### Top 5 issues affecting military-connected families¹ (n=314)

- **Military-connected family respondents agree that civilians in their local community:**
  - 42% are supportive of local military and Veteran families (n=305)
  - 42% truly appreciate the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=304)
  - 23% truly understand the sacrifices made by local military and Veteran families (n=305)

### Sample Demographics

- **Gender of Respondents** (n=359):
  - Female: 67%
  - Male: 33%

- **Age of Respondents** (n=360):
  - 6% are 18-29 years old
  - 30% are 30-39 years old
  - 25% are 40-49 years old
  - 14% are 50-59 years old
  - 24% are 60+ years old

### Length of Time in Community

- **Age of Respondents**
  - 6% are 18-29 years old
  - 30% are 30-39 years old
  - 25% are 40-49 years old
  - 14% are 50-59 years old
  - 24% are 60+ years old

- **Military Spouse Employment** (n=279):
  - 24% of respondents consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver

### Quality of Community Resources Available to Respondents

- **Medical Care** (n=246):
  - 19% are sufficient
  - 53% are inadequate
  - 17% are unsure/don’t know
  - 11% are outstanding

- **Behavioral Health Care** (n=246):
  - 25% are sufficient
  - 37% are inadequate
  - 9% are unsure/don’t know
  - 30% are outstanding

- **K-12 Education** (n=241):
  - 15% are sufficient
  - 32% are inadequate
  - 20% are unsure/don’t know
  - 34% are outstanding

- **Financial Support Systems** (n=240):
  - 16% are sufficient
  - 39% are inadequate
  - 5% are unsure/don’t know
  - 40% are outstanding

- **Opportunities for Volunteerism** (n=239):
  - 12% are sufficient
  - 43% are inadequate
  - 11% are unsure/don’t know
  - 34% are outstanding

- **Inadequate**
  - 21% report that community support (e.g., programming for military members, Veterans, and their families; available and accessible child care) is inadequate (n=239)

### Caregiving

- 24% of respondents identify as caregivers
- 24% of caregivers report that caregiver respite/support programs in their community are inadequate

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¹MFLS question and answer choice wording changed slightly from previous years.
Service member/Veteran/family member mental health is a top issue for New York respondents; 1 in 4 believe community resources for behavioral health are inadequate.

Half of New York respondents report experiencing stress due to their financial situation.

A quarter of New York respondents identify as unpaid caregivers.

OPTEMPO is a source of stress for most active-duty family respondents.

Financial Readiness

51% report their family’s current personal financial condition causes them some or a great deal of stress. (n=245)

Top Contributors to Financial Stress (n=120)

- Spouse un/under-employment
- Excessive credit card debt
- Student loans
- 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 (50%, n=208)
- about the same amount of gender discrimination (43%, n=209)
- about the same amount of sexual orientation discrimination (50%, n=200)
- about the same amount of religious discrimination (52%, n=202)

Military Children's Education

83% of active-duty family respondents with children have one or more children currently enrolled in K-12 education (n=114)

Type of school of oldest child in K-12 (n=95)

- Public school: 75%
- Homeschool: 8%
- Private School: 8%
- DoDEA: 6%
- Other: 2%

OPTEMPO

71% of active-duty family respondents characterize OPTEMPO as stressful or very stressful for healthy work/family life (n=135)

Child Care

19% of families with a need for child care are able to find child care that meets their needs (n=59)

Spouse Employment* (n=77)

- Employed: 44%
- Want/need to work: 31%
- Do not want/need to work: 26%

*Active-duty spouses who are not also active-duty service members

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

Questions about Blue Star Families’ New York Tri-State Chapter? newyork@bluestarfam.org

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.

2021 MILITARY FAMILY LIFESTYLE SURVEY