



Ministry
of Defence

UK Tri-Service Families Continuous Attitude Survey Results 2019

● Annual

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United Kingdom

This statistical release provides results from the Families Continuous Attitude Survey (FamCAS) 2019, 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, including major programmes such as the Armed Forces Covenant and Armed Forces People Programme.

Satisfaction with Service family life



59% are **satisfied** with their quality of life married to a member of the Armed Forces.

However about **half** of spouses;

- feel **disadvantaged** about family life.
- **do not** feel valued by the Service
- **do not** feel part of the wider Service community

Just under **four in ten** spouses would feel happier if their partner left the Services whilst just over **one in ten** would feel less happy.

Service partner employment



77% are employed

- *in line with the UK rates*
- *increased since 2014 (68%)*

Four in ten spouses looked for a new job in the past year.



One in four of all spouses experienced difficulties finding suitable employment.



Half of Service families have school age children

Of these families:

- **19%** experienced difficulties with their children's education.
Improved since 2017 (24%)
- **16%** had a child change schools for Service reasons.
Improved since 2015 (22%)



Of those who applied for a place at a state school, **three-quarters** were happy with their child's allocation; a **quarter** were 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 DefStrat-Stat-WDS-Surveys@mod.gov.uk

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About these statistics

The Families Continuous Attitude Survey (FamCAS) is a Tri-Service annual survey of the spouses/civil partners of Regular trained Service Personnel. This survey is one of the main ways that the department gathers information on the attitudes and experiences of Service families.

The 2019 FamCAS was distributed to a sample of 26,571 trained Regular Service personnel who were married or in a civil partnership. The Serving person was then asked to pass the questionnaire on to their spouse. The survey used both online and paper questionnaires and was open from February to the end of April 2019.

Response rates:

Overall 6,690 valid responses were received, representing a response rate of 25%.

This is a five percentage point increase on 2018.



About this statistical release

Throughout this report the term “married” refers to those who are married or in a civil partnership and the term “spouse” refers to spouse/civil partner. The term RN/RM is used as an abbreviation of Royal Navy/Royal Marines.

Throughout this report there are references to “AFCAS 2019 comparisons”. These are based on a subset of AFCAS results for Service personnel who are married/in a civil partnership. As a result these will not match previously published AFCAS results: www.gov.uk/government/collections/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-index.

National comparisons are provided for context but are not directly comparable due to the demographic differences of the general population and the population of Service spouses.

This report includes a section on the impact of mobility, which compares results of those who moved for Service reasons with those who did not move.

Reference tables and an example of a FAMCAS 2019 questionnaire are published as separate documents and can be found on the FAMCAS webpage - www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index

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.

The estimates provided below are derived from the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA)¹.

Approximately 64,000 Regular trained Service personnel are married or in a civil partnership¹

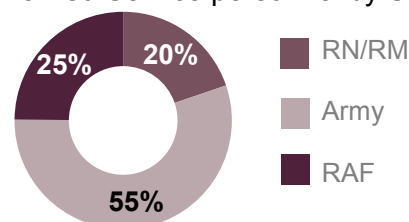
Data Quality Note

The estimate of married Service personnel is derived from a self-reported, non-compulsory field on JPA. As such there may be some under-reporting. The 2019 Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey (AFCAS) estimated 54% of Service personnel were married/in a civil partnership, which would equate to over 70,000 personnel.

Just 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

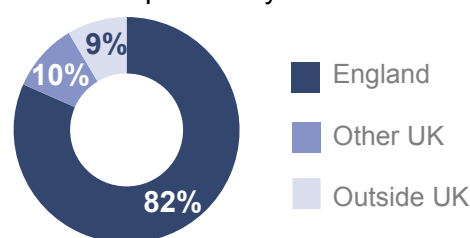


74% of Service spouses are married to Other Ranks¹

26% of Service spouses are married to Officers¹

The majority of Service spouses live in England¹

% Service spouses by location



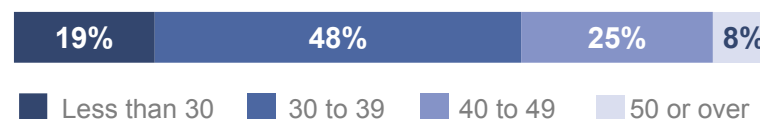
Estimates within the rest of this report are taken from the FamCAS survey. Comparisons to other data sources are referenced in footnotes.

Over nine in ten Service spouses are female

This reflects the fact that the majority of Serving personnel are male².

About two-thirds of Service spouses are aged under 40

% Service spouses by age



National Comparison

On average, Service spouses are younger than the married population. The 2017 national age profile³ of married people for England estimates 68% are aged over 45 compared to just 19% of Service spouses in England. This difference reflects the younger age profile of Service personnel in comparison to the wider population.

Spouses of Other Ranks are, on average, younger than Officer spouses

Three-quarters of Other Rank spouses are aged under 40 compared to 42% of Officer spouses. This difference reflects the age difference between Officers and Other Ranks².

The majority of Army Other Rank spouses are aged less than 40 (83%). This compares to 64% and 65% of RN/RM and RAF Other Rank spouses respectively.

² Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2018>

³ Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationestimatesbymaritalstatusandlivingarrangements/2002to2017>

¹ Source: The Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA) as at 1 April 2019.

79% of Service families have children

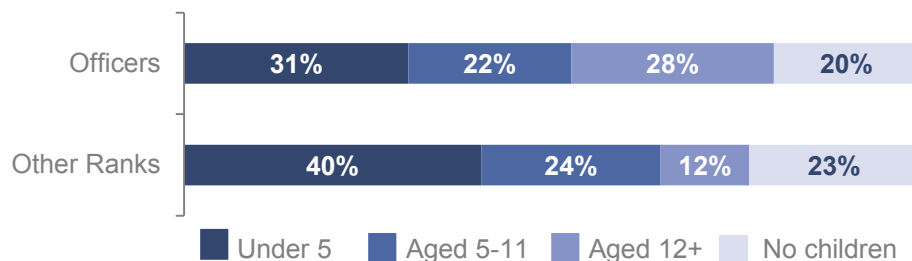
38% of Service families have at least one child aged under 5

53% of Service families have at least one child of school age



Other Rank families tend to have younger children than Officer families

% families by age of youngest child



This difference is largely driven by Army families: 44% of Army Other Rank families have a youngest child aged under 5 compared to 31% of Army Officer families.

Just over one in five families do not have children, whilst a further one in five have one child and about two in five have two children

% families by number of children



44% of spouses are educated to Undergraduate level or above¹

This differs by rank: 68% of Officer spouses compared to 36% of Other Rank spouses.

National comparison

Although not directly comparable, the 2011 Census² estimated that 30% of the UK population aged 16-64 were educated to Undergraduate level or above.

77% of spouses are employed³

Army Other Rank spouses are less likely to be employed (73%) than RN/RM or RAF Other Rank spouses (82% and 81% respectively).



10% of spouses 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 differs greatly by Rank and Service, ranging from 44% for Army Other Rank spouses to 88% for RN/RM Officer spouses.



AFCAS 2019 comparison

These results are consistent with the AFCAS 2019 findings: 58% of married Service personnel are homeowners.

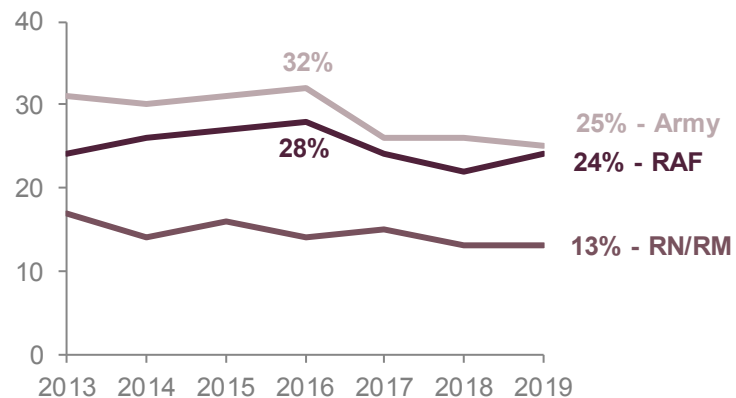
¹ Undergraduate level or above includes Undergraduate Degrees, Post-graduate Degrees and professional qualifications (e.g. teaching, nursing, accounting, civil engineering etc.).

² Source: <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/lc5102ew>

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

Almost a quarter of Service families moved for Service reasons over the last year

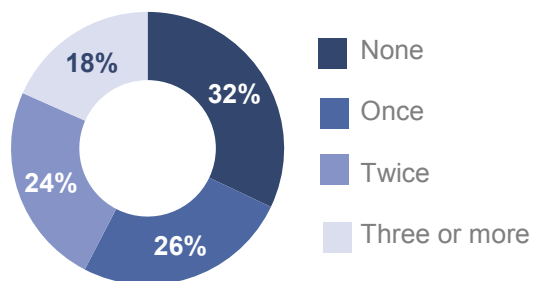
% families moved for Service reasons



This proportion has fallen since 2016, largely driven by changes for Army and RAF families. Over the last year, higher proportions of Army and RAF spouses moved for Service reasons than RN/RM spouses. Officer spouses are more likely to move for Service reasons than Other Rank spouses.

Two-thirds of spouses have moved for Service reasons at least once in the last five years

% spouses by the number of times moved over the past five years

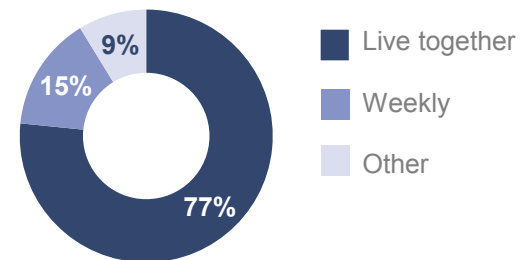


Service personnel are often posted to new locations and many spouses choose to accompany them rather than be separated. This means that Service spouses are also a very mobile population.

The proportion of spouses who have moved three or more times over the last five years decreased from 22% in 2017 to the 18% reported this year.

Over three-quarters of Service couples live together

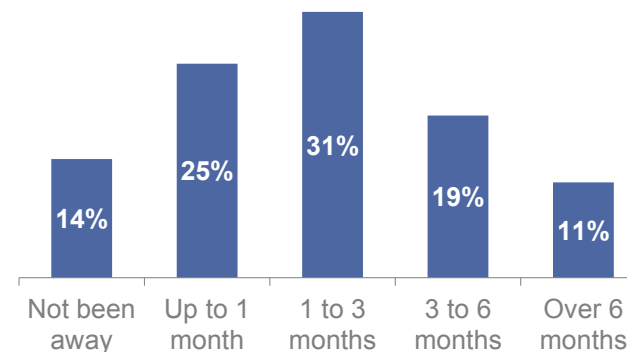
% spouses by how often they see their Serving partner



These proportions differ by both Service and Rank. Spouses of RN/RM personnel are less likely to live with their partner (63%) as are Officer spouses (73%).

Despite the high proportion of Service couples living together, three in ten spouses were separated from their partner for over three months last year

% families by amount of separation



AFCAS 2019 comparison

These are broadly similar to the AFCAS 2019 results of time spent away from home for married Service personnel.

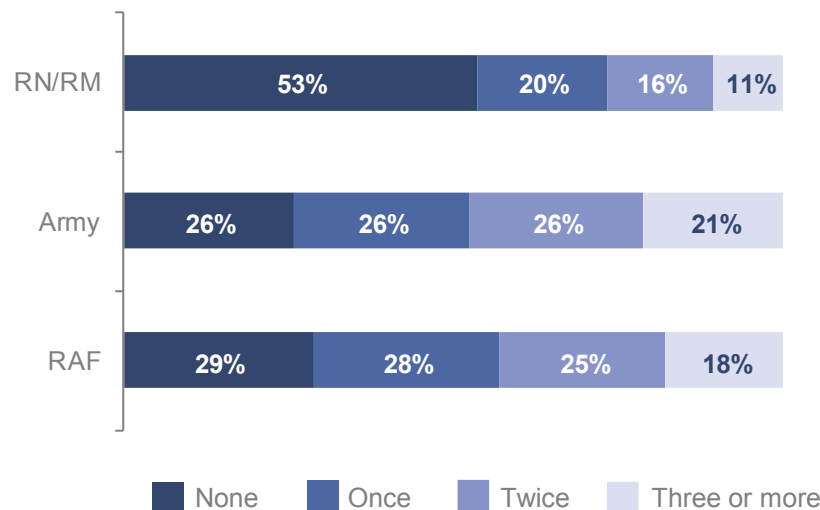
The amount of separation differs by Service with a higher proportion of RN/RM spouses reporting separation of more than three months (39%) than Army or RAF spouses (29% and 24% respectively).

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 higher 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 times moved for Service reasons over the past five years



More than seven in ten Army and RAF families moved for Service reasons over the past five years. This compares to just under half of RN/RM families.

About a quarter of Army and RAF families moved home for Service reasons in the last 12 months

This compares to 13% of RN/RM families.

Just over one in ten Army and RAF spouses accompanied their partner on an overseas assignment during the past year

This compares to 6% of RN/RM spouses.

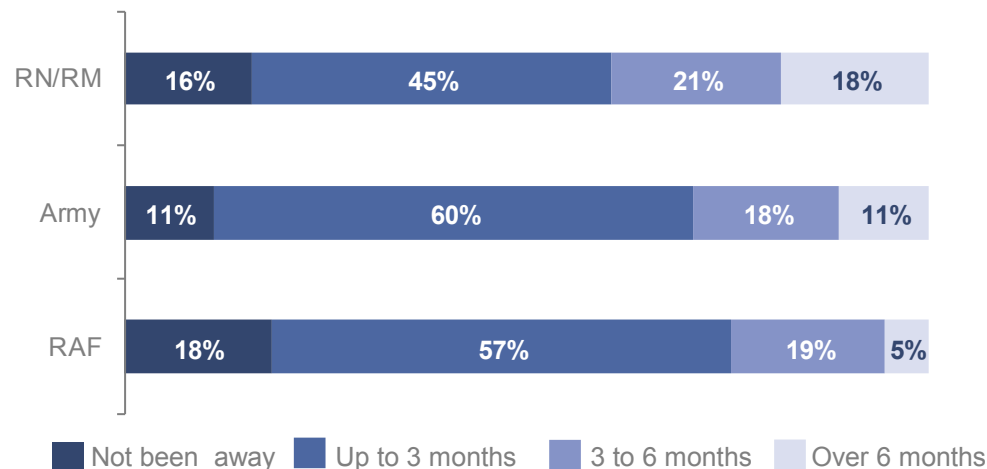
RN/RM spouses are less likely to live with their partner during the working week

63% of RN/RM spouses live with their partner during the working week

This compares to 79% of Army and 82% of RAF spouses.

RN/RM spouses are more likely to have experienced separation of more than six months over the past year

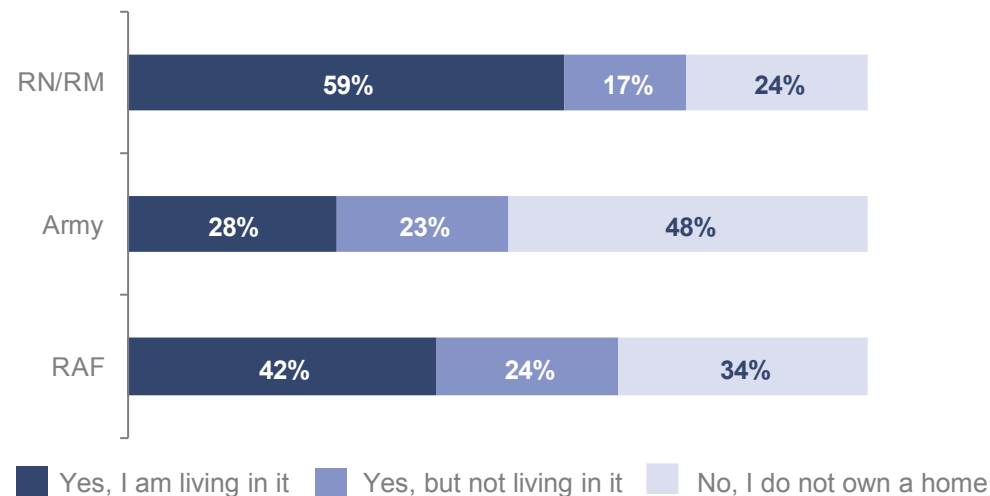
% families by the amount of time the Serving spouse has been away for Service reasons in the past year



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 own a home whilst Army families are the least likely

% own their own home



RN/RM families are more likely to live in their own home than Army or RAF families. Army families are more likely to live in SFA (68%) than RAF (53%) or RN/RM (34%) families.

RN/RM families are less likely to have children who changed school for Service reasons or to have experienced difficulties with their children's schooling

Of those families with school age children¹.....

6% of RN/RM families had children who changed school for Service reasons in the past year

This compares to 18% for both Army and RAF families.

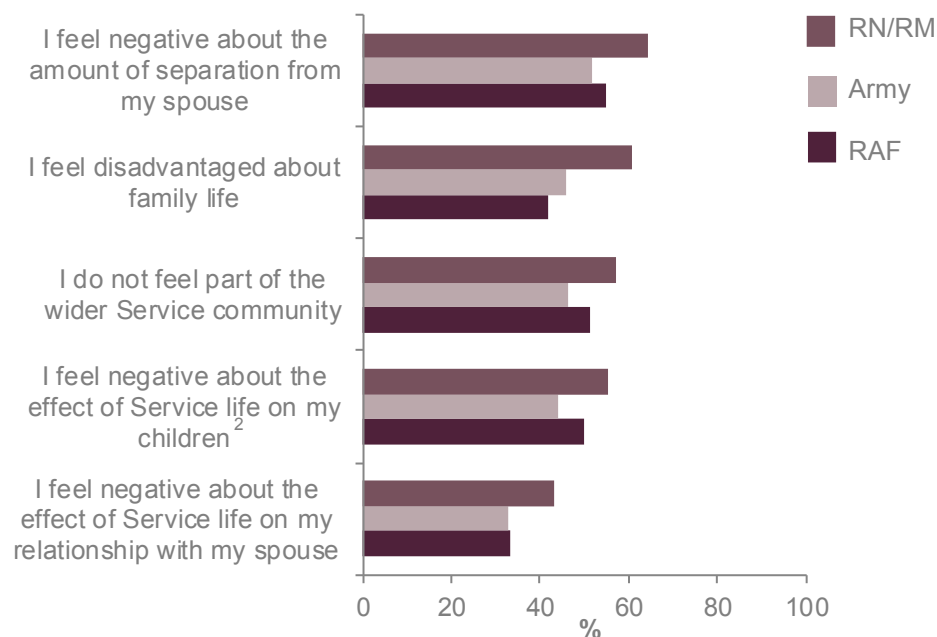
14% of RN/RM families experienced difficulties with their children's schooling in the past year

This compares to 19% of Army and 25% of RAF families.

¹ SUBSET: Families with school age children (53%).

Despite some of the benefits of stability, RN/RM spouses feel more negative than Army and RAF spouses about many aspects of Service life

% Service families



A higher proportion of RN/RM spouses would feel happier if their partner chose to leave the Service (46%), followed by RAF spouses (41%) and then Army spouses (31%).

RAF spouses are more likely to disagree that they feel valued by the Service (59%) than RN/RM (51%) or Army spouses (53%).

Army spouses are more positive about Service-provided facilities, opportunities for travel and knowing other military families than RN/RM or RAF spouses. However, Army families feel more negative about household income, the number of house moves and job security than other Service families.

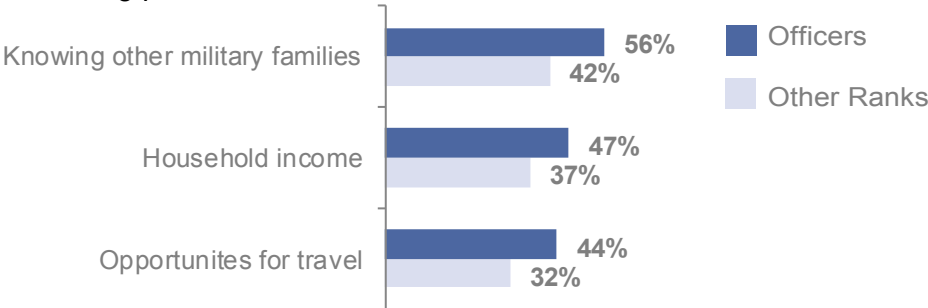
² SUBSET: Families with children (79%).

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. Whilst Officers are more likely to be married, the majority of Service spouses are married to Other Ranks (74%).

Officer spouses feel more positive about some aspects of Service life

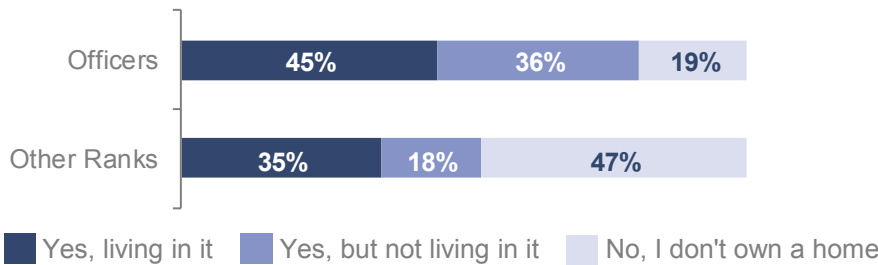
% feeling positive about...



Officer spouses are also more satisfied with their quality of life married to a member of the Armed Forces (66%) than Other Rank spouses (57%). Officer spouses rate their well-being higher and are more likely to feel part of the wider Service community (30%) than Other Rank spouses (21%).

Officer families are much more likely to own a home (81%) than Other Rank families (53%)

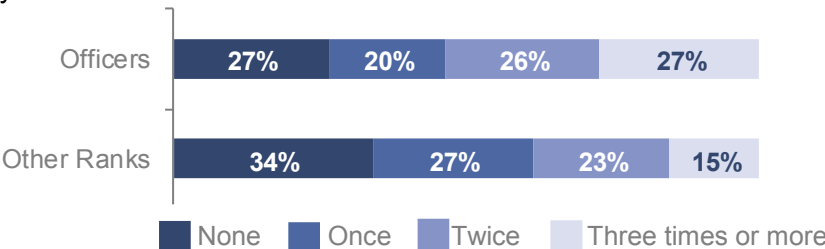
% families by home ownership



Other Rank families are more likely to live in SFA (61%) and feel more advantaged about housing (37%) than Officer families (49% and 29% respectively). However, Officer families are more likely to be living in their preferred type of accommodation (73%) than Other Rank families (69%).

Officer families are more mobile than Other Rank families

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



26% of Officer families moved home for Service reasons in the last 12 months

This compares to 21% of Other Rank families.

As a result, Officer spouses feel more negative about the number of house moves (42%) than Other Rank spouses (30%).

Higher mobility means Officer families are more likely to receive Continuity of Education allowance¹ (23%) than Other Rank families (7%).

Officer spouses are more likely to live separately from their partner during the working week (28%) than Other Rank spouses (22%)

Therefore Officer families are both more likely to move for Service reasons and live separately. These combined factors may contribute to Officer spouses feeling more negative about the effect of Service life on their career (64%) and more disadvantaged about family life (52%) than Other Rank spouses (54% and 47% respectively).

¹ Continuity of Education allowance is offered by the MOD to provide children with schooling continuity. For more detail please refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childrens-education-advisory-service>

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

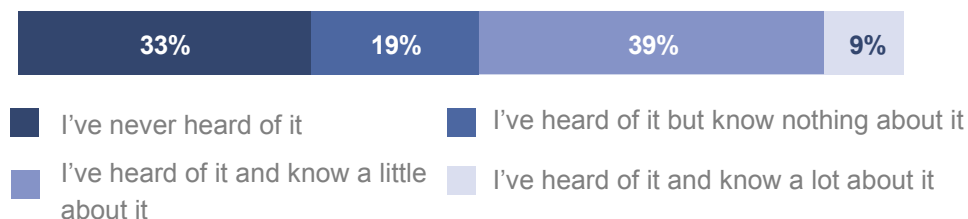
Section 4 covers voting registration as well as a number of questions related to the Armed Forces Covenant. These measure whether families feel advantaged or disadvantaged compared to the general public, and how positive or negative they feel about particular aspects of Service life. This section also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

Armed Forces Covenant¹

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.

Half of Service spouses know at least a little about the Armed Forces Covenant

Awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant



Although these figures are unchanged since 2017, awareness of the Covenant amongst Service spouses has improved since 2015. Officer spouses have a greater awareness of the Covenant compared to Other Rank spouses.

A higher proportion of Army spouses have “never heard of” the Covenant compared to RAF and RN/RM spouses.

AFCAS 2019 comparison

Just over two-thirds (67%) of married Service personnel know at least a little about the Covenant, with Officers more likely to have a greater awareness compared to Other Ranks.

¹Source: www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk

²Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/elections/electoralregistration>; www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates

The majority (85%) of Service spouses are registered to vote

Although unchanged since 2017, the proportion of spouses registered to vote increased between 2016 and 2017 from 82% to 86%.

National comparison

There was a similar increase in the proportion of UK voters registered to vote between 2016 and 2017 following the announcement of the EU Referendum and General Election.

Based on figures published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)², the proportion of Service spouses registered to vote is broadly in line with the proportion of UK registered voters.

AFCAS 2019 comparison

A similar proportion of married Service personnel are registered to vote (89%).

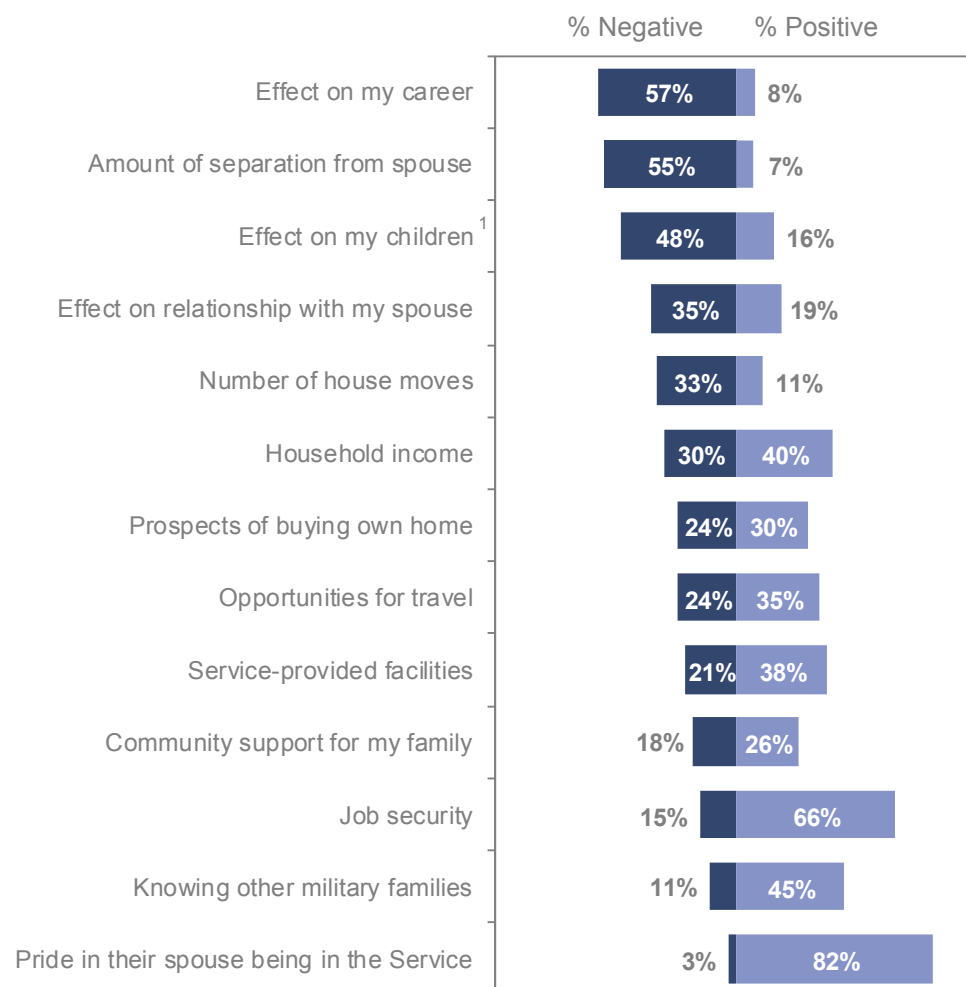
Officer spouses are more likely to be registered to vote than Other Rank spouses

% spouses registered to vote



This difference is largely driven by Army spouses. RN/RM spouses are more likely to be registered to vote (94%) followed by RAF (91%) and then Army spouses (80%).

Positive and negative aspects of Service life



Data Quality Note

“Neither positive nor negative” and “Not applicable” responses have been excluded from the comparisons above.

¹SUBSET: Families with children (79%)

²Source: www.gov.uk/guidance/forces-help-to-buy

More spouses feel negative about the effect on their career (57%) and the amount of separation (55%) than any other aspects of Service life

% spouses feel negative about...

Effect on my career	↑ Three percentage points to 57%*
Effect on my children ¹	↑ Four percentage points to 48%*
Service-provided facilities	↑ Four percentage points to 21%*
Number of house moves	↓ Four percentage points to 33%*
Amount of separation	↓ Three percentage points to 55%*

*Changes since 2015

Pride continues to be the aspect of Service life that families feel most positive about (82%)

% spouses feel positive about...

Prospects of buying their own home	↑ Six percentage points to 30%*
Community support for my family	↑ Five percentage points to 26%*
Job security	↑ Ten percentage points to 66%*

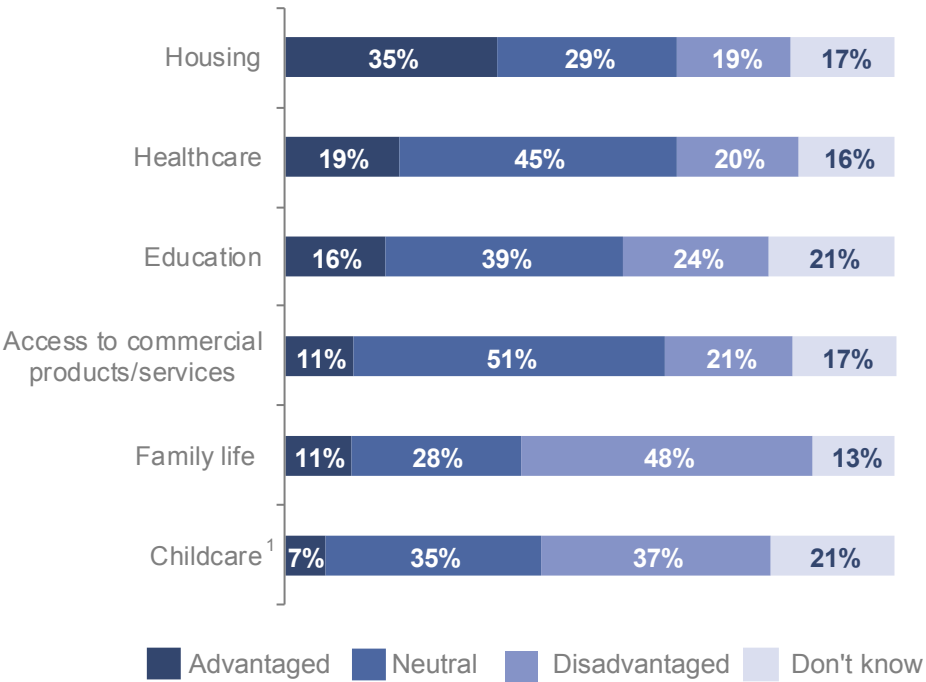
*Changes since 2015

Increases in those feeling positive about job security since 2015 are driven by RAF and Army families.

In April 2014, the MOD introduced the Forces Help to Buy (FHTB) pilot scheme² under the New Employment Model. The scheme entitles Service personnel to an interest free loan to buy their first home, to move to another property on assignment, or as their family needs change. This may have impacted the positivity towards the prospects of buying their own home.

Just under half of Service families feel disadvantaged about family life; one in ten feel advantaged

% feel advantaged/disadvantaged compared to the general public



RN/RM families are more likely to feel disadvantaged about family life (61%) than Army (46%) and RAF families (42%).

Of those families with children, a much higher proportion (37%) feel disadvantaged about childcare than advantaged (7%).

AFCAS 2019 comparison

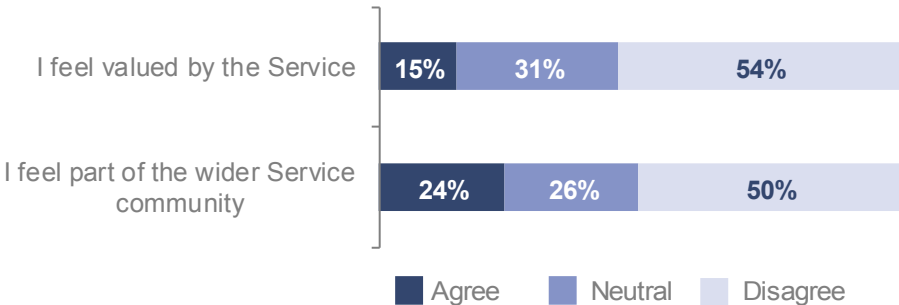
Married Service personnel feel more disadvantaged about housing and family life compared to Service spouses.

Six in ten (59%) spouses are satisfied with their quality of life, being married to a member of the Armed Forces

Families living outside the UK are more satisfied with their quality of life (69%) compared to those living in England (58%), and are generally more positive about many aspects of Service life including the effect on their children, their relationship with their spouse, community support for their family and Service-provided facilities.

Over half of families do not feel valued by the Service, or part of the wider Service community

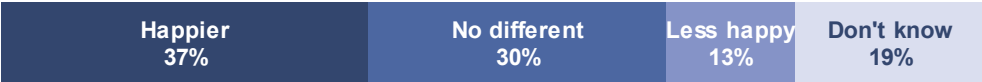
% agree/disagree



The proportion of families who do not feel valued by the Service has improved since 2017 (57%).

Nearly four in ten Service spouses state they would be happier if their partner chose to leave the Service

% feel happy/less happy if their partner chose to leave



RN/RM spouses are more likely to feel happier (46%) if their partner left the Service in comparison to RAF (41%) and Army spouses (31%).

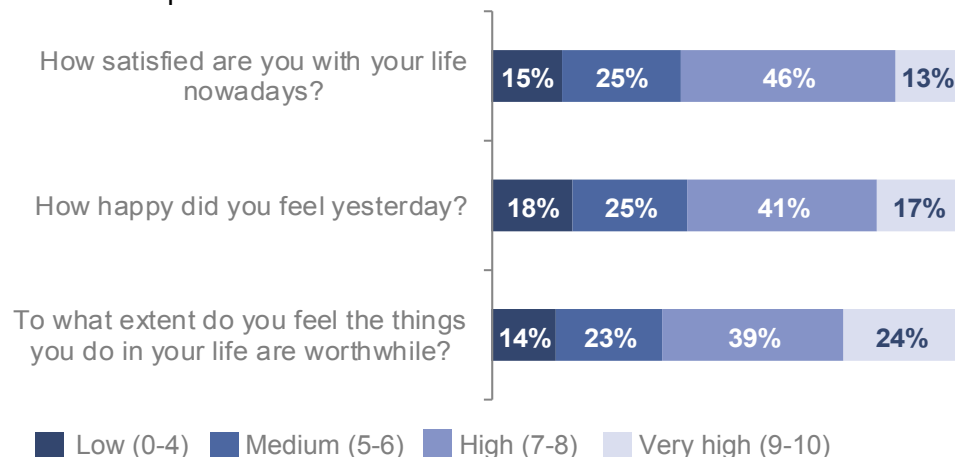
¹SUBSET:Families with children (79%).

Measuring well-being

The Office for National Statistics collects data on well-being for the general population in their Annual Population Survey¹.

Well-being measures of Service Spouses

% Service spouses



Nearly a third (31%) of spouses rate their anxiety level yesterday as 'very low' (a score of 0-1), whilst 27% rate their anxiety level as 'high' (6-10).

National comparison

National well-being scores² 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, national well-being results 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 32-39%. These are considerably higher than corresponding results for female Service spouses.

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

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

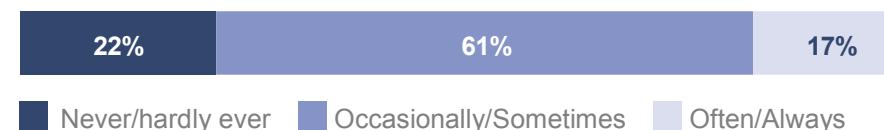
However, there are overlaps between these groups, for example Officer spouses are more likely to be homeowners and so the differences observed may be due to other reasons.

AFCAS 2019 comparison

The proportions of married Service personnel rating aspects of well-being as 'very high' range between 11-16%, lower in comparison to Service spouses.

One in six (17%) Service spouses often or always feel lonely

Views on how often spouses feel lonely



National comparison

Spouses were asked for the first time in 2019 about how lonely they feel. This question was introduced in support of the UK government's first Loneliness Strategy.

Results from the Community Life Survey 2016/17 provide some context to these findings. For females in England³, 6% feel lonely often/always, and 48% never or hardly ever feel lonely. Although not directly comparable, these figures are considerably different from the female Service spouses located in England (18% and 21% respectively).

¹ Source: www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing

² Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/measuringnationalwellbeingdomainsandmeasures>

³ Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/articles/lonelinesswhatcharacteristicsandcircumstancesareassociatedwithfeelinglonely/2018-04-10>

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.

Nearly eight in ten (79%) Service families have children



Just over a third (34%) of families with children required early years (0-4) childcare

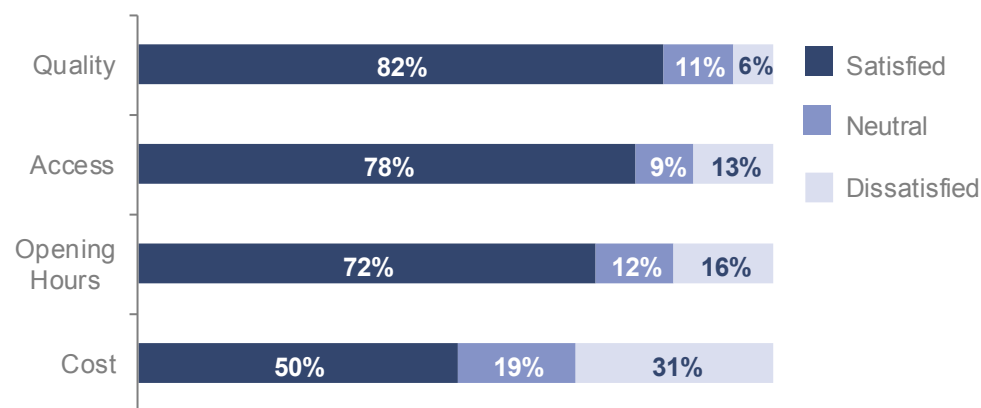
Of those who needed it, nine in ten are able to access early years childcare¹



Officer families are more likely to be able to access early years childcare, if they needed it, than Other Rank families.

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 childcare¹



Officer families are more satisfied with quality, opening hours and cost in comparison to Other Rank families.

¹SUBSET: Families who needed early years childcare (27%).

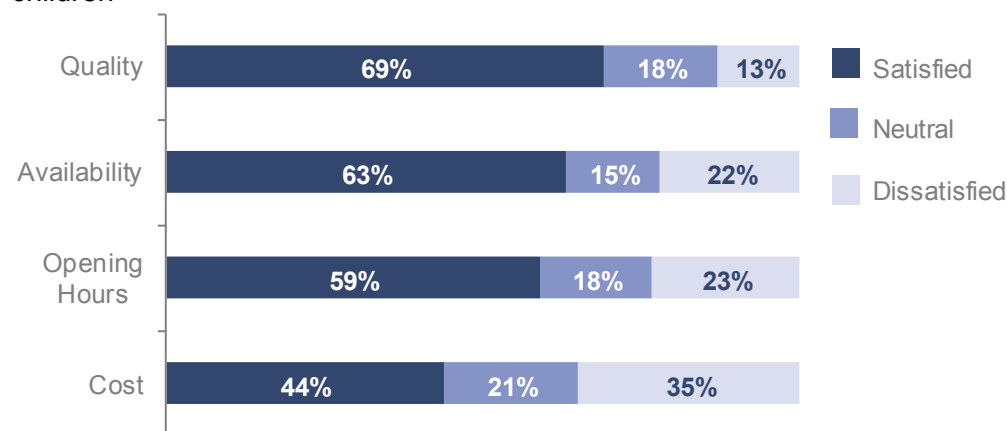
Half (53%) of all families have at least one child of school age



Of these families, just under half (48%) required childcare such as breakfast/after school clubs in the last 12 months

Over a third of 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 children²



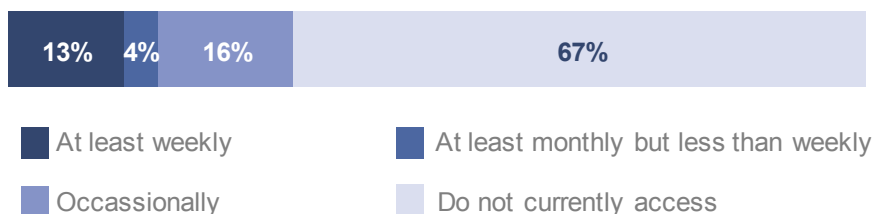
RN/RM families are less satisfied with the cost of their local childcare compared to last year, falling from 50% to 41%.

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

²SUBSET: Families who needed childcare for school age children (25%).

Over one in ten families with children use free informal childcare¹ at least weekly

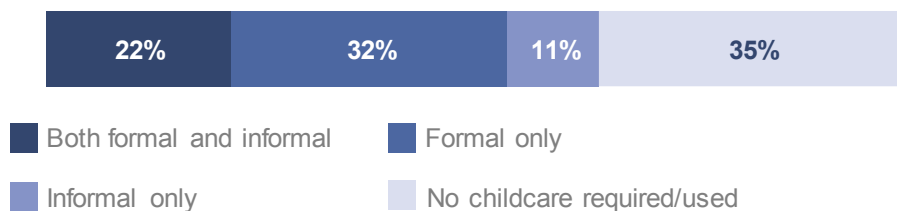
Use of free informal childcare²



Two-thirds (67%) of families with children do not currently access free informal childcare. Families living overseas are less likely to access informal childcare than those living in England, Scotland or Wales. RN/RM families are more likely to access free informal childcare at least weekly compared to Army and RAF families.

Over half of families with children have used or required formal childcare in the last 12 months

Use of formal/informal childcare²



Data Quality Note

Families were asked for the first time in 2019 about their use of informal childcare. As a result, it has been possible to derive the level of childcare usage. Over a third (35%) of Service families do not use any form of childcare which may be due, in part, to the proportion of Service families with older children (a fifth have children aged 12 or older).

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

²SUBSET: Families with children (79%).

Government Initiatives around Childcare

For the first time in 2019 families were asked about whether they currently take up the offer of any government initiatives around childcare.

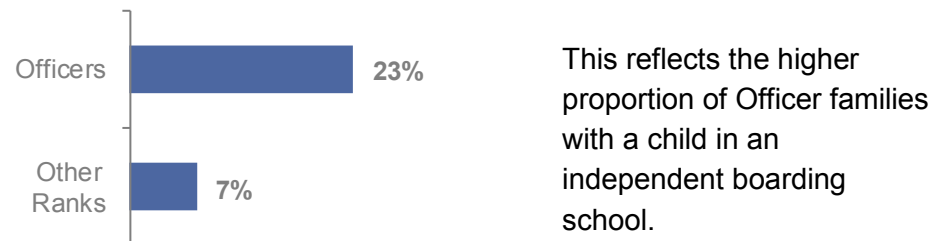
Over half (54%) of families who required or used some form of childcare³ do not currently use any government childcare initiatives

The two top reasons for not using these initiatives are uncertainty around eligibility and not needing the schemes. Other Rank families are more likely to not use any of these initiatives than Officer families (57% and 44% respectively).

There are no differences in the proportions of Officer and Other Rank families using free childcare hours and tax free childcare accounts. However, Officer families are more likely to use the salary sacrifice scheme compared to Other Rank families (34% and 17% respectively).

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 in an independent boarding school.

Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) assists Service personnel 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 overseas⁵.

³SUBSET: Families with children who required/used some form of childcare in the past 12 months (51%).

⁴SUBSET: Families with school age children (53%).

⁵<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childrens-education-advisory-service>

The majority of families with school age children have at least one child in a state school (82%)



Other Rank families are more likely to have a child at a state school (88%) compared to Officer families (67%).

A fifth (19%) of families with school age children experienced difficulties with their children's schooling over the past year

This has fallen from the 24% reported in 2017, driven by reductions for RN/RM and Army families. RAF families are more likely to experience difficulties with their children's schooling followed by Army then RN/RM families.

The most common difficulties experienced by families with school age children¹ continue to be: getting a place at the school of their choice (7%) and the unsuitable educational standard of their local school (6%).

Over a quarter (28%) of families with school age children had at least one child change schools in the last 12 months

% changed/not changed schools¹



■ Changed for Service reasons ■ Changed for other reasons ■ Did not change

Although unchanged since 2017, the proportion changing schools for Service reasons has fallen by five percentage points since 2016.

Army and RAF families are three times more likely to have had children change schools for Service reasons (18%) compared to RN/RM families (6%).

¹ SUBSET: Families with school age children (53%).

² SUBSET: Families with at least one child who changed school (15%).

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

Families who changed schools for Service reasons are more likely to experience difficulties with their children's education (44%) than those who changed schools for other reasons (32%).

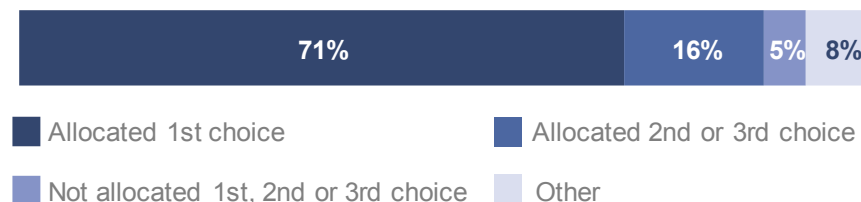
Nearly two-thirds of families who changed schools were able to apply within the timeline for a normal point of entry^{2,3}

However, this differs considerably between families who changed schools for Service reasons (52%) and those who changed schools for other reasons (80%).

About eight in ten (79%) families who changed schools in the last 12 months applied for a place at a state school.

The majority of families who applied for a place at state school were allocated their first choice of school

State school allocation⁴



Three-quarters (76%) of families who applied for a place at a state school were happy with their allocation. Conversely, one in four were not happy with their allocation.

National Comparison

Although not directly comparable to Service families, nationally, 81% of secondary school place applicants received an offer of their first choice school. For primary school applicants this was 91%⁵.

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

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/secondary-and-primary-school-application-and-offers-2019>

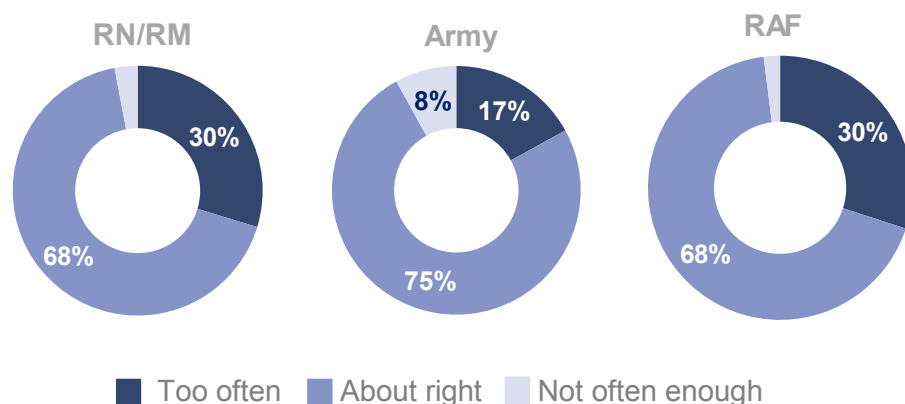
Section 6 - Deployment

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. In 2017 the UK Armed Forces were deployed on over 30 operations in more than 25 countries. For more information please see the MOD Annual Report and Accounts¹.

Overall, 72% of spouses² feel that the frequency of operational tours is “about right”

Views on the frequency of operational tours



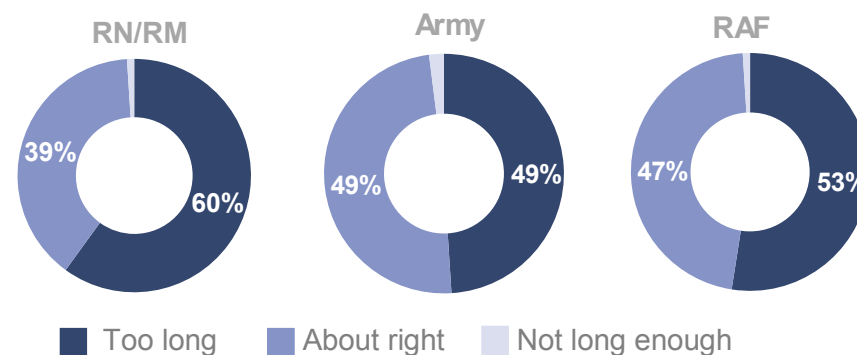
Army spouses are more likely to rate the frequency of operational tours as “about right” than RN/RM or RAF spouses. A higher proportion of Officer spouses rate the frequency of operational tours as “about right” (81%) than Other Rank spouses (69%).

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-annual-reports>

² There is no longer any subset applied to this question so results are not comparable to those in previous reports.

Just over half of spouses³ (53%) rate the length of operational tours as “too long”, rising to 60% for RN/RM

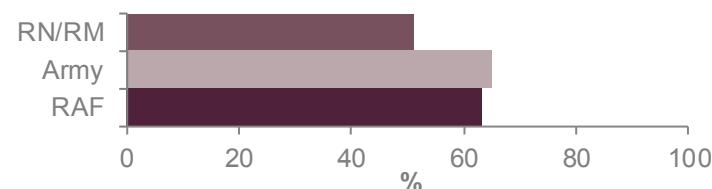
Views on the length of operational tours³



RN/RM spouses are less likely to rate the length of operational tours as “about right”. Half of Officer spouses rate tour lengths as “about right” compared to 44% for Other Rank spouses.

Six in ten spouses know where to go for welfare support and information whilst their spouse is on an operational tour; a third do not

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

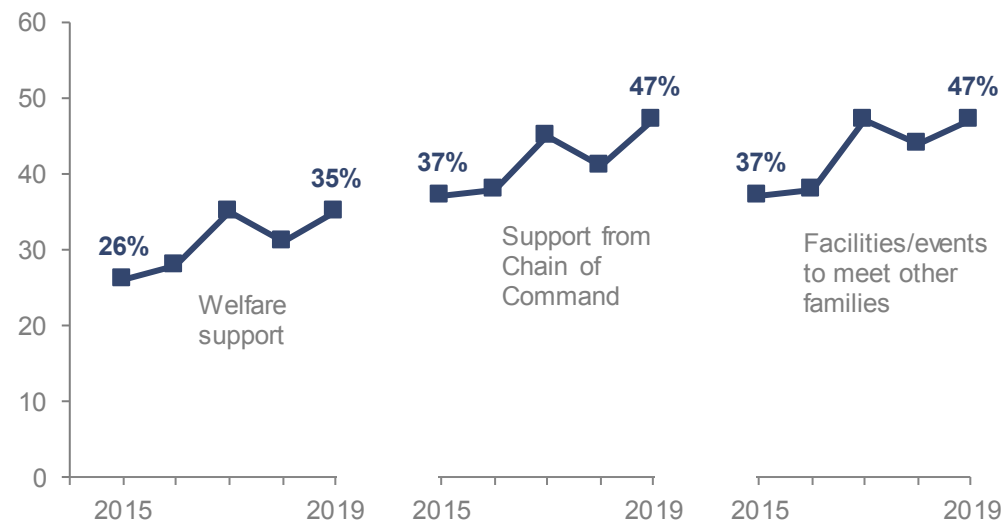


RN/RM spouses are less likely to know where to go for welfare support and information than other Service spouses.

³ SUBSET: Those whose spouse had been deployed within the past two years (40%).

Dissatisfaction with most aspects of Service-provided support during deployment has increased since 2015

% dissatisfied with aspects of support during their spouse's deployment¹

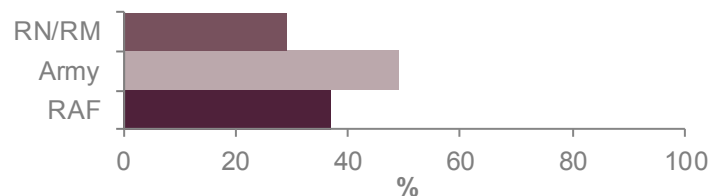


Levels of dissatisfaction with support before and after deployment have also increased since 2015.

For Officer spouses, the level of dissatisfaction with direct contact and support from the Chain of Command during deployment has increased from 35% in 2018 to 45% this year. A similar increase in dissatisfaction with this aspect of support was also observed for RAF spouses.

Army spouses have higher levels of satisfaction with many aspects of support whilst RN/RM spouses are less satisfied

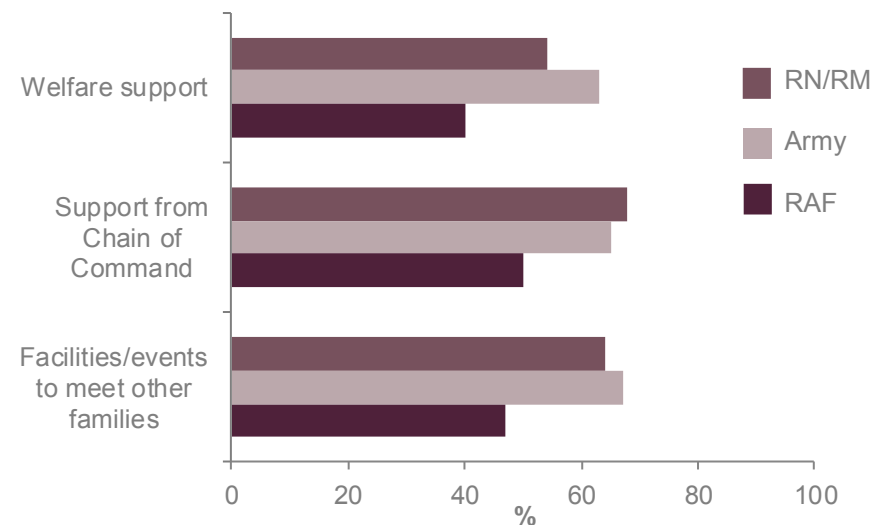
% satisfied with welfare support before their partner's deployment¹



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, during and after their partner's deployment than RN/RM or Army spouses

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



Army families are more likely than other Service families to make use of welfare support before, during and after deployment. However, since 2015 there has been a reduction in the use of both welfare support and direct contact and support from the Chain of Command amongst Army Other Rank families.

Nine in ten spouses make use of lines of communication with their partner during deployment, which remains the most used support service.

Since 2016, AFCAS³ results have shown an increase in the proportion of personnel deployed individually rather than as a unit for both RM and Army personnel. A much higher proportion of RAF personnel were deployed individually on their last deployment (64%) than any of the other Services (ranging from 18% for the RN to 29% for the Army). These differences may contribute to some of the results shown here.

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

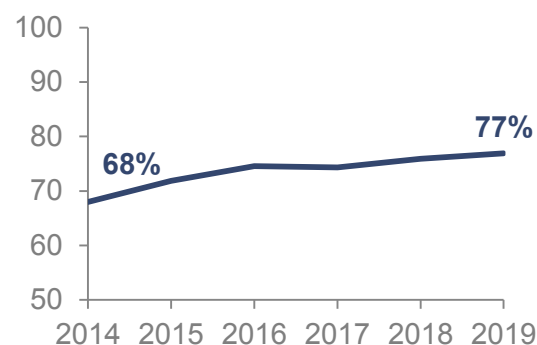
³ AFCAS: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/armed-forces-continuous-attitude-survey-2019>

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.

Although there has been no change this year, employment rates remain at the highest levels recorded

% spouses employed



In 2019, 77% of spouses are in employment, an increase of nine percentage points since 2014.

National comparison

The employment rate for Service spouses aged 16-64 is 76% for women and 91% for men this year. These compare with UK employment rates¹ of 72% for women and 80% for men aged 16-64.

46% Employed full-time
↑ 5 PP from 2015

26% Employed part-time
↔ No change from previous years

7% Self-employed
↔ No change from previous years

PP = Percentage Point

A lower proportion of Army spouses are employed compared to RN/RM or RAF spouses

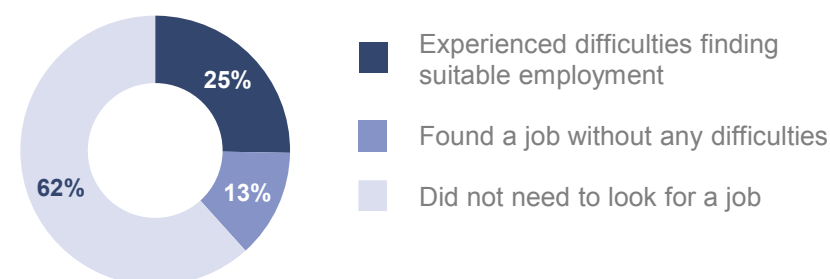
This may be partly due to higher proportions of Army spouses moving home or accompanying overseas than RN/RM spouses.

¹ Source: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/june2019>

Over the past year about four in ten spouses looked for a new job



Over the past year a quarter of all spouses experienced difficulties finding suitable employment



This remains unchanged since this question was first introduced in 2015. The top reasons cited by those who experienced difficulties were:

46% Having a spouse who is often away²

46% Partner unable to assist with care responsibilities²

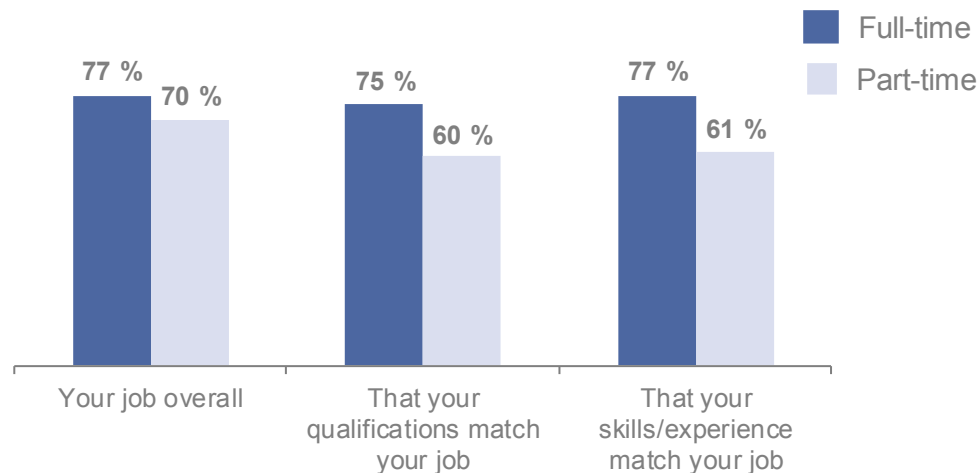
44% Extended family live too far away to assist with childcare²

The top reasons differ little by Service or Rank. However, Army and RAF Officer spouses ranked "Employment history" as highly as those listed above whilst 45% of RAF Other Rank spouses felt "Access to affordable childcare" was a difficulty.

² SUBSET: Those who experienced difficulties finding suitable employment (25%).

Those in full-time employment are more satisfied with aspects of their job than those in part-time employment

% satisfied¹



Self-employed spouses show high levels of satisfaction with these aspects of their job, similar to those in full-time employment.

Just under a quarter of those in part-time employment are dissatisfied with how well their qualifications and skills match their job; almost twice as dissatisfied than those in full-time employment or those who are self-employed.

Two-thirds of spouses would use courses to help them find or change employment if the MOD offered them

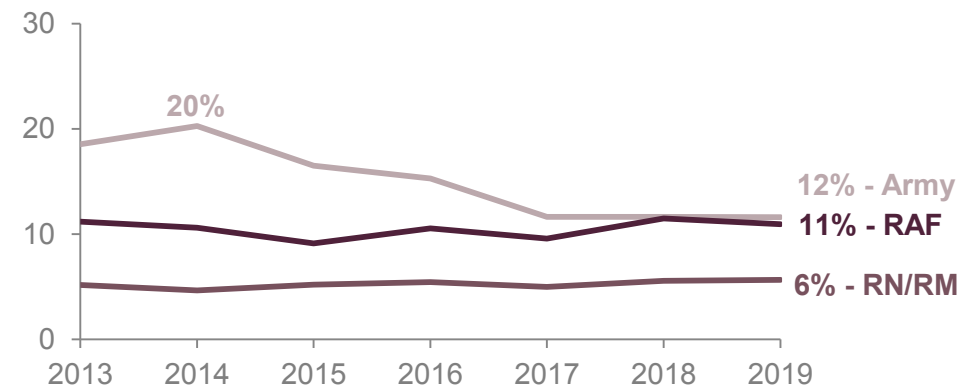
Those living overseas are more likely to say they would take up the courses (76%) than those living in England, as are Other Rank and Army spouses (both 69%).

“Career consultancy services” and “Access to jobs database” were selected by just over half of those who said they would take up courses. Other options of courses (CV writing, interview skills and self-employment courses) all scored highly, being selected by at least 40% of spouses who would take up courses.

¹ SUBSET: Those in full-time employment (46%) and part-time employment (26%).

One in ten spouses accompanied their partner overseas this year

% accompanied their spouse overseas



The proportion of Army spouses accompanying their partner overseas has fallen from a peak of 20% in 2014 to 12% this year.

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 those who did accompany their spouse overseas in the past year²:



These figures remain largely unchanged since 2015 when these questions were first included in the survey.

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

Section 8 - Healthcare

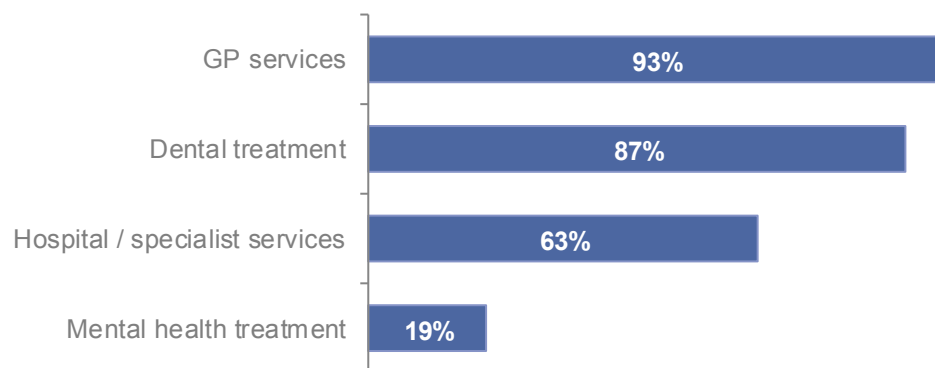
Section 8 looks at access to healthcare services for Service families.

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 majority of Service families required access to dental treatment and GP services over the past year; far fewer families required access to mental health treatment

% required access over the last year



The proportion of families seeking mental health treatment has increased from 14% in 2016 to 19% in 2019. Other Rank families are more likely to seek mental health treatment than Officer families (21% and 14% respectively).

Armed Forces Covenant¹:

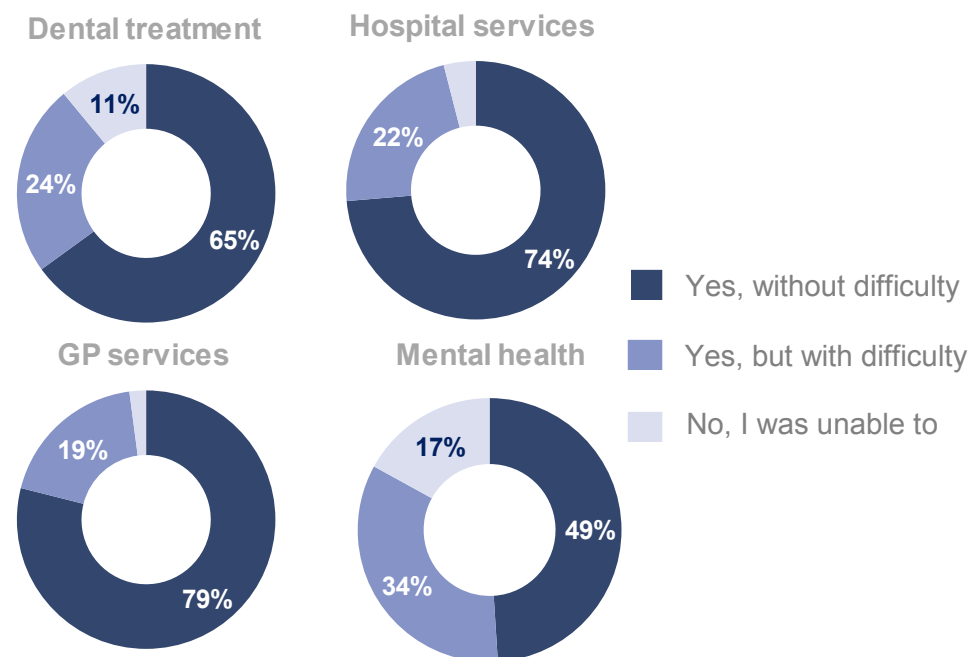
The Covenant focusses on helping members of the Armed Forces community have the same access to government and commercial services and products as any other citizen.

¹ Source: www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk

² SUBSET: Those who required each healthcare treatment: GP services (93%), Hospital/specialist services (63%), Dental treatment (87%) and Mental health treatment (19%).

Of those requiring access, the majority of families were able to access GP and hospital services but those seeking dental or mental health treatment experienced more difficulties

% families by ability to access healthcare services over the last year²



Of the 19% of families who required access to mental health treatment, half either experienced difficulties or were unable to access treatment.

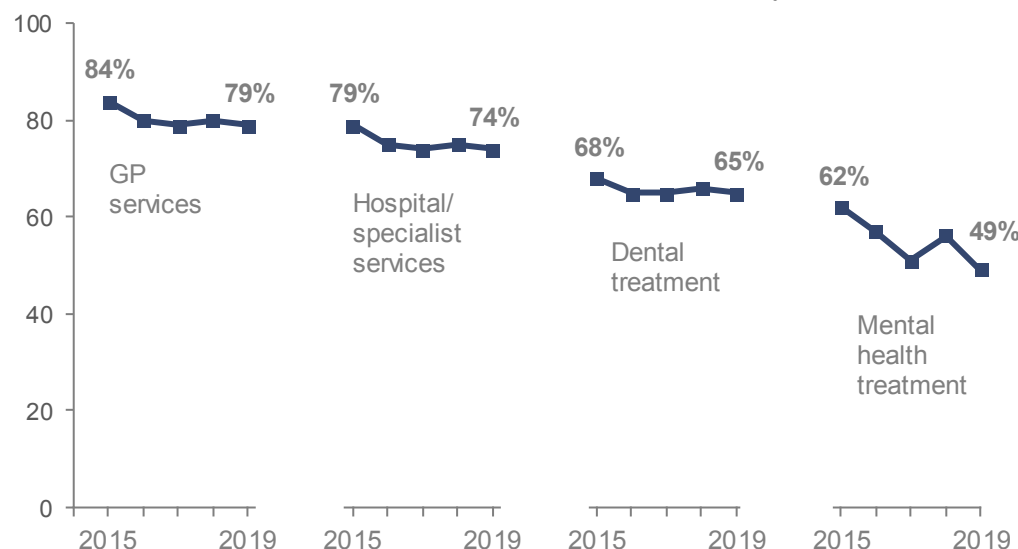
Of those families who required dental treatment, nearly a quarter experienced difficulties and a further one in ten were unable to access treatment at all.

Families living overseas were more able to access dental and mental health treatment without difficulties than families living in England. Families living in Wales were less able to access dental treatment without difficulties than families living elsewhere.

Army families were more able to access mental health treatment without difficulties than other Service families whilst RAF families were less able to access dental treatment than RN/RM or Army families.

The proportions of families able to access healthcare services without difficulties have decreased since 2015

% able to access each healthcare service without difficulty¹

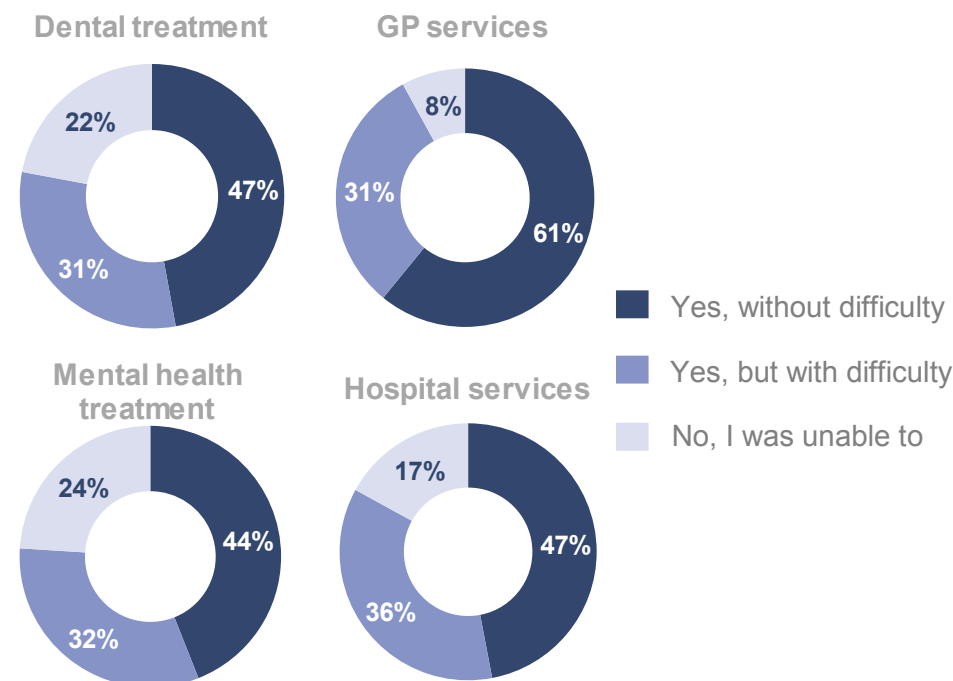


A small proportion of families moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatments

This ranges from 3% who moved whilst undergoing mental health treatment to 12% who moved whilst undergoing treatment with their GP.

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 move²



The proportion of families able to continue GP treatment without difficulty following a move has decreased from 72% in 2015 to 61% in 2019. Over the same period the proportion of families able to continue hospital treatment also decreased from 60% in 2015 to 47% this year.

A small proportion of families (7%) moved whilst on a waiting list for an operation or consultant appointment

Of these families, 37% felt their waiting time had increased as a result of moving compared to 35% who felt it had not.

¹SUBSET: Those who required each healthcare treatment: GP services (93%), Hospital/specialist services (63%), Dental treatment (87%), Mental health treatment (19%).

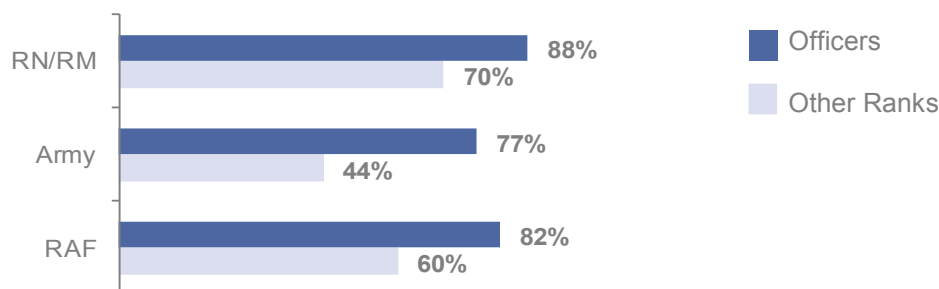
²SUBSET: Those who moved whilst undergoing healthcare treatment: GP services (12%), Dental treatment (7%), Hospital/specialist services (9%) and Mental health treatment (3%).

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 in five (60%) families own their own home; Officer families have a higher rate of home ownership (81%) compared to Other Rank families (53%)

% families owning their own home



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

The top reasons for not owning a home¹:

59% Cannot afford to buy a suitable home at the moment

37% Living in SFA is better suited to my family's needs

33% Want to be able to move with my spouse

28% Do not want to buy a home where we are currently located

The ordering of these reasons differs between Officer and Other Rank families. The top reason for Officer families is wanting to be able to move with their spouse (56%) followed by SFA being better suited to their needs (49%). Affordability is more of an issue for Other Rank non-homeowners (61%) than Officer non-homeowners (43%).

¹ SUBSET: Those families who do not own a home (40%).

Nearly two-fifths (37%) of families live in a privately owned home during the working week, an increase of four percentage points since 2016

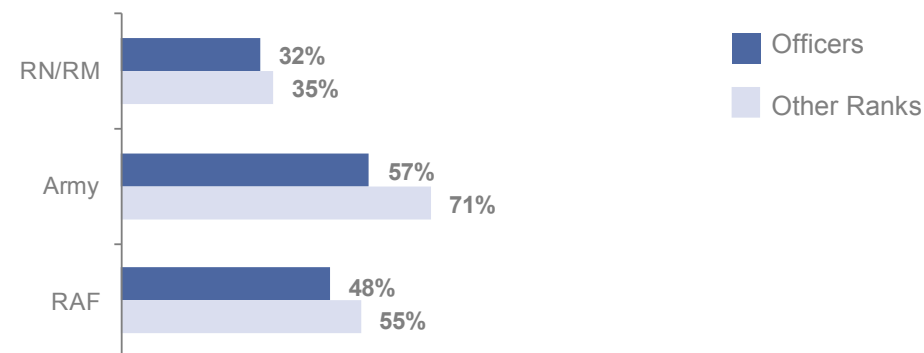


Officer families are more likely to live in their own home (44%) compared to Other Rank families (34%), consistent with home ownership trends. These differences are only observed for Army and RAF families.

Just under three-fifths (57%) of families live in SFA during the working week, unchanged since 2014

Officer families are less likely to live in SFA (49%) than Other Rank families (61%)

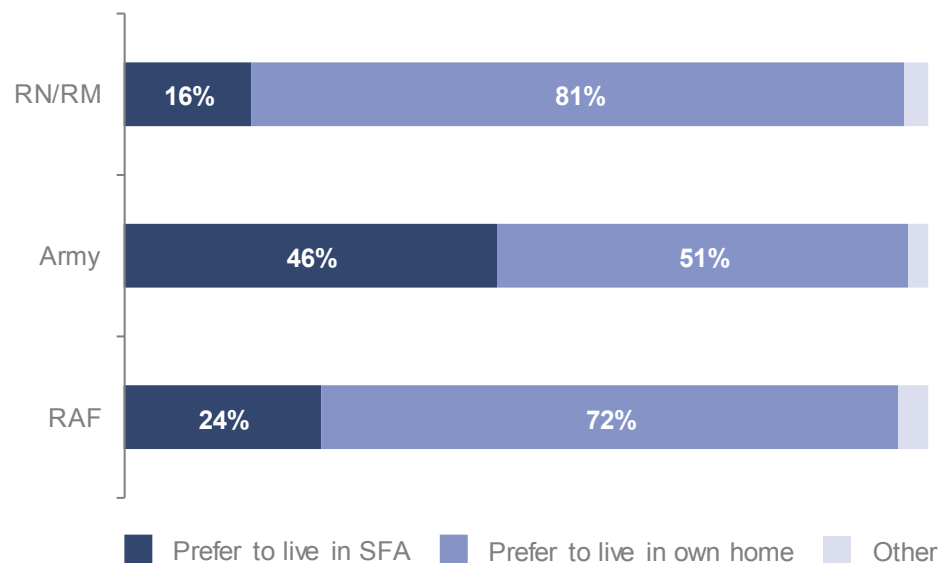
% families living in SFA



Army families are the most likely to live in SFA (68%) followed by RAF families (53%), with RN/RM families least likely to live in SFA (34%).

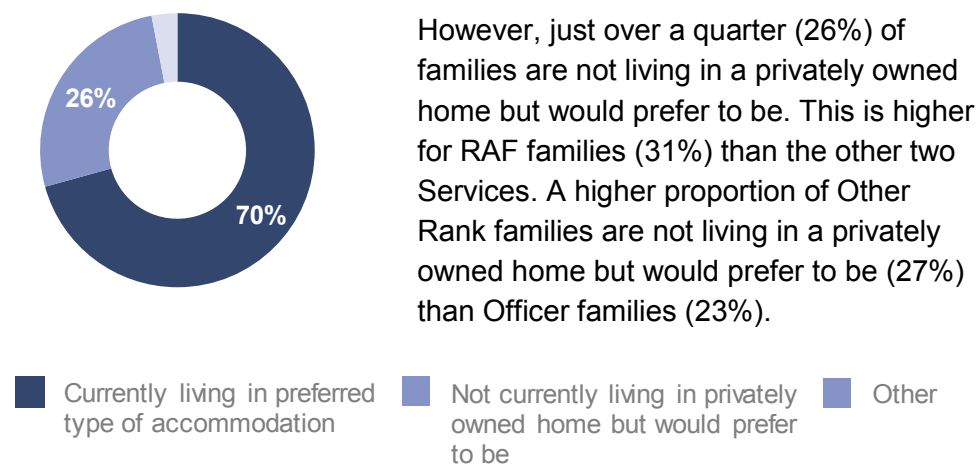
Accommodation preferences differ by Service

% families by accommodation preference



The majority of spouses are living in their preferred type of accommodation

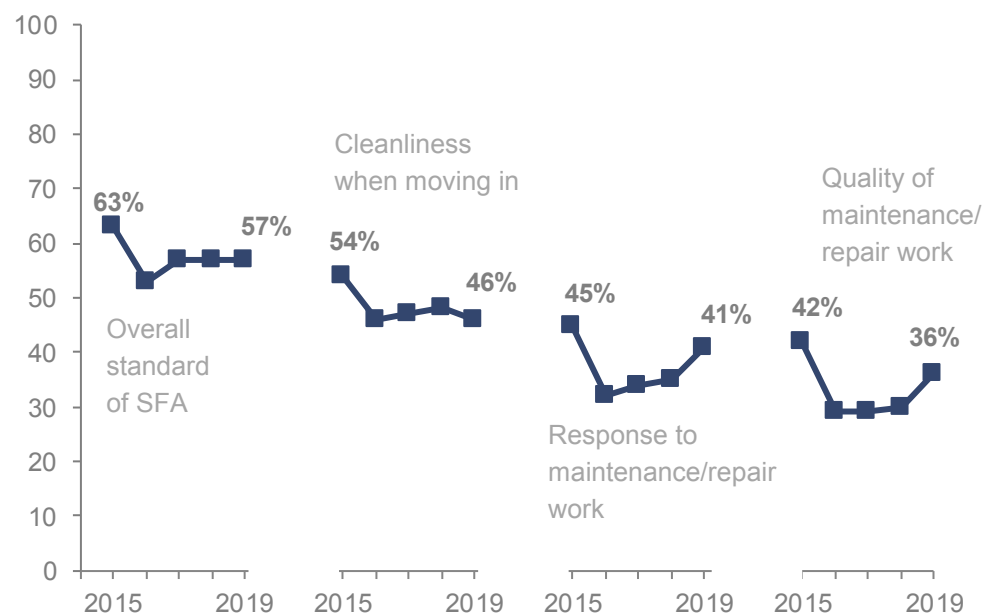
% families by current accommodation type and preference



Levels of satisfaction with most aspects of SFA/SSFA 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 has improved for many aspects of SFA/SSFA since 2016 but most have not returned to the levels seen in 2015

% satisfied with aspects of SFA/SSFA¹



Levels of satisfaction with the response to and quality of SFA/SSFA maintenance/repair work both increased by six percentage points this year.

Families living outside the UK have higher levels of satisfaction with most aspects of SFA/SSFA than those living in England. For example, 73% of families living overseas are satisfied with the overall standard compared to 54% of families living in England.

Army families are more satisfied with the overall standard and maintenance of their SFA/SSFA than both RN/RM and RAF families.

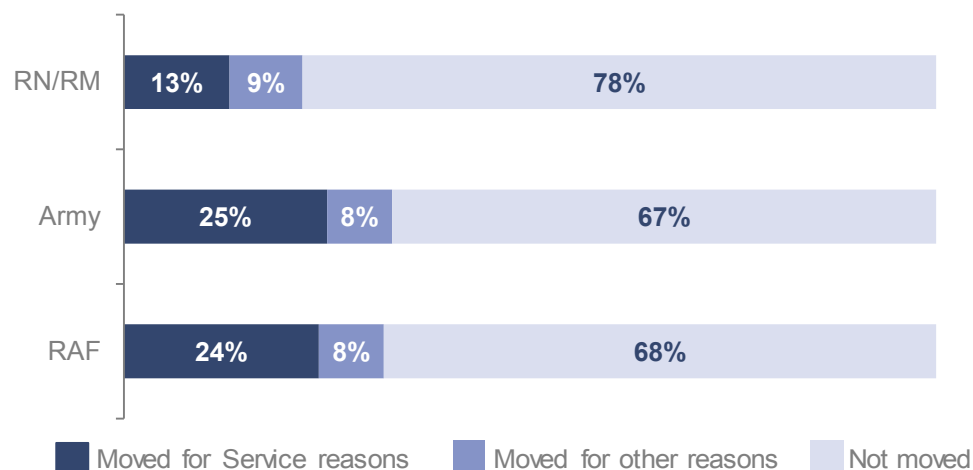
¹ SUBSET: Those families who live in SFA/SSFA (59%).

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 23% of families who moved for Service reasons with the 70% of families who did not move.**

Almost a quarter (23%) of Service families moved for Service reasons over the past year, a decrease of five percentage points since 2016

% Service families



RN/RM families are less likely to move for Service reasons compared to RAF and Army families.

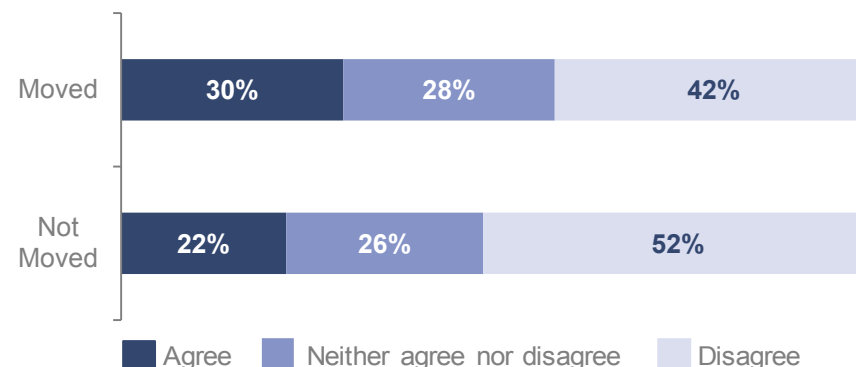
Families who have moved are more likely to live with the Serving spouse (87%) than families who have not moved (74%)

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

Despite being more likely to live together there is little difference in levels of separation over the past year.

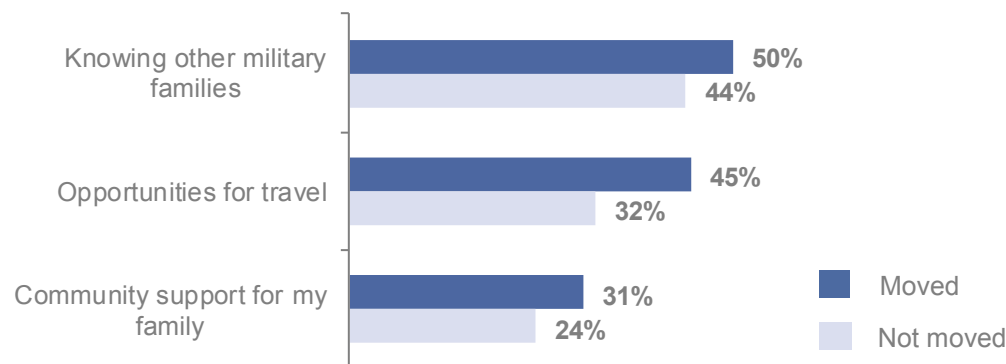
Those who moved are more likely to feel part of the wider Service community than those who did not move

% agree/disagree they feel part of the wider Service community



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

% feeling positive about...

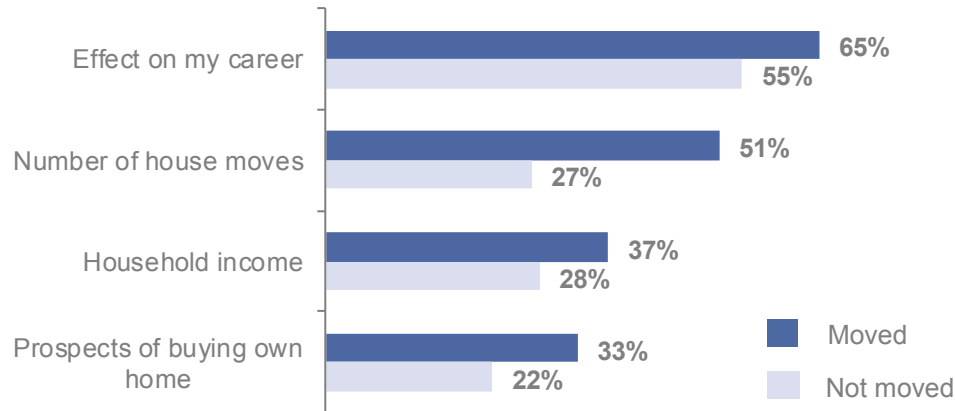


Those who moved are also more positive about Service-provided facilities.

However, moving home can cause a certain degree of upheaval for Service families, such as finding employment or changing your child's school.

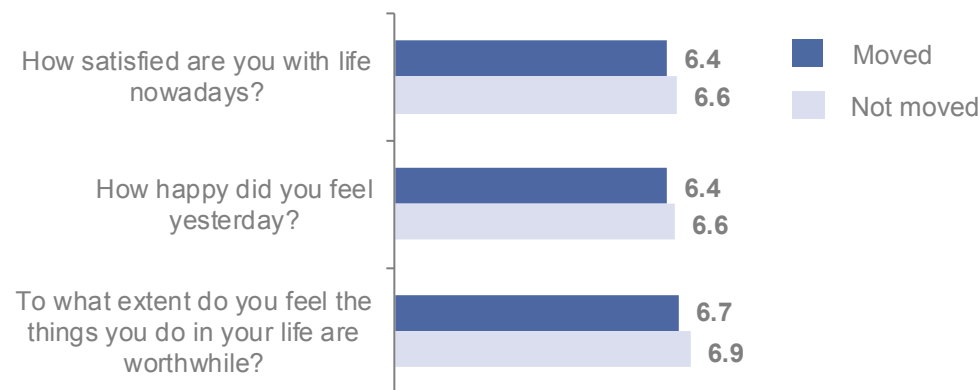
Spouses who moved feel more negative about some aspects of Service life....

% feeling negative about...



Those who moved have slightly lower average scores on three of the four well-being measures than those who did not move

Average well-being scores (out of 10)¹



¹See Section 4 for more details on well-being measures

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

Those who moved are less likely to be employed² than those who did not move

% employed

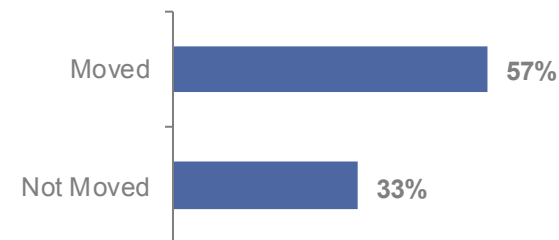


Spouses who moved are less likely to be employed either full-time or part-time than those who did not move.

Of those in full-time or part-time employment, those who moved are less satisfied that their job matches their skills and experience than those who did not move.

Over half of spouses who have moved have been looking for a job in the last 12 months, compared to just over a third of those who did not move

% spouses looking for a job



Spouses who moved are less likely to be employed and more likely to have been looking for a job. Therefore, mobility may be a contributing factor to them feeling more negative about the effect Service life has on their career.

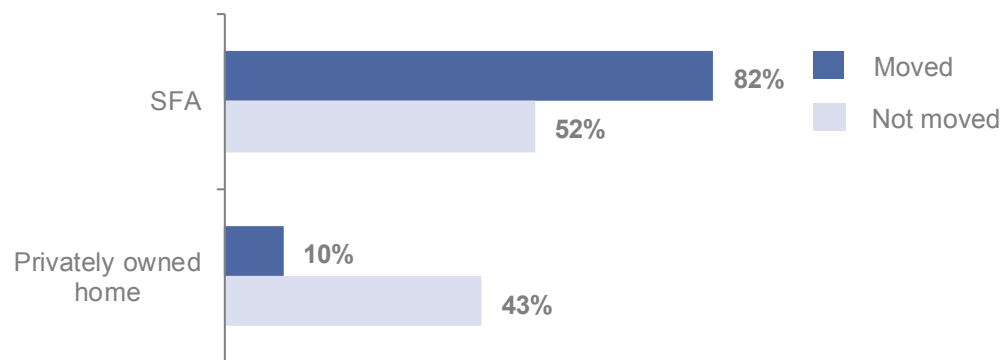
Nearly three quarters (73%) of spouses who moved said they would use courses to help them find or change employment if the MOD offered them

This compares to 64% for those who did not move.

Spouses who moved are less likely to own their own home (49%) compared to those who did not move (63%)

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

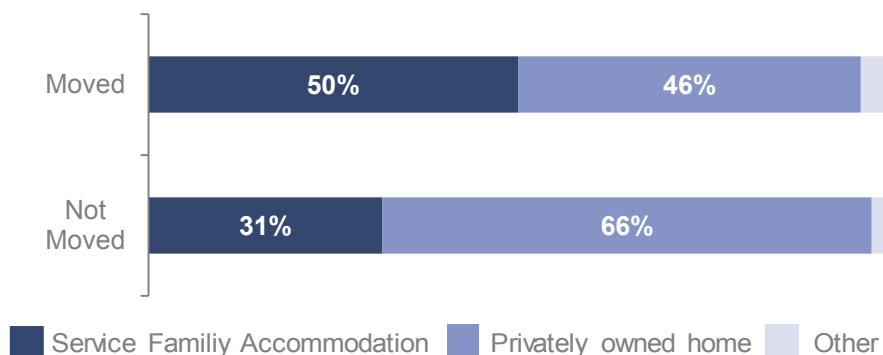
% families by where they live during the working week



Spouses who moved are less likely to live in a privately owned home compared to those who did not move.

Half of spouses who moved would choose to live in SFA whilst just under half would prefer to live in their own home

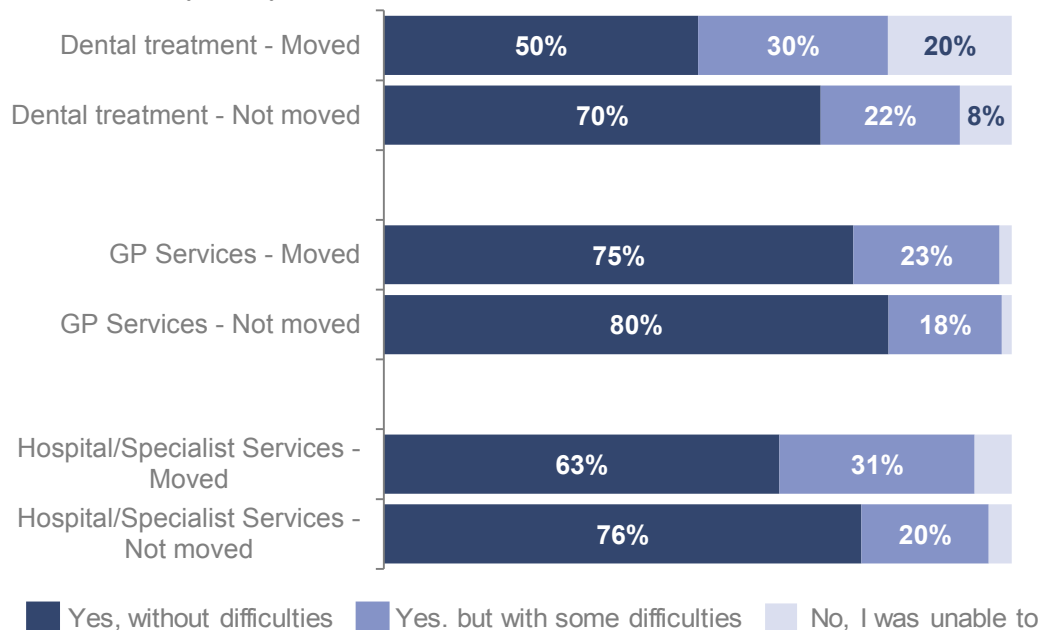
% families by accommodation preference



Over half (57%) of spouses who moved are currently living in their preferred type of accommodation compared to 74% for those who did not move.

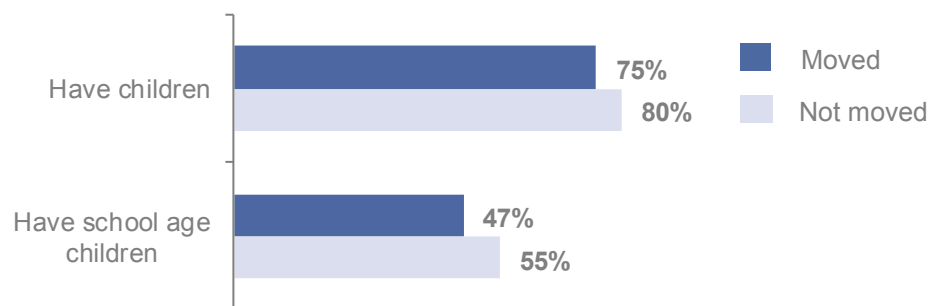
Families who moved are more likely to experience difficulties accessing some healthcare services than those who did not move

% families by ability to access healthcare services if required¹



Those who moved are slightly less likely to have children or have children of school age than those who did not move

% Service families



¹ SUBSET: Those who required dental treatment (Moved:18% Not moved:59%), GP services (Moved:20% Not moved:62%) or Hospital/specialist services (Moved:12% Not moved:43%).

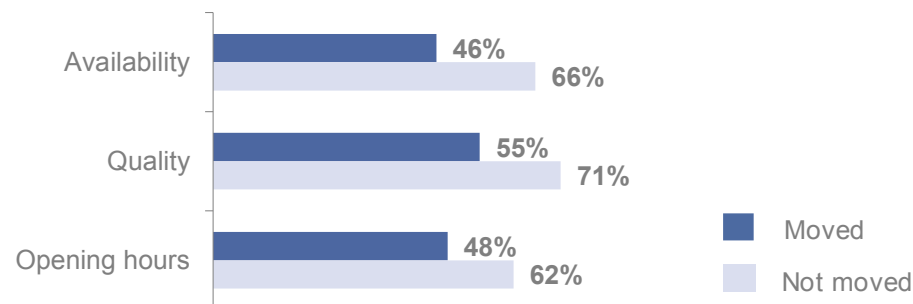
Demand for early years (0-4 years) childcare is higher amongst families who have moved (41%) than those who did not move (32%)¹

However, there is no difference in the ability to access, or satisfaction with early years childcare between families who did or did not move.

There is also no difference in the level of demand for childcare for school age children. However...

Families who moved are less satisfied with some aspects of childcare for school age children than those who did not move

% satisfied with aspects of childcare for school age children²



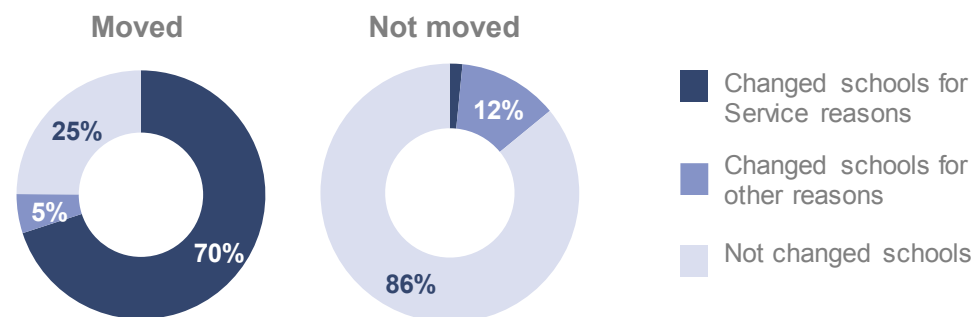
Families who moved are also less likely to access any free forms of informal childcare³ than those who did not move.

Such differences in levels of satisfaction and access may be reflected, in part, by the higher proportion of families who moved feeling disadvantaged about childcare (44%), than those who did not move (35%).

Families who moved are less likely to have a child in a state school (75%) than those did not move (84%)⁴

More families who moved have a child in an independent boarding school (17%) than those who did not move (7%). As a result, they are also more likely to be in receipt of Continuity of Education Allowance (21% compared to 9%).

Over the last year the majority of families with school age children who moved, changed schools for Service reasons⁴

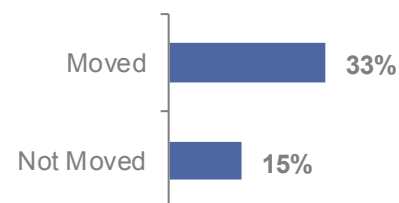


Of those families who had a child change school⁵, just over half (53%) of those who moved were able to apply within the timeframe for the normal point of entry (such as Reception or Year 7). This compares to 81% for families who did not move⁵.

About three-quarters (74%) of those who moved and applied for a State school were happy with their child's allocation, similar to the proportion for those who did not move⁶.

Families who moved are more likely to have experienced difficulties with their children's schooling than those who did not move

% experienced difficulties with their children's schooling⁴



These difficulties may contribute towards families who moved feeling more disadvantaged about education. However, attitudes towards the effect of Service life on their children are not affected by mobility.

¹ SUBSET: Those with children (Moved:17% Not moved:56%)

² SUBSET: Those who required childcare for school age children (Moved:4% Not moved:17%)

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

⁴ SUBSET: Those with school age children (Moved:10% Not moved: 38%)

⁵ SUBSET: Those with a child who changed schools (Moved:8% Not moved: 5%)

⁶ SUBSET: Those who applied for a place at a State school (Moved:6% Not moved: 4%)

Key questions

The following charts highlight the key questions for each section of the FAMCAS report. The key questions are presented by Service in the charts with an overall Tri-Service figure provided for comparison. Overall differences from last year (2018) and 2015 are presented.

A positive change value represents an increase from a previous time period, a negative value represents a decrease.

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A indicates that no comparable data is available for that year and therefore no significance tests have been carried out.

Key Questions - About you

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2018	% Change from 2015
B1.1	I am female.		93	↔	↔
B1.11	I have children.		79	↔	↔
B3.2	I have a child under the age of 5.		38	↔	-5
B3.15	I have school age children.		53	↔	4
B1.8	I own a home.		60	↔	2
B1.10	I am employed.		77	↔	5
B1.9	I am a member of the Regular Armed Forces.		10	↔	N/A

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available.

Key Questions - About you: Mobility and separation

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2018	% Change from 2015
B1.7	I moved home for Service reasons over the last 12 months.		23	↔	-5
B1.14	I have not moved home for Service reasons in last 5 years.		32	↔	N/A
B1.14	I have moved home for Service reasons at least twice in the last 5 years.		42	↔	N/A
B1.3	I live with my spouse.		76	↔	↔
B1.6	My spouse has not been away from home.		14	N/A	N/A
<i>For Service reasons over the last year</i>					
B1.6	My spouse has been away from home for more than 3 months.		30	N/A	N/A
<i>For Service reasons over the last year</i>					
B1.6	My spouse has been away from home for more than 6 months.		11	N/A	N/A
<i>For Service reasons over the last year</i>					

Key Questions - Armed Forces Covenant and Service life

Table Ref	Question		Overall %	% Change from 2018	% Change from 2015
B2.3	I have never heard of the Armed Forces Covenant.		33	↔	-9
B2.7	I feel disadvantaged compared to the general public about family life.		48	↔	N/A

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found

N/A No significance tests available

Key Questions - Armed Forces Covenant and Service life cont.

Table
Ref Response

			Overall %	% Change from 2018	% Change from 2015
B2.10	I feel negative about the effect on my career.		57	↔	3
B2.11	I feel negative about the effect on my children.		48	↔	4
<i>SUBSET: Families with children (79%).</i>					
B2.12	I feel positive about Service-provided facilities.		38	↔	5
B2.18	I feel negative about the amount of separation.		55	↔	-3
B2.22	I feel positive about job security.		66	↔	10
B2.29	I agree that I feel part of the wider Service community.		24	↔	N/A
B2.30	I would be happier if my partner chose to leave the Service.		37	↔	N/A

Key Questions - Childcare and children's education

Table
Ref Response

			Overall %	% Change from 2018	% Change from 2015
B3.9	I needed early years (0-4) childcare in the last 12 months.		34	↔	N/A
<i>SUBSET: Families with children (79%).</i>					
B3.10	I needed early years (0-4) childcare and was able to access it.		90	↔	N/A
<i>SUBSET: Families who needed early years childcare (27%).</i>					

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available.

Key Questions - Childcare and children's education cont.

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2018	% Change from 2015
B3.12	I am satisfied with the quality of local early years (0-4) childcare. <i>SUBSET: Families who needed early years childcare (27%).</i>		82	↔	N/A
B3.16	I have at least one child at a state school. <i>SUBSET: Families with school age children (53%).</i>		82	↔	5
B3.23	I did not experience difficulties with my children's schooling. <i>SUBSET: Families with school age children (53%).</i>		81	↔	N/A
B3.22	My child changed schools for Service reasons in the last 12 months. <i>SUBSET: Families with school age children (53%).</i>		16	↔	-6
B3.37	I needed childcare for my school age children in the last 12 months. <i>SUBSET: Families with school age children (53%).</i>		48	↔	N/A
B3.39	I am satisfied with the quality of local childcare for school age children. <i>SUBSET: Families who needed childcare for school age children (25%).</i>		69	↔	N/A

Key Questions - Deployment

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2018	% Change from 2015
B4.2	I know where to go for Service-provided welfare support while my spouse is on an operational tour.		61	↔	-3
B4.6	I am satisfied with the welfare support I received during my spouse's most recent operational tour. <i>SUBSET: Spouse deployed within last two years (40%).</i>		40	↔	-9

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available/

Key Questions - Deployment cont.

Table
Ref Response

			Overall %	% Change from 2018	% Change from 2015
B4.7	I am satisfied with the direct contact from my spouse's Chain of Command during the most recent op tour.		31	↔	-9
SUBSET: Spouse deployed within last two years (40%).					
B4.8	I am satisfied with the facilities/events during my spouse's most recent operational tour.		30	↔	-9
SUBSET: Spouse deployed within last two years (40%).					

Key Questions - Employment

Table
Ref Response

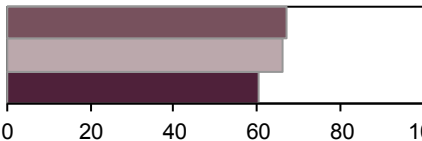
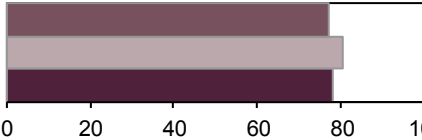
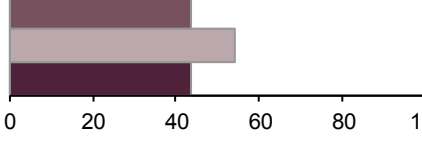
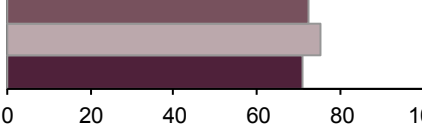
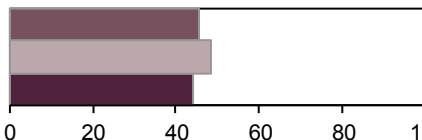
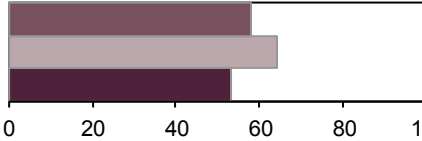
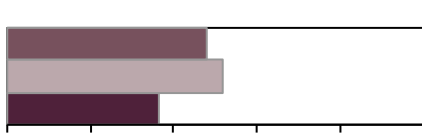

			Overall %	% Change from 2018	% Change from 2015
B5.18	I am employed.		77	↔	5
B5.8	I am in full-time employment.		46	↔	5
B5.19	I have looked for a job in the past year.		39	↔	↔
B5.21	I had difficulties finding suitable employment in the past year.		25	↔	↔
B5.5	I accompanied my spouse on an overseas assignment in past year.		10	↔	-2
B5.3	I was able to access Further or Higher education without difficulty in the past year.		54	↔	N/A
SUBSET: Those who needed access to Further or Higher education (32%).					
B5.4	I was able to continue an educational course previously started without difficulty in the past year.		45	↔	N/A
SUBSET: Those who needed to continue a course (19%).					

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available.

Key Questions - Healthcare

Table
Ref Response

				Overall %	% Change from 2018	% Change from 2015
B6.9	I was able to access dental treatment without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		65	↔	-3
<i>SUBSET: Families who required access to dental treatment (87%).</i>						
B6.10	I was able to access GP services without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		79	↔	-4
<i>SUBSET: Families who required access to GP services (93%).</i>						
B6.11	I was able to access mental health treatment without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		49	-7	-13
<i>SUBSET: Families who required access to mental health treatment (19%).</i>						
B6.12	I was able to access hospital/specialist services without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		74	↔	-6
<i>SUBSET: Families who required access to hospital/specialist services (63%).</i>						
B6.21	I was able to continue dental treatment in a new location without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		47	↔	↔
<i>SUBSET: Families who moved while undergoing dental treatment (7%).</i>						
B6.22	I was able to continue GP treatment in a new location without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		61	↔	-11
<i>SUBSET: Families who moved while undergoing GP treatment (12%).</i>						
B6.24	I was able to continue hospital/specialist treatment in a new location without difficulty.	RN/RM Army RAF		47	↔	-13
<i>SUBSET: Families who moved while undergoing hospital/specialist treatment (9%).</i>						
B6.26	Waiting time for an operation/consultant appointment was increased due to my move.	RN/RM Army RAF		37	↔	↔
<i>SUBSET Families who moved whilst on a waiting list for an operation/consultant appointment (7%).</i>						

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available.

Key Questions - Housing

Table Ref	Response		Overall %	% Change from 2018	% Change from 2015
B7.1	I own my own home.		60	↔	2
B7.2	I am currently saving up to buy a home in the future.		19	↔	↔
B7.13	I live in Service Family Accommodation (SFA) during the working week.		57	↔	↔
B7.13	I live in a privately owned home during the working week.		37	↔	4
B7.15	I am living in my preferred type of accommodation.		70	↔	↔
B7.16	I am satisfied with the overall standard of SFA/SSFA.		57	↔	-5
SUBSET: Families who live in SFA/SSFA (59%).					
B7.18	I am satisfied with the response to maintenance/repair work.		41	6	-4
SUBSET: Families who live in SFA/SSFA (59%).					
B7.19	I am satisfied with the quality of maintenance/repair work.		36	6	-6
SUBSET: Families who live in SFA/SSFA (59%).					
B7.22	I was satisfied with the cleanliness when moving in.		46	↔	-8
SUBSET: Families who live in SFA/SSFA (59%).					

↔ Indicates no statistically significant change has been found.

N/A No significance tests available.

Methodology

1. Target Population

The target population for FamCAS 2019 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 and paper format. The RN/RM has run an online survey for several years and the Army and RAF introduced an online survey in 2016.

Both the paper questionnaires and e-mail invites to the online questionnaire are sent to Service personnel who are asked to pass them onto their spouse/civil partner. Data collection ran from February 2019 to the end of April 2019, 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 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 2019 sample consisted of 26,571 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. The table below shows the strata we are able to select a sample from and the level of precision¹ we aim for:

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 2018 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 6% and 10%. Margins of error for each question can be found in reference tables published alongside this report here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>

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

6,690 responses were used in the FamCAS 2019 analysis, giving an overall response rate of 25%. 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	2019 response rate	2018 response rate	2017 response rate	2016 response rate
Royal Navy	Officers	2 363	770	33%	27%	36%	38%
	Ratings	5 374	1 004	19%	14%	20%	22%
	Total	7 737	1 774	23%	18%	24%	27%
Royal Marines	Officers	339	84	25%	19%	27%	29%
	Marines	1 424	201	14%	12%	16%	22%
	Total	1 763	285	16%	13%	18%	23%
Army	Officers	1 948	952	49%	39%	45%	45%
	Soldiers	8 432	1 889	22%	17%	20%	22%
	Total	10 380	2 841	27%	21%	24%	26%
Royal Air Force	Officers	1 508	554	37%	33%	34%	41%
	Airmen	5 183	1 236	24%	22%	28%	32%
	Total	6 691	1 790	27%	25%	30%	34%
All Services	Officers	6 158	2 360	38%	32%	38%	41%
	Ranks	20 413	4 330	21%	17%	22%	24%
	Total	26 571	6 690	25%	20%	25%	28%

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 in order to correct for the bias caused by over or under-representation.

The weights were calculated simply by:

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

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 2019 analysis

Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied	Weighting Class	Weighting Applied
RN_OF1+_NonUK	5.40	Army_OF1+_Cyp	1.86	RAF_OF1+_Cyprus	2.43
RN_OF1+_Scot	3.98	Army_OF1+_Ger	2.45	RAF_OF1+_NI_Scot_Wal	4.81
RN_OF1-4_Eng	4.44	Army_OF1+_NI	3.74	RAF_OF1+_Non UK	5.05
RN_OF1-4_NI_Wal	5.09	Army_OF1+_Scot	2.93	RAF_OF1-4_Eng	10.01
RN_OF5+_Eng	4.05	Army_OF1+_Wal	6.21	RAF_OF5+_Eng	9.52
RN_OR1-2_Eng	10.75	Army_OF1-4_Eng	13.27	RAF_OR1-2_Cyp	8.63
RN_OR1-4_NonUK	14.50	Army_OF1-4_NonUK	2.92	RAF_OR1-2_Eng	11.27
RN_OR1-4_Scot_Wal	11.75	Army_OF5+_Eng	14.86	RAF_OR1-2_Scot	8.26
RN_OR3-4_Eng	9.66	Army_OF5+_NonUK	2.54	RAF_OR1-4_NI_Wal	6.76
RN_OR6-9_Eng	5.73	Army_OR1-2_Eng	42.04	RAF_OR3-4_Cyp	5.42
RN_OR6-9_NI_Wal	3.89	Army_OR1-4_Cyp	9.71	RAF_OR3-4_Eng	9.25
RN_OR6-9_NonUK	6.58	Army_OR1-4_Ger	7.23	RAF_OR3-4_NonUK	5.82
RN_OR6-9_Scot	6.34	Army_OR1-4_NI	14.84	RAF_OR3-4_Scot	6.36
RM_OF1+_Eng	5.61	Army_OR1-4_NonUK	7.14	RAF_OR6-9_Cyp	3.78
RM_OF1+_Scot_NonUK	8.00	Army_OR1-4_Scot	10.68	RAF_OR6-9_Eng	10.39
RM_OR1-2_Eng	24.33	Army_OR1-4_Wal	17.29	RAF_OR6-9_NI_Wal	7.80
RM_OR1-9_NI_Scot_Wal_NonU	9.39	Army_OR3-4_Eng	20.30	RAF_OR6-9_NonUK	5.41
RM_OR3-4_Eng	13.72	Army_OR6-9_Cyp	2.89	RAF_OR6-9_Scot	6.22
RM_OR6-9_Eng	7.25	Army_OR6-9_Eng	22.91		
		Army_OR6-9_Ger	3.25		
		Army_OR6-9_NI	6.12		
		Army_OR6-9_NonUK	3.16		
		Army_OR6-9_Scot	4.66		
		Army_OR6-9_Wal	8.64		

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 here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>

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 here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tri-service-families-continuous-attitude-survey-index>)

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 also 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 8 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

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 ranks 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 spouse	Within this report this term refers to the spouse or civil partner of a Regular trained member of the Armed Forces.
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.

Service Accommodation	Any type of accommodation that includes 'SFA', 'SSFA', 'SLA', 'SSSA' and 'Onboard a ship or submarine'
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
Special Educational Need (SEN)	Children who have needs or disabilities that affect their ability to learn
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 change in proportions between years
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
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 in order 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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<https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/the-freedom-of-information-act>

If you wish to correspond by mail, our postal address is:

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