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Smaller Share of Women Ages 65 and Older are Living Alone

*More are living with spouse or
children*

BY *Renee Stepler*

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Renee Stepler, Research Assistant
Kim Parker, Director of Social Trends Research
Molly Rohal, Communications Manager

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

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Terminology

“Older adults” is used throughout this report to describe adults ages 65 and older.

“Living alone” refers to people who live in their own homes, not in group quarters. Group quarters are places where people live in a group arrangement, which is owned or managed by an organization that provides housing and/or services for their residents. Group quarters include nursing homes, in-patient hospice facilities, mental hospitals, group homes and other institutional and non-institutional living arrangements. Generally, assisted-living facilities are not defined as group quarters. Therefore, individuals who live in an assisted-living facility unit may be counted as living alone if there are no other residents in their unit. For more details see:

<https://www.census.gov/popest/about/terms/housing.html>

“Married, living with spouse” includes only those who are married with a spouse present in the household. Those who are married, but the spouse is absent from the household are grouped with “unmarried” adults. Individuals who are married and living with a spouse may also live with other relatives or non-relatives.

“Unmarried” adults are those who are separated, divorced, widowed or have never been married. This group also includes adults who are married, but the spouse is absent from the household.

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Smaller Share of Women Ages 65 and Older are Living Alone

More are living with spouse or children

After rising steadily for nearly a century, the share of older Americans who live alone has fallen since 1990, largely because women ages 65 to 84 are increasingly likely to live with their spouse or their children. The likelihood of living alone has grown since 1990 for older men and for women ages 85 and up.

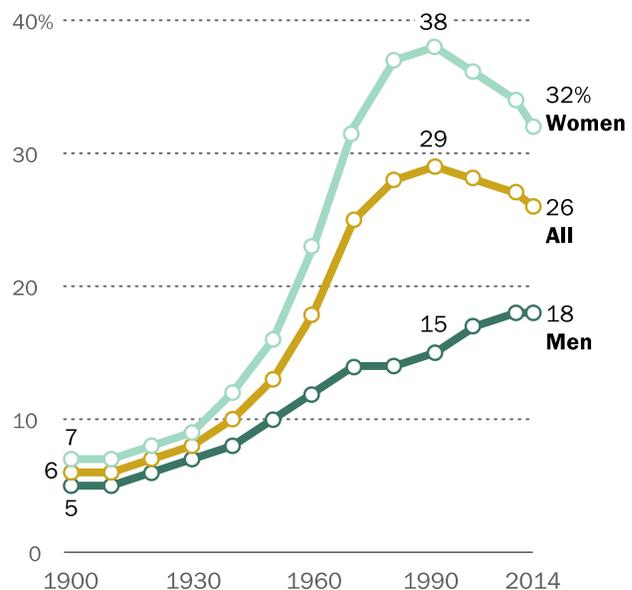
Between 1900 and 1990, the share of adults ages 65 and older living alone increased nearly fivefold, from 6% to 29%. This growth was spurred by a host of factors, including improved health and longevity among older Americans and the economic security that came with social safety net programs such as Social Security and Medicare.¹

A new Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data finds that from 1990 to 2014, the share of older adults living alone declined by 3 percentage points, to 26%. Among older women, the share declined to 32% in 2014 from 38% in 1990. Among older men, the share living alone ticked upward to 18% in 2014 from 15% in 1990.

One explanation for this trend is that an [increase in life expectancy](#), especially among men, has made it more likely that older women would be living with their spouses rather than as widows.

After rising for nearly a century, share of older women living alone is on decline

% of adults ages 65 and older living alone



Note: Data labels are for 1900, 1990 and 2014. Older adults living alone reside in a household. The share living alone is based on the total population ages 65 and older.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1900-2000 decennial censuses and 2010 and 2014 American Community Surveys (IPUMS)

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¹ Lower fertility rates leading to a lower number of available children to reside with, or a growing desire for autonomy while aging, may be additional explanations for the increase in the share of older adults living alone. See [Kramarow, 1995](#); [Ruggles, 2007](#); and [McGarry and Schoeni, 2000](#) for further discussion on the reasons for the decline of intergenerational households and the rise of living alone among older adults from the mid-19th century to the end of the 20th century.

Among women ages 65 to 84 – the group that has almost exclusively driven the overall decline in the share of older Americans living alone – the share living alone has declined by 8 percentage points since 1990, reaching 30% in 2014. During the same period, the share of this group living with a spouse increased from 41% to 46%. Women in this age group were also more likely to be unmarried and living with their children or with other relatives or non-relatives in 2014.

Older men ages 65 to 84, on the other hand, are somewhat less likely to live with a spouse now compared with 1990, though most still do. Living arrangements for men in this age group have grown more diverse as a rising share have divorced and not remarried.

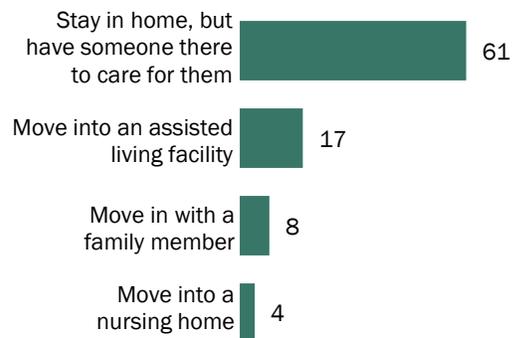
Overall, women still make up a majority of the 12.1 million older U.S. adults living alone, but their share has fallen significantly over the past quarter century – from 79% in 1990 to 69% in 2014.

Recent Pew Research Center survey findings underline the extent to which older adults value their independence and wish to live in their own home, even when they can no longer care for themselves. In a survey conducted Oct. 27-Nov. 24, 2014, among 1,692 adults, about six-in-ten adults ages 65 and older (61%) say that if there came a time when they could no longer live on their own, they would stay in their own home and have someone care for them there. And older men and women are equally as likely to say this. Another 17% of older adults say they would move into an assisted living facility, and 8% say they would move in with a family member.

The survey findings also underscore the potential downsides of living alone. Older adults who live alone feel more financially strapped than older adults who live with others.² When asked to describe their household's financial situation, only 33% of those living alone say they live

Most older adults want to age in place

% of adults ages 65 and older who say they would ____ if they could no longer live on their own



Note: Based on U.S. adults ages 65 and older who live in their own home and do not have someone providing care at home (n=363). "Don't know" and other volunteered responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 27-Nov. 24, 2014. Q57.

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² In the analysis for the 2014 and 2009 Pew Research Center surveys, older adults who live alone may be in living in their own home or in an assisted living facility by themselves. Older adults living with others may be living with their spouse, children, other family members or non-family members.

comfortably. By contrast, about half (49%) of older adults who live with others say they live comfortably.

In some ways those who live alone also feel somewhat more socially isolated. A Pew Research Center survey conducted Feb. 23-March 23, 2009, among 2,969 U.S. adults (including 1,328 adults ages 65 and older who responded to questions about their living arrangements) found that older adults living alone are less likely than older adults who live with others to say that, as they've aged, they have more time with their family. And men who live alone (but not women) are less satisfied with the number of friends they have than are men who live with others. However, older adults who live alone and those who live with others are equally likely to say they receive the right amount of help from their children.

This report uses U.S. Census Bureau data to describe trends in living arrangements among older adults over the past 25 years, focusing on differences in gender and age.

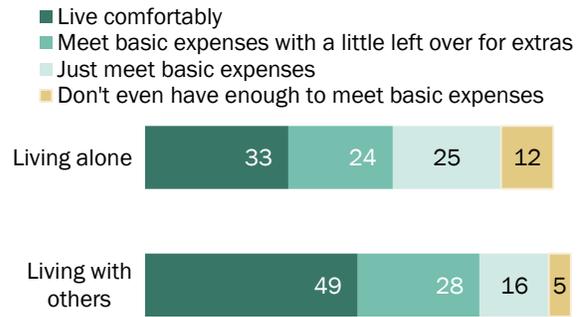
Using data from Pew Research Center surveys, the report also analyzes the well-being of older Americans who live alone, looking at their economic status, their satisfaction with key aspects of their lives, and their relationships with their children and grandchildren.

Other key findings:

- The share of Americans ages 85 and older living in nursing homes or other group quarters has declined dramatically. In 2014, 11% lived in a nursing home or other group quarter – down from 24% in 1990. This decline has been met with an increase in a variety of other living arrangements, including living alone or living with a spouse or child.
- Older women who live alone are more likely than men to say they spend more time on their hobbies. Fully 65% of women who live alone say they spend more time on their hobbies and interests as they age, compared with 49% of men.

Older adults living alone feel more financially strapped than those living with others

% of adults ages 65 and older saying they ...



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 27-Nov. 24, 2014 (n=409 U.S. adults ages 65 and older). Q3.

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- Older adults living alone are also in less frequent contact with their children and grandchildren than adults who live with others.³ Among older adults with grandchildren, 43% who live alone say they are in contact with their grandchildren on at least a weekly basis, compared with 60% of those living with others.

³ The questions on how frequently one communicates with their children and grandchildren asked respondents only to think about relatives who did not live with them.

1. Gender gap in share of older adults living alone narrows

Behind the overall decline since 1990 in the share of adults ages 65 and older living alone are divergent patterns for men and women. Historically, older women have been somewhat more likely than men to live alone, but their share rose rapidly from the 1950s to 1990 before abruptly declining. By contrast, the share of older men who live alone rose more gradually from 1900 onward, and continued to increase after 1990 until it leveled off at 18% between 2010 and 2014.

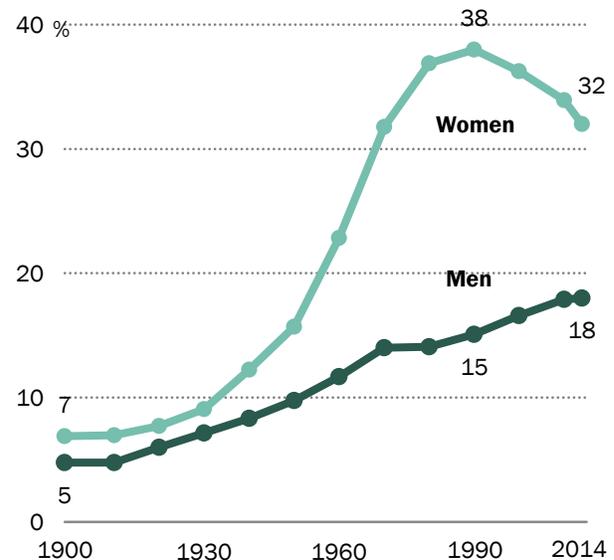
In 1990, 38% of older women lived alone, compared with 15% of older men. As older women became less likely to live alone and older men more likely to do so, the 1990 gender gap of 23 percentage points in the share who live alone declined to 14 points by 2014. In that year, 32% of older women lived alone, compared with 18% of older men.

Living arrangements of older adults are closely tied to their marital status. Just over half (53%) of older adults were married and lived with their spouses in 2014, up slightly in recent decades.⁴

Among the 22 million unmarried older adults, the majority (55%) lived alone in 2014.⁵ Another 22% lived with their children, 16% lived with other relatives or non-relatives, and 7% lived in a nursing home or other group quarters.⁶

Divergent trends in living alone for older men and women

% of adults ages 65 and older who live alone



Note: Data labels are for 1900, 1990 and 2014. Older adults living alone reside in a household. The share living alone is based on the total population ages 65 and older.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1900-2000 decennial censuses and 2010 and 2014 American Community Surveys (IPUMS)

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⁴ Living with a spouse means that the spouse is present in the household. The individual may also be living with other relatives or non-relatives, including their children.

⁵ The term unmarried refers to individuals who are separated, divorced, widowed or have never been married. This group also includes those who are married, but the spouse is absent from the household.

⁶ Group quarters are places where people live in a group arrangement, which is owned or managed by an organization that provides housing and/or services for their residents. Group quarters include nursing homes, in-patient hospice facilities, mental hospitals, group homes and other institutional and non-institutional living arrangements. For more details see the [U.S. Census Bureau's](#) definition.

Because of women's higher life expectancy, they are the majority of U.S. adults ages 65 and older – 25.9 million in 2014, compared with 20.3 million men. This helps explain why a smaller share of older women than men were married and living with a spouse in 2014 (41% vs. 67%). By contrast, older women were substantially more likely to be widowed (and not remarried) than older men (37% vs. 13%), and the majority (57%) of these older widowed women lived alone in 2014.

But the share of older adults who are women is smaller now than in the past, because men's life expectancy has risen more quickly than women's in recent decades.⁷ As a result, women made up 56% of the older U.S. population in 2014, compared with 60% in 1990.

The increase in life expectancy comes with a decline in widowhood, especially for women whose spouses are now living longer. However, the decline in widowhood in recent decades also results from a rising share of divorced older Americans who have not remarried, particularly among those ages 65 to 74.⁸

Despite the narrowing of the gender gap in older adults living alone, men remain about half as likely as women to live alone today. One reason for this gender imbalance in the older population living alone is that [men are more likely than women to remarry](#) after they have been divorced or widowed. Greater likelihood of remarriage for men is, at least in part, related to the greater availability of partners for men than women. But divorced or widowed men also are more likely than similarly situated women to say that [they would like to remarry](#).

Widowhood declines as rising share of older Americans are divorced

% of adults ages 65 and older who are ...

	1990	2000	2010	2014
Married	51	51	52	53
Men	73	70	68	67
Women	37	38	40	41
Widowed	36	35	29	26
Men	15	16	14	13
Women	50	48	41	37
Divorced	5	7	11	13
Men	5	7	10	11
Women	6	8	12	14
Never been married	5	4	5	5
Men	5	5	5	5
Women	5	4	5	5

Note: Married only includes those with the spouse present in the household. To maintain comparability across survey years, adults who were living in group quarters and were "married, spouse absent" are included in widowed. Figures do not sum to 100% since "separated" and "married, spouse absent" is not shown.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 1990-2000 censuses and 2010 and 2014 American Community Surveys (IPUMS)

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⁷ [The National Center for Health Statistics](#) reports that a man who was 65 years old in 2010 could expect to live another 17.7 years on average, up from 15.1 years in 1990. For women the life expectancy at age 65 is 20.3 years in 2010, an increase from 18.9 in 1990. This reduces the gender gap in life expectancy at age 65 from 3.8 years in 1990 to 2.6 years in 2010.

⁸ [West, Cole, Goodkind, and He, 2014](#)

For adults ages 85 and older, solo living has continued a gradual rise

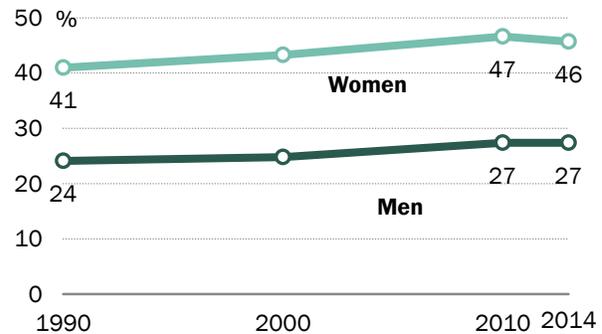
The decline in the share of older adults who live alone since 1990 is driven largely by a decline in solo living among women ages 65 to 84 (from 38% to 30%). By contrast, the share of older men living alone in this age group has increased, from 14% in 1990 to 17% in 2014.

Among Americans ages 85 and older, the share living alone has increased modestly – up to 40% in 2014 from 37% in 1990. This occurs as the number of Americans ages 85 and older also has risen, at a faster pace than the older adult population overall. Thus the number of adults ages 85 and older who live alone has also risen, to 2.4 million in 2014. (See appendix table for details on the size and share of older adults by gender and age.)

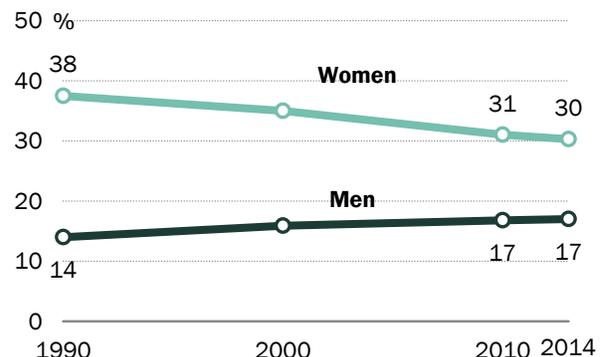
The share living alone increased for both women and men ages 85 and older between 1990 and 2010 – then leveled off for men and declined slightly for women in 2014. Among these women, the share living alone stood at 46% in 2014, up from 41% in 1990. Similarly, the share of men ages 85 and older living alone increased to 27% in 2014 – up from 24% in 1990.

Share of adults ages 85 and older living alone has increased since 1990 for both men and women

% of adults ages 85 and older who live alone



% of adults ages 65 to 84 who live alone



Note: Older adults living alone reside in a household. The share living alone is based on the total population ages 65 and older.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 1990-2000 decennial censuses and 2010 and 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS)

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2. Living arrangements of older Americans by gender

The share of older Americans living with their spouse has increased modestly since 1990, reaching 53% in 2014. This increase has been driven mostly by older women, as older men are less likely to live with their spouses (and be married) today than in 1990. Fully 41% of older women lived with their spouse in 2014 – up from 37% in 1990.

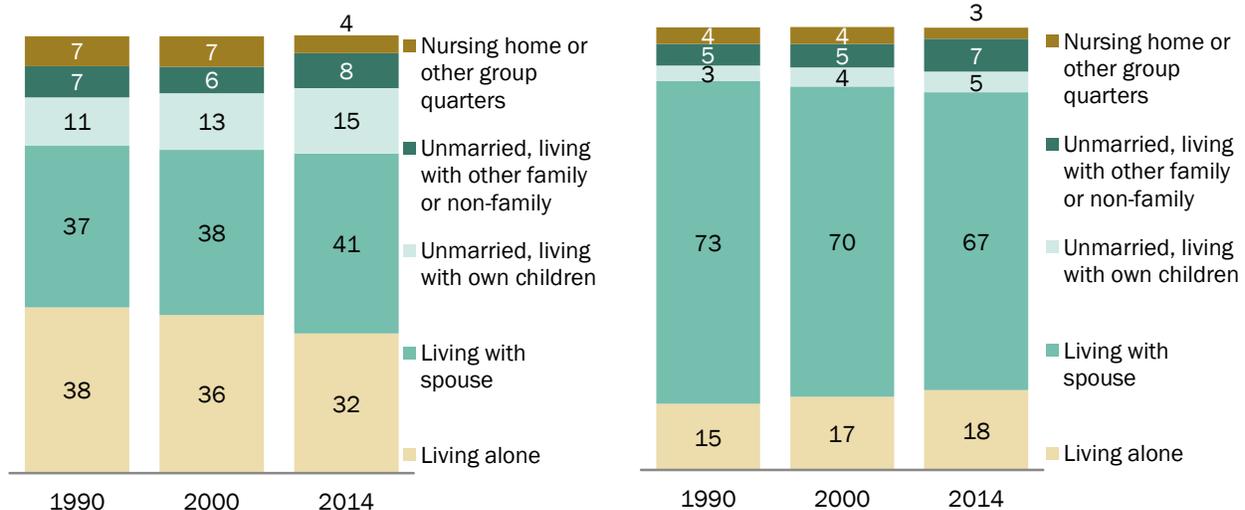
Even so, older men remain considerably more likely than older women to live with their spouse. In 2014, 67% of older men lived with their spouse (down somewhat from 73% in 1990). At the same time, the share of older adults who are divorced (and have not remarried) has grown since 1990.

Older unmarried women and men are increasingly likely to live with their own children. But older women are nearly three times as likely to do so as older men. In 2014, 15% of older women were unmarried and living with their children, compared with 5% of older men. Since 1990, this share has increased by 3 percentage points for women and 2 points for older men.

Older women more likely to live with spouse or children than in 1990; older men less likely to live with a spouse, but more likely to live with children

% among *women* ages 65 and older

% among *men* ages 65 and older



Note: Older adults who are living with a spouse may also be living with children or other relatives or non-relatives. Unmarried adults include those who are separated, divorced, widowed, have never been married or married, but the spouse is absent from the household. Older adults living alone reside in a household. The share living alone is based on the total population ages 65 and older.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1990-2000 decennial censuses and the 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS)

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The increase in older unmarried adults living with their children is part of a larger trend in the rise of multi-generational households – and [one that has fueled the decline in older adults living alone since 1990](#).⁹ However, the increase in this living arrangement in recent years has [largely been driven by young adults, ages 25 to 34](#).

The share of unmarried older adults living with relatives (other than children) or non-relatives has also grown slightly, from 6% in 1990 to 8% in 2014. Some of these unmarried older adults may be cohabiting with a partner – a growing trend among adults ages 65 and older. As of 2014, 2% of non-institutionalized adults ages 65 and older were unmarried and living with a partner.¹⁰

Among older men, the share who are unmarried and living with other relatives or non-relatives rose to 7% in 2014 – up from 5% in 1990. The share of women living in this arrangement rose to 8% in 2014 from 7% in 1990.

Older adults not only are less likely to live alone today than in 1990, but they are also less likely to live in nursing homes or other group quarters. In 2014, 3% of older Americans lived in nursing homes or other group quarters, down from 6% in 1990. The share of both men and women living in nursing homes or other group quarters declined since 1990, but it fell more sharply for women. This decline may reflect both better health among older adults and increased preference for other types of long-term care.¹¹

Living arrangements of older adults differ sharply by age and gender

The trends in living arrangements of men and women differ greatly between those ages 65 to 84 and those 85 and older. The share of adults ages 85 and older living in nursing homes or other group quarters has declined substantially – one of the most notable trends in the living arrangements of older Americans. In 1990, about a quarter of women ages 85 and older (27%) lived in these types of living arrangements. By 2014, some 13% of women in this age group did so. Among men ages 85 and older, the share living in a nursing home has declined from 17% in 1990 to 8% in 2014.

This has been replaced by a variety of other arrangements, including living alone or with a spouse or children. Trends for those ages 65 to 84 are largely similar to those noted for all adults ages 65 and older in the previous section.

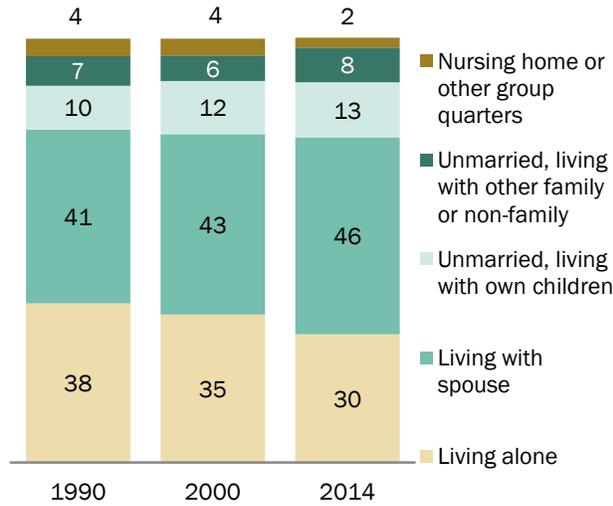
⁹ Multi-generational households include households with: a parent and adult child ages 25 and older; three or more generations, or skipped generations such as grandparents and grandchildren, without parents.

¹⁰ This figure comes from a [U.S. Census Bureau analysis](#) using the Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Individuals in institutions, such as nursing homes, are not included in the Current Population Survey.

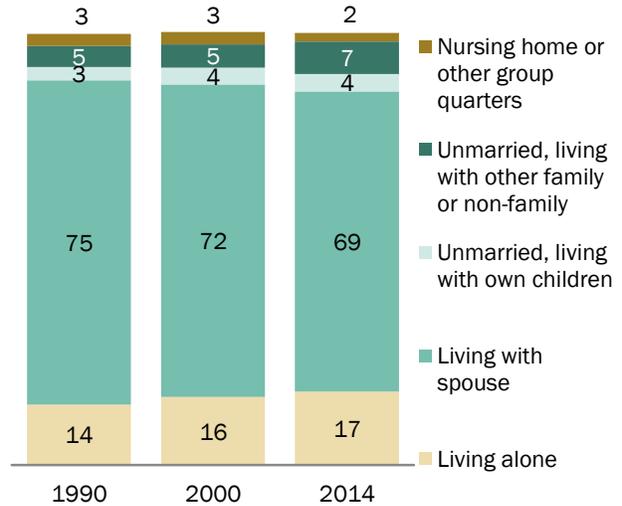
¹¹ [West, Cole, Goodkind, and He, 2014](#)

Large declines in the share of older Americans ages 85 and older living in nursing homes or other group quarters since 1990

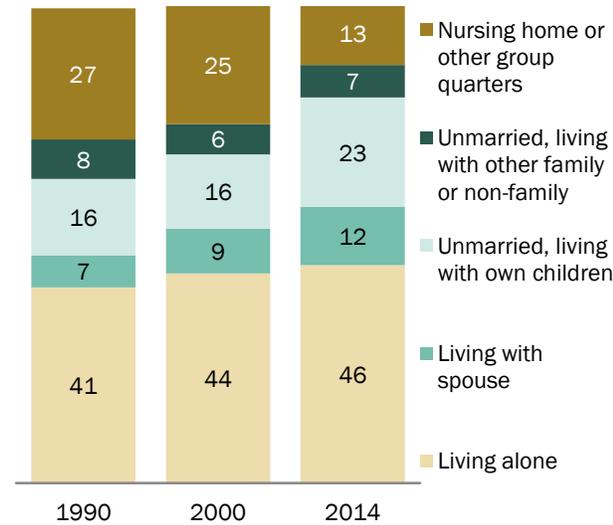
% among *women* ages 65 to 84



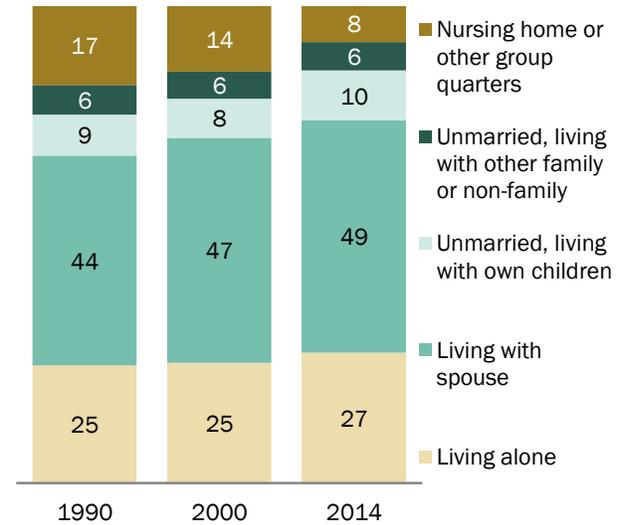
% among *men* ages 65 to 84



% among *women* ages 85 and older



% among *men* ages 85 and older



Note: Older adults who are living with a spouse may also be living with children or other relatives or non-relatives. Unmarried adults include those who are separated, divorced, widowed, have never been married or married, but the spouse is absent from the household. Older adults living alone reside in a household. The share living alone is based on the total population ages 65 and older.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1990-2000 decennial censuses and the 2014 American Community Survey (IPUMS)

While the share of women living with a spouse has increased for both age groups, the share doing so among women ages 85 and older nearly doubled in recent decades. In 2014, 12% lived with their spouse – up from 7% in 1990. Despite this, the share of women ages 85 and older living with a spouse is substantially smaller than that of any other age and gender group.

The overall decline in men living with their spouse is driven by men ages 65 to 84. Roughly seven-in-ten men in this age group (69%) lived with a spouse in 2014 – down from 75% in 1990. Men ages 65 to 84 are more likely than in 1990 to be divorced and slightly more likely to never have been married. (See appendix table for more details on marital status by age and gender.) Conversely, men ages 85 and older are more likely to live with their spouse (and be married) in 2014 than in the prior decades. Among men ages 85 and older, about half (49%) lived with a spouse in 2014, compared with 44% in 1990. While there are growing shares of men ages 85 and older who are divorced, this share has risen less sharply than that of men ages 65 to 84.

Women ages 85 and older were considerably more likely to live with their children in 2014 than in the previous two decades. Roughly a quarter (23%) of women ages 85 and older were unmarried and lived with their children in 2014, compared with 16% in 1990. A considerably smaller share of men in this age range (10%) were unmarried and living with their children in 2014. This was a slight increase from 9% in 1990.

3. Well-being of older adults living alone

Older adults' living arrangements are linked to their assessments of their financial comfort, social lives and relationships, and lifestyle, according to an analysis of Pew Research Center survey findings. In general, older men who live alone are less likely to be satisfied with their social lives than men who live with others or women in any living arrangement. And men who live alone are less likely than women to say they experience some key benefits of aging, such as spending more time on hobbies.

Older adults living alone are less upbeat about their personal financial situation

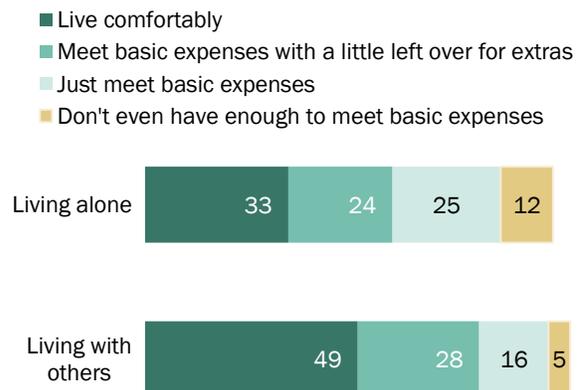
Older adults living alone are less likely to describe their financial situation favorably than those living with others. One-third (33%) of older adults living alone say they live comfortably, compared with about half (49%) of those who live with others.¹² Roughly a quarter of each group say they have enough to meet their basic expenses with a little left over for extras.

Another quarter of older adults living alone say they have enough to just meet their basic expenses. Among older adults who live with others, slightly fewer (16%) describe their financial situation this way.

Older adults living alone are roughly twice as likely as those who live with others to say they don't even have enough to meet basic expenses (12% vs. 5%).

Older adults living alone less likely to say they are financially comfortable than those living with others

% of adults ages 65 and older saying they ...



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 27-Nov. 24, 2014 (n=409 U.S. adults ages 65 and older). Q3.

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¹² Analysis for the 2014 survey is based on adults ages 65 and older (n=409) who live alone in their own home or in an assisted living facility and older adults living with others. Adults who live with others may include those who live with their spouse, children, other family members or non-family members. The sample size in the 2014 survey prevents analysis of gender differences among these measures. In some sections, a 2009 survey (n=1,328 adults ages 65 and older) is used to further analyze differences between those who live alone and with others by gender.

These survey findings are in line with census data indicating that older Americans who live alone are about three times as likely as those who live with others to be poor. In 2014, about one-in-five (18%) older adults living alone were in poverty, amounting to 2.2 million older adults.¹³ By contrast, 6% of older adults living with others in 2014 were in poverty.

This is especially true of women: 19% of older women who lived alone were in poverty in 2014, versus 15% of comparable men. Among older Americans who lived alone, 1.6 million women lived in poverty compared with 600,000 men. However, older women in any living arrangement are more likely to be impoverished than older men.

Friends and family relationships

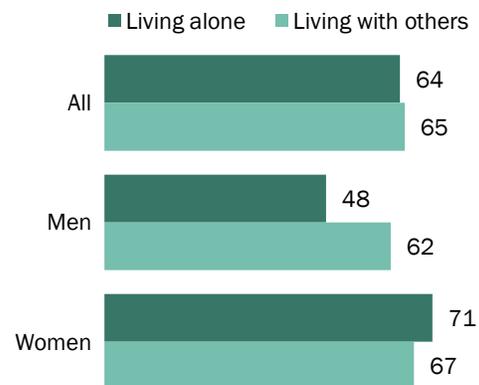
Among older adults who live alone, there are striking differences between men and women when examining key aspects of their social lives. In general, older men who live alone are considerably more likely to experience social isolation than women who live alone.

Overall, similar shares of older adults living alone and those living with others say they are “very satisfied” with the number of friends they have. However, men who live alone are considerably less likely than men who live with others (and women in any living arrangement) to say they are very satisfied with the number of friends they have. About half (48%) of men who live alone say this, compared with 62% of men who live with others.

By contrast, women who live alone (71%) are just as likely as women who live with others (67%) to say they are very satisfied with the number of friends they have.

Older men living alone less satisfied than women with number of friends

% of adults ages 65 and older who are “very satisfied” with the number of friends they have



Source: Survey conducted Feb. 23-March 23, 2009 (n=1,328 U.S. adults ages 65 and older). Q2c.

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¹³ This analysis uses the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series data and its construction of poverty. Therefore, this may differ from figures shared by the U.S. Census Bureau. Please see the [IPUMS website](http://www.ipums.org) for more information on how it defines poverty.

Less-frequent contact with children and grandchildren for older adults living alone

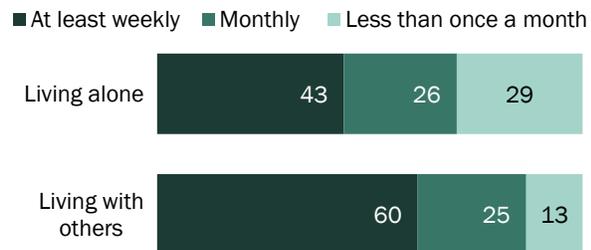
Older adults living alone are somewhat less likely than older adults living with others to be in contact with their children and grandchildren.¹⁴

Nine-in-ten older adults living with others say they are in contact with their children at least weekly, compared with 80% of those who live alone. About four-in-ten in each group say they communicate with their children on a daily basis.

The differences by living arrangements are much greater when looking at contact with grandchildren. Among older adults with grandchildren, 43% of those who live alone say they are in contact with their grandchildren on at least a weekly basis, compared with 60% of those living with others. By contrast, older adults living alone are about twice as likely as those who live with others to say they communicate with their grandchildren less than once a month (29% vs. 13%).

Older adults living alone have less frequent contact with grandchildren than those living with others

% of adults ages 65 and older who say they are in contact with their grandchildren ...



Note: Based on adults ages 65 and older with at least one grandchild (n=341). Respondents were instructed to only answer thinking about their grandchild/grandchildren who live in a separate household. Volunteered responses of "Grandchild/grandchildren live with me" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 27-Nov. 24, 2014. Q61.

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For older adults who live alone, less time with family members

One common advantage of aging is having more time to spend with family members. But older adults living alone are less likely than those living with others to say they experience more time with their family and grandchildren as they age.

About six-in-ten older adults living alone (61%) say they have more time with family as they age, compared with 76% of those who live with others. Both men and women who live alone are less likely to say this than their counterparts who live with others.

Among older adults with grandchildren, those who live alone are substantially less likely to say they are spending time with grandchildren as they age (65% vs. 78%). The gender differences in

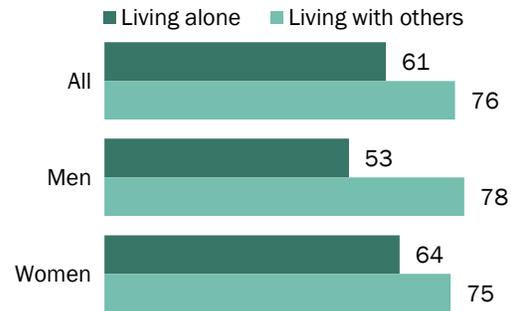
¹⁴ The questions on how frequently one communicates with their children and grandchildren asked respondents only to think about relatives who did not live with them.

the share living alone who say they do experience this more as they age are slight – roughly two-thirds of men and women say this.

But most older adults with adult children in either living arrangement say they get enough support from their adult children (76% who live alone and 78% who live with others say this). About one-in-ten older adults living alone (8%) and living with others (10%) say they do not get enough help from their adult children. Roughly 1% of each group says they get too much help.

Men and women living alone less likely than those living with others to say they spend more time with family as they age

% of adults ages 65 and older who say they have more time with family as they get older ...



Source: Survey conducted Feb. 23-March 23, 2009 (n=1,328 U.S. adults ages 65 and older). Q15d.

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Other potential advantages of aging

For some, aging brings more free time for activities such as hobbies or volunteer work. But older adults living alone are less likely than those who live with others to say they spend more time on these activities as they age. And in some cases, this is particularly true for men who are living solo.

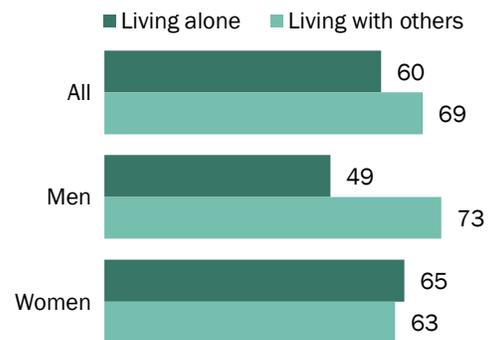
Six-in-ten older adults who live alone say they spend more time on hobbies and interests as they get older, compared with about seven-in-ten (69%) who live with others.

There are considerable gender differences in the share of older adults living alone who say they spend more time on hobbies as they age. Among women who live alone, 65% say this compared with 49% of comparable men. However, similar shares of women who live alone and with others say they spend more time on hobbies and interests as they age. By contrast, men who live with others (73%) were substantially more likely than men who live alone to say this.

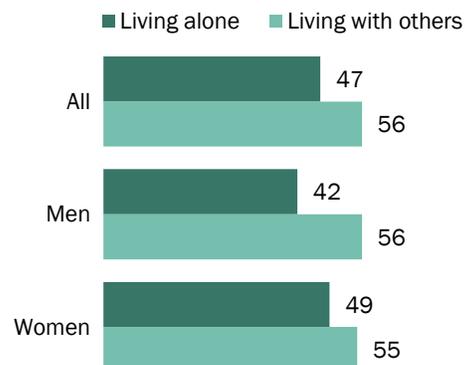
Older men who live alone are also more likely than their counterparts who live with others to say that, as they grow older, they are doing volunteer work or getting involved in their community. Roughly four-in-ten men (42%) and about half of women (49%) who live alone say this. By comparison, 56% of men and 55% of women who live with others say so.

Older men living alone less likely than women to spend more time on hobbies as they age

% of adults ages 65 and older who say they are spending more time on hobbies and interests as they get older ...



% of adults ages 65 and older who say they are doing volunteer work or getting involved in their community as they get older ...



Source: Survey conducted Feb. 23-March 23, 2009 (n=1,328 U.S. adults ages 65 and older). Q15b,e.

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Older adults who live alone are marginally less likely to say they travel for pleasure than those who live with others (47% vs. 55%). About half of older men and women who live alone say they travel for pleasure as they grow older (50% and 47%, respectively).

Similar shares of older adults who live alone (59%) and with others (60%) say they have less stress in their life as they age. There is no statistical difference between the shares of older men and women who live alone who say this (58% of men and 59% of women).

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This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

Renee Stepler, *Research Assistant*

D’Vera Cohn, *Senior Writer/Editor*

Rich Morin, *Senior Editor*

Kim Parker, *Director, Social Trends Research*

Claudia Deane, *Vice President of Research*

Anna Brown, *Research Assistant*

Gustavo López, *Research Assistant*

David Kent, *Copy Editor*

Yoli Martinez, *Digital Producer*

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Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on two nationally representative telephone surveys conducted in the United States in 2014 and 2009. For both of the surveys, interviews were conducted in English and Spanish by Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International.

The 2014 telephone interviews were conducted Oct. 27-Nov. 24, 2014, among 1,692 adults ages 18 and older living in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (675 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,017 were interviewed on a cellphone, including 568 who had no landline telephone). The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is plus or minus 2.7 percentage points. For more information on this survey's design and methodology, see <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2015/05/21/about-the-surveys/>

The 2009 telephone interviews were conducted Feb. 23-March 23, 2009, among 2,969 adults, ages 18 and older, living in the continental United States. The margin of sampling error for the complete weighted data is plus or minus 2.6 percentage points. For more information on this survey's design and methodology, see <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2009/06/29/growing-old-in-america-expectations-vs-reality/#about-the-survey>

For more detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/>

The trend analysis on living arrangements of older adults utilizes the 1990-2000 decennial U.S. censuses and the 2010 and 2014 and the American Community Surveys (ACS) provided by the Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series (IPUMS). The IPUMS assigns uniform codes, to the extent possible, to data collected in the censuses and ACS over the years. Figures for 1900-2000 use the 1% samples, including the 1970 Form 1 metro sample. More information about the IPUMS, including variable definition and sampling error, is available at <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/doc.shtml>.

Appendix A: References

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<http://blogs.census.gov/2015/07/14/a-gray-revolution-in-living-arrangements/>

Appendix B: Detailed Tables

Older adults by age and gender

In thousands

	1990	2000	2010	2014
All ages 65 and older	31,156	34,943	40,449	46,212
Men	12,497	14,394	17,431	20,303
Women	18,659	20,550	23,018	25,910
Ages 65-84	28,150	30,709	34,885	40,179
Men	11,668	13,139	15,642	18,269
Women	16,481	17,570	19,243	21,910
Ages 85 and older	3,006	4,235	5,564	6,033
Men	829	1,255	1,789	2,034
Women	2,177	2,980	3,775	4,000

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the 2010 and 2014 American Community Surveys (IPUMS)

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Share of older adults by gender and age

%

	1990	2000	2010	2014
All ages 65 and older				
Men	40	41	43	44
Women	60	59	57	56
Ages 65-84				
Men	41	43	45	45
Women	59	57	55	55
Ages 85 and older				
Men	28	30	32	34
Women	72	70	68	66

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and 2010 and 2014 American Community Surveys (IPUMS)

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Marital status of older adults by age and gender

	-----% among adults ages 65-84-----				-----% among adults ages 85 and older-----			
	1990	2000	2010	2014	1990	2000	2010	2014
Men								
Married, spouse present	75	72	70	69	44	47	49	49
Married, spouse absent	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Separated	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Divorced	5	7	10	12	2	4	5	6
Widowed	13	14	11	10	46	42	40	38
Never been married	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4
Women								
Married, spouse present	41	43	45	46	7	10	11	12
Married, spouse absent	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
Separated	1	1	1	1	<0.05	1	<0.05	<0.05
Divorced	6	8	13	16	3	4	6	7
Widowed	46	43	34	30	83	81	77	74
Never been married	5	4	5	5	7	5	5	5

Note: To maintain comparability across survey years, adults who were living in group quarters and were "married, spouse absent" are included in widowed.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and 2010 and 2014 American Community Surveys (IPUMS)

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