

Facts on Kids in South Dakota

There were 11,217 South Dakota grandparents living with their grandchildren (under age 18). Of those, 5,311 or 47 percent were responsible for caring for their grandchildren. Of those:

- 66 percent were female,
- 57 percent are in the labor force,
- 32 percent had income below the poverty level.

Age of Grandparent

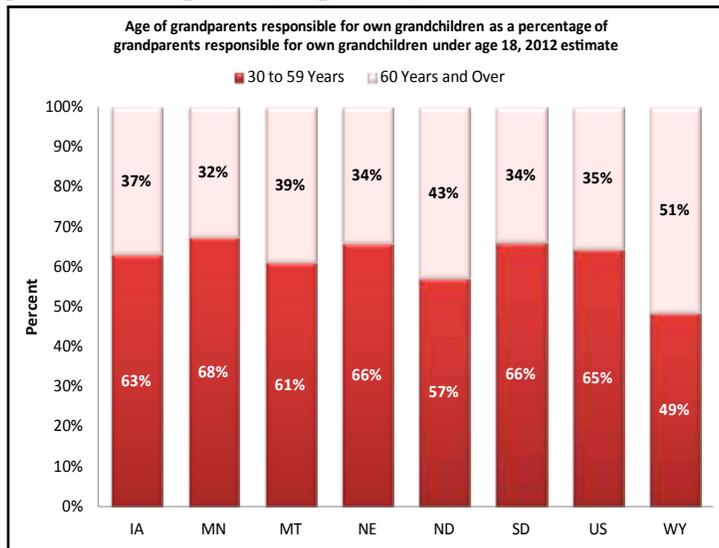
Of grandparents responsible for own grandchildren under age 18 in the United States (2,742,422), 65 percent (1,773,834) were age 30-59; 35 percent were age 60 and older.

For South Dakota the data show that 66 percent of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren under age 18 were age 30-59; 34 percent were age 60 and older.

South Dakota and Border States

The chart below shows the percentage by age of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren. Minnesota (68 percent) shows the highest percent of grandparents age 30-59 responsible for their own grandchildren under age 18, followed by South Dakota and Nebraska at 66 percent. Wyoming (49 percent) shows the lowest percent.

For grandparents age 60 and older, Wyoming (51 percent) shows the highest percent, followed by North Dakota (43 percent). Wyoming is the only state where grandparents older than 60, who are responsible for their grandchildren under age 18, is greater than grandparents age 30-59 — 51 percent and 49 percent, respectively.

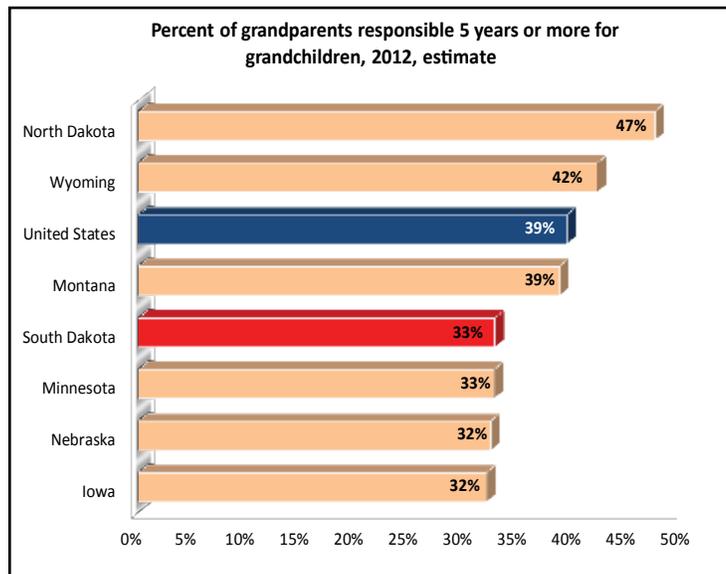


Source: 2012 American Community Survey Table B10051.

Duration of caregiving

The arrangement for the large majority of grandparents in South Dakota who provide day-to-day care for their grandchildren, does not appear to be short term. The chart shows the percentage of time grandparents have been caring for their grandchildren in South Dakota, bordering states, and the United States.

Nationally, 39 percent of grandparents have been responsible for their grandchildren for five or more years. North Dakota (47 percent) has the greatest percentage of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren for five or more years. Conversely, Nebraska has the smallest percentage at 32 percent. South Dakota and Minnesota each have 33 percent.



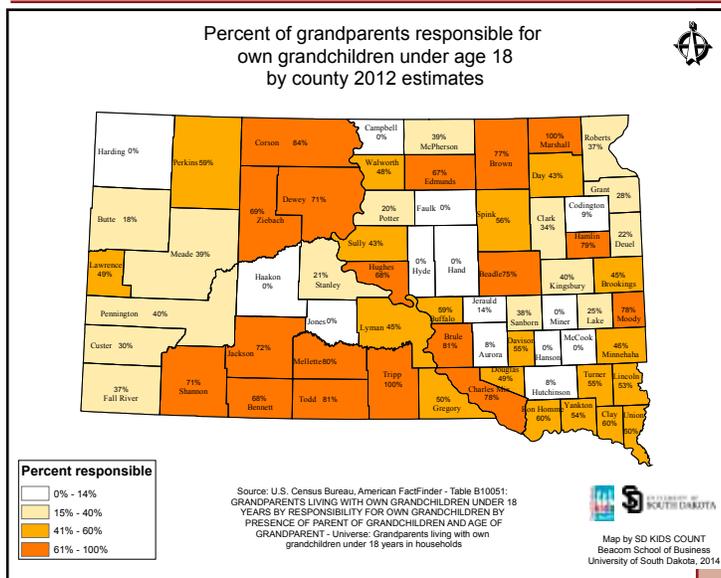
Source: 2012 American Community Survey Table B10051.

Living Arrangements in South Dakota

The county map on the next page shows the percentage of grandparents responsible for raising their grandchildren. The South Dakota counties in which grandparent caregiver arrangements do not exist are rare. Ten counties in South Dakota have no grandparents responsible for their own grandchildren under age 18.

There are 29 counties where half or more of grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren under age 18.

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Source: 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table B10051

Conclusion

This monograph focused on grandparents responsible for their grandchildren. Since 1970 the number of grandparent caregivers has more than doubled going from 3 percent to 7 percent. In South Dakota just under half of grandparents living with their grandchildren, over half were in the labor force, about a third of these grandparents lived below the poverty level and just under a third were age 30 to 59. A few resources that provide information and assistance to the grandparent in providing for the grandchild:

The Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center, <http://www.grandfamilies.org/HOME.aspx> serves as a national legal resource in support of grandfamilies within and outside the child welfare system. Goals are to:

- educate individuals about state laws, legislation and policy in support of grandfamilies.
- assist interested policymakers, advocates, caregivers, and attorneys in exploring policy options to support relatives and the children in their care.
- provide technical assistance and training.

Social Security Benefits for Grandchildren <http://www.ssa.gov/kids/#a0=-1&ht=1> provides advice on social security benefits.

AARP GrandFamilies Resources <http://www.aarp.org/relationships/friends-family/info-08-2011/grandfamilies-guide-resources.html> provides listings of public and private assistance to help grandparents and other relatives raising children.

*Notes

American Community Survey

Definitions - Household Type and Relationship

Relationship to the householder, is asked of all people in housing units. The question on relationship is essential for classifying the population information on families and other groups. **Household** – A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit. (People not living in households are classified as living in group quarters.) A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. **Relationship to Householder - Householder** – One person in each household is designated as the householder. In most cases, this is the person or one of the people in whose name the home is owned, being bought, or rented and who is listed on line one of the survey questionnaire. Households are classified by type according to the sex of the householder and the presence of relatives. Two types of householders are distinguished: a family householder and a non-family householder. *A family householder* is a householder living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. The householder and all people in the household related to him or her are family members. *A nonfamily householder* is a householder living alone or with non-relatives only. **Spouse** – Includes a person married to and living with a householder who is of the opposite sex of the householder. The category “husband or wife” includes people in formal marriages, as well as people in common-law marriages. **Grandchild** – The grandson or granddaughter of the householder.

Background on grandparents responsible for grandchildren

Grandparents as Caregivers-Data are collected on whether a grandchild lives with a grandparent in the household, whether the grandparent has responsibility for the basic needs of the grandchild, and the duration of that responsibility. *Existence of a Grandparent Living with a Grandchild in the Household*—This was determined by a “Yes” answer to the question, “Does this person have any of his/her own grandchildren under the age of 18 living in this house or apartment?” This question was asked of people 15 years of age and over. Because of the low numbers of persons under 30 years old living with their grandchildren, data were only tabulated for people 30 and over. *Responsibility for Basic Needs*—This question determines if the grandparent is financially responsible for food, shelter, clothing, day care, etc., for any or all grandchildren living in the household. In selected tabulations, grandparent responsibility is further classified by presence of parent (of the grandchild).

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Duration of Responsibility—The answer refers to the grandchild whom the grandparent has been responsible for the longest period of time. Duration categories ranged from less than 6 months to 5 or more years. ***Question/Concept History***—This set of questions was added to the American Community Survey in 1999 to comply with legislation passed in the 104th Congress requiring that the decennial census program obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for the care of their grandchildren. The response categories for length of time caring for grandchildren were modified slightly between the 1999 and 2000 American Community Survey questionnaires to match the 2000 decennial census questionnaire. The question has remained unchanged since then.

References

- ¹ Scommegna, P. (March 2012) More U.S. Children Raised by Grandparents. Population Reference Bureau. Retrieved from <http://www.prb.org/Publications.aspx>
- ² Population Reference Bureau. (December 2011). The Health and Well-Being of Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren. Today's Research on Aging, Issue 23. Retrieved from <http://www.prb.org/About/ProgramsProjects/Aging/TodaysResearchAging.aspx>

Facts on KIDS in South Dakota is published by South Dakota KIDS COUNT, Beacom School of Business, The University of South Dakota. The South Dakota KIDS COUNT Project (www.sdkidscount.org) is a national and state-by-state effort, sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for children and families. Additional funding for the state project comes from the South Dakota Departments of: Education & Human Services.

Thank you to:

Maggie Lubeck, South Dakota KIDS COUNT staff associate.

Mandie Weinandt, Instructor, Beacom School of Business, USD.

Jean D'Amico, Senior Research Associate, U.S. Programs, Population Reference Bureau.