

Making Sense of the Science: Understanding the Military and Military Families

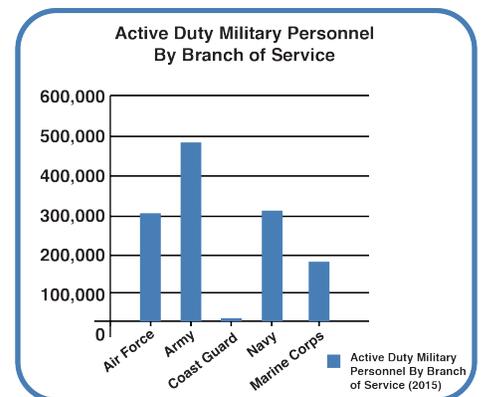
The Clearinghouse's mission is to engage in applied research and evaluation, implementation science, education and outreach to advance the health and well-being of Military Families. One way the Clearinghouse accomplishes this mission is by supporting professionals in using evidenced-based and evidence-informed programs and practices to bolster readiness and resiliency in the Military Families they serve.

FAST FACTS

- Enlisted members comprise 83% of the Military.
- Females make up 17% of Enlisted members.
- 71% of Military members are non-minorities.
- About 44% of Military members are not married.
- 59% of Military members do not have children.
- About 10% of Military spouses are males.
- 33% of Military members are married to a civilian and have children.
- 55% of those in dual Military marriages do not have children.
- 5% of Military members are divorced.
- Not all US Military members and their spouses/children are US citizens.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF MILITARY MEMBERS

- As of 2015, over 2.1 million Service members were committed to Active Duty, the National Guard, and the Reserve components. The majority of those Military members were male (83.5%).²
- Around 17% of Military members are Active Duty Officers, and 82% of those Officers are male. The average age of Officers is 36 years.²
- The ratio of Officers to Enlisted members is 1 to 4.6 for Active Duty members and 1 to 5.3 for Selected Reserve.²
- More women have joined the Military, but the majority of Enlisted members are men (83%).²
- On average, Active Duty members commit to service in the Military for fewer than 10 years.¹ The majority commit to the Army, which has the largest Active Duty force, followed by the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.^{1, 2}
- Only 29% of Military members are minorities. The majority of Military Service members are Caucasian (71%), and African American (16.9%) Military members represent the second largest racial group.²
- The ratio of Minority Officers to Minority Enlisted is 1 to 6.8 for Active Duty and 1 to 7.1 for the Selected Reserve.²
- Most Active Duty Enlisted members are 25 years or younger. The Marine Corps has the youngest number of Enlisted members with 71.6% in the 18-25 age group versus the next highest, which is the Navy with 48.5% in this age group.²

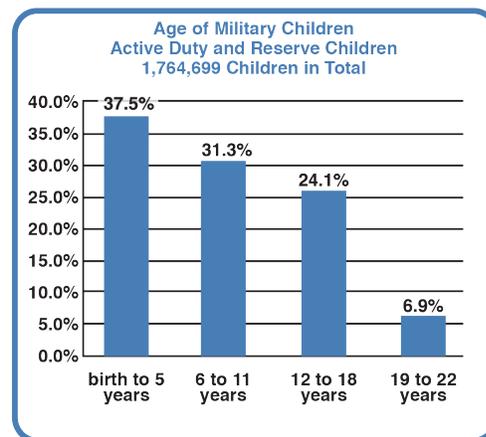


- The Military requires a minimum education of a high school equivalency.¹ About 75.6% of Military members have a high school diploma or have completed their GED, and about 21% of Military members have a bachelor's degree or higher.² Education requirements for appointment as a commissioned or warrant officer are determined by each Military Service, but generally a baccalaureate degree is required for appointment above the grade of O-2.³
- The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalized 7,709 Service members in 2015.⁴

DEMOGRAPHICS OF MILITARY FAMILIES

Military families take many forms, such as traditional, single-parent, blended, multigenerational, and co-habiting.¹ They can also consist of dual Military parents- families in which both parents are Service members.¹

- More than half of all Active Duty and Selected Reserve members are married (51%), and most are married to a civilian spouse (90%).²
- About 10% of married Military members are in dual Military marriages, and 45% of those in dual Military marriages have children.²
- A total of 2,793,505 family members of Military members were reported in 2015.²
- Overall, 41% of Military members have children, and the average age of a Service member at the birth of their first child is 25.8 years for Active Duty and 28 years for Selected Reserve.²
- Rates of single parenthood are low among Active Duty members at 4.5% compared to 9.1% of the Selected Reserve force.²
- The majority of Military spouses are female (90%), and 31.3 % of Reserve Spouses are 41 years of age or older and 51% of Active Duty Spouses are 30 years of age or younger.²
- Military spouses are challenged by frequent moves, licensing restrictions across state borders, and, in general, lower salaries than their civilian counterparts.¹
- Most spouses of Active Duty members are employed in the civilian workforce (40%). About 13% are seeking employment, and 33% are not seeking employment.²
- The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalized 16 Military kids and 332 Military spouses abroad in 2015.⁴



REFERENCES

1. Clever, M., & Segal, D. R. (2013). The demographics of military children and families. *The Future of Children*, 23(2) 13-34.
2. United States of America Department of Defense. 2015 Demographics profile of the military community, i-199.
 - a. Statistics include Active Duty (Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy) and Selected Reserve (Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve). Percentages listed are rounded up.
3. Wright, J. L. (2015). Department of Defense Instruction Number 1304.26 (pp. 1-21) (USA, Department of Defense, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness).
4. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (2016, December 22). *Naturalization Through Military Service: Fact Sheet*. Retrieved February 20, 2017, from <https://www.uscis.gov/news/fact-sheets/naturalization-through-military-service-fact-sheet>.

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