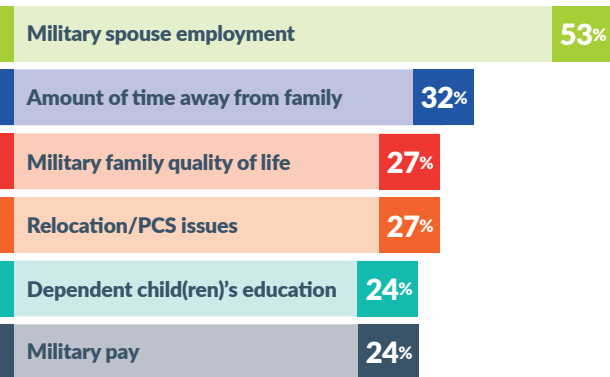


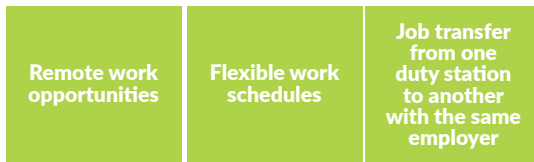


2021 MILITARY FAMILY LIFESTYLE SURVEY

Top 5 issues affecting active-duty families¹ (n=135)



What would best address concerns about military spouse employment?² (n=68)



What would best address concerns about dependent children's education?³ (n=32)

Training for teachers/staff on military lifestyle and impacts on children's education

Control over where we move

A return to in-person education



Family Separation

1 in 5 active-duty family respondents have been separated from their family/service member for a **total of 6 or more months** in the past 18 months. (n=124)

55%

characterize OPTEMPO⁴ as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life. (n=129)

139 respondents

Including active-duty service members and active-duty spouses



MARYLAND

This infographic represents a geographic cross-section of 2021 MFLS data that only includes active-duty families. Respondent sample size is small and not generalizable. When referencing this data, please consider the following sample demographics:

- 81% are active-duty spouses
- 51% are officer ranks

Branch affiliation of respondents is:

- 33% Navy
- 32% Army
- 19% Air Force
- 10% Marine Corps
- 4% Coast Guard

Respondents identify as:

- 73% White
- 17% Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin
- 11% Black/African-American
- 9% Asian
- 4% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 2% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- <1% Other

- 26% are a member of a multi-racial/multi-ethnic family⁵

In collaboration with

S Syracuse University

D'Aniello Institute for Veterans & Military Families

JPMorgan Chase & Co., Founding Partner

Active-duty family members and their civilian communities

28%

of active-duty family respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community (n=129)

Active-duty family respondents agree civilians in their local community:



Are supportive of local military and Veteran families (n=126)

48%



Truly appreciate the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=126)

21%



Truly understand the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=126)

15%



Spouse Employment⁶ (n=83)

37%

Employed

31%

Want/need to work

31%

Do not want/need to work

74% of employed military spouses are underemployed in some way⁷ (n=31)



Child Care

"I am able to find child care that works for my current situation."

Active-duty family respondents with a need for child care (n=61)

25%

34%

38%

Yes Sometimes No

*Total may not equal 100 due to rounding

¹Question and answer choice wording changed slightly from previous MFLS surveys

²Active-duty family respondents who indicated military spouse employment was a top issue of concern

³Active-duty family respondents who indicated military children's education was a top issue of concern

⁴Operational tempo

⁵Active-duty family respondents who have a spouse or child of a different race/ethnicity

⁶Active-duty spouses who are not also active-duty service members

⁷Indicates one or more circumstances of underemployment

Snapshot of the military lifestyle



TAKEAWAYS

>> Less than a third of Maryland active-duty family respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local community.

>> Less than half of Maryland active-duty family respondents feel their oldest children in K-12 education are thriving in their school.

>> Maryland active-duty family respondents report experiencing stress due to their current financial situation.

>> The majority of families with a need for child care are unable to consistently find care that meets their needs.



Financial Readiness

44%

report their family's current personal financial condition causes them some or a great deal of stress. (n=107)

Top Contributors to Their Financial Stress (n=46)

Spouse un/under-employment

Student loans

Out-of-pocket housing costs



Housing

83%

of those with out-of-pocket monthly housing costs pay \$200 or more above BAH. (n=60)

Top aspects of concern related to housing (n=104)

- Local housing market is unaffordable
- Cost of housing rental is too high

Top 5 Resources Regularly Needed (n=105)



Communication from unit/command



Spouse group for unit/command



Access to medical care



Opportunity to exercise



Resources for children's activities



Access to mental health

Only 9% of spouses agree that they feel a sense of belonging to the unit/command spouse group (n=85)



Military Children's Education

Type of School of Oldest Child in K-12 (n=72)



Public school



Homeschool



Private school

Top reason homeschooling families chose to homeschool their child(ren):

- To stabilize my child(ren)'s educational experience

41% rate the overall quality of the school their oldest child attends as above average or excellent. (n=54)

43%

agree that their oldest child enrolled in K-12 education is thriving in their school (n=56)



Health and Mental Health

19%

do not currently receive mental health care but would like to. (n=109)

47% experienced challenges to having children, the desired number of children, and/or the desired spacing of children due to military service (n=108)

21%

report their child(ren) does not receive mental health care but they would like them to. (n=85)



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

Questions about Blue Star Families' Baltimore Chapter? baltimore@bluestarfam.org