Housing concerns and subjective well-being of grandparents raising grandchildren

Erika Janet Perez

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HOUSING CONCERNS AND SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING OF GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

A Project
Presented to the
Faculty of
California State University,
San Bernardino

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Social Work

by
Erika Janet Perez
June 2008
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GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the housing concerns, ethnicity, and subjective well-being of grandparents raising grandchildren. Participants were recruited from the Kin-Care program of Riverside County, CA. The Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS) was utilized to determine the subjective well-being of the participants, and they also participated in an 18-question structured interview. The 17 participants identified themselves as: 10 Hispanic/Latino, 1 African-American, 5 White/non-Latino, and one answered Other: American with Hispanic and Indian ancestry. The data yielded answers to suggest grandparents raising grandchildren were slightly satisfied with their lives and experience concerns related to finances and housing space. The findings suggest that grandparents raising grandchildren may fare better when involved in a supportive program and receiving public assistance.
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DEDICATION

This is dedicated to: my husband and daughter for being by my side throughout this process, my parents (Dora and Juan) for working hard and going without at times so I and my siblings could have an education, my sister and brothers for always cheering me on, Dr. Lori Phelps for teaching me we are all capable of change, Trisha Terry, Patricia Estell, and the rest of the YAT team for motivating me to apply for “grad school”, and to all devoted to making this world a better place.
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement

The elderly population is the most rapidly growing group in the United States. According to the U.S. Census, there are about 36.8 million people in the population that are 65 years of age and older (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006). Parallel to the rising number of older people are the numbers of families headed by grandparents. In 1970, according to Casper and Bryson, there were about 2.2 million families headed by grandparents (as cited in Bullock, 2005). In 2003, the projected number of grandparents raising their grandchildren was around 4.2 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003). Some explanations for this phenomenon include: parental substance abuse, parental incarceration, parental death, child abuse/neglect, and teenage pregnancy (Bullock, 2004; Fuller-Thompson, Minkler, and Driver, 1997; Roe and Minkler, 1998/1999; Sands and Goldberg-Glen, 2000; and Whitley, et al, 2001).

Attention has been given as to how this living situation affects the grandparents. Some of the outcomes
have included adverse effects on the physical health, mental health, and financial situations of the grandparents (Whitley, et al, 2001; Ross and Aday, 2006; and Goodman, 2002). These findings are indicative of the impact taking care of one’s grandchildren can have on the grandparent. In the current literature, it came to light that one of the stressors care-giving grandparents deal with is little support in housing assistance (Chalfie, as cited in Giarrusso and Silverstein, 1996). Housing is a major concern when caring for children. Grandparents living on a fixed income may not have the monetary means by which to acquire housing that also accommodates grandchildren. It has also been noted that there were instances in which grandparents had lost their subsidized housing benefits due to caring for their grandchildren (Wallace, 2001).

Policy Context

Some of the policies affecting grandparents raising their grandchildren are those dealing with government assistance these caregivers receive or lack. The first policy directly related to the proposed research topic is government housing assistance. One of the articles
reported that an overwhelming amount of grandparents raising grandchildren were not utilizing government assistance (Bachman & Chase-Lansdale, 2005). There could be a number of reasons for this: stigma, shame, and lack of knowledge. To contend with the lack of information that grandparents had in obtaining aid, Congress has been trying to pass the LEGACY (Living Equitably- Grandparents Aiding Children and Youth) bill, a program aimed at supporting this specific population (Hayslip & Kaminski, 2005). To date, the bill has yet to be passed. Also, in 1994, the Grandparent Caregiver Law Center was established at Hunter College in New York (Wallace, 2001). Government assistance is vital for the grandparents to be able to financially care for their grandchildren, and it also lifts some of the stress they encounter.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to explore the relationship between housing concerns and subjective well-being of grandparents raising their grandchildren. About 19% of families headed by grandparents are living in poverty (Kanders, 2002). When looking at the type of
services that would be beneficial for these families, the housing situation is an important matter to consider. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, housing (shelter) is included in the physiological needs category, and is considered essential if further developmental tasks are to be mastered (Maslow as cited in Green, 1943). Housing is one of the basic human necessities needed in order to feel security, which in turn will give structure, so that higher developmental tasks may be met.

The Kin-Care program of Riverside County is a community resource for kin-care providers, mainly grandparents raising their grandchildren. It is a county program run by the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services and the Riverside County Office on Aging. There are two geographic locations this program works out of: Hemet and Perris. At Kin-Care they offer support in the form of groups that meet weekly; respite when the staff take the children on outings; and referrals for other community resources. Case management and therapeutic counseling are also offered to consumers. Kin-Care currently offers support groups in both English and Spanish. The study included consumers of the Kin-Care
program of Riverside County, CA as research participants. This study is an exploratory study utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods. Participants were given a structured questionnaire at the Kin-Care office, and were recruited via the support groups and referrals from the program’s six resource counselors. Consumers of the Kin-Care program were compensated for their voluntary participation, in the form of two $2 gift certificates.

Significance to Social Work

With the rising numbers of families headed by grandparents, there appears to be urgency for services aimed at these families. A few steps have been made toward help for families in this type of situation, yet there is more that can be done. For example, in Boston, MA the first multi-generational housing development was set-up in 1998 (Kanders, 2002). It was able to house a maximum of 26 families. While this housing development seems to be a progressive step in intervention for these families, 26 families is still a beginning. There are families headed by grandparents all over the United States, which are barely able to make their housing payment.
This study has the potential to benefit grandparents raising grandchildren and their grandchildren. Understanding the diversity in Riverside County's grandparent caregiver population is a key component in program planning for the population. Grandparents raising grandchildren and their grandchildren may benefit from services that might arise from the utilization of the study's findings. According, to Chalfie, housing is one of the issues that need to be addressed for future research (Chalfie, as cited in Giarrusso & Silverstein, 1996). Riverside County, which includes the Kin-Care program, might benefit from this type of study by obtaining some first-hand information about its' clients. The study could add knowledge to the field of Social Work by addressing the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren. The indirect beneficiaries of this study were the grandchildren. Service providers might become more knowledgeable about the need for adequate housing for these types of families in Riverside County, CA.
CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

Current literature examining different aspects of grandparent care-giving focuses attention on the adverse affects that this grandparent caregiving on grandparents (Jendrek, 1993; Flint & Perez-Porter, 1997). Available literature centers on: the cultural implications of grandparent care-giving (Goodman & Silverstein, 2002; Gibson, 2005), housing issues (Fuller-Thompson & Minkler, 2007), and on the policies that impact grandparent-headed families (Jefferson-Smith & Beltran, 2003; Berrick, Needell, & Minkler, 1999).

Grandparent Care-giving

Crumbley and Roberts (1997) provide a brief overview of kinship care, in which they describe kinship care as “the full-time parenting of children by kin (foreward)”. They point out some of the grief, loss, and anger issues that may be experienced by both the children and the kin-care providers. They list suggestions for assessment, intervention, and case management. They also state the benefits of placing children with kin, citing the Child
Welfare League of America's list of benefits to the children. They give a brief explanation of the policies surrounding the issue, and present several cultural and race factors. They discuss co-dependency concerns in families in which the children have been placed out of the home due to incarceration or drug issues. The authors describe alignments and enabling that can occur within these families, and stress the need for assessing for those concerns. They present a general introduction to kinship care and the needs and concerns of these families. A drawback of the article is that the authors briefly examine the topics they want to cover, and do not go into details. They do a remarkable job of citing their sources, which could help professionals obtain more specific information on certain issues discussed. It appears that Crumbley and Roberts are in agreement that kinship care is a valuable resource for child welfare workers placing children in out-of-home care. They suggest the possibility of implementing more programs to support these types of families and point out that more clear data needs to be gathered about these types of families.
Roe and Minkler (1998/1999) conducted a literature review on grandparent caregiving. They found that there was a 44% increase in the incidence of grandparent caregiving between 1980 and 1990 (Kornhaber and Casper & Brown, in Roe and Minkler, 1998/1999). Roe and Minkler state the reasons for the rise in grandparent caregiving are substance abuse, policy issues, parental imprisonment, AIDS, and the overall rate of poverty in the U.S. (George, Wulkzen & Harden, NIDA, Greenfield and Minor Harper, Burnette, and Minkler in Roe and Minkler, 1998/1999). They listed the challenges grandparent caregivers face, which are: health and access to healthcare, social isolation and alienation, and financial problems. They also discussed the interventions and resources available to grandparent caregivers, which are support groups, local resource centers, and policy initiatives that include input from the grandparents. Roe and Minkler offer some suggestions for future programming, which includes a housing and service center that is opening in Boston, MA. They also discuss the utilization of technology (the internet), supportive policies, and the need for intergenerational services. Lastly, they included a summary of information that
impacts this field of study. They describe the Supreme Court case of Youkim vs. Miller, 1979, which has impacted financial resources for grandparent caregivers. This ruling is cited as a potential explanation for the rise in formal kinship caregiving in the 1980’s.

Caputo’s (2000) research on grandparent-headed households drew its sample from a longitudinal study, which spanned from 1967 - 1992 (National Longitudinal Survey of Labor Market Experiences), and made use of the qualitative questionnaire method. They found that out of the over 5,000 women that were part of the survey sample, 15.3% (n=776) resided with at least one grandchild in a low-income family. Also, more than half (64 percent) of the grandmothers who ever resided with their grandchildren were Black and considered a low-income family (Caputo, 2000). They suggest that grandparent-headed households are more common among minority families, and that they are of lower socio-economic status. The main limitation of this study was that it only vaguely distinguished between a co-resident grandmother and a care-giving grandmother. They only vaguely describe the population of grandparents raising grandchildren. The two different groups they
compared were those grandparents that live with at least one grandchild in the home and those that have actually, at some point in their lives, been the primary caregivers of their grandchildren.

Well-Being of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Minkler, et al (1993) shared the early results of a study on grandparent caregiver support. Their purpose was to explore the hypothesis that when the grandparents take on the role of caregiver they experience an increase in emotional, physical, and economic vulnerability (Burton & Dilworth-Anderson and Minkler & Roe and Price, in Minkler, et al, 1993). The project was named the Brookdale Grandparent Caregiver Information Project and was established in October, 1991. The purpose of the project was to investigate the types of community interventions available for these families, and to kindle the sharing of information and development of supportive programs. The project consisted of faculty and students from the University of California, Berkley. They recruited supportive programs through a form of marketing that incorporated newspaper ads and clippings and a snowball effect. The researchers then surveyed 124
supportive programs for grandparent caregivers in the nation. Of those 124 supportive programs, the data revealed that 91 of them are support groups for grandparent caregivers; 2 are informational and referral services; 24 are comprehensive programs; 1 is a respite service; and 6 are coalitions. The findings suggested that lack of funding and a lack of transportation are the main complaints that the supportive programs had. Minkler, et al, concluded that an increase in supportive measures for the interventions that are available to grandparent caregivers is needed.

Much literature is being generated about grandparent caregiving, however, not much is being written about how to best serve these families. Minkler, et al, point out that barriers to supportive services for these families include funding for the programs themselves and transportation of grandparents to the supportive programs. The findings are very important to helping this population. A useful addition to the study might have been a survey evaluating how the supportive program participants view the services offered.

Landry-Meyer’s (1999) study demonstrates that grandparents have unmet needs consisting of identifiable
support groups, counseling services, and respite. She describes some intervention strategies that may help alleviate some of the stress that grandparents raising grandchildren may endure. The main issues identified include: a need for recreational and social activities; health needs of the grandchild; health needs of the grandparent; child care; consistent and equitable treatment of the family; need to be able to implement parental authority; and permanency planning. Landry-Meyer conducted a secondary data analysis of telephone interviews conducted by the Institute of Policy Research (IRP) at the University of Cincinnati for the Ohio Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force. The article yielded information about service delivery to grandparents raising grandchildren. Children and the caretakers have many needs that must be taken into consideration when planning for services and Landry-Meyer (1999) made suggestions for attending to those needs. For instance, she suggests more intergenerational activities that include both the grandparents and the children (Family Relations, 384). One of the main drawbacks of the study is that resources are not cited for the suggestions she proposes. Also, Landry-Meyer does not address the
issue of diversity within her study. She points out the statistics of grandparents of different ethnicities, but does not incorporate them into her suggestions very clearly.

Kelley, et al (2000), surveyed 102 grand- and great-grandmothers involved in a supportive community program and described the stresses experienced by them. They found grandmothers were experiencing a lack of social support, a lack of resources, physical health problems, and had higher levels of distress. They suggested there were higher levels of psychological distress experienced by grandparent caregivers than by non-caregiving grandparents. The sample was entirely Caucasian, which limited the generalizability of the study (Kelley, S., et al, 2000). The study was important because it revealed analytical data about an existing supportive program for grandparents raising grandchildren.

Sands and Goldberg-Glen (2000) found that being a relatively young grandparent, caring for a grandchild with psychological and/or physical problems, and having low family cohesion were factors associated with the primary care-giving grandparents’ stress (Sands and
Goldberg-Glen, 2000). Their study used a qualitative questionnaire in which participants and interviewers were paired according to their ethnicities. They found that grandmothers were more likely to experience stress if they had little family cohesion, a grandchild with physical and/or psychological problems, and few resources.

Bachman and Chase-Lansdale (2005) discussed the positive role financial government assistance plays in the daily survival of grandparents raising grandchildren. They analyzed data to show grandmothers were at a higher risk of being economically disadvantaged, had higher levels of psychological distress, and more physical health problems than poor mothers. The method utilized for the purpose of this study was structured questionnaire. They also incorporated a sample from a longitudinal three-city study entitled, “The Welfare, Children, and Families Study”. Participants were from Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio and were studied in pairs of one child and the grandmother or mother of the family. The results indicated that the group of grandmothers were more likely than the group of poor mothers to seek assistance through Temporary Aid to Needy
Families (TANF) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Little mention was made of ethnic diversity in this study, although a majority of participants were Hispanic/Latino and African-American.

Housing

Fuller-Thompson and Minkler (2007) explored the well-being of grandparent caregivers who are renters. They obtained their findings by utilizing an existing data set, focusing on a specific sample (grandparent caregiver renters), and administering a survey. They found that one-third of the grandparent caregivers were spending at least 30% of their monthly income on rent and 23% were receiving some type of governmental housing assistance (Fuller-Thompson & Minkler, 2003). This suggests more needs to be done to help those grandparents who are spending a large amount of their income on housing to obtain some housing assistance in the future. The main drawback was Fuller-Thompson and Minkler's choice to only include in the sample grandparent caregivers that are renters. It would have been interesting to see how their findings would have looked
had they used all grandparent caregivers and not just renters.

Kolomer and Lynch (2007) conducted a study about the housing challenges that grandparent caregivers face. The method used was a semi-structured telephone interview. They interviewed one staff member at 8 different programs that provide (or will be providing) housing services for grandparent caregivers. The information gathered included inadequate size of the grandparent caregivers’ residence, overcrowding, unsafe neighborhoods, grandparent caregivers’ inability to relocate due to finances, the presence of children violating lease agreements, the safety hazards in the residences, and housing inadequately equipped for persons with physical challenges (Kolomer & Lynch, 2007). They also found that even under the Fair Housing Act grandparents may still face evictions (Fuller-Thompson & Minkler in Kolomer & Lynch, 2007). They listed the federal housing options currently available to grandparents raising grandchildren, which include Section 8 vouchers, Hope VI, the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), and the LEGACY bill. A common barrier found among the eight housing programs was a need for further development
and under-funding of the programs (Kolomer & Lynch, 2007). Noteworthy was that 60% of grandparents raising grandchildren are living in poverty and do not receive housing subsidies (Fuller-Thompson and Minkler, 2003). They were only able to find eight housing programs in the nation especially for grandparents raising grandchildren. This suggests efforts are needed to address the housing concerns of grandparent caregivers. Another area of interest to California Social Workers is that the programs found for the study are only in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Ohio, Oklahoma, Michigan, Maryland, and Illinois. The housing needs of grandparent caregivers that were discussed by Kolomer and Lynch include further exploration of the legal status of grandparent custody as well as the emotional and physical health of the grandparents.

Sirgy and Cornwell (2002) conducted a study about the effect that neighborhood features have on quality of life. They incorporated the three variables of economic features, social features, and physical features that are common channels of gathering neighborhood satisfaction. Using those variables they investigated three current models of analyzing neighborhood satisfaction. They
utilized mail-in surveys to conduct their research in 12 counties in the state of Virginia. Their findings revealed that only one of the current models of neighborhood satisfaction had significant values. Their response rate (of 13%) may draw skepticism regarding the validity of their findings. Also, their sample covered only one area of the country, which limits generalizability. Overall, their study had an important impact on research on housing satisfaction because it outlined economic, social, and physical factors as three of the key factors of neighborhood satisfaction.

Policy Issues

Berrick, Needell, and Minkler (1999) addressed the role governmental assistance plays in the lives of grandparents raising grandchildren. They gathered data using the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System and surveyed 10% of the 13 million Medi-Cal participants. They found that the number of older caregiver households receiving Cal-WORKS benefits more than doubled from 1990 to 1996 (Berrick, et al, 1999). Berrick, et al describe the manner in which grandparent caregivers receive government assistance. One of their significant findings is the
difference in time-limited restraints between formal and informal care providers. They described one of the limitations of the study as not being able to distinguish between kin caregivers and grandparent caregivers. They also noted that the findings could not account for families that were receiving child-only grants.

Jefferson-Smith and Beltran (2003) investigated federal policies positively affecting grandparents raising grandchildren. They provided information based on the 2000 Census data, and found that grandparents raising grandchildren may face housing problems after they become caregivers (Mullen as cited in Jefferson-Smith & Beltran, 2003). They found a proposed piece of legislation that, if passed, would have benefitted grandparents raising grandchildren. LEGACY (Living Equitably: Grandparents Aiding Children and Youth) was introduced to Congress in 2002. It would have allotted money for the replication of housing programs (like Grandfamilies home in Boston, MA) which would be built specifically for families headed by grandparents (Smith & Beltran, 2003).
Ethnicity

Goodman and Silverstein’s (2002) study focused on cultural issues and the well-being of grandparents raising grandchildren. They used a structured questionnaire design and interviewed over 1,000 (1,058) grandmother caregivers, including 360 African American, 354 Latino, and 344 White participants. They found no significant differences in age, health, and poverty status of the grandparent caregiver or in the well-being of White and Latino families. The main limitation of this study was once again the lack of generalizability.

Goodman and Silverstein raise the question whether one ethnicity experiences grandparent caregiving over another one, and found that the statistics for the ethnicities were almost equally represented.

Fuller-Thompson and Minkler (2007) conducted a study based on the reports of Census 2000 Supplemental Survey. The researchers compared Central American grandparent caregivers with Central American non-caregiving grandparents. They utilized a logistic regression model to compare the two samples. They found that 1 in 20 Central Americans grandparents, aged 45 and older, was raising his/her grandchildren (Fuller-Smith & Minkler,
2007). They then analyzed their findings further, and named subcategories of grandparent caregivers. They found that 22.8% of the caregiving grandparents were raising grandchildren without the parents also residing in the home. They also found that 29.1% of the caregiving grandparents had at least one child of their own, under the age of 18, also living in the home. Fuller-Thompson and Minkler raise the question of the incidence of grandparent caregivers that are simultaneously raising children under the age of 18.

Theories

Theories that can be applied to the study are related to the variables of well-being, family relations, and life-span. Stress Theory, introduced by Lazarus, is defined as the context of transactions between the environment, which makes demands, and how a person responds (Lazarus and Folkman, 1984). Becoming a parent again, in one’s later years, is a huge stressor. When this stress is intermingled with some of the issues of older adulthood, such as physical health decline and lower household income, a higher degree of stress can arise. The stress theory explains some of the reasons
grandparents raising grandchildren need community services. Being a parent is stressful enough, and undertaking the job in one's later years can be emotionally and physically overwhelming.

Merton's Role Theory also applies to work with grandparents raising grandchildren. Role theory suggests that as social beings we are put into roles and those roles define us as people (Merton, 1957). Re-entering the parental role can be conceptualized as both rewarding and punishing to elders. The reward is in the rejuvenated sense of connectedness an elder person may experience when being a grandparent caregiver. The "punishment" point of view may stem from the mental and physical demands that raising grandchildren presents to grandparents. Dealing with the daily struggles of raising an adolescent can take a strenuous toll on an elderly grandparent's well-being. Society is ever-evolving, and the issues they dealt with when their children were young, may be very different from what their grandchildren are dealing with in the present. Communication and parenting styles that may have been useful in the past may need to be adjusted for children of the present. Being a parent, as opposed to a
grandparent, is a role that beginning grandparent caregivers may struggle with.

Gubrium’s Symbolic Interaction Theory is a third theory that applies to this study. It suggests that the interactions (encounters) between the environment and the individuals in it can significantly affect an individual’s aging processes (Gubrium, 1973 in Hooyman and Kiyak, 2005). Further, the type of environment people place themselves in, or are placed in, has an instrumental role in people’s aging process. This theory suggests both the benefits and consequences of parenting a grandchild. A benefit to grandparent caregivers is that having young people in their homes and participating in the activities involved with young people can be healthy for older people. Grandparent caregivers may also become physically and cognitively healthier too. One of the drawbacks of being a grandparent raising a grandchild is it puts physical, financial, and emotional strain on someone that may either already be retired or ready to retire.

The fourth theory that applies to this study is Social Exchange Theory. The authors of the theory suggest that interactions existing between older people and
others determine personal satisfaction (Bengston et al, 1997 in Hooyman and Kiyak, 2005). It is very possible that the responsibility that child rearing in older age brings can have benefits to both the older and younger persons. Older people gain the benefit of keeping their minds and bodies busy watching the children, and the grandkids benefit from having a family member to show care for them and give unconditional love.

Finally, when discussing grandparents raising grandkids, Developmental Theory is of great significance. Generativity, a term introduced by this theory, is the seventh stage in life within which an adult is able to look outside himself/herself and care for the next generation(s) (Erikson and Erikson, 1987). Grandparent caregivers have a chance to involve themselves in the experience of raising another child and caring literally for the next generation. The knowledge they pass on to their grandchildren can be as simple as daily living tasks or as complex as a skill or trade. A challenge to the arrangement is that grandparents may not have the same amount of income to raise their grandkids as they did when they raised their own kids. The amount of funds provided by retirement pensions and/or Social Security
are often insufficient in terms of the daily living expenses of grandparents raising grandchildren.

Conclusion

CHAPTER THREE

METHODS

Introduction

This section contains an overview of the research methods that were utilized in the study. Content within this section includes: the study design, sampling methods, data collection process and instruments, procedures, efforts to protect human subjects, and approach to data analysis.

Study Design

The aim of the study was to explore the relationship between housing concerns and subjective well-being of grandparents raising grandchildren. The study was qualitative in nature, and utilized a 5-item Likert-scale questionnaire to determine subjective well-being as well as an 18-question structured interview.

The research method utilized in the study was a structured interview. This type of exploratory design served to describe the characteristics of the population and gave a better understanding of the housing concerns of grandparents raising their grandchildren. The structured questionnaire served to give the researcher
in-depth, detailed information (Grinnell & Unrrau, 2005). Data was collected through the use of an existing scale and of structured, open- and close-ended questions. The structured interview consisted of 18 questions [Appendix A]. The questions pertained to demographic information, caregiving of grandchildren, housing perception, and public assistance. The scale utilized to measure subjective well-being was the Satisfaction with Life Scale and consisted of 5 questions [Appendix B]. The answers to the scale were calculated and the participant was assigned a score to determine subjective well-being.

One of the limitations of the structured questionnaire design is the possibility some answers were skewed due to social desirability on the participants' part. The participant may have felt compelled to answer questions in a manner that is not representative of his/her true feelings, due to participants' self-imposed pressure to give a certain answer. Also, due to comfort level or time constraints on the participant's part, he or she may have not given complete answers. The third limitation of the study design was the inability to obtain thoroughly in-depth information. The participants were asked to answer the questions on the scale section
on their own and there was no room for interpretation of this measurement.

The research study question is: What, if any, is the relationship between housing concerns and subjective well-being among grandparents raising grandchildren?

Sampling

The sample for the study was recruited through the Riverside County Kin-Care program, located in Hemet, CA. Clients of the Kin-Care program are kinship caregivers, consisting mainly of grandparents raising grandchildren. Participants were recruited through the support groups that meet in Hemet and in Perris, and through referrals from the program's resource counselors. Participants were grandparents raising their grandchildren, with no parents in the home. The sample consisted of 17 grandparents. In order to ensure sufficient participants were recruited from the Kin-Care program, all support group members were asked to participate in the study and resource counselors asked some of the grandparents on their caseloads if they would like to participate. Due to time constraints, participants were selected through the use of non-probability sampling. The sample was further obtained
through implementation of availability sampling. There was no systematic sampling technique and the sample was readily available (Grinnell & Unrau, 2005). The only criteria for the sample was that participants needed to be grandparents raising grandchildren and there must be no birth parents present in the home. Participants were compensated for their contribution to the study, via Baskin-Robbins gift cards in $2 increments.

Data Collection and Instruments

Data was collected from clients of the Kin-Care program, under the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services. Data was collected via structured interviews with 17 participants. The first part consists of demographic data collection, which will include ethnicity. The second part of the study was open-ended questions on housing concerns, and the third part were questions pertaining to the Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS). The first and second parts of the survey consist mainly of nominal and ordinal questions.

The SWLS scale to measure subjective well-being was designed by Deiner, Emmons, Larson and Griffith (1985). It consists of five Likert-type ordinal questions.
According to the Center for Outcome Measurement in Brain Injury, the SWLS holds criterion validity greater than .60, and an alpha coefficient equaling .87 (Corrigan, J., 2000). It can be easily replicated and administered to people of different ethnicities.

**Procedures**

Participants were solicited through an information session about the study and referrals of the program case managers. The researcher attended three support groups and introduced the study to the potential participants. Flyers describing the study were also posted in the Kin-Care offices [Appendix C], and resource counselors were asked to recruit clients on their caseloads. The incentive was 2 two-dollar gift certificates to Baskin-Robbins® ice cream parlor.

Seventeen participants were recruited for the study. Upon agreement to participate each participant received an Informed Consent document to read and sign [Appendix D]. Structured interviews were conducted at the Hemet and Perris Kin-Care offices (1075 N. State St., Hemet CA and 371 Wilkerson Ave., suite L, Perris, CA 92570), where it was more comfortable and convenient for the participants.
Upon completion of each structured interview participants were given a Debriefing Statement [Appendix E] and a small compensation.

Protection of Human Subjects

All measures were taken to ensure that participants in the study experienced no harm. This protection included ensuring/maintaining confidentiality and anonymity of all participants. A list of all possible participants and any data were kept in a locked file drawer. Research participants were not asked to give any identifying information; such as name, address, or telephone number. Furthermore, participants were informed of any risks and given appropriate resources if needed. Finally, participants were informed of their right to withdraw from the study and that participation was completely voluntary.

Data Analysis

Data for the study was calculated by utilizing a qualitative method. For the Satisfaction With Life Scale, each answer was analyzed and assigned a score. The data was analyzed by using the scoring method introduced by Deiner, et al (1985). Five questions make up the
Satisfaction With Life Scale and each question is worth seven points. There are 35 possible points, and the higher the score the more satisfaction with life a person experiences. Deiner, et al describe the manner in which satisfaction with life determines one's emotional well-being.

For the qualitative portion of the study, data was transcribed and coded before being analyzed. Constructs that came to light included the need for an expansion of the resources available to grandparents raising grandchildren and a great need for social support for grandparents raising grandchildren.

Summary

In summary, an exploratory, qualitative data analysis was incorporated in the study. Data was collected by the recruitment of participants of the Riverside County Kin-Care program. Participants were given a Consent Form and the purpose of the study was explained to each participant. The participants were also interviewed in-person, and given a Debriefing Statement. Participants of the study received an incentive, in the
form of two $2 gift certificates, upon completion of the structured interview.
CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

Presentation of the Findings

The Satisfaction With Life Scale (SWLS) portion of the study was in Likert-scale form. There were five questions, and each question was to be assigned a number between 1 (Strongly Disagree) and 7 (Strongly Agree). For the purpose of this study, each questionnaire was scored from 1-35; the higher the score the more satisfaction the participant experienced. For the statement, "In most ways my life is close to my ideal", participants had a range of answers from 2-7. One participant answered with a 2 (disagree), one participant answered with a 3 (slightly disagree), four participants answered with a 4 (neither agree nor disagree), five answered with a 5 (slightly agree), three answered with a 6 (agree), and three answered with a 7 (strongly agree).

For the statement, "the conditions of my life are excellent", the answers ranged from 1-7. One participant answered with a 1 (strongly disagree), one participant answered with a 2 (disagree), five answered with a 4 (neither agree nor disagree), four with a five (slightly
agree), three with a 6 (agree), and three with a 7 (strongly agree).

For the statement, “I am satisfied with my life”, participants answers again ranged from 1-7. One participant answered with a 1 (strongly disagree), one answered with a 2 (disagree), one with a 3 (slightly disagree), seven with a 5 (slightly agree), three with a 6 (agree), and four with a 7 (strongly agree).

For the statement, “so far I have gotten the important things I want in life”, the answers ranged from 2-7. One answered with a 2 (disagree), one answered with a 3 (slightly disagree), two with a 4 (neither agree nor disagree), four with a 5 (slightly agree), three with a 6 (agree), and six with a 7 (strongly agree).

For the final statement in the SWLS, “if I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing”, participant answers ranged from 2-7. Two answered with a 2 (disagree), three answered with a 3 (slightly disagree), two with a 4 (neither agree nor disagree), three with a 5 (slightly agree), five with a 6 (agree), and two with a 7 (strongly agree).

The overall scores of each participant's SWLS varied greatly. The lowest score was a 9 (one participant), the
median score was 21.5, the most frequent score was 23 (three participants), and the highest score was 35 (one participant).

The structured interview portion of the study had the following findings. The first question was “what is your age?”. The age range for the participants was from 40-73 years. One participant was 40, one was 49, two were 52, one was 53, one was 55, two were 57, one was 58, one was 61, two were 62, one was 65, one was 67, two were 70, and one was 73. The median age of the participants was 56.5, with the most frequent ages being 52, 57, 62, and 70.

The second question was “what is your gender?”. 16 participants were Female and 1 was Male.

The third question was “how long have you been raising your grandchildren?”. The participant answers ranged from 1-27 years. The participant that has had grandchildren for one year has had the grandchildren at different intervals in their lives, but the care has been constant for one year. One of the themes in the answers for this question was that four participants have cared for their grandchildren at different intervals in the childrens’ lives.
The fourth question was "how many grandchildren are you raising?". The answers were between one and five grandchildren. There was one exception in that one of the participants was raising two grandchildren and two nieces/nephews. There were two participants that have been raising five grandchildren, but whom have three of them currently in their care. One of the responses drew a response that the three childrens' mother was incarcerated for using drugs, and that was the reason for grandparent caregiving.

The fifth question pertained to ethnicity, and was "what ethnicity are you?". To this question, there were five possible answers, they were: African-American, Latino/Hispanic, White/non-Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Other. The participants answered in the following manner: one African-American, ten Hispanic/Latino, five White/non-Latino, and one Other: "American with Hispanic and Indian ancestry".

The sixth question was "what is your marital status?". The possible answers for this question were: single (never married), married, widowed, divorced/separated, and co-habitating. Two participants answered single (never married), seven answered married -
with one participant being on his/her second marriage and previously widowed, three answered widowed, and five answered divorced/separated.

The seventh question was "what type of home do you live in?". The answers for this question were noted as follows: one answered apartment, eleven answered house, and five answered mobile home. The eighth question was "how many bedrooms do you have?". Four participants answered two bedrooms, ten answered three bedrooms, two answered four bedrooms, and one answered five bedrooms.

The ninth question was "do you feel comfortable with the amount of space your home has, why or why not?". For this question there were two possible answers, "satisfied" or "unsatisfied". There were nine participants that indicated being satisfied with the space in their home. They also added statements that included: "it's big and I like it", "we each have our own room, and there are two bathrooms", "because it's just the two of us and there's 1400 square feet, and I own it and it's on it's own property", and "yea, I guess, I would like to have a toy room but that's not a necessity", and "an extra bathroom would be nice".
There were eight participants that reported not being satisfied with the amount of space in their homes. Some of the reasons included: "because they've [the grandchildren] gotten older and they require more privacy", "I'm looking for more space which is difficult cause I'm on section-8", not big enough for all of us", "I could use another room", "because I feel I could be more comfortable with one or two more bedrooms and sometimes I think it would be nice to have a gameroom or a T.V. room for the boys", and "I don't have privacy and I don't like the living conditions sometimes, I have a roommate to help with the costs but wish I didn't need her here".

The tenth question was "did this [the level of comfort with the amount of space in the home] change after you began caring for your grandchildren?". To this question, eight respondents described experiencing no changes in the space in their home upon taking on the care of their grandchildren. Out of those respondents, three reported having adult children and different grandchildren living with them before the current grandchildren resided in the home. Three other respondents appeared to have no answer to this question,
and made the following comments: "well it was more joyful in the home", "not really", and "not all the time". Six respondents stated that there was a change in the amount of space in the home. Some of the comments of these respondents' answers included: "it's not the same as having your own space and privacy", "I took the library down so they could have privacy", and "we were more sufficient before they came".

The eleventh question was "what do you like about where you live?". The range of answers had themes of being content with neighborhood, satisfaction with space and price, and being unsatisfied. Two of the respondents were unsatisfied with their homes. For example, one answer was "not really but it's better than the last neighborhood we lived in". There were six respondents that were content with the space and price of their homes. Two comments that reflected this answer was "I got a lot of space outside for the kids to play", and "it's paid for and each of the girls has her own room".

The twelfth question was "is your housing payment affordable?". All respondents stated that their housing payment was affordable. Three of the respondents reported that the Section 8 housing program was a help to them.
The thirteenth question was “did the affordability change when you began caring for your grandchildren?”. There were three answers for this question. They were yes, no, and somewhat. Three interviewees reported somewhat of a change. One stated, “a little but not really because we now get child support from their father”. Seven respondents stated there was a change in housing affordability once they began caring for their grandchildren. One said: “of course, I could be in a senior place for about half of what I am paying now”. Another answer was “yes, well in everything, the more they grow the more I have to spend”. There were seven respondents indicating that no change in housing affordability occurred. A common theme was the impact of retirement and the need for public assistance to off-set the cost of housing. One interviewee said, “because the kids are considered to be in foster care it really helps” to receive some financial assistance.

The fourteenth question was “do you receive any public assistance with your housing?”. The interviewees were placed into three categories for this answer. The first group was those receiving housing assistance; which consisted of Section 8 housing (a federal voucher program
for low-income families). This group consisted of four respondents. The second group consisted of six interviewees, and were participants receiving other forms of aid, which included foster care payments, adoption assistance, Social Security Income, and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). One interviewee said, with some frustration, "Riverside County is barely going to start giving me foster care payments". The group that denied receiving housing assistance consisted of seven interviewees. One described not receiving assistance as "not even Medi-Cal, nothing".

The fifteenth question was "if you answered yes to the previous question, is the assistance sufficient?". There were four possible answers for this question; "satisfied", "question not applicable", "somewhat satisfied", and "completely satisfied". There were four respondents somewhat satisfied with the assistance they receive. One of the respondents stated, "with Riverside County it's lower than Los Angeles County. The rate in L.A. is $1300 and in Riverside it is $673. Now with adoption assistance it raises the rate to the same as L.A., but I think it would help if rates were [even] across the board". Eight respondents stated the question
did not apply, and one respondent was completely satisfied with the aid received. There were four respondents that were unsatisfied with the aid received. These interviewees made statements such as, "it takes a lot more than that to raise a grandchild", "the only thing that makes it beneficial is the Medi-Cal", "no because I don’t even get enough" "my income isn’t what it was when I was raising my children" and "section 8, are you kidding me, with the price of housing these days?!".

The sixteenth question was "do you feel safe in your neighborhood?". This question yielded two types of answers, safe and somewhat unsafe. There were two respondents that reported feeling somewhat unsafe. The comments describing this answer were "I’m starting not to, it’s kinda getting worse in the area where we are" and "it’s better than where I was but not that great". Fifteen respondents reported feeling safe in their neighborhoods. They characterized safety as being familiar with neighbors, no vandalism, and being able to sleep with the windows open.

The seventeenth question was "do you feel your grandchildren are safe in your neighborhood?". This question, again, yielded two answers: yes and somewhat
unsafe. Two respondents acknowledged feeling somewhat unsafe. The answers were "that’s why I got to move" and another was "they’re old enough to take care of themselves if they need to". Fifteen reported feeling safe in their neighborhoods. Some answers included: "I go and lock the gate when they’re outside", "that’s why we live in the neighborhood", "it’s more calm, less people, and no problems with the neighbors" and "yes, but I still make sure to go out with them".

The final question was "is there anything I did not ask, about your housing, that you would like to add?". There were numerous responses to this question. Answers were related to: housing concerns, safety issues, physical well-being, support, and resources. Seven respondents had no further comment. The theme of housing included a comment that "a lot of retirement [money] gets wiped-out and [there should be] more affordable housing for seniors raising grandchildren". The theme of safety included the comment "[grandparents need to be aware] of Megan’s Law and to bring it to their attention". Comments about support included "couldn’t have done any of the guardianship stuff without them [Kin-Care program]", and "when I first started I needed a program to be around
adults in the same situation”. Answers related to resources included “if you’re not dirt-poor no one wants to help you”.

Discussion of the Findings

Introduction

The findings of the study yielded data related to ethnicity, housing concerns, and subjective well-being of grandparents raising grandchildren. The data was taken from grandparents raising grandchildren in Riverside County, CA, who were contracted by referral from the KinCare program.

Demographic Information

Analysis of the data reveals that females are more likely to be caregiving grandparents than males. This is consistent with the findings of previous research (Berrick, et al, Fuller-Thomson, et al, Caputo, Minkler, et al, and Roe and Minkler). Analysis also revealed grandparents raising grandchildren were more likely to be married (7) or divorced/separated (5). This suggests there was potential for a higher rate of male participants. From this finding one can hypothesize that female grandparent caregivers are more likely to be
involved in supportive programs than males. The majority of participants were of Hispanic/Latino (10) and Caucasian (5) descent. This finding is not consistent with previous research on grandparents raising grandchildren. Previous literature suggests that grandparents raising grandchildren are predominantly African-American (Feig in Kelley, et al, Goodman & Silverstain in Copen, Saluter in Goodman & Silverstein), although Fuller-Thompson and Minkler argue that non-Hispanic Whites are the highest ethnicity group raising grandchildren. The demographic information pertaining to ethnicity may have been skewed in this study, due to the area in which the research was conducted and the small sample size. Riverside County, CA is predominantly Caucasian (44%) and Hispanic/Latino (42%) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2008). The demographics obtained in this study have low generalizability. The ethnicities of the participants do not represent those of the actual population of grandparents raising grandchildren in the country. The age of the respondents in this study were comparable to other literature indicating grandparents raising grandchildren are between the ages of 50 and 70 (Jendrek, Kelley, et al, Fuller-Thompson & Minkler,
Bullock, Goodman & Silverstein). The median age of the participants in the study was 56.5.

Housing Concerns

Concerns about housing were elicited through the questions about satisfaction with space and neighborhood safety. The questions of home space and neighborhood safety were related to prior literature on housing satisfaction (Sirgy and Cornwell, Fuller-Thompson and Minkler, and Kolomer and Lynch). The participants in this study appeared to be divided over the satisfaction with housing space; 9 were satisfied and 8 were unsatisfied. The satisfied group noted the children had their own bedrooms, and the unsatisfied group noted that they would be more comfortable with at least one extra room.

Subjective Well-being

The subjective well-being of the grandparents was measured through participant scores on the Satisfaction With Life Scale. The Scale consists of five questions and has been shown to have validity in measuring quality of life (Deiner, et al, and Corrigan). The Satisfaction With Life Scale showed a full-range of answers; with the lowest score being 9 and the highest score being 35. For scoring purposes, the higher the score (out of 35) the
more satisfied with life the participant is. The median score of the participants in this study was 21.5, which is interpreted as somewhat satisfied with life (Pavot and Deiner, 1993). Considering such a broad range of responses in a small sample, the findings may not have high generalizability. External factors that affect the validity include the participants' mood on the day of the interview, participants' understanding of the questions, and social desirability factors.

Summary

Housing concerns and subjective well-being were explored in this study. Sixteen of the participants were female and one was male. The participants were predominantly Hispanic/Latino and Caucasian. According to the Satisfaction With Life Scale, participants were somewhat satisfied with their lives, which contradicts available literature indicating grandparents raising grandchildren experience higher levels of stress and physical problems. Concerns expressed by participants, regarding housing, were centered on issues pertaining to amount of space in the home and public assistance available to the grandparent caregivers.
CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to explore housing concerns and subjective well-being of grandparents raising grandchildren. Grandparents raising grandchildren interviewed for this study were found to be relatively young with a median age of 56.5, more likely to be married (7) or divorced/separated (5) than to be single, and to be moderately satisfied with life. Interviews with grandparents raising grandchildren suggested that additional planning and policies may be needed to address the needs that have arisen as a result of taking on the responsibility of raising grandchildren.

Discussion

This study revealed that housing and financial issues play a critical role in many of the grandparent caregivers’ lives. The grandparents interviewed had concerns regarding the amount of space available to them in their homes. A repeated response was that they wished they had at least one more room for the children to utilize. Usually, grandparents have limited options
available to them in terms of increasing the living space available because they are out of the workforce or living on low, fixed incomes. Also, the public assistance that is available to, or not available to, the grandparents was a concern expressed by many of them. The public assistance these grandparents receive includes: foster care payments, Section 8 housing assistance, adoptions assistance, child support from the parents, food stamps, Social Security, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Disability, and Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF). The actual assistance the grandparents in this study received varied greatly, and suggests that although some of them had much needed financial resources made available to them some of them did not and were struggling as a consequence. Satisfaction with life (subjective well-being) had no relationship to the housing concerns of grandparents raising grandchildren.

Significance to Social Work, Policy, and Research

Data gathered through this research suggest the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren are varied and complex. Issues grandparents raising grandchildren struggle with include: legal issues, economic stability,
suitable housing, and emotional and physical well-being. Through various community resources, such as the Kin-Care program, grandparents raising grandchildren are able to receive limited assistance aimed at addressing these problems.

Current trends are showing an increased awareness of the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren. A current federal bill being considered, the LEGACY Act, would make provisions for financial aid for housing programs specifically for grandparents raising grandchildren. Recently, sections of this bill have been written into the American Dream Downpayment Act, which made provisions for a needs assessment to be done by the Housing and Urban Development Department and the beginning of demonstration projects for housing specifically for grandparents and other relatives caring for children (Generations United, 2005). Coincidentally, one of the grandparents interviewed in this study indicated that senior subsidized housing is not available to her due to her status as a grandparent raising her grandchildren.

This study added to the research on the housing problems faced by grandparents raising grandchildren.
This group of 17 grandparents expressed their concerns and needs. There are about 4 million other grandparents raising grandchildren who need their voices heard as well. The data gathered here is a starting point for further research into the housing needs of grandparents raising grandchildren.

Conclusions

The needs of grandparents raising grandchildren require further assessment. This study recounted the experience of a set of grandparents who individually were dealing with issues such as loss/death of children, terminal illness, limited housing space, and limited financial resources while being parents to their grandchildren. Therefore, it is surprising to find that the subjective well-being of grandparents raising grandchildren in this study were in general terms satisfied with their lives. Further documentation of the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren could add to the provision of both micro social work and case management services, as well as the development of new social policies that lead to increased resources for this group of grandparents who are providing care for their
abused and/or neglected grandchildren. Increasing the support to grandparents raising grandchildren is likely to result in increased levels of attachment and family stability for these children as they develop into productive and healthy members of society.
APPENDIX A

STRUCTURED QUESTIONNAIRE
STRUCTURED QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is your age? __________

2. What is your gender? (circle one)  Female  Male

3. How long have you been raising your grandchild/ren? __________

4. How many grandchildren are you raising? ________________

5. What is your ethnic background? (circle one)
   1. African-American  2. Latino/Hispanic
   3. White/non-Latino  4. Asian/Pacific Islander
   5. Other ______________

6. What is your marital status?
   4. Divorced  5. Co-habitating

7. What type of home do you live in:  
   house, apartment, condo, other __________

8. How many bedrooms do you have? ________________

9. Do you feel comfortable with the amount of space you have? Why or why not?

   ____________________________________________________________________________

10. Did this change after you began caring for your grandchildren?

   ____________________________________________________________________________

11. What do you like about where you live?

   ____________________________________________________________________________
12. Is your housing payment affordable? Yes  No

13. Did the affordability change when you began caring for he grandchildren?

14. Do you receive any public/government assistance with your housing? Yes  No

15. If you answered yes to the previous question, is there anything you would change about the assistance you receive?

16. Do you feel safe in your neighborhood?

17. Do you feel your grandchildren are safe in your neighborhood?

18. Is there anything I did not ask, about your housing, you would like to add?

Thank you very much for your time!!
APPENDIX B

SATISFACTION WITH LIFE SCALE
SATISFACTION WITH LIFE SCALE (SWLS)
Diener, Emmons, Larson & Griffin

Below are five statements with which you may agree or disagree. Using the 1-7 scale below, indicate your agreement with each item by circling the number that corresponds to it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>1 - Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>2 - Disagree</th>
<th>3 - Slightly Disagree</th>
<th>4 - Neither</th>
<th>5 - Slightly Agree</th>
<th>6 - Agree</th>
<th>7 - Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. In most ways my life is close to my ideal.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The conditions of my life are excellent.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I am satisfied with my life.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. So far I have gotten the important things I want in life.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX C

POSTED IN THE KIN-CARE OFFICES
Attention Grandparents!

Hello, my name is Erika Diaz and I am a student at Cal State University, San Bernardino. I am conducting research on grandparents raising grandchildren and am looking for volunteers that I could interview for this purpose. They will take place at the Warmline office and will take no longer than one hour! Every participant gets a gift certificate to Baskin Robbins® ice cream shops! To inquire about participation, please contact Dr. Liles at (909) 537-5557.

Thank you!
APPENDIX D

INFORMED CONSENT
INFORMED CONSENT

The study in which you are being asked to participate is designed to investigate housing satisfaction, ethnicity, and subjective well-being of grandparents raising grandchildren. This study is being conducted by Erika Diaz, under the supervision of Dr. Ray Liles, Assistant Professor of Social Work. The Institutional Review Board’s sub-committee for the Department of Social Work at California State University, San Bernardino, has approved this study.

In this study you will be asked to answer a short series of questions about your ethnicity, housing satisfaction, and well-being. The interview should take about 25 to 45 minutes to complete. All of your responses will be held in the strictest of confidence by the researcher. Your name will not be reported with your responses. All data will be reported in group form only. You may receive the results of this study upon completion in September, 2008 at the Plan Library at the California State University, San Bernardino or the Warmline office: 1075 N. State St., Hemet, CA 92543.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You have the option of choosing to not answer any question, or to leave the study at any time without penalty. When you have completed the interview, you will receive a debriefing statement describing the study in more detail and you will receive a $2 gift certificate to Baskin Robbins for your time. Participating in this study includes risks and benefits. One of the possible risks associated with the study may be some psychological discomfort due to the personal nature of the questions. A way in which you may benefit from this study is through the creation or revision of services for you, which may result from this study.

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please feel free to contact Dr. Ray Liles, at 909-537-5557.

By placing a check mark in the box below, I acknowledge that I have been informed of, and that I understand the nature and purpose of this study. I also freely consent to participate and acknowledge that I am at least over 18 years of age.

Place a check mark here [ ] Today’s date:  

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO

SOCIAL WORK INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE
APPROVED 10/25/07  4:28:15
INFORMED CONSENT
APPENDIX E

DEBRIEFING STATEMENT
DEBRIEFING STATEMENT

Thank you for your participation in this research on grandparents raising grandchildren.

During this study you were asked to answer some questions pertaining to your ethnicity, housing satisfaction, and well-being. The purpose of this research is to establish what the relationship is between your ethnicity, housing perception, and well-being. It is expected that there will be a relationship amongst those three things.

There was no deception during the interview you have just participated in. All the information gathered will be used for research purposes only, and will be destroyed when the study is complete.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the study, please feel free to contact Dr. Ray Liles, Assistant Professor of Social Work for the California State University in San Bernardino at (909) 537-5557.

Some resources that will be able to help you with any psychological discomfort that arises from your participation in this research are:

- Catholic Charities (909) 370-1293
- Community Counseling Center at CSUSB (909) 537-5569
- Riverside County Dept. of Mental Health - Perris office (951) 443-2200
- Riverside County Dept. of Mental Health - Hemet office (951) 791-3300

Thank you again for your participation in this research. It was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Erika Diaz
REFERENCES


