

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

November/December 2015

Grandchildren and Grandparents

Grandchildren

How many grandchildren in Nevada live with their grandparents? How many grandparents live with their own grandchildren? How many grandparents are responsible for the care of their grandchildren? What are the characteristics of grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren? These questions are answered using data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS).

Based on the 2010-2014 ACS 5-year estimates,¹ 44,849 grandchildren in Nevada lived with a grandparent—25,651 lived with a grandparent who was responsible for their grandchildren's primary care (Table 1).

Grandchildren in the care of their grandparents were likely to be white alone (not Hispanic or Latino) and of Hispanic or Latino origin, native born, and older. Slightly more than 6 percent of the children had any disability. Their poverty rate was the same as the poverty rate for all children in the state, 22 percent.²

County data on grandchildren in the care of grandparents are available for only Clark County. Because Clark County's population is about 73 percent of the state population, only slight differences exist between the county and the state on characteristics of grandchildren. The most notable characteristic was race and ethnicity. Clark County was more likely to have African American grandchildren and Hispanic or Latino grandchildren in the care of grandparents than the state as a whole.

¹Characteristics of grandchildren in the care of their grandparents for 2014 are not available because the number of sample cases is too small. The number of grandchildren in the care of grandparents, however, is available. Based on the 2014 ACS 1-year estimates, both Nevada and the United States as a whole had 4 percent of their children under age 18 living in households where a grandparent provided that child's primary care. Twenty-seven thousand children were in the care of grandparents in Nevada. Among the states, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin had the lowest percentage children in the care of grandparents in 2014, 2 percent. Mississippi had the highest percentage, 8 (Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, retrieved from the AECF KIDS COUNT Data Center, 12/2/15).

²Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2014 American Community Survey, retrieved from the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>, as of 12/7/15.

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas or the Nevada System of Higher Education.

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Table 1. Characteristics of Grandchildren Under 18 Years Living with a Grandparent Who Is Responsible for Their Primary Care: 2010-2014

	Nevada Estimate	Clark County Estimate
Children under 18 years living with a grandparent householder	44,849	32,509
Children under 18 years living with a grandparent householder responsible for children's primary care	25,651	18,019
Age		
Under 6 years	43.8%	46.8%
6 to 11 years	29.8%	28.4%
12 to 17 years	26.4%	24.8%
Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin		
One race	89.4%	89.1%
White	60.1%	56.0%
African American	12.6%	16.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2.9%	1.3%
Asian	3.0%	2.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1.5%	1.8%
Some other race	9.4%	10.9%
Two or more races	10.6%	10.9%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	36.0%	42.3%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	38.1%	29.6%
Nativity		
Native	97.2%	96.7%
Foreign born	2.8%	3.3%
Poverty Status in Past 12 Months		
Below poverty level	22.0%	23.2%
Above poverty level	78.0%	76.8%
Disability Status		
With any disability	6.2%	5.5%

Note: Characteristics are for children under 18 years living with a grandparent householder responsible for children's primary care.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, American FactFinder, Table S1001, as of 12/4/15.

Grandparents

An estimated 68,379 grandparents lived with their own grandchildren under age 18 in Nevada— 25,780 were responsible for the care of their grandchildren and 6,928 provided care with no parent present.³ The majority of the grandparents, 60.7 percent, who were responsible for their grandchildren were between 30 and 59 years of age; 39.3 percent were 60 years and over (Table 2). Fifty-nine percent of the grandparents were female. Twenty-five percent were foreign born. And, 16.6 percent had income in the past 12 months that was below poverty level.

A comparison of grandparent characteristics for Nevada’s two largest counties is shown in Table 2. Grandparents in Clark County who were responsible for their own grandchildren were more likely than their counterparts in Washoe County to be older, foreign born, speak another language at home, and in poverty.

Table 2. Characteristics of Grandparents Who Are Responsible for Their Own Grandchildren under 18 Years: 2014

Characteristic	Nevada Estimate	Clark County Estimate	Washoe County Estimate
Grandparents living with own grandchildren	68,379	50,653	10,597
Grandparents living with own grandchildren who are responsible for own grandchildren	25,780	17,533	3,912
Age			
30-59 years	60.7%	55.2%	68.9%
60 and over	39.3%	44.8%	31.1%
Sex			
Male	41.0%	40.9%	44.4%
Female	59.0%	59.1%	55.6%
Nativity			
Native	75.0%	65.9%	93.3%
Foreign born	25.0%	34.1%	6.7%
Labor force status			
In labor force	56.5%	57.2%	53.3%
Language spoken at home			
Speak some other language	28.1%	36.7%	11.1%
Poverty status in past 12 months			
Below poverty level	16.6%	17.0%	10.3%
At or above poverty level	83.4%	83.0%	89.7%
Presence of parent(s) of grandchildren			
Householder or spouse responsible for grandchildren with no parent of grandchildren present	26.9%	24.0%	24.8%

Note: Characteristics are for grandparents living with own grandchildren under age 18 who are responsible for children’s primary care.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, American FactFinder, Table S1002, as of 12/3/15.

³U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, American FactFinder, Table B10051, as of 9/17/15.