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Early Benchmarks Show 'Post-Millennials' on Track to Be Most Diverse, Best-Educated Generation Yet

A demographic portrait of today's 6- to 21-year-olds

BY [RICHARD FRY \(HTTPS://WWW.PEWRESEARCH.ORG/STAFF/RICHARD-FRY\)](https://www.pewresearch.org/staff/richard-ry) AND [KIM PARKER \(HTTPS://WWW.PEWRESEARCH.ORG/STAFF/KIM-PARKER\)](https://www.pewresearch.org/staff/kim-parker)



(Mark Boster/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images)

[\(https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-00/\)](https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-00/) As a new generation of Americans begins to take shape and move toward adulthood, there is mounting interest in their attitudes, behaviors and lifestyle. But how will this generation change the demographic fabric of the United States? A new Pew Research Center analysis of Census Bureau data finds that the "post-Millennial" generation is already the most racially and ethnically diverse generation, as a bare majority of 6- to 21-year-olds (52%) are non-Hispanic whites. And while most are still pursuing their K-12 education, the oldest post-Millennials are enrolling in college at a significantly higher rate than Millennials were at a comparable age.

The parents of post-Millennials are more well educated than the parents of Millennials and those of previous generations, and this pattern most likely contributes to the relative affluence of the households in which post-Millennials live. More than four-in-ten post-Millennials (43%) are living with at least one parent who has a bachelor's degree or more education. Roughly a third (32%) of Millennials in 2002 had a parent with this level of education.

The high school dropout rate for the oldest post-Millennials (ages 18 to 20 in 2017) is significantly lower than that of similarly aged Millennials in 2002. And among those who were no longer in high school in 2017, 59% were enrolled in college – higher than the enrollment rate for 18- to 20-year-old Millennials in 2002 (53%) and Gen Xers in 1986 (44%).

The changing patterns in educational attainment are driven in part by the shifting origins of young Hispanics. Post-Millennial Hispanics are less likely than Millennial Hispanics to be immigrants – 12% of post-Millennial Hispanics were born outside the U.S., compared with 24% of Millennial Hispanics in 2002. Previous research has shown that second-generation Hispanic youth tend to go further in school (<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018117.pdf>) than foreign-born Hispanic youth. That is borne out in this analysis, as 61% of second-generation Hispanics ages 18 to 20 who were no longer in high school were enrolled in college in 2017, compared with 40% of their foreign-born counterparts. Overall, the share of post-Millennial Hispanics enrolled in college is significantly higher than the rate for Millennials in 2002 (55% vs. 34%, among 18- to 20-year-olds no longer in high school).¹

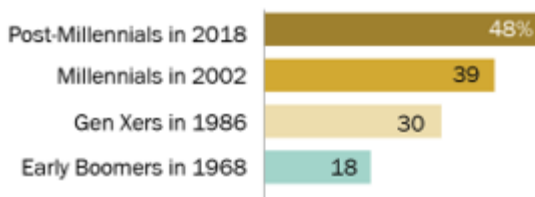
More broadly, the post-Millennial generation is being shaped by changing immigration patterns. Immigration flows into the U.S. peaked in 2005 (<https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2015/09/28/modern-immigration-wave-brings-59-million-to-u-s-driving-population-growth-and-change-through-2065/>), when the leading edge of the post-Millennial generation was age 8 or younger.

The onset of the Great Recession and the large decline in employment led to fewer immigrants coming to the United States, including immigrant children. As a result, the post-Millennial generation has fewer foreign-born youth among its ranks than the Millennial generation did in 2002 and a significantly higher number who were born in the U.S. to immigrant parents, though this may change depending on future immigration flows.

(<https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best->

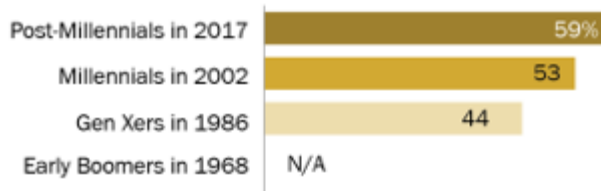
Nearly half of post-Millennials are racial or ethnic minorities

% of 6- to 21-year-olds who are nonwhite



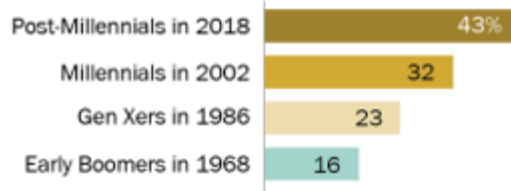
More post-Millennials pursuing college

Among 18- to 20-year-olds who are no longer in high school, % enrolled in college



Post-Millennials more likely than Millennials to live with a college-educated parent

% of 6- to 17-year-olds living with a parent who has at least a bachelor's degree



Note: Nonwhites include blacks, Hispanics, other races and people who identify with more than one race.
 Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1968, 1986, 2002 and 2018 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (IPUMS) and 1986, 2002 and 2017 Current Population Survey October Supplement (IPUMS).
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[educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-01/](https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-po...) The generation labeled “post-Millennials” in this report – referred to elsewhere as Generation Z, the iGen (<http://www.jeantwenge.com/igen-book-by-dr-jean-twenge/>) or Homelanders (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/neilhowe/2018/04/17/are-homelander-kids-overruled/#26f9281d78b8>) – includes those born after 1996. Pew Research Center uses the label “post-Millennials” as a placeholder (<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/03/01/defining-generations-where-millennials-end-and-post-millennials-begin/>) until more consensus emerges as to their name.

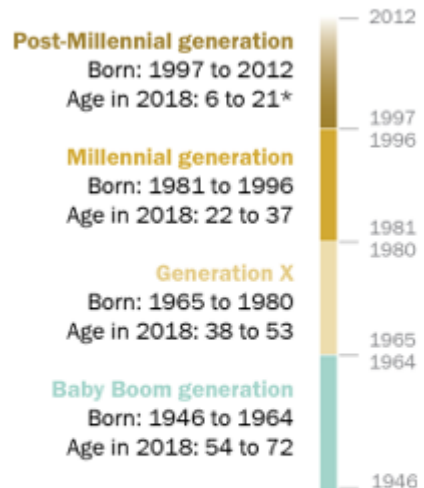
For purposes of this analysis, the post-Millennial generation spans 16 years, the same number of years as the Millennial generation (now ages 22 to 37). That may change as well, as this new generation – and the factors that shape it – come into sharper focus.

This report compares the post-Millennials in 2018 with earlier generations when they were ages 6 to 21, examining their demographic characteristics as well as those of their parents and households.

Other key findings:

- The oldest post-Millennials are less likely than their predecessors to be in the labor force. Only 58% of today’s 18- to 21-year-olds worked in the prior calendar year; this compares with 72% of Millennial 18- to 21-year-olds in 2002. And employment among post-Millennials is less likely to be full-time compared with earlier generations. This is likely due, in large part, to the fact that these young adults are more likely than their predecessors to be enrolled in college.
- The living arrangements of post-Millennial children are similar to those of Millennials when they were growing up. About two-thirds (65%) of today’s 6- to 17-year-olds live with two married parents, slightly lower than the share (68%) of Millennials in that age range who lived in this type of household in 2002. Roughly three-in-ten post-Millennials ages 6 to 17 (31%) live with a single parent, somewhat higher than the share of Millennials growing up with a single parent in 2002 (27%).²
- The median household income of post-Millennials exceeds that of earlier generations when they were young. The typical post-Millennial in 2018 lives in a household with an annual income of roughly \$63,700 after adjusting for household size. That is slightly higher than the income for the typical household in which Millennials grew up – \$62,400 in inflation-adjusted dollars – and it far surpasses the income of Gen X and Baby Boomer households when they were growing up. This is consistent with the relatively high education of the parents of post-Millennials.

The generations defined



*No chronological endpoint has been set for this group. For analytical purposes, post-Millennials are defined as those ages 6 to 21 in 2018.

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Post-Millennials more metropolitan and racially and ethnically diverse, less likely to be foreign born

https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/?attachment_id=25496 A bare majority (52%) of post-Millennials are non-Hispanic white. One-in-four are Hispanic, significantly higher than the share of Millennials who were Hispanic in 2002. The share of post-Millennials who are black (14%) is nearly identical to the share of Millennials who were black at a comparable age (15%). Black representation among the nation’s youth has changed little since the early Boomers in

1968.

Asians account for 6% of the post-Millennial generation, up slightly from the 4% of Millennials in 2002 who were Asian. The remaining 4% of post-Millennials are non-Hispanics of another racial identity, mainly youth of two or more races.

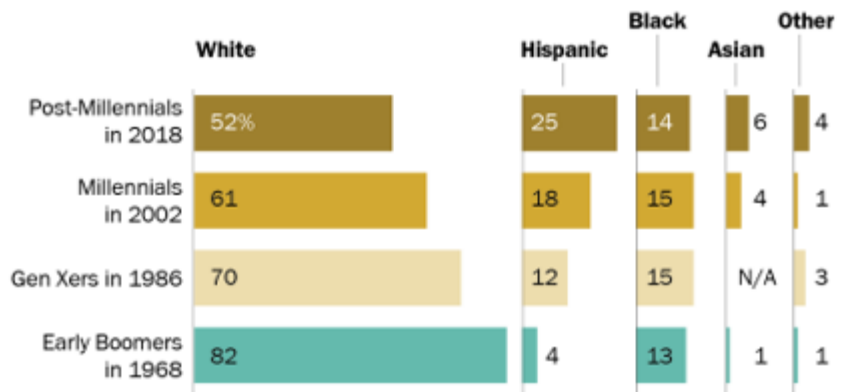
(https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-03/) Though post-Millennials are more likely to be Hispanic and Asian compared with prior generations, they are not more likely, at this point, to be immigrants. Some 7% of post-Millennials are foreign born, as were 8% of Millennials in 2002. However, post-Millennials are more likely to be U.S. born of at least one foreign-born parent (22%) compared with Millennials in 2002 (15%).³

In terms of sheer numbers, the Millennial generation was shaped to a much larger extent by young immigrants than the post-Millennials have been. When Millennials were ages 6 to 21 in 2002, they numbered 65.3 million.⁴ Their ranks that year included 5.0 million immigrants. By contrast, only about 4.4 million of the 66.5 million post-Millennials are immigrants – a pattern that more closely mirrors the experience of Gen X.

Even with the [diminished flow](https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2015/09/28/modern-immigration-wave-brings-59-million-to-u-s-driving-population-growth-and-change-through-2065/) of immigrants into the U.S., the racial and ethnic diversity of the post-Millennial generation is expected to increase in future years as new immigrants join their numbers. Today's 6- to 21-year-olds are projected to become majority nonwhite in 2026 (when they will be ages 14 to 29), according to [Census Bureau projections](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/projections) (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popproj/data/datasets.html>).

One-in-four post-Millennials are Hispanic

% of 6- to 21-year-olds who are ...



Note: Racial groups include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. The CPS did not separately identify Asians until 1988. Hispanic origin was not collected until 1971. The racial and ethnic composition of Boomers in 1968 was imputed on the basis of 8- to 23-year-olds in the 1970 census.

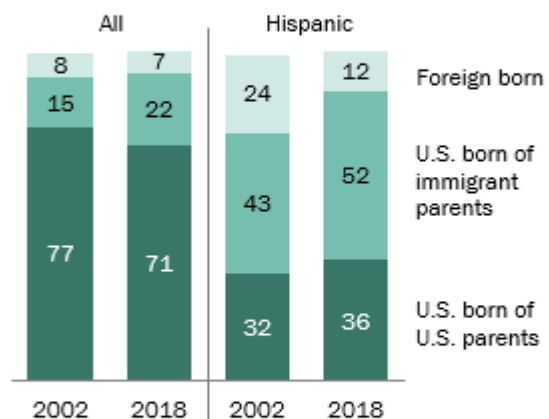
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1986, 2002 and 2018 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements and 1970 decennial census (IPUMS).

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Post-Millennials, especially Hispanics, are less likely than Millennials to be foreign born

% of 6- to 21-year-olds, by nativity



Note: Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2002 and 2018 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (IPUMS).

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Majority of post-Millennials are nonwhite in urban areas and Western states

The geography and mobility of post-Millennials differ from earlier generations. Reflecting broader national trends, post-Millennials overwhelmingly reside in metropolitan as opposed to rural areas. Only 13% of post-Millennials are in rural areas, compared with 18% of Millennials in 2002. By comparison, 23% of Gen Xers lived in rural areas when they were ages 6 to 21, as did 36% of early Boomers.

In the nation's urban areas and in the Western region (https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf) of the U.S., post-Millennials are at the leading edge of growing racial and ethnic diversity. Two-thirds of post-Millennials living in urban counties are racial or ethnic minorities, with a plurality (36%) being Hispanic. Among Millennials, 59% who live in cities are racial or ethnic minorities. In rural (non-metropolitan) counties, only 29% of 6- to 21-year-olds are nonwhite – still somewhat higher than the share of rural Millennials who are nonwhite (27%). Minorities constitute 43% of suburban post-Millennials. Among those living in suburban counties, 39% of Millennials, 34% of Gen Xers and 23% of Boomers are nonwhite.⁵

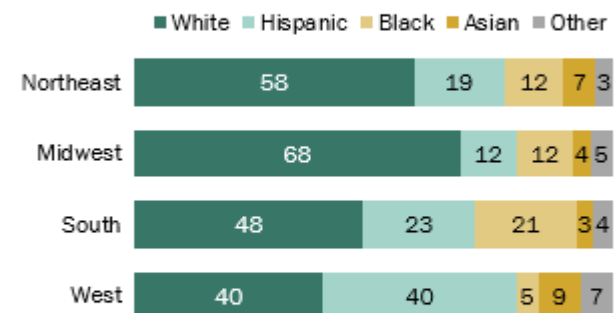
(https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-04/)

In the West, post-Millennials are just as likely to be Hispanic as non-Hispanic white (both 40%). This stands in contrast to older generations. Among those residing in the West, 45% of Millennials, 50% of Gen Xers and 64% of Boomers are non-Hispanic white. Minority representation among post-Millennials is lowest in the Midwest, where roughly a third (32%) of 6- to 21-year-olds are racial or ethnic minorities.

When it comes to geographic mobility, Americans are not moving as they once did (https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2016/comm/cb16-189_migration.html), and post-Millennials are no exception. About 11% of post-Millennials in 2018 had a different address from a year earlier, implying that they had moved. By comparison, 17% of Millennials and 20% of Gen Xers and early Boomers had moved in the past year when they were the ages post-Millennials are today.

In Western U.S., post-Millennials are as likely to be Hispanic as white

% of 6- to 21-year-olds in 2017 who were ...



Note: Racial groups include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau vintage 2017 county population estimates. "Early Benchmarks Show Post-Millennials on Track to Be Most Diverse, Best-Educated Generation Yet"

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Post-Millennials more likely to be pursuing college and less likely to be in the workforce

While it's still much too early to draw conclusions, initial signs suggest that post-Millennials are on track to become the most well-educated generation yet.

(https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-05/) As of 2017 (the most recent year available with school enrollment information) 80% of post-Millennial 18- to 20-year-olds had finished high school.⁶ That represents a modest improvement from previous generations. At the same ages, 76% of Millennials and 78% of Gen Xers had

completed high school. Some of the overall post-Millennial improvement stems from the leap in high school completion among Hispanic youth (<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018117.pdf>). In 2017, 76% of Hispanic 18- to 20-year-olds had finished high school, outpacing the 60% of Hispanic Millennials attaining this benchmark in 2002. Black high school completion has also improved: 77% of black post-Millennials ages 18 to 20 had finished high school, compared with 71% of black Millennials in this age group in 2002.

Since white post-Millennial high school attainment is no higher than among white Millennials, some of the long-standing racial and ethnic gaps in high school completion (<https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/11/05/section-3-high-school-completion-among-young-adults/>) are narrower among the post-Millennials than was the case for prior generations.

The share of post-Millennials who have dropped out of high school is significantly lower than it was for Millennials. In 2017, 6% of 18- to 20-year-old post-Millennials had neither finished high school nor were enrolled in high school. By comparison, 12% of Millennial 18- to 20-year-olds had dropped out of high school in 2002, as had 13% of Gen Xers in 1986.

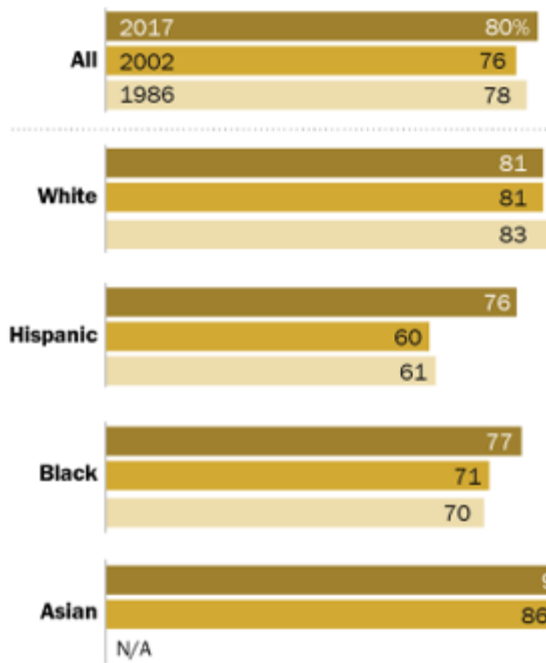
One indicator suggests that younger post-Millennials are behind where Millennials were in terms of their progress in K-12 education. In 2017, 30% of post-Millennials ages 6 to 17 were enrolled below the “modal grade,” which is the typical grade a child is enrolled in given his or her age. By comparison, a quarter of Millennials and Gen Xers were enrolled below the modal grade in 2002 and 1986, respectively. This indicator is of value because it can foreshadow subsequent dropping out (<https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p20-571.pdf>) of school, particularly if the student is behind in school due to grade retention. It’s unclear from this data whether students are behind grade-wise due to being held back in school or whether their parents elected to have them begin kindergarten at an older age.

(https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-06/) Beyond K-12 education, post-Millennials are more likely than earlier generations to be pursuing college. In 2017, 59% of 18- to 20-year-olds who were no longer in high school were enrolled in college. Among Millennials and Gen Xers at similar ages smaller shares were pursuing college (53% and 44%, respectively).

Some of the post-Millennial gain stems from Hispanic youth. More than half (55%) of Hispanic 18- to 20-year-olds

Big gains in high school completion for Hispanic and black youth

% of 18- to 20-year-olds finishing high school



Note: Racial groups include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. The CPS did not separately identify Asians until 1988. Completing high school includes those who attained a degree by equivalence (e.g., GED) as well as those obtaining a high school diploma. Due to data limitations, in 1986, all adults completing four years of high school are counted as having finished high school.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1986, 2002 and 2017 Current Population Survey October Supplement (IPUMS).

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who were no longer in high school were enrolled in college last year. Less than half of their Millennial (34%) and Gen X (28%) peers were pursuing college at a similar age.

Black post-Millennials are also outpacing the previous generations of black youth in terms of college enrollment. Among blacks ages 18 to 20 who were no longer in high school, 54% were enrolled in college in 2017, compared with 47% of black Millennials in 2002 and 34% of Gen Xers in 1986.

Post-Millennial women are showing major strides in college enrollment. In 2017, 64% of women ages 18 to 20 who were no longer in high school were enrolled in college. That's up from 57% of similarly aged Millennials in 2002 and up substantially from 43% of Gen Xers in 1986. The trend, while more modest, has been upward among men as well.

It's important to point out that future immigration patterns may affect the educational outcomes of post-Millennials, so these generational comparisons represent a current snapshot.

Post-Millennials are slower to enter the labor force

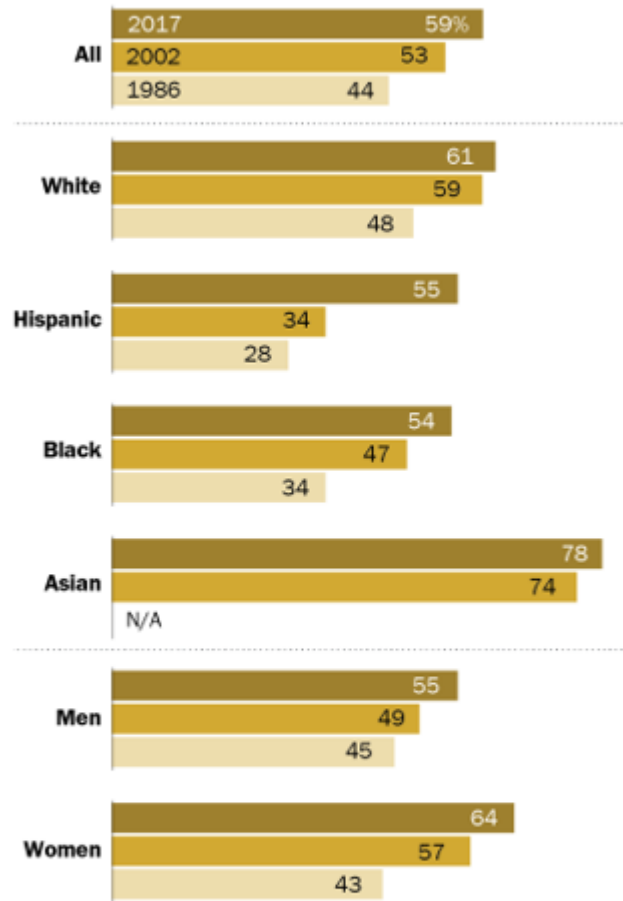
(https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-07/) Post-Millennials are entering adulthood with less experience in the labor market than prior generations. Roughly one-in-five 15- to 17-year-olds in 2018 (19%) report having worked at all during the prior calendar year, compared with 30% of Millennial 15- to 17-year-olds in 2002. Almost half of early Baby Boomers (48%) in the same age group worked in 1968. Among 18- to 21-year-olds today, 58% were employed during the prior calendar year. At the same age prior generations were much more likely to have been employed. Among Millennial 18- to 21-year-olds in 2002, 72% reported working in the prior year. Among Boomer 18- to 21-year-olds in 1968, 80% worked in the prior calendar year.

Post-Millennial workers are less likely to work full-time compared with prior generations. In 2018, only 15% of 15- to 17-year-old workers worked full-time, down sharply from the 26% of 15- to 17-year-old workers in 1968 who worked full-time. The pattern is similar among 18- to 21-year-olds.

Over the decades the earnings of American workers have increased modestly (<https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2016/10/06/the-state-of-american-jobs/>), and teens and young adults are no exception. If they worked full-time in

Post-Millennials are more likely to be enrolled in college than older generations

Among 18- to 20-year-olds who are no longer in high school, % enrolled in college



Note: Racial groups include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. The CPS did not separately identify Asians until 1988. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1986, 2002 and 2017 Current Population Survey October Supplements (IPUMS). "Early Benchmarks Show Post-Millennials on Track to Be Most Diverse, Best-Educated Generation Yet"

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2017, a 15- to 17-year-old typically earned about \$5,000 (the median). Adjusting for inflation, a similar early Millennial earned slightly less, \$4,200. The median earnings for a full-time 18- to 21-year-old today is \$19,000, somewhat higher than the median pay of a similarly aged full-time Millennial worker in 2002 (\$16,700).

[\(https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-08/\)](https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-08/) A common indicator [\(https://www.childstats.gov/pubs/pubs.asp?PlacementID=2&SlpgID=1030\)](https://www.childstats.gov/pubs/pubs.asp?PlacementID=2&SlpgID=1030) of “at-risk” behavior in the transition to adulthood is the share of youth who are neither enrolled in school nor working. Youth who are detached from school and the workplace may not be acquiring valuable learning experiences and networking opportunities. Post-Millennials are less likely to be detached than earlier generations. The shift has been more significant among young women. Only 9% of 16- to 21-year-old post-Millennial women are detached in 2018. About 12% of Millennial women and 16% of Gen X women were neither in school nor working at a comparable age. Post-Millennial women who are detached are far less likely to be married than detached Gen X women were at a similar age (12% vs. 37%).

Post-Millennial women are more likely to be engaged in school and work than earlier generations in part because they have fewer parenting responsibilities. Teen births have [been falling](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/04/29/why-is-the-teen-birth-rate-falling/) [\(https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/04/29/why-is-the-teen-birth-rate-falling/\)](https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/04/29/why-is-the-teen-birth-rate-falling/), even recently, and post-Millennial women are more likely to be childless than earlier generations. In 2016, 88% of women ages 18 to 21 were childless, compared with 79% of Millennials and 80% of Gen Xers at a similar age.

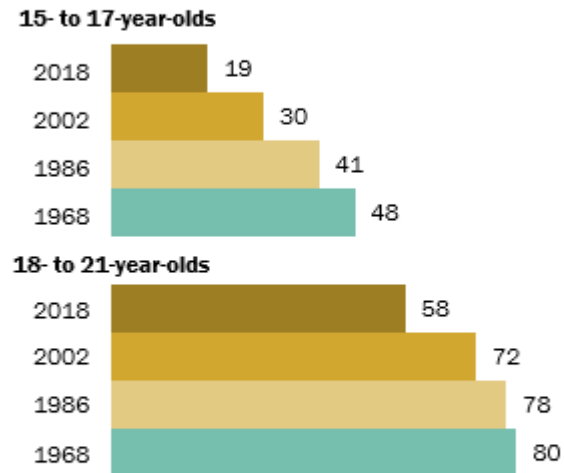
Post-Millennials’ family lives are similar to those of Millennials when they were young

Steady gains in college completion among U.S. adults are reflected in the households of post-Millennials. Fully 43% of post-Millennials ages 6 to 17 have at least one parent with a bachelor’s degree or more education. This compares with 32% among similarly aged Millennials in 2002, 23% among Gen Xers in 1986 and only 16% among early Boomers in 1968.

[\(https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-09/\)](https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-09/) Roughly two-thirds (65%) of post-Millennials ages 6 to 17 live in a household with

Post-Millennials less likely to work than older generations when they were young

% of civilians who were employed during the prior year

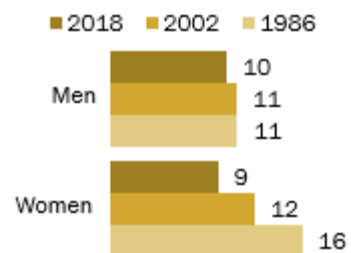


Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1968, 1986, 2002 and 2018 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (IPUMS). "Early Benchmarks Show Post-Millennials on Track to Be Most Diverse, Best-Educated Generation Yet"

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Post-Millennials are less likely to be detached from school or work than older generations

% of 16- to 21-year-olds who are neither working nor enrolled in school



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1986, 2002 and 2018 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (IPUMS). "Early Benchmarks Show Post-Millennials on Track to Be Most Diverse, Best-Educated Generation Yet"

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two married parents; fully 31% live with a single parent.⁷ The share of 6- to 17-year-olds living with two married parents is down slightly from the share of Millennials who were growing up with two married parents in 2002 (68%). Gen Xers were even more likely to live with two married parents – 73% did so in 1986. And for the early Boomers, this type of arrangement was very much the norm: 85% of early Boomers ages 6 to 17 were living with two married parents in 1968.

Of those children and teens who are living with two married parents, most live in dual-earner households. Slightly fewer post-Millennials have two working parents compared with Millennials in 2002 (63% vs. 66%). In 1986, 59% of Gen X youth (ages 6 to 17) with married parents had both parents in the labor force, up substantially from 37% among similarly aged Boomers in 1968.

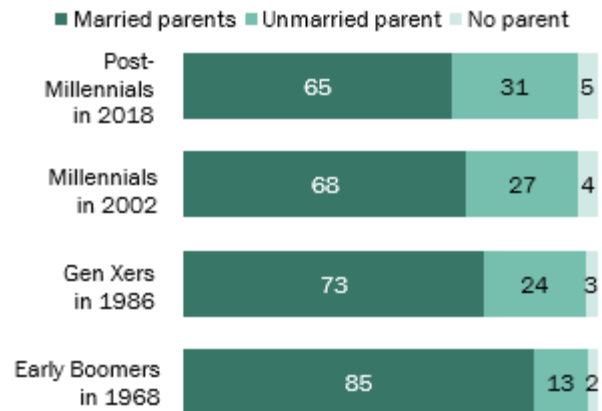
Post-Millennials have the same number of siblings living with them as Millennials did at a similar age – 1.5, on average. This is down substantially from what the early Boomers experienced in their youth. Among those ages 6 to 17 in 1968, the average number of siblings was 2.6. By the time the Gen Xers came along, that number had fallen to 1.6 (in 1986).

Older post-Millennials appear to be postponing marriage even more than Millennials were at a similar age. Among those ages 18 to 21, only 4% of post-Millennials are married. Millennials in 2002 were nearly twice as likely to be married (7%), and the rate was higher still among Gen Xers in 1986 (12%). In 1968, 26% of early Boomers ages 18 to 21 were married.

(https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/11/15/early-benchmarks-show-post-millennials-on-track-to-be-most-diverse-best-educated-generation-yet/psdt-11-15-18_postmillennials-00-10/) Some measures of economic well-being indicate that post-Millennials are growing up in more affluent circumstances than previous generations did. The median or typical household income of 6- to 21-year-olds is \$63,700. After adjusting for inflation the typical Millennial grew up in a household with a slightly lower income level (\$62,400). The typical household income resources of Gen Xers (\$52,800) and early Boomers (\$42,000) growing up were significantly below these levels.⁸ By the official poverty measure, 17% of post-Millennials live in families that are below the poverty line.⁹ This may exceed the share of Millennials in poverty in 2002 (16%) but is below the share of Gen Xers in 1986 (19%).

About three-in-ten post-Millennials live with an unmarried parent

% of 6- to 17-year-olds who live with ...



Note: Excludes 6- to 17-year-olds living in group quarters, householders and their spouses.
 Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1968, 1986, 2002 and 2018 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (IPUMS).

"Early Benchmarks Show Post-Millennials on Track to Be Most Diverse, Best-Educated Generation Yet"

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Terminology

Post-Millennials live in households with higher median household incomes than older generations did when young

Economic situation of 6- to 21-year-olds

	Median adjusted household income	Share in poverty	Share in rented home
Post-Millennials in 2018	\$63,700	17%	37%
Millennials in 2002	\$62,400	16%	32%
Gen Xers in 1986	\$52,800	19%	33%
Early Boomers in 1968	\$42,000	N/A	N/A

Note: Household incomes are as of the previous calendar year and are scaled to a three-person household and expressed in 2017 dollars. Poverty status is as of the previous year. Housing tenure as of March of the given year. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1968, 1986, 2002 and 2018 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (IPUMS). "Early Benchmarks Show Post-Millennials on Track to Be Most Diverse, Best-Educated Generation Yet"

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1. Because the most recent available data on educational attainment come from October 2017, the analysis of high school completion and college enrollment is based on post-Millennials who were ages 18 to 20 in 2017. [↪](#)
2. The typical 17-year-old is enrolled in 12th grade and most reside in the parental home. Some young adults ages 18 and older live in a household that does not include their parents, and thus marital status of their parent or parents is not available. [↪](#)
3. The Current Population Survey did not begin to collect information on place of birth on a consistent basis until 1994. [↪](#)
4. This is based on the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, which covers the civilian, non-institutionalized population. [↪](#)
5. Comparisons between generations in the regional analysis are based off U.S. Census Bureau vintage 2017 county population estimates and all generations are as of 2017. Historical comparisons of each generation at similar ages are not possible using this data set. [↪](#)
6. The school enrollment supplement of the October Current Population Survey is the standard source for historical analyses of school and college enrollment. The school enrollment supplement has been collected since at least 1955. Easily accessible repositories of the data (such as IPUMS and the National Bureau of Economic Research) only have the school enrollment supplement from 1976 on. [↪](#)
7. Prior to 2007 a second parent in the household can only be identified if he or she is married to the first parent. Children residing with two unmarried parents are classified as single parent families. Step and adoptive parents are included as well as biological parents. [↪](#)
8. If they have the same income, holding other factors the same, households with fewer members are better off financially than larger households. So, the household income calculations follow a standard practice of adjusting for the size of the household. The Census Bureau revised the income questions in 2014 so the post-Millennial household income and poverty figures are not strictly comparable with earlier generations. [↪](#)
9. The Census Bureau publishes an alternative poverty measure called the supplemental poverty measure. Among other differences from the official poverty rate, the supplemental measure includes the value of noncash transfer payments (such as food stamps) and adjusts for geographic differences in the cost of housing. The supplemental poverty rate for 6- to 21-year-olds in 2018 is 16%. The supplemental measure is not available before 2010. [↪](#)