Top 5 issues affecting military-connected families¹ (n=122)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount of time away from family</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military spouse employment</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military/VA healthcare access</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service member/Veteran/Family member mental health</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military pay</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact of deployment on family</td>
<td>24%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Gender of Respondents (n=134)

- Female: 75%
- Male: 25%

Age of Respondents (n=134)

- 18-29 years old: 28%
- 30-39 years old: 26%
- 40-49 years old: 13%
- 50-59 years old: 13%
- 60+ years old: 20%

Caregiving

- 21% of respondents consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver (n =116)
- 20% of all respondents report that caregiver respite/support programs in their community are inadequate (n=102)

Length of time in civilian community (n=104)

- Less than 2 years: 40%
- 2-4 years: 39%
- 5+ years: 21%

Quality of community resources available to military-connected families

Not fulfilled by installation

- Medical Care (n=103)
  - 19% Sufficient
  - 56% Outstanding
  - 19% Inadequate
  - 7% Unsure/Don't Know

- Behavioral Health Care (n=101)
  - 20% Sufficient
  - 35% Outstanding
  - 11% Inadequate
  - 35% Unsure/Don't Know

- K-12 Education (n=101)
  - 10% Sufficient
  - 39% Outstanding
  - 19% Inadequate
  - 33% Unsure/Don't Know

- Financial Support Systems (n=100)
  - 9% Sufficient
  - 41% Outstanding
  - 4% Inadequate
  - 46% Unsure/Don't Know

- Opportunities for Volunteering (n=100)
  - 10% Sufficient
  - 47% Outstanding
  - 16% Inadequate
  - 27% Unsure/Don't Know

In collaboration with

Syracuse University
D’Aniello Institute for Veteran & Military Families

21% report that community support (e.g., programming for military members, Veterans, and their families; available and accessible child care) is inadequate (n=102)

¹MFLS question and answer choice wording changed slightly from previous years.
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/under-employment
- 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)

Active-Duty Families (n=59)

Military Children’s Education

69% 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 71%
- Homeschool 16%
- DoDEA 7%
- Private School 7%

OPTEMPO

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

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

*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.

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2021 MILITARY FAMILY LIFESTYLE SURVEY