In 1970, Marian McQuade began a campaign to establish a day to honor grandparents. But such a day was not formally established until 1978, when President Jimmy Carter signed a federal proclamation, approving the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day. Since Sept. 9, 1979, it has been celebrated every year in honor of our nation’s grandparents with whom one in 10 of all children in the U.S. live. The Census Bureau presents updates of statistics about their role and responsibilities in our society.

7.0 million
The number of grandparents whose grandchildren younger than 18 were living with them in 2010.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>, Table B10050

Grandparents as Caregivers

2.7 million
The number of grandparents responsible for the basic needs of one or more grandchildren under 18 living with them in 2010. Of these caregivers, 1.7 million were grandmothers and 1.0 million were grandfathers.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>, Table B10056

580,000
The number of grandparents responsible for grandchildren under 18 and whose income was below the poverty level in the past 12 months compared with the 2.2 million grandparent caregivers whose income was at or above the poverty level.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, <http://factfinder.census.gov/> Table B10059

$45,000
Median income for families with grandparent householders responsible for grandchildren under 18. Among these families, where a parent of the grandchildren was not present, the median income was $33,000.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, <http://factfinder2.census.gov> Table B10010
1.9 million
The number of married (including separated) grandparents responsible for caring for their grandchildren.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>, Table B10057

1.7 million
The number of grandparents responsible for grandchildren who were in the labor force, out of the total 2.7 million who were responsible for grandchildren.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>, Table B10058

670,000
The number of grandparents who had a disability and were responsible for their grandchildren.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>, Table B10052

1.9 million
The estimate of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren who were living in owner-occupied housing, compared with 840,000 that were living in renter-occupied housing.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010, American Community Survey, <http://factfinder.census.gov/>, Table B10061

490,000
The number of foreign-born grandparents responsible for their own grandchildren younger than 18. This contrasts with 2.2 million native-born grandparent caregivers.

2.1 million
The number of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren, who speak only English. Another 270,000 speak another language, but speak English “very well”; 390,000 speak another language and speak English less than “very well.”
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>, Table B10054

Grandchildren

5.4 million
The number of children under 18 living with a grandparent householder in 2010.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>, Table B10001
10%
Percentage of children in the U.S. living with a grandparent in 2010, totaling 7.5 million.
Source: America’s Families and Living Arrangements: 2010,
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2010.html> Table C4

3.2 million
The number of children living with both grandmother and grandfather in 2010.
Source: America’s Families and Living Arrangements: 2010,
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2010.html> Table C4

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau’s Facts for Features series:

- African-American History Month (February)
- Labor Day
- Super Bowl
- Grandparents Day
- Valentine’s Day (Feb. 14)
- Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
- Women’s History Month (March)
- Unmarried and Single Americans Week
- Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/
  St. Patrick’s Day (March 17)
- Halloween (Oct. 31)
- Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)
- American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
- Older Americans Month (May)
- Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
- Cinco de Mayo (May 5)
- Thanksgiving Day
- Mother’s Day
- The Holiday Season (December)
- Father’s Day
- Cinco de Mayo (May 5)
- Back to School (August)
- The Fourth of July (July 4)
- Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)
- Labor Day
- Grandparents Day
- Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
- Unmarried and Single Americans Week
- Halloween (Oct. 31)
- American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
- Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
- Thanksgiving Day
- The Holiday Season (December)

Editor’s note: The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau’s Public Information Office: telephone: 301-763-3030; or e-mail: <pio@census.gov>.