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.

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.