**Top 5 issues affecting military-connected families**

1. Amount of time away from family (27%)
2. Impact of deployment on family (25%)
3. Access to VA healthcare/benefits (22%)
4. Service member/Veteran/family member mental health (21%)
5. Military pay (21%)

**Respondent Gender (n=182)**
- Female: 64%
- Male: 36%

**Age of Respondents (n=182)**
- 18-29 years old: 29%
- 30-39 years old: 17%
- 40-49 years old: 17%
- 50-59 years old: 31%
- 60+ years old: 7%

**Caregiving**
- 31% of respondents consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver (n = 151)

**18% of all respondents report that caregiver respite/support programs in their community are inadequate (n=125)**

**182 respondents**

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 spouses of Reserve service members.

When referencing this data, please consider the following sample demographics:
- 41% are Veteran/retired service members
- 21% are spouses of Veteran/retired service members
- 21% are active-duty spouses
- 9% are active-duty service members
- 6% are National Guard spouses
- 2% are Reserve spouses

**Branch affiliation of respondents is:**
- 42% Air Force
- 17% Army
- 13% National Guard
- 12% Navy
- 8% Marine Corps
- 6% Reserve
- 3% Coast Guard

**Respondents identify as:**
- 87% white
- 9% Black/African American
- 6% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 5% Other
- 2% Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin
- 1% Asian

In collaboration with Syracuse University

D’Anico Institute for Veteran & Military Families

Morgan Clark Co., Founding Partner

**Military-connected families and their civilian communities**

- 39% of military-connected family respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community (n=161)

**Are supportive of local military and Veteran families (n=161)**

**Truly appreciate the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=161)**

**Truly understand the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=161)**

**Length of time in community where respondents currently reside (n = 134)**

- Less than 2 years: 46%
- 2-4 years: 27%
- 5+ years: 28%

**Quality of community resources available to military-connected families**

**Medical Care (n=130)**
- Inadequate: 12%
- Sufficient: 50%
- Unsatisfactory/Don't Know: 24%
- Outstanding: 14%

**Behavioral Health Care (n=127)**
- Inadequate: 20%
- Sufficient: 28%
- Unsatisfactory/Don't Know: 17%
- Outstanding: 35%

**K-12 Education (n=126)**
- Inadequate: 11%
- Sufficient: 31%
- Unsatisfactory/Don't Know: 21%
- Outstanding: 37%

**Financial Support Systems (n=125)**
- Inadequate: 16%
- Sufficient: 34%
- Unsatisfactory/Don't Know: 10%
- Outstanding: 40%

**Opportunities for Volunteerism (n=127)**
- Inadequate: 12%
- Sufficient: 32%
- Unsatisfactory/Don't Know: 20%
- Outstanding: 36%

**24% report that community support (e.g., programming for military members, Veterans, and their families; available and accessible child care) is inadequate (n=127)**

*MFLS question and answer choice wording changed slightly from previous years.*
Snapshot of the military lifestyle

**TAKEAWAYS**

- Roughly a third of Ohio respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local community.
- 1 in 4 Ohio respondents feel that community support for military-connected families is inadequate.
- A third of Ohio respondents identify as unpaid caregivers.
- Most Ohio respondents perceive discrimination in the military to occur at levels similar to that in the overall U.S. society.

**Financial Readiness**

43% of active-duty family respondents report their family’s current personal financial condition causes them some or a great deal of stress. (n=128)

**Top Contributors to Financial Stress**

- Getting behind on bills
- Spouse un/under-employment
- Out-of-pocket medical costs
- Student loans

**Perceptions of Discrimination in the Military**

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

- About the same amount of racial discrimination (47%, n=114)
- About the same amount of gender discrimination (43%, n=111)
- About the same amount of sexual orientation discrimination (50%, n=108)
- About the same amount of religious discrimination (45%, n=110)

*Respondent sample includes Veteran respondents, many of whom are over the age of 60 and may have been separated from the military for over 20 years.

**Active-Duty Families**

(n=54)

**Military Children’s Education**

86% of active-duty family respondents with children have one or more children currently enrolled in K-12 education (n=35)

**Type of school of oldest child in K-12**

- 59% Public school
- 38% Homeschool
- 3% Private school

**OPTEMPO**

68% of active-duty family respondents characterize OPTEMPO as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life (n=50)

**Child Care**

32% of families with a need for child care can find child care that meets their needs (n=25)

**Questions about the annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey and how you can offer support?**

survey@bluestarfam.org

Questions about Blue Star Families’ Dayton & Southwestern Ohio Chapter?

dayton@bluestarfam.org

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