

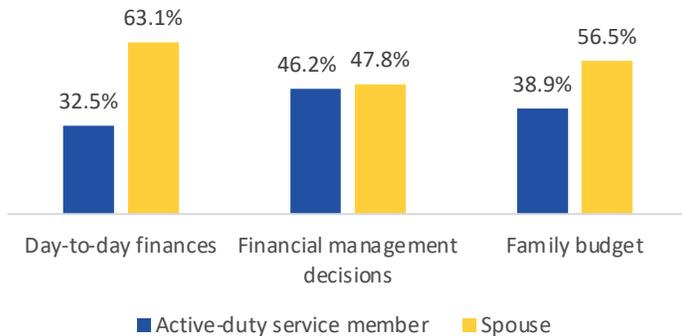
Financial Readiness

MFAN's Military Family Support Programming survey asked respondents about their families' financial readiness. For the first time in 2021, respondents were asked to share their income, including Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). **40.6% of respondents reported making between \$25,000-\$75,000 before tax.**

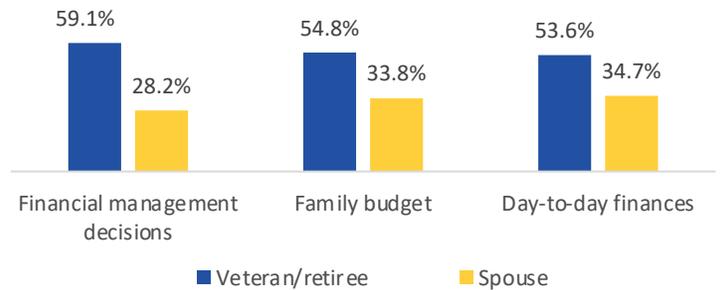
Spouses of active duty service members are primarily responsible for managing their family's finances

Across active duty families, **the spouse of the active duty service member was primarily responsible for the family's day-to-day finances, budget and overall financial management.** However, data also shows that there is a shift following military service, and **military retirees and veterans tend to become more responsible** for household financial management.

Responsibility for active duty family finances



Responsibility for veteran & military retiree family finances



More than half of respondents have experienced barriers to saving money over the past two years

Slightly more than half (51.2%) of respondents stated they had experienced barriers to saving money over the past two years. Key themes include:

- Insufficient **military pay** for family support
- Increased **cost of living/inflation**
- Rising costs of **housing**
- Difficulty paying **recurring bills, loans**
- Trouble understanding/implementing **financial planning**

"By the time we pay for bills and groceries, there is little to none left, and when we manage to save some [money], it never fails that something comes up and we have to use the savings to avoid going into debt."

Spouse of an active duty Army member

Military and veteran families still **struggle to save the 3-6-month reserve for a comfortable emergency savings fund.** Many respondents reported that they have **<\$500** in an emergency savings fund, or no fund at all, including:

- 22.4%** Currently serving families
- 16.5%** Military retiree families
- 38.4%** Veteran families

In the event of a financial emergency, **most respondents turned to close family members**, while the rest took out personal loans, used military-specific resources, or refused to use outside help and **"handled it on their own."**

Over three quarters of respondents carry debt, leading to significant stress levels

Over three-quarters (75.8%) of respondents indicated they carry debt, and reported the highest stress around:

- Mortgage debt**
- Credit card debt**
- Auto loans**
- Student loans**

Most respondents (61.1%) have not used any non-bank borrowing loans. Of those that had, the most sizeable proportion had *borrowed from a friend/relative (14.5%)*, followed by those that had an auto title loan (7.8%).

80.7% of respondents indicated that their finances caused them at least some stress over the past 12 months, notably across the following areas:

- **Most common: Mental health (sleeping, anxiety, depression)**
- Trouble affording basic bills, inability to save money
- Relationship issues, arguments over finances
- Unable to support children financially

