Multigenerational Households

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Abstract:

For many people being able to live in a multigenerational household allows them to lessen the effects of economic and personal hard times. Prior research has found that those who are economically vulnerable –young adults, recent immigrants, Hispanics, and blacks – experience lower poverty rates when they reside in multigenerational households than those in other types of households. Using data from the 2009-2011 3-year American Community Survey, the current project explores how geographic racial make-up, recent immigration, and poverty are associated with the prevalence of multigenerational households. Further, this paper looks at variations by type of multigenerational household. The results show that there were 4.3 million multigenerational households, which account for 5.6 percent of family households in the United States. Unmarried people, racial minorities (specifically Asians), and foreign born householders had higher odds of living in a multigenerational household than non-multigenerational family household. The majority of multigenerational household included a householder, child, and grandchild. Those younger than 35 years, Blacks, and married people are more likely to live in this multigenerational household type.

Introduction

People live in multigenerational households for a variety of reasons including: illness,

divorce/widowhood, childbirth, unemployment or poverty, home foreclosure, recent immigration, and

preference. The current research project focuses on how the percent of households that are

multigenerational varies across geographic areas in the United States. This paper will explore how

geographic racial make-up, recent immigration, and poverty are associated with the prevalence of

multigenerational households. These are only a few characteristics that could help shed some light on

multigenerational households. Further, this paper will look at variations by type of multigenerational

household.

The Census Bureau defines multigenerational households as family households consisting of

three or more generations. These households include households with a householder, a parent or

parent-in-law of the householder, and a child of the householder; or a householder, a child of the

householder, and a grandchild of the householder; or a householder, a parent or parent-in-law of the

householder, a child of the householder, and a grandchild of the householder. According to data

collected by the Census Bureau, multigenerational households have been increasing. In the 2000

decennial census, there were approximately 3.9 million multigenerational households, making up 3.7

percent of all households.[1] In 2010, the number of multigenerational households increased to 5.1

million, which made up about 4.4 percent of all households. [2]

Background

Research on American family households has found that living apart from parents is a defining

moment during the transition into adulthood. While not living with parents allows adult children to

[1] Simmons, Tavia and Grace O'Neill., "Households and Families: 2000," www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-8.pdf
[2] Lofquist, Daphne, Terry Lugaila, Martin O'Connell, and Sarah Feliz., "Households and Families: 2010," www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-14.pdf

show their independence and self-reliance, it also serves to lessen the interdependence of families, which in turn weakens family ties (Bengston 2001). Families are often seen as a support system in times of need (Goldscheider & Goldscheider 1999). During these times of need, many adults were no longer able to afford to live alone or apart from their families. Adults are less likely to live alone if there is high unemployment and high rental costs in their areas (Christian 1989). The high housing costs and lack of jobs thus increases their likelihood of living with their parents (Haurin, Hendersthott, & Kim 1993). Young adult children are often the beneficiaries of coresidence with their parents. However, coresidence can also be beneficial for parents who are older, or have health problems or other needs (Choi 2003). Kochhar and Cohn (2011) found that young adults experience reductions in poverty when they reside in multigenerational households, while the elderly were less likely to be in poverty if they lived in multigenerational households, compared to other household types.

Prior research has found that those who are economically vulnerable –young adults, Hispanics, and blacks – experience lower poverty rates when they reside in multigenerational households than those in other types of households (Kochhar & Cohn 2011, Treas & Batalova 2011). When compared to whites born in the United States, low incomes and housing discrimination often make it harder for minorities to live away from their parents (Rosenbaum & Friedman 2007, Treas & Batalova 2011). In 2009, Asians were the most likely to live in multigenerational households, followed by blacks, Hispanics, and finally whites (Kochhar & Cohn 2011). Young African Americans are likely to live in multigenerational households for an extended amount of time, which is consistent with their likelihood of being unemployed (Fussell & Furstenberg 2005, Hogan & Lichter 1995). Hispanics experienced the fastest growth in multigenerational households between 2007 and 2009 of any race or ethnic group (Kochhar & Cohn 2011). Asians and Hispanics are more likely to stay in their parents' houses. This could be because they are waiting until they are finished with their education or because they marry at an older age than non-Hispanic whites on average (Goldscheider & Goldscheider 1999). More highly educated whites and

Asians have lower likelihoods of living with their parents than do other racial groups. Blacks and Hispanics are significantly more likely to live with their parents or have their parents live with them (Treas & Batalova 2011). Being single (anything other than married) increases the likelihood of someone living in a multigenerational household, regardless of race. This association between marital status and multigenerational households is strongest for whites (Treas & Batalova 2011). Women, regardless of race, have lower odds of living with their parents than their male counterparts (Treas & Batalova 2011) do. Between 2007 and 2009, the percentage of males living in multigenerational households increased more than for their female counterparts (Kochhar & Cohn 2011).

Immigrants may view multigenerational households as a strategy to economize and cope with any possible economic disadvantage that occurs from their moving to a new country. In 2009, about 16 percent of foreign-born heads of households and almost 10 percent of U.S. born heads of households lived in multigenerational households (Grieco, Acosta, de la Cruz, Gambino, Gryn, Larsen, Trevelyan, and Walters. 2012). In 2010, out of all foreign-born households, about 10 percent lived in multigenerational households as compared to only 5 percent of their U.S. born counterparts. Given this prior research, I expect the composition of multigenerational households to include more males and unmarried adults. I expect racial minorities and immigrants to be overrepresented among householders in multigenerational households.

Data and Methods

The analyses in this paper use the 2009-2011 3-year American Community Survey internal data files. The ACS was fully implemented in 2005 and was designed to replace the collection of data from the long form decennial census questionnaire that were previously distributed to 1 in 6 households in 2000. The American Community Survey is a mandatory survey that is conducted annually. The 2009-2011 3-year data files combine 36 months worth of data. The Census Bureau mails approximately a

quarter-million ACS questionnaires every month to a nationwide sample. The questionnaire is administered through a mailout/mailback paper form, with nonresponse follow-up conducted using computer assisted telephone and/or in-person interviews. The final unweighted sample generally ranges from 1.9 to 2.0 million households in the U.S. annually. This sample is then weighted to be representative of the nation's population as a whole. The ACS provides nationally representative data on households, which includes social, demographic, economic, and housing data. Given its large sample size, the ACS is an ideal survey for measuring small populations, including multigenerational households.[3]

This study uses two dependent variables of interest in descriptive tables, logistic regression, as well as multinomial logistic regression analyses. First, I investigate differences among multigenerational households compared to non-multigenerational households. Then I explore differences among multigenerational household types. The coding of variables used in the logistic and multinomial logistic regression models in this paper are listed in Table 1, and these variables are expected to relate to an individual's likelihood of living in a multigenerational household.

Methods

To better understand multigenerational households, two separate analyses were performed on the data to understand variations in multigenerational households and types of multigenerational households. To understand variations in multigenerational households, two descriptive bivariate comparison tables were run to show variations in the location of and select characteristics among individuals living in a multigenerational or non-multigenerational family households (Tables 2 and 3). A subsequent logistic regression model was then run to investigate what personal characteristics are associated with an individual's likelihood of living in a multigenerational household against not living in a

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[3] Additional information about the ACS, its methodology, and data products can be found at http://www.census.gov/acs/www.

multigenerational household (Table 4). Figure 1 examines the relationship between multigenerational households and median housing costs. Then, descriptive analyses were run for individuals living in multigenerational households by type of multigenerational household (Table 5). Finally, a multinomial logistic regression model was also performed to understand who was likeliest to be living in a multigenerational type 1 or type 3 households compared to those who live in a type 2 household (Table 6). This paper adds to the literature by examining the most representative and large-scale survey data collected on multigenerational households, specifically three different types of multigenerational family households.

Table 1. Variable list and coding	
Variable	Coding
Multigenerational Households	1=Lives in a multigenerational household; 0=Does not live in a multigerational houshold
Multigenerational type 1	Parent of householder, Householder, and Child of householder
Multigenerational type 2	Householder, Child of householder, and Grandchild of householder
Multigenerational type 3	Parent of householder, Householder, Child of householder, and Grandchild of householder
Foreign Born Householder	1=Yes; 0=No
Household Poverty	1=Below the poverty line; 0=Not below the poverty line
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White	1=White alone; 0=Does not identify as White alone (excluded race/origin category
Black or African-American	1=Black alone; 0=Does not identify as Black alone
American Indian and Alaska Native	1=AIAN alone; 0=Does not identify as AIAN alone
Asian	1=Asian alone; 0=Does not identify as Asian alone
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.	1=Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander alone; 0=Does not identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander alone
Two or more races, not Hispanic or Latino	1=Two or more races; 0=Does not identify as Two or more races
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	1=Hispanic or Latino of any race; 0=Does not idenify as Hispanic or Latino
Age	0=Age less than 15 years; 1=15 to 24 years; 2=25 to 34 years; 3=35 to 44 years (excluded category); 4=45 to 54 years; 5=55 to 64 years; 6=65 years and over
Sex	1=Male; 0=Female
Marital Status	1=Married; 0=Unmarried[1]
Employment	1=Yes; 0=No

[1] Unmarried includes: never married, widowed, separated, and divorced

Findings

Multigenerational versus Non-multigenerational households

Table 2 shows the regional differences among total, multigenerational, and non-multigenerational households.

Table 2.
Multigenerational and Non-Multigenerational Households

For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Area	Family households		Non-Multigenerational family households		Multigenerational households			
	Estimate	Margin of error (±)[1]	Estimate	Margin of error (±)[1]	Estimate	Margin of error (±)[1]	Percent	Margin of error (±)[1]
United States	76,427,605	90,368	72,121,446	95,448	4,306,159	21,369	5.6	0.0
REGION								
Northeast	13,685,050	22,768	12,931,883	24,300	753,167	8,025	5.5	0.1
Midwest	17,010,672	29,771	16,304,365	31,511	706,307	6,128	4.2	0.0
South	28,660,500	44,092	26,951,744	44,825	1,708,756	11,641	6.0	0.0
West	17,071,383	25,398	15,933,454	25,420	1,137,929	10,983	6.7	0.1
STATE								
Alabama	1,248,202	7,188	1,177,987	8,193	70,215	2,602	5.6	0.2
Alaska	172,018	2,324	163,437	2,357	8,581	564	5.0	0.3
Arizona	1,547,223	7,153	1,451,117	7,437	96,106	3,394	6.2	0.2
Arkansas	767,807	4,584	732,200	4,283	35,607	1,661	4.6	0.2
California	8,519,098	14,832	7,822,697	14,280	696,401	7,771	8.2	0.1
Colorado	1,256,199	5,846	1,204,697	5,880	51,502	2,049	4.1	0.2
Connecticut	903,946	4,832	857,589	4,907	46,357	1,957	5.1	0.2
Delaware	225,081	2,629	212,478	2,862	12,603	776	5.6	0.4
District of Columbia	107,624	2,106	99,930	2,255	7,694	653	7.1	0.6
Florida	4,587,009	14,615	4,318,368	14,890	268,641	4,473	5.9	0.1
Georgia	2,395,988	9,558	2,244,691	10,202	151,297	3,334	6.3	0.1
Hawaii	309,667	2,881	275,272	2,891	34,395	1,357	11.1	0.4
Idaho	403,054	3,713	387,092	3,949	15,962	1,218	4.0	0.3
Illinois	3,135,022	9,109	2,959,974	10,610	175,048	3,504	5.6	0.1
Indiana	1,653,530	7,348	1,580,783	7,799	72,747	2,234	4.4	0.1
Iowa	794,680	3,815	773,914	3,983	20,766	1,200	2.6	0.2
Kansas	726,561	4,416	700,394	4,501	26,167	1,213	3.6	0.2
Kentucky	1,132,279	6,225	1,080,746	6,470	51,533	1,813	4.6	0.2
Louisiana	1,128,741	6,708	1,053,923	6,770	74,818	2,408	6.6	0.2
Maine	353,030	2,490	342,892	2,438	10,138	782	2.9	0.2
Maryland	1,424,804	6,695	1,330,105	7,632	94,699	2,985	6.6	0.2
Massachusetts	1,597,420	6,184	1,516,741	6,112	80,679	2,456	5.1	0.2
Michigan	2,510,752	7,313	2,399,316	7,406	111,436	2,970	4.4	0.1
Minnesota	1,363,703	5,052	1,325,624	4,975	38,079	1,547	2.8	0.1
Mississippi	749,972	5,143	695,288	5,268	54,684	2,102	7.3	0.3
Missouri	1,545,471	6,243	1,480,661	6,512	64,810	1,877	4.2	0.1
Montana	256,603	2,742	248,189	2,767	8,414	892	3.3	0.3
Nebraska	469,284	3,190	455,661	3,466	13,623	888	2.9	0.2
Nevada	642,580	4,694	599,448	5,066	43,132	1,641	6.7	0.3
New Hampshire	346,717	3,173	334,353	3,187	12,364	815	3.6	0.2
New Jersey	2,197,169	7,791	2,064,451	7,805	132,718	3,334	6.0	0.1
New Mexico	501,457	3,870	469,815	4,016	31,642	1,810	6.3	0.4
New York	4,643,681	11,942	4,341,147	13,139	302,534	4,884	6.5	0.1
North Carolina	2,458,587	10,297	2,339,066	10,171	119,521	3,167	4.9	0.1
North Dakota	172,876	1,966	169,536	2,045	3,340	443	1.9	0.3
Ohio	2,957,868	8,618	2,828,462	9,290	129,406	2,652	4.4	0.1
Oklahoma	959,984	5,344	914,242	5,570	45,742	1,644	4.8	0.2
Oregon	965,628	5,617	925,722	6,096	39,906	1,643	4.1	0.2
Pennsylvania	3,224,808	9,155	3,073,892	9,500	150,916	2,763	4.7	0.1
Rhode Island	255,172	2,820	242,137	2,935	13,035	896	5.1	0.4
South Carolina	1,191,384	6,952	1,122,681	7,210	68,703	2,731	5.8	0.2
South Dakota	207,690	2,103	201,086	2,303	6,604	612	3.2	0.3
Tennessee	1,649,103	7,893	1,559,550	8,358	89,553	2,604	5.4	0.2
Texas	6,130,559	14,612	5,698,010	14,979	432,549	5,783	7.1	0.1
Utah	662,527	3,335	627,234	3,621	35,293	1,361	5.3	0.2
Vermont	163,107	1,620	158,681	1,628	4,426	498	2.7	0.3
Virginia	2,018,359	8,999	1,909,483	9,161	108,876	3,335	5.4	0.2
Washington	1,687,849	6,827	1,615,853	6,783	71,996	2,121	4.3	0.1
West Virginia	485,017	3,996	462,996	4,204	22,021	1,227	4.5	0.3
Wisconsin	1,473,235	5,452	1,428,954	5,625	44,281	1,413	3.0	0.1
Wyoming	147,480	2,000	142,881	1,999	4,599	669	3.1	0.4

[1] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to and subtracted from the estimate forms the 90-percent confidence interval.

Note: Due to rounding some margin of errors round to zero, even though they are not actually zero.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 3-Year *American Community Survey*

Table 2 shows the regional differences among multigenerational household compared to non-multigenerational households. It also presents the percentage of multigenerational households out of all family households. Out of 76.4 million family households, 4.3 million of them were multigenerational. Multigenerational households account for 5.6 percent of family households. Only 4.2 percent of households in the Midwest are multigenerational, compare to 6.0 percent in the South and 6.7 percent in the West.[4] Hawaii has the largest percentage of multigenerational households, at 11.1 percent. In California, the District of Columbia, Mississippi and Texas, 7 percent or more of the family households are multigenerational.[5] Only 1.9 percent of households in North Dakota are multigenerational households.

Table 3 shows the descriptive characteristics of multigenerational and non-multigenerational family households. Consistent with prior research (Kochhar & Cohn 2011, Treas & Batalova 2011, Grieco, et al. 2012) the findings of the current study show that a higher percentage of multigenerational households had a foreign born householder than the non-multigenerational households. Out of all multigenerational households, 27.6 percent have a householder who is foreign born compared to only 15.3 percent of non-multigenerational family households. Foreign born householders are likely to be located in the Northeast and West for both multigenerational and non-multigenerational family households. In the West, 43.5 percent of multigenerational householders were foreign born, compared to only 24.4 percent of non-multigenerational family households. In the Northeast, 32.9 percent of multigenerational householders were foreign born, compared to only 18.7 percent of non-

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[4] There are four census regions (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West). The Northeast region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The West region includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.
[5] The District of Columbia is not significantly different from Mississippi or Texas.

Table 3.
Selected characteristics of multigenerational and non-multigenerational households
(In percent. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Area	Percent with a Foreign Born Householder				Percent of Households Below Poverty Level			
	Multigenerational households		Non-Multigenerational family households		Multigenerational households		Non-Multigenerational family households	
	Percent	Margin of error (±)[1]	Percent	Margin of error (±)[1]	Percent	Margin of error (±)[1]	Percent	Margin of error (±)[1]
United States	27.6	0.2	15.3	0.0	15.2	0.2	10.9	0.0
REGION								
Northeast	32.9	0.5	18.7	0.1	11.6	0.3	9.2	0.1
Midwest	14.7	0.4	7.7	0.1	15.9	0.4	10.0	0.1
South	19.9	0.3	13.0	0.1	17.9	0.3	12.3	0.1
West	43.5	0.5	24.4	0.1	13.0	0.3	10.9	0.1
STATE								
Alabama	3.8	0.7	3.6	0.1	22.0	1.4	13.8	0.3
Alaska	9.4	2.2	6.7	0.5	9.2	1.9	6.5	0.5
Arizona	27.3	1.6	17.0	0.3	21.0	1.3	12.2	0.3
Arkansas	7.0	1.4	5.0	0.2	19.0	2.0	14.2	0.4
California	55.7	0.6	35.8	0.1	12.4	0.4	11.5	0.1
Colorado	22.1	2.0	11.2	0.2	12.8	1.2	9.0	0.3
Connecticut	24.9	1.9	16.2	0.3	9.2	1.5	7.1	0.2
Delaware	10.9	2.7	10.1	0.5	10.2	2.9	7.7	0.6
District of Columbia	11.1	3.6	16.1	1.0	20.8	5.2	14.4	1.1
Florida	36.5	0.8	22.7	0.2	15.7	0.7	11.4	0.2
Georgia	14.6	0.8	11.6	0.2	19.2	1.0	13.3	0.2
Hawaii	29.3	2.0	19.6	0.6	5.6	1.1	8.1	0.5
Idaho	14.1	2.8	7.0	0.4	13.8	2.7	10.9	0.4
Illinois	29.2	1.1	17.4	0.2	15.4	0.9	9.9	0.2
Indiana	8.1	0.9	5.0	0.1	16.0	1.1	10.8	0.2
Iowa	13.2	2.0	4.5	0.2	14.4	2.4	7.8	0.3
Kansas	17.4	1.9	7.4	0.2	12.8	1.6	9.1	0.3
Kentucky	4.1	0.8	3.4	0.1	20.5	1.5	14.0	0.3
Louisiana	4.6	0.7	4.0	0.2	22.0	1.6	13.9	0.4
Maine	5.0	2.2	3.3	0.3	9.9	2.2	8.7	0.5
Maryland	21.4	1.3	16.3	0.2	8.4	0.9	6.5	0.2
Massachusetts	29.6	1.5	18.8	0.2	8.7	1.0	7.8	0.2
Michigan	10.5	0.8	7.0	0.1	19.2	1.0	11.6	0.2
Minnesota	21.6	1.9	7.9	0.2	12.2	1.9	7.3	0.2
Mississippi	1.9	0.6	2.3	0.1	27.7	1.9	16.7	0.4
Missouri	6.0	1.0	4.1	0.1	15.2	1.2	10.7	0.2
Montana	1.2	0.9	2.0	0.2	18.1	3.2	9.6	0.6
Nebraska	16.5	2.8	6.9	0.3	12.3	2.2	8.4	0.4
Nevada	35.8	2.1	23.3	0.5	11.9	1.6	10.6	0.4
New Hampshire	9.1	1.9	6.2	0.3	3.3	1.4	5.5	0.4
New Jersey	38.5	1.2	26.0	0.2	8.3	0.6	7.4	0.1
New Mexico	20.5	2.3	12.5	0.5	21.2	2.3	14.9	0.5
New York	45.4	0.8	27.1	0.2	14.0	0.5	11.4	0.1
North Carolina	11.9	0.9	8.6	0.1	19.8	1.0	12.3	0.2
North Dakota	3.7	2.3	2.3	0.3	19.3	5.6	7.1	0.4
Ohio	5.3	0.6	4.6	0.1	16.7	1.0	11.3	0.2
Oklahoma	10.2	1.2	6.0	0.2	17.3	1.1	12.2	0.3
Oregon	22.0	2.0	11.3	0.3	12.8	1.7	10.8	0.3
Pennsylvania	11.7	0.7	6.6	0.1	12.9	0.8	9.0	0.1
Rhode Island	28.5	3.6	16.2	0.6	10.3	2.7	9.5	0.5
South Carolina	4.1	0.7	5.4	0.2	21.2	1.6	13.3	0.3
South Dakota	8.6	3.8	2.8	0.3	21.9	4.5	8.6	0.5
Tennessee	5.9	0.6	4.9	0.1	19.5	1.4	13.0	0.2
Texas	32.0	0.9	20.9	0.2	18.8	0.6	13.4	0.1
Utah	17.5	1.7	10.0	0.3	9.3	1.6	9.4	0.3
Vermont	10.1	3.5	3.8	0.3	7.8	2.6	7.6	0.5
Virginia	18.9	1.1	12.5	0.2	9.3	0.9	7.7	0.2
Washington	26.2	1.4	15.2	0.3	11.6	1.2	8.8	0.2
West Virginia	1.5	0.7	1.1	0.1	18.7	2.7	13.0	0.4
Wisconsin	12.7	1.4	5.0	0.2	14.0	1.4	8.6	0.2
Wyoming	5.7	3.0	3.1	0.3	7.2	3.2	7.0	0.6

[1] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to and subtracted from the estimate forms the 90-percent confidence interval.

Note: Due to rounding some margin of errors round to zero, even though they are not actually zero.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 3-Year *American Community Survey*

multigenerational family householders. Montana had the lowest percentage of foreign born multigenerational households (1.2 percent). For non-multigenerational households, the lowest percentage of foreign born householders were located in West Virginia (1.1 percent).[6] California had the highest percentage of foreign born householders for both multigenerational and non-multigenerational households (55.7 percent and 35.8 percent, respectively). Lofquist (2012) found that 12.7 percent of multigenerational households in California were Hispanic or Latino of any race[7] and Kochhar & Cohn (2011) found that Hispanics are likely to live in a multigenerational household, which shows that the findings for California are in line with prior research. Many of the multigenerational households with a foreign born householder were located in the Northeast and West. Research by Lofquist (2012), found that California (West) and New York (Northeast) had high percentages of Hispanic multigenerational households, which were often areas with relatively high proportions of Hispanics. New York and California had also reported a high percentage of Asian multigenerational households. These Hispanic and Asian households could be families who had recently moved to the United States.

Overall, a higher percentage of multigenerational households are below the poverty line than non-multigenerational family households. Fifteen percent of multigenerational households are below the poverty line compared to 11 percent of non-multigenerational households.[8] Approximately 12 percent of multigenerational and 9 percent of non-multigenerational family households in the Northeast were below the poverty level. Nearly 18 percent of multigenerational households in the South were below the poverty line, compared to 12 percent for non-multigenerational households. For the year 2011, the South reported the highest percentage of households in poverty for all households compared

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[6] Montana is not significantly different from West Virginia, Mississippi, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Mississippi is not significantly different from the District of Columbia, North Dakota, and South Dakota.
[7] Lofquist, Daphne. "Multigenerational Households: 2009-2011". http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/acsbr11-03.pdf
[8] Poverty level refers to the householder's poverty level , not the individual person's poverty level.
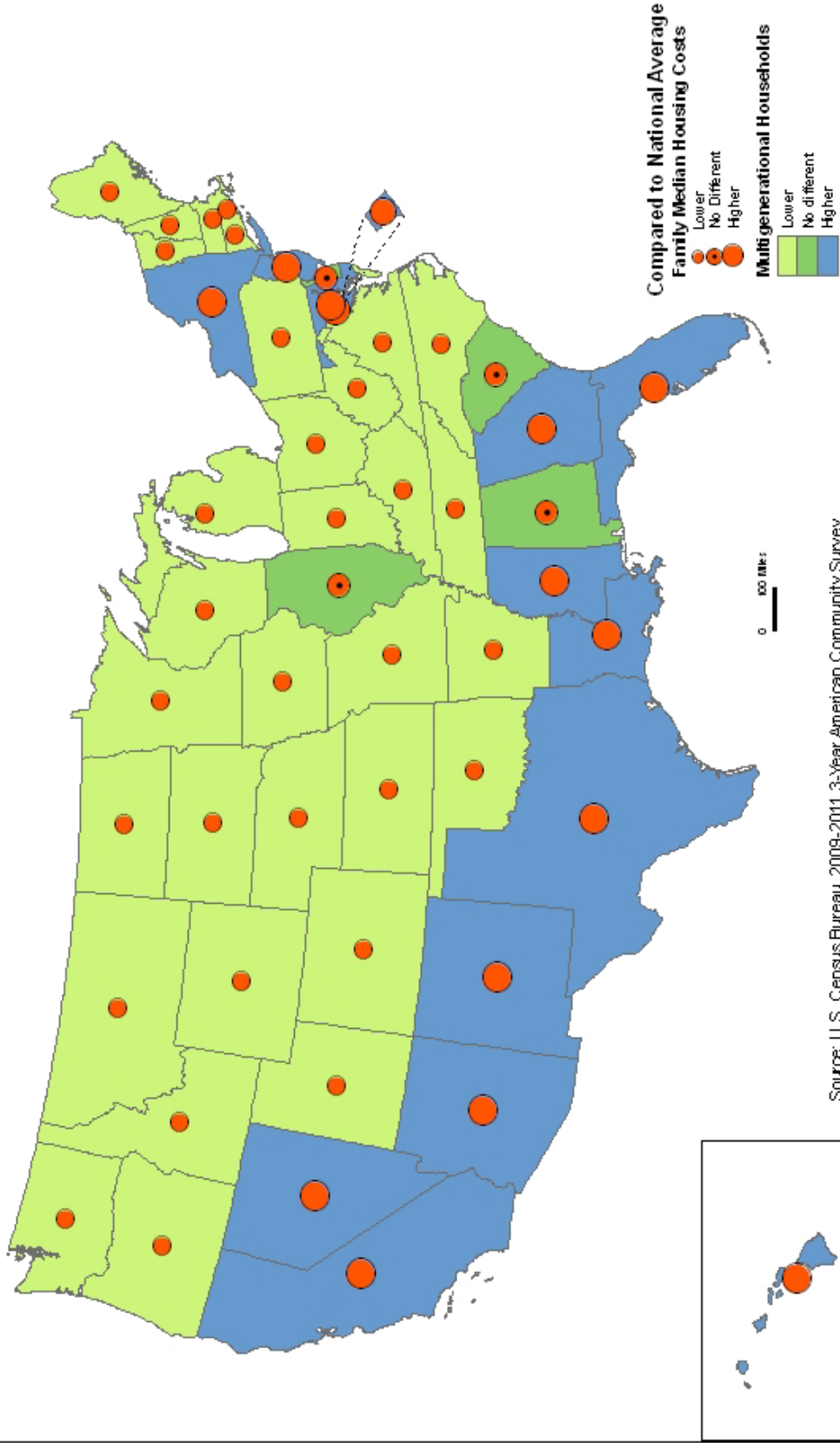
9

to the other regions.[9] Mississippi had the highest percentage of households below the poverty level for both multigenerational (28 percent) and non-multigenerational (17 percent) households.

Figure 1 shows multigenerational households by median housing costs for families by state. Given that young adults are more likely to live with their parents if the rental costs in their area are high (Christian 1989), I would expect these areas to have more multigenerational household. Median housing costs by state are identified by three circles that identify whether a state's median housing costs are above or below the national median. Percent of multigenerational households are identified by three colors, which show whether a state is higher, lower, or not different from the national average. Percentages of multigenerational households above the national average tend to be located along the south to southwest, along with New York and New Jersey. States with a lower percentage of multigenerational households were located in the northwest, northeast and Midwest. As shown on the map, the states with the higher than national average of multigenerational households also have higher than average median housing costs for families. The states with no difference from national average of multigenerational households also show no difference from the national average for median housing costs. This finding does supports my expectation about the relationship between housing costs and presence of multigenerational households.

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[9] DeNavas-Walt, Carmen, Bernadette D. Proctor, Jessica C. Smith., "Income, poverty, and health insurance coverage in the United States: 2011". http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p60-243.pdf

Figure 1.
Percentage of Multigenerational Households out of Family Households by Median Housing Costs for Families by State: 2009-2011

(For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Compared to National Average
Family Median Housing Costs
Lower
No Different
Higher

Multigenerational Households
Lower
No different
Higher

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 3-Year American Community Survey

Table 4 presents the results from the logistic regression, predicting the likelihood of living in a multigenerational household.

Table 4: Logistic regression predicting a person's likelihood of living in a multigenerational household: ACS 2009-2011

Select Characteristics	Multigenerational Households[1]		
	Estimate	SE[2]	Odds Ratio
Age (*excluded category is ages 35 to 44 years*)			
Less than 15 years	0.1221 ***	0.0037	1.11
15 to 24 years	0.0471 ***	0.0041	1.03
25 to 34 years	0.1286 ***	0.004	1.12
45 to 54 years	-0.173 ***	0.0054	0.83
55 to 64 years	-0.2082 ***	0.0048	0.80
65 years and over	0.0682 ***	0.0044	1.05
Sex (*excluded category is female*)			
Male	-0.0846 ***	0.0014	0.84
Race (*excluded category is White alone*)			
Black or African-American	0.2575 ***	0.0095	2.34
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3299 ***	0.0182	2.52
Asian	0.0949 ***	0.012	1.99
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.5982 ***	0.039	3.30
Some other race	-0.5083 ***	0.0126	1.09
Two or more races	-0.1778 ***	0.0121	1.52
Hispanic or Latino origin (*excluded category is non-Hispanic*)			
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	0.7351 ***	0.0072	2.09
Marital Status (*excluded category is married*)			
Unmarried	0.1123 ***	0.0029	1.25
Nativity of Householder (*excluded category is U.S. native*)			
Foreign born	0.3705 ***	0.0076	1.45
Poverty (*excluded category is not in poverty*)	-0.0955 ***	0.005	0.83
Region (*excluded category is Northeast*)			
Midwest	-0.0249 ***	0.0058	0.88
South	-0.1535 ***	0.0052	0.77
West	0.0741 ***	0.0035	0.97
Intercept	-2.4697 ***	0.0087	(X)
Unweighted n	13,393,366		
Weighted n	301,225,855		

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 3-Year *American Community Survey*

[1] Compared to all other households, not just family households.

[2] Standard errors were computed using the Jacknife method.

Significance is noted as the following: *(p<0.05); **(p<0.01); ***(p<0.001).

Findings from Table 4 indicate a number of demographic differences between those multigenerational and non-multigenerational households. Looking at age, people younger than 34 years old and 65 years and older have a higher likelihood than those aged 35 to 44 years of living in a

multigenerational household, while those aged 45 to 64 years and over have a lower likelihood of living

in multigenerational household than a non-multigenerational household.

Looking at racial indicators on Table 4, compared to white individuals, all of the race categories

have a higher likelihood of living in a multigenerational household than not living in a multigenerational

household. This finding is consistent with prior research that found that whites were the least likely to

live in a multigenerational household than were other race groups (Kochhar & Cohn 2011). Further

looking at race, compared to whites, Blacks were 2.3 times more likely to live in a multigenerational

household, American Indians or Alaska Natives were 2.5 times more likely, Asians were 2.0 times more

likely, Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islands were 3.30 times more likely to live in a multigenerational

household. Given that Hawaii had the largest percentage of multigenerational households in the U.S., it

is not surprising that they also have the greatest likely of living in a multigenerational household.

Hispanics were 2.1 times more likely to live in a multigenerational household than were non-Hispanics.

Males have a lower likelihood of being in a multigenerational household than females. This is

contrary to prior research which had found that males were more likely than females to live with their

parents or in a multigenerational household (Treas & Batalova 2011, Kochhar & Cohn 2011). This could

be because men are more likely to be part of a married couple than women are, therefore they end up

living with just a spouse and kids more often while women more often live with their children and

parents, but without a spouse. Compared to married people, unmarried people are 1.3 times more likely

to live in a multigenerational household than non-multigenerational household. This finding is consistent

with prior research that found that single people were more likely to live in a multigenerational

household than those who were married (Treas & Batalova 2011). This finding in conjunction with the

greater likelihood of Asians and Hispanics living in multigenerational households supports prior research

that found that Asian and Hispanics were more likely to stay in their parents' houses (Goldscheider &

Goldscheider 1999). These two groups may stay in their parents home either to finish their education or because they tend to marry at an older age than do whites. Another socio-demographic indicator of interest includes nativity of householder. Compared to living with a U.S. native householder, those living with a foreign born householder have 1.5 higher likelihood of living in a multigenerational household. This finding is consistent with my expectations that householders of multigenerational households were more likely to be immigrants than U.S. natives.

Poverty, when compared to households not in poverty, multigenerational households are less likely to be below the poverty line than non-multigenerational household. Finally, looking at regional variations, individuals in the South and West are less likely to live in a multigenerational household than are those in the Northeast.

Types of Multigenerational Households

The Census Bureau defines multigenerational households as family households consisting of three or more generations. Given the definition includes three or more generations that means that there would be more than one type of multigenerational household. It is safe to assume that these households would vary by different generations who live in them. The three types of multigenerational households discussed in this study include households with a householder, a parent or parent-in-law of the householder, and a child of the householder (Type 1); or a householder, a child of the householder, and a grandchild of the householder (Type 2); or a householder, a parent or parent-in-law of the householder, a child of the householder, and a grandchild of the householder (Type 3).

Table 5 shows the descriptive findings comparing those living in Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3 multigenerational households. Table 5 shows the percentage of households with a foreign born householder and percentage of households below the poverty level for parent-householder-child, householder-child-grandchild and parent-householder-child-grandchild multigenerational households.

Table 5.

Selected characteristics of multigenerational households by type

(In percent. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/acs/www)

Area	Pecent with a Foreign Born Householder						Percent of Households Below Poverty Level					
	Type 1: Parent-householder-child		Type 2: Householder-child-grandchild		Type 3: Parent-householder-child-grandchild		Type 1: Parent-householder-child		Type 2: Householder-child-grandchild		Type 3: Parent-householder-child-grandchild	
	Percent	Margin of error (±)[1]	Percent	Margin of error (±)[1]	Percent	Margin of error (±)[1]	Percent	Margin of error (±)[1]	Percent	Margin of error (±)[1]	Percent	Margin of error (±)[1]
United States	40.5	0.4	20.6	0.2	32.4	1.8	11.1	0.3	17.4	0.2	12.6	1.2
REGION												
Northeast	44.7	0.8	24.5	0.6	34.7	3.7	8.2	0.5	14.0	0.5	8.6	2.5
Midwest	27.8	0.9	9.3	0.4	13.9	2.8	12.5	0.7	17.4	0.5	13.3	3.3
South	31.9	0.6	14.7	0.3	21.9	2.3	12.8	0.5	20.1	0.5	16.3	1.9
West	53.4	0.7	36.7	0.6	55.0	3.6	10.5	0.5	14.8	0.4	9.0	2.0
STATE												
Alabama	7.6	2.2	2.6	0.8	12.9	11.5	15.4	2.6	24.0	1.7	17.4	12.4
Alaska	19.8	6.0	5.7	2.6	0.0	50.2	2.4	2.8	11.8	2.6	0.0	50.2
Arizona	31.0	2.8	25.4	1.9	43.5	14.5	15.7	2.5	23.7	1.6	3.1	4.4
Arkansas	13.5	4.1	5.3	1.4	0.0	12.1	14.1	4.2	20.6	2.3	10.1	12.2
California	63.1	0.9	49.6	0.7	67.1	3.7	10.1	0.6	14.2	0.5	9.6	2.2
Colorado	33.2	4.0	16.0	1.7	32.2	15.9	9.4	1.6	14.4	1.6	20.8	18.7
Connecticut	33.6	3.4	18.5	2.3	18.3	10.4	6.4	1.7	11.1	2.3	14.4	13.4
Delaware	23.8	6.7	6.4	2.3	0.0	18.2	6.3	4.0	11.4	3.2	21.9	32.0
District of Columbia	24.9	10.1	7.1	3.0	15.0	22.2	7.2	6.4	24.5	6.5	25.2	29.4
Florida	49.2	1.3	27.9	1.1	41.2	7.0	12.8	1.1	17.9	1.0	10.4	3.6
Georgia	26.1	1.9	9.3	1.0	11.2	5.2	12.6	1.5	22.3	1.3	21.1	7.5
Hawaii	39.3	3.8	23.6	2.3	35.5	14.2	3.9	1.4	6.8	1.7	1.4	2.3
Idaho	13.3	4.7	14.2	3.7	54.1	40.9	9.3	4.0	16.2	3.3	0.0	41.8
Illinois	45.3	2.1	21.0	1.0	31.5	7.2	11.3	1.4	17.4	1.1	20.2	9.3
Indiana	17.3	2.7	4.9	0.8	10.9	6.9	14.6	2.5	16.7	1.3	8.6	7.4
Iowa	23.4	5.0	9.3	2.0	9.3	11.6	9.6	3.1	16.4	3.0	12.7	14.6
Kansas	29.9	5.3	12.5	2.1	9.7	15.1	13.3	3.5	12.7	1.8	8.1	10.6
Kentucky	9.2	2.2	2.3	0.7	15.4	15.8	17.9	3.1	21.4	1.9	19.7	15.2
Louisiana	11.4	2.2	2.7	0.6	9.0	7.4	13.1	2.3	24.3	1.9	26.1	11.5
Maine	9.3	6.2	3.2	1.5	0.0	22.3	6.7	3.3	11.3	3.0	10.9	11.4
Maryland	36.7	2.5	13.2	1.3	12.8	6.9	4.1	1.1	10.7	1.3	8.7	7.2
Massachusetts	41.3	2.4	21.1	1.8	24.0	13.5	6.4	1.3	10.6	1.4	2.7	3.0
Michigan	24.2	2.2	5.2	0.6	3.1	2.9	16.4	1.9	20.5	1.1	10.3	6.0
Minnesota	40.8	4.0	12.5	1.9	12.0	13.6	11.8	3.0	12.5	2.1	6.7	8.5
Mississippi	5.2	2.4	1.2	0.5	0.9	1.4	17.9	3.9	30.2	2.1	15.5	9.8
Missouri	13.0	2.3	3.6	0.9	0.0	6.9	12.3	2.4	16.2	1.5	18.7	12.3
Montana	2.6	2.4	0.8	1.0	0.0	15.5	16.7	8.5	19.1	3.5	6.3	10.1
Nebraska	25.4	5.9	13.8	3.0	9.6	13.3	5.9	2.6	13.9	2.5	27.6	28.3
Nevada	41.4	3.4	31.8	2.9	24.2	15.4	9.2	2.4	14.3	2.2	0.0	9.3
New Hampshire	13.3	4.4	6.2	2.3	12.0	18.6	1.8	1.6	4.4	2.1	0.0	22.8
New Jersey	50.4	1.9	27.4	1.6	35.9	11.9	6.0	0.9	10.6	1.0	2.9	3.7
New Mexico	29.2	5.2	18.3	2.3	22.8	17.6	20.8	5.1	21.4	2.5	18.0	15.1
New York	55.8	1.2	37.7	1.1	53.6	6.1	10.2	0.9	16.9	0.9	10.3	4.3
North Carolina	23.7	2.2	7.4	0.9	10.3	6.6	14.4	2.1	21.9	1.4	21.3	9.9
North Dakota	9.1	7.1	1.5	2.2	0.0	59.3	17.6	13.8	20.3	5.7	0.0	59.3
Ohio	13.0	1.3	2.4	0.5	8.8	4.9	11.8	1.6	18.6	1.3	11.2	6.7
Oklahoma	19.2	3.1	7.2	1.2	10.6	9.6	14.9	2.5	18.2	1.4	10.6	7.0
Oregon	32.2	4.5	15.7	2.2	57.7	21.4	13.9	3.6	12.4	2.0	9.7	11.0
Pennsylvania	22.9	1.6	6.2	0.7	6.2	4.6	8.7	1.1	15.0	1.0	10.3	5.2
Rhode Island	37.4	6.7	23.3	4.4	49.5	34.3	9.8	4.7	10.8	3.5	0.0	40.1
South Carolina	7.3	2.0	3.1	0.7	5.4	6.8	12.6	2.8	23.8	1.9	21.5	12.7
South Dakota	17.4	11.2	6.7	3.8	0.0	100.0	11.5	6.8	24.2	5.0	0.0	100.0
Tennessee	12.6	1.9	3.6	0.7	3.0	3.3	19.2	2.5	19.6	1.7	17.7	11.3
Texas	39.3	1.6	28.8	1.0	31.4	4.9	14.9	1.1	20.4	0.8	19.2	3.5
Utah	28.9	4.7	13.7	1.7	9.5	9.6	9.0	3.0	9.4	2.0	8.8	10.3
Vermont	23.9	9.4	3.9	1.9	0.0	41.9	5.9	4.5	8.5	3.8	18.0	30.2
Virginia	34.3	2.3	10.4	1.2	11.7	6.5	4.9	1.0	11.9	1.3	3.8	4.4
Washington	40.2	2.4	17.7	1.5	12.1	8.8	9.7	1.6	12.9	1.7	10.8	10.3
West Virginia	6.4	3.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	24.9	13.2	4.2	20.0	2.9	13.3	17.8
Wisconsin	22.8	3.3	8.5	1.2	10.5	9.8	11.3	2.6	15.4	1.6	2.6	4.2
Wyoming	12.8	9.7	3.2	1.8	0.0	100.0	5.8	6.4	7.8	3.8	0.0	100.0

[1] Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. A margin of error is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the margin of error is in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate. This number when added to and subtracted from the estimate forms the 90-percent confidence

Note: Due to rounding some margin of errors round to zero, even though they are not actually zero.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 3-Year *American Community Survey*

A higher percentage of Type 1 householders were foreign born than Type 2 and Type 3 households (41 percent, 21 percent, and 32 percent, respectively). For all multigenerational household types, foreign born householders were primarily in the Northeast and West. In the Northeast, 44 percent of Type 1 households, 25 percent of Type 2 households, and 35 percent of Type 3 households had a foreign born householder. While in the West 53 percent of Type 1 households, 37 percent of Type 2 households, and 55 percent of Type 3 households had a foreign born householder.[10] Like all multigenerational households (see Table 3), the highest percentage of Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3 multigenerational households with a foreign born householder were located in California (63 percent, 50 percent, and 67 percent, respectively). It is not surprising that there are a higher percentage of foreign born householders for Type 1 and Type 3 multigenerational households. It makes sense since immigrants may be able to bring their parents over to live with them after they get jobs here, or even bring their parents over for long-term visits (6 months) since they live so far away. Unlike the highest percentages of foreign born householders, the states with the lowest percentages varied by multigenerational household type. Montana had the lowest percentage of foreign born householders (2.6 percent) for Type 1, West Virginia (0.4 percent) was lowest for Type 2, and Tennessee (0.3 percent) was the lowest for Type 3 multigenerational households.[11]

A higher percentage of Type 2 (17 percent) households live below the poverty line than Type 1 (11 percent) and Type 3 (13 percent) multigenerational households. This goes along with prior research that suggests that when young adults live in a multigenerational household, it is most likely because of high housing costs and lack of employment (Haurin et al. 1993). By living with their parents they may experience some reductions in poverty, but not a complete rise above the poverty line (Kochhar & Cohn

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[10] Not all of the Type 1 and Type 3 multigenerational households are statistically different from each other.
[11] States with zero percent are not included in the discussion of "lowest" states. States are not statistically different each other, or other states not shown. However, they are statistically different from their respective national average.

2011). For all multigenerational household types, the regions with the highest percent of households below the poverty line were in the Midwest and South.[12] The states with the highest percent of multigenerational households varied by household type. For Type 1, the state with the highest percent was in New Mexico (21 percent, for Type 2, it was Mississippi (30 percent) and for Type 3, it was Nebraska (28 percent).[13] The states with the lowest percent rates were New Hampshire (Type1: 2 percent; Type 2: 4 percent), and Hawaii (Type 3: 1 percent).[14]

Table 6 presents the results from the multinomial logistic regression, where the likelihood of living in a Type 1 or Type 3 multigenerational household is tested against living in a Type 2 multigenerational household.

A number of characteristics are associated with the likelihood of living in a Type 1 or Type 3 multigenerational household rather than a Type 2 multigenerational household. People younger than 34 years old have a lower likelihood than those aged 35 to 44 years of living in a Type 1 household than a Type 2 household. Those aged 45 years and over have a higher likelihood of living in a Type 1 household than Type 2. Those aged 55 to 64 years are 4.1 times more likely to live in a Type 1 multigenerational household than in a Type 2 household. Those aged 65 years and over are 15.2 times more likely to live in a Type 1 multigenerational household than a Type 2 household. This finding is consistent to what one would expect since Type 1 households include a parent or parent-in-law of the householder.

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[12] Type 1 and Type 3 are not statistically different from each other in the Midwest. For both Type 1 and Type 3, the Midwest was not statistically different from the West.
[13] New Mexico and Mississippi are not statistically different from Nebraska. Only Type 3 is not statistically different from its national average.
[14] States with zero percent are not included in the discussion of "lowest" states. The states are not statistically different from each other, but they are statistically different from their respective national averages.

Table 6: Multinomial logistic regression predicting likelihoood of living in a Type 1, Type 2, or Type 3 multigenerational household: ACS 2009-2011

Select Characteristics	Type 1 multigenerational household compared to Type 2 multigenerational household			Type 3 multigenerational household compared to Type 2 multigenerational household		
	Estimate	SE/1	Odds Ratio	Estimate	SE/1	Odds Ratio
Age (*excluded category is ages 35 to 44 years*)						
Less than 15 years	-0.8437 ***	0.0067	0.69	-0.4869 ***	0.0167	0.99
15 to 24 years	-0.8644 ***	0.0081	0.68	-0.3891 ***	0.0237	1.09
25 to 34 years	-1.1683 ***	0.0101	0.50	-0.4086 ***	0.0252	1.07
45 to 54 years	0.1568 ***	0.0108	1.88	-0.3980 ***	0.0309	1.08
55 to 64 years	0.9466 ***	0.0111	4.14	0.0875 *	0.0361	1.76
65 years and over	2.2476 ***	0.0104	15.22	2.0734 ***	0.0188	12.83
Sex (*excluded category is female*)						
Male	-0.0010	0.0030	1.00	-0.0305 **	0.0096	0.94
Race (*excluded category is White alone*)						
Black or African-American	-0.4727 ***	0.0225	0.68	0.0771	0.0627	1.35
American Indian and Alaska Native	-0.6580 ***	0.0568	0.56	-0.5358 ***	0.1463	0.73
Asian	1.2181 ***	0.0281	3.68	0.5283 ***	0.0789	2.12
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.1711	0.0940	1.29	0.5222 **	0.2026	2.10
Some other race	-0.0274	0.0305	1.06	-0.2199 *	0.0934	1.00
Two or more races	-0.1453 ***	0.0252	0.94	-0.1507 *	0.0751	1.07
Hispanic or Latino origin (*excluded category is non-Hispanic*)						
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	0.1174 ***	0.0178	1.13	0.4045 ***	0.0537	1.50
Marital Status (*excluded category is married*)						
Unmarried	0.3121 ***	0.0054	1.87	0.1712 ***	0.0157	1.41
Nativity of Householder (*excluded category is U.S. native*)						
Foreign born	0.5879 ***	0.0176	1.80	0.3527 ***	0.0612	1.42
Poverty (*excluded category is not in poverty*)	-0.1300 ***	0.0116	0.77	-0.1709 ***	0.0326	0.71
Region (*excluded category is Northeast*)						
Midwest	0.2015 ***	0.0128	1.25	0.0347	0.0476	0.97
South	-0.1096 ***	0.0133	0.92	-0.1915 ***	0.0502	0.77
West	-0.0702 ***	0.0109	0.95	0.0869 **	0.0320	1.02
Intercept	-0.7526 ***	0.0239	(X)	-3.5308 ***	0.0573	(X)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 3-Year *American Community Survey*
1/ Standard errors were computed using the Jacknife method.
Significance is noted as the following: *(p<0.05); **(p<0.01); ***(p<0.001).

Looking at racial indicators on Table 6, compared to white individuals, Asians are 3.7 times more likely to live in a Type 1 household and 2.1 times more likely to live in a Type 3 household compared to living in a Type 2 multigenerational household. Living in either a Type 1 or Type 3 household is consistent with prior research that found that Asian young adults have lower likelihoods of living with their parents than do other racial groups (Treas & Batalova 2011), since these two household types include a parent or parent-in-law of the householder. Further looking at race, compared to whites, Blacks, American Indian or Alaska Native, and people reporting two or more races are less likely to live in

a Type 1 household than at Type 2 household. Compared to whites, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders and someone with two or more races have a higher likelihood of living in a Type 3 household than a Type 2 multigenerational household.

Compared to married people, unmarried people are 1.9 times more likely to live in a Type 1 and 1.4 times more likely to live in a Type 3 household compared to living in a Type 2 multigenerational household. Another socio-demographic indicator of interest includes nativity of householder. Compared to living with a U.S. native householder, those living with a foreign born householder have 1.8 higher likelihood of living in a Type 1 and 1.4 times more likely to live in a Type 3 household than a Type 2 household. Poverty, when compared to households not in poverty, is associated with a lower likelihood that an individual lives in a Type 1 or Type 3 multigenerational household compared to a Type 2 multigenerational household. Finally, looking at regional variations, individuals in the Midwest are more likely than all other regions to live in a Type 1 multigenerational household and individuals in the West are more likely than all other regions to live in a Type 3 household compared to a Type 2 household. Compared to the Northeast, individuals in the West are less likely to live in a Type 1 household, while those in the South are less likely to live in a Type 1 or Type 3 household compared to individuals in a Type 3 multigenerational household.

Conclusions

Building on prior research, the current study examined select characteristics multigenerational and non-multigenerational households in the United States. As hypothesized in this paper, the composition of multigenerational households are different from non-multigenerational family households, particularly when socio-demographic factors and regional variations are included.

The bivariate results show that there were only 4.3 million multigenerational households, which account for 5.6 percent of all family households in the United States. Looking at age differences, it is not

surprising that younger adults and the elderly are more likely to live in multigenerational households than are middle aged adults. Prior research found that young adults, who are under- or unemployed and unable to afford to live on their own are more likely to live with their parents or in a multigenerational household (Christian 1989, Haurin, et al. 1993). Young adults are not the only ones who benefit from coresidence with family members. The elderly have lower likelihood of being in poverty if they live in a multigenerational household (Kochhar & Cohn 2011). Unlike prior research (Kochhar & Cohn 2011, Treas & Batalova 2011), my findings show that males are less likely to live in multigenerational households than are females.

Consistent with prior research (Kochhar & Cohn 2011, Treas & Batalova 2011), the findings of the current study show that multigenerational households were more likely to have a foreign born householder. As shown in the bivariate results, many of these multigenerational households are located in the Northeast and West. Research by Lofquist (2012), found that California (West) and New York (Northeast) had high percentages of Hispanic multigenerational households, which corresponded with areas where Hispanics are likely to live. New York and California also tended to report a high percentage of Asian multigenerational households. These Hispanic and Asian households could be families who had recently moved to the United States. Many of the foreign born households in the Northeast include a householder, parent or parent-in-law of the householder, and child of the householder, while many of the foreign born households in the West include either a householder, parent or parent-in-law of the householder, and child of the householder or householder, child of the householder, and grandchild of the householder. Along these same lines, the current study found that racial minorities have a higher likelihood of living in a multigenerational household than do whites. This is consistent with research by Kochhar & Cohn (2011) who found that whites had the lowest likelihood of living in a multigenerational household compared to other racial groups.

As the current study has shown, not all multigenerational households are the same. There are three main types of multigenerational households: Type 1 – parent-householder-child; Type2 – householder-child-grandchild; and Type 3 – parent-householder-child-grandchild. Research by Lofquist (2012) found that the most common form of multigenerational household was Type 2 – householder-child-grandchild. The current study found that there are a higher percentage of foreign born householders in Type 1 and Type 3 households than Type 2 multigenerational households. This makes sense considering that immigrants may be the ones paying for their parents to immigrate to this country or given the parents' distance from home, householders may have their parents stay with them for an extended amount of time. These households also have a lower percentage of households under the poverty line, which is consistent with prior research that found that for the elderly, living in a multigenerational household lessen their chance of being in poverty (Kochhar & Cohn 2011). Type 1 and Type 3 households contain either a parent or parent-in-law of the householder, which coordinates with this study's finding that Asians are more likely to live in one of these two household types instead of a Type 2 household. Which is also connected to the fact that Asians are more likely to be immigrants than whites, so the living in a multigenerational household is higher for Asians also overlaps with the higher likelihood of living in a multigenerational household for immigrants. This also coordinates with the type of multigenerational household type in which they live. Prior research had found that Asians have a lower likelihood of living with their parents than other racial groups (Treas & Batalova 2011).

Overall, there are differences between multigenerational and non-multigenerational households. These same characteristics vary according to multigenerational household type. Identifying and understanding these differences helps us to better understand multigenerational households.

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