

Transparency:

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

<u>Transparency One - Sample/Data</u>	<u>Transparency Two - Method</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey 1995-1996 • 150 grandparents 	<p>Interviews were transcribed, analyzed, and coded</p>
<p>Interviews 1989 - 1996</p> <p>50 grandparents 25 adult grandchildren raised by grandparents 10 parents</p> <p>U.S. Census Data 1970-1993 U.S. National Health Survey 1988</p>	<p>Surveys were analyzed Data collected in these areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographics • How the situation came about • Stressors • Support Systems • Parenting styles • Concerns • Family dynamics • Joys of grandparents • Lifestyle changes • Grandparent to grandparent advice

Transparency Three - Demographics

	1970 (in thousands)	1993 (in thousands)	% Change
Children in Grandparent-headed households	2,214	3,368 (5.0*)	+52
Parent Present	1,257	2,351 (3.5*)	+87
No Parent Present	957	1,017 (1.5*)	+6
* % of children under 18			

Transparency Four - Grandparent (npp) Caregiver Profile*

Median Age	57	77% between 45-64
		23% over 65
		7% over 75
Race	68%	White
	29%	Black
	2%	Asia/Pacific Islander
	10%	Hispanic
Income	\$18,000	(\$36,000 for parent-headed household)
Education	58%	Did not graduate from high school
	26%	Graduated from high school
	11%	High school plus
	5%	Bachelor's degree or higher
Location	57%	South
	14%	Northeast

	14%	Midwest
	14%	West
* March 1992 Current Population Survey		

<u>Transparency Five - Reasons</u>	<u>Transparency Six - Findings: The Grandparents</u>
Substance abuse	Maternal grandparents were primary caregivers
Parental neglect	Paternal grandparents offered support
Parent unable to care for children	Grandparents regretted parents' unrealized potential
Parent unwilling to care for children	Grandparents wished parents could raise the children
Physical abuse	Grandparents expressed anger over this parenting situation:
Sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandmothers felt guilty
Incarceration, death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandfathers blamed their daughters
<u>Transparency Seven - The Grandparents cont'd</u>	
Grandparents experienced conflict with the parent regarding control of the child.	

Grandparents' main concerns were for the parents and grandchildren - not for themselves	
Grandparents were anxious about when and how the situation would be resolved.	
Grandparents major concerns for their grandchildren were:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the lasting emotional impact this situation would have on their lives • the lack of parent-child bonding • the parents moving in and out of the child's life 	
<u>Transparency Eight - Findings: Parents</u>	<u>Transparency Nine - Findings: Grandchildren</u>
The primary reason parents are in this situation is substance abuse.	Grandchildren did not perceive their situation as different from other children until adolescence.
Fathers were generally uninvolved in their children's lives.	Grandchildren experienced the most emotional turmoil during adolescence.
Mothers experienced conflict with their parents over the control of their own children.	Grandchildren love their grandparents and are grateful to them.
Uninvolved parents felt estranged and disconnected from their children.	Grandchildren developed negative

	feelings for uninvolved parents, especially mothers.
Parents wished they would have raised their children	Grandchildren wished their parents could have raised them.
Parents expressed love for their children and guilt and regret about the situation	
Transparency Ten - Findings: General	
African-American grandparents were three times as likely to be raising their grandchildren as were Caucasian grandparents (12% vs. 4%).	
African-American grandparents saw the church as a source of social and financial support.	
Caucasian grandparents reported greater family disruption.	
Lower socio-economic grandparents reported more financial problems; higher socio-economic grandparents reported more issues regarding time.	
Custody arrangements were varied and problematic.	
Family and friends were the greatest sources of support - not Social Services.	

Transparency Eleven - Grandchildren Raised by Grandparents (npp) (as compared to two parent-headed homes)

Problem	Less Likely	More Likely
Academic (age 5-17)		Repeat grade* Expelled/Suspended Parent-Teacher Conference
Behavior (age 5-17)	Anti-social behavior Headstrong Behavior	Peer Conflict/Social Withdrawal Dependency Receive Treatment
Health (age 0-17)	Accident/Injury/ Poisoning* Chronic Enuresis Frequent Headaches Speech Defects	Chronic Asthma

May be significant

**NOTE: Data from 1987 National Health Interview Survey
Other Categories: Never Married; Mother-No Father; Mother-Stepfather; Formerly Married Mother-No Father; Other**

Transparency Twelve - Themes				
Feelings Toward				
	Seen As	Grandparent	Parent	Grandchildren
Grandparent	Hero/ Heroine	Proud	Anger	Love
Parent	Irrespon sible	Grateful/ Resentful	Anger (guilt) Sad	Estrangement
Grandchild	Victim	Grateful	Anger (resentment)	Confident/ Normal

Transparency Thirteen - Themes cont'd		
	Dream	Conclusion
Grandparent	Parent raise child	Would do it again
Parent	Raise own child	Would do it differently
Grandchild	Live with mother	Grateful to grandparent

Transparency Fourteen - Recommendations	Transparency Fifteen - Grandparent to Grandparent Advice
Kinship Care Provision Law	Realize the commitment
Referral Network Family Counseling Financial Assistance Health Service for Grandchildren Legal Aid Respite Care Support Groups	