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FP-23-03 Grandparenthood in the U.S.: Residence Status of Grandchildren

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Family Profile No. 03, 2023

Grandparenthood in the U.S.: Residence Status of Grandchildren

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In 2021, there were more than 67 million grandparents aged 40 and older in the United States, according to the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). This figure represents 42% of adults aged 40 and older. 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 both non-resident and resident grandparents. Using data from the 2021 SIPP, this profile updates FP-18-05 written by Wu (2018) and FP-14-12 written by Stykes, Manning, and Brown (2014) to examine grandparents' age composition, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, and relationship status by residential status of grandchildren. This is the 3rd profile in our updated series on grandparents in the U.S.

Prevalence of Grandparents Residing With Grandchildren

- Overall, in 2021 only 8% of grandparents aged 40 and older resided with their grandchild(ren). This is just slightly lower than the share in 2018 when 9% of grandparents resided with their grandchild(ren) (not shown).

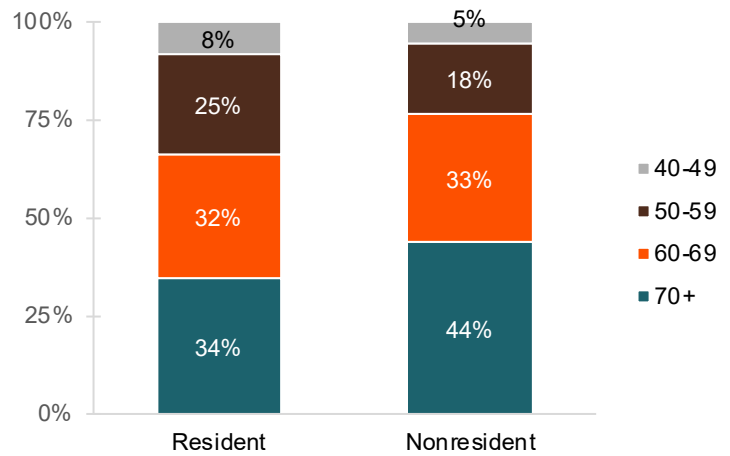
Age Composition of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren

- On average, resident grandparents were 3 years younger than nonresident grandparents (median age of 65 versus 68).
- One-third of resident grandparents (33%) were under age 60, whereas about one-quarter (23%) of nonresident grandparents were under age 60.

Race/ Ethnicity of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren

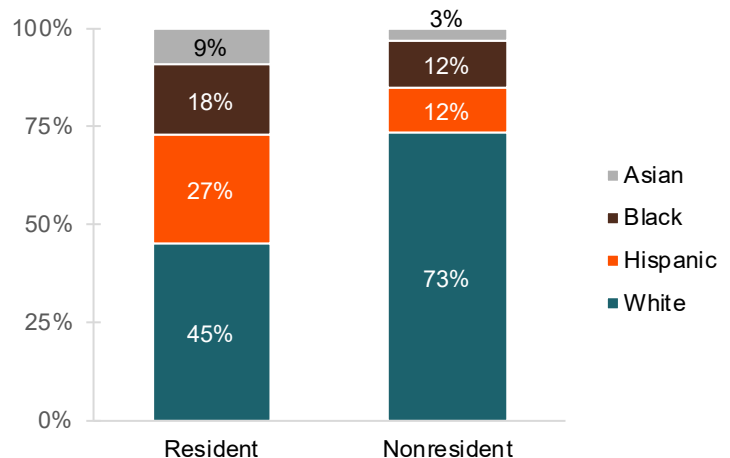
- A larger share of grandparents with resident grandchildren belonged to a racial/ ethnic minority group (55%) compared to nonresident grandparents (27%).
 - Among non-Whites, Hispanics constituted the largest share of resident grandparents (27%). However, among nonresident grandparents, only about one-ten (12%) were Hispanic.
 - A higher percentage of resident than nonresident grandparents were Black (18% and 12%, respectively).
 - Three times as many resident than nonresident grandparents were Asian (9% versus 3%).

Figure 1. Age Composition of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren, 2021



Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2021

Figure 2. Race/ Ethnicity of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren, 2021

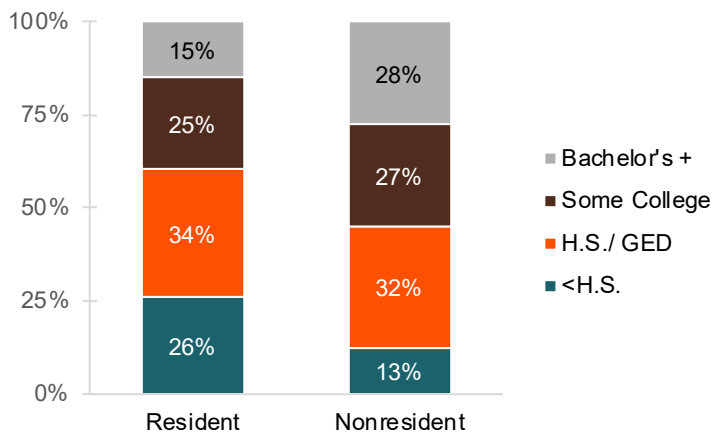


Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2021

Educational Attainment of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren

- Resident grandparents had lower levels of educational attainment than nonresident grandparents did.
 - About one-quarter (26%) of resident grandparents had less than a high school education compared to 13% of nonresident grandparents.
 - About one-third of grandparents had a high school diploma or GED—34% among resident and 32% among nonresident grandparents.
 - About one-quarter of grandparents had some college—25% among resident and 27% among nonresident grandparents.
 - Fifteen percent (15%) of resident grandparents had at least a bachelor's degree, whereas 28% of nonresident grandparents were college graduates.

Figure 3. Educational Attainment of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren, 2021



Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2021

Data Source:

U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2014, Wave 1, and 2021. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.html>

References:

Stykes, B., Manning, W. D., & Brown, S. L. (2014). Grandparenthood in the U.S.: Residency status of grandparents. *Family Profiles, FP-14-12*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/college-of-arts-and-sciences/NCFMR/documents/FP/FP-14-12-grandparents-us.pdf>

Wu, H. (2018). Grandparenthood in the U.S.: Residence status of grandchildren. *Family Profiles, FP-18-05*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-18-05>

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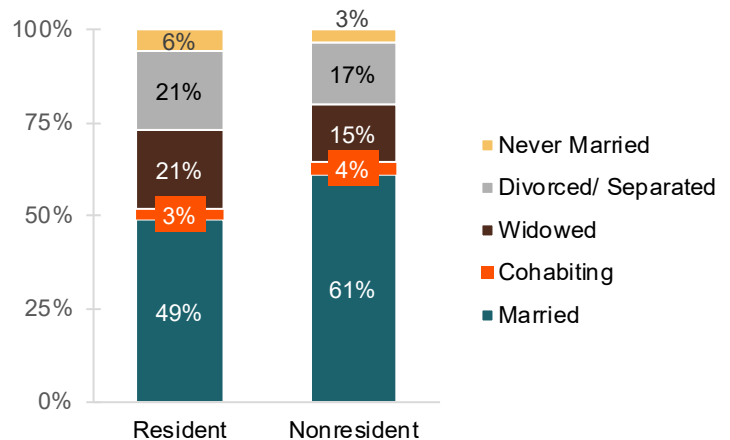
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Relationship Status of Grandparents by Age

- The relationship status of grandparents varied by their residency status with their grandchild(ren).
 - The share of married grandparents was higher among nonresident grandparents compared to resident grandparents. About one-half (49%) of resident grandparents were married compared to three-fifths (61%) of nonresident grandparents.
 - Similar shares were in a cohabiting relationship—3% among resident and 4% among nonresident grandparents.
 - The share currently widowed was larger among resident grandparents, 21% versus 15%. Similarly, among resident grandparents 21% were divorced or separated compared to 17% among nonresident grandparents.
 - Although the shares who were never married was small the share among resident grandparents was twice as large (6%) compared to that among nonresident grandparents (3%).

Figure 4. Relationship Status of Grandparents by Resident Status of Grandchildren, 2021



Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2021