



# 2020 FOOD SECURITY AMONG ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS

Results are based on the 2020 Status of Forces Survey of Active Duty Members

## Food Security of Active Duty Members

Using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) definition and six-item short form measure of food security,<sup>1</sup> the Office of People Analytics (OPA) determined the prevalence of food insecurity within the military population via a web-based survey. Data were sampled and weighted to be generalizable to the entire active duty force.<sup>2</sup>

OF TOTAL ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS...

**76% ARE FOOD SECURE**

**24% ARE FOOD INSECURE**

**14%** reported low food security  
**10%** reported very low food security

### FOOD SECURE

Access at all times to enough food for an active, healthful life for all household members.

### LOW FOOD SECURITY

Reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake.

### VERY LOW FOOD SECURITY

Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

## Service Branch

PERCENTAGE OF FOOD INSECURE MEMBERS...



Army **26%**



Navy **30%\***



Marines **23%**



Air Force **17%\***

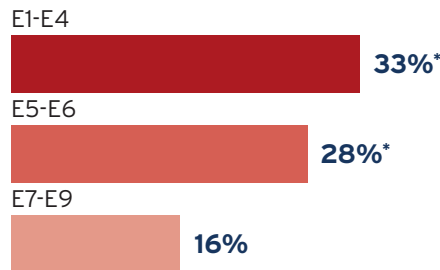
\*In comparison to the other service branches, Navy had significantly higher and Air Force had significantly lower food insecurity.

## Rank/Paygrade



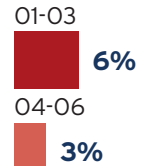
**29%** of ENLISTED are food insecure

PAYGRADE



**5%** of OFFICERS are food insecure

PAYGRADE



\*The percentage of junior enlisted (E1-E4) and mid-enlisted (E5-E6) members who are food insecure is significantly higher than other paygrades.

## Family Status\*

% WHO ARE FOOD INSECURE



Single with Children



Single without Children



Married with Children



Married without Children

\*Number of children is not significantly related to food insecurity.

## Race/Ethnicity

**22%** of Non-Hispanic White members are food insecure

**27%\*** of Minority members are food insecure

\*The percentage of Minority members who are food insecure is significantly higher than Non-Hispanic White members.

For information and resources, visit [www.militaryonesource.mil/economic-security-info](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/economic-security-info)

<sup>1</sup>Food Security scale was developed by the Food and Nutrition Service and the National Center for Health Statistics and is the same measure used by USDA to assess levels of food security in the national population.

<sup>2</sup>The demographic makeup of the military population is different than that of the U.S. population (e.g., age, gender, educational attainment, etc.). Caution should be taken when comparing OPA's military community food insecurity index levels to USDA's national average levels.

Note: 2020 Food Security results were similar to 2018.



# 2021 FOOD SECURITY AMONG ACTIVE DUTY SPOUSES

Results are based on the 2021 Survey of Active Duty Spouses

## Food Security of Active Duty Spouses

Using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) definition and six-item short form measure of food security,<sup>1</sup> the Office of People Analytics (OPA) determined the prevalence of food insecurity within the military spouse population via a web-based survey. Data were sampled and weighted to be generalizable to the entire spouse population.<sup>2</sup>

### OF TOTAL ACTIVE DUTY SPOUSES...

**75% ARE FOOD SECURE**

**25% ARE FOOD INSECURE**

**15%** reported **low** food security  
**10%** reported **very low** food security

#### FOOD SECURE

Access at all times to enough food for an active, healthful life for all household members.

#### LOW FOOD SECURITY

Reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake.

#### VERY LOW FOOD SECURITY

Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

## Service Branch

### PERCENTAGE OF FOOD INSECURE SPOUSES...



Army **27%\***



Navy **25%**



Marines **28%\***



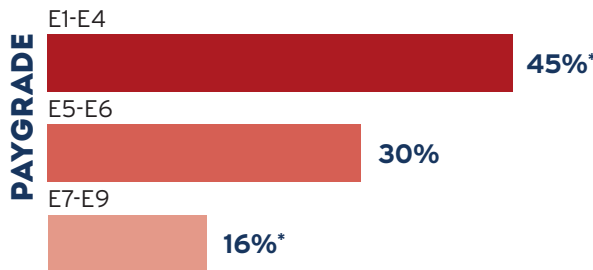
Air Force **21%\***

\*The Army and Marine Corps spouses had significantly higher percentages report food insecurity while Air Force spouses had lower percentages report food insecurity.

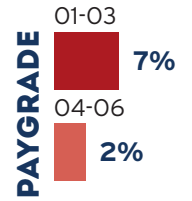
## Rank/Paygrade



**31%** of **ENLISTED SPOUSES** are food insecure



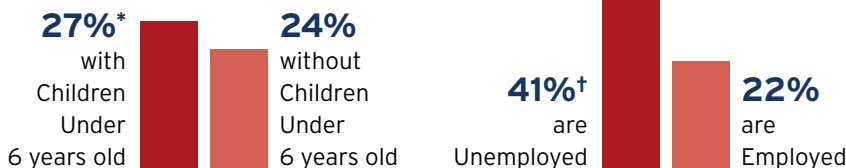
**5%** of **OFFICER SPOUSES** are food insecure



\*The percentage of junior enlisted spouses (E1-E4) who are food insecure is significantly higher than spouses of other enlisted pay grades. The percentage of senior enlisted spouses (E7-E9), who are food insecure is significantly lower than spouses of other enlisted pay grades.

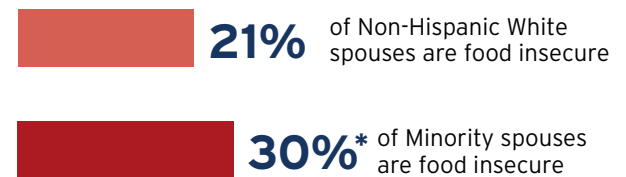
## Family and Employment Status

### % WHO ARE FOOD INSECURE



\*The percentage of spouses with children under the age of six who are food insecure is significantly higher than spouses without children under the age of six. There is no difference overall between spouses with and without children. †The percentage of unemployed spouses who are food insecure is significantly higher than spouses who are employed.

## Race/Ethnicity



\*The percentage Minority spouses who are food insecure is significantly higher than Non-Hispanic White spouses.

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<sup>1</sup>Food Security scale was developed by the Food and Nutrition Service and the National Center for Health Statistics and is the same measure used by USDA to assess levels of food security in the national population.  
<sup>2</sup>The demographic makeup of the military family population is different than that of the U.S. population (e.g., age, gender, educational attainment, etc.). Caution should be taken when comparing OPA's military community food insecurity index levels to USDA's national average levels.