

We're At Peak Multigenerational



In 2014, more young people [were living with their parents](#) than with a romantic partner. And lot of these millennials' parents were cohabiting with *their own* parents.

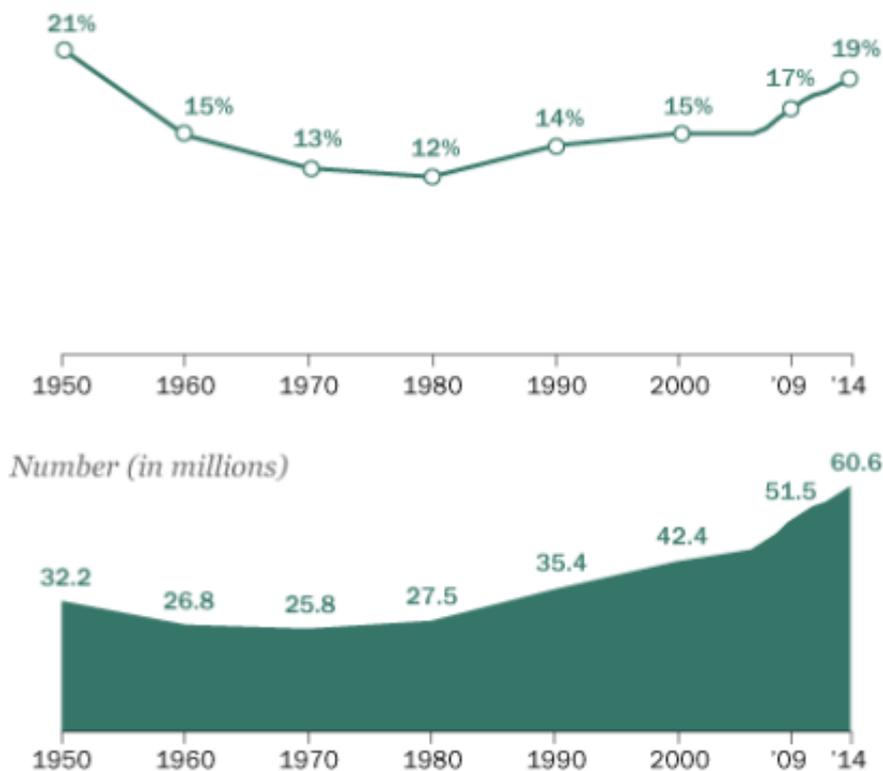
A new Pew Research Center [analysis](#) finds that record-high number of Americans—60.6 million, to be exact—were living with with grandma and grandpa that year. In terms of share of the U.S. population, these people made up 19 percent in 2014. That's almost as high as back in 1950, when 21 percent of the population, or 32 million people, lived in such an arrangement.

The rebound in multigenerational households (having two or more adult generations, or grandparents and grandchildren under the same roof) In 1980, the share of Americans in this living arrangement had declined to just 12 percent. It inched back up in the 1990s, and saw a steep rise post-recession.

Here's Pew's chart that shows that U-shaped trajectory of this trend since 1950:

Nearly one-in-five Americans lives in a multigenerational household

% of population living in a household with two or more adult generations or one that includes grandparents and grandchildren



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Decennial Census data, 1950-2000, and 2006-2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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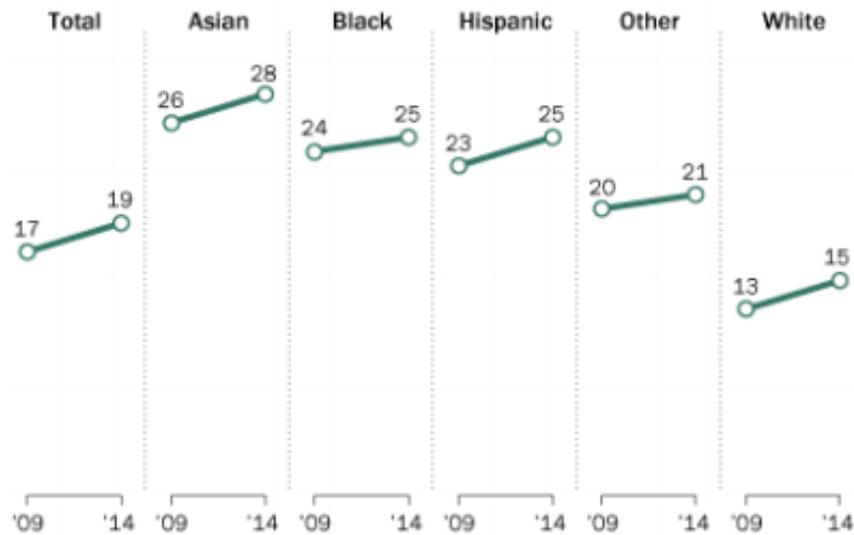
Money—or lack thereof—helps explain why this housing arrangement is back in style. **The economic woes of the late-2000s brought millions of young adults boomeranging back to their childhood homes.** But the trend also has to do with immigration and diversification of the U.S. population.

Foreign-born households are more likely to be multigenerational than native-born ones. Among immigrants, Asian and Hispanics enjoy [the largest shares](#); and Asians are projected to overtake Hispanics as the fastest growing immigrant group. These two immigrant groups have [re-configured America's demographic composition](#).

In the overall population (foreign- and U.S.-born included) Asians and Hispanics are growing faster than whites, and both tend to favor multigenerational living arrangements. In 2014, 28 percent of Asian Americans lived in such households, compared to 25 percent of Hispanics and blacks. The white share was significantly smaller at 15 percent:

Whites less likely than other racial and ethnic groups to live in multigenerational households

% of population living in multigenerational households



Note: Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. Whites, blacks and Asians are single-race only and refer to their non-Hispanic component. "Other" are single- or mixed-race non-Hispanics.
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2009 and 2014 American Community Surveys (IPUMS).

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This trend hasn't caught housing developers off-guard. The *Wall Street Journal* called [in-law apartments](#)—homes with add-on units for older generations—the "hottest amenity in real estate." Some vast new [multigenerational homes](#) are designed with separate entrances, extra laundry rooms, and second kitchens equipped with wok burners to accommodate the [needs](#) of those most likely to use them. Depending on zoning issues, some households can choose to install "[granny pods](#)"—small pre-fab backyard cottages outfitted for an older resident, which many families prefer to assisted-living options. Expect more ideas for multigenerational housing in the coming years: Given demographic trends, the need to accommodate a wider range of ages under one roof isn't going away.