

GrandFacts

A State Fact Sheet for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children



The Brookdale Foundation
Group
www.brookdalefoundation.org



Puerto Rico

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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 Puerto Rico...

- There are 46,422 children living in households headed by grandparents and other relatives with no parents present. 35,097 (76%) of these children are living with their grandparents; 11,325 of these children (24%) are living with other relatives.
- 70,352 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. 26.9% of these grandparents say there is no parent in the household. 44% of grandparents responsible for grandchildren say they have been caring for their grandchildren for 5 years or more; 19.1% less than one year. 66.4% of these grandparents are under the age of 60. 58.3% of these grandparents are living 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>.

Programs That Can Help

AARP Puerto Rico State Office

- Phone:** 787-754-2275 or 1-866-542-8169 (outside San Juan)
Email: aarppr@aarp.org
Web: www.aarp.org/states/pr
Service Area: Territory-wide
Services Offered:
- Information and referral

Family Caregiver Support Program

Sponsoring Organization: Puerto Rico Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs
Phone (Carolina): 787-276-2900, 787-276-2903, 787-276-2912
Phone (Ponce): 1-800-981-7735, 787-290-1235, 787-290-1240, 787-841-1180
Phone (San Juan): 787-721-6121
Service Area: Territory-wide
Services Offered:

- Information on resources available for family members as caregivers
- Educational materials
- Assistance for families in locating private and volunteer institutions that provide services for the well-being of the elderly

Children in Foster Care

Administración de Familias y Niños

Phone: 787-625-4900
Web: <http://www.adfan.gobierno.pr>
Service area: Territory-wide
Services offered:

- Puerto Rico's child welfare agency may place abused or neglected children in foster care with grandparents or other relatives.
- The agency provides financial and other support to grandparents providing care to children under government supervision.

Public Benefits

Financial Assistance

- Cash assistance may be available to children and their parents or other relative caregivers through Puerto Rico's Programa de Ayuda Temporal para Familias Necesitadas (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – TANF)
- Contact:
 - Phone: 787-289-7600 x 2515
 - Web: <http://www.gobierno.pr/adsef/inicio>

Food Stamps

- Kinship care families may be eligible for food stamps to help meet their children's food and nutrition needs.
- Contact:
 - Phone: 787-289-1199
 - Web: <http://www.gobierno.pr/ADSEF/Servicios/AsistenciaNutricional/>
Programa de Asistencia Nutricional (PAN)

Health Care

- Health Insurance Administration - Administración de Seguros de Salud (ASES)
 - Phone: 787-474-3300, 1-800-981-2737

- Web: <http://www.gobierno.pr/ASES/Inicio/default>

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

- Puerto Rico has a series of laws governing various aspects of the grandparent-grandchild relationship. For example, Article 144 of the Civil Code provides, among other things, that in the absence of parents who provide or are able to provide support for their children, the grandparents must do so.
- The following Puerto Rico Supreme Court decisions have established case law relevant to this issue:
 - Elena Margarita Vega v. Manuel Vega Oliver, 85 DPR 675y
 - Piñero Crespo v. Gordillo Gil, 122 DPR 246

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