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FP-14-14 Grandparenthood in the U.S.: Prevalence of Grandparenthood Among Adults Aged 50+

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Grandparenthood in the U.S.: Prevalence of Grandparenthood Among Adults Aged 50+

Bart Stykes, Wendy D. Manning, & Susan L. Brown

Approximately 64 million adults are grandparents (FP-14-12), and substantial differences exist in older versus younger grandparents' racial/ethnic status, educational attainment, and relationship status (FP-14-13). This profile is the final* installment in the NCFMR's most recent series on grandparenthood and examines what share of adults aged 50+ is a grandparent according to sociodemographic characteristics.

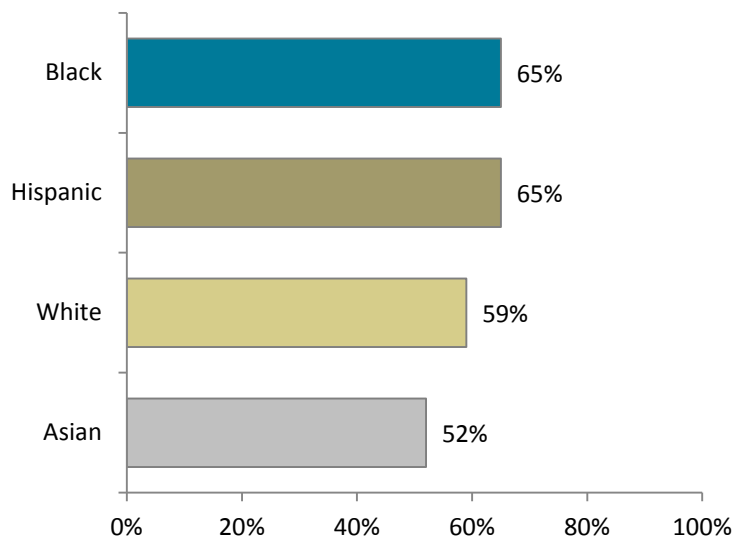
The majority (60%) of adults aged 50 or older are grandparents. A slightly larger share of women (63%) is a grandparent compared to men (57%).

*Additional NCFMR resources on grandparents can be found at [Resources by Topic](#) -- the [Grandparents](#) link. The page includes two additional profiles on grandparents (FP-14-12, FP-14-13) and two other profiles on children's co-residence with grandparents (FP-13-03, FP-12-18) in addition to other data resources.

Race/Ethnicity and Grandparenthood

- Black and Hispanic adults are more often grandparents than other racial/ethnic groups. Nearly 2 in 3 (65%) Black and Hispanic adults aged 50+ are grandparents.
- Six in 10 (59%) White adults 50+ were a grandparent in 2009.
- Asian adults 50+ report the lowest share who is a grandparent, about 1 in 2 (52%).

Figure 1. Share of Adults 50+ Who Is a Grandparent in 2009, by Race/Ethnicity

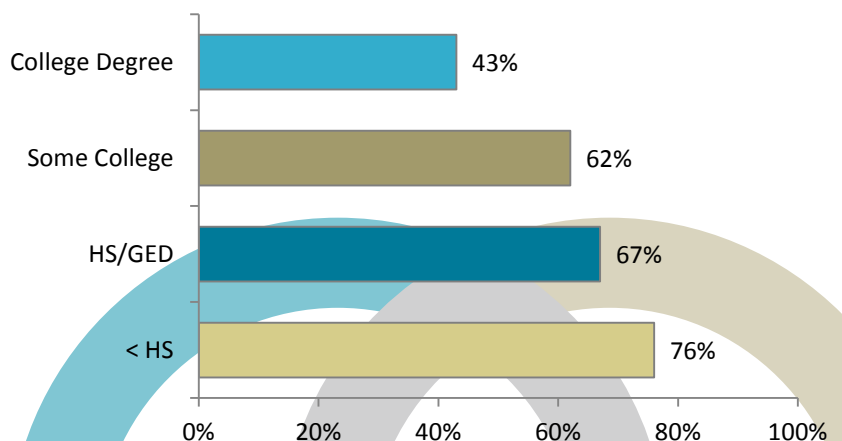


Source: Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module.

Educational Attainment and Grandparenthood

- As levels of education increase, the share of adults aged 50+ who is a grandparent steadily decreases.
- Over three-fourths (76%) of adults 50+ without a high school degree or GED are grandparents, whereas less than half (43%) of college educated adults 50+ is a grandparent.

Figure 2. Share of Adults 50+ Who Is a Grandparent in 2009, by Educational Attainment



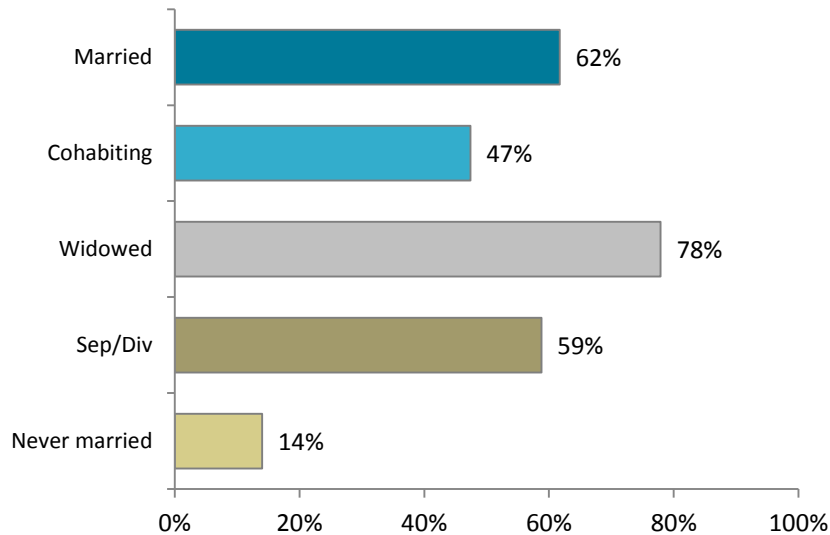
Source: SIPP, 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module

Family Profiles examine topics related to NCFMR's core research themes. Data are presented at both the national and state levels using new data sources. Written for both researchers and broad communities, these profiles summarize the latest statistics on U.S. families.

Relationship Status and Grandparenthood

- Grandparenthood is most common among widowed persons, reflecting in part the age distribution of grandparents. Approximately 8 in 10 (78%) widowed persons aged 50+ are grandparents.
- Grandparenthood is least common among never married adults—only 14% never married adults 50+ are a grandparent.
- Approximately, 6 in 10 married (62%) and separated/divorced (59%) adults 50+ are grandparents, whereas almost half (47%) of cohabitators 50+ are a grandparent.

Figure 3. Share of Adults 50+ Who Is a Grandparent in 2009, by Relationship Status



Source: SIPP, 2008 Panel, Wave 2 Topical Module

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