313 military-connected respondents including active-duty, National Guard, Reserve, and Veteran service members and spouses.

**Top Issues for Maryland Military Connected Family Respondents**

- **Military spouse employment**: 37%
- **Military pay**: 37%
- **Amount of time away from family**: 31%
- **Access to military/VA health care system(s)**: 29%
- **Impact of deployment on family**: 28%

**Active-Duty Families**

**Spouse Employment**

- 11% of Maryland active-duty spouses are unemployed (n=94)

**Mental Health**

- 24% of active-duty family respondents (n=107) do not currently receive mental health care but would like to receive it
- 20% of active-duty family respondents with at least one child enrolled in grades K-12 (n=61) reported that their child(ren) did not currently receive, but they would like them to receive mental health care

**Veteran Health Care**

- 66% of Veteran respondents (n=77) say they have a service-connected disability
- 31% of those with a service-connected disability have a 100% rating
- 29% of Maryland Veteran respondents (n=63) use the VA to meet all of their healthcare needs

Funding for the 2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey is provided through the generosity of our presenting sponsor The USAA Foundation, Inc. Supporting sponsors include JP Morgan Chase & Co., Lockheed Martin, CSX, AARP, Craig Newmark Philanthropies, Macy’s Inc., BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, American Council of Life Insurers, and Pratt & Whitney.
Financial Security

26% of Maryland military-connected respondents (n=193) describe their financial situation as "just getting by" or "finding it difficult to get by".

Top contributor to financial stress among those military-connected respondents who have financial stress (n=143):

- Housing costs: 44%

Caregiving

23% of military connected-respondents (n=186) consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver.

Most commonly providing care for (n=43):

- Child under 18 years of age: 51%
- Spouse/partner who is a Veteran: 26%
- Parent or grandparent: 23%
- Adult child over 18 years of age: 19%

Food Support Program

19% of Maryland active-duty family respondents (n=97) utilized a food support program during the 12 months preceding survey fielding.

Most commonly utilized programs:

- Local food pantry: 8%
- Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT): 6%

Recommending Military Service¹

Military-connected respondents (n=278)

- Unlikely to recommend (0-3): 22%
- Neutral (4-6): 29%
- Likely to recommend (7-10): 50%

¹ Question Text: How likely are you to recommend that a young family member (child, niece, nephew, etc.) join the military? Range: 0 = very unlikely to recommend, — 10 = very likely to recommend.

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.

Military Affiliation (n=313): Active-Duty Service Member (11%), Spouse (44%); National Guard Service Member (1%), Spouse (2%); Reserve Service Member (2%), Spouse (<1%), Veteran/Retired Service Member (27%), Spouse (12%)

Racial/Ethnic Identity (n=309): American Indian/Alaska Native (5%), Asian (6%), Black/African American (15%), Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin (9%), Middle Eastern or Northern African (<1%), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (<1%), Some other race or ethnicity (<1%), White (76%)