



Grandparents' Characteristics by Age, 2022

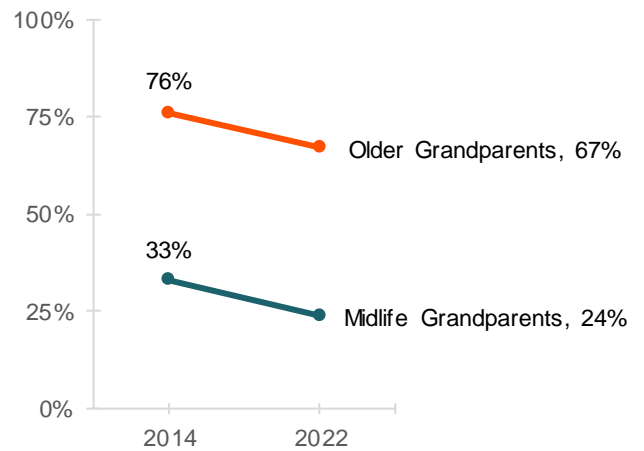
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The average age of grandparents in the U.S. in 2022 was 68 years. Grandparenthood is more common among older adults (aged 65 and older) than those in midlife (aged 40-64). In 2022, the percentage of older adults who were grandparents (67%) was more than 2.5 times greater than the percentage among those in midlife (24%). Data from the 2023 panel of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) are used to update [Wu, 2018](#) & [Westrick-Payne, 2023](#) comparing midlife grandparents to those at older ages across demographic characteristics in 2022. The SIPP is a nationally representative household-based survey that directly asks respondents if they are a grandparent, making it one of the few national surveys that identify non-resident grandparents. This profile is number three in our 2024 series on grandparents in the U.S.

Prevalence of Grandparenthood by Age

- Slightly less than one-quarter (24%) of mid-life adults were grandparents, representing 24.6 million adults. This share is smaller than the share in 2014 when one-third (33%) of mid-life adults were grandparents.
- Over two-thirds (67%) of older adults (aged 65 and older) were grandparents. This represents 39.5 million grandparents. Like mid-life adults, the share of older adults who were grandparents is lower in 2021 than in 2014 when 3 in 4 (76%) were grandparents.

Figure 1. Grandparenthood by Age, 2014 & 2022



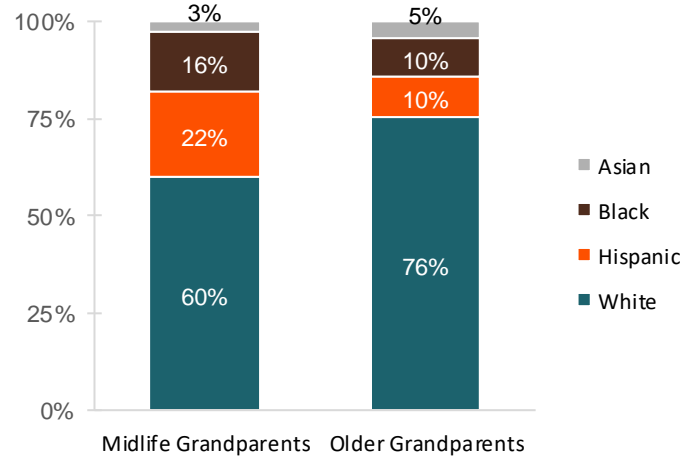
Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2014 & 2023.

Note: We define "older grandparents" as those aged 65 and older and "midlife grandparents" as those aged 40-64.

Race/Ethnicity of Grandparents by Age

- Four-in-ten (40%) midlife grandparents and about one-quarter (24%) of older grandparents belonged to a racial/ethnic minority group.
 - More than one-fifth (22%) of midlife grandparents were Hispanic and 16% were Black. Only 3% of midlife grandparents were Asian.
 - One-in-ten (10%) older grandparents were Black or Hispanic. A small share was Asian (5%).
- Whites composed a higher proportion of older grandparents compared to midlife grandparents (76% and 60%, respectively).

Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Grandparents by Age, 2022



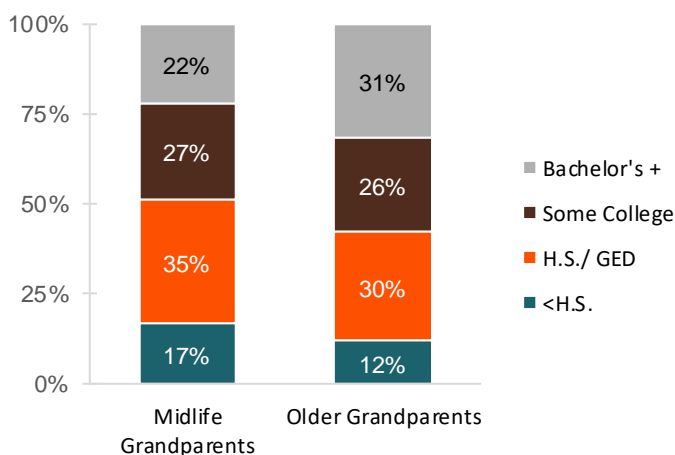
Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2023

Note: We define "older grandparents" as those aged 65 and older and "midlife grandparents" as those aged 40-64.

Educational Attainment of Grandparents by Age

- The education differences among midlife and older grandparents were modest.
- Nearly one-third of older grandparents (31%) had at least a college degree in contrast to about one-fifth (22%) of midlife grandparents.
- Similar shares of midlife and older grandparents had some college education: 27% among midlife grandparents and 26% among older grandparents.
- Slightly more than one-third (35%) of midlife grandparents had a high school level education compared to slightly less than one-third (30%) of older grandparents.
- Similar shares of older grandparents and midlife grandparents had less than a high school education (17% and 12%, respectively).

Figure 3. Educational Attainment of Grandparents by Age, 2022



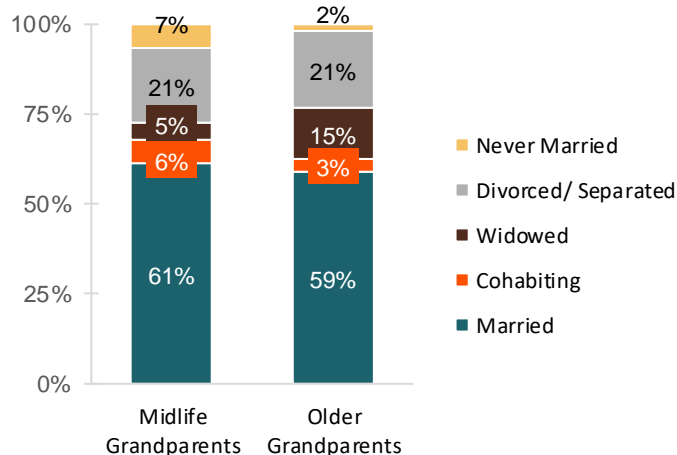
Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2023

Note: We define "older grandparents" as those aged 65 and older and "midlife grandparents" as those aged 40-64.

Relationship Status of Grandparents by Age

- Midlife grandparents and older grandparents differed in their relationship status.
- Most grandparents were married, with levels at 61% for midlife grandparents and 59% for older grandparents.
- One-fifth of both midlife grandparents and their older counterparts were divorced or separated (21%).
- The share of midlife widowed grandparents was higher among older grandparents (5% of midlife compared to 15% of older grandparents).
- Few grandparents were cohabiting (6% of midlife grandparents and 3% of older grandparents).
- About 7% of midlife grandparents were never married and only 2% of older grandparents had never married.

Figure 4. Relationship Status of Grandparents by Age, 2022



Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2023

Note: We define "older grandparents" as those aged 65 and older and "midlife grandparents" as those aged 40-64

Data Source:

U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation 2014, Wave 1, and 2023. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sipp.html>

References:

Wu, H. (2018). Grandparents' characteristics by age. *Family Profiles, FP-18-04*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-18-04>

Westrick-Payne, K. K. (2023). Prevalence of grandparenthood in the U.S., 2021. *Family Profile, FP-23-02*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-23-02>

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