

**FAMILY** LIFESTYLE

# **Top 5 issues affecting military**connected families<sup>1</sup> (n=122)

	31%
	31%
25%	
25%	
24%	
24%	
	25% 24%

#### **Gender of Respondents** (n=134)

			75%
Female			
	25%		
Male			

#### Age of Respondents (n=134)

	13%	
18-29 years old		
30-39 years old		
40-49 years old		
	13%	
50-59 years old		
		20%
60+ years old		



1% of respondents consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver (n =116)



of all respondents report that caregiver respite/support programs in their community are inadequate (n=102)

# 134 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:

- 35% are active-duty spouses
- 25% are Veteran/retired service members
- 20% are Veteran/retired spouses
- 9% are active-duty service members
- 5% are National Guard spouses
- 5% are Reserve spouses
- 1% are National Guard service members

#### **Branch affiliation** of respondents is:

- 50% Army
- 25% Air Force
- 11% National Guard
- 8% Marine Corps
- 6% Navy
- 1% Coast Guard

#### Respondents identify as:

- 78% white
- 7% Black/African American
- 6% Asian
- 5% Other
- 5% Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin
- 3% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 2% American Indian/Alaska **Native**

In collaboration with

Syracuse University D'Aniello Institute for Veterans & Military Families PMorgan Chase & Co., Founding Partne

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

of military-connected family respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community (n=121)

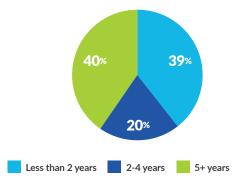
Military-connected family respondents agree that civilians in their local community:





Truly understand the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=119)

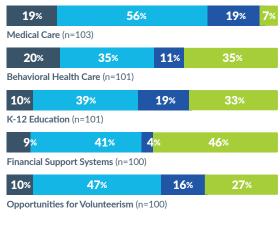
#### **Length of time in civilian community** (n=104)



\*Total may not equal 100 due to rounding

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

Not fulfilled by installation



Inadequate Sufficient Outstanding

Unsure/Don't Know

report that community support (e.g., programming for military members, Veterans, and their families; available and accessible child care) is inadequate (n=102)

<sup>1</sup>MFLS question and answer choice wording changed slightly from previous years.

# Snapshot of the military lifestyle

**TAKEAWAYS** 

- >> More than a third of Missouri respondents feel a sense of belonging to their local community.
- >> 1 in 5 Missouri respondents feel that caregiver/respite support programs in their community are inadequate.
- >> The majority of Missouri respondents indicate the quality of medical care available in their community is sufficient/outstanding.
- >> Most Missouri respondents perceive discrimination in the military to occur at levels similar to that in the overall U.S. society.



**Financial Readiness** 

47%

report their family's current personal financial condition causes them some or a great deal of stress. (n=103)

**Top Contributors to Financial Stress** (n=47)

Out-of-pocket medical costs

Spouse un/underemployment Out-of-pocket housing costs

Excessive credit card debt

**Student loans** 

#### **Perceptions of Discrimination in the Military\***

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

- less racial discrimination (52%, n=85)
- about the same amount of gender discrimination (40%, n=86)
- about the same amount of sexual orientation discrimination (55%, n=84)
- about the same amount of religious discrimination (44%, n=85)

 $<sup>^*</sup>$ 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.



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

Questions about Blue Star Families'
Missouri Chapter?
missouri@bluestarfam.org

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### **Active-Duty Families** (n=59)



#### **Military Children's Education**



of active-duty family respondents with children have one or more children currently enrolled in K-12 education (n=45)

Type of school of oldest child in K-12 (n=31)









**Public school** 

Homeschool

DoDEA

Private School

### ОРТЕМРО

70% of active-duty family respondents characterize OPTEMPO as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life (n=53)



**Child Care** 

**17**%

of families with a need for child care are able to find child care that meets their needs (n=29)

#### **Top Resources Regularly Needed (n=44)**



Communication from unit/command



Opportunity to exercise



Access to medical care



Spouse group for unit/command



Access to mental health care