

OHIO POPULATION NEWS

Issue 40

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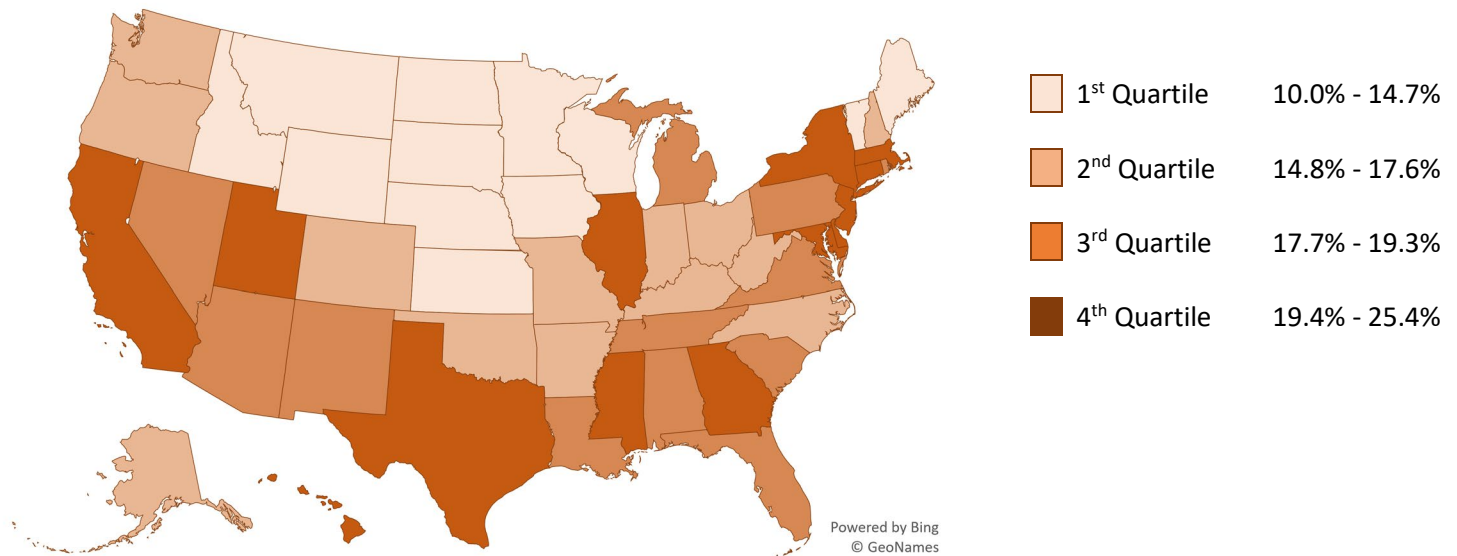
Multigenerational Households in Ohio

Living in a multigenerational household can offer numerous benefits, especially to those who are economically vulnerable (e.g., access to supportive resources like childcare or eldercare, the pooling of financial resources, saving money on housing costs, etc.) (Taylor et al., 2011). Following the Great Recession, the share of Americans living in multigenerational family households has continued to grow (Cohn & Passel, 2018). In this issue, we use the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates to investigate the characteristics of multigenerational households in Ohio. Here, a multigenerational household includes the following: two adjacent adult generations where the younger member is married or over 18, "skipped" generations (e.g., grandparent and grandchild, without the biological parents of the grandchild), and three or more generations. We first investigate the overall share of households in Ohio that are multigenerational and discuss variation across the U.S. We then explore the different types of multigenerational household structures in Ohio and consider variation across demographic characteristics.

Geographic Variation in Multigenerational Households

The share of households with a multigenerational structure varies by geographic location (Figure 1). The lowest share is found in North Dakota, where one in ten of all households is multigenerational, and the highest is in Hawaii at one quarter. Ohio falls within the 2nd quartile, with 17% of households classified as multigenerational. The majority (68%) of multigenerational households in Ohio are composed of two adjacent adult generations, whereas about one fourth (27%) contain three or more generations, and only 5% are skipped generation (e.g., grandparent and grandchild) (not shown).

Figure 1. Prevalence of Multigenerational Households by State, 2014-2018

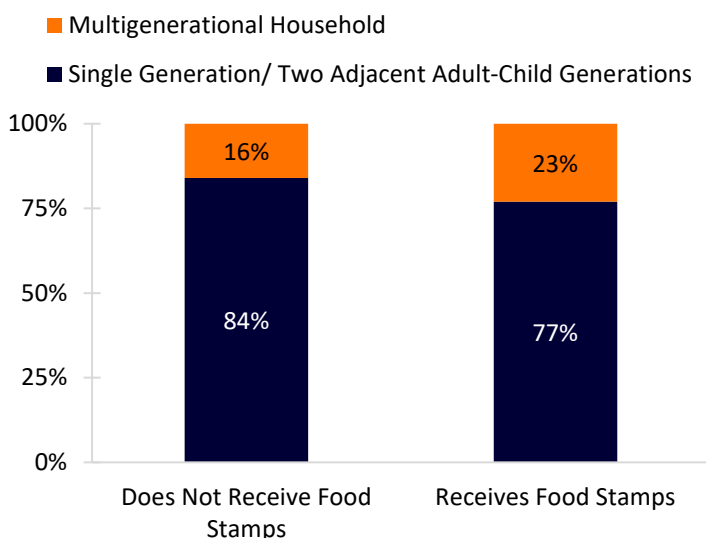


Sources: 2018 ACS 5-Year estimates

Multigenerational Households and Socioeconomic Status

Household structure varies by socioeconomic characteristics. About 14% of low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level) households in Ohio are multigenerational households (not shown). Among Ohio households receiving food stamps, an indicator of economic disadvantage, multigenerational households are over-represented at almost one-fourth (23%) of all such households (Figure 2). There is also a negative gradient between educational attainment and multigenerational households; just over one in five (22%) householders in Ohio with less than a high school education live in a multigenerational household compared to only 13% of those with a bachelor's degree or higher residing in multigenerational households (Figure 3).

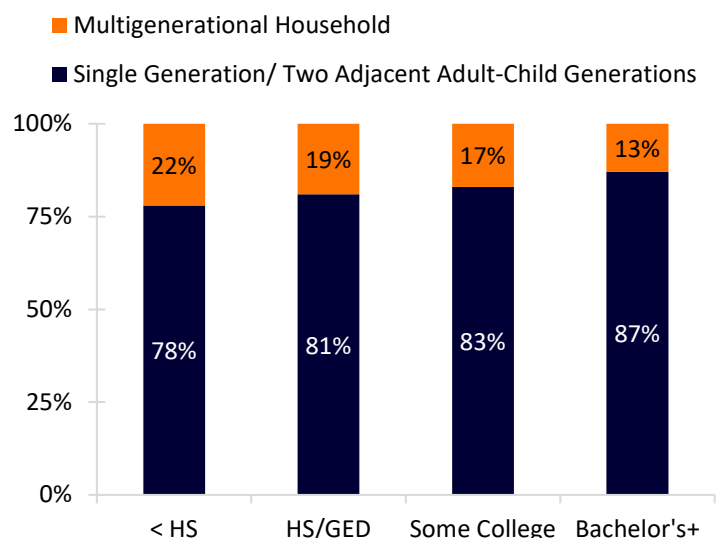
Figure 2. Share of Households with a Multigenerational Structure, by Food Stamp Receipt



Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year estimates

Note: Food stamp receipt is based on the food stamp/SNAP receipt of the household head.

Figure 3. Share of Households with a Multigenerational Structure, by Educational Attainment



Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year estimates

Note: Educational attainment is based on the education level of the household head.

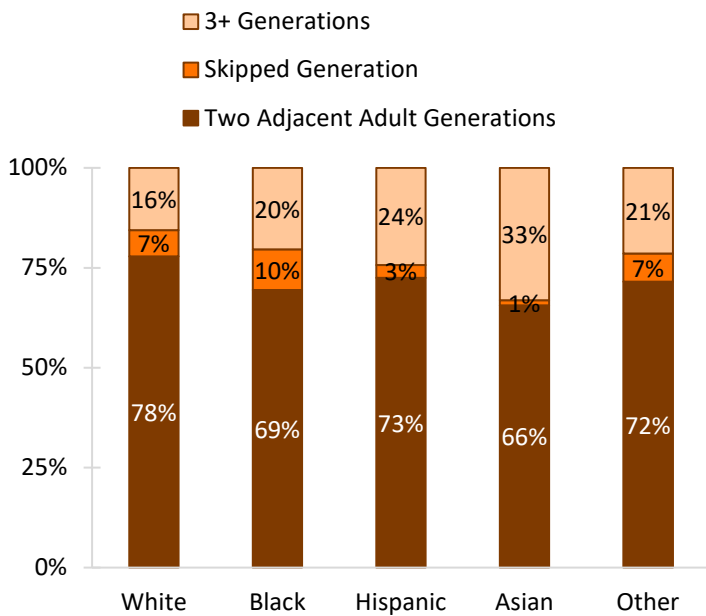
Variation Among Multigenerational Households

The following sections focus only on multigenerational households. Even among the almost 800,000 Ohio households containing more than one generation, there are differences in the types of multigenerational households across characteristics. We consider variation across two sets of characteristics: race/ethnicity and marital status.

Race and Multigenerational Families

The share of multigenerational household types in Ohio varies by race. Two adjacent adult generation households account for over three-quarters (78%) of White multigenerational households, but only two-thirds (66%) of Asian multigenerational households. Similarly, skipped generation families are most common among Black multigenerational households (10%) and least common among Asian multigenerational households (1%). The share of both White and other-race multigenerational households in skipped generation families falls around 7%. Approximately one-third (33%) of multigenerational Asian households contain three or more generations, while this applies to only 16% and 20% of White and Black multigenerational households, respectively.

Figure 4. Types of Multigenerational Households, by Race/Ethnicity



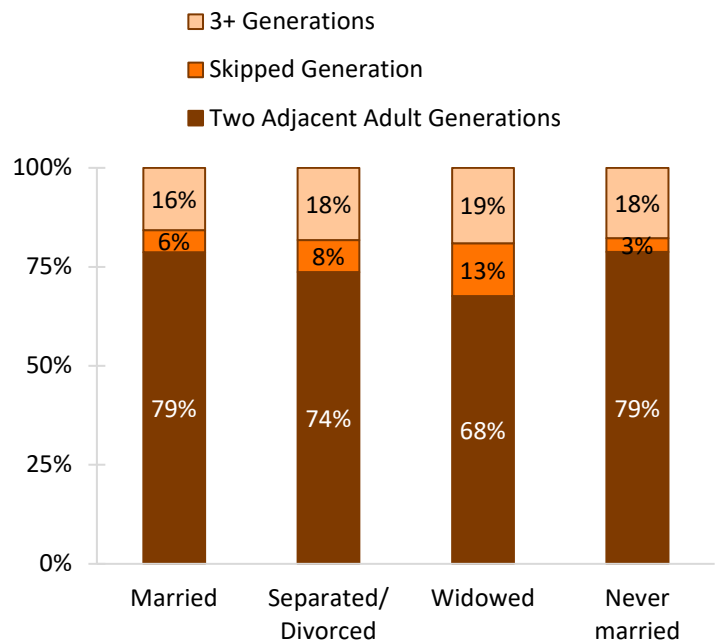
Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year estimates

Note: Race/Ethnicity is based on the response of the household head.

Marital Status and Multigenerational Families

Multigenerational family structures in Ohio vary by marital status. While approximately four-fifths (79%) of multigenerational households headed by both married and never married individuals are two adjacent-adult generation households, this applies to only 68% of widowed household heads. Living in a skipped-generation household was most common among widowed multigenerational household heads (13%) and least common among those who were never married (3%). Similarly, while around one-fifth (19%) of multigenerational households headed by widowed individuals contain three or more generations, only 16% of married and 20% of never married multigenerational household heads share this household structure.

Figure 5. Types of Multigenerational Households, by Marital Status



Source: 2018 ACS 5-Year estimates

Note: Marital status is based on the response of the household head.

References:

Cohn, D'V., & Passel, J. S. (2018). *Record 64 million Americans live in multigenerational households*. Pew Research Center.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/04/05/a-record-64-million-americans-live-in-multigenerational-households/>

Taylor, P., Kochhar, R., Cohn, D'V., Passel, J. S., Velasco, G., Motel, S., & Patten, E. (2011). *Fighting poverty in a tough economy, Americans move in with their relatives*. Pew Research Center: Social and Demographic Trends. <https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2011/10/Multigenerational-Households-Final1.pdf>

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