Top 5 issues affecting active-duty families\(^1\) (n=427)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of time away from family</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military spouse employment</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of deployment on family</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military pay</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dependent child(ren)'s education</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What would best address concerns about military spouse employment?\(^2\) (n=179)

- Remote work opportunities: 39%
- Flexible work schedules: 36%
- Protections against employer discriminations for military spouses: 34%

What would best address concerns about dependent children’s education?\(^3\) (n=100)

- Training for teachers/staff on military lifestyle and impacts on children’s education: 43%
- Control over where we move: 40%
- A return to in-person education: 37%

66% of employed military spouses are underemployed in some way* (n=122)

- Employed: 44%
- Want/need to work: 33%
- Do not want/need to work: 23%

37% have been separated from their family/service member for a total of 6 or more months in the past 18 months. (n=385)

4% were geobaching* (n=378)

71% characterize OPTEMPO\(^4\) as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life. (n=408)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Separation</td>
<td>37%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Active-duty family members and their civilian communities

31% of active-duty family respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community (n=406)

- Are supportive of local military and Veteran families (n=406): 46%
- Truly appreciate the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=405): 32%
- Truly understand the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=406): 19%

Top Child Care Related Concerns* (n=94)

- Availability overall: 71%
- Affordability of quality care: 70%
Many California military families report that both OPTEMPO and their personal financial situations are stressful. Barriers to mental health care exist for both adults and children in active-duty families. Families face difficulties finding available and affordable child care. Spouse un/underemployment is a top contributor to financial stress.

Financial Readiness

53% report their family’s current personal financial condition causes them some or a great deal of stress. (n=345)

Top Contributors to Their Financial Stress (n=179)

- Spouse un/under-employment
- Student loans
- Out-of-pocket relocation costs

Housing

"Which of the following best describes where you currently live?"
Active-duty family respondents (n=349)

- Military housing on/off installation: 43%
- Renting civilian housing: 28%
- Own civilian housing: 27%

72% of those with out-of-pocket monthly housing costs pay $200 or more above BAH. (n=212)

Top aspects of concern related to housing (n=342)
- Local housing market is unaffordable
- Cost of housing rental is too high
- Waitlist for on-installation housing is too long

Military Children’s Education

Type of School of Oldest Child in K-12 (n=234)

- Public school: 77%
- Homeschool: 12%
- DoDEA: 9%
- Private school: 1%

58% agree their oldest child is thriving in his/her school (n=195)

48% rate the overall quality of the school their oldest child attends as above average or excellent. (n=181)

Health and Mental Health

21% report their child(ren) does not receive mental health care but they would like them to. (n=292)

Of those, 54% report their child(ren) does not receive mental health care because “I do not believe telehealth mental health care would be effective for my child.” (n=63)

26% do not currently receive mental health care but would like to. (n=353)

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

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Questions about Blue Star Families’ San Diego Chapter?
sandiego@bluestarfam.org

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