

A PROFILE OF CALIFORNIA GRANDPARENTS  
RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

California's grandparents raising children were, until recently, a largely forgotten part of the State's caregiver population. A substantial increase in the number of children being raised solely by relatives, however, along with evidence of their health and social problems, have helped focus needed attention on this growing caregiver group. Substance abuse, the rise in single parent households, HIV/AIDS, sharp increases in female incarceration, teen pregnancy, and policy changes favoring foster care placement of children with relatives over non-relatives are among the reasons for the dramatic growth in grandparent caregiving (Minkler, 1999).

The 294,969 grandparents in California responsible for raising their minor grandchildren in 2000 give California the highest number of such caregivers in the nation (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2002a). Most of California's custodial grandparents are married (75%), female (59%), and employed (56%). About 22% live in poverty (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2002a). California's grandparents raising grandchildren typically occupy this position for a period of several years.

Nine counties had more than 10,000 grandparent caregivers: Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Tulare. With the exception of the latter, all were predominately urban areas. In several rural counties--including Alpine, Del Norte, Lassen, Mendocino, Mariposa, Placer and Siskiyou—over a third of grandparent caregivers had been primary caregivers for under a year. Although the total number of grandparent caregivers in these rural counties tends to be small, this may suggest that problems such as drug abuse and newly implemented legal mandates may now be reaching a critical point in some rural areas.

The inter-county variation observed in grandparent caregiving underscores the need for tailoring programs and policies so that they can best address the concerns of the State's diverse grandparent caregiver populations. County level information provides some important insights into the potential needs of grandparent caregivers. As more census data are released, the State's ability to understand and better respond to the needs of its growing population of grandparents raising grandchildren should increase as well.

## **INTRODUCTION**

California has the largest number of grandparent caregivers in the nation. This report provides information on this population using data from public access data from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the Census Bureau in 2000 and 2001 and from the Census 2000. This report provides information on grandparent caregiving including: (1) overall prevalence and characteristics, (2) county level variation in prevalence and duration of caregiving, and (3) selected demographic characteristics by county. The data available in this report offer helpful insights into this growing population.

## **METHODS**

The data used in this report are drawn primarily from public access data from the American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the Census Bureau in 2000 and 2001, and from the Census 2000 Summary File 3 (1). As noted below, the ACS used the method and questionnaire from the C2SS (the Census Supplementary Survey or long form) involving a 0.6% sample of the U.S. population to gather additional census data in 1203 counties. Although these data offer some useful detail not available for the nation as a whole, it is preferable to use estimates from Census 2000 Summary File 3 where possible because the latter's sample size is much larger than that of the ACS/C2SS (1 in 6 versus 6 in 1,000).

Because of some differences in wording, mode of data collection and editing procedures, it is often inappropriate to compare data from the ACS/C2SS and the full Census, and some large discrepancies will be noted between Table IV (full census) and V (ACS/C2SS) in this regard. As noted above, the availability to date of certain kinds of county level data only through the ACS/C2SS (e.g., percentile figures on caregiver sex, marital status, and labor force participation), made it advisable to include these data in our report (See Table 5). Although we provide in Table 5 both percentile figures on these variables and the samples on which they were based, however, Summary File 3 (Table 4) contains more accurate numerical data on caregiver prevalence and duration of caregiving.

Differential sampling rates between data sources, and sometimes among counties, create variations in the findings reported (e.g., between Tables 4 and 5). When examining the estimates of the characteristics of grandparent caregivers using ACS data (See Table 5), the denominator of those percentages is not the total households but rather grandparent caregivers. For Sonoma County, for example, the real question becomes, "How many grandparent caregivers are there (unweighted) in this sample of approximately 1,000 sample households?" One way to estimate that number roughly is to recall that the sampling rate for most counties is only 6 in 1,000. Therefore, if the estimated number of grandparent caregivers in Sonoma County is approximately 1,000 (plus or minus 1,000) then the unweighted number of grandparent caregivers is 6 (plus or minus 6). With a denominator of 6 (or even 12) grandparent caregivers, it is not too surprising that the percentages for Sonoma County and others with similarly small numbers are rather unstable. The two exceptions here are San Francisco and Tulare, the two California "test sites" for the ACS, with sampling rates of 3 and 5 percent respectively, and hence, larger sample sizes.

A final important methodological note concerns the unfortunate delay in the release of the Census 2000-2001 CD ROM that will enable the running of grandparent tables for grandparent caregivers aged 60 and above. In the meantime, as discussed below, we can only extrapolate from earlier national studies and from the limited related data in the recent census, that the proportion of grandparents aged 60+ is likely to be relatively low, albeit probably growing at a rate considerably faster than that of the overall grandparent caregiver population. Personnel at the ACS will be requesting that a special table be included in the 2002 ACS release that would be specific to grandparent caregivers aged 60+, and which should assist with planning and implementation of the NFCSP.

Census 2000 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files will be released hopefully later this year which we will be able to offer estimates of the characteristics of grandparent caregivers. The 1-percent PUMS will provide a 1 in 600 sample, with the 5% PUMS offering a far larger sample with which to work. These new files will be an excellent data source for studies of the state's grandparent caregiver population, and will be able to be accessed without Special Sworn Status. We look forward to employing this

new data set soon after its release to provide additional information which may be of use in implementing the NFCSP in California.

Overall Prevalence and Characteristics

As indicated in Table 1, 294,969 grandparents in California were responsible for raising their minor grandchildren in 2000, giving the state the highest number of such caregivers in the nation (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2002a). This figure, moreover, may well represent an underestimate. While many of the additional 633,321 grandparents who reported living in households with grandchildren under 18 may be doing so for economic, cultural or health reasons, others are likely to be “de facto” caregivers. When a young teenage parent is the reported responsible caregiver for a child, for example, the grandparent may, in reality, be the primary provider for the daily needs of the child. The high prevalence of teenage pregnancies among California’s growing Latino population and the continued high (albeit declining) pregnancy rates in low income African American communities where grandparent caregiving is common (Hunter and Taylor, 1998), and the state’s continued high divorce rate, suggests that California may be particularly likely to have experienced an undercount of its actual grandparent caregiver population.

**TABLE 1: CALIFORNIA GRANDPARENTS (AGED 30+) LIVING WITH GRANDCHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN 2000 BY RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANDCHILDREN, 2000**

<b>California Grandparents</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total California Grandparents	18,329,469	
Living with own grandchildren under 18 years:	928,290	5%
Grandparent responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years:	294,969	32%
Grandparent not responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years:	633,321	68%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2002). *Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) – Sample Data*  
<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/expsf3.htm>

California’s grandparents raising grandchildren typically occupy this position for a period of several years. Of the 294,969 grandparents who were primary caregivers in 2000, for example, only about one quarter (70,364) had occupied this role for under a year, with another quarter (69,451) having done so for one to two years. Sixteen percent

(16%) of caregiving grandparents (47,138) had been responsible for a grandchild for three to four years, and by far the largest group—37% (108,016)—had been primary caregivers for five years or more (See Table 2). These findings correspond closely to national data. Of the close to 2.5 million American grandparents responsible for grandchildren nationwide in 2000 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2002b), for example, 20% had occupied this role for under a year, with 37% having been primary caregivers for at least five years.

**TABLE 2: DURATION OF CAREGIVING BY CALIFORNIA GRANDPARENTS (AGED 30+) LIVING WITH AND RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN 2000**

Duration of Caregiving --	#	%
Less than 6 months	39,347	13%
6 to 11 months	31,017	11%
1 or 2 years	69,451	24%
3 or 4 years	47,138	16%
5 years or more	108,016	37%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2002). *Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) – Sample Data*  
<http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/expsf3.htm>

Most of California’s custodial grandparents are married (75%), female (59%), and employed (56%). About 22% live in poverty (See Table 3). These figures are also similar to the national picture, where the corresponding figures for grandparents raising grandchildren are 72% married, 63% female and 58% employed, with about 20% living in poverty (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2002a).

**TABLE 3: CHARACTERISTICS OF CALIFORNIA GRANDPARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN 2001**

Percent who are female	58.8
Percent who are married	74.9
Percent who are in labor force	56.4
Percent who are in poverty	21.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2002). *American Community Survey SS01 Tabular Profile for California, Table 2.* <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2001/SS01/Tabular/040/04000>

As noted under methods, the Census unfortunately does not provide data on the age of grandparent caregivers, so we cannot determine what proportion is in fact age 60



and above. As indicated in Table V, however, the fact that most California grandparent caregivers are still in the labor force, plus the significantly lower mean age of grandparent caregivers nationally when compared to their non caregiving peers (59.4 v. 62.3) (Fuller–Thomson et al., 1997) suggest that the number of older grandparents is likely to be considerably smaller than the number of those under age 60. The Bureau hopes to include a table with age breakdowns for grandparent caregivers when its 2002 ACS data are released, and such information will be very helpful in relation to implementation plans for the NFCSP.

It should be noted, however, that while most of the state’s grandparent caregivers are married and living above the poverty line, several earlier national studies (Bryson and Casper, 1999; Fuller-Thomson et al., 1997; Harden et al., 1997) have demonstrated that grandparents raising grandchildren are significantly more likely to be unmarried and to be living in poverty than other grandparents. High poverty rates, moreover, are particularly likely to be found in those households in which neither of the child’s parents are present, and which comprise about a third of all cases and the fastest growing group of intergenerational households headed by grandparents (Bryson and Casper, 1999). In one national study, over 40% of such families lived in or near poverty (Chalfie, 1994).

#### County Level Variation in Prevalence and Duration of Caregiving

The American Community Survey/C2SS, which used an 0.6% sample of the U.S. population to gather additional census data in 1203 counties in 2000 and again in 2001, permits a more detailed look at grandparent caregiving by county (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2002c). A comparison of the prevalence of grandparent caregiving by county for 2001 using the ACS data reveals considerable variation across the state. Nine counties had more than 10,000 grandparent caregivers: Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Clara, and Tulare. With the exception of the latter, all were predominately urban areas. The number of grandparent caregivers among these nine ranged from a low of 10-12,000 in Alameda, Sacramento and Santa Clara to approximately 17,000-21,000 in Orange, San Diego and Riverside counties, and more than 88,000 in Los Angeles (See Table 4).

Although the county level data are helpful in examining inter-county variation in prevalence, they do not enable us to determine the degree of concentration of caregiver populations within given counties. Informal estimates by health and social service providers in cities like San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond and Los Angeles, however, suggest very high concentrations of grandparent headed households in inner city areas within these locales (Minkler, 1999), pointing out the need for further refining data collection within these jurisdictions.

The ACS data are helpful in examining inter-county variation in the duration of caregiving by grandparents. Although the majority of counties are similar to the state average in having a quarter or less of grandparent caregivers having performed this role for under a year, several rural counties-- including Alpine, Del Norte, Lassen, Mendocino, Mariposa, Placer and Siskiyou—had over a third of their grandparent caregivers in this category, with Mariposa indeed reporting that 68% of its grandparent caregivers had been primary caregivers for under a year. Although the total number of grandparent caregivers in these counties tend to be small, the high proportions who had only recently taken on responsibility for grandchildren may suggest that problems such as drug abuse, which have contributed heavily to grandparent assumption of caregiving in urban areas, may now be reaching a critical point in some rural areas and thus increasing the need for grandparents to step into a caregiving role. Other factors, including legal mandates encouraging placement with grandparents (Berrick and Needell, 1999), which may have been implemented more slowly in rural areas, also need to be considered as the high rates of new caregiving in such rural communities are more thoroughly investigated.

#### Variations and Similarities Among Grandparent Caregivers in Selected Demographic Characteristics for 22 Counties

The American Community Survey/C2SS for 2001 collected additional data on the sex, marital status, labor force participation and poverty status of grandparent caregivers in 22 California counties, as well as a number of cities and other jurisdictions. Unfortunately, the often extreme variations provided between the upper and lower bounds in the poverty figures made these estimates of questionable value, and they therefore are not presented here. As indicated in Table 5 however, the data are helpful in

part simply in demonstrating the spread in number of grandparent caregivers (from under 1,000 in Santa Barbara to over 66,000 in Los Angeles). The county level data also show that with the exception of two counties (Orange and Stanislaus), all of those examined had caregiver marriage rates of 60% or more, with the great majority of these having at least 70% married.

**TABLE 4: CALIFORNIA GRANDPARENTS (AGED 30+) LIVING WITH AND RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WITH DURATION OF CAREGIVING BY COUNTY, 2000**

<b>County</b>	<b>Alameda</b>		<b>Alpine</b>		<b>Amador</b>		<b>Butte</b>		<b>Calaveras</b>	
Total grandparents	<b>819,957</b>		<b>747</b>		<b>20,974</b>		<b>112,093</b>		<b>27,574</b>	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
	<b>11,531</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 6 months	1,405	12	7	30	10	6	216	16	39	10
6 to 11 months	1,178	10	4	17	7	4	124	9	64	16
1 or 2 years	2,478	22	4	17	83	49	245	18	103	26
3 or 4 years	1,813	16	0	0	12	7	215	16	20	4
5 years or more	4,657	40	8	36	58	34	529	41	171	44
<b>County</b>	<b>Colusa</b>		<b>Contra Costa</b>		<b>Del Norte</b>		<b>El Dorado</b>		<b>Fresno</b>	
Total grandparents	<b>9,619</b>		<b>561,899</b>		<b>14,107</b>		<b>97,486</b>		<b>389,738</b>	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
	<b>237</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>7,482</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>8,771</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 6 months	46	19	788	11	44	22	130	11	1,220	14
6 to 11 months	13	6	691	9	45	22	116	10	1,113	13
1 or 2 years	70	30	1,827	24	24	12	274	23	1,676	19
3 or 4 years	34	13	1,272	17	25	12	241	20	1,554	17
5 years or more	74	32	2,904	39	66	32	428	36	3,208	37
<b>County</b>	<b>Glenn</b>		<b>Humboldt</b>		<b>Imperial</b>		<b>Inyo</b>		<b>Kern</b>	
Total grandparents	<b>14,225</b>		<b>71,025</b>		<b>67,151</b>		<b>11,769</b>		<b>320,085</b>	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
	<b>244</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>8,273</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 6 months	10	4	155	14	219	12	21	14	1,348	16
6 to 11 months	11	4	120	11	139	8	9	6	823	10
1 or 2 years	42	17	264	23	498	27	29	19	1,879	23
3 or 4 years	53	22	109	10	272	15	31	20	1,010	12
5 years or more	128	53	481	42	726	38	63	41	3,213	39

**TABLE 4. CALIFORNIA GRANDPARENTS (AGED 30+) LIVING WITH AND RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WITH DURATION OF CAREGIVING BY COUNTY, CONTINUED**

<b>County</b>	<b>Kings</b>		<b>Lake</b>		<b>Lassen</b>		<b>Los Angeles</b>		<b>Madera</b>	
Total grandparents	<b>52,569</b>		<b>37,690</b>		<b>14,703</b>		<b>5,010,876</b>		<b>60,515</b>	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
	<b>1,376</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>88,511</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 6 months	207	15	93	13	65	25	11,438	13	183	10
6 to 11 months	196	14	103	15	25	10	9,092	10	248	14
1 or 2 years	338	25	149	21	51	19	21,199	24	453	26
3 or 4 years	166	12	69	10	29	11	14,543	16	263	15
5 years or more	469	34	282	41	93	35	32,239	37	612	35
<b>County</b>	<b>Marin</b>		<b>Mariposa</b>		<b>Mendocino</b>		<b>Merced</b>		<b>Modoc</b>	
Total grandparents	<b>161,472</b>		<b>10,685</b>		<b>51,077</b>		<b>101,473</b>		<b>5,806</b>	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
	<b>590</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2,218</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 6 months	41	7	35	35	143	16	354	16	11	15
6 to 11 months	20	3	33	33	171	20	181	8	3	4
1 or 2 years	123	21	9	9	130	15	614	28	14	18
3 or 4 years	134	23	0	0	117	13	317	14	4	5
5 years or more	272	46	22	23	308	36	752	34	44	58
<b>County</b>	<b>Mono</b>		<b>Monterey</b>		<b>Napa</b>		<b>Nevada</b>		<b>Orange</b>	
Total grandparents	<b>7,586</b>		<b>201,357</b>		<b>72,820</b>		<b>61,189</b>		<b>1,567,077</b>	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
	<b>30</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>3,327</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>18,792</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 6 months	0	0	445	13	60	8	97	16	2,652	14
6 to 11 months	6	20	267	8	81	11	53	8	1,984	11
1 or 2 years	4	13	1,013	30	194	26	107	17	4,153	22
3 or 4 years	18	60	623	19	117	15	155	25	3,327	18
5 years or more	2	7	979	30	306	40	212	34	6,676	35
<b>County</b>	<b>Placer</b>		<b>Plumas</b>		<b>Riverside</b>		<b>Sacramento</b>		<b>San Benito</b>	
Total grandparents	<b>150,857</b>		<b>13,927</b>		<b>821,907</b>		<b>667,837</b>		<b>27,578</b>	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
	<b>1,629</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>16,863</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>10,483</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less than 6 months	286	18	14	12	2,182	13	1,487	14	76	16
6 to 11 months	266	16	14	12	1,923	11	994	10	9	2
1 or 2 years	393	24	12	10	3,955	23	2,352	22	142	30
3 or 4 years	217	13	28	24	2,671	16	1,593	15	46	10
5 years or more	467	29	48	42	6,132	37	4,057	39	194	42

**TABLE 4. CALIFORNIA GRANDPARENTS (AGED 30+) LIVING WITH AND RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WITH DURATION OF CAREGIVING BY COUNTY, CONTINUED**

County	San Bernardino		San Diego		San Francisco		San Joaquin		San Luis Obispo	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total grandparents	845,057		1,521,925		491,411		287,757		137,881	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	19,737	2.3	21,244	1.4	5,474	1.1	6,666	2.3	1,502	1.1
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than 6 months	2,612	13	2,750	13	738	14	967	15	278	19
6 to 11 months	1,817	9	2,466	12	493	9	668	10	170	11
1 or 2 years	4,836	25	5,485	26	1,023	19	1,451	22	345	23
3 or 4 years	3,100	16	3,300	16	1,013	19	1,036	16	239	16
5 years or more	7,372	37	7,243	33	2,207	39	2,544	37	470	31
County	San Mateo		Santa Barbara		Santa Clara		Santa Cruz		Shasta	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total grandparents	430,698		212,437		955,664		144,143		97,712	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	4,993	1.2	2,693	1.3	11,912	1.2	1,463	1.0	1,418	1.5
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than 6 months	726	14	248	9	1,623	14	203	14	117	8
6 to 11 months	499	10	316	12	1,353	11	172	12	159	11
1 or 2 years	1,121	23	766	28	2,810	24	318	22	303	21
3 or 4 years	904	18	395	15	1,899	16	253	17	241	17
5 years or more	1,743	35	968	36	4,227	35	517	35	598	43
County	Sierra		Siskiyou		Solano		Sonoma		Stanislaus	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total grandparents	2,373		28,502		210,966		272,628		230,226	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	33	1.4	350	1.2	4,100	2.0	2,451	1.0	4,894	2.1
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than 6 months	0	0	65	19	610	15	338	14	809	17
6 to 11 months	0	0	53	15	384	9	230	9	507	10
1 or 2 years	4	12	65	19	910	22	625	25	1,106	23
3 or 4 years	12	36	22	6	589	14	388	16	685	14
5 years or more	17	52	145	41	1,607	40	870	36	1,787	36

**TABLE 4. CALIFORNIA GRANDPARENTS (AGED 30+) LIVING WITH AND RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 WITH DURATION OF CAREGIVING BY COUNTY, CONTINUED**

<b>County</b>	<b>Sutter</b>		<b>Tehama</b>		<b>Trinity</b>		<b>Tulare</b>		<b>Tuolumne</b>	
Total grandparents	<b>42,948</b>		<b>32,892</b>		<b>8,763</b>		<b>175,697</b>		<b>33,257</b>	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b>800</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than 6 months	68	9	70	12	5	5	643	16	20	6
6 to 11 months	98	12	116	20	23	21	567	14	13	4
1 or 2 years	193	24	139	24	10	9	1,120	27	100	30
3 or 4 years	126	16	70	12	13	12	570	14	95	29
5 years or more	315	39	174	32	60	53	1,178	29	104	31
<b>County</b>	<b>Ventura</b>				<b>Yolo</b>				<b>Yuba</b>	
Total grandparents	<b>417,121</b>				<b>81,259</b>				<b>30,702</b>	
Total grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b>5,654</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>2.2</b>				
<b>Duration of Caregiving --</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than 6 months	702	12	136	11	92	14				
6 to 11 months	584	10	140	11	63	9				
1 or 2 years	1,397	25	310	24	113	17				
3 or 4 years	868	15	155	12	67	10				
5 years or more	2,103	38	546	42	341	50				

The county level data also show a generally high labor force participation rate among grandparent caregivers. With the exception of Stanislaus County, where just 13% reported being employed outside the home, and San Francisco, with 35%, each of the counties had close to or above 50% of caregivers in the labor force, with nine having at least 60%. Although caution must be taken when interpreting such data, particularly in very small counties, it appears that many grandparents are indeed doing “double duty” as they work outside the home and concurrently raise their grandchildren.

**TABLE 5: NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GRANDPARENTS  
RAISING GRANDCHILDREN BY COUNTY IN 2001**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>% Female</b>	<b>% Married</b>	<b>% in Labor</b>
	<b>Number</b>			<b>Force</b>
<b>Alameda</b>	13,124	48%	75%	68%
<b>Contra Costa</b>	11,530	54%	78%	58%
<b>Fresno</b>	12,571	51%	88%	62%
<b>Kern</b>	6,066	57%	74%	69%
<b>Los Angeles</b>	66,007	59%	75%	51%
<b>Monterey</b>	4,296	49%	74%	74%
<b>Orange</b>	14,595	68%	55%	71%
<b>Placer</b>	1,680	51%	100%	50%
<b>Riverside</b>	16,176	56%	73%	55%
<b>Sacramento</b>	8,570	60%	80%	60%
<b>San Mateo</b>	4,396	69%	64%	56%
<b>San Bernardino</b>	31,331	55%	80%	65%
<b>San Diego</b>	13,882	62%	61%	57%
<b>San Francisco</b>	3,871	74%	60%	35%
<b>San Joaquin</b>	3,067	64%	87%	58%
<b>Santa Barbara</b>	885	58%	100%	62%
<b>Santa Clara</b>	7,990	69%	66%	55%
<b>Solano</b>	1,928	54%	89%	67%
<b>Sonoma</b>	1,073	100%	0%	70%
<b>Stanislaus</b>	5,581	74%	54%	13%
<b>Tulare</b>	4,143	56%	80%	48%
<b>Ventura</b>	5,093	64%	77%	53%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. (2002). *American Community Survey SS01 Tabular Profile for California, Table 2.* <http://www.census.gov/acs>



## SUMMARY

Data available to date from the full census and the more detailed American Community Survey/C2SS offer helpful insights into this growing population. At close to 300,000, California has the largest number of grandparent caregivers in the nation—a figure which may well undercount the actual extent of this phenomenon in the more than 900,000 households in which grandparents co-reside with their minor grandchildren. For over half of grandparent caregivers, moreover, this responsibility lasts for at least three years, with fully one-third having occupied this role for at least five years.

Although the majority of grandparent caregivers in the state (78%) live above the poverty line, earlier national studies have suggested that particularly for the growing number of grandparents in “skipped generation households” without the middle generation present, poverty rates may be considerably higher (Bryson and Casper, 1999; Chalfie, 1994). Further data on the composition of grandparent caregiver households is needed to help flesh out this picture and provide more accurate information for policy makers and practitioners interested in assisting this growing population.

The inter-county variation observed in grandparent caregiving underscores the need for tailoring programs and policies so that they can best address the concerns of the state’s diverse grandparent caregiver populations. Although more county-by-county information should be available later in 2003, the county level information available to date provides some important insights into potential needs. As noted above, for example, the relatively high, and in one case (Mariposa) very high (68%), proportion of grandparent caregivers in several rural counties who have occupied this role for less than a year suggest an important potential area for intervention. Grandparent caregiver “hotlines” have proven effective in rural areas such as upstate New York, for example, where support groups often are not feasible. Yet of even greater importance is determining the reasons for the increase in such rural caregiving, as well as devising means for addressing the root causes of this situation. As more census data are released, the State’s ability to understand and better respond to the needs of its growing population of grandparents raising grandchildren should increase as well.

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