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Children Raised by Grandparents: Family and Contextual Influences on Grandchild Well-Being

Abstract

When parents are unable to care for their children, grandparents are increasingly stepping in and assuming responsibility for their grandchildren's care, in what are known as grandfamilies.

This presentation will examine the reasons for grandfamily formation, as well as the unique challenges they face. Research evidence related to grandchild well-being will be presented, with emphasis being given to how grandparent parenting practices, relationships with biological parents, and contextual stressors may influence grandchild well-being. Sources of grandfamily resilience will be addressed, as well as implications for policy and practice.