2018

FP-18-02 Coresident Grandparents: Caregivers versus Non-Caregivers

Huijing Wu
Bowling Green State University, huijinw@bgsu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles

Part of the Family, Life Course, and Society Commons

Repository Citation
https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles/173

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Sociology at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Center for Family and Marriage Research Family Profiles by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.
In 2015, over 72 million individuals were living with at least one grandchild (coresident grandparents). Not all, but many coresident grandparents fill the role of caregiver to their resident grandchildren. Among coresident grandparents, 36% were caregivers—a slight decrease from 39% in 2010 (FP-12-18). Using data from the American Community Survey, this profile updates FP-12-18 to examine coresident grandparents and their responsibility for grandchildren by grandparents’ age and poverty status as well as how long they have been responsible for their grandchildren. We also examine changes in household structure among grandparent caregivers between 2005 and 2015.

### Economic Disadvantage of Grandparent Caregivers vs. Non-caregivers

A larger share of grandparent caregivers was economically disadvantaged than non-caregivers. Among coresident caregivers, 47% were living in poverty or in a low-income household compared to 36% of grandparent non-caregivers.

The discrepancy was driven by the disproportionate share of grandparent caregivers who were living in poverty—20% versus 12% among their non-caregiving counterparts.

### Grandparent Caregivers’ Duration of Responsibility

It is most common for caregiving grandparents to have engaged in this role for five years or more. Two in five (42%) grandparent caregivers reported they have been responsible for the care of their grandchildren at least five years. One in five (20%) grandparent caregivers have been responsible for less than one year.

### Grandparent Caregivers by Household Types

Most grandparent caregivers, at least three out of five, were living with their grandchild and the grandchild’s parent (three-generation household). Between 2005 and 2015, there were modest changes.

In 2005, 39% of grandparent caregivers lived with their grandchildren in a skipped-generation household (e.g., the grandparent’s parent was not present in the household). This percentage declined to 32% in 2010 but increased slightly to 35% in 2015.