Grandparenthood is more common among older adults (aged 65 and older) than those in midlife (aged 40-64).

In 2014, 68 million adults aged 40 and over were grandparents—representing just under half (46%) of the total population in that age group.

- About one-third of adults aged 40 to 64 were grandparents, representing about 34 million adults.
- Approximately 3 in 4 older adults (aged 65 and older) were grandparents. This represents 34 million grandparents.

### Race/Ethnicity of Grandparents by Age

- Midlife grandparents more often belonged to a racial/ethnic minority group than older grandparents.
- Roughly one-third of midlife grandparents and one-fifth of older grandparents belonged to a racial/ethnic minority group.
- Comparable shares of midlife grandparents were Black or Hispanic (15% and 16%, respectively).
- Only 3% of midlife grandparents were Asian.
- Similarly, a comparable share of older grandparents were Black or Hispanic (8% and 9%, respectively).
- A small proportion of older grandparents were Asian (4%).
- Whites comprise a higher proportion of older grandparents than midlife grandparents (76% and 66%, respectively).

### Educational Attainment of Grandparents by Age

- The education differences among midlife and older grandparents were fairly modest.
- Nearly one-quarter of older grandparents (23%) had at least a college degree in contrast to less than one-fifth (18%) of midlife grandparents.
- Similar shares of midlife and older grandparents had less than a high school education (17% and 19%, respectively).

### Relationship Status of Grandparents by Age

- Midlife grandparents and older grandparents differed in their relationship status.
- The majority of grandparents were married, with 67% of midlife grandparents and 60% of older grandparents.
- Midlife grandparents were more often divorced or separated (19%) than their older counterparts (12%).
- One-quarter of older grandparents were widowed compared to only 4% of midlife grandparents.
- Few grandparents were cohabiting or never married.

### Suggested Citation