Top 5 Issues for Active-Duty Families in 2022

- **Military spouse employment**: 48%
- **Amount of time away from family as a result of military service**: 45%
- **Military pay**: 40%
- **BAH/Off-base housing concerns**: 40%
- **Relocation/PCS issues**: 37%

Active-Duty Families and Their Civilian Communities

**Belonging**
- 33% of active-duty family respondents agree that they feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community.

**Schools**
- 52% of active-duty family respondents "agree" or "strongly agree" that the school attended by their oldest child in grades K-12 understands the unique challenges of military families.

Active-Duty Family Mental Health

- **Desire for mental health care**:
  - 23% of active-duty family respondents report they do not currently receive mental health care, but would like to receive it.
  - 16% of active-duty family respondents with at least one child in grades K-12 report their child (or children) does not currently receive mental health care, but they would like them to receive it.
  - 20% of active-duty family respondents reported having an adult friend or family member who expressed suicidal thoughts, made a suicide attempt, or died by suicide in the year prior to survey fielding.

Resources

Most commonly used civilian resources:
- Sports/recreation for children and/or family members
- Health care
- Social support resources

Active-Duty Families and Their Civilian Communities

- Funding for the 2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey is provided through the generosity of our presenting sponsor The USAA Foundation, Inc.
Blue Star Families’ annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey provides a comprehensive understanding of what it means to serve as a military family. For that reason it is a blueprint for strengthening America and identifying how we can continue to enhance military family life.

### Financial Stress

72% of active-duty family respondents report their family financial situation as “doing okay” or “living comfortably.”

#### Top Contributors to Financial Stress

- **Housing costs**: 48%
- **Relocation costs**: 32%
- **Unemployment or underemployment**: 28%

### Housing

81% of active-duty family respondents who reported monthly housing expenses not covered by their BAH also reported paying in excess of $200 per month out-of-pocket.

### Spouse Employment

- **Labor force participation rate**: 65%

Compared to national labor force participation rate — 72%

- **Employed (in labor force)**: 79%

Among those who are working:

- **Working full time**: 64%
- **Working part time**: 36%

- **Unemployed (in labor force)**: 21%

Compared to national unemployment rate — 6%

2 in 5 active-duty spouse respondents report “Child care is too expensive” as the top reason they are not working.

### Food Insecurity

16% of active-duty family respondents reported experiencing low/very low food security levels.

However, that number changes when broken down:

- **Enlisted active-duty family respondents with low/very low food security**: 26%
- **Officer active-duty family respondents with low/very low food security**: 4%

For active-duty families who indicated they have financial stress.

The anticipated monthly housing cost-share is $74-$168.

Active-duty spouse respondents who are not also active-duty service members.

Civilian comparison group data comes from statistics reported for women, age 18-44, in the Current Population Survey (CPS) 2021 Annual Average Employment Status (not seasonally adjusted).

Active-duty spouse respondents who are not also an active-duty service member and who want or need to work but are not currently employed.

In the 12 months preceding survey fielding.

In collaboration with Syracuse University and the D’Aniello Institute for Veterans & Military Families.

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6. For active-duty families who indicated they have financial stress.
7. The anticipated monthly housing cost-share is $74-$168.
8. Active-duty spouse respondents who are not also active-duty service members.
10. Active-duty spouse respondents who are not also an active-duty service member and who want or need to work but are not currently employed.
11. In the 12 months preceding survey fielding.
12. Active-duty family respondents with low/very low food security