2021

FP-21-23 Young Adults in the Parental Home, 2007-2021

Adrianne R. Brown
Bowling Green State University, adrbrow@bgsu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles

Part of the Family, Life Course, and Society Commons

How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!

Repository Citation
https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles/266

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Sociology at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Center for Family and Marriage Research Family Profiles by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.
Young Adults in the Parental Home, 2007-2021

Author: Adrianne R. Brown

There are a number of reasons young adults live with their parents, including mental health, finances (Sandberg-Thoma et al., 2015), family connectivity, characteristics of the parental home, and physical health of parents (South & Lei, 2015). Patterns of parental co-residence vary by age, gender, and school enrollment. Using the Current Population Survey (CPS), we produce an update on young adults’ parental co-residence by age, gender, and school enrollment from 2007 through 2021. This update provides a glimpse into the residential patterns of young adults at time points associated with the beginning of and nearly one year into the COVID-19 pandemic (shown by the gray shading in the figures). We define parental co-residence as living with one’s own parent(s) or a partner/spouse’s parent(s). This family profile updates previous profiles on parental co-residence using recent data (FP-19-04, FP-16-16, and FP-12-22).

Share of Young Adults Living in the Parental Home by Age Group

- In 2021, 34% of young adults aged 18-34 were living in the parental home, up from 29% in 2007 (not shown).
- Between 2007 and 2021, the share of young adults co-residing with parents increased across all age groups, although the prevalence and pattern of parental co-residence varied.
  - Those in the youngest age group, had the largest share living in a parent’s home. After remaining relatively stable for eight-years, this share increased from 55% to 59% between 2019 and 2020. This was the largest observed annual increase across all age groups during the period examined. The share has since declined to 58% in 2021 but remained higher than observed in 2019.
  - In 2021, nearly a quarter (23%) of young adults aged 25-29 were living in the parental home, up from 17% in 2007.
  - The share of young adults co-residing with parents in the oldest age group, 30-34, gradually increased from 8% to 13% between 2007 and 2021.

Share of Young Adults Living in the Parental Home by Gender and Age Group

- The share of young adults co-residing with a parent was highest among those at younger ages regardless of gender.
  - In 2021, 61% of men 18-24 years-old and 56% of women 18-24 years-old were living in a parent’s home compared to 16% of men 30-34 years-old and 10% of women 30-34 years-old.
- Parental co-residence increased for both young adult men and women across all age groups.
  - Between 2007 and 2021, men aged 25-29 experienced the greatest absolute increase, from 19% to 27%.
- Parental co-residence was higher for young adult men than for young adult women across all age groups.
  - In 2021, the largest difference between men and women was among those aged 25-29 (27% vs. 18%, respectively).
Share of Young Adults Aged 18-24 Living in the Parental Home by School Enrollment

- A greater share of young adults aged 18-24 enrolled in college full time co-resided with parents than those enrolled part time or not enrolled throughout the time period.
  - Parental co-residence among those enrolled in college full time remained relatively constant (between 65% and 68%) between 2007 and 2021.
  - Parental co-residence among those enrolled in college part time increased from 47% in 2007 to 59% in 2021.
  - Parental co-residence among those not enrolled in school increased from 39% in 2007 to 48% in 2021.

Figure 3. Share of Young Adults Aged 18-24 Living in the Parental Home by School Enrollment, 2007-2021

In 2021, 34% of young adults aged 18-34 were living in the parental home, up from 29% in 2007.

The NCFMR has many Family Profiles featuring the topic of young adulthood. For a complete list, please visit our Young Adulthood topic page at:

https://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/resources-by-topic/emerging-adulthood.html

Data Sources:

References:


Suggested Citation:

This project is supported with assistance from Bowling Green State University. From 2007 to 2013, support was also provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of any agency of the state or federal government.