685 military-connected respondents including active-duty, National Guard, Reserve, and Veteran service members and spouses.
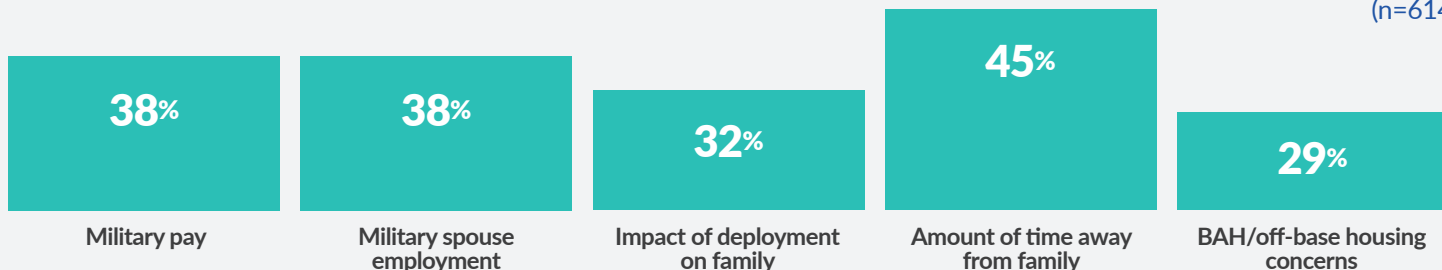
BLUE STAR FAMILIES

Military Family Lifestyle Survey

San Diego Chapter

Top Issues for California Military-Connected Family Respondents

(n=614)

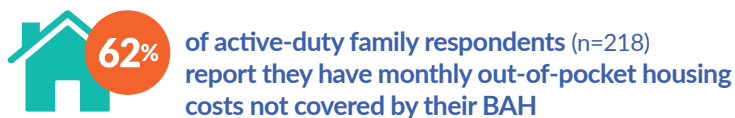| 38%	38%	32%	45%	29%
Military pay	Military spouse employment	Impact of deployment on family	Amount of time away from family	BAH/off-base housing concerns

Active-Duty Families

Spouse Employment

23%

of California active-duty spouse respondents (n=241) are unemployed

Of those who are employed[1] (n=129)

72% are employed full time

23% are employed part time

Children's Mental Health

18% of active-duty family respondents with at least one child enrolled in grades K-12 (n=148) reported that their child(ren) did not currently receive mental health care, but would like them to receive it
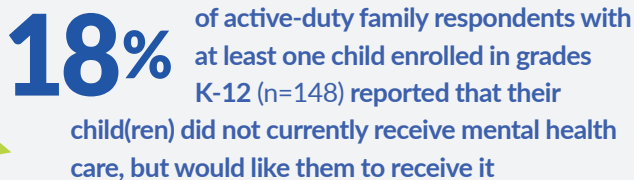
34% of active-duty family respondents with at least one child enrolled in grades K-12 (n=148) have a child/children who experienced bullying on school property

Housing Costs

62% of active-duty family respondents (n=218) report they have monthly out-of-pocket housing costs not covered by their BAH

84% of those with out-of-pocket costs pay $200 or more

Child Care

75% of active-duty respondents (n=220) with at least one child have some level of need for child care

>> Only 24% of those with a need for child care (n=150) are able to find child care that works for their situation

Military Children's Education

70% of active-duty family respondents with child(ren) ages 20 or younger (n=218) have at least one child enrolled in K-12 education

46% of active-duty respondents with a child enrolled in K-12 education (n=131) agree that their oldest child's school understands the unique challenges of military families

[1] Working either part time (<35 hours per week) or full time (35+ hours per week).

For more info about the
San Diego Chapter
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★ **BLUE STAR** FAMILIES

**Military Family
Lifestyle Survey**

In collaboration with

S Syracuse University
**D'Aniello Institute for
Veterans & Military Families**
JPMorgan Chase & Co., Founding Partner

Financial Security

California respondents who describe their family financial situation as "just getting by" or "finding it difficult to get by":

31%
Currently-serving family respondents (n=273)
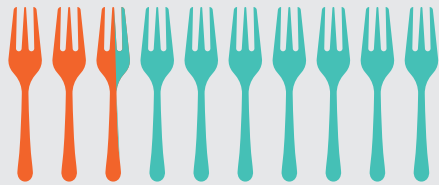
28%
Veteran respondents (n=123)

Top contributor to financial stress among both currently-serving family respondents (52%, n=243) and Veteran respondents (60%, n=81) who have financial stress:

Housing costs **54%**

Food Support Program Usage

27%

of California military-connected respondents (n=398) utilized a food support program during the 12 months preceding survey fielding.

Most commonly utilized programs (n=109)

14% Local food pantry

10% Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)

6% Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Caregiving

22% of military-connected respondents (n=415) consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver[2]

Who provided care for: (n=89)

49%
Child under 18 years of age

28%
Parent or grandparent

19%
Spouse/partner who is a Veteran

Mental Health

19% of California military-connected family respondents (n=432) do not currently receive mental health care but would like to receive it

"It's a good start to your adult life — whether you do your initial enlistment time, or you make it a career, and the education benefits are huge with the GI Bill."

National Guard Spouse

Recommending Military Service[2]
Military-connected respondents (n=628)

26%
Unlikely to recommend (0-3)

29%
Neutral (4-6)

45%
Likely to recommend (7-10)

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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=685): Active-Duty Service Member (8%), Spouse (54%); National Guard Service Member (1%), Spouse (1%); Reserve Service Member (1%), Spouse(1%); Veteran/Retired Service Member (26%), Spouse (8%)

Racial/Ethnic Identity (n=680): American Indian/Alaska Native (3%), Asian(11%), Black/African American (7%), Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin (18%), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (2%), Some other race or ethnicity (2%), White (69%)

Military-connected respondents includes active-duty, National Guard, Reserve, and Veteran family respondents

[2] Unpaid caregiving is defined as all tasks related to the care for ongoing medical, mental health, or developmental conditions, or serious short-term ones.

[3] 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.

Scan this QR code for more on our annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey