



Basic Facts on Kinship Families in the United States

Kinship families, as known as “grandfamilies,” are families where grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings or other relatives, step up to raise children whose parents struggle with challenges such as addiction, homelessness, incarceration, mental illness, or domestic violence, or have died or are in the military. Family offers a child love, familiarity and stability in a time of turmoil and trauma. Grandparents and other relatives make great sacrifices to care for and protect these children, and keep many from entering costly foster care. Children grow best in families and it is important relative caregivers receive essential supports to help them care for children.

The Children

- 2,562,000 children (3% of all children) live with a grandparent or relative with no parent present.ⁱ
- 7,416,699 children (10.1% of all children) live in homes where householders are grandparents or other relatives.ⁱⁱ
 - 5,654,315 of these children live with grandparents.
 - 1,762,384 of these children live with other relatives.

The Grandparents

- 2,685,185 grandparents are householders responsible for their grandchildren who live with them.ⁱⁱⁱ Of these:
 - 891,082 (33.2%) do not have the child’s parents present in the home.
 - 1,690,679 (63%) are under age 60.
 - 1,576,204 (58.7%) are in the workforce.
 - 563,879 (21.0%) are in poverty.
 - 668,210 (24.9%) have a disability.
 - 800,185 (29.8%) are unmarried.
 - Race/Ethnicity:
 - 1,396,296 (52.0%) are White, non-Hispanic
 - 574,630 (21.4%) are Black
 - 542,407 (20.2%) are of Hispanic or Latino origin
 - 85,926 (3.2%) are Asian
 - 53,704 (2.0%) are American Indian or Alaska Native
 - 8,056 (0.3%) are Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - 53,704 (2.0%) are multiracial
 - 155,741 (5.8%) are some other race

[State specific data](http://www.grandfamilies.org) on children and grandparents in grandfamilies are available at www.grandfamilies.org.

ⁱ Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. 2013-2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). Estimates represent a three-year average. Accessed March 4, 2017. Retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7172-children-in-kinship-care?loc=1&loct=1#detailed/1/any/false/1491/any/14207,14208>

ⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Accessed March 4, 2017. Retrieved from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_S0901&prodType=table

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Accessed March 4, 2017. Retrieved from https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_S1002&prodType=table