

Leveraging Data to Seek Funding, Understand Kinship/Grandfamilies, and Inform Practice

February 13, 2024

- We will begin at the top of the hour
- Please type in the **chat** - your name, state, tribe (if applicable), and role
- We'll take questions throughout the presentation and at the end
- All participants will receive a link to the slides and recording by the end of the week

- 5-year (2021-2026) cooperative agreement with Administration for Community Living
- Purpose is to provide technical assistance to the array of tribal, state, and territorial government agencies, as well as non-profit organizations that serve kinship families
- Not designed to serve the families directly – working to improve systems for families



How We Help



Learning Collaboratives and Information Dissemination

The Network hosts [webinars](#) and facilitates learning collaboratives.



Individual Assistance

We respond to [individual requests for help](#) from government agencies, kinship navigators, and community-based nonprofits.



A Centralized Hub

The Network is elevating exemplary kinship/grandfamily practices and programs from around the country on its accessible website, www.GKSNetwork.org.

The First-Ever National Technical Assistance Center for those who Serve Kinship/Grandfamilies

We help government agencies and nonprofits in states, tribes, and territories work across jurisdictional and systemic boundaries to improve supports and services for families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children.



Data Requests

Requests:

- Community specific data on “informal” families?
- Percentage of caregivers who are “fictive” kin?
- Which kinship families have court-ordered legal relationships? What types?
- Child welfare specific data re: diversion, exits to permanency?

Purposes:

- Make the case for providing services to kinship families
- Target services to a specific community with more kinship families
- Enhance services
- Advocate for more funding

Kinship/Grandfamilies Data



Ver la versión en español de la página.

View the Spanish version of the page.



National Sources for Kinship/Grandfamilies Data

There are three main sources of data on kinship/grandfamilies at the national level: the U.S. Census Bureau, the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), and the Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. All of these data sources provide



← Resources

TIP SHEET

How to Leverage the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey to Learn More about Children in Kinship Families

Download This Resource

Understanding the well-being of children living in all family arrangements, including those in kinship/grandfamilies, is important for the program and planning efforts of agencies that provide services to children and caregivers. Building population assessment measures can be costly for programs with limited funds. Utilizing opportunities to draw on existing data can be a cost-effective way to support program and planning efforts.

The terms “grandfamilies” and “kinship families,” used throughout this document, refer to all families in which grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends are raising children whose parents are unable to do so. The terms can be used interchangeably to refer to these families.

Stay Connected & Access Support

Sign up for our monthly newsletter, which will provide you with updates on new Network resources.



For the latest updates, follow the Network on LinkedIn!





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Using Data to Understand & Advocate for Grandfamilies

February 13, 2024

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**GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP
SUPPORT NETWORK**
A National Technical Assistance Center



Where to Look?

Population Surveys

U.S. Census

Administrative Data

AFCARS

NCANDS

Child Welfare System Studies

NSCAW

Child Well-Being Studies

FFCWS

YRBS

Health & Aging Studies

MIDUS

Health &
Retirement Study

What can we accomplish by
finding and combining data
sources?

Here are a few **highlights**.



Understand Impacts of Kinship Caregiving: Child & Caregiver Well-being



Black grandparents raising grandchildren face increased levels of “frailty” over time - particularly in low-income households ([Chen et al., 2015](#); Health & Retirement Study waves 1998-2010).



Especially when first assuming caregiving responsibilities, grandparent caregivers are at increased risks for depressive symptoms ([Baker & Silverstein, 2008](#); Health & Retirement Study).



Closer relationships with grandparent caregivers can lead to improved caregiver and child mental health over several years ([Goodman et al., 2012](#); longitudinal study: 1998-2008).



In 2022, ~18% of grandparent caregivers had past-year incomes below the federal poverty level, compared with 12% of all grandparents living with grandchildren ([U.S. Census](#)).

Dive into Topics of Interest: Example – Age of Kinship Caregivers

Grandparent caregivers are considerably older in 2022 compared to 2012 (48.5% are ages 30-59 compared with 64.6%) (U.S. Census; [Table S1002](#)).

Younger kinship caregivers have unique needs related to education, career development, financial stress, and parenting ([Kiraly et al., 2020](#)).

Next up: Explore experiences and well-being among younger caregivers being “sandwiched” between caring for both children and aging relatives.

Identify Needs and Barriers to Services



Grandparents raising grandchildren are about twice as likely as parents to have military service ([NSCH, 2021](#)).



Young children in kinship care may be less likely to receive early intervention and special education services than children in non-relative foster care (NSCAW II; [Casanueva et al., 2020](#)).

Children in kinship care fare WAY better on standardized tests (math and reading) than children in non-relative foster care – on par with children living with parents, with the right resources ([Washington et al., 2021](#))



Children in kinship care are less likely to have mental health disorders and use mental health services than children in non-kinship foster care ([Winokur et al., 2014](#); meta-analysis: 667k children from 102 studies).



Over 1 in 4 grandparent caregivers report having a disability, including Nearly 22% of those under 60 ([U.S. Census](#)).



In 2022, half of children in grandfamilies received some form of public assistance in the prior 12 months, ([U.S. Census](#)).

Piece it Together: Example – Substance Use & Grandfamily Co-Trends

- In 1970, ~957,000 children lived with a grandparent primary caregiver
 - Increasing to 1.6 million in 2014
 - **Increasing to 2.5 million in 2022** ([U.S. Census](#)).
- Between 2002 and 2019, grandparents reporting **parents' substance use as a reason for caregiving jumped from 21% to 40%** ([Wallace et al., 2019](#); NSCH).
 - The percentage of grandfamilies reporting **formal child welfare system involvement jumped from 10% to 28%**.
- States with the **highest percentages of grandfamilies** are also states with the **highest opioid prescribing rates** ([Anderson, 2019](#); CDC & Census).

Discussion & Questions

Thank you!

Questions or ideas? Contact:

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