Grandparenthood is more common among older adults (aged 65 and older) than those in midlife (aged 40-64). Using data from the 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), this profile updates FP-14-13 comparing midlife grandparents to those at older ages across demographic characteristics. 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. This is the fourth in our series on grandparents in the U.S.

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.

Prevalence of Grandparenthood by Age

Figure 1. Grandparenthood by Age

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 (79% and 66%, respectively).

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Grandparents by Age

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014
### Educational Attainment of Grandparents by Age

**Figure 3. Educational Attainment of Grandparents by Age**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>&lt;H.S.</th>
<th>H.S./GED</th>
<th>Some College</th>
<th>Bachelor's+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midlife Grandparents</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Grandparents</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- 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

**Figure 4. Relationship Status of Grandparents by Age**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Cohabiting</th>
<th>Widowed</th>
<th>Divorced/Separated</th>
<th>Never Married</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midlife Grandparents</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Grandparents</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- 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. Midlife grandparents were more often in a cohabiting relationship (5% versus 2%) or never married (5% versus 1%) than older grandparents.

### Data Source:


### References:


### Suggested Citation:


### National Center for Family & Marriage Research

Family Profiles: Original reports summarizing and analyzing nationally representative data with the goal to provide the latest analysis of U.S. families. These profiles examine topics related to the NCFMR's core research themes.

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