

# WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

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October 2016

## Grandchildren and Grandparents

### Grandchildren

The 2015 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 1-year estimates show that both Nevada and the United States as a whole had 4 percent of their children under age 18 living in households where a grandparent provided that child's primary care.<sup>1</sup> Twenty-six thousand children received primary care from grandparents in Nevada. Among the states, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Wisconsin reported the lowest percentage children in the care of grandparents, 2 percent. Mississippi, at 8 percent, reported the highest percentage.<sup>2</sup>

The characteristics of grandchildren in the care of their grandparents for 2015 are not available because of the small number of sample cases.

### Grandparents

An estimated 71,968 grandparents lived with their own grandchildren under age 18 in Nevada in 2015—24,549 provided primary care for their grandchildren (Table 1). Nearly one-quarter of these householders or spouses (i.e., 6,015) were responsible for their grandchildren with no parent of grandchildren present. The majority, 62.2 percent, of the grandparents were female. Slightly more than 29 percent were foreign born. And, 11.5 percent had income in the past 12 months that was below the poverty level.

Table 1 also compares grandparent characteristics for Nevada's two largest counties. Grandparents in Clark County who were responsible for their own grandchildren were more likely than their counterparts in Washoe County to be older, native born, and speak English very well.

Table 2 shows the length of time grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren. Approximately 59 percent of Nevada grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren for three or more years. The corresponding percentages for grandparents in Clark County and Washoe County were 60.3 and 53.2 percent, respectively.

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<sup>1</sup>Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, retrieved from the AECF KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>, 11/16/16.

<sup>2</sup>ibid.

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*The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas or the Nevada System of Higher Education.*

**Table 1. Characteristics of Grandparents Who Were Responsible  
for Their Own Grandchildren under 18 Years: 2015**

Characteristic	Nevada Estimate	Clark County Estimate	Washoe County Estimate
Grandparents living with own grandchildren	71,968	56,989	7,987
<b>Grandparents living with own grandchildren who are responsible for own grandchildren</b>	<b>24,549</b>	<b>19,048</b>	<b>2,685</b>
Race and Hispanic or Latino origin			
One race	N	N	N
White	62.9%	59.5%	77.5%
Black or African American	12.5%	16.1%	N
American Indian and Alaska Native	2.0%	N	N
Asian	6.1%	7.9%	N
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	N	N	N
Some other race	13.0%	14.6%	N
Two or more races	2.4%	N	N
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	30.8%	32.1%	29.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	46.0%	43.0%	56.9%
Age			
30 to 59 years	15,746	12,263	1,862
60 years and older	8,803	6,785	823
Marital status			
Now married (including separated and spouse absent)	71.5%	71.8%	73.7%
Unmarried (never married, widowed, and divorced)	28.5%	28.2%	26.3%
Sex			
Male	37.8%	36.9%	43.4%
Female	62.2%	63.1%	56.6%
Nativity			
Native	70.6%	70.0%	66.3%
Foreign born	29.4%	30.0%	33.7%
Labor force status			
In labor force	62.6%	62.9%	64.4%
Language spoken at home and ability to speak English			
Speak some other language	36.3%	37.8%	38.9%
Speak English very well	11.3%	12.8%	8.1%
Speak English less than very well	25.0%	25.0%	30.8%
Poverty status in past 12 months			
Grandparents living with own grandchildren under 18 years for whom poverty status is determined	24,549	19,048	2,685
Below poverty level	11.5%	9.3%	20.1%
At or above poverty level	88.5%	90.7%	79.9%
Presence of parent(s) of grandchildren			
Householder or spouse responsible for grandchildren with no parent of grandchildren present	24.5%	21.9	22.6

Notes: Characteristics are for grandparents living with own grandchildren under age 18 who are responsible for children's primary care. N = The data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, American FactFinder, Table S1002, as of 11/16/16.

**Table 2. Characteristics of Grandparents Who Were Responsible for Their Own Grandchildren under 18 Years by Length of Time Responsible for Own Grandchildren for Population 30 Years and Over: 2015**

Characteristic	Nevada Estimate	Clark County Estimate	Washoe County Estimate
Grandparents living with own grandchildren	71,968	56,989	7,987
<b>Grandparents living with own grandchildren who are responsible for own grandchildren</b>	<b>24,549</b>	<b>19,048</b>	<b>2,685</b>
Grandparent responsible less than 6 months	3,379	2,603	372
Grandparent responsible 6 to 11 months	761	501	243
Grandparent responsible 1 or 2 years	5,858	4,463	642
Grandparent responsible 3 or 4 years	4,063	3,357	319
Grandparent responsible 5 years or more	10,488	8,124	1,109
Grandparent not responsible for own grandchildren	47,419	37,941	5,302

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, American FactFinder, Table B10050, accessed 11/16/16.

## AECF KIDS COUNT DATA CENTER

“Access hundreds of indicators, download data and create reports and graphics on the KIDS COUNT Data Center that support smart decisions about children and families.”

The AECF



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