HOW IS YOUNG ADULTHOOD CHANGING?

TEACHER VERSION

Subject Level:
High School English

Grade Level:
11–12

Approx. Time Required:
150 minutes

Learning Objectives:

- Students will be able to effectively annotate a text to better understand it.
- Students will be able to use evidence from a text to support their claims and to make inferences.
- Students will be able to express their ideas and opinions clearly, succinctly, and persuasively in group discussions.

United States Census Bureau

Classrooms Powered by Census Data

STATISTICS IN SCHOOLS

Activity Description

The teacher will facilitate a class discussion for students to share their opinions about young adulthood before they start the activity. After some teacher modeling, students will read, annotate, and answer questions about a technical document—including tables and graphs—to gather evidence to support conversations with their classmates about young adulthood. Then, students will write a paragraph about how their generation defines young adulthood.

Suggested Grade Level:
11–12

Approximate Time Required:
150 minutes (likely over several class periods; shorter if portions are assigned as homework)

Learning Objectives:

- Students will be able to effectively annotate a text to better understand it.
- Students will be able to use evidence from a text to support their claims and to make inferences.
- Students will be able to express their ideas and opinions clearly, succinctly, and persuasively in group discussions.

Topics:

- Demographics
- Human population characteristics
- Roles of young adults in society
- Social norms

Skills Taught:

- Analyzing change over time
- Analyzing data
- Annotating text
- Discussing
- Making inferences
- Making an argument
- Reading data in a chart
- Understanding how data are used
- Using data to support conclusions

Materials Required

- The student version of this activity, 28 pages
- Teacher computer with Internet access and a projector to display Web sites

Activity Items

The following items are part of this activity. The items and their sources appear at the end of this teacher version.

- Item 1: The Changing Economics and Demographics of Young Adulthood: 1975–2016
- Item 2: More Than One-Third of Young Adults Live at Home

For more information to help you introduce your students to the U.S. Census Bureau, read "***Census Bureau 101 for Students.***" This information sheet can be printed and passed out to your students as well.

Standards Addressed

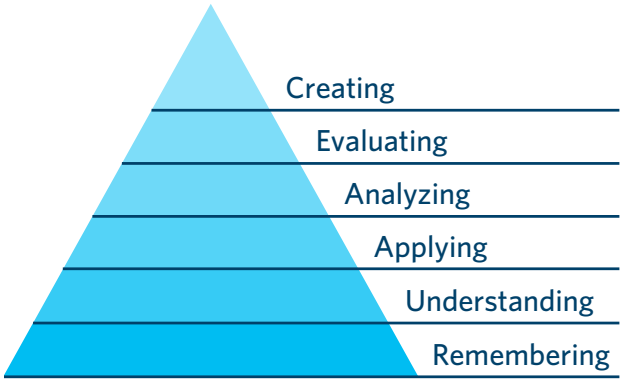
See chart below. For more information, read "***Education Standards and Guidelines Addressed by Statistics in Schools.***"

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects

Standard	Strand	Cluster
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.	Reading: Informational Text	Key Ideas and Details
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.	Reading: Informational Text	Key Ideas and Details
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11-12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.	Speaking & Listening	Comprehension and Collaboration

Bloom's Taxonomy

Students will ***analyze*** data about the changing economics and demographics of young adulthood and use that information to ***evaluate*** whether young adults today are better off than previous generations.



Teacher Notes

Before the Activity

Warm-up, about 5 minutes – Teachers should write the following two prompts on the board for students to respond to on their own paper:

1. What does being a young adult mean to you?
2. As part of **Item 1: The Changing Economics and Demographics of Young Adulthood: 1975–2016**, the Census Bureau looks at a survey that asks how important seven milestones are to becoming a young adult. Write them down, and rank them from most important (#1) to least important (#7):
   - Completing formal schooling
   - Being employed full time
   - Being able to support a family financially
   - Gaining financial independence from parents
   - No longer living in parents' household
   - Getting married
   - Having a child

Turn and talk (5 minutes): Teachers should ask students to share and discuss their responses with a partner near them.

Whole-class discussion (10 minutes): Teachers should bring the class back together to discuss questions such as:

- At what age should someone be considered a young adult?
- Is young adulthood dependent on achieving certain milestones, like getting married or becoming a parent?
- Do you think your parents or grandparents would have a different opinion of what it means to be a young adult?
- Are there other factors besides what's on the board that should be considered when defining young adulthood?

Annotation modeling (15 minutes): Teachers should explain to students that they are going to be reading and annotating a text about young adulthood (**Item 1**). Teachers should help students understand that annotating means adding highlights, comments, and other notes to a text, and that good readers annotate a difficult text to better understand it, to prevent their mind from wandering, and to feel more connected to what they are reading.

Displaying **Item 1** on a projector, teachers should model how to annotate the first two pages by reading and thinking aloud. Teachers may find it helpful to share the following instructions with students:

- Write useful notes in the margins. A good example is "Young adults today are different than a generation ago." A bad example is "That's so interesting!"
- Ask meaningful questions in the margins.
- Circle terms you don't know that you need to know to understand the text.
- Add reaction symbols throughout. For example, an exclamation point means you were surprised to learn that fact, a question mark means "I don't understand this," and the letter "C" means you have a connection to that fact.
- Write a one-sentence summary of what each table and graph shows. (Teachers should keep in mind that students have a tendency to skip over tables and graphs in informational text.)

Teachers should suggest that students keep in mind these questions as they read, since they will be answering them later:

a. What does it mean to be a young adult today?

b. How is the definition of young adulthood changing?

c. What do these changes mean for future generations?

d. Are young adults today better off than previous generations?

Teachers may want to explain to students that most of the information in **Item 1** was gathered through the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, which is conducted monthly and released annually. It is designed to show how communities are changing. By asking questions of a sample of the population, it produces national data about more than 35 topics, including education, income, housing, and employment. In addition, the text includes information from the Current Population Survey, which collects information about the economic and employment characteristics of the population.

During the Activity

Reading and annotating the text (45 minutes): Teachers should instruct students to read and annotate the remainder of the text either independently or in pairs. In the latter scenario, Partner A could read three paragraphs aloud while Partner B annotates. Students would then pause to discuss Partner B's annotations and give Partner A the opportunity to add his or her own annotations. Students would swap roles for the next three paragraphs and repeat until all the text is annotated.

Answering questions (30 minutes): Teachers may want to assign these questions for homework to split up this activity.

Partner discussion (20 minutes): Once students have finished answering the questions (likely the next day), teachers should put students into pairs and give them 5 minutes to discuss each of the four key questions

(question #9, parts A through D). If feasible, teachers could create an inner and outer circle of students facing each other where the inner circle rotates after each question so students face a new partner.

If time allows, teachers may choose to discuss one of the questions as a whole class—perhaps a question that student pairs seemed to debate heavily.

Reflection (20 minutes): Teachers should instruct students to write a paragraph about how their generation defines young adulthood. This part could be assigned as homework, if necessary.

After the Activity

Teachers should discuss with students how annotating the text helped them understand what they were reading.

Extension Idea

For homework, teachers could ask students to find an example in a TV show or movie where the way a young adult is portrayed illustrates something from the text they read. (For example, a student might reference a show where a young adult still lives with his or her parents.)

Student Activity

Click ***here*** to download a printable version for students.

Activity Items

The following items are part of this activity and appear at the end of this student version.

- Item 1: The Changing Economics and Demographics of Young Adulthood: 1975–2016
- Item 2: More Than One-Third of Young Adults Live at Home

Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to effectively annotate a text to better understand it.
- I will be able to use evidence from a text to support my claims and to make inferences.
- I will be able to express my ideas and opinions clearly, succinctly, and persuasively in group discussions.

Read and annotate the rest of **Item 1: The Changing Economics and Demographics of Young Adulthood: 1975–2016**, keeping in mind these questions (which you will answer and discuss later):

a. What does it mean to be a young adult today?

b. How is the definition of young adulthood changing?

c. What do these changes mean for future generations?

d. Are young adults today better off than previous generations?

Now answer the following questions.

1. What are young adults in 2016 doing differently than young adults in 1975? Provide at least six examples:

   Student answers will vary, but they could include the following:

   - **Young adults today are marrying later in life. (The median age that women first get married has risen from 22 to 27.)**
   - **More young adults are living at home with their parents.**
   - **Young men are falling to the bottom of the income ladder.**
   - **Fewer women are homemakers.**
   - **Parenthood preceded marriage more often in 2016 than in 1975.**
   - **More young adults are living with a boyfriend or girlfriend.**

2. What does "emerging adulthood" mean? Do you feel that it has a negative, positive, or neutral connotation? Explain your answer.

   Student answers will vary, but students must show they understand that emerging adulthood is when young people experience traditional events at different times and in a different order than their parents did. Some students may feel that this term has a positive connotation because they believe young people today are more independent than their parents (shown by the fact that they are delaying marriage, etc.). Other students may think that it has a negative connotation, saying that today's young people actually are not as independent given that more young adults are living at home with their parents.

3. What are some similarities between young adults in 1975 and in 2016?

   Student answers will vary, but they could include the following:

   - **Young adults are still getting married and still having children (just at different times).**
   - **Young adults are generally starting relationships at the same age as their parents. (The age at which young people have their first co-residential relationship has stayed around 22.)**

4. What economic conditions may have impacted some of the changes between young adults in the 1970s and those in 2015 and 2016? Explain your answer.

   Student answers will vary, but students could say that more women are working today than in the 1970s, meaning they are less reliant on another person (such as a husband) for financial support; therefore, they have less of a desire to marry for that reason.

5. What are some things that surprised you about what you read?

   Student answers will vary, but students may note that although young people are marrying later, most eventually do get married. Students may also be surprised to learn that 1 in 4 young people aged 25 to 34 who live at home with their parents are idle (meaning they do not go to school or work).

6. Think back to our class discussion about the milestones of young adulthood. Now look at the figures in Item 1 on Page 13. **(Note: In the teacher version, the figures appear on Page 20.)** How would you say that the conclusions we came to as a class compare with the results of the survey? Are there any surprises? Also, how have today's milestones for young adults changed from those of young people in 1975?

   Student answers will vary depending on the outcomes of the class discussion and students' personal opinions.

   According to Figure 5 in Item 1, in 1975, 45 percent of 25- to 34-year-olds were living away from their parents, were ever married, lived with a child, and were in the workforce. In 2016, that number decreased to 24 percent. More emphasis is now placed on living away from parents and being in the workforce than on marriage and children.

7. Explain a contradiction mentioned in the text and what it means.

   Student answers will vary, but here's an example: The timing and order in which people think they should experience certain milestones isn't the same as when they actually experience them. On Page 4, Table 1, the data show that the perceived ideal age people should finish school is 22, but only 51.8 percent actually completed that milestone at that ideal age. This means that people's perceptions of what is ideal do not match reality—people may have unrealistic expectations or may come across unforeseen obstacles that stop them from reaching these milestones at the expected age.

8. Examine Item 2: More Than One-Third of Young Adults Live at Home. What main difference do you notice between the percentages of 18- to 34-year-olds living in their parents' home in 2005 compared with 2015? What do you think is behind this trend?

   A larger percentage of young adults lived with their parents in 2015 than in 2005.

   Student answers will vary, but students may say that greater percentages of young adults chose to live at home for financial reasons (for example, rising cost of living).

9. Answer the four key questions, citing evidence from the text in your own words.

   a. What does it mean to be a young adult today?

      Student answers will vary, but students could point out that young people today emphasize education and financial independence as major milestones that make someone a young adult. Conversely, over half of Americans say that getting married or having children are not what make someone a young adult. Students may also point out that what people think makes someone a young adult may not necessarily be happening.

   b. How is the definition of young adulthood changing?

      Student answers will vary, but students may mention that milestones are happening in a different order than they did in 1975 (marriage and parenting are coming later in life). People in their 20s are no longer starting families as often as they did in 1975. Also, emphasis is being placed on different milestones. In 2015, the majority of young adults did not live in their own household (which is different from 2005, when the majority did—either alone, with a spouse, or with an unmarried partner).

   c. What do these changes mean for future generations?

      Student answers will vary. Students might say that these changes could lead to a continued decline in homeownership, which is sometimes tied to marriage, and an increase in the number of renters.

   d. Are young adults today better off than previous generations?

      Student answers will vary, but students may note that young adults today are better educated than their peers were in 1975. In particular, more women are educated. On the flip side, young

men are falling to the bottom of the income ladder. In 1975, only 25 percent of men aged 25 to 34 made less than $30,000 a year. By 2016, that number had risen to 41 percent. (Incomes for both years are in 2015 dollars.)

In addition, more young people were living at home with parents in 2015 than in 1975. Some students may consider this problematic.

Partner Discussion

Once you get direction from your teacher to move to this section of the activity, you will discuss the four key questions (question #9, parts A through D) with a partner.

Reflection

With your newfound knowledge, write a paragraph about how your generation defines young adulthood.

Item 1: The Changing Economics and Demographics of Young Adulthood: 1975-2016

The Changing Economics and Demographics of Young Adulthood: 1975–2016

Population Characteristics

Current Population Reports

By Jonathan Vespa

Issued April 2017
P20-579

INTRODUCTION

What does it mean to be a young adult? In prior generations, young adults were expected to have finished school, found a job, and set up their own household during their 20s—most often with their spouse and with a child soon to follow. Today's young adults take longer to experience these milestones. What was once ubiquitous during their 20s is now not commonplace until their 30s. Some demographers believe the delays represent a new period of the life course between childhood and adulthood, a period of "emerging adulthood" when young people experience traditional events at different times and in a different order than their parents did.[1] What is clear is that today's young adults look different from prior generations in almost every regard: how much education they have, their work experiences, when they start a family, and even who they live with while growing up. It comes as no surprise that when parents recall stories of their youth, they are remembering how different their experiences were.

This report looks at changes in young adulthood over the last 40 years. It focuses on how the experiences of today's young adults differ, in timing and degree, from what young adults experienced in the 1970s—how much longer they wait to start a family, how many have gone to college, and who are able to live independently of their parents. This report looks at a snapshot of the young adult population, defined here as 18 to 34 years old, and focuses on two periods: 1975 and today (using data covering 2012 to 2016 to reflect the contemporary period). Many of the milestones of young adulthood are reflected in the living arrangements of young people: when they move out of their parents' home and when they form families. Because these milestones are tied to young adults' economic security, the report also focuses on how education and work experience vary across young adult living arrangements.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Most of today's Americans believe that educational and economic accomplishments are extremely important milestones of adulthood. In contrast, marriage and parenthood rank low: over half of Americans believe that marrying and having children are not very important in order to become an adult.
- Young people are delaying marriage, but most still eventually tie the knot. In the 1970s, 8 in 10 people married by the time they turned 30. Today, not until the age of 45 have 8 in 10 people married.
- More young people today live in their parents' home than in any other arrangement: 1 in 3 young

[1] F. Furstenberg, Jr., "On a New Schedule: Transitions to Adulthood and Family Change," *The Future of Children*, Vol. 20, 2010, pp. 67–87. See also, F. Furstenberg, Jr., et al., "Growing Up Is Harder To Do," *Contexts*, Vol. 3, 2004, pp. 33–41, and J. Arnett, *Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road From the Late Teens Through the Twenties*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2014.

Item 1: The Changing Economics and Demographics of Young Adulthood: 1975–2016 (Cont.)

people, or about 24 million 18- to 34-year-olds, lived in their parents' home in 2015.

- In 2005, the majority of young adults lived independently in their own household, which was the predominant living arrangement in 35 states. A decade later, by 2015, the number of states where the majority of young people lived independently fell to just six.
- More young men are falling to the bottom of the income ladder. In 1975, only 25 percent of men, aged 25 to 34, had incomes of less than $30,000 per year. By 2016, that share rose to 41 percent of young men. (Incomes for both years are in 2015 dollars.)
- Between 1975 and 2016, the share of young women who were homemakers fell from 43 percent to 14 percent of all women aged 25 to 34.
- Of young people living in their parents' home, 1 in 4 are idle, that is they neither go to school nor work. This figure represents about 2.2 million 25- to 34-year-olds.

About the Data

This report uses two surveys from the U.S. Census Bureau to look at the demographic and economic characteristics of young adults: the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Current Population Survey (CPS). It uses a third data source, the General Social Survey (GSS), to look at beliefs, attitudes, and values that Americans have about adulthood.

The ACS provides statistics on the country's people, housing, and economy at various geographic levels, including the nation, states, and counties. It uses a series of monthly samples to produce annually updated estimates for small geographic areas. In 2015, the ACS sampled about 3.5 million households. This report uses 2005 and 2015 ACS data to look at state-level changes in young adult living arrangements. For more information about the survey, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>. For more information about sample design and methodology, see <www.census.gov /programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/code-lists.html>.

The CPS collects information about the economic and employment characteristics of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population. This report uses the survey's 1975 and 2016 Annual Social and Economic Supplement, which has data on marriage and family, employment patterns, work hours, earnings, and occupation. It also uses the 1976 and 2014 June supplement to the survey, which collects data on women's fertility. The CPS counts college students living in dormitories as if they were living in their parents' home. As a result, the number of young adults residing in their parents' home is higher than it would be otherwise, especially for 18- to 24-year-olds, who are more likely to be living in college housing. For more information about the CPS, see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>.

Since 1972, the GSS has collected data on Americans' opinions and attitudes about a variety of topics. Because of its long-running collection, researchers can use the survey to study changes in Americans' attitudes and beliefs. The survey is administered by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, with support from the National Science Foundation.[1] The module on the milestones of adulthood comes from the 2012 GSS, the most recent year available, and was developed by the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood.

[1] T. Smith, P. Marsden, M. Hout, and J. Kim, *General Social Surveys* 1972–2012, sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NORC ed.), Chicago: National Opinion Research Center, Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut, 2013.

Item 1: The Changing Economics and Demographics of Young Adulthood: 1975–2016 (Cont.)

Defining Young Adults

Young Adults. This report looks at the population of 18- to 34-year-olds at two time periods, in 1975 and today, covering the years 2012 to 2016. For some parts of the analysis, this report looks at a subsection of this population, the group of 25- to 34-year-olds. Throughout this report, the terms young adult and young people are used interchangeably to refer to these age groups.

Generations and cohorts. The population of 18- to 34-year-olds is a cohort, which is a group of people that share a common demographic experience or characteristic (in this case, age). By comparing cohorts at two different time periods, researchers can study how the experiences of a group of people have collectively changed over time. The cohort of 18- to 34-year-olds in 2016 includes people born between 1982 and 1998, which roughly corresponds to the millennial generation. There is no official start and end date for when millennials were born. The cohort of 18- to 34-year-olds in 1975 includes people born between 1941 and 1957, encompassing members of the silent generation (born 1928 to 1945) as well as some baby boomers (born 1946 to 1964).

Adulthood. There are many ways to define adulthood, whether physically, emotionally, or psychologically. This report looks at adulthood as a period of the life course defined by a set of common experiences, events, and transitions. It focuses on demographic and economic events including schooling, marriage and parenthood, and work. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but represents one possible set of common experiences that people have as they age.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ADULT TODAY?

Americans Rank Educational and Economic Accomplishments as the Most Important Milestones of Adulthood

To say that young adults delay marriage and put off having children describes behaviors that are reflected in demographic trends for the population as a whole. To put these experiences in context, though, it helps to look at what adults think about them. Do people believe that waiting later to marry or have children is a normal part of adulthood today?

The 2012 General Social Survey asked Americans aged 18 and older about how important a variety of experiences are to becoming an adult. Over half of Americans say that getting married or having children are not important to becoming an adult, and only a third think they are somewhat important (Figure 1). These trends align with research showing that less than 10 percent of men and women think that people need to have children to be very happy in life.[2]

Instead, the highest ranked milestones are educational and economic. Finishing school ranks the highest, with more than 60 percent of people saying that doing so is extremely important to becoming an adult. The emphasis on education underlies the rising student debt that many young people carry. In 2013, 41 percent of young families had student debt, up from 17 percent in 1989.[3] Not only do more young families have student debt, they are deeper in debt too. The amount owed on student loans nearly tripled, rising from a median of $6,000 to $17,300 across the same period (in 2013 dollars).[4]

Economic security ranks second in the transition to adulthood. About half of adults believe that having a full-time job and being able to financially support a family are extremely important to becoming an adult (Figure 1). Despite the prominence given to economic security, only a quarter of Americans think that moving out of the parents' home is a very important part of adulthood. Given the attention paid to the "boomerang generation" that has "failed to launch," it is surprising that Americans do not rate living independently as a more important step toward adulthood.[5] Yet in a study by the Pew Research Center, most parents with coresidential adult children are just as satisfied with their living arrangements as parents whose adult children live elsewhere. Similarly, more than 2 in 3 young adults who live at home are very happy with their family life.[6]

[2] J. Daugherty and C. Copen, "Trends in Attitudes About Marriage, Childbearing, and Sexual Behavior: United States, 2002, 2006–2010, and 2011–2013," *National Health Statistics Reports,* No. 92, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2016.

[3] Young families are those headed by someone under the age of 35. Survey of Consumer Finance, "Table 13: Family Holdings of Debt, by Selected Characteristics of Families and Type of Debt, 1989–2013 Surveys," Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC, 2013.

[4] ibid.

[5] K. Parker, "The Boomerang Generation," *Pew Social and Demographic Trends Report,* Pew Research Center, Washington, DC, 2012.

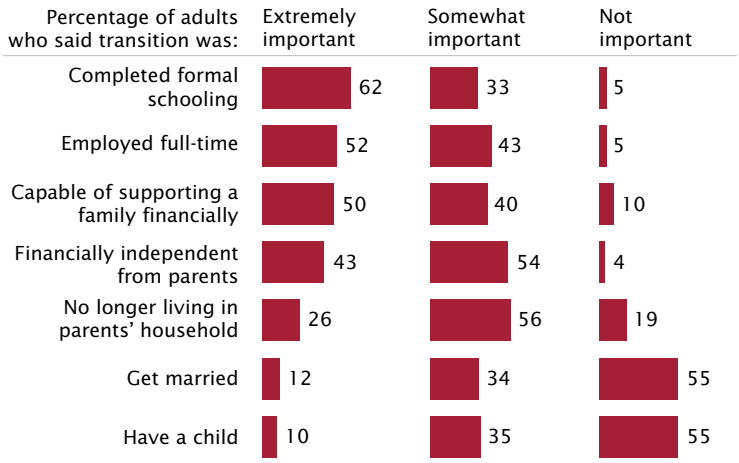
[6] ibid.

Item 1: The Changing Economics and Demographics of Young Adulthood: 1975–2016 (Cont.)

Most Americans Believe Young People Should Be Economically Secure Before Settling Down

The majority of Americans believe education and economic security are extremely important for becoming an adult. What they think about the timing of these milestones is revealing. When asked when people should normally finish school and have a full-time job, the median age was just 22 (Table 1). Ironically, the median age when most Americans believe that people should be financially independent of their parents is just 21, a year earlier than the ideal age for finishing school and working full-time. The contradiction shows that it is not always clear when and in what order young people should experience these milestones. What is clear is that most Americans believe young people should accomplish economic milestones before starting a family. Americans reported that the ideal age for getting married and having children is 25, the same age when most Americans believe a young person should be capable of supporting a family (Table 1).

Figure 1.
Finishing School and Getting a Job
How important are these experiences to becoming an adult?



Source: 2012 General Social Survey.

Do as I Say, Not as I Do

Believing that young people should be done with school, gainfully employed, and capable of

Table 1.
Milestones of Adulthood
How important are these experiences to becoming an adult?

Milestones	Percentage of adults who said transition was:			Ideal age for completing milestone	Percent with completed milestone by the ideal age
	Extremely important	Somewhat important	Not important		
Completed formal schooling	61.5	33.3	5.2	22	[1]51.8
Employed full-time	51.5	43.1	5.4	22	36.7
Capable of supporting a family financially	50.0	40.3	9.7	25	[2]42.1
Financially independent from parents/guardians	42.8	53.7	3.5	21	[3]28.9
No longer living in parents' household	25.8	55.8	18.5	21	47.1
Get married	11.5	33.9	54.6	25	23.5
Have a child	10.4	34.6	55.1	25	[4]38.0

[1] Has a high school diploma or college degree, and has not been enrolled in school in the last 3 months.
[2] Personal income at least 150 percent of poverty level for a family of three.
[3] Personal income at least 150 percent of poverty level for one person.
[4] Women only.

Note: "Somewhat important" includes respondents who said quite or somewhat important, whereas "Not important" includes respondents who said not too important or not at all important. The ideal age is the median age when respondents think the transition should normally happen. It is asked only of those who said the transition was at least "Somewhat important." Data on the importance of milestones and ideal age for completing milestones come from the 2012 General Social Survey. Data on getting married, employed full-time, and being capable of supporting a family financially or financially independent from parents come from the 2016 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Data on having a child come from the 2014 Current Population Survey, June Supplement. And data on completed formal schooling and no longer living in parents' household come from the 2015 American Community Survey.

Source: 2012 General Social Survey; U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement; 2014 Current Population

Item 1: The Changing Economics and Demographics of Young Adulthood: 1975–2016 (Cont.)

supporting a family by the age of 25 says little about who actually meets these milestones. Many young people fall short of reaching them by the time most Americans believe that they normally should. For example, most Americans believe young people should ideally finish school by the age of 22, but only 52 percent of young people have done so by this age, counting those who have a high school diploma or college degree, and are no longer enrolled (Table 1). Moreover, only 37 percent of 22-year-olds are employed full-time.

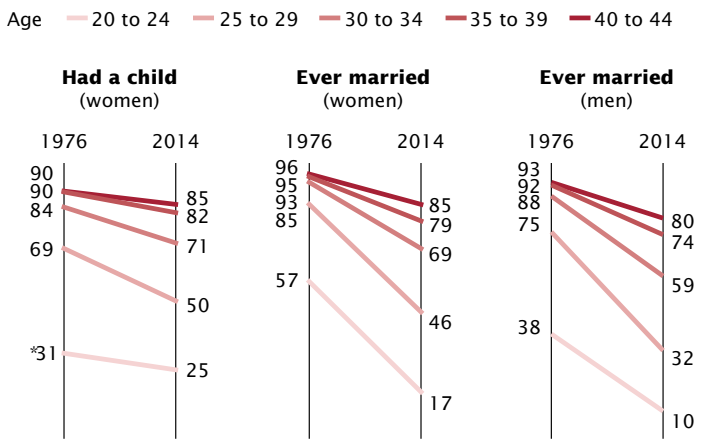
Far more young adults miss the bar set for financial independence: less than 1 in 3 were financially independent of their parents by the age of 21 (when measured by the proportion of 21-year-olds whose income was at least 150 percent of the poverty threshold) (Table 1). The true proportion that is financially independent is probably lower because young people may omit the financial help from their parents, such as a down payment for a mortgage or help paying the rent or other bills, when reporting their income. This kind of help should not be underestimated. About 1 in 3 of all 18- to 34-year-olds rely on their parents for financial assistance.[7]

Family Delayed, but Not Forgone

Although most Americans think that the ideal age people should marry is 25, only about a quarter of adults (around 24 percent) have actually done so by that age (Table 1). Many people do go on to marry and have children, just not as young adults. In 1995, women had a 59 percent chance of marrying by the age of 25. As of 2010, they had a 44 percent chance, a decline of 15 percentage points in just 15 years. Nonetheless, their chances of marrying by the age of 40 barely budged across the same period, from an 86 percent chance to an 84 percent chance.[8] Thus over the long-term, women's chances of marrying are nearly as high as they were 20 years ago, but their chances of marrying as young adults have fallen sharply.

In other words, many Americans put off starting a family until they are older. The trends show up in historical data going back to 1976, which illustrate a retreat from marriage and childbearing at younger ages (Figure 2). Among women in their early 20s, the proportion who ever gave birth fell from 31 percent to 25 percent between 1976 and 2014.[9] The decline in marriage was even steeper, falling from 57 percent to just 17 percent among women aged 20 to 24 years old over the same period (Figure 2). As a result, parenthood now precedes marriage for many women. Nearly 40 percent of all births in the United States are to unmarried women.[10]

Figure 2.
Family Delayed, but Not Forgone
Adults who have ever had a child or married: percent change from 1976 to 2014



* 18 to 24 years old for the 1976 data on having had a child.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1976 and 2014 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement for ever married; 1976 and 2014 Current Population Survey, June Supplement for fertility.

[7] R. Schoeni and K. Ross, "Material Assistance From Families During the Transition to Adulthood," *On the Frontier of Adulthood: Theory, Research, and Public Policy,* pp. 396–416, R. Settersten, F. Furstenberg, Jr., and R. Rumbaut, eds., University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 2005.

[8] These probabilities represent the average likelihood of an event happening by the specified age. C. Copen et al., "First Marriages in the United States: Data From the 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth," *National Health Statistics Reports No. 49,* National Center for Health Statistics: Hyattsville, MD, 2012.

[9] U.S. Census Bureau, Historical Table 1, "Percent Childless and Births per 1,000 Women in the Last 12 Months: Selected Years, 1976 to 2014," Current Population Survey, June Fertility Supplement, Washington, DC, 2014, <www.census.gov/hhes/fertility/files/cps/historical/H1.xlsx>.

[10] B. Hamilton et al., "Births: Final Data for 2014," *National Vital Statistics Report*, 64(12), National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2015.

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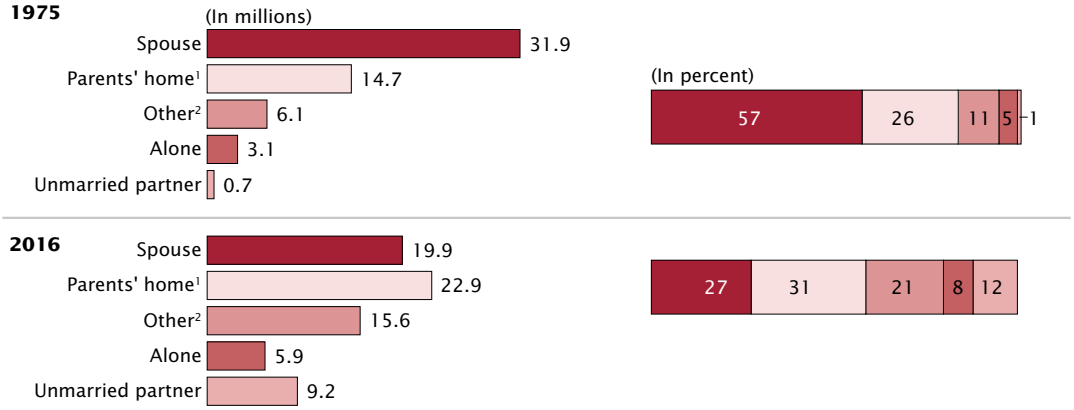
Figure 3.
More Young Adults Lived With Parents Than a Spouse in 2016
Living arrangements among adults aged 18 to 34: 1975 and 2016



[1] College students who are living in dormitories are counted as living in the parents' home.
[2] "Other" includes people who are living with relatives besides a spouse, such as siblings or grandparents, and nonrelatives such as roommates.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1975 and 2016 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

For the most part, we can still find the same high levels of marriage and parenthood from the 1970s, we just have to look at older ages today. In 1976, over two-thirds of women, some 69 percent, were mothers by the time they were 25 to 29 years old (Figure 2). To find that same proportion today we have to look among women who are aged 30 to 34. The retreat is far more pronounced for marriage. In 1976, some 85 percent of women and 75 percent of men were married by the time they were 29 years old. To find at least that same proportion today, we have to look among people in their early 40s.

What these trends indicate is that young adults are not necessarily giving up on marriage. They are waiting longer. And, if Americans' attitudes are any indication, they expect young people to be done with school and economically secure before marrying (Table 1). In this case, our behaviors reflect our attitudes. People with a college degree are the most likely to marry and stay married. Research from the National Center for Health Statistics shows that a woman with a college degree is less likely to be married by the age of 25 than one with only a high school diploma.[11] By the age of 35, the pattern has reversed: the college-educated woman has a greater chance of being married and staying married than women with any other educational background. A college-educated woman has a 78 percent chance of still being married by her twentieth anniversary. A woman with only a high school diploma has a 41 percent chance.[12]

Delaying Marriage, but Still Living Together

Although young people are delaying marriage, they are not putting off romantic relationships. Over the last 40 years, the number of young people living with a boyfriend or girlfriend has increased more than 12 times, making it the fastest growing living arrangement among young adults (Figure 3). Not only are they living together without being married, they are doing so at the same age that earlier generations were settling down to marry. Since the 1980s, the age when people start their first coresidential relationship has stayed consistently around 22, whereas the age when they first marry has risen from 22 to 27 for women.[13, 14] In other words, young adults are still starting relationships at the same age that their parents did, but they are trading marriage for cohabitation.

[11] See footnote 8.
[12] See footnote 8.

[13] W.D. Manning, S.L. Brown, and K.L. Payne, "Two Decades of Stability and Change in Age at First Union Formation," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, Vol. 76, No. 2, 2014, pp. 247–260.
[14] U.S. Census Bureau, Table MS-2 Estimated Median Age at First Marriage by Sex, 1890 to 2015, 2015, <www.census.gov/hhes/families/files/ms2.xls>.

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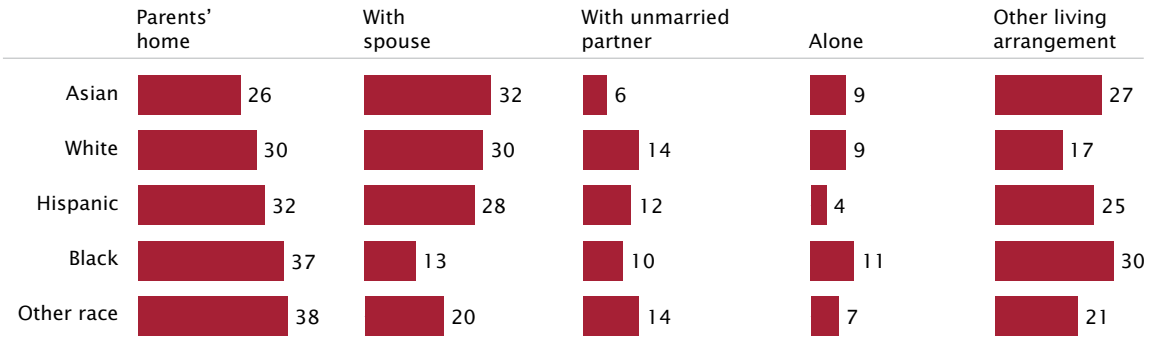
Figure 4.
Who's at Home?
Living arrangements of young adults aged 18 to 34: 2016
(In percent)



Note: Asian, White, and Black include young adults who reported only that race and were not Hispanic. Other race includes young adults who were not Hispanic, and reported multiple race groups, or were American Indian or Alaska Native alone or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Alongside the rise of living together without being married, there are more young adults today who are choosing to live alone, move in with roommates, stay in their parents' home, or live with other family members such as siblings (Figure 3). There are now more young people living with their parents than in any other arrangement. What is more, almost 9 in 10 young people who were living in their parents' home a year ago are still living there today, making it the most stable living arrangement for young adults (Tables 4 and 5). The growth in all of these living arrangements has come at the expense of marriage. Over the last 40 years the proportion of young people who were living with a spouse fell by half, from 57 percent to 27 percent (Figure 3). The result is that young people are living in more diverse arrangements than at any point in the last 40 years.

Racial and Ethnic Differences in Young Adult Living Arrangements

More young adults live in their parents' home than in any other living arrangement today (Figure 3). This trend is not the same for all young people. For Hispanics, Blacks, and other race groups, a greater share of young people live at home than in any other arrangement (Figure 4). For Whites, as many live in their parents' home as live with a spouse, while for Asians, living with a spouse is actually the most common arrangement for young people.

If we consider living with a spouse or unmarried partner as one group, then White young adults are the most likely to be living as couples, some 44 percent, while Blacks have the smallest share at 23 percent. Almost half of these Black couples are unmarried, which reflects their relatively low probability of marrying. Blacks have a less than 50 percent chance of marrying by the age of 30, compared with an almost 75 percent chance for Whites and Asians.[1]

[1] C. Copen et al., "First Marriages in the United States: Data From the 2006–2010 National Survey of Family Growth," *National Health Statistics Reports, No. 49*, National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2012.

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The Delay in Marriage and Parenthood Reflect the Growing Complexity of Young Adult Experiences

For decades, researchers have looked at a set of common experiences that signify the transition to adulthood: leaving home, working, marrying, and becoming a parent.[15] To get a better sense of how the transition to adulthood has changed over time, we can look at the most common combination of these four experiences in 1975 (regardless of the order in which young adults completed them). Is this combination of experiences still the most common today?

The most common combination in 1975 was having all four milestones. Close to half (45 percent) of all 25- to 34-year-olds lived away from parents, were ever married, lived with a child, and were in the labor force (Figure 5). The second most common set, another 22 percent, had all of those milestones except they did not work (many of these people were married mothers who, in 1975, were not working outside the home). In other words, there was a good deal of uniformity in what people experienced by their early 30s: the two most common sets of milestones described the experiences of two-thirds of all 25- to 34-year-olds in 1975.

Today, the experiences are more diverse. The most common arrangement is still having all four milestones, but that combination applies to a much smaller proportion of 25- to 34-year-olds: only 24 percent, compared with 45 percent in 1975 (Figure 5). The second most common set in 2016, describing about 1 in 4 young people, is living away from parents and being in the labor force, a marked contrast to the second most common set in 1975, which revolved around marriage and parenthood. Taken together, the two most common sets of milestones in 2016 describe just under half of all 25- to 34-year-olds, far less than what the two most common sets described in 1975. Since the rest of the young adults must fit into some combination of these four milestones (even if they have none of them), the conclusion is that the experiences of young people today are more diverse, the transitions to adulthood more varied.[16]

THE GROWING ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF YOUNG ADULTS

Who young adults live with goes hand in hand with their economic security. Young people tend to put off marriage and parenthood when they are worried about their financial well-being, such as during a recession or when they are unemployed.[17] They weigh the cost of housing in the decision to move and if they perceive that living on their own will be too expensive, young people put off forming their own household.[18] Unemployment also acts as a catalyst for moving back to the parents' home or doubling up in another household, whereas higher incomes make it easier for young adults to live independently.[19, 20] As a result, decisions about who to live with and whether and when to marry reflect the economic circumstances of young people.

Are Today's Young Adults Better Off Than Prior Generations?

Americans' attitudes about adulthood suggest that some young people should delay traditional experiences, like marrying and starting a family, because they should achieve educational and economic milestones first. They want to finish school and feel financially secure enough that they can support a family. But are they? How do the economic conditions of young people today compare to those in 1975? Here the report focuses on 25- to 34-year-olds, an age group that has had the time to finish school, start working, and form their own households independent of their parents.

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[15] M. Shanahan et al., "Subjective Age Identity and the Transition to Adulthood: When Do Adolescents Become Adults?" *On The Frontier of Adulthood: Theory, Research, and Public Policy,* pp. 225–255, R. Settersten Jr., F. Furstenberg, Jr., and R. Rumbaut, eds., University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 2005.

[16] Wayne Osgood et al., "Six Paths to Adulthood: Fast Starters. Parents Without Careers, Educated Partners, Educated Singles, Working Singles, and Slow Starters," *On The Frontier of Adulthood: Theory, Research, and Public Policy,* pp. 320–355, R. Settersten, Jr., F. Furstenberg, Jr., and R. Rumbaut, eds., University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 2005.

[17] V.K. Oppenheimer, "Cohabiting and Marriage During Young Men's Career-Development Process," *Demography,* Vol. 40, 2003, pp. 127–149. See also, T. Sobotka, V. Skirbekk, and D. Philipov, "Economic Recession and Fertility in the Developed World," *Population and Development Review,* Vol. 37, 2011, pp. 267–306, and D. Schneider, "The Great Recession, Fertility, and Uncertainty: Evidence from the United States," *Journal of Marriage and Family,* Vol. 77, 2015, pp. 1144–1156.

[18] F. Billari and A. Liefbroer, "Should I Stay Or Should I Go? The Impact of Age Norms on Leaving Home," *Demography,* Vol. 44, 2007, pp. 181–198.

[19] E. Wiemers, "The Effect of Unemployment on Household Composition and Doubling Up," *Demography,* Vol. 51, 2014, pp. 2155–2178. See also, L. Mykyta and S. Macartney, "Sharing a Household: Household Composition and Economic Well-Being: 2007–2010," *Current Population Report,* P60-242, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2012, and G. Kaplan, "Moving Back Home: Insurance Against Labor Market Risk," *Journal of Political Economy,* Vol. 120, 2012, pp. 446–512.

[20] M. Iacovou, "Leaving Home: Independence, Togetherness, and Income," *Advances in Life Course Research,* Vol. 15, 2010, pp. 147–160. See also, J. Ermisch, "Prices, Parents and Young People's Household Formation," *Journal of Urban Economics,* Vol. 45, 1999, pp. 47–71.

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Figure 5.

Four Common Milestones of Adulthood—Getting Married, Having Children, Working, and Living Independently

What are the most common combinations that young adults have completed?

(Percentage of young adults aged 25 to 34)

In 1975

Ranking	Milestones	Percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds
1	**All four milestones** Lived away from parents, ever married, lived with a child, in the labor force	45
2	Lived away from parents, ever married, lived with a child	22
3	Lived away from parents, ever married, in the labor force	15
4	Lived away from parents, in the labor force	6
5	In the labor force only	3
	All other combinations	9

In 2016

Ranking	Milestones	Percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds
1	**All four milestones** Lived away from parents, ever married, lived with a child, in the labor force	24
2	Lived away from parents, in the labor force	23
3	Lived away from parents, ever married, in the labor force	13
4	Lived away from parents, in the labor force, lived with a child	8
5	In the labor force only	8
6	Lived away from parents, ever married, lived with a child	8
	All other combinations	16

Note: Each ranked group lists only the milestones that the young adults in that group experienced.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1975 and 2016 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

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More young people today have a college degree and work full-time, year-round . . .

Today's young adults are better educated than their peers were in 1975. Among 25- to 34-year-olds, more than one-third have a college degree or higher, compared with less than one-quarter in 1975 (Table 2). However, young women have experienced more dramatic educational changes than men. There are now more young women than young men with a college degree, whereas in 1975 educational attainment among young men outpaced that of women.[21] Having a more educated population of young adults marks a relative improvement in their economic condition, given the strong link between higher education and higher earnings.[22]

. . . but, young women are pulling ahead, while young men are falling behind.

On the whole, more young people are working today and have a full-time job that employs them year-round (Table 2). The driving force behind the increase, however, has been the rise of young women in the labor force. Whereas the share of men aged 25 to 34 who were employed is about the same today as it was in 1975, the share of young women who were employed has risen from just under one-half to over two-thirds (Table 2). Even among young women who were out of the labor force, we see a remarkable change in the reason why they were not working. In 1975, virtually all of the young women who were out of the labor force reported the reason why as taking care of home and family (the share of women out of the labor force is only slightly larger than the share who were homemakers, Table 2). But by 2016, less than half of young women who were out of the labor force were homemakers.

Over the last four decades, young women have made considerable economic gains. The median income of women aged 25 to 34 who were working rose from $23,000 to $29,000 between 1975

[21] C. Ryan and K. Bauman, "Educational Attainment in the United States: 2015," *Current Population Reports*, P20-578, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2016.

[22] Bureau of Labor Statistics, "More Education Still Means More Pay in 2014," *The Economics Daily*, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC, 2014.

Table 2.

Young Women's Economic Gains Are Outpacing Men's

Economic and educational characteristics of young adults aged 25 to 34

(In percent)

Characteristics	1975			2016		
	All	Men	Women	All	Men	Women
Total (in thousands)	**30,101**	**14,785**	**15,316**	**43,751**	**21,838**	**21,912**
Work						
Employed	66.8	84.9	49.3	77.0	83.7	70.4
Worked full-time, year-round[1]	46.0	66.7	26.0	57.3	66.6	48.1
Unemployed	6.3	7.7	4.9	4.5	5.1	4.0
Not in labor force	26.9	7.4	45.8	18.4	11.2	25.7
Homemaker[2]	N	N	42.9	7.5	1.0	13.9
Education						
Bachelor's degree or higher	22.8	27.4	18.4	37.0	34.0	40.0
Associate's degree or some college	20.0	21.8	18.2	28.8	27.6	30.1
High school diploma	39.6	34.5	44.6	25.6	29.2	22.1
No high school diploma	17.6	16.3	18.8	8.5	9.2	7.8
Economic Resources						
Homeowner[3]	51.9	48.7	55.0	28.8	26.6	31.1
Personal income (median)[4]	$36,858	$45,908	$22,895	$34,837	$40,401	$29,429
$0–$29,999	52.8	25.0	79.6	49.7	41.4	58.1
$30,000–$59,999	33.6	49.0	18.8	32.0	35.1	28.8
$60,000–$99,999	11.9	22.7	1.5	12.9	15.9	9.9
$100,000 or more	1.7	3.3	0.2	5.4	7.6	3.2

N Not available.

[1] Worked at least 50 weeks in the year prior to interview and worked at least 35 hours per week.

[2] Only asked of women in 1975. To be considered a homemaker, young adults must not be in the labor force and, when asked why, report that they are taking care of home and family.

[3] To be considered a homeowner, young adults must be living in their own household as the householder or spouse of the householder, and they must own or be buying the housing unit (i.e., not renting).

[4] Income shown in 2015 dollars, adjusted for inflation using the research series of the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U-RS), provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1975 and 2016 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

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and today (in 2015 dollars, Table 2). At the same time, the share of young women who earned $60,000 or more grew from about 2 percent to 13 percent—a minority, but still a sizeable change. Even with this change, however, the median income of young women is still $11,000 lower than the income of young men.

While young women made gains, some young men fell behind. Since 1975, young men have swelled the ranks at the bottom of the income distribution. Some 41 percent of all men aged 25 to 34 have incomes less than $30,000 today, up from 25 percent in 1975. Growth at the bottom, and to a smaller extent the top, came at the expense of the middle. Between 1975 and 2016, the share of young men with incomes in the middle ($30,000 to $59,999) fell from 49 percent to 35 percent, while the share at the very top ($100,000 or more) grew from 3 percent to 8 percent (Table 2).

Living Arrangements During Young Adulthood: The Majority of Young Adults No Longer Live in Their Own Household

Historically, the transition to adulthood for many young people has involved leaving their parents' home and establishing their own household.[23] The timing of setting up an independent household has been tied to when young adults marry and start a family. Homeownership especially is tied to marriage and family, as it is typical in the United States for married couples to live independently of their parents.[24] But as young people continue delaying marriage, they still set up their own households whether they live alone or with an unmarried partner.[25] Living in an independent household is expensive and the ability to do so hinges, in part, on young adults' economic resources as well as the costs of rent and homeownership.[26] The next section of this report (and Tables 4, 5, and 6) focuses on differences in the economic characteristics of young adults across three different arrangements: whether they live independently in their own household, live in their parents' household, or live with roommates.

Within the last 10 years, the breadth and speed of change in living arrangements have been tremendous. In 2005, the majority of young people lived independently in their own household (either alone, with a spouse, or an unmarried partner), which was the predominant living arrangement in 35 states. By 2015—just a decade later—only six states had a majority of young people living independently (Table 3).[27] Some areas of the country, like Florida and Nevada, have seen a faster transformation over the past 10 years, while others, like North Dakota and South Dakota, have seen little change (Table 3). Of the top five states where the most young adults lived independently in 2015, all were in Midwest and Plains states. North Dakota ranked the highest with 60 percent of young adults living in their own household and, along with South Dakota, was the only state that has not witnessed a decline in young adults living independently over the last decade. The remaining four of the top five states in 2015 were South Dakota, Iowa, Wyoming, and Nebraska.

Why are there geographic differences in young adult living arrangements? For one, local labor and housing markets shape the ability of young people to find good jobs and affordable housing, which in turn affects whether and when they form their own households. Apart from local markets, patterns in migration may help create geographic differences in young adult living arrangements. For example, single people may be more likely to relocate for school or work. If many single young adults move to the same area, that area might see higher rates of living alone or with roommates. Last, there may be cultural norms in parts of the country that drive particular living arrangements, reflected in higher marriage rates or earlier ages at first marriage.

[23] S. Ruggles, "Patriarchy, Power, and Pay: The Transformation of American Families, 1800–2015." *Demography,* Vol. 52, 2015, pp. 1797–1823. See also, T. Burch and B. Matthews, "Household Formation in Developed Societies," *Population and Development Review*, Vol. 13, 1987, pp. 495–511.

[24] J. Henretta, "Family Transitions, Housing Market Context, and First Home Purchase by Young Married Households," *Social Forces,* Vol. 66, 1987, pp. 520–536. See also, W. Clark et al., "Tenure Changes in the Context of Micro Level Family and Macro Level Economic Shifts," *Urban Studies,* Vol. 31, 1994, pp. 137–154, and C. Mulder, "Homeownership and Family Formation," *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment,* Vol. 21, 2006, pp. 281–298.

[25] E. Klinenberg, *Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone,* Penguin, New York, NY, 2012. See also, C. Mulder and W. Clark, "Leaving Home and Leaving the State: Evidence from the United States," *Population, Space, and Place,* Vol. 6, 2000, 432–437.

[26] M. Hughes, "Home Economics: Metropolitan Labor and Housing Markets and Domestic Arrangements in Young Adulthood," *Social Forces,* Vol. 81, 2003, pp. 1399–1429. See also, J. Ermisch, "Prices, Parents and Young People's Household Formation," *Journal of Urban Economics*, Vol. 45, 1999, pp. 47–71.

[27] As shown in Table 3, this estimate includes state-like entities such as Washington, DC.

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Table 3.

A Decade of Change: The State of Young Adult Living Arrangements

Change in living arrangements for young adults aged 18 to 34 between 2005 and 2015

States			Percent living in parents' home[1]			Percent living independently[2]			Percent living with roommates[3]		
	Total 2005	Total 2015	In 2005	In 2015	Change	In 2005	In 2015	Change	In 2005	In 2015	Change
Total	**65,081,164**	**70,872,118**	**26.0**	**34.1**	**8.1**	**51.0**	**40.7**	**–10.3**	**23.0**	**25.2**	**2.2**
Alabama	995,907	1,029,932	26.9	35.0	8.1	50.2	40.0	–10.2	22.8	25.1	2.3
Alaska	142,895	187,338	24.0	30.0	6.0	57.2	45.2	–12.0	18.8	24.9	6.1
Arizona	1,387,424	1,498,219	20.4	31.6	11.2	54.3	41.6	–12.7	25.3	26.8	1.5
Arkansas	604,430	628,225	22.5	27.5	5.0	57.4	47.9	–9.5	20.1	24.6	4.5
California	8,335,088	9,363,171	27.9	38.1	10.2	44.8	33.1	–11.7	27.3	28.8	1.5
Colorado	1,128,498	1,288,232	18.6	24.6	6.0	57.4	46.9	–10.5	24.1	28.5	4.4
Connecticut	653,418	727,451	32.8	41.6	8.8	46.8	35.3	–11.5	20.5	23.2	2.7
Delaware	179,588	198,119	22.9	36.2	13.3	52.0	39.7	–12.3	25.1	24.1	–1.0
District of Columbia	137,253	206,059	13.5	16.6	3.1	50.4	41.1	–9.3	36.1	42.3	6.2
Florida	3,569,254	4,165,187	25.3	38.3	13.0	49.7	35.0	–14.7	24.9	26.6	1.7
Georgia	2,159,880	2,256,730	23.2	34.2	11.0	52.0	39.9	–12.1	24.8	25.8	1.0
Hawaii	263,263	323,785	32.5	33.7	1.2	40.5	35.9	–4.6	27.0	30.4	3.4
Idaho	331,799	356,749	19.8	26.9	7.1	59.8	49.1	–10.7	20.4	23.9	3.5
Illinois	2,874,201	2,862,173	28.4	36.5	8.1	49.9	40.3	–9.6	21.7	23.2	1.5
Indiana	1,358,496	1,411,567	23.2	31.9	8.7	57.6	46.0	–11.6	19.2	22.1	2.9
Iowa	632,576	653,820	19.8	22.8	3.0	60.2	54.9	–5.3	20.0	22.4	2.4
Kansas	618,385	645,292	21.4	26.0	4.6	57.8	50.8	–7.0	20.9	23.2	2.3
Kentucky	912,390	918,524	25.0	30.0	5.0	56.4	48.1	–8.3	18.6	21.9	3.3
Louisiana	1,031,839	1,066,596	30.5	33.8	3.3	46.8	41.2	–5.6	22.6	25.0	2.4
Maine	249,819	243,869	25.0	31.7	6.7	55.6	47.2	–8.4	19.4	21.1	1.7
Maryland	1,161,924	1,309,727	29.1	38.5	9.4	46.1	35.6	–10.5	24.8	26.0	1.2
Massachusetts	1,333,145	1,473,188	28.7	37.0	8.3	46.9	36.4	–10.5	24.3	26.6	2.3
Michigan	2,147,381	2,091,966	27.6	34.9	7.3	52.0	42.3	–9.7	20.4	22.8	2.4
Minnesota	1,142,094	1,184,810	22.9	27.3	4.4	56.3	49.7	–6.6	20.7	23.0	2.3
Mississippi	647,602	634,479	30.3	36.8	6.5	45.5	37.3	–8.2	24.2	26.0	1.8
Missouri	1,265,360	1,300,061	23.4	28.6	5.2	55.9	48.0	–7.9	20.8	23.4	2.6
Montana	196,172	214,178	19.5	24.1	4.6	58.0	51.3	–6.7	22.6	24.6	2.0
Nebraska	395,110	416,098	20.2	22.7	2.5	59.9	53.8	–6.1	19.9	23.5	3.6
Nevada	565,911	649,537	19.4	31.3	11.9	54.4	40.0	–14.4	26.1	28.8	2.7
New Hampshire	247,070	258,019	27.6	36.5	8.9	53.5	43.5	–10.0	18.8	20.0	1.2
New Jersey	1,730,615	1,858,390	36.1	46.9	10.8	43.2	33.1	–10.1	20.7	20.0	–0.7
New Mexico	424,684	457,390	25.6	36.0	10.4	52.9	40.1	–12.8	21.5	23.9	2.4
New York	4,103,168	4,511,095	33.2	40.6	7.4	42.6	33.1	–9.5	24.2	26.3	2.1
North Carolina	1,911,237	2,140,661	21.7	31.1	9.4	54.9	44.1	–10.8	23.4	24.7	1.3
North Dakota	140,705	192,278	17.6	14.1	–3.5	63.4	60.4	–3.0	19.0	25.5	6.5
Ohio	2,415,973	2,410,813	25.8	31.3	5.5	54.4	45.9	–8.5	19.8	22.8	3.0
Oklahoma	799,224	871,233	21.3	26.7	5.4	57.9	48.6	–9.3	20.8	24.7	3.9
Oregon	824,665	876,835	18.5	26.7	8.2	58.0	44.3	–13.7	23.5	29.0	5.5
Pennsylvania	2,426,315	2,619,241	30.5	37.1	6.6	49.3	41.4	–7.9	20.2	21.5	1.3
Rhode Island	219,786	229,657	28.6	37.1	8.5	46.4	36.3	–10.1	25.0	26.6	1.6
South Carolina	914,915	1,034,157	25.7	33.5	7.8	50.6	40.5	–10.1	23.7	26.0	2.3
South Dakota	167,572	179,718	19.5	19.9	0.4	59.3	56.8	–2.5	21.2	23.3	2.1
Tennessee	1,320,466	1,417,748	24.2	31.4	7.2	54.2	44.0	–10.2	21.6	24.6	3.0
Texas	5,458,959	6,461,979	24.3	33.2	8.9	53.3	42.3	–11.0	22.4	24.5	2.1
Utah	720,498	752,616	21.7	28.6	6.9	57.1	46.3	–10.8	21.1	25.0	3.9
Vermont	120,199	119,405	24.7	30.4	5.7	53.2	45.2	–8.0	22.1	24.5	2.4
Virginia	1,615,582	1,838,572	24.7	32.3	7.6	51.3	41.6	–9.7	24.0	26.1	2.1
Washington	1,434,024	1,642,844	21.2	26.6	5.4	55.5	47.6	–7.9	23.3	25.8	2.5
West Virginia	368,696	356,718	27.4	32.9	5.5	55.6	44.5	–11.1	17.0	22.6	5.6
Wisconsin	1,184,537	1,205,671	23.7	27.4	3.7	55.4	49.7	–5.7	20.9	22.9	2.0
Wyoming	111,172	131,996	18.1	20.9	2.8	61.3	54.7	–6.6	20.6	24.4	3.8

[1] Child of the householder, regardless of the young adult's marital status.
[2] The young adult lives alone, is the householder living with a spouse or unmarried partner, or is the spouse or unmarried partner of the householder.
[3] Living with other relatives or nonrelatives.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 and 2015 American Community Survey, 1-Year Data File.

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Table 4.

More Than Half of Younger Millennials Live in Their Parents' Home

Demographic and economic characteristics of young adults aged 18 to 24: 2015

Characteristics	Living in parents' home[1]		Living independently[2]		Living with roommates[3]	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	**15,795,266**	**100.0**	**4,458,204**	**100.0**	**7,757,228**	**100.0**
DEMOGRAPHICS AND HEALTH						
Sex						
Women	7,316,710	46.3	2,587,170	58.0	3,850,640	49.6
Men	8,478,556	53.7	1,871,034	42.0	3,906,588	50.4
Age						
18 to 19	5,459,426	34.6	249,603	5.6	1,328,036	17.1
20 to 24	10,335,840	65.4	4,208,601	94.4	6,429,192	82.9
Race, Non-Hispanic						
White alone	8,147,667	51.6	2,851,558	64.0	4,054,476	52.3
Black alone	2,349,574	14.9	463,235	10.4	1,202,915	15.5
Asian alone	768,853	4.9	137,164	3.1	534,140	6.9
Other race	665,474	4.2	178,622	4.0	337,825	4.4
Hispanic (any race)	3,863,698	24.5	827,625	18.6	1,627,872	21.0
Has a disability[4]	1,043,993	6.6	224,079	5.0	413,383	5.3
ECONOMICS AND EDUCATION						
Work Status						
Employed	9,033,467	57.2	3,398,930	76.2	4,981,017	64.2
Worked full-time, year-round	2,813,361	17.8	2,108,857	47.3	2,174,107	28.0
Mean hours worked per week	29.9	X	38.3	X	33.3	X
Unemployed	1,594,298	10.1	247,436	5.6	642,978	8.3
Not in labor force	5,167,501	32.7	811,838	18.2	2,133,233	27.5
Educational Attainment						
Bachelor's degree or higher[5]	1,312,497	8.3	847,812	19.0	1,004,499	12.9
Associate's degree or some college	6,632,410	42.0	1,929,764	43.3	3,543,912	45.7
High school diploma or less	7,850,359	49.7	1,680,628	37.7	3,208,817	41.4
Enrolled in school	8,463,376	53.6	1,198,279	26.9	3,585,994	46.2
Personal Income[6]						
$0–$29,999	14,973,114	94.8	3,415,553	76.6	6,917,118	89.2
$30,000–$59,999	736,414	4.7	885,252	19.9	715,064	9.2
$60,000–$99,999	70,908	0.4	134,984	3.0	101,290	1.3
$100,000 or more	13,213	0.1	21,950	0.5	22,876	0.3
HOUSING AND RESIDENCY						
Type						
Single-family home	12,511,540	79.2	1,627,531	36.5	3,975,428	51.2
Apartment or multifamily building	2,420,974	15.3	2,506,900	56.2	3,390,518	43.7
Other housing type	862,752	5.5	323,773	7.3	391,282	5.0
Lived at same address a year ago	14,127,196	89.4	2,157,685	48.4	4,505,942	58.1
Tenure						
Owned home	10,830,698	68.6	802,211	18.0	2,458,831	31.7
Rented	4,964,568	31.4	3,655,993	82.0	5,298,397	68.3

X Not applicable.

[1] Child of the householder, regardless of the young adult's marital status.

[2] The young adult lives alone, or is the householder living with a spouse or unmarried partner, or is the spouse or unmarried partner of the householder.

[3] Living with other relatives or nonrelatives.

[4] "Has a disability" means the young adult reported having at least one of the following six types of disabilities: hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, or independent living difficulty.

[5] Most 18- to 24-year-olds will not have had time to finish a traditional 4-year degree. However, the table shows bachelor's degree so that the other two categories, some college and high school diploma, are still directly comparable with those in Table 5.

[6] Excludes young adults with incomes less than $0.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, 1-Year Data File.

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Table 5.

Less Than Two-Thirds of Older Millennials Live Independently

Demographic and economic characteristics of young adults aged 25 to 34: 2015

Characteristics	Living in parents' home[1]		Living independently[2]		Living with roommates[3]	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total	**8,381,719**	**100.0**	**24,361,670**	**100.0**	**10,118,031**	**100.0**
DEMOGRAPHICS AND HEALTH						
Sex						
Women	3,679,325	43.9	12,662,051	52.0	5,252,256	51.9
Men	4,702,394	56.1	11,699,619	48.0	4,865,775	48.1
Age						
25 to 29	5,496,782	65.6	10,476,186	43.0	5,761,676	56.9
30 to 34	2,884,937	34.4	13,885,484	57.0	4,356,355	43.1
Race, Non-Hispanic						
White alone	4,191,760	50.0	15,525,081	63.7	4,702,087	46.5
Black alone	1,428,202	17.0	2,167,943	8.9	1,836,600	18.2
Asian alone	571,458	6.8	1,553,525	6.4	749,956	7.4
Other race	326,003	3.9	746,193	3.1	365,294	3.6
Hispanic (any race)	1,864,296	22.2	4,368,928	17.9	2,464,094	24.4
Has a disability[4]	904,027	10.8	1,019,146	4.2	629,653	6.2
ECONOMICS AND EDUCATION						
Work Status						
Employed	5,778,467	68.9	19,869,452	81.6	7,863,056	77.7
Worked full-time, year-round	3,650,765	43.6	15,556,869	63.9	5,616,542	55.5
Mean hours worked per week	37.1	X	41.6	X	39.5	X
Unemployed	850,850	10.2	829,979	3.4	681,695	6.7
Not in labor force	1,752,402	20.9	3,662,239	15.0	1,573,280	15.5
Educational Attainment						
Bachelor's degree or higher	2,067,987	24.7	9,964,959	40.9	2,863,508	28.3
Associate's degree or some college	2,839,777	33.9	7,562,896	31.0	3,210,941	31.7
High school diploma or less	3,473,955	41.4	6,833,815	28.1	4,043,582	40.0
Enrolled in school	1,275,605	15.2	2,563,726	10.5	1,424,952	14.1
Personal Income[5]						
$0–$29,999	6,246,561	74.6	10,997,674	45.2	6,402,325	63.3
$30,000–$59,999	1,730,304	20.7	8,291,726	34.1	2,705,916	26.8
$60,000–$99,999	336,456	4.0	3,653,443	15.0	806,182	8.0
$100,000 or more	65,105	0.8	1,408,061	5.8	201,060	2.0
HOUSING AND RESIDENCY						
Type						
Single-family home	6,686,540	79.8	14,530,608	59.6	5,478,158	54.1
Apartment or multifamily building	1,232,904	14.7	8,609,516	35.3	4,136,030	40.9
Other housing type	462,275	5.5	1,221,546	5.0	503,843	5.0
Lived at same address a year ago	7,341,159	87.6	18,004,804	73.9	7,177,646	70.9
Tenure						
Owned home	6,230,071	74.3	10,918,075	44.8	3,439,069	34.0
Rented	2,151,648	25.7	13,443,595	55.2	6,678,962	66.0

X Not applicable.

[1] Child of the householder, regardless of the young adult's marital status.

[2] The young adult lives alone, or is the householder living with a spouse or unmarried partner, or is the spouse or unmarried partner of the householder.

[3] Living with other relatives or nonrelatives.

[4] "Has a disability" means the young adult reported having at least one of the following six types of disabilities: hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, or independent living difficulty.

[5] Excludes young adults with incomes less than $0.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, 1-Year Data File.

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Table 6.

One in Four Young People Living at Home Are Neither in School Nor Working

Characteristics of young adults aged 25 to 34 living in the parents' home in 2015

Characteristics	Enrolled or working		Neither enrolled nor working[1]	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total	**6,218,882**	**100.0**	**2,162,837**	**100.0**
DEMOGRAPHICS AND HEALTH				
Sex				
Women	2,760,638	44.4	918,687	42.5
Men	3,458,244	55.6	1,244,150	57.5
Age				
25 to 29	4,202,426	67.6	1,294,356	59.8
30 to 34	2,016,456	32.4	868,481	40.2
Has a child	1,087,299	17.5	462,655	21.4
Race, Non-Hispanic				
White alone	3,093,788	49.7	1,097,972	50.8
Black alone	985,022	15.8	443,180	20.5
Asian alone	477,887	7.7	93,571	4.3
Other race	224,231	3.6	101,772	4.7
Hispanic (any race)	1,437,954	23.1	426,342	19.7
Has a disability[2]	307,912	5.0	596,115	27.6
EDUCATION				
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,812,320	29.1	255,667	11.8
Associate's degree or some college	2,332,733	37.5	507,044	23.4
High school diploma or less	2,073,829	33.3	1,400,126	64.7
RESIDENCY				
Lived at same address a year ago	5,473,308	88.0	1,867,851	86.4

[1] "Neither enrolled nor working" means that the young adult was not enrolled in classes within the last 3 months, plus they were either unemployed or not engaged in the labor force at the time of interview.

[2] "Has a disability" means the young adult reported having at least one of the following six types of disabilities: hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, or independent living difficulty.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, 1-Year Data File.

Young Adults Who Are Economically Secure Tend to Live Independently

Who young adults live with reflects, in part, their economic security. Today, of the 28 million young millennials (aged 18 to 24), 16 million—more than half—live in their parents' home, a group that is more likely to be enrolled in school and out of the labor force than their peers in other living arrangements (Table 4). Among older millennials (aged 25 to 34) who lived in their own household in 2015, about 41 percent had at least a bachelor's degree and about two-thirds had a full-time job that employed them year-round (Table 5). In contrast, their peers who lived with parents or roommates were less likely to have a bachelor's degree or a job that employed them full-time, year-round.

Overall, the picture of living with parents or roommates is one of young people who are working toward a firmer footing. For both young and older millennials in these arrangements, they are more likely to be enrolled in school than their peers living independently (Tables 4 and 5). In line with attitudes about the importance of education for becoming an adult, many young people wait to set up their own household until after they finish school. Living on their own can be expensive, so young people who live independently tend to have higher incomes, even among young millennials. Among older millennials, more than half of those who live in their own household have incomes of at least $30,000, compared with only one-third of their peers living with roommates and one-quarter living with parents (Table 5).

Living arrangements are more than just a matter of economics. A higher proportion of older millennials living with parents have a disability of some kind (Table 5). They may be living at home because they need instrumental support or caregiving, factors that could affect

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their ability to work. Indeed, adult children who are disabled are more likely to live with their parents.[28] Seen in this light, the lower rates of working among people living at home may be linked to poorer health and disability.

A Closer Look at Young People Living at Home: 1 in 4 Are Idle, Neither Going to School nor Working

It is easy to think of young people living in their parents' home as a homogeneous group, as though they were all unemployed and dependent on their parents' support. At 24.2 million people, the population of 18- to 34-year-olds living at home is a large and diverse group.[29] Most of them—about 81 percent—are either working or going to school. This should not be surprising because most people aged 18 to 24 are living in their parents' home, attending classes or working part-time. On the other hand, we might be surprised if their older peers do not contribute to the family budget because they have had more time to finish school and find a stable job. Yet, of the 8.4 million 25- to 34-year-olds living at home, about 1 in 4 are idle, meaning they are not in school and do not work (Table 6).

Who are these young adults who are not in the labor force or going to school? They tend to be older millennials who are White or Black and have only a high school education, compared with their peers who are working or going to school while living at home (Table 6). But they may not be idle for want of effort. They are more likely to have a child, so they may be caring for family, and over one-quarter have a disability of some kind (Table 6). That so many are disabled suggests that they have limitations in their ability to attend classes, study, find work, or keep a regular job. Recent stories on boomerang children returning home focus on economic downturns, unforgiving job markets, and high rents.[30] Though often overlooked in these stories, young people's health may play an important role in their decision to live with parents.

CONCLUSION

If one theme describes how adulthood has changed over the last 40 years, it is growing complexity. In 1975, there was one predominant adult milestone—family formation—that people largely experienced during their 20s. Today, while the milestones have remained the same, the pathways are more diverse. Those who marry and become parents by their late 20s are the minority; growing shares of young adults live alone, with roommates, or with an unmarried partner. That young people wait to settle down and start families tells us about their behavior, but not how they feel about their experiences. More than half of all Americans believe that getting married and having children are not important to becoming an adult. In contrast, more than 9 in 10 Americans believe that finishing school and being gainfully employed are important milestones of adulthood. What is revealing is the timing of these milestones which most Americans believe should happen before marriage. Having a history of work experience, and presumably savings and financial security, as a prelude to settling down suggests that marriage is a capstone experience,[31] one that comes after (sometimes years after) young people feel financially secure.

The complexity of the pathways to adulthood extends to economic conditions, as well. Today, more young people work full-time and have a college degree than their peers did in 1975, but fewer own their home. Whereas young women have made economic gains, some young men are falling behind. Compared to their peers in 1975, young men are more likely to be absent from the work force and a far higher share today are at the bottom of the income ladder. It is little surprise then that those still living with parents are disproportionately young men. Taken together, the changing demographic and economic experiences of young adults reveal a period of adulthood that has grown more complex since 1975, a period of changing roles and new transitions as young people redefine what it means to become adults.[32]

METHODOLOGY

Estimating How Many Young Adults Live in the Parental Home: Differences Between the American Community Survey and Current Population Survey

This study uses both the American Community Survey (ACS) and Current Population Survey (CPS) to estimate the number of young adults living in their parents' home.

[28] A. Smits, R. van Gaalen, and C. Mulder, "Parent-Child Coresidence: Who Moves in With Whom and For Whose Needs?" *Journal of Marriage and Family,* Vol. 72, 2010, pp. 1022–1033.

[29] The total number of young people living at home comes from Tables 4 and 5, using the American Community Survey. This estimate of 24.2 million does not match the estimate shown in Figure 3, which uses the Current Population Survey. The surveys use different sampling and weighting procedures, which may affect the estimates. See the Methodology for more information.

[30] K. Parker, "The Boomerang Generation: Feeling OK About Living With Mom and Dad," Pew Research Center, Pew Social and Demographic Trends, Washington, DC, 2012. See also, news stories by *Forbes*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Slate*, and the *New York Times*.

[31] A. Cherlin, *The Marriage-Go-Round: The State of Marriage and the Family in America Today,* Vintage, New York, NY, 2010.

[32] J. Silva, "Constructing Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty," *American Sociological Review,* Vol. 77, 2012, pp. :505–522.

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The 2015 ACS estimates that about 24.2 million 18- to 34-year-olds lived in their parents' home (Tables 4 and 5), compared with 22.9 million in the 2016 CPS. Differences between the surveys in data collection methods and coverage, weighting, and editing may affect the estimate. One major difference between the surveys that may affect these numbers is that the ACS estimates of householders are controlled to match the estimate of occupied housing units, while this is not true in the CPS. Therefore, the overall estimate of households in the two surveys differs considerably, which may affect the count of young adults living in their parents' home. For more information on the differences in household estimates across Census Bureau surveys, see the paper by Cresce, Cheng, and Grieves.[33] The CPS has an additional caveat in that the survey counts college students living in dormitories as if they were living in their parents' home, while the ACS counts them in the dormitories (group quarters). The reason that this report includes the CPS estimate is for historical comparisons. The ACS did not begin until 2005, so the study can only look back to 1975 using the CPS.

Data From the General Social Survey on the Milestones of Adulthood

The General Social Survey <http://gss.norc.org/> asked about the milestones of adulthood in a special module fielded in 2012, which was developed by the MacArthur Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood. It collected answers from respondents who were aged 18 and older on how important specific milestones were in order to be considered an adult. The survey asked about all of the milestones in the same way: "People differ in their ideas about what it takes for a young person to become an adult these days. How important is it for them to have/be..."

- Financially independent from their parents/guardians?
- No longer living in their parents' household?
- Completed their formal schooling?
- Employed full-time?
- Capable of supporting a family financially?
- A child?
- Gotten married?

Response categories were extremely important, quite important, somewhat important, not too important, and not important. This report collapses these categories into three groups. As shown in Table 1, extremely important includes respondents who said the milestone was extremely important, somewhat important includes those who said it was quite important or somewhat important, and not important includes respondents who said either not too important or not important at all. For each milestone, respondents who said the experience was at least somewhat important were then asked a follow up question: By what age should the experience normally occur? This report takes the median age that respondents replied and shows it as the ideal age for completing the milestone (Figure 1 and Table 1). Missing data from refusals and don't know answers (typically less than 1 percent of respondents for each question) are excluded from the analysis.

Family Delayed, but Not Forgone

Data on fertility and childbearing is reported only for women because the CPS June Fertility Supplement surveys only female respondents. Although data are reported for 20- to 24-year-olds, the fertility estimates for 1976 also include 18- and 19-year-olds. Estimates on marriage come from the CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement and use marital status to determine whether respondents were ever married. The category includes people who were at least 18 years old and who reported being married (regardless of whether their spouse was present in the household), separated, divorced, or widowed (Figure 2).

More Young Adults Lived With Parents Than a Spouse in 2016

Figure 3 groups 18- to 34-year-olds into five mutually exclusive living arrangements:

- *Spouse:* Any young adult who lives with a spouse, regardless of whether anyone else is present in the household (e.g., parents, roommates, other family members).
- *Parents' home:* The young adult is reported as the child of the householder and is not living with a spouse or cohabiting partner. Estimates include college students who are living in dormitories.
- *Alone:* The young adult is the only person living in the household.
- *Partner:* The young adult lives with an unmarried partner. For 1975, the estimate of unmarried couples uses an indirect measure called POSSLQ (partners of the opposite sex sharing living quarters), because respondents could not report unmarried partners. POSSLQ includes

[33] A. Cresce, Y. Cheng, and C. Grieves, "Household Estimates Conundrum: Effort to Develop More Consistent Household Estimates Across Surveys," Paper presented at the 2013 meeting of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, Washington, DC.

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only households that have just two adults, one man and one woman, who are unrelated to each other, have no spouse present and are at least 18 years old. Children may or may not be present in the household. For 2016, the estimate relies on a direct question asking about the presence of unmarried partners, including all cohabiting partners, regardless of whether they are the householder. The 2016 estimate includes same sex unmarried couples.

- *Other:* All living arrangements that were not already covered, including people who were living with relatives other than a spouse, such as siblings or grandparents, as well as nonrelatives such as roommates.

Race Differences in Living Arrangements

For information about the living arrangement categories, see the notes for Figure 3. The race categories for Asian, White, and Black include young adults who reported that they were only that race and were not Hispanic (Figure 4). Other races include several groups: young adults who were not Hispanic, and reported either multiple race groups or were American Indian or Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

The Changing Milestones of Adulthood

Figure 5 shows four common milestones of adulthood:

- *Living away from parents:* Includes any person aged 25 to 34 who is not the child of the householder (i.e., living in the parents' household). The category includes those who are householders, spouse of the householder, roommates, cohabiting partners, and people in any other living arrangement.
- *Ever married:* Includes people who are at least 25 years old and reported being married (regardless of whether their spouse was present in the household), separated, divorced, or widowed.
- *Living with a child:* Living in a household that includes someone under the age of 18. Ideally, this report would use fertility data to see whether respondents had ever become parents, but those data are not available in the CPS. In the 1975 data, it is also difficult to identify parents and children in cases where the parent is not the householder (i.e., identifying subfamilies in someone else's household). As a result, the study uses a recode variable that indicates the presence of children under the age of 18 in the household, which is available for both 1975 and 2016, so that the estimates are directly comparable across time.
- *In the labor force:* Includes any person aged 25 to 34 who is employed or unemployed at the time of the survey. The report counts members of the armed forces as if they were in the labor force.

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Economic and Educational Characteristics

Median income was calculated only for 25- to 34-year-olds who were in the labor force (employed or unemployed) (Table 2). Thus, it is a gauge of how the typical worker in 2016 compared with his or her counterpart in 1975. Data on being a homemaker is only available for women in 1975 because at that time the CPS did not ask male respondents whether they were taking care of home or family.

Young Adult Living Arrangements

Tables 3, 4, and 5 group living arrangements in three categories:

- *Living independently:* Young adults are living in their own household. They either live alone, live with a spouse or unmarried partner, or the young adult is the spouse or unmarried partner of the householder.
- *Living in the parents' household:* The young adult is the child of the householder, regardless of the young adult's marital status. This includes biological, step, and adopted children of the householder.
- *Living with roommates:* Includes young adults living in all other living arrangements, such as with siblings, other relatives (besides parents or spouses), and other nonrelatives.

Accuracy of the Estimates

Statistics that come from surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. Sampling error occurs because surveys measure the characteristics of a sample of people, instead of those of the entire population (as from a census). Sample-based estimates vary depending on the particular sample that is selected from the population, but all survey-based estimates attempt to approximate the actual figures from the population. Measures of the size of sampling error reflect variation in the estimates over all possible samples that could have been selected from the population using the same sampling, data collection, and processing methods. Nonsampling error in surveys may be a by-product of how the survey is designed, how respondents interpret questions, how able and willing respondents are to provide correct answers, and how accurately the answers are coded and classified. The Census Bureau uses quality control procedures throughout the production process, including overall survey design, question wording, review of interviewer and coder work, and statistical review of reports to minimize these errors (Appendix Tables A, B, C, and D).

Suggested Citation

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Item 1: The Changing Economics and Demographics of Young Adulthood: 1975–2016 (Cont.)

Appendix Table A.

A Decade of Change: The State of Young Adult Living Arrangements

Change in living arrangements for young adults aged 18 to 34 between 2005 and 2015

(Standard errors [SE] for Table 3)

States	SE of total 2005[4]	SE of total 2015[4]	Living in parents' home[1]			Living independently[2]			Living with roommates[3]		
			SE of percent 2005[4]	SE of percent 2015[4]	SE of change	SE of percent 2005[4]	SE of percent 2015[4]	SE of change	SE of percent 2005[4]	SE of percent 2015[4]	SE of change
Total	**17,130**	**22,432**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.2**
Alabama	2,892	3,496	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.9
Alaska	951	1,291	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.9	1.2	1.3	1.8
Arizona	1,550	2,071	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.8
Arkansas	2,529	2,905	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.7	1.1
California	3,318	4,398	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4
Colorado	1,971	2,585	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.8
Connecticut	1,086	1,645	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.1
Delaware	587	708	1.1	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.4	2.0	1.4	1.7	2.2
District of Columbia	283	538	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.7	1.2	2.1	1.6	1.5	2.2
Florida	4,053	4,680	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6
Georgia	3,243	4,773	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6
Hawaii	775	1,091	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.6
Idaho	1,350	1,838	0.8	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.5
Illinois	2,152	3,332	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5
Indiana	2,355	2,767	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.7
Iowa	1,727	2,429	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.7	1.0
Kansas	2,111	2,375	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.6	0.8	1.0
Kentucky	2,158	2,355	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.8
Louisiana	2,365	3,658	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.8
Maine	892	1,136	0.8	1.2	1.5	0.9	1.2	1.5	0.9	1.3	1.6
Maryland	1,691	1,919	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.8
Massachusetts	1,524	1,878	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.9
Michigan	2,186	2,666	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.6
Minnesota	1,723	1,946	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7
Mississippi	2,312	3,032	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.8	1.1
Missouri	1,802	2,642	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.7
Montana	1,132	1,241	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.1	1.3	1.7
Nebraska	1,149	1,802	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.8	1.2
Nevada	1,550	1,180	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.2
New Hampshire	1,073	1,093	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.6
New Jersey	1,398	1,877	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6
New Mexico	2,001	1,812	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.4
New York	2,634	3,009	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
North Carolina	4,034	3,993	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.6
North Dakota	834	1,492	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.6	2.0	1.2	1.4	1.8
Ohio	2,843	3,034	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.5
Oklahoma	2,322	2,010	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.8
Oregon	1,981	2,194	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.1
Pennsylvania	1,951	2,753	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5
Rhode Island	741	1,005	1.2	1.3	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.9	1.5	1.1	1.9
South Carolina	2,562	3,399	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.8
South Dakota	966	1,388	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.9
Tennessee	2,701	2,937	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.7
Texas	4,690	5,868	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
Utah	1,281	1,968	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.2
Vermont	483	682	1.1	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.8	2.2	1.5	1.7	1.8
Virginia	3,218	4,107	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6
Washington	1,891	2,892	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.9
West Virginia	1,367	1,745	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.3	0.7	0.9	1.1
Wisconsin	1,863	1,941	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6
Wyoming	913	1,859	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.9	2.5	1.4	2.0	2.4

[1] Child of the householder, regardless of the young adult's marital status.

[2] The young adult lives alone, is the householder living with a spouse or unmarried partner, or is the spouse or unmarried partner of the householder.

[3] Living with other relatives or nonrelatives.

[4] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A standard error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the standard error is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 and 2015 American Community Survey, 1-Year Data File.

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Appendix Table B.

More Than Half of Younger Millennials Live in Their Parents' Home

Demographic and economic characteristics of young adults aged 18 to 24: 2015

(Standard errors [SE] for Table 4)

Characteristics	Living in parents' home[1]		Living independently[2]		Living with roommates[3]	
	SE of total[4]	SE of percent[4]	SE of total[4]	SE of percent[4]	SE of total[4]	SE of percent[4]
Total	**33,424**	**X**	**35,683**	**X**	**44,602**	**X**
DEMOGRAPHICS AND HEALTH						
Sex						
Women	22,051	0.1	20,425	0.2	26,332	0.2
Men	21,703	0.1	19,766	0.2	26,358	0.2
Age						
18 to 19	16,760	0.1	6,946	0.1	12,648	0.1
20 to 24	29,096	0.1	33,323	0.1	38,762	0.1
Race, Non-Hispanic						
White alone	24,418	0.1	26,240	0.2	32,067	0.2
Black alone	16,059	0.1	7,929	0.2	13,828	0.2
Asian alone	7,296	Z	3,701	0.1	8,689	0.1
Other race	9,937	0.1	4,265	0.1	5,867	0.1
Hispanic (any race)	16,628	0.1	10,254	0.2	14,297	0.2
Has a disability[5]	9,013	0.1	4,713	0.1	7,250	0.1
ECONOMICS AND EDUCATION						
Work Status						
Employed	30,320	0.1	29,165	0.2	32,343	0.2
Worked full-time, year-round	18,870	0.1	19,703	0.3	19,570	0.2
Mean hours worked per week	Z	X	0.1	X	0.1	X
Unemployed	11,731	0.1	4,871	0.1	9,782	0.1
Not in labor force	24,784	0.1	10,740	0.2	21,880	0.2
Educational Attainment						
Bachelor's degree or higher[6]	12,797	0.1	11,051	0.2	12,507	0.1
Associate's degree or some college	28,768	0.1	19,216	0.3	31,878	0.2
High school diploma or less	26,857	0.2	17,410	0.3	20,868	0.2
Enrolled in school	29,823	0.2	15,009	0.2	30,311	0.2
Personal Income						
$0–$29,999	32,503	0.1	28,097	0.2	41,541	0.1
$30,000–$59,999	9,148	0.1	10,665	0.2	11,017	0.1
$60,000–$99,999	2,614	Z	4,049	0.1	4,005	0.1
$100,000 or more	1,305	Z	1,459	Z	1,981	Z
HOUSING AND RESIDENCY						
Type						
Single-family home	33,780	0.2	22,587	0.3	25,393	0.2
Apartment or multifamily building	21,997	0.1	20,851	0.3	29,807	0.2
Other housing type	12,978	0.1	7,279	0.2	8,593	0.1
Lived at same address a year ago	30,799	0.1	21,860	0.3	28,611	0.2
Tenure						
Owned home	31,987	0.2	15,336	0.3	16,438	0.3
Rented	33,082	0.2	25,899	0.3	46,738	0.3

X Not applicable.
Z Rounds to zero.
[1] Child of the householder, regardless of the young adult's marital status.
[2] The young adult lives alone, is the householder living with a spouse or unmarried partner, or is the spouse or unmarried partner of the householder.
[3] Living with other relatives or nonrelatives.
[4] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A standard error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the standard error is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.
[5] "Has a disability" means the young adult reported having at least one of the following six types of disabilities: hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, or independent living difficulty.
[6] Most 18- to 24-year-olds will not have had time to finish a traditional 4-year degree. However, the table shows bachelor's degree so that the other two categories, some college and high school diploma, are still directly comparable with those in Table 5.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 2015, 1-Year Data File.

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Appendix Table C.

Less Than Two-Thirds of Older Millennials Live Independently

Demographic and economic characteristics of young adults aged 25 to 34: 2015

(Standard errors [SE] for Table 5)

Characteristics	Living in parents' home[1]		Living independently[2]		Living with roommates[3]	
	SE of total[4]	SE of percent[4]	SE of total[4]	SE of percent[4]	SE of total[4]	SE of percent[4]
Total	**30,551**	**X**	**60,737**	**X**	**48,935**	**X**
DEMOGRAPHICS AND HEALTH						
Sex						
Women	18,764	0.2	32,723	0.1	26,981	0.2
Men	22,223	0.2	36,168	0.1	30,906	0.2
Age						
25 to 29	23,362	0.2	42,979	0.1	32,209	0.2
30 to 34	16,970	0.2	31,738	0.1	27,705	0.2
Race, Non-Hispanic						
White alone	20,204	0.2	38,405	0.1	31,430	0.2
Black alone	11,785	0.1	14,594	0.1	13,221	0.1
Asian alone	8,556	0.1	12,099	Z	9,600	0.1
Other race	6,266	0.1	9,441	Z	6,909	0.1
Hispanic (any race)	14,052	0.1	19,625	0.1	17,878	0.1
Has a disability[5]	12,341	0.1	10,012	Z	9,075	0.1
ECONOMICS AND EDUCATION						
Work Status						
Employed	25,492	0.2	55,805	0.1	41,009	0.2
Worked full-time, year-round	18,226	0.2	46,597	0.1	35,109	0.2
Mean hours worked per week	Z	X	Z	X	0.1	X
Unemployed	10,509	0.1	11,235	Z	11,035	0.1
Not in labor force	13,795	0.2	19,905	0.1	17,121	0.1
Educational Attainment						
Bachelor's degree or higher	13,364	0.1	43,616	0.1	20,686	0.2
Associate's degree or some college	17,319	0.2	28,444	0.1	22,872	0.2
High school diploma or less	20,862	0.2	25,589	0.1	29,417	0.2
Enrolled in school	11,726	0.1	21,017	0.1	13,166	0.1
Personal Income						
$0–$29,999	28,204	0.2	33,748	0.1	39,073	0.2
$30,000–$59,999	15,048	0.2	32,235	0.1	20,360	0.2
$60,000–$99,999	7,345	0.1	19,569	0.1	12,734	0.1
$100,000 or more	2,693	Z	11,216	Z	5,875	0.1
HOUSING AND RESIDENCY						
Type						
Single-family home	26,364	0.2	53,932	0.1	29,941	0.2
Apartment or multifamily building	13,153	0.1	28,494	0.1	31,586	0.2
Other housing type	7,724	0.1	12,583	0.1	9,754	0.1
Lived at same address a year ago	27,479	0.1	55,598	0.1	38,704	0.2
Tenure						
Owned home	26,200	0.2	54,862	0.1	18,181	0.2
Rented	19,107	0.2	33,658	0.1	45,563	0.2

X Not applicable.
Z Rounds to zero.
[1] Child of the householder, regardless of the young adult's marital status.
[2] The young adult lives alone, is the householder living with a spouse or unmarried partner, or is the spouse or unmarried partner of the householder.
[3] Living with other relatives or nonrelatives.
[4] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A standard error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the standard error is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.
[5] "Has a disability" means the young adult reported having at least one of the following six types of disabilities: hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, or independent living difficulty.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, 1-Year Data File.

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Appendix Table D.

One in Four Young People Living at Home Are Neither in School nor Working

Characteristics of young adults aged 25 to 34 living in the parents' home in 2015

(Standard errors [SE] for Table 6)

Characteristics	Enrolled or working		Neither enrolled nor working[1]	
	SE of total[2]	SE of percent[2]	SE of total[2]	SE of percent[2]
Total	**26,033**	**X**	**13,498**	**X**
DEMOGRAPHICS AND HEALTH				
Sex				
Women	16,564	0.2	10,266	0.3
Men	20,082	0.2	9,724	0.3
Age				
25 to 29	19,612	0.2	10,852	0.4
30 to 34	13,336	0.2	9,869	0.4
Has a child	11,739	0.2	7,042	0.3
Race, Non-Hispanic				
White alone	15,536	0.2	11,269	0.4
Black alone	10,801	0.2	6,705	0.3
Asian alone	7,586	0.1	3,890	0.2
Other race	5,665	0.1	2,980	0.1
Hispanic (any race)	11,955	0.2	7,807	0.3
Has a disability[3]	5,855	0.1	9,658	0.4
EDUCATION				
Bachelor's degree or higher	12,427	0.2	5,759	0.3
Associate's degree or some college	15,126	0.2	9,252	0.4
High school diploma or less	16,339	0.2	10,045	0.4
RESIDENCY				
Lived at same address a year ago	23,155	0.2	12,697	0.3

X Not applicable.

[1] Neither enrolled nor working means that the young adult was not enrolled in classes within the last 3 months, plus they were either unemployed or not engaged in the labor force at the time of interview.

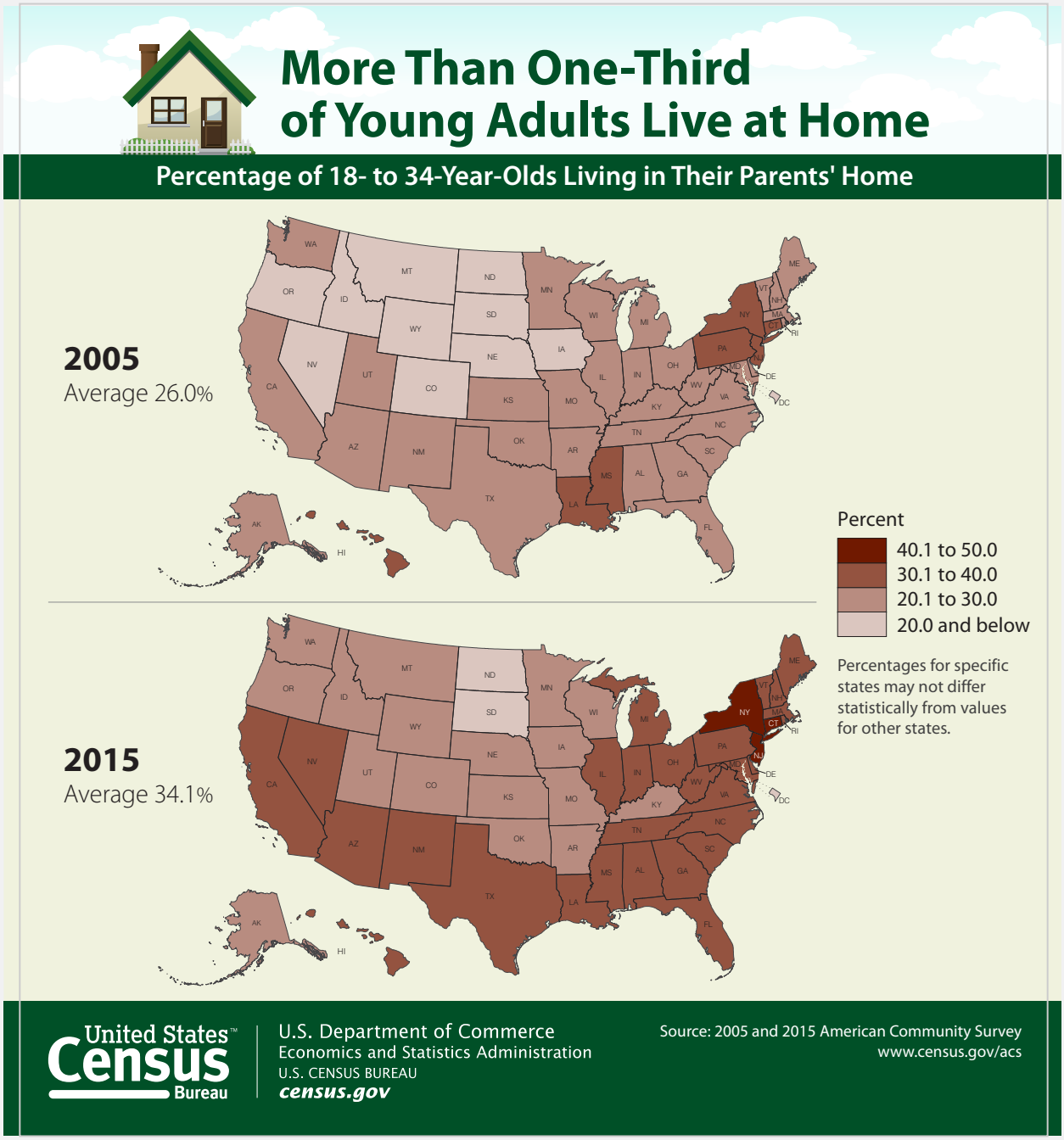
[2] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A standard error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the standard error is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

[3] "Has a disability" means the young adult reported having at least one of the following six types of disabilities: hearing difficulty, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory difficulty, self-care difficulty, or independent living difficulty.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey, 1-Year Data File.

www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/demo0-579.pdf

Item 2: More Than One-Third of Young Adults Live at Home



www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2017/comm/young-adults.html