

# Coresident Grandparents and Their Grandchildren: 2012

## Population Characteristics

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Issued October 2014

P20-576

### INTRODUCTION

American households include a variety of living arrangements. Recent trends in increased life expectancy, single parent families, and female employment, increase the potential for grandparents to play an important role in the lives of their grandchildren. Increases in grandparents living with grandchildren are one way that the grandparent role has changed.

This report explores the complexity of households in which grandparents and grandchildren live together. It uses data from the 2010 Census, the American Community Survey (ACS), the Current Population Survey (CPS), and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). It capitalizes on the strengths of each of these data sources to provide a more complete picture of households containing grandparents and grandchildren.

This report contains five sections: (1) an overview of households with coresident grandparents and grandchildren; (2) historical changes in coresidence of grandparents and grandchildren; (3) characteristics of grandchildren who live with a grandparent; (4) characteristics of grandparents who live with grandchildren; and (5) a comparison of coresident grandparents to grandparents who do not live with their grandchildren.

### Some highlights of this report are:

- About 3 percent of all households contain both grandparents and grandchildren. More than 60 percent of these households were maintained by a grandparent.
- About 2.7 million grandparents were “grandparent caregivers” (those who had primary responsibility for grandchildren under 18 years living with them).
- About 10 percent of all children live with a grandparent.
- Since 2007, about one-third of children who live with a grandparent also have two parents present.

### ABOUT THE DATA

#### Data sources

Estimates of coresident grandparents and grandchildren vary by survey. The surveys used in this report differ in their data collection methods, editing, and the creation of the weights. For further information on the surveys, see the source and accuracy section and the estimate variation appendix at the back of this report.

**2010 Decennial Census**—Uses the relationship to reference person question to determine presence of grandchildren of the householder. Data are available for smaller geographic areas.

**2012 American Community Survey (ACS)**—Uses the relationship to reference person question to determine presence of grandchildren of the householder. Asks a person if they are living with grandchildren, whether they are primarily responsible for those grandchildren, and if so, how long they have been responsible. Data are available for smaller geographic areas. This report uses the 2012 1-year ACS data and the 2008–2012 5-year data.

#### Current Population Survey (CPS)

**1990–2012**—Uses relationship to reference person and direct questions about the presence of parents to find coresident grandparents and grandchildren. Used for characteristics of grandparents and grandchildren, household estimates, and historical changes. Data are available only at the national level.

#### Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) 2009

Uses relationship to reference person and direct questions about the presence of parents to find coresident grandparents and grandchildren. Includes a question asking all adults 30 and over if they are a grandparent that allows us to compare coresident and non-coresident grandparents. Data are available only at the national level.

- Grandparents who live with grandchildren are younger, less educated, and more likely to be divorced or widowed than grandparents who do not live with a grandchild.
- Coresident grandparents are also more likely to be in poverty and more likely to be unable to work due to illness or disability compared with grandparents who did not live with grandchildren.

## HOUSEHOLDS WITH CORESIDENT GRANDPARENTS AND GRANDCHILDREN

In 2010, more people were 65 or older than in any previous census.<sup>1</sup> Increased life expectancy combined with reduced fertility creates family structures that have more generations of living relatives but fewer relatives within generations. This structure increases the importance of multigenerational ties for the well-being of families.<sup>2</sup> This makes current statistics about families with coresident grandparents and grandchildren important for understanding families and creating family policy. Research finds that policies for families that affect grandparents have lagged behind the changes in family structure, leaving the most vulnerable families with the least support.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Carrie A. Werner, "The Older Population: 2010," *2010 Census Briefs*, U.S. Census Bureau, <[www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-09.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-09.pdf)>.

<sup>2</sup> Vern L. Bengtson, "Beyond the Nuclear Family: The Increasing Importance of Multigenerational Bonds," *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 2001, 63: 1–16.

<sup>3</sup> Lindsay A. Baker and Jane Mutchler, "Poverty and Material Hardship in Grandparent Headed Households," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 2010, 72:947–962.

*Grandparents maintained 67 percent of coresident households. About 1 in 3 grandparent-maintained households had no parent present.*

In 2012, according to the CPS, about 4.2 million households contained both grandchildren under 18 and their grandparents—this was about 3 percent of all households and about 10 percent of all children.<sup>4</sup> The majority of households, 67 percent, were maintained by the grandparent. This means that a grandparent was the householder (Figure 1). Thirty-one percent of households were maintained by the parent (a parent was the householder) and 2 percent were maintained by someone other than the parent or grandparent.

Previous research found that the risks for children, including poverty, access to medical care, and housing stability, vary by the composition of the household because of different levels of social support and access to resources.<sup>5</sup> There is wide variation in the composition of households with coresident grandparents and grandchildren. A household can contain two parents, one parent, or no parent. There can also be two grandparents present or just a grandmother or grandfather. Households with both parents tend to have a lower prevalence of poverty compared with those with no parents or one parent present. Households with a grandmother present have a higher prevalence of poverty compared with households

<sup>4</sup> This calculation is additional analysis not shown in a table.

<sup>5</sup> Lindsay A. Baker, Merril Silverstein, and Norella M. Putney, "Grandparents raising grandchildren in the United States: Changing family forms, stagnant social policies," *Journal of societal & social policy* 7, 2008: 53.

## DEFINITIONS

**Coresident grandparents and grandchildren**—Refers to grandchildren and grandparents who live in the same household.

**Grandparent-maintained households**—The reference person has a grandchild in the household. A parent of the grandchild may or may not be present.

**Parent-maintained households**—The reference person or the reference person's spouse has both a parent and a child in the household.

with a grandfather or two grandparents present.

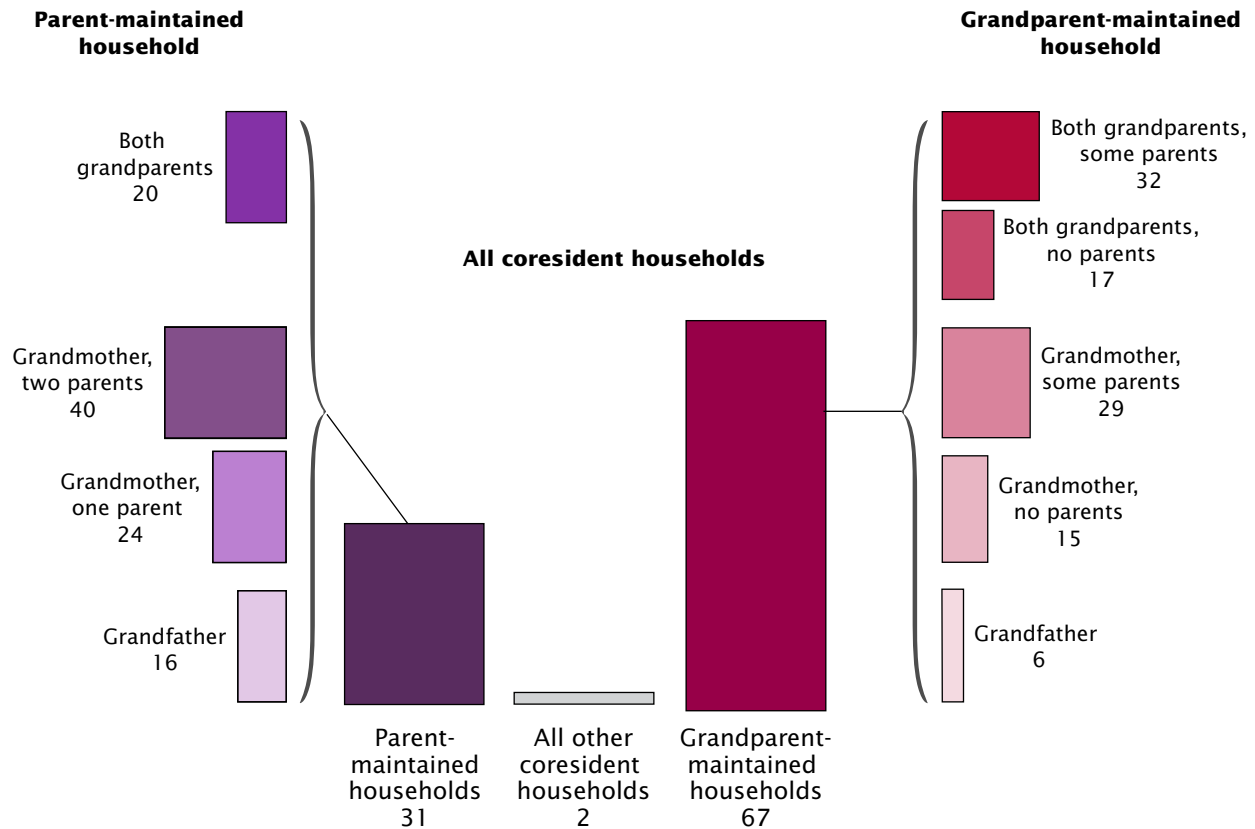
Figure 1 shows the composition of parent-maintained and grandparent-maintained households. About 1 in 3 grandparent-maintained households had no parent present—17 percent of these households had two grandparents present and 15 percent of households had just a grandmother present.<sup>6</sup> Parent-maintained households were more likely than grandparent-maintained households to contain one rather than two grandparents. About 50 percent of coresident households that were maintained by a grandparent contained two grandparents. Only 20 percent of parent-maintained households contained two grandparents. Forty percent of parent-maintained households contained two parents and a grandmother. Twenty-four percent of parent-maintained households contained a grandmother and one parent.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> The percent of children living with no parents and two grandparents was not significantly different from the percentage living with no parents and just a grandmother.

<sup>7</sup> The percent of children living with a grandmother and one parent was not significantly different from the percentage living with two grandparents.

Figure 1.  
**Households With Coresident Grandparents and Grandchildren**

(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

## HISTORICAL CHANGES IN GRANDCHILDREN LIVING WITH GRANDPARENTS

*In 1970, about 3 percent of children lived in grandparent-maintained households; about twice that many (6 percent) lived in grandparent-maintained households in 2012.*

Research finds that extended stays of grandchildren over holidays and summers defined typical grandparent-grandchild relationships in the 1960s and early 1970s, while patterns of relationships in the 1990s and 2000s were defined by grandparents' close proximity

to grandchildren for support and childcare and temporary coresidence due to parental relationship breakdown or financial hardship.<sup>8</sup> The longest trend data we have available are for children living in grandparent-maintained households. About 3 percent of children lived in grandparent-maintained households in 1970 (Figure 2); by 1990, this had increased to 5 percent. In 2011, about 7 percent of children lived in grandparent-maintained households. This declined to

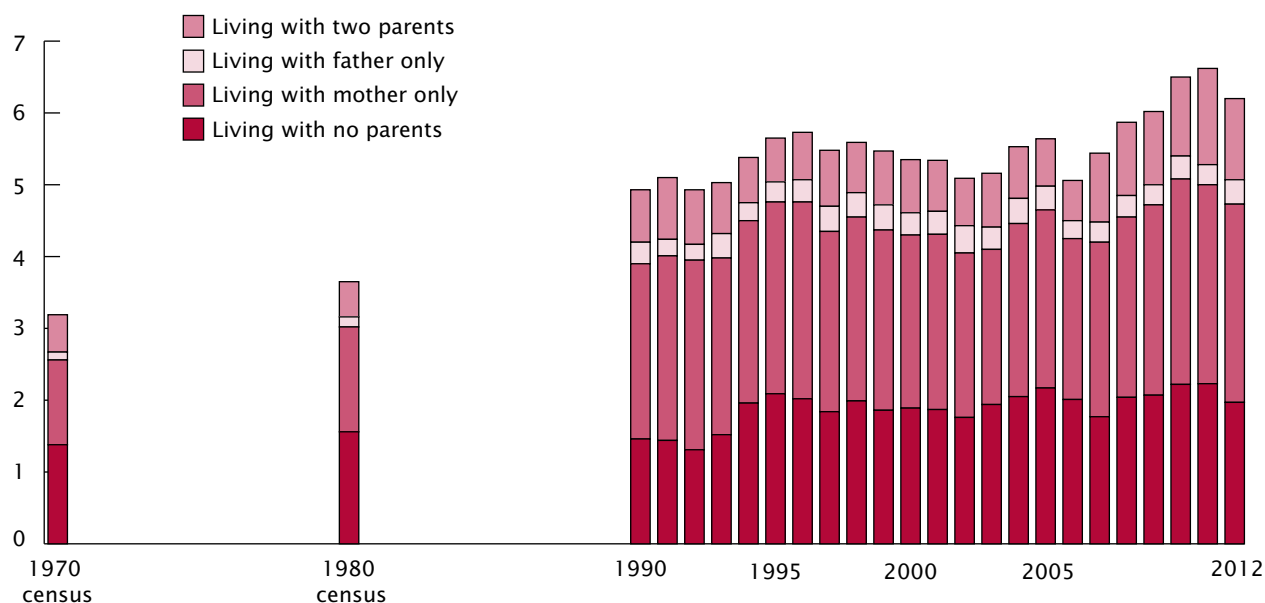
<sup>8</sup>J. Grey, R. Geraghty, and D. Ralph, "Young grandchildren and their grandparents: continuity and change across four birth cohorts," *Families, Relationships and Societies*: 2013, 2, 2.

6 percent in 2012. While the overall proportions of children who lived in a grandparent-maintained household are relatively small, there have been some interesting shifts over time in whether a child's parents were also present.

From 1970 to 1990, the greatest increases were among children living with one parent, while from 1990 to 2000, the greatest increases were among children with no parent present.<sup>9</sup> Research

<sup>9</sup>Ken Bryson and Lynne Casper, "Coresident Grandparents and Grandchildren," *Current Population Reports*, P23-198, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1999, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf)>.

Figure 2.  
**Percentage of Children Under 18 Living in Their Grandparents' Home by Presence of Parent(s)**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970 and 1980 Decennial Censuses, Current Population Survey, 1990–2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. See Table CH-7, <[www.census.gov/hhes/families/data/children.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/families/data/children.html)>.

attributes the increase of grandparent coresidence since the 70s to high rates of divorce and teen pregnancy, as well as increases in drug usage and incarceration.<sup>10</sup> Recent research finds that people experiencing economic distress and those impacted by the recent housing crisis were more likely to live in multigenerational households.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Esme Fuller-Thomson, Meredith Minkler, and Diane Driver, "A profile of grandparents raising grandchildren in the United States," *The Gerontologist* 37.3, 1997: 406–411. M. Minkler, "Intergenerational Households Headed by Grandparents: Demographic and Sociological Contexts," In *Generations United* (eds.) *Grandparents and Other Relations Raising Children: Background Paper from Generation's United's Expert Symposium*, 1998, Washington, DC.

<sup>11</sup> Rakesh Kochhar and D'Vera Cohn, "Fighting Poverty in a Tough Economy, Americans Move in With Their Relatives," Pew Social and Demographic Trends Publication, 2011, available at <[www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/10/Multigenerational-Households-Final1.pdf](http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/10/Multigenerational-Households-Final1.pdf)>.

*In both 1992 and 2012, 20 percent of children who lived with a grandparent had no parent present.<sup>12</sup> However, this percentage ranged from 21 percent to 28 percent between those years.*

The presence of parents follows similar trends for children who were living with grandparents in both grandparent-maintained households and parent-maintained households. Figure 3 shows the share of children living with a grandparent by the number of parents present (in both grandparent and parent-maintained households) over the last two decades. From 1992 to 2012, the largest portion of children who lived with a grandparent lived with their mother with no father present. However, while

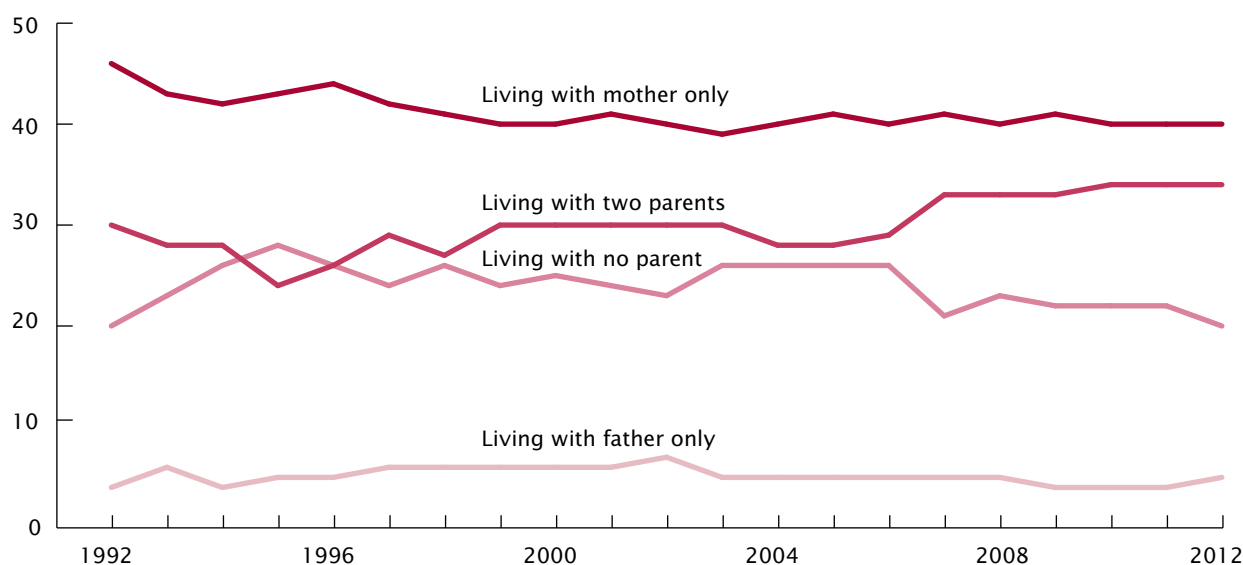
<sup>12</sup> The percent of children living with no parent present is not significantly different in 1992 and 2012.

46 percent of children lived with a grandparent and their mother in 1992, 40 percent lived in this arrangement in 2012.

The percentage of children who lived with a grandparent and two parents increased since the recession in 2007. Between 1992 and 1996, the percentage of children living with grandparents and two parents was 30 percent or less. Since 2007, it has been between 33 and 34 percent. These increases are consistent with other research that finds recent increases in multigenerational families are related to economic distress.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Rakesh Kochhar and D'Vera Cohn, "Fighting Poverty in a Tough Economy, Americans Move in With Their Relatives," Pew Social and Demographic Trends Publication, 2011, available at <[www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/10/Multigenerational-Households-Final1.pdf](http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/10/Multigenerational-Households-Final1.pdf)>.

Figure 3.  
**Percentage of Children Under 18 Living With Grandparents by Presence of Parent(s)**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1992–2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

The percentage of children who lived with a grandparent and no parent was not significantly different in 1992 and 2012 (20 percent). However, these years represent low points; between 1992 and 2012, higher percentages of children lived with no parents. The highest level (28 percent) was in 1995. Children living with a grandparent and a father, with no mother present, were the smallest group. Between 4 and 7 percent of children who lived with a grandparent lived in this arrangement during this time.

*White, non-Hispanic children and Hispanic children had the largest increases in living with grandparents between 1992 and 2012, but they were less likely to live with a grandparent than were Black or Asian children.*

Over the last 20 years, although there was an overall increase in the percentage of children living

with a grandparent, this varied by race and Hispanic origin (Figure 4). For White, non-Hispanic children, about 4 percent lived with a grandparent in 1992 and 7 percent lived with a grandparent in 2012.<sup>14</sup> For Black children, 13 percent lived with a grandparent in 1992. By 1995, 16 percent lived with a grandparent, but by 2012, it had declined to 14 percent.<sup>15</sup> About 14 percent of Asian children lived with their grandparents in both 1992

and 2012.<sup>16</sup> In 1992, 9 percent of Hispanic children lived with a grandparent. In 2012, 12 percent of Hispanic children lived with a grandparent.<sup>17</sup>

### CHARACTERISTICS OF GRANDCHILDREN WHO LIVE WITH A GRANDPARENT

Identifying living arrangements of children is important for understanding children's outcomes and relative disadvantage. The composition of the households of grandchildren is associated with poverty

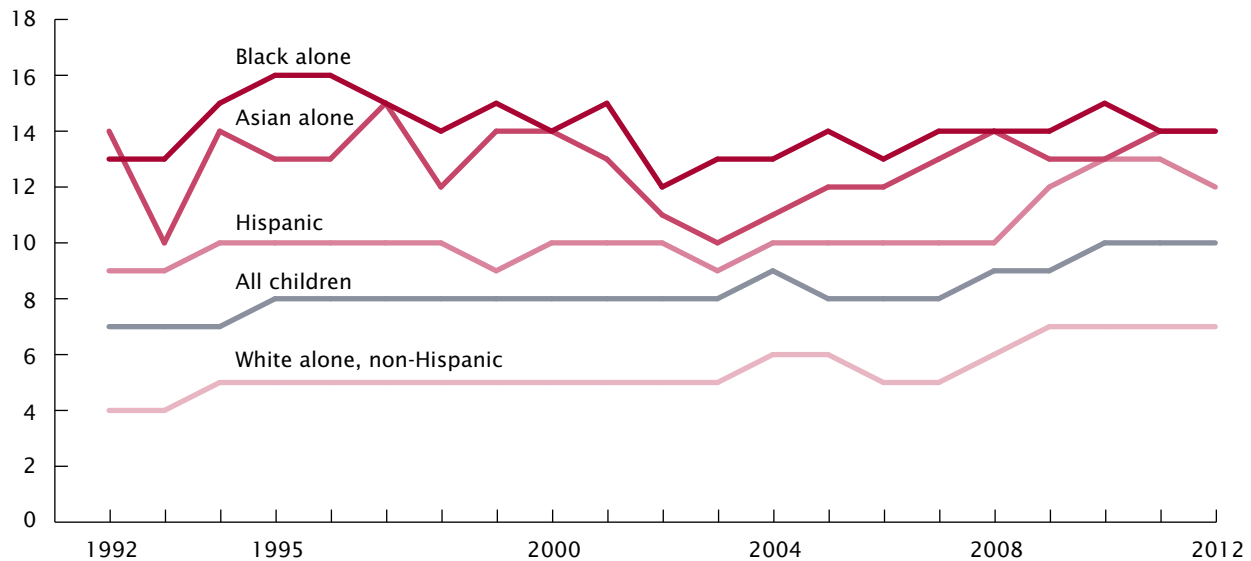
<sup>14</sup> Individuals who responded to the question on race by indicating only one race are referred to as the *race-alone* population or the group that reported only one race category. This report will refer to the White-alone population as White, the Black-alone population as Black, the Asian alone population as Asian, and the White-alone non-Hispanic population as White, non-Hispanic, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>15</sup> The percent of Black children who lived with a grandparent in 1992 was not significantly different from the percentage in 2012.

<sup>16</sup> The percent of Black children who lived with a grandparent in 1992 was not significantly different from the percentage of Asian children who lived with a grandparent in 1992. The percentage of Black children who lived with a grandparent in 2012 was not significantly different from the number of Asian children who lived with a grandparent in 2012.

<sup>17</sup> The percent of Asian children who lived with a grandparent in 2012 was not significantly different from the percentage of Hispanic children who lived with a grandparent in 2012.

Figure 4.  
**Percentage of Children Under 18 Living With Grandparents by Race and Hispanic Origin:\* 1992–2012**



\* Race and Hispanic origin were collected differently before 2003. In 2003 and later respondents could mark all race groups they chose, while in earlier years they had to choose one group. In 2003 and later, Black, White, and Asian include only those who marked a single category. Prior to 2003, Asian includes Pacific Islanders.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1992–2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

rates, access to health care and other resources, and educational outcomes.<sup>18</sup> Households with both parents present are very different from households with grandparents and one parent, or households with no parent present. Households with both parents present or both grandparents present have been found to have lower rates of poverty. The following section examines grandchildren who live with their grand-

<sup>18</sup> Ken Bryson and Lynne Casper, "Coresident Grandparents and Grandchildren," *Current Population Reports*, P23-198, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1999, available at <www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf>. Lindsay A. Baker and Jane Mutchler, "Poverty and Material Hardship in Grandparent Headed Households," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 2010, 72:947–962. Peter D. Brandon, "Welfare receipt among children living with grandparents," *Population Research and Policy Review*, 2005, 24.5: 411–429. Maria A. Monserud and Glen H. Elder, "Household structure and children's educational attainment: A perspective on coresidence with grandparents," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 2011, 73.5: 981–1000.

parents by select characteristics, including variation in geographic location, racial and Hispanic origin, and presence of parents. This section also includes a comparison of grandchildren in grandparent-maintained households and parent-maintained households and household composition by characteristics such as age of child, nativity status of parents, poverty level, and insurance coverage. This section allows us to see how grandchildren are faring in various types of household arrangements.

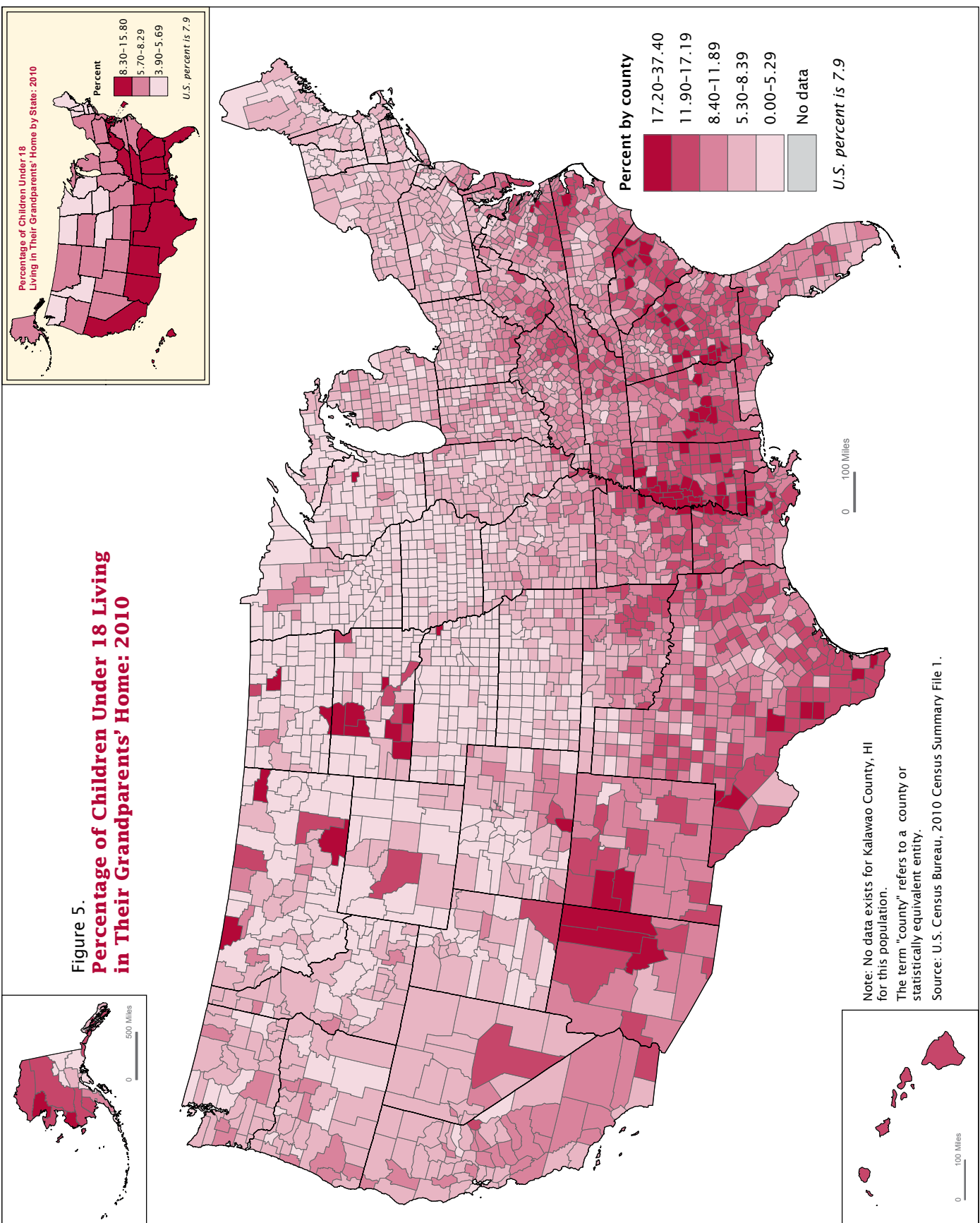
### Geographic patterns of children living with grandparents

Children who live in their grandparents' household are a relatively small group, so in order to look at the geographic variation in the prevalence of this living arrangement, we need a very

large data set. The full count data from Census 2010 allows us to examine variations by state and county. However, because only data on relationship to the reference person is collected, we are limited to grandchildren living in grandparent-maintained households. Counties in the Midwest and the upper Northeast generally had the lowest percentages of children living in their grandparents' home, while counties in the South and Southwest had the highest percentages (Figure 5). These differences are probably related to the fact that higher proportions of White non-Hispanics reside in the Midwest;<sup>19</sup> as discussed in the previous section, White non-Hispanic children coreside with grandparents less

<sup>19</sup> Lindsay Hixon, Bradford B. Hepler, and Myoung Ouk Kim, "The White Population: 2010," *2010 Census Briefs*, C2010BR-05, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2011.





frequently than Hispanic, Black, or Asian children.

Relatively high proportions of children under 18 lived in their grandparents' home in the Mississippi Delta area. This is a part of the country with relatively high proportions of nonmarital births, which may be associated with mothers and their children living with the mother's parents.<sup>20</sup> Additionally, there were high percentages of grandchildren living in their grandparents' home in the Southwest and the coastal areas of the West. These areas have large immigrant populations from Asia and Latin America, who may live in extended family situations that increase the likelihood of children living in their grandparents' home. Hawaii also had higher percentages of grandparents living with grandchildren, which may reflect higher proportions of Native Hawaiians living in multigenerational households.<sup>21</sup> Some other counties with relatively high percentages were in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, and New Mexico, which contain American Indian reservations.

### **Characteristics of grandchildren in grandparent-maintained and parent-maintained households**

In 2012, about 7 million children (10 percent of all children) lived with a grandparent in either a parent-maintained or a grand-

parent-maintained household according to Current Population Survey data.<sup>22</sup> As mentioned earlier in this report, the majority (64 percent) of children who lived with a grandparent lived in a grandparent-maintained household (Table 1).

*About 45 percent of children in grandparent-maintained households lived with only a grandmother compared with 65 percent in parent-maintained households.*

While about 20 percent of coresident grandchildren had no parent present, this was true for nearly one-third of the children in grandparent-maintained families.<sup>23</sup> About half of grandparent-maintained households with no parent present had only one grandparent present. Children who live with no parent and one grandparent may be more vulnerable due to fewer available socioeconomic resources<sup>24</sup> (Table 1). Of the children who lived in a grandparent-maintained household, 33 percent lived with two grandparents, and 30 percent lived with a grandmother and one or more parent. Only about 6 percent of children in grandparent-maintained households lived with a grandfather without a grandmother present, while 45 percent lived with a grandmother without a grandfather present.

Thirty-two percent of children who lived with a grandparent lived in

parent-maintained households. Children who lived in a parent-maintained household were more likely to live with a grandmother without a grandfather present (Table 1). Sixty-five percent of children in parent-maintained households lived with just a grandmother. While 44 percent of children in parent-maintained households lived with a grandmother and two parents, 21 percent lived with a grandmother and one parent. Only 16 percent of children in parent-maintained households lived with a grandfather and 19 percent lived with two grandparents.

*Black children who lived with a grandparent were more likely to live with a grandmother and a single parent or a grandmother and no parent compared to other children who lived with a grandparent.*

The composition of coresident grandchildren's households varied by race. While 7 percent of White, non-Hispanic children lived with a grandparent, 12 percent of Hispanic children and 14 percent of Black and Asian children lived with a grandparent.<sup>25</sup> The presence of parents also varied by race—28 percent of Black children lived with a grandparent without a parent present, higher than for Hispanic children and children of other races (Figure 6). Twenty-four percent of White, non-Hispanic children, 12 percent of Hispanic children, and 3 percent of Asian children did not have a parent present. Black children with a coresident grandparent also had the highest percentage living with a mother with no father present; about half

<sup>22</sup> In 2012, there were about 73.8 million children according to the CPS.

<sup>23</sup> Children with no parent present may live with both grandparents, just a grandmother, or just a grandfather. Because the percentage of grandchildren who live with just a grandfather is so small, Table 1 combines those that live with parents present and those that live without parents present.

<sup>24</sup> Ken Bryson and Lynne Casper, "Coresident Grandparents and Grandchildren," *Current Population Reports*, P23-198, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1999, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf)>. Lindsay A. Baker and Jane Mutchler, "Poverty and Material Hardship in Grandparent Headed Households," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 2010, 72:947-962.

<sup>25</sup> These numbers are from additional calculations not shown. The percent of Asian children who live with a grandparent does not differ significantly from the percent of Hispanic children or the percent of Black children who live with a grandparent.



Table 1.

**Characteristics of Grandchildren Under 18 Who Coreside With Grandparents: 2012**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Grandparent maintained							Parent maintained					Neither parent or grandparent is householder
	Total	Both grandparents		Grandmother only		Grandfather only	Total	Grandmother only		Grandfather only			
		Some parents	No parent	Some parents	No parent			Both grandparents	Two parents		One parent		
<b>Grandchildren, total (number) . . . . .</b>	<b>7,096</b>	<b>4,542</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>2,298</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>255</b>
percent distribution													
<b>Race and Hispanic origin</b>													
White alone . . . . .	66.9	67.9	77.5	75.6	59.2	51.1	79.7	65.0	63.1	67.0	59.7	68.8	65.3
White alone, non-Hispanic . . .	36.5	40.5	42.1	53.9	34.0	31.0	7.7	30.3	26.0	34.5	22.2	34.2	21.7
Black alone . . . . .	22.0	25.2	12.8	19.4	35.6	41.6	16.4	16.3	10.1	10.5	32.4	18.6	17.5
Asian alone . . . . .	2.1	2.2	1.2	2.3	1.3	5.7	2.8	1.6	2.8	0.7	2.6	1.2	5.3
Hispanic (any race) . . . . .	29.8	25.7	34.6	18.6	23.3	17.3	6.2	35.1	38.1	34.2	36.7	32.0	53.7
<b>Age</b>													
Under 6 . . . . .	42.9	45.7	55.8	31.7	51.1	29.4	38.6	36.2	48.4	30.6	36.5	36.3	51.9
6 to 11 . . . . .	30.9	29.0	29.5	33.5	23.9	32.4	32.2	34.9	31.1	37.8	32.1	35.4	27.3
12 to 17 . . . . .	26.3	25.2	14.6	34.8	24.9	38.2	29.2	28.9	20.5	31.6	31.4	28.3	20.8
<b>Nativity</b>													
U.S. native, two native-born parents . . . . .	57.4	58.5	81.5	X	90.0	X	64.9	55.4	43.1	46.3	77.6	65.9	57.6
U.S. native, one foreign-born parent . . . . .	10.2	5.5	10.3	X	6.4	X	2.2	17.7	21.3	18.0	19.1	10.8	26.5
U.S. native, two foreign-born parents . . . . .	9.4	2.5	6.2	X	1.1	X	2.0	22.9	30.7	32.1	X	18.1	8.7
U.S. native, no parents present . . . . .	20.4	31.9	X	99.2	X	100.0	29.7	X	X	X	X	X	X
Foreign born . . . . .	2.6	1.6	2.0	0.8	2.4	Z	1.3	4.1	5.1	3.6	3.3	5.1	7.2
<b>Household members under 18</b>													
One . . . . .	30.3	33.9	29.1	45.6	29.9	40.1	34.5	24.6	22.9	19.9	35.5	25.2	17.9
Two . . . . .	35.9	34.9	38.2	29.7	35.2	29.4	41.6	39.0	40.3	38.8	37.9	39.0	25.9
Three or more . . . . .	33.9	31.3	32.7	24.7	35.0	30.5	24.0	36.5	36.8	41.3	26.6	35.8	56.2
<b>Health insurance coverage</b>													
Private insurance . . . . .	25.7	19.7	26.6	17.9	18.9	9.6	15.6	38.1	32.7	45.1	25.9	41.4	19.1
Public insurance . . . . .	53.9	59.5	54.4	57.9	62.2	67.1	58.7	42.5	52.8	33.6	55.0	38.5	58.3
No health insurance . . . . .	20.4	20.1	19.0	24.2	18.9	23.3	25.7	19.3	14.5	21.3	19.1	19.9	22.7
<b>Percent of poverty level<sup>1</sup></b>													
Under 50 . . . . .	9.1	9.7	2.9	4.7	15.4	19.5	7.2	7.6	0.9	5.2	18.7	7.6	11.8
50 to 99 . . . . .	14.8	15.5	10.3	12.3	17.4	28.4	12.5	12.3	10.7	11.3	13.8	14.8	23.7
100 to 149 . . . . .	14.2	14.5	12.0	17.9	16.4	15.4	8.6	13.0	13.9	11.3	17.9	10.1	19.3
150 to 199 . . . . .	13.6	14.3	15.7	16.3	11.5	13.7	17.2	12.2	9.4	12.8	14.1	11.2	13.9
200 to 299 . . . . .	20.7	21.0	23.5	20.8	20.6	14.0	26.2	20.8	25.0	21.7	18.5	16.0	15.3
300 to 399 . . . . .	11.1	11.0	15.5	12.3	7.1	5.6	15.9	11.5	13.4	10.6	9.1	14.8	10.6
400 to 499 . . . . .	6.3	5.9	3.1	6.8	4.0	0.8	5.7	7.6	8.6	8.9	3.9	7.9	1.0
500 percent or more . . . . .	10.3	8.1	3.7	9.0	7.6	2.4	6.8	15.1	18.0	18.3	4.0	17.7	4.5
<b>Household public assistance</b>													
No public assistance . . . . .	47.8	44.6	56.2	52.3	37.6	24.2	45.9	55.9	55.6	65.0	38.7	54.1	32.6
Any public assistance . . . . .	52.1	55.3	43.8	47.7	62.4	75.8	54.1	44.1	44.4	35.0	61.3	45.9	67.4
School lunch program . . . . .	39.1	42.5	31.9	40.4	47.4	61.3	35.8	37.9	28.2	24.4	46.7	34.8	49.3
Food stamps . . . . .	29.1	31.6	22.9	18.4	41.8	43.8	34.0	21.5	22.0	15.3	15.3	15.3	53.2
TANF . . . . .	8.4	9.0	5.8	10.5	8.6	14.0	13.2	6.9	7.0	6.4	8.6	5.6	12.2
SSI . . . . .	10.8	11.4	9.9	7.4	12.4	17.4	10.4	10.0	10.8	8.7	13.7	7.8	7.2
Housing assistance . . . . .	4.5	5.3	1.7	1.4	9.1	11.6	1.4	3.2	1.3	2.2	6.6	4.0	2.9
Energy assistance . . . . .	5.2	6.5	2.2	5.9	8.1	13.2	8.3	3.1	1.7	1.3	8.2	2.8	2.9

X Not applicable.

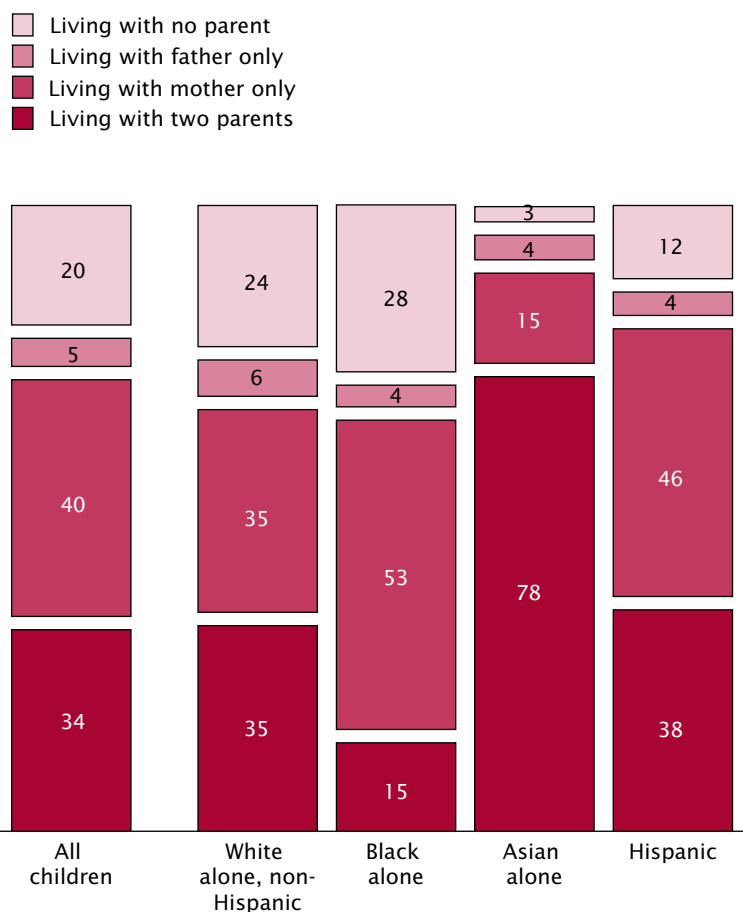
Z Represents or rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup> Poverty level is calculated based on 2011 income.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Figure 6.

**Percent Distribution of Children Under 18 Living With a Grandparent by Race and Hispanic Origin and Presence of Parent(s): 2012**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

of coresident Black children (53 percent) had only a mother present. Asian children had the highest percentage of coresident children who had both parents present—78 percent of Asian children who lived with a grandparent had two parents present compared with 15 percent of Black children.

A quarter of coresident children who live in a grandparent-maintained household are Black while 16 percent of children who live in a parent-maintained household

are Black. Conversely, 35 percent of coresident children in parent-maintained households are Hispanic, while 26 percent of children in grandparent-maintained households are Hispanic. Children in parent-maintained households were more frequently foreign born; 4 percent of children in parent-maintained families were foreign born compared to 2 percent in grandparent-maintained families. Children in parent-maintained families were also more likely than children in grandparent-maintained

families to live with one or more foreign-born parents (41 percent and 8 percent, respectively).<sup>26</sup>

The composition of coresident grandchild households also varied by other demographic characteristics. Grandchildren living in grandparent-maintained households were younger than grandchildren living in parent-maintained households. While 46 percent of children in grandparent-maintained households were under 6 years old, only 36 percent of children in parent-maintained households were under 6. Although fewer coresident children live in parent-maintained households compared with grandparent-maintained households, children in parent-maintained households were more likely to coreside with other children under 18. Thirty-seven percent of children living in parent-maintained households lived in a home with three or more children under 18, compared with 31 percent of children in grandparent-maintained households.

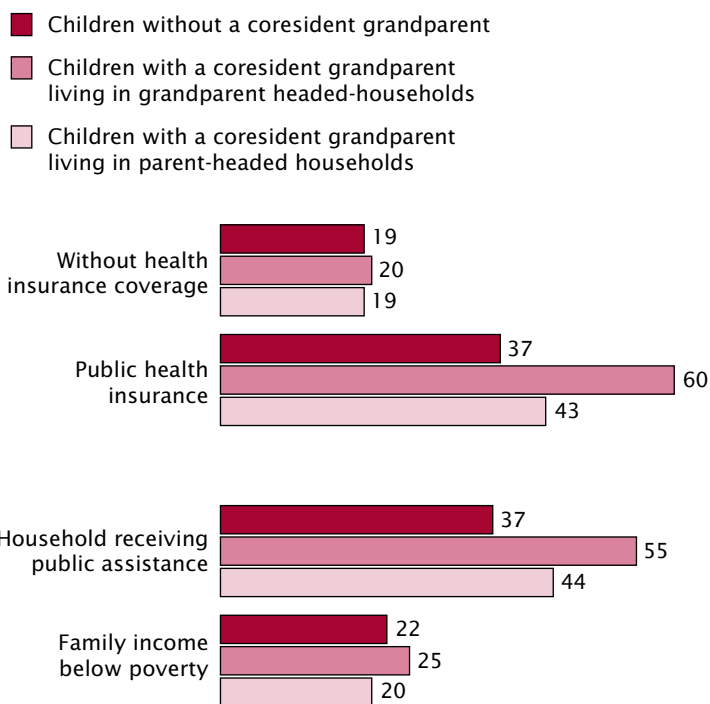
*Children who live in grandparent-maintained households are more likely to be poor compared to children who live in parent-maintained households or children who do not live with a grandparent.*

Children living in grandparent-maintained households lived in poverty more often than both children in grandparent-maintained households and children who did not live with a grandparent (Figure 7). Twenty-five percent of children living in a grandparent-maintained household were in poverty compared with 20 percent of children who lived in a parent-maintained household and 22 percent of children who did not live with a

<sup>26</sup> About 32 percent of children in grandparent-maintained families are U.S. born with no parents present. We do not know if these parents were foreign born or native born.

Figure 7.

**Percentage of Children Who Are Without Health Insurance, With Public Insurance, Receiving Public Assistance, and in Poverty by Living Arrangement: 2012**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

grandparent.<sup>27</sup> However, poverty varied by household composition.

*Children living with a grandmother and no parent present were the most likely to be in poverty (48 percent). Children living with a grandmother and one parent in both parent-maintained and grandparent-maintained households had high percentages of poverty.*

Previous research found the number of grandparents present relates to the prevalence of poverty because of access to socioeconomic resources. Children with two grandparents present are less

<sup>27</sup> There is no statistical difference in the percentage of children who live in poverty between children who live with a grandparent in parent-maintained households and children who do not live with a grandparent.

likely to be in poverty.<sup>28</sup> Figure 8 shows findings that are consistent with this previous research. Children living in households with two grandparents were less often in poverty compared to children living with only a grandmother. In grandparent-maintained households, 48 percent of children living with a grandmother and no parents were in poverty, while only 17 percent of children living with two grandparents and no parents were in poverty. Thirteen percent of children living with two grandparents

<sup>28</sup> Ken Bryson and Lynne Casper, "Coresident Grandparents and Grandchildren," *Current Population Reports*, P23-198, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1999, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf)>. Lindsay A. Baker, and Jane Mutchler, "Poverty and Material Hardship in Grandparent Headed Households," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 2010, 72:947-962.

and at least one parent were in poverty, compared with 33 percent of children living with a grandmother and at least one parent in a grandparent-maintained household. In parent-maintained households, children living with one parent and a grandmother had the highest percentage in poverty (33 percent).

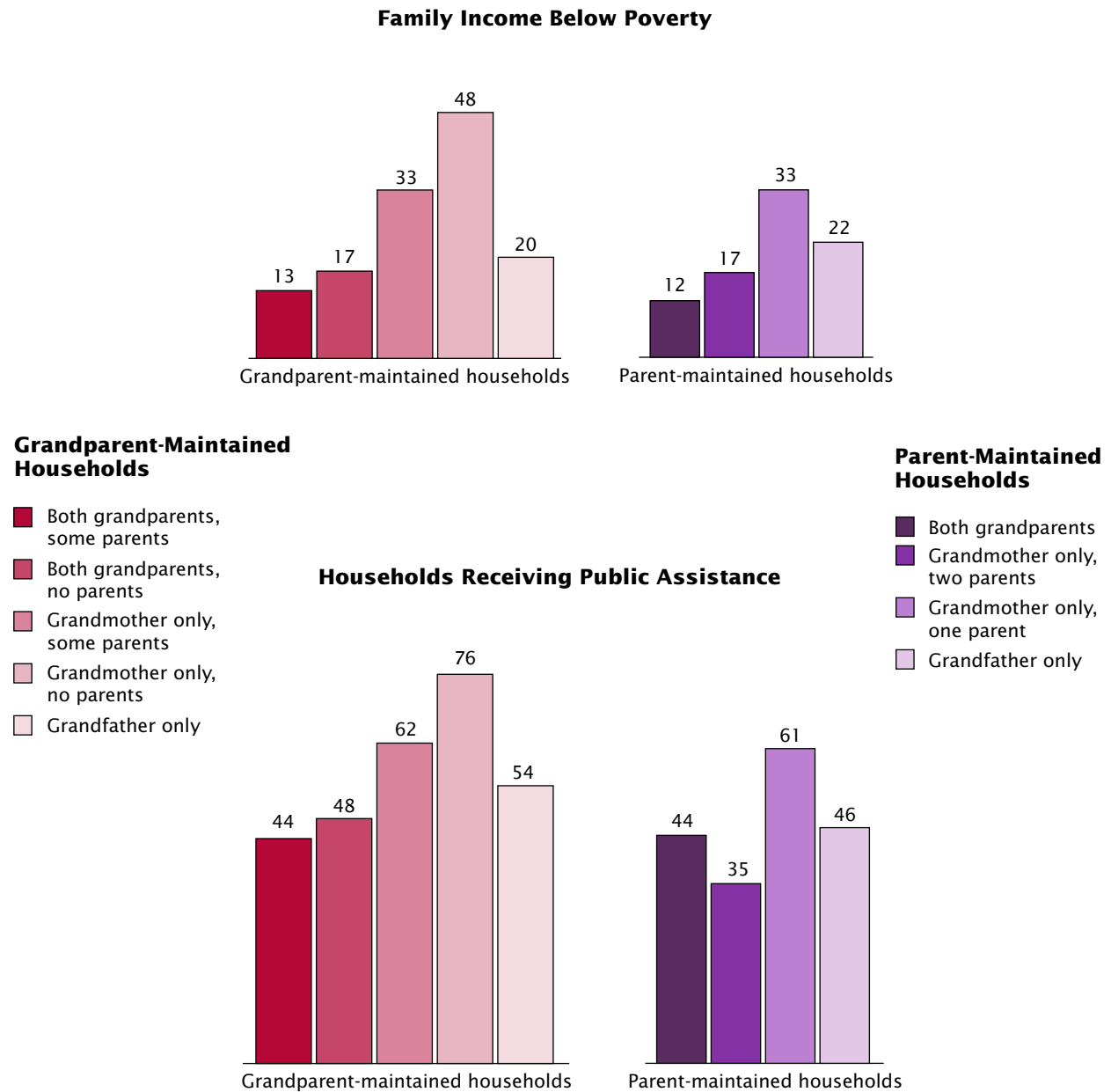
*Three quarters of grandchildren who lived with grandmothers and no parent lived in households that received public assistance. About 60 percent of children who lived with a grandmother and one parent lived in households that received public assistance in both grandparent-maintained and parent-maintained households.*

Children who lived with a grandparent were more likely to live in households that received public assistance than were children in households without coresident grandparents (Figure 7). While 36 percent of children who did not live with a grandparent lived in households that received public assistance, 44 percent of parent-maintained households and 55 percent of grandparent-maintained households with coresident grandchildren received public assistance. Households where children lived with a grandmother with no parent present were more likely to receive public assistance compared with other grandparent-maintained households. Seventy-six percent of these households received public assistance (Figure 8).<sup>29</sup> In parent-maintained households, parent presence is an important factor in the receipt of public assistance.

<sup>29</sup> There is no significant difference in the percentage of children who receive public assistance in grandparent-maintained households with two grandparents with parents present and without parents present. There is no significant difference in the percentage of children who receive public assistance in grandparent-maintained households with a grandparent present compared to those with a grandmother and parents or those with two grandparents and no parents.

Figure 8.

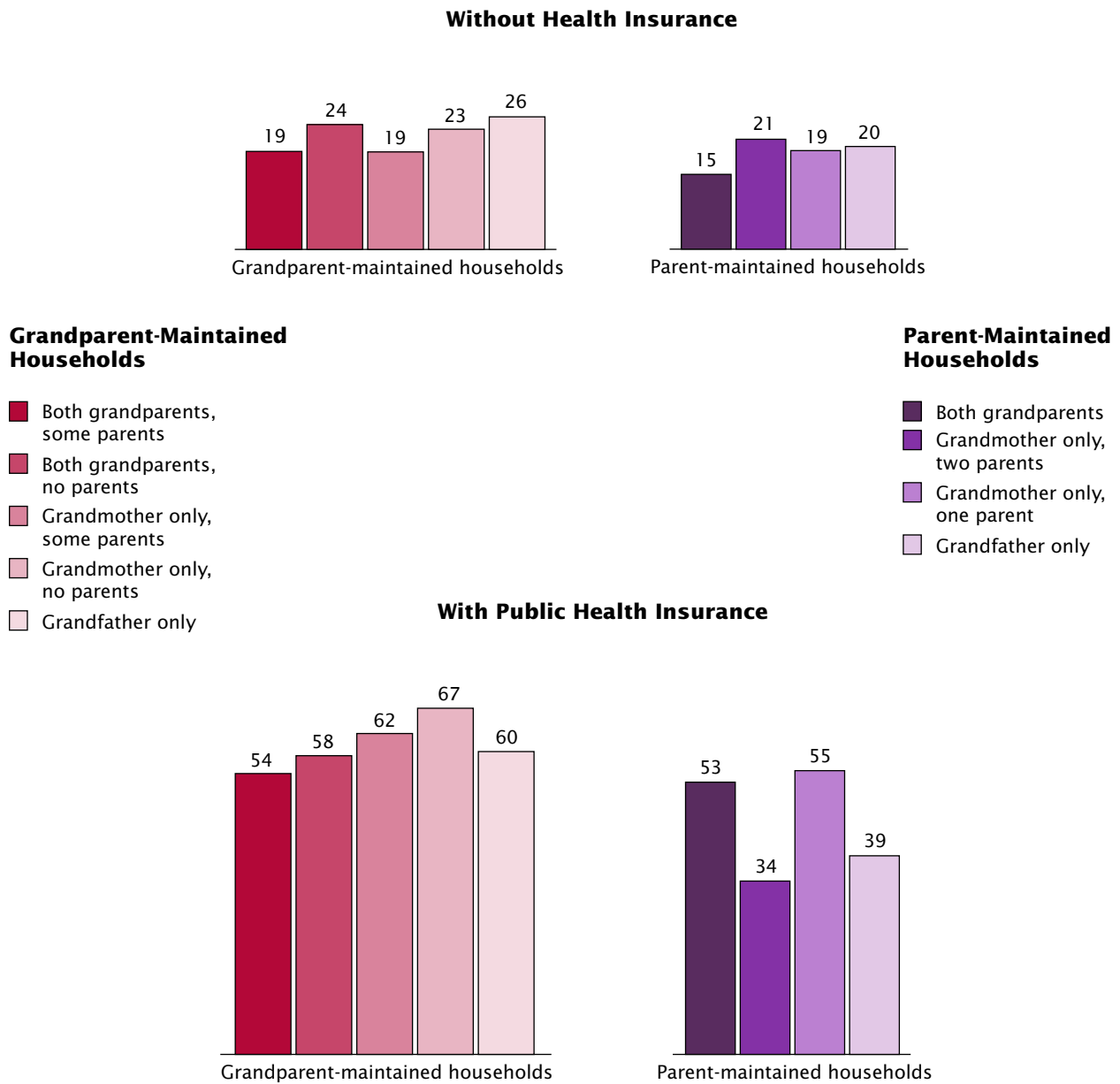
**Percentage of Children Who are in Poverty and Receiving Public Assistance by Living Arrangement: 2012**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Figure 9.

**Percentage of Children Without Health Insurance and With Public Health Insurance by Living Arrangements: 2012**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.



While 61 percent of households where children lived with a grandmother and one parent received public assistance, 35 percent of households where children lived with a grandmother and two parents did.

Although research finds that the presence of two grandparents may protect children from poverty, it also finds that uninsured children are more prevalent in households with one or no parent present regardless of how many grandparents are present.<sup>30</sup> This is largely because these households are frequently formed unexpectedly and are often fluid and informally arranged.<sup>31</sup> Federal and local policy may not recognize these households as eligible for programs or assistance due to lack of clear guardianship and this may contribute to hardship even beyond that of poverty.<sup>32</sup> Figure 9 illustrates this by showing 24 percent of children in grandparent-maintained households with two grandparents and no parent present were uninsured compared with 19 percent of children with two grandparents and at least one parent, or children with a grandmother and at least one parent.<sup>33</sup> For children living in parent-maintained households, a higher percentage of children living with two parents and a grandmother were uninsured compared with children living with two grandparents and parents (21 and 15 percent, respectively).

<sup>30</sup> Ken Bryson and Lynne Casper, "Coresident Grandparents and Grandchildren," *Current Population Reports*, P23-198, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1999, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf)>.

<sup>31</sup> Lindsay A. Baker and Jane Mutchler, "Poverty and Material Hardship in Grandparent Headed Households," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 2010, 72:947-962.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> There is no significant difference in the percentage of children who were uninsured in grandparent-maintained households with two grandparents with parents present and those with a grandmother and parents.

There have been positive changes in health insurance coverage over time for children who coreside with grandparents. Although in 1998, children living in grandparent-maintained households were more likely to be uninsured, in 2012, the percentages of children who were uninsured ranged between 19 and 20 percent for all children regardless of whether they lived with a grandparent (Figure 7).<sup>34</sup> However, this increase in insurance coverage is largely due to an increase in use of public insurance for children who lived with a grandparent.

*Although percentages of children who are uninsured are comparable for children who live with a grandparent and those that do not, children who coreside with a grandparent are more frequently using public insurance rather than private insurance.*

Children who lived with a grandparent were more likely to use public health insurance compared with children who did not live with a grandparent. Sixty percent of children in grandparent-maintained households and 43 percent of children in parent-maintained households received some form of public insurance compared with only 37 percent of children who did not live with a grandparent. Over half of children living in grandparent-maintained households had public insurance regardless of composition (Figure 9). A higher percentage of children living in grandparent-maintained households with a grandmother and no parents had public insurance than children who lived with two grandparents

<sup>34</sup> Ken Bryson and Lynne Casper, "Coresident Grandparents and Grandchildren," *Current Population Reports*, P23-198, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 1999, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/p23-198.pdf)>.

regardless of presence of parents.<sup>35</sup> In parent-maintained households, 34 percent of children living with a grandmother and two parents had public health insurance compared with 55 percent of children with a grandmother and one parent, and 53 percent of households with two grandparents.<sup>36</sup>

## CHARACTERISTICS OF GRANDPARENTS WHO LIVE WITH GRANDCHILDREN

This section provides an overview of grandparents who lived with their grandchildren. Coresiding with and caring for grandchildren may have impacts on an older person's health, stress level, and income stability.<sup>37</sup> Understanding grandparents' characteristics is important for public policy. This section includes geographic patterns of coresident grandparents, characteristics and geographic patterns of grandparents who are the primary caregiver of their grandchildren, and geographic patterns of grandparents who lived with a grandchild without a parent present. This section also includes select characteristics of coresident grandparents such as age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, marital status, educational attainment, labor force participation, and health, poverty and disability status. This allows us to see how coresident grandparents'

<sup>35</sup> There is no significant difference in the percent of children with public insurance in grandparent-maintained households with two grandparents and a parent and those with two grandparents and no parent.

<sup>36</sup> There is no statistical difference in the percentage of children with public health insurance between children who live with a grandparent in parent-maintained households with two grandparents present and children in parent-maintained households with a grandmother and one parent present.

<sup>37</sup> Robert G. Sands and Robin S. Goldberg-Glen, "Factors Associated with Stress Among Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren," *Family Relations*, 2000, 49, 97-105. Carol M. Musil et al, "Grandmother and caregiving to grandchildren: Continuity and change over 24 months," *The Gerontologist*, 2010, 51:1,86-100.

Table 2.

**Grandparents Living With Grandchildren, Responsible for Coresident Grandchildren, and Duration of Responsibility by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2012**

Characteristic	Race							Hispanic origin			
	Total	White alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaskan Native alone	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone	Some other race alone	Two or more races	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)		White alone, not Hispanic or Latino
									Not Hispanic or Latino	Total	
Population 30 years and over . . . . .	187,483,709	145,132,768	21,461,936	1,351,293	9,376,768	275,252	6,790,567	3,095,125	24,591,896	162,891,813	128,643,799
Grandparents living with grandchildren . . . . .	7,065,539	4,472,409	1,258,829	101,944	548,617	29,095	505,451	149,194	1,775,742	5,289,797	3,291,310
Percent of population 30 and over . . . . .	3.8	3.1	5.9	7.5	5.9	10.6	7.4	4.8	7.2	3.2	2.6
Responsible for grandchildren . . . . .	2,743,282	1,785,033	599,741	55,096	84,051	8,842	154,165	56,354	549,558	2,193,724	1,422,907
Percent of grandparents living with grandchildren . . . . .	38.8	39.9	47.6	54.0	15.3	30.4	30.5	37.8	30.9	41.5	43.2
<b>By duration of time responsible (percent)*</b>											
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 6 months . . . . .	10.5	10.8	9.3	10.6	10.7	9.1	11.6	10.0	11.5	10.2	10.6
6 to 11 Months . . . . .	10.6	10.8	10.2	10.1	8.9	4.9	12.2	12.2	10.4	10.7	11.0
1 to 2 years . . . . .	23.0	22.9	22.7	23.6	19.1	32.9	25.3	23.3	24.7	22.5	22.6
3 to 4 years . . . . .	16.6	16.9	16.1	15.7	17.2	8.5	17.2	14.5	16.5	16.7	16.9
5 years or more . . . . .	39.3	38.7	41.8	40.0	44.2	44.6	33.7	40.0	36.9	39.9	38.8

\* Percent distribution based on grandparents responsible for grandchildren. Percent distribution may not sum to 100 percent because of rounding.

Note: See Appendix Table 1 for the margins of error that accompany the estimates in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey. For more information, see <www.census.gov/acs>.

circumstances vary by household composition.

*In 2012, 2.7 million grandparents in the United States were raising their grandchildren.*

The 2012 American Community Survey estimated 187.5 million people aged 30 and over lived in the United States, of whom 7.1 million (4 percent) lived with grandchildren younger than 18 years (Table 2). Among these grandparents living with grandchildren, 2.7 million (39 percent) were also “grandparent caregivers” (those who had primary responsibility for grandchildren under 18 years living with them). Among grandparent caregivers, 39 percent had cared for their grandchildren for 5 or more years.

As Table 2 shows, there are distinct differences in the percentages of grandparents living with and raising grandchildren by race and Hispanic origin. While 4 percent of all people aged 30 and over lived with their grandchildren, 3 percent of White, non-Hispanics did so. Higher proportions were found among other racial and ethnic groups: 6 percent of Blacks and Asians, 7 percent of Hispanics, 8 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and 11 percent of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.<sup>38</sup>

The percentage of particular race or ethnic groups who lived with their grandchildren did not necessarily correlate with the percentage of those responsible for their grandchildren. Grandparents who were Asian (15 percent), Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (30 percent), or Hispanic (31 percent) were less likely to be responsible

<sup>38</sup> There was no significant difference between the percentages of American Indian and Alaska Native grandparents living with grandchildren and Hispanic or Latino grandparents living with grandchildren.

for grandchildren than Black (48 percent) or American Indian and other Alaskan Native grandparents (54 percent). Forty-three percent of White, non-Hispanic grandparents were responsible for their coresident grandchildren.<sup>39</sup>

These differences in grandparents living with grandchildren and grandparents responsible for grandchildren by race are related to a variety of factors. For instance, among American Indians and Alaska Natives, working-age adults sometimes leave reservations to earn money for the household while the grandparents care for their children; also, informal adoption of grandchildren is more prevalent among Blacks.<sup>40</sup>

Among grandparent caregivers: 11 percent had cared for their grandchildren for fewer than 6 months; 11 percent had cared for their grandchildren for 6 to 11 months; 23 percent for 1 to 2 years; 17 percent for 3 to 4 years; and 39 percent for 5 years or more.<sup>41</sup> Time responsible varied by race and ethnicity. Hispanics had one of the lower percentages responsible for their grandchildren for 5 or more years (37 percent).

Of the 7.1 million coresident grandparents in 2012, 64 percent were women (Table 3). This percentage did not vary much by whether a grandparent was a caregiver or how long they had been a caregiver, ranging from 62 percent to 65 percent.

<sup>39</sup> The percentage of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander grandparents responsible for grandchildren was not significantly different from the percentage of Hispanic grandparents responsible for grandchildren.

<sup>40</sup> Laurel Kathleen Schwede, Rae Lesser Blumberg, and Anna Y. Chan, eds., *Complex ethnic households in America*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.

<sup>41</sup> The percentage of grandparents that had cared for their grandchildren for less than 6 months is not significantly different from the percentage that had cared for their grandchildren 6 to 11 months.

In looking at the age distribution of coresident grandparents, only 2 percent of grandparents living with grandchildren were aged 30 to 39, reflecting the low probability of being a grandparent at this early age, while the highest percentage was for those aged 50 to 59 (34 percent). Those aged 80 and over made up only 5 percent of coresident grandparents.

*Compared with 2000, a higher percentage of grandparents are in older age groups in 2012.*

Comparing grandparents living with grandchildren by different age groups in 2012 and 2000, in 2012 a higher percentage of grandparents were in older age brackets.<sup>42</sup> In 2000, 24 percent of grandparents living with grandchildren were aged 40 to 49, compared with 17 percent in 2012. In 2000, 24 percent were aged 60 to 69, while in 2012, 29.1 percent were aged 60 to 69. (There was not much change in the percent who were 50 to 59 years between these two time periods—32 percent in 2000 versus 34 percent in 2012).

The age distribution of grandparent caregivers was younger than that of coresident grandparents not responsible for grandchildren. For instance, while 13 percent of grandparents not responsible for grandchildren were 40 to 49 years old, 22 percent of grandparents responsible for grandchildren were 40 to 49 years old.

Figure 10 shows that grandparents living with grandchildren who were under 60 years were more often responsible for their grandchildren (47 percent) than grandparents who were aged 60 and over (29

<sup>42</sup> Tavia Simmons and Jane Lawler Dye, “Grandparents Living With Grandchildren: 2000,” *Census 2000 Brief*, C2KBR-31, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2003, available at <[www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-31.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/c2kbr-31.pdf)>.

Table 3.  
**Grandparents Living With Grandchildren, Responsible for Coresident Grandchildren, and Duration of Responsibility by Sex and Age: 2012**

Characteristic	Total	Sex		Age						
		Male	Female	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 and over	
		Grandparents living with grandchildren . . . . .	7,065,539	2,530,093	4,535,446	164,284	1,183,959	2,412,910	2,052,925	935,516
Not responsible for grandchildren . . . . .	4,322,257	1,513,908	2,808,349	64,727	578,356	1,343,376	1,342,101	718,681	275,016	
Responsible for grandchildren . . . . .	2,743,282	1,016,185	1,727,097	99,557	605,603	1,069,534	710,824	216,835	40,929	
<b>Percent distribution<sup>1</sup></b>										
Grandparents living with grandchildren . . . . .	100.0	35.8	64.2	2.3	16.8	34.2	29.1	13.2	4.5	
Not responsible for grandchildren . . . . .	100.0	35.0	65.0	1.5	13.4	31.1	31.1	16.6	6.4	
Responsible for grandchildren . . . . .	100.0	37.0	63.0	3.6	22.1	39.0	25.9	7.9	1.5	
<b>Percent distribution by duration of time responsible<sup>1</sup></b>										
Less than 6 months . . . . .	100.0	37.0	63.0	7.9	32.3	36.0	18.4	4.5	0.9	
6 to 11 months . . . . .	100.0	38.1	61.9	8.1	30.0	36.4	19.5	5.0	0.9	
1 to 2 years . . . . .	100.0	37.4	62.6	5.4	30.3	37.7	20.2	5.3	1.1	
3 to 4 years . . . . .	100.0	37.1	62.9	2.9	23.2	40.6	25.1	7.1	1.2	
5 years or more . . . . .	100.0	36.6	63.4	0.6	11.9	40.5	33.3	11.5	2.2	

<sup>1</sup> Percentages are based on the totals in the first column. Percent distribution may not sum up to 100 percent because of rounding.

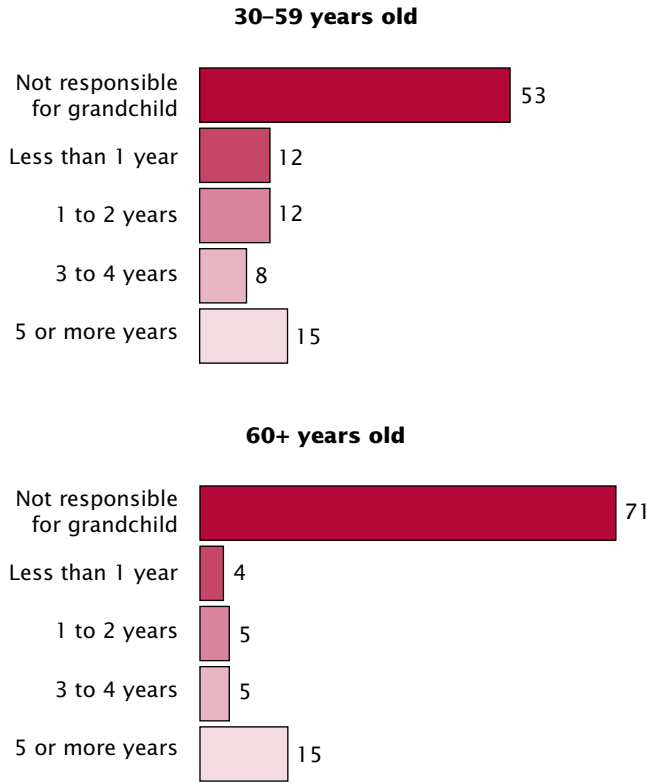
Note: See Appendix Table 2 for the margins of error that accompany the estimates in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey. For more information, see <[www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs)>.

Figure 10.

**Length of Time Coresident Grandparents Were Responsible for Grandchildren by Age of Grandparents: 2012**

(In Percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey. For more information, see <[www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs)>.

percent). Grandparents living with grandchildren who were under 60 years were more often responsible for their grandchildren for less than a year (12 percent) than grandparents who were aged 60 and over (4 percent).

**Characteristics of Grandparents by Region and State**

Not surprisingly, geographic patterns of grandparents living with grandchildren (Figure 11) were similar to the geographic patterns seen in children living with grandparent householders (Figure 5). Regional differences in the percentages of

grandparents living with grandchildren under 18 reflect factors such as differing racial compositions of specific areas. For instance, the Midwest and the upper Northeast generally had the lowest percentages of grandparents living with grandchildren under 18 (Figure 11). This could be related to higher levels of White, non-Hispanics residing in the Midwest.<sup>43</sup> Relatively high proportions of people 30 years and over lived with grandchildren under 18 in the South, which is an area

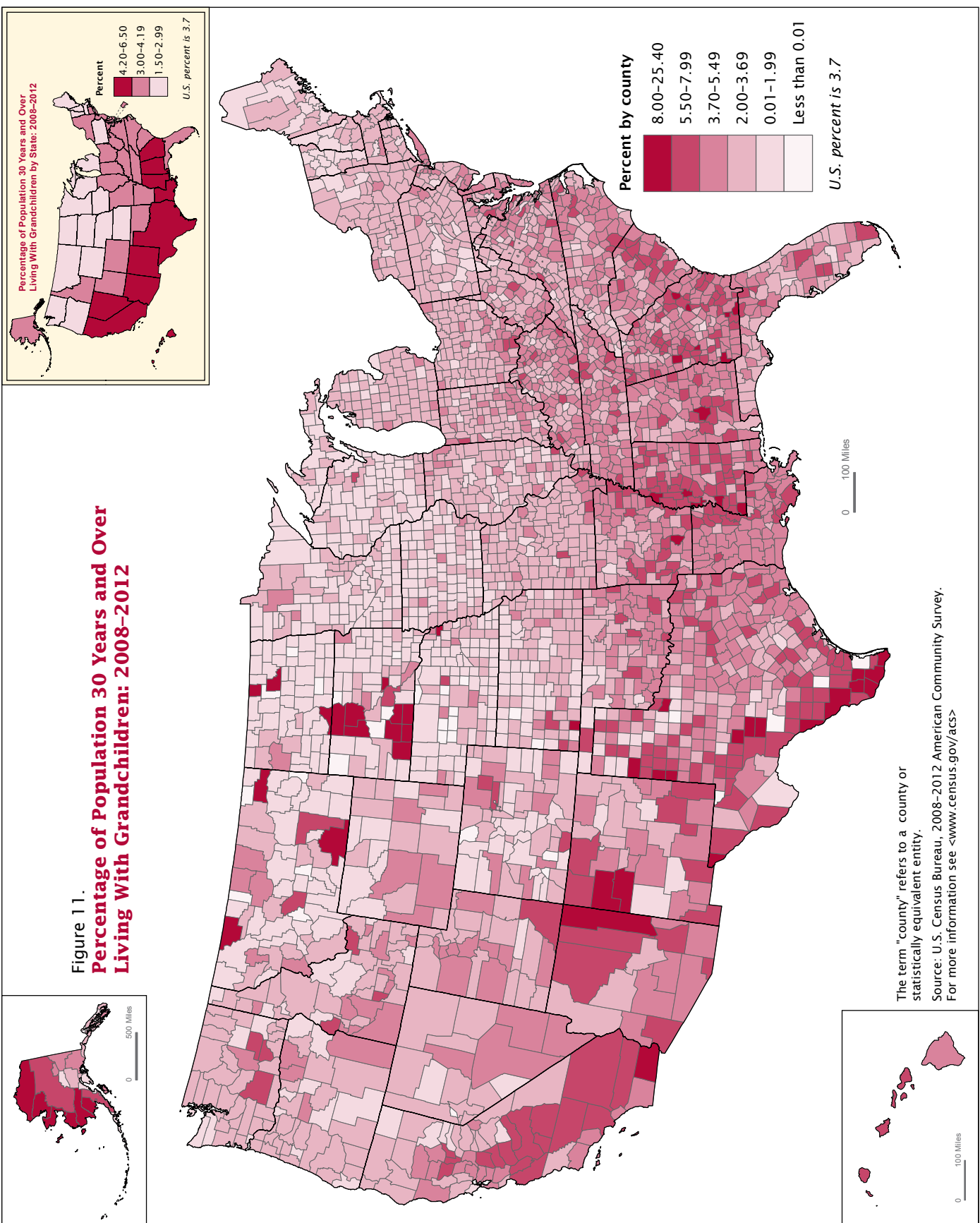
<sup>43</sup> Lindsay Hixon, Bradford B. Hepler, and Myoung Ouk Kim, "The White Population: 2010," 2010 *Census Briefs*, C2010BR-05, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2011.

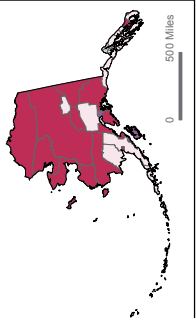
with relatively high proportions of Blacks. Higher percentages of people 30 and over living with grandchildren under 18 were also noted in the southern and the coastal areas of the West, which has large immigrant populations from Asia and Latin America. Other counties with relatively high percentages were noted in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, and New Mexico, which contain American Indian reservations. Several counties in Alaska also had high percentages of grandparents living with grandchildren, concentrated around areas that had higher percentages of Alaska Natives.

Regional differences existed in percentages of grandparents who were responsible for the grandchildren living with them (Figure 12). Many counties in the South and Southwest as well as Alaska had percentages higher than the U.S. average, while many counties in California, southern Florida, Hawaii, and along the Northeastern seaboard had percentages lower than the U.S. average. These differences may be related to the differential rates of grandparent caregiving seen among different races and ethnicities discussed earlier in the report—for example, Asian, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian grandparents were less likely to be primary caregivers for their grandchildren.

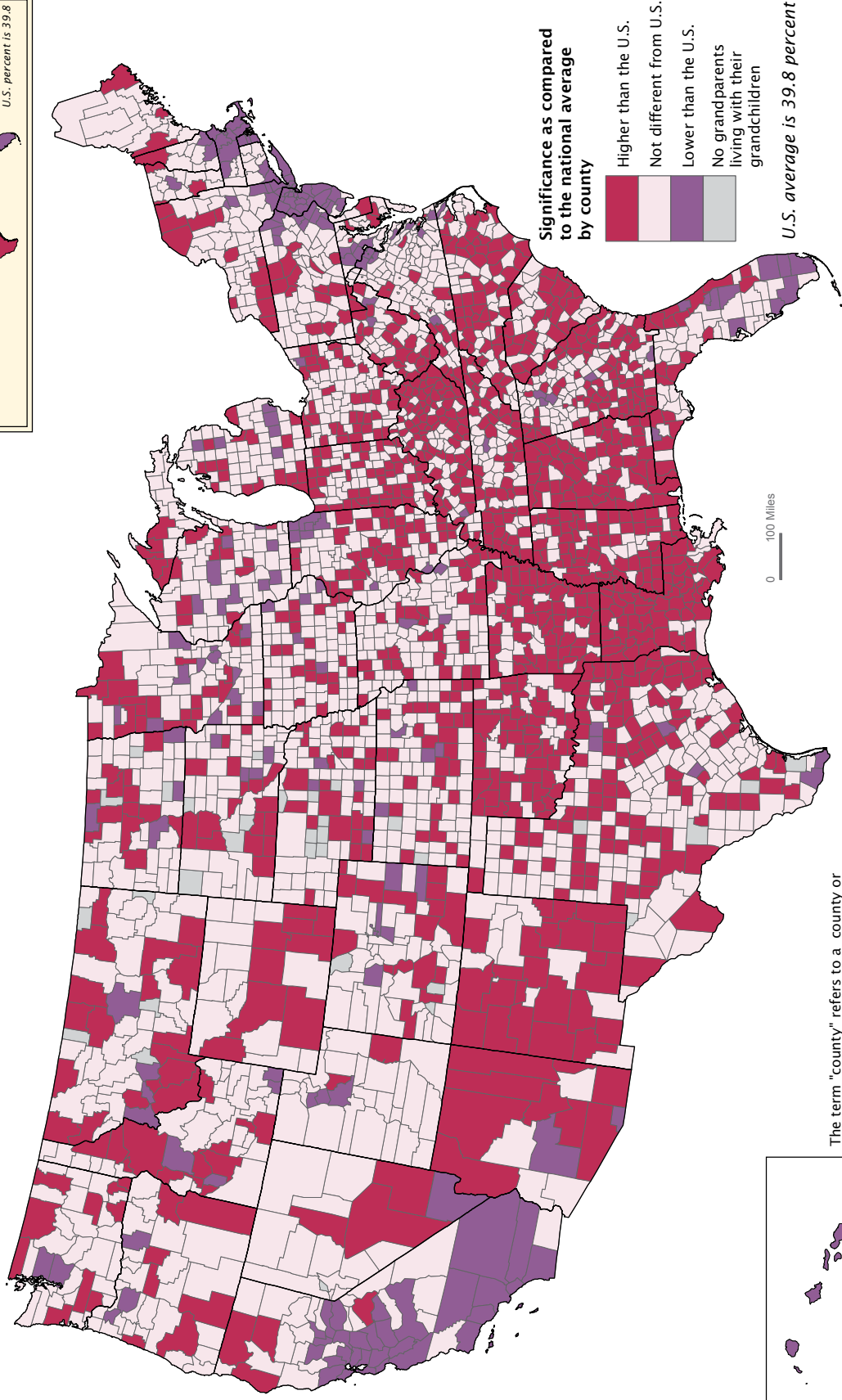
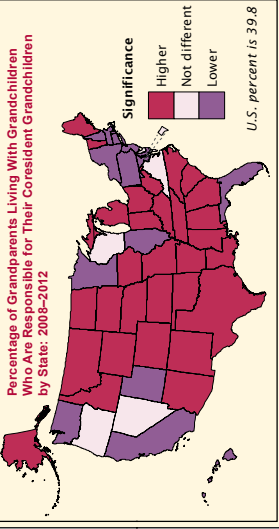
The percentage of people aged 30 and over in the United States who were coresident grandparents in grandparent-maintained households ranged from a high of 4.3 percent in the West to a low of 2.9 percent in the Midwest (Table 4). At the state level, Hawaii had the highest percentage of adults living with grandchildren (7 percent), while Minnesota and North Dakota had







**Figure 12.**  
**Percentage of Grandparents Living With Grandchildren Who Are Responsible for Their Coresident Grandchildren by State: 2008–2012**



The term "county" refers to a county or statistically equivalent entity.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008–2012 American Community Survey.  
 For more information see <[www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs)>

some of the lowest percentages (2 percent).<sup>44</sup>

The South had the highest percentage of grandparent caregivers (45 percent), while the Northeast and the West had the lowest percentages (32 percent and 31 percent, respectively).<sup>45</sup> At the state level, Alabama was among the states with the highest percentages (58 percent),<sup>46</sup> while New Jersey and California had some of the lowest (26 percent and 27 percent, respectively).<sup>47</sup>

*For many grandparents raising grandchildren, this responsibility is a long-term commitment. In the United States, 39 percent of grandparent caregivers have cared for their grandchildren for 5 or more years.*

For many grandparents, this responsibility is a long-term commitment. In 2012, 39 percent of grandparents responsible for grandchildren under 18 had cared for their grandchildren for 5 or more years. Regionally, the Midwest had the lowest percentage responsible for grandchildren for this amount of time (37 percent).

Conversely, 21 percent of grandparent caregivers in the United States had been responsible for their grandchildren for less than a year. Regionally, grandparent caregivers in the Midwest and West were more

likely to have been responsible for grandchildren for less than a year compared to other regions (23 percent).

*One-third of grandparents who were responsible for their grandchildren were raising them without parents present.*

Thirty-three percent of grandparent caregivers in households were living with their grandchildren without the presence of the parent(s) of their grandchildren.<sup>48</sup> Grandparent caregivers in the Midwest<sup>49</sup> and South were more likely to live with grandchildren without a parent present (34 percent and 36 percent, respectively), while the West had the lowest percentage without a parent present (26 percent).

In looking at differences by age, the Northeast and West had the highest percentages of grandparent caregivers who were aged 60 and over (38 percent and 37 percent, respectively), while the Midwest and South had the lowest (33 percent and 35 percent, respectively).<sup>50</sup>

On average, 22 percent of grandparent caregivers in the United States in 2011 had incomes below the poverty level. Among regions, the proportion of grandparents living in poverty was highest in the South (24 percent).

In 2012, 4.6 million households included coresident grandparents, but these households contained 7.1 million coresident grandparents. In other words, some households had more than one grandparent (for example, households where a grandparent was married and living with a spouse who was also a grandparent). The regions with the highest percentages of households with coresident grandparents were the South (4 percent) and the West (5 percent), while the region with the lowest percentage was the Midwest (3 percent). The state with the highest proportion of households with coresident grandparents was Hawaii (8 percent), while the state with the lowest proportion was North Dakota (2 percent).

### **Characteristics of grandparents in parent-maintained and grandparent-maintained households**

*Coresident grandparents living in parent-maintained households were more frequently older, and more likely to be divorced or widowed, compared with those living in their own household.*

In the 2012 CPS, data on the characteristics of coresident grandparents were consistent with historical trends and with ACS 2012 findings. As Table 5 shows, grandparents who lived with grandchildren were generally the householder (71 percent). Grandparents with coresident grandchildren in grandparent-maintained households were younger, more educated, in better health, and more likely to be White, married, and working compared with their counterparts in parent-maintained households. However, grandparents in parent-maintained households were less likely to live in households that were in poverty. These differences may be in part because households with coresident grandparents may be formed

<sup>44</sup> The percentages of the population 30 years and over who were living with grandchildren in Minnesota and North Dakota are not significantly different from each other or from Iowa, Maine, Vermont, or Wyoming. Additionally, North Dakota is not significantly different from Wisconsin.

<sup>45</sup> The percentage of grandparent caregivers in the Northeast was not significantly different from those in the West.

<sup>46</sup> The percentage of grandparent caregivers in Alabama is not significantly different from those in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, or West Virginia.

<sup>47</sup> The percentages of grandparent caregivers in California and New Jersey are not significantly different from each other or from those in the District of Columbia or Hawaii.

<sup>48</sup> This measure excludes grandparent caregivers in group quarters since the relationship question is only asked of those in households. It also excludes grandparent caregivers who are not the householder or spouse since the relationship question is only asked in relation to the reference person—relationships of others in the household to each other can be difficult to determine.

<sup>49</sup> The national percentage of grandparent caregivers with no parent of the grandchild present was not significantly different from the percentage for the Midwest.

<sup>50</sup> The percentages of grandparent caregivers who were aged 60 or older in the Northeast and West were not significantly different from each other. The percentages of grandparents who were aged 60 or older in the Midwest and South were not significantly different from each other.

Table 4.

### Selected Characteristics of Grandparents Living With Grandchildren for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: 2012

Area	Grandparents living with grandchildren			Grandparents responsible for coresident grandchildren								Households with grandparents living with grandchildren	
	Number	Percent of population 30 years and over	Percent responsible <sup>1</sup>	Percent distribution of time responsible <sup>2</sup>				Percent who were:				Number	Percent of all households
				Less than 1 year	1 to 2 years	3 to 4 years	5 or more years	Householder or spouse <sup>3</sup>	No parent present <sup>4</sup>	Aged 60 and over <sup>2</sup>	In poverty in 2011 <sup>2</sup>		
<b>United States . . . . .</b>	<b>7,065,539</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>4,590,671</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Region</b>													
Northeast . . . . .	1,107,136	3.2	31.6	19.1	22.5	18.4	40.0	89.3	29.3	37.7	20.5	746,817	3.6
Midwest . . . . .	1,178,805	2.9	41.5	22.6	23.1	17.1	37.2	93.9	34.2	33.3	20.7	783,749	3.0
South . . . . .	2,923,362	4.2	45.1	20.5	23.1	16.5	39.9	93.5	36.2	34.6	24.1	1,900,402	4.4
West . . . . .	1,856,236	4.3	31.4	22.5	22.8	15.3	39.4	88.8	26.1	37.2	19.1	1,159,703	4.5
<b>State</b>													
Alabama . . . . .	119,715	4.1	58.3	17.3	25.1	15.3	42.2	96.7	40.2	33.8	25.7	80,865	4.4
Alaska . . . . .	16,935	4.2	45.9	24.4	30.8	15.9	28.9	77.3	20.9	33.4	12.7	10,549	4.2
Arizona . . . . .	160,720	4.2	41.2	23.0	23.0	17.0	37.0	88.7	28.3	33.2	26.4	101,762	4.3
Arkansas . . . . .	72,556	4.1	55.8	20.4	28.0	13.5	38.1	95.0	41.1	32.1	26.9	47,968	4.2
California . . . . .	1,111,316	5.1	26.5	21.4	23.3	15.3	40.0	85.8	22.2	38.4	18.8	685,946	5.5
Colorado . . . . .	88,294	2.9	40.5	24.9	24.0	17.2	33.9	92.7	31.0	29.4	18.4	58,163	2.9
Connecticut . . . . .	65,405	2.9	31.5	19.7	22.8	18.3	39.2	92.6	33.3	33.0	20.8	45,159	3.3
Delaware . . . . .	26,483	4.7	38.4	8.0	19.5	20.4	52.1	96.5	43.6	41.4	13.9	16,714	4.9
District of Columbia . . . . .	10,341	2.8	28.6	5.9	41.8	28.9	23.4	86.0	32.7	38.1	34.8	7,964	3.0
Florida . . . . .	463,879	3.8	34.9	22.5	20.9	17.2	39.4	89.4	33.4	38.6	22.9	283,476	3.9
Georgia . . . . .	265,530	4.6	46.9	21.8	22.8	16.7	38.8	94.4	32.8	34.1	25.2	171,939	4.9
Hawaii . . . . .	54,874	6.5	27.7	20.3	20.8	9.2	49.7	85.6	19.3	41.5	20.4	33,421	7.5
Idaho . . . . .	23,116	2.6	42.7	20.7	17.5	16.6	45.2	96.5	35.0	39.3	22.9	14,672	2.5
Illinois . . . . .	275,433	3.6	35.5	19.4	22.5	17.3	40.7	90.9	24.8	33.1	23.6	181,085	3.8
Indiana . . . . .	126,036	3.3	44.9	25.6	19.5	18.8	36.1	96.0	37.7	32.3	21.9	84,959	3.4
Iowa . . . . .	39,482	2.1	42.4	25.5	26.4	16.2	31.9	95.4	41.5	36.8	14.5	26,380	2.1
Kansas . . . . .	47,220	2.8	48.2	22.4	26.2	13.9	37.5	93.8	35.6	38.5	12.9	31,544	2.8
Kentucky . . . . .	102,902	3.9	55.3	18.0	23.9	16.0	42.1	97.2	41.5	33.4	27.3	68,890	4.0
Louisiana . . . . .	119,416	4.5	56.9	21.0	24.9	17.2	36.8	94.4	37.1	31.2	27.0	81,245	4.7
Maine . . . . .	18,412	2.1	42.5	14.3	25.4	26.5	33.8	95.3	41.9	27.3	22.7	12,684	2.3
Maryland . . . . .	141,040	4.0	34.5	17.4	27.1	15.0	40.5	88.5	30.4	39.0	14.4	97,029	4.5
Massachusetts . . . . .	122,541	3.0	29.7	22.5	24.1	17.1	36.3	86.8	24.0	37.8	14.5	80,850	3.2
Michigan . . . . .	184,352	3.1	41.3	22.3	24.7	18.2	34.8	93.3	30.0	33.3	22.4	122,567	3.2
Minnesota . . . . .	62,502	1.9	33.2	26.3	29.0	12.0	32.6	93.2	32.2	32.4	13.3	42,047	2.0
Mississippi . . . . .	93,428	5.4	56.0	22.8	21.3	13.7	42.2	95.2	38.7	32.1	34.6	65,200	6.0
Missouri . . . . .	112,192	3.1	41.1	26.8	20.2	16.2	36.7	96.3	36.2	34.5	19.9	74,646	3.2
Montana . . . . .	14,972	2.4	55.0	25.4	25.6	10.3	38.6	98.4	47.3	38.7	20.7	9,896	2.4
Nebraska . . . . .	24,365	2.3	46.9	30.5	24.8	12.4	32.3	89.9	38.2	33.9	21.1	16,204	2.2
Nevada . . . . .	66,279	4.0	35.7	14.9	21.6	25.7	37.8	91.5	25.5	43.2	19.0	41,290	4.1
New Hampshire . . . . .	20,281	2.4	33.6	16.7	37.3	13.9	32.1	92.6	29.0	34.2	13.2	13,696	2.6
New Jersey . . . . .	184,314	3.4	26.3	17.0	20.1	19.6	43.3	88.0	27.4	43.2	16.6	123,492	3.9
New Mexico . . . . .	54,669	4.5	53.2	18.3	26.1	13.8	41.8	92.6	28.2	33.9	19.8	35,147	4.6
New York . . . . .	426,725	3.6	30.0	18.6	22.2	19.0	40.3	86.9	26.3	42.5	23.8	289,671	4.0
North Carolina . . . . .	201,666	3.4	50.1	20.5	21.9	17.3	40.3	96.0	38.5	33.0	27.3	134,940	3.6
North Dakota . . . . .	7,263	1.8	49.1	20.2	17.9	14.6	47.3	98.7	42.7	42.5	14.8	4,465	1.5
Ohio . . . . .	217,143	3.1	48.3	19.8	23.5	17.0	39.6	95.1	41.2	31.8	21.0	144,547	3.2
Oklahoma . . . . .	81,153	3.6	53.0	24.8	21.9	15.7	37.6	92.8	46.6	40.7	23.4	53,323	3.7
Oregon . . . . .	70,167	2.9	38.4	25.8	19.9	15.2	39.0	97.8	34.7	39.1	15.7	45,979	3.0
Pennsylvania . . . . .	242,192	3.0	37.8	20.2	22.6	16.9	40.3	93.0	34.0	31.4	20.4	162,449	3.3
Rhode Island . . . . .	18,371	2.8	34.2	17.3	12.3	25.2	45.3	83.8	25.4	29.8	22.6	12,565	3.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4.

**Selected Characteristics of Grandparents Living With Grandchildren for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: 2012—Con.**

Area	Grandparents living with grandchildren			Grandparents responsible for coresident grandchildren								Households with grandparents living with grandchildren	
	Number	Percent of population 30 years and over	Percent responsible <sup>1</sup>	Percent distribution of time responsible <sup>2</sup>				Percent who were:				Number	Percent of all households
				Less than 1 year	1 to 2 years	3 to 4 years	5 or more years	Householder or spouse <sup>3</sup>		Aged 60 and over <sup>2</sup>	In poverty in 2011 <sup>2</sup>		
								Total	No parent present <sup>4</sup>				
<b>State—Con.</b>													
South Carolina . . .	123,970	4.3	48.6	16.7	26.5	13.9	42.9	95.1	39.5	37.5	21.6	82,692	4.6
South Dakota . . .	11,217	2.3	47.3	21.4	22.9	23.0	32.7	93.5	30.3	33.6	31.5	7,474	2.3
Tennessee . . . . .	153,707	3.9	50.7	19.4	19.5	14.6	46.4	95.0	41.3	35.2	21.4	102,170	4.1
Texas . . . . .	739,851	5.1	42.9	20.8	23.1	18.0	38.0	92.6	32.4	31.8	24.8	469,164	5.2
Utah . . . . .	57,807	4.1	33.0	23.9	18.7	15.5	41.9	95.4	30.1	40.4	11.3	35,984	4.0
Vermont . . . . .	8,895	2.2	45.0	18.2	29.9	15.7	36.2	91.4	47.1	22.7	17.5	6,251	2.4
Virginia . . . . .	174,297	3.5	37.6	21.2	24.5	16.3	38.0	92.8	35.2	37.7	14.0	115,178	3.8
Washington . . . .	129,354	3.1	33.7	31.1	20.5	9.5	38.9	92.7	33.5	35.6	16.2	82,235	3.1
West Virginia . . .	33,428	2.8	56.6	23.7	16.5	17.9	41.9	93.5	42.1	35.6	23.9	21,645	2.9
Wisconsin . . . . .	71,600	2.1	38.3	24.2	22.5	20.3	33.0	93.9	35.5	32.9	17.9	47,831	2.1
Wyoming . . . . .	7,733	2.3	49.3	21.7	18.9	17.3	42.0	90.2	39.0	51.2	13.0	4,659	2.1
Puerto Rico . . . .	108,183	4.9	46.0	19.7	19.8	13.4	47.1	91.9	26.5	41.4	55.3	71,973	5.7

<sup>1</sup> Percent based on all grandparents living with grandchildren.

<sup>2</sup> Percent based on all grandparents responsible for coresident grandchildren.

<sup>3</sup> Percent based on all grandparents responsible for coresident grandchildren in households.

<sup>4</sup> No parent present is defined as a household where the grandparent is the householder or spouse, a person under 18 is the grandchild of the householder, and no adult child of the householder is present in the household.

Note: See Appendix Table 3 for the margins of error that accompany the estimates in this table.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey. For more information, see <[www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs)>.



to meet the needs of the grandchildren and their parents or they may be formed to meet the needs of the grandparents.<sup>51</sup> It is likely that parent-maintained households contain older grandparents that are more likely to be in poor health because coresidence is a result of caring for an aging parent. However, this may vary by household composition even in parent-maintained households.

In grandparent-maintained households, 51 percent of grandparents were White and 21 percent were Black compared with 34 and 15 percent, respectively, in parent-maintained households. While 35 percent of grandparents in parent-maintained households were Hispanic, the percentage of grandparents in grandparent-maintained households that were Hispanic was 23 percent.

Grandparents in grandparent-maintained households were younger than those in parent-maintained households—11 percent of grandparents who were householders were between 30 and 34 years, compared with only 6 percent of those in parent-maintained households. While 46 percent of grandparents who lived in parent-maintained households were over 65, only 23 percent of those living in their own home were over 65. Eighteen percent of grandparents living in parent-maintained households were over 75, while only 5 percent of those living in their own home were over 75.

Grandparents who lived in their own home were more likely to be married and less likely to be divorced. While 66 percent of

grandparents living in their own home were married, 31 percent of those living in parent-maintained households were married. Twenty-six percent of grandparents living in parent-maintained households were widowed, compared with only 10 percent of those who maintained the household. About 2 percent of grandparents living in their own home and 1 percent of those in parent-maintained homes were not married but lived with a cohabiting partner.

Grandparents with coresident grandchildren who maintained their own home were more likely to have graduated from high school and to have gone to college compared with grandparents who lived in parent-maintained households. About 25 percent of grandparents who lived in their own home did not graduate from high school compared with 37 percent of those who lived in parent-maintained households. Only 28 percent of coresident grandparents living in a parent-maintained household had any college experience; 36 percent of grandparents who lived in their own home had at least some college.

While 44 percent of coresident grandparents who lived in their own home did not work in the last year, about 11 percent worked full-time. Only 8 percent of grandparents living in a parent-maintained household worked full-time, while 67 percent did not work in the last year. This may be in part because grandparents living in their own homes tend to be younger than those who live in parent-maintained households. Coresident grandmothers who owned their own homes that were living without a parent present were more likely not to work compared with grandmothers who lived with a parent present, or grandmothers with a spouse

present.<sup>52</sup> Grandmothers living in parent-maintained households with two parents and no spouse were the most likely group to not work (81 percent). This finding is consistent with the idea that these grandparents lived with their children for their own needs rather than the needs of grandchildren.

*Coresident grandmothers living in their own homes with no parent present had the highest rates of poverty.*

Although coresident grandparents who lived in their own home were more likely to work, they were also more likely to live in poverty compared with grandparents living in parent-maintained households. Twenty percent of coresident grandparents who lived in their own home were in poverty compared to 17 percent of those in parent-maintained households. This varied by household composition. Of grandparent-maintained households, 12 percent of those with two grandparents and one or more parent were in poverty and 44 percent of grandmothers with no parent present were in poverty.

Health conditions also differed between coresident grandparents in parent-maintained and grandparent-maintained households. The CPS includes a self-rated measure of health. Self-rated measures have been found to be a good predictor of actual health status.<sup>53</sup> Seventy-two percent of coresident grandparents living in their own home reported excellent, very good, or good health compared with 67 per-

<sup>51</sup> A. Smits, R. I. van Gaalen, and C. H. Mulder, "Parent-Child Coresidence: Who moves in with Whom and for Whose Needs," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 2010, 72.4:1022–1033.

<sup>52</sup> There is no significant difference in the percentage not working between grandmothers that lived in their own home with a parent and those that lived in their own home with a spouse (with or without a parent present).

<sup>53</sup> Ellen L. Idler and Yael Benyamini, "Self-Rated Health and Mortality: A Review of Twenty-Seven Community Studies," *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 1997,38;1.

Table 5.

**Characteristics of Grandparents Who Coreside With Grandchildren: 2012**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	All co-resident grandparents		Grandparent is householder						Parent is householder			Neither parent nor grandparent is householder
	Total	Some parents	No parent	Grandmother only		Grandfather only	Total	Both grand-parents	Two parents	One parent	Grandfather only	
				Some parents	No parent							
<b>Grandparents, total (number)</b> . . . . .	<b>4,163</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>1,506</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic origin</b>												
White alone . . . . .	71.5	78.4	78.1	65.2	55.5	76.2	66.9	67.5	67.1	63.3	70.5	69.3
White alone, non-Hispanic . . . . .	46.0	50.5	61.1	46.3	39.0	55.6	33.9	34.2	38.2	31.0	27.0	31.5
Black alone . . . . .	18.7	13.0	18.4	30.2	39.3	18.4	14.6	7.1	11.5	31.3	15.8	10.6
Asian alone . . . . .	1.6	0.6	1.8	0.9	2.9	2.9	2.1	2.5	2.1	2.1	3.9	4.2
Hispanic (any race) . . . . .	26.7	28.0	17.4	19.8	17.5	20.6	34.9	34.5	30.5	32.2	50.8	47.5
<b>Age</b>												
30 to 44 . . . . .	9.8	10.7	10.9	15.3	6.2	4.1	5.5	3.5	2.7	10.9	9.5	18.0
45 to 54 . . . . .	28.0	32.0	32.7	26.8	28.3	22.4	20.1	22.8	13.2	26.3	22.0	36.9
55 to 64 . . . . .	33.0	35.6	33.7	33.4	40.8	33.5	28.8	33.5	26.0	29.1	24.6	21.7
65 to 74 . . . . .	20.5	17.9	16.6	18.6	17.5	29.5	27.6	26.2	35.2	20.1	23.7	15.2
75 and over . . . . .	8.6	3.8	6.1	5.9	7.2	10.42	17.8	14.1	23.1	13.7	20.0	8.3
<b>Marital status</b>												
Married spouse present . . . . .	56.8	99.3	100.0	X	X	X	31.1	95.4	X	X	X	59.7
No spouse present . . . . .	43.2	0.7	X	100.0	100.0	100.0	68.9	4.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	40.3
Widowed . . . . .	13.8	X	X	27.9	27.5	32.3	26.2	0.7	49.7	31.8	21.2	9.9
Living with unmarried partner . . . . .	0.1	X	X	0.4	0.4	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	0.2
Separated, divorced, never married . . . . .	26.2	0.6	Z	67.1	69.5	64.9	35.3	2.37	42.2	62.3	57.8	22.3
Living with unmarried partner . . . . .	1.6	0.6	Z	4.3	5.71	10.5	0.5	Z	0.2	1.6	1.2	0.5
<b>Education</b>												
Less than high school . . . . .	28.7	24.7	26.1	23.3	29.6	17.5	37.0	35.0	37.6	33.8	45.1	41.7
High school graduate . . . . .	37.8	40.3	42.5	34.3	33.7	42.6	35.1	37.4	35.8	34.1	29.9	31.3
At least some college . . . . .	29.7	30.9	28.4	38.3	34.2	35.7	23.1	22.8	22.3	27.4	20.1	24.9
Bachelor's degree or higher . . . . .	3.9	4.1	3.0	4.1	2.5	4.0	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.7	4.8	2.1
<b>Work Experience<sup>1</sup></b>												
Worked full-time, full year . . . . .	10.1	9.0	11.7	12.4	14.5	7.2	8.1	9.2	4.5	12.8	7.3	10.5
Less than full-time, full year . . . . .	40.2	49.5	44.4	44.5	33.4	42.1	25.3	31.4	14.4	28.4	33.4	43.9
Did not work . . . . .	49.7	41.6	43.9	43.2	52.1	50.6	66.5	59.3	81.1	58.8	59.2	45.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5.

**Characteristics of Grandparents Who Coreside With Grandchildren: 2012—Con.**  
(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	All co-resident grandparents	Grandparent is householder				Parent is householder				Neither parent nor grandparent is householder				
		Total	Both grandparents, some parents	Both grandparents, no parent	Grand-mother only, some parents	Grand-mother only, no parent	Grand-father only	Total	Both grandparents		Grand-mother only, two parents	Grand-mother only, one parent	Grand-father only	
														Percent of poverty level <sup>2</sup>
<b>Percent of poverty level<sup>2</sup></b>														
Under 50	6.3	6.6	3.0	5.0	11.5	16.4	5.7	5.3	0.8	4.2	15.5	3.7	7.0	
50 to 99	12.8	13.2	9.2	11.3	16.9	27.8	11.8	11.3	10.8	9.9	13.6	12.5	14.9	
100 to 149	13.1	13.3	10.6	15.4	15.5	17.0	9.6	11.8	11.3	9.6	16.9	11.3	17.9	
150 to 199	13.3	13.7	13.4	15.6	11.2	14.1	17.0	12.0	11.8	12.2	13.0	11.0	15.0	
200 to 299	21.8	22.1	24.0	21.0	22.6	14.8	26.5	22.3	25.6	20.0	21.2	22.2	11.5	
300 to 399	12.8	12.6	15.7	13.3	7.9	5.7	17.5	12.4	11.7	13.1	9.5	17.2	16.2	
400 to 499	7.8	7.4	10.7	6.7	4.9	1.26	5.1	8.8	9.9	11.0	4.6	6.9	8.0	
500 percent or more	12.1	10.8	13.3	11.6	9.5	2.9	6.7	15.8	18.1	20.0	5.7	15.1	9.5	
<b>General state of health</b>														
Excellent	12.5	12.8	13.4	13.2	14.8	8.2	8.8	10.9	11.7	10.4	9.8	11.7	15.4	
Very good	24.7	26.7	31.2	25.1	21.5	20.5	29.6	20.5	20.9	19.1	21.4	22.0	16.1	
Good	33.1	32.3	30.3	34.1	33.0	35.0	34.5	35.0	40.4	31.9	32.3	34.1	34.0	
Fair	20.8	19.6	17.1	18.6	22.6	26.3	19.9	24.0	18.7	28.6	27.7	19.6	21.7	
Poor	8.9	8.4	8.0	9.0	8.1	14.0	7.1	9.5	8.4	10.0	8.8	12.4	12.9	
<b>Disability<sup>3</sup></b>														
Disabled	19.5	19.1	16.6	18.7	21.9	25.6	19.6	20.6	18.6	21.8	20.8	22.1	18.5	

X Not applicable.

Z Represents or rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup> Full time is defined as 35 hours a week or more. See <<http://smpbff2.dsd.census.gov/pub/sipp/2008/08puw1d.txt>>.

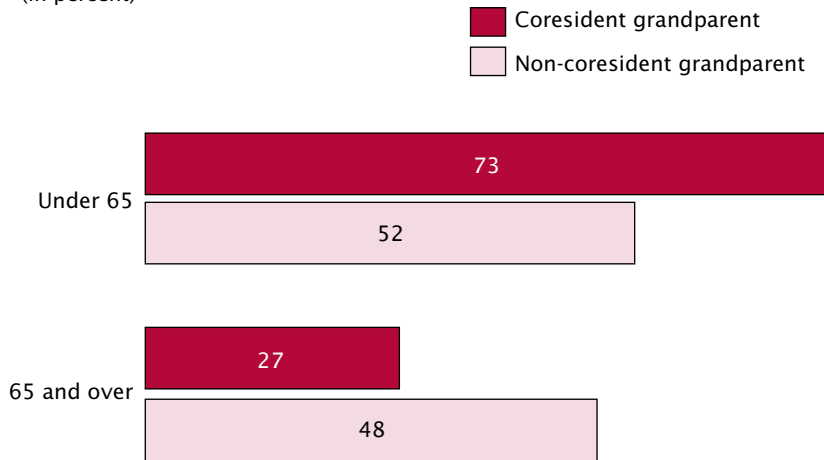
<sup>2</sup> Poverty level is calculated based on 2011 income.

<sup>3</sup> Disability includes those that stopped working or retired for health reasons and those that have a health condition or disability that prevents or limits work.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Figure 13.

### Age of Grandparents by Coresidence With Grandchildren: 2009

(In percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation, wave 2.

cent of those in parent-maintained households. Twenty-eight percent of coresident grandparents in their own home said they had fair or poor health compared with 33 percent of those in parent-maintained households. About 20 percent of coresident grandparents reported a disability.<sup>54</sup>

### COMPARING CORESIDENT GRANDPARENTS WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT LIVE WITH GRANDCHILDREN

Research finds that modern grandparents are active in their grandchildren's lives even if they do not live with their grandchildren. In an AARP survey, nearly 70 percent of grandparents said they play an important role in their grandchildren's lives, providing services including advice, childcare, and financial support.<sup>55</sup> However, there are differences

between grandparents who live with their grandchildren and those that do not. Grandparents who have more economic resources and fewer health limitations are more likely to provide help without living with grandchildren while disadvantaged grandparents are more likely to provide residential care.<sup>56</sup> For the first time in this report series, we provide a demographic comparison of grandparents who live with their grandchildren and those who do not.

According to the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), there were about 65 million grandparents in the United States. About 10 percent of those grandparents coresided with a grandchild. This section compares characteristics of grandparents who lived with a grandchild to grandparents who did not (Table 6).

Younger grandparents were more likely to have a coresident grandchild (Figure 13). While only about 5 percent of grandparents were under 44, 10 percent of grandparents who lived with grandchildren were under 44. Conversely, about 48 percent of grandparents who did not live with a grandchild were over age 65, and 27 percent of grandparents who lived with a grandchild were over 65.

*Compared with grandparents who did not live with their grandchildren, coresident grandparents were more frequently Black or Hispanic. They also had lower levels of education and higher rates of poverty and disability.*

White grandparents were less likely to coreside with a grandchild. While 76 percent of grandparents without coresident grandchildren were White, non-Hispanic, 45 percent of coresident grandparents were. Twenty percent of coresident grandparents were Black; 27 percent were Hispanic; and 6 percent were Asian. This was compared respectively to 11 percent, 9 percent, and 2 percent of nonresident grandparents.

Grandparents who did not live with their grandchildren were more likely to be married, spouse present. Sixty-four percent of non-coresident grandparents were married, compared with 58 percent of coresident grandparents. However, they were also more likely to be widowed or cohabiting. Sixteen percent of nonresident grandparents were widowed and 3 percent were cohabiting, compared with 14 percent widowed and 2 percent cohabiting for coresident grandparents.

Grandparents who did not live with their grandchildren had higher levels of education. Only 14 percent did not graduate from high school, compared with 28

<sup>54</sup> There is no statistical difference in the percentage of grandparents with a disability in parent-maintained or grandparent-maintained households.

<sup>55</sup> Cheryl L. Lampkin, "Insights and Spending Habits of Modern Grandparents," 2012, available at <[www.aarp.org/research](http://www.aarp.org/research)>.

<sup>56</sup> Luo Ye et al., "Providing Care to Grandchildren: A Population Based Study of Continuity and Change," *Journal of Family Issues*, 2012, 33:9, 1143–1167.

Table 6.

**Characteristics of Grandparents by Coresidence With Grandchildren**

(Numbers in thousands)

Characteristic	Total, all grandparents	Grandparents with coresident grandchildren under 18			Grandparents with no coresident grandchildren under 18
		All coresident grandparents	Grandparent is householder	Grandparent is not householder	
<b>Grandparents, total (number) . . . . .</b>	<b>65,105</b>	<b>6,697</b>	<b>4,946</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>58,408</b>
<b>Race and Hispanic origin</b>					
White alone . . . . .	82.8	69.4	70.8	65.5	84.3
White alone, non-Hispanic . . . . .	72.6	45.0	49.7	31.6	75.8
Black alone . . . . .	11.8	19.6	21.1	15.4	10.9
Asian alone . . . . .	2.6	6.3	3.2	15.3	2.2
Hispanic (any race) . . . . .	11.0	27.1	23.7	36.7	9.2
<b>Age</b>					
30 to 44 . . . . .	5.2	10.7	12.6	5.6	4.6
45 to 54 . . . . .	19.8	30.9	35.3	18.3	18.5
55 to 64 . . . . .	29.5	31.7	32.2	30.3	29.3
65 to 74 . . . . .	24.3	18.2	15.8	25.3	25.0
75 and over . . . . .	21.1	8.5	4.2	20.7	22.6
<b>Marital status</b>					
Married spouse present . . . . .	63.6	58.0	67.7	30.8	64.2
No spouse present . . . . .	36.4	42.0	32.3	69.3	35.8
Widowed . . . . .	16.0	13.7	9.2	26.5	16.3
Living with unmarried partner . . . . .	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.4
Separated, divorced or never married . . . . .	19.0	24.9	21.4	34.8	18.3
Living with unmarried partner . . . . .	2.7	1.8	1.6	2.3	2.8
<b>Education</b>					
Less than high school . . . . .	15.8	27.5	24.1	36.9	14.4
High school graduate . . . . .	33.5	34.1	32.4	38.9	33.4
At least some college . . . . .	32.6	27.8	32.0	15.8	33.2
Bachelor's degree or higher . . . . .	18.1	10.7	11.4	8.4	19.0
<b>Work Experience<sup>1</sup></b>					
Worked full-time, full year . . . . .	30.8	37.8	45.1	17.2	30.0
Less than full-time, full year . . . . .	11.6	10.4	11.9	6.2	11.7
Did not work . . . . .	57.6	51.8	43.0	76.7	58.2
<b>Percent of poverty level<sup>2</sup></b>					
Under 50 . . . . .	4.0	7.9	7.0	7.4	3.6
50 to 99 . . . . .	6.7	9.4	10.2	7.3	6.4
100 to 149 . . . . .	10.3	13.8	14.3	12.3	10.0
150 to 199 . . . . .	10.5	13.0	12.4	14.6	10.3
200 to 299 . . . . .	19.2	20.4	20.0	21.3	19.0
300 to 399 . . . . .	15.4	15.4	16.2	13.3	15.4
400 to 499 . . . . .	10.0	8.9	8.7	9.3	10.2
500 percent or more . . . . .	23.8	11.2	10.4	13.4	25.3
<b>Disability</b>					
In labor force/universe for disability question . . . . .	68.1	85.5	90.7	71.0	66.0
Disabled . . . . .	16.2	22.7	22.4	23.5	15.4

<sup>1</sup> Full time is defined as 35 hours per week or over. See <[www.bls.gov/cps/lfcharacteristics.htm#fullpart](http://www.bls.gov/cps/lfcharacteristics.htm#fullpart)>.<sup>2</sup> Poverty level is calculated using average family income during the 4 months prior to the interview.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 panel, Wave 2, Household Relationship Topical Module.



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percent of coresident grandparents. Thirty-three percent of nonresident grandparents completed at least some college, and 19 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. In comparison, 28 percent of coresident grandparents completed some college, and 11 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher.

These educational differences relate to differences in work status and poverty. Fifty-eight percent of nonresident grandparents were not working, compared with 52 percent of coresident grandparents. Coresident grandparents were more likely to have work limitations due to an illness or disability (23 percent), compared with 15 percent of nonresident grandparents. Coresident grandparents were also more likely to be in poverty (17 percent) compared to nonresident grandparents (10 percent).

## SUMMARY

Throughout this report, we have explored the living situations and experiences of grandparents. Grandparents that do not live with their grandchildren are more likely to be married or widowed compared to grandparents that live with grandchildren. They are also less likely to be disabled or in poverty. Even among grandparents that live with their grandchildren, there is a diversity of experience that varies by who is the householder and the composition of the household. As we have seen, grandparents are not a "one size fits all" group.

## SOURCE OF THE DATA

The data in this report are from the 2010 Census, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) to the 2012 Current Population Survey (CPS), the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS), and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

The population represented (the population universe) in the ASEC is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. Members of the Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post are included if at least one civilian adult lives in the household. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the population in adult correctional institutions and nursing facilities (94 percent of the 4.0 million institutionalized people in the 2010 Census).<sup>57</sup> Most of the data from the ASEC were collected in March (with some data collected in February and April), and the data were controlled to independent population estimates for March 2012. For annual time series from the CPS, data collected in the 2012 ASEC may be compared with data collected in the March Supplement to the CPS in prior years.

This report also presents data from the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS). The population represented (the population universe) in the ACS is the population living in both households and group quarters—that is, the resident population. The group quarters population consists of the institutionalized population (such as people in correctional institutions or nursing homes) and the noninstitutionalized population (most of whom are in college dormitories). For tabulation purposes in this report, ACS data are shown only for the population living in households and noninstitutional group quarters. This report uses 2012 1-year data and 2008–2012 5-year data.

The population represented (the population universe) in the 2008

Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is the civilian noninstitutionalized population living in the United States. The SIPP is a longitudinal survey conducted at four-month intervals. The data in this report were collected from January through April of 2009 in the second wave (interview) of the 2008 SIPP. The data highlighted in this report come primarily from the core and the relationship history topical module. Although the main focus of the SIPP is information on labor force participation, jobs, income, and participation in federal assistance programs, information on other topics is also collected in topical modules on a rotating basis. The institutionalized population, which is excluded from the population universe, is composed primarily of the people in correctional institutions and nursing homes (91 percent of the 4.1 million institutionalized people in Census 2000).

## ACCURACY OF THE ESTIMATES

Statistics from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons presented in this report have taken sampling error into account and are significant at the 90 percent confidence level, unless otherwise indicated. This means the 90 percent confidence interval for the difference between the estimates being compared does not include zero. Nonsampling errors in surveys may be attributed to a variety of sources, such as how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau employs quality control procedures throughout the production process—including overall survey design, question wording, review of interviewers' and coders' work,

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<sup>57</sup> See Table P42 available on American FactFinder at <[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC\\_10\\_SF1\\_P42&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_10_SF1_P42&prodType=table)>.

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and statistical review of reports—to minimize these errors.

The Current Population Survey weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present; for example, when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to <[www.census.gov/prod/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/techdoc/cps/cpsmar12.pdf)> or contact the Census Bureau’s Demographic Statistical Methods Division via e-mail at <[dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov](mailto:dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov)>.

The final ACS population estimates are adjusted in the weighting procedure for coverage error by controlling specific survey estimates to independent population controls by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. The final ACS estimates of housing units are controlled to be consistent with independent estimates of total housing. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to over or undercoverage, but biases may still be present; for example, when people who are missed by

the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on the ACS sample, weighting procedures, sampling error, nonsampling error, and quality measures from the ACS, see <[www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2012.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy_of_Data_2012.pdf)>.

The Survey of Income and Program Participation weighting procedure uses ratio estimation, whereby sample estimates are adjusted to independent estimates of the national population by age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. This weighting partially corrects for bias due to undercoverage, but biases may still be present when people who are missed by the survey differ from those interviewed in ways other than the age, race, sex, and Hispanic origin. How this weighting procedure affects other variables in the survey is not precisely known. All of these considerations affect comparisons across different surveys or data sources.

For further information on the statistical standards and the computation and use of standard errors, go to:

<[www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/sipp/tech-documentation/source-accuracy-statements)

>/2008/SIPP%202008%20Panel%20Wave%2005%20-%20Core%20Source%20and%20Accuracy%20Statements.pdf>

or contact:

Tracy Mattingly of the Census Bureau’s Demographic Statistical Methods Division at <[tracy.l.mattingly@census.gov](mailto:tracy.l.mattingly@census.gov)>.

Additional information on the SIPP can be found at the following:

<[www.census.gov/sipp](http://www.census.gov/sipp)> (main SIPP Web site), <[www.census.gov/sipp/workpaper/wp230.pdf](http://www.census.gov/sipp/workpaper/wp230.pdf)> (SIPP Quality Profile) and <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/methodology/users-guide.html>> (SIPP User’s Guide).

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## SUGGESTED CITATION

Ellis, Renee R. and Tavia Simmons, “Coresident Grandparents and Their Grandchildren: 2012,” *Current Population Reports*, P20-576, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. 2014.

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## APPENDIX

### **Variation in estimates of coresident grandparents and grandchildren in the American Community Survey, Current Population Survey, and the Survey of Income and Program Participation.**

Estimates of coresident grandparents and grandchildren differ among the surveys (see examples below). The ACS consistently has higher estimates of coresident grandparents and grandchildren compared to both the CPS and SIPP. Differences in data collection methods, weighting, and editing among the three surveys may all affect the estimates. One major difference

among the surveys which may impact these estimates is the fact that ACS estimates of householders are controlled to match the estimate of occupied housing units, while CPS estimates are not. Therefore, the overall estimate of households in the two surveys differs considerably. This may also play a part in the differences we observe in estimates of grandparents and grandchildren in each of the surveys. For more information on the differences in household estimates between surveys, see A. R. Cresce, Cheng Y., and Grieves available at [www.fcs.gov/13papers/D2\\_Cresce\\_2013FCSM.pdf](http://www.fcs.gov/13papers/D2_Cresce_2013FCSM.pdf).

ACS 2012—187 million adults 30 and over and 7.1 million coresident grandparents (3.8 percent of all adults 30 and over).

CPS 2012—186 million adults 30 and over and 5.8 million coresident grandparents (3.2 percent of all adults 30 and over).

SIPP 2009—176 million adults 30 and over and 6.7 million coresident grandparents (3.8 percent of all adults 30 and over).

Appendix Table 1.

**Margins of Error for Table 2: Grandparents Living with Grandchildren, Responsible for Coresident Grandchildren, and Duration of Responsibility by Race and Hispanic Origin:<sup>1</sup> 2012**

Characteristic	Race						Hispanic origin				
	Total	White alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaskan Native alone	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone	Some other race alone	Two or more races	Hispanic or Latino (of any race)		Not Hispanic or Latino
									Hispanic or Latino	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	
<b>Population 30 years and over . . . . .</b>	<b>54,234</b>	<b>55,078</b>	<b>27,113</b>	<b>18,189</b>	<b>17,759</b>	<b>7,131</b>	<b>55,161</b>	<b>36,561</b>	<b>21,820</b>	<b>38,399</b>	<b>10,929</b>
Grandparents living with grandchildren . . . . .	57,489	45,531	18,315	4,497	14,642	3,077	13,621	6,323	26,626	48,419	37,829
Percent of population 30 and over . . . . .	Z	Z	0.1	0.3	0.2	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	Z	Z
Responsible for grandchildren . . . . .	30,337	24,898	12,907	3,289	5,097	1,696	7,809	4,157	14,549	28,091	23,269
Percent of grandparents living with grandchildren . . . . .	0.4	0.4	0.7	2.4	0.8	5.0	1.4	2.2	0.8	0.4	0.5
<b>By duration of time responsible (percent)</b>											
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Less than 6 months . . . . .	0.3	0.4	0.7	1.8	1.9	6.2	1.6	2.3	0.9	0.3	0.5
6 to 11 Months . . . . .	0.4	0.5	0.7	2.3	1.6	3.5	1.9	2.1	0.8	0.4	0.6
1 to 2 years . . . . .	0.5	0.6	0.9	2.5	2.5	10.6	2.1	2.7	1.3	0.5	0.6
3 to 4 years . . . . .	0.4	0.5	0.9	2.0	2.3	4.4	1.8	2.3	0.9	0.5	0.6
5 years or more . . . . .	0.6	0.8	1.2	2.9	3.0	11.7	2.2	3.3	1.5	0.7	0.8

X Not applicable.

Z Not zero but rounds to 0.0.

<sup>1</sup> Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey. For more information, see <www.census.gov/acs>.

Appendix Table 2.

**Margins of Error for Table 3: Grandparents Living With Grandchildren, Responsible for Coresident Grandchildren, and Duration of Responsibility by Sex and Age:<sup>1</sup> 2012**

Characteristic	Total	Sex		Age					
		Male	Female	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 and over
Grandparents living with grandchildren . . . . .	57,489	25,374	37,919	7,610	22,204	33,480	25,079	18,749	10,704
Not responsible for grandchildren . . . . .	46,409	21,644	30,627	4,729	14,705	26,368	21,389	17,371	9,922
Responsible for grandchildren . . . . .	30,337	15,233	19,983	5,642	15,420	18,971	13,154	7,683	3,130
<b>Percent distribution</b>									
Grandparents living with grandchildren . . . . .	X	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Not responsible for grandchildren . . . . .	X	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2
Responsible for grandchildren . . . . .	X	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.1
<b>Percent distribution by duration of time responsible</b>									
Less than 6 months . . . . .	X	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.8	1.6	1.3	0.6	0.3
6 to 11 months . . . . .	X	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.7	1.4	1.2	0.6	0.3
1 to 2 years . . . . .	X	0.7	0.7	0.5	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.2
3 to 4 years . . . . .	X	0.8	0.8	0.4	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.2
5 years or more . . . . .	X	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.2

X Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey. For more information, see <[www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs)>.

Appendix Table 3.

**Margins of Error for Table 4: Selected Characteristics of Grandparents Living With Grandchildren for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico:<sup>1</sup> 2012**

Area	Grandparents living with grandchildren			Grandparents responsible for coresident grandchildren								Households with grandparents living with grandchildren	
	Number	Percent of population 30 years and over	Percent responsible	Percent distribution of time responsible				Percent who were:				Number	Percent of all households
				Less than 1 year	1 to 2 years	3 to 4 years	5 or more years	Householder or spouse	No parent present <sup>2</sup>	Aged 60 and over	In poverty in 2011		
<b>United States . . . . .</b>	<b>57,489</b>	<b>Z</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>30,471</b>	<b>Z</b>
<b>Region</b>													
Northeast . . . . .	18,397	0.1	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.3	10,658	0.1
Midwest . . . . .	20,748	0.1	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.5	0.7	1.3	1.1	0.9	14,318	0.1
South . . . . .	33,702	Z	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.7	20,760	Z
West . . . . .	26,049	0.1	0.6	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.3	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.9	16,960	0.1
<b>State</b>													
Alabama . . . . .	6,690	0.2	2.2	2.9	3.0	2.4	3.4	1.0	2.9	2.5	2.7	4,024	0.2
Alaska . . . . .	1,972	0.5	6.0	7.7	11.7	6.6	8.3	11.3	7.0	8.4	4.3	1,367	0.5
Arizona . . . . .	6,106	0.2	2.6	3.8	3.1	2.3	3.6	2.7	3.2	2.9	2.8	4,139	0.2
Arkansas . . . . .	4,390	0.2	3.3	4.2	3.9	2.8	4.3	2.0	4.7	4.1	3.5	3,027	0.3
California . . . . .	19,895	0.1	0.7	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3	12,448	0.1
Colorado . . . . .	6,236	0.2	3.1	4.8	4.5	3.5	4.6	3.3	4.2	3.9	4.5	4,309	0.2
Connecticut . . . . .	4,403	0.2	3.5	5.9	5.7	5.0	7.0	3.5	6.8	6.6	6.1	3,060	0.2
Delaware . . . . .	3,422	0.6	6.1	4.7	9.5	8.6	9.0	2.8	9.3	8.7	5.8	2,161	0.6
District of Columbia . . . . .	1,736	0.5	9.0	6.0	10.9	15.1	10.9	14.2	15.6	16.4	17.1	1,192	0.5
Florida . . . . .	13,582	0.1	1.3	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.5	1.6	2.3	2.5	2.1	7,788	0.1
Georgia . . . . .	12,042	0.2	1.9	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.6	1.4	2.8	2.4	1.9	7,455	0.2
Hawaii . . . . .	3,546	0.4	3.3	6.4	5.9	4.2	6.6	5.0	5.9	6.5	7.0	2,330	0.5
Idaho . . . . .	2,838	0.3	5.5	6.5	6.1	7.5	8.1	2.9	8.8	8.4	8.5	1,848	0.3
Illinois . . . . .	9,970	0.1	1.7	2.0	2.7	2.2	3.2	1.5	2.6	2.5	2.3	6,123	0.1
Indiana . . . . .	7,073	0.2	2.8	3.2	2.7	2.9	3.7	1.4	3.5	3.2	3.0	4,839	0.2
Iowa . . . . .	3,176	0.2	4.0	5.2	4.7	5.2	5.7	2.8	6.4	5.3	5.3	2,135	0.2
Kansas . . . . .	3,512	0.2	4.0	4.7	5.8	3.5	6.5	2.7	5.9	5.4	3.2	2,428	0.2
Kentucky . . . . .	5,492	0.2	2.6	2.6	3.1	2.8	4.0	1.0	3.8	3.3	3.3	3,672	0.2
Louisiana . . . . .	5,520	0.2	2.5	3.2	3.0	2.3	3.4	1.6	3.8	3.7	2.8	3,711	0.2
Maine . . . . .	2,425	0.3	6.0	7.7	9.1	11.3	7.5	3.5	10.5	7.2	10.2	1,496	0.3
Maryland . . . . .	6,767	0.2	2.6	3.4	4.2	2.6	4.2	2.8	3.9	3.6	3.0	4,954	0.2
Massachusetts . . . . .	6,382	0.2	2.7	4.6	4.9	3.8	5.9	4.5	4.9	5.4	3.2	3,640	0.1
Michigan . . . . .	6,894	0.1	1.8	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.7	1.6	2.4	2.5	2.3	4,911	0.1
Minnesota . . . . .	3,606	0.1	2.8	4.0	4.7	3.6	4.6	2.9	4.1	4.7	3.4	2,481	0.1
Mississippi . . . . .	5,146	0.3	3.1	4.0	3.5	2.9	3.9	1.4	4.2	3.4	4.4	3,890	0.4
Missouri . . . . .	6,245	0.2	2.2	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.9	1.5	3.6	3.1	3.3	3,975	0.2
Montana . . . . .	1,860	0.3	6.6	9.3	7.8	5.1	7.9	2.6	9.6	8.4	5.9	1,218	0.3
Nebraska . . . . .	2,437	0.2	4.8	7.5	6.4	3.8	6.3	5.6	8.2	7.7	6.7	1,788	0.2
Nevada . . . . .	4,691	0.3	3.5	4.3	4.9	4.5	5.5	3.6	5.6	5.8	5.1	2,990	0.3
New Hampshire . . . . .	2,451	0.3	5.5	7.0	9.0	7.7	9.0	4.7	8.7	8.5	7.2	1,791	0.3
New Jersey . . . . .	7,178	0.1	1.7	2.8	2.8	3.3	4.0	2.2	3.1	3.9	2.7	5,005	0.2
New Mexico . . . . .	3,742	0.3	4.0	3.5	4.6	3.3	5.1	3.0	4.8	4.8	3.8	2,509	0.3
New York . . . . .	11,094	0.1	1.3	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.2	7,531	0.1
North Carolina . . . . .	8,347	0.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.7	1.0	2.8	2.2	2.6	5,745	0.2
North Dakota . . . . .	1,314	0.3	9.2	9.7	8.4	7.4	14.3	1.4	12.3	17.9	7.8	761	0.3
Ohio . . . . .	7,828	0.1	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.6	3.2	1.4	2.8	2.4	2.3	5,244	0.1
Oklahoma . . . . .	3,814	0.2	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.7	3.6	1.8	3.0	3.6	2.6	2,632	0.2
Oregon . . . . .	5,316	0.2	3.6	5.7	4.6	4.4	5.9	1.6	5.9	5.6	4.8	3,808	0.3
Pennsylvania . . . . .	9,969	0.1	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.6	2.8	1.7	2.9	2.0	2.2	6,192	0.1

See footnotes at end of table.



Appendix Table 3.

**Margins of Error for Table 4: Selected Characteristics of Grandparents Living With Grandchildren for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico:<sup>1</sup> 2012—Con.**

Area	Grandparents living with grandchildren			Grandparents responsible for coresident grandchildren								Households with grandparents living with grandchildren	
	Number	Percent of population 30 years and over	Percent responsible	Percent distribution of time responsible				Percent who were:				Number	Percent of all households
				Less than 1 year	1 to 2 years	3 to 4 years	5 or more years	Householder or spouse		Aged 60 and over	In poverty in 2011		
								Total	No parent present <sup>2</sup>				
<b>State—Con.</b>													
Rhode Island . . . . .	2,391	0.4	6.1	9.6	6.6	9.3	11.5	8.8	9.3	9.2	9.5	1,680	0.4
South Carolina . . . . .	5,986	0.2	2.9	3.1	3.5	2.4	4.7	1.7	3.4	3.6	3.0	3,943	0.2
South Dakota . . . . .	1,351	0.3	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.1	8.8	5.7	8.0	8.3	7.4	873	0.3
Tennessee . . . . .	7,749	0.2	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.0	3.5	1.2	2.7	2.7	2.6	5,322	0.2
Texas . . . . .	17,490	0.1	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.7	11,051	0.1
Utah . . . . .	3,897	0.3	3.5	5.3	5.4	4.2	6.4	2.6	6.4	6.8	4.8	2,706	0.3
Vermont . . . . .	1,435	0.4	8.5	7.7	13.2	9.3	14.0	6.9	11.8	9.8	8.5	988	0.4
Virginia . . . . .	7,404	0.2	2.2	2.8	3.0	2.4	3.7	1.8	3.6	3.3	2.3	4,733	0.2
Washington . . . . .	5,133	0.1	2.5	4.9	3.6	2.7	4.7	2.2	4.5	4.1	3.4	4,047	0.2
West Virginia . . . . .	2,959	0.2	4.4	6.2	4.0	4.1	7.3	2.9	5.9	5.3	5.5	1,946	0.3
Wisconsin . . . . .	3,948	0.1	2.6	4.6	3.9	3.5	4.1	1.9	4.4	4.8	3.8	2,688	0.1
Wyoming . . . . .	1,391	0.4	8.4	10.3	9.8	9.3	11.7	11.5	11.0	12.8	7.4	945	0.4
Puerto Rico . . . . .	5,625	0.3	2.6	3.0	2.9	3.1	4.3	2.0	3.7	3.6	4.5	3,405	0.3

Z Not zero but rounds to 0.0.

<sup>1</sup> Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. When added to and subtracted from the estimate, the margin of error forms the 90 percent confidence interval.

<sup>2</sup> No parent present is defined as a household where the grandparent is the householder or spouse, a person under 18 is the grandchild of the householder, and no adult child of the householder is present in the household.

Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey. For more information, see <[www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs)>.