



NEW HAMPSHIRE

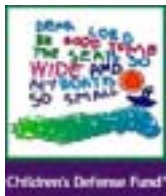
A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children



September 2005

Across the United States, more than 6 million children are being raised in households headed by grandparents and other relatives; 2.5 million children are in these households without any parents present. As the children's parents struggle with substance abuse, mental illness, incarceration, economic hardship, divorce, domestic violence, and other challenges, these caregivers provide a vital safety net to children inside and outside of the foster care system. This fact sheet provides important information and resources for the grandparents and other relatives raising children in your state.

The Brookdale Foundation



National and State Data*

The Children

- Nationally, 4.5 million children are living in grandparent-headed households (6.3% of all children under age 18). This represents a 30% increase from 1990 to 2000.
- There are another 1.5 million children in the United States who are living in households headed by other relatives (2.1% of all children under 18).
- In New Hampshire, there are 10,119 children living in grandparent-headed households (3.3 % of all children in the state). There are another 2,339 children living in households headed by other relatives (0.8 % of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in New Hampshire, 3,869 are living there without either parent present.

The Grandparents

- Nationally, 2.4 million grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them: 29% of these grandparents are African American; 17% are Hispanic/Latino; 2% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; 3% are Asian; and 47% are White. 34% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present. 71% are under the age of 60; 19% live in poverty.
- In New Hampshire, 4,534 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [436 in Manchester]: 1% of these grandparents are African American; 3% are Hispanic/Latino; and 94% are White. 40% of these grandparents live in households without the children's parents present.

Additional Information

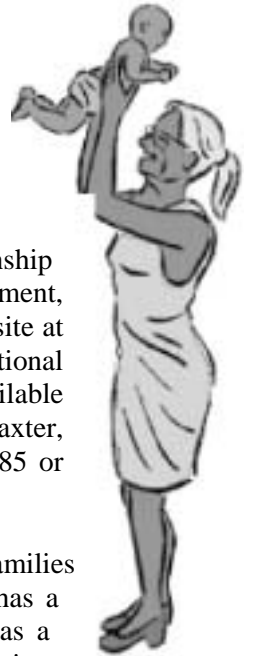
- United States Census data on grandparents who are responsible for meeting the basic needs of their grandchildren can also be broken down by county, congressional district, and other categories. Log on to <http://factfinder.census.gov>. Additional data on grandparents and grandchildren are available at www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/grandparents.html.
- Additional national and state data on grandparents raising children is available on AARP's website at www.aarp.org/families/grandparents/.

* These data are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau Table DP-2. Profile Selected Social Characteristics: 2000.



Programs That Can Help

- **Families First of the Greater Seacoast** offers family support for kinship caregivers in the Portsmouth area through parenting classes, support groups, and family outings. The support groups host professional speakers from the community to address the needs and concerns of kinship caregivers and give kinship caregivers the opportunity to share their experiences with others in the same situation. It meets twice monthly and provides child care, transportation, and a light supper during the support group meetings. *Contact:* Pam Mattingly, RAPP Coordinator, at (603) 422-8208 ext. 125, or pmattingly@communitycampus.org. The website is www.familiesfirstseacoast.org.
- **The Grandparents as Parents Support Group** is sponsored by ServiceLink New Hampshire and meets at the Center for Elder Services in Lebanon on the second Thursday of every month. *Contact:* Dana Michalovic, at (603) 448-1558 or dmichalovic@gcsc.org
- **The HUB Family Resource Center** in Dover holds a support group for Relatives as Parents (RAPP) every other Thursday evening at the McConnell Center. Please call for a schedule and directions. The group deals with legal, financial, and social issues associated with raising relatives' children. This includes how to work with schools and different developmental stages in children. Child care and a light supper are provided. *Contact:* (603) 749-9754 or www.hubfamilies.org.
- **The University of New Hampshire (UNH) Cooperative Extension** offers parenting education to kinship caregivers and others throughout the state through newsletters on infant and toddler care and development, workshops on child development and parenting issues, parenting fact sheets and publications, a website at <http://www.extension.unh.edu>, and volunteers who provide parenting education. Videos of the national Extension network's satellite conferences on the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren are available through UNH Cooperative Extension offices in each of the state's 10 counties. *Contact:* Charlene Baxter, Program Leader, Family and Consumer Resources, UNH Cooperative Extension, at (603) 862-2485 or charlene.baxter@unh.edu.
- **New Hampshire Family Voices** is a Family-to-Family Health Information Center which supports families with special needs, emotional, physical, and chronic illnesses, and disabilities. The organization has a database of more than 3,000 resources on specific issues such as ADHD, Autism, etc. It also has a lending library with over 1,600 titles of books, videos, and audio tapes, and a support system specializing in information on raising children with chronic illnesses, disabilities and social issues, such as diversity and grandparenting a child with special needs. Family Voices publishes a quarterly newsletter of information and resources called "Pass It On." It also assists families in understanding systems such as Medicaid, private insurance policies, SSI, and public and private financial assistance programs. Family Voices has a referral service offering information to kinship care families on local supports and services. *Contact:* Martha-Jean Madison, Co-Director, at (603) 271-4525 or 1-(800) 852-3345 x4525 (in state) or nhfv@yahoo.com. The organization's website is www.nhfv.org.
- **AARP's New Hampshire Office** offers statewide information and referrals for grandparents and other seniors raising children. *Contact:* Richard Chevrefils, at (603) 629-9559 or rchevrefils@aarp.org.
- **The Family Resource Connection** is a special service of the New Hampshire state library that provides information and materials for families, including kinship care families, on all aspects of raising children. It is a lending library, resource and referral center, and clearinghouse that mails materials to callers with postage-paid envelopes for their return. Among its collection are books and videos specifically for kinship care families. *Contact:* Alice Nye, Coordinator, at (603) 271-7931 or nyea@library.state.nh.us.
- **The Grandparents as Parents Support Group** meets Tuesday evenings during the school year at Dame School in Concord as a collaboration of Dame School and Riverbend Parent-Child Centers. Grandparents who are parenting or who are very involved with the parenting of their grandchildren are invited to participate in this group which includes peer support, parenting education and guest speakers. The group begins with a light dinner and includes a program for children. It is free. *Contact:* Donna Raycraft at (603) 226-7505 or draycraft@riverbendcmhc.org.



Children in Foster Care

Sometimes state child welfare agencies place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. Most state agencies call these placements “kinship care.” In New Hampshire, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division for Children, Youth and Families reports:

Number of children in kinship care: As of March 2005, 1,278 children were in out-of-home placements under DHHS’s supervision. Of these children, 210 children were placed with kin.

Preferences for kinship care: State policy requires that kin be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for a child under DHHS’s care.

Kinship care licensing: Kin do not have to be licensed in New Hampshire to care for children, but they must be approved by DHHS’s Division of Children, Youth and Families. To be approved, kin must fill out the Kinship Interim Care (KIC) Checklist (also called a “Form 2273”) and participate, cooperate, and meet the requirements of the kinship care approval process. If kin wish to qualify as a fully-licensed foster family, they must meet the same requirements as non-kin. However, the agency may waive certain licensing requirements that are not related to the health and safety of the child. **Contact:** Gail DeGoosh, Foster Care Specialist, New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families at (603) 271-4711 or Gdegoosh@dhhs.state.nh.us.

Subsidized guardianship programs: In addition to foster care payments and other benefits available to kin raising children in foster care, some states also have subsidized guardianship programs. Most of these programs offer ongoing subsidies to children who have left foster care to live permanently under the legal custody or guardianship of relatives. New Hampshire currently does not have a subsidized guardianship program.

State kinship care contact: Questions about kinship foster placements should be directed to Gail T. DeGoosh, Foster Care Specialist, New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families, at (603) 271-4711 or Gdegoosh@dhhs.state.nh.us.

Public Benefits

Children are often eligible for state and federal benefits even if their caregivers do not have legal guardianship or custody. These programs include:

Financial Assistance: Cash assistance may be available to children and their grandparents and other relative caregivers through New Hampshire’s Family Assistance Program (FAP).

- A “child-only grant” is for the child and based *only* on the child’s income.
- An adult caregiver may also be included in the FAP grant — based on their income and subject to work requirements and time limits.

Call (800) 852-3345 (ext. 9238) or log on to www.dhhs.state.nh.us.

Food Stamps: Kinship care families may also be eligible for food stamps to help meet their children’s food and nutrition needs. For more information, call (800) 852-3345 (ext. 4328) or log on to www.dhhs.state.nh.us.

Health Insurance: Grandparents and other relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance on behalf of the children they are raising through New Hampshire’s Healthy Kids Gold and Healthy Kids Silver programs. In some cases, caregivers may also be eligible for free coverage under Medicaid. For more information about how to apply for these programs, call (877) 464-2447 or log on to www.nhhealthykids.com.



Other Benefits: Other state and federal benefits may also be available to eligible children, such as child care subsidies, disability benefits, and special education services. For more information about these, download CDF’s benefit guides for grandparents and other relatives raising children at www.childrensdefense.org or call (202) 662-3568. For more information on the federal benefits that may be available to caregivers, log on to the National Council on Aging’s Benefits CheckUp web site at www.benefitscheckup.org.

State Laws

New Hampshire currently does not have any state laws in effect specifically directed at kinship care families.

National Resources

AARP Grandparent Information Center	(888) 687-2277	www.aarp.org/grandparents
Adoption Information Clearinghouse	(888) 251-0075	http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/
The Brookdale Foundation Group	(212) 308 -7355	www.brookdalefoundation.org
Child Welfare League of America	(202) 638-2952	www.cwla.org
Children’s Defense Fund	(202) 628-8787	www.childrensdefense.org
Generations United	(202) 289-3979	www.gu.org
GrandsPlace	860) 763-5789	www.grandsplace.com
KINship Information Network	(772) 501-0502	www.kinsupport.org
National Aging Information Center	(202) 619-0724	www.aoa.dhhs.gov
National Committee of Grandparents For Children’s Rights	(866) 624-9900	www.grandparentsforchildren.org
The Urban Institute	(202) 833-7200	www.urban.org

Fact sheets are updated quarterly. Changes or additions should be e-mailed to the AARP Grandparent Information Center at gic@aarp.org. Please write “State Fact Sheets” on your e-mail subject line.