**2020 OHIO RESULTS**

Blue Star Families’ annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey 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, which includes active-duty families, Veteran families, National Guard families, and Reserve families. When referencing this data, please consider the following sample demographics:

- 79% are white, non-Hispanic
- 77% are female
- 42% are active-duty spouses, 23% are Veterans, 15% are Veteran spouses, and 9% are active-duty service members
- 63% are enlisted ranks
- 59% are affiliated with the Air Force, 26% Army, 7% Navy, 4% Marine Corps, and 3% Coast Guard
- The average age of respondents is 42
- 90% have children
- 41% are unpaid caregivers

**Top Lifestyle Issues** (n=219)

- Time away from family: 40%
- Children’s education: 25%
- Military career control: 24%
- Spouse employment: 24%
- Deployment impact on family: 23%

**Top Lifestyle Stressors** (n=217)

- Financial issues/stress: 41%
- Deployments: 39%
- Isolation from family/friends: 38%
- Spouse employment: 30%
- Relocation: 29%

“During your time associated with the military, what are/were the biggest stressor(s) in your family?”

**Financial Readiness**

- Experience stress due to current financial situation (n=172) 56%

**Top contributors to current financial stress** (n=95)

- Excessive Credit Card Debt: 35%
- Student Loans: 27%
- Spouse Un/Under-Employment: 23%

**Belonging**

- Feel welcome in their local community (n=188) 55%
- Feel they are a valued member of their local community (n=187) 36%
- Feel they have a voice in their local community (n=186) 25%

**Spouse Employment**

- Are you currently employed? (n=69) Yes: 41%
- No, but I want or need paid employment: 36%
- No, and I do not want or need paid employment: 23%

**Children**

- Cannot always find child care that works for their current situation (n=62) 63%
- Have a child with special needs (n=101) 22%

**K-12 Education**

- Believe the overall quality of the school their oldest child attends is above average (n=59) 56%
- Agree that their oldest child feels a strong sense of belonging to his/her school (n=55) 60%

**Local Connections**

- Have two or more friends in their local community (n=156) 69%
- Know two or more people in their local community well enough to ask for a favor (n=168) 64%

**Local Community**

- Ohio respondents believe their local communities:
  - Are supportive of military and Veteran families (n=203) 65%
  - Do not truly understand the sacrifices made by military families (n=182) 55%

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OVERALL TAKEAWAYS

The majority of Ohio respondents report experiencing financial stress.

Only half (55%) of Ohio respondent families feel welcome in their community.

Nearly half (43%) of Ohio currently serving military families believe that COVID-19 made their child(ren)’s education worse.

Finding child care is a challenge for the majority (63%) of Ohio military families with children.

Over a third (38%) of Ohio active-duty spouse respondents report COVID-19 worsened their employment situation.

Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey and how you can offer support? Contact survey@bluestarfam.org
Questions about Blue Star Families’ Dayton and Southwestern Ohio Chapter? Contact dayton@bluestarfam.org

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