

Well-Being and Mental Health in Grandfamilies: Development, Diversity, and Intersectionality

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Today's Objectives

- Be able to explain how intersections among race, culture, geographical diversity, economic resources and sociopolitical factors influence the well-being and mental health of grandfamilies .
- Evaluate variations in how grandparents perform primary caregiving duties for their grandchildren across sociopolitical contexts.
- Analyze how resilience and needs manifest differently across grandfamilies.
- How does research inform our knowledge of grandfamilies during the COVID 19 pandemic



The Grandfamily Landscape

- **Definitions**
- **Household Structure**
- **Age & Time**
- **Context**
- **Health**



What's a grandfamily?

- Is it a rare family form?

No - The percentage of the population 30 years and older living with grandchildren is around 4%

- Does it have three generations?

Maybe, most common type studied is custodial or skipped-generation.

- Does everyone live in the same house?

Maybe, but not necessarily.

Why are grandparents involved in their children's lives?

Most Vulnerable

Parents absent (death, incarceration, illness)

Parents are working on their own problems

Addiction

Divorce

Finances

Parents are working on the family's future


Education

Military Deployment

Working Abroad

Intergenerational bonds

Least Vulnerable

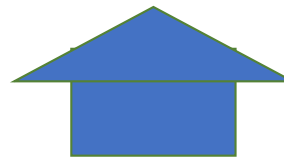


Household Structure



Living arrangements

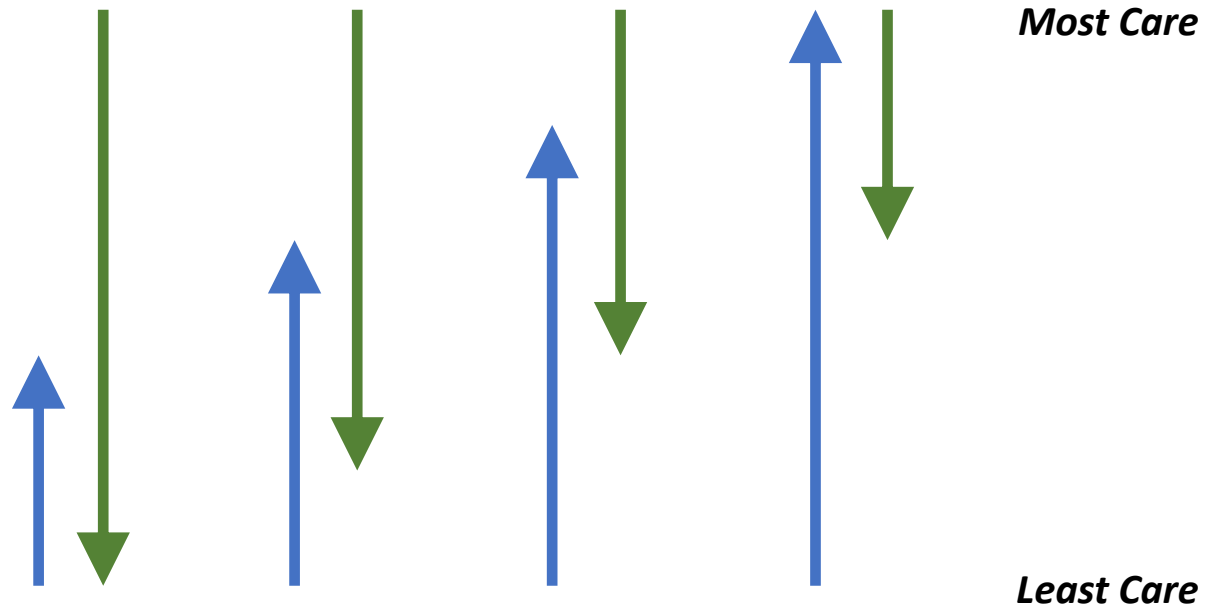
- Same House
 - Skipped Generation:
 - Grandparent(s) and grandchildren
 - Multiple Generations
 - Grandparent(s), Parent(s) and Grandchildren
- Different Houses
 - Often in close proximity
 - Grandparents provide extensive childcare duties



Living arrangements? (pt. 3)

- Direction of Care Provision

Grandparent
Grandchild



Age & Time



Cohort Time

Young
Adulthood

Late
Adulthood

Grandparents

Infancy

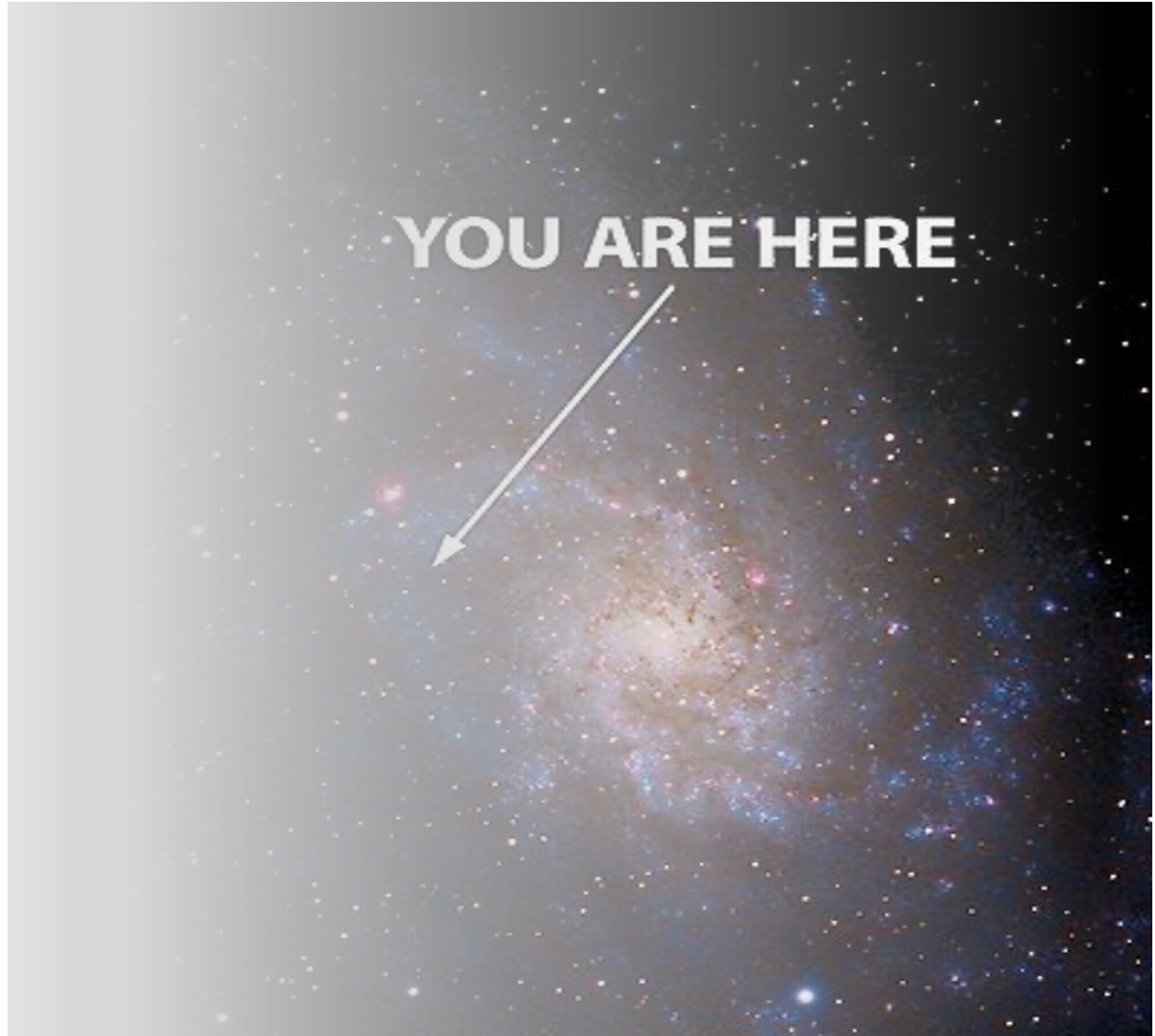
Emerging
Adulthood

Grandchildren



Context

YOU ARE HERE



Cultural and Geographical Context

- Cultural norms about grandparenting
 - Family Cohesion
 - Care Provision
- Normative Shifts
 - Cultural Change
 - Crisis
- Resource Poor Environments
 - Inner Cities
 - Rural Areas



In the Context of COVID-19

- COVID-19 represents an **acute** case of **cumulative vulnerabilities**
- COVID-19 = financial risk + health risk
- Ripple effects