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

BLUE STAR FAMILIES

Military Family Lifestyle Survey

Dayton & Southwestern Ohio Chapter
Established: February 2020
Delivered by CSX

Top Issues for Ohio Military-Connected Family Respondents

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

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 <u>with at least one child enrolled in grades K-12</u> (n=24) reported that their child(ren) did not currently receive mental health care, but they would like them to receive it.

22% of active-duty family respondents (n=37) **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):

- **19%** Homeschool
- **77%** Public school
- **4%** Private school

Veterans

62% of Ohio Veteran respondents (n=76) say they have a service-connected disability

23% of those with a service-connected disability (n=47) have a 100% rating

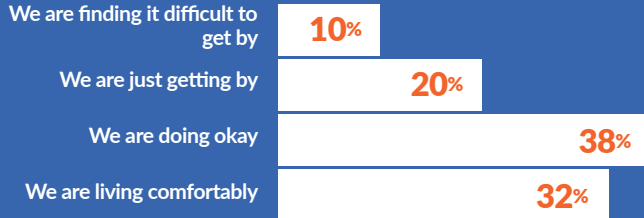**40%** of Ohio Veteran respondents (n=52) utilize the VA to meet all of their health care needs

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

Mental Health

10% of Ohio Veteran respondents (n=49) do not currently receive mental health care but would like to receive it

BLUE STAR FAMILIES **Military Family Lifestyle Survey**

Financial Security

Family financial situation (n=115)

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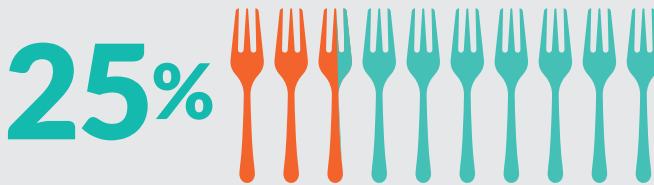- We are doing okay — **38%**
- We are living comfortably — **32%**

Top contributor to financial stress among those military-connected respondents who have financial stress (n=82):
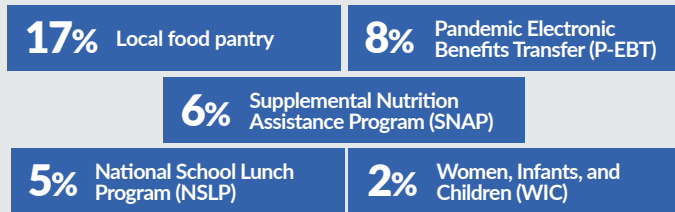
Housing costs **41%**

Food Support Program Usage

25%

of Ohio military-connected respondents (n=108) utilized a food support program during the 12 months preceding survey fielding.
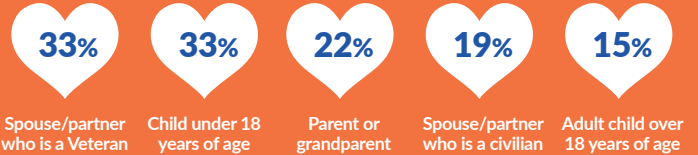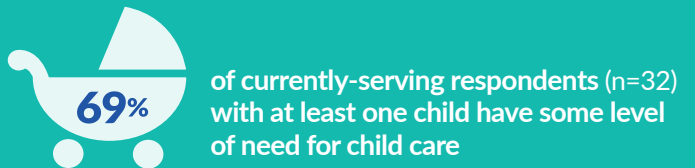
Programs utilized (n=27)

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

Caregiving

25% of military-connected respondents (n=110) consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver[1]

Who provided care for: (n=27)

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

Child Care

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

>> Only 30% of those with a need for child care (n=20) are able to find child care that works for their situation

" **The military provides great opportunities for career development and service.** "

Navy Reserve Spouse

Recommending Military Service[2]

Military-connected respondents (n=167)

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

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%)

[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.

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