

HEALTHIER TOGETHER: Valuing Vaccinations Across Generations

Grandparents and grandchildren play important roles in each other's lives.

24%
increase in grandparents since 2001
56 MILLION TO 70 MILLION

10%
of grandparents live with at least one grandchild

81%
of grandparents say they play an important role in their grandchildren's lives

AN EMOTIONALLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP between grandparents and grandchildren is associated with fewer symptoms of depression for both generations

GRANDPARENTS ARE CULTIVATING MORE IN-PERSON OPPORTUNITIES to connect with their grandchildren



Grandparents and other older adults are often caregivers for children.

PART-TIME (CHILD CARE):

4.8 MILLION CHILDREN UNDER 5 are taken care of by grandparents while parents work or go to school

ABOUT 1 IN 4 CHILDREN UNDER 5 are being cared for by grandparents on a regular basis

FULL-TIME (GRANDFAMILIES):

2,519,737 GRANDPARENTS are responsible for grandchildren on a full-time basis

7.7 MILLION CHILDREN live with a relative who is the head of the household

OTHER COMMUNITY SETTINGS:

Older adults also interact with children in families and in community settings such as **SCHOOLS, PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, RECREATION CENTERS, PLACES OF WORSHIP, AND THROUGH COORDINATED INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Vaccines are important for older adults to be healthy providers of care for children.

While all vaccine-preventable diseases can spread among generations, there are some that are more likely to spread between younger and older people, **INCLUDING THE FLU, PNEUMONIA, AND WHOOPING COUGH**

FLU VACCINATION IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE 65 YEARS AND OLDER

because they are at high risk of developing serious complications from flu

VACCINES KEEP OLDER PEOPLE HEALTHY

so that they're better able to provide care and less likely to pass on sickness to children

Immediate or extended family – **PARENTS, SIBLINGS, GRANDPARENTS, COUSINS, AUNTS, AND UNCLAS** – are most likely to expose babies to whooping cough



Here are some ways to make sure older caregivers and children stay healthy in your family and community:



SET AN EXAMPLE.

Influence your peers and others who regularly spend time with children by staying up to date on your vaccines.



SPEAK UP.

Talk with your family about the importance of staying up to date on vaccines at all ages. Visit www.BandageOfHonor.org for tips and conversation-starters.



SHARE YOUR STORY.

Write a letter to the editor or op ed about why it's important for you to stay up to date on vaccines.

References:
U.S. Census Bureau; AARP; Generations United; ZERO TO THREE; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For full citations, visit www.gu.org.

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generations united
Because we're stronger together®