

Prevalence of Grandparenthood in the U.S., 2022

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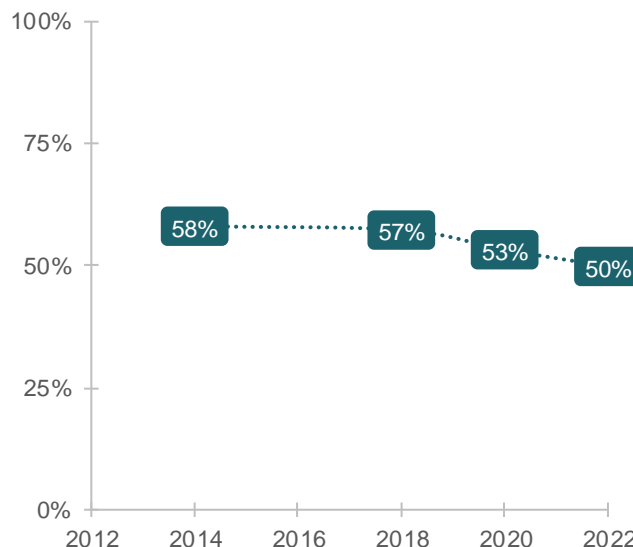
In 2022, approximately 60.5 million adults aged 50 and older were grandparents, according to the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP, 2023). The SIPP is a nationally representative household-based survey and is designed to provide comprehensive family and social information on individuals and families. The SIPP gathers information on all individuals who live in a surveyed household and directly asks respondents if they are a grandparent. For these reasons, SIPP 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 is an update of [Stykes, Manning, & Brown, 2014](#), [Wu, 2018](#), and [Westrick-Payne \(2023\)](#). It is also the fourth in our series on grandparents in the U.S.

- The share of older adults who report having a grandchild has declined in recent years from 58% of those aged 50 and older in 2014 to 50% in 2022.

Race/Ethnicity and Grandparenthood

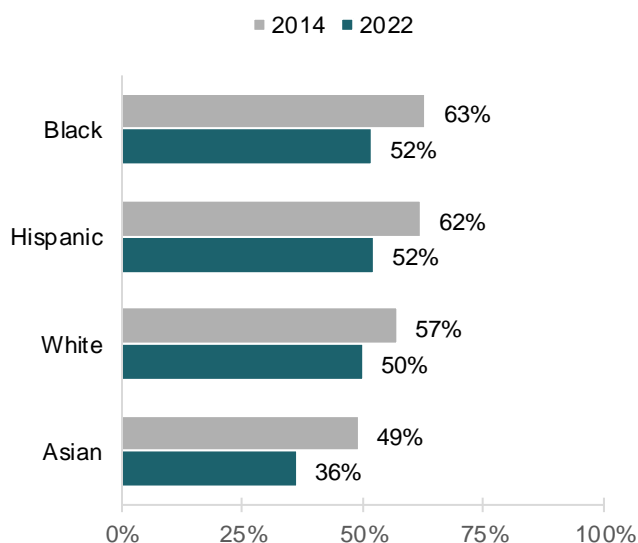
- The share of adults aged 50 and older who reported being a grandparent has dropped since 2014 across racial and ethnic groups considered here. The biggest change was among non-Hispanic Asians who dropped by over one quarter.
- Among adults aged 50 and older, an equal percentage of Black and Hispanic older adults were grandparents (52%). They also had the largest share compared to those of other racial/ethnic backgrounds in 2022.
- Half (50%) of White respondents aged 50 and older were also grandparents.
- Adults of Asian ethnicity had the smallest share reporting to be a grandparent—only slightly more than one-third (36%) said they had a grandchild.

Figure 1. Trend in Grandparenthood in the U.S., 2014, 2018, 2020, & 2022



Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014, 2018, 2021, and 2023

Figure 2. Grandparenthood by Race/Ethnicity, 2014 & 2022

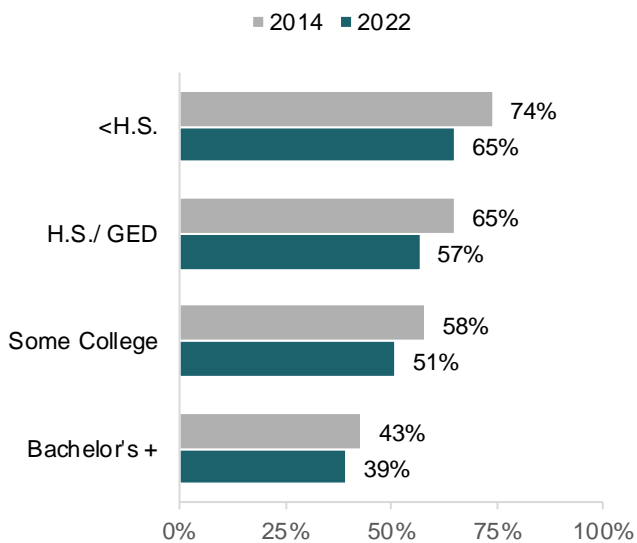


Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014, 2023

Educational Attainment and Grandparenthood

- The share of adults aged 50 and older who reported being a grandparent also dropped since 2014 across educational attainment groups considered here.
- The prevalence of grandparenthood decreased as educational attainment increased.
- Among those aged 50 or older in 2022 without a high school diploma/GED, approaching two-thirds (65%) were grandparents.
- Fifty-nine percent of those with a high school diploma and 51% of those with some college education were grandparents in 2022.
- Being a grandparent was least common among older adults who had at least a bachelor's degree (39%).

Figure 3. Grandparenthood by Educational Attainment, 2014 & 2022



Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014 & 2023

Data Source:

U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2014, Wave 1, 2018, 2021, & 2023. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.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>

Wu, H. (2018). Prevalence of grandparenthood in the U.S. *Family Profiles, FP-18-03*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-18-03>

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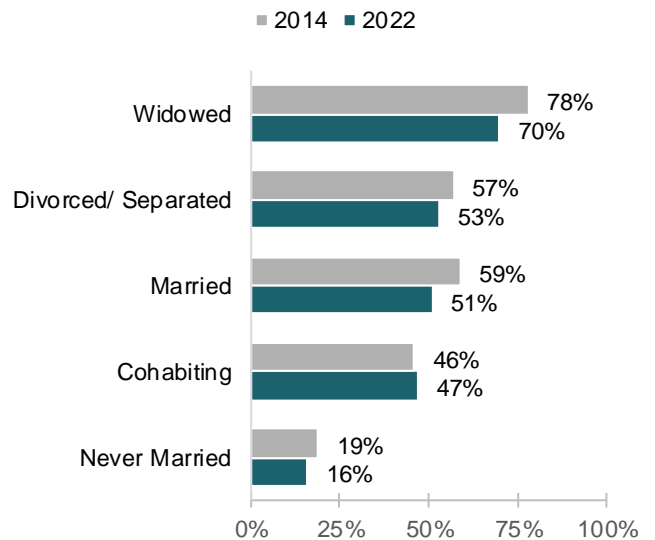
Westrick-Payne, K. K. (2023). Prevalence of grandparenthood in the U.S., 2021. *Family Profile, FP-24-21*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-24-21>

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Relationship Status and Grandparenthood

- The prevalence of grandparenthood was lower in 2022 than in 2014 among all grandparents except those cohabiting – increasingly slightly from 46% to 47%.
- Being a grandparent was most common among widowed adults, at 70%. This is not unexpected because the widowed are more often older.
- Similar shares of married and divorced/separated adults were grandparents (53% and 51%, respectively).
- Only sixteen percent (16%) of never-married older adults reported being a grandparent in 2022.

Figure 4. Grandparenthood by Relationship Status, 2014 & 2022



Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014 & 2023