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.



IN COLLABORATION WITH:



SAN DIEGO RESULTS



2019 MILITARY FAMILY LIFESTYLE SURVEY



TOP LIFESTYLE STRESSORS (n=448)			
Financial issues/stress		58%	
Deployments	4	5%	
Relocation issues	44	1%	
Isolation from family/friends	40%		
Lack of childcare	37%		

MILITARY FAMILY STABILITY

FAMILY SEPARATION



6+ months of separation in the last 18 months (n=396)

MOST HELPFUL DURING SEPARATION (n=314):

local friends • extended family • non-local friends



no one to ask a favor (n=405)

RELOCATION

MOST CONCERNING PART OF RELOCATION (n=94)

Finding and enrolling in schools and childcare



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)

(5)

- •Un/underemployment
- •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



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

SENSE OF BELONGING



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



do not feel a sense of belonging to their local community (n=401) 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)

MILITARY COMMUNITY SERVICES REQUIRING THE MOST IMPROVEMENT



base housing



military childcare (n=388)

n = total responses to each question * Q

* Question asked differently in 2018

SNAPSHOT OF MILITARY FAMILIES IN **SAN DIEGO**

SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT*

Top reason for not working for those not employed, but want or need to work (n=103)

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Childcare too expensive



feel local employers are eager to hire military-connected employees (n=359) 20% have no opinion and 20% don't know



are "not at all likely" to identify military affiliation in interview (n=270) 26% say it depends on the employer

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

MILITARY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION





feel their oldest child's school did an **excellent job of welcoming** (n=158)





want teachers and staff to **understand impact of frequent moves** on child (n=170)

Spotlight on Interstate Compact Implementation:



unable to enroll oldest child in previous school's grade level due to age (n=137)

CHILDCARE



can't always find childcare for current situation (n=187)



experienced childcare waitlist of 10+ months (n=103)



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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.

^{*} Military spouse respondents only