



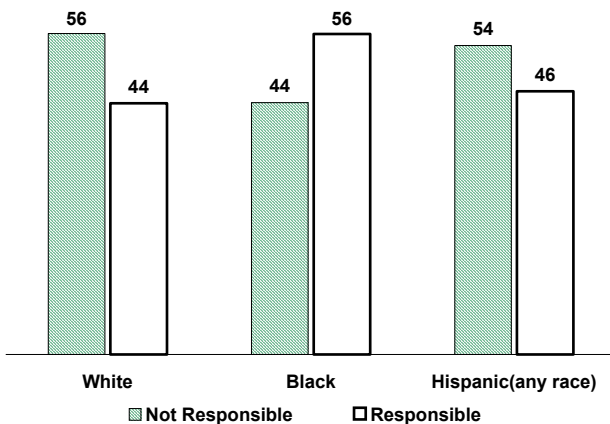
**OHIO POPULATION NEWS:  
OHIO GRANDPARENTS AND  
GRANDCHILDREN**

A recent increase in grandparents raising their grandchildren has received considerable attention from the mass media, politicians, and family sociologists. Cited possible causes for this increase are: increased drug and alcohol abuse among parents, increased teen pregnancy and divorce, and a rise in single-parent households, incarceration, and child abuse and neglect (Minkler, 1998). As a result of these social changes, there has also been an increase in court-ordered grandparent custody, to avoid foster care and non-family adoption in cases of abuse and neglect (Goodman & Silverstein, 2001).

This increase in grandparent headed households has also led policy makers to understand the implications this increase may have on the well-being of children and families. Policy implications regarding the growing number of grandchildren being cared for by grandparents cover a broad range of topics. In particular, policy makers are concerned with deficiencies in the areas of grandparents' rights and access to public assistance (Bryson & Caspar 1999). The purpose of this research brief is to present some of the key characteristics associated with this growing type of household for the State of Ohio and the Nation.

**The 2000 Census measured 185,443 grandparents living with their own grandchildren under 18 years of age. The majority (99,434 or 53%) of these grandparents were not responsible for their grandchildren.** However for those who are responsible, over one in three has cared for them for over five years.

**FIGURE 1:** Grandparents Living with Grandchildren, Percentage Distribution of Responsibility by Race/Ethnicity: Ohio 2000



Source: Summary File 4, 2000 Census

**In Ohio:**

**83%** of the grandparents who co-reside with their grandchildren are either the householder or the spouse of the householder.

**15%** are either the parent or parent-in-law of the householder.

**63%** of the grandparents are female and 39% are male.

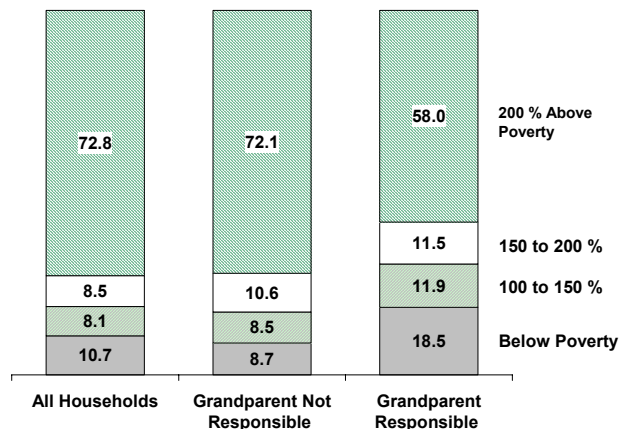
**46%** of the grandparents who co-reside with their grandchildren are responsible for them.

**8%** of Ohio's children under age 18 are living in a household with a grandparent.

**2.8%** of the children under age 18 in Ohio are living in a household with a grandparent who is responsible for them.

Source: Summary File 3 and 5% Ohio Public Use Microdata file

**FIGURE 2:** Poverty Levels for Households with Grandparents and Grandchildren: Ohio 2000

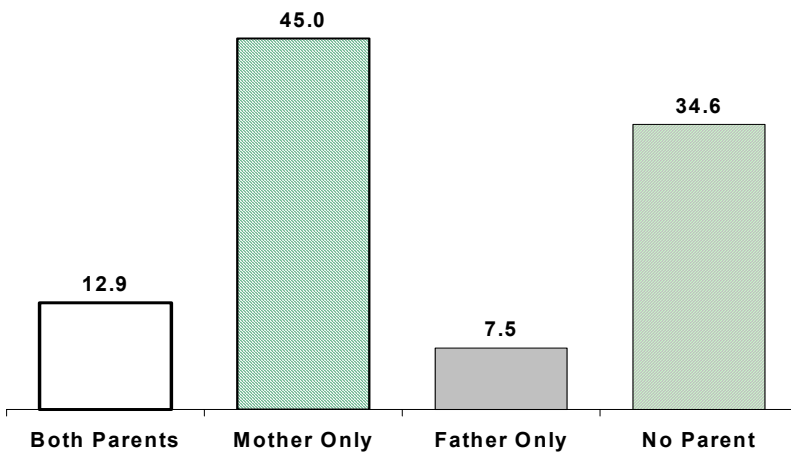


Source: 5% Ohio Public Use Microdata Data.

**On the national level:**

On the national level the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in 1970, 2.2 million (or 3.2 percent) American children were living in a household maintained by a grandparent. By 2000, this number had increased to 3.8 million (or 5.3 percent), representing a 77 percent increase over the 30 year period. Although this trend creates the impression that this relationship is a common and rapidly growing phenomenon, **fewer than 6 percent of children live with a grandparent at any given time, and fewer than 2 percent of children live exclusively in this type of arrangement.**

**FIGURE 3: Percent Distribution of Children who Live in Grandparents Home by Presence of Parents: U.S. March 2002**



Source: CPR P20-547 Table 3

Figure 4 compares the living arrangements of grandchildren living below the poverty line. Children living in their grandparent's home with no parent present were about twice as likely to be living below the poverty line as those living in their grandparent's home with at least one parent.

For more information on children's living arrangements please visit the Census Bureau's Families and Living Arrangement website:  
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/p20-547.pdf>

**Sources**

Bryson, K. & L. Casper. 1999. "Coresident grandparents and grandchildren." U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P23-198.

Fields, J. 2003 *Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics: March 2002*. CPR, P20-547. US Census Bureau Washington DC.

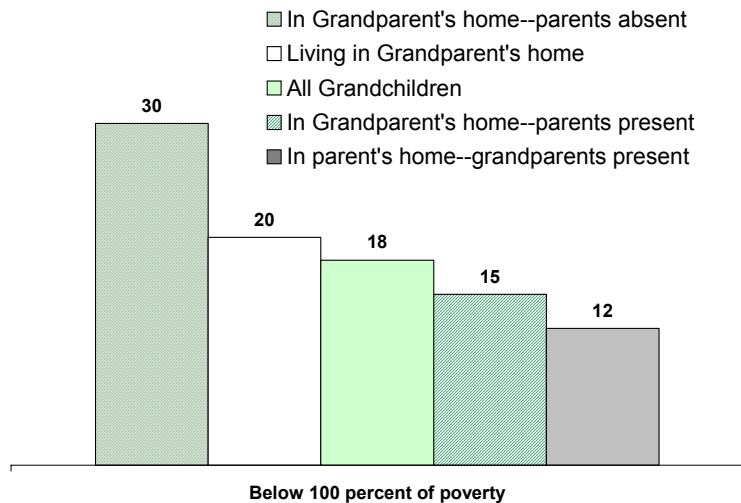
Goodman, C. & M. Silverstein. 2001. "Grandmothers who parent their grandchildren: An exploratory study of close relations across three generations." *Journal of Family Issues* 22 (5): 557-578.

Minkler, M. 1998. "Intergenerational households headed by grandparents: Demographic and sociological contexts." In *Generations United, Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Background Papers from Generations United's Expert Symposium*. Washington, D.C.: Generations United, 3-18.

Recent research by the Census Bureau has shown that when grandchildren live in their grandparent's home, a majority had at least one parent present. However, it is clear that it is most often the mother (45%). (See Figure 3). This provides some support for the idea that grandparents serve to provide assistance to their own children and grandchildren in the face of marital disruption and paternal absence. In contrast, when a grandparent lived in the parent's home (i.e. they are not the householder and not responsible for the grandchildren) the grandchildren were living with both parents the majority of the time.

Source: Fields, Jason. 2003 *Children's Living Arrangements and Characteristics: March 2002*

**FIGURE 4: Percent of Grandchildren in Poverty by Living Arrangement: U.S. March 2002**



Source: CPR P20-547 Figure 2.

The **Center for Family and Demographic Research (CFDR)** is a federally funded population research center in the State of Ohio, dedicated to training, research and service in demography. The **CFDR** integrates demographic methods, data and perspectives with other socially scientific approaches to understand the well-being of children and families.

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