

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children



The Brookdale Foundation
Group
www.brookdalefoundation.org



South Dakota

September 2008

The AARP Foundation, The Brookdale Foundation Group, Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare League of America, Children's Defense Fund, and Generations United have partnered to produce fact sheets for grandparents and other relatives raising children that include state-specific data, programs, and public policies. This and other state fact sheets can be viewed and printed from the website at www.grandfactsheets.org. Fact sheets are updated annually. Updates can be sent directly from the website via email. Please write "State Fact Sheets" on your e-mail subject line.

In South Dakota...

- There are 8,349 children living in grandparent-headed households (4.1% of all children in the state). There are another 2,367 children living in households headed by other relatives (1.2% of all children in the state). Of the children living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives in South Dakota, 5,146 are living there without either parent present.
- 4,632 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them [537 in Sioux Falls]: .5% of these grandparents are African American; 1% are Hispanic/Latino; 47% are American Indian or Alaskan Native; 1% are Asian; and 49% are White. 38% of these grandparents live in household without the children's parents present. 71% are under the age of 60; 29% live in poverty.
- Additional data on grandparents raising children are available from the United States Census at <http://factfinder.census.gov> or <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t17.html>.

These data are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau Table DP-2. Profile Selected Social Characteristics: 2000.

Programs That Can Help

Grandparents as Parents Support Group

- Sponsoring Organization:** Southeast Mental Health Center
Contact: Sharon Hall
Phone: 605-361-2645
Service area: Sioux Falls
Services offered:
- Support group facilitated by grandparents and other relatives caring for children
 - Statewide advocacy efforts

Children in Foster Care

Sometimes state child welfare agencies place children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives. Most state agencies call these placements “kinship care.”

Numbers – October 2008

- There were 1,286 children in out-of-home placements under the supervision of the South Dakota Department of Social Services and in Tribal and private agency custody.
- Of these children, 188 are in unlicensed kinship placements and 48 children are placed in a licensed kinship home.

Preferences for kinship care

- South Dakota state procedures require that kin be considered first when an out-of-home placement is sought for an abused or neglected child, either “as temporary placement until the child(ren) can be returned to the home of the parent(s) or guardian(s)” or as “the permanent plan for the child(ren).”
- There is no separate licensing program for kinship foster parents.
- Kin must meet the same licensing standards and training requirements and receive the same foster care payment rate as non-kin foster parents.
- In some cases, kinship foster parents are eligible for one-time funds to purchase beds, dressers, and other items that they need in order to care for the children.
- Contact: Shana Doyle, Program Assistant
 - Phone: 605-773-6834
 - Email: Shana.Doyle@state.sd.us

Subsidized guardianship programs

- South Dakota has a subsidized guardianship program that provides a subsidy to eligible children who are at least twelve years of age and children who have been in foster care for at least six months.
- The subsidy amount is based on the needs of the child, not to exceed the current foster care rate for the child.
- The state must document that the child cannot return home and that adoption is not possible or in the child’s best interest.
- Medical coverage is not provided.
- Contact: Virgena Wieseler, Division Director
 - Phone: 605-773-6834
 - Email: Virginia.Wieseler@state.sd.us
- Contact: Merlin Weyer, Assistant Division Director
 - Email: Merlin.weyer@state.sd.us

Public Benefits

Children are often eligible for state and federal benefits even if their caregivers do not have legal guardianship or custody. These programs include:

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their grandparents and other relative caregivers through South Dakota’s Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

- Contact:
 - Phone: 605-773-4678
 - Web: <http://dss.sd.gov/ea/>

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may also be eligible for food stamps to help meet their children’s food and nutrition needs.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 1-877-999-5612
 - Web: <http://dss.sd.gov/ea/>

Health Insurance

- Grandparents and other relative caregivers may apply for free or low-cost health insurance on behalf of the children they are raising through the South Dakota Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In some cases, caregivers may also be eligible for free coverage under Medicaid.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 1-800-305-3064
 - Web: <http://dss.sd.gov/medicaleligibility/>

Benefits QuickLINK

- Screens you and/or the children you are raising for 15 major public benefits for older adults and families with children
 - Web: www.aarp.org/quicklink

Other Benefits – child care, disabilities, special education, older adult benefits, etc.

- Children’s Defense Fund benefit guides for grandparents and other relatives for information about state and federal benefits
 - Phone: 202-662-3568
 - Web: www.childrensdefense.org (Kinship Care Resource Kit)
- National Council on Aging – Benefits CheckUp www.benefitscheckup.org

State Laws

South Dakota currently does not have any state laws in effect specifically directed at kinship care families.

Disclaimer:

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