



## Growing ND by the Numbers

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**How Common are Grandparent – Grandchild Households?**  
*Households with these arrangements constitute just under two percent of the 299,638 households in the state, a rate that is just under half of the four percent found nationally. These situations include both when the grandparent is the householder or not and whether or not the parent of the grandchild resides in the household.*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Yr 2011 – 2015 Table: S1002.

### Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren

In North Dakota, there are an estimated 7,600 grandparents residing with their grandchildren. In about half the cases, this is simply a living arrangement with more than two generations of family members residing in the same household. However, in about half of the cases, approximately 3,400 of the 7,600 cases, the grandparents are responsible for the grandchildren rather than the parent, referred to as 'responsible grandparents' going further in this newsletter.

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that in about two-thirds of these cases the child's parents are also present in the household – although not equally responsible for the child or children. The Census Bureau's data does not provide an explanation for the relationship as causality is not explored.

Just under 60 percent of these responsible grandparents are white while about a 33 percent are American Indian with the balance made up of

members of other races. The median age of these responsible grandparents is 56 years of age. Nearly 60 percent of responsible grandparents are in the age range of 45 to 59 years of age although they vary from less than 35 to more than 85 years of age. Over 60 percent of these responsible grandparents are female. In American Indian households, the percentage of female responsible grandparents exceeds 70 percent. When there were 3 or more grandchildren in the home the grandparents were typically in their 50's or early 60's.

Responsible grandparents are equally likely to be married, slightly more likely to be divorced or separated, but less likely to have never married than peers in their same age range. They also are more likely to be born outside the U.S. or disabled than peers in their same age range.

The reported length of time that these grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren can vary from less than six months

to more than five years. About 20 percent of responsible grandparents report they had care of their grandchildren less than 6 months while 34 percent report they have been responsible for more than five years. Data shows that in American Indian households more than 50 percent of these grandparents have been responsible for their grandchildren for more than five years.

In households of responsible grandparents, 17 percent report the percent of their own child under age 18 years of age. In almost all cases their own children tended to be over age six.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Yr 2011 – 2015 Tables: S1002, B1001, B1002 and PUMS data.

**How Many Children Per Grandparent – Grandchild Household?**

*In about 50 percent of these households there was only one child, another 33 percent had two children. However, data from the U.S. Census Bureau showed the number of children in these households ranged as high as seven although the percentage of these household situations was less than one percent.*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Yr 2011 – 2015 Table B10050, PUMS Data.

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**Socioeconomics of Responsible Grandparents**

Responsible grandparents were more likely to have less than a high school diploma and less likely to have a Bachelor’s degree, or higher than similar aged peers. However, the reported range of education is fairly wide with some responsible grandparents indicating they had no education at all while others indicate they hold a masters or professional degree or higher.

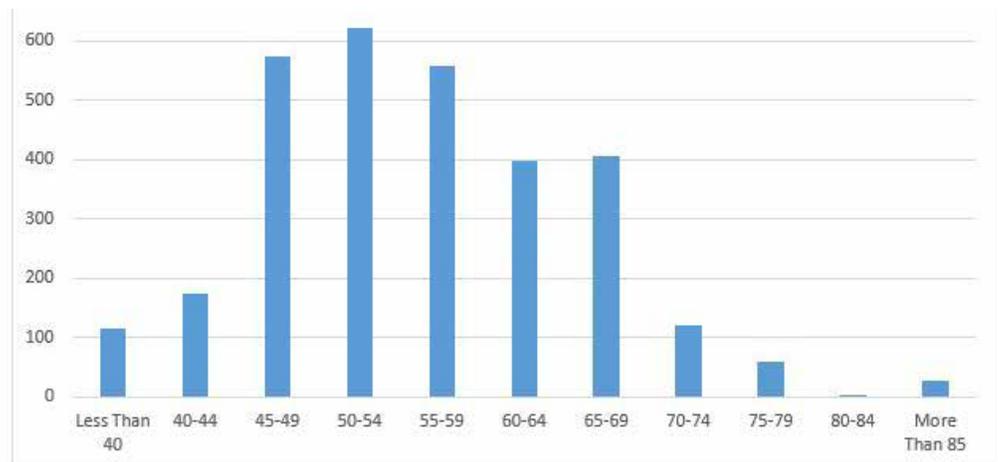
Responsible grandparents were more likely to be below the poverty line as well as less likely to be represented in the higher economic bands of five times the poverty ratio or above. The percentage of public assistance participation is no different for responsible grandparents compared to their peers.

Just under three-quarters of these responsible

grandparents indicate they are employed, only slightly less than their peers in a similar age range. The number of hours worked was similar to their peers. However, they reported lower overall family income and wages than their non-grandchild responsible peers.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Yr 2011 – 2015 Tables: S1002, S1701, B1001, B1002 PUMS data.

**North Dakota Responsible Grandparents 2011-2015 By Age Group**



*Grandparents responsible for their grandchildren come from a wide variety of age ranges, the largest being in the age groups 45 to 59 years of age. Approximately 60 percent are female and 40 percent are male. Just under 60 percent of these responsible grandparents are white, about a third are American Indian with the balance made up of member of other races.* Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Yr 2011 – 2015 PUMS Data.

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