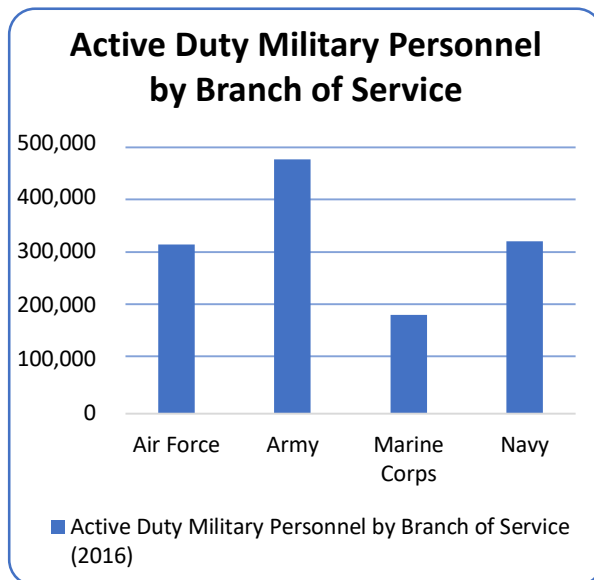


The Clearinghouse's mission is to engage in applied research and evaluation, implementation science, education, and outreach to advance the health and well-being of military families. One way the Clearinghouse accomplishes this mission is by supporting professionals in using evidenced-based and evidence-informed programs and practices to bolster readiness and resiliency in the military families they serve. Providing information to professionals on the demographics of military members and military family members can assist these professionals as they select programs and practices that fit and align with this specific population. Below, please find demographic information on military members, spouses, and children.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF MILITARY MEMBERS

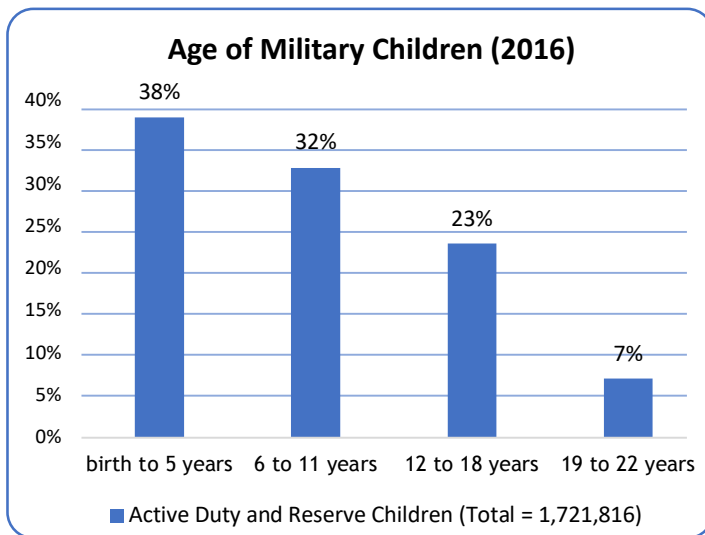
- As of 2016, over 2.3 million Service members were committed to Active Duty, the National Guard, and the Reserve components. The majority of those military members were male (84.1% Active Duty and 80.7% Selected Reserve).²
- Around 17% of military members are Active Duty Officers, and 83% of those Officers are male. Active Duty Officers' ages vary: 25 years or younger (13.7%), 26 to 30 years (22.6%), 31 to 35 years (21%), 36 to 40 years (17.7%), and 41 years or older (25%).²
- The ratio of Officers to Enlisted members is 1 to 4.6 for Active Duty members and 1 to 5.2 for Selected Reserve.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}
- The majority of military Service members are Caucasian (71%), and African American (17%) military members represent the second largest racial group.²
- The ratio of Minority Officers to Minority Enlisted is 1 to 6.7 for Active Duty and 1 to 7 for the Selected Reserve.²
- Over half of Active Duty Enlisted members are 25 years or younger. The Marine Corps has the youngest number of Enlisted members with 72% in the 18-25 age group versus the next highest, which is the Army with 49% in this age group.²
- The military requires a minimum education of a high school equivalency.¹ About 75% of military members have a high school diploma or have completed their GED, and about 23% 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 MEMBERS

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

- About half of all Active Duty (54%) and Selected Reserve (45%) members are married, and most are married to a civilian spouse (90%).²
- About 10% of married military members are in dual military marriages, and 44% of those in dual military marriages have children.²
- A total of 2,729,161 family members of military members were reported in 2016.²
- Overall, 36% 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 4.3% compared to 9.1% of the Selected Reserve force.²
- The majority of military spouses are female (90%), and 50% of Active Duty spouses are 30 years old or younger, and 31% of Reserve spouses are 41 years old or older.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 (41%). About 12% are seeking employment, and 34% are not seeking employment.²



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. 2016 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. Washington DC: 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 from <https://www.uscis.gov/news/fact-sheets/naturalization-through-military-service-fact-sheet>

The Clearinghouse has Technical Assistance (TA) Specialists who are available to help by offering support and guidance through the program selection, implementation, and evaluation process. These TA Specialists are available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST/EDT Monday through Friday. Use the information below to contact the Clearinghouse!

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