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 (64%), veteran (30%), National Guard (3%), 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 81% represent the Army. The average age of respondents here is 38, 84% are female, and 33% report they are unpaid caregivers.

### Tennessee Results

#### Top 5 Issues Ranked

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Active-Duty Families</th>
<th>(n=112)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Amount of time away from family</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Military family stability</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Military spouse employment (tie)</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lack of control over military career (tie)</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dependent children’s education</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Top Lifestyle Stressors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>(n=126)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Financial issues/stress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Separation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Deployments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Relocation issues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Isolation from family/friends</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BOLSTERING BELONGING

#### Local Cultural Competence

- 63% feel local civilians support military families  
  25% have no opinion (n=188)

#### Sense of Belonging

- 45% feel welcome in their local civilian community  
  32% have no opinion (n=182)

- 31% feel military affiliation prevents forming close relationships with local civilians  
  21% have no opinion (n=178)

- 39% feel they do not have a voice in their local civilian community  
  31% have no opinion (n=187)

- 39% do not feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community  
  27% have no opinion (n=179)

n = total responses to each question  
* Question asked differently in 2018
## MILITARY FAMILY STABILITY

### FAMILY FINANCIAL READINESS

- 70% experience stress due to current financial situation (n=149)

### TOP CONTRIBUTORS TO CURRENT FINANCIAL STRESS (n=103)

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

### EMPLOYMENT

- 17% say "not at all likely" to identify military affiliation in interview (n=120)
- 24% say it depends on the employer (n=120)
- 24% feel local employers are eager to hire military-connected employees (n=189)

### HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### HOUSING

- 35% say all in local civilian community do not have access to safe and affordable housing (n=146)

### MILITARY COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIRING THE MOST IMPROVEMENT (n=112)

- 51% base housing

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

- 26% feel local civilian support agencies aren't effectively addressing needs of active duty families (n=104)

## 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' Tennessee Chapter?

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