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ACTIVE-DUTY FAMILY RESPONDENTS

Blue Star Families' annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey (MFLS) provides a comprehensive understanding of what it means to serve as a military family.

This infographic represents a geographic cross-section of 2020 MFLS data that only includes active-duty families.

When referencing this data, please consider the following sample demographics:

- 63% are white, non-Hispanic
- 90% are female
- 81% are active-duty spouses
- 81% are enlisted ranks
- 59% are affiliated with the Navy, 18% Air Force, 13% Army, 4% Marine Corps, and 1% Coast Guard
- The average age of respondents is 34
- 89% have children
- 38% are unpaid caregivers

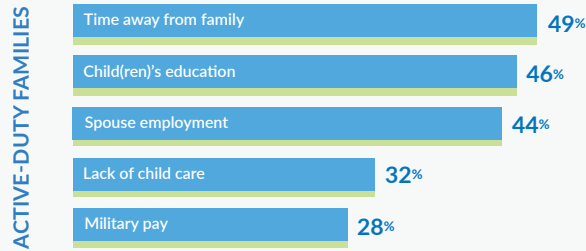


2020 ILLINOIS RESULTS

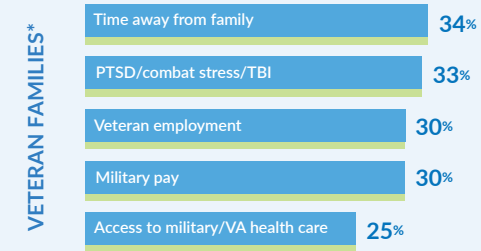


2020 MILITARY FAMILY LIFESTYLE SURVEY

Top Family Issues (n=219)



Top Family Issues (n=92)



*Veteran family sample demographics:
 75% white
 56% female
 67% veterans
 33% spouse of a veteran
 Average age: 46

Veteran respondents were not included in the statistics calculated within this infographic

FINANCIAL READINESS



Top contributors to current financial stress (n=128)



TIME AWAY



70% find OPTEMPO stressful for healthy work/family life (n=192)

21% experienced 6+ months of separation in the last 18 months (n=177)

HOUSING

43% of those who live off-base pay more than \$200 in out-of-pocket housing costs per month (n=115)

Top factors for choosing current housing (n=174)

- Distance to base/installation
- Safety of my family
- Pets allowed
- BAH fully covers cost



CHILDREN

79% cannot always find child care that works for their current situation (n=118)

24% have a child with special needs (n=171)



LOCAL CONNECTIONS

40% have two or more friends in their local community (n=164)

40% know two or more people in their local community well enough to ask for a favor (n=173)

SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT**

Are you currently employed? (n=131)

35% Yes

43% No, but I want or need paid employment

22% No, and I don't want or need paid employment

MENTAL HEALTH

19% do not receive mental health care but would like to (n=156)

n = total responses to each question BAH = Basic Allowance for Housing OPTEMPO = operational tempo
 **Active-duty spouses



IN COLLABORATION WITH



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FUNDING FOR THE 2020 MILITARY FAMILY LIFESTYLE SURVEY IS PROVIDED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR USAA AND FROM SUPPORTING SPONSORS LOCKHEED MARTIN, AARP, CSX, HUNT COMPANIES, BAE SYSTEMS, THE BARRY ROBINSON CENTER, COMCAST, NORTHROP GRUMMAN, WALMART FOUNDATION, AND THE BOEING COMPANY.

MILITARY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Method of delivery for oldest child (n=129)



Online/Virtual



In-Person



Hybrid



Other

56% believe COVID-19 has made their child(ren)'s education worse (n=140)

64% believe their oldest child is thriving in his/her school (n=123)

EMPLOYMENT

To what degree did COVID-19 impact your employment situation?

Active-duty spouses (n=118)



FINANCES

To what degree did COVID-19 impact your personal financial situation?

Active-duty families (n=160)



HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH



OVERALL TAKEAWAYS

The majority of Illinois respondents (most of whom are enlisted) reported experiencing financial stress.

Four in five (79%) Illinois military families struggle to find child care that works for them.

Despite COVID-19's impact on K-12 education, most Illinois military families believe their children are thriving in school.

COVID-19 has negatively impacted military spouses' employment situation, the majority of whom are women.

Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey and how you can offer support? Contact survey@bluestarfam.org
 Questions about Blue Star Families' Chicago Chapter? Contact chicago@bluestarfam.org

