

families commission
kōmihana ā **whānau**

Age of first becoming a Grandparent

UMR Omnibus Results
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Methodology

Results in this report are based upon questions asked in the UMR Research nation-wide omnibus survey. This is a telephone survey of a nationally representative sample of 750 New Zealanders 18 years of age and over.

Fieldwork was conducted in two consecutive surveys from the 4th to 9th June and the 18th to 22nd June 2009 at UMR Research's national interview facility in Auckland.

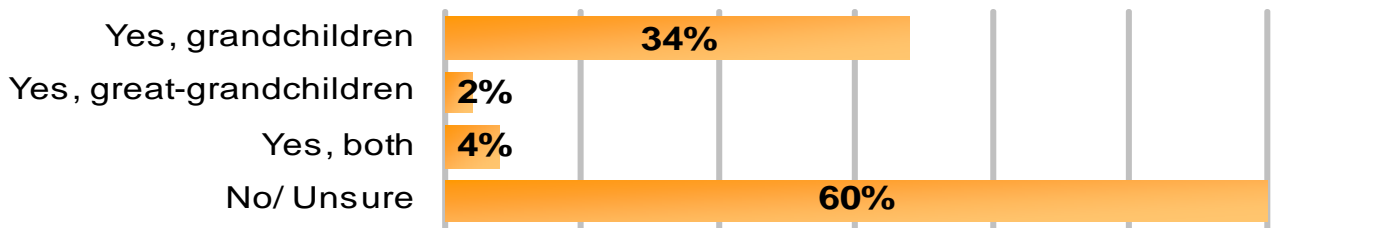
The questions were asked of respondents aged 35 and above. Across the two surveys the total sample size is n=1578.

The margin of error for sample size of 1578 for a 50% figure at the '95% confidence level' is $\pm 2.5\%$.

Findings

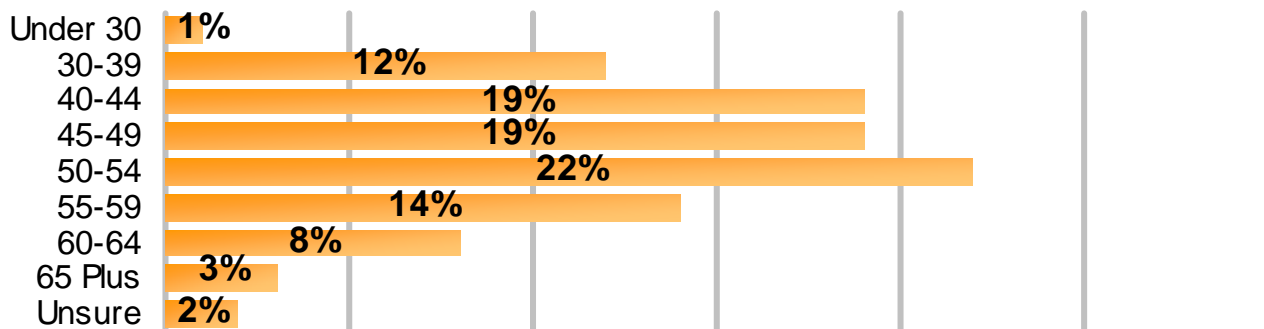
- This research shows that the median age for becoming a grandparent is 45-49, with the mode (the most common age) being 50-54.
 - This is slightly younger than the median age calculated from census statistics (53 for grandmothers and 56 for grandfathers)
 - Given that 51% became grandparents under the age of 50 and 47% became grandparents at 50 years of age or older (i.e. because the proportion who became grandparents before 50 is barely a majority), it is reasonable to assume that the true median is closer to 49 than to 45.
- There was an apparent relationship between the age respondents became grandparents and both ethnicity and income.
 - 53% of Maori respondents had become grandparents before the age of 45 years. The Pacific sample is too small for robust analysis.
 - 37% of those with personal incomes of \$15-\$40,000 had become grandparents before the age of 45 years, compared with 27% of those with personal incomes above \$40,000 (the sample is not large enough to filter this by whether or not they were in paid work, so those with personal incomes below \$15,000 (who are often retired) are not compared here).

Do you have any grandchildren or great-grandchildren under the age of 18?



Base: Respondents aged 35 and above, n=1578

How old were you when you first became a grandparent? Please stop me when I read out the appropriate age group.



Base: Those with grandchildren, but not great-grandchildren, n=602



Supplementary Tables

HAVE GRANDCHILDREN OR GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN UNDER 18

Do you have any grandchildren or great-grandchildren under the age of 18?

	Base	Yes, grandchildren	Yes, great- grandchildren	Yes, grandchildren and great- grandchildren	No	Unsure
ALL	1578	34.0%	2.1%	3.9%	60.0%	0.0%
AREA						
Auckland	476	31.8%	1.9%	2.5%	64.2%	0.0%
Provincial	783	37.4%	2.5%	4.4%	55.5%	0.0%
Christchurch	166	33.3%	0.9%	5.4%	61.3%	0.0%
Wellington	153	22.8%	3.0%	4.0%	69.3%	0.0%
RURAL	323	38.3%	1.9%	2.8%	57.5%	0.0%
SEX						
Male	745	30.1%	1.8%	2.8%	65.1%	0.0%
Female	834	37.6%	2.4%	4.9%	55.5%	0.0%
AGE GROUP						
.35-39	232	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	96.1%	0.0%
.40-44	238	7.5%	0.6%	0.0%	92.5%	0.0%
.45-49	198	19.7%	2.9%	0.7%	76.6%	0.0%
.50-54	204	34.8%	3.0%	0.0%	62.1%	0.0%
.55-59	186	45.5%	0.8%	1.6%	52.0%	0.0%
.60-64	183	62.1%	1.7%	2.6%	34.5%	0.0%
.65-69	144	69.1%	0.0%	11.7%	19.1%	0.0%
.70-74	76	71.2%	5.8%	9.6%	15.4%	0.0%
.75 Plus	110	42.5%	10.0%	25.0%	25.0%	0.0%
OCCUPATION						
Professionals, Managers	465	26.1%	2.6%	1.3%	70.0%	0.0%
Technicians, Associates	135	24.5%	2.9%	2.0%	70.6%	0.0%
Clerks & Sales	246	30.0%	0.0%	1.3%	68.8%	0.0%
Blue collar	220	25.9%	2.1%	2.1%	69.9%	0.0%
Students	22	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%
Retired	306	57.8%	4.0%	12.6%	25.6%	0.0%
Homemaker	99	35.9%	0.0%	6.3%	57.8%	0.0%
Not employed	41	42.9%	0.0%	0.0%	57.1%	0.0%
Self employed	37	25.9%	0.0%	7.4%	70.4%	0.0%
PERSONAL INCOME						
Less than \$15,000	196	45.0%	2.3%	6.2%	46.5%	0.0%
\$15,001-25,000	218	45.3%	2.9%	9.4%	42.4%	0.0%
\$25,001-30,000	146	45.0%	0.0%	3.0%	52.0%	0.0%
\$30,001-40,000	161	32.1%	1.8%	1.8%	63.3%	0.0%
\$40,001-50,000	158	33.3%	6.5%	0.9%	59.3%	0.0%
\$50,001-70,000	258	25.1%	1.2%	1.8%	70.8%	0.0%
More than \$70,000	256	17.3%	0.6%	1.2%	81.0%	0.0%
ETHNICITY						
Pacific Island	40	24.1%	6.9%	0.0%	69.0%	0.0%
Maori	147	43.0%	2.0%	5.0%	51.0%	0.0%
Non Maori/Non PI	1391	33.3%	2.0%	3.8%	60.8%	0.0%

Supplementary Tables cont'd

AGE WHEN FIRST BECAME GRANDPARENT

How old were you when you first became a grandparent? Please stop me when I read out the appropriate age group.

	Base	Under 30	.30-34	.35-39	.40-44	.45-49	.50-54	.55-59	.60-64	.65-69	.70-74	.75 Plus	Unsure
ALL	602	0.5%	2.8%	9.3%	19.3%	19.1%	22.1%	14.1%	8.0%	2.3%	0.3%	0.5%	1.8%
AREA													
Auckland	163	0.0%	3.7%	6.4%	20.2%	16.5%	20.2%	17.4%	6.4%	5.5%	0.0%	0.9%	1.8%
Provincial	335	0.5%	3.2%	11.0%	19.2%	20.1%	22.4%	13.2%	7.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	2.3%
Christchurch	62	2.3%	0.0%	4.7%	11.6%	20.9%	32.6%	16.3%	7.0%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Wellington	42	0.0%	0.0%	14.8%	33.3%	14.8%	14.8%	7.4%	18.5%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
RURAL	130	1.1%	1.1%	9.0%	21.3%	18.0%	29.2%	9.0%	7.9%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
SEX													
Male	248	0.6%	1.8%	5.5%	17.1%	20.7%	20.7%	14.0%	12.8%	3.7%	0.6%	0.0%	3.0%
Female	354	0.4%	3.4%	11.5%	20.9%	17.9%	23.5%	14.1%	5.1%	1.3%	0.0%	0.9%	1.3%
AGE GROUP													
.35-39	10	0.0%	42.9%	57.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
.40-44	18	8.3%	8.3%	33.3%	41.7%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
.45-49	39	0.0%	3.6%	17.9%	53.6%	21.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%
.50-54	69	0.0%	4.3%	10.9%	10.9%	39.1%	30.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%
.55-59	85	0.0%	1.7%	15.5%	10.3%	20.7%	32.8%	17.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%
.60-64	117	0.0%	1.3%	2.7%	16.0%	21.3%	25.3%	18.7%	13.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%
.65-69	117	0.0%	1.3%	3.9%	21.1%	13.2%	27.6%	19.7%	15.8%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
.70-74	61	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%	19.5%	14.6%	22.0%	17.1%	12.2%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
.75 Plus	72	0.0%	0.0%	9.4%	15.1%	11.3%	15.1%	17.0%	11.3%	7.5%	1.9%	3.8%	5.7%
OCCUPATION													
Professionals, Managers	125	0.0%	1.2%	5.9%	14.1%	23.5%	22.4%	24.7%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%
Technicians, Associates	34	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	22.2%	25.9%	25.9%	7.4%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%
Clerks & Sales	79	0.0%	6.0%	20.0%	24.0%	16.0%	26.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%
Blue collar	60	2.6%	5.1%	15.4%	23.1%	28.2%	5.1%	10.3%	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.1%
Students	11	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	42.9%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Retired	214	0.0%	0.7%	5.0%	17.1%	13.6%	23.6%	15.7%	15.7%	5.7%	0.7%	0.7%	1.4%
Homemaker	44	3.7%	7.4%	7.4%	22.2%	14.8%	22.2%	11.1%	7.4%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Not employed	18	0.0%	16.7%	16.7%	33.3%	8.3%	16.7%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Self employed	14	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	22.2%	11.1%	22.2%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%
PERSONAL INCOME													
Less than \$15,000	105	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	23.9%	19.4%	17.9%	10.4%	10.4%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
\$15,001-25,000	117	1.3%	1.3%	8.0%	26.7%	16.0%	21.3%	12.0%	6.7%	1.3%	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%
\$25,001-30,000	71	2.1%	2.1%	6.3%	25.0%	14.6%	25.0%	16.7%	8.3%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
\$30,001-40,000	57	0.0%	16.2%	13.5%	8.1%	27.0%	18.9%	13.5%	5.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
\$40,001-50,000	53	0.0%	2.7%	10.8%	13.5%	32.4%	29.7%	10.8%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
\$50,001-70,000	69	0.0%	0.0%	10.6%	17.0%	21.3%	17.0%	27.7%	8.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
More than \$70,000	47	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.8%	3.2%	25.8%	22.6%	12.9%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	6.5%
ETHNICITY													
Pacific Island	11	0.0%	14.3%	14.3%	0.0%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	42.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Maori	70	2.1%	10.6%	21.3%	19.1%	25.5%	12.8%	4.3%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Non Maori/Non PI	520	0.3%	1.5%	7.3%	19.5%	18.1%	23.9%	15.7%	9.3%	1.5%	0.3%	0.6%	2.0%

