462 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 (88%), representing senior enlisted ranks, and most are affiliated with the Navy (58%). The average age of respondents here is 34, 91% are female, and 28% report they are unpaid caregivers.

TOP 5 ISSUES RANKED (n=413)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of time away from family</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military spouse employment</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military family stability</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent children’s education</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military pay</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOP LIFESTYLE STRESSORS (n=448)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stressor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial issues/stress</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deployments</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocation issues</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolation from family/friends</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of childcare</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINANCIAL READINESS

- experience stress due to current financial situation (n=346)
- say all in local civilian community do not have access to safe and affordable housing (n=333)

TOP CONTRIBUTORS TO CURRENT FINANCIAL STRESS (n=253)

- Un/under-employment
- Out-of-pocket relocation costs
- Out-of-pocket housing costs

LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LOCAL CULTURAL COMPETENCE

- feel local civilians support military families (n=414)
- 25% have no opinion
- 63% feel local civilians support military families
- 25% have no opinion

- feel local civilians understand sacrifices local military families make (n=415)
- 18% have no opinion
- 16% feel local civilians understand sacrifices local military families make
- 18% have no opinion

SENSE OF BELONGING

- feel welcome in their local civilian community (n=401)
- 30% have no opinion
- 50% feel welcome in their local civilian community
- 30% have no opinion

- do not feel a sense of belonging to their local community (n=401)
- 25% have no opinion
- 42% do not feel a sense of belonging to their local community
- 25% have no opinion

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- feel local civilian support agencies aren’t effectively addressing needs
- 26% have no opinion and 21% don’t know (n=353)
- 34%

- say local services are not meeting needs
- 48%

- base housing needs
- 48%

- military childcare needs
- 47%

SAN DIEGO RESULTS

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

Institute for Veterans and Military Families

n = total responses to each question  * Question asked differently in 2018
SNAPSHOT OF MILITARY FAMILIES IN SAN DIEGO

SPouse Employment*

- Employed (in labor force): 79%
- Unemployed (in labor force & actively seeking work): 21%
- Not in Labor Force: 34%

Top reason for not working for those not employed, but want or need to work (n=103):
- Childcare too expensive
- Can't always find childcare for current situation
- Experienced childcare waitlist of 10+ months (n=103)

Military Children’s Education

- 65% feel their oldest child’s school did an excellent job of welcoming (n=158)
- 65% want teachers and staff to understand impact of frequent moves on child (n=170)

Spotlight on Interstate Compact Implementation:

- 12% unable to enroll oldest child in previous school’s grade level due to age (n=137)

Childcare

- 78% can’t always find childcare for current situation (n=187)
- 50% experienced childcare waitlist of 10+ months (n=103)

Overall Takeaways

Three-quarters of San Diego respondents (the majority of whom are senior enlisted or officers) report they are financially stressed.

Childcare and housing difficulties negatively impact relocation experiences, spouse employment, and overall financial well-being.

Most respondents believe civilians in San Diego support military families, but also perceive a lack of overall military family lifestyle cultural competence (awareness, appreciation, understanding, support, and respect).

There is an opportunity for civilian employers in San Diego to proactively signal to military spouses that they are eager to hire them.

Contact Information

Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey or ways to support? survey@bluestarfam.org

Questions about Blue Star Families’ San Diego Chapter? sandiego@bluestarfam.org

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