

## Top Issues for Illinois Military-Connected Family Respondents



## Active-Duty Families

### Spouse Employment



of Illinois active-duty spouse respondents (n=46) are unemployed

Of those who are employed (n=26)




are employed full time



are employed part time

### Children's Mental Health



14% of active-duty family respondents with at least one child enrolled in grades K-12 (n=35) 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=35) have a child/children who experienced bullying on school property

### Housing Costs



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



of active-duty family respondents (n=55) with at least one child have some level of need for child care

>> Only 32% of those with a need for child care (n=37) are able to find child care that works for their situation

## Military Children's Education



67%

of active-duty family respondents with child(ren) ages 20 or younger (n=55) have at least one child enrolled in K-12 education

56%

of active-duty respondents with a child enrolled in K-12 education (n=34) agree that their oldest child's school understands the unique challenges of military families

## Financial Security

**36%** of Illinois military connected respondents (n=144) describe their financial situation as “just getting by” or “finding it difficult to get by”

Top contributor to financial stress among among those military-connected respondents who have financial stress (n=113):

**Housing costs**



## Caregiving

**27%** of military-connected respondents (n=133) consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver<sup>2</sup>

Who provided care for: (n=36)



Child under 18 years of age

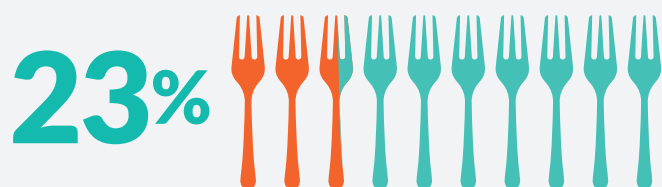


Parent or grandparent



Spouse/partner who is a Veteran

## Food Support Program Usage



of Illinois military-connected respondents (n=128) utilized a food support program during the 12 months preceding survey fielding.

Most commonly utilized programs (n=29)

**13%** Local food pantry

**5%** National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

## Mental Health

**15%** of Illinois military-connected family respondents (n=146) do not currently receive mental health care but would like to receive it

## Recommending Military Service<sup>1</sup>

Military-connected respondents (n=202)



Unlikely to recommend (0-3)



Neutral (4-6)



Likely to recommend (7-10)

“The military is a great community even though it’s hard sometimes. It is very rewarding.”

Navy Reserve Spouse

## BLUE STAR FAMILIES

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=228): Active-Duty Service Member (10%), Spouse (31%); National Guard Service Member (4%), Spouse (2%); Reserve Service Member (2%), Spouse(5%); Veteran/Retired Service Member (35%), Spouse (11%)

**Racial/Ethnic Identity** (n=228): American Indian/Alaska Native (3%), Asian(9%), Black/African American (10%), Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin (10%), Middle Eastern or Northern African (3%) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (3%), Some other race or ethnicity (<1%), White (73%)

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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

