Top Issues for Ohio Military-Connected Family Respondents

- **Military pay**: 37%
- **Access to military/VA health care systems**: 35%
- **Impact of deployment on family**: 34%
- **Amount of time away from family**: 32%
- **Military benefits**: 30%

Active-Duty Families

Spouse Employment

41% of Ohio active-duty spouse respondents (n=30) are unemployed.

Of those who are employed (n=10):

- 30% are only self-employed
- 60% are only working as a paid employee for someone else
- 10% are both self-employed & working as a paid employee for someone else

Resource Access

**Top military resources used (n=30)**
- **Health care**: 53%
- **Social support resources**: 23%

**Top civilian resources used (n=31)**
- **Health care**: 32%
- **Sports/recreation for children and/or family members**: 32%

Mental Health

8% of active-duty family respondents with at least one child enrolled in grades K-12 (n=24) reported that their child(ren) did not currently receive mental health care, but they would like them to receive it.

50% of active-duty respondents with a child enrolled in K-12 education (n=18) agree that their oldest child’s school understands the unique challenges of military families.

Veterans

- 62% of Ohio Veteran respondents (n=76) say they have a service-connected disability
- 40% of Ohio Veteran respondents (n=52) utilize the VA to meet all of their health care needs
- 53% of Veteran respondents (n=51) “agree” or “strongly agree” that their doctor/provider they see the most often is knowledgeable of health needs faced by the military/Veteran populations
- 10% of Ohio Veteran respondents (n=49) do not currently receive mental health care but would like to receive it

Military Children’s Education

50% of active-duty respondents with a child enrolled in K-12 education (n=18) agree that their oldest child’s school understands the unique challenges of military families.

Where oldest child enrolled in K-12 attended school in 2021-2022 (n=26):

- **Homeschool**: 19%
- **Public school**: 77%
- **Private school**: 4%
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### Financial Security

**Family financial situation** (n=115)

- We are finding it difficult to get by: 10%
- We are just getting by: 20%
- We are doing okay: 38%
- We are living comfortably: 32%

**Top contributor to financial stress among those military-connected respondents who have financial stress** (n=82):

- Housing costs: 41%

### Caregiving

- 25% of military-connected respondents (n=110) consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver

**Who provided care for** (n=27)

- Spouse/partner who is a Veteran: 33%
- Child under 18 years of age: 33%
- Parent or grandparent: 22%
- Spouse/partner who is a civilian: 19%
- Adult child over 18 years of age: 15%

### Child Care

- 69% of currently-serving respondents (n=32) with at least one child have some level of need for child care

**Child Care Programs**

- Local food pantry: 17%
- Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT): 8%
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): 6%
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP): 5%
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): 2%

**Recommendation for Military Service**

- Unlikely to recommend (0-3): 18%
- Neutral (4-6): 26%
- Likely to recommend (7-10): 56%

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

2 Question Text: How likely are you to recommend to 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

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=186): Active-Duty Service Member (6%), Spouse (25%); National Guard Service Member (1%), Spouse (2%); Reserve Service Member (2%), Spouse (2%); Veteran/Retired Service Member (43%), Spouse (19%)

**Racial/Ethnic Identity** (n=184): American Indian/Alaska Native (5%), Asian (4%), Black/African American (8%), Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or of Spanish origin (6%), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (1%), Some other race or ethnicity (2%), White (84%)