

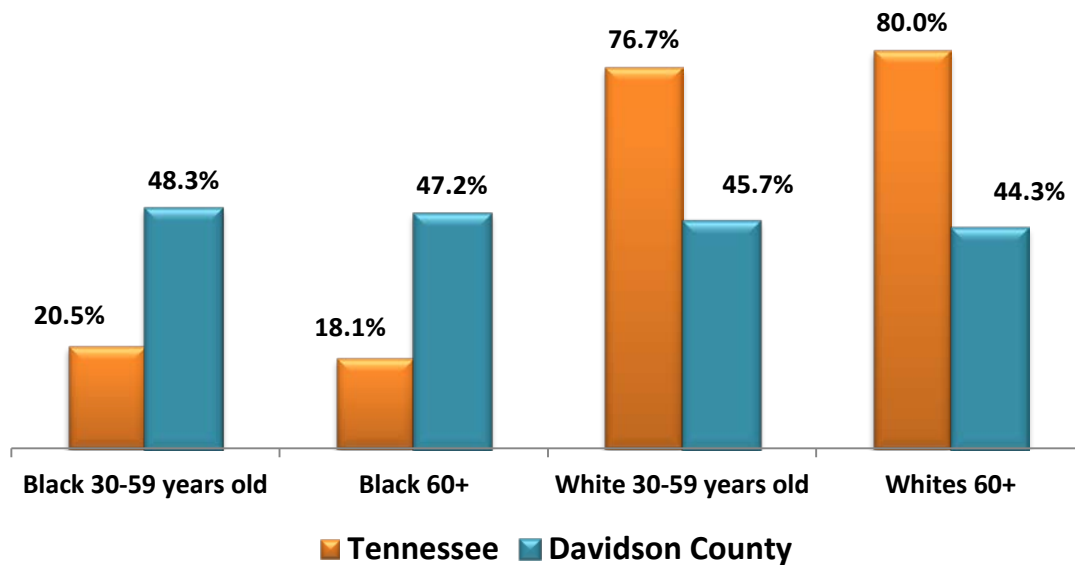


Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



Tennessee has more than 75,000 grandparents who serve as the primary caregiver for grandchildren, as reported in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey Five-Year estimates between 2008-2012 over 75,000 Tennesseans and nearly 5,200 Davidson County residents live in a household where grandparents are the primary caregiver for grandchildren. In Tennessee, twenty-two percent (22%) have incomes below the federal poverty level. The chart below shows that the percentage of black grandparents raising grandchildren in both age categories is more than that of whites in Davidson County.

Percentage of Grandparent Raising Grandchildren by Age and Race
Tennessee, Davidson County, 2012



Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Report indicates that 9% of youth will live with extended family (often grandparents) for at least three consecutive months at some point before age 18. Many Grandparents give full-time care for their grandchildren; other have daily or weekly responsibilities for after-school care.

Some grandparent caregivers carry out their responsibilities in multi-generational situations where grandparents live with parents and children. Sometimes the grandparents must quickly step up when the child's parent is no longer available (incarcerated, diagnosed with a physical or mental illness, abusing drugs or deceased). Such situations can be overwhelming, leaving grandparents feeling isolated and confused.

The report highlights challenges faced by kinship caregivers including emotional, legal and financial issues that must be addressed as children grow up. It also identifies recommendation for federal, state and local officials to consider for this growing population. These recommendations include removing barriers within the child welfare system, establish laws and resources to assist kinship families and increase financial stability through additional funding to meet the unique needs of these families.

<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/S/SteppingUpforKids2012PolicyReport/SteppingUpForKidsPolicyReport2012.pdf>

In a 2010 study by the Pew Research Center, more grandchildren are being raised by grandchildren since the start of the Great Recession. *Since the Start of the Great Recession, More Children Raised by Grandparents* noted an increase of about 6% increase in the number of children being raised by grandparents after the recession began in 2007. Black and Hispanic grandparents were more likely to serve as primary caregivers as white grandparents were during this period.

Children being raised by grandparents were more likely to live in single parent households than two parents. Grandparents taking on the responsibility of raising grandchildren were faced with stretching limited financial resources during this time. The Pew Research Center study indicated that 18% of grandparents raising grandchildren had incomes below the federal poverty level.

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2010/09/09/since-the-start-of-the-great-recession-more-children-raised-by-grandparents/>

Federal and state benefits (some with age and income restrictions) available to grandparents raising grandchildren include:

- Medicaid for Children
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Child Only Grants
- Supplemental Security Income for Children

The Council on Aging of Greater Nashville convened a committee to explore the issues that face grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. The committee identified several issues that grandparents would need to know about when they assume the responsibility of being the primary caregiver of their grandchildren.

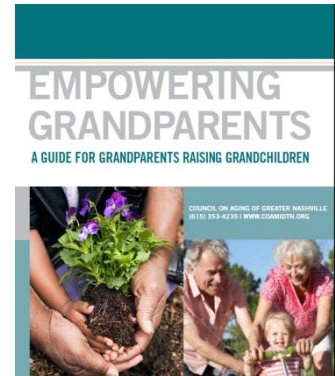


COA then published *Empowering Grandparents*, a free booklet was designed to empower grandparents with the knowledge and resources need to meet the challenges and responsibilities of parenting grandchildren.

<http://www.councilonaging-midtn.org/programs/grandparents>

COA distributed the booklets at an event it hosted in February 2014 to provide information to the community to assist grandparents who are raising their children. Topics include:

- Legal and financial matters
- As your grandchild grows
- Relationships and emotions
- Children and today's technology
- Working with Schools
- Changes in Children's Health Care
- Taking Care of Yourself



Additional resources include:

- Family and Children Services Relative Caregiver Program - http://www.fcsnashville.org/programs-and-services/family-child-permanency/#fcs_tab-4
- Prevent Child Abuse of Tennessee - <http://www.pcat.org/>
- Tennessee Voices for Children - <http://www.tnvoices.org/>
- Legal Aid Society - <http://www.las.org/>
- Kid Central Tennessee - <http://www.kidcentraltn.com/>
- Metro Nashville Department of Public Health - <http://www.nashville.gov/Health-Department.aspx>
- U. S. Government - <http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Grandparents.shtml>