

## American Community Survey (ACS) Why We Ask: Grandparents as Caregivers

We ask questions about grandparents with primary responsibility for their grandchildren to create statistics about grandparent caregivers. While a variety of events may result in grandparents caring for their grandchildren, older Americans are often in different financial, housing, and health circumstances than those in middle-age. Estimates about these grandparents help many federal programs understand the needs of this group and design programs that assist both generations.

**25** a. Does this person have any of his/her own grandchildren under the age of 18 living in this house or apartment?

Yes

No → SKIP to question 26

b. Is this grandparent currently responsible for most of the basic needs of any grandchildren under the age of 18 who live in this house or apartment?

Yes

No → SKIP to question 26

c. How long has this grandparent been responsible for these grandchildren?  
*If the grandparent is financially responsible for more than one grandchild, answer the question for the grandchild for whom the grandparent has been responsible for the longest period of time.*

Less than 6 months

6 to 11 months

1 or 2 years

3 or 4 years

5 or more years

The question as it appears on the 2016 ACS paper questionnaire. This topic was introduced on the Decennial Census in 2000, and was transferred to the ACS when it replaced the Decennial Census long-form in 2005.

### Examples of Federal Uses

- Required to provide family formation and stability measures to the performance measures in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.
- Used to develop plans and programs for older individuals, especially those persons in greatest economic or social need, such as low-income elderly.

### Examples of Other Uses

State and local agencies use these statistics to plan programs and services that benefit grandparent caregivers. Advocacy groups use this information to provide community support for grandparent caregivers.