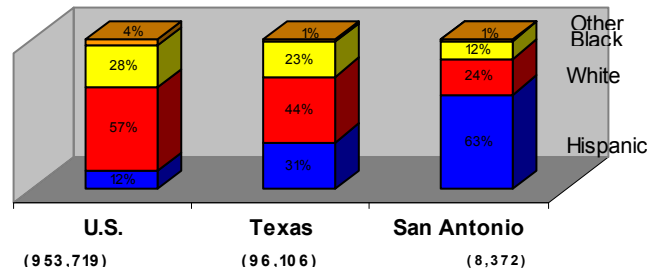


Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: San Antonio Profile

La Fe Policy Research & Education Center 1327 Guadalupe, Ste 102, * San Antonio, TX, 78207 * 210.208.9494/ 208.9493-f

30,682 grandchildren are raised in Grandparent-Headed Households (GHH) in San Antonio.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Alone by Race/Ethnicity; 2005*



Source: 2005 American Community Survey

*Note: These figures represent the number of grandparents raising grandchildren with no parents present; Total number of grandparents reporting responsibility areas follows: U.S. 2,458,806, TX: 279,544, S.A.: 26,826.

Grandparents Who Raise Grandchildren (GRG):

- There are approximately 26,900 GHH who are responsible for co-resident grandchildren in San Antonio and 31% of these grandparents are raising grandchildren without parents.
- San Antonio comprises of *twice* as many Hispanic GRG (63%) compared to the state's Hispanic GRG population (TX:31%).
- The median income among GRG in San Antonio is remarkably less compared to U.S. and TX figures (S.A.: \$18,342, TX: \$26,573, U.S. \$30,246).
- 74% of grandparents responsible for grandchildren in S.A. are under age 60 (U.S.:71%).
- 35% of GRG are *disabled* (TX: 33%, U.S.:27%). Grandparents living alone with grandchildren in SA are more likely to be disabled than those with parents present (w/PP: 22%)
- 17% of GRG in S.A. are foreign-born (TX: 24%), of which 24% are households with no parent-present.
- GRG without parents tend to be *female* (64%), ***not in the labor force*** (52%) and *married* (64%). TX has a higher percentage of Grandparents who are *married* (71%) and *in the labor force* (56%).
- When comparing GHHs no parent-present vs parent-present, grandparents no parents-present are *less* likely to be *employed* (48% vs. 68%) and are *more* likely to live *below the FPL* (40% vs. 17%). These differences are more pronounced on the local level than on the state level.
- According to figures provided by the TX Dept. of Family & Protective Services, San Antonio (Region 8) experienced 610 children placed in grandparent's homes in FY2006. This as a percentage of all children placed in FY2006 is the *3rd lowest in the state* (55.4%). Of grandparent placements between Mar 2006– Aug 2006, 13 "grandfamilies" received the "Grandparents Grant" offered by state (\$1000 one time)- the 2nd highest number among TX regions.

Grandchildren Raised by Grandparents:

- San Antonio experienced a 23% increase in grandchildren raised by grandparents from 1990 to 2000, outpacing the TX rate of 21%.
- Of grandchildren raised in GHHs in San Antonio, 29% reside in households with no parents present.
- 62% of all grandchildren living with grandparent householders in S.A. are also being raised by them.
- 58% of grandchildren living in GHHs in S.A. are under the age of 6 (33% w/out PP).

Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren by MSA, Texas; 2005

MSA	GP living with GC	GP responsible for those GC	% of total GRG in TX
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown	133214	61271	25.96%
Dallas-FW-Arlington	130328	58599	24.82%
San Antonio	51815	26826	11.36%
Austin-RoundRock	24900	12523	5.31%
El Paso	28296	12338	5.23%
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	26911	9306	3.94%
Corpus Christi	14550	7337	3.11%
Lubbock	7141	5077	2.15%
Longview	6574	4617	1.96%
Beaumont-Port Arthur	9753	4499	1.91%

Source: 2005 American Community Survey

SPOTLIGHT on San Antonio-Making Connections

Out of 275 children age 0 to 5 :

- 26% live in a household where at least 1 grandparent is present with the majority having a grandmother present
 - 24% of these children are in center-based care, 39% are in FFN* care and 38% are in parent-only care.
- 6.6% live in household where the grandparent was the respondent to the survey.
 - If the grandparent was the respondent, children are significantly more likely (77%) to be in parent-only care than FFN care or center-based care.
- 29% of children in parent-only care, 28% in FFN care and 20% in center-based care live with a grandparent.

*FFN= Friend, Family, or Neighbor

*The question about early care is worded "Where does [child] spend most of (his/her) time when (he/she) is not with you or in regular school?" The answer coded as parent-only care states "There is no other caregiver or place". Therefore, depending on whether the grandparent in the respondent or not, parent-only care might indicate the grandchild in care of the grandparent(s). In cases where the grandparent is present by not the respondent, children in FFN care might be in the care of the grandparent(s).

Source: The Urban Institute July 5, 2007

San Antonio has reached several significant landmarks: Growth has propelled San Antonio to the second largest city in Texas and has reached majority–minority status among the few cities nationwide. San Antonio is experiencing growing pains as socio-economic conditions such as educational attainment, poverty, teenage pregnancy, and a growing grandparents raising grandchildren (GRG) population are on the rise. Furthermore, communities are confronting a states that ranks **1st** in % of *uninsured kids* and *teen birth rate*, **2nd** in *income inequality*, **3rd** in % *living below FPL*, and **5th** in % of *kids living in poverty*. These realities, among others, shape the struggles that grandparents face in raising their grandchildren.

Comparably speaking, San Antonio only accounts for the *third* largest GRG population but Hispanics account for the largest percentage of GRG (63%). It is unclear how vast the GRG population truly is given that majority of GRG population has not had any formal arrangements or intervention by the courts or child welfare. “Informal” Kinship Grandparents caregivers often fall through the cracks and lack resources, as case oversight and connection to resources/information are more accessible to those in the “formal” kinship system. It is estimated that nearly 75% of GRG in San Antonio are of the informal kind. But anecdotally, services providers to GRG note that around 95% of all cases seen in support groups have no parents present.

Challenges facing Grandparents:

After conducting interviews with local agencies and key stakeholders on the issue of GRG, key challenges and issues facing Grand-families centered around two main areas– finances and legal services. Given that the median income of GRG in San Antonio is significantly lower than Texas and U.S. it is not surprising that *financial struggles* are a key challenge. The financial challenges of GRG occur in varying levels of need. For younger employed grandparents, the affordability childcare is a major concern. While among older grandparents, maintaining general financial sustainability seeing as SSI if available and TANF subsidies are often much less than what is necessary to raise a child.

Additional concerns that impacted grandparents which are interrelated to financials sustainability include adequate *childcare, healthcare, transportation* and *housing*. But additional issue have arisen for GRG they are becoming the “sandwich generation” being caregivers to grandchildren and their own parents. This raises new policy questions on how to best meet the needs of these GRG.

Another key issue that shape the concerns of GRG are *legal concerns* relating to raising grandchildren. The legal guardianship issue present challenges to accessing resources. Immigration status is also a factor for caregivers and children in San Antonio. Immigrants and other individuals are encountering barriers in accessing resources because of fear and inability to qualify for assistance offered to grandparents. Issues of language place additional challenges creating an initial wall between grandparents and community resources.

Opportunities and Recommendations:

With limited resources, communities are doing what is necessary to meet the demand of GRG. Several strategies have been identified that would positively impact GRG. At a federal level, the flexibility to utilize Title III Foster Care funds so that states can reallocate funds as necessary would have a significant impact to provide more resources. While more localize strategy for meeting the needs of GRG such as GRG resources center and better integration of community resources. Also, more collaborative efforts between schools, communities, and local agencies must be available to these grandparents.

Future opportunities in addressing GRG issues is building a more comprehensive understanding of “Informal” Kinship Grandparents who are currently struggling to survive. By going out into our community and connecting with grandparents cannot only give us a better picture than what census data presents but also define the special needs of “grand-families” compared to foster care families.

Key Questions for Policymakers

1. **How vast is the informal group of grandparents raising grandchildren? What does this population look like?**
2. **What are the socio-economic conditions that foster transfer of care-giving to Grandparent?**
3. **What are the implications of the high teenage pregnancy rate on grandparents?**
4. **How much does language and legal status affect accessing services?**
5. **What are preventive mechanisms that can be identified in this issue?**