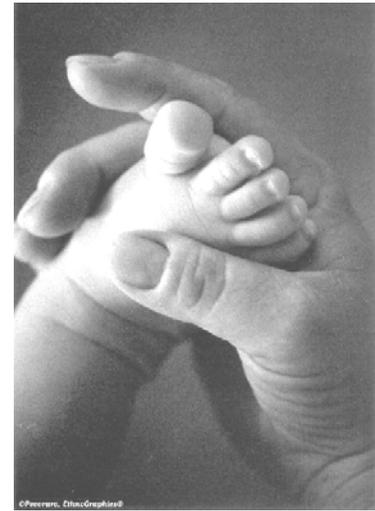
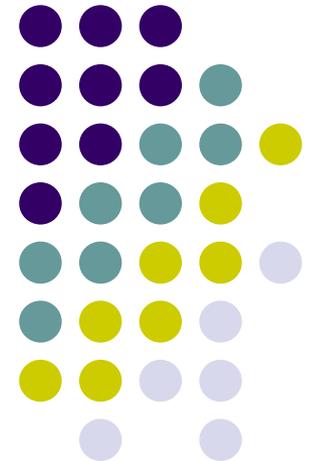


Grandparents as Parents: A Closer Look



NW Network Conference 2011

March 9, 2011
Portland, OR



Judy Bowen

OAA Program Analyst

Department of Human Services/SPD

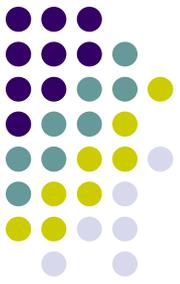


Everyone needs to have access both to grandparents and grandchildren in order to be a full human being.

- Margaret Mead

The Children: A Closer Look

National Demographic Program



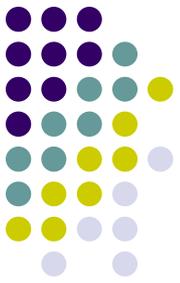
- **4.5 million** children under 18 in grandparent-headed households
- **30%** increase since 1990
- **6.3%** of children in U.S. under 18
- Another **1.5 million** children in other relatives' households
- Total of **6 million** children in grandparent and other relative-headed households



-2000 Census

The Children: A Closer Look

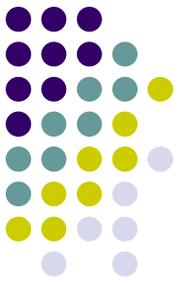
National Demographic Program



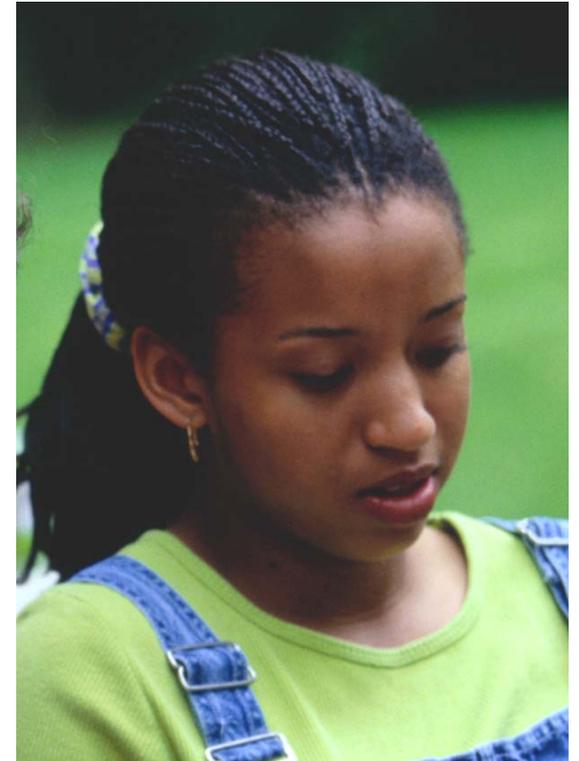
- About half are under the age of 6
- 1/3 have no health insurance
- High incidence of:
 - chronic health problems
 - mental health issues
 - learning disabilities
 - ADHD

The Children: A Closer Look

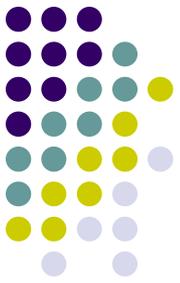
National Demographic Program



- 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



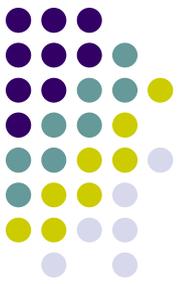
The Children: Oregon



- **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

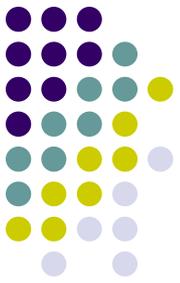


- **2.4 million** GP report they are responsible for most of the basic needs of grandchildren living in the same home
- About **one-third** have no parents present in the home
- **18.8%** are living in poverty

-Census 2000

Grandparents: A Closer Look

National Demographic Program



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

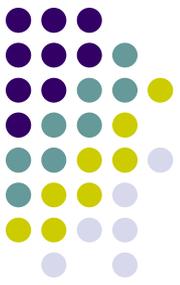
79% are white

3% African American

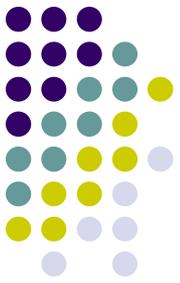
3% Asian

3% Native American

Why are So Many Grandparents Raising Grandchildren?

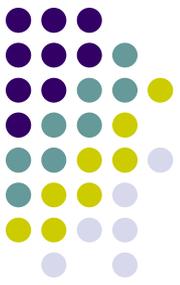


Crisis or Chronic Problems

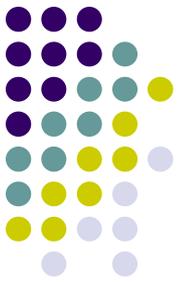


- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Incarceration
- HIV/AIDS
- Teen Pregnancy
- Death
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Unemployment
- Divorce
- Family Violence
- Poverty
- Military Deployment

What are the Issues & Challenges Faced by Grand Families?

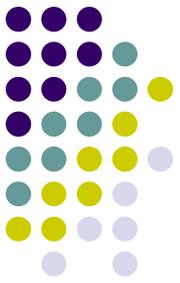


Issues and Challenges



- 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

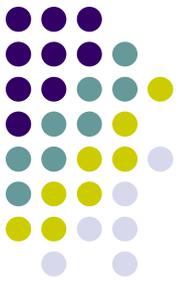
Supporting Grand Families in Oregon



- 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



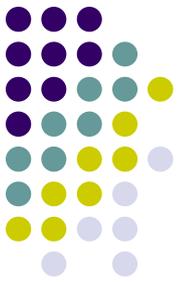
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fcd/LegalGd.pdf>



Resources

- **ADRC -Aging and Disability Resource Connection of Oregon**
www.ADRCofofOregon.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

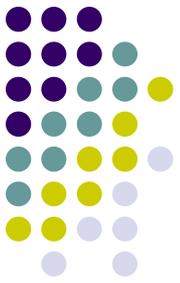
Families and Aging: *Dilemmas & Decisions*



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 :

Judy Bowen

OAA Program Analyst

Department of Human Services/SPD

676 Church Street

Salem, OR 97301

Tel: 503-373-1842

Fax: 503-373-1133

Judy.Bowen@state.or.us

