



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.



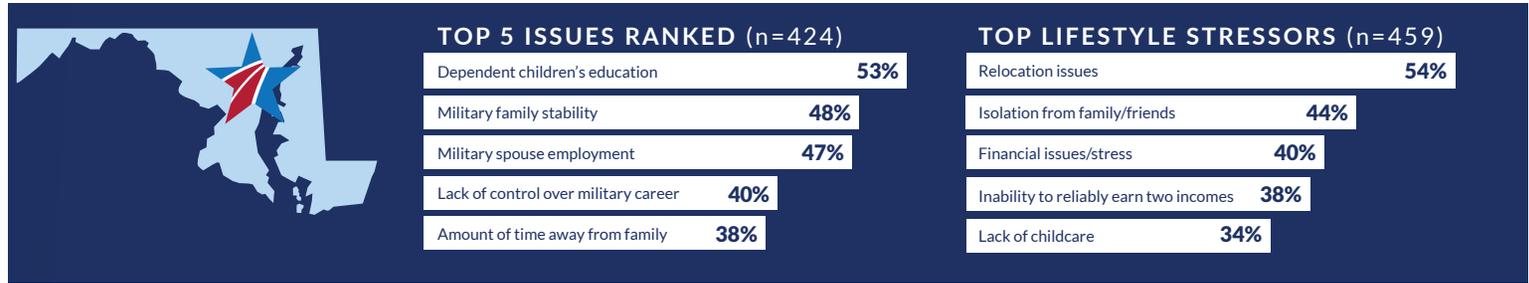
IN COLLABORATION WITH:



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*



26%

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



23%

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



20%

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?
maryland@bluestarfam.org

MILITARY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION



62%

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



38%

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



75%

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

Spotlight on Interstate Compact Implementation:

CHILDCARE

60%

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

52%

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



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.



Funding for the 2019 Military Family Lifestyle Survey is provided through the generosity of our presenting sponsor USAA and from supporting sponsors Lockheed Martin Corporation, Craig Newmark Philanthropies, CSX Corporation, Hunt Companies, OptumServe, AARP, BAE Systems, Booz Allen Hamilton, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Walmart, and Army & Air Force Exchange Service.