



# **2012 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Analysis and Findings**

Blue Star Families partnered with many of the country's most respected military service organizations to distribute our survey online via partner websites, member newsletters, and through physical locations.



## A large version of the Blue Star Families logo, featuring the blue star with the red and white swoosh. To its right, the words "Blue Star" are in a blue serif font, and "Families" is in a large, red, italicized serif font. Below the text are five small blue stars.



# Research Objective and Methodology



**Objective:** Obtain a better understanding of military families' concerns and track trending patterns in data collected in previous years

**Survey Design:**

- Online survey approximately 15-20 minutes in length
- Distributed via numerous trusted partner organizations' websites, electronic newsletters, and local offices/centers

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**Sample:**

- 4,234 survey participants
- "N" varies per question per applicability to respondent
- Respondents:
  - Spouses (68.4%)
  - Self (16.9%)
  - Parent (6.3%)
  - Child (5.2%)
  - Sibling (1.4%)
  - Other – including domestic partnership, civil union (1.8%)
- Respondents represent all regions of the U.S. as well as overseas military installations

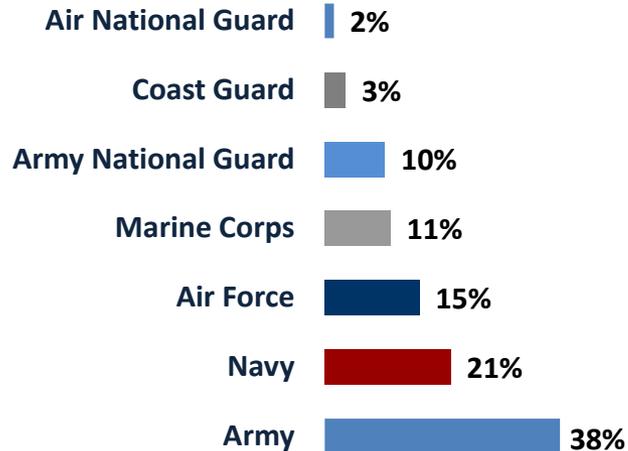
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**Timing:** Survey was accessible online from November 1, 2011-December 5, 2011

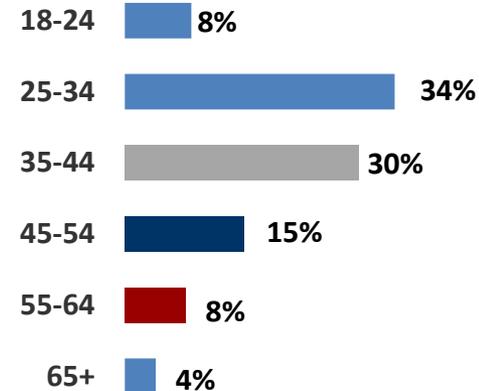
# Demographics



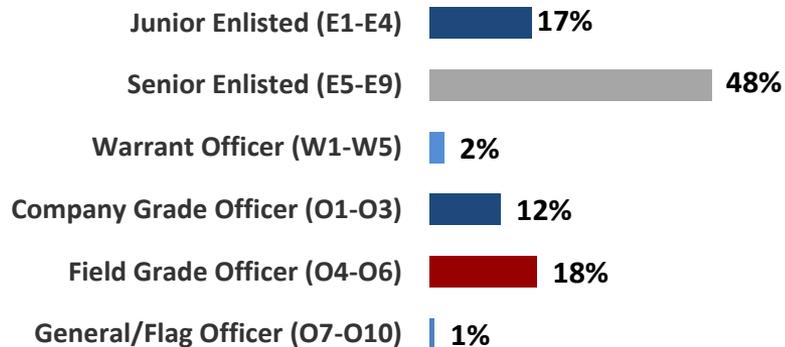
## Branch of Service Members



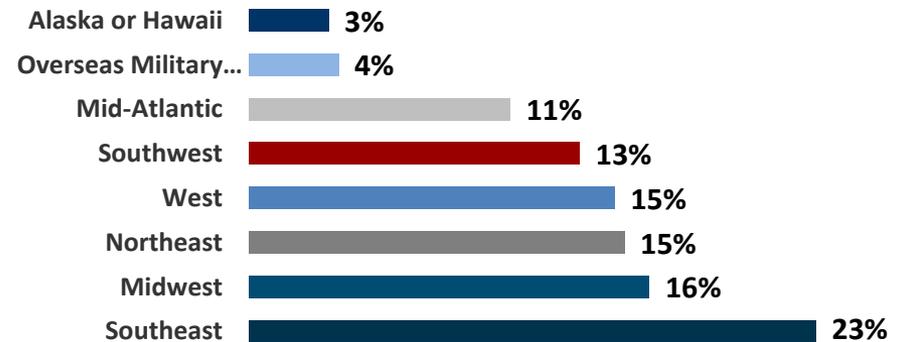
## Age of Respondents



## Rank of Service Member



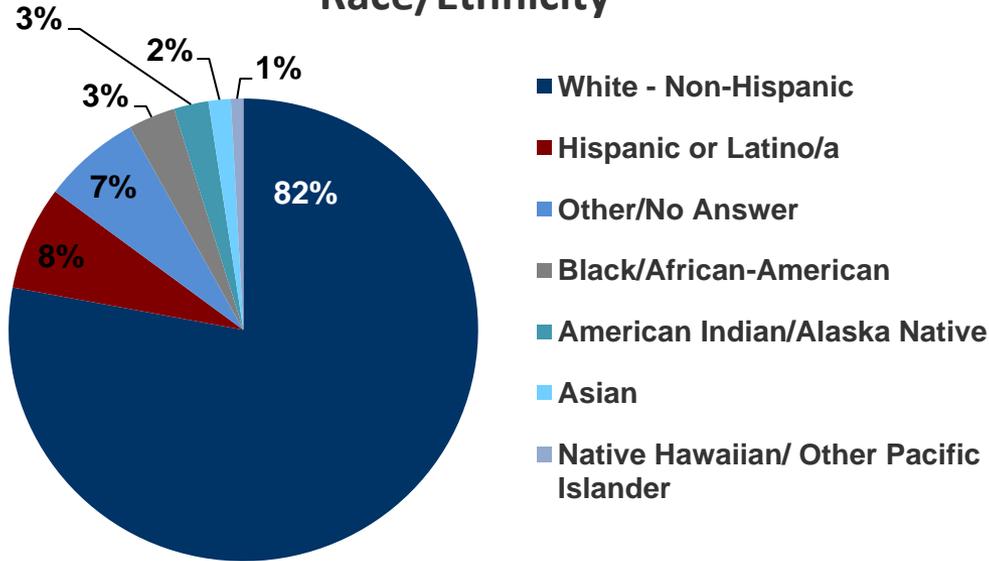
## Region of Residency



# Demographics



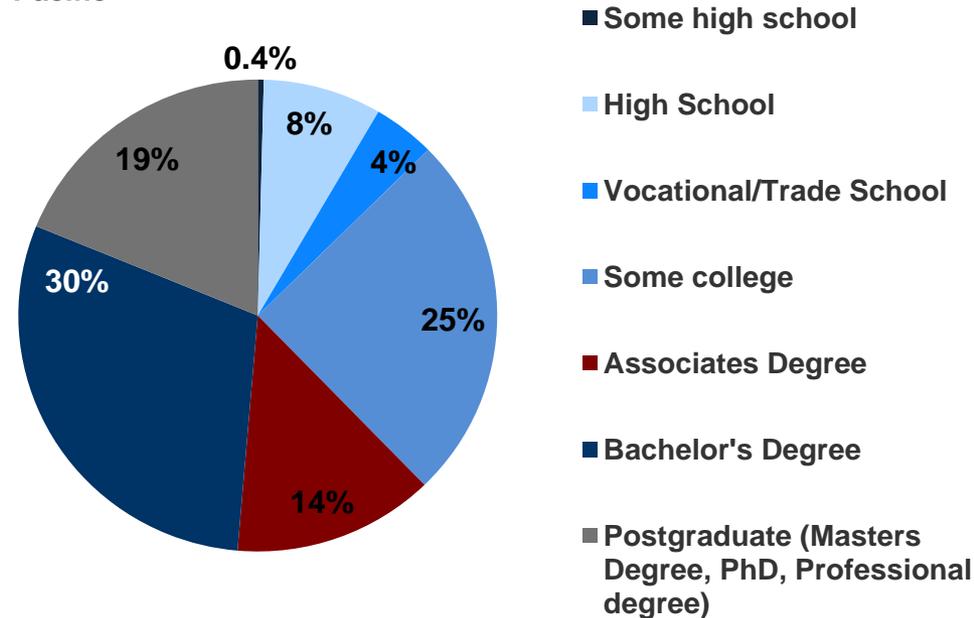
## Race/Ethnicity



**85% of the respondents were female**

**64% of households had children 18 or under.**

## Education Level



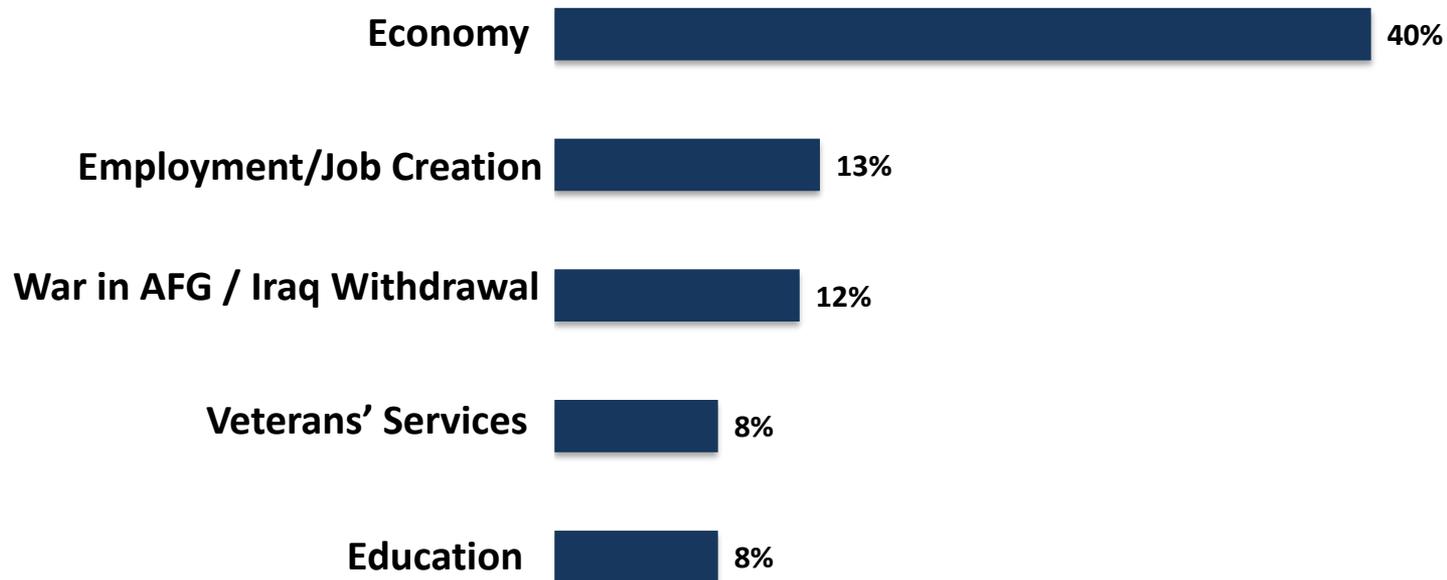


# Top Issues

# Top National Issues



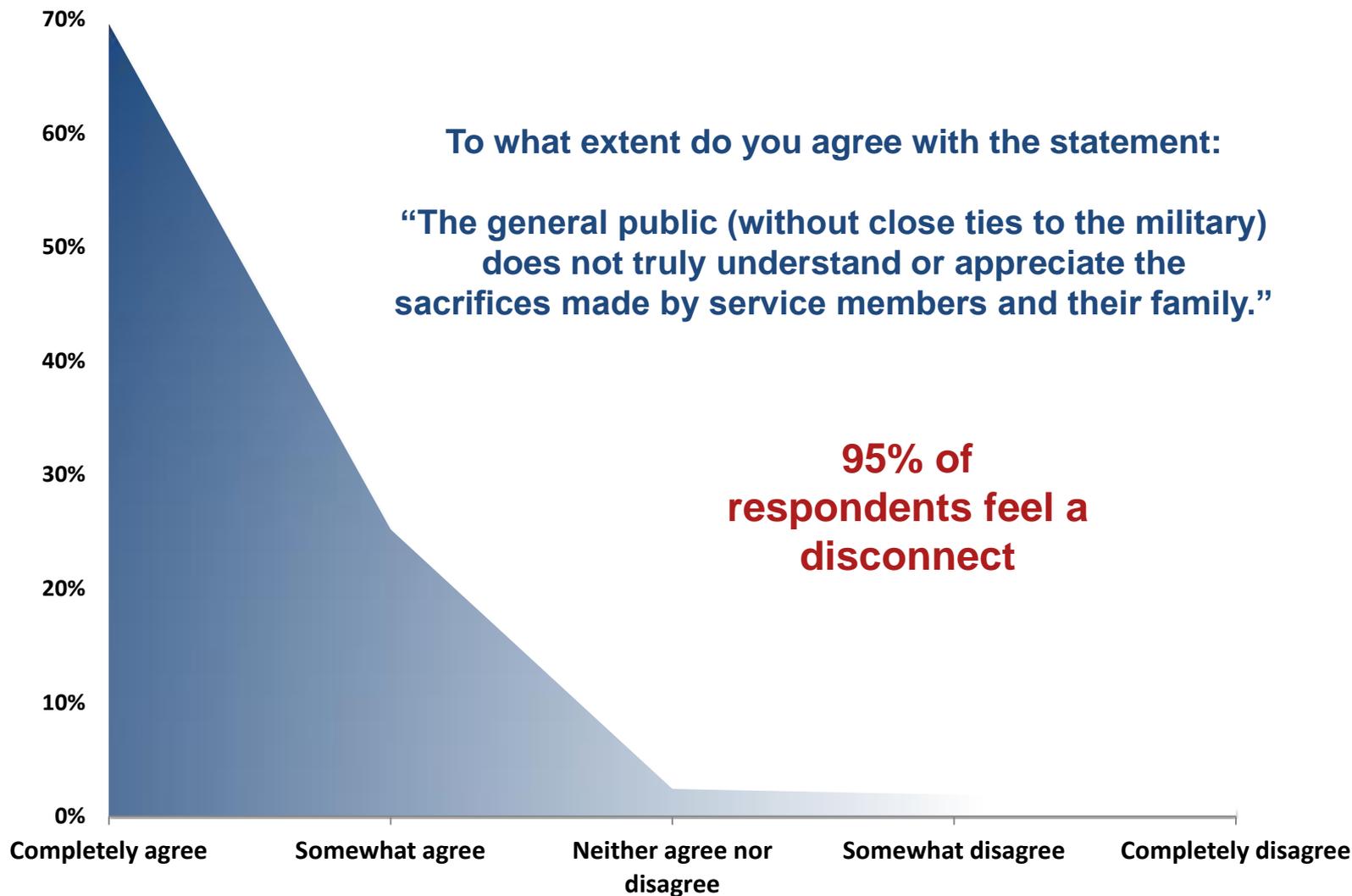
What are the top three national issues MOST IMPORTANT to you?





# Military Civilian Intersections

# Intersections: Perceived Military/Civilian Divide





# Family Well-Being

**PARENTS' PERCEIVED BENEFITS FOR THEIR MILITARY CHILD**

**Exposure to different cultures/people 36%**

**Adaptability/Independence 31%**

**Appreciation of the sacrifice parent has made 15%**

**Military Benefits 7%**

**Value Freedom & Patriotism 6%**

**Health Benefits 2%**

**Unique Family Dynamics 2%**

**Role Models 1%**

**PARENTS' CONCERNS FOR THEIR MILITARY CHILDREN**

**Challenges with PCSing 37%**

**Emotional Effects 28%**

**Deployments 23%**

Behavioral Effects 3%

Missing Milestones/Activities 2%

**Development Effects 8%**

Medical Issues 1%

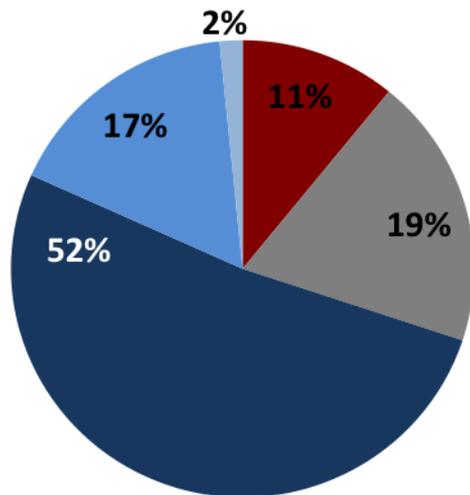
Lack of Consistency 1%

Regression Issues < than 1%

# Family Well-Being: Children and Deployments



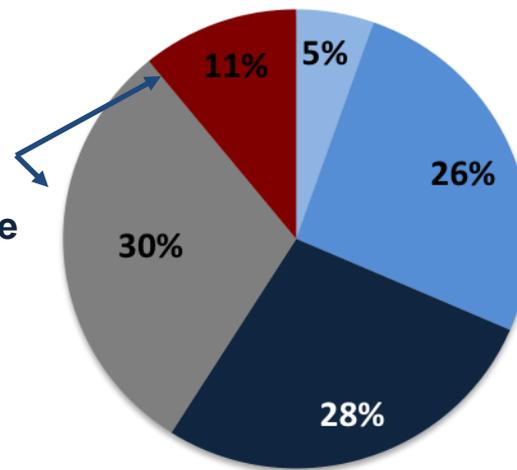
## EFFECT OF PARENT DEPLOYMENTS ON CHILDREN



- Significantly, negatively affected
- Negatively affected, but not significantly
- Some negative effects, but some positive too (i.e. pride in parents' role, experienced personal growth, etc.)
- Not significantly affected, either negatively or positively
- Positively affected

## COMMUNITY CAN EMBRACE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP MILITARY CHILDREN DEALING WITH DEPLOYMENTS

41% of respondents feel their community does not embrace opportunities to help military children



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

# Family Well-Being: DOD Deployment Services



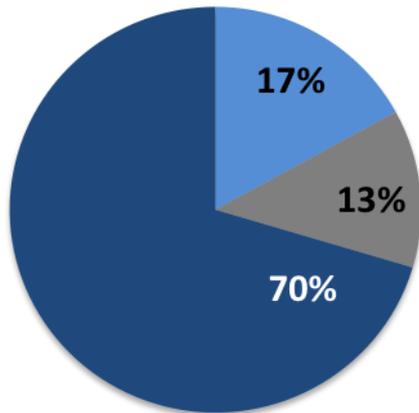
Overall, **28%** of respondents felt the level of support provided by the DoD during a deployment was adequate.

- ✓ **92%** of respondents are confident that they make positive educational decisions during a deployment
- ✓ **89%** of respondents are confident that their expectations for their children's routines and responsibilities have been developmentally appropriate
- ✓ **64%** reported that their spouse's last or current deployment has affected their child's participation in extra-curricular activities
- ✓ **35%** sought counseling for themselves or their child to help deal with deployment impacts

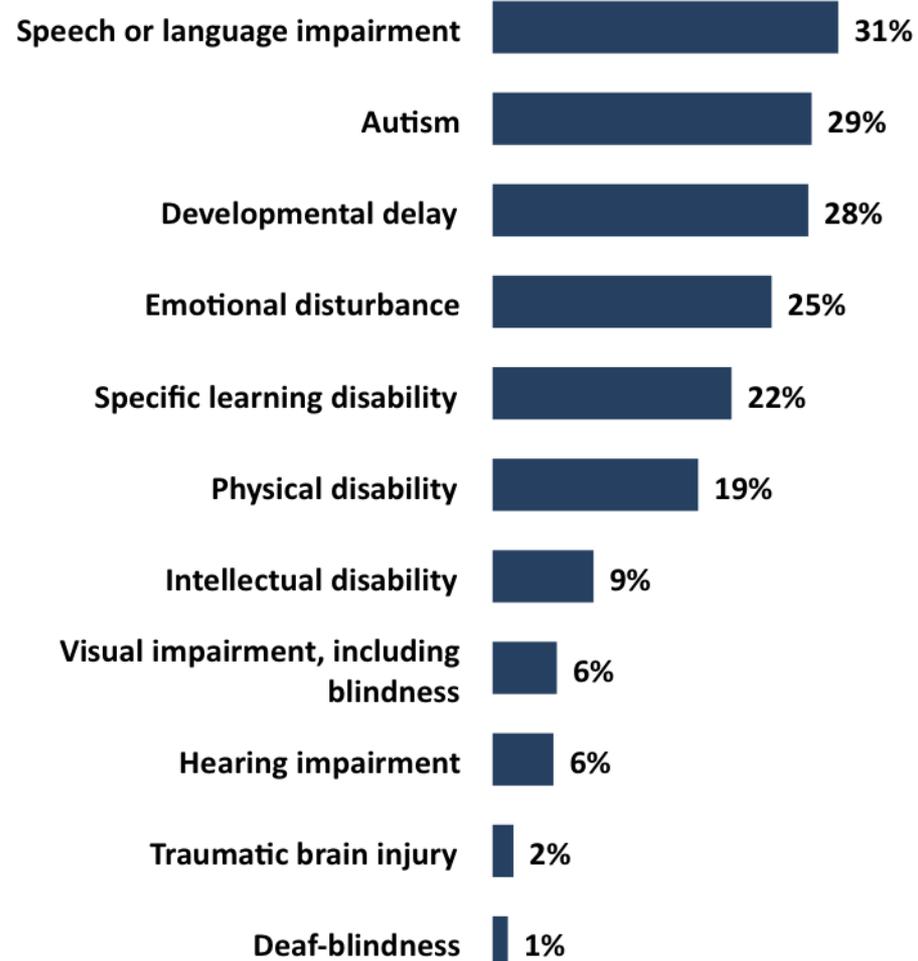
# Family Well-Being: Exceptional Family Member Program



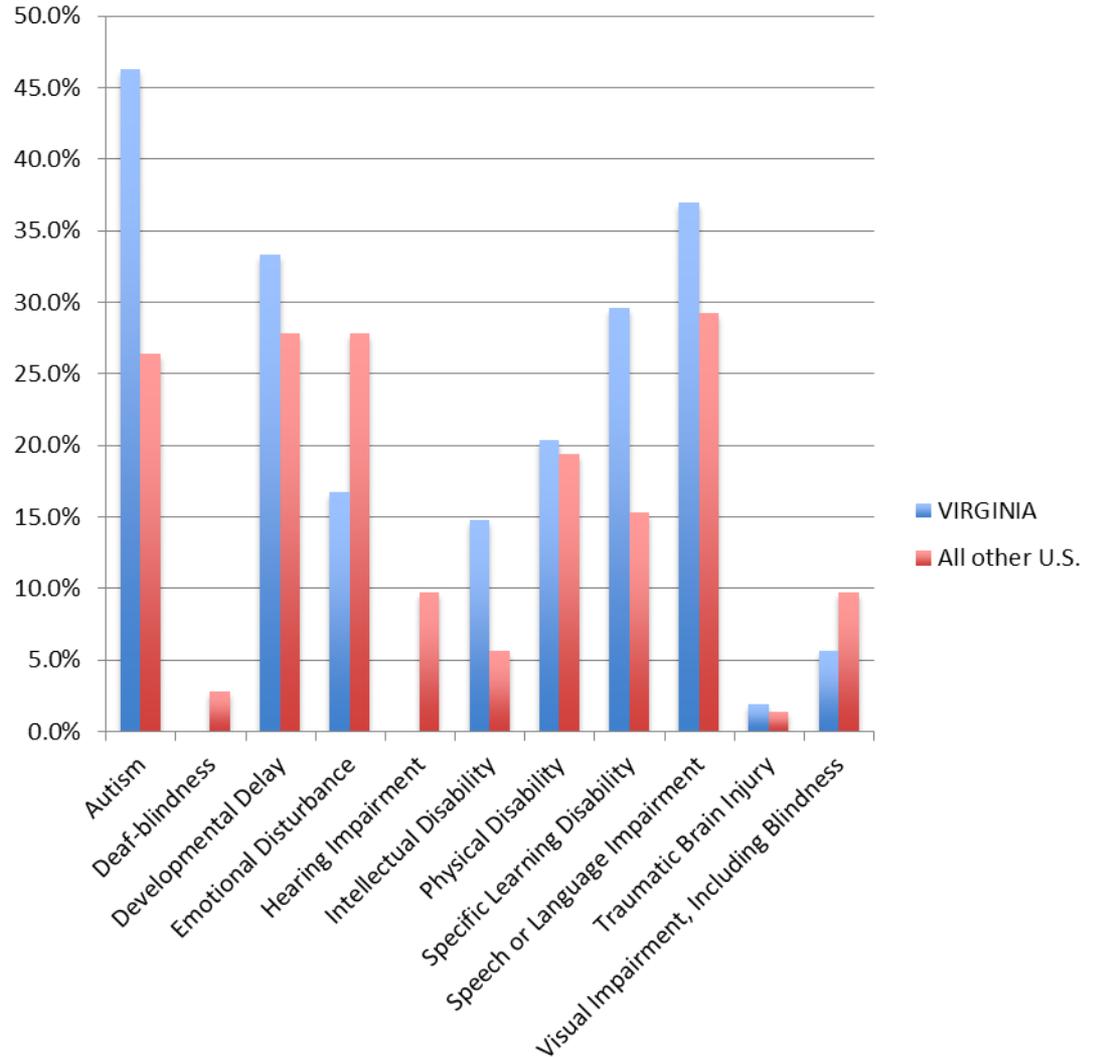
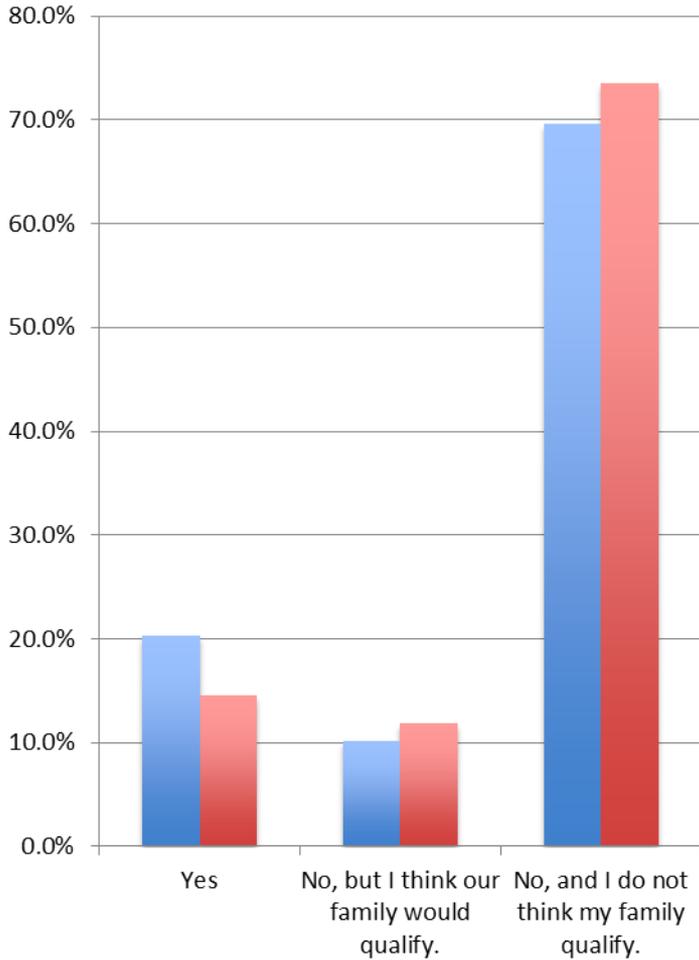
## Is your family enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)?



- Yes
- No, but I think our family would qualify.
- No, and I do not think my family would qualify.



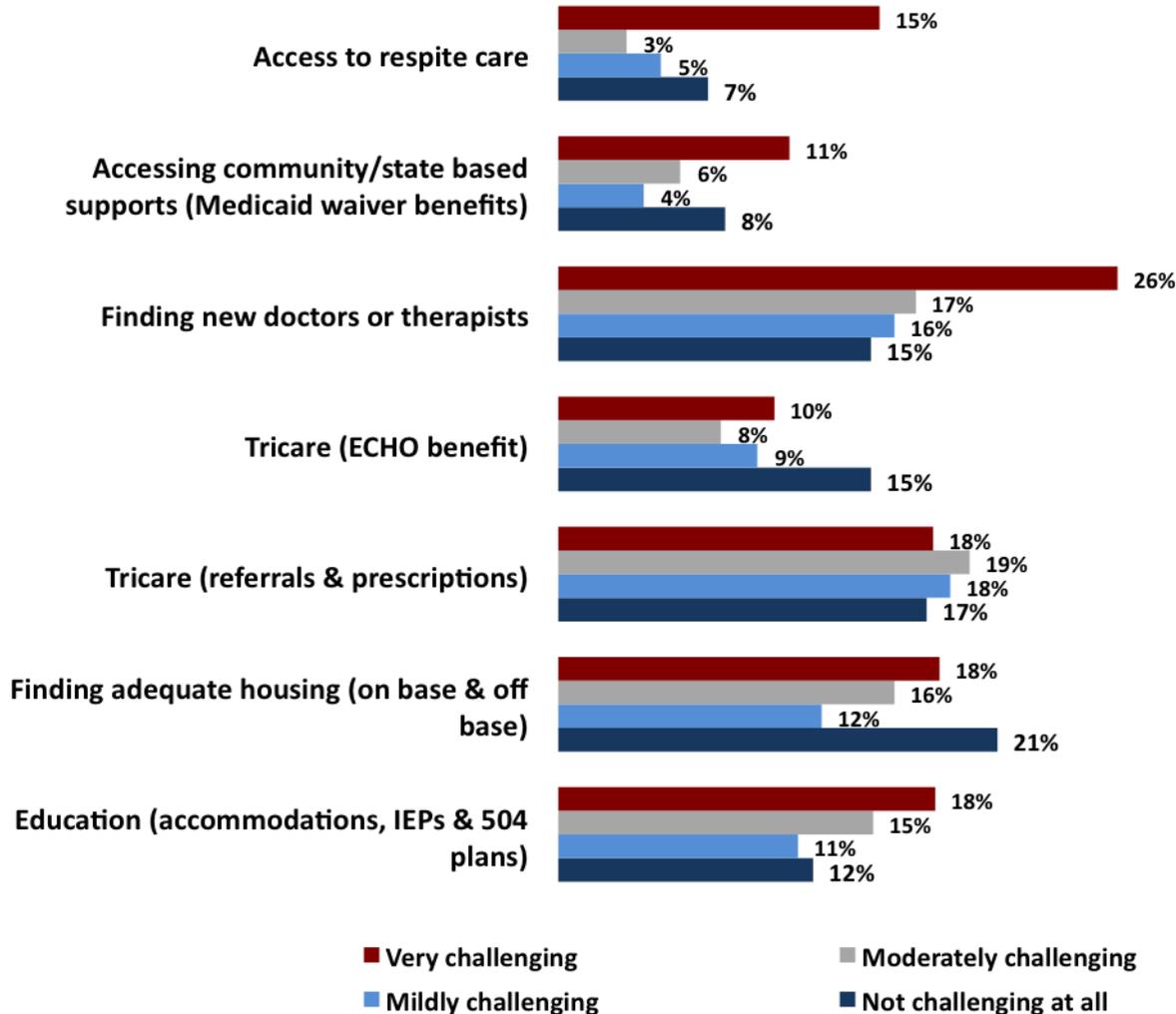
# Family Well-Being: EFMP for Virginia



# Family Well-Being: Exceptional Family Member Program



## Exceptional Family Member challenges during PCS moves.



## Top 4 PCS Challenges

**43%** Finding new doctors/therapists

**37%** Tricare (referrals/prescriptions)

**34%** Adequate Housing

**34%** Educational Accommodations

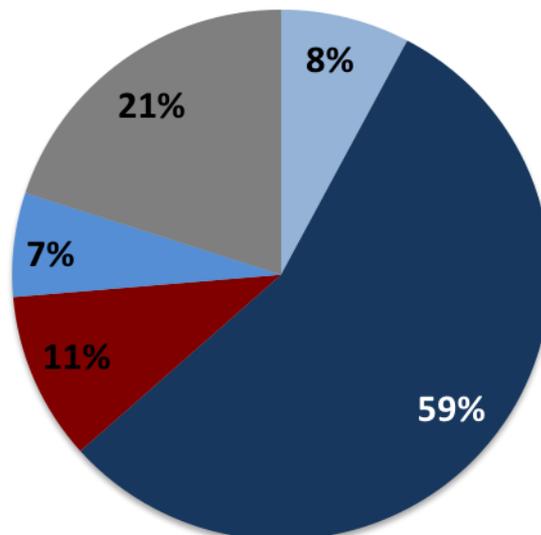
# Family Well-Being: Military Child Education



## What type of school is your child(ren) enrolled?

~77% of respondents' children have not attended a DoDEA school~

**Army** families are most likely to **home school** their children.

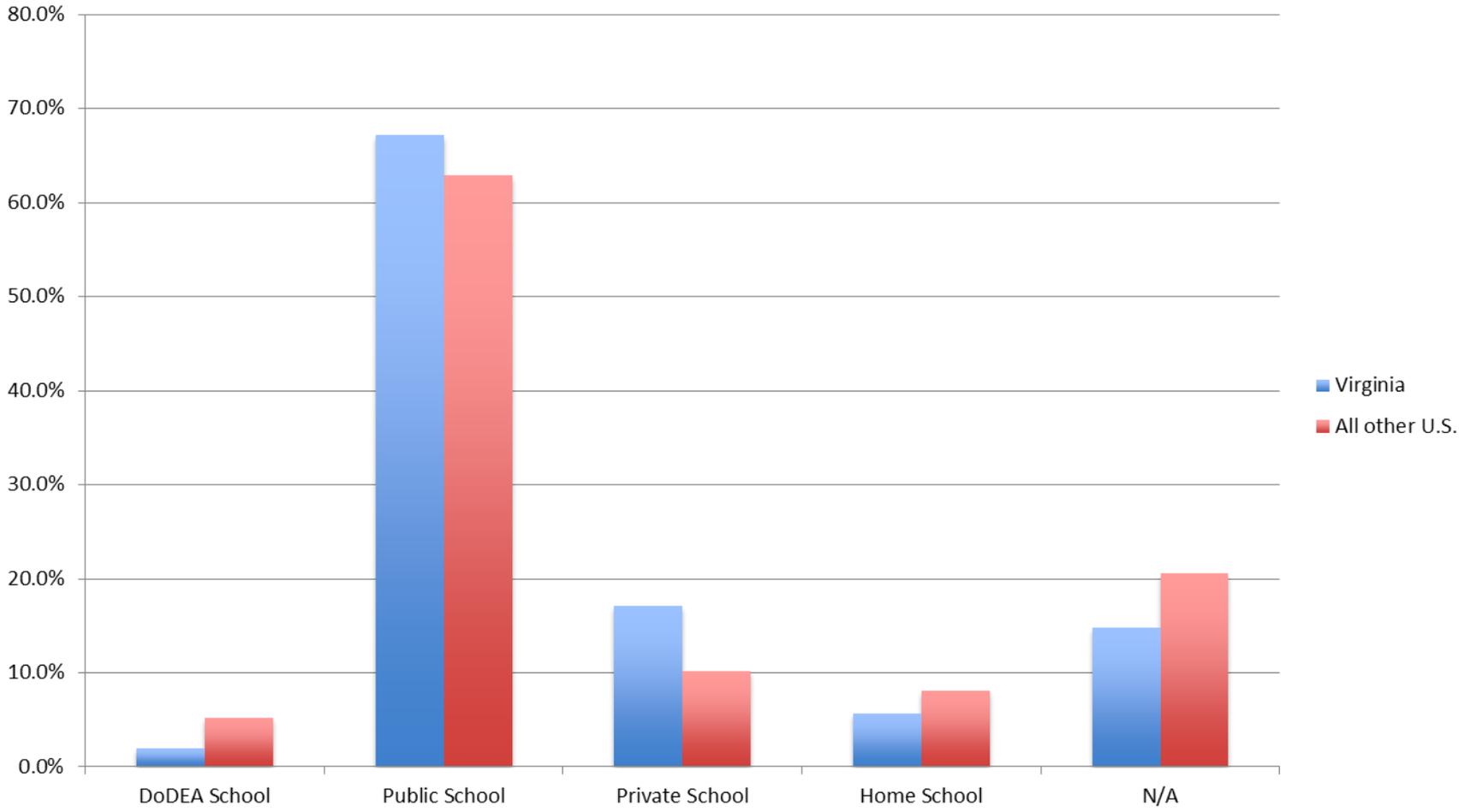


**Army and Navy** families are more likely to send their children to **private school**

■ DoDEA School ■ Public School ■ Private School ■ Home School ■ Not applicable

Almost 80% of respondents would be interested in a child empowerment program incorporating social, volunteer, educational, and support opportunities.

# Family Wellbeing: Military Child Education in Virginia



# Family Well-Being: Military Child Education



## How would you rate your school in the following areas?

	DoDEA		Public		Private		Home School	
	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
<b>Adheres to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children</b>	85.8%	14.2%	57.5%	42.5%	60.7%	39.3%	37.1%	62.9%
<b>Uses the Military School Liaison</b>	79.7%	20.3%	32.8%	67.2%	29.3%	70.7%	42.8%	57.2%
<b>Creates a smooth transition into the school</b>	76.0%	24.0%	64.5%	35.5%	76.7%	23.3%	49.9%	50.1%
<b>Accesses previous school records</b>	80.4%	19.6%	78.2%	21.8%	80.2%	19.8%	63.5%	36.5%
<b>Provides academic and extracurricular activity support</b>	71.5%	28.5%	70.3%	29.8%	81.6%	18.4%	51.2%	48.8%
<b>Engages in parent/teacher conferences</b>	86.8%	13.2%	86.3%	13.7%	91.7%	8.3%	65.5%	34.5%
<b>Creates opportunities to celebrate and include the military member in the classroom</b>	71.2%	28.8%	49.4%	50.6%	64.0%	36.0%	40.8%	59.2%
<b>Provides school counseling services</b>	76.9%	23.1%	77.3%	22.7%	65.1%	34.9%	60.6%	39.4%
<b>Uses peer support programs</b>	64.9%	35.1%	46.7%	53.3%	45.7%	54.3%	37.5%	62.5%



# **Military Child Education: Comparison of Results for VA**

# Areas of Strengths:

Compared to Responses from the SE region



Creates a smooth transition into the school

Access previous school records

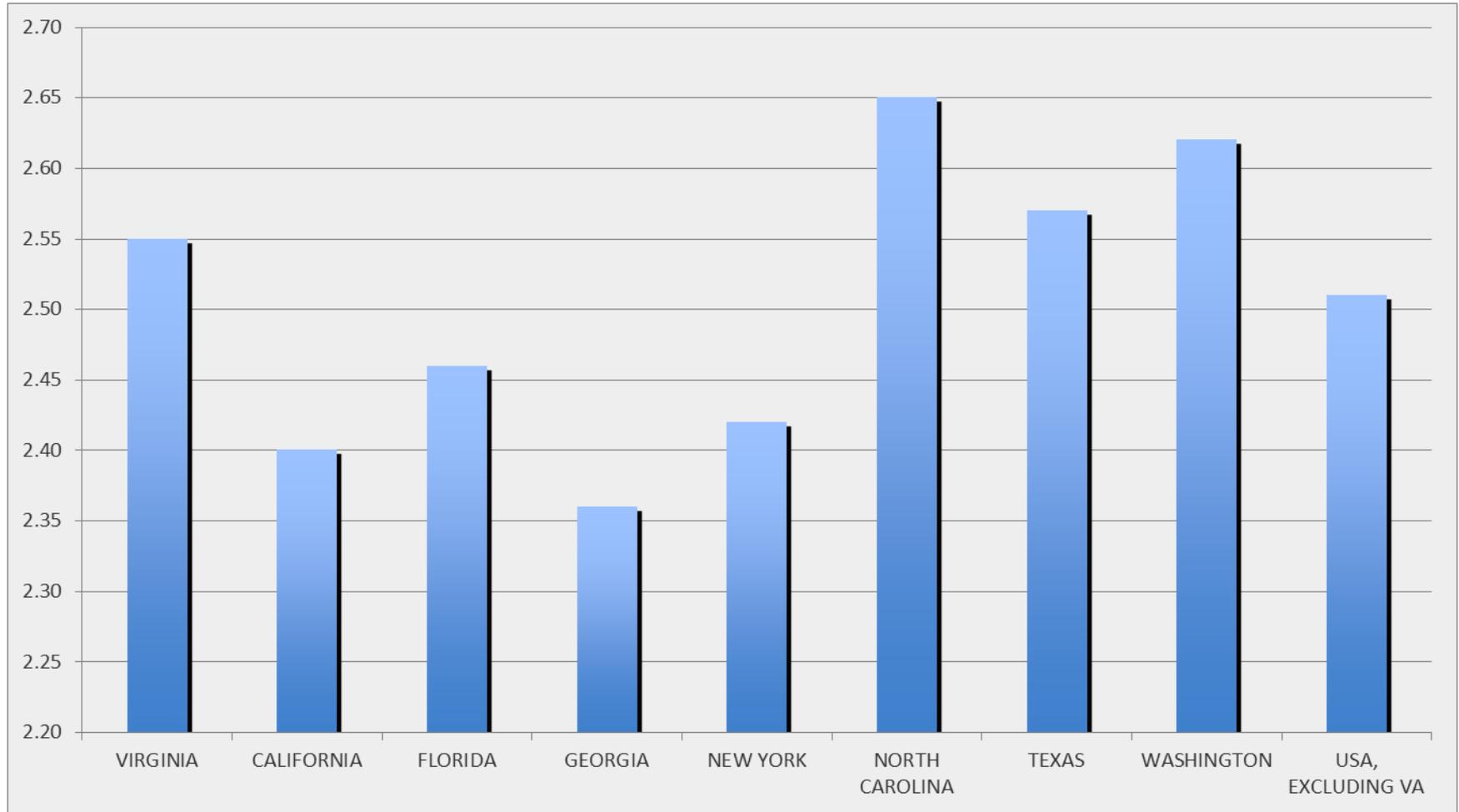
Provides academic and extracurricular activity support

Engages in parent/teacher conferences

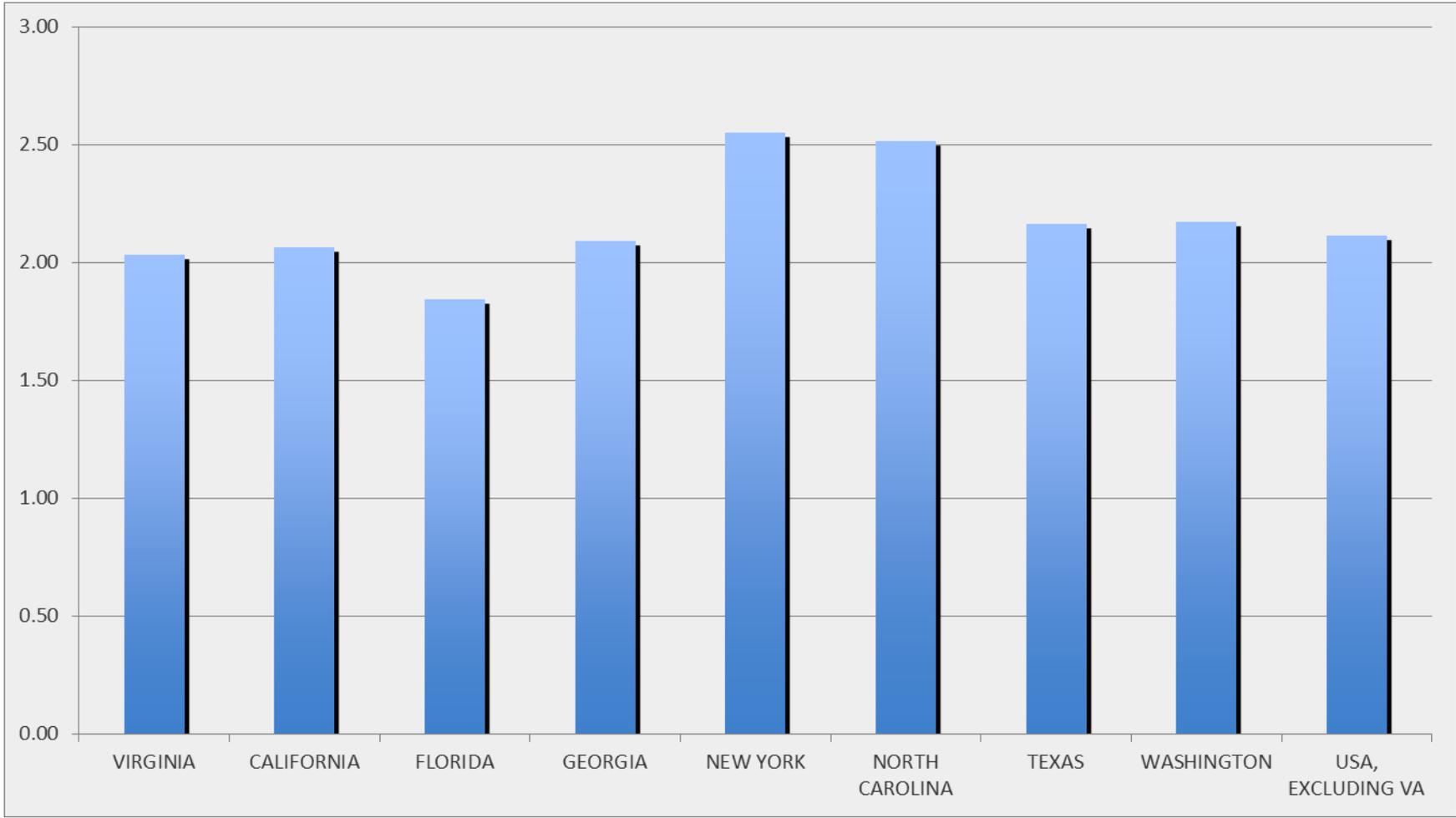
Provides school counseling services

Utilizes peer support programs

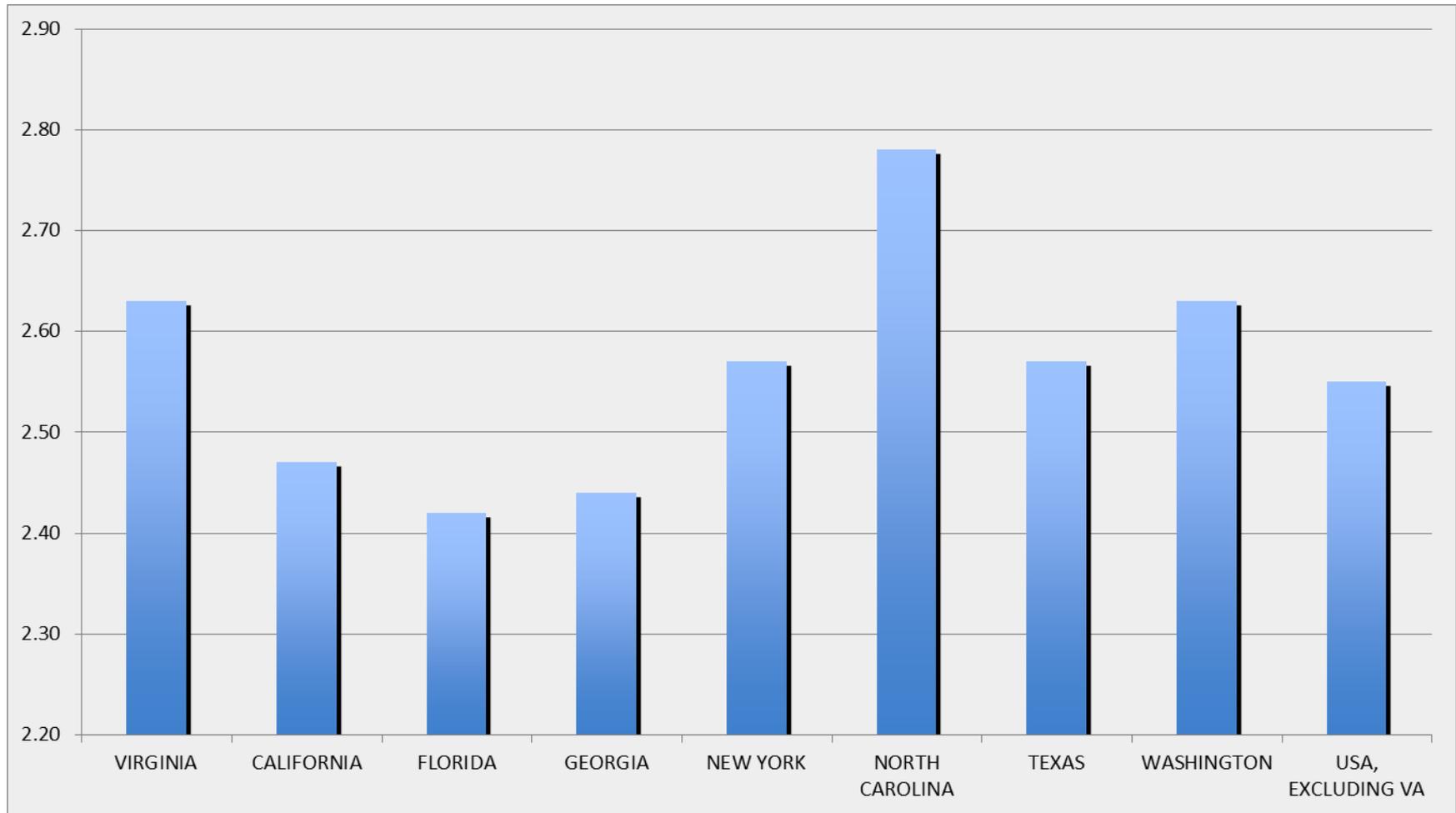
# Areas of Possible Improvement for VA: Creates opportunities to celebrate and include the military member in the classroom



# Areas of Possible Improvement for VA: Uses the Military School Liaison



# Areas of Possible Improvement for VA: Adheres to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children





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**[www.bluestarfam.org](http://www.bluestarfam.org)**  
**for more information**