

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, May 27, 2016

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Article Title: **What empty nest? More millennials live at home**

Section: Main, A13

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of ***seismic***. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

“The really ***seismic*** change is that we have so many fewer young adults partnering, either marrying or cohabiting,” said Richard Fry, the Pew economist who wrote the report.

Comprehension Questions

1. Many of America’s young adults appear to be in no hurry to move out of their old bedrooms. For the first time on record, what is the most common living arrangement for people ages 18 to 34, an analysis of census data by the Pew Research Center has found?
2. What are millennials?
3. What percentage of millennials live with their parents?
4. It’s the first time that living at home has outpaced living with a spouse for this age group since such recordkeeping began in _____.
5. Where are the remaining young adults living?
6. The sharp shift reflects a long-running decline in what? What group is this particularly evident among?
7. The pattern may be a contributing factor in the sluggish growth of the U.S. economy, which depends heavily on what?
8. With more young people living with their parents rather than on their own, fewer people need to buy what items?
9. The recovery from the 2008-09 recession has been hobbled by historically low levels of what?
10. As recently as 2000, nearly _____ percent of young adults ages 18 to 34 were married or living with a partner. By 2014, that proportion was just _____ percent.
11. In 2000, only _____ percent of young adults were living with parents. In 2014, the figure reached _____ percent.
12. The shift may also be disrupting the housing market. One mystery that’s confounded analysts is why there aren’t more homes for sale. The lack of available houses has done what to the housing market?
13. Nela Richardson, chief economist at real-estate brokerage Redfin, says one explanation is that many baby boomers aren’t able to sell their family homes and downsize for retirement because they still have adult children living with them. Redfin surveyed homeowners ages 55 to 64 and found that what percentage still have adult children at home?
14. Among men, what two factors are keeping many 18-34 year olds unmarried?

15. What are other factors contributing to more millennials living with parents?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

- *Did you know this was a new trend among young people?*
- *Do you have this situation happening in your own home, are neighbors or other family/friends experiencing this? Tell us about it.*
- *Why is this trend so popular now? Is it a good or bad thing? Why?*
- *Do you think this will be a long-term situation for young people? Why or why not?*

“The really seismic change is that we have so many fewer young adults partnering, either marrying or cohabiting,” said Richard Fry, the Pew economist who wrote the report. “In 1960, that silent generation left home earlier than any generation before or after, because they married so young.”

But in recent decades, fewer people have been marrying, and those who do are marrying at older ages. In 1960, the median age for a first marriage was 20 for women and 22 for men, and just one in 10 people over 25 had never married. Now, the median ages are 27 and 29, and one in five adults over 25 has never married.

- Why were people marrying so young in 1960?
- Why do you think fewer people are getting married?
- Why are people waiting longer to get married?
- What are the pros/cons of getting married early vs. getting married later in life?
- When did your parents get married?
- Have your parents talked about what they want for you, in terms of when you should get married?

Essay

“This is neither the best nor the worst development we’ve seen in family life,” said Andrew Cherlin, a sociologist at Johns Hopkins University. In Italy, an even greater percentage live with the parents, and no one sees it as a problem. Families can feel closer to each other and have longer times together.”

- Does this movement violate our cultural sense of how young adults should live their lives? Why or why not?
- Do you believe that families that live together have closer relationships? Why or why not?
- You see multi-generational living in many cultures and it’s viewed as a positive thing. Why isn’t this the norm in America? Should it be?
- Do you believe that grown children’s continued presence in the parental home can signal an inability to take the steps needed to become real adults? Why or why not?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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