



Young Adults in the Parental Home, 1940-2010

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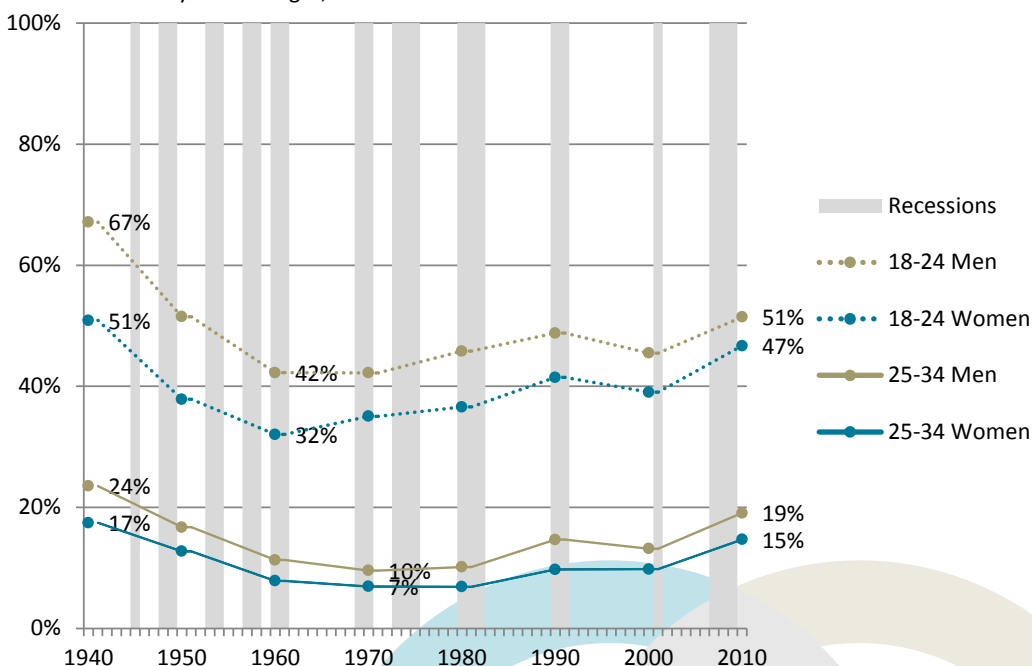
The Great Recession has coincided with a rise in coresidence among young adult children and their parents. Residing in the parental home is often an adaptive strategy during times of economic distress (Furstenberg, 2010; Settersten & Ray, 2010). Using data from the 1940-2000 U.S. Decennial Censuses and the 2010 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, we present a historical view and consider the current marital status of young adult men and women (ages 18-24 and 25-34) living in the parental home.

Note: This profile focuses on marital status differences in the percentages of young adults (YAs) living in a parent's home. The estimates deviate from those cited in *On the Road to Adulthood: Leaving the Parental Home* (FP-11-02). The calculations presented in FP-11-02 include currently unmarried YAs living in a college dormitory as living in their parent(s) home, but does not include YAs who were child-in-laws to the household head. For this Profile, percentage of YAs 18-24/25-34 living with a parent = (number of YAs who are a child or child-in-law to the household head / by the total population 18 -24/25-34 years old) X 100.

Living in the Parental Home and the Economy

- Coresidence patterns do not appear to correspond with recessionary periods. For example, the slight uptick in coresidence that occurred between 2000 and 2010 preceded the 2007 Great Recession (supplemental analysis, not shown).
- The historical trend in young adult coresidence with parents follows a U-shaped curve. This pattern persists regardless of young adult's age or sex.
 - Coresidence was highest in the 1940s with two-thirds of men and half of women ages 18-24 living with at least one parent.
 - The 1960s were marked by the lowest rates of coresidence in the past 70 years among all young adults; young adults ages 18-24 experienced a 37% decline in the rate of coresidence and men and women ages 25-34 about a 50% decline.
 - Today, roughly half of 18-24 year olds reside with a parent. Among 25-34 year olds, the share is nearly 20%.
- Young men are consistently more likely to live in a parent's home than young women; however, the gender gap has closed slightly over time.

Figure 1. Young Adults Living in a Parent's Household and Economic Recession Years by Sex and Ages, 1940-2010

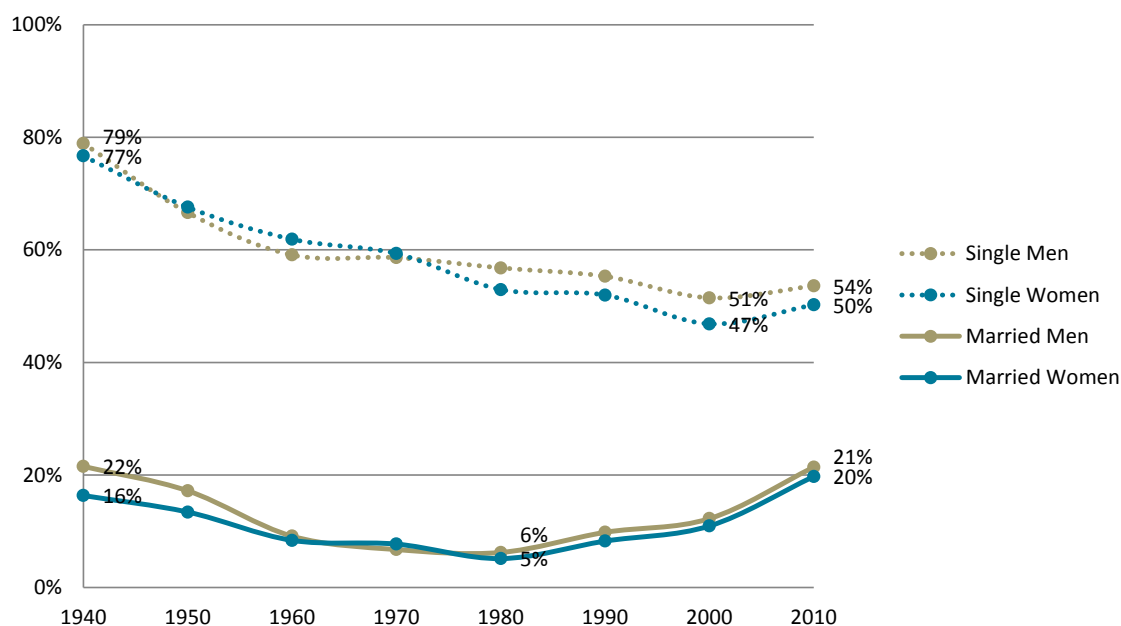


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1940-2000 (IPUMS); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates 2010 (IPUMS)

Living in the Parental Home by Marital Status Among Those Aged 18-24

- Over time, single young adults are consistently the most likely to live in their parent's home. Just over three-fourths of men and women did so in the 1940s and about half in 2010. The increase in age at first marriage means that today the vast majority (90%) of 18-24 year olds have never been married.
- The trend in coresidence among married young adults exhibits a distinctive, U-shaped curve. The lowest rate of coresidence among the married was in 1980, at 5% and 6% for men and women, respectively. Currently, only 9% of young adults are married, and about 20% of married young adults live with their parents.
- Similar *trends* in parental coresidence characterize young adults ages 25-34 (results not shown).
 - The lowest rate of coresidence among the never married 25-34 year olds was in 2000, with about one-quarter living in a parent's home. In 2010, 25% of women and 29% of men lived with their parents.
 - Among married 25-34 year olds, coresidence follows a U-shaped curve. The lowest rate of coresidence among the married was in 1980, at 1% for both men and women. Currently, 44% of 25-34 year olds are married, and 5% of married men and 6% of married women are living in a parent's home.

Figure 2. Percentage of Young Adults Ages 18-24 Living in a Parent's Household by Marital Status and Sex, 1940-2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1940-2000 (IPUMS); U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates 2010 (IPUMS)

References

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