
PRESS RELEASE

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CENSUS BUREAU REPORTS INCREASE IN CHILDREN LIVING WITH GRANDPARENTS

During Hard Times, Families Depend on Each Other More Than Ever

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) DECEMBER 14, 2010 – New data released today shows a significant increase in children living in households headed by grandparents in the United States since the year 2000. According to numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 5 million children under the age of 18 live in grandparent-headed households. This represents an increase of about 400,000 children since the beginning of the decade.

“Grandparents are doing our country a great service by stepping in, helping raise children and keeping families together, said Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United. “In purely economic terms, grandparents raising their grandchildren save taxpayers more than six billion dollars a year, keeping kids out of the foster care system.”

According to the Census Bureau nearly a quarter of those children living in households headed by grandparents have neither parent present. The total number of those children is placed at 964,579. The total number of children living in grandparent-headed households is 4,858,444. Additionally, almost 1.9 million children are living in households headed by other relatives.

More than 2.5 million grandparents report that they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. 51.1% of these grandparents are White and not Hispanic, 24.2% are Black/African American, 18.7% are Hispanic/Latino, 2.9% are Asian, 2.0% are American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.3% are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. Of grandparents responsible for grandchildren living with them, 36.8% have no parents of the children living in the household, 67.3% are under age 60, and 19.6% live in poverty.

This data is taken from the U.S. Census Bureau 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Detailed Tables B09006 and B10002 and Subject Table S1002. The numbers for the year 2000 are taken from the 2000 Census. Additional data on related topics can be found on the Census Bureau website at <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United, is available for both print and broadcast interviews on this subject.

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Generations United (GU) is the national membership organization focused solely on improving the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational strategies, programs, and public policies. GU represents more than 100 national, state, and local organizations and individuals representing more than 70 million Americans. For more information, visit www.gu.org.