

Facts on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

According to the Illinois Department on Aging:

- The average age of becoming a grandparent is about 51 and many are becoming grandparents in their 30's (US Census 2000).
- There are close to 2.5 million households with grandparents raising their grandchildren (US Census 2000).
- Fifty-seven percent of these grandparents are still in the workforce and 17% are living in poverty.
- In Illinois, an estimated 70,000 children are living with a grandparent or relative other than their birth parents.
- The majority of grandparents giving care are single women, ranging in age from 30 to 90, with an average income between \$15,000 and \$25,000.
- This issue has no racial, social, geographic, or economic boundary.

Factors that Contribute to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren:

- Drugs and Alcohol Abuse
- Neglect, Abuse, or Abandonment
- Death
- Unemployment
- Parental Incarceration
- The AIDS Epidemic
- Teen Pregnancy
- Divorce
- Homelessness

Most Grandparent Caregivers are Overwhelmed and Need Help
Contact Illinois Department on Aging
Senior HelpLine: 1.800.252.8966
www.state.il.us/aging or your local Area Agency on Aging

For More Information Contact:

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