

# 115

## RESPONDENTS INCLUDING MILITARY, VETERAN, NATIONAL GUARD, AND RESERVE FAMILIES

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 includes active-duty (44%), veteran (29%), National Guard (17%), and Reserve (10%) family respondents. Unless otherwise stated, all statistics reflect the full sample who selected "self" or "spouse" when asked about their relationship to the service member. When referencing this data, please consider that the sample is not representative of all demographic groups: 77% are White / Non-Hispanic, 69% are spouses of service members or veterans, 65% represent senior enlisted ranks, and 37% are affiliated with the Navy. The average age of respondents here is 41, 77% are female, and 36% report they are unpaid caregivers. Additionally, the distribution of this sample is not comparable to other Blue Star Families Chapters or to the national sample.



IN COLLABORATION WITH:



2019 MILITARY FAMILY  
LIFESTYLE SURVEY

# CHICAGO RESULTS



### TOP 5 ISSUES RANKED

- 1 Amount of time away from family
- 2 Military family stability
- 3 Military pay
- 4 Current housing conditions/BAH [tie]
- 4 PTSD/Combat stress/TBI [tie]

(n=103)

### TOP LIFESTYLE STRESSORS

- 1 Financial issues/stress
- 2 Deployments
- 3 Separations [tie]
- 3 Isolation from family/friends [tie]
- 4 Relocation issues

(n=111)

## BOLSTERING BELONGING

### LOCAL CULTURAL COMPETENCE



feel **local civilians**  
**support** military families  
21% have no opinion  
(n=105)



feel local civilians are **aware**  
that military and veteran  
families' **experiences** may  
**differ from their own**  
12% have no opinion (n=105)



feel **local civilians**  
**appreciate the sacrifices**  
**local** military families make  
18% have no opinion  
(n=105)



feel **local civilians**  
**understand the sacrifices**  
**local** military families make  
15% have no opinion  
(n=105)

### SENSE OF BELONGING



feel **welcome** in their  
local civilian community  
24% have no opinion  
(n=96)



feel **military affiliation**  
**prevents forming close**  
**relationships** with local  
civilians  
16% have no opinion (n=93)



feel they **do not have**  
**a voice** in local civilian  
community  
30% have no opinion\*  
(n=94)



do not feel a **sense of**  
**belonging** to their local  
civilian community  
27% have no opinion\*  
(n=96)

n = total responses to each question  
\* Question asked differently in 2018

# SNAPSHOT OF MILITARY FAMILIES IN CHICAGO



## MILITARY FAMILY STABILITY

### FAMILY FINANCIAL READINESS



experience stress due to current financial situation (n=84)

#### TOP CONTRIBUTORS TO CURRENT FINANCIAL STRESS (n=64)

1. Excessive credit card debt
2. Un/underemployment
3. Out-of-pocket housing costs [tie]
3. Out-of-pocket childcare costs [tie]

### EMPLOYMENT



are “not at all likely” to identify military affiliation in interview  
12% say it depends on the employer<sup>2</sup> (n=74)



feel local employers are eager to hire military-connected employees  
26% have no opinion and 19% don't know (n=102)

## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### HOUSING



say all in local civilian community **do not** have access to **safe and affordable housing** (n=82)

*“I would like better awareness that military families are present. It seems that because we are not stationed at a formal base, the community is surprised that active duty families even reside in our community, therefore, leaving few [or] no resources for them.”*

-MILITARY SPOUSE IN CHICAGO

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey or ways to support?

[survey@bluestarfam.org](mailto:survey@bluestarfam.org)

Questions about Blue Star Families' Chicago Chapter?

[chicago@bluestarfam.org](mailto:chicago@bluestarfam.org)

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