



DEMOGRAPHICS

About Census Data

Most demographic data in this report comes from the United States Census Bureau. The Census Bureau runs a number of census and survey projects, most recognizably the decennial census mandated by the United States Constitution in Article 1, Section 2. The decennial census attempts to contact all American residents to get the most accurate accounting of the U.S. population. Because the census occurs only every 10 years (the next census is in 2020), the Census Bureau supplements it with other surveys. The largest of these is the American Community Survey (ACS), which is sent to about 300,000 addresses per month (3.5 million per year). By combining the decennial census with regular demographic surveys the Census Bureau is able to produce the most accurate demographic data available.

The ACS is taken in all counties, American Indian reservations, Alaska Native villages, and Hawaiian homelands in the United States. Puerto Rico is also included. Students in dormitories as well as those currently incarcerated are included in the survey as well. While the decennial census attempts to count overseas Americans in some instances (ex. temporarily deployed military personnel), the ACS does not. Both the decennial census and ACS collect data on foreign born U.S. residents regardless of legal status. Thus, unauthorized migrants are implicitly included in Census Bureau estimates of the total foreign-born population. However, it is not possible to tabulate separate estimates of unauthorized migrants.

The ACS attempts to collect data on an extremely wide ranging set of issues including race, sex, ancestry, housing arrangement, computer and internet use, education, disability status, employment status and earnings, and much more. All told there are 47 different subject categories the ACS collects.

This report attempts to surface some interesting demographic trends of America's youth.

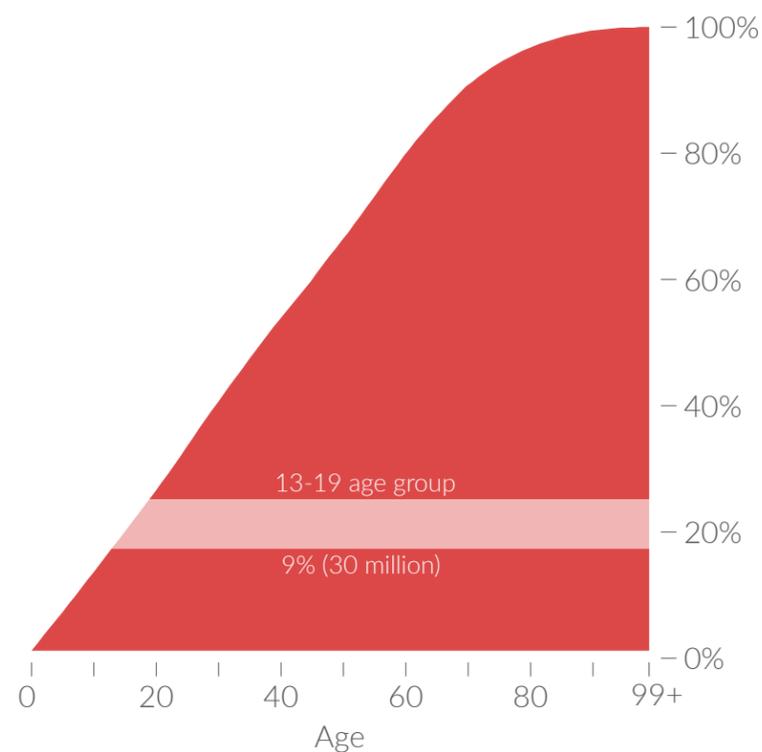
Age

The age range of Generation Z is not uniformly defined. Analyzing generational trends is further complicated by the fact that different data sources group youth into slightly variant age ranges. The United States Census sometimes groups youth into anyone under 18, at other times includes data on small age windows (ex. 10-14, 15-19), and still other times offers data on every year of age from 0 to 100. For that reason age data provided here is sometimes inconsistent.

Defined as teenagers 13 to 19 years old, the Generation Z population is 30 million youth, making up 9% of the U.S. population. All youth 19 and younger number 82 million and make up 25% of the U.S. population.

Percent of US population that is at or younger than given ages

Source: United States Census (2017)



Population Pyramids

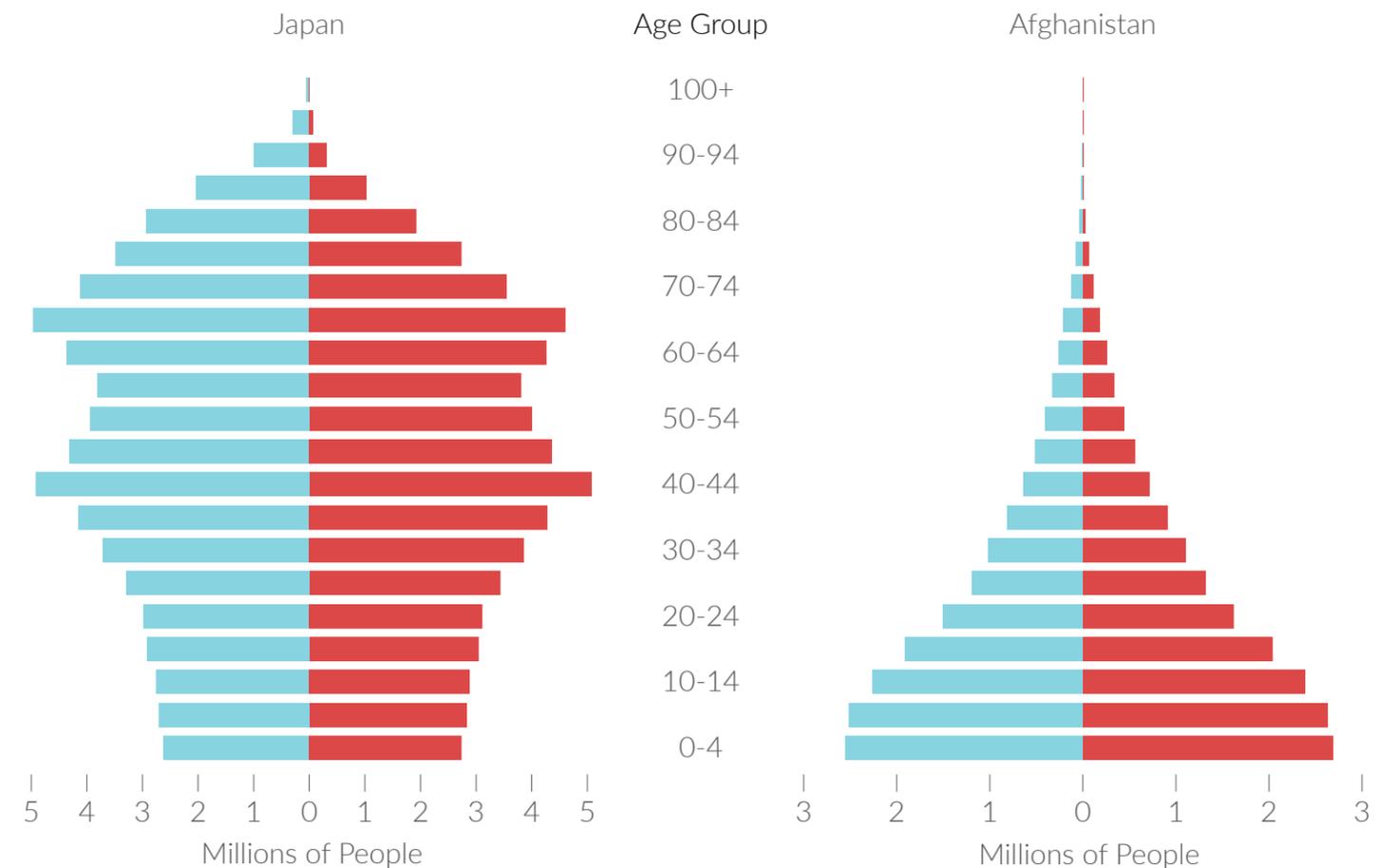
Population pyramids are popular visualizations to understand the overall age distribution of a large group (often at the country level). Population pyramids help identify aging trends and future demographic challenges. It is generally considered better to have a larger youth population than middle aged and elderly population because youth are the future employees and entrepreneurs that power a country's economic growth. In addition, the young help pay for the elderly after retirement, both through formal governmental redistributions like social security and via direct support like allowing a parent or grandparent to stay at the child's home.

Many economists worry about Japan, for example, because of its declining birth rate. Indeed, looking at the chart at the bottom left one can see Japan has an almost inverted pyramid shape, especially among the 40 and younger population. Afghanistan, on the other hand, is a high population growth country with the traditional pyramid shape. In 1900 the U.S. also had this same pyramid shape, but has since developed a distribution more similar to Japan.

Generation Z's proportion of the U.S. population is expected to stay fairly constant as the group ages. According to U.S. Census projections, the 13 to 19 age group will shrink only slightly in percentage terms. By 2050 today's Generation Z, then between the ages of 45 to 51, will make up 8.5% of the population rather than the 9% it makes up today. The youth age 19 and younger of 2050 will also be a slightly smaller proportion of the population, making up 23% rather than the 25% of 2018.

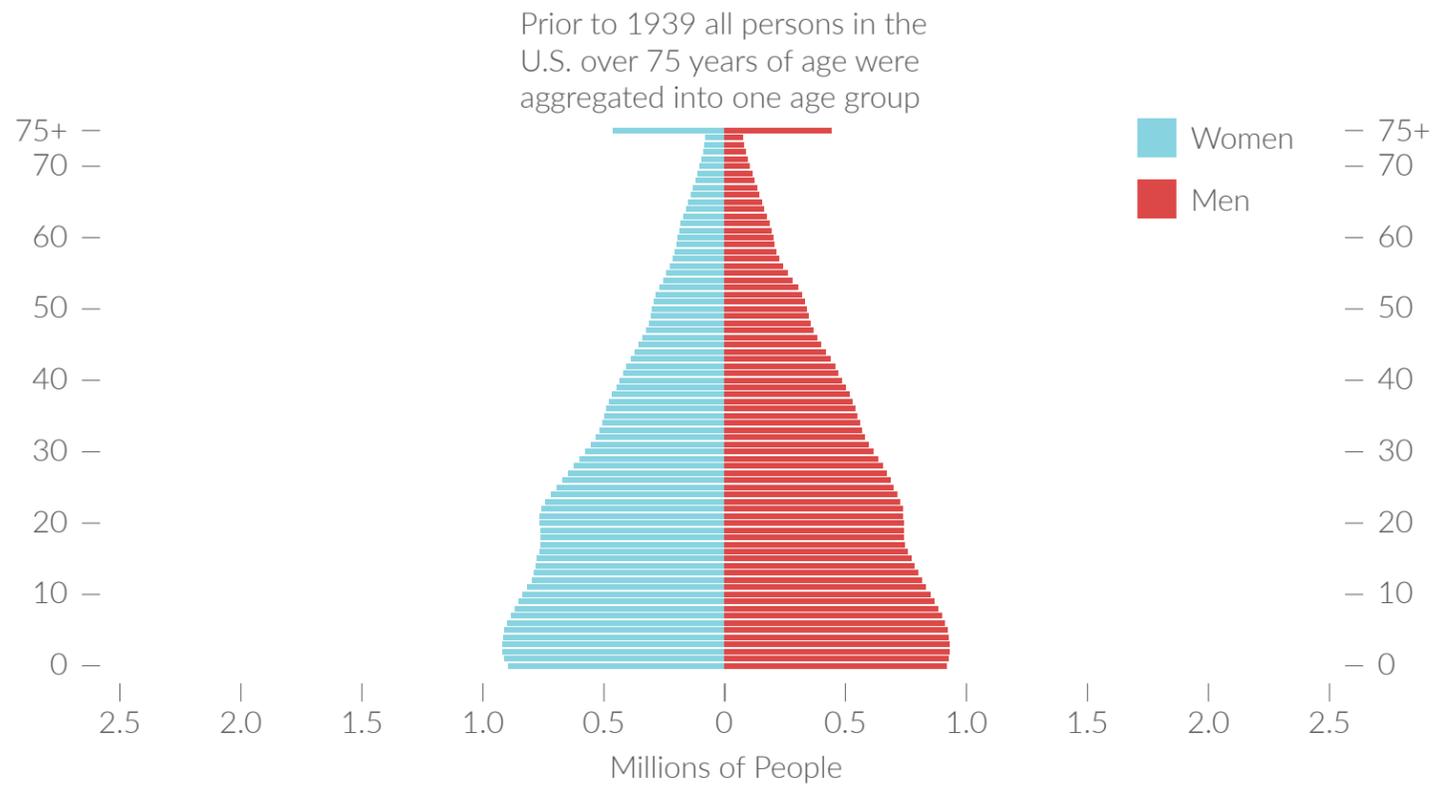
Population Pyramids for Japan and Afghanistan by 5-Year Age Group

Source: United Nations Population Division (2015)



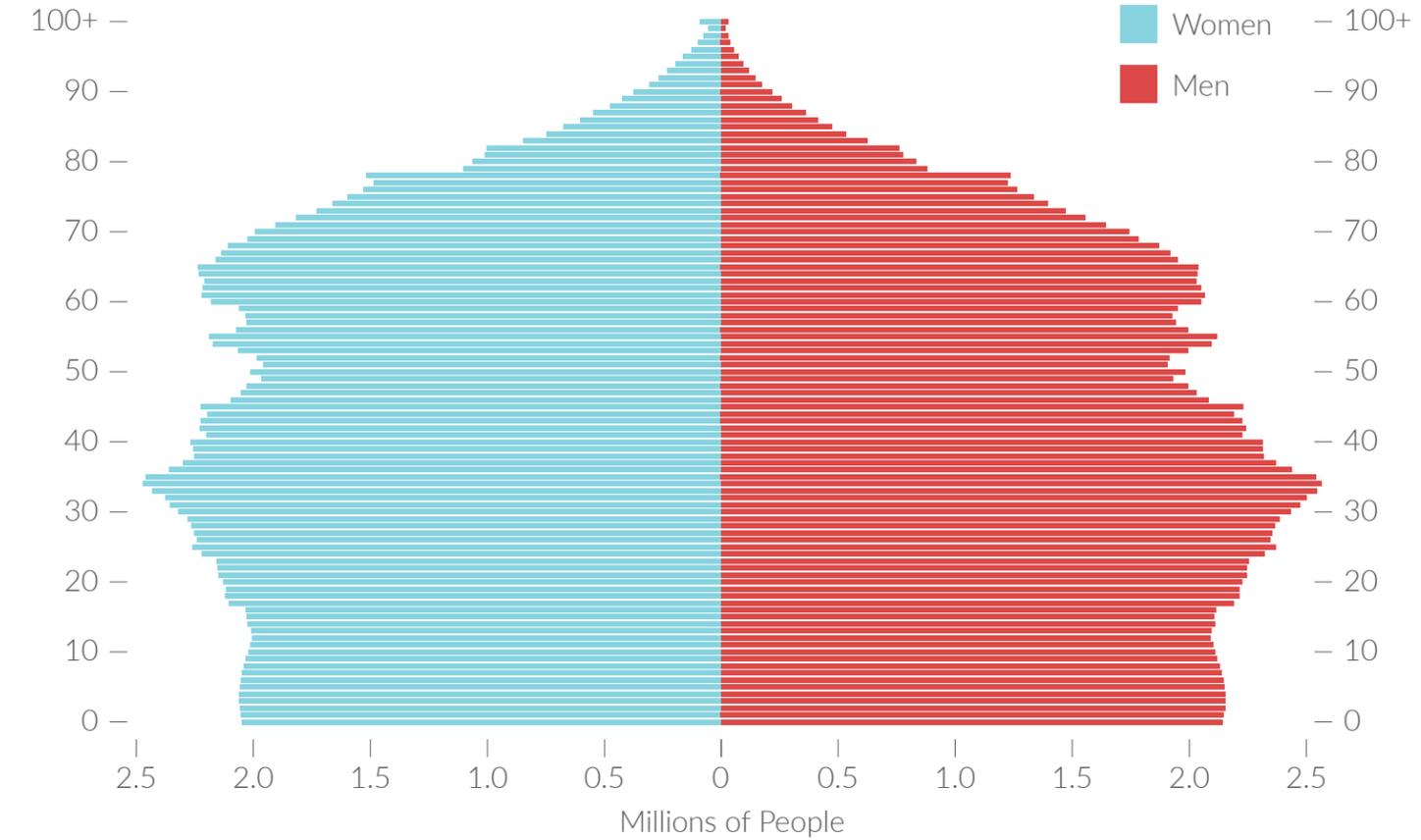
1900 Population Distribution

Source: United States Census Population Estimates (2017)



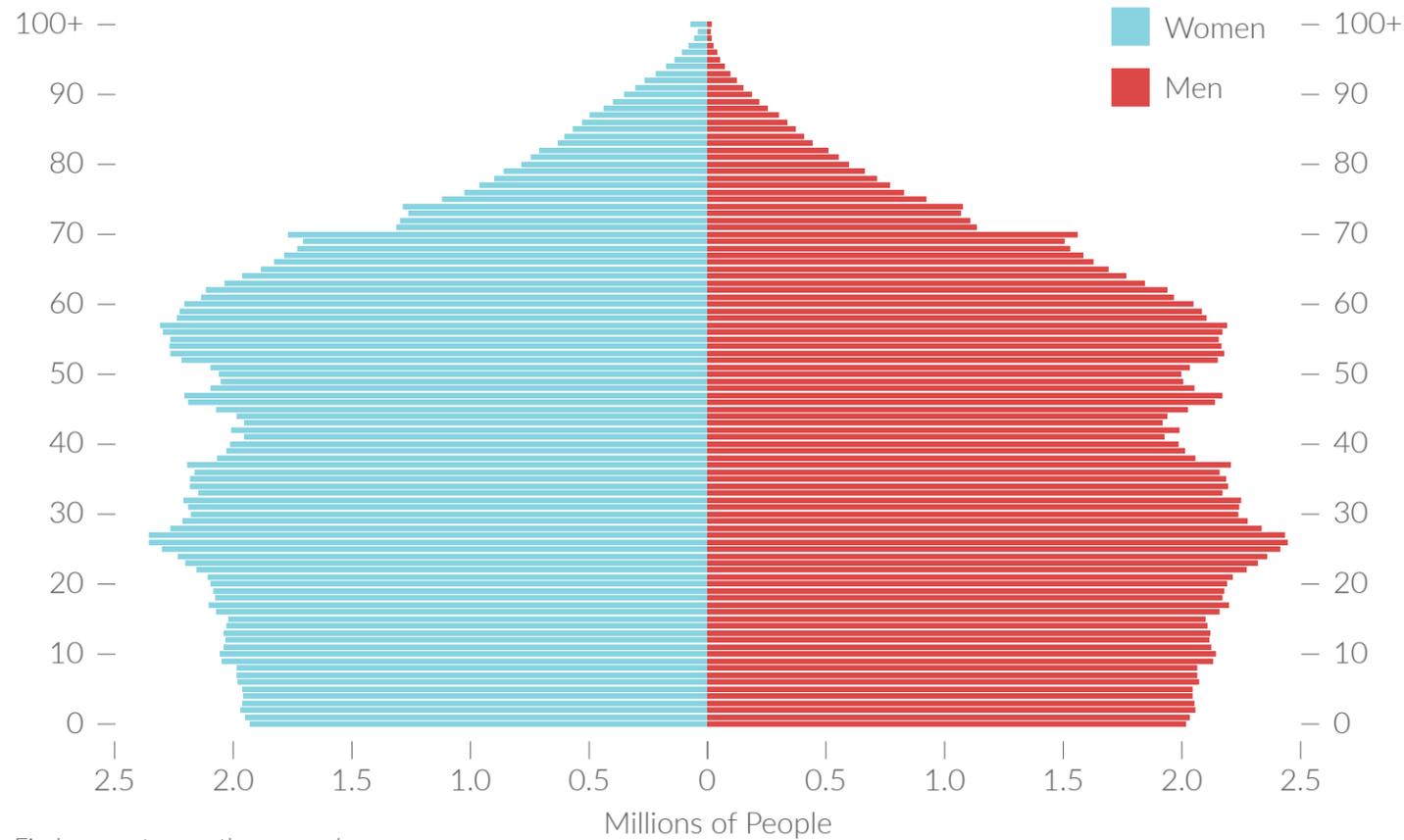
2025 Population Distribution Estimate

Source: United States Census Population Projections (2014)



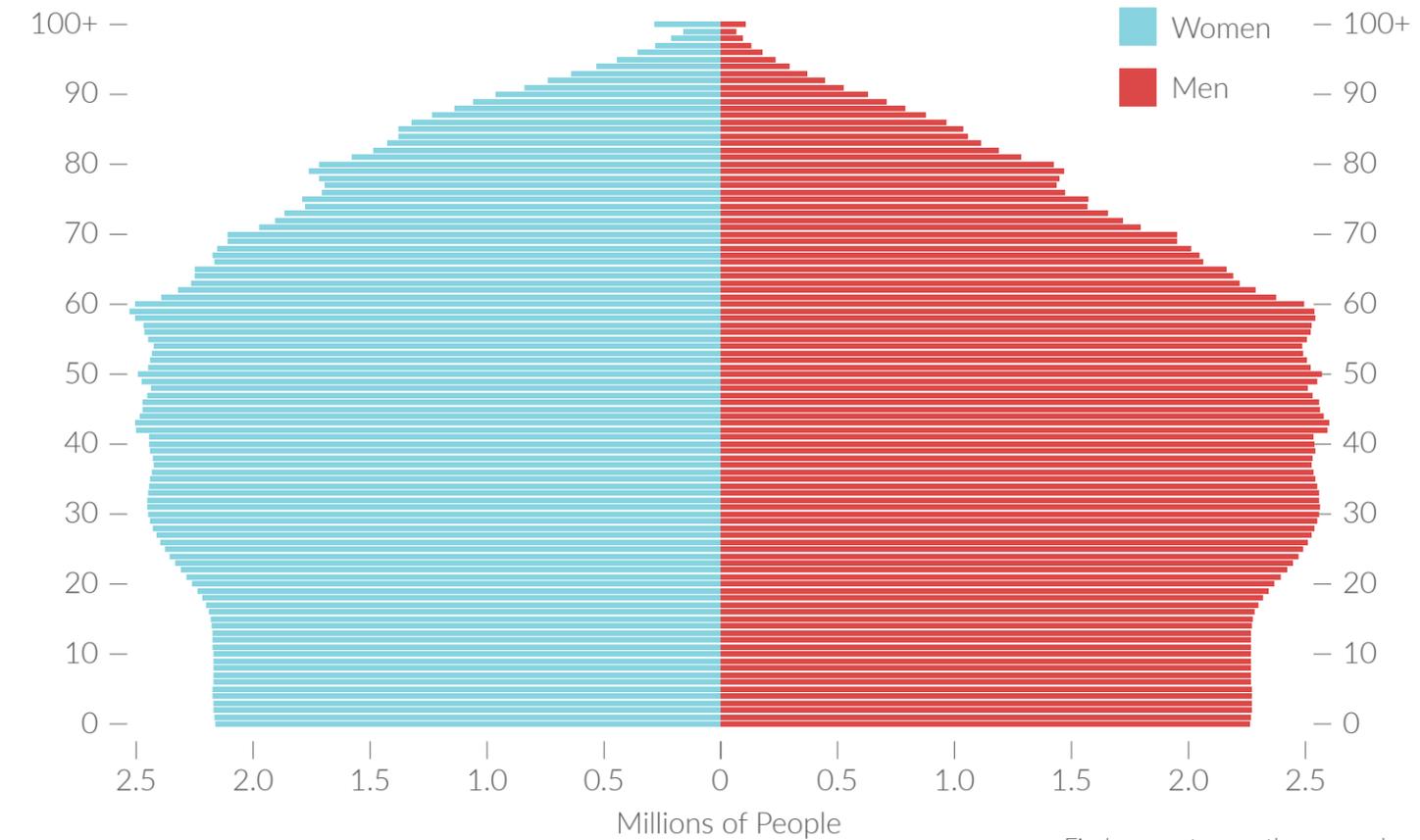
2017 Population Distribution

Source: United States Census Population Estimates (2017)



2050 Population Distribution Estimate

Source: United States Census Population Projections (2014)



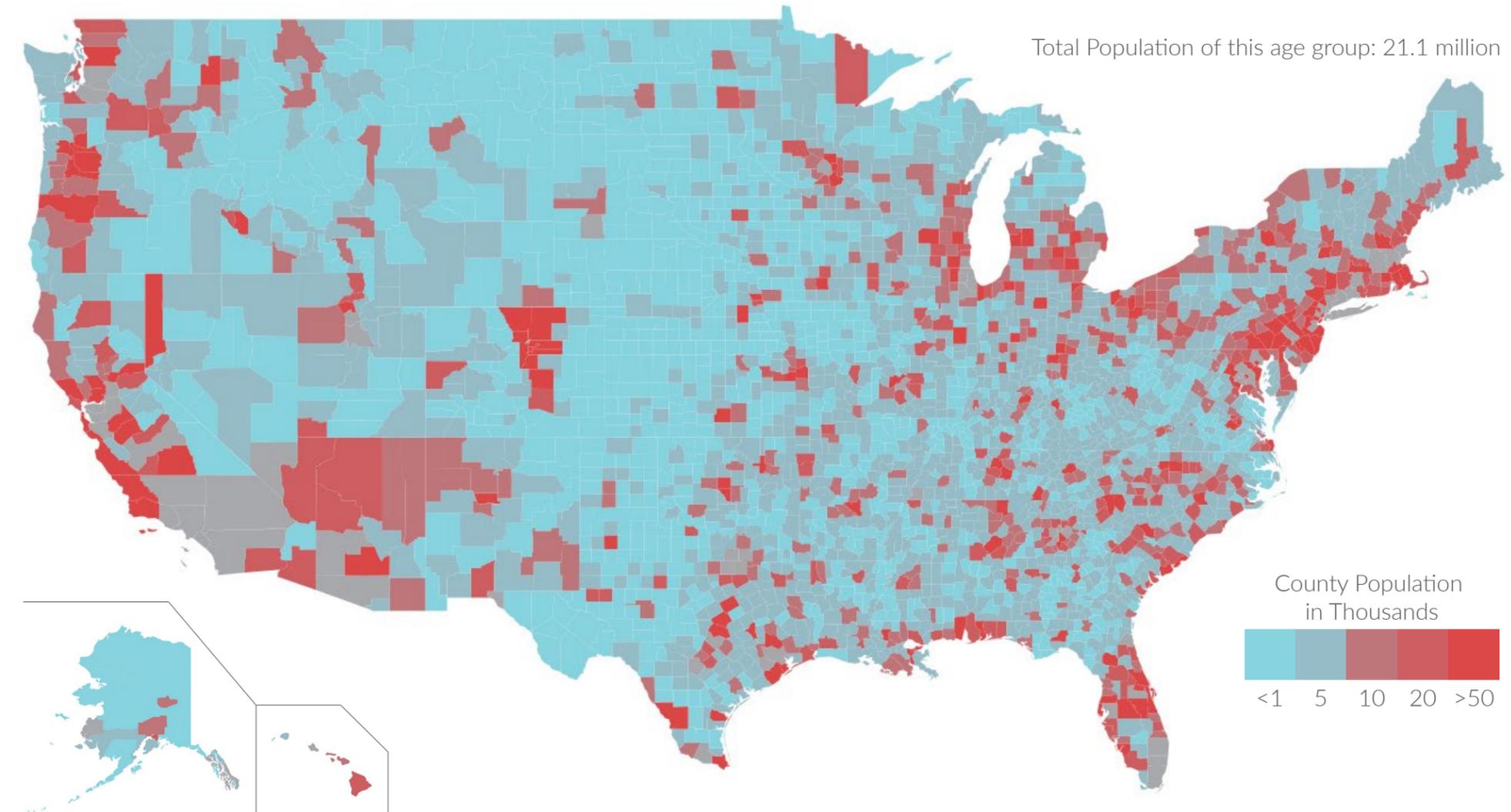
Vince Fleming
Unsplash: @vincefleming



County-Level Population Distribution (15-19 Age Group)

Source: United States Census Estimates (2017)

There are over 3,100 counties in the United States. The majority are in the eastern half of the country where counties tend to be smaller. Kentucky, for example, has twice the number of counties as California despite being one-fourth the size. Much like the general population, the 15 to 19 year-old age group is concentrated in a small group of populous counties. The top 100 most populous counties are home to over 40% of 15 to 19 year olds, the top 500 house 75%. California alone contains five out of the top 10 most populous counties; Los Angeles county ranks first with more than 642,000 15 to 19 year olds. A full one-third of 15 to 19 year olds reside in one of four states: California, Texas, New York, and Florida. Meanwhile, 75% of counties contain fewer than 5,000 15 to 19 year olds and just over a third contain fewer than 1,000.



Find more at www.theresear.ch

Race

Looking at the racial composition of the United States by age, one can see the drastic decline in the proportion of White Americans as well as the rise in the Hispanic population.

Racially, Generation Z is the most diverse generation yet. Just 53% of 13 to 19 year olds are White. For those age two years and younger Whites are a minority, composing 49% of the population. For that same age group Hispanics make up a full quarter of the population.

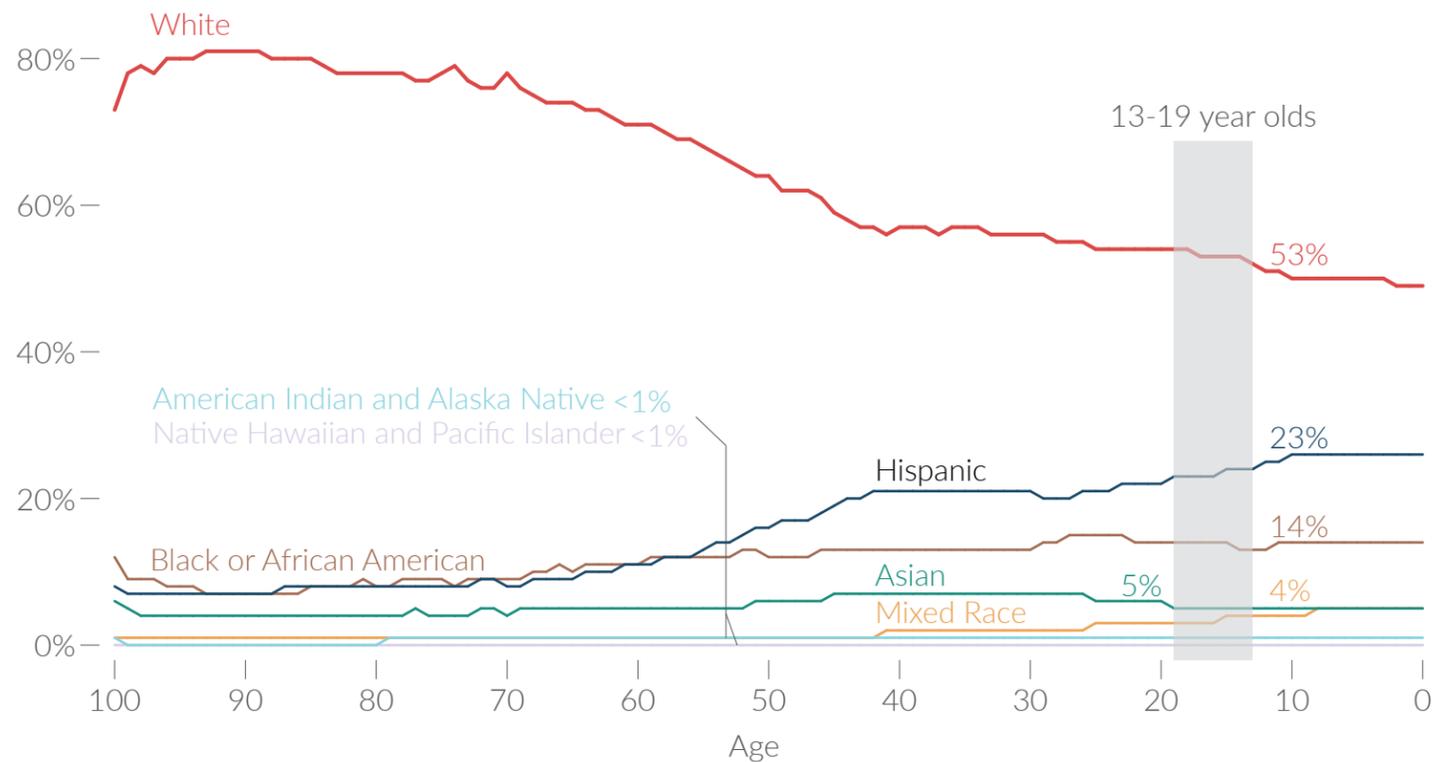
Hispanics are by far the largest minority for 13 to 19 year olds, approaching double that of the Black or African American population, the second largest minority group.

Both American Indian and Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders make up less than 1% of the population.

Racial Composition of U.S. Population by Current Age

Source: United States Census Estimates (2017)

Percentages shown are for the 13-19 age group.



Find more at www.theresearch.ch

Sex

Gen Z is composed of an equal proportion of male and female youth. In exploratory research various break-downs of demographic characteristics were examined and all had roughly equal percentages of male and female members. For instance, a break down of any of the seven racial categories by sex shows males and females equally distributed. This equal proportion tracks the United States as a whole; for all ages women make up 50.8% of the population.

Sex Composition (13-19)



Households

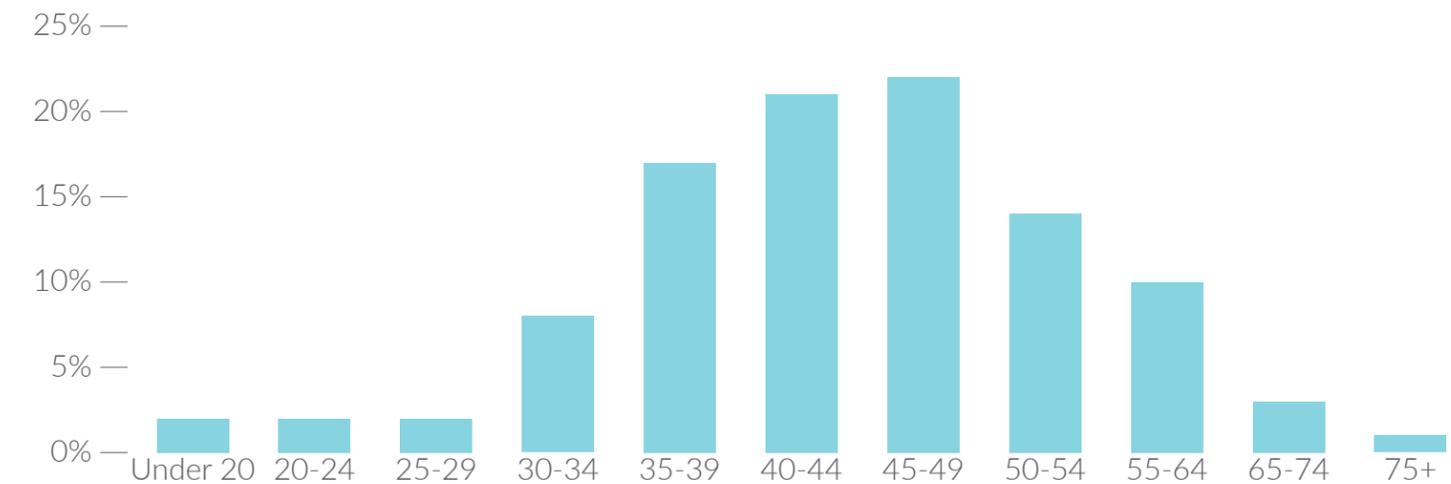
Predictably, 12 to 17 year olds are primarily members of households where the head is middle aged. Almost 45% of these youth live in households where the head is between the age of 40 and 50 (the median age of the head of household for all 12 to 17 year olds is 44.6 years). This distribution is quite different than the overall state of U.S. households, which are concentrated in heads that are older. Nearly 45% of all U.S. households have heads that are 55 or older (the median age for all heads is 51.3 years).

The majority of 12 to 17 year olds (66%) live with both parents, although almost a quarter live with a single mother. Just 10% live with a single father or neither parent.

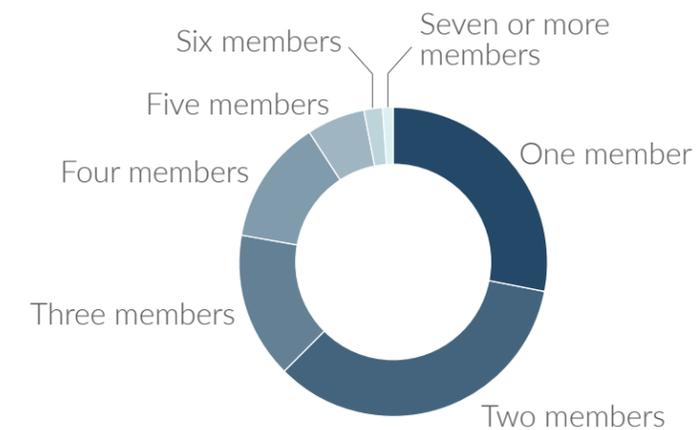
About 65% of the 126,000 households in the U.S. are so-called "Family Households," meaning they consist of two or more individuals who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. Non-family households, one or more unrelated individuals living together in a dwelling unit, make up the remaining 35% of U.S. households.

Age of Head of House for Households with 12-17 Year Olds

Source: United States Census Estimates (2017)

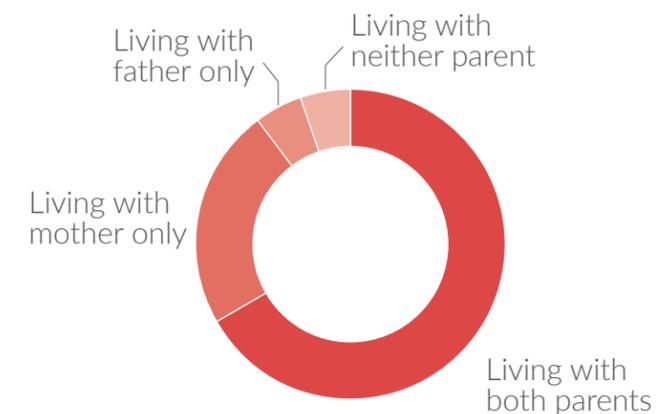


Size of American Households



Source: United States Census Estimates (2017)

Living Arrangement of 12-17 Year Olds



Source: United States Census Estimates (2017)
Find more at www.theresearch.ch

Mobility

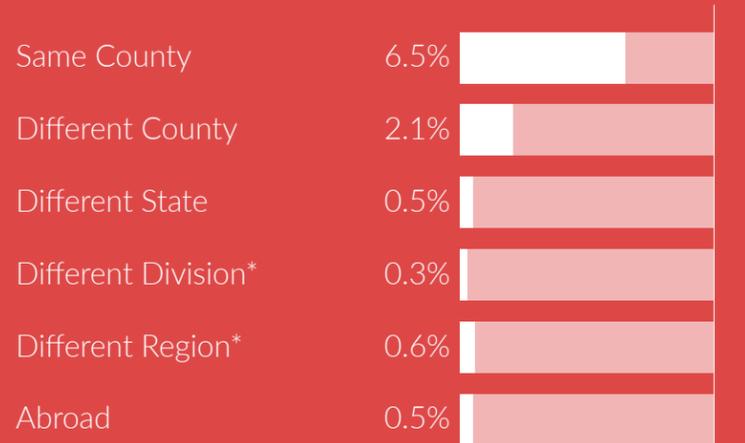
American mobility is at an all-time low (data goes back to 1948). Slightly more than 11% of Americans moved between 2016-2017, half the 1948 rate.

According to an [article by City Lab](#) there are several factors behind this reduced mobility. First, an increased passion for home buying has locked many families into staying put, especially when homes are difficult to sell like in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. Second, job opportunities have converged in many places, so Americans are less likely to need to move for work. Third, land use restrictions can sometimes artificially reduce housing supply in booming cities. Fourth, occupational licensing means that some jobs require state-level licenses. The number of jobs requiring occupational licensing has risen from 5% in the 1950s to 25% today.

Overall 15-19 year olds are unlikely to move in a given year. When they do, it is most often within the same county, only a small portion move outside of their current county. The majority of this population is not yet independent and moves only if their family does. College is a primary reason 18-24 year olds move, but according to a [survey by Sallie Mae](#) 73% of students choose in-state colleges (about 67% of high school graduates go to college according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data). Economists Robert Kelchen and Doug Webber have [found](#) that college graduates are moving less as well. Moves for graduates between 22-24 declined from 16% in 2001 to 12% in 2016.

15-19 Year Olds Who Moved To...

Source: United States Census (2016-2017)



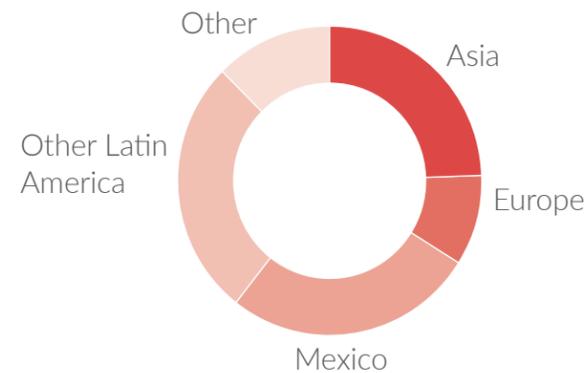
*Divisions and Regions are both groupings of states. The U.S. has four Regions (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West), and nine Divisions.

Foreign Born

Just 3.6% (2.6 million) of those under 18 are foreign born. Of the 15 to 19 age group, 7.6% are foreign born. Of these, 2.3% are naturalized U.S. citizens and the remainder (5.3%) are not citizens. Of 15 to 19 year olds that are foreign born, Latin America is by far the most common region of birth. More than 50% of 15 to 19 year old foreign born residents are from a Latin American country. Of Latin American countries, Mexico is the most common. Around 25% of foreign born 15 to 19 year olds are from Mexico. Male and female 15 to 19 year olds are similar in the proportions of birth regions although females are more likely to be from Latin America countries (excluding Mexico). About 32% of 15 to 19 year old females were born there compared to 27% of males.

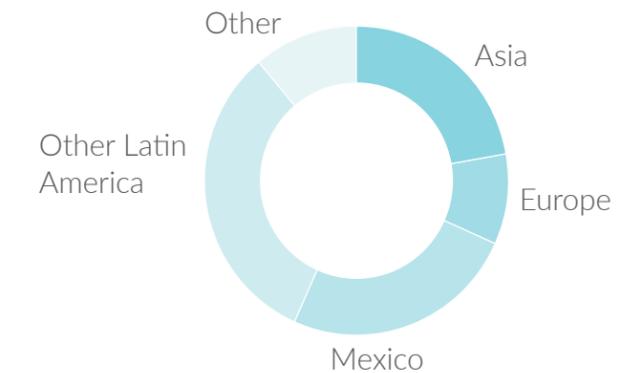
15-19 Year Old Male Percent of Foreign Born by Region of Birth

Source: United States Census (2016)



15-19 Year Old Female Percent of Foreign Born by Region of Birth

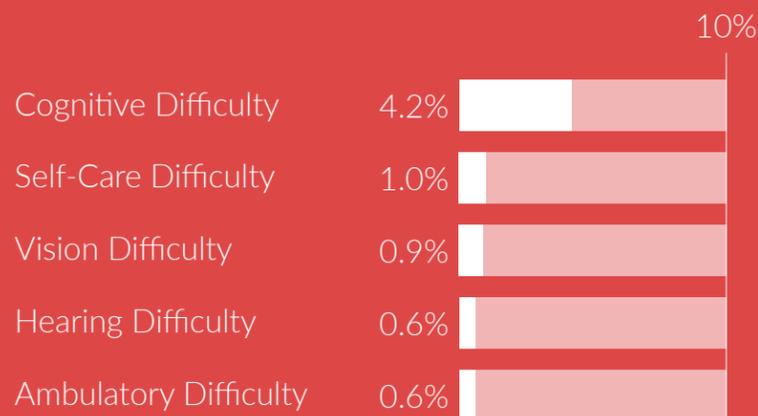
Source: United States Census (2016)



Disabilities

5-17 Year Olds with the Following Disabilities

Source: United States Census 2016



Disabilities are relatively uncommon in youth. Just 4% of 5 to 17 year olds have one disability and only 1.5% have two or more. This proportion is much lower than older generations. For those 75 or older, 50% have one or more disabilities. Cognitive difficulties are the most common disability among 5 to 17 year olds although the definition is broad: "Because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions (DREM)." Self-care difficulty is the next most common disability and is defined as having difficulty bathing or dressing. Ambulatory difficulties include trouble walking or climbing stairs.



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