FP-18-01 Grandchildren Living in a Grandparent-Headed Household

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Over the past few decades, changes in family patterns have increased the diversity of children’s living arrangements, including a gradual increase in children who are living in their grandparent’s households. This profile updates FP-13-03 to examine trends in the proportion of children living in a grandparent-headed household and whether those children have a parent present in the household (e.g., three-generation households). Focusing on the child’s perspective, this profile also examines the age distribution and poverty status of coresident grandchildren by the presence of a parent in 2015. Data for 1940-2000 are drawn from the Decennial Census, and data from 2010 and 2015 are based on the American Community Survey.

### Trends in the Proportion of Children Living in a Grandparent’s Household

#### Figure 1. Percentage of Minor Children Living in Grandparent-Headed Households, 1940-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Parent Present (Three-Generation)</th>
<th>No Parent Present (Skipped-Generation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since 1970, the percentage of children living in a grandparent’s household has more than doubled, reaching 8% in 2015. One in twelve children lived with a grandparent in 2015.

### Economic Disadvantage Among Children Living in a Grandparent’s Household by Presence of Parent

#### Figure 4. Economic Disadvantage Among Minor Children Living in Grandparent-Headed Households by Presence of Parent, 2015

- **All Children Under Age 18:**
  - Parent Present (Three-Generation): 18%
  - No Parent Present (Skipped-Generation): 22%

- **In Poverty:**
  - Parent Present (Three-Generation): 12%
  - No Parent Present (Skipped-Generation): 26%

Children living in a three-generation household fare better economically than their counterparts living in skipped-generation households. Nearly twice as many children in skipped-generation households were living in poverty (32%) than children in three-generation households (17%).

### Age Distribution of Children Living in a Grandparent’s Household by Presence of Parent

#### Figure 3. Minor Children Living in Grandparent-Headed Households by Age and Presence of Parent, 2015

- **6 years old and under:**
  - Parent Present (Three-Generation): 15%
  - No Parent Present (Skipped-Generation): 32%

- **7-12 years old:**
  - Parent Present (Three-Generation): 18%
  - No Parent Present (Skipped-Generation): 31%

- **13-17 years old:**
  - Parent Present (Three-Generation): 37%
  - No Parent Present (Skipped-Generation): 28%

Among those living in a grandparent’s household, children with a parent present were younger than those with no parent present.

- Among coresident grandchildren with a parent present (three-generation), children over half (57%) were aged 6 or younger. Only 30% were aged 6 or younger among those without a parent present.
- Coresident grandchildren with no parent present (skipped-generation) in a grandparent-headed household were most often aged 7 to 12 (37%).

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