

More Millennial Men are Living With Mom and Dad Than Ever Before

By Paige Towers • May 25, 2016 at 2:23pm

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In a season 3 episode of “30 Rock,” wealthy businessman Jack Donaghy “compliments” lowly NBC page, Kenneth, for making his first financial investment by saying, “Next stop: home ownership! Just kidding. The middle class is dying; you’ll be renting forever.” While his snarky comment may be accurate, the even more accurate prediction for a millennial aged man might now be: “The middle class is dying; you’ll be living with your parents forever.”

According to a new analysis by the Pew Research Center

, as of 2014, men and women ages 18-34 were more likely to be laying their heads to rest on beds (or couches) at their parents’ homes (32.1 percent) than they were to be living and sleeping in their own households (31.6 percent) for the first time since the 1880s.

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Young American men now live with their parents 35 percent of the time.

And specifically in regards to millennialaged men (like our favorite NBC page, Kenneth), this trend of shacking up with Mom and Dad is even more common: While young American women are still more likely to go home at night to a household they share with a spouse or partner (35 percent) than they are to be living at home (29 percent), young American men now live with their parents 35 percent of the time, and with a spouse or partner only 28 percent of the time.

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What's the reason for the difference? Well first off, both young men and women are postponing (if not altogether forgoing) getting into that marriage bed. In addition, negative trends in employment status and lower salaries have likely contributed

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to the increasing number of young adults living in their parents' homes.

But the reason that this situation is particularly true for millennial men might perhaps be due to the fact that, as stated by Pew, "young men's wages (after adjusting for inflation) have been on a downward trajectory since 1970 and fell significantly from 2000 to 2010."

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Comparatively, Pew explains why less women are back to waking up in their parents' homes by stating that, "young women have had growing success in the paid labor market since 1960 and hence might increasingly be expected to be able to afford to live independently of their parents."

Yet, while American men ages 18-34 are increasingly returning (or perhaps never leaving) home, it's also of importance to note that less educated young adults of either gender are more likely to live at home than their collegeeducated counterparts.

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As well, both Black and Hispanic millennials face the same prospect.

As the analysis repeatedly points out, the fact that economic woes, lack of education and racial/ethnic background all affect the move home shouldn't come as a great surprise. But the fact that young men are now more likely to bed down in Mom and Dad's house? That's a bit of a head scratcher. Maybe they just need to read more John Muir.

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