Active-Duty Families

Spouse Employment

23% of Tennessee and Kentucky active-duty spouse respondents (n=74) are unemployed.

Of those who are employed (n=33)

- 61% are working full time
- 39% are working part time

Resource Access

Top military resources used (n=70) Top civilian resources used (n=72)

- Health care 40% Sports/recreation for children and/or family members 31%
- Social support resources 27%
- Health care 21%

Mental Health

14% of Tennessee and Kentucky military-connected family respondents (n=216) do not currently receive mental health care but would like to receive it.

Military Children’s Education

64% of active-duty family respondents with child(ren) ages 20 or younger (n=67) have at least one child enrolled in K-12 education.

Children’s Mental Health

38% of active-duty family respondents with at least one child enrolled in grades K-12 (n=40) have a child(ren) who has experienced bullying on school property.

10% of active-duty family respondents with at least one child enrolled in grades K-12 (n=40) reported that their child(ren) did not currently receive, but they would like them to receive mental health care.

Funding for the 2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey is provided through the generosity of our presenting sponsor The USAA Foundation, Inc. Supporting sponsors include JP Morgan Chase & Co., Lockheed Martin, CSX, AARP, Craig Newmark Philanthropies, Macy’s Inc., BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, American Council of Life Insurers, and Pratt & Whitney.
Financial Security

Those who describe their financial situation as “just getting by” or “finding it difficult to get by”:

- 34% of Tennessee/Kentucky currently-serving family respondents (n=107)
- 27% of Tennessee/Kentucky Veteran respondents (n=81)

Top contributor to financial stress among both currently-serving family respondents (37%, n=86) and Veteran respondents (43%, n=47) who have financial stress:

- Housing costs

Caregiving

29% of military-connected respondents (n=207) consider themselves to be an unpaid caregiver.

Most commonly providing care for: (n=58)

- Child under 18 years of age: 33%
- Spouse/partner who is a Veteran: 24%
- Parent or grandparent: 22%
- Adult child over 18 years of age: 14%
- Spouse/partner who is on active-duty: 10%

Child Care

70% of active-duty family respondents (n=66) with at least one child have some level of need for child care.

>> Only 29% of those with a need for child care (n=42) are able to find child care that works for their situation.

Recommendation Military Service

Military-connected respondents (n=311)

- Unlikely to recommend (0-3): 25%
- Neutral (4-6): 27%
- Likely to recommend (7-10): 48%

The military is just like gaining another family to teach and grow with each other. There are a lot of learning opportunities in or with the military.

Army National Guard

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=342) Active-Duty Service Member (2%), Spouse (37%); National Guard Service Member (7%), Spouse (4%); Reserve Spouse (2%); Veteran/Retired Service Member (35%), Spouse (13%)

Racial/Ethnic Identity (n=341) American Indian/Alaska Native (4%), Asian (2%), Black/African American (6%), Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or of Spanish origin (9%), 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 that a young family member (child, niece, nephew, etc.) join the military? Range: 0 = very unlikely to recommend, — 10 = very likely to recommend.