

The MetLife Grandparents Poll

MetLife Mature Market Institute® and Zogby International
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The MetLife Mature Market Institute commissioned Zogby International to conduct a telephone survey to determine if grandparents were contributing financially to their grandchildren's education, and grandparent's attitudes toward their children's child rearing practices. The Mature Market Institute is MetLife's information and policy resource center on issues related to aging, retirement, long-term care and the mature market. Staffed by gerontologists, the Institute provides research, training and education, consultation and information to support MetLife, its corporate customers and business partners.

Of those with grandchildren 21 years or younger, the survey found that 55% contribute in some way to their grandchildren's education, with 21% setting up a fund for college tuition, 5% paying all or part of the tuition expenses, 12% paying for all or part of pre-school through high school expenses, and 24% contributing in other ways. Grandfathers were more likely than grandmothers to set up funds for college tuition (23.8% vs. 19.6%). Younger grandparents (under the age of 70), were more likely than those over 70 to set up funds for college tuition.

In what way do you contribute financially to your grandchildren's education?

I contribute to a fund to set up for their college tuition	21%
I am paying all or part of their college tuition	5%
I am paying all or part of their expenses for pre-school, elementary, middle or high school	12%
Other	24%
Do not contribute/not sure	45%

When asked how much they anticipated contributing annually toward education expenses for their grandchildren, 22% estimate contributing up to \$2,000 annually, 14% said they would contribute between

\$2,000 and \$5,000 each year, 6% will contribute between \$5,000 and \$10,000 annually, 5% will contribute between \$10,000 to \$20,000 annually, and 4% said they will contribute \$20,000 or more annually. Grandparents were also asked the amount they might contribute over their lifetime for the education of all of their grandchildren, and 31% estimated contributing between \$50,000 and \$250,000.

Among the poll's other findings, 35% of the respondents aged 55-69 have at least one living parent, and for those over age 70, 3.5% have at least one living parent. For those in the 25-34 age group, almost all, or 97.9% have one living parent, and 84.1% in the 35-54 age group have at least one living parent. For those in the 35-54 age group, one in five (20.6%) have at least one living grandparent, and for those aged 25-34, 71% have at least one living grandparent.

Do you have at least one living parent?

Age Group	Yes	No
Total	69.6%	30.2%
18-24	98.6%	1.4%
25-34	97.9%	2.1%
35-54	84.1%	15.7%
55-69	35.4%	64.4%
70+	3.5%	96.5%

Grandparents were also asked, “Are your children raising your grandchildren differently than you raised them?” Grandparents were closely divided, with 45% saying that their children are raising their grandchildren as they were raised and 48% saying that they are being raised differently. Of those that responded affirmatively, 54% thought their children were more lenient than they were, 43% felt the parents gave the children fewer household responsibilities, 40% said that they think their kids are able to provide their grandchildren with more opportunities than they could, and 25% think that their children spend less time with their grandchildren doing family activities. Grandparents over age 70 were more inclined to say their children were more lenient (72.6%) than those in the 55-69 age group (45.9%). Grandmothers were more likely than grandfathers (29.2% vs. 19.8%) to say their children spend less time with their grandchildren doing family things.

In what ways are your children raising your grandchildren differently than you raised them?

They are more lenient than I was	54%
They give their children fewer household responsibilities than I did	43%
They're able to provide their children with more opportunities than I could	40%
They spend less time together doing family things	25%
They are stricter than I was	7%
Other/Not Sure	15%

Zogby International conducted interviews of 3,371 adults online, 828 who had grandchildren under the age of 21. The online poll ran from May 15, 2006 through May 16, 2006. The margin of error is +/-1.7%. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups. Slight weights were added to age and gender to more accurately reflect the population.

The **MetLife Mature Market Institute**® is the company’s information and policy resource center on issues related to aging, retirement, long-term care and the mature market. The Institute, staffed by gerontologists, provides research, training and education, consultation and information to support Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, its corporate customers and business partners. MetLife, a subsidiary of MetLife, Inc. (NYSE: MET), is a leading provider of insurance and other financial services to individual and institutional customers.

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