

**Co-Resident Grandparents and Their Grandchildren:  
Family Structure Matters**

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### **Abstract**

Since the 1990s, there has been increasing policy interest in the role grandparents play in raising and providing care for their children. Family structure is particularly relevant for the well-being of individuals in co-residential families. We use data from the 2007 American Community Survey to (1) enumerate and describe family structure diversity within co-residential grandparent-grandchild households; (2) identify which grandparents take primary responsibility for their grandchildren and how this varies by family structure; and (3) employ multivariate methods to investigate the link between family structure and the well-being of grandchildren living with their grandparents.

## **Co-resident Grandparents and Their Grandchildren: Family Structure Matters**

Social and demographic changes in the last two decades have underscored the importance of research on cross-generational care and family relationships. Most of these changes in family structure occurred between 1970 and 1990 (Casper and Bianchi 2002). Increases in single parenthood, poverty, women's labor force participation, incarceration and the drug abuse of children's parents are some of the factors that contribute to grandparents taking responsibility for their grandchildren. Demographic, social and economic changes that shape current family structures raise questions of how these trends affect the organization of child care and the economic well-being of children in diverse family structures (Baydar and Gunn 1998).

As a result of these changes, the Census Bureau's Current Population Report, *Co-resident Grandparents and Their Grandchildren* noted the substantial increase in the number of children living in household maintained by grandparents – 2.3 million in 1980 to 3.9 million in 1997 (Bryson and Casper 1999). Policy implications of the growing number of grandchildren being cared by their grandparents encompass a broad range of issues. This Current Population Report was particularly timely; it was the first to detail the numbers and diversity of these types of families and provided a basis upon which policy makers could make decisions. The American Association of Retired Persons and Generations United were among many groups to use the numbers provided in the report to argue for the importance of collecting more detailed data on grandparent-grandchild families. In response to these lobbying efforts, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) required the Census Bureau to obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for the care of their grandchildren, resulting in the inclusion of three new questions to the Census 2000 long form (Dye and Simmons 2003). These questions are also included on the American Community Survey (ACS), an annual nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement of the long form in the 2010 Census.

Researchers, public policy makers, and the media first began to notice the huge increases in grandparent maintained households around 1990, prompting them to question why this was happening. A dramatic increase in analytical research occurred in the early to mid- 1990s which focused on answering this question and examining the area of grandparent caregiving in general (Burton 1992; Chalfie 1994; Dowdell 1995; Dressel and Barnhill 1994; Jendrek 1994; Joslin and Brouard 1995; Minkler and Roe 1993; Fuller-Thomson, Minkler, and Driver 1997; Rutrough and Ofstedal 1997; Shor and Hayslip 1994). Several reasons were offered for the dramatic increases in grandparents raising and helping to raise their grandchildren. Increasing drug abuse among parents, teen pregnancy, divorce, the rapid rise of single parent households, mental and physical illnesses, AIDS, crime, child abuse and neglect, and incarceration are a few of the most common explanations offered. (For a more thorough discussion of these causes see Minkler 1998).

Data have shown the numbers of grandparent- grandchildren co-residential households continued to grow throughout the 1990s. Although some progress has been made in understanding the causes of this trend and in documenting the various hardships these grandparents and grandchildren face, the use of univariate and bivariate methods and nonrepresentative samples have limited our understanding of the relative importance of the factors related to the well-being of grandparents and their grandchildren as well as the generalizability of the findings. Another weakness of previous research is insufficient attention to the diversity of family structures within these households.

In this paper, we use the 2007 American Community Survey (ACS) data to document the number and types of grandchild/grandparent co-residential households. Three direct questions about grandparents caring for grandchildren were first asked in the 2000 Census and were subsequently asked in each year of the American Community Surveys. These questions make it possible for the first time to look at relatively rare family structures that have not been studied before with a nationally representative sample. Our first goal is to enumerate and describe the 12 types of co-residential households. Our second goal is to examine the factors that are related to grandparents in multigenerational households taking primary responsibility for the basic needs of these children. Past studies have assumed that grandparents who are householders in multigenerational families provide at least some economic support for their co-residential

grandchildren because they own or rent the home. With the new data we no longer must rely on this assumption because we have direct information on whether the grandparent is responsible for the basic needs of any of the grandchildren in the household. Our third goal is to use multivariate techniques to ascertain whether the type of family in which a grandchild lives affects his/her economic well-being including poverty status, food-stamp and welfare reciprocity.

Past research on grandparenting has focused primarily on describing the demographic characteristics of grandparent maintained households (Bryson and Casper 1999; Casper and Bryson 1998.) Another area of research has concentrated on the deteriorating mental and physical health of grandchildren and grandparents. Other studies have focused on the disproportionate poverty rates prevailing among grandparents who are taking care of their grandchildren (Bryson and Casper 1999; Casper and Bryson 1998; Fuller- Thomson, Minkler and Driver 1997; Mutchler and Baker 2004).

Researchers have argued that not all grandparent maintained households demonstrate these negative outcomes; poverty, ill health, lack of health insurance, etc. are more prevalent in certain types of the grandparent maintained households than others (Bryson and Casper 1999; Mutchler and Baker 2004). Recent literature on this topic has highlighted the benefits of grandparents raising their grandchildren (Giarrusso and Silverstein 2000). Although at first glance it may seem like having to parent grandchildren has caused economic hardships and health problems in aging adults, research has indicated that the selectivity of these vulnerable groups may have caused this bias and that grandparent households who took in grandchildren were poor to begin with. to provide descriptive statistics of grandparent-grandchild families because of the policy relevance. Recall that the Bryson and Casper (1999) Current Population Report was used as a basis for arguing for the inclusion of question on grandparent responsibility for care in the 2000 Census.

## **Why Should Family Structure Matter?**

Research has shown that one of the most important factors affecting economic well-being is family structure (Bianchi 1995; McLanahan, Casper, and Sørensen 1995; McLanahan and Casper 1995; McLanahan and Sandefur 1994). Poverty and family income are family characteristics rather than individual characteristics. That is, people are defined as poor or nonpoor based on the economic status of the family in which they live. Two factors are particularly important in determining a family's economic status: (1) the total income of the family and (2) the ratio of dependents to earners in the family (the dependency ratio) (Sørensen and McLanahan 1990). Marital status, the number of members in the family, their genders, ages and their labor force participation influence both of these components (Casper, McLanahan, and Garfinkel 1994). Marital status, the number of adult members in the family, and their gender are all elements of family structure. One other element that is unique to grandparent-grandchild households is the relationship between the members of the first and second generations-- the grandparents and parents. In some households both parents are present. Others contain only one parent and some do not have any parents. A similar argument can be made for grandparents; households can contain one or both grandparents. Thus, if we want to study the economic well-being of grandchildren living in households maintained by their grandparents, it is imperative to include a measure of family structure.

Several studies have focused specifically on the importance of family structure in assessing well-being. However, they typically examined well-being among men and women or within married couple, single parent and, to a lesser extent, stepparent families (Casper, McLanahan, and Garfinkel 1994; McLanahan, Casper, and Sørensen 1995; McLanahan and Casper 1995; McLanahan and Sandefur 1994). To our knowledge, no study has been undertaken to specifically examine how family structure relates to well being within such a diverse of grandparent-maintained families.

In this research we improve and expand on previous research by Casper and Bryson (1998) and Mutchler and Baker (2004). We use more recent data (2007) than any other study to profile grandparents in all household types presenting characteristics by gender and family type

and expand upon the number and variety of characteristics presented in past research. We use the direct measure of grandparent responsibility to assess the involvement of grandparents, eliminating the need for indirect measurement. Finally, we use multivariate techniques to assess the relationship between family structure and the economic well-being of grandchildren.

## **DATA**

The analysis is based on the American Community Survey (ACS) 2007 accessed through the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series website (Ruggles et al, 2008). ACS is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities a fresh look at how they are changing. It will replace the decennial long form in future censuses and is a critical element in the U.S. Census Bureau's reengineered 2010 Census (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2009). The ACS questionnaire is sent to approximately three million households. The Census Bureau staff follows up with those who do not respond first by telephone and then in person. The ACS provides information on demographic, housing, social, and economic characteristics every year for all states, as well as for all cities, counties, metropolitan areas, and population groups of 65,000 people or more. After the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, the U.S. Census Bureau started to obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for the care of their grandchildren. Therefore, the 2000 Census and the subsequent ACSs have included the question on grandparents as caregivers enabling researchers and policy planners to better understand the family structures and social and economic characteristics of grandparent families.

The number of all households including group quarters is 1,255,509. Our sample of grandparent-grandchild households totals 41,715 households when we eliminate group quarters (e.g., prisons, nursing homes, dormitories, etc.) from the sample. The multivariate analyses focus on the grandchild as the unit of analysis. The total number of grandchildren in these households is 74,662. For the multivariate analysis we removed 395 grandchildren because we did not have information about their families' poverty status. Another 304 were removed because the parents of these grandchildren were too young to even to be in the labor force (under 16 years of age) or to receive welfare (under 15 years of age). Because such families represent unique cases such as

very early teen pregnancy teenage pregnancy, we did not include them in the analysis. Therefore, the total sample size that is used in the multivariate analyses is 73,963.

## MEASURES

The 2000 Census and subsequent ACS first ascertained whether the person is the grandparent of any grandchildren under 18 who are living in the same household. Those who answered “yes” were then asked if they were “currently responsible for most of the basic needs of one or more of these grandchildren.” Grandparents who answered “yes” were then asked, “How long has this grandparent been responsible for the(se) grandchild(ren)?” (Dye and Simmons, 2003). However, it should be noted that some ambiguity characterizes these questions; the second question refers to a grandparent being “responsible for most of the *basic needs* of any grandchild(ren)” living in the household. What is meant by “basic needs” is not explicit, is open to respondent’s interpretation, and may lead to higher levels of reporting responsibility (Mutchler and Baker 2004). Furthermore, we can not be sure on which grandchild or grandchildren the grandparents are reporting. Despite these limitations, the questions still give us an excellent opportunity to gain a better understanding of grandparent caregivers.

In this paper we examine economic characteristics of grandchildren who are living with at least one grandparent. Using several variables, we categorized these households into twelve family types (Table 1). Each type contains information on the number, relationship, and gender of the adults in the households. On average, each of these households has two grandchildren

To see in which family structures grandparents are more prone to claim responsibility for their grandchildren, we use the second question in the grandparent section of the ACS (described above) as a dichotomous dependent variable while controlling for demographic and economic variables (Table 3, discussed below). In previous research information on householders (previously household headship) was used as a proxy for grandparent care-giving. But ACS allows us to determine this more accurately by directly asking the respondent.

To examine how family structure affects child well-being we first predict poverty status of the family. The outcome variable derives from the ACS variable on poverty level which



ranges from 1% to 501%. This scale depends on three criteria: size of family, number of related children, and, for 1- and 2-person families, age of householder (U.S. Census Bureau 2006). Those who had a poverty level between 1% and 99% were coded as “in poverty”, those who had a poverty level between 100% and 501% were coded as “not in poverty.” In addition to poverty we use two more variables to predict child economic well-being - food stamp reciprocity and welfare reciprocity. Food stamp reciprocity is a dichotomous variable that is common to everyone in the household. However, welfare is measured as an individual characteristic for each person. Therefore, we construct three measures of welfare reciprocity for (1) anyone in the household; (2) grandparents, and (3) parents.

All models control for race, region of residence and urban/rural location. A number of models also take into account grandparent’s age, education, employment and disability status and grandchild’s age. When there is more than one grandparent in a family unit, the youngest grandparent’s age was used in the model; for education we used the highest education level. Employment is scored a 1 when at least one grandparent is employed or in the labor force. The disability status variable derives from six questions in the ACS regarding: (1) work disability; (2) personal care disability; (3) disability limiting mobility; (4) physical disability; (5) difficulty remembering and (6) vision and hearing disability. If at least one of these disabilities was present for at least one grandparent (in two grandparent families) the variable was coded 1.

In addition to these independent variables, we also controlled for parent’s characteristics for those families with parents in the household: education, employment and disability. These variables are constructed in the same way we constructed the variables for grandparent characteristics. We also used poverty, food-stamp reciprocity and welfare reciprocity as independent variables in certain models (explained in detail in the Methods section). Except for poverty, the other variables were coded in the same manner as above. When using poverty status as an independent variable in the model, we divided the 1-501% poverty scale into five categories: (1)1-49%; (2)50-99%; (3)100-149%; (4)150-199%; and (5)200-501%.

## METHODS / MODELS

We employ simple logistic regression models to predict grandparent's responsibility, grandchildren's poverty, food stamp recipiency and finally to predict welfare recipiency of grandparent, parent or anyone in the household. We divided the samples into two larger categories of the twelve types, one with all grandparent households with all twelve types (N=73,963) and another with grandparent households with at least one parent with only nine types (N=56,466). Because all households in the second sample have at least one parent, we included parental characteristics to the latter sample.

$$\ln\left(\frac{p_i}{1-p_i}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_a HH_a + \beta_b GP_b + \beta_c P_c + \beta_d E_d + \beta_{jk} X_{jk} \quad \dots \quad (1)$$

In the above equation  $p_i$  represents the four outcome variables,  $HH_a$  represent the family structure types where  $a=1\dots 12$ . Grandparent's characteristics are included in  $GP_b$  vector and parent's characteristics are included in  $P_c$  vector. For models using the sample of all households, the parental vector equals zero because some family structures do not have a parent, and hence no parental characteristics.  $E_d$  represents the economic indicator variables: poverty level, food-stamp recipiency and welfare recipiency. All three economic indicator variables are only present in the model that predicts grandparent's responsibility. However, the poverty level variable is also present in the models where food stamp and welfare recipiency is predicted. The control variables  $X_{jk}$  include race, region, rural/urban, and age of the grandchild.

## RESULTS

Table 1 (weighted to US population) shows the percentage distribution of family structure among the more than 4 million households that have co-resident grandparents and grandchildren. Of these, over 50% include grandmothers but not grandfathers in the home. Almost one quarter (23%) are comprised of a grandmother, mother, and grandchildren with no father or grandfather present. Another 13% include a grandmother and both parents; 10% a grandmother and no parents; and 5% a grandmother and father. The remaining types include

both grandparents and both parents (13%); both grandparents and the mother only (13%); both grandparents and no parents present (10%), and the comparatively rare instances of grandfathers living with (9%) or without (2%) parent(s) with no grandmother in the home. Unsurprisingly, in the majority of households where no parents are present one or both grandparents claim primary responsibility for the basic needs of the grandchildren. When both parents are present grandparents are less likely to claim responsibility.

From Table 2 onward, the cases analyzed are grandchildren living in grandparent-present households (as against the households themselves in Table 1). Table 2 shows the percentage of grandchildren living in households characterized by poverty, food stamp reciprocity, and welfare reciprocity by the 12 family types. The descriptive statistics suggest that these negative economic outcomes tend to fall along two axes: the gender mix of adults in the household and the number of adults in the household. For example, as expected, families with female household heads are at greatest risk. Forty percent of children in grandmother headed households with no parents present live below the poverty line. In grandmother/mother families, 30% of children live in poverty, compared with only 18% in grandmother/father families. A similar ordering obtains for food stamps and welfare reciprocity. In families with 3 or 4 adults the rates are lower, with a couple of exceptions. The multivariate logistic regression models in Tables 3-6 will help crystallize these effects by showing which patterns continue to obtain after taking into account a variety of other important sociodemographic and socioeconomic covariates.

Table 3 begins by showing the effects of the family types on the odds that grandparents claim primary responsibility for the grandchildren, without and with controls for selected characteristics of grandparents and parents (all models include grandchildren's race, age, and residential location). Treating families where both grandparents and both parents are present as the referent, the main patterns are 1) unsurprisingly, families where both parents but only one grandparent are present have significantly lower odds that the grandparent claims primary responsibility for the grandchildren; and 2) families where both grandparents but only one parent are present have significantly greater odds. Within this second family type, the odds that grandparents claim responsibility for children are generally lower when the mother as against the

father is the co-resident single parent. Some of these differences get reduced - but not eliminated - when socioeconomic characteristics of adults are taken into account.

In addition, Table 3 shows that grandparental responsibility is significantly associated with a number of socioeconomic and demographic correlates. Independent of family type and other factors, younger, more highly educated, and employed grandparents have greater odds of claiming primary responsibility for grandchildren; as well as when the grandchildren are African American. Conversely, when employed parents and parents with higher education are present in the household, grandparents are less likely to claim responsibility for the grandchildren. Net of other factors, the odds of grandparent responsibility are especially high in poor households (e.g., in poverty, collecting food stamps).

Tables 4-6 show the effects (log-odds and odds-ratios from logistic regression models) of the grandparent family types on our central socioeconomic outcomes of interest – are the children living in poverty (Table 4); is the household receiving food stamps (Table 5); and are the grandparents or the parents receiving welfare (Table 6).

Columns 1-4 of Table 4 – children in all households – show that with (model 2) or without (model 1) taking into account various characteristics of grandparents and grandchildren, children living in grandmother-only (no-parent-present) households have 4-5 times greater odds of living in poverty relative to children living with both parents and both grandparents. They are followed closely by children living with their grandmother and mother only (3.41) and then, less severe, grandmother and father only (1.83). Among children living with grandfathers but not grandmothers, the odds of poverty are roughly similar irrespective of whether the mother, father, or no parent is present in the home.

Columns 4-8 show results on children living in households with at least one parent present and yields similar results: grandmother/mother families are at highest risk of poverty (2.57 times greater odds in model 2); grandmother/father families are also at risk but less so (1.35). Grandfather/mother and grandfather/father families are less divergent than grandmother/mother and grandmother/father families. The other covariates in Table 4 operate

largely as expected: higher education and employment of adults in the family buffers against poverty, and African American, Latino, and Native American children are at higher risk independent of other factors. Also, other things being equal, poverty risks are significantly higher in families where grandparents claim primary responsibility for grandchildren.

Table 5 replaces poverty with food stamps as the dependent variable, and then uses poverty status as a predictor. Poverty, of course, proves to be a huge predictor of food stamp reciprocity (see model 2). Even so, differences by family structure remain sizable. Families with no parents present and, especially, only a single parent present, have the greatest odds of receiving food stamps. Among the latter group, rates are highest when the single parent is the mother (two-grandparents/mother family structures have 1.85 times greater odds of currently receiving food stamps independent of other factors; grandmother/mother 2.34 times greater odds; and grandfather/mother 2.32). However grandmother/father and grandfather/father family forms also have relatively high odds of receiving food stamps (1.77 and 1.59 respectively). The other independent variables work generally as expected along socioeconomic lines.

Table 6 estimates the effects of family types and the other covariates on the odds that a grandparent(s) and/or parent(s) are currently receiving welfare, stratified by children's living arrangements. The first two columns (all children) show that, with the exception of grandfather/father families, all the grandparent family types have significantly greater odds of receiving welfare relative to families where both grandparents and both parents are present. Among children living with at least one parent, columns 3-4 show the effects of independent variables on the odds that a grandparent(s) is receiving welfare and columns 5-6 the odds that a parent(s) is receiving welfare. The results covary inversely by gender and generation in some interesting ways.

For example, both-grandparents/mother families have negative odds (.74) that the grandparents receive welfare but positive odds (1.73) that the mother receives welfare. In both-grandparents/father families, however, the odds are positive (1.5) that the grandparents receive welfare but negative (.52) that the father receives welfare. When only the grandmother and single mother are present, the odds are positive that both receive welfare (1.73 and 1.89

respectively). But switch the gender of either the grandparent or the parent and a very different pattern obtains. In grandmother/father families the odds are positive that the grandmother receives welfare but negative that the father does. In grandfather/mother families it's the opposite (negative odds for grandfather, positive odds for mother). In grandfather/father families, the odds are negative that either receives welfare. All of these patterns suggest that women (of both generations) have greater odds than men of receiving welfare, even after taking into account differences in employment status, education, and other factors.

The other covariates show that grandparent responsibility for grandchildren, poverty, low education, unemployment, and disability positively predict welfare for both grandparents and parents. In grandparent/parent families, grandparent's and parent's education are better predictors of their own as against the other's welfare reciprocity.

To gain a more intuitive view of how gender matters in the effects of family structure, we calculated the percentage of children in each family type predicted to be living in poverty in the hypothetical case where the families are average on all other sociodemographic characteristics (Figure 1). The lowest level of child poverty is achieved in families where both grandparents are present, and especially where the father is present too. Other things being equal, only 6% of grandchildren living in this kind of family arrangement are predicted to be in poverty. In families where only men are present – the grandfather plus the father – a relatively low 15% of children are estimated to be living in poverty. In contrast, the highest level of child poverty (32%) is observed in families where only women – the grandmother plus the mother – are present, and where the grandmother is alone raising grandchildren (33%). That these obtain even after adjusting for differences in education, employment and other variables suggests that grandmothers and mothers may be subject to gender-based discrimination in occupation, wages, social supports and other factors.

Somewhat masked in the analyses above has been the potential role of number of adults in the family in buffering children against poor socioeconomic outcomes. In order to understand this more clearly, we conducted an exercise similar to Figure 1 but reconfigured the categorical family types into those containing 1, 2, 3, and 4 adults. As expected, numbers matter greatly.

Adjusting for other factors, 30% of children living in families with only one adult (a grandparent) are estimated to be in poverty. This is significantly greater than the 18% of children living in two adult families who are in poverty; and the 9% and 8% of children in poverty living in three- and four-adult families, respectively.

## **DISCUSSION**

Conventional research on gender differences in parenting (and grandparenting) suggests that while women exceed men in time spent with children and domestic work, men exceed women in earnings capacity, breadwinning and socioeconomic support. Our findings are generally congruent with the implications that derive from this. In families without grandfathers, and in families without fathers, the risks of negative socioeconomic outcomes – poverty, food stamps and welfare – are greatest. Grandmothers, mothers and grandchildren living together are generally the most vulnerable.

Research on single parents has shown that single fathers generally enjoy more social support from friends and family, higher incomes, job status, more stable employment, and better returns to their education than single mothers (e.g., Biblarz & Raftery, 1999; Bramlett & Blumberg 2007; Casper and Bianchi 2002; Clarke-Stewart & Hayward, 1996; Hilton & Kopera-Frye, 2007; Hoffmann & Johnson, 1998; Leininger & Ziol-Guest 2008;). Single mothers show relative disadvantage on almost every socioeconomic dimension. The present study widens the scope to co-residential grandparent families and considers not only the gender of parents but the gender of grandparents as well. Our main findings are more a continuation than departure from the gendered patterns of inequality observed in this research.

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Table 1: Grandparent Households by Family Structure and Responsibility for the Grandchild

Family Structure	N*	Percent	Percent Responsible for Grandchild
Both grandparents and both parents	520,087	13	39
Only grandmother is responsible			13
Only grandfather is responsible			12
Both grandparents are responsible			75
Total			100%
Both grandparents and mother	527,568	13	46
Only grandmother is responsible			13
Only grandfather is responsible			15
Both grandparents are responsible			72
Total			100%
Both grandparents and father	173,983	4	53
Only grandmother is responsible			12
Only grandfather is responsible			13
Both grandparents are responsible			75
Total			100%
Both grandparents and no parents	393,865	10	88
Only grandmother is responsible			8
Only grandfather is responsible			5
Both grandparents are responsible			86
Total			99%
Grandmother and both parents	538,461	13	7
Grandmother and mother	928,730	23	36
Grandmother and father	190,898	5	37
Grandmother and no parents	397,224	10	75
Grandfather and both parents	146,632	4	5
Grandfather and mother	121,607	3	28
Grandfather and father	80,557	2	41
Grandfather and no parents	66,633	2	65
Total	4,086,245	100	43

Source: American Community Survey, 2007

Notes: \*Weighted by household weights

Categorized only by householder's family type although in one household there could be two families

Table 2: Summary Statistics of Economic Indicators for Grandchildren by Family Structure

Family Structure	Percent in poverty	Percent receiving foodstamp	Percent households receiving welfare			
			Total	At least one grandparent receives welfare	At least one parent receives welfare	Grandchildren receives welfare
Both grandparents and both parents	8.9	16.5	4.1	2.6	3.0	0.1
Both grandparents and mother	8.8	26.1	8.6	1.5	7.2	0.1
Both grandparents and father	6.8	18.2	5.6	3.1	2.4	0.3
Both grandparents and no parents	13.4	15.4	7.4	6.8	...	0.7
Grandmother and both parents	6.7	13.1	4.0	2.2	1.9	0.0
Grandmother and mother	30.3	42.2	12.2	6.1	9.5	0.4
Grandmother and father	18.3	29.6	7.3	4.7	2.4	0.4
Grandmother and no parents	40.3	40.3	16.8	16.0	...	1.0
Grandfather and both parents	6.5	13.3	4.2	2.0	2.4	0.0
Grandfather and mother	16.3	32.2	9.6	1.7	8.1	0.2
Grandfather and father	16.9	27.3	4.3	2.3	3.0	0.6
Grandfather and no parents	22.5	24.2	3.9	3.7	...	0.2
Total	17.4	26.0	8.4	5.1	5.3	0.3
N*	73,963	73963	73963	73963	56466 <sup>†</sup>	73963

Source: American Community Survey, 2007

\* Number of cases after eliminating group quarters, unknown poverty status and parents who are less than 15 years of age.

<sup>†</sup> Number of families with at least one parent

Table 3: Selected Logistic Regression Models of the Effects of Family Structure on Grandparent's Responsibility for Grandchild: Children Living in Households with At Least One Parent.

Independent Variables	Model 1			Model 2		
	B		Exp(B)	B		Exp(B)
<b>Family Structure</b>						
Both grandparents and both parents (reference)						
Both grandparents and mother	0.36	***	1.43	0.42	***	1.52
Both grandparents and father	0.59	***	1.81	0.66	***	1.94
Grandmother and both parents	-1.97	***	0.14	-1.09	***	0.34
Grandmother and mother	-0.13	***	0.88	-0.09	*	0.92
Grandmother and father	-0.01		0.99	0.34	***	1.40
Grandfather and both parents	-2.18	***	0.11	-1.32	***	0.27
Grandfather and mother	-0.35	***	0.70	0.00		1.00
Grandfather and father	0.05		1.05	0.13		1.14
<b>Grandparent's Characteristics</b>						
Age <sup>a</sup>				-0.04	***	0.96
Less than high school (reference) <sup>b</sup>						
High school diploma				0.11	***	1.11
Some college				0.44	***	1.56
College degree				0.47	***	1.60
Graduate degree				0.56	***	1.76
Employed (reference) <sup>c</sup>						
Unemployed				-0.39	***	0.68
Not in the labor force				-0.44	***	0.64
Disability status <sup>d</sup>				0.01		1.01
<b>Parent's Characteristics</b>						
Less than high school (reference) <sup>e</sup>						
High school diploma				-0.12	***	0.89
Some college				-0.35	***	0.70
College degree				-0.44	***	0.64
Graduate degree				-0.61	***	0.55
Employed (reference) <sup>f</sup>						
Unemployed				0.58	***	1.79
Not in the labor force				0.60	***	1.82
Disability status <sup>g</sup>				0.38	***	1.46
<b>Poverty Status</b>						
200-501% (reference)						
1-49%				0.46	***	1.58
50-99%				0.34	***	1.40
100-149%				0.27	***	1.31
150-199%				0.18	***	1.20
<b>Food stamp recipient</b>				0.03		1.03
<b>Welfare recipient<sup>h</sup></b>				0.30	***	1.35
<b>Race / Ethnicity<sup>i</sup></b>						
White (reference)						
Black	0.34	***	1.41	0.21	***	1.24
Hispanic	0.01		1.01	-0.10	***	0.90
Native American	0.52	***	1.69	0.42	***	1.52
Asian	-0.37	***	0.69	0.10	*	1.11
Other	-0.02		0.98	-0.11		0.90
<b>Residence</b>						
East (reference)						
Mid-west	0.28	***	1.32	0.12	**	1.13
South	0.43	***	1.53	0.32	***	1.37
West	0.17	***	1.18	0.06		1.06
Rural (reference)						
Urban	-0.20	***	0.82	-0.07	*	0.93
Unidentifiable	-0.08	*	0.92	-0.08		0.93
<b>Age of the grandchild</b>	0.01	***	1.01	0.04	***	1.04
<b>N</b>	56,466			56,466		
<b>Chi Square</b>	7,687			13,214		
<b>Degrees of Freedom</b>	19			40		
<b>BIC</b>	-7,479			-12,776		

Source: American Community Survey, 2007

\*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001

Notes: If more than one grandparent <sup>a</sup>Age of the youngest grandparent; <sup>b</sup>Education level of the grandparent who has completed the most number years in school; <sup>c</sup>At least one grandparent is employed or looking for work; <sup>d</sup>At least one grandparent has a disability (one or more of the following disabilities: work, mobility, personal care, vision, physical, remembering). If more than one parent <sup>e</sup>Education level of the parent who has completed the most number years in school; <sup>f</sup>At least one parent is employed or looking for work; <sup>g</sup>At least one parent has a disability (one or more of the following disabilities: work, mobility, personal care, vision, physical, remembering). <sup>h</sup>At least one person in the household receive welfare. <sup>i</sup>white indicates non-Hispanic whites and black indicates non-hispanic blacks.

Table 4: Selected Logistic Regression Models of the Effects of Family Structure on Child Poverty.

	Children in All Households				Children Living with At Least One Parent							
	Model 1		Model 2		Model 1		Model 2					
	B	Exp(B)	B	Exp(B)	B	Exp(B)	B	Exp(B)				
<b>Family Structure</b>												
Both grandparents and both parents (reference)												
Both grandparents and mother	-0.14	**	0.87	0.02		1.02	-0.12	**	0.89	-0.36	***	0.70
Both grandparents and father	-0.41	***	0.67	-0.31	***	0.74	-0.39	***	0.68	-0.71	***	0.49
Both grandparents and no parents	0.14	**	1.15	0.25	***	1.28						
Grandmother and both parents	-0.01		0.99	-0.24	***	0.79	0.01		1.01	0.09		1.10
Grandmother and mother	1.40	***	4.06	1.23	***	3.41	1.41	***	4.11	0.95	***	2.57
Grandmother and father	0.77	***	2.16	0.61	***	1.83	0.78	***	2.18	0.30	***	1.35
Grandmother and no parents	1.62	***	5.05	1.48	***	4.39						
Grandfather and both parents	-0.06		0.94	-0.12		0.89	-0.04		0.96	0.11		1.12
Grandfather and mother	0.70	***	2.00	0.71	***	2.03	0.71	***	2.03	0.34	***	1.40
Grandfather and father	0.63	***	1.88	0.54	***	1.71	0.63	***	1.88	0.17		1.18
Grandfather and no parents	0.89	***	2.44	0.77	***	2.16						
<b>Grandparent is responsible for the grandchild</b>	0.56	***	1.75	0.63	***	1.88	0.57	***	1.76	0.32	***	1.37
<b>Grandparent's Characteristics</b>												
Age <sup>a</sup>				-0.06	***	0.95				-0.05	***	0.95
Less than high school (reference) <sup>b</sup>												
High school diploma				-0.52	***	0.59				-0.36	***	0.70
Some college				-1.00	***	0.37				-0.66	***	0.52
College degree				-1.36	***	0.26				-0.83	***	0.44
Graduate degree				-1.72	***	0.18				-1.21	***	0.30
Employed (reference) <sup>c</sup>												
Unemployed				1.59	***	4.91				1.25	***	3.50
Not in the labor force				1.51	***	4.52				1.24	***	3.45
Disability status <sup>d</sup>				0.34	***	1.41				0.22	***	1.24
<b>Parent's Characteristics</b>												
Less than high school (reference) <sup>e</sup>												
High school diploma										-0.39	***	0.68
Some college										-0.73	***	0.48
College degree										-1.21	***	0.30
Graduate degree										-1.74	***	0.18
Employed (reference) <sup>f</sup>												
Unemployed										1.07	***	2.90
Not in the labor force										1.03	***	2.79
Disability status <sup>g</sup>										0.24	***	1.27
<b>Race / Ethnicity<sup>h</sup></b>												
White (reference)												
Black	0.72	***	2.06	0.58	***	1.78	0.73	***	2.08	0.59	***	1.80
Hispanic	0.95	***	2.59	0.60	***	1.82	0.97	***	2.63	0.61	***	1.84
Native American	1.05	***	2.85	0.90	***	2.45	1.07	***	2.92	0.82	***	2.27
Asian	0.11		1.12	-0.03		0.97	0.08		1.08	0.21	**	1.23
Other	0.30		1.34	0.13		1.13	0.09		1.09	-0.05		0.95
<b>Residence</b>												
East (reference)												
Mid-west	0.17	***	1.19	0.15	***	1.16	0.20	***	1.22	0.11	*	1.12
South	0.34	***	1.40	0.32	***	1.38	0.35	***	1.42	0.31	***	1.36
West	-0.05		0.96	-0.02		0.98	0.00		1.00	-0.06		0.94
Rural (reference)												
Urban	-0.53	***	0.59	-0.42	***	0.66	-0.58	***	0.56	-0.41	***	0.66
Unidentifiable	-0.13	**	0.88	-0.13	**	0.88	-0.11	**	0.90	-0.09		0.91
<b>Age of the grandchild</b>	-0.01	**	0.99	0.00	*	1.00	0.00		1.00	0.01	**	1.01
<b>N</b>	73,963			73,963			56,466			56,466		
<b>Chi Square</b>	9,394			16,621			6,011			12,866		
<b>Degrees of Freedom</b>	23			31			20			35		
<b>BIC</b>	-9,136			-16,273			-5,792			-12,483		

Source: American Community Survey, 2007

\*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001

Notes: If more than one grandparent <sup>a</sup>Age of the youngest grandparent; <sup>b</sup>Education level of the grandparent who has completed the most number years in school; <sup>c</sup>At least one grandparent is employed or looking for work; <sup>d</sup>At least one grandparent has a disability (one or more of the following disabilities: work, mobility, personal care, vision, physical, remembering). If more than one parent <sup>e</sup>Education level of the parent who has completed the most number years in school; <sup>f</sup>At least one parent is employed or looking for work; <sup>g</sup>At least one parent has a disability (one or more of the following disabilities: work, mobility, personal care, vision, physical, remembering). <sup>h</sup>White indicates non-hispanic whites and black indicates non-hispanic blacks.

Table 5: Selected Logistic Regression Models of the Effects of Family Structure on Food Stamp Reciprocity.

	Children in All Households						Children Living with At Least One Parent					
	Model 1			Model 2			Model 1			Model 2		
	B	Exp(B)		B	Exp(B)		B	Exp(B)		B	Exp(B)	
<b>Family Structure</b>												
Both grandparents and both parents (reference)												
Both grandparents and mother	0.42	***	1.52	0.62	***	1.85	0.44	***	1.55	0.43	***	1.54
Both grandparents and father	-0.04		0.96	0.15	*	1.16	-0.03		0.97	-0.09		0.92
Both grandparents and no parents	-0.38	***	0.68	-0.43	***	0.65						
Grandmother and both parents	-0.12	**	0.88	0.06		1.06	-0.08	*	0.92	0.16	**	1.17
Grandmother and mother	1.16	***	3.19	0.85	***	2.34	1.17	***	3.22	0.73	***	2.07
Grandmother and father	0.62	***	1.87	0.57	***	1.77	0.63	***	1.88	0.34	***	1.41
Grandmother and no parents	0.90	***	2.47	0.43	***	1.54						
Grandfather and both parents	-0.10		0.90	0.09		1.09	-0.06		0.94	0.14	**	1.14
Grandfather and mother	0.81	***	2.25	0.84	***	2.32	0.84	***	2.30	0.64	***	1.89
Grandfather and father	0.53	***	1.70	0.46	***	1.59	0.54	***	1.71	0.29	***	1.34
Grandfather and no parents	0.25	**	1.28	0.04		1.04						
<b>Grandparent is responsible for the grandchild</b>	0.33	***	1.39	0.10	***	1.10	0.42	***	1.52	0.08	**	1.09
<b>Poverty Status</b>												
200-501% (reference)												
1-49%				2.21	***	9.14				1.97	***	7.18
50-99%				1.83	***	6.23				1.63	***	5.12
100-149%				1.19	***	3.29				1.11	***	3.05
150-199%				0.69	***	2.00				0.67	***	1.95
<b>Grandparent's Characteristics</b>												
Age <sup>a</sup>				-0.02	***	0.98				-0.02	***	0.98
Less than high school (reference) <sup>b</sup>												
High school diploma				-0.20	***	0.82				-0.14	***	0.87
Some college				-0.17	***	0.84				-0.04		0.96
College degree				-0.50	***	0.61				-0.24	***	0.79
Graduate degree				-0.57	***	0.57				-0.23	**	0.80
Employed (reference) <sup>c</sup>												
Unemployed				0.37	***	1.45				0.07		1.07
Not in the labor force				0.09	**	1.09				-0.01		0.99
Disability status <sup>d</sup>				0.60	***	1.83				0.50	***	1.65
<b>Parent's Characteristics</b>												
Less than high school (reference) <sup>e</sup>												
High school diploma										-0.06		0.94
Some college										-0.23	***	0.80
College degree										-0.64	***	0.53
Graduate degree										-1.00	***	0.37
Employed (reference) <sup>f</sup>												
Unemployed										0.41	***	1.51
Not in the labor force										0.66	***	1.93
Disability status <sup>g</sup>										0.37	***	1.45
<b>Race / Ethnicity<sup>h</sup></b>												
White (reference)												
Black	0.60	***	1.83	0.36	***	1.43	0.55	***	1.74	0.35	***	1.41
Hispanic	0.51	***	1.67	0.07	**	1.08	0.45	***	1.57	0.06		1.06
Native American	0.87	***	2.38	0.53	***	1.70	0.73	***	2.08	0.39	***	1.48
Asian	0.05		1.05	0.05		1.06	-0.05		0.96	0.11		1.11
Other	0.37	**	1.45	0.19		1.20	0.38	*	1.47	0.25		1.28
<b>Residence</b>												
East (reference)												
Mid-west	0.27	***	1.32	0.20	***	1.22	0.31	***	1.36	0.21	***	1.23
South	0.19	***	1.21	0.04		1.04	0.23	***	1.25	0.07		1.07
West	-0.23	***	0.79	-0.27	***	0.77	-0.21	***	0.81	-0.30	***	0.74
Rural (reference)												
Urban	-0.46	***	0.63	-0.22	***	0.80	-0.50	***	0.61	-0.22	***	0.80
Unidentifiable	-0.08	*	0.92	-0.02		0.98	-0.11	*	0.90	-0.06		0.94
<b>Age of the grandchild</b>	-0.03	***	0.98	-0.02	***	0.98	-0.02	***	0.99	-0.01	***	0.99
<b>N</b>	73,963			73,963			56,466			56,466		
<b>Chi Square</b>	7,494			17,294			5,680			13,627		
<b>Degrees of Freedom</b>	23			35			20			39		
<b>BIC</b>	-7,236			-16,902			-5,461			-13,200		

Source: American Community Survey, 2007

\*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001

Notes: If more than one grandparent <sup>a</sup>Age of the youngest grandparent; <sup>b</sup>Education level of the grandparent who has completed the most number years in school; <sup>c</sup>At least one grandparent is employed or looking for work; <sup>d</sup>At least one grandparent has a disability (one or more of the following disabilities: work, mobility, personal care, vision, physical, remembering). If more than one parent <sup>e</sup>Education level of the parent who has completed the most number years in school; <sup>f</sup>At least one parent is employed or looking for work; <sup>g</sup>At least one parent has a disability (one or more of the following disabilities: work, mobility, personal care, vision, physical, remembering). <sup>h</sup>White indicates non-hispanic whites and black indicates non-hispanic blacks.

Table 6: Selected Logistic Regression Models of the Effects of Family Structure on Welfare Reciprocity

	Children in All Households				Children Living with At Least One Parent					
	At Least One Person in the Household Receive Welfare				Grandparent(s) Receive Welfare			Parent(s) Receive Welfare		
	B		Exp(B)		B		Exp(B)	B		Exp(B)
<b>Family Structure</b>										
Both grandparents and both parents (reference)										
Both grandparents and mother	0.81	***	2.25		-0.30	**	0.74	0.55	***	1.73
Both grandparents and father	0.31	**	1.37		0.40	**	1.50	-0.66	***	0.52
Both grandparents and no parents	0.33	***	1.39							
Grandmother and both parents	0.23	**	1.26		0.18		1.20	-0.01		0.99
Grandmother and mother	0.90	***	2.45		0.55	***	1.73	0.64	***	1.89
Grandmother and father	0.40	***	1.50		0.49	***	1.64	-0.83	***	0.44
Grandmother and no parents	0.94	***	2.57							
Grandfather and both parents	0.31	**	1.36		0.19		1.20	0.18		1.20
Grandfather and mother	0.89	***	2.44		-0.29		0.75	0.62	***	1.86
Grandfather and father	-0.11		0.90		-0.30		0.74	-0.48	*	0.62
Grandfather and no parents	-0.45	**	0.64							
<b>Grandparent is responsible for the grandchild</b>	0.67	***	1.96		0.77	***	2.15	0.13	**	1.14
<b>Poverty Status</b>										
200-501% (reference)										
1-49%	1.00	***	2.72		0.93	***	2.53	0.92	***	2.52
50-99%	0.97	***	2.64		0.67	***	1.95	0.91	***	2.49
100-149%	0.62	***	1.85		0.51	***	1.67	0.57	***	1.77
150-199%	0.50	***	1.65		0.41	***	1.51	0.38	***	1.47
<b>Grandparent's Characteristics</b>										
Age <sup>a</sup>	-0.01	***	0.99		-0.04	***	0.96	-0.01	**	0.99
Less than high school (reference) <sup>b</sup>										
High school diploma	-0.10	**	0.90		-0.19	**	0.83	0.05		1.05
Some college	-0.04		0.97		-0.11		0.90	0.21	**	1.23
College degree	-0.25	***	0.78		-0.42	**	0.66	0.26	**	1.30
Graduate degree	-0.48	***	0.62		-0.94	***	0.39	0.22		1.25
Employed (reference) <sup>c</sup>										
Unemployed	0.53	***	1.70		0.86	***	2.36	0.06		1.06
Not in the labor force	0.38	***	1.46		0.95	***	2.59	-0.09		0.92
Disability status <sup>d</sup>	0.49	***	1.63		0.50	***	1.65	0.27	***	1.31
<b>Parent's Characteristics</b>										
Less than high school (reference) <sup>e</sup>										
High school diploma					-0.14	*	0.87	-0.02		0.98
Some college					-0.17	*	0.85	-0.23	***	0.80
College degree					-0.07		0.93	-0.94	***	0.39
Graduate degree					0.20		1.22	-1.91	***	0.15
Employed (reference) <sup>f</sup>										
Unemployed					0.10		1.11	0.94	***	2.56
Not in the labor force					0.20	*	1.22	0.99	***	2.69
Disability status <sup>g</sup>					0.30	***	1.35	0.55	***	1.74
<b>Race / Ethnicity<sup>h</sup></b>										
White (reference)										
Black	0.13	***	1.14		0.39	***	1.48	0.07		1.07
Hispanic	-0.20	***	0.82		0.08		1.09	-0.21	***	0.81
Native American	0.04		1.04		0.32	*	1.38	-0.19		0.83
Asian	0.01		1.01		0.98	***	2.66	-0.54	***	0.58
Other	0.37		1.45		0.85	**	2.34	0.42		1.53
<b>Residence</b>										
East (reference)										
Mid-west	0.13	**	1.13		-0.24	**	0.79	0.26	***	1.30
South	-0.55	***	0.58		-0.84	***	0.43	-0.48	***	0.62
West	0.28	***	1.32		-0.18	*	0.84	0.52	***	1.68
Rural (reference)										
Urban	0.15	***	1.16		-0.07		0.94	0.15	**	1.16
Unidentifiable	0.18	**	1.19		-0.13		0.88	0.15		1.16
<b>Age of the grandchild</b>	0.00		1.00		0.03	***	1.03	-0.01	**	0.99
<b>N</b>			73,963				56,466			56,466
<b>Chi Square</b>			4,588				2,415			3,549
<b>Degrees of Freedom</b>			35				39			39
<b>BIC</b>			-4,195				-1,988			-3,123

Source: American Community Survey, 2007

\*p&lt;0.05, \*\*p&lt;0.01, \*\*\*p&lt;0.001

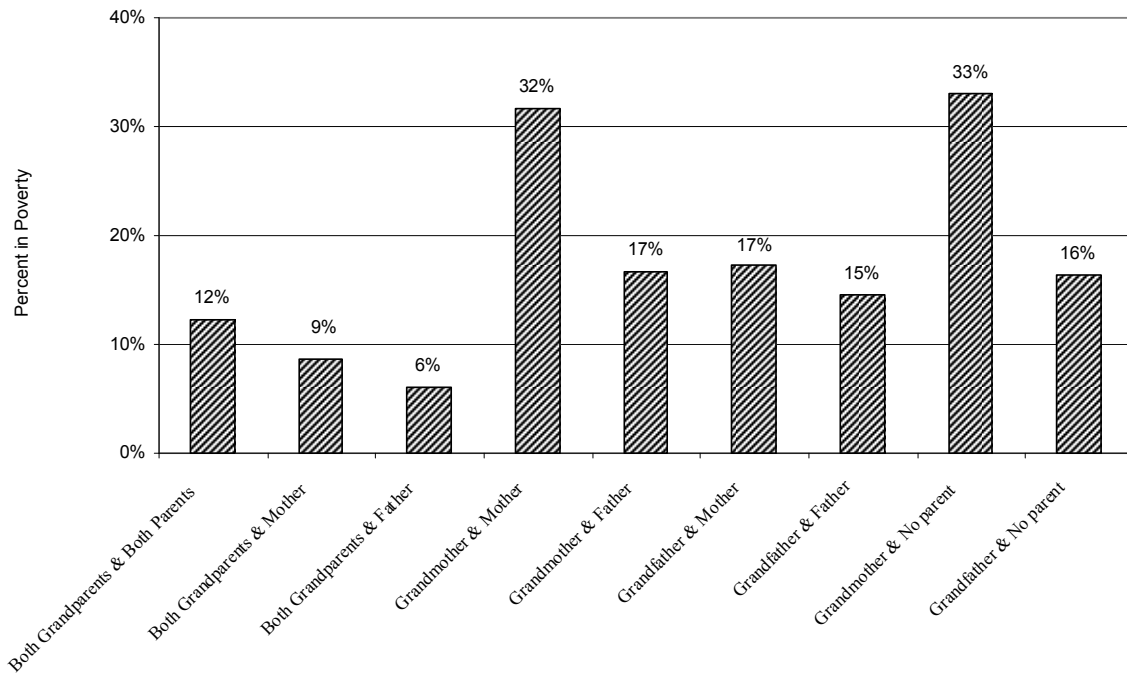
Notes: If more than one grandparent <sup>a</sup>Age of the youngest grandparent; <sup>b</sup>Education level of the grandparent who has completed the most number years in school; <sup>c</sup>At least one grandparent is employed or looking for work; <sup>d</sup>At least one grandparent has a disability (one or more of the following disabilities: work, mobility, personal care, vision, physical, remembering). If more than one parent <sup>e</sup>Education level of the parent who has completed the most number years in school; <sup>f</sup>At least one parent is employed or looking for work; <sup>g</sup>At least one parent has a disability (one or more of the following disabilities: work, mobility, personal care, vision, physical, remembering). <sup>h</sup>White indicates non-hispanic whites and black indicates non-hispanic blacks.



APPENDIX: Descriptive Statistics of Independent and Dependent Variables

Variables	All households		Households with at least one parent	
	Mean (Std.Dev.) or Percentages		Mean (Std.Dev.) or Percentages	
<b>Family Structure</b>				
Both grandparents and both parents	12.7		16.6	
Both grandparents and mother	13.4		17.6	
Both grandparents and father	4.0		5.3	
Both grandparents and no parents	11.3		...	
Grandmother and both parents	14.2		18.6	
Grandmother and mother	19.6		25.7	
Grandmother and father	4.1		5.3	
Grandmother and no parents	10.7		...	
Grandfather and both parents	3.9		5.1	
Grandfather and mother	2.8		3.6	
Grandfather and father	1.6		2.0	
Grandfather and no parents	1.6		...	
Total	100.0		100.0	
<b>Grandparent is responsible for the grandchild (%)</b>	43.0		32.7	
<b>Grandparent's Characteristics</b>				
Age	58.0	(11.7)	58.6	(11.9)
Less than high school	29.1		29.7	
High school diploma	33.2		33.2	
Some college	25.0		23.9	
College degree	8.2		8.7	
Graduate degree	4.5		4.5	
Total	100.0		100.0	
Employed	53.4		51.7	
Unemployed	2.9		2.8	
Not in the labor force	43.7		45.5	
Total	100.0		100.0	
Disability status	41.0		40.6	
<b>Parent's Characteristics</b>				
Less than high school			18.1	
High school diploma			32.9	
Some college			30.4	
College degree			11.8	
Graduate degree			6.7	
Total			100.0	
Employed			17.7	
Unemployed			7.5	
Not in the labor force			74.8	
Total			100.0	
Disability status <sup>§</sup>			13.1	
<b>Poverty Status</b>				
1-49%	5.7		4.6	
50-99%	11.7		10.1	
100-149%	13.6		12.8	
150-199%	12.9		12.6	
200-501%	56.1		59.9	
Total	100.0		100.0	
Percent below poverty-line (99% and below)	17.0		14.7	
<b>Food stamp recipient (%)</b>	26.0		25.6	
<b>Welfare recipient</b>				
Someone in the household receives welfare (%)	8.0		7.4	
At least one grandparent receives welfare (%)	5.0		3.3	
At least one parent receives welfare (%)			5.3	
<b>Race / Ethnicity</b>				
White	44.8		45.9	
Black	21.8		18.5	
Hispanic	24.2		25.4	
Native American	2.0		1.7	
Asian	6.8		8.1	
Other	0.4		0.4	
Total	100.0		100.0	
<b>Residence</b>				
East	15.6		16.5	
Mid-west	16.4		16.1	
South	41.3		39.5	
West	26.7		27.8	
Total	100.0		100.0	
Rural	17.9		16.4	
Urban	75.0		77.0	
Unidentifiable	7.1		6.6	
Total	100.0		100.0	
<b>Age of the grandchild</b>	8.3	(5.4)	8.1	(5.4)
N (unweighted)	73963		56466	
N (weighted by person weight)	7,759,000		5,953,861	

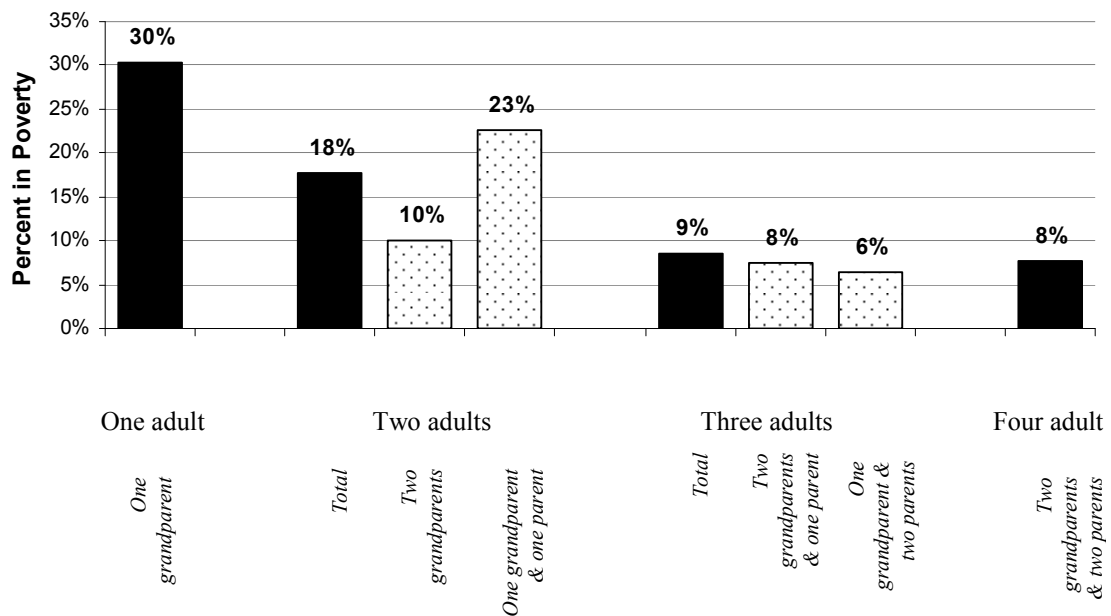
Figure 1: Predicted Poverty for Grandchildren by Family Structures.



Source: American Community Survey, 2007

Notes: Predicted poverty adjusted for grandparental characteristics, parental characteristics (when parent is present), responsibility, race, residence and age of grandchild.

Figure 2: Predicted Poverty for Grandchildren by Number of Adults in the Family.



Source: American Community Survey, 2007

Notes: Predicted poverty adjusted for grandparental characteristics, parental characteristics (when parent is present), responsibility, race, residence and age of grandchild.

