

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

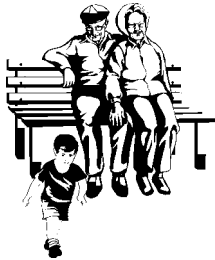
Introduction

This Facts on KIDS will focus on grandparents raising grandchildren. The U.S. Census Bureau defines grandparents responsible for grandchildren as "grandparents who have assumed financial responsibility for food, shelter, clothing, day care, etc., of their grandchildren on a temporary or permanent live-in basis".

Census 2000 was the first time that questions on grandparent caregiving were included in the decennial census. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) directed that this topic be included on Census 2000. The Congress wanted to find out about grandparents who were the primary caregivers for their grandchildren, and if this relationship was temporary or permanent. Three questions were selected to provide information on the extent to which grandparents act as caregivers to their grandchildren.

Characteristics of Grandparent Caregivers

At a time when adults look forward to relaxing in their later years, perhaps enjoying visits from their grown children and new grandchildren, an increasing number of older adults are taking on the role of daily caregiver for their grandchildren.



Many grandparents are raising their grandchildren because of death of the parent, illness, divorce, incarceration of the parent, parental substance abuse, child abuse or child neglect. The average age of becoming a grandparent is about 51 years,

but because of an increase in teen pregnancy many parents are becoming grandparents in their thirties.

Grandparents who are raising their grandchildren are often middle-aged, married, working, living at or above the poverty level and are caring for young children.

There were 3.9 million multigenerational family households in the United States in 2000; these are families where grandparents lived under the same roof with two or more generations of descendants¹. These households represented 4 percent of all households. Of these families:

- The largest group were those where the grandparent lived with both their children and grandchildren and was the householder. There were 2.6 million such households, comprising 65 percent of multigenerational family households.
- In the next-largest group, the grandparents lived in the home of their children (or son- or daughter-in-law) along with their children's children. There were 1.3 million such households, comprising one-third of all multigenerational family households.
- Another form of multigenerational family household included both grandparents and great-grandparents. In these households, the grandparents lived with their parents (or parents-in-law), along with their children and their grandchildren. There were 78,000 such households, comprising 2 percent of multigenerational family households.

There were 5.6 million grandparents with grandchildren under 18 who lived with their grandchildren in 2000². Of those grandparents, 2.4 million were responsible for caring for their grandchildren. Of those 2.4 million grandparents:

- 1.5 million were grandmothers.
- 840,000 had been responsible for caring for their grandchildren for five or more years.
- 1.7 million were married.
- 1.3 million were in the labor force.
- 442,000 were poor.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000 Brief, Grandparents Living with Grandchildren: 2000*³, younger grandparents were more likely to be responsible for their grandchildren than older

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grandparents. In 2000, the data showed that coresident grandparents who were under age 60 were more likely to be responsible for their grandchildren (50 percent) than coresident grandparents who were aged 60 and over (31 percent).

South Dakota Statistics

Increasing numbers of South Dakota citizens are finding themselves becoming day-to-day caregivers for the second time – caregivers to their grandchildren. Although most children do not reside with their grandparents, the percentage of those who do is increasing dramatically.

There are over 5,600 households in South Dakota where grandparents are living with grandchildren. This represents 2% of all households in the state.

In 2000 in South Dakota there were 8,019 grandparents living with their grandchildren under 18 years and 4,632 (58%) of those grandparents were responsible for the care of their grandchildren. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

Between 1990 and 2000, there was a 43.3% increase in the percentage of grandchildren residing in grandparent-maintained households in South Dakota. This increase was much higher than for the nation (30%).

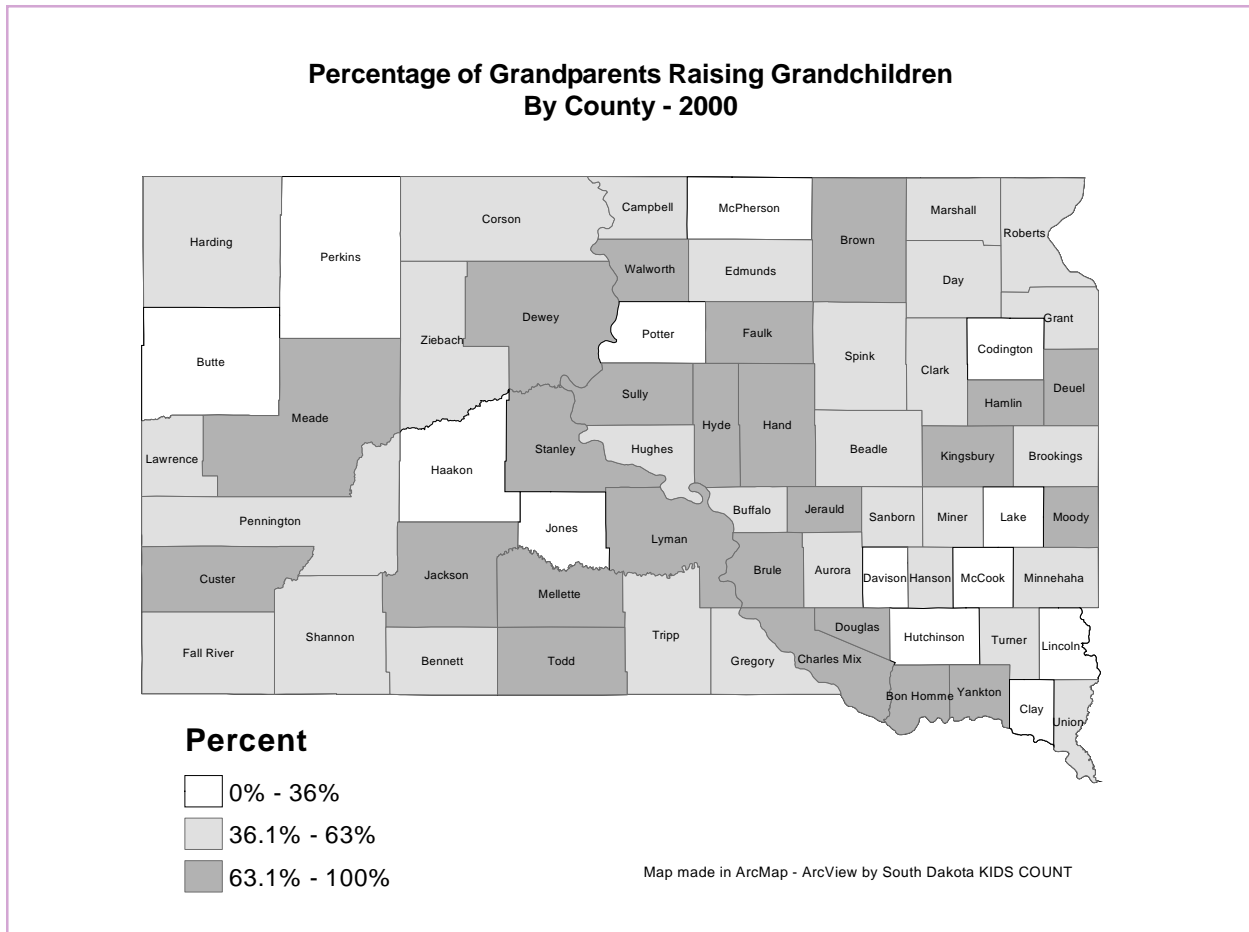
Living Arrangements

Of the population of grandparents who reside with their grandchildren, over one-half of them also provide day-to-day care for their grandchildren, a pattern that varies widely by county.

The county map below shows the percentage of grandparents responsible for raising their grandchildren.

A vast majority of South Dakota counties have a significant percentage of grandparents (36.1% or greater) who not only reside with their grandchildren, but provide day-to-day care for them.

Of those counties, twenty-four have almost two thirds or more of grandparents caring for grandchildren. (Source: SF-3, PCT8. Grandparents living with own grandchildren under 18 years by responsibility for own grandchildren by length of time responsible for grandchildren for the population 30 years and over in households).



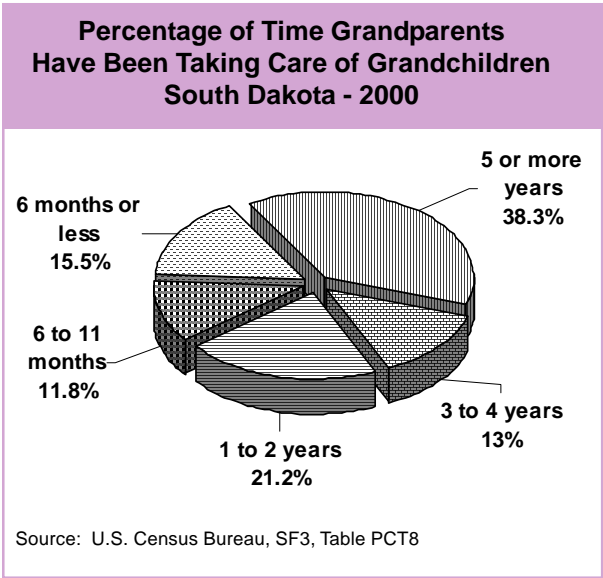
The South Dakota counties in which grandparent caregiver arrangements do not exist are rare. In just two counties, McPherson and Perkins, there are no grandparents acting as caregivers for their grandchildren documented.

The county map below shows living arrangements from a grandchild's perspective. It shows the percentage of children living in a household headed by a grandparent. In this case the parent of the child may or may not be present. The map shows the concentration of children living in a household headed by a grandparent being primarily located on or near American Indian Reservations. This is also where there are the greatest number of children under age 18. (Source: P28. Relationship by Household Type for the Population Under 18 Years [17] - Universe: Population under 18 years. Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-percent data. U.S. Census Bureau website, www.census.gov)

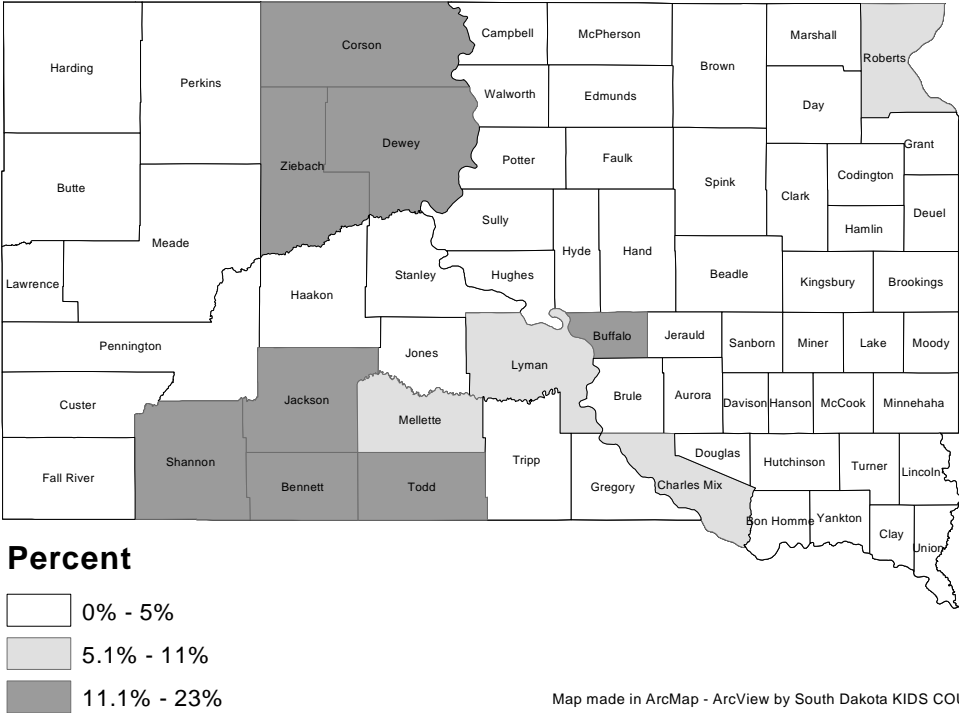
Duration of Caregiving

For the large majority of grandparents in South Dakota who provide day-to-day care for their grandchildren, the caregiving arrangement does not

appear to be short term. The chart shows the percentage of time grandparents have been taking care of grandchildren are as follows:



Percentage of Children Living in a Household Headed by a Grandparent By County - 2000





SD KIDS COUNT Project
Business Research Bureau-The USD
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

End Notes

1 Website document-<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01cn182.html>.

2Website document-<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2001/cb01cn178.html>. (The data in this section comes from the Census 2000 Supplementary Survey, a survey of 700,000 households designed to test the feasibility of collecting census long form-like data throughout the decade.)

3 U.S. Census Bureau (2003) Grandparents Living with Grandchildren: 2000. Census 2000 Brief. U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau

Facts on KIDS in South Dakota

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Special thanks to:

Nancy I. Nelson, Director, SD State Data Center
Nancy Kniffen Craig, SD State Data Center
Molly Daniel, BRB staff assistant

The South Dakota KIDS COUNT Project 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 and Cultural Affairs and Human Services. Log on to SD KIDS COUNT www.usd.edu/brbinfo then follow the KIDS COUNT link.

The State Data Center is designated as the official census center for South Dakota and a repository of U. S. Census Bureau and U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis publications and data bases. The objectives of the SDC are to expand the orientation and technical assistance in data access and its uses in research administration, planning and decision-making by state and local governments, the business community, educational institutions and other users. The SDC also prepares population projections and demographic estimates for South Dakota along with conducting data analysis. Log on to the SD State Data Center at www.usd.edu/brbinfo then follow the State Data Center link.
