



Military Spouse DEMOGRAPHICS AND EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

POPULATION¹

There are approximately 1 million military spouses.

- Active duty spouses: 624,000.
- Selected Reserve/National Guard spouses: 372,000.

*These numbers are based on the assigned duty stations of their Service members.

AGE¹

Approximately 50% of Active Duty spouses are under the age of 30.

Average Active Duty spouse age is 31.5 years old.

- 25 years of age or younger: 25%
- 26-30 years of age: 25%
- 31-35 years of age: 22%
- 36-40 years of age: 14%
- 41 years of age or older: 14%

GENDER¹

92% of Active Duty spouses are female.

- 93% of Army spouses are female.
- 91% of Navy spouses are female.
- 97% of Marine Corps spouses are female.
- 89% of Air Force spouses are female.

EDUCATION²

89% of Active Duty spouses have some college education or higher (with 28% having attained a 4-year degree, 14% having an advanced degree).

- 88% of Army spouses have some college education, with 26% having attained a four-year degree and 14% having an advanced degree.
- 84% of Navy spouses have some college education, with 31% having attained a four-year degree and 15% having an advanced degree.
- 82% of Marine Corps spouses have some college education, with 27% having attained a four-year degree and 12% having an advanced degree.
- 87% of Air Force spouses have some college education, with 29% having attained a four-year degree and 16% having an advanced degree.



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EMPLOYMENT

While military spouses are employed in every sector, they predominantly pursue employment in the industries of Health Care, Information Technology, Education and Business Management.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Active Duty spouses have a 24% unemployment rate, which is much higher than national unemployment rate.² Female military spouses earn, on average, 25% less than their civilian counterparts.³

RELOCATION

Military families relocate more than civilian families, moving approximately every 2-3 years.

- 33% of Active Duty spouses reported moving in the last year.²
- Military families relocate 14% more frequently than their civilian counterparts.⁴

CHILDREN

74% of Active duty spouses have children at home.²

- 42% of Active duty military children are 0-5 years of age.²

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT AND LICENSURE

About 53% of Active Duty military spouses are in the workforce (employed or unemployed seeking work).⁵ Approximately 34%⁶ of employed spouses require licenses. Their current professional fields are broken down into the following categories⁷:

- 19% work in health-related services (such as nurses, physical therapists, audiologists/speech pathologists, occupational therapists, mental health counselors, pharmacists, and dental hygienists).
- 10% work in education (such as teachers and administrators).
- 2% work in crafts and trades (such as cosmetologists, aestheticians, electricians, plumbers and construction welders).
- 5% work in other occupations requiring state licenses (such as real estate agents, architects, and accountants).

Data Sources

¹ Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) (Data as of September 2016).

² Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) (2018). The 2017 Survey of Active Duty Spouses: Tabulation of Responses (DMDC Report No. 2018-006).

³ Kniskern, M. K., & Segal, D. R. (2010). Mean Wage Differences between Civilian and Military Wives. College Park, MD: Center for Research on Military Organization, University of Maryland, College Park.

⁴ Department of Treasury and Department of Defense (2012). Supporting Our Military Families: Occupational Licensing and Military Spouse.

⁵ Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) (2018). The 2017 Survey of Active Duty Spouses: Tabulation of Responses (DMDC Report No. 2018-006).

⁶ Ibid, Question 38, page 96.

⁷ Ibid, Question 32, page 84.