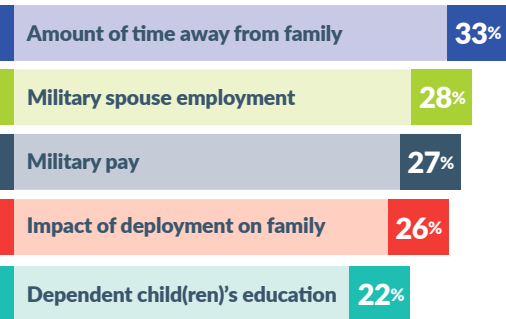
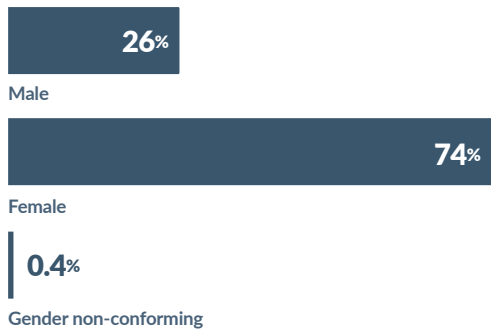


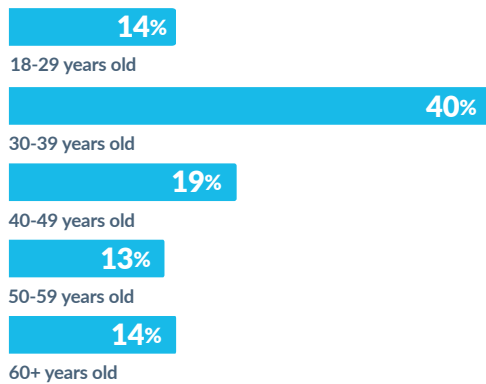
Top 5 issues affecting military-connected families¹ (n=246)



Gender of Respondents (n=271)



Age of Respondents (n=271)



Caregiving

24% of respondents consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver (n=219)

20%

of all respondents report that caregiver respite/support programs in their community are inadequate (n=192)

271 respondents



ILLINOIS

This infographic represents a geographic cross-section of 2021 Military Family Lifestyle Survey (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:

- 43% are active-duty spouses
- 30% are Veteran/retired service members
- 13% are Veteran/retired spouses
- 5% are active-duty service members
- 3% are Reserve spouses
- 3% are National Guard spouses
- 2% are National Guard service members
- 2% are Reserve service members

Branch affiliation of respondents is:

- 36% Navy
- 19% Army
- 18% Air Force
- 11% National Guard
- 8% Reserve
- 6% Marine Corps
- <1% U.S. Public Health Service
- <1% Multiple service members in different branches
- <1% Other

Respondents identify as:

- 69% white
- 13% Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin
- 11% Black/African-American
- 7% Asian
- 3% Other
- 2% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 1% American Indian/Alaska Native

In collaboration with

Syracuse University

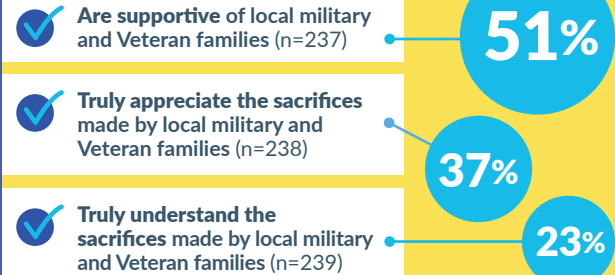
D'Aniello Institute for Veterans & Military Families

JPMorgan Chase & Co., Founding Partner

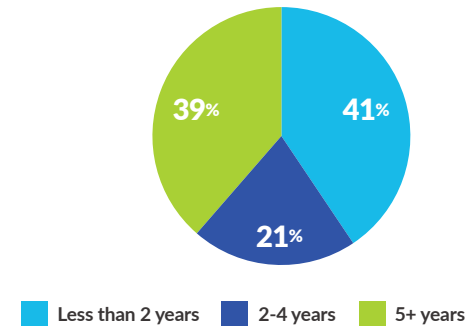
Military-connected families and their civilian communities

38% of military-connected family respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community (n=238)

Military-connected family respondents agree that civilians in their local community:



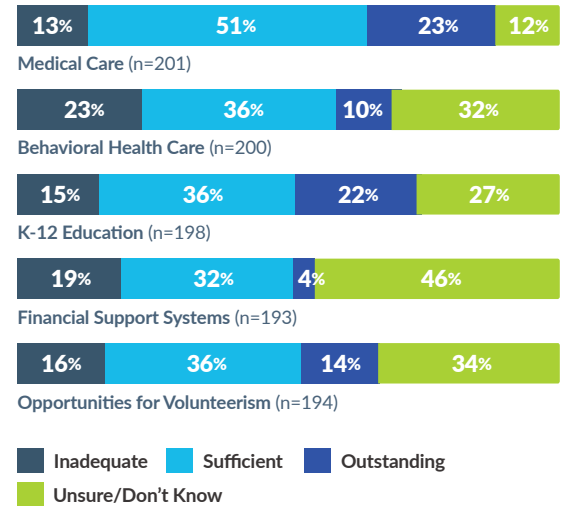
Length of time in community where respondents currently reside (n=202)



*Total may not equal 100 due to rounding

Quality of community resources available to military-connected respondents

Not fulfilled by installation



Legend: Inadequate (dark blue), Sufficient (light blue), Outstanding (medium blue), Unsure/Don't Know (green)

34%

report that community support (e.g., programming for military members, Veterans, and their families; available and accessible child care) is inadequate (n=196)

Snapshot of the military lifestyle



TAKEAWAYS

- >> Just a third of Illinois respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local community.
- >> 1 in 3 Illinois respondents feel that community support for military-connected families is inadequate.

>> A quarter of Illinois respondents identify as unpaid caregivers.

>> Most Illinois respondents perceive discrimination in the military to occur at levels similar to that in the overall U.S. society.

\$ Financial Readiness

53%

report their family's current personal financial condition causes them some or a great deal of stress. (n=194)

Top Contributors to Financial Stress (n=97)

Spouse un/under-employment	Student loans
Excessive credit card debt	Major home repairs

Perceptions of Discrimination in the Military*

Compared to the general U.S. society, there is...

- about the same amount of racial discrimination (48%, n=172)
- about the same amount of gender discrimination (50%, n=170)
- about the same amount of sexual orientation discrimination (49%, n=166)
- about the same amount of religious discrimination (49%, n=166)

*Respondent sample includes Veteran respondents, some of whom are over the age of 60.

Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey and how you can offer support? survey@bluestarfam.org

Questions about Blue Star Families' Chicago Chapter? chicago@bluestarfam.org

Active-Duty Families (n=129)

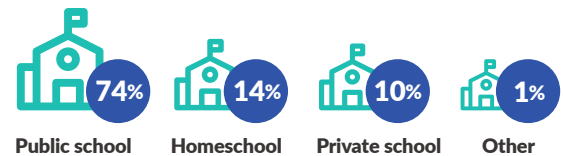


Military Children's Education

73%

of active-duty family respondents with children have one or more children currently enrolled in K-12 education (n=97)

Type of school of oldest child in K-12 (n=70)



OPTEMPO

60% of active-duty family respondents characterize OPTEMPO as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life (n=114)



Child Care

23%

of families with a need for child care can find child care that meets their needs (n=65)



Spouse Employment (n=77)



Funding for the 2021 Military Family Lifestyle Survey is provided through the generosity of our presenting sponsor USAA and from supporting sponsors Lockheed Martin, CSX, CVS Health, AARP, Starbucks, BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, Walmart Foundation, Verizon, The Barry Robinson Center, and the USO.