

SUPPORTING STATEMENT - PART A

Military Experiences, Risk and Protective Factors, and Adolescent Health and Well-Being – OMB Control Number: 0704-0635

Summary of Changes from Previously Approved Collection

- Addition of measures for adolescents, are listed below.
 - Living situation (additional response options for clarification)
 - Impact of military experiences
 - Relationship with military community and parents
 - Self-harm
 - Parental injury and caregiving
 - Counseling, therapy, or mental health service types
 - Sources of support
 - Virtual learning
 - Problematic social media use
 - Military family resilience
 - Feelings about own financial future
 - Nutritional well-being
 - Friendships, dating (IPV), and sibling relationships
 - Prevalence of unhealthy relationship dynamics
 - Loneliness
 - Modified the financial management section to have specific items for food insecurity
 - Help-seeking awareness
 - Bystander confidence
 - Normalization of digital harm
 - Online solicitation
- Decrease in burden
 - In order to reduce burden, several items were removed from the adolescent survey.
 - Race/ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Masculinity and femininity
 - Family sociopolitical discussions
 - Parent relationship status follow-on items
 - Original caregiving items
 - Monitoring/supervision
 - Skip logic based on age, education level, etc. allows for fewer questions to be displayed
 - The follow-up survey is only for adolescents and not parents. The baseline parent and adolescent surveys were completed and removed from the ICR.

1. Need for the Information Collection

Military Community & Family Policy (MC&FP) of the Department of Defense (DoD) is requesting Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance for the project entitled, “Millennium Cohort Study of Adolescent Resilience (SOAR).” MC&FP has partnered with the Millennium Cohort Program (MCP), which includes SOAR, to assess the direct and indirect association of military experiences with adolescents’ psychosocial adjustment and physical health, academic achievement, and educational and career aspirations to identify risk and protective factors that may promote or inhibit positive outcomes among military-connected adolescents and their families. The specific aims and objectives of the study are to: (1) examine the direct association of military exposures such as PCS moves, parental separations, and parental injury (physical and psychological) on adolescents’ psychosocial adjustment and physical health, academic achievement, and educational/military career aspirations; (2) examine the indirect association of military exposures such as PCS moves, parental separations, and parental injury on adolescents’ psychosocial adjustment and physical health, academic achievement, and educational/military career aspirations through their impact on parents’ marital/relationship quality, parent-adolescent relationship quality, and parenting behaviors; and (3) identify the most salient modifiable risk and protective factors that may explain differences in adolescents’ psychosocial development and physical health, academic achievement, and educational/military career aspirations.

SOAR is designed as a longitudinal study, so follow-up surveys can be administered to adolescents every 18-24 months spanning adolescence until they reach emergent adulthood to facilitate the assessment of the long-term impacts of parental military service on health and well-being. The SOAR sampling frame for the follow-up survey includes 7,867 adolescents (11 to 17 years old) whose parents completed a baseline survey (2022/2023) and provided consent to invite their child, regardless of whether the adolescent completed a baseline survey. These follow-up assessments will occur at approximately 18-to-24-month intervals, at which time adolescent participants will be about 13-19 years old at Wave 2 and about 15-21 years old at Wave 3.

Adolescence is a sensitive period of development in many areas that are critical to healthy adult functioning. MC&FP’s Office of Military Family Readiness Policy has generated a number of special initiatives to support the more than 380,000 adolescent children coping and thriving in the face of military life challenges. There is, however, limited research to assist with verifying the most important protective factors that may ensure the long-term well-being of adolescent-age youth in the military community. With a source of quality data on the needs of military-connected youth and their families, DoD can more effectively address the critical issues facing military-connected youth and identify gaps associated with program utilization.

MCP is tasked with the mission of understanding the evolving impact of military operational stress on military members and their families as they serve our country. Specifically, MCP’s Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) must maintain a ready baseline and ongoing long-term follow-up for past and future population-based panels representing the U.S. military community to

understand factors that impact their well-being over the life course. The generation of military youth born to MCS participants enrolled in 2001 are currently making career decisions, offering an important opportunity to integrate their experiences into this research program portfolio. With five panels of service members enrolled in MCS spanning 2001 to 2021, this study will not only assist MC&FP in outlining future strategic goals to address adolescent needs, but it will also assist the DoD in better understanding the needs of the next generation of potential service members. A study of adolescent children aligns with MC&FP's strategic goal to evaluate the long-term well-being of youth in the military community and the Secretary of Defense's mandate to incorporate the role of family life into organizational goals related to the operational readiness of the military force.

2. Use of the Information

This project, "Study of Adolescent Resilience (SOAR)" will collect follow-up survey responses from eligible adolescents that were referred to SOAR by their parent during baseline data collection, which was initiated in 2022. Under the previous collection, NHRC collected baseline data from 8173 MCS parents (22% response rate), 3372 co-parents (45% response rate), and 3782 adolescents (46% response rate). At first follow-up, 7,797 adolescents with parental consent were invited and 4660 responded (60% response rate).

During wave 3 data collection, respondents will provide follow-up information via web-based surveys on topics including demographics, living situation, physical and psychological health, academic and career aspirations, military and general life experiences, behavioral health, resilience factors, parent-adolescent relationship quality, and adolescents' prosocial relationships.

The structure and content of the follow-up survey instrument is guided by the study objectives, comprising a mix of closed and open-ended questions (included in package). We expect the survey to take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Participants will be recruited using a combination of postal (e.g., postcards, packages with pre-incentives, letters) and electronic (e.g., email invitations, email reminders, links to study website) communications.

All data will be maintained by the study team at the Naval Health Research Center (NHRC) for research purposes. All disclosures must have prior approval of the NHRC Institutional Review Board (IRB) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be entered into to ensure the rights and obligations of the signatories are clear. Access to data 1) is provided on a need-to-know basis only; 2) must adhere to the rule of minimization in that only information necessary to accomplish the purpose for which the disclosure is being made is releasable; and 3) must follow strict guidelines established in the data sharing agreement.

The primary objective of this research project is to study the impact of military service on the adolescent children of service members and veterans enrolled in MCS in order to identify risk and resilience factors that may promote or inhibit positive outcomes among military-connected adolescents and their families. This study assists the DoD in outlining future strategic goals for programs and services to assist military families as well as provides data to better understand the next generation of potential service members.

Findings from the baseline data collection of SOAR have been presented to DoD stakeholders and knowledge products have been disseminated. Importantly, SOAR baseline findings were recently used to respond to the congressional STRONG Veteran's Act to provide information about the relationship between parental military-connected PTSD and depression with parent-adolescent relationship quality. Follow-up survey data provides the opportunity to examine the impact of military life experiences on adolescents at different developmental stages and to ascertain the implications of these experiences longitudinally into emergent adulthood.

3. Use of Information Technology

100% of the surveys will be collected electronically using an online survey format. Online surveys will be optimized for readability and usability on phones, tablets, and computers. Online surveys will employ automatic skip patterns and smart features in which some text is auto-filled based on previously reported information from the participant.

4. Non-duplication

The information obtained through this collection is unique and is not already available for use or adaptation from another cleared source.

5. Burden on Small Businesses

This information collection does not impose a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses or entities.

6. Less Frequent Collection

We plan to collect at least two additional waves of data from study participants at approximately 18-to-24-month follow-up intervals. A total of three time points of data will allow us to measure change over time and test causal hypotheses and behavioral trajectories. This is particularly important during adolescence given the vast developmental milestones that occur across time and the consequences of these changes for future adult outcomes. Lastly, for adolescents who eventually join the military and are invited to enroll in the Millennium Cohort Study, we will have the opportunity to examine multiple generations of military members (i.e., parents and their adult children) over time.

7. Paperwork Reduction Act Guidelines

This collection of information does not require collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines delineated in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2).

8. Consultation and Public Comments

Part A: PUBLIC NOTICE

A 60-Day Federal Register Notice (FRN) for the collection published on Friday, February 20, 2026. The 60-Day FRN citation is 91 FRN 8210.

No comments were received during the 60-Day comment period.

A 30-Day Federal Register Notice for the collection published on Thursday, June 18, 2026. The 30-Day FRN citation is 91 FRN 37962.

Part B: CONSULTATION

A Strategic Board (SB) consisting of up to twelve civilian and military experts in epidemiology, preventive medicine, statistics, Veterans Affairs, family policy and research provides scientific and operational guidance for MCP studies on an on-going basis. This committee meets annually to review progress and recommend course corrections when needed. In addition, the research staff confers regularly with subject matter experts to optimize survey content, participant outreach, and research priorities.

9. Gifts or Payment

Aligned with the Millennium Cohort Program, participants will receive incentives in the form of a \$30 Amazon electronic gift card for completing a second follow-up survey.

10. Confidentiality

The Privacy Act is presented before the first question of the online questionnaire.

SORN for MCP was published in the Federal Register on 30 Apr 2026, and can be found here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/04/30/2026-08431/privacy-act-of-1974-system-of-records>

A draft Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) has been attached to this package for review.

Electronic records and consent forms generated by the MCP are permanent and transferred to the nearest Federal Records Center (FRC) when 5 years old and then transferred to NARA when 20 years old. Temporary supporting records are transferred to the nearest FRC when 5 years old and destroyed when 10 years old. Temporary non-record files will be destroyed when 5 years old or upon completion or termination of the project.

11. Sensitive Questions

Sexual behaviors: Respondents are asked questions about sexual intercourse. These are important questions that may indicate engagement in sexual risk behaviors, which has consequences for reproductive health, future sexual victimization, and psychological health issues such as depression, a key outcome of this study.

Religiosity: Respondents are asked one item about frequency of religious attendance. Religiosity has shown to be a protective factor against engagement in risk behaviors and antisocial peer groups, both of which are associated with poorer health and academic outcomes among adolescents.

Self-harm: Respondents are asked one item to assess whether they have intentionally hurt themselves without any intention of suicide. Self-harm is primarily used as a coping mechanism for overwhelming emotional pain when healthier strategies seem unavailable. Surveying self-harm among military-connected youth is vital to identify a vulnerable population, understand their unique struggles, and develop targeted, effective interventions to protect their well-being and save lives.

Suicide ideation: Respondents are asked one item to assess whether they have seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. This item is important to include because rates of suicide ideation have been increasing since the Covid pandemic and military-connected youth experience additional stressors that may make them more vulnerable.

Firearm access: Respondents are asked one item about whether they currently have access to a firearm. If they respond with a yes, then they are asked if it is located at home or somewhere else. Given the increase in suicide among adolescents, it is important to understand whether firearm access is a risk factor.

Harmful digital content and online solicitation: Respondents are asked one item to assess whether they have seen sexually explicit images, and if they have, whether the images were of someone they knew personally. A second item asks respondents if they have ever met anyone online who they did not know in person, and if so, whether they had had contact with this person and if they were asked to send sexually explicit photos. Digital safety is a core component of well-being. These questions provide a broad, non-graphic way to measure exposure to online risks.

12. Respondent Burden and its Labor Costs

Part A: ESTIMATION OF RESPONDENT BURDEN

1) Collection Instrument(s)

Study of Adolescent Resilience (SOAR) – Adolescent Wave 3 Survey

- a) Number of Respondents: 4,660
- b) Number of Responses Per Respondent: 1
- c) Number of Total Annual Responses: 4,660
- d) Response Time: 30 minutes
- e) Respondent Burden Hours: 2,330 hours

2) Total Submission Burden

- a) Total Number of Respondents: 4,660
- b) Total Number of Annual Responses: 4,660
- c) Total Respondent Burden Hours: 2,330

Part B: LABOR COST OF RESPONDENT BURDEN

- 1) Collection Instrument(s)
Study of Adolescent Resilience – Adolescent Wave 3 Survey
 - a) Number of Total Annual Responses: 4,660
 - b) Response Time: 30 minutes
 - c) Respondent Hourly Wage: \$7.25
 - d) Labor Burden per Response: \$3.625
 - e) Total Labor Burden: \$16,893
- 2) Overall Labor Burden
 - a) Total Number of Annual Responses: 4,660
 - b) Total Labor Burden: \$16,893

The Respondent's hourly wage was determined by using the federal minimum wage (\$7.25) from Bureau of Labor Statistics Website:

<https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/wages/minimumwage>

13. Respondent Costs Other Than Burden Hour Costs

There are no annualized costs to respondents other than the labor burden costs addressed in Section 12 of this document to complete this collection.

14. Cost to the Federal Government

Part A: LABOR COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- 1) Collection Instrument(s)
Study of Adolescent Resilience (SOAR) – Adolescent Wave 3 Survey
 - a) Number of Total Annual Responses: 4,660
 - b) Processing Time per Response: 0.15 hours
 - c) Hourly Wage of Worker(s) Processing Responses: \$25
 - d) Cost to Process Each Response: \$3.75
 - e) Total Cost to Process Response: \$17,475
- 2) Overall Labor Burden to the Federal Government
 - a. Total Number of Annual Responses: 4,660
 - b. Total Labor Burden: \$17,475

Part B: OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

- 1) Cost Categories
 - a) Equipment: \$0
 - b) Printing: \$210,896

- c) Postage: \$242,644
 - d) Software Purchases: \$0
 - e) Licensing Costs: \$0
 - f) Other: \$149,000
- 2) Total Operational and Maintenance Cost: \$602,540

Part C: TOTAL COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- 1) Total Labor Cost to the Federal Government: \$17,475
- 2) Total Operational and Maintenance Costs: \$602,540
- 3) Total Cost to the Federal Government: \$620,015

15. Reasons for Change in Burden

The burden has decreased since the previous approval due to the elimination of the parent survey. This collection effort is only for adolescent participants.

16. Publication of Results

The results of this study will be published in the form of DoD publications and in peer-reviewed manuscripts external to DoD. The timeline for this project is the following:

2025-2026: Data analysis

2026: Publication of results

2026-2027: Second follow-up data collection

2027-2028: Data analysis

2027-2029: Publication of results

17. Non-Display of OMB Expiration Date

We are not seeking approval to omit the display of the expiration date of the OMB approval on the collection instrument.

18. Exceptions to "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Submissions"

We are not requesting any exemptions to the provisions stated in 5 CFR 1320.9.