

Prevalence of Grandparenthood in the U.S.

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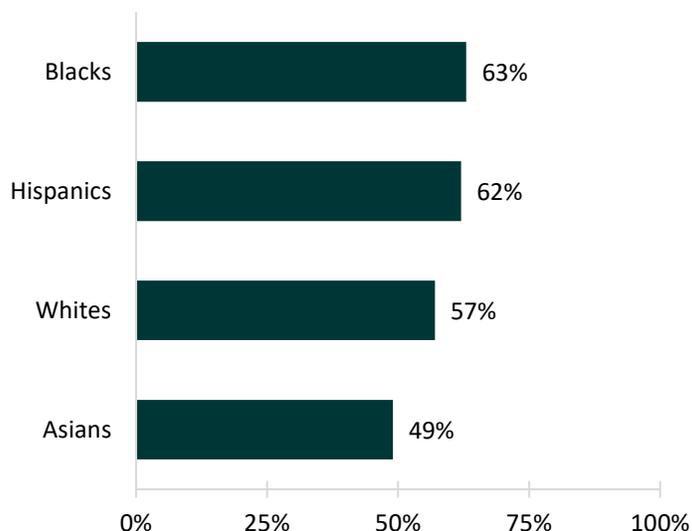
In 2014, approximately 62 million adults aged 50 and older were grandparents, according to the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The SIPP is a nationally representative household-based survey and is designed to provide comprehensive family and social information on individuals and families. Because the SIPP gathers information on all individuals who lived in a surveyed household, and directly asks respondents if they are a grandparent, it is one of the few surveys that identifies non-resident grandparents. In this profile, we identify the prevalence of grandparenthood among adults aged 50 and older and examine their demographic characteristics including race/ethnicity, educational attainment, and current relationship status. This profile, an update of FP-14-14, is the third in our series on grandparents in the U.S.

Overall, 58% of adults 50 and older in the U.S. are grandparents.

Race/Ethnicity and Grandparenthood

- Among adults aged 50 and older, a greater percentage of Blacks and Hispanics were grandparents than those of other racial/ethnic backgrounds in 2014. Roughly, three in five Black and Hispanic adults were grandparents.
- Asian adults had the smallest share who reported being a grandparent (49%).

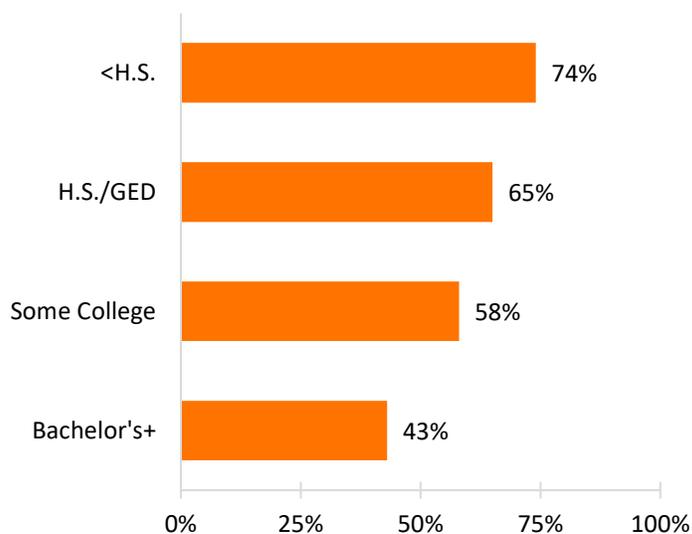
Figure 1. Grandparenthood by Race/Ethnicity, 2014



Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014

Educational Attainment and Grandparenthood

Figure 2. Grandparenthood by Educational Attainment, 2014



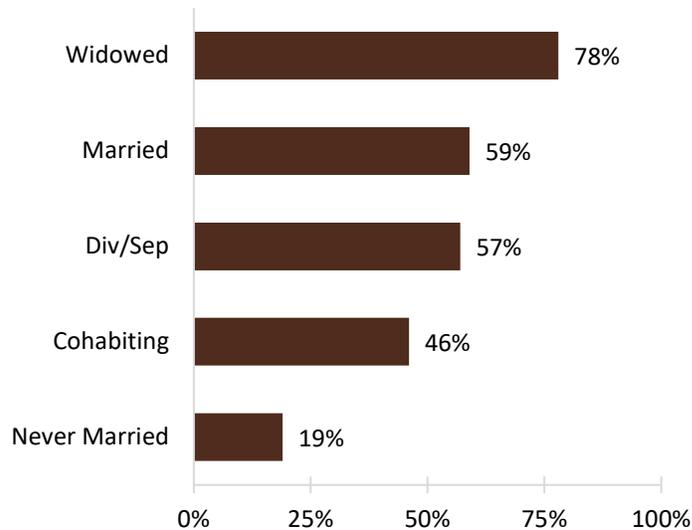
Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014

The prevalence of grandparenthood decreased as educational attainment increased.

- Among those aged 50 or older in 2014 without a high school diploma/GED, three-fourths were grandparents.
- Being a grandparent was least common among those who had at least a Bachelor's degree (43%).

Relationship Status and Grandparenthood

Figure 3. Grandparenthood by Relationship Status, 2014



Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014

- Being a grandparent was most common among widowed adults, at 78%. This is not unexpected because the widowed are more often older.
- Similar shares of married and divorced/separated adults were grandparents (59% and 57%, respectively). Slightly less than half (46%) of cohabiting adults age 50 and older were grandparents.
- Never married adults had the smallest share who reported being a grandparent, at only 19%.

Data Source:

U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014 Panel, Wave 1. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp/data/2014-panel/wave-1.html>

References:

Stykes, B., Manning, W. D., & Brown, S. L. (2014). Grandparenthood in the U.S.: Prevalence of grandparenthood among adults aged 50+. *Family Profiles*, FP-14-14. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/college-of-arts-and-sciences/NCFMR/documents/FP/FP-14-14-grandparent-50-plus.pdf>

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