



Ministry of Defence

UK Tri-Service Families Continuous Attitude Survey Results 2022

● Annual

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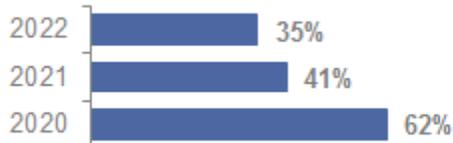
United Kingdom

This statistical release provides results from the Families Continuous Attitude Survey (FamCAS) 2022, along with results from previous years.

Statistics from FamCAS are used by both internal Ministry of Defence (MOD) teams and external bodies to inform the development of policy and measure the impact of decisions affecting personnel and their families.

COVID-19 continues to impact family life

Access to healthcare remains an issue. The proportion able to access dental treatment without difficulties has fallen again this year.



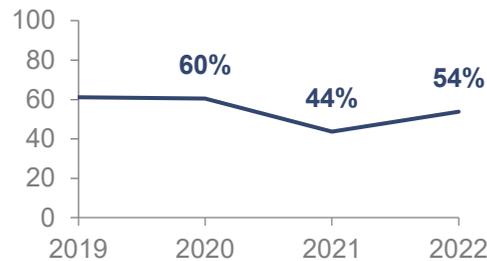
Ability to access GP services, mental health treatment and hospital services have all worsened since 2020.

At least half of families continue to feel their access to healthcare has been affected by COVID-19. This increases to 67% in regards to accessing dental treatment.

Separation increased this year after a fall in 2021

During the COVID-19 restrictions the proportion of Serving partners away for more than one month fell. Although this has risen in 2022 it remains below the 2020 level.

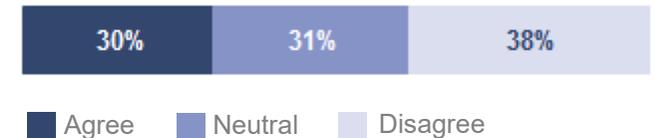
% away for more than one month



This increase in separation is likely to reflect the shift back towards pre-COVID working practices for Serving personnel.

Ability to access information

For the first time this year, spouses were asked whether they were able to get the information they need about support offered by the Service.



The survey also asks whether spouses know where to go for Service-provided welfare support and information when their partner is away on an operational tour. Over half (58%) do know but 36% do not.

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Background quality report: www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index

Would you like to be added to our **contact list** so that we can inform you about updates to these statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing Analysis-Publications@mod.gov.uk

Contents:

Section	Page
1 - About you	1
2 - Service comparisons	4
3 - Officer/Other Rank comparisons	6
4 - Armed Forces Covenant	8
5 - Childcare and children's education	12
6 - Deployment	15
7 - Employment	17
8 - Healthcare	19
9 - Housing	21
10 - Impact of mobility	23
Methodology	27
FamCAS Glossary of Terms and Definitions	31
Further Information	33

About these statistics

The Families Continuous Attitude Survey (FamCAS) refers to a set of harmonised Tri-Service questions included within the annual single Service Families Attitude Surveys.



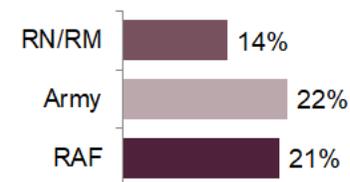
The FamCAS is one of the main ways that the department gathers information on the attitudes and experiences of Service families.

The 2022 FamCAS was distributed to a sample of 23,493 trained Regular Service personnel who were married or in a civil partnership. The Serving person was then asked to pass the survey on to their spouse. The Army and RAF survey used both online and paper questionnaires whilst the RN/RM has been online only since 2020. The survey was open from late January until early May 2022.

Response rates:

Overall 4,312 valid responses were received, representing a response rate of 18%.

This is a six percentage point decrease since 2021.



The decrease in the overall response rate this year follows a small increase last year. However, response levels are now lower than all previous years. The MOD is unable to contact spouses/civil partners directly about this survey and therefore rely on the Serving person to pass on details of the survey to their partner. Despite this fall in response rate the number of responses still allow inferences to be made. Measures of precision for all results are provided in the reference tables.

Response rates also fell for both the Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey and the Reserves Continuous Attitude Survey this year.

Impact of COVID-19

The FamCAS 2022 was in field from late January 2022 until early May 2022, whilst COVID-19 continued to feature heavily in daily life. Although national restrictions were being eased over this period, the survey asks about the past year and so will also capture experiences during lockdowns and restrictions. To improve understanding, questions about difficulties with children's education due to COVID-19 and the impact on access to healthcare were included in the survey.

Several areas of improvement were reported in 2021 including the effect of Service life on their children and their relationship with their partner, job security and household income. However, in 2022, many of the increases reported in these areas have reverted back to the levels reported in 2020. These changes may be somewhat reflective of families re-evaluating following the lifting of restrictions, as attitudes towards some areas of Service life shift back to pre-COVID levels.

About this statistical release

The following terminology has been used throughout this report:

- “married” refers to those who are married or in a civil partnership.
- “spouse” refers to spouse/civil partner.
- RN/RM is used as an abbreviation of Royal Navy/Royal Marines.

AFCAS 2022 comparisons:

Many of these comparisons are based on a subset of [Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey](#) results (AFCAS) for Service personnel who are married/in a civil partnership. As a result they will not always match published AFCAS results.

National comparisons:

National figures are used to provide context wherever possible. However, these are rarely directly comparable due to demographic differences between the general population and the population of Service spouses.

Reference tables and copies of single Service Armed Forces Families questionnaires are published as separate documents and can be found on the [FamCAS](#) webpage.

Please also see the Background Quality Report at the webpage above for full details of survey methodology, analysis and data quality considerations.

Only differences that are statistically significant are commented on within this report; statistical tests were carried out at the 99% confidence level. This is at a fairly stringent level and means that there should be a less than 1% chance that differences observed in FamCAS results are not representative of Service families as a whole. This reduces the likelihood of wrongly concluding that there has been an actual change based on survey results, which only cover a sample of Service families.

Section 1 - About you

Section 1 provides background demographics of Service spouses and their families as well as information about how often they move and the amount of separation they experience.

Data Quality Note

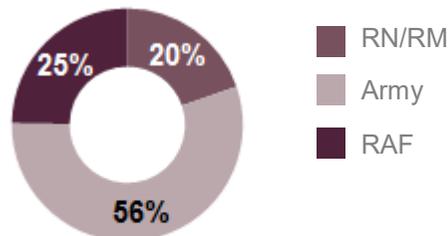
The estimates provided below are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA)¹. The estimate of married Service personnel is derived from a self-reported field so there may be some under-reporting. The 2022 Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey (AFCAS) estimated 47% of Service personnel were married/in a civil partnership, which would equate to just over 64,000 personnel.

Approximately 59,000 Regular trained Service personnel are married or in a civil partnership¹

Over half of all Service spouses are married to Army personnel¹

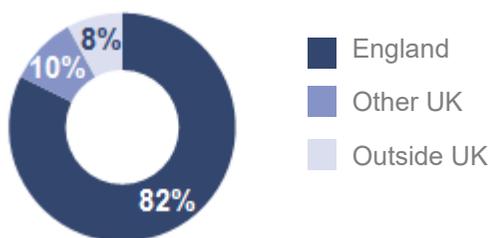
This distribution broadly reflects the relative size of the Services.

% married Service personnel by Service



The majority of Service spouses live in England¹

% Service spouses by location



72% of Service spouses are married to Other Ranks¹

28% of Service spouses are married to Officers¹

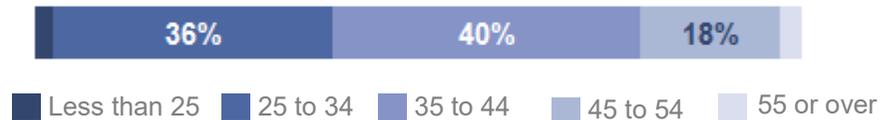
Estimates within the rest of this report are taken from the FamCAS. Comparisons to other data sources are referenced.

Over nine in ten Service spouses are female

The majority of Serving personnel are male.²

Nearly four-fifths of Service spouses are aged under 45

% Service spouses by age



National Comparison

The [2020 national age profile](#) of married people for England estimates 41% are aged 45 to 64 and 27% are over 64. These compare to 21% and less than 1%, respectively, for Service spouses in England. This difference reflects the younger age profile of Service personnel in comparison to the wider population.

Just under one in eight (12%) Service spouses report a non-UK nationality

A much higher proportion of Army Other Rank spouses report a non-UK nationality (21%) than the other Services/Rank groups. Overall, the Army report a higher proportion of non-UK nationalities amongst trained Regulars than the other Services.²

Nationality also differs by location. A quarter of spouses living outside the UK report a non-UK nationality compared to 12% of those living in England. Many of those living outside the UK accompanied their partner overseas in the past year (70%).

¹ Based on data from the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA) as at 1 March 2022.

² Please refer to the [UK Armed Forces biannual diversity statistics](#) for age, gender and nationality information.

78% of Service families have children



National comparison

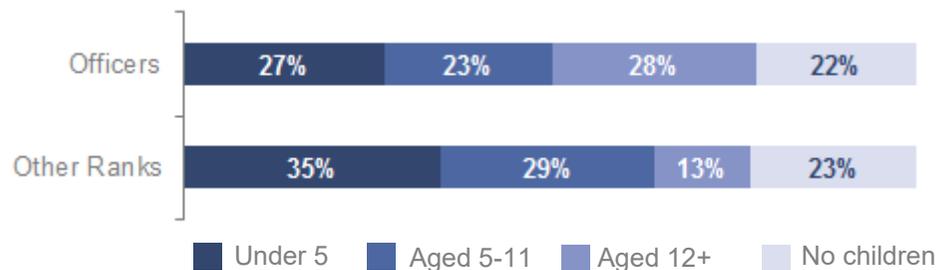
Although not directly comparable, the [2020 UK Labour Force Survey \(LFS\)](#), estimates 54% of married couple households have children, considerably lower than the 78% of Service families.

33% of Service families have at least one child aged under 5

This has fallen from 37% reported in 2021. This is driven by Army families who report a decrease of seven percentage points compared to last year. As a result, the proportion of families with at least one child aged under 5 no longer differs by Service.

Other Rank families tend to have younger children than Officer families

% families by age of youngest child



This is due, in part, to the age difference between Officer and Other Rank spouses: 20% of Officer spouses are aged under 35 compared to 45% of Other Rank spouses. This reflects the age difference between Officers and Other Ranks in the Regular Armed Forces.¹

54% of Service families have at least one child of school age

¹ Please refer to the [UK Armed Forces biannual diversity statistics](#) for age, gender and nationality information.

50% of spouses are educated to Undergraduate level or above²

This differs by Rank and Service: 72% of Officer spouses compared to 41% of Other Rank spouses, 45% of Army spouses compared to 55% for RN/RM and 56% for RAF spouses.

National comparison

Although not directly comparable, the [2011 Census](#) estimated that 30% of the England population aged 16-64 were educated to Undergraduate level or above.

81% of spouses are employed³

This includes 9% of spouses who are also serving in the Regular Armed Forces. Couples where both partners are members of the Regular Armed Forces are referred to as dual-serving couples.



60% of spouses are homeowners

The proportion of homeowners is unchanged since 2014. Homeownership differs greatly by Rank and Service, ranging from 42% for Army Other Rank spouses to 87% for RN/RM Officer spouses.



AFCAS 2022 comparison

These results are broadly consistent with the AFCAS 2022 findings: 65% of married Service personnel are homeowners; 80% of spouses/civil partners are employed including 8% who are also serving in the Regular Armed Forces.

² Undergraduate level or above includes Undergraduate Degrees, Post-graduate Degrees and professional qualifications (e.g. teaching, nursing, accounting, civil engineering etc.).

³ Employed refers to those in full-time, part-time or self employment.

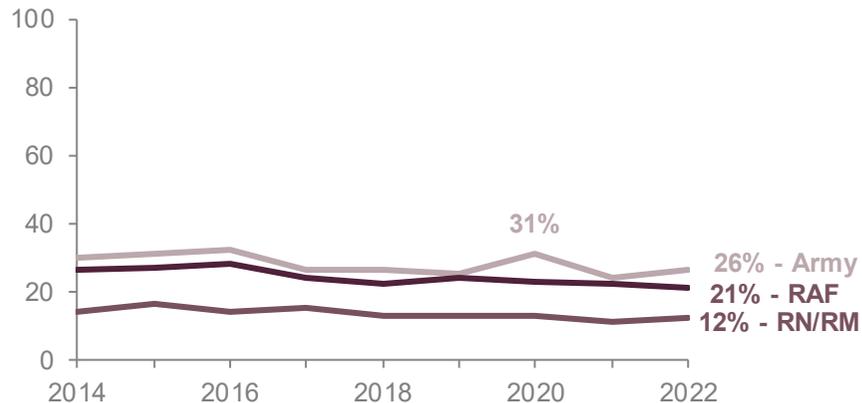
Service personnel are often posted to new locations and many spouses choose to accompany them rather than be separated. This means that Service spouses are also a very mobile population.

Over a fifth (22%) of Service families moved for Service reasons in the past year

This has been largely stable since 2017 although increased in 2020, driven by Army families.

The proportion of Army families moving for Service reasons increased in 2020 but is now back to previously reported levels

% families moved for Service reasons



This increase was largely due to the [Army Basing Programme](#) which involved the return of a large number of Service families from Germany to the UK over the summer of 2019.

Army families are the most likely to move for Service reasons followed by RAF families. RN/RM families are the least likely to move for Service reasons; Royal Navy families cannot accompany Service personnel at sea.

A higher proportion of Officer families moved for Service reasons (27%) than Other Rank families (20%).

Just over two in five families (41%) have moved at least twice for Service reasons in the past five years

This differs by Service ranging from 23% for RN/RM families to 49% for Army families.

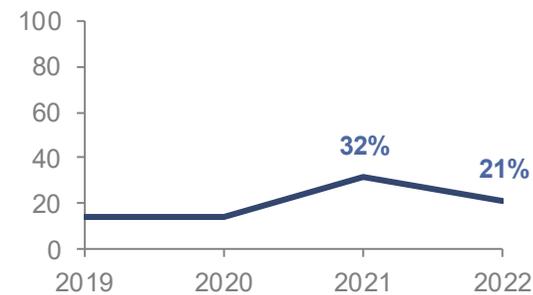
Just over a third of families have not moved at all over the past five years. A higher proportion of Other Rank spouses have not moved (36%) compared to Officer spouses (29%).

Over three-quarters (76%) of Service couples live together during the working week

This differs by both Service and Rank. Spouses of RN/RM personnel are less likely to live with their partner (64%) as are Officer spouses (72%).

The proportion of families experiencing no separation has fallen this year, following an increase last year

% families experiencing no separation



Following restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 lockdowns, the proportion of families experiencing no separation rose to almost a third in 2021. Although the proportion has decreased this year, it remains above pre-2021 levels.

A higher proportion of RN/RM spouses reported separation of more than six months (15%) than Army (8%) or RAF spouses (6%).

AFCAS 2022 comparison

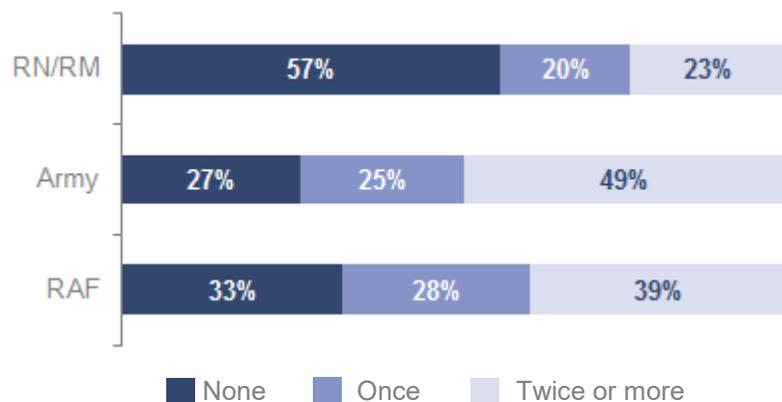
AFCAS also reported a reduction in separation from families in 2021. The proportion of personnel who reported not spending time away from their families increased from 12% in 2020 to 17% in 2021. However, this result is unchanged for AFCAS 2022. This may be due to the earlier closing date of AFCAS (February 2022).

Section 2 - Service comparisons

There are differences in the survey results for each Service which reflect the unique challenges faced by each. In particular, Army and RAF families experience higher mobility whilst RN/RM families are less likely to live together and experience more separation. This section highlights the main differences in families' experiences of, and attitudes towards Service life.

Army and RAF families are more mobile than RN/RM families

% families by number of moves for Service reasons over the past five years



RN/RM families are the most likely to have not moved within the past five years, whilst Army families are the most likely to have moved twice or more.

Army families are the most likely to have moved home for Service reasons over the past year (26%) followed by RAF families (21%)

These results both differ to the 12% reported by RN/RM families.

Army spouses feel the most negative about the number of house moves (37%) followed by RAF spouses (30%). RN/RM feel the least negative (20%).

During the past year, 11% of both Army and RAF spouses accompanied their partner on an overseas assignment

This compares to 5% of RN/RM spouses.

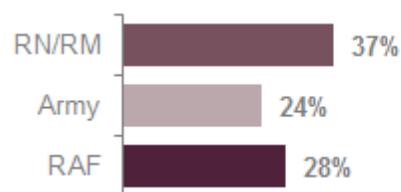
Army spouses are the most positive about opportunities for travel (34%) followed by RAF spouses (29%). RN/RM are the least positive (23%).

The proportion of spouses living with their partner differs by Service

About eight in ten Army and RAF spouses live with their partner during the working week (79% and 81% respectively), compared to 64% for RN/RM spouses.

RN/RM spouses are more likely to have experienced separation of over three months compared to Army or RAF spouses

% spouses separated due to Service reasons for three months or more in the past year



This is somewhat reflected in the larger proportion of RN/RM spouses who feel negative about the amount of separation from their partner (62%). This is followed by RAF spouses (51%), Army spouses are the least negative (46%).

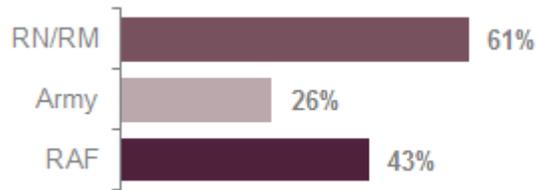
RN/RM families are the most likely to own a home (76%)

This is followed by 68% of RAF families. Army families are the least likely to own a home (51%). Army families are the most negative about the prospect of buying a home, followed by RAF and then RN/RM families.

Royal Navy families cannot accompany Service personnel at sea. This tends to encourage home ownership, which provides stability. Despite this, Royal Navy spouses are still more likely to experience separation during the working week even if the Service person is based on shore.

RN/RM families are the most likely to live in their own home whilst Army families are the least likely

% families living in their own home during the working week



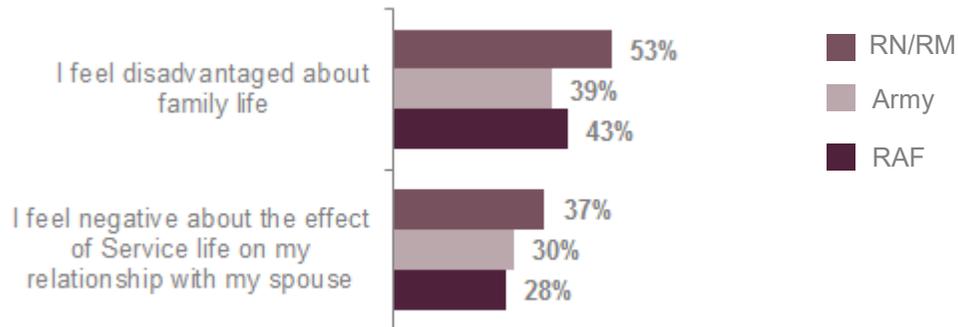
Army families are the most likely to be living in Service Family Accommodation (68%) followed by RAF (51%) and then RN/RM families (34%). RN/RM are more likely to be living in their preferred type of accommodation (74%) compared to Army (66%) and RAF (68%) families.

RN/RM families are less likely to have a child who changed school for Service reasons over the past year

One in ten RN/RM families have a child who changed school for Service reasons compared to 16% for Army and 15% for RAF families.¹

Despite some of the benefits of stability, RN/RM spouses feel more negative about some aspects of Service life

% Service families



A higher proportion of RN/RM spouses would feel happier if their partner chose to leave the Service (43%), followed by RAF spouses (36%) and then Army spouses (26%). RN/RM spouses are the least positive about community support for their family whilst RAF are the most positive.

¹ SUBSET: Families with school age children (54%).

Over four in ten Army families (42%) disagreed that they are able to get the information they needed about support offered to them by the Service

This compares to 34% for both RN/RM and RAF families. RN/RM families are the least likely to know where to go for Service-provided welfare support whilst their partner is on an operational tour.

Army spouses are less likely to be employed than RN/RM or RAF spouses

% spouses employed²



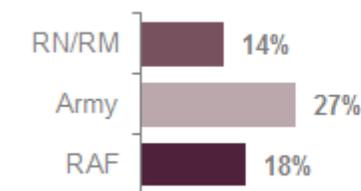
This may contribute to Army families feeling less positive about household income (32%) than RN/RM (50%) or RAF families (53%).

Army spouses are also more likely to have looked for a job in the past year and are more likely to have experienced difficulties if they did.

These differences in employment may be due, in part to the higher mobility of Army spouses. However, moving with their partner may also contribute to more positive views on Service life.

Army families are more likely to agree they feel part of the wider Service community than the other Services

% families feel part of the wider Service community



Army spouses are also more likely to agree that they feel valued by the Service and that their family benefits by being a Service family than RN/RM and RAF spouses.

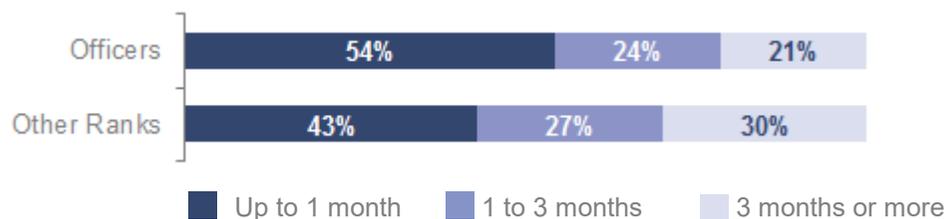
² Employed refers to those in full-time employment, part-time employment or self-employed

Section 3 - Officer/Other Rank comparisons

This section compares results for Officer and Other Rank families, highlighting the main differences in their experiences of, and attitudes towards Service life. Over seven in ten Service spouses are married to Other Ranks (72%).

Over the past year, Other Rank spouses experienced more separation from their partner for Service reasons than Officer spouses

% families by time spent away over the past year

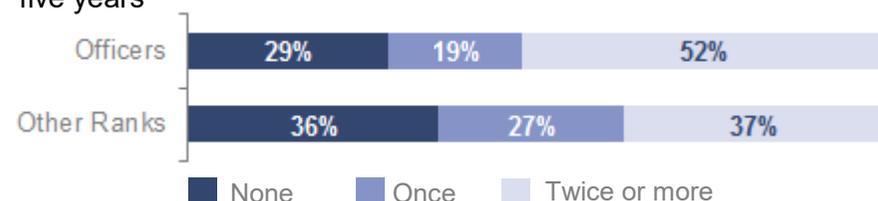


However, Other Rank spouses are more likely to live with their partner (78%) than Officer spouses (72%).

Whilst they do not differ in their attitudes towards the amount of separation, Other Rank spouses are more likely to feel operational tours are too often (22%) than Officer spouses (14%).

More than half of Officer families have moved twice or more over the past five years compared to 37% of Other Rank families

% families by number of times moved home for Service reasons over past five years



Over the past year, Officer families were more likely to move for Service reasons and accompany their partner overseas than Other Rank families. As a result, Officer spouses feel more negative about the number of house moves but are more positive about opportunities for travel than Other Rank spouses.

Despite Officer families being more mobile, there is no difference by Rank in the proportion of families with a child who changed school for Service reasons over the past year. This may be partly due to the higher proportion of Officer families with a child at an independent boarding school (23%) compared to Other Rank families (5%).

Other Rank spouses were more likely to have looked for a job over the past year than Officer spouses

% spouses who looked for a job in the past year



Of those who did look for a job over the past year, Other Rank spouses were more likely to experience difficulties finding suitable employment than Officer spouses. However, the proportion employed does not differ by Rank.

Officer spouses feel more negative about the effect of Service life on their career than Other Rank spouses

% spouses feel negative about effect of Service life on their career



This may be due, in part, to the higher mobility of Officer families. Of those who experienced difficulties finding employment,¹ Officer spouses were more likely to select their job history i.e. changing jobs frequently (39%) than Other Rank spouses (25%) whilst, Other Rank spouses were more likely to cite access to affordable childcare (45%) than Officer spouses (30%).

¹ SUBSET: Those who experienced difficulties finding suitable employment (23%).

When comparing themselves to the general public, Officer families feel more disadvantaged about family life than Other Rank families

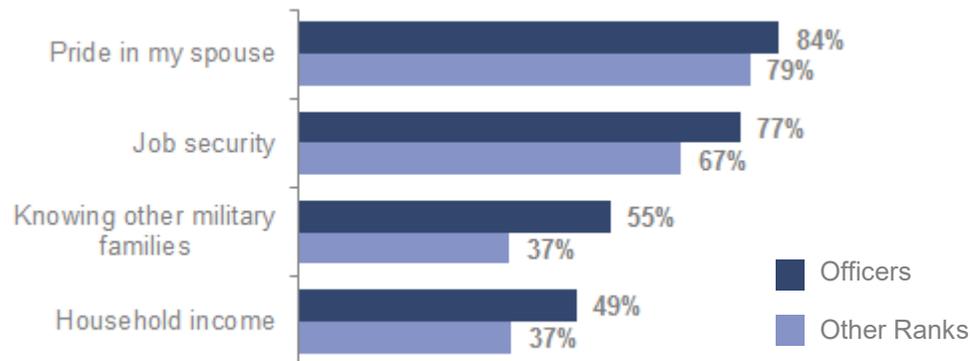
% families feeling disadvantaged about family life



Officer families also felt more disadvantaged about healthcare, education, housing and access to commercial products and services than Other Rank families. However, this may reflect differences in perceptions about the general public rather than experiences of Service life since Officer families report more positive views about several aspects of Service life than Other Rank families.

Officer families feel more positive than Other Rank families about many aspects of Service life

% families feeling positive about:



Also, a slightly higher proportion of Officer spouses agree they support their partner's career in the Service (92%) than Other Rank spouses (88%).

Views on household income may reflect higher levels of [pay](#) for Officers than Other Ranks. Other indicators may also suggest higher levels of household income for Officer families. For example, Officer families are considerably more likely to own a home (80%) than Other Rank families (52%).

Officer spouses are more satisfied with their quality of life as a Service family than Other Rank spouses

% satisfied with quality of life as a Service family

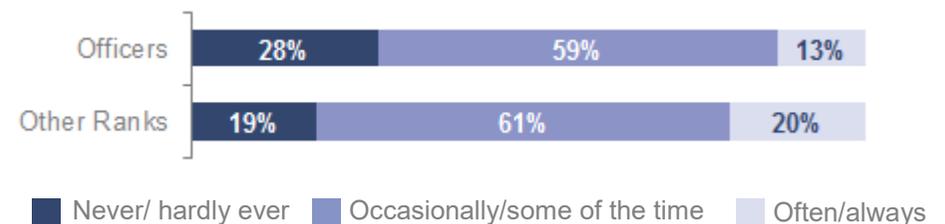


However, there is no difference by Rank on views about whether their family benefits from being a Service family; about one third agree and a similar proportion disagree for both Officer and Other Rank families.

Officer spouses are more likely to agree they feel part of the wider Service community (27%) than Other Rank spouses (20%). This may contribute to higher levels of loneliness amongst Other Rank spouses.

Other Rank spouses are more likely to feel lonely often/always than Officer Spouses

% spouses by how often they feel lonely



On average, Officer spouses score slightly better on all four of the well-being measures such as satisfaction with your life nowadays, than Other Rank spouses.

Measuring well-being

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects [data on well-being](#) for the general population in their Annual Population Survey.

Section 4 - Armed Forces Covenant, well-being and Service life

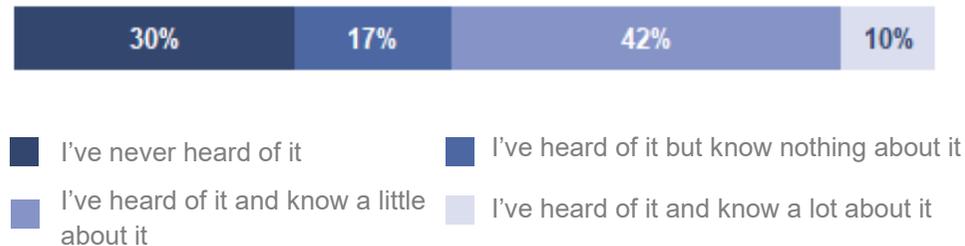
Section 4 covers voting registration as well as a number of questions related to the Armed Forces Covenant. These measure whether families feel advantaged or disadvantaged compared to the general public, and how positive or negative they feel about particular aspects of Service life. This section also includes questions on well-being and satisfaction with Service life.

Armed Forces Covenant

Announced by the government in May 2011, the [Armed Forces Covenant](#) is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the Armed Forces and their families, are treated fairly.

Three in ten have never heard of the Armed Forces Covenant, unchanged since 2018

Awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant



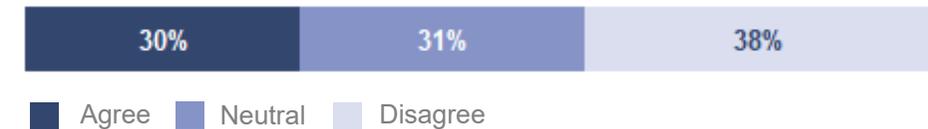
Between 2015 and 2018 the proportion of spouses reporting that they had never heard of the Armed Forces Covenant fell from 41% to 33%. Since then, levels of awareness of the Covenant have generally remained unchanged.

Officer spouses continue to have a greater awareness of the Covenant compared to Other Rank spouses. The majority (88%) of Officers spouses have heard of the Covenant compared to 62% of Other Rank spouses.

A higher proportion of Army spouses have “never heard of” the Covenant (37%) compared to RN/RM and RAF spouses (24% and 21% respectively).

Nearly four in ten (38%) Service families are unable to get information they need about support offered to them by the Service

% agree/disagree they are able to get information they need about support offered to them by the Service



Army families are less likely to agree they are able to get the information they need about support offered to them by the Service, compared to RN/RM and RAF families.

There is no difference between Officer and Other Rank families.

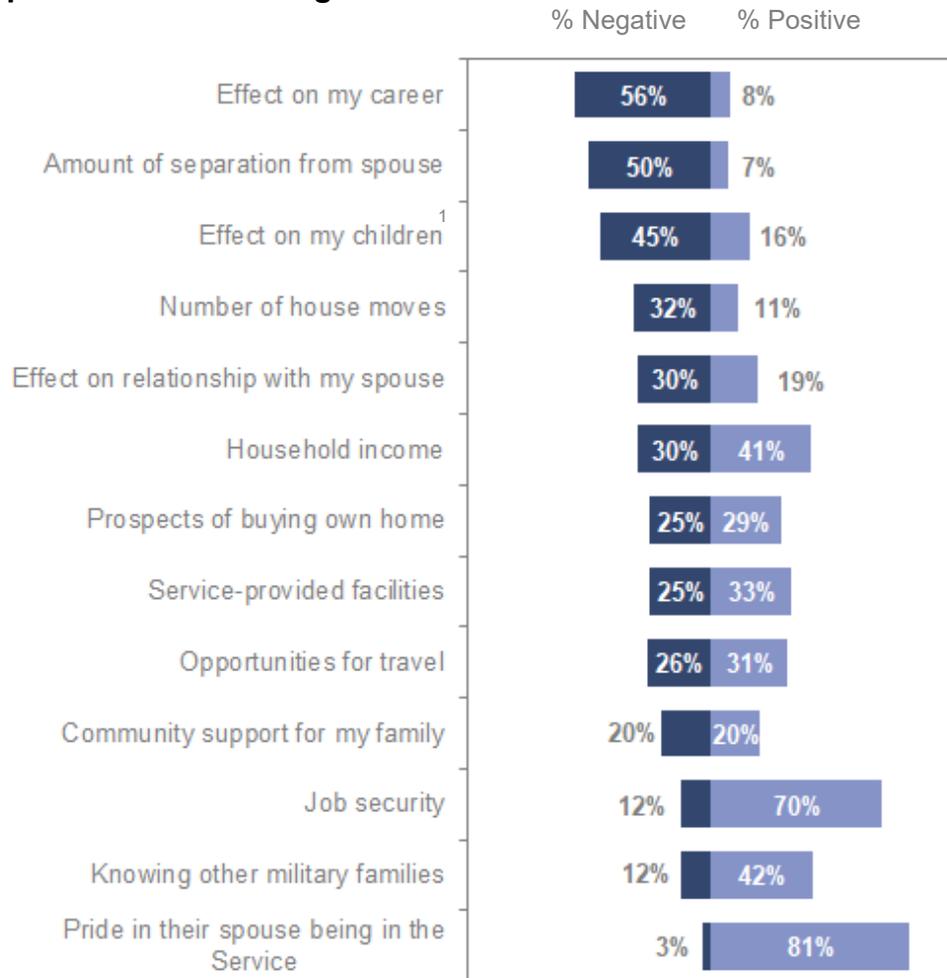
Overall, the majority (84%) of Service spouses are registered to vote, unchanged since last year

Officer spouses are more likely to be registered to vote (92%) than Other Rank spouses (81%)

AFCAS 2022 comparison

A slightly higher proportion of married Service personnel are registered to vote (91%).

Effect on my career continues to be the aspect of Service life spouses feel most negative about



Following a reduction last year, the proportion of spouses feeling negative about the effect on their career has increased this year, up from 51%, returning to the level reported in 2020. Similarly, more families feel negative about the amount of separation from their spouse this year (50%), having fallen last year. However, this has not yet returned to levels reported prior to 2021.

¹SUBSET: Families with children (78%).

Pride in their spouse continues to be the aspect Service spouses feel most positive about at 81%, unchanged since this question was first asked in 2015

However, positive attitudes towards other aspects of Service life have reverted back to 2020 levels

For example, the proportion of spouses feeling positive about the effect on the relationship with their spouse increased to 22% in 2021 but has fallen this year, down to 19%, similar to all results prior to 2021.

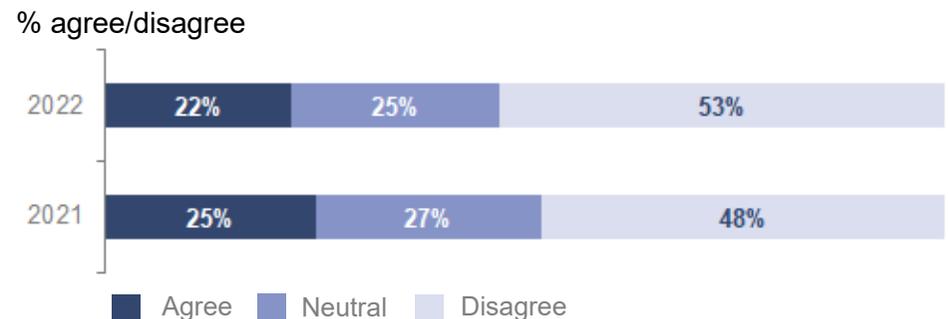
Similar reductions in positive attitudes are reported for household income, the effect on the spouse’s career and the effect on my children, as we see a shift back to pre-COVID attitude levels.

The proportion of spouses who feel positive about community support for their family has fallen to its lowest level since 2015

Just two in ten (20%) spouses feel positive about community support in 2022, down four percentage points since last year and eight percentage points since its highest level in 2017.

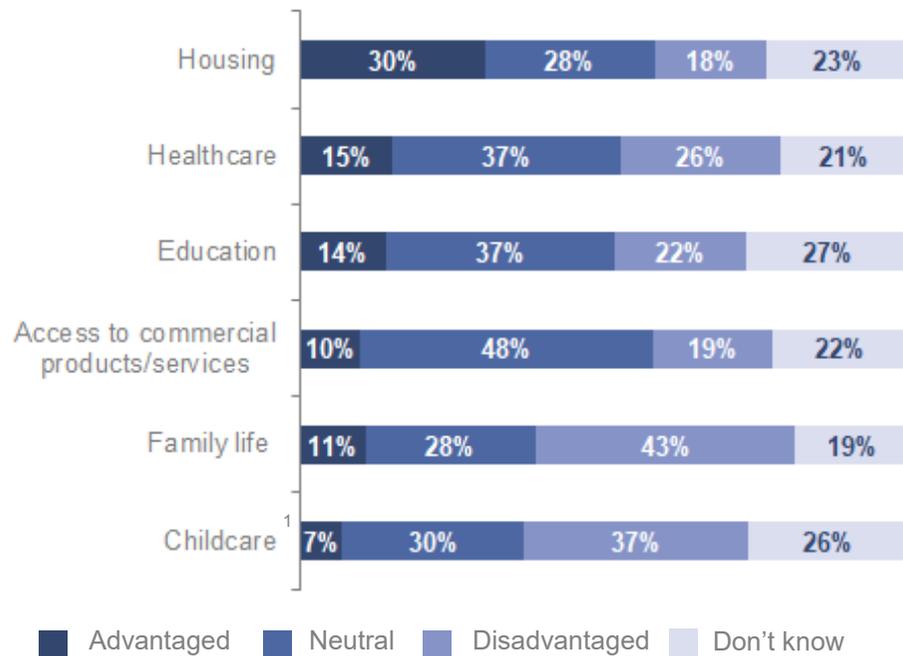
RAF and Army families are considerably more likely to feel positive about community support (25% and 21% respectively) than RN/RM families (11%).

Over half (53%) of families do not feel part of the wider Service community, up five percentage points since last year to its highest level



Housing remains the aspect families feel most advantaged about in comparison to the general public

% feel advantaged/disadvantaged compared to the general public



The proportion of families feeling disadvantaged about healthcare in comparison to the general public has increased for the first time since this question was first asked in 2015

Previously, around a fifth of families felt disadvantaged about healthcare in comparison to the general public. However, this has now increased by seven percentage points to just over a quarter (26%) in 2022.

This may reflect the reduction in families' access to healthcare services following the COVID-19 pandemic. See Section 8 for more detail.

AFCAS 2022 comparison

Married Service personnel feel more disadvantaged about family life compared to Service spouses.

¹SUBSET: Families with children (78%).

Over half (54%) of families are satisfied with their quality of life as a Service family, 19% are dissatisfied

Whilst satisfaction levels are broadly similar across the Services, Officer families (61%) are more satisfied than Other Rank families (52%).

Furthermore, families living outside the UK are more likely to be satisfied with their quality of life as a Service family than families based in the UK.

Spouses' views on whether their family benefits from being a Service family are mixed

Whilst a third (33%) agree that their family benefits from being a Service family, the same proportions disagree and feel neutral about it. Despite this, the majority (89%) of spouses support their partner's career in the Service.

Army spouses are more likely to agree that their family benefits from being a Service family compared to the other Services, as are those families who do not live in the UK.

AFCAS 2022 comparison

Married Service personnel feel less neutral about whether their family benefits from being a Service family (37% agree; 42% disagree).

A third (32%) of spouses would feel happier if their partner chose to leave the Service; however, a similar proportion would feel no different

% Happier/less happy if partner chose to leave the Service



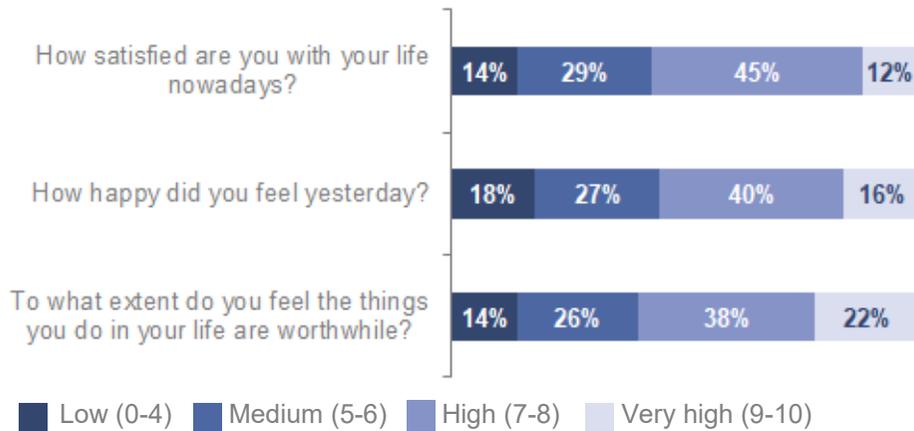
These results are unchanged since 2020.

Measuring well-being

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects [data on well-being](#) for the general population in their Annual Population Survey.

Well-being measures of Service spouses

% Service spouses



The proportion of spouses rating the “things you do in your life are worthwhile” as ‘very high’ has fallen this year to 22%, down from 26% in 2021. This change has largely been driven by Army spouses.

Just over three in ten (32%) Service spouses rate their anxiety as ‘high’, unchanged since 2020.

National comparison

[National well-being scores](#) are not directly comparable to those of Service spouses due to differences in demographics. For example, national figures include a larger proportion of over 60s, who generally score their well-being higher than younger people. However, the latest national well-being results from 2021 by gender may still provide some context. The proportion of UK females scoring aspects of their well-being as ‘very high’ (a score of 9-10) ranges between 27-37%. These are considerably higher than corresponding results for female Service spouses (12-22%).

Well-being scores differ by attributes, such as employment status

Overall, spouses who are employed, homeowners, those who live in their own home, or are married to an Officer, tend to be more positive across the four well-being measures.

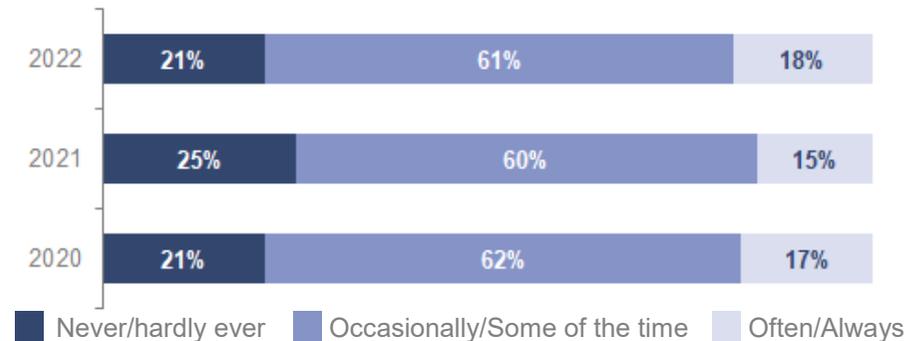
However, there are overlaps between these groups, for example Officer spouses are more likely to be homeowners and so the differences observed may be due to other reasons.

AFCAS 2022 comparison

The proportions of married Service personnel rating aspects of well-being as ‘very high’ range between 9-17%, lower in comparison to Service spouses.

The proportion of Service spouses who often or always feel lonely has increased slightly this year, back in line with 2020 results

Views on how often spouses feel lonely



National comparison

The latest results from the [2020-2022 ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey](#) provide some context to these results. For females in Great Britain aged 30-49, 27% feel lonely at least some of the time. Although not directly comparable, these figures are considerably different from female Service spouses aged 30-49 (50%).

Section 5 - Childcare and Children's Education

Section 5 focuses on families with children, particularly their ability to access childcare, and satisfaction with local childcare facilities. This section also covers the difficulties families experience in relation to their children's schooling.

Just under eight in ten (78%) Service families have children

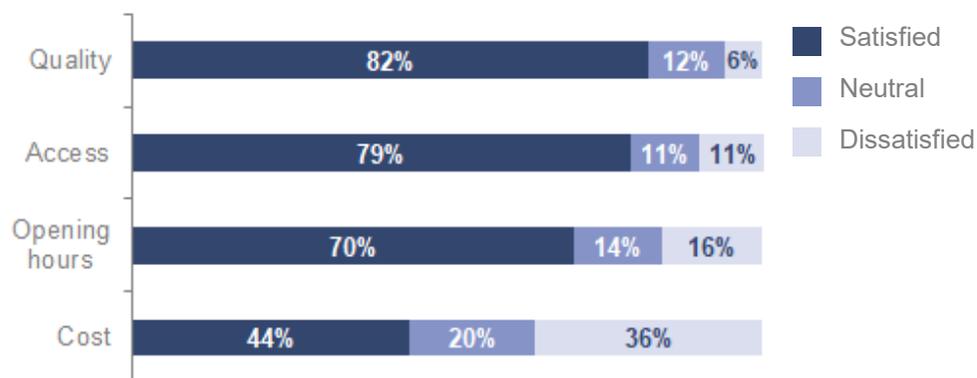


Seven in ten (71%) families with a child aged under five¹ required early years (0-4) childcare

Of those who require early years childcare, nine in ten are able to access it.

The majority of families are satisfied with the quality, access and opening hours of early years childcare, but less so with cost

% satisfied/dissatisfied with aspects of early years childcare²



Satisfaction with cost of early years childcare has fallen this year to 44%, down from 53%, back in line with the level reported in 2020. Levels of satisfaction with quality, access and opening hours remain unchanged.

National Comparison

Although not directly comparable, the [Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents in England](#) from 2019 also reports much more positive views around the quality than the cost of childcare.

¹SUBSET: Families with a child aged under five (33%)

²SUBSET: Families who needed early years (0-4) childcare (25%).

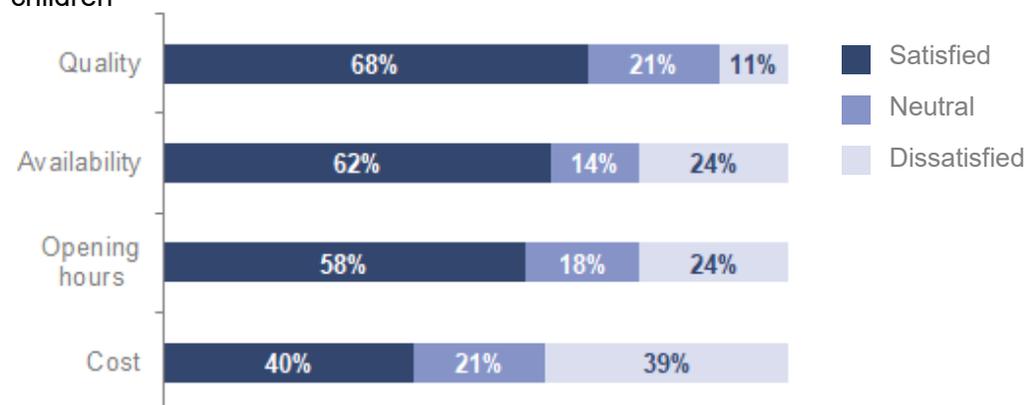
Over half (54%) of all Service families have at least one child of school age

Of these families, nearly half (47%) required childcare such as breakfast/after school clubs in the last 12 months

This figure is back in line with 2020 levels, having fallen to around four in ten (41%) last year. This increase may be due, in part, to the lifting of restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Four in ten families who required childcare for school age children are dissatisfied with the cost of their local childcare

% satisfied/dissatisfied with aspects of local childcare for school age children³



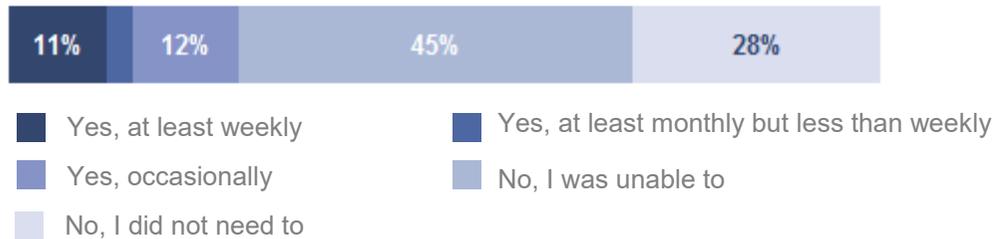
Satisfaction with the cost and quality of local childcare has fallen this year, by eight and six percentage points respectively. These decreases have largely been driven by Army families. Levels of satisfaction with the availability and opening hours of local childcare remain unchanged since 2017 when these questions were first asked.

In general, families are more satisfied with most aspects of early years childcare than childcare for school age children.

³SUBSET: Families who needed childcare for school age children (25%).

One in nine families with children use free informal childcare¹ at least weekly

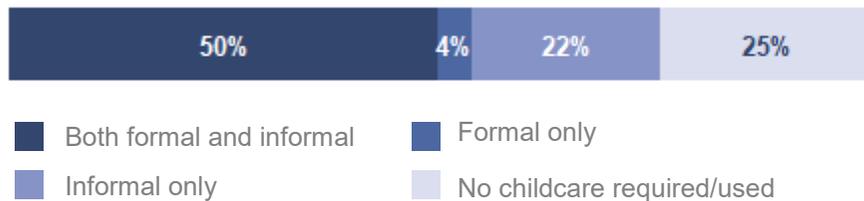
Use of free informal childcare²



A quarter (26%) of families with children make some use of free informal childcare. RN/RM families are more likely to access free informal childcare at least weekly than Army and RAF families.

Over half (54%) of families with children required formal childcare in the last 12 months

Requirement for formal/informal childcare²



Use of childcare is affected by the age of the children. Of those families with at least one child aged 0-11, 68% require formal childcare. This increases to 75% for families with at least one child aged under five.

National Comparison

Although not directly comparable to Service families, the [Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents in England](#) reports around 64% of children aged 0-4 received formal childcare.

¹Free informal childcare such as grandparents, extended family, friends etc.

²SUBSET: Families with children (78%).

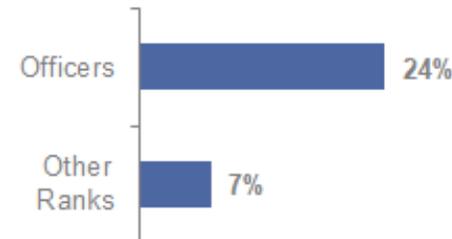
Of those families who required childcare³, nearly six in ten (58%) do not currently use any government childcare initiatives

The top reason for not using these initiatives is uncertainty around eligibility. A higher proportion of Other Rank families do not use any of these initiatives (61%) compared to Officer families (50%).

Tax free childcare accounts and free childcare hours are the most commonly used government childcare initiatives amongst Service families (22% and 16% respectively). A lower proportion report using the Salary Sacrifice scheme (10%), which may be due, in part, to the [closure of the childcare voucher scheme](#) in 2018.

One in ten (11%) families with school age children⁴ receive Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA); Officer families are much more likely to receive CEA than Other Rank families

% families with school age children who receive CEA⁴



This reflects the higher proportion of Officer families with a child at an independent boarding school (23%; Other Rank families: 5%).

Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) assists Service personnel with boarding school fees to achieve the continuity of education for their children that would otherwise not be possible if their children accompanied them on frequent assignments both at home and overseas. Further details are available from the [Children's Education Advisory Service](#).

³SUBSET: Families with children who required childcare in the past 12 months (59%).

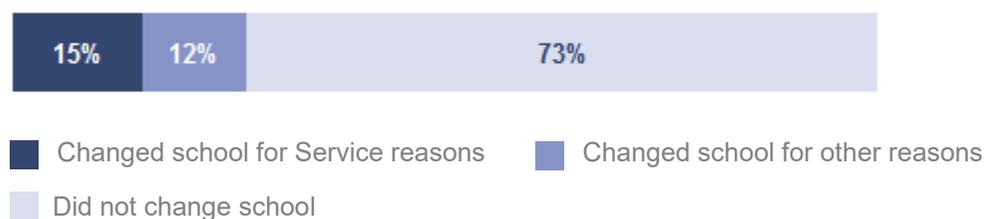
⁴SUBSET: Families with school age children (54%).

The majority (81%) of families with school age children¹ have at least one child at a state school

Other Rank families are more likely to have a child at a state school (87%) compared to Officer families (63%).

The proportion of families with school age children who changed school for Service reasons in the last 12 months remains unchanged this year at 15%

% changed school/did not change school



Just over a quarter (26%) of families with school age children experienced difficulties with their children's schooling in the past year

In line with results since 2020, the proportion of families experiencing difficulties with their children's schooling remains above the lowest level reported in 2019 (19%).

The most common difficulty experienced by families with their children's schooling was "difficulties related to COVID-19"

One in ten (10%) families with school age children experienced difficulties with their children's schooling which related to COVID-19. However, this is a reduction since last year (16%) which may be due, in part, to the lifting of restrictions placed on schools as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The second most common difficulty was getting a place at the school of their choice. This was selected by 7% of families, unchanged since first asked in 2017.

¹ SUBSET: Families with school age children (54%).

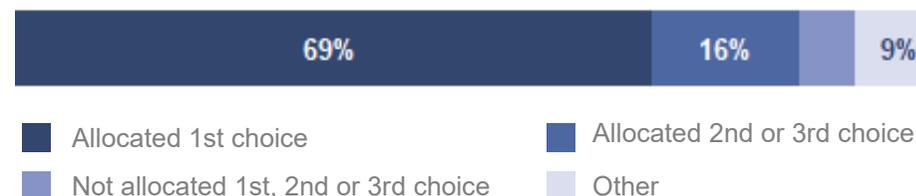
Six in ten families who changed schools were able to apply within the timeline for a normal point of entry^{2,3}

However, this differs considerably between families who changed schools for Service reasons (45%) and those who changed schools for other reasons (78%).

The majority (79%) of families who changed schools in the last 12 months applied for a place at a state school.

Just under seven in ten (69%) families who applied for a place at a state school were allocated their first choice of school, similar to previous years

State school allocation⁴



National Comparison

Although not directly comparable to Service families, [national figures on school applications](#) offer some context: 83% of secondary school place applicants received an offer of their first choice school. For primary school applicants this was 92%.

Nearly three-quarters of families who applied for a place at a state school were happy with their allocation. Conversely, just over a quarter were not happy with their allocation.

² SUBSET: Families with at least one child who changed school (14%).

³ The normal point of entry refers to the school's application period for the beginning of Reception, Year 7, Year 12 or equivalent.

⁴ SUBSET: Families with a child who changed school and applied for a place at a state school (11%).

Section 6 - Deployment

Section 6 looks at spouses' views on the length and frequency of operational tours. This section also looks at their experiences of the support and information services available to them before, during and after their spouse's deployments.

During 2014 the UK Armed Forces reduced its military presence in Afghanistan from over 5,000 personnel to less than 500. In recent years, deployments have been more dispersed over a wider range of locations. See the [MOD Annual Report and Accounts](#) for more information.

Three-quarters of spouses feel that the frequency of operational tours is “about right”, unchanged since 2020

Views on the frequency of operational tours



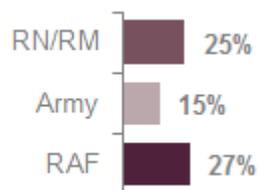
The proportion of spouses who feel that the frequency of operational tours is “too often” has increased this year, up to a fifth, back in line with 2020 levels.

AFCAS 2022 comparison

Married Service personnel are more likely to say they do not deploy often enough (28%) than their partners.

RN/RM and RAF spouses are more likely to feel that the frequency of operational tours is “too often” than Army spouses

% feel frequency operational tours is too often



Nearly half of spouses report that the length of operational tours is “too long”, unchanged since 2020

Views on the length of operational tours¹



AFCAS 2022 comparison

A much higher proportion of married Service personnel felt the length of their tours was “about right” (79%) than Service spouses (53%).

Just under six in ten (58%) spouses know where to go for welfare support and information whilst their spouse is on an operational tour

This has fallen to its lowest level since this question was first asked in 2012, down from 63% last year. Over a third (36%) do not know where to go for welfare support and information whilst their spouse is deployed.

RN/RM spouses are less likely to know where to go for welfare support and information than other Service spouses

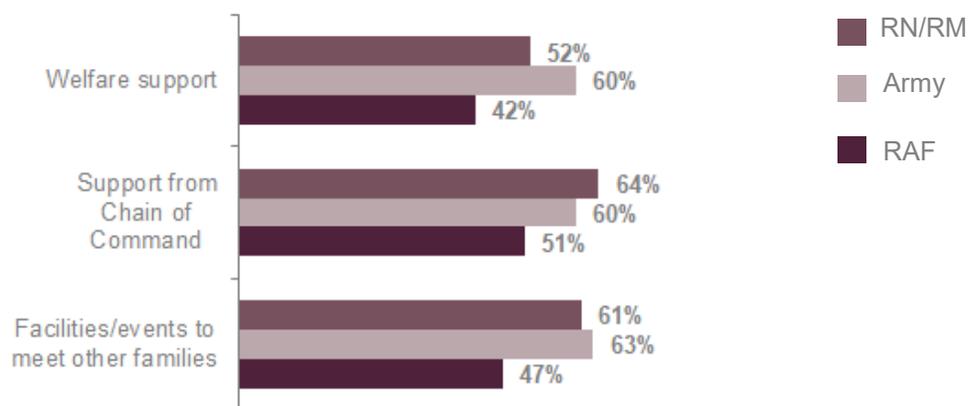
% spouses who know where to go for welfare support and information whilst their partner is on an operational tour



¹ SUBSET: Those whose spouse has been deployed within the past two years (40%).

RAF spouses are less likely to make use of Service-provided support before and after their partner's deployment than RN/RM or Army spouses

% used support before partner's deployment^{1,2}



Nearly nine in ten (88%) spouses make use of lines of communication with their partner during deployment; this remains the most used support service. Use of lines of communication is highest amongst RN/RM families at 93%, compared to Army (87%) and RAF (85%) families.

Use of all aspects of support, except lines of communication with their partner, have fallen since 2016. This is largely due to a reduction in use amongst Army families and, for some aspects of support, RNRM families.

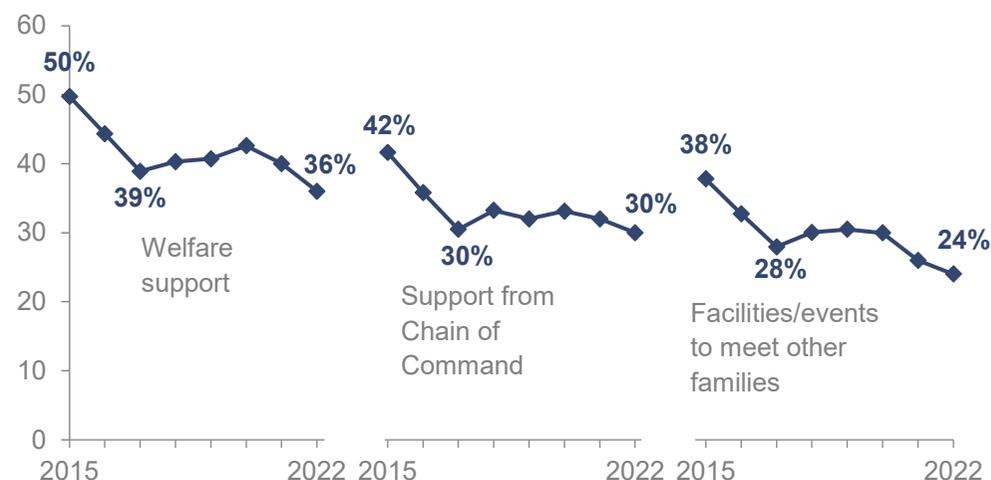
[AFCAS 2022](#) reports a much higher proportion of RAF personnel deployed individually on their last deployment (68%) than the other Services (ranging from 19% for the RN to 28% for the Army). AFCAS also shows an increase in the proportion of personnel deployed individually, rather than as a unit, for both RM and Army personnel since 2016. These differences may contribute to some of the results shown here.

¹ SUBSET: Those whose spouse has been deployed within the past two years (40%).

² USE is derived by summing responses with a valid satisfaction level who did NOT tick the "Did not use" response option.

Although relatively stable over the past few years, satisfaction with Service-provided support before deployment remains below levels reported in 2015

% satisfied with aspects of support before their spouse's deployment¹

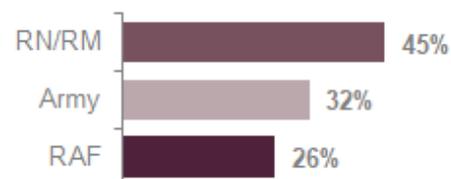


For welfare support and facilities/events to meet other families, current levels of satisfaction are below those recorded in 2020. There is a similar trend for most types of support during and after deployment.

Overall there is little difference in satisfaction levels between Officer and Other Rank families, except for lines of communication during deployment where Officer families are more satisfied (69%) than Other Rank families (59%).

RN/RM spouses report higher levels of dissatisfaction with most aspects of support before, during and after deployment

% dissatisfied with welfare support before their partner's deployment¹

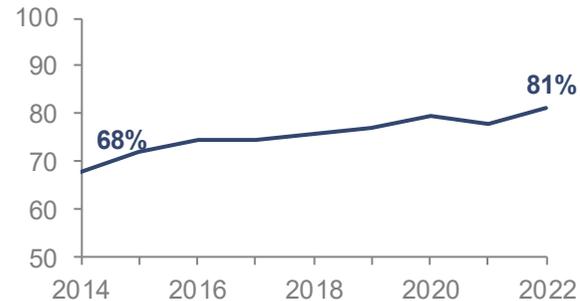


Section 7 - Employment

Section 7 provides information on employment status, experiences of looking for a job and job satisfaction. It also covers the experiences of families who accompanied their spouse overseas.

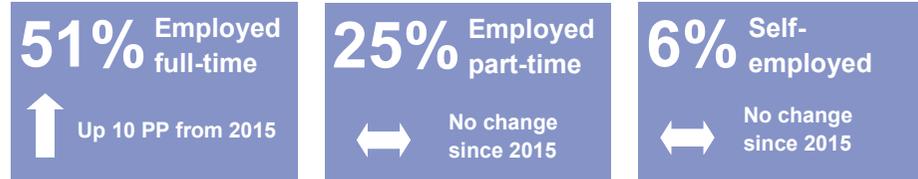
Just over four in five spouses are employed this year, as the employment rate follows an increasing trend

% spouses employed



National comparison

The [UK employment rate](#) for all those aged 16-64 is 76%.



PP = Percentage Point

The full-time employment rate for Service spouses is above all previous reported levels since 2014.

Those living outside the UK are less likely to be in employment

Just under half (49%) of spouses living outside the UK are employed, this compares to 80% or more for those living in UK locations. Spouses living outside the UK are less likely to be in full-time employment (26%) and more likely to be “not employed—seeking employment” (16%) than those living in the UK.

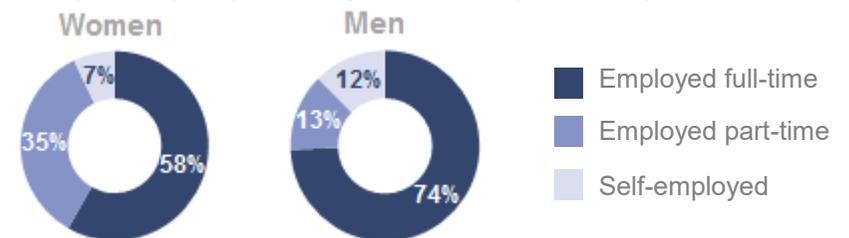
Army Other Rank spouses are less likely to be employed (77%) than their counterparts in the other Services. RAF Other Rank spouses are more likely to be in full-time employment (60%) than RN/RM or Army Other Rank spouses.

Employment differs by gender

The employment rate for female Service spouses (aged 16-64) is 80% compared to 91% for male spouses. However, this difference narrows and is no longer statistically significant when excluding dual-serving spouses.

Of those in employment, a much higher proportion of women are employed part-time than men. Gender differences are still apparent after excluding dual-serving spouses.

% by employment type (excluding dual-serving spouses)¹



National comparison

[UK employment rates](#) (age 16-64) differ by gender with 72% of women being employed compared to 79% of men.

Of UK women in [employment](#), approximately 60% work full-time and about a third work part time. This compares to around 75% and 10% respectively for UK men in employment.

Those in full-time employment are more satisfied that their qualifications match their job (74%) than those employed part-time (62%)²

There are similar differences between satisfaction levels with their job overall and that their job matches their skills and experience.

¹ SUBSET: Those aged 16-64 in employment but NOT dual serving (90%)

² SUBSET: Those in full-time employment (51%) and those in part-time employment (25%)

About two-fifths of spouses looked for a job in the past year

Following a reduction to 32% last year, this has increased back to pre-2021 levels. The reduction last year was likely due, in part, to COVID-19.

Of the 39% of spouses who looked for a job, nearly three in five experienced difficulties finding suitable employment.

Although unchanged since 2020, this is lower than all levels reported prior to 2020. Of those who looked for a job, Other Rank spouses were more likely to experience difficulties than Officer spouses.

Top reasons cited by those who experienced difficulties:

47% Partner unable to assist with care responsibilities ¹

47% Extended family live too far away to assist with childcare ¹

45% Having a spouse who is often away ¹

The top reasons differ a little by Service. RN/RM spouses ranked “Having a spouse who is often away” in second place whilst RAF spouses selected “Access to affordable and quality childcare”.

“Being overseas with my spouse” was the most common difficulty (78%) for those living outside of the UK.

Just under three in five spouses would use courses to help them find or change employment if the MOD offered them

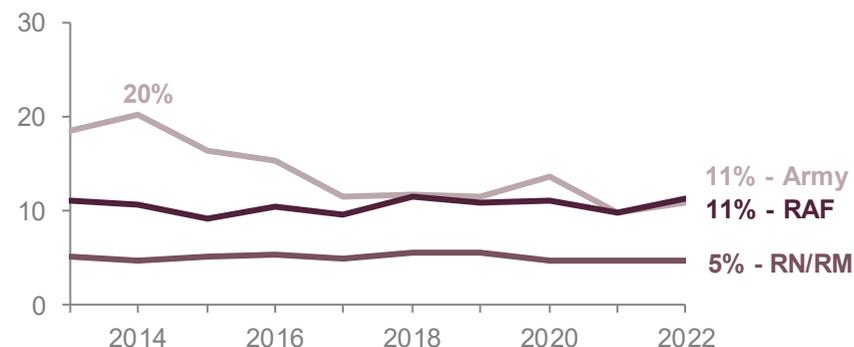
Although unchanged from last year, this has decreased six percentage points since 2020.

A higher proportion of Other Rank spouses said they would use the courses (62%) than Officer spouses (48%). Those living overseas are more likely to take up the courses (69%) than those living in England (57%).

¹ SUBSET: Those who experienced difficulties finding suitable employment (23%).

One in ten spouses accompanied their partner overseas in the past year, unchanged since 2017

% accompanied their spouse overseas



The proportion of Army spouses accompanying their partner overseas fell from a peak of 20% in 2014 to 12% in 2017. Since then, the proportion of spouses accompanying has remained largely stable for each of the Services, although Army observed a slight jump in 2020.

RN/RM spouses are less likely to accompany their partner overseas than Army or RAF spouses. This reflects the lower proportion of RN/RM personnel who are posted to overseas locations where it is possible to be accompanied by their spouse.

Of the 8% of spouses living outside the UK, the majority (70%) had accompanied their partner overseas in the past year.

Of those who accompanied their partner overseas in the past year:²

35% Were unable to find paid employment overseas

23% Were unable to access Service-provided information before moving overseas

These proportions are largely unchanged since 2015.

² SUBSET: Those who accompanied their partner on an overseas assignment over the past year (10%).

Section 8 - Healthcare

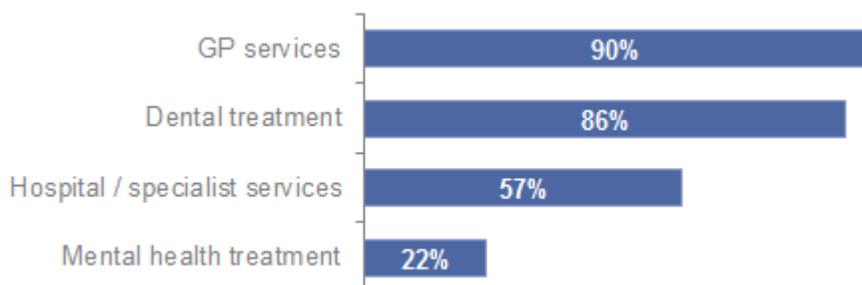
Section 8 looks at access to healthcare services for Service families.

Data Quality Note

The survey aims to measure healthcare provisions for family members not in the Armed Forces. As such, dual-serving families without children, were not asked these questions.

The proportion of families requiring access differs by type of healthcare

% families required access



The majority of Service families required access to GP services and dental treatment over the past year.

In 2021, the requirement for all types of healthcare treatment decreased, due, at least in part, to the COVID-19 pandemic.

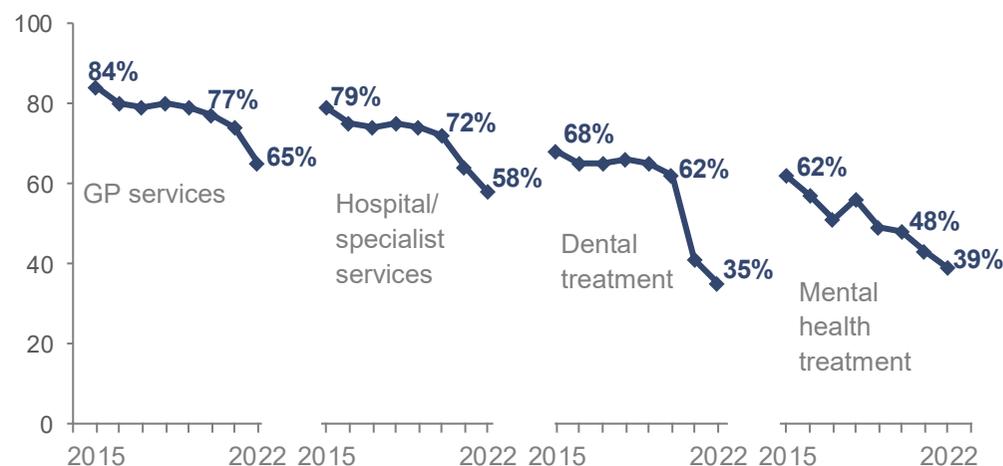
The proportions of families requiring GP or hospital/specialist services remain similar to those reported last year. However, the requirement for dental and mental healthcare treatment have both increased this year, back to 2020 levels.

Historically, the requirement for mental health treatment had been increasing. The reported 22% requiring mental health treatment this year is above all levels reported prior to 2020.

In accordance with the [Armed Forces Covenant](#), the Armed Forces community should enjoy the same standard of, and access to, healthcare as that received by any other UK citizen in the area they live.

Of those requiring access, the proportion of families able to access healthcare without difficulties has fallen since 2015

% able to access each healthcare service without difficulty¹



The proportions of families able to access healthcare without difficulties have decreased sharply since 2020. Furthermore, levels reported this year have fallen since 2021 for all types of healthcare except mental health treatment. The impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on healthcare provision have no doubt contributed to these changes.

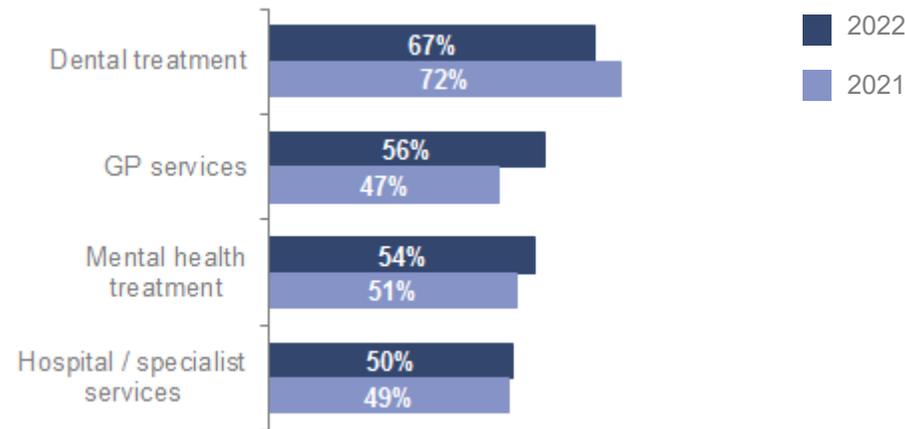
The proportions of families unable to access healthcare services have all increased since 2020. This year, 4% of families were unable to access GP services and 9% could not access hospital services, whilst considerably more families were unable to access dental (34%) or mental health treatment (24%).

¹SUBSET: Those who required each healthcare treatment: GP services (90%), hospital/specialist services (57%), dental treatment (86%) and mental health treatment (22%).

To better understand the continued impact of COVID-19, online respondents were asked about the effect on access to healthcare treatment.

Of those families who required access to healthcare services, many continue to feel their access has been affected by COVID-19

% families who felt their access to healthcare treatments had been affected by COVID-19¹



Approximately two-thirds of families who required access to dental treatment, felt their access had been affected by COVID-19. This is a slight decrease on the 72% reported last year.

Conversely, the proportion of families who felt their access to GP services had been affected by COVID-19 increased to 56% this year.

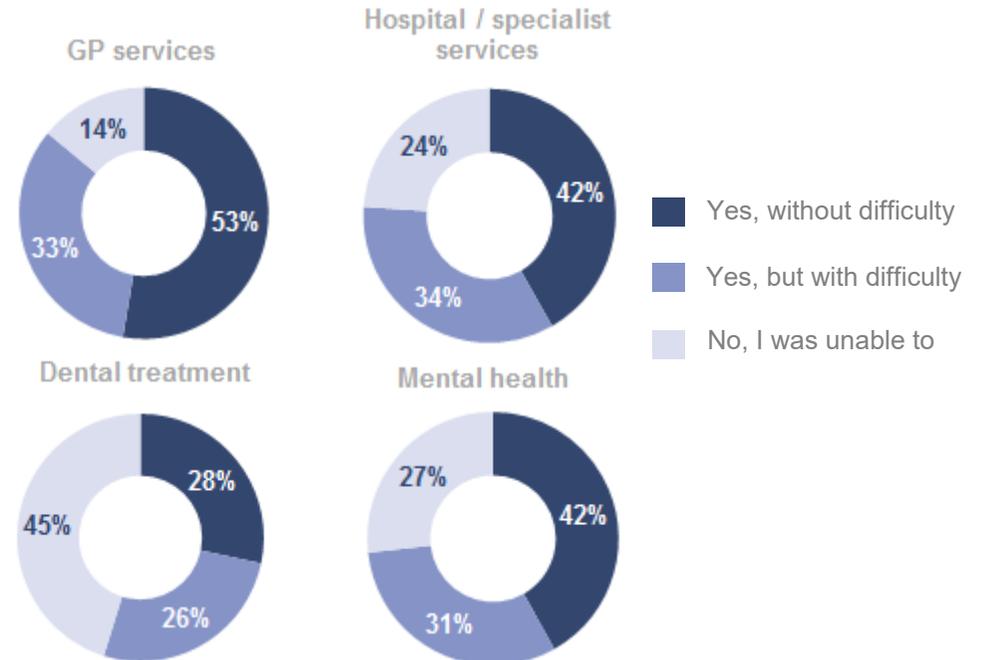
A small proportion of families moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatments

This ranges from 3% who moved whilst undergoing mental health treatment to 11% who moved whilst undergoing treatment with their GP.

¹SUBSET: Those who responded online and required healthcare treatment: dental treatment (61%), GP services (63%), mental health treatment (15%), hospital/specialist services (39%).

Apart from GP services, less than half of families who moved whilst undergoing treatment² were able to continue their treatment without difficulty

% families by ability to continue healthcare treatment following a move



Although unchanged this year, the ability of families to continue dental treatment and GP services has deteriorated since 2020. The proportion of families able to continue dental treatment, following a move, without difficulties fell from 47% in 2020 to 28% in 2022. Over the same period the proportion of families able to continue GP services without difficulties fell from 62% to 53%. This is likely to be due, at least in part, to the impact of COVID-19.

A small proportion of families (6%) moved whilst on a waiting list for an operation or consultant appointment

Of these families, 44% felt their waiting time had increased as a result of moving compared to 29% who felt it had not, similar to previous years.

²SUBSET: Those who moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatment: GP services (11%), dental treatment (8%), hospital/specialist services (8%) and mental health treatment (3%).

Section 9 - Housing

Section 9 covers home ownership and the reasons for not owning a home. It also looks at the types of accommodation spouses live in during the working week, and how this compares to where they would prefer to live. It also reports on levels of satisfaction with Service Family Accommodation (SFA) and Substitute Service Family Accommodation (SSFA).

Three-fifths of families own their own home

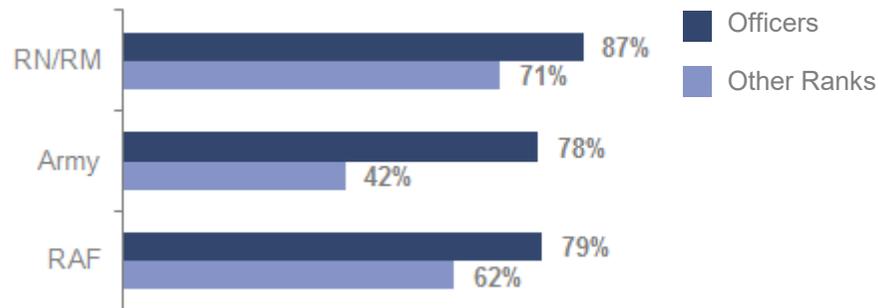
This is unchanged since 2014.

National Comparison

Although not directly comparable, the latest [English Housing Survey](#) reports that 65% of households in England were owner occupied in 2020-2021.

Home ownership differs greatly by Rank and Service

% families owning their own home



Two in five families do not own a home at the moment

Of these families, the top reasons for not owning a home are:

- 54%** Cannot afford to buy a suitable home at the moment
- 39%** Living in Service accommodation is better suited to families' needs
- 32%** Wanting to be able to move with their spouse

Officers ranked "Wanting to be able to move with their spouse" as their top reason (44%) whilst affordability is more of an issue for Other Rank non-homeowner families (56%) than Officer non-homeowner families (40%).

Around three in eight (37%) families live in a privately owned home during the working week, unchanged since 2018



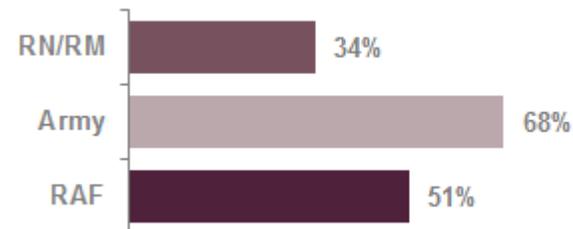
However, this is above all levels reported prior to 2018.

RN/RM families are more likely to live in a privately owned home (61%), followed by RAF (43%) and then Army (26%) families.

Officer families are more likely to live in their own home (45%) than Other Rank families (34%).

Just under three-fifths (57%) of families live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) during the working week, although this differs by Service

% families living in SFA

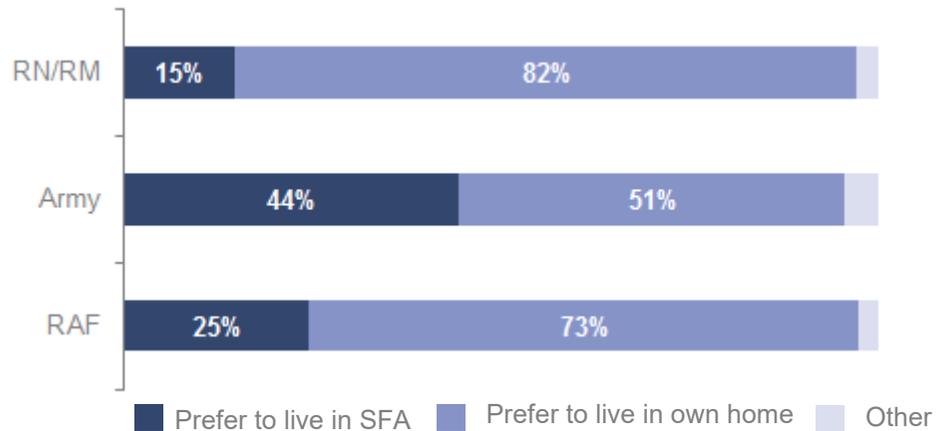


Other Rank families are more likely to live in SFA (61%) than Officer families (48%). This is largely driven by Army and RAF families as there is little difference between Officers and Other Ranks for RN/RM families.

Families living outside the UK are more likely to live in SFA (71%) than those living in England (58%).

Accommodation preferences differ by Service

% families by accommodation preference



A higher proportion of Army families express a preference for SFA than RN/RM or RAF families.

Just under seven in ten families are living in their preferred type of accommodation

% families by current accommodation type and preference



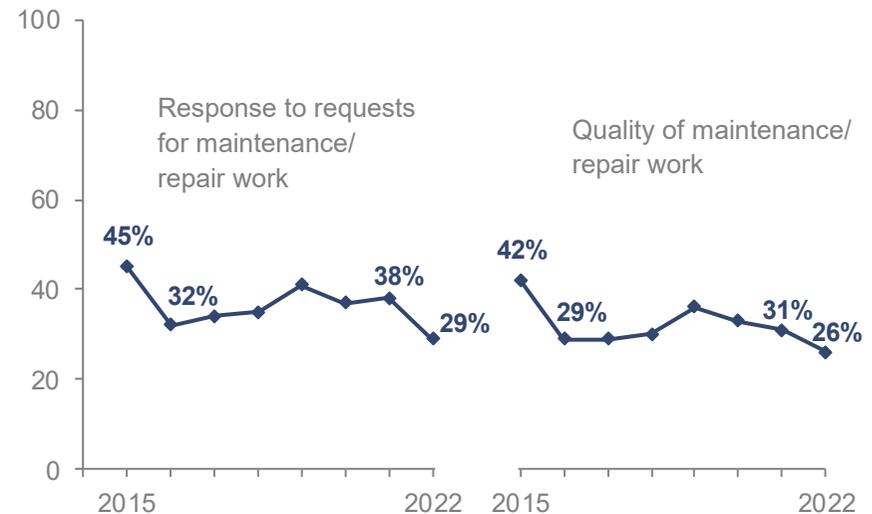
Following a decrease last year, the proportion of families not currently living in a privately owned home but would prefer to be has returned to levels reported prior to 2021. Correspondingly, the proportion of families living in their preferred type of accommodation has fallen back to pre-COVID levels.

A higher proportion of RN/RM families live in their preferred type of accommodation (74%) than other Service families.

Levels of satisfaction with most aspects of SFA/SSFA (Substitute SFA) fell between 2015 and 2016. Potential contributing factors to this decrease were the underperformance by the National Housing Prime contractor alongside changes to the SFA charging model over this period.

Satisfaction with aspects of maintenance/repair of SFA/SSFA have decreased this year, returning to the low levels reported in 2016

% satisfied with aspects of SFA/SSFA¹



Satisfaction with how fairly Service accommodation is allocated fell from 47% in 2021 to 39% this year, also back in line with 2016 levels.

Although not significantly different to 2021, levels of satisfaction with the overall standard and value for money of SFA/SSFA are now similar to 2016 and are lower than all levels reported between 2017 and 2020.

RN/RM and RAF families are more dissatisfied than Army families with the overall standard of SFA/SSFA and response to and quality of repairs/maintenance.

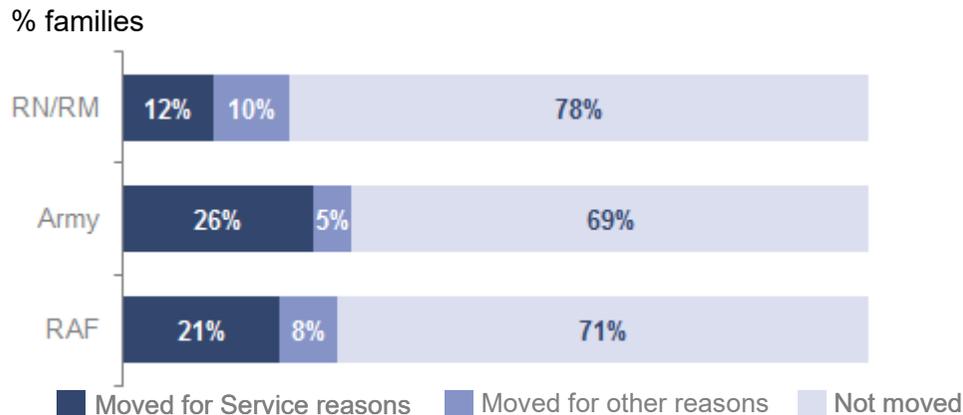
RAF families are less satisfied with how fairly Service accommodation is allocated (33%) than RN/RM (44%) or Army (40%) families.

¹ Based on the subset of families who live in SFA/SSFA (58%).

Section 10 - Impact of Mobility

Section 10 looks at the impact of moving location on the families of Service personnel. It looks again at some of the questions from the previous sections and compares the responses of those who moved for Service reasons with those who have not moved over the last 12 months. In this section, “moved” refers to those who have moved for Service reasons. **This section compares the 22% of families who moved for Service reasons with the 71% of families who did not move.**

Just over one in five Service families moved for Service reasons over the past year, although this differs by Service



RN/RM families were less likely to move for Service reasons than RAF and Army families.

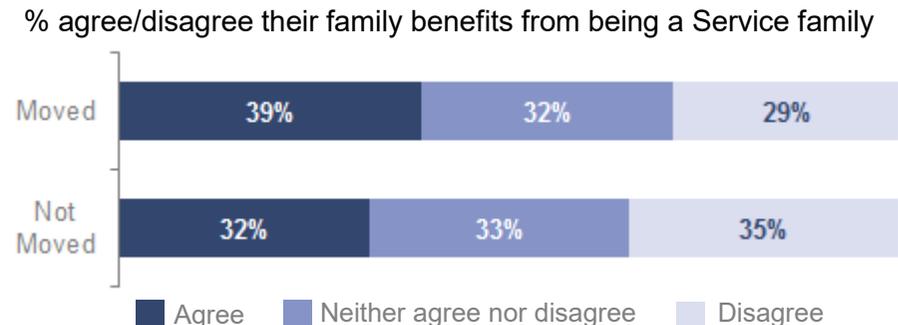
Levels of mobility have been largely stable since 2017. There was an increase in 2020, driven by Army families. This was due to large numbers of families moving from Germany to the UK as part of the [Army Basing Programme](#).

Families who moved are more likely to live with their Serving spouse (89%) than families who did not move (74%)

This is to be expected as those who move for Service reasons are likely to be accompanying their Serving partner.

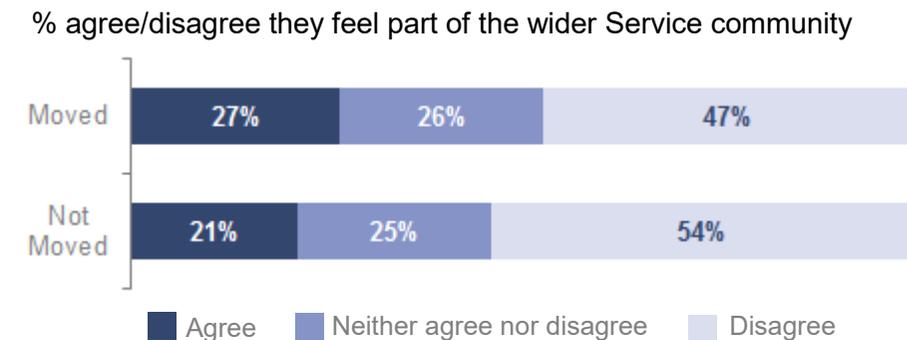
Families who moved were less likely to experience separation of three months or more (22%) than families who did not move (29%). This may contribute to those who moved feeling less negative about separation (43%) than those who did not move (51%).

Those who moved are more likely to agree their family benefits from being a Service family than those who did not move



However, there are no differences between families feeling advantaged about family life, nor between levels of satisfaction with quality of life as a Service family.

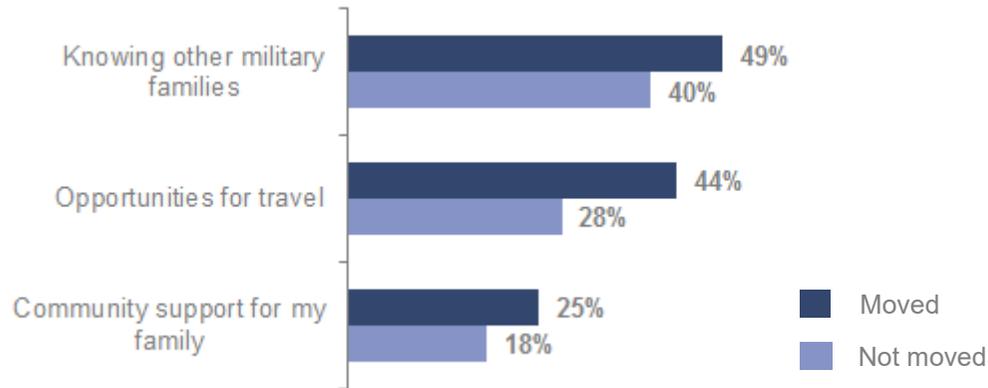
Those who moved are more likely to feel part of the wider Service community than those who did not move



Fewer spouses who moved would feel happier if their partner chose to leave the Service (27%) than those who did not move (32%).

Families who moved feel more positive about social aspects of Service life, compared to those who did not move

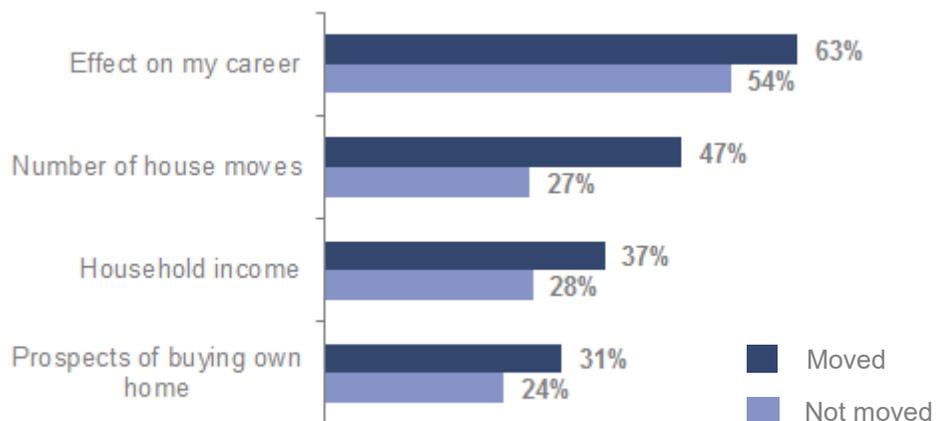
% feeling positive about...



However, moving home can cause upheaval for Service families, such as finding employment or changing their child's school.

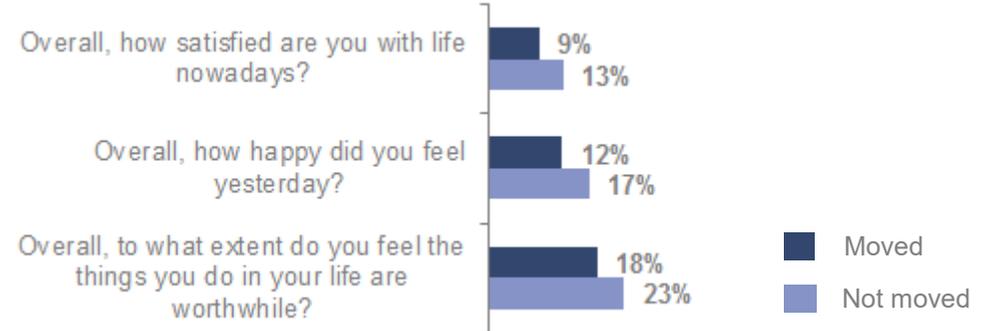
Spouses who moved feel more negative about some aspects of Service life....

% feeling negative about...



Those who moved are less likely to rate three of the four well-being measures as very high than those who did not move

% rating wellbeing measure as very high (9 or 10 out of 10)



However, when comparing average wellbeing scores, only the worthwhile measure differs by mobility

Those who moved are less likely to be employed than those who did not move

% employed¹



Spouses who moved are less likely to be employed both full-time (43%) and part-time (21%) than those who did not move (53% and 26% respectively). Those who moved were also more likely to have looked for a job in the past year (54%) compared to those who did not move (35%). Therefore, mobility may be a contributing factor to those who moved feeling more negative about the effect Service life has on their career and job security.

Of those who moved, 64% said they would use courses to help them find or change employment if the MOD offered them, this compares to 57% for those who did not move.

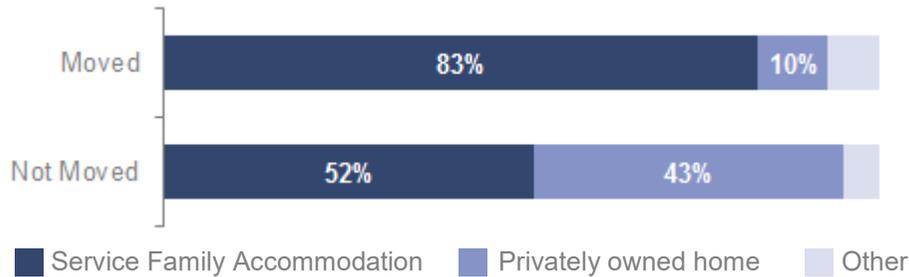
¹ Employed refers to those in full-time, part-time or self employment

Spouses who moved are less likely to own a home than those who did not move

Half of families who moved own a home compared to 62% of families who did not move.

The majority of spouses who moved live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) during the working week

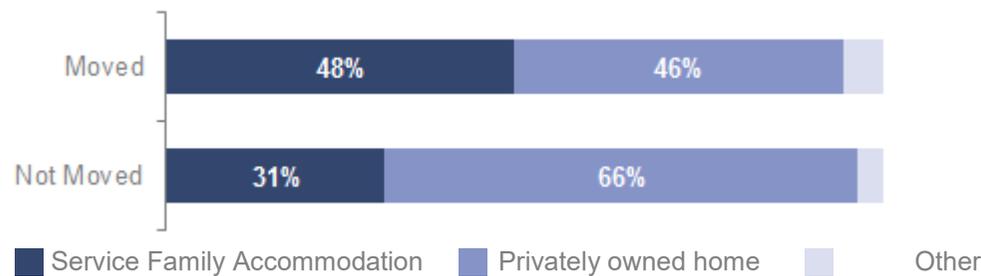
% families by where they live during the working week



This may partly explain why those who moved feel more positive about Service provided facilities than those who did not.

Just under half of families who moved would prefer to live in their own home compared to about two-thirds of those who did not move

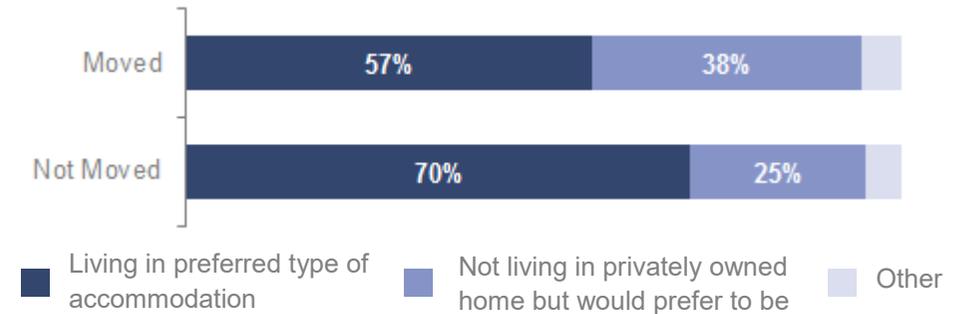
% families by accommodation preference



The preference for living in a Service accommodation is higher for those families who moved compared to those who did not. There is a considerable difference between the preference for living in own home (46%) and those living in own home (10%) for those who moved.

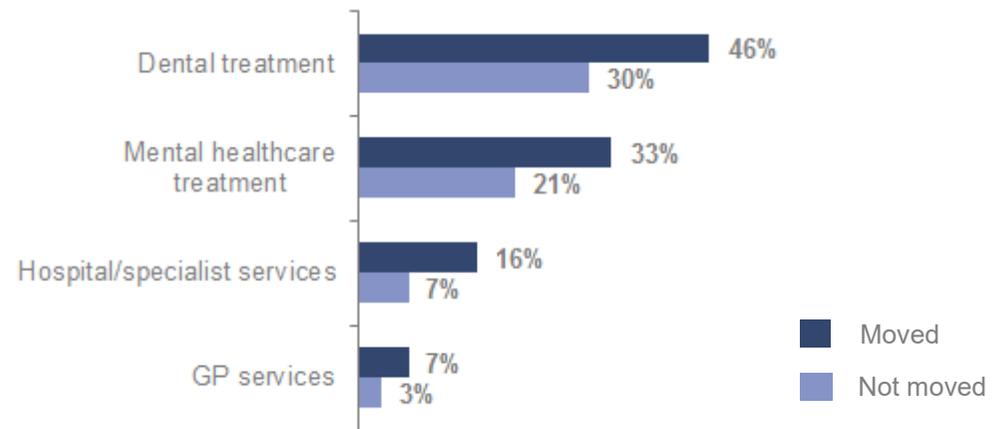
Families who moved are less likely to be living in their preferred type of accommodation than those who did not move

% families



Families who moved were less able to access healthcare services than those who did not move

% families unable to access healthcare services if required¹



Access to NHS dentist

The [2021 dental statistics](#) stated “respondents who had not been to the practice before were less successful in getting an NHS dental appointment.”

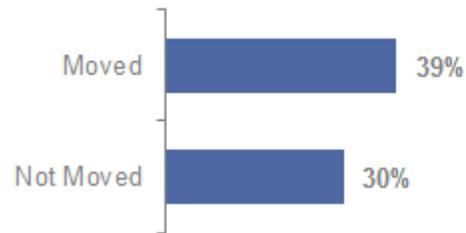
¹ SUBSET: Those who required healthcare treatment; Dental treatment (Moved:18% Not moved:59%), Mental healthcare treatment (Moved:4% Not moved:15%), Hospital/specialist services (Moved:12% Not moved:39%), GP Services (Moved:19% Not moved:62%).

A lower proportion of families who moved have children (74%) compared to those who did not move (79%)

Fewer families who moved have school age children (48%) compared to families who did not move (56%).

Of those with children¹, families who moved are more likely to require early years (0-4) childcare than those who did not move

% families requiring early years childcare¹



Those who moved and required early years childcare², are more dissatisfied with access to and cost of early years childcare than those who did not move.

There are no differences in requirement or levels of satisfaction with childcare for school aged children.

Of those with children¹, 58% of families who moved are unable to access any free, informal childcare³

This differs to the 42% reported by families with children who did not move.

Families with school age children⁴ who moved, are less likely to have a child at a state school (68%) than those who did not move (83%)

Families with school age children⁴ who moved, are more likely to have a child at an independent boarding school (23%) than those who did not move (7%). As a result, they are also more likely to be in receipt of [Continuity of Education Allowance](#) (CEA) (23% compared to 9%).

¹ SUBSET: Those with children (Moved:16% Not moved:57%)

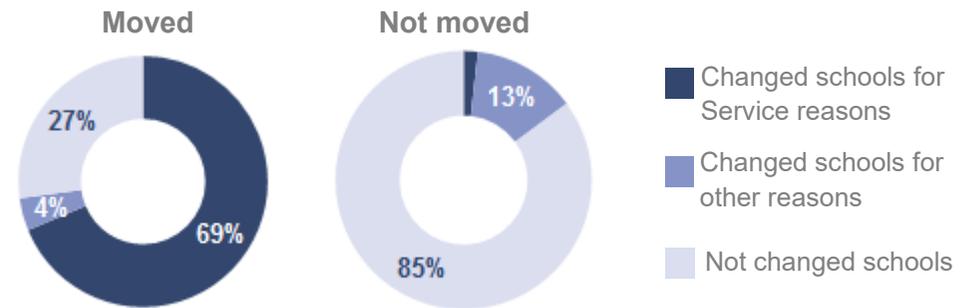
² SUBSET: Those requiring early years childcare (Moved:6% Not moved:16%)

³ Free informal childcare such as grandparents, extended family, friends etc.

⁴ SUBSET: Those with school age children (Moved:10% Not moved:40%)

Of families who moved and had school age children⁴, just under seven in ten (69%) had a child change schools for Service reasons compared to just 2% for those who did not move

% families with school age children⁴

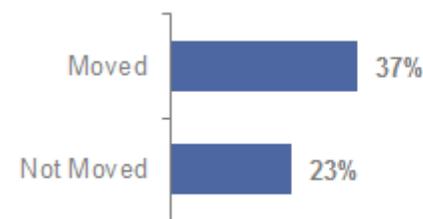


Of those families who moved and had a child who changed school⁵, less than half (48%) were able to apply within the timeframe for the normal point of entry (such as Reception or Year 7). This compares to 75% for families who did not move and had a child change school.

Of those families who moved and applied for a place at a state school⁶, 67% were allocated their first choice; 71% were happy with their child's allocation. Similar proportions were reported for those who did not move.

Families with school age children⁴ who moved, were more likely to experience difficulties with their children's schooling than those who did not move

% experienced difficulties with their children's schooling⁴



This difference is partly due to the larger proportion of children changing school for Service reasons amongst families who have moved.

⁵ SUBSET: Those with a child who changed schools (Moved:7% Not moved: 6%)

⁶ SUBSET: Those who applied for a place at a State school (Moved:6% Not moved: 5%)

Methodology

1. Target Population

The target population for FamCAS 2022 was the spouses/civil partners of all trained UK Regular Armed Forces personnel including Gurkhas but excluding Special Forces and those deployed or attending training courses at the time the survey sample was drawn from the Joint Personnel Administration system.

2. The survey

FamCAS is distributed in electronic format for all three Services and a paper version is available for the Army and RAF. The RN/RM has run an online survey for several years and the Army and RAF introduced an online survey in 2016. In 2020 RN/RM decided to remove the paper option, running an online only Families survey. For a small number of questions this change in methodology may have impacted on results. Where this is the case, footnotes or discontinuities are included in the reference tables.

E-mail invites to the online questionnaire are sent to Service personnel who are asked to forward the invite onto their spouse/civil partner. Army and RAF also distribute paper questionnaires to the Serving person to pass on. Data collection ran from late January 2022 to early May 2022, a relatively long period which allows time for Service personnel to pass on the survey to their spouse/civil partner as some may be living separately due to postings/assignments.

The FamCAS was in field during the easing of COVID-19 restrictions across the UK. The survey asks questions about the past year and so will also capture experiences during previous COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns. To better understand the possible impact of this, some COVID related questions were included in the survey. A question about difficulties with their children's education due to COVID-19 was included in both the paper and online survey, and questions about the impact of COVID-19 on access to healthcare were added to the online survey. Although only asked of online respondents, 84% of responses were online so these provide helpful context to some of the reported changes.

The survey is anonymous. Individual level data are only available to a small group of civilian researchers working on the analysis and report production and the data does not contain any identifier which can be linked back to the Service person or their spouse/civil partner.

3. The sample and respondents

The total FamCAS 2022 sample consisted of 23,493 personnel. FamCAS questionnaires were issued to Service personnel selected under a (disproportionate) stratified simple random sampling process. Samples were designed to provide sufficient responses to yield estimates with a reasonable margin of error under cost constraints. Due to low expected response rates most strata are a complete census. Table A1, below, shows the strata we can select a sample from and the corresponding level of precision¹ we aim for.

¹ Precision is based on half of a 95% confidence interval width, often referred to as the margin of error.

Table A1: Precision aimed for by strata

Strata	Precision
RN Officer England	5%
RN OR6-9 England	5%
Army Officer England	5%
Army OR6-9 England	5%
Army OR1-4 England	5%
RAF Officer England	5%
RAF OR6-9 England	5%
RAF OR1-4 England	5%

Based on 2020 and 2021 response rates this sample design was expected to yield precisions of around 2.5% for each Service and 4% to 5% for each Rank group by Service. Despite conducting a census for Royal Navy OR1-4 and for all Royal Marines the margin of error for these groups are expected to be between 7% and 16%. Margins of error for each question can be found in reference tables published alongside this report on the [FamCAS](#) website.

4,312 responses were used in the FamCAS 2022 analysis, giving an overall response rate of 18%. The table below contains detailed information on the number of questionnaires issued and received along with corresponding response rates.

Table A2: Response rates by Service and rank group

		Sample size	Surveys returned	2022 response rate	2021 response rate	2020 response rate	2019 response rate
Royal Navy	Officers	2 252	487	22%	30%	23%	33%
	Ratings	5 154	587	11%	18%	12%	19%
	Total	7 406	1 074	15%	22%	15%	23%
Royal Marines	Officers	365	65	18%	24%	18%	25%
	Marines	1 225	92	8%	12%	8%	14%
	Total	1 590	157	10%	15%	10%	16%
Army	Officers	1 703	640	38%	46%	47%	49%
	Ranks	6 763	1 198	18%	24%	23%	22%
	Total	8 466	1 838	22%	28%	28%	27%
Royal Air Force	Officers	1 569	492	31%	33%	34%	37%
	Ranks	4 462	751	17%	23%	22%	24%
	Total	6 031	1 243	21%	25%	25%	27%
All Services	Officers	5 889	1 684	29%	35%	32%	38%
	Ranks	17 604	2 628	15%	21%	19%	21%
	Total	23 493	4 312	18%	25%	22%	25%

Note that percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole % for ease of interpretation.

4. Weighting methodology and non-response

Due to the sample design and the differences in prevalence of non-response between the Service, rank and location strata, the distribution of characteristics amongst the FamCAS respondents did not reflect the distribution in the whole Armed Forces spouse/civil partner population. Response rates tend to vary by strata; therefore, responses are weighted by rank and broad location to correct for the bias caused by over or under-representation.

The weights were calculated simply by:

$$\frac{\text{Population size within weighting class (p)}}{\text{Number of responses within weighting class (r)}}$$

Number of responses within weighting class (r)

Weighting in this way assumes missing data are missing at random (MAR) only within weighting classes. This means we assume that within a single weighting class the views of non-respondents do not differ (on average) to the views of respondents.

The results for each respondent within each weighting class are multiplied by the weight for that class. This effectively scales up response to the population size. Classes with larger weights are less represented in the data and so need to be scaled up more.

Table A3: Weightings used for FamCAS 2022 analysis

Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied
RM_OF1+_Eng	8.53	Army_OF1+_Cyp	3.75	RAF_OF1+_Cyp	3.63
RM_OF1+_Scot_Wales_NonUK	5.14	Army_OF1+_Ger	3.05	RAF_OF1+_NI_Scot_Wales	5.40
RM_OR1-4_Eng	18.94	Army_OF1+_NI	4.83	RAF_OF1+_NonUK	5.17
RM_OR1-9_Scot_NonUK	9.14	Army_OF1+_Scot	3.40	RAF_OF1-4_Eng	11.39
RM_OR6-9_Eng	18.96	Army_OF1+_Wales	4.78	RAF_OF5+_Eng	18.35
RN_OF1+_NI_Wales	7.70	Army_OF1-4_Eng	20.31	RAF_OR1-2_Eng	15.71
RN_OF1+_NonUK	8.28	Army_OF1-4_NonUK	3.78	RAF_OR1-4_Cyp_NonUK	10.57
RN_OF1+_Scot	6.09	Army_OF5+_Eng	23.74	RAF_OR1-4_NI_Scot_Wales	10.04
RN_OF1-4_Eng	6.73	Army_OF5+_NonUK	4.10	RAF_OR3-4_Eng	13.47
RN_OF5+_Eng	6.83	Army_OR1-2_Eng	58.29	RAF_OR6-9_Cyp	5.89
RN_OR1-2_Eng	13.56	Army_OR1-4_Cyp_Ger	10.17	RAF_OR6-9_Eng	17.10
RN_OR1-4_NI_Scot_NonUK	10.70	Army_OR1-4_NI_Wales	17.44	RAF_OR6-9_NI_Wales	10.18
RN_OR3-4_Eng	11.04	Army_OR1-4_NonUK	35.21	RAF_OR6-9_NonUK	7.00
RN_OR6-9_Eng	10.21	Army_OR1-4_Scot	11.44	RAF_OR6-9_Scot	5.90
RN_OR6-9_NI_Wales	6.33	Army_OR3-4_Eng	26.39		
RN_OR6-9_NonUK	9.77	Army_OR6-9_Cyp	4.89		
RN_OR6-9_Scot	8.52	Army_OR6-9_Eng	31.19		
		Army_OR6-9_Ger	4.00		
		Army_OR6-9_NI	6.48		
		Army_OR6-9_NonUK	4.17		
		Army_OR6-9_Scot	5.08		
		Army_OR6-9_Wales	9.31		

5. Analysis and statistical tests

Attitudinal questions in the questionnaires have generally been regrouped to assist in analysing results and to aid interpretation. For example, questions asked at a 5-point level (e.g. Very satisfied – Satisfied – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied – Dissatisfied – Very dissatisfied) have been regrouped to a 3-point level (e.g. (Satisfied – Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied – Dissatisfied)).

Missing values, where respondents have not provided a response/valid response, or 'don't know' or 'not applicable' responses have not always been included in the analysis. If they have been excluded, then this will be detailed in table footnotes.

Some questions are filtered to exclude invalid responses. For example, questions about children's schooling will be subset to those respondents with school age children. These "subsets" are detailed in table footnotes. As a result of these exclusions the unweighted counts (or 'n') will vary from

question to question and these are shown within the reference tables published alongside this report on the [FamCAS](#) webpage.

Where applicable, Z tests at a 1% alpha level were used to test whether observed estimates were significantly different to estimates from previous surveys. A statistically significant difference means that there is enough evidence that the change observed is unlikely to be due to chance variation (less than a 1% probability that the difference is the result of chance alone).

6. Format of the reference tables (published separately to the report on the [FamCAS](#) webpage)

Each reference table refers to a question asked in the survey and includes estimates of the proportion of the population by category. Each table is broken down by Service and by Officer/Other Rank with the total column referring to the Officers and Other Ranks results combined.

Excel tables are also available with additional breakdown of the spouse/civil partners broad location (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales & Non-UK), which are provided at Annex C.

Section 9 of Annex B provides a subset of tables that compare results of those who moved for Service reasons over the past year against those who did not move. These tables are broken down by Service.

Glossary

Term	Description
AFCAS	The Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey.
Armed Forces Covenant	The Armed Forces Covenant defines the principles for ensuring that Armed Forces personnel are not disadvantaged in their access to public and commercial services as a result of their service. It also sets out that in some cases special treatment may be appropriate, for example for those that have given the most, such as the injured and the bereaved.
CEA	Continuity of education allowance. This is offered by the MOD to provide children with the continuity in their education.
Defence Board	The highest committee in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and is responsible for the full range of Defence business, other than the conduct of operations.
HIVE	Service information hub which assists personnel in a wide variety of topics affecting their everyday Service and personal life
JPA	Joint Personnel Administration - JPA is the system used by the Armed Forces to deal with matters of pay, leave and other personal administrative tasks
Married	Refers to those married or in a civil partnership
Marines	RM personnel of NATO ranks OR1 to OR9
Ministry of Defence Research Ethics Committee (MODREC)	Ensures that all research involving human participants undertaken, funded, or sponsored by the MOD meets nationally and internationally accepted ethical standards
Missing at Random (MAR)	Statistical theory that states that those who did not respond to a question do not differ from those who did respond
Missing value(s)	Refers to the situation where a respondent has not submitted an answer or a valid answer to a question
MOD	Ministry of Defence
N/A	Not applicable
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
Non-response	Refers either to a person who although sampled and sent a questionnaire did not reply or to a respondent who did not reply to a question
OF	Officer of NATO rank designation ranking from '1' lowest to '10' highest
Officer(s)	All regular trained officers of NATO rank OF1 to OF10
Operational/Deployment Welfare Package	Measures taken to support the morale of Service personnel by making the fullest possible provision for their emotional and physical wellbeing whilst on operational deployment
OR	Other Ranks of NATO rank designation ranking from 'OR1' lowest to 'OR9' highest
Other Rank(s)	Other Ranks are members of the Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force who are not Officers. The equivalent group in the Royal Navy is known as "Ratings".
RAF	Royal Air Force
RM	Royal Marines
RN	Royal Navy
Service Accommodation	Any type of accommodation that includes 'SFA', 'SSFA', 'SLA', 'SSSA' and 'Onboard a ship or submarine'

Term	Description
Service(s)	Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and RAF
Service spouse	Within this report this term refers to the spouse or civil partner of a Regular trained member of the Armed Forces.
SFA	Service Family Accommodation
SLA	Single Living Accommodation
SNCO	Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (NATO ranks OR6 to OR9)
Soldiers	Army personnel of NATO ranks OR1 to OR9
Spouse	Within this report this refers to both spouses and civil partners
SSFA	Substitute Service Family Accommodation
SSSA	Substitute single Service Accommodation. Formerly Substitute Single Living Accommodation (SSLA)
Standard Error	A measure derived using weighting factors from the sample proportion and unweighted count in a sampling distribution and used as a benchmark in order to ascertain a range of values within which the true population proportion could lie
Statistically significant	Refers to the result of a statistical test in which there is evidence of a difference between estimates
Statistical tests	Refers to those tests which are carried out to see if any evidence exists for a change in response proportions from one year to another
Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR)	In the context of the Services, refers to a Review of what needed to be done to restructure and rescale the size of the Armed Forces to meet future Defence requirements of the UK's national security.
Trained strength	Trained Strength comprises military personnel who have completed Phase 1 and 2 training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 Training includes all new entry training to provide basic military skills. • Phase 2 Training includes initial individual specialisation, sub-specialisation and technical training following Phase 1 training prior to joining the trained strength.
Unit	A sub-organisation of the Service in which personnel are employed
Unweighted count	Refers to the actual number who provided a valid response to a question in the survey
Weighting (factors)	Refers to factors that are applied to the respondent data set by Service and rank group to make respondent Service rank groups representative of their population equivalents
Weighting class	Refers to those members of a specific rank group to whom a weighting factor is applied
X-Factor	Additional payment to Armed Forces personnel to compensate for differences in lifestyle, working conditions and expectations compared to civilian equivalents
z test	Statistical test based on a standardised distribution which allows comparison between years for populations of different sizes

Further Information

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