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

**Top Issues for Currently Serving Family Respondents** (n=325)

- 49% BAH/off-base housing concerns
- 45% Military pay
- 42% Military spouse employment
- 40% Amount of time away from family
- 31% Relocation/PCS Issues

**Top Issues for Veteran Respondents** (n=216)

- 43% Access to military/VA health care system(s)
- 32% Veteran employment
- 31% Military pay
- 30% Amount of time away from family as a result of military service
- 30% Understanding of Veteran issues among civilians

**Active-Duty Families**

**Spouse Employment**

- 20% of Florida active-duty spouse respondents (n=155) are unemployed
- Of those who are employed (n=78)
  - 54% are working full time
  - 46% are working part time

**Veteran Respondents**

**Health Care**

- 45% of Florida Veteran respondents (n=166) use the VA to meet all of their healthcare needs

**Mental Health**

- 17% of active-duty family respondents with at least one child enrolled in grades K-12 (n=130) report that their child(ren) did not currently receive mental health care but they would like them to

- 23% of active-duty family respondents (n=194) do not currently receive mental health care but would like to receive it

**Financial Security**

- 8% of Florida Veteran respondents (n=157) do not currently receive mental health care but would like to receive it

**Food Support Programs**

- 27% of Florida Veteran respondents (n=156) describe their financial situation as “just getting by” or “finding it difficult to get by”

- 7% of Florida Veteran respondents (n=151) participated in a local food pantry/community food distribution in the 12 months preceding survey fielding

**Veteran Mental Health**

- 7% of Florida Veteran respondents (n=151) participated in a local food pantry/community food distribution in the 12 months preceding survey fielding

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1. ADF, NGF, RF.
Financial Security

- 29% of Florida active-duty family respondents (n=196) describe their financial situation as "just getting by" or "finding it difficult to get by".

Top contributor to financial stress among those active-duty family respondents who have financial stress (n=164):

- Housing costs (60%)

Housing costs

- 80% of active-duty family respondents (n=167) report they have monthly out-of-pocket housing costs not covered by their BAH.
- 83% of those with out-of-pocket costs (n=134) pay $200 or more.

Caregiving

- 25% of military-connected respondents (n=411) consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver.

Most commonly providing care for: (n=27)

- Child under 18 years of age (40%)
- Spouse/partner who is a Veteran (28%)
- Parent or grandparent (24%)

Food Support Program

- 17% of Florida active-duty family respondents (n=174) utilized a food support program during the 12 months preceding survey fielding.

Most commonly utilized programs (n=29):

- Local food pantry/community food distribution (9%)
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (2%)

Recommendation of Military Service

Military-connected respondents (n=640)

- 24% unlikely to recommend (0-3)
- 24% neutral (4-6)
- 52% likely to recommend (7-10)

National Guard and Reserve Family Respondents — in their own words: “Can you tell us why you would recommend or not recommend service to a young family member?”

The benefits of being in the service are great.

But as I've gotten old and my life has changed, I've been really questioning if the benefits are worth it. I think I would solidly recommend one enlistment. But to make a career of it, I don’t know.

Air Force Reserve Spouse

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=707) Active-Duty Service Member (11%), Spouse (35%); National Guard Service Member (<1%), Spouse (1%); Reserve Service Member (1%), Spouse (2%); Veteran/Retired Service Member (34%), Spouse (15%)

Racial/Ethnic Identity (n=697) American Indian/Alaska Native (3%), Asian (4%), Black/African American (8%), Hispanic or Latino/a/x or of Spanish origin (14%), Middle Eastern or Northern African (1%), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (1%), Some other race or ethnicity (3%), White (76%)