Grandparents as Parents: A Closer Look

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Everyone needs to have access both to grandparents and grandchildren in order to be a full human being.

- Margaret Mead
The Children: A Closer Look

National Demographic Program

- **4.5 million** children under 18 in grandparent-headed households
- **30%** increase since 1990
- **6.3%** of children in U.S. under 18
- Another **1.5 million** children in other relatives’ households
- Total of **6 million** children in grandparent and other relative-headed households

-2000 Census
The Children: A Closer Look
National Demographic Program

- About half are under the age of 6
- 1/3 have no health insurance
- High incidence of:
  - chronic health problems
  - mental health issues
  - learning disabilities
  - ADHD
The Children: A Closer Look
National Demographic Program

- 13.2% of all African American children
- 10.6% of all “Other” children (includes Native American)
- 7.9% of all 2+ races children
- 7.8% of all Hispanic children
- 4.2% of all White children
- 4.1% of all Asian children
The Children: Oregon

- 37,536 children living in GP-headed households (4.4% of all OR children)

- Of these children, 20,735 are living without a parent in the household

- 14,081 children living with other relatives
Grandparents: A Closer Look
National Demographic Program

- **2.4 million** GP report they are responsible for most of the basic needs of grandchildren living in the same home
- About **one-third** have no parents present in the home
- **18.8%** are living in poverty

-Census 2000
71% are under the age of 60:
- 6.7% age 30-39
- 29.2% age 40-49
- 35.1% age 50-59
- 21% age 60-69
- 7.1% age 70-79

Racial/Ethnic distribution:
- 29% African American
- 17% Latino
- 2% Native
- 3% Asian
- 47% White
Grandparents: Oregon

22,103 OR GP responsible for most of the basic needs of grandchildren living with them
  ● Over 3,000 in Portland
  ● 13% under poverty
  ● 40% without the kids parents in the household
  ● 69% under 60

Racial/Ethnic Profile
79% are white
3% African American
3% Asian
3% Native American
Why are So Many Grandparents Raising Grandchildren?
Crisis or Chronic Problems

- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Incarceration
- HIV/AIDS
- Teen Pregnancy
- Death

- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Unemployment
- Divorce
- Family Violence
- Poverty
- Military Deployment
What are the Issues & Challenges Faced by Grand Families?
Issues and Challenges

- Financial
- Legal
- Housing
- Health (physical and mental health; insurance)
- Special needs of grandchildren
- Education
- Child-rearing
- Family communication and relationships
- Social isolation
- Respite care
- Outreach and Information
Supporting Grand Families in Oregon

- Relatives as Parents Program
  - Support group start-up seed grants
  - Support Group Facilitator Training, 2007
  - Grandparent conferences
  - Oregon Grandparents Legal Guide
  - Oregon Resource Guide
  - Statewide Advisory Committee
  - A Gift of Time Retreat for GP

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fcd/LegalGd.pdf
Resources

- ADRC - Aging and Disability Resource Connection of Oregon
  www.ADRCofOregon.org

- Oregon State University Extension
  http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fch/healthyfamilies

- Oregon Post Adoptive Resource Center
  www.ORPARC.org

- AARP Grandparent Information Center
  www.aarp.org/grandparents

- Generations United
  www.gu.org
Families and Aging:  
*Dilemmas & Decisions*

Get into small groups:

- Roll the dice
- Move the indicated number of squares on the game board
- Draw a card and read it out loud
- Say “how you feel” and “what you would do”
- Discuss the situation
- “Dialogue” card: Act out the situation
THANK YOU!

Please feel free to contact:

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