

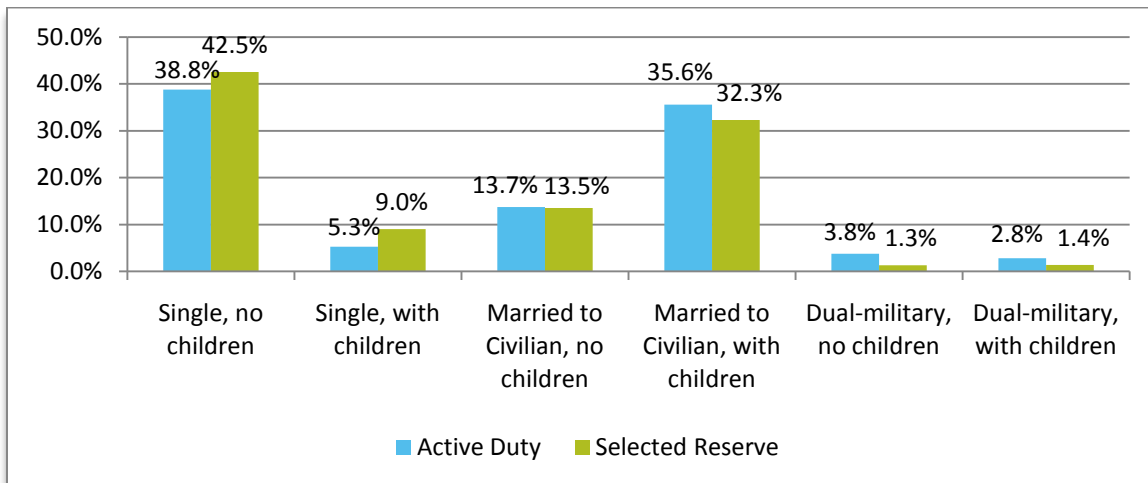
### Current Military Family Profile

For the Community Blueprint Network, the military family includes parents, spouses, significant others, children and all extended family who form the support network for a veteran or service member. This profile only highlights the demographics of the families of current service members<sup>1</sup>. Overall, the ratio of active duty service members to family members is 1 to 1.4. Among the Selected Reserve, which encompasses both the Reserve and National Guard, the ratio of service members to family members is 1 to 1.3.

#### Military family structure

- Slightly more than half of active duty service members are married (55.8 percent), while just less than half of Selected Reserve service members are married (48.5 percent)
- The composition of military families for active duty service members is as follows: 36.6 percent are spouses (711,375), 63.0 percent are children (1,224,556) and 0.5 percent are other dependents<sup>2</sup> (1,924); in the families of the Selected Reserve: 42.5 percent are spouses (411,188), 64.0 percent are children (734,593) and 0.2 percent are other dependents (8,812)
- If a service member has children, on average, they have two; at the time of their first child's birth, the average active duty service member is 24.8 years old and the Selected Reserve service member is 26.4 years old.

As indicated in the table below, less than half of all service members have children.



<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all active duty service member information only includes the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force, as reported by the Department of Defense. The Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

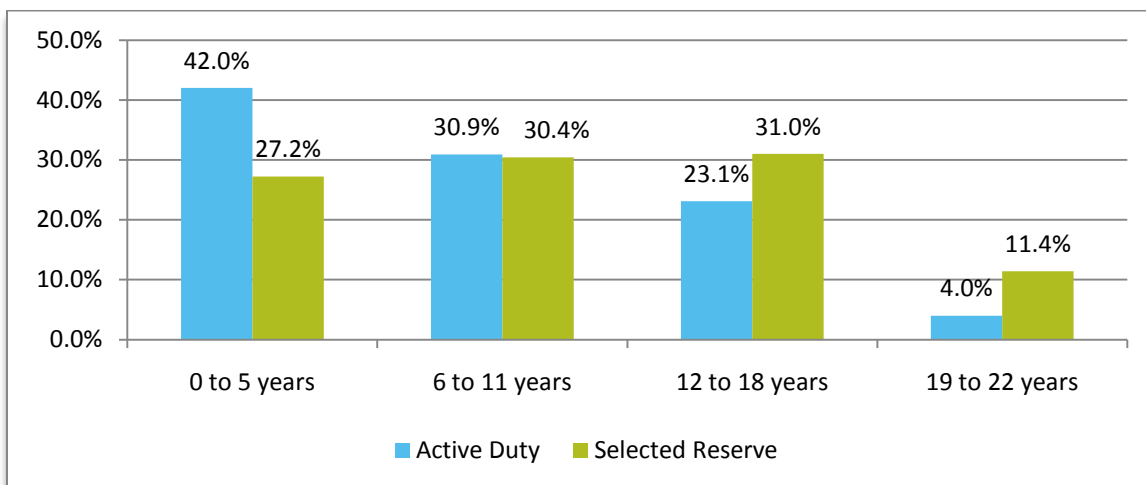
<sup>2</sup> Other dependents include adult dependents (including a parent, grandparent, former spouse, sibling, disabled older child) and other dependents under age 21 who are not spouses or children.

Military spouses

- The majority of all service members' spouses are women; for active duty this percentage is 93.1 percent and Selected Reserve this percentage is 88.1 percent
- Slight more than half (54.3 percent) of active duty spouses are 30 years of age or younger, while just less than half (45.7 percent) of the spouses are older than 30; meanwhile, more than half (50.8 percent) are older than 35 years of age, and close to one-third (32.1 percent) are 30 years of age or younger
- According to a 2008 survey by the Department of Defense, 84 percent of all military spouses have at least some college education; one-quarter of military spouses have obtained a bachelor's degree and 10 percent have gone on to get an advanced degree (The White House, 2011)

Military children

- Approximately 220,000 children currently have at least one deployed parent (The White House)
- The age of all military children varies, but more than half are younger than 11



Other military dependents

- The majority of adult dependents are women older than age 50 (active duty: 74.9 percent; Selected Reserve: 71.3 percent)
- Nearly 85.0 percent of these dependents are women

Work cited

- Department of Defense. (2010). *Demographics 2009 profile of the military community*. Retrieved from [http://cs.mhf.dod.mil/content/dav/mhf/QOL-Library/PDF/MHF/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009\\_Demographics\\_Report.pdf](http://cs.mhf.dod.mil/content/dav/mhf/QOL-Library/PDF/MHF/QOL%20Resources/Reports/2009_Demographics_Report.pdf)
- The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. (2011). *Strengthening our military families: Meeting America's commitment*. Retrieved from [http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2011/0111\\_initiative/strengthening\\_our\\_military\\_january\\_2011.pdf](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2011/0111_initiative/strengthening_our_military_january_2011.pdf)