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 (68%), veteran (27%), National Guard (2%), and Reserve (3%) 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 majority of respondents reported here are White / non-Hispanic, military spouses, representing senior enlisted ranks, and represent the Army. The average age of respondents here is 38, 79% are female, and 26% report they are unpaid caregivers.

**TOP 5 ISSUES RANKED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active-Duty Families</th>
<th>Top Lifestyle Stressors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Dependent children’s education</td>
<td>1. Financial issues/stress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Military spouse employment [tie]</td>
<td>2. Isolation from family/friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Amount of time away from family</td>
<td>4. Deployments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Lack of control over military career</td>
<td>5. Separation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(n=133)

(n=145)

**BOLSTERING BELONGING**

**LOCAL CULTURAL COMPETENCE**

- **35%** feel local civilians support military families
- **31% have no opinion**
- (n=199)

**SENSE OF BELONGING**

- **51%** feel welcome in their local civilian community
- **33% have no opinion**
- (n=199)

**51%** feel local civilians appreciate sacrifices local military families make
- **21% have no opinion**
- (n=199)

**34%** feel they do not have a voice in local civilian community
- **40% have no opinion**
- (n=194)

**33%** feel local civilians understand sacrifices local military families make
- **20% have no opinion**
- (n=198)

**31%** do not feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community
- **31% have no opinion**
- (n=199)

- **24%** feel military affiliation prevents forming close relationships with local civilians
- **19% have no opinion**
- (n=195)

- **21% have no opinion**
- (n=195)

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

[Institute for Veterans and Military Families]
SNAPSHOT OF MILITARY FAMILIES IN MISSOURI

MILITARY FAMILY STABILITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAMILY FINANCIAL READINESS</th>
<th>EMPLOYMENT</th>
<th>HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOP CONTRIBUTORS TO CURRENT FINANCIAL STRESS (n=110)</strong></td>
<td><strong>are “not at all likely” to identify military affiliation in interview</strong></td>
<td><strong>HOUSING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Excessive credit card debt</td>
<td>16% say it depends on the employer* (n=120)</td>
<td><strong>say all in local civilian community do not have access to safe and affordable housing (n=169)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Un/underemployment</td>
<td><strong>(n=171)</strong></td>
<td><strong>MILITARY COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIRING THE MOST IMPROVEMENT’ (n=127)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Out-of-pocket housing costs</td>
<td><strong>33% feel local employers are eager to hire military-connected employees</strong></td>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY SERVICES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>57%</strong></td>
<td><strong>22% have no opinion and 22% don’t know (n=197)</strong></td>
<td><strong>feel local civilian support agencies aren’t effectively addressing needs 36% have no opinion and 30% don’t know (n=121)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

survey@bluestarfam.org

Questions about Blue Star Families' Missouri Chapter?

missouri@bluestarfam.org

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.

---

*n = total responses to each question
1 active-duty families only
2 excludes active-duty service members